

**PERSONS NOT IN THE
LABOUR FORCE**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 27 MAR 2009

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For further information
about these and related
statistics, contact the
National Information and
Referral Service on
1300 135 070 or Labour
Market Section on
Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about people aged 15 years and over who are not in the labour force: that is, neither employed nor unemployed. The data measure the potential supply of labour not reflected in employment and unemployment statistics, and measure the characteristics of that potential supply.

Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, conducted throughout Australia in September 2008 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Information collected in the survey includes details about whether people not in the labour force wanted to work, reasons why they were not actively looking for work, or were not available for work, and their main activity while not in the labour force.

Many people not in the labour force could be considered to have some attachment to the labour force. For example, they may want a job, but for a variety of reasons are not actively looking for work even though they are available to start a job. There is an expectation that many of these people could move into the labour force in the short term, or could do so if labour market conditions changed.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

From September 2008, a change has been made to the category 'Home duties or caring for children' for the data item 'Main activity when not in the labour force'. The category has been split into 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children'. For more information about the data item 'Main activity when not in the labour force' see paragraphs 25–26 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

Sample reductions in the Labour Force Survey, (see Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0)), resulted in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey sample being approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 2007.

ROUNDING

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

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ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
cat. no.	Catalogue number
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

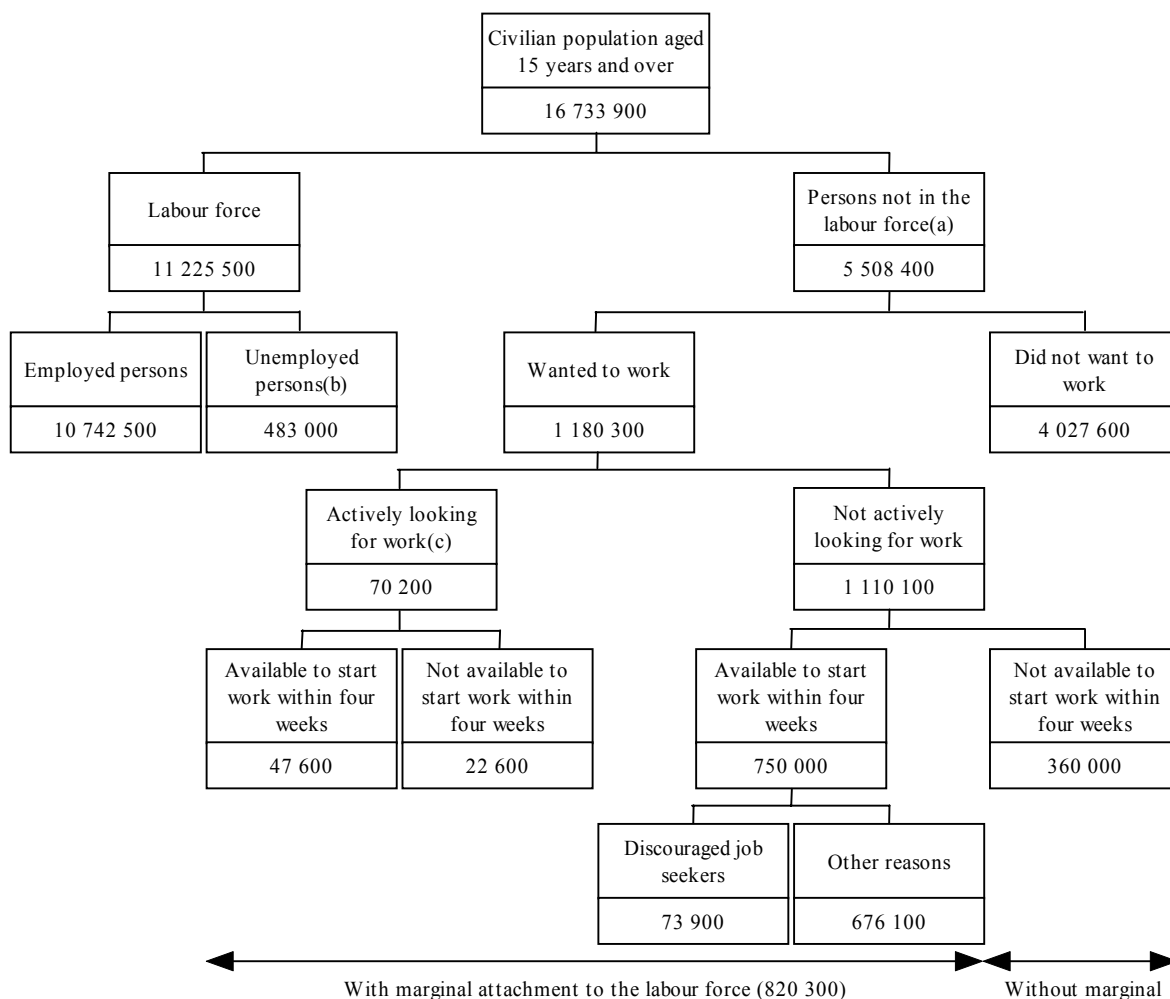
Persons not in the labour force can be divided into those who are marginally attached to the labour force, and those who are not. Persons who are marginally attached to the labour force satisfy some, but not all, of the criteria required to be classified as unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force are considered to be marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- wanted to work and were actively looking for work but were not available to start work in the reference week, or
- wanted to work and were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

Persons not in the labour force are not marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- did not want to work, or
- wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks.



(a) Includes 300 500 people who were permanently unable to work.

(b) Includes future starters.

(c) Refers to people who were actively looking for work, but were not available to start work in the reference week.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

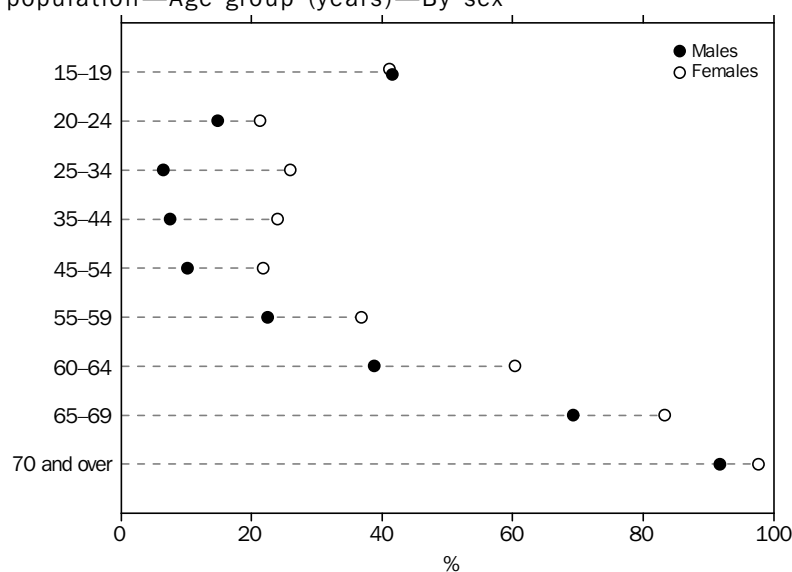
OVERVIEW

In September 2008, there were just over 5.5 million people aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force. This represented 33% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. Since September 2005, people aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force comprise approximately one-third of the civilian population.

Of those people not in the labour force:

- 21% wanted to work (23% of women not in the labour force and 20% of men not in the labour force)
- 61% were women
- 30% were aged 70 years and over and a further 15% were aged 15–24 years.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, Proportion of the civilian population—Age group (years)—By sex



The proportion of men and women who were not in the labour force varied according to age. In the 15–19 year age group, where there are high levels of participation in education, approximately 41% of both men and women were not in the labour force. In each of the remaining age groups there was a higher proportion of women than men not in the labour force. The proportion of men not in the labour force was lowest for those aged 25–34 years (7%) and 35–44 years (8%), and highest for those aged 70 years and over (92%). By comparison, the proportion of women not in the labour force was lowest for those aged 20–24 years (21%) and 45–54 years (22%) and highest for those aged 70 years and over (98%).

WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE

There were 820,300 people with marginal attachment to the labour force in September 2008, representing 15% of people not in the labour force.

Of the 820,300 people with marginal attachment to the labour force:

- 516,100 (63%) were women
- 91% (750,000) were not actively looking for work
- 58% 'Intended to enter' the labour force within 12 months, and 22% 'Did not intend to enter' the labour force within 12 months. The remainder (20%) were undecided if they would enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

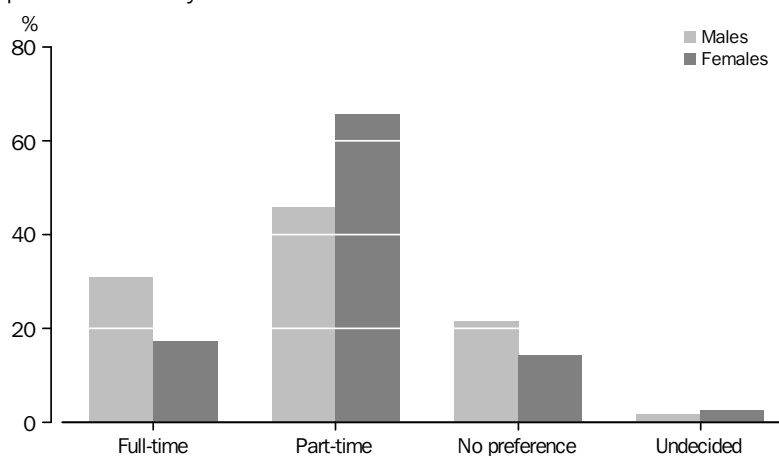
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE *continued*

People with marginal attachment to the labour force tended to be younger. For example, more than one-quarter (29%) of those with marginal attachment to the labour force were aged 15–24 years. A further 19% were aged 25–34 years, and a further 19% were aged 35–44 years.

The largest group of men with marginal attachment to the labour force was those aged 15–24 years (39%). This was followed by men aged 25–44 years (22%). By comparison, the largest group of women with marginal attachment to the labour force was those aged 25–44 years (47%). This was followed by women aged 15–24 years (24%).

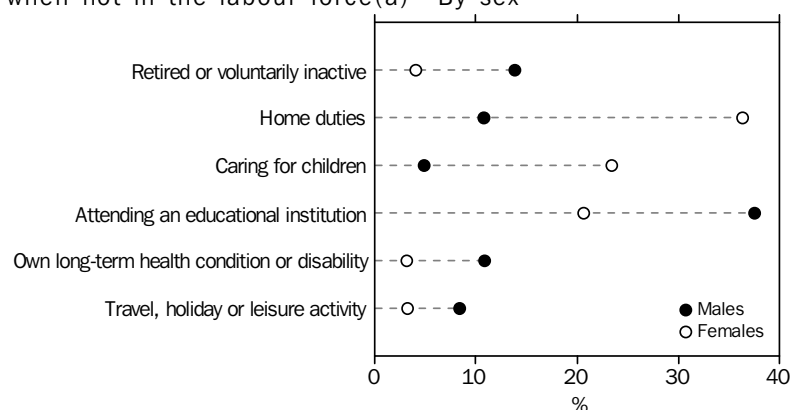
PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Full-time or part-time preference—By sex



Of women with marginal attachment to the labour force, 66% preferred part-time work, while 17% preferred full-time work. For men, 46% preferred part-time work and 31% preferred full-time work. The remainder had no preference, or were undecided.

