



LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, AUSTRALIA, DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988, SUMMARY

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MAIN FEATURES

DIAGRAM 1. ALL PERSONS : PROPORTION IN VARIOUS LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITIES AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988
(Source of data: Table 2)

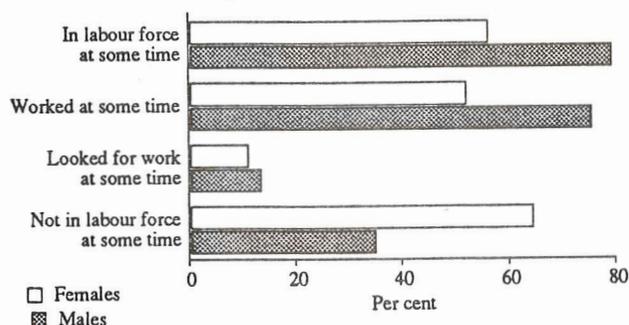


DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS WHO WORKED FOR LESS THAN 52 WEEKS OF THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 : TIME WORKED DURING THE YEAR
(Source of data: Table 2)

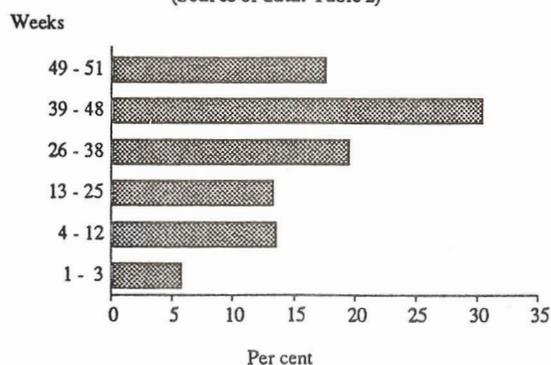
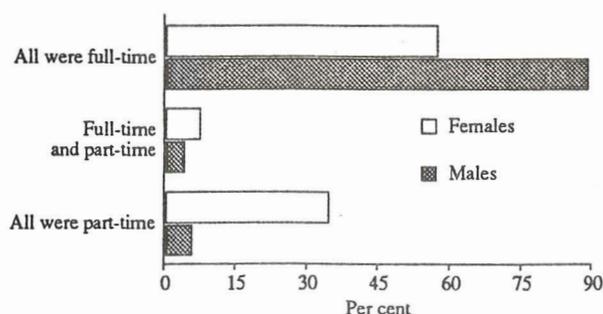


DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988: FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS OF WEEKS WORKED
(Source of data: Table 2)



Over two-thirds (67.5 per cent) of the 12,623,200 persons aged 15 and over were in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 1988, with half of all persons (49.9 per cent) being in the labour force for the whole year. Males maintained higher proportions both in the labour force at some time (79.3 per cent) and in the labour force for the whole year (64.9 per cent) than females (56.2 per cent and 35.4 per cent respectively).

An estimated 8,027,000 persons (63.6 per cent) worked at some time during the year. Of those persons who had worked during the year, about two-thirds worked for the whole year. Of the 4,693,200 males who had worked during the year, 4,188,300 (89.2 per cent) had done so solely on a full-time basis and 291,600 (6.2 per cent) had worked solely part-time. Of the 3,333,800 females who had worked at some time during the year the corresponding estimates were 1,914,100 (57.4 per cent) solely full-time and 1,160,100 (34.8 per cent) solely part-time.

An estimated 1,555,800 persons (12.3 per cent) had looked for work during the year — the majority (81.2 per cent) had done so in one spell with an average duration of 18.6 weeks. While 28.1 per cent of all persons aged between 15 and 19 had looked for work, only 1.2 per cent of all persons aged 60 and over had done so during the year.

Some 4,098,400 persons did not participate in the labour force during the year, while a further 2,226,500 persons had been in the labour force for only part of the year ending February 1988. Of these 6,324,900 persons, females outnumbered males by almost two to one (65.5 per cent to 34.5 per cent).

