

CHAPTER 5

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

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

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

Persons Not In the Labour Force

There were 5,254,300 persons not in the labour force in August 1993, 1,840,500 males and 3,413,800 females.

Females comprised 65 per cent of persons not in the labour force in August 1993 compared with 71 per cent ten years earlier.

In August 1993, 37 per cent of persons not in the labour force were aged 65 and over, compared with 31 per cent in August 1983.

A survey conducted in September 1993 provided details of the characteristics of persons aged 15 to 69 who were not in the labour force. There were 3,756,400 persons not in the labour force, accounting for 30 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 to 69. This proportion has changed little over the last five years.

- Females comprised some 67 per cent of those not in the labour force, whereas they constituted 42 per cent of persons in the labour force.
- Some 69 per cent of women not in the labour force reported home duties/child care as their main activity. This category accounted for 4 per cent of men not in the labour force.
- The most common main activities for males who were not in the labour force were retired/voluntarily inactive (37%) and attending an educational institution (32%).

Some 32 per cent of persons not in the labour force reported that they would like a job. Of those who were attending an educational institution, 42 per cent wanted a job, while of persons whose main activity was retired/voluntarily inactive, 11 per cent reported that they wanted to work.

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

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

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force numbered 907,800 in September 1993. This represents 24 per cent of all persons aged 15 to 69 not in the labour force. This proportion has risen gradually since September 1989 when it was 20 per cent.

The majority of marginally attached persons were female (600,700 or 73%). Of the marginally attached women, 213,900 (32%) gave childcare as the main reason for not actively looking for work. Another 90,800 (14%) gave attending an educational institution as the main reason for not seeking work. Some 16 per cent gave reasons which classified them as discouraged jobseekers.

Of the 247,100 males who were marginally attached to the labour force, 88,100 (36%) gave attending an educational institution as the main reason for not actively looking for work, 36,000 (15%) gave own ill health/physical disability as the main reason and 16 per cent were discouraged jobseekers.

TABLE 5.1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: AGE, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1983 TO AUGUST 1993
(^{'000})

August	Age group									Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70 and over	
MALES										
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	196.9	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 r	288.8	71.6	72.1	84.6	100.7	93.0	183.7	267.4	454.1	1,616.0
1990 r	297.4	76.7	80.5	73.5	96.3	88.2	182.1	274.4	469.6	1,638.7
1991 r	321.7	90.5	79.5	81.2	99.0	103.8	184.6	272.6	491.0	1,724.0
1992 r	309.4	89.0	95.5	88.9	111.8	97.3	187.2	275.6	510.3	1,765.0
1993	311.8	102.3	90.5	89.7	123.5	115.1	189.3	283.9	534.4	1,840.5
FEMALES										
1983	270.2	193.4	588.8	421.2	381.3	267.7	303.3	280.8	592.4	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 r	295.4	148.0	484.3	376.3	346.6	245.0	320.3	328.8	710.3	3,255.1
1990 r	294.5	141.3	489.0	356.8	345.3	237.7	310.2	330.8	733.3	3,238.8
1991 r	313.9	159.5	483.2	367.1	345.1	231.6	315.1	331.7	760.1	3,307.3
1992 r	294.5	171.3	493.0	374.3	344.1	232.4	318.4	337.2	784.0	3,349.2
1993	313.8	175.1	486.2	398.4	351.1	239.4	304.3	336.7	808.8	3,413.8
PERSONS										
1983	541.2	262.4	646.1	473.3	455.8	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	4,738.7
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	527.1	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 r	584.3	219.6	556.4	460.9	447.4	338.0	504.0	596.2	1,164.4	4,871.1
1990 r	591.9	218.0	569.5	430.3	441.6	325.9	492.2	605.2	1,202.8	4,877.5
1991 r	635.6	250.0	562.6	448.3	444.1	335.4	499.7	604.4	1,251.1	5,031.2
1992 r	603.8	260.3	588.6	463.2	455.9	329.7	505.6	612.8	1,294.3	5,114.2
1993	625.6	277.4	576.7	488.2	474.6	354.5	493.6	620.5	1,343.2	5,254.3

(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).

