

## CHAPTER 5

### PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Persons not in the labour force represent that group of the population who during a particular week are not employed or unemployed. From the labour market perspective, the main interest is in their potential to participate in the labour force. In addition to analysing persons not in the labour force by their demographic and family characteristics, attention is also focussed on their degree of attachment to the labour force. This is achieved by examining the concepts of 'marginal attachment to the labour force' and 'discouraged jobseekers'.

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

#### Persons Not In the Labour Force

There were 4,883,700 persons not in the labour force in August 1990, 1,641,100 males and 3,242,700 females.

Females comprised 66.4 per cent of persons not in the labour force in August 1990 compared with 72.0 per cent ten years earlier.

In August 1990, 37.3 per cent of persons not in the labour force were aged 65 and over, compared with 31.1 per cent in August 1980.

A survey conducted in September 1990 analysed the characteristics of persons aged 15 to 69 who were not in the labour force. There were 3,550,100 persons not in the labour force, accounting for 29 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 to 69. This proportion is similar to the proportion estimated in September 1989 (30%).

- Females comprised some 69 per cent of those not in the labour force, whereas they constituted 42 per cent of persons in the labour force.
- Some 72 per cent of women not in the labour force reported home duties/child care as their main activity. This category accounted for 5 per cent of men not in the labour force.
- There were approximately the same numbers (about 330,000) of men and women not in the labour force whose main activity was attending an educational institution.
- About 38 per cent of males and 7 per cent of females not in the labour force were reported as retired/voluntarily inactive.
- Of those persons not in the labour force, approximately 33 per cent had either last had a job twenty or more years ago, or had never had a job.

#### Discouraged Jobseekers

In September 1990 there were an estimated 100,900 discouraged jobseekers. The lowest percentage of these persons was in the 20 to 24 age group (5%) and the highest percentage was in the 55 to 64 age group with 24 per cent. In previous surveys, these age groups have consistently had the lowest and highest numbers of discouraged jobseekers, respectively.

The estimated number of discouraged jobseekers has increased since the last survey, with the most prominent increase occurring in the 35 to 44 year age group (a rise of 5.0 percentage points).