TABLE 1. ALL PERSONS: LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, FEBRUARY 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1988
(Per cent)

	Survey conducted in February(a)—									
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
MALES										
<i>Not in the labour force at any time during the period</i>	17.3	17.9	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.2	19.2	20.0	20.2	20.7
<i>In the labour force at some time during the period</i>	82.7	82.1	83.2	82.8	82.4	81.8	80.8	80.0	79.8	79.3
Time in the labour force (weeks)—										
52	70.0	69.4	68.9	68.0	69.4	68.0	66.5	64.8	64.7	64.9
1 and under 52	12.8	12.7	14.3	14.8	13.0	13.8	14.3	15.2	15.1	14.4
Worked at some time during the period	80.3	80.0	81.0	80.5	79.0	76.7	76.4	75.9	75.6	75.5
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—										
All were full-time	74.2	74.1	74.7	74.2	71.5	69.1	69.2	68.6	66.4	67.4
More full-time than part-time	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.5	3.5	2.6
More part-time than full-time	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8
All were part-time	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.7
Number of jobs held during the period(b)—										
One	66.0	66.6	66.9	66.1	66.6	65.6	64.5	63.0	62.2	61.3
Two	9.9	9.4	10.3	10.5	8.7	8.1	8.4	9.4	10.0	10.4
Three	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2
Four or more	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5
Looked for work at some time during the period	12.4	11.0	11.1	12.0	14.4	15.5	13.8	12.7	14.4	13.5
Number of spells of looking for work—										
One	9.9	8.7	9.0	9.4	10.9	12.1	11.4	10.4	11.4	10.8
Two	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.4	2.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3
Three	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5
Four or more	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
FEMALES										
<i>Not in the labour force at any time during the period</i>	49.5	48.2	46.4	45.9	45.7	46.1	45.5	44.9	43.9	43.8
<i>In the labour force at some time during the period</i>	50.5	51.8	53.6	54.1	54.3	53.9	54.5	55.1	56.1	56.2
Time in the labour force (weeks)—										
52	31.7	33.6	33.4	34.0	33.9	33.2	33.9	32.9	34.1	35.4
1 and under 52	18.8	18.1	20.2	20.2	20.3	20.7	20.7	22.2	22.0	20.8
Worked at some time during the period	47.5	48.5	50.2	50.5	49.5	48.7	49.9	50.8	51.5	52.0
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—										
All were full-time	29.7	30.5	30.4	30.5	29.0	28.4	29.3	29.3	28.5	29.9
More full-time than part-time	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.5
More part-time than full-time	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.5
All were part-time	14.6	14.9	16.0	16.3	16.8	16.8	17.1	17.5	18.6	18.1
Number of jobs held during the period(b)—										
One	40.9	41.7	42.7	42.6	42.7	42.5	42.4	42.3	43.0	43.0
Two	4.8	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.0	4.7	5.7	6.2	6.4	6.8
Three	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4
Four or more	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8
Looked for work at some time during the period	9.2	9.2	10.7	11.4	11.8	11.8	11.0	10.9	12.0	11.2
Number of spells of looking for work—										
One	7.8	7.9	9.1	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.0	9.0	9.7	9.2
Two	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Three	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Four or more	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERSONS										
<i>Not in the labour force at any time during the period</i>	33.6	33.3	31.8	31.7	31.8	32.3	32.5	32.6	32.2	32.5
<i>In the labour force at some time during the period</i>	66.4	66.7	68.2	68.3	68.2	67.7	67.5	67.4	67.8	67.5
Time in the labour force (weeks)—										
52	50.6	51.3	51.0	50.8	51.5	50.4	50.0	48.6	49.2	49.9
1 and under 52	15.8	15.4	17.3	17.5	16.7	17.3	17.5	18.8	18.6	17.6
Worked at some time during the period	63.7	64.1	65.4	65.4	64.1	62.5	63.0	63.1	63.4	63.6
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—										
All were full-time	51.7	52.0	52.4	52.1	50.1	48.5	49.0	48.7	47.2	48.3
More full-time than part-time	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.6
More part-time than full-time	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2
All were part-time	9.0	9.1	9.7	9.8	10.3	10.6	10.7	10.9	11.7	11.5
Number of jobs held during the period(b)—										
One	53.3	54.0	54.7	54.2	54.6	53.9	53.3	52.5	52.4	52.0
Two	7.3	7.1	8.0	8.2	6.8	6.4	7.0	7.8	8.2	8.5
Three	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.8
Four or more	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Looked for work at some time during the period	10.8	10.1	10.9	11.7	13.1	13.6	12.4	11.8	13.2	12.3
Number of spells of looking for work—										
One	8.8	8.3	9.0	9.5	10.2	10.7	10.2	9.7	10.5	10.0
Two	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Three	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Four or more	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 2, paragraph 13, regarding comparability of the reference periods surveyed. (b) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

