

## CHAPTER 5

### PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Persons not in the labour force represent that group of the population who during a particular week are neither employed nor unemployed. From the labour market perspective, the main interest is in their potential to participate in the labour force. In addition to analysing persons not in the labour force by their demographic and family characteristics, attention is also focussed on their degree of attachment to the labour force. This is achieved by examining the concepts of 'marginal attachment to the labour force' and 'discouraged jobseekers'.

The sources for the statistics in this chapter are the ABS monthly Labour Force Survey and associated supplementary surveys. In particular, a survey of persons not in the labour force is conducted annually to examine the labour force attachments of persons not in the labour force.

#### Persons Not In the Labour Force

There were 5,136,500 persons not in the labour force in August 1992, 1,771,900 males and 3,364,600 females.

Females comprised 66 per cent of persons not in the labour force in August 1992 compared with 71 per cent ten years earlier.

In August 1992, 37 per cent of persons not in the labour force were aged 65 and over, compared with 31 per cent in August 1982.

A survey conducted in September 1992 provided details of the characteristics of persons aged 15 to 69 who were not in the labour force. There were 3,738,100 persons not in the labour force, accounting for 30 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 to 69. This proportion has changed little over the last five years.

- Females comprised some 67 per cent of those not in the labour force, whereas they constituted 42 per cent of persons in the labour force.
- Some 71 per cent of women not in the labour force reported home duties/child care as their main activity. This category accounted for 5 per cent of men not in the labour force.
- The most common main activities for males who were not in the labour force were retired/voluntarily inactive (37%) and attending an educational institution (33%).

Some 30 per cent of persons not in the labour force reported that they would like a job. Of those who were attending an educational institution, 41 per cent wanted a job, while of persons whose main activity was retired/voluntarily inactive, 11 per cent reported that they wanted to work.

#### Persons Not In The Labour Force With Marginal Attachment to the Labour Force

Persons not in the labour force can be classified as either having or not having marginal attachment to the labour force. In order to be marginally attached, a person must be neither employed nor unemployed but nevertheless seeking work, or would be available to start work within four weeks.

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force numbered 846,400 in September 1992. This represents 23 per cent of all persons aged 15 to 69 not in the labour force. This proportion has risen gradually since September 1989 when it was 20 per cent.

The majority of marginally attached persons were female (599,700 or 71%). Of the marginally attached women, 200,100 (33%) gave childcare as the main reason for not actively looking for work. Another 79,300 (13%) gave attending an educational institution as the main reason for not seeking work. Some 18 per cent gave reasons which classified them as discouraged jobseekers.

Of the 246,700 males who were marginally attached to the labour force, 89,000 (36%) gave attending an educational institution as the main reason for not actively looking for work, 33,400 (14%) gave own ill health/physical disability as the main reason and 15 per cent were discouraged jobseekers.

TABLE 5.1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: AGE, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1982 TO AUGUST 1992 ('000)