Main activity when not in the labour force¹

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Selected main activities when not in the labour force(a)—By sex



(a) See paragraphs 25–26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

For people with marginal attachment to the labour force, the most commonly reported main activity when not in the labour force was 'Attending an educational institution', 38% of men and 21% of women, followed by 'Home duties', 36% of women and 11% of men and 'Caring for children', 23% of women and 5% of men.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Time since last job

In September 2008, 663,400 (81%) of those with marginal attachment to the labour force had previously had a job. Of these, 35% reported that their last job was less than 12 months ago, and 22% reported their last job was between one and three years ago.

Almost 12% of people (49,600 women and 26,900 men) with marginal attachment to the labour force last had a job between 10 years and under 20 years ago. There were 33,800 people with marginal attachment to the labour force whose last job was more than 20 years ago.

Approximately 156,800 (19%) of people with marginal attachment to the labour force reported that they had never held a job lasting for 2 weeks or more.

Main reason for not actively looking for work - Other reasons

There were 676,100 (82% of people with marginal attachment to the labour force), other than discouraged job seekers, who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but were not actively looking for work. Of these, 65% (439,900) were women and 35% (236,300) were men.

PERSONS NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK—OTHER REASONS, Selected main other reasons for not actively looking for work—By sex



The most commonly reported main reason for not actively looking for work for such men was 'Attending an educational institution' (35%), followed by 'Own long-term health condition or disability' (19%). By comparison, the most commonly reported main reason for women was 'Caring for children' (31%), followed by 'Attending an educational institution' (18%).

DISCOURAGED JOB SEEKERS

In September 2008 there were 73,900 discouraged job seekers aged 15 years and over. This compares with 76,600 discouraged job seekers in September 2007.

Characteristics of discouraged job seekers aged 15 years and over in September 2008 include:

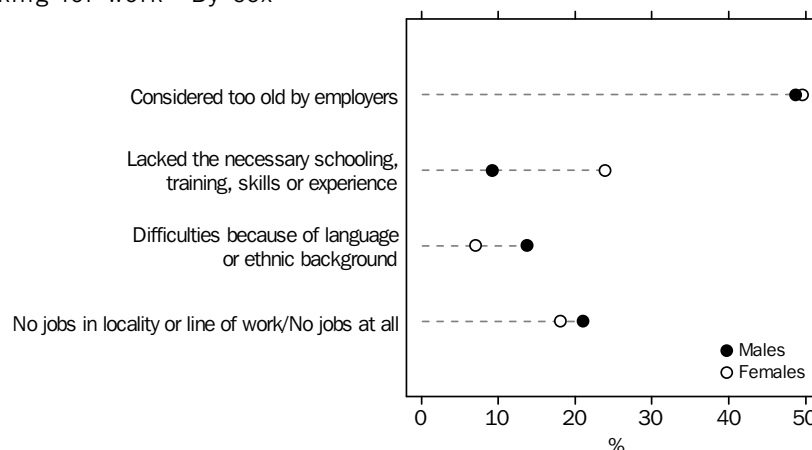
- 48,800 were aged 55 years and over
- 39,300 were women
- 65,300 had worked before
- 11,200 had worked in the previous 12 months (21% of men and 10% of women)
- 20,700 had looked for work in the previous 12 months (31% of men and 25% of women)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

DISCOURAGED JOB SEEKERS *continued*

- 24,800 intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months (39% of men and 29% of women).

DISCOURAGED JOB SEEKERS, Selected main reasons for not actively looking for work—By sex



The main reason most commonly reported by discouraged job seekers for not actively looking for work was 'Considered too old by employers' (49%). This was followed by 'No jobs in locality or line of work' (18%) and 'Lacked necessary training, skills or experience' (17%). 'Considered too old by employers' was most commonly reported as the main reason by 49% of male and 50% of female discouraged job seekers. 'Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills, or experience' showed the greatest contrast between men and women who were discouraged job seekers (9.2% and 24% respectively) as the main reason for not actively looking for work.

WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE

In September 2008, there were 4.7 million people (1.9 million men and 2.8 million women) aged 15 years and over without marginal attachment to the labour force, comprising:

- 86% who reported that they 'Did not want to work', or 'Did not know' if they wanted to work
- 7.7% who 'Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks'
- 6.4% who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

Unlike the age distribution of those with marginal attachment, those without marginal attachment tended to be older. Almost half (48%) were aged 65 years and over (53% of men and 44% of women), and a further 18% were aged 55–64 years old.

Main activity when not in the labour force¹

Almost one-third (32%) of people without marginal attachment reported their main activity when not in the labour force as 'Retired or voluntarily inactive'. The next most common response was 'Home duties' (26%).

The most common response reported by men without marginal attachment was 'Retired or voluntarily inactive' (43%) followed by 'Own long-term health condition or disability' and 'Attending an educational institution' (both 17%). Women without marginal attachment most commonly reported 'Home duties' (38%) followed by 'Retired or voluntarily inactive' (24%) as their main activity when not in the labour force.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Time since last job

In September 2008, of those without marginal attachment to the labour force:

- 84% (3.9 million) reported they had previously had a job. Of these:
 - 56% reported that their last job was 10 years ago or more
 - 23% reported that their last job was 3 to under 10 years ago
- 16% (759,600) reported they had never had a job, of whom 62% were women.

END NOTE

1. See paragraphs 25–26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

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BECAUSE THEY WERE CARING FOR CHILDREN

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CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status and persons not in the labour force summary variable—By sex—September 2005 to September 2008

	Sep 2005	Sep 2006	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	7 908.3	8 005.2	8 148.8	8 298.7
Persons in the labour force	5 805.3	5 913.8	6 007.7	6 137.5
Employed	5 510.2	5 630.2	5 777.8	5 886.0
Unemployed	295.1	283.7	229.8	251.5
Persons not in the labour force(a)	2 103.0	2 091.3	2 141.1	2 161.2
With marginal attachment to the labour force	273.8	250.5	290.6	304.1
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	28.3	25.5	26.6	33.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	21.3	15.4	18.3	23.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	7.0	10.1	8.3	10.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	245.4	225.0	264.0	270.9
Discouraged job seekers	25.0	20.4	28.0	34.7
Other	220.5	204.6	235.9	236.3
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	1 829.2	1 840.8	1 850.5	1 857.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	100.0	105.4	118.7	119.3
Did not want to work(c)	1 579.1	1 571.2	1 569.0	1 575.7
FEMALES				
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	8 115.2	8 216.8	8 334.3	8 435.2
Persons in the labour force	4 764.7	4 895.0	4 983.5	5 088.0
Employed	4 514.9	4 659.8	4 752.2	4 856.5
Unemployed	249.9	235.2	231.3	231.5
Persons not in the labour force(a)	3 350.5	3 321.8	3 350.8	3 347.2
With marginal attachment to the labour force	566.5	501.1	554.8	516.1
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	40.9	34.7	40.4	37.0
Were available to start work within four weeks	29.7	21.9	27.0	24.5
Were not available to start work within four weeks	11.1	12.8	13.4	12.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	525.7	466.4	514.4	479.1
Discouraged job seekers	38.2	35.8	48.6	39.3
Other	487.5	430.7	465.8	439.9
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	2 784.0	2 820.7	2 796.0	2 831.0
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	225.0	214.8	224.5	240.7
Did not want to work(c)	2 458.4	2 497.4	2 438.1	2 451.9
PERSONS				
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	16 023.5	16 222.0	16 483.1	16 733.9
Persons in the labour force	10 570.0	10 808.9	10 991.2	11 225.5
Employed	10 025.0	10 290.0	10 530.0	10 742.5
Unemployed	545.0	518.9	461.1	483.0
Persons not in the labour force(a)	5 453.5	5 413.1	5 492.0	5 508.4
With marginal attachment to the labour force	840.3	751.6	845.4	820.3
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	69.2	60.2	67.1	70.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	51.0	37.3	45.4	47.6
Were not available to start work within four weeks	18.1	22.9	21.7	22.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	771.1	691.4	778.4	750.0
Discouraged job seekers	63.1	56.1	76.6	73.9
Other	708.0	635.3	701.7	676.1
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	4 613.2	4 661.5	4 646.5	4 688.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	325.0	320.2	343.3	360.0
Did not want to work(c)	4 037.5	4 068.7	4 007.0	4 027.6

(a) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'Permanently not intending to work' in the Labour Force Survey. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) Includes people who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, Main activity when not in the labour force—By age group (years)—By sex

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

<i>Main activity when not in the labour force (a)</i>	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70 and over	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

MALES

Retired or voluntarily inactive	**2.2	*3.5	*5.2	16.9	38.5	93.1	178.6	508.7	846.7
Home duties(b)	*3.4	*5.7	15.4	27.1	19.0	33.1	28.2	52.1	184.1
Caring for children(b)	**0.3	*9.0	10.1	*3.7	—	**0.6	**2.3	**1.2	27.1
Attending an educational institution	370.5	32.5	13.9	**1.9	**2.0	**0.2	—	—	420.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	13.0	22.8	41.4	69.6	51.8	54.2	29.8	65.3	347.9
Own short-term illness or injury	*4.3	*5.1	*5.8	*5.5	**2.3	*4.2	**2.1	**1.7	31.1
Looking after ill or disabled person	**0.5	*5.0	*6.4	*8.5	*5.5	**1.9	*7.7	16.4	51.9
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*6.9	*4.0	*4.7	*6.5	11.8	20.1	26.6	74.1	154.7
Working in unpaid voluntary job	**0.8	**0.8	**0.8	*2.4	*4.9	*8.8	*7.0	23.4	48.8
Other	10.3	*5.9	*8.3	*5.1	*5.8	*4.4	**2.3	*5.9	47.9
Total	412.1	94.4	111.9	147.2	141.6	220.6	284.6	748.7	2 161.2

FEMALES

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*2.4	*2.5	**1.7	18.2	30.9	76.2	133.8	438.0	703.7
Home duties(b)	33.6	147.0	184.7	167.8	119.8	151.1	133.5	329.6	1 267.2
Caring for children(b)	46.4	148.4	100.5	13.3	*7.5	*9.3	*7.7	*4.5	337.7
Attending an educational institution	330.5	42.2	27.8	12.2	*3.6	**0.8	**1.2	**0.5	418.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	*8.9	13.8	27.3	50.2	29.8	31.7	22.6	53.2	237.5
Own short-term illness or injury	*2.6	*4.1	*7.2	*8.0	*6.1	*3.3	**0.9	*2.5	34.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	*2.9	*5.3	11.5	30.1	19.3	27.0	*9.1	22.4	127.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*6.9	*4.0	**1.2	9.7	*9.2	19.2	21.1	41.0	112.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	**0.9	**0.9	**1.9	*4.4	*9.3	15.9	11.1	32.4	76.7
Other	*4.8	*4.0	*3.3	*5.8	**2.0	*4.2	**1.5	*5.3	31.0
Total	439.8	372.0	367.3	319.7	237.4	338.8	342.6	929.5	3 347.2