**TABLE 5.1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : AGE, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1980 TO AUGUST 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Age group									
August	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70 and over	Total
MALES										
1980	243.6	59.5	53.5	36.4	66.2	61.0	141.6	203.7	327.6	1,193.2
1981	248.0	56.3	56.9	44.5	67.1	69.7	143.5	208.1	342.4	1,236.6
1982	243.6	70.4	63.4	48.2	77.0	78.0	160.5	218.3	355.3	1,314.6
1983	271.0	69.0	57.2	52.1	74.5	82.0	183.2	216.3	373.8	1,379.2
1984	267.6	71.0	62.1	57.1	78.1	89.0	190.6	216.7	386.6	1,418.8
1985	280.8	68.6	70.2	57.8	79.4	90.7	198.3	219.8	403.9	1,469.5
1986(a)	284.2	72.2	67.3	65.2	80.9	93.2	193.2	233.9	419.3	1,509.4
1987	299.5	69.7	71.3	66.4	87.2	96.8	186.9	243.6	434.2	1,565.4
1988	311.7	65.1	85.0	71.7	109.1	98.9	190.2	257.5	444.8	1,633.9
1989	288.9	72.1	72.1	84.8	100.8	92.9	182.2	268.3	457.6	1,619.7
1990	297.1	76.7	80.7	74.0	96.5	87.9	180.8	275.3	472.1	1,641.1
FEMALES										
1980	260.1	181.1	558.9	357.2	386.3	263.2	268.2	267.0	529.7	3,071.7
1981	272.6	188.7	571.9	378.3	375.7	260.5	284.3	271.8	550.8	3,154.6
1982	276.8	197.0	570.6	402.3	372.8	275.3	301.2	275.8	571.0	3,242.8
1983	270.2	193.4	588.8	421.2	381.4	267.7	303.3	280.8	592.3	3,299.1
1984	279.6	186.8	568.9	429.1	374.0	270.9	316.5	273.6	620.5	3,319.9
1985	281.5	173.8	542.3	417.3	377.6	272.3	323.7	282.3	642.7	3,313.6
1986(a)	287.1	165.7	520.4	397.8	351.9	263.8	321.1	293.3	665.2	3,266.3
1987	315.0	157.8	507.1	399.3	354.8	254.4	320.1	301.8	681.2	3,291.4
1988	303.1	156.6	514.6	384.9	351.6	248.4	315.4	317.2	696.8	3,288.6
1989	295.5	148.1	482.6	376.3	346.7	244.2	318.1	331.3	715.9	3,258.7
1990	294.4	141.3	486.8	357.4	345.5	236.0	308.1	333.2	740.0	3,242.7
PERSONS										
1980	503.7	240.7	612.4	393.6	452.5	324.2	409.8	470.8	857.3	4,264.9
1981	520.7	244.9	628.8	422.8	442.8	330.2	427.9	479.9	893.2	4,391.2
1982	520.4	267.4	634.0	450.5	449.7	353.3	461.7	494.1	926.3	4,557.4
1983	541.2	262.4	646.1	473.3	455.9	349.7	486.5	497.1	966.2	4,678.3
1984	547.2	257.8	631.0	486.2	452.1	359.9	507.2	490.3	1,007.2	4,378.7
1985	562.2	242.5	612.6	475.2	457.0	363.1	522.0	502.0	1,046.5	4,783.1
1986(a)	571.3	237.9	587.7	463.0	432.8	357.0	514.3	527.0	1,084.5	4,775.7
1987	614.5	227.5	578.4	465.7	441.9	351.1	517.0	545.3	1,115.4	4,856.8
1988	614.8	221.7	599.6	456.6	460.7	347.3	505.5	574.8	1,141.5	4,922.5
1989	584.4	220.2	554.7	461.0	447.5	337.1	500.3	599.6	1,173.5	4,878.5
1990	591.4	218.0	567.5	431.4	442.0	323.9	488.8	608.5	1,212.1	4,883.7

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

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203 0).