August	Age group									Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70 and over	
<b>MALES</b>										
1982	243.6	70.4	63.4	48.2	77.0	78.0	160.5	218.3	355.3	1,314.6
1983	271.0	69.0	57.2	52.1	74.5	82.0	183.2	216.3	373.8	1,379.2
1984	267.6	71.0	62.1	57.1	78.1	89.0	190.6	216.7	386.6	1,418.8
1985	280.8	68.6	70.2	57.8	79.4	90.7	198.3	219.8	403.9	1,469.5
1986(a)	284.2	72.2	67.3	65.2	80.9	93.2	193.2	233.9	419.3	1,509.4
1987	299.5	69.7	71.3	66.4	87.2	96.8	186.9	243.6	434.2	1,565.4
1988	311.7	65.1	85.0	71.7	109.1	98.9	190.2	257.5	444.8	1,633.9
1989	288.9	72.1	72.1	84.8	100.8	92.9	182.2	268.3	457.6	1,619.7
1990	297.1	76.7	80.7	74.0	96.5	87.9	180.8	275.3	472.1	1,641.1
1991	320.8	91.2	80.1	82.1	99.3	104.1	184.0	273.1	493.7	1,728.3
1992	308.2	90.0	96.3	89.7	112.9	98.1	187.5	274.8	514.3	1,771.9
<b>FEMALES</b>										
1982	276.8	197.0	570.6	402.3	372.8	275.3	301.2	275.8	571.0	3,242.8
1983	270.2	193.4	588.8	421.2	381.4	267.7	303.3	280.8	592.3	3,299.1
1984	279.6	186.8	568.9	429.1	374.0	270.9	316.5	273.6	620.5	3,319.9
1985	281.5	173.8	542.3	417.3	377.6	272.3	323.7	282.3	642.7	3,313.6
1986(a)	287.1	165.7	520.4	397.8	351.9	263.8	321.1	293.3	665.2	3,266.3
1987	315.0	157.8	507.1	399.3	354.8	254.4	320.1	301.8	681.2	3,291.4
1988	303.1	156.6	514.6	384.9	351.6	248.4	315.4	317.2	696.8	3,288.6
1989	295.5	148.1	482.6	376.3	346.7	244.2	318.1	331.3	715.9	3,258.7
1990	294.4	141.3	486.8	357.4	345.5	236.0	308.1	333.2	740.0	3,242.7
1991	313.6	160.6	482.1	369.5	344.7	231.9	311.4	334.9	768.5	3,317.0
1992	293.6	173.1	494.4	376.5	345.7	233.4	315.1	338.9	793.9	3,364.6
<b>PERSONS</b>										
1982	520.4	267.4	634.0	450.5	449.7	353.3	461.7	494.1	926.3	4,557.4
1983	541.2	262.4	646.1	473.3	455.9	349.7	486.5	497.1	966.2	4,678.3
1984	547.2	257.8	631.0	486.2	452.1	359.9	507.2	490.3	1,007.2	4,378.7
1985	562.2	242.5	612.6	475.2	457.0	363.1	522.0	502.0	1,046.5	4,783.1
1986(a)	571.3	237.9	587.7	463.0	432.8	357.0	514.3	527.0	1,084.5	4,775.7
1987	614.5	227.5	578.4	465.7	441.9	351.1	517.0	545.3	1,115.4	4,856.8
1988	614.8	221.7	599.6	456.6	460.7	347.3	505.5	574.8	1,141.5	4,922.5
1989	584.4	220.2	554.7	461.0	447.5	337.1	500.3	599.6	1,173.5	4,878.5
1990	591.4	218.0	567.5	431.4	442.0	323.9	488.8	608.5	1,212.1	4,883.7
1991	634.3	251.7	562.3	451.6	444.0	336.0	495.3	608.0	1,262.1	5,045.3
1992	601.8	263.2	590.7	466.2	458.6	331.5	502.6	613.7	1,308.2	5,136.5

(a) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Technical Notes for further information.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

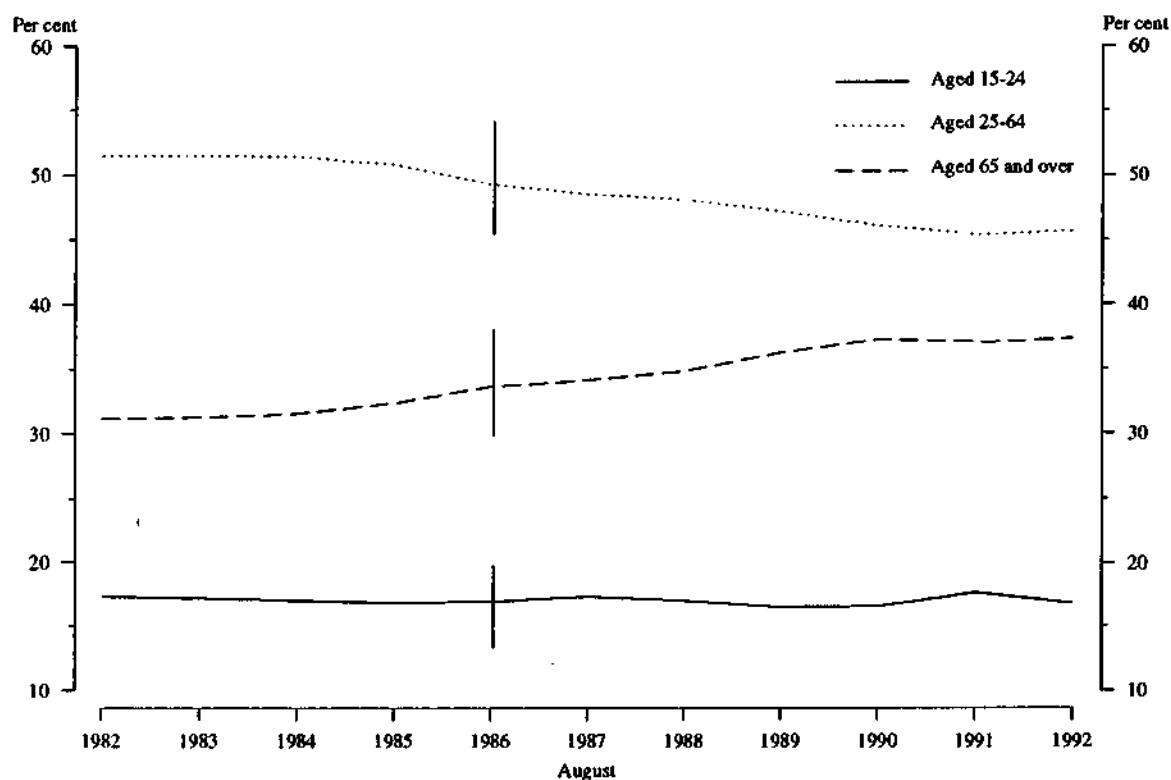
TABLE 5.2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER LOOKING FOR WORK AND MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1992 ('000)