PERSONS

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*4.7	*6.0	*6.8	35.1	69.4	169.3	312.4	946.7	1 550.4
Home duties(b)	37.0	152.7	200.1	194.9	138.8	184.2	161.8	381.7	1 451.3
Caring for children(b)	46.6	157.4	110.7	17.0	*7.5	9.9	10.0	*5.7	364.8
Attending an educational institution	701.0	74.7	41.7	14.1	*5.6	**0.9	**1.2	**0.5	839.7
Own long-term health condition or disability	21.8	36.6	68.7	119.8	81.6	86.0	52.4	118.5	585.4
Own short-term illness or injury	*6.8	*9.2	13.0	13.6	*8.4	*7.5	*3.1	*4.2	65.9
Looking after ill or disabled person	*3.4	10.4	17.9	38.5	24.8	28.9	16.8	38.8	179.5
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	13.8	*8.0	*5.9	16.2	21.0	39.3	47.7	115.1	267.0
Working in unpaid voluntary job	**1.7	**1.7	*2.7	*6.9	14.1	24.8	18.1	55.7	125.6
Other	15.1	9.9	11.7	10.8	*7.8	*8.6	*3.8	11.2	78.9
Total	851.9	466.5	479.2	466.9	379.1	559.4	627.2	1 678.3	5 508.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected characteristics—By sex

WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE

<i>Discouraged job seekers</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total with marginal attachment to the labour force</i>	<i>Total persons not in the labour force</i>	<i>Proportion not in the labour force(a)</i>
'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%

MALES

State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	15.4	79.7	95.1	107.0	771.6	28.0
Victoria	9.2	61.1	70.3	77.3	536.8	26.2
Queensland	*6.1	42.9	49.0	54.9	408.7	24.9
South Australia	*1.4	19.7	21.1	25.3	171.1	27.5
Western Australia	**1.3	21.8	23.1	25.0	176.1	21.0
Tasmania	*0.8	6.7	7.5	8.2	55.7	28.8
Northern Territory(b)	**0.1	*1.0	*1.1	2.2	12.7	19.3
Australian Capital Territory	**0.3	3.5	3.8	4.3	28.6	21.6
Age group (years)						
15–19	*3.9	71.4	75.3	80.7	301.0	41.6
20–24	**1.2	30.2	31.4	38.5	111.1	14.8
25–34	*3.8	26.1	29.9	34.4	94.4	6.5
35–44	**1.1	26.1	27.3	33.9	111.9	7.5
45–54	**1.2	25.9	27.1	32.2	147.2	10.2
55–59	*3.1	14.7	17.8	19.7	141.6	22.4
60–64	*5.3	14.6	19.9	22.7	220.6	38.8
65–69	*6.8	13.2	19.9	19.9	284.6	69.3
70 and over	*8.2	14.0	22.2	22.2	748.7	91.8
Relationship in household						
Family member	26.2	174.0	200.3	222.8	1 692.7	24.8
Husband, wife or partner	18.7	71.0	89.7	100.6	1 191.5	23.5
Lone parent	**2.1	*7.8	9.9	10.3	44.2	25.9
Dependent student	*2.7	61.1	63.8	68.4	287.4	52.4
Non-dependent child	*2.6	27.1	29.8	34.3	110.6	13.3
Other family person	—	*7.0	*7.0	*9.1	58.9	30.0
Non-family member	*7.8	49.5	57.3	66.2	392.8	30.0
Relationship not determined	**0.6	12.7	13.4	15.1	75.7	47.0
Country of birth						
Born in Australia	17.0	175.8	192.8	216.2	1 409.5	24.1
Born overseas	17.6	60.5	78.1	87.9	751.7	30.6
Born in main English-speaking countries	*5.2	20.5	25.7	28.8	231.2	25.8
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	12.4	40.0	52.4	59.1	520.5	33.4
<i>Total</i>	34.7	236.3	270.9	304.1	2 161.2	26.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected
characteristics—By sex *continued*

WANTED TO WORK, NOT
ACTIVELY LOOKING,
BUT WERE AVAILABLE

Discouraged
job seekers

Other

Total

Total with
marginal
attachment to
the labour force

Total persons
not in
the labour force

Proportion
not in the
labour force(a)

'000

'000

'000

'000

'000

%

FEMALES

State or territory of usual residence

New South Wales	14.5	144.2	158.7	169.3	1 176.5	41.9
Victoria	9.7	114.5	124.2	133.8	851.3	40.4
Queensland	*5.5	88.1	93.6	100.6	607.9	36.7
South Australia	*2.9	30.7	33.6	38.4	251.8	40.2
Western Australia	*4.2	44.2	48.4	51.7	315.6	37.6
Tasmania	*2.0	11.0	12.9	13.8	86.5	43.3
Northern Territory(b)	**0.1	1.8	1.9	2.2	14.7	24.6
Australian Capital Territory	**0.3	5.4	5.7	6.4	42.9	31.0

Age group (years)

15–19	**1.8	70.4	72.2	76.0	285.0	41.1
20–24	—	41.3	41.3	46.3	154.7	21.3
25–34	**0.6	109.0	109.5	121.1	372.0	25.9
35–44	*4.4	110.5	114.8	122.1	367.3	24.0
45–54	*7.1	52.3	59.4	65.7	319.7	21.7
55–59	*3.9	22.7	26.6	28.5	237.4	36.8
60–64	*7.8	15.3	23.1	23.7	338.8	60.3
65–69	*4.3	10.8	15.1	15.7	342.6	83.3
70 and over	*9.4	*7.6	17.1	17.1	929.5	97.6

Relationship in household

Family member	29.9	397.2	427.1	454.9	2 607.1	37.2
Husband, wife or partner	25.6	245.6	271.1	286.0	1 836.6	37.1
Lone parent	**2.0	69.3	71.4	79.7	316.0	42.3
Dependent student	**1.8	59.5	61.3	66.0	259.1	44.4
Non-dependent child	—	16.7	16.7	16.7	72.7	14.7
Other family person	**0.5	*6.1	*6.6	*6.6	122.6	52.7
Non-family member	*9.3	36.0	45.3	52.7	674.0	51.7
Relationship not determined	—	*6.7	*6.7	*8.5	66.1	52.4

Country of birth

Born in Australia	25.4	316.3	341.7	368.5	2 237.8	37.4
Born overseas	13.9	123.5	137.4	147.6	1 109.4	45.2
Born in main English-speaking countries	*2.6	43.3	45.9	49.5	324.3	38.7
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	11.2	80.3	91.5	98.1	785.1	48.6

Total	39.3	439.9	479.1	516.1	3 347.2	39.7
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* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

WANTED TO WORK, NOT
ACTIVELY LOOKING,
BUT WERE AVAILABLE

Discouraged
job seekers

Other

Total

Total with
marginal
attachment to
the labour force

Total persons
not in
the labour force

Proportion
not in the
labour force(a)

'000

'000

'000

'000

'000

%

PERSONS

State or territory of usual residence

New South Wales	29.9	223.9	253.8	276.2	1 948.1	35.0
Victoria	18.9	175.6	194.5	211.1	1 388.1	33.4
Queensland	11.6	131.0	142.6	155.5	1 016.6	30.8
South Australia	4.4	50.4	54.8	63.8	422.9	33.9
Western Australia	*5.5	66.0	71.5	76.7	491.7	29.3
Tasmania	2.8	17.6	20.4	21.9	142.2	36.2
Northern Territory(b)	**0.2	2.8	3.0	4.4	27.4	21.9
Australian Capital Territory	**0.7	8.8	9.5	10.7	71.5	26.4

Age group (years)

15–19	*5.7	141.8	147.5	156.6	586.1	41.3
20–24	**1.2	71.5	72.6	84.8	265.8	18.0
25–34	*4.4	135.1	139.5	155.5	466.5	16.1
35–44	*5.5	136.6	142.1	156.0	479.2	15.8
45–54	*8.3	78.2	86.5	97.9	466.9	16.0
55–59	*7.0	37.4	44.5	48.2	379.1	29.7
60–64	13.1	29.9	43.0	46.4	559.4	49.5
65–69	11.1	24.0	35.0	35.6	627.2	76.3
70 and over	17.6	21.7	39.3	39.3	1 678.3	94.9

Relationship in household

Family member	56.2	571.2	627.3	677.8	4 299.7	31.1
Husband, wife or partner	44.3	316.5	360.8	386.7	3 028.1	30.2
Lone parent	*4.2	77.1	81.3	90.0	360.2	39.3
Dependent student	*4.5	120.6	125.2	134.4	546.6	48.3
Non-dependent child	*2.6	43.8	46.4	51.0	183.4	13.8
Other family person	**0.5	13.1	13.6	15.7	181.5	42.3
Non-family member	17.1	85.5	102.6	118.9	1 066.8	40.8
Relationship not determined	**0.6	19.4	20.1	23.6	141.9	49.4

Country of birth

Born in Australia	42.4	492.1	534.5	584.7	3 647.3	30.8
Born overseas	31.5	184.0	215.5	235.6	1 861.1	37.9
Born in main English-speaking countries	*7.9	63.7	71.6	78.4	555.5	32.1
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	23.6	120.3	143.9	157.2	1 305.6	41.1

Total **73.9** **676.1** **750.0** **820.3** **5 508.4** **32.9**

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Time since last job and main activity when not in the labour force—By sex

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES					
Time since last job					
Had a job	29.2	175.7	204.9	232.5	1 800.3
Under 12 months	*7.4	77.8	85.2	106.3	254.4
1 year and under 3 years	*6.5	36.9	43.4	47.6	229.9
3 years and under 5 years	*2.4	14.1	16.5	16.6	135.2
5 years and under 10 years	*4.9	21.1	26.0	26.6	324.4
10 years and under 20 years	*4.7	21.3	25.9	26.9	496.6
20 years or more	*3.4	*4.4	*7.9	*8.5	359.7
Never had a job	*5.5	60.6	66.1	71.7	360.9
Main activity when not in the labour force(a)					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	15.8	25.0	40.8	42.2	846.7
Home duties(b)	*5.6	22.3	27.9	32.8	184.1
Caring for children(b)	**0.3	13.2	13.5	14.9	27.1
Attending an educational institution	*5.7	97.5	103.2	114.1	420.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	**0.6	30.0	30.6	33.3	347.9
Own short-term illness or injury	—	*6.5	*6.5	*9.0	31.1
Looking after ill or disabled person	—	*4.3	*4.3	*5.5	51.9
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	**2.2	19.6	21.8	25.5	154.7
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*3.2	*6.2	*9.3	9.5	48.8
Other	**1.3	11.6	12.9	17.5	47.9
Total	34.7	236.3	270.9	304.1	2 161.2
FEMALES					
Time since last job					
Had a job	36.1	361.7	397.7	431.0	2 791.6
Under 12 months	*3.8	108.3	112.0	126.6	371.3
1 year and under 3 years	*4.9	83.6	88.5	96.9	330.5
3 years and under 5 years	*5.9	47.2	53.1	56.7	230.0
5 years and under 10 years	*7.0	63.7	70.8	75.8	398.1
10 years and under 20 years	*9.1	38.9	48.0	49.6	546.4
20 years or more	*5.4	20.0	25.3	25.3	915.3
Never had a job	*3.2	78.2	81.4	85.2	555.5
Main activity when not in the labour force(a)					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	*5.6	15.5	21.2	21.2	703.7
Home duties(b)	21.9	152.9	174.7	187.4	1 267.2
Caring for children(b)	**1.3	112.9	114.2	120.6	337.7
Attending an educational institution	*3.8	92.9	96.7	106.8	418.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	**0.4	15.1	15.5	16.7	237.5
Own short-term illness or injury	**0.7	11.8	12.6	13.0	34.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	**0.8	15.3	16.1	16.6	127.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	**1.3	13.8	15.1	16.9	112.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*3.0	*4.9	*8.0	*9.3	76.7
Other	**0.4	*4.7	*5.1	*7.6	31.0
Total	39.3	439.9	479.1	516.1	3 347.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Time since last job and main activity when not in the labour force—By sex *continued*

