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EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 15 DECEMBER 1995

GRADUATE OUTCOMES, TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION, AUSTRALIA, 1995

This publication provides broad, summary results from a survey of persons graduating from Technical and Further Education (TAFE) colleges in 1994. Of the 106,000 TAFE graduates included in the survey, only 64,700 responded with sufficient information to be included in these survey results. The results will be biased if the characteristics of those who responded are different to those who did not respond (see Technical Notes).

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF 1994 TAFE GRADUATES¹ AT 31 MAY 1995, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, AUSTRALIA

	<u>Employed</u>			<u>Unemployed</u>			<u>Not in the labour force</u>	
	<u>Full time</u>	<u>Part time</u>	<u>Total²</u>	<u>Looking for full-time work</u>	<u>Looking for part-time work</u>	<u>Total²</u>	<u>force</u>	<u>Total²</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sex								
Males	67.7	9.4	79.8	10.4	1.9	12.3	7.7	100.0
Females	38.2	25.1	66.6	10.9	6.1	17.0	16.1	100.0
Age at 31 May 1995 (years)								
15-19	49.5	20.7	74.1	12.4	3.5	16.0	9.7	100.0
20-24	59.6	15.8	78.7	10.0	2.8	12.8	8.3	100.0
25-44	54.9	14.9	72.6	9.9	4.3	14.2	13.0	100.0
35-44	43.7	21.1	67.2	11.1	6.4	17.5	14.9	100.0
45-54	42.6	21.5	66.7	10.8	5.6	16.4	16.6	100.0
55 and over	20.3	15.7	38.1	10.1	5.3	15.4	45.1	100.0
Level of qualification								
Diploma	46.3	21.5	71.2	12.8	4.6	17.4	10.9	100.0
Associate Diploma	56.1	19.8	79.0	8.5	2.9	11.4	9.4	100.0
Advanced Certificate — Post Trade	69.1	12.1	84.4	7.8	2.1	9.9	5.5	100.0
Advanced Certificate — Other	48.8	22.1	74.7	9.9	4.5	14.5	10.6	100.0
Certificate — Trade	72.5	8.7	84.0	7.8	2.0	9.8	6.0	100.0
Certificate — Other	38.6	20.6	62.1	13.5	6.0	19.5	18.0	100.0
Field of study								
Land and marine resources, animal husbandry	58.2	14.8	76.1	12.0	3.1	15.0	8.5	100.0
Architecture, building	76.6	7.2	87.1	8.2	1.0	9.2	3.5	100.0
Arts, humanities and social sciences, education	28.0	29.1	60.6	9.1	6.9	16.0	23.0	100.0
Business, administration, economics, law, legal studies	55.1	17.6	75.7	10.6	3.8	14.4	9.8	100.0
Engineering, surveying	76.5	5.9	84.7	7.9	1.2	9.2	6.0	100.0
Health, community services	41.7	30.1	76.0	8.9	4.7	13.6	10.2	100.0
Science, veterinary science, animal care	40.7	20.7	63.6	13.8	5.8	19.6	16.6	100.0
Services, hospitality, transportation	42.7	25.7	72.0	10.3	4.7	15.0	12.5	100.0
TAFE multi-field education	21.3	12.9	36.5	20.3	10.0	30.3	32.4	100.0
Total²	51.5	17.9	72.6	10.7	4.2	14.9	12.3	100.0

¹ See Glossary — fully responding.

² Includes *not stated*, therefore components may not add to totals.

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication, contact Murray Klee on Canberra (06) 252 6751.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCOPE

- 1** The survey included all 1994 TAFE graduates:
 - who completed their course in 1994 and attended TAFE (full time, part time or externally) or who were awarded a qualification as recognition for prior learning; and
 - who were eligible for any of the following awards, Diploma, Associate Diploma, Advanced Certificate — Post Trade, Advanced Certificate — Other, Certificate — Trade, or Certificate — Other; and
 - whose course was at least 200 hours or one semester in duration. (Graduates who undertook recreational or hobby/short courses were excluded from the survey); and
 - who had an Australian address as their usual address.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 2** The name and address details of the TAFE graduates who completed courses in 1994 were supplied by the TAFE authority in each State and Territory.
- 3** The data was collected by a self-enumeration, mail questionnaire.
- 4** All graduates who had not returned their questionnaire after two weeks, were sent a reminder by mail. Non-responding graduates from those colleges with less than a 50% response rate were contacted by telephone and asked if they would participate in the survey.