	Males			Females			Persons
	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total	
Looking for work	19.4	34.4	53.7	38.9	38.8	77.7	131.4
Took active steps to find work(a)	7.8	16.4	24.2	8.8	18.3	27.0	51.2
Did not take active steps to find work	11.6	17.9	29.6	30.1	20.6	50.6	80.2
Not looking for work	892.2	722.2	1,614.4	1,828.0	1,286.2	3,114.2	4,728.6
Permanently unable to work	14.3	11.3	25.6	7.4	14.1	21.5	47.1
In institutions	24.4	53.7	78.1	23.3	128.0	151.3	229.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>950.3</b>	<b>821.6</b>	<b>1,771.9</b>	<b>1,897.5</b>	<b>1,467.2</b>	<b>3,364.6</b>	<b>5,136.5</b>

(a) Not available to start work in the reference week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

CHART 5.1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE, AUSTRALIA



Indicates break in series. Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Technical Notes for further information.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)*

TABLE 5.3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a): FAMILY STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1992

	Number ('000)			Proportion of population (b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	1,299.6	2,468.2	3,767.8	24.1	45.6	34.9
Husband or wife	872.1	1,776.9	2,649.0	22.1	46.3	34.0
With dependants present	126.0	768.8	894.7	6.1	38.7	22.0
Without dependants present	746.1	1,008.1	1,754.2	39.7	54.6	47.1
Sole parent	12.2	178.8	191.0	27.1	49.0	46.6
Other family head	26.3	130.5	156.8	34.0	64.6	56.1
Full-time student aged 15-24(c)	286.4	259.3	545.7	66.1	58.0	62.0
Other child(b) of married couple or family head	69.8	40.9	110.7	8.9	9.2	9.0
Other relative of married couple or family head	32.8	81.9	114.8	33.7	70.9	54.0
Not a member of a family	278.0	568.0	846.0	28.3	54.1	41.7
Living alone	195.4	492.5	687.9	37.0	70.1	55.9
Not living alone	82.6	75.5	158.1	18.3	21.8	19.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,577.6</b>	<b>3,036.2</b>	<b>4,613.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>

(a) Civilians who were residents of households where family status was determined. (b) Aged 15 and over. (c) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school. Also excludes full-time students aged 15-24 who are classified as husbands, wives, sole parents or other family heads.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)*.

TABLE 5.4. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 69: LABOUR FORCE STATUS,  
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 1992  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992
<b>MALES</b>					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,829.8	5,977.6	6,070.2	6,158.6	6,230.5
Persons in the labour force	4,718.5	4,872.8	4,971.4	4,986.0	5,007.1
Employed	4,408.9	4,598.4	4,608.3	4,463.1	4,441.2
Unemployed	309.6	274.4	363.1	522.8	565.9
Persons not in the labour force	1,111.4	1,104.8	1,098.8	1,172.6	1,223.4
With marginal attachment to the labour force	190.8	186.9	195.4	220.5	246.7
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	34.7	25.8	26.3	23.6	29.4
Were available to start work within four weeks	14.8	12.6	12.6	10.7	16.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	19.9	13.2	13.7	12.9	13.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	156.1	161.1	169.2	196.9	217.3
Discouraged jobseekers	19.7	18.2	24.2	34.5	37.8
Other	136.4	142.9	144.9	162.4	179.5
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	920.6	917.9	903.4	952.1	976.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	73.9	76.4	85.1	77.5	89.0
Did not want to work	782.8	759.1	743.3	787.4	817.8
Permanently unable to work	26.4	25.3	34.8	32.5	30.6
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	37.5	57.0	40.2	54.8	39.3
<b>FEMALES</b>					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,783.8	5,905.8	5,994.1	6,076.8	6,155.2
Persons in the labour force	3,274.7	3,443.5	3,542.8	3,605.6	3,640.5
Employed	3,029.8	3,217.1	3,278.4	3,262.4	3,281.1
Unemployed	244.9	226.4	264.4	343.2	359.4
Persons not in the labour force	2,509.1	2,462.3	2,451.3	2,471.3	2,514.7
With marginal attachment to the labour force	530.9	521.5	557.1	598.8	599.7
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	31.0	29.5	31.3	23.0	29.7
Were available to start work within four weeks	20.0	15.2	18.9	13.4	17.8
Were not available to start work within four weeks	11.0	14.4	12.4	9.6	11.9
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	499.9	492.0	525.8	575.8	570.0
Discouraged jobseekers	64.1	57.9	76.6	103.7	107.8
Other	435.7	434.1	449.2	472.1	462.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	1,978.2	1,940.8	1,894.2	1,872.5	1,915.0
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	207.4	209.9	225.4	199.6	166.0
Did not want to work	1,732.9	1,692.0	1,618.3	1,621.6	1,698.3
Permanently unable to work	10.8	9.8	17.6	15.5	14.2
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	27.1	29.2	32.9	35.7	36.5
<b>PERSONS</b>					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	11,613.6	11,883.4	12,064.3	12,235.4	12,385.7
Persons in the labour force	7,993.2	8,316.3	8,514.2	8,591.5	8,647.5
Employed	7,438.7	7,815.5	7,886.8	7,725.5	7,722.2
Unemployed	554.5	500.8	627.5	866.0	925.3
Persons not in the labour force	3,620.4	3,567.1	3,550.1	3,643.9	3,738.1
With marginal attachment to the labour force	721.7	708.4	752.5	819.3	846.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	65.7	55.3	57.6	46.7	59.1
Were available to start work within four weeks	34.8	27.7	31.5	24.1	33.8
Were not available to start work within four weeks	30.9	27.6	26.1	22.5	25.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	656.0	653.1	694.9	772.7	787.3
Discouraged jobseekers	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2	145.6
Other	572.2	577.0	594.1	634.5	641.7
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	2,898.8	2,858.7	2,797.6	2,824.6	2,891.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	281.3	286.3	310.5	277.1	255.0
Did not want to work	2,515.7	2,451.1	2,361.6	2,409.0	2,516.1
Permanently unable to work	37.2	35.1	52.4	48.1	44.8
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	64.7	86.2	73.1	90.5	75.8