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Time since last job					
Had a job	65.3	537.3	602.6	663.4	4 592.0
Under 12 months	11.2	186.0	197.2	232.9	625.7
1 year and under 3 years	11.4	120.5	131.9	144.5	560.4
3 years and under 5 years	*8.2	61.4	69.6	73.3	365.2
5 years and under 10 years	11.9	84.9	96.8	102.3	722.5
10 years and under 20 years	13.7	60.2	73.9	76.6	1 043.0
20 years or more	*8.8	24.4	33.2	33.8	1 275.1
Never had a job	*8.7	138.8	147.5	156.8	916.4
Main activity when not in the labour force(a)					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	21.5	40.5	62.0	63.3	1 550.4
Home duties(b)	27.5	175.2	202.7	220.2	1 451.3
Caring for children(b)	**1.6	126.1	127.7	135.5	364.8
Attending an educational institution	9.5	190.4	200.0	220.8	839.7
Own long-term health condition or disability	**1.0	45.1	46.2	50.0	585.4
Own short-term illness or injury	**0.7	18.3	19.0	22.0	65.9
Looking after ill or disabled person	**0.8	19.6	20.4	22.1	179.5
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*3.5	33.3	36.9	42.3	267.0
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*6.2	11.1	17.3	18.8	125.6
Other	**1.7	16.3	17.9	25.1	78.9
Total	73.9	676.1	750.0	820.3	5 508.4

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months and full-time or part-time preference

	INTENTION TO ENTER THE LABOUR FORCE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS			FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME PREFERENCE		Total(a) (b)
	<i>Intended to enter</i>	<i>Might enter</i>	<i>Did not intend to enter</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Sex						
Males	184.1	51.0	61.6	94.1	139.5	304.1
Females	289.1	90.8	115.2	89.4	339.1	516.1
Main reason for not actively looking for work						
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	402.9	141.8	176.8	155.3	441.7	750.0
Discouraged job seekers(c)	24.8	9.7	37.9	9.5	23.6	73.9
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*8.0	**1.0	*3.6	*3.2	*5.5	12.6
Considered too old by employers	*4.9	*2.8	27.9	**0.7	*7.7	36.4
No jobs in locality or line of work/No jobs at all	*5.1	*4.7	*4.0	*3.3	*7.1	14.4
Other reasons	378.1	132.2	138.8	145.9	418.2	676.1
Personal reasons(d)	184.8	63.6	64.1	69.0	195.0	323.5
Own short-term illness or injury	18.7	*3.9	*6.6	*7.9	14.3	31.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	22.4	18.2	24.2	11.1	34.9	69.2
Attending an educational institution	116.1	28.9	12.6	37.8	117.5	160.9
Other personal reasons	27.4	11.5	19.7	11.3	27.4	59.0
Family reasons	95.4	54.0	64.2	40.2	153.1	226.7
Ill health of other than self	*9.0	*4.7	10.6	*4.9	12.2	25.8
Caring for children	63.6	35.6	37.0	25.7	101.4	143.4
Other family considerations	22.8	13.7	16.6	9.6	39.4	57.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*6.4	**0.5	**0.7	**0.5	*6.5	*7.6
Other reasons	42.2	10.6	*6.8	17.8	34.1	61.8
Had a job to go to	43.3	**1.2	**1.8	15.5	26.0	47.0
Did not know	*6.0	**2.2	**1.4	*2.8	*3.6	9.6
Total(e)	473.1	141.8	176.8	183.5	478.5	820.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know' whether they intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

(b) Includes people who had 'No preference' for full-time or part-time work or were 'Undecided'.

(c) Includes 'Considered too young by employers' and 'Difficulties because of language or ethnic background'.

(d) Includes 'Pregnancy'.

(e) Includes people who 'Wanted to work and were actively looking for work'.

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, Main reason
for not actively looking for work—By age group (years) and sex

Main reason for not actively looking for work	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						SEX		Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-69	70 and over	Males	Females	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
Discouraged job seekers(a)	*6.9	*4.4	*5.5	*8.3	31.2	17.6	34.7	39.3	73.9
Considered too old by employers	—	—	**0.3	**0.8	19.5	15.9	16.9	19.5	36.4
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*3.3	**1.2	**1.9	*3.2	*3.1	—	*3.2	*9.4	12.6
No jobs in locality or line of work/No jobs at all	*2.6	**1.2	*2.5	*2.4	*5.3	**0.4	*7.3	*7.1	14.4
Other reasons	213.3	135.1	136.6	78.2	91.3	21.7	236.3	439.9	676.1
Personal reasons(b)	152.0	29.6	36.5	43.4	47.7	14.3	169.4	154.1	323.5
Own short-term illness or injury	*3.2	*5.7	*5.9	*8.2	*7.2	**1.5	12.9	18.7	31.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	*5.4	*6.7	13.9	18.9	17.7	*6.7	45.0	24.2	69.2
Attending an educational institution	134.7	10.7	*7.9	*5.0	*2.6	—	83.1	77.8	160.9
Other personal reasons	*8.2	*5.1	*7.8	11.4	20.3	*6.2	28.4	30.6	59.0
Family reasons	24.3	85.7	78.7	16.9	19.2	**1.9	20.9	205.8	226.7
Ill health of other than self	**1.3	*4.4	*8.3	*2.8	*7.2	**1.7	*6.4	19.4	25.8
Caring for children	17.5	66.1	52.9	*5.4	**1.5	—	*8.8	134.6	143.4
Other family considerations	*5.5	15.3	17.4	*8.7	10.4	**0.2	*5.6	51.9	57.5
No jobs in suitable hours	**1.6	**2.2	**2.1	**0.5	**1.0	**0.2	**1.8	*5.8	*7.6
Other reasons	25.0	*3.5	*9.0	*9.4	11.6	*3.3	26.5	35.3	61.8
Had a job to go to	*8.2	11.6	9.6	*5.8	10.4	**1.4	13.3	33.7	47.0
Did not know	**2.2	*2.5	**0.8	**2.1	**1.4	**0.6	*4.4	*5.2	9.6
Total	220.2	139.5	142.1	86.5	122.5	39.3	270.9	479.1	750.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 'Considered too young by employers' and 'Difficulties because of language or ethnic background'.

(b) Includes 'Pregnancy'.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOB SEEKERS, Selected characteristics—By sex

	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000
Age group (years)			
15–24	*5.1	**1.8	*6.9
25–34	*3.8	**0.6	*4.4
35–44	**1.1	*4.4	*5.5
45–54	**1.2	*7.1	*8.3
55–59	*3.1	*3.9	*7.0
60–64	*5.3	*7.8	13.1
65–69	*6.8	*4.3	11.1
70 and over	*8.2	*9.4	17.6
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months			
Had looked for work	10.9	9.8	20.7
Less than 13 weeks ago	*9.1	*6.1	15.2
13 weeks to 52 weeks ago	**1.7	*3.7	*5.5
Had not looked for work	23.8	29.5	53.2
Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months(a)			
Intended to enter	13.4	11.4	24.8
Might enter	*2.6	*7.1	9.7
Did not intend to enter	18.0	19.9	37.9
Time since last job			
Had a job	29.2	36.1	65.3
Under 12 months	*7.4	*3.8	11.2
1 year and under 3 years	*6.5	*4.9	11.4
3 years and under 5 years	*2.4	*5.9	*8.2
5 years and under 10 years	*4.9	*7.0	11.9
10 years and under 20 years	*4.7	*9.1	13.7
20 years or more	*3.4	*5.4	*8.8
Never had a job	*5.5	*3.2	*8.7
Total	34.7	39.3	73.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes people who 'Did not know' whether they intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

	<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	38.0	558.1	664.6	771.6
Victoria	32.4	386.3	459.5	536.8
Queensland	24.5	297.7	353.7	408.7
South Australia	10.9	125.4	145.8	171.1
Western Australia	8.5	140.0	151.1	176.1
Tasmania	3.6	39.5	47.6	55.7
Northern Territory(c)	*0.9	7.2	10.5	12.7
Australian Capital Territory	**0.6	21.5	24.2	28.6
Age group (years)				
15–19	29.0	188.7	220.4	301.0
20–24	13.1	54.2	72.6	111.1
25–34	10.2	41.0	60.0	94.4
35–44	12.7	49.2	78.0	111.9
45–54	16.0	65.6	115.0	147.2
55–59	16.9	77.5	122.0	141.6
60–64	*9.2	150.0	197.9	220.6
65–69	*5.4	250.5	264.7	284.6
70 and over	*6.7	699.0	726.5	748.7
Relationship in household				
Family member	93.5	1 259.0	1 469.9	1 692.7
Husband, wife or partner	49.1	964.0	1 090.9	1 191.5
Lone parent	**2.1	24.0	33.9	44.2
Dependent student	27.0	189.3	219.0	287.4
Non-dependent child	12.4	39.3	76.3	110.6
Other family person	*2.8	42.4	49.8	58.9
Non-family member	21.6	265.0	326.6	392.8
Relationship not determined	*4.3	51.7	60.6	75.7
Country of birth				
Born in Australia	83.5	993.7	1 193.3	1 409.5
Born overseas	35.8	582.0	663.8	751.7
Born in main English-speaking countries	*8.7	185.2	202.4	231.2
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	27.1	396.9	461.4	520.5
Time since last job				
Had a job	86.2	1 340.8	1 567.9	1 800.3
Under 12 months	30.2	110.4	148.2	254.4
1 year and under 3 years	19.6	145.9	182.3	229.9
3 years and under 5 years	*7.5	102.5	118.6	135.2
5 years and under 10 years	10.7	256.8	297.8	324.4
10 years and under 20 years	13.0	414.5	469.7	496.6
20 years or more	*5.1	310.7	351.2	359.7
Never had a job	33.1	234.9	289.2	360.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected personal and demographic characteristics—By sex *continued*

<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
'000	'000	'000	'000

MALES *cont.*

Main activity when not in the labour force(c)

Retired or voluntarily inactive	10.7	755.7	804.5	846.7
Home duties(d)	*8.2	129.7	151.3	184.1
Caring for children(d)	**1.0	10.2	12.2	27.1
Attending an educational institution	43.4	262.6	306.9	420.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	30.5	182.9	314.6	347.9
Own short-term illness or injury	*8.8	11.9	22.1	31.1
Looking after ill or disabled person	*6.3	38.1	46.4	51.9
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*5.9	122.1	129.2	154.7
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*2.9	36.4	39.4	48.8
Other	**1.5	26.1	30.4	47.9
Total	119.3	1 575.7	1 857.1	2 161.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(d) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected personal and demographic characteristics—By sex *continued*