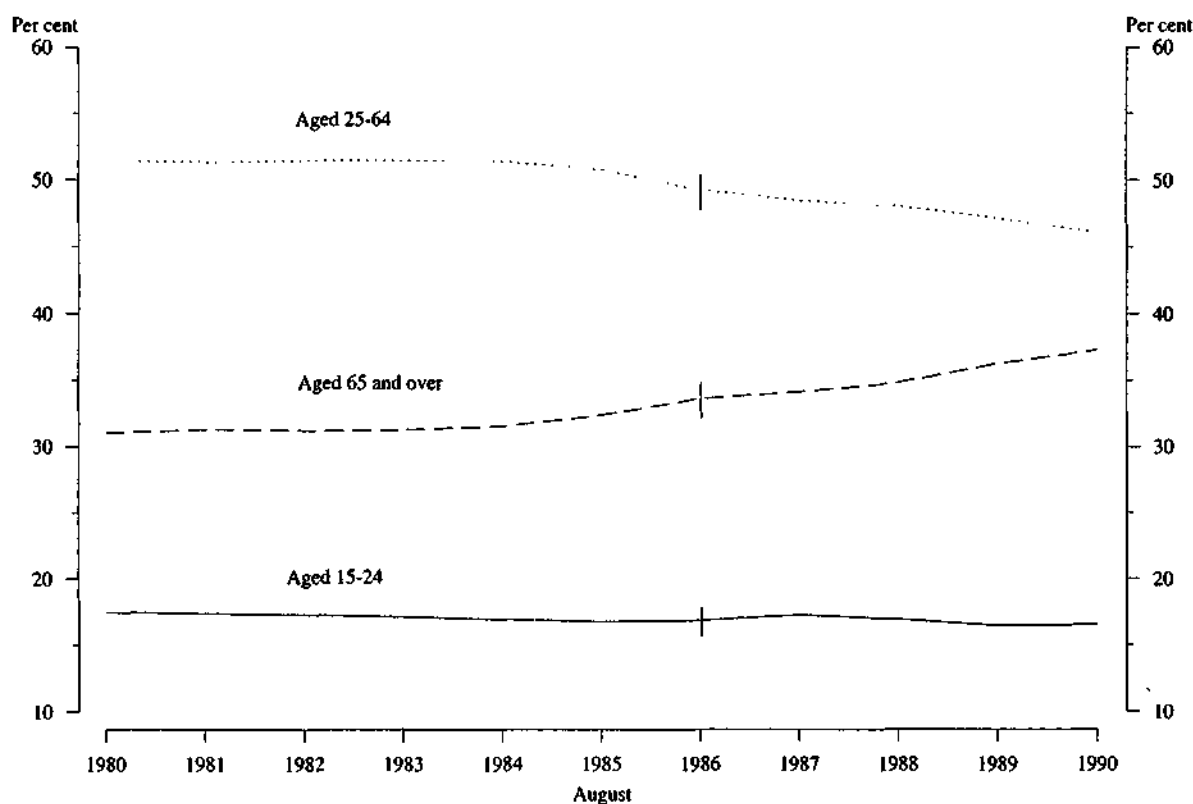
**TABLE 5.2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER LOOKING FOR WORK AND MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Males			Females			Persons
	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total	
<i>Looking for work</i>	10.5	26.8	37.3	27.7	26.9	54.6	91.9
Took active steps to find work(a)	5.1	12.8	17.9	6.3	13.0	19.4	37.3
Did not take active steps to find work	5.5	14.0	19.4	21.4	13.9	35.2	54.7
Not looking for work	849.0	655.4	1,544.5	1,806.4	1,238.3	3,044.7	4,549.2
Permanently unable to work	16.32	12.4	28.6	5.9	17.5	23.4	52.1
In institutions	23.1	47.5	70.6	18.4	101.6	120.0	190.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>899.0</b>	<b>742.0</b>	<b>1,641.1</b>	<b>1,858.4</b>	<b>1,384.3</b>	<b>3,242.7</b>	<b>4,883.7</b>

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

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203 0).

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



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

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

TABLE 5.3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : FAMILY STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1990

	Number ('000)			Proportion of population (b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	1,222.9	2,409.9	3,632.8	23.1	45.7	34.4
Husband or wife	824.0	1,745.2	2,569.2	21.7	46.8	33.7
With dependents present	112.2	761.0	873.2	5.5	52.9	22.0
Without dependents present	711.7	984.2	1,696.0	38.5	55.0	46.6
Sole parent	9.3	155.7	165.0	19.0	47.6	43.9
Other family head	32.8	128.7	161.6	41.3	64.7	58.1
Full-time student aged 15-24(c)	267.0	240.3	507.3	67.0	59.2	63.1
Other child(b) of married couple or family head	61.9	45.5	107.4	7.9	9.4	8.5
Other relative of married couple or family head	27.9	94.5	122.4	32.7	72.0	56.5
Not a member of a family	224.3	528.9	753.2	26.2	54.1	41.1
Living alone	164.8	468.5	633.3	36.5	71.6	57.3
Not living alone	59.5	60.3	119.9	14.7	18.7	16.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,447.2</b>	<b>2,938.8</b>	<b>4,386.0</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>35.4</b>

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

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

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

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force (i.e. persons neither employed nor unemployed who nevertheless reported some attachment to the labour force) numbered 752,500 in September 1990. This represents 21 per cent of all persons aged 15 to 69 not in the labour force. The 15 to 24 years age group made up 30 per cent of this number, the 25 to 34 years age group accounted for 27 per cent, while 18 per cent were aged 35 to 44 years. Some 74 per cent of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force were females.