(a) Includes some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols etc.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)*.

**TABLE 5.5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:  
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 1992  
(\*000)**

	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992
<b>MALES</b>					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	34.7	25.8	26.3	23.6	29.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	156.1	161.1	169.2	196.9	217.3
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	5.8	8.0	7.1	7.3	8.5
Personal reasons	110.4	114.7	118.8	130.9	146.4
Own ill health/physical disability	34.5	34.9	35.6	29.4	33.4
Attending an educational institution	55.3	58.2	62.1	79.8	89.0
Other(b)	20.6	21.6	21.1	21.7	24.0
Family reasons	*4.1	5.1	5.2	7.3	8.5
Discouraged jobseekers	19.7	18.2	24.2	34.5	37.8
No jobs in suitable hours	*2.1	*1.1	*0.7	*2.6	*2.2
Other reasons	12.5	12.6	12.0	13.5	13.0
Did not know	*1.5	*1.5	*1.2	*0.8	*0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>190.8</b>	<b>186.9</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>220.5</b>	<b>246.7</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	31.0	29.5	31.3	23.0	29.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	499.9	492.0	525.8	575.8	570.0
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	13.4	12.1	12.7	18.8	16.3
Personal reasons	145.8	159.9	160.2	165.2	172.5
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	35.0	44.3	43.3	35.6	38.1
Attending an educational institution	555.7	63.8	62.0	75.3	79.3
Had no need to work	28.3	25.9	31.9	30.2	30.7
Give others a chance	*3.6	*2.8	*4.3	7.0	6.8
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	10.5	11.8	10.0	8.0	10.0
Moved house/holidays	12.6	11.2	8.7	9.1	7.6
Family reasons	239.2	222.5	234.5	247.2	241.0
Ill health of other than self	10.6	10.8	10.0	12.2	12.1
Childcare	190.8	175.6	176.3	193.7	200.1
Other family considerations	37.8	36.1	48.1	41.3	28.8
Discouraged jobseekers	64.1	57.9	76.6	103.7	107.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	23.5	22.8	26.0	16.8	25.2
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	5.3	*3.0	7.4	5.8	7.6
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	12.0	9.0	11.3	11.6	13.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	17.5	19.3	24.5	38.1	33.3
No jobs at all	5.7	*3.8	7.4	31.4	27.9
No jobs in suitable hours	8.6	9.5	10.4	10.8	10.6
Other reasons	24.1	23.9	25.3	24.5	18.0
Did not know	4.7	6.2	6.0	5.6	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>530.9</b>	<b>521.5</b>	<b>557.1</b>	<b>598.8</b>	<b>599.7</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	65.7	55.3	57.6	46.7	59.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	656.0	653.1	694.9	772.7	787.3
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	19.1	20.1	19.8	26.1	24.9
Personal reasons	256.2	274.5	279.0	296.1	318.9
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	69.6	79.2	78.9	65.0	71.5
Attending an educational institution	111.0	122.1	124.1	155.1	168.3
Had no need to work	35.9	34.9	42.5	41.5	41.7
Give others a chance	*3.8	*3.1	5.1	7.9	7.8
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	16.9	16.3	13.6	11.6	15.5
Moved house/holidays	9.0	19.0	14.8	14.9	14.0
Family reasons	243.2	227.6	239.7	254.5	249.5
Ill health of other than self	12.7	11.4	11.3	14.0	15.0
Childcare	192.0	177.1	179.0	196.5	203.3
Other family considerations	38.6	39.1	49.4	44.1	31.2
Discouraged jobseekers	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2	145.6
Considered too young or too old by employers	32.5	30.8	38.6	28.8	38.1
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	6.5	*3.8	9.2	7.3	9.1
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	14.6	10.6	14.1	13.3	16.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	23.0	25.7	29.9	48.4	45.1
No jobs at all	7.2	5.2	9.0	40.3	37.3
No jobs in suitable hours	10.7	10.6	11.0	13.4	12.8
Other reasons	36.7	36.4	37.3	38.0	31.0
Did not know	6.3	7.7	7.2	6.4	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.7</b>	<b>708.4</b>	<b>752.5</b>	<b>819.3</b>	<b>846.4</b>

