



INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Michael Salloom on Canberra 526507 or our State office or write to Information Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, NOVEMBER 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In November 1976 the estimated number of persons looking for work was 252,900 (143,200 males and 109,700 females).

One in nine (11.3 per cent) reported that they had been unemployed during the whole of the previous 12 months and a further 24.3 per cent that they had been unemployed for six months or more during that period.

- The unemployment rate for family members was 3.8 per cent, for husbands with dependent children present 1.7 per cent, for husbands without dependent children present 1.4 per cent and for wives 2.9 per cent.

- 17.8 per cent reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work.

- A further 31.0 per cent reported that there were no vacancies at all. In areas outside the six State capital cities the percentage in this category was 44.0.

- 9.7 per cent were considered by employers to be too young or too old.

- Of the 147,600 persons looking for work who had been wage or salary earners in their last job in 1976, 38.1 per cent had left of their own accord.

- This statement contains a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

The population survey

- The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Scope

- The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

Definitions

- For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who during the survey week did not work and did not have a job, but could have taken one had it been available, and had been actively looking for full-time or part-time work in the four weeks up to and including the survey week (including persons who would have been prevented from taking a job in the survey week by their own temporary illness or injury, or by their having made arrangements to start after the survey week in a new job in which they would have preferred to start in the survey week).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In November 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job and family status.

6. The number of persons looking for work, as defined above, differs slightly from the number of unemployed persons published in *The Labour Force*, November 1976 (Preliminary) (Reference No. 6.32), because the latter includes persons waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily stood down without pay for four weeks or less (including the whole of the survey week).

7. A *family* was generally defined to consist of two or more persons living in the same household at the time of the survey, comprising the head of the family and any persons having any of the following relationships to the head:

- (i) spouse
- (ii) son or daughter of any age, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (iii) brother or sister, if unmarried and not accompanied by parents or children of his or her own
- (iv) grandchild, if unmarried and not accompanied by either of his or her parents, nor by children of his or her own
- (v) ancestor, if not married and not accompanied by children under 15 years of age of his or her own; or
- (vi) any child under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some person in a second family in the household.

8. The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous paragraph:

- (i) family status was determined at the time of the survey. Thus, if members of the family were absent (e.g. children at boarding schools) the family status of the head and other family members could have been affected
- (ii) the term *relationship* includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (iii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships
- (iv) the term *not married* comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons
- (v) a family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if these persons are husband and wife.

Dependent children comprise all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who are full-time students.

Reliability of the estimates

9. Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaire and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample and not the whole population was enumerated. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error: for example, the relative standard error of an estimate of 200,000 is approximately 2.0 per cent (4,000) while that of an estimate of 3,000 is approximately 24 per cent (720). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Estimates less than 3,000 have not been shown as they would be subject to such high standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Related publications

10. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- . *The Labour Force* (Reference 6.20)
- . *Labour Mobility* (Reference 6.43)
- . *Labour Force Experience* (Reference 6.26)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS Office.

Symbols and other usages

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.
- .. Not applicable.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : FAMILY STATUS, MAY AND NOVEMBER 1976