**TABLE 5.4. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 69 : MARGINAL ATTACHMENT AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1986 TO SEPTEMBER 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	<i>Sept.</i> <i>1986</i>	<i>March</i> <i>1987</i>	<i>March</i> <i>1988</i>	<i>Sept.</i> <i>1988</i>	<i>Sept.</i> <i>1989</i>	<i>Sept.</i> <i>1990</i>
<b>MALES</b>						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,590.5	5,634.9	5,764.5	5,829.8	5,977.6	6,070.2
Persons in the labour force	4,570.4	4,632.7	4,711.6	4,718.5	4,872.8	4,971.4
Persons not in the labour force	1,020.1	1,022.2	1,052.9	1,111.4	1,104.8	1,098.8
With marginal attachment to the labour force	156.8	163.9	177.6	190.8	186.9	195.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	26.3	12.1	13.3	34.7	25.8	26.3
Were available to start work within four weeks	9.1	10.0	10.8	14.8	12.6	12.6
Were not available to start work within four weeks	17.1	2.1	2.5	19.9	13.2	13.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	130.5	151.8	164.3	156.1	161.1	169.2
Discouraged jobseekers	16.2	22.2	19.5	19.7	18.2	24.2
Other	114.3	129.6	144.8	136.4	142.9	144.9
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	863.3	858.2	875.3	920.6	917.9	903.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	67.4	54.5	63.1	73.9	76.4	85.1
Did not want to work	731.4	733.3	745.5	782.8	759.1	743.3
Permanently unable to work	23.5	20.0	24.1	26.4	25.3	34.8
Institutionalised persons and boarding school pupils	41.0	50.5	42.6	37.5	57.0	40.2
<b>FEMALES</b>						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,550.8	5,613.0	5,722.5	5,783.8	5,905.8	5,994.1
Persons in the labour force	3,019.5	3,138.4	3,255.1	3,274.7	3,443.5	3,542.8
Persons not in the labour force	2,531.3	2,474.6	2,467.4	2,509.1	2,462.3	2,451.3
With marginal attachment to the labour force	580.4	532.5	547.4	530.9	521.5	557.1
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	30.7	19.0	20.3	31.0	29.5	31.3
Were available to start work within four weeks	17.5	13.5	16.1	20.0	15.2	18.9
Were not available to start work within four weeks	13.2	5.5	4.2	11.0	14.4	12.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	549.6	513.4	527.1	499.9	492.0	525.8
Discouraged jobseekers	67.4	72.2	72.5	64.1	57.9	76.6
Other	482.2	441.2	454.6	435.7	434.1	449.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	1,950.9	1,942.1	1,919.9	1,978.2	1,940.8	1,894.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	192.5	177.4	187.2	207.4	209.9	225.4
Did not want to work	1,722.4	1,727.6	1,692.4	1,732.9	1,692.0	1,618.3
Permanently unable to work	12.0	8.8	13.4	10.8	9.8	17.6
Institutionalised persons and boarding school pupils	24.0	28.3	26.9	27.1	29.2	32.9
<b>PERSONS</b>						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	11,141.3	11,267.9	11,487.0	11,613.6	11,883.4	12,064.3
Persons in the labour force	7,589.9	7,771.2	7,966.8	7,993.2	8,316.3	8,514.2
Persons not in the labour force	3,551.4	3,496.7	3,520.2	3,620.4	3,567.1	3,550.1
With marginal attachment to the labour force	737.2	696.4	725.0	721.7	708.4	752.5
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	57.0	31.1	33.6	65.7	55.3	57.6
Were available to start work within four weeks	26.7	23.6	26.9	34.8	27.7	31.5
Were not available to start work within four weeks	30.3	7.6	6.7	30.9	27.6	26.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	680.2	665.3	691.4	656.0	653.1	694.9
Discouraged jobseekers	83.6	94.4	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9
Other	596.5	570.9	599.4	572.2	577.0	594.1
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	2,814.2	2,800.3	2,795.2	2,898.8	2,858.7	2,797.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	259.9	231.8	250.3	281.3	286.3	310.5
Did not want to work	2,453.8	2,460.9	2,437.8	2,515.7	2,451.1	2,361.6
Permanently unable to work	35.5	28.8	37.5	37.2	35.1	52.4
Institutionalised persons and boarding school pupils	65.0	78.8	69.5	64.7	86.2	73.1

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1990* (6220.0).