(a) Includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work. (b) Includes 'Had no need to work', 'Give others a chance', 'Welfare payments/pensions may be affected' and 'Moved house/holidays'.

Source: *Persons Not In the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)*.

TABLE 5.6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a): SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1992 ('000)

	<i>With marginal attachment to the labour force</i>				<i>Without marginal attachment to the labour force</i>			<i>Total not in the labour force</i>	
	<i>Wanted to work and were actively looking for work</i>	<i>Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks</i>	<i>Discouraged jobseeker</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Wanted to work but neither looking nor available for work</i>	<i>Did not want to work</i>		<i>Total(b)</i>
<i>State —</i>									
New South Wales	21.6	50.4	203.8	254.2	275.8	90.0	883.8	998.7	1,274.5
Victoria	12.6	45.8	162.4	208.2	220.8	65.8	655.4	728.2	949.0
Queensland	10.9	18.5	115.2	133.6	144.6	39.6	422.4	465.9	610.5
South Australia	5.3	11.7	57.8	69.4	74.7	20.4	209.4	232.0	306.7
Western Australia	4.7	12.8	66.5	79.3	84.0	23.6	230.2	255.3	339.3
Tasmania	* 1.6	4.1	18.4	22.6	24.2	7.0	70.1	81.5	105.7
Northern Territory	* 0.6	* 0.8	5.3	6.1	6.7	3.8	17.8	21.5	28.2
Australian Capital Territory	1.8	1.6	12.3	13.8	15.6	4.8	26.9	32.9	48.5
<i>Age —</i>									
15-19	13.7	11.1	147.7	158.8	172.4	59.5	337.5	398.1	570.5
20-24	17.6	6.2	67.9	74.2	91.8	32.3	124.5	159.0	250.9
25-34	14.1	15.6	179.9	195.5	209.6	69.2	276.0	348.7	558.3
35-44	7.8	33.4	109.8	143.2	151.0	38.5	241.0	285.9	436.9
45-54	* 3.3	32.2	70.6	102.8	106.1	29.2	292.6	333.1	439.2
55-59	* 1.1	16.4	29.5	45.9	47.1	14.2	243.5	262.9	310.0
60-64	* 1.3	16.4	20.2	36.6	37.9	7.5	442.9	458.9	496.8
65-69	* 0.1	14.3	16.1	30.4	30.5	* 4.6	558.2	569.2	599.7
<i>Family status —</i>									
Member of a family	42.5	120.8	557.9	678.7	721.2	208.1	2,087.9	2,330.0	3,051.1
Husband or wife	17.4	92.3	322.8	415.1	432.6	117.2	1,518.8	1,658.3	2,090.9
Sole parent	* 3.2	11.2	69.7	80.9	84.2	16.4	80.8	98.1	182.2
Other member of a family(c)	21.8	17.2	165.4	182.6	204.5	74.5	488.2	573.6	778.0
Not a member of a family	12.6	18.3	53.6	72.0	84.6	32.5	312.3	353.6	438.2
Family status not determined	* 3.9	6.5	30.2	36.7	40.6	14.5	115.9	132.4	173.0
<i>Birthplace —</i>									
Born in Australia	47.3	87.0	486.5	573.5	620.8	179.7	1,750.9	1,965.4	2,586.2
Born outside Australia	11.8	58.6	155.2	213.9	225.6	75.4	765.2	850.5	1,076.1
Born in main English-speaking countries	* 4.2	18.3	60.0	78.3	82.5	18.3	239.3	260.5	343.0
Born in other countries	7.6	40.3	95.2	135.5	143.1	57.0	525.9	590.0	733.1
<i>Time since last job —</i>									
Had had a job	48.1	132.1	514.5	646.5	694.7	197.0	2,052.4	2,284.2	2,978.9
Under 12 months	23.8	24.7	150.4	175.1	198.9	74.9	238.8	314.6	513.6
1 and under 3 years	14.7	35.7	131.0	166.7	181.4	52.2	314.3	369.8	551.2
3 and under 5 years	* 4.1	16.8	73.9	90.8	94.8	23.8	252.6	281.4	376.3
5 and under 10 years	* 4.3	24.8	84.7	109.5	113.8	22.9	441.0	473.3	587.1
10 and under 20 years	* 1.3	19.8	56.6	76.4	77.7	17.3	389.4	419.4	497.2
20 years or more	* 0.1	10.2	17.7	28.0	28.0	6.0	416.3	425.6	453.6
Had never had a job	10.9	13.6	127.2	140.8	151.7	58.0	463.7	531.8	683.5
<i>Main activity when not in the labour force —</i>									
Home duties/childcare	14.2	95.9	350.1	446.0	460.1	106.0	1,245.8	1,351.8	1,812.0
Attending an educational institution	28.4	12.5	183.7	196.2	224.6	87.9	443.0	530.9	755.5
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 2.0	21.8	37.3	59.2	61.1	8.8	556.8	565.6	626.8
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	6.2	* 2.3	32.9	35.2	41.4	41.0	175.0	260.9	302.3
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 1.2	* 1.8	7.7	9.5	10.7	* 3.5	35.0	38.5	49.3
Travel/moving house	* 2.1	* 1.6	11.5	13.1	15.2	* 2.2	11.9	14.1	29.3
Worked in unpaid voluntary job	* 0.6	5.0	8.1	13.1	13.8	* 1.7	32.6	34.4	48.1
Unpaid leave	* 0.5	* 0.6	* 1.4	* 1.9	* 2.4	* 0.8	* 0.6	* 1.4	* 3.8
Other	* 3.9	* 4.0	9.0	13.0	17.0	* 3.1	15.3	18.4	35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>145.6</b>	<b>641.7</b>	<b>787.3</b>	<b>846.4</b>	<b>255.0</b>	<b>2,516.1</b>	<b>2,816.0</b>	<b>3,662.4</b>
Males	29.4	37.8	179.5	217.3	246.7	89.0	817.8	937.5	1,184.1
Females	29.7	107.8	462.2	570.0	599.7	166.0	1,698.3	1,878.5	2,478.3