	<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	81.2	866.8	1 007.2	1 176.5
Victoria	66.6	617.2	717.5	851.3
Queensland	42.3	438.5	507.3	607.9
South Australia	16.5	188.9	213.4	251.8
Western Australia	23.2	236.5	263.9	315.6
Tasmania	6.8	63.5	72.7	86.5
Northern Territory(c)	*1.4	9.5	12.5	14.7
Australian Capital Territory	2.7	31.0	36.6	42.9
Age group (years)				
15–19	36.0	171.0	209.1	285.0
20–24	21.5	83.0	108.4	154.7
25–34	66.8	175.8	250.9	372.0
35–44	59.4	172.3	245.2	367.3
45–54	30.1	196.4	254.0	319.7
55–59	11.0	179.7	208.9	237.4
60–64	*6.4	272.8	315.1	338.8
65–69	*3.8	310.5	326.9	342.6
70 and over	*5.7	890.4	912.5	929.5
Relationship in household				
Family member	217.6	1 837.4	2 152.1	2 607.1
Husband, wife or partner	135.8	1 355.3	1 550.6	1 836.6
Lone parent	34.8	186.9	236.3	316.0
Dependent student	34.5	157.7	193.2	259.1
Non-dependent child	*6.1	36.3	56.1	72.7
Other family person	*6.4	101.2	116.0	122.6
Non-family member	18.3	564.1	621.3	674.0
Relationship not determined	*4.9	50.4	57.7	66.1
Country of birth				
Born in Australia	164.9	1 614.1	1 869.3	2 237.8
Born overseas	75.8	837.8	961.7	1 109.4
Born in main English-speaking countries	20.3	242.2	274.7	324.3
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	55.5	595.7	687.0	785.1
Time since last job				
Had a job	191.5	2 063.8	2 360.7	2 791.6
Under 12 months	77.0	166.4	244.7	371.3
1 year and under 3 years	35.1	189.3	233.5	330.5
3 years and under 5 years	23.2	142.6	173.3	230.0
5 years and under 10 years	23.4	279.9	322.4	398.1
10 years and under 20 years	22.9	446.7	496.8	546.4
20 years or more	9.9	839.0	890.0	915.3
Never had a job	49.2	388.1	470.4	555.5

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected personal and demographic characteristics—By sex *continued*

<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
'000	'000	'000	'000

FEMALES *cont.*

Main activity when not in the labour force(c)

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*5.0	656.7	682.5	703.7
Home duties(d)	72.1	972.4	1 079.8	1 267.2
Caring for children(d)	60.6	154.9	217.1	337.7
Attending an educational institution	60.6	248.8	312.0	418.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	14.2	141.4	220.8	237.5
Own short-term illness or injury	*7.9	11.3	21.7	34.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	10.5	94.6	111.0	127.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*4.3	89.4	95.5	112.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*3.6	62.1	67.4	76.7
Other	**2.0	20.2	23.3	31.0
<i>Total</i>	240.7	2 451.9	2 831.0	3 347.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(d) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

	<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	119.2	1 424.8	1 671.8	1 948.1
Victoria	99.0	1 003.5	1 177.0	1 388.1
Queensland	66.8	736.2	861.1	1 016.6
South Australia	27.4	314.4	359.1	422.9
Western Australia	31.7	376.5	415.0	491.7
Tasmania	10.4	103.1	120.3	142.2
Northern Territory(c)	2.3	16.7	23.0	27.4
Australian Capital Territory	3.2	52.5	60.8	71.5
Age group (years)				
15–19	65.0	359.7	429.4	586.1
20–24	34.6	137.2	181.0	265.8
25–34	77.0	216.8	310.9	466.5
35–44	72.1	221.5	323.2	479.2
45–54	46.1	262.0	369.0	466.9
55–59	27.9	257.2	330.9	379.1
60–64	15.7	422.8	513.0	559.4
65–69	*9.3	561.0	591.6	627.2
70 and over	12.4	1 589.4	1 639.0	1 678.3
Relationship in household				
Family member	311.0	3 096.4	3 622.0	4 299.7
Husband, wife or partner	185.0	2 319.3	2 641.5	3 028.1
Lone parent	36.9	210.9	270.2	360.2
Dependent student	61.5	347.0	412.2	546.6
Non-dependent child	18.5	75.6	132.4	183.4
Other family person	*9.2	143.6	165.8	181.5
Non-family member	39.9	829.1	947.9	1 066.8
Relationship not determined	*9.1	102.1	118.3	141.9
Country of birth				
Born in Australia	248.5	2 607.7	3 062.6	3 647.3
Born overseas	111.6	1 419.9	1 625.5	1 861.1
Born in main English-speaking countries	29.0	427.4	477.1	555.5
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	82.6	992.5	1 148.4	1 305.6
Time since last job				
Had a job	277.7	3 404.6	3 928.5	4 592.0
Under 12 months	107.2	276.8	392.8	625.7
1 year and under 3 years	54.7	335.1	415.9	560.4
3 years and under 5 years	30.8	245.1	292.0	365.2
5 years and under 10 years	34.2	536.6	620.2	722.5
10 years and under 20 years	35.9	861.3	966.5	1 043.0
20 years or more	15.0	1 149.6	1 241.2	1 275.1
Never had a job	82.3	623.0	759.6	916.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Selected personal and demographic characteristics—By sex *continued*

<i>Wanted to work but not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
'000	'000	'000	'000

PERSONS *cont.*

Main activity when not in the labour force(c)

Retired or voluntarily inactive	15.7	1 412.5	1 487.1	1 550.4
Home duties(d)	80.4	1 102.1	1 231.1	1 451.3
Caring for children(d)	61.6	165.1	229.3	364.8
Attending an educational institution	103.9	511.4	618.9	839.7
Own long-term health condition or disability	44.7	324.3	535.4	585.4
Own short-term illness or injury	16.7	23.2	43.9	65.9
Looking after ill or disabled person	16.8	132.7	157.4	179.5
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	10.2	211.6	224.7	267.0
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*6.4	98.4	106.8	125.6
Other	*3.5	46.3	53.8	78.9
Total	360.0	4 027.6	4 688.1	5 508.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes people who 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes 300,500 people (162,000 men and 138,500 women) who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Care should be taken when comparing estimates, as these categories are not mutually exclusive. See paragraph 26 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(d) From 2008, the categories 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children' have been split. In previous releases these categories were combined. See paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE BECAUSE THEY WERE CARING FOR CHILDREN,
Selected personal characteristics—By sex

	NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING BUT AVAILABLE FOR WORK		NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR WORK(a)		
	<i>All reasons not actively looking for work included 'Caring for children'</i>	<i>Main reason not actively looking for work was 'Caring for children'</i>	<i>All reasons not available to start work included 'Caring for children'</i>	<i>Main reason not available to start work was 'Caring for children'</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15–24	18.1	17.3	*4.2	*4.2	22.2
25–34	70.5	60.4	31.5	29.8	101.9
35–44	56.1	50.5	20.3	19.8	76.3
45 and over	*7.5	*6.4	**1.5	**1.4	*8.9
Age of youngest child(b)					
0–2 years	89.1	78.3	42.6	41.3	131.7
3–5 years	42.2	36.8	10.0	*9.1	52.2
6–12 years	17.7	16.4	**2.0	**2.0	19.7
Relationship in household(c)					
Family member(d)	151.4	133.9	56.7	54.5	208.1
Husband, wife or partner	117.1	104.7	46.3	44.6	163.4
Lone parent	33.3	28.1	10.2	9.7	43.5
Country of birth					
Born in Australia	111.8	98.3	41.3	40.2	153.1
Born overseas	40.3	36.2	16.0	15.0	56.4
Born in main English-speaking countries	11.4	*8.9	*3.5	*3.5	14.9
Born in other main English-speaking countries	28.9	27.4	12.5	11.4	41.4
Total(e)	152.1	134.6	57.3	55.2	209.5
PERSONS (f)					
Age group (years)					
15–24	18.3	17.5	*4.2	*4.2	22.5
25–34	76.2	66.1	31.9	30.3	108.1
35–44	59.2	52.9	20.6	20.2	79.8
45 and over	*8.4	*6.9	**1.5	**1.4	9.9
Age of youngest child(b)					
0–2 years	92.1	81.3	43.0	41.7	135.1
3–5 years	46.5	40.4	10.4	9.6	56.9
6–12 years	20.4	18.6	**2.0	**2.0	22.3
Relationship in household(c)					
Family member(d)	161.4	142.7	57.5	55.4	218.9
Husband, wife or partner	122.7	110.3	47.0	45.4	169.7
Lone parent	37.6	31.4	10.3	9.8	47.9
Country of birth					
Born in Australia	120.2	106.3	41.7	40.6	161.9
Born overseas	41.9	37.2	16.4	15.4	58.3
Born in main English-speaking countries	11.4	*8.9	*3.5	*3.5	14.9
Born in other main English-speaking countries	30.5	28.3	12.9	11.8	43.4
Total(e)	162.1	143.4	58.2	56.0	220.2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) People who were not actively looking and not available for work were not asked the reasons why they were not actively looking for work. They were only asked the reasons why they were not available.

(b) Excludes people whose youngest child was aged 13 years or over, and 'Not applicable'.

(c) Excludes 'Non-family member' and 'Relationship not determined'.

(d) Includes 'Non-dependent child'.

(e) Includes 'Non-family member' and 'Relationship not determined'.

(f) Includes 'Males'.

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT OF LAST JOB		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS OF LAST JOB		Total (a) (b)
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	291.8	21.7	216.3	91.0	313.5
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	170.0	*3.8	138.7	31.2	173.8
Job was temporary or seasonal	74.8	**2.2	26.2	49.0	77.0
Own short-term illness or injury	40.8	*5.2	37.6	*8.0	46.0
Own business closed down for economic reasons	*6.2	10.4	13.9	*2.8	16.6
Job leaver	946.4	180.7	900.9	206.7	1 127.1
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	42.0	*3.4	26.1	19.4	45.4
Retired, did not want to work any longer	455.9	103.5	489.1	63.6	559.3
Own long-term health condition or disability	281.1	45.3	272.0	49.8	326.4
Returned to studies	61.5	**1.3	25.1	36.0	62.8
To look after family, house or someone else	38.2	*6.5	35.3	*8.8	44.7
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	26.6	*3.0	17.0	11.5	29.6
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	*7.5	12.8	15.8	*3.8	20.3
Other(c)	33.5	*4.9	20.7	13.9	38.4
Occupation of last job					
Managers	141.9	68.5	198.1	9.5	210.3
Professionals	165.9	26.6	153.5	37.3	192.5
Technicians and trades workers	249.4	55.5	251.6	47.7	304.9
Community and personal service workers	69.7	*3.6	45.6	25.8	73.3
Clerical and administrative workers	118.3	*2.5	96.7	22.9	120.7
Sales workers	81.8	*8.9	59.8	30.3	90.7
Machinery operators and drivers	158.1	12.0	138.2	27.0	170.1
Labourers	253.2	24.7	173.7	97.2	278.0
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	103.6	*8.7	62.3	46.7	112.2
Less than 13 weeks	80.2	*8.5	49.1	36.5	88.7
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	*7.8	**0.2	*4.1	*3.8	*8.0
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	15.5	—	*9.1	*6.4	15.5
Had not looked for work	1 134.6	193.7	1 055.0	251.0	1 328.4
Time since last job					
Under 12 months	233.2	21.3	131.6	113.9	254.4
1 and under 3 years	200.6	29.3	154.3	71.3	229.9
3 and under 5 years	114.7	20.6	105.0	28.9	135.2
5 and under 10 years	269.0	55.4	277.0	41.3	324.4
10 and under 20 years	420.9	75.8	449.4	42.4	496.6
Total	1 238.2	202.4	1 117.2	297.7	1 440.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes people whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'Varied' or they 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes people who were 'Contributing family workers' and 'Unpaid voluntary workers'.