**TABLE 5.5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:  
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1986 TO SEPTEMBER 1990  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990
<b>MALES</b>						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	26.3	12.1	13.3	34.7	25.8	26.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	130.5	151.8	164.3	156.1	161.1	169.2
Main reason for not actively looking for work—						
Had a job to go to(a)	4.9	8.6	6.6	5.8	8.0	7.1
Personal reasons	93.5	105.7	118.4	110.4	114.7	118.8
Family reasons	3.8	*3.8	5.7	*4.1	5.1	5.2
Discouraged jobseekers	16.2	22.2	19.5	19.7	18.2	24.2
No jobs in suitable hours	*1.1	*1.2	*1.3	*2.1	*1.1	*0.7
Other reasons	10.4	9.7	11.4	12.5	12.6	12.0
Did not know	*0.6	*0.8	*1.4	*1.5	*1.5	*1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>156.8</b>	<b>163.9</b>	<b>177.6</b>	<b>190.8</b>	<b>186.9</b>	<b>195.4</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	30.7	19.0	20.3	31.0	29.5	31.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	549.6	513.4	527.1	499.9	492.0	525.8
Main reason for not actively looking for work—						
Had a job to go to(a)	15.6	15.1	17.4	13.4	12.1	12.7
Personal reasons	152.4	153.0	161.7	145.8	159.9	160.2
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	33.3	36.5	42.5	35.0	44.3	43.3
Attending an educational institution	55.5	58.0	65.4	55.7	63.8	62.0
Had no need to work	32.3	27.7	25.6	28.3	25.9	31.9
Give others a chance	6.3	4.6	5.9	*3.6	*2.8	*4.3
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	12.7	15.2	12.5	10.5	11.8	10.0
Moved house/holidays	12.2	11.1	9.9	12.6	11.2	8.7
Family reasons	263.3	235.1	236.3	239.2	222.5	234.5
Ill health of other than self	10.8	11.6	11.0	10.6	10.8	10.0
Unable to find suitable childcare	71.9	67.6	79.5	83.1	73.6	81.1
Children too young/preferred to look after children	138.7	116.1	106.8	107.7	102.0	95.2
Other family considerations	42.0	39.7	39.0	37.8	36.1	48.1
Discouraged jobseekers	67.4	72.2	72.5	64.1	57.9	76.6
Considered too young or too old by employers	18.1	25.0	25.0	23.5	22.8	26.0
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	3.1	3.3	5.6	5.3	*3.0	7.4
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	8.5	10.4	10.9	12.0	9.0	11.3
No jobs in locality or line of work	27.8	23.7	24.1	17.5	19.3	24.5
No jobs at all	9.7	9.8	7.0	5.7	*3.8	7.4
No jobs in suitable hours	15.4	10.7	13.4	8.6	9.5	10.4
Other reasons	29.7	19.2	21.4	24.1	23.9	25.3
Did not know	5.8	8.2	4.5	4.7	6.2	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>580.4</b>	<b>532.5</b>	<b>547.4</b>	<b>530.9</b>	<b>521.5</b>	<b>557.1</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	57.0	31.1	33.6	65.7	55.3	57.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	680.2	665.3	691.4	656.0	653.1	694.9
Main reason for not actively looking for work—						
Had a job to go to(a)	20.5	34.7	23.9	19.1	20.1	19.8
Personal reasons	245.9	258.7	280.1	256.2	274.5	279.0
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	55.9	61.1	76.2	69.6	79.2	78.9
Attending an educational institution	106.9	119.8	128.2	111.0	122.1	124.1
Had no need to work	39.6	36.8	32.7	35.9	34.9	42.5
Give others a chance	7.1	5.2	6.4	*3.8	*3.1	5.1
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	18.9	20.4	17.7	16.9	16.3	13.6
Moved house/holidays	17.6	15.3	19.0	19.0	19.0	14.8
Family reasons	267.1	238.9	242.0	243.2	227.6	239.7
Ill health of other than self	11.4	12.9	12.7	12.7	11.4	11.3
Unable to find suitable childcare	72.6	68.2	81.0	83.7	74.3	82.4
Children too young/preferred to look after children	140.2	117.2	108.2	108.3	102.8	96.6
Other family considerations	43.0	40.5	40.2	38.6	39.1	49.4
Discouraged jobseekers	83.6	94.4	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	25.5	35.1	35.4	32.5	30.8	38.6
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	3.8	4.2	6.0	6.5	*3.8	9.2
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	10.2	12.5	12.6	14.6	10.6	14.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	32.7	31.1	29.7	23.0	25.7	29.9
No jobs at all	11.4	11.6	8.4	7.2	5.2	9.0
No jobs in suitable hours	16.5	11.8	14.7	10.7	10.6	11.0
Other reasons	40.2	28.9	32.8	36.7	36.4	37.3
Did not know	6.4	9.0	5.9	6.3	7.7	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>737.2</b>	<b>696.4</b>	<b>725.0</b>	<b>721.7</b>	<b>708.4</b>	<b>752.5</b>

