

## LABOUR MOBILITY, FEBRUARY 1979 (PRELIMINARY)

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Eric Hubbard on Canberra 526507 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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### MAIN FEATURES

Note : Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 8 below.

- . 87.1 per cent of males and 88.7 per cent of females who were employed at the end of 1978 had not changed their employer or business during the year.
- . 10.0 per cent of males and 9.0 per cent of females had made one change.
- . Amongst the males a higher proportion (19.3 per cent) of sales workers had changed their employer or business than had those in any other occupation group. The highest proportion for females (13.5 per cent) was recorded for transport and communication workers.
- . 20.6 per cent of persons aged 15 to 24 years who were employed at the end of 1978 had changed their employer or business at least once during the year, compared with 9.7 per cent of persons aged 25 years and over.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

In February 1979 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about some aspects of the mobility of persons who had been employed at some time during 1978, e.g. the number of different employers for whom employees had worked during 1978 or the number of different businesses in which employers and self-employed persons had been engaged. The results of similar surveys in November 1972, February 1975 and February 1976 were published in a series of publications entitled *Labour Mobility* (6209.0).

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

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 15,000 houses, flats

etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered about one third of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday, 12th February, 1979.

#### Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged fifteen years and over except :

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia, and
- (e) boarding school students, patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

5. The estimates relate to the labour mobility in 1978 of persons covered by the survey in February 1979. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons employed in 1978 were covered. Labour mobility may relate to experience outside Australia.

#### Definitions

6. For this survey, each person was assigned to a labour force category for each week in 1978 on the basis of his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during that week. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are :

- (i) *Persons in the labour force.* A person was classified as having been in the labour force during any week in which he was employed or looking for work as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) *Employed persons.* A person was classified as having been employed during a week if, in that week, he had :

- (a) worked for one hour or more, for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
- (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
- (c) had a job, business or farm, but was on paid leave (including sick leave).
- (iii) *Persons looking for work.* A person was classified as looking for work during a week if, in that week, he did no work at all, did not have a job or business, and was looking for work. No constraints concerning the taking of active steps to find work, or availability to start work, applied.
- (iv) *Persons not in the labour force* are all those who, in any week, were not in the categories "employed" or "looking for work", as defined above. For the purposes of this survey a person who was on strike and who did no work during a week was classified as not in the labour force in that week.

7. For the purposes of the survey, a *job* was defined as :

- (i) employment as a wage or salary earner (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular location; or
- (ii) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular location.

*Location.* In capital cities and major towns, each suburb was considered to be a different location; otherwise, each town and each country area associated with a town constituted a separate location.

#### Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the survey estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance 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*. 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 if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

9. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates are subject to such high relative standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this bulletin. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force* (6203.0).

#### Related publications

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

*The Labour Force* (6203.0)

*Labour Force Experience* (6206.0)

*Persons not in the Labour Force* (6220.0)

*Persons Looking for Work* (6222.0)

*Labour Mobility* (6209.0)

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 9 above.

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

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Australian Statistician

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
6,000	1,500	25.0	200,000	7,100	3.6
10,000	2,000	20.0	500,000	10,000	2.0
20,000	2,700	13.5	1,000,000	12,800	1.3
50,000	4,100	8.2	2,000,000	16,100	0.8
100,000	5,400	5.4	5,000,000	21,300	0.4

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION (a), FEBRUARY 1979, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN 1978 ('000)

	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population in February 1979	5,154.9	5,267.9	10,422.9
<i>In the labour force at some time during 1978</i>	4,265.6	2,659.9	6,925.5
Employed at some time during 1978	4,139.0	2,499.9	6,639.0
Number of employers worked for (b) (or businesses) during 1978 –			
1	3,563.7	2,218.0	5,781.7
2	414.8	215.2	630.0
3	81.3	41.0	122.4
4 and over	79.2	25.7	104.9
Employed at the end of 1978	3,824.1	2,106.1	5,930.2
Not employed at the end of 1978	314.9	393.8	708.7
Left a job in 1978	964.5	685.1	1,649.7
Did not leave a job in 1978	3,174.5	1,814.8	4,989.3
<i>Out of the labour force for the whole of 1978</i>	889.3	2,608.1	3,497.4