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols, etc. (b) Includes permanently unable to work. (c) Includes 'Other family head', 'Full-time student aged 15-24' and 'Other relative of married couple or family head'.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)*.

**TABLE 5.7 PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a): MAIN ACTIVITY WHEN NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND AGE  
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1992  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

Main activity when not in the labour force	Age								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	
<b>MALES</b>									
Home duties/childcare	* 0.8	* 1.5	10.2	10.7	11.2	6.0	9.5	13.5	63.4
Attending an educational institution	283.0	67.3	27.8	12.0	* 2.6	* 0.9	* 0.2	* 0.5	394.2
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 3.4	* 2.6	* 4.3	8.2	26.7	42.8	121.3	223.5	432.9
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	* 4.2	8.6	24.2	32.2	56.4	34.8	43.0	19.7	223.1
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.1	* 0.0	* 1.1	* 2.1	* 2.8	* 2.1	* 2.0	* 2.9	13.1
Other(b)	* 3.6	6.6	7.2	10.0	5.8	5.6	8.2	10.6	57.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>295.0</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>184.2</b>	<b>270.8</b>	<b>1,184.1</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>									
Home duties/childcare	17.6	89.7	441.1	319.7	269.0	170.1	222.4	219.0	1,748.6
Attending an educational institution	253.3	62.8	23.8	13.0	5.0	* 1.9	* 0.4	* 1.1	361.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 1.3	* 1.1	* 1.7	* 3.2	15.0	23.3	62.6	85.8	193.9
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	* 1.4	5.4	8.8	15.4	23.1	8.3	10.3	6.6	79.2
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.4	* 1.1	* 1.6	* 2.9	10.6	6.7	5.9	7.0	36.2
Other(b)	* 1.5	* 4.2	6.5	7.5	11.1	7.6	11.0	9.5	59.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>275.5</b>	<b>164.3</b>	<b>483.5</b>	<b>361.7</b>	<b>333.8</b>	<b>217.9</b>	<b>312.6</b>	<b>328.9</b>	<b>2,478.3</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>									
Home duties/childcare	18.3	91.2	451.3	330.4	280.2	176.0	232.0	232.6	1,812.0
Attending an educational institution	536.3	130.1	51.6	25.0	7.6	* 2.8	* 0.6	* 1.6	755.5
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 4.6	* 3.7	6.1	11.5	41.7	66.0	183.9	309.3	626.8
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	5.6	14.0	33.0	47.6	79.6	43.1	53.3	26.2	302.3
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.5	* 1.1	* 2.7	5.0	13.4	8.8	7.9	9.9	49.3
Other(b)	5.1	10.8	13.7	17.5	16.8	13.3	19.2	20.1	116.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>570.5</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>558.3</b>	<b>436.9</b>	<b>439.2</b>	<b>310.0</b>	<b>496.8</b>	<b>599.7</b>	<b>3,662.4</b>