TABLE 2. ALL PERSONS : LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 AND MARITAL STATUS
('000)

	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Not in the labour force at any time during the year</i>	777.1	1,699.3	2,476.5	512.5	1,109.4	1,621.9	1,289.6	2,808.7	4,098.4
<i>In labour force at some time during the year</i>	3,101.8	2,146.4	5,248.2	1,824.8	1,451.9	3,276.7	4,926.6	3,598.3	8,524.9
Time in labour force during the year(weeks)-									
1 and under 4	12.8	69.6	82.4	43.1	51.8	94.8	55.9	121.4	177.2
4 and under 13	22.6	109.2	131.8	117.4	135.2	252.6	140.0	244.4	384.4
13 and under 26	35.0	113.9	148.9	69.1	76.7	145.8	104.2	190.5	294.7
26 and under 39	50.1	149.1	199.2	72.6	74.2	146.8	122.7	223.3	346.0
39 and under 49	131.3	228.1	359.5	125.2	105.6	230.8	256.6	333.7	590.3
49 and under 52	131.3	136.8	268.1	83.4	82.4	165.8	214.7	219.2	433.9
52	2,718.6	1,339.7	4,058.3	1,314.0	926.0	2,240.0	4,032.6	2,265.7	6,298.3
Worked at some time during the year	3,017.0	2,031.7	5,048.7	1,676.2	1,302.1	2,978.3	4,693.2	3,333.8	8,027.0
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked-									
All were full-time	2,818.9	1,048.8	3,867.6	1,369.4	865.3	2,234.8	4,188.3	1,914.1	6,102.4
More full-time than part-time	85.0	95.9	180.9	76.2	67.1	143.3	161.2	163.0	324.2
More part-time than full-time	15.3	57.3	72.6	36.7	39.4	76.1	52.0	96.6	148.7
All were part-time	97.8	829.8	927.6	193.8	330.3	524.1	291.6	1,160.1	1,451.7
Time worked during the year(weeks)-									
1 and under 4	13.8	43.5	57.3	49.4	39.6	88.9	63.2	83.0	146.2
4 and under 13	36.8	96.2	132.9	103.1	106.5	209.6	139.8	202.7	342.5
13 and under 26	56.4	119.2	175.6	85.9	75.6	161.6	142.3	194.8	337.2
26 and under 39	95.4	163.1	258.4	127.7	108.9	236.7	223.1	272.0	495.1
39 and under 49	207.6	235.6	443.2	180.1	146.5	326.6	387.7	382.1	769.8
49 and under 52	139.3	136.4	275.7	86.6	81.9	168.5	225.9	218.2	444.1
52	2,467.7	1,237.9	3,705.6	1,043.3	743.1	1,786.4	3,511.0	1,981.0	5,492.0
Looked for work at some time during the year	343.2	294.1	637.3	496.7	421.9	918.6	839.9	715.9	1,555.8
Number of spells of looking for work-									
One	280.0	239.6	519.7	394.4	349.7	744.1	674.4	589.3	1,263.7
Two	30.1	23.1	53.2	50.6	38.1	88.7	80.7	61.1	141.9
Three	10.5	12.3	22.8	19.7	13.2	33.0	30.3	25.5	55.8
Four or more	22.5	19.1	41.6	31.9	20.9	52.8	54.4	40.0	94.5
Total	3,878.9	3,845.7	7,724.6	2,337.3	2,561.3	4,898.6	6,216.2	6,407.0	12,623.2

TABLE 3. ALL PERSONS : PROPORTION WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988(a), AGE AND MARITAL STATUS
(Per cent)