(a) Non-institutional population aged 15 years and over. (b) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

TABLE 2. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1978, BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1978 AND AGE (a) ('000)

Age group (years)	Number of employers or businesses in 1978									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
15 – 19	240.4	40.5	11.7	6.1	298.7	226.8	35.6	9.9	*	277.5
20 – 24	375.9	80.6	18.2	16.1	490.9	295.5	54.4	10.0	6.5	366.5
25 – 34	878.2	127.9	21.1	18.0	1,045.2	465.7	50.3	8.7	*	528.3
35 – 44	711.6	72.5	9.9	7.7	800.0	405.5	29.1	*	*	436.8
45 – 54	640.4	44.4	*			689.2	315.2	14.6	*	*
55 – 59	265.1	9.7	*	*	276.3	105.7	*	*	*	110.0
60 – 64	155.4	*	*	*	159.4	36.1	*	*	*	36.3
65 and over	62.7	*	*	*	64.4	18.3	*	*	*	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,329.7</b>	<b>380.8</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>3,824.1</b>	<b>1,868.8</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>2,106.1</b>
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
15 – 19	54.5	*	7.1	*	71.8	52.4	8.4	6.2	6.0	69.0
20 – 24	37.8	9.2	6.6	7.3	57.7	69.8	11.4			
25 – 34	36.6	8.9			9.6	58.3		104.8	*	*
35 – 44	18.1	6.6	*	6.2	27.6	52.5	6.2	*	*	56.0
45 – 54	25.3				31.8	37.0		*	*	40.6
55 – 59	17.0	*	*	*	21.1	14.3	*	*	*	15.4
60 – 64	21.6	*	*	*	23.5	11.9	*	*	*	12.4
65 and over	23.1	*	*	*	23.2	6.6	*	*	*	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>234.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>314.9</b>	<b>349.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>393.8</b>

(a) In February 1979.

TABLE 3. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1978, BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1978 AND CHANGE IN LOCATION WHILE WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER OR IN THE SAME BUSINESS IN 1978 ('000)

<i>Change in location while with the same employer or in the same business in 1978</i>	<i>Number of employers or businesses in 1978</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>		
<b>MALES</b>						
Did not change location	3,402.9	381.2	73.6	69.7	3,927.5	
Changed location	160.8	33.6	7.7	9.4	211.6	
Number of changes –						
1	128.2	29.0	}	{	*	162.7
2	14.8	*			6.8	*
3	*	*	*	*	8.7	
4 and over	12.0	*	*	*	18.3	
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,563.7</i>	<i>414.8</i>	<i>81.3</i>	<i>79.2</i>	<i>4,139.0</i>	
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Did not change location	2,154.2	199.6	37.4	23.6	2,414.9	
Changed location	63.8	15.5	*	*	85.0	
Number of changes –						
1	50.9	14.4	*	*	70.0	
2 and over	12.8	*	*	*	15.0	
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,218.0</i>	<i>215.2</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>25.7</i>	<i>2,499.9</i>	
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Did not change location	5,557.1	580.8	111.1	93.4	6,342.4	
Changed location	224.6	49.2	11.3	11.5	296.6	
Number of changes –						
1	179.1	43.3	7.4	*	232.6	
2	19.5	*	*	*	27.1	
3	8.8	*	*	*	12.9	
4 and over	17.1	*	*	*	23.8	
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,781.7</i>	<i>630.0</i>	<i>122.4</i>	<i>104.9</i>	<i>6,639.0</i>	