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols, etc. (b) Includes 'Travel/moving house', 'Worked in unpaid voluntary job' and 'Unpaid leave'.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0)

### Discouraged Jobseekers

In September 1992 there were an estimated 145,600 discouraged jobseekers, an increase of 5 per cent from September 1991. Over the same period there was a 7 per cent increase in the number of unemployed persons. Discouraged jobseekers are persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who want to work, and were available to start within four weeks, but are not actively looking for work because they believe they could not get a job. The proportion of discouraged jobseekers as a component of all persons not in the labour force remained the same as in September 1991, at 4 per cent, which is almost double the proportion in September 1989.

The main reasons given by discouraged jobseekers for not actively looking for work were 'No job in locality or line of work' (31%), 'No jobs at all' (26%) and 'Considered too young or too old by employers' (26%).

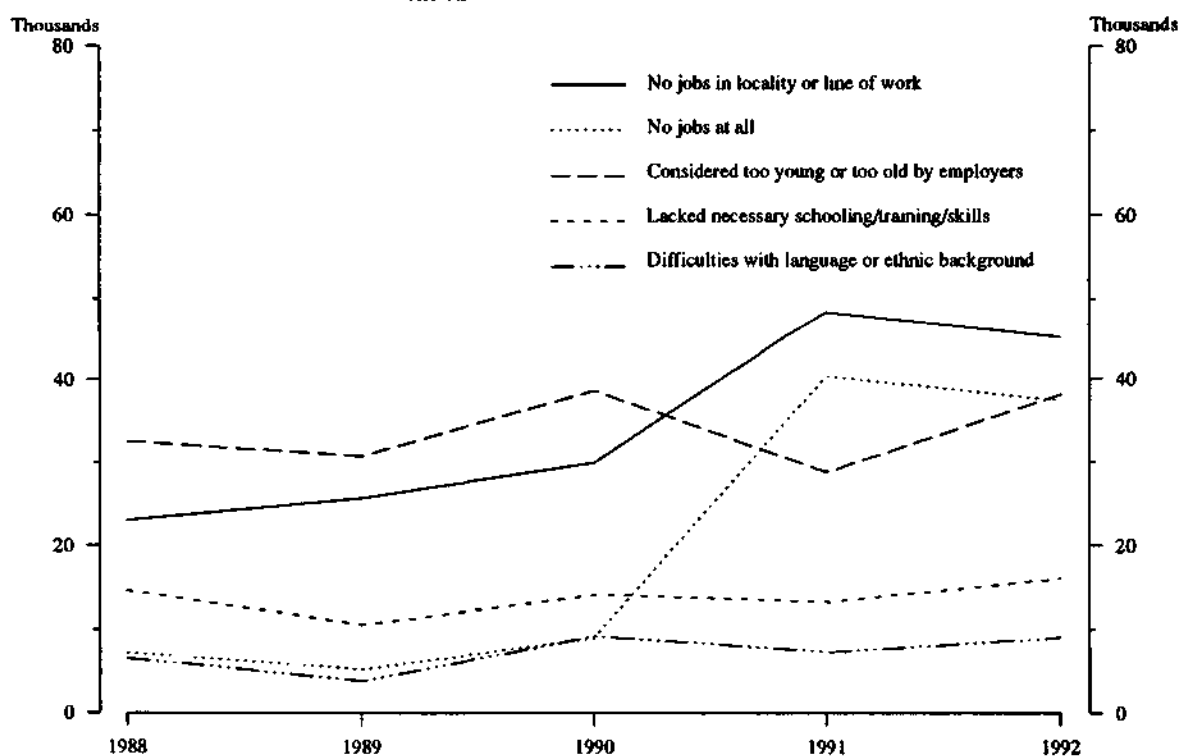
The greatest numbers of discouraged jobseekers were in the 35 to 44 year and 45 to 54 year age groups for females and the 65 to 69 year age group for males.