REFERENCE PERIODS

- 5** Graduates were asked to respond to questions regarding labour force status for three reference periods — before the course, during the course and as at 31 May 1995.

SURVEY DATA

- 6** The results presented in this publication are a broad summary only of the data available from the ABS. Unpublished data are available subject to confidentiality constraints, for the following data items:
 - personal characteristics of graduates including age, sex, country of birth, disability, non-English speaking background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, school qualifications and educational qualifications;
 - course characteristics of graduates including name, qualification, field of study, attendance, time taken to complete course, sources of income, recognition for prior learning, reason for doing course and relevance of course;
 - employment characteristics of graduates including labour force status, occupation, industry of employer, employer support during course, earnings, size of workplace and time taken to find a job; and
 - further study plans of graduates including course qualification, attendance, type of institution, reason for further study and study in a similar field to job and/or course.

RELIABILITY OF RESULTS

- 7** Some caution should be taken in using these results as they will be affected by the low level of response. See the Technical Notes on page 3 for further information.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

TECHNICAL NOTES

Of the 106,000 TAFE graduates included in this survey only 64,700 returned sufficient information to be included in the results. This represents an overall response rate of 61%. There was at least a 50% response in respect of each TAFE college and State and Territory in Australia.

It has not been possible to represent the non-responding graduates in the survey results. Consequently, the statistics provided are based solely on the information provided by the 64,700 graduates who responded fully to the survey. The survey results will be biased to the extent that the characteristics of those who responded differ from those who did not respond. The ABS has undertaken a limited examination of the response to the survey by comparing selected characteristics of the graduate dispatch population with those of the fully responding graduate population. A comparison between the State/Territory, sex, field of study and qualification characteristics of the survey dispatch population and those of the fully responding population showed that the two populations were broadly similar.

GLOSSARY

Age	Age in years at the survey reference date, 31 May 1995.
Employed full time	A person is employed full time if they usually worked 35 hours or more a week in their main job during the reference period(s).
Employed part time	A person is employed part time if they usually worked less than 35 hours a week in their main job during the reference period(s).
Field of study	A classification that is used to describe a course based on the intended major vocational outcome and content. The Australian Committee on Vocational Education and Training Statistics defines and maintains field of study classifications. Courses are classified according to a hierarchical structure as found in <i>AVETMISS (The Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard) Classifications Volume 4</i> .
Fully responding	The survey return was considered fully responding if the 1994 TAFE graduate was in scope and answered enough questions to make the information they provided useable.
Graduate	For this survey, a graduate is a student who satisfactorily completed a course of study at TAFE in Australia in 1994. Students participating in recreational, leisure or self-enrichment courses, courses comprising less than 200 hours and students who did not have an Australian address were excluded from the survey.
Labour force status	Persons who, during the reference periods, were employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined.
Level of qualification	Educational attainment for which an award is conferred upon successful completion. The Australian Committee on Vocational Education and Training Statistics defines and maintains the qualification category classifications used in this publication, as found in <i>AVETMISS Classifications Volume 4</i> .

Looking for work	Unemployed graduates were asked if they were actively looking for work according to the following criteria: being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; or advertising for work.
Not in the labour force	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined.
Not stated	Results when particular questions have not been answered, but a questionnaire would otherwise be useable. This is also known as question non-response. For example, a graduate may have indicated they were employed but did not specify their usual hours of work. Therefore, they have not been classified to either full time or part time employment but form part of the total employed.
Response rate	The total number of questionnaires received, expressed as a percentage of the total number sent out.
TAFE	Technical and Further Education institutions.
Unemployed persons	Persons who were not employed during the reference period(s) and who had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time during that time.