TABLE 4. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1978, BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1978 AND OCCUPATION ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses in 1978									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
Occupation at end of year										
Professional and technical	418.5	37.8	} 9.1	{ *	465.1	328.9	29.3	} 6.5	{ *	366.9
Administrative, executive and managerial	288.8	29.0			322.8	39.3	4.3			44.6
Clerical	283.9	26.5	} 8.1	{ *	314.1	622.3	73.1	} 9.4	{ 6.1	710.8
Sales	213.4	43.6			264.3	243.9	28.1			281.5
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	292.3	24.0	} 9.0	{ 9.9	330.2	77.4	4.0	} 6.8	{ *	82.5
Transport and communication	257.6	27.1			295.7	41.8	5.0			48.3
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (a)	1,407.5	165.4	31.8	23.8	1,628.6	213.3	17.3	} 7.9	{ *	235.3
Service, sport and recreation	167.5	27.5	6.0	*	203.4	302.0	27.7			{ *
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,329.7</b>	<b>380.8</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>3,824.1</b>	<b>1,868.8</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>2,106.1</b>
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
Occupation of last job held in 1978										
Professional and technical	14.3	*	*	*	16.5	53.0	*	*	*	57.5
Administrative, executive and managerial	11.5	*	*	*	13.3	6.6	*	*	*	7.7
Clerical	12.7	*	*	*	14.8	89.3	7.7	*	*	100.2
Sales	21.2	} 8.4	{ *	*	27.9	57.6	6.0	} *	{ *	67.2
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	19.2				30.7	12.7	*			*
Transport and communication	17.9	*	*	*	22.6	7.4	*	*	*	7.6
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (a)	117.0	18.4	11.1	15.0	161.6	50.8	*	*	*	53.4
Service, sport and recreation	20.0	*	*	*	27.5	71.8	6.3	*	*	85.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>234.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>314.9</b>	<b>349.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>393.8</b>

(a) Includes miners and quarrymen.

TABLE 5. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1978, BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1978 AND INDUSTRY ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses in 1978									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
<b>Industry at end of year</b>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	257.8	20.8	*	8.4	290.8	78.2	*	*	*	82.8
Mining	66.1	*	*	*	73.5	6.8	*	*	*	7.2
Manufacturing	785.3	81.9	14.2	10.5	892.0	270.4	26.2	*	*	302.2
Electricity, gas and water	102.3	*	*	*	106.9	7.7	*	*	*	7.8
Construction	352.2	46.5	10.7	9.2	418.6	47.9	*	*	*	50.4
Wholesale and retail trade	581.1	98.5	15.3	8.1	703.0	440.6	53.7	9.6	*	509.0
Transport and storage	249.2	23.0	*	*	281.2	48.4	6.1	*	*	56.0
Communication	95.9	*	*	*	100.8	31.4	*	*	*	33.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	229.6	34.2	*	*	270.6	199.2	18.2	*	*	220.7
Community services	306.8	22.5	*	*	334.3	499.2	43.8	8.8	6.1	557.9
Public administration and defence	185.2	14.8	*	*	201.8	73.6	7.0	*	*	81.6
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	118.1	26.3	*	*	150.5	165.4	25.2	*	*	197.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,329.7</b>	<b>380.8</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>3,824.1</b>	<b>1,868.8</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>2,106.1</b>
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1978										
<b>Industry of last job held in 1978</b>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	16.2	*	*	6.1	28.2	12.8	*	*	*	14.8
Mining	*	*	*	*	7.2	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	53.0	6.9	6.0	*	70.2	57.2	*	*	*	60.4
Electricity, gas and water	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	32.1	*	*	8.2	46.1	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and retail trade	54.9	8.9	*	*	71.1	90.9	9.2	*	*	106.3
Transport and storage; communication	17.1	*	*	*	21.2	7.6	*	*	*	8.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	9.8	*	*	*	13.3	26.0	*	*	*	28.9
Community services	17.3	*	*	*	18.6	90.6	6.3	*	*	99.3
Public administration and defence	7.4	*	*	*	9.2	10.9	*	*	*	11.3
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	15.6	*	*	*	24.3	46.4	*	*	*	57.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>234.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>314.9</b>	<b>349.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>393.8</b>