Age group	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	*	69.4	72.8	69.9	68.5	69.2	70.1	68.5	69.3
20-24	99.2	77.2	84.2	94.9	91.8	93.5	95.6	86.4	91.0
25-34	98.7	69.6	83.2	94.8	82.8	89.7	97.3	73.1	85.2
35-44	97.6	73.5	85.7	89.9	75.4	82.4	96.4	73.8	85.2
45-54	92.9	60.8	77.4	79.8	66.2	72.6	90.8	61.8	76.6
55-59	83.3	32.8	59.7	69.6	42.1	52.5	81.2	35.1	58.3
60-64	54.9	13.7	36.7	52.0	20.2	29.8	54.5	15.9	35.0
65 and over	11.4	4.5	8.3	9.4	2.4	4.1	10.9	3.3	6.5
Total	80.0	55.8	67.9	78.1	56.7	66.9	79.3	56.2	67.5

(a) Persons who participated in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 1988, as a proportion of all persons in each group.

TABLE 4. ALL PERSONS : PROPORTION WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988(a), AGE AND MARITAL STATUS (Per cent)

Age group	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	*	*	23.6	27.5	29.0	28.2	27.6	28.7	28.1
20-24	26.5	14.5	18.3	26.5	25.5	26.0	26.5	21.4	24.0
25-34	13.6	12.3	12.9	20.0	19.8	19.9	15.8	14.2	15.0
35-44	9.3	9.8	9.5	15.8	17.3	16.6	10.3	11.1	10.7
45-54	8.3	4.9	6.6	13.6	10.2	11.8	9.1	5.8	7.5
55-59	7.3	*	4.7	13.6	*	8.1	8.2	2.5	5.4
60 and over	2.3	*	1.4	3.0	*	0.9	2.4	*	1.2
Total	8.8	7.6	8.2	21.3	16.5	18.8	13.5	11.2	12.3

(a) Persons who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 1988, as a proportion of all persons in each group.

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 : NUMBER OF JOBS HELD DURING THE YEAR(a), AGE AND MARITAL STATUS ('000)

Number of jobs held during the year	Age group						Married	Not-married	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over			
MALES									
One	327.9	425.3	948.1	945.1	655.7	509.4	2,533.0	1,278.5	3,811.5
Two	68.3	108.1	227.0	149.8	67.2	24.8	364.9	280.3	645.2
Three	17.5	31.8	49.7	26.9	7.1	5.1	72.9	65.3	138.1
Four or more	10.3	28.4	35.9	13.7	6.2	*	46.1	52.1	98.2
Total	424.1	593.7	1,260.7	1,135.5	736.1	543.1	3,017.0	1,676.2	4,693.2
FEMALES									
One	297.4	383.6	732.8	710.1	429.9	204.1	1,744.6	1,013.2	2,757.8
Two	69.0	99.9	129.8	92.5	35.5	6.8	227.6	205.9	433.4
Three	17.5	26.7	28.0	13.0	5.9	*	38.9	53.3	92.2
Four or more	9.5	15.5	15.1	7.6	*	*	20.7	29.8	50.5
Total	393.3	525.6	905.7	823.2	473.4	212.6	2,031.7	1,302.1	3,333.8
PERSONS									
One	625.2	808.9	1,680.9	1,655.2	1,085.6	713.5	4,277.6	2,291.7	6,569.3
Two	137.3	208.0	356.9	242.3	102.7	31.5	592.5	486.2	1,078.7
Three	35.0	58.5	77.7	39.9	13.0	6.1	111.8	118.5	230.3
Four or more	19.8	43.9	51.0	21.3	8.2	*	66.8	81.9	148.7
Total	817.4	1,119.4	2,166.4	1,958.7	1,209.5	755.7	5,048.7	2,978.3	8,027.0

(a) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 :
NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE YEAR AND AGE