(a) Includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1990* (6220.0).

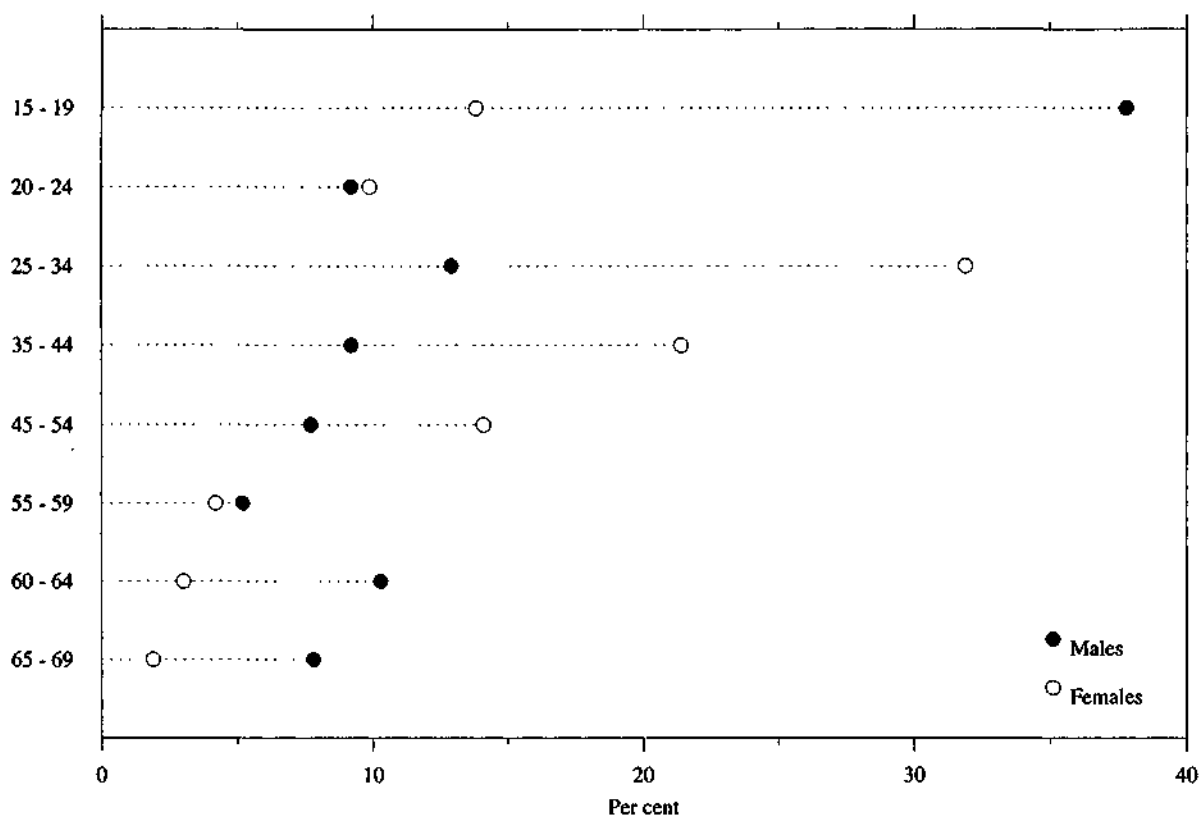
**TABLE 5.6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>			<i>Not asked(a)</i>	<i>Type of work preferred</i>		
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know/might look</i>		<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	..	..	..	57.6	32.8	22.1	57.6
Were available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	31.5	16.2	13.8	31.5
Were not available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	26.1	16.6	8.3	26.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	313.2	207.8	154.2	19.8	151.2	503.8	694.9
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>							
Had a job to go to(c)	..	..	..	19.8	9.3	10.0	19.8
Personal reasons	143.7	74.3	61.0	..	75.0	188.5	279.0
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	33.5	22.5	23.0	..	24.0	46.1	78.9
Attending an educational institution	83.9	20.2	20.0	..	37.0	84.7	124.1
Had no need to work	8.3	21.4	12.8	..	* 4.0	37.0	42.5
Give others a chance	* 0.6	* 3.6	* 1.0	..	* 0.2	4.8	5.1
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	* 3.9	5.9	* 3.8	..	* 2.1	10.6	13.6
Moved house/holidays	13.6	* 0.7	* 0.4	..	7.7	5.4	14.8
Family reasons	88.7	90.5	60.5	..	30.9	197.8	239.7
Ill health of other than self	* 3.6	* 3.9	* 3.8	..	* 1.9	8.9	11.3
Childcare	66.3	72.0	40.7	..	22.6	147.9	179.0
No childcare in locality	4.7	5.1	* 2.6	..	* 1.8	10.1	12.4
No childcare available at all	* 1.2	* 1.2	* 0.9	..	* 0.4	* 2.9	* 3.3
Cost/too expensive	19.8	19.9	11.4	..	8.3	39.5	51.1
Booked out/no places available	* 2.3	* 0.9	* 1.0	..	* 1.2	* 2.8	* 4.3
Children too young	14.7	11.8	4.9	..	* 4.1	26.0	31.5
Prefers to look after children	17.9	29.4	17.9	..	5.5	56.8	65.2
Quality of childcare unsuitable	* 1.8	* 2.2	* 1.4	..	* 0.6	4.6	5.4
Other	* 3.8	* 1.5	* 0.7	..	* 0.7	5.2	6.0
Other family considerations	18.8	14.6	16.0	..	6.4	41.0	49.4
Discouraged jobseekers	48.6	31.9	20.3	..	23.4	67.8	100.9
No jobs in suitable hours	7.1	* 0.7	* 3.2	..	* 0.8	10.0	11.0