Family status	May 1976			November 1976		
	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (b)	Per cent of total	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (b)	Per cent of total
MALES						
Member of a family (c)	102.7	2.9	79.1	109.9	3.1	76.7
Husband	43.2	1.6	33.3	44.3	1.6	30.9
With dependent children (d) present	27.4	1.6	21.1	31.0	1.7	21.6
Without dependent children (d) present	15.8	1.7	12.2	13.3	1.4	9.3
Not married (e) head of family	3.5	4.6	2.7	*	*	*
Student 15-20 years of age	5.8	13.1	4.5	10.6	23.2	7.4
Looking for part-time work	3.7	n.a.	2.9	3.4	n.a.	2.4
Other child (f) of family head	46.3	7.2	35.7	46.8	7.5	32.7
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	3.8	7.5	2.9	5.7	12.3	4.0
Not a member of a family (g)	27.1	6.2	20.9	33.3	7.3	23.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>129.8</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>143.2</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>
FEMALES						
Member of a family (c)	98.1	5.3	86.1	94.0	5.1	85.7
Wife	45.4	3.6	39.8	38.2	2.9	34.8
Looking for full-time work	22.5	n.a.	19.7	19.5	n.a.	17.8
Looking for part-time work	23.0	n.a.	20.2	18.7	n.a.	17.0
Not married (e) head of family	6.2	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.2
With dependent children (d) present	4.9	6.5	4.3	4.5	6.6	4.1
Student 15-20 years of age	6.3	15.9	5.5	10.6	22.5	9.7
Looking for part-time work	3.5	n.a.	3.1	4.0	n.a.	3.6
Other child (f) of family head	38.3	10.2	33.6	36.0	10.2	32.8
Other relative (parent, sister, etc.)	*	*	*	3.4	11.9	3.1
Not a member of a family (g)	15.8	5.4	13.8	15.7	5.4	14.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>114.1</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>109.7</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
PERSONS						
Member of a family (c)	200.8	3.7	82.3	203.8	3.8	80.6
Husband or wife	88.6	2.2	36.3	82.6	2.1	32.7
Not married (e) head of family	9.8	4.9	4.0	8.1	4.8	3.2
With dependent children (d) present	5.6	5.5	2.3	4.9	5.4	1.9
Without dependent children (d) present	4.1	4.3	1.7	3.2	4.0	1.3
Student 15-20 years of age	12.1	14.4	5.0	21.2	22.8	8.4
Looking for part-time work	7.2	n.a.	3.0	7.4	n.a.	2.9
Other child (f) of family head	84.6	8.3	34.7	82.9	8.5	32.8
Looking for part-time work	3.6	n.a.	1.5	4.3	n.a.	1.7
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	5.7	7.1	2.3	9.1	12.1	3.6
Not a member of a family (g)	43.0	5.9	17.6	49.1	6.6	19.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>243.9</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>252.9</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) The number of persons looking for work in each group as a percentage of the labour force in each group. For the definition of the labour force see *The Labour Force, August 1976* (Reference No. 6.20). (c) See page 2, paragraph 7. (d) Comprises all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students. (e) Includes widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (f) Of any age. (g) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

n.a. not available.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

(000)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months (b)	Duration of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (weeks)								Total
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	52	
MALES									
One	9.5	12.1	14.9	14.0	14.9	9.3	7.1	14.8	96.6
Two	..	*	*	4.0	7.2	7.4	5.3	..	27.5
Three and over	..	*	*	*	7.3	5.8	3.1	..	19.1
Total	9.5	13.4	18.8	19.6	29.2	22.4	15.6	14.8	143.2
FEMALES									
One	10.4	13.0	13.1	10.0	10.3	6.9	6.7	14.0	84.4
Two	..	*	*	3.2	6.7	3.7	3.5	..	19.7
Three and over	..	*	*	*	*	*	*	..	5.6
Total	10.4	13.7	15.3	13.7	19.0	12.4	11.1	14.0	109.7
PERSONS									
One	19.9	25.1	28.0	24.0	25.2	16.2	13.8	28.7	180.9
Two	..	*	4.5	7.1	13.9	11.1	8.8	..	47.2
Three and over	..	*	*	*	9.2	7.5	3.9	..	24.7
Total	19.9	27.0	34.1	33.3	48.3	34.9	26.5	28.7	252.9

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) Includes current period of unemployment.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, NOVEMBER 1976