(c) Includes 'Pregnancy or to have children' and 'To get married'.

continued

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT OF LAST JOB		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS OF LAST JOB		
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	Total (a) (b)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....					
FEMALES					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	291.1	18.8	138.9	165.1	311.1
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	154.2	*5.0	80.8	75.3	159.4
Job was temporary or seasonal	75.4	**2.0	21.7	54.3	78.5
Own short-term illness or injury	54.8	*2.8	27.2	29.1	57.6
Own business closed down for economic reasons	*6.7	*9.0	*9.2	*6.4	15.6
Job leaver	1 431.8	128.9	879.6	659.2	1 565.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	76.8	*2.4	30.6	47.1	79.2
Retired, did not want to work any longer	394.7	52.9	285.5	155.6	449.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	194.4	15.0	115.0	91.5	209.9
Returned to studies	70.0	*3.7	20.0	52.8	74.3
Pregnancy or to have children	400.4	11.6	257.2	149.9	412.0
To get married	12.3	—	*7.9	*4.4	12.3
To look after family, house or someone else	132.3	10.3	66.5	74.6	142.7
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	79.9	*4.8	43.1	42.4	86.1
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	10.9	19.0	18.8	*8.9	29.9
Other	59.9	*9.2	34.8	32.0	69.2
Occupation of last job					
Managers	101.7	53.2	122.2	29.3	155.3
Professionals	270.2	16.7	175.1	110.1	287.0
Technicians and trades workers	84.3	13.3	57.6	38.6	97.6
Community and personal service workers	235.9	14.0	114.0	133.0	251.8
Clerical and administrative workers	416.5	21.4	265.9	167.6	439.1
Sales workers	257.6	9.6	96.3	166.5	268.6
Machinery operators and drivers	54.9	*5.6	43.0	15.3	60.5
Labourers	301.9	13.9	144.4	164.0	316.4
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	174.2	*6.4	71.2	107.8	181.2
Less than 13 weeks	131.4	*4.9	51.3	83.4	136.9
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	19.7	**0.6	*8.9	11.3	20.2
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	23.1	**1.0	11.1	13.1	24.1
Had not looked for work	1 548.7	141.3	947.3	716.5	1 695.1
Time since last job					
Under 12 months	350.5	20.2	149.3	216.4	371.3
1 and under 3 years	308.1	21.3	150.7	175.4	330.5
3 and under 5 years	206.3	22.3	121.2	100.6	230.0
5 and under 10 years	357.5	39.3	243.5	147.7	398.1
10 and under 20 years	500.5	44.7	353.8	184.2	546.4
Total	1 722.9	147.8	1 018.5	824.3	1 876.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes people whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'Varied' or they 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes people who were 'Contributing family workers' and 'Unpaid voluntary workers'.

continued

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT OF LAST JOB		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS OF LAST JOB		Total (a) (b)
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	583.0	40.5	355.3	256.1	624.7
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	324.2	*8.8	219.5	106.5	333.3
Job was temporary or seasonal	150.2	*4.3	47.9	103.2	155.5
Own short-term illness or injury	95.7	*8.0	64.8	37.1	103.7
Own business closed down for economic reasons	12.9	19.4	23.1	*9.2	32.2
Job leaver	2 378.2	309.6	1 780.5	865.9	2 692.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	118.8	*5.9	56.7	66.5	124.7
Retired, did not want to work any longer	850.5	156.3	774.6	219.3	1 008.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	475.5	60.3	387.0	141.3	536.3
Returned to studies	131.6	*5.0	45.1	88.8	137.1
Pregnancy or to have children	402.4	11.6	257.8	151.2	414.0
To get married	12.3	—	*7.9	*4.4	12.3
To look after family, house or someone else	170.5	16.8	101.8	83.4	187.4
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	106.5	*7.8	60.1	53.9	115.7
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	18.4	31.8	34.6	12.7	50.2
Other	91.5	14.1	54.9	44.6	105.6
Occupation of last job					
Managers	243.5	121.7	320.3	38.7	365.7
Professionals	436.0	43.3	328.6	147.4	479.5
Technicians and trades workers	333.7	68.8	309.2	86.3	402.5
Community and personal service workers	305.6	17.6	159.6	158.8	325.1
Clerical and administrative workers	534.8	23.9	362.6	190.5	559.9
Sales workers	339.5	18.5	156.2	196.8	359.3
Machinery operators and drivers	213.0	17.6	181.2	42.3	230.6
Labourers	555.1	38.6	318.1	261.2	594.4
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	277.8	15.1	133.5	154.5	293.5
Less than 13 weeks	211.7	13.3	100.4	119.9	225.6
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	27.5	**0.8	13.0	15.1	28.2
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	38.6	**1.0	20.1	19.5	39.6
Had not looked for work	2 683.4	335.0	2 002.3	967.4	3 023.4
Time since last job					
Under 12 months	583.7	41.5	280.9	330.3	625.7
1 and under 3 years	508.7	50.6	305.0	246.7	560.4
3 and under 5 years	320.9	42.8	226.2	129.5	365.2
5 and under 10 years	626.5	94.7	520.5	189.0	722.5
10 and under 20 years	921.4	120.5	803.1	226.6	1 043.0
Total	2 961.1	350.1	2 135.8	1 122.0	3 316.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes people whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'Varied' or they 'Did not know'.

(b) Includes people who were 'Contributing family workers' and 'Unpaid voluntary workers'.

	Sep 2002	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Sep 2005	Sep 2006	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	6 901.1	6 993.4	6 989.9	7 142.2	7 218.9	7 346.9	7 483.3
Persons in the labour force	5 514.0	5 594.4	5 631.6	5 753.0	5 857.5	5 948.2	6 070.9
Employed	5 160.6	5 275.2	5 321.1	5 457.9	5 574.5	5 718.8	5 820.0
Unemployed	353.4	319.2	310.5	295.1	283.0	229.3	250.9
Persons not in the labour force(a)	1 387.1	1 399.0	1 358.3	1 389.1	1 361.4	1 398.7	1 412.5
With marginal attachment to the labour force	263.0	262.7	269.5	268.3	246.4	268.4	281.9
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	30.0	28.8	28.9	28.3	25.5	26.6	33.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	20.9	17.1	20.4	21.3	15.4	18.3	23.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	9.2	11.7	8.6	7.0	10.1	8.3	10.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	232.9	233.9	240.6	240.0	220.8	241.8	248.7
Discouraged job seekers	24.4	26.6	28.4	21.8	18.9	21.1	26.5
Other	208.5	207.3	212.2	218.2	202.0	220.7	222.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	1 124.2	1 136.4	1 088.9	1 120.8	1 115.0	1 130.3	1 130.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	129.6	123.1	120.4	99.0	105.2	111.5	112.6
Did not want to work(c)	894.0	881.7	857.8	884.5	858.7	872.8	876.8
FEMALES							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	6 866.9	6 972.6	7 081.4	7 168.7	7 248.2	7 357.4	7 482.6
Persons in the labour force	4 427.2	4 509.0	4 600.5	4 745.9	4 872.7	4 961.4	5 065.0
Employed	4 154.8	4 242.1	4 348.5	4 496.0	4 637.5	4 730.1	4 833.5
Unemployed	272.4	266.9	252.0	249.9	235.2	231.3	231.5
Persons not in the labour force(a)	2 439.7	2 463.5	2 480.8	2 422.8	2 375.5	2 396.0	2 417.6
With marginal attachment to the labour force	545.2	572.0	585.8	562.8	497.5	534.4	499.1
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	36.0	30.4	36.5	40.9	34.7	40.4	37.0
Were available to start work within four weeks	23.0	22.3	26.3	29.7	21.9	27.0	24.5
Were not available to start work within four weeks	13.0	8.1	10.2	11.1	12.8	13.4	12.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	509.2	541.6	549.3	521.9	462.8	494.0	462.1
Discouraged job seekers	53.6	53.2	53.6	37.5	34.0	37.5	29.8
Other	455.6	488.4	495.8	484.4	428.8	456.5	432.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	1 894.6	1 891.6	1 895.0	1 860.0	1 878.0	1 861.6	1 918.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	231.6	255.3	213.0	223.9	214.4	220.7	235.0
Did not want to work(c)	1 607.2	1 567.9	1 618.3	1 547.0	1 565.6	1 529.4	1 561.5
PERSONS							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	13 768.1	13 966.0	14 071.3	14 310.8	14 467.1	14 704.3	14 965.9
Persons in the labour force	9 941.2	10 103.4	10 232.1	10 498.9	10 730.2	10 909.6	11 135.8
Employed	9 315.4	9 517.3	9 669.6	9 953.9	10 212.0	10 449.0	10 653.4
Unemployed	625.8	586.1	562.5	545.0	518.3	460.6	482.4
Persons not in the labour force(a)	3 826.8	3 862.6	3 839.2	3 811.9	3 736.9	3 794.7	3 830.1
With marginal attachment to the labour force	808.1	834.6	855.3	831.1	743.9	802.8	781.0
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	66.0	59.2	65.4	69.2	60.2	67.1	70.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	43.9	39.4	46.6	51.0	37.3	45.4	47.6
Were not available to start work within four weeks	22.1	19.8	18.8	18.1	22.9	21.7	22.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	742.1	775.5	789.9	761.9	683.6	735.8	710.7
Discouraged job seekers	78.0	79.8	82.0	59.3	52.9	58.6	56.3
Other	664.1	695.7	707.9	702.6	630.8	677.2	654.5
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(b)	3 018.7	3 028.0	2 983.9	2 980.9	2 993.0	2 991.9	3 049.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	361.2	378.4	333.4	322.9	319.7	332.3	347.6
Did not want to work(c)	2 501.2	2 449.6	2 476.1	2 431.6	2 424.3	2 402.2	2 438.2

(a) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'Permanently not intending to work' in the Labour Force Survey. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) Includes people who were 'Permanently unable to work'.