	Age group						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-45	55 and over	
	- '000-						
One spell	328.4	248.6	317.9	206.6	102.0	60.3	1,263.7
Males	162.1	136.0	161.3	102.5	62.7	49.8	674.4
Females	166.3	112.6	156.6	104.0	39.3	10.5	589.3
	-weeks-						
Average duration(a)	15.2	17.8	17.7	19.3	24.1	33.2	18.6
Median duration(a)	8	10	9	11	18	42	10
	- '000-						
Two spells	34.2	35.7	40.4	19.7	8.7	*	141.9
Males	16.9	19.8	26.5	9.4	5.1	*	80.7
Females	17.3	15.9	13.9	10.3	*	*	61.1
	-weeks-						
Average duration(a)	18.3	20.4	17.3	15.2	15.7	*	18.0
Median duration(a)	15	14	12	12	8	*	13
	- '000-						
Three or more spells	28.8	29.6	42.9	30.7	12.3	6.1	150.2
Males	16.4	18.8	23.3	13.3	8.2	*	84.7
Females	12.4	10.8	19.6	17.4	*	*	65.5
	-weeks-						
Average duration(a)	17.9	15.5	16.3	14.8	14.4	18.2	16.1
Median duration(a)	15	12	12	12	12	16	12
	- '000-						
Total	391.4	313.8	401.2	256.9	123.0	69.5	1,555.8
Males	195.4	174.6	211.1	125.2	76.0	57.6	839.9
Females	195.9	139.2	190.1	131.8	47.0	12.0	715.9
	-weeks-						
Average duration(a)	15.6	17.8	17.5	18.5	22.5	31.4	18.3
Median duration(a)	9	10	10	11	15	36	10

(a) Of total weeks spent looking for work during the year.

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1988:
TIME NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE
(*000)

	Time not in the labour force (weeks)							Total
	1 and under 4	4 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 49	49 and under 52	52	
<i>Males</i>	214.7	242.3	112.6	114.6	153.8	55.9	1,289.6	2,183.6
Married	131.3	126.8	45.4	41.0	25.9	12.8	777.1	1,160.3
Not-married	83.4	115.6	67.3	73.6	127.9	43.1	512.5	1,023.3
<i>Females</i>	219.2	310.7	194.8	222.3	264.2	121.4	2,808.7	4,141.3
Married	136.8	212.8	128.7	139.4	119.3	69.6	1,699.3	2,506.0
Not-married	82.4	97.9	66.1	82.9	144.9	51.8	1,109.4	1,635.3
Persons	433.9	553.0	307.4	337.0	418.0	177.2	4,098.4	6,324.9
Age group-								
15-19	44.6	63.1	46.0	88.3	188.6	65.1	427.1	922.9
20-24	73.2	87.3	45.8	45.0	58.6	13.7	117.2	440.7
25-34	131.4	153.6	91.3	84.5	74.9	44.7	395.3	975.8
35-44	104.3	131.3	61.9	58.1	44.8	27.7	355.1	783.2
45-54	52.3	72.3	31.0	32.5	24.1	12.2	383.6	608.0
55-59	15.5	24.1	12.6	11.2	12.5	*	310.1	390.8
60-64	8.0	13.2	10.7	10.9	7.8	5.0	464.5	520.1
65 and over	*	8.1	8.1	6.5	6.8	*	1,645.3	1,683.5

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

Average duration of time spent looking for work : obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been looking for work by the number of persons in that group.

Job :

- (a) employment as a wage or salary earners (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular locality; or
- (b) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular locality.

Labour force : persons who were reported as having either worked or looked for work (as defined).

Locality : in capital cities and major towns each suburb is considered to be a different locality.

Looked for work : persons who were reported being out of work and looking for a job.

Median duration of time spent looking for work : the duration which divides persons who looked for work into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose time spent looking for work during the year is above the median, and the other, persons whose time spent looking for work is below it.

Not in labour force : persons who, during any week of the reference period, were reported as having neither worked or looked for work (as defined).

Number of spells of looking for work during the year : the number of different periods, including the current period, during which persons were reported as having been out of work and looking for a job (as defined).

Time in the labour force during the year : the total number of weeks persons were reported as having either worked or looked for work (as defined).

Time not in the labour force during the year : the total number of weeks persons were reported as having neither worked nor looked for work (as defined).

Time spent looking for work during the year : the total number of weeks persons were reported as being out of work and looking for a job (as defined).

Time worked during the year : the total number of weeks persons were reported as having either worked or been on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are not classified as work.

Worked : persons who were reported as having either worked or been on paid leave.

APPENDIX B

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly population survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the February 1988 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked the length of time they worked, looked for work or were not in the labour force, the number of spells during which they looked for work and other aspects of labour force experience for the 52 weeks up to the end of the week before the interview.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it excluded visitors to private dwellings, students who were boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of gaols, reformatories etc.