Other reasons	22.4	8.2	6.8	..	10.2	24.6	37.3
Did not know	* 2.7	* 2.2	* 2.4	..	* 1.5	5.1	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>313.2</b>	<b>207.8</b>	<b>154.2</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>184.0</b>	<b>525.9</b>	<b>752.5</b>

(a) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons as defined in footnote(c). (b) Includes 'no preference'. (c) Includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1990* (6220.0).

**CHART 5.2. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE BY SEX, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1990**



Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1990 (6220.0).*

**TABLE 5.7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: AGE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1986 TO SEPTEMBER 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Age group	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990
15-19	7.1	6.7	7.9	8.0	5.5	6.8
20-24	*2.9	*3.1	*2.7	*3.5	*3.6	5.4
25-34	12.8	11.7	15.3	12.8	10.2	14.8
35-44	18.6	21.8	19.0	15.3	13.9	18.9
45-54	13.9	18.6	15.4	14.8	15.0	19.2
55-64	19.6	23.1	22.3	22.3	20.2	24.3
65-69	8.7	9.4	9.5	7.1	7.7	11.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>100.9</b>

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1990 (6220.0).*

### Transition from Education to Work

Between May 1985 and 1990, there was an increase of 6 per cent (47,800) in the number of males aged 15 to 64 not in the labour force, while those in this group attending an educational institution increased by 9 per cent (27,800). During the same period the number of females aged 15 to 64 not in the labour force decreased by 10 per cent (229,200) but, within this group, the change in the number attending an educational institution went against this trend with an increase of 11 per cent (37,700). Most of the increase in the number of persons attending an educational institution (65,000) was accounted for by those attending higher education — males in this group increased by 19 per cent (12,800) and females by 42 per cent (27,400).