(c) Includes 'Did not know'.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1:									
Persons not in the labour force	771.6	536.8	408.7	171.1	176.1	55.7	12.7	28.6	2 161.2
Population 2:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	144.9	109.7	79.5	36.2	33.5	11.8	3.1	4.9	423.5
Population 3:									
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	107.0	77.3	54.9	25.3	25.0	8.2	2.2	4.3	304.1
Population 4:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	95.1	70.3	49.0	21.1	23.1	7.5	*1.1	3.8	270.9
Population 5:									
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	15.4	9.2	*6.1	*1.4	**1.3	*0.8	**0.1	**0.3	34.7
Population 6:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	38.0	32.4	24.5	10.9	8.5	3.6	*0.9	**0.6	119.3
Population 7:									
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	*4.2	**1.5	*2.8	**1.3	**0.4	**0.2	**0.2	**0.2	10.8
Population 8:									
Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	634.0	436.0	354.9	146.7	148.1	47.5	10.0	23.2	1 800.3
Population 9:									
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	664.6	459.5	353.7	145.8	151.1	47.6	10.5	24.2	1 857.1
Population 10:									
Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 20 years ago	494.8	349.5	292.8	113.4	124.2	37.2	8.8	19.9	1 440.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES									
Population 1:									
Persons not in the labour force	1 176.5	851.3	607.9	251.8	315.6	86.5	14.7	42.9	3 347.2
Population 2:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	250.5	200.4	142.9	54.9	74.9	20.6	3.7	9.0	756.8
Population 3:									
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	169.3	133.8	100.6	38.4	51.7	13.8	2.2	6.4	516.1
Population 4:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	158.7	124.2	93.6	33.6	48.4	12.9	1.9	5.7	479.1
Population 5:									
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	14.5	9.7	*5.5	*2.9	*4.2	*2.0	**0.1	**0.3	39.3
Population 6:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	81.2	66.6	42.3	16.5	23.2	6.8	*1.4	2.7	240.7
Population 7:									
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	70.1	56.1	38.8	9.7	23.7	6.0	*1.2	3.8	209.5
Population 8:									
Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	946.9	696.7	531.1	214.2	275.7	78.7	11.6	36.7	2 791.6
Population 9:									
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	1 007.2	717.5	507.3	213.4	263.9	72.7	12.5	36.6	2 831.0
Population 10:									
Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 20 years ago	611.5	484.2	363.1	139.9	191.9	48.9	9.9	26.9	1 876.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS									
Population 1:									
Persons not in the labour force	1 948.1	1 388.1	1 016.6	422.9	491.7	142.2	27.4	71.5	5 508.4
Population 2:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	395.4	310.1	222.4	91.1	108.3	32.3	*6.7	13.9	1 180.3
Population 3:									
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	276.2	211.1	155.5	63.8	76.7	21.9	4.4	10.7	820.3
Population 4:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	253.8	194.5	142.6	54.8	71.5	20.4	3.0	9.5	750.0
Population 5:									
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	29.9	18.9	11.6	4.4	*5.5	2.8	**0.2	**0.7	73.9
Population 6:									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	119.2	99.0	66.8	27.4	31.7	10.4	2.3	3.2	360.0
Population 7:									
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	74.3	57.6	41.6	11.0	24.1	6.2	*1.4	4.0	220.2
Population 8:									
Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	1 580.9	1 132.7	886.0	360.9	423.8	126.2	21.5	59.9	4 592.0
Population 9:									
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	1 671.8	1 177.0	861.1	359.1	415.0	120.3	23.0	60.8	4 688.1
Population 10:									
Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 20 years ago	1 106.3	833.7	655.9	253.3	316.1	86.1	18.7	46.8	3 316.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in September 2008 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who were in scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

CONCEPTS SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

SCOPE

4 The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

5 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

6 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 people living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for around 23% of the population.

COVERAGE

7 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in September 2008. In the LFS, 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 in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

8 Supplementary surveys are not conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

9 The LFS sample size in September 2008 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

10 The reduced sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE SIZE *continued*

11 The initial sample for the September 2008 LFS consisted of 27,469 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 21,787 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 20,631 or 94.7% were fully responding to the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwelling households and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 11,149.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

12 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, 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 processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

13 The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

14 From 2006, occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO–Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0). This new classification replaces the *ASCO–Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0). Data classified according to ASCO can be obtained on request.

15 Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

16 Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

17 Persons Not in the Labour Force Surveys conducted up to and including September 1987 included all people aged 15 years and over. From September 1988 to September 2004, the survey excluded all people aged 70 years and over.

18 The scope of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was expanded in September 2005 to include all people aged 15 years and over. This change resulted in about 1.6 million extra people coming within the scope of this survey. Users need to exercise caution when comparing the estimates prior to 2005 with subsequent years. Direct comparisons should only be made where the populations are the same.

19 From September 2006 estimates of the number of people not in the labour force because they were caring for children, include people whose youngest child was aged 12 years and under. Previously questions relating to the care of children were only asked of people with children aged 11 years and under. This change was made to ensure consistency with other ABS surveys. Users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in Table 9 of this publication with publications prior to September 2006.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

20 Following a review of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, a number of changes were implemented in the 2007 cycle. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data. The changes are documented below.

21 Between September 2001 and September 2006 people who reported in the LFS that they were 'permanently not intending to work' were not asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. As such, these people were classified as 'Did not want to work'. It is likely, however, that if they had been asked these questions, then some of these people may have been classified differently and may have been included in one of the 'wanted to work' categories. From September 2007, people who specified that they were 'permanently not intending to work' were asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 and 2008 with previous years data.

22 Prior to September 2007, the data items 'All reasons for not actively looking for work', 'Main reason for not actively looking for work' and 'Main reason not available to start work within four weeks' included the category 'own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy'. From September 2007, this category has been split into three separate categories; 'own short-term illness or injury', 'own long-term health condition or disability' and 'pregnancy'.

23 Prior to September 2007, the data items 'Reason for ceasing last job' and 'Main activity when not in the labour force' included the categories 'own ill-health or injury' and 'own disability or handicap'. From September 2007, these categories were renamed to ensure they were consistent with those in other data items and have been collected as 'own short-term illness or injury' and 'own long-term health condition or disability' respectively. While the way interviewers were instructed to code the responses to the relevant categories did not conceptually change, the renaming has caused a break in time series. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data.

24 From September 2007, a new data item, 'All reasons not available to start work within four weeks', has been collected in addition to 'Main reason not available to start work within four weeks'.

25 Prior to September 2008, the data item 'Main activity when not in the labour force' included the category 'Home duties or caring for children'. From September 2008, this category has been split into two separate categories, 'Home duties' and 'Caring for children'. Care should be taken in interpreting the data in these categories because some people with young children indicated that 'Home duties' was their main activity when not in the labour force, rather than 'Caring for children'.

26 For the data item 'Main activity when not in the labour force' the categories presented are not necessarily mutually exclusive. For example, people one year may report that they were retired and be coded to 'Retired or voluntarily inactive', whereas in the following year people who are retired may report that their main activity when not in the labour force was home duties and be coded to 'Home duties'. The movement of data from one year to the next depend on how people interpret and respond to the question 'What has been your main activity since you last worked?'. While the categories have not conceptually changed, care should be taken when comparing estimates from 2008 with previous years' data.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

27 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

28 The Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was first conducted in May 1975 and again in May 1977. From 1979 to 1987 the survey was collected twice a year (March and September). Since then it has been conducted annually in September. Results of previous surveys were published in:

- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0)
- standard data service *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995 (available in hardcopy only).

NEXT SURVEY

29 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2009.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

30 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES *Spreadsheets*

31 Additional tables with time series data will be released in spreadsheet format. These tables will be made available from the ABS website.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

32 ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0)

33 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data item relates.

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Labour Market Statistics on Canberra (02)6252 7206, or by facsimile on (02)6252 7102, or by email to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1:</i>	Persons not in the labour force
<i>Population 2:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work
<i>Population 3:</i>	Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force
<i>Population 4:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks
<i>Population 5:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers
<i>Population 6:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks
<i>Population 7:</i>	Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but not actively looking for work
<i>Population 8:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job
<i>Population 9:</i>	Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force
<i>Population 10:</i>	Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 20 years ago

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All	5 Marital status	All
New South Wales		Married	
Victoria		Not married	
Queensland			
South Australia		6 Relationship in household	All
Western Australia		Family member	
Tasmania		Husband, wife or partner	
Northern Territory		With dependants	
Australian Capital Territory		Without dependants	
2 Area of usual residence	All	Lone parent	
State capital city		With dependants	
Balance of state/territory		Without dependants	
3 Region of usual residence	All	Dependent student	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Non-dependent child	
		Other family person	
4 Sex	All	Non-family member	
Males		Lone person	
Females		Not living alone	
		Relationship not determined	

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
7A Country of birth and period of arrival	All	10A Persons not in the labour force summary variable <i>cont.</i>	1, 8, 10
Born in Australia		With marginal attachment to the labour force <i>cont.</i>	
Born overseas		Wanted to work and were actively looking for work <i>cont.</i>	
Arrived before 1971		Were not available to start work within four weeks	
Arrived 1971–1980		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	
Arrived 1981–1990		Discouraged job seekers	
Arrived 1991–2000		Other	
Arrived 2001 to survey date		Without marginal attachment to the labour force	
7B Country of birth (1)	All	Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	
Born in Australia		Did not want to work	
Born overseas		Permanently unable to work	
Born in main English-speaking countries			
Born in other than main English-speaking countries			
7C Country of birth (2)	All	10B Marginal attachment summary variable	3
Born in Australia		Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	
Born overseas		Were available to start work within four weeks	
Oceania and Antarctica		Were not available to start work within four weeks	
North-West Europe			
Southern and Eastern Europe			
North Africa and the Middle East			
South-East Asia			
North-East Asia			
Southern and Central Asia			
Americas			
Sub-Saharan Africa			
8 Age group (years)	All	Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	
15–19		Discouraged job seekers	
20–24		Other	
25–34			
35–44			
45–54			
55–59			
60–64			
65–69			
70 and over			
Note: Age collected in single years			
9 Full-time study status (15–24 year olds)	All	11 Whether wanted to work	1, 8, 10
Were full-time students		Wanted to work	
Were not full-time students		Might want to work	
Did not know		Did not want to work	
		Did not know	
10A Persons not in the labour force summary variable	1, 8, 10	12 Whether looked for work in the last 12 months	All
With marginal attachment to the labour force		Had looked for work	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work		Less than 5 weeks ago	
Were available to start work within four weeks		5 weeks and less than 8 weeks ago	
		8 weeks and less than 13 weeks ago	
		13–52 weeks ago	
		13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	
		26 weeks and less than 39 weeks ago	
		39–52 weeks ago	
		Had not looked for work	

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
13 Main activity when not in the labour force	All	15 Reason for ceasing last job <i>cont.</i>	All
Retired or voluntarily inactive		Had a job <i>cont.</i>	
Home duties		Job leaver <i>cont.</i>	
Caring for children		Returned to studies	
Attending an educational institution		Pregnancy or to have children	
Own long-term health condition or disability		To get married	
Own short-term illness or injury		To look after family, house or someone else	
Looking after ill or disabled person		To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	
Travel, holiday or leisure activity		Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	
Working in unpaid voluntary job		Other	
Other		Never had a job	
14A Time since last job	All	16 Occupation of last job	All
Had a job		Last job less than 20 years ago	
Under 12 months		Managers	
1 week and under 4 weeks		Professionals	
4 weeks and under 8 weeks		Technicians and trades workers	
8 weeks and under 13 weeks		Community and personal service workers	
13 weeks and under 26 weeks		Clerical and administrative workers	
26 weeks and under 39 weeks		Sales workers	
39 weeks and under 52 weeks		Machinery operators and drivers	
1 year and under 3 years		Labourers	
3 years and under 10 years		Last job 20 or more years ago	
3 years and under 5 years		Never had a job	
5 years and under 10 years		17A Status in employment of last job (1)	All
10 years or more		Last job less than 20 years ago	
10 years and under 20 years		Employer	
20 years or more		Own account worker	
Never had a job		Employee	
14B Whether had a job in the last 20 years	All	Contributing family worker	
Had a job		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Last job less than 20 years ago		Last job 20 or more years ago	
Last job 20 or more years ago		Never had a job	
Never had a job		17B Status in employment of last job (2)	All
15 Reason for ceasing last job	All	Last job less than 20 years ago	
Had a job		Employee	
Job loser		Own account worker/Employer	
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available		Other	
Job was temporary or seasonal		Last job 20 or more years ago	
Own short-term illness or injury		Never had a job	
Own business closed down for economic reasons		18 Full-time or part-time status of last job	All
Job leaver		Last job less than 20 years ago	
Unsatisfactory work arrangements		Full-time	
Retired, did not work any longer		Part-time	
Own long-term health condition or disability		Varied/Did not know	
		Last job 20 or more years ago	
		Never had a job	