Main difficulty in finding work	Place of residence		Birthplace		Males	Females	Persons
	State capital cities (b)	Other areas	Australia	Overseas			
NUMBER ('000)							
Own ill health or handicap	7.9	4.5	9.2	3.2	10.0	*	12.5
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	17.2	7.4	16.6	7.9	12.1	12.5	24.5
Unsuitable hours	5.0	*	4.0	*	*	5.2	6.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	11.8	5.8	13.6	4.0	8.5	9.2	17.6
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	11.2	7.7	14.7	4.2	11.2	7.7	18.9
Insufficient work experience	17.2	5.2	16.2	6.2	8.7	13.7	22.4
No vacancies in line of work	27.9	17.2	34.3	10.7	30.8	14.1	45.0
No vacancies at all	33.6	44.7	58.3	20.0	46.4	31.9	78.3
Other difficulties (c)	8.5	3.3	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.9	11.8
No difficulties reported	11.2	4.4	11.7	3.9	8.5	7.1	15.6
Total	151.4	101.6	184.7	68.2	143.2	109.7	252.9
PER CENT							
Own ill health or handicap	5.2	4.4	5.0	4.8	7.0	*	4.9
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	11.4	7.2	9.0	11.6	8.4	11.4	9.7
Unsuitable hours	3.3	*	2.1	*	*	4.8	2.5
Too far to travel/transport problems	7.8	5.7	7.4	5.9	5.9	8.4	7.0
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	7.4	7.6	7.9	6.2	7.8	7.0	7.5
Insufficient work experience	11.3	5.1	8.8	9.1	6.1	12.5	8.9
No vacancies in line of work	18.4	16.9	18.6	15.7	21.5	12.9	17.8
No vacancies at all	22.2	44.0	31.6	29.3	32.4	29.1	31.0
Other difficulties (c)	5.6	3.2	3.3	8.3	4.1	5.3	4.7
No difficulties reported	7.4	4.3	6.3	5.7	5.9	6.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) The figures relate to persons residing within the boundaries of the relevant Statistical Divisions. Explanatory notes on the definition of urban boundaries and maps showing the boundaries of the capital city Statistical Divisions were published in *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971 - Census Bulletin No. 6*. (c) Includes about 4,000 persons who reported that their main difficulty was language problems or discrimination against migrants or racial groups.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 4. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1976 : AGE (b), DURATION OF JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

Duration of last job	Age group (years)		Total		
	15-24	25 and over	Males	Females	Persons
LOST LAST JOB (c)					
Under 8 weeks	16.4	9.5	16.2	9.7	25.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	16.6	10.5	19.0	8.1	27.1
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	7.7	4.9	8.5	4.1	12.6
1 year and under 2 years	3.7	4.5	6.0	4.3	8.2
2 years and under 3 years	3.9	3.8	3.3		5.5
3 years and under 5 years		3.6	4.2	3.1	5.8
5 years and over	*	6.0	4.8		6.3
Total	48.6	42.8	62.1	29.3	91.3
LEFT LAST JOB VOLUNTARILY					
Under 8 weeks	8.2	3.2	7.6	3.9	11.4
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	11.4	4.2	8.6	7.0	15.6
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	6.0	3.5	4.2	5.2	9.4
1 year and under 2 years	5.5	3.2	5.6	3.0	8.7
2 years and over 3 years	4.1	3.9	3.5	4.4	3.9
3 years and under 5 years					4.0
5 years and over	*	*	*	*	3.2
Total	36.2	20.1	31.5	24.7	56.3
TOTAL					
Under 2 weeks	5.5	4.1	6.2	3.3	9.6
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	19.1	8.7	17.6	10.2	27.8
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	28.0	14.7	27.6	15.1	42.7
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	13.7	8.3	12.7	9.3	22.0
1 year and under 2 years	9.2	7.7	11.6	5.2	16.8
2 years and under 3 years	4.2	5.2	4.6	4.8	9.4
3 years and under 5 years	3.7	6.2	6.5	3.4	9.9
5 years and over	*	8.1	6.8	*	9.4
Total	84.7	62.9	93.6	54.0	147.6

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) In November 1976. (c) Includes retrenchment and termination of seasonal jobs.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

D. V. YOUNGMAN
Acting Australian Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Belconnen. A.C.T. 2616