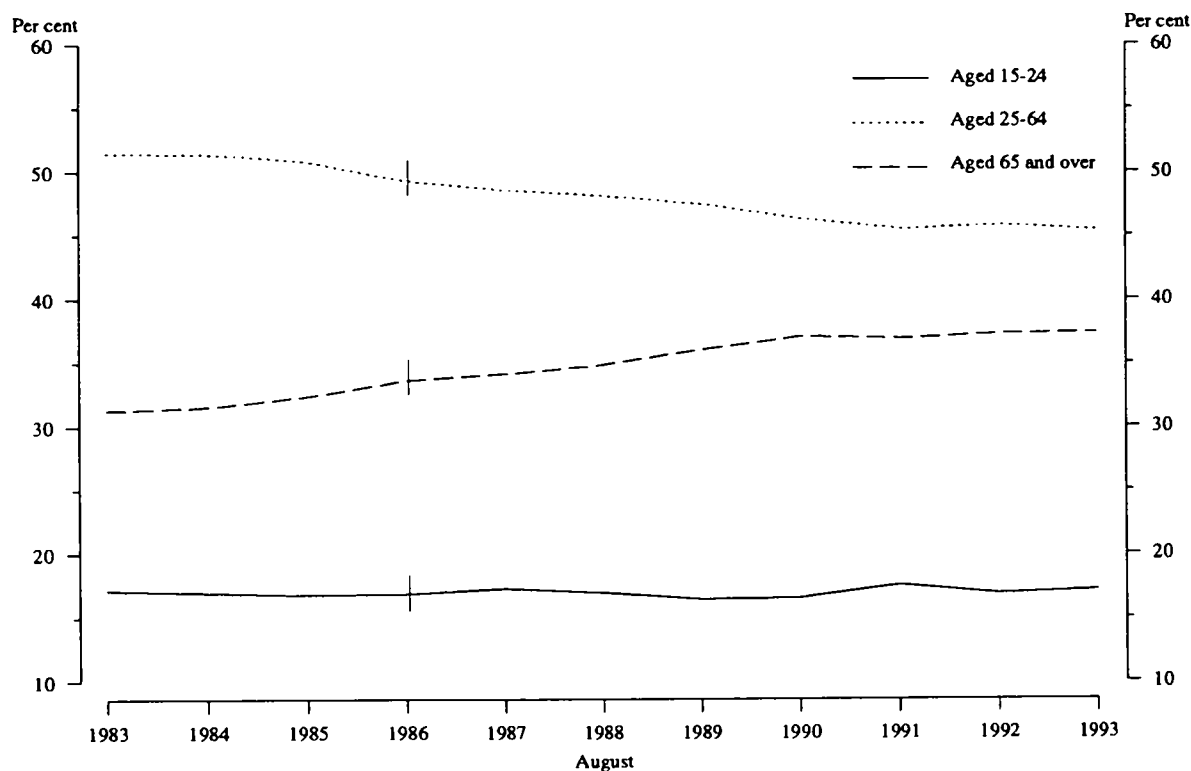
TABLE 5.2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER LOOKING FOR WORK AND MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1993
(^{'000})

	Males			Females			Persons
	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total	
Looking for work	19.4	33.9	53.3	41.4	36.9	78.3	131.6
Took active steps to find work(a)	9.5	15.2	24.8	12.9	18.3	31.3	56.0
Did not take active steps to find work	9.8	18.7	28.5	28.4	18.6	47.0	75.5
Not looking for work	951.9	724.7	1,676.6	1,838.8	1,329.1	3,167.9	4,844.5
Permanently unable to work	14.6	15.6	30.2	6.1	17.0	23.1	53.3
In institutions	21.2	49.6	70.8	14.0	122.0	136.0	206.8
Total	1,007.0	833.4	1,840.5	1,900.3	1,513.6	3,413.8	5,254.3