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
19A Intention to enter the labour force	All	21 Main reason for not actively looking for work <i>cont.</i>	4
Intended to enter		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks <i>cont.</i>	
Might enter		Other reasons <i>cont.</i>	
Did not intend to enter		Personal reasons <i>cont.</i>	
Did not know		Welfare payments or pension may be affected	
Permanently unable to work		Moved house or holidays	
Not applicable (full-time student)		Family reasons	
19B Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months	All	Ill health of other than self	
Intended to enter		Caring for children	
Might enter		No child care in locality	
Did not intend to enter		No child care available at all	
Did not know		Cost or too expensive	
Permanently unable to work		Booked out or no places available	
20 Full-time or part-time preference	2-7	Children too young or too old	
Full-time		Prefers to look after children	
Part-time		Quality of child care unsuitable	
No preference		Other reasons	
Undecided		Other family considerations	
21 Main reason for not actively looking for work	4	No jobs in suitable hours	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work		Other reasons	
Were available to start work within four weeks		Had a job to go to	
Were not available to start work within four weeks		Did not know	
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks		22 All reasons for not actively looking for work	4
Discouraged job seekers		Discouraged job seekers	
Considered too young by employers		Considered too young by employers	
Considered too old by employers		Considered too old by employers	
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience		Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	
Difficulties because of language or ethnic background		Difficulties because of language or ethnic background	
No jobs in locality or line of work		No jobs in locality or line of work	
No jobs at all		No jobs at all	
Other reasons		Other reasons	
Personal reasons		Personal reasons	
Own short-term illness or injury		Own short-term illness or injury	
Own long-term health condition or disability		Own long-term health condition or disability	
Pregnancy		Pregnancy	
Attending an educational institution		Attending an educational institution	
Had no need to work		Had no need to work	
		Welfare payments or pension may be affected	
		Moved house or holidays	

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
22 All reasons for not actively looking for work <i>cont.</i>	4	24 Main reason not available to start work within four weeks <i>cont.</i>	6
Other reasons <i>cont.</i>		Family reasons <i>cont.</i>	
Family reasons		Children too young or preferred to look after children	
Ill health of other than self		On a job-related training program	
Caring for children		Other reasons	
Other family considerations			
No jobs in suitable hours		25 All reasons not available to start work within four weeks	6
Other reasons		Personal reasons	
Had a job to go to		Own short-term illness or injury	
Did not know		Own long-term health condition or disability	
23 Main reason not working due to caring for children	7	Pregnancy	
No child care in locality		Studying or returning to studies	
No child care available at all		Moved house or holidays	
Cost or too expensive		Family reasons	
Booked out or no places available		Ill health of other than self	
Children too young or too old		Caring for children	
Prefers to look after children		On a job-related training program	
Quality of child care unsuitable		Other reasons	
Other child care reasons			
24 Main reason not available to start work within four weeks	6	26 Age of youngest child	7
Personal reasons		0–2 years	
Own short-term illness or injury		3–4 years	
Own long-term health condition or disability		5 years	
Pregnancy		6–9 years	
Studying or returning to studies		10–12 years	
Moved house or holidays		27 Number of children	7
Family reasons		Aged 0–2 years	
Ill health of other than self		Aged 3–4 years	
Unable to find suitable child care		Aged 5 years	
		Aged 6–9 years	
		Aged 10–12 years	

APPENDIX 2 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS LIST

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of labour surveys collected in these programs. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys			
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2008
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2007
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2007
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2008
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2007
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2008
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2005
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2008
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2008
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2006
Multi-Purpose Household Surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2006–2007
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2006–2007
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005–2006

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat.no. 6342.0).

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates 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 (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

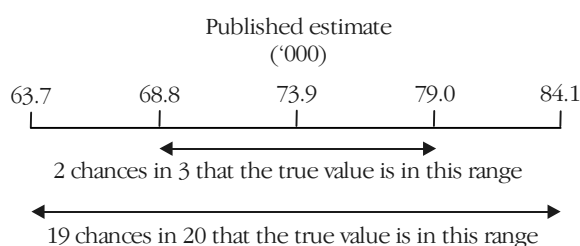
3 The LFS sample size in September 2008 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. In combination, the two sample reductions are expected to increase the standard errors for estimates from the supplementary surveys by approximately 22% at the broad aggregate level, relative to the 2001 sample design (standard errors will vary at lower aggregate levels). Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

4 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of people in Australia who were discouraged job seekers was 73,900. Since the estimate is between 50,000 and 100,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 4,450 and 5,850 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 4,450 + \left(\left(\frac{73,900 - 50,000}{100,000 - 50,000} \right) \times (5,850 - 4,450) \right) \\
 &= 5,100 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

5 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 68,800 to 79,000 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 63,700 to 84,100. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR *continued*

6 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g.*3.2) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g.**0.4), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

7 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

8 Considering the example above, of the 73,900 people who were discouraged job seekers, 39,300 or 53.2% were females. The SE of 39,300 may be calculated by interpolation as 4,100. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or 4,100/39,300=10.4%. The SE for 73,900 was calculated previously as 5,100, which converted to an RSE is 5,100/73,900=6.9%. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(10.4)^2 - (6.9)^2} = 7.8\%$$

9 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of discouraged job seekers who were females is 4.1 percentage points (= (53.2/100)x7.8). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who were discouraged job seekers was between 49.1% and 57.3% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 45.0% to 61.4%.

DIFFERENCES

10 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

11 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

									AUST.		
Size of estimate (persons)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%	
100	190	200	170	170	180	130	100	110	130	130.0	
200	300	310	270	250	280	190	140	180	230	115.0	
300	400	390	360	310	350	230	170	230	310	103.3	
500	540	530	490	410	470	290	220	310	440	88.0	
700	660	640	600	480	560	340	260	370	560	80.0	
1,000	810	770	740	570	670	390	310	430	700	70.0	
1,500	1 010	950	920	680	810	460	380	500	910	60.7	
2,000	1 180	1 100	1 060	770	920	510	440	540	1 070	53.5	
2,500	1 300	1 200	1 200	850	1 000	550	500	550	1 200	48.0	
3,000	1 450	1 350	1 300	900	1 100	600	550	600	1 350	45.0	
3,500	1 550	1 450	1 400	950	1 150	600	600	600	1 450	41.4	
4,000	1 650	1 500	1 500	1 000	1 250	650	650	650	1 550	38.8	
5,000	1 850	1 700	1 650	1 100	1 350	700	750	700	1 750	35.0	
7,000	2 100	1 950	1 900	1 250	1 500	800	950	850	2 050	29.3	
10,000	2 450	2 250	2 150	1 450	1 700	950	1 300	1 100	2 400	24.0	
15,000	2 900	2 600	2 500	1 700	2 000	1 200	1 850	1 450	2 850	19.0	
20,000	3 200	2 900	2 750	1 950	2 300	1 400	2 350	1 700	3 200	16.0	
30,000	3 700	3 350	3 200	2 400	2 900	1 750	3 200	2 100	3 700	12.3	
40,000	4 050	3 700	3 600	2 800	3 450	2 050	3 950	2 350	4 100	10.3	
50,000	4 450	4 050	4 000	3 150	3 900	2 250	4 600	2 500	4 450	8.9	
100,000	6 200	5 850	5 850	4 500	5 750	3 100	7 150	2 850	5 850	5.9	
150,000	7 850	7 500	7 400	5 400	7 050	3 700	9 000	2 850	6 950	4.6	
200,000	9 400	8 950	8 700	6 100	8 100	4 150	..	..	7 950	4.0	
300,000	11 850	11 350	10 700	7 200	9 750	4 850	..	..	9 700	3.2	
500,000	15 300	15 250	13 550	8 650	12 050	5 800	..	..	12 650	2.5	
1,000,000	20 450	22 450	17 750	10 750	15 600	..	..	..	18 750	1.9	
2,000,000	25 500	32 500	22 000	12 850	19 450	..	..	..	27 200	1.4	
5,000,000	30 600	51 750	26 950	..	..	..	..	..	39 200	0.8	
10,000,000	32 450	72 250	..	..	..	..	..	..	47 050	0.5	

.. not applicable

T2 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
RSE of 25%	9 700	8 300	7 900	4 200	5 600	2 100	1 500	2 200	9 400
RSE of 50%	2 800	2 400	2 300	1 300	1 700	700	400	800	2 300

(a) Refers to the number of people contributing to the estimate.

GLOSSARY

Actively looking for work	<p>People who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ registering with a Job Network employment agency ■ contacting an employment agency ■ contacting prospective employers ■ answering a newspaper advertisement for a job ■ checking Centrelink touch screens ■ checking factory noticeboards ■ advertising or tendering for work ■ contacting friends or relatives.
Age of youngest child	Age of the youngest child, 12 years and under, in the household.
Available to start work within four weeks	People who were available to start work within four weeks or, for people with children aged 12 years and under, could start work within four weeks if suitable child care was available.
Did not want to work	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered 'no' when asked if they would like a job.
Discouraged job seekers	<p>People with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ considered to be too young by employers ■ considered to be too old by employers ■ lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience ■ difficulties because of language or ethnic background ■ no jobs in their locality or line of work ■ no jobs at all.
Employed	<p>People who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or ■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or ■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or ■ on strike or locked out; or ■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or ■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Family	Two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.
Family reasons for not actively looking for work	Includes ill health of someone other than themselves, caring for children and other family considerations.
Full-time or part-time preference	Whether they would prefer to work full-time or part-time regardless of whether they are able to start work.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Full-time or part-time status of last job	The perception of people of whether they worked full-time or part-time in their last job.
Future starters	People waiting to start, within four weeks of the end of the reference week, a new job that they have already obtained (and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then). Under International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines these persons do not have to be actively looking for work to be classified as unemployed.
Had a job to go to	People who were waiting to start a job, but would not be starting within four weeks. Also includes people 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.
Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months	The intention of people to work or look for work in the 12 months following the interview.
Job	Any employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.
Job leavers	People who are classified as voluntarily ceasing their last job.
Job losers	People who are classified as involuntarily ceasing their last job.
Labour force	The civilian population can be split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and persons not in the labour force.
Main activity when not in the labour force	The main activity of people who are not in the labour force since they last worked or looked for work (or in the last year if they haven't worked in that time).
Marginal attachment to the labour force	<p>People who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or ■ were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks. <p>The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.</p>
Main English-speaking countries	The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.
Occupation of last job	An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0). Relates to persons who have had a job less than 20 years ago only.
Personal reasons for not actively looking for work	Includes 'own short-term illness or injury' or 'long-term health condition or disability', 'pregnancy', 'attending an educational institution', 'had no need to work', 'welfare payments or pension may be affected', and 'moved house or on holidays'.
Persons in the labour force	People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.
Persons not in the labour force	People who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children	People who wanted to work and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ were not actively looking for work because they were caring for children, but were available to start work within four weeks; or■ were not actively looking for work and reported that they were not available to start work within four weeks because they were caring for children.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
Status in employment of last job	People who had a job in the last 20 years classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, contributing family workers or unpaid voluntary workers in their last job.
Time since last job	The elapsed time since ceasing last job.
Unemployed	People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Wanted to work	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed and who answered 'yes' or 'maybe' when asked if they would like a job.

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