



SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1986, PRELIMINARY (Previously: Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Preliminary)

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MAIN FEATURES

During the twelve months to June 1986, 1,685,600 persons (50.2 per cent males and 49.8 per cent females) had started a wage or salary earner job while 581,600 persons (51.0 per cent males and 49.0 per cent females) had looked for a wage or salary earner job but had not started one. Of those persons who started a wage or salary earner job, 74.8 per cent were aged 15 to 34, 77.0 per cent were born in Australia and 38.9 per cent had post-school qualifications; this compares with the characteristics of persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job but had not started one, where the corresponding estimates were 63.0 per cent, 71.7 per cent and 27.4 per cent.

55.8 per cent (941,100) of persons who started a wage or salary earner job had been out of work prior to starting this job while 44.2 per cent (744,500) had changed employer to start this job. 68.3 per cent (1,150,600) worked full-time and 31.7 per cent (535,000) worked part-time when they started this job.

29.3 per cent (493,500) of these jobs resulted from an approach by the jobseeker to an employer, without prior knowledge that the job was available. 50.3 per cent (848,600) were attained by the jobseeker approaching the employer to attain a job that the jobseeker knew was available. Of these jobs 146,700 were attained through the Commonwealth Employment Service, 316,500 through newspaper advertisements and 286,400 through friends, relatives or company contacts. The remaining 20.4 per cent (343,500) of jobs had been attained by the employer approaching the jobseeker.

Of those persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job but had not started one, 283,300 (48.7 per cent) had looked for full-time work only, 171,300 (29.5 per cent) had looked for part-time work only, while 126,900 (21.8 per cent) had looked for both full-time and part-time work.

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 22 following.

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 June 1986 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. Persons who had started a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months were asked about their method of job attainment, whether they were out of work prior to starting the job and details of the job. Persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job but had not started one were asked about their job search experience and the type of job they were looking for. Both these subsets of respondents were asked about their educational attainment.

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 was restricted to persons who started a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months and persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months but had not started one. The survey excluded persons who were students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Definitions

4. *Persons who started a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months* are those who had started a wage or salary earner job lasting two weeks or more during the twelve months up to the time of the survey. If more than one job was started during the twelve months details were obtained about the most recent job started.

5. *Method of job attainment* is determined by the respondents' answer to the question 'How did you find

out that particular job was available?" and is described according to whether an employer approached the jobseeker or a jobseeker approached the employer. In the latter case, the job is described according to whether or not the jobseeker knew that the particular job was available before approaching the employer.

6. Persons starting a job are also described according to whether they were out of work prior to starting the job or whether they changed employers.

7. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to the whole of the previous twelve months which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The items *time spent looking for work* and *number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months* (see paragraphs 8 and 9 following) are based on a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the term *looking for work* is used for these items rather than the more rigidly defined term *unemployed*.

8. *Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months* is the total number of weeks the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job, including the weeks in the current period.

9. The *number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months* is the number of different periods, including the current period, during which the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

10. Persons who *looked for work* are those persons who reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

11. A *job* is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

12. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who have left school and who answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

13. *Classification of post-school qualifications*. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree*: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, a masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade; technical or other certificate*: completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc;
- (c) *Other*: completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

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

15. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

Results of the survey

16. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

17. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. A more detailed publication will be released as soon as possible, and further information is available on request.

18. Results of the only other similar survey, conducted in July 1982, have been published in *Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia* (6245.0).

19. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in July 1989.

Discontinuities in the series

20. Estimates contained in this publication are based on a revised labour force questionnaire introduced in April 1986. 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).

21. Changes were made to the scope of this survey, causing a break in the series between the July 1982 and June 1986 surveys:

- (a) the reference period has been extended from six months in the July 1982 survey to twelve months in the June 1986 survey; and
- (b) persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months but had not started one were included in the survey in June 1986.

Reliability of the estimates

22. 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 are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures 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 will 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 or more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, 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 the coding and processing of 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, July 1985 (6224.0)—issued annually

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1986, Preliminary (6205.0)—issued annually

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

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0)—issued irregularly (\$1.80, \$2.60 incl. postage)

Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0)—issued irregularly

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, June 1986, Preliminary (6221.0)—issued annually

24. 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.

New ABS Service: AUSSTATS

25. A wide range of economic, social and demographic statistics is now available on AUSSTATS, ABS' new on-line service through CSIRONET.

26. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 22 above.

.. not applicable

CES Commonwealth Employment Service

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

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)	Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)
3,500	820	23.4	100,000	3,950	4.0
4,000	880	21.9	200,000	5,300	2.6
4,500	930	20.7	300,000	6,200	2.1
5,000	980	19.6	500,000	7,500	1.5
6,000	1,100	17.9	1,000,000	9,700	1.0
10,000	1,400	13.9	2,000,000	12,300	0.6
20,000	1,950	9.7	5,000,000	16,500	0.3
50,000	2,950	5.9			

TABLE 1. PERSONS WHO STARTED A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS AND PERSONS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS BUT HAD NOT STARTED ONE : COMPARATIVE PROFILE, JUNE 1986
(' 000)

	<i>Persons who had started a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months</i>			<i>Persons who had looked for a wage or salary earner job during the previous twelve months but had not started one</i>		
	<i>Out of work prior to starting job</i>	<i>Changed employer to start job</i>	<i>Total</i>			
	— ' 000—		(per cent)	(' 000)	(per cent)	
Age group—						
15-19	255.6	175.6	431.2	25.6	135.0	23.2
20-24	209.6	164.9	374.5	22.2	89.8	15.4
25-34	241.5	214.4	455.9	27.0	141.7	24.4
35-44	147.7	125.9	273.6	16.2	113.7	19.5
45-54	59.2	49.3	108.5	6.4	64.1	11.0
55-59	16.7	11.2	27.9	1.7	22.5	3.9
60-64	6.8	*	9.0	0.5	13.0	2.2
65 and over	4.0	*	5.0	0.3	*	*
Birthplace and year of arrival—						
Born in Australia	720.0	578.3	1,298.3	77.0	416.9	71.7
Born outside Australia	221.1	166.2	387.3	23.0	164.7	28.3
Arrived before 1961	31.5	26.8	58.3	3.5	34.2	5.9
Arrived 1961-1970	70.5	48.0	118.5	7.0	50.9	8.8
Arrived 1971-1980	60.3	47.7	107.9	6.4	43.3	7.4
Arrived 1981-1986	58.8	43.7	102.5	6.1	36.3	6.2
Born in main English speaking countries(a)	120.3	100.1	220.4	13.1	66.2	11.4
Born in other countries	100.8	66.1	166.9	9.9	98.5	16.9
Educational attainment—						
With post-school qualifications	314.8	340.9	655.7	38.9	159.2	27.4
Degree	56.4	81.9	138.3	8.2	21.7	3.7
Trade; technical or other certificate	238.6	248.1	486.7	28.9	127.9	22.0
Other	19.8	10.9	30.7	1.8	9.6	1.7
Without post-school qualifications(b)	568.3	366.7	935.0	55.5	378.2	65.0
Attended highest level of secondary school available	156.6	120.1	276.7	16.4	74.1	12.7
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	410.2	245.9	656.1	38.9	300.7	51.7
Left at age—						
18 and over	8.0	4.9	12.9	0.8	6.4	1.1
16 or 17	175.4	116.8	292.3	17.3	106.2	18.3
14 or 15	208.6	117.2	325.8	19.3	162.9	28.0
13 and under	18.1	6.9	25.0	1.5	25.3	4.4
Still at school	57.9	36.9	94.9	5.6	44.2	7.6
Full-time or part-time status of job when started/ Whether looked for full-time or part-time work in the previous twelve months—						
Full-time	599.4	551.2	1,150.6	68.3	283.3	48.7
Part-time	341.7	193.4	535.0	31.7	171.3	29.5
Varied	126.9	21.8
Labour force status at June 1986—						
In the labour force	831.2	700.1	1,531.3	90.8	425.7	73.2
Employed	705.0	681.1	1,386.1	82.2	40.2	6.9
Unemployed	126.1	19.0	145.1	8.6	385.5	66.3
Not in the labour force	109.9	44.4	154.4	9.2	155.9	26.8
Total	941.1	744.5	1,685.6	100.0	581.6	100.0
Males	447.3	399.6	846.9	50.2	296.7	51.0
Females	493.7	345.0	838.7	49.8	284.8	49.0