4. In the tables, "All Persons", refers to all persons within the scope of the survey.

Coverage

5. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

Definitions

6. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

7. Labour force experience characteristics relate to the 52 weeks up to the end of the week before the interview. Unless otherwise stated, all other characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview.

Results of the survey

8. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in February 1988. Because of emigration, deaths, etc. not all persons with labour force experience during the period were covered. Labour force experience may relate to experience outside Australia.

9. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. A more detailed publication, *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0), will be released as soon as possible. Tables of unpublished data may be purchased on request.

10. Results of similar surveys, conducted in February 1969, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977 and annually since February 1979, have been published in *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0).

11. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in February 1989.

Comparability of series

12. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to a whole year which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of labour force experience, a person is assigned to a labour force category for each of the weeks in the year on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms *worked* and *looked for work* are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms *employed* and *unemployed* used in the monthly labour force survey.

Discontinuities in the series

13. The estimates for surveys held from February 1983 are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys. The reference period for the February 1980 and prior surveys was the previous calendar year (e.g. 1 January to 31 December 1979). The reference period for the February 1981 and 1982 surveys was from the beginning of the previous February to the end of the week prior to interview. As interviews were conducted over the second and third week of February, the reference period could have extended to 54 weeks. From the February 1983 survey onwards the reference period has been the 52 weeks up to the end of the week before the interview. Due to the change in the reference period timing, some estimates, particularly those for groups who enter the labour force during the earlier months of the year (e.g. 15 to 19 year olds), will also be affected from the February 1981 survey onwards.

14. In the February 1981 survey, persons who answered that they had been in their current job for a year or longer but who also reported having actually worked for less than the whole period were not counted as not in the labour force for the remainder of the period. In all other years these persons were counted as not in the labour force for that time. In consequence, the February 1981 estimate of persons not in the labour force during all or part of the period is 512,300 persons (249,100 males and 263,200 females) less than that which would have been obtained with the procedures used in other years.

15. Estimates contained in this publication are based on a revised labour force questionnaire introduced in April 1986. The definition of employment was expanded, resulting in small decreases in the estimates of unemployed persons and persons not in the labour force. Further information is contained in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) and in an information paper *Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey* (6232.0).

16. Classification of occupation according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) 1986 was introduced in the August 1986 labour force survey, replacing the Classification and Classified List of Occupations (CCLO) used in previous surveys. The main difference between these classifications is that ASCO occupations are classified on the basis of the level and specialisation of skill required for the satisfactory performance of primary tasks. For a more detailed explanation of ASCO see the appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0).

17. To provide a link between the two classifications, a matrix has been produced and is shown in Table 41 of *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0). It shows the relationship between ASCO and CCLO at the broadest classification level (the Major Group). The estimates in the matrix are based on a sub-sample of respondents to the May 1986 labour force survey.

Survey sample redesign

18. A redesigned and reselected Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample was phased in over the period September to December 1987. As a result, the standard errors used in this supplementary survey differ from those used in surveys of the same topic run prior to September 1987. For details, see *Information Paper — Labour Force Survey — Sample Design* (6269.0).

Reliability of the estimates

19. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic (including methods of calculating approximate standard errors for *percentages* and *differences*) may be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from the value of most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, estimates for these small components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0) — issued twice-yearly

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (6222.0) — issued two-yearly

Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0) — issued annually

Persons who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia (6264.0) — issued irregularly

21. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 19 above.

22. Because estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Relative standard error (per cent)</i>	<i>Size of estimate</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Relative standard error (per cent)</i>
5,000	1,200	24.3	300,000	7,600	2.5
6,000	1,350	22.2	500,000	9,300	1.9
10,000	1,700	17.2	1,000,000	12,000	1.2
20,000	2,400	12.0	2,000,000	15,200	0.8
50,000	3,650	7.3	5,000,000	20,500	0.4
100,000	4,900	4.9	10,000,000	25,200	0.3
200,000	6,500	3.3	20,000,000	30,600	0.2

Printed by R.D. RUBIE, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra
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Recommended retail price: \$3.00



2062050002883

ISSN 1031-752X