**TABLE 5.8. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDING, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1985 TO MAY 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Type of educational institution attending	May 1985	May 1986	May 1987	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990
<b>MALES</b>						
Attending	303.7	301.1	330.0	353.7	347.4	331.5
School	212.3	205.0	229.0	235.7	220.1	216.9
Higher Education	67.0	64.9	70.6	79.0	85.2	79.8
TAFE/Technical College	20.1	22.5	24.2	31.2	27.8	25.3
Other	4.4	8.7	6.2	7.8	9.0	9.6
Not attending	449.2	464.2	468.9	476.8	463.5	469.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>752.9</b>	<b>765.3</b>	<b>798.9</b>	<b>830.5</b>	<b>810.8</b>	<b>800.7</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Attending	336.7	336.5	371.5	391.8	379.3	374.4
School	191.4	187.2	214.0	214.3	205.3	199.1
Higher Education	65.1	63.8	74.1	83.7	83.8	92.5
TAFE/Technical College	60.6	58.8	63.2	70.6	61.2	55.7
Other	19.6	26.7	20.2	23.2	28.7	27.2
Not attending	1,990.5	1,872.6	1,848.4	1,814.7	1,752.4	1,723.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,327.2</b>	<b>2,209.1</b>	<b>2,219.9</b>	<b>2,206.5</b>	<b>2,131.8</b>	<b>2,098.0</b>

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1990 (6227.0).

**TABLE 5.9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO THE SURVEY : TYPE OF ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IN PREVIOUS YEAR, WHETHER ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, AND TYPE OF ATTENDANCE IN CURRENT YEAR, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1985 TO MAY 1990**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Type of attendance at school in previous year	Whether attending in current year	Type of educational institution attending in current year	Type of attendance in current year	May 1985	May 1986	May 1987	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990
Full-time									
	Attending	School	Full-time	446.2	435.5	492.5	499.4	482.8	470.9
			Part-time	401.3	388.2	440.7	446.3	422.9	411.4
			Total	*0.0	*0.1	*0.0	*0.5	*0.1	*0.2
		Tertiary	Full-time	401.3	388.3	440.7	446.9	423.1	411.5
			Part-time	44.0	46.3	51.0	51.3	58.5	58.6
			Total	*0.8	*0.9	*0.8	*1.3	*1.2	*0.8
		Not attending	Full-time	44.8	47.2	51.8	52.5	59.8	59.4
			Part-time	8.1	12.4	12.4	9.5	12.1	9.1
			Total	454.3	448.0	504.9	508.9	494.9	480.0
	Part-time								
	Attending	Full-time	*0.8	*1.7	*1.5	*1.4	*2.2	*2.8	
		Part-time	4.1	3.7	*2.1	*2.9	*1.3	*2.5	
		Total	4.9	5.4	3.6	4.3	3.5	5.3	
Total									
	Attending	School	Full-time	447.0	437.2	494.0	500.8	485.1	473.7
			Part-time	401.3	388.4	440.7	446.6	422.9	411.8
			Total	*0.5	*0.9	*0.2	*0.7	*0.7	*1.2
		Tertiary	Full-time	401.8	389.3	440.9	447.3	423.6	413.0
			Part-time	44.2	46.6	51.9	52.1	59.0	59.7
			Total	*1.0	*1.4	*1.2	*1.4	*2.5	*1.1
		Not attending	Full-time	45.2	48.0	53.1	53.5	61.4	60.8
			Part-time	12.2	16.2	14.5	12.5	13.3	11.6
			Total	459.2	453.4	508.5	513.2	498.4	485.3

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1990 (6227.0)