(a) Comprises U.K., Ireland, Canada, South Africa, U.S.A. and New Zealand.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 2. PERSONS WHO STARTED A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS: METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT AND WHETHER OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Method of job attainment	Whether out of work prior to starting job								
	Out of work prior to starting job			Changed employer to start job			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Jobseeker approached employer	381.0	402.5	783.5	287.2	271.5	558.7	668.1	674.0	1,342.1
Had no prior knowledge that job was available	138.1	155.2	293.3	99.0	101.2	200.2	237.2	256.4	493.5
First step taken—									
Tendered/advised for work	*	4.0	6.9	3.6	*	6.7	6.5	7.1	13.6
Contacted likely employers	99.2	106.0	205.2	70.1	68.3	138.4	169.3	174.3	343.6
Other	36.0	45.2	81.2	25.3	29.8	55.2	61.4	75.0	136.4
Had prior knowledge that job was available	242.8	247.3	490.1	188.1	170.3	358.4	431.0	417.6	848.6
Through CES	64.8	49.4	114.1	18.1	14.5	32.6	82.9	63.8	146.7
Through private employment agency	6.1	5.5	11.5	5.0	7.8	12.8	11.1	13.3	24.4
Through school programs	*	*	*	4.0	*	6.5	6.2	3.6	9.8
Through newspaper advertisements	68.2	90.9	159.1	82.7	74.8	157.5	150.9	165.7	316.5
Through friends, relatives, company contacts	86.7	81.4	168.1	64.2	54.1	118.3	150.9	135.5	286.4
Through other sources	15.0	19.0	34.0	14.0	16.7	30.8	29.0	35.7	64.8
Employer approached jobseeker	66.4	91.3	157.6	112.4	73.4	185.9	178.8	164.7	343.5
Total	447.3	493.7	941.1	399.6	345.0	744.5	846.9	838.7	1,685.6

TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO STARTED A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS: METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Method of job attainment	Educational attainment								
	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications					
	Degree	Trade: technical or other certificate		Total(a)	Attended highest level of secondary school available	Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age		Total(b)	Total(c)
		16 and over	15 and under						
Jobseeker approached employer	105.3	382.3	512.9	227.3	247.7	275.1	752.1	1,342.1	
Had no prior knowledge that job was available	35.5	135.1	181.0	83.0	88.3	105.2	276.9	493.5	
First step taken—									
Tendered/advised for work	*	4.7	6.7	*	*	*	6.6	13.6	
Contacted likely employers	21.4	93.1	121.2	57.9	58.0	75.8	192.0	343.6	
Other	12.2	37.4	53.1	22.5	28.3	27.3	78.3	136.4	
Had prior knowledge that job was available	69.7	247.2	331.9	144.3	159.4	169.9	475.2	848.6	
Through CES	*	37.3	44.4	24.3	34.7	40.8	100.0	146.7	
Through private employment agency	*	9.9	12.5	5.0	*	3.5	11.8	24.4	
Through school programs	*	*	*	3.5	*	*	6.8	9.8	
Through newspaper advertisements	38.6	112.7	156.4	54.8	50.4	49.8	155.1	316.5	
Through friends, relatives, company contacts	16.6	68.5	89.4	44.6	59.8	65.5	170.9	286.4	
Through other sources	8.6	18.1	27.4	12.2	8.7	9.5	30.5	64.8	
Employer approached jobseeker	33.1	104.4	142.9	49.5	57.5	75.8	183.0	343.5	
Total	138.3	486.7	655.7	276.7	305.2	350.9	935.0	1,685.6	

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons still at school.

TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO STARTED A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS: METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT AND OCCUPATION IN JOB WHEN STARTED, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Method of job attainment	Occupation in job when started								
	Profession- al, technical, etc.	Adminis- trative, executive and mana- gerial	Clerical	Sales	Farmers, fisher- persons and timber- getters	Transport and com- munication	Trades and production- process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	Service, sport and recreation	Total
Jobseeker approached employer	171.8	25.9	301.1	145.3	50.8	44.2	398.9	204.1	1,342.1
Had no prior knowledge that job was available	67.2	7.3	98.3	58.2	21.4	16.7	144.3	80.0	493.5
First step taken—									
Tendered/advised for work	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.6
Contacted likely employers	45.7	3.7	56.5	43.0	14.4	13.4	106.0	60.9	343.6
Other	18.6	*	39.1	13.6	6.1	*	35.8	16.6	136.4
Had prior knowledge that job was available	104.5	18.6	202.8	87.1	29.4	27.5	254.6	124.1	848.6
Through CES	*	*	35.5	12.0	6.5	6.0	64.6	18.3	146.7
Through private employment agency	3.8	*	15.1	*	*	*	*	*	24.4
Through school programs	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.2	*	9.8
Through newspaper advertisements	54.5	11.7	93.1	33.1	5.7	8.5	70.4	39.5	316.5
Through friends, relatives, company contacts	26.8	*	42.8	31.0	14.3	11.8	101.4	54.9	286.4
Through other sources	14.4	*	14.3	7.7	*	*	12.5	10.4	64.8
Employer approached jobseeker	45.6	15.9	66.5	41.4	24.5	12.8	85.3	51.5	343.5
Total	217.4	41.8	367.7	186.7	75.2	57.1	484.2	255.6	1,685.6

(a) Includes miners and quarryworkers.

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO STARTED A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS : AGE AND WHETHER OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Age group	Whether out of work prior to starting job								
	Out of work prior to starting job			Changed employer to start job			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	128.1	127.4	255.6	84.1	91.5	175.6	212.3	218.9	431.2
20-24	114.2	95.4	209.6	86.3	78.6	164.9	200.4	174.0	374.5
25-34	109.0	132.5	241.5	122.4	92.0	214.4	231.4	224.5	455.9
35-44	52.4	95.4	147.7	66.1	59.7	125.9	118.5	155.1	273.6
45-54	27.1	32.1	59.2	29.9	19.4	49.3	57.1	51.4	108.5
55-59	9.8	6.9	16.7	8.8	*	11.2	18.6	9.3	27.9
60-64	4.5	*	6.8	*	*	*	5.6	*	9.0
65 and over	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	5.0
Total	447.3	493.7	941.1	399.6	345.0	744.5	846.9	838.7	1,685.6

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS BUT HAD NOT STARTED ONE : WHETHER LOOKED FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS AND AGE, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Whether looked for full-time or part-time work in the previous twelve months	Age group								Total(a)
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64		
MALES									
Looked for full-time work		34.5	28.8	51.1	35.2	24.1	10.1	5.6	189.9
Looked for part-time work		20.6	4.1	*	3.7	*	*	*	38.4
Varied		10.9	13.1	14.1	10.3	10.2	4.9	4.3	68.4
Total		66.0	46.1	68.0	49.2	37.0	17.5	11.2	296.7
FEMALES									
Looked for full-time work		30.9	18.2	19.1	17.3	7.1	*	*	93.4
Looked for part-time work		26.8	14.1	38.9	34.4	14.4	*	*	132.9
Varied		11.3	11.4	15.7	12.8	5.6	*	*	58.5
Total		69.0	43.7	73.7	64.5	27.1	5.0	*	284.8
PERSONS									
Looked for full-time work		65.4	47.1	70.2	52.4	31.2	10.7	5.8	283.3
Looked for part-time work		47.4	18.2	41.7	38.1	17.2	5.6	*	171.3
Varied		22.2	24.5	29.8	23.1	15.8	6.2	4.7	126.9
Total		135.0	89.8	141.7	113.7	64.1	22.5	13.0	581.6

(a) Includes persons aged 65 and over.

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR A WAGE OR SALARY EARNER JOB DURING THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS BUT HAD NOT STARTED ONE : NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK AND TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, JUNE 1986 ('000)

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months	Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months (weeks)								Total
	Less than 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	11.4	15.0	18.2	19.9	37.6	34.7	12.6	128.5	277.9
Two or more	..	*	4.6		4.4	*	4.5	..	18.9
Total	11.4	17.1	19.9	22.8	41.9	38.0	17.0	128.5	296.7
FEMALES									
One	22.9	16.9	27.3	24.5	48.9	35.0	13.1	77.5	266.1
Two or more	..	*	5.3		4.7	4.2	*	..	18.7
Total	22.9	18.7	29.6	27.5	53.6	39.2	15.8	77.5	284.8
PERSONS									
One	34.4	31.9	45.5	44.4	86.5	69.8	25.7	206.0	544.0
Two or more	..	3.9	4.0	6.0	9.1	7.5	7.1	..	37.6
Total	34.4	35.8	49.5	50.3	95.6	77.3	32.8	206.0	581.6