TABLE 5.8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: AGE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987 TO SEPTEMBER 1992 ('000)

Age group	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992		
							Males	Females	Persons
15-19	6.7	7.9	8.0	5.5	6.8	14.5	*4.2	6.8	11.1
20-24	*3.1	*2.7	*3.5	*3.6	5.4	7.2	*2.0	*4.2	6.2
25-34	11.7	15.3	12.8	10.2	14.8	19.3	*2.2	13.4	15.6
35-44	21.8	19.0	15.3	13.9	18.9	28.0	*4.7	28.7	33.4
45-54	18.6	15.4	14.8	15.0	19.2	30.2	5.1	27.0	32.2
55-64	23.1	22.3	22.3	20.2	24.3	28.5	*4.0	12.4	16.4
65-69	9.4	9.5	7.1	7.7	11.6	10.4	15.5	15.3	30.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>145.6</b>

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)*.

CHART 5.2. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 1992



Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)*



### Transition from Education to Work

In the twelve months to May 1992, the number of persons not in the labour force aged 15 to 64 who were attending an educational institution at the time of the survey increased by 7.5 per cent (58,600). The estimates of persons in this group attending school decreased by 2.2 per cent (10,200) while those attending higher education institutions increased by 15 per cent (30,700). The corresponding estimates for the period May 1987 to 1992 show an increase of 20 per cent (138,900) for total students attending, with the numbers of persons at school and those in higher education up by 1.3 per cent (5,700) and 61 per cent (88,900) respectively.

**TABLE 5.9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDING, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1987 TO MAY 1992 ('000)**

Type of educational institution attending	May 1987	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990	May 1991	May 1992
<b>MALES</b>						
Attending	330.0	353.7	347.4	331.5	382.4	398.5
School	229.0	235.7	220.1	216.9	239.2	229.4
Higher Education	70.6	79.0	90.2	79.8	103.0	112.5
TAFE	24.2	31.2	27.8	25.3	32.0	44.1
Other tertiary	6.2	7.8	9.0	9.6	8.2	12.6
Not attending	468.9	476.8	463.5	469.1	475.4	499.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>798.9</b>	<b>830.5</b>	<b>810.8</b>	<b>800.7</b>	<b>857.8</b>	<b>897.9</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Attending	371.5	391.8	379.3	374.4	399.3	441.9
School	214.0	214.3	205.3	199.1	219.7	219.4
Higher Education	74.1	83.7	83.8	92.5	99.8	121.1
TAFE	63.2	70.6	61.2	55.7	54.5	70.2
Other tertiary	20.2	23.2	28.7	27.2	25.2	31.2
Not attending	1,848.4	1,814.7	1,752.4	1,723.6	1,734.0	1,747.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,219.9</b>	<b>2,206.5</b>	<b>2,131.8</b>	<b>2,098.0</b>	<b>2,133.3</b>	<b>2,189.2</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Attending	701.5	745.6	726.7	706.0	781.8	840.4
School	443.0	450.0	426.2	416.0	458.9	448.7
Higher Education	144.7	162.7	174.0	172.2	202.9	233.6
TAFE	87.4	101.8	89.0	81.0	86.6	114.4
Other tertiary	26.4	31.0	37.6	36.7	33.4	43.8
Not attending	2,317.3	2,291.5	2,215.9	2,192.7	2,209.3	2,246.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,018.9</b>	<b>3,037.1</b>	<b>2,942.6</b>	<b>2,898.7</b>	<b>2,991.1</b>	<b>3,087.0</b>

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia (6227.0).

**TABLE 5.10. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1990 TO MAY 1992 ('000)**

Educational attainment	Males			Females			Persons		
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
With post-school qualifications	185.7	191.8	216.5	444.8	464.9	496.0	630.4	656.8	712.5
Degree	29.4	34.0	35.8	56.9	64.3	75.4	86.4	98.3	111.2
Trade qualification	100.3	99.3	117.8	47.1	43.6	47.8	147.5	142.9	165.6
Certificate or diploma	54.1	55.9	59.5	333.8	350.9	367.8	388.0	406.8	427.3
Other	*1.8	*2.7	*3.4	6.8	6.0	5.0	8.6	8.7	8.4
Without post-school qualifications(a)	398.1	426.8	452.0	1,454.2	1,448.7	1,473.8	1,852.3	1,875.4	1,925.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	126.9	156.1	177.6	351.7	359.5	396.4	478.6	515.6	573.9
Attending a tertiary institution in May	76.4	98.7	112.9	86.9	95.4	116.7	163.3	194.0	229.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	266.4	268.6	271.4	1,089.2	1,079.8	1,066.7	1,355.6	1,348.4	1,338.2
Attending a tertiary institution in May	15.7	16.6	19.0	36.8	35.1	40.9	52.6	51.7	59.9
Still at school	216.9	239.2	229.4	199.1	219.7	219.4	416.0	458.9	448.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>800.7</b>	<b>857.8</b>	<b>897.9</b>	<b>2,098.0</b>	<b>2,133.3</b>	<b>2,189.2</b>	<b>2,898.7</b>	<b>2,991.1</b>	<b>3,087.0</b>

(a) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom attendance at a secondary school could not be determined.

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia (6227.0).