(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 1993

	Number ('000)			Proportion of population (b) (pr cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	1,346.2	2,498.4	3,844.6	25.2	46.0	35.7
Husband or wife	927.8	1,787.2	2,715.0	23.6	46.8	35.0
With dependants present	131.0	766.3	897.3	6.6	39.5	22.8
Without dependants present	796.7	1,021.0	1,817.7	41.1	54.2	47.6
Sole parent	10.7	183.9	194.6	21.7	48.0	45.0
Other family head	27.1	130.5	157.5	34.7	61.2	54.1
Full-time student aged 15-24(c)	287.4	269.2	556.6	67.3	59.9	63.5
Other child(b) of married couple or family head	64.4	50.0	114.4	8.5	11.2	9.5
Other relative of married couple or family head	28.8	77.5	106.3	32.0	66.4	51.4
Not a member of a family	297.8	603.6	901.3	28.4	55.1	42.0
Living alone	220.0	526.0	746.0	38.7	71.0	57.0
Not living alone	77.8	77.6	155.3	16.2	21.9	18.6
Total	1,840.5	3,413.8	5,254.3	27.1	48.7	38.1

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

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

TABLE 5.4. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 69: LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1993 ('000)

	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992	Sept. 1993
MALES					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,977.6	6,070.2	6,158.6	6,230.5	6,287.9
Persons in the labour force	4,872.8	4,971.4	4,986.0	5,007.1	5,049.5
Employed	4,598.4	4,608.3	4,463.1	4,441.2	4,483.7
Unemployed	274.4	363.1	522.8	565.9	565.8
Persons not in the labour force	1,104.8	1,098.8	1,172.6	1,223.4	1,238.4
With marginal attachment to the labour force	186.9	195.4	220.5	246.7	247.1
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	25.8	26.3	23.6	29.4	28.1
Were available to start work within four weeks	12.6	12.6	10.7	16.0	16.3
Were not available to start work within four weeks	13.2	13.7	12.9	13.3	11.8
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	161.1	169.2	196.9	217.3	219.0
Discouraged jobseekers	18.2	24.2	34.5	37.8	40.0
Other	142.9	144.9	162.4	179.5	179.0
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	917.9	903.4	952.1	976.5	991.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	76.4	85.1	77.5	89.0	98.6
Did not want to work	759.1	743.3	787.4	817.8	813.1
Permanently unable to work	25.3	34.8	32.5	30.6	35.0
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	57.0	40.2	54.8	39.3	44.6
FEMALES					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,905.8	5,994.1	6,076.8	6,155.2	6,213.1
Persons in the labour force	3,443.5	3,542.8	3,605.6	3,640.5	3,695.1
Employed	3,217.1	3,278.4	3,262.4	3,281.1	3,321.3
Unemployed	226.4	264.4	343.2	359.4	373.8
Persons not in the labour force	2,462.3	2,451.3	2,471.3	2,514.7	2,518.0
With marginal attachment to the labour force	521.5	557.1	598.8	599.7	660.7
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	29.5	31.3	23.0	29.7	30.2
Were available to start work within four weeks	15.2	18.9	13.4	17.8	18.5
Were not available to start work within four weeks	14.4	12.4	9.6	11.9	11.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	492.0	525.8	575.8	570.0	630.4
Discouraged jobseekers	57.9	76.6	103.7	107.8	107.4
Other	434.1	449.2	472.1	462.2	523.1
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	1,940.8	1,894.2	1,872.5	1,915.0	1,857.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	209.9	225.4	199.6	166.0	172.4
Did not want to work	1,692.0	1,618.3	1,621.6	1,698.3	1,636.6
Permanently unable to work	9.8	17.6	15.5	14.2	14.0
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	29.2	32.9	35.7	36.5	34.3
PERSONS					
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	11,883.4	12,064.3	12,235.4	12,385.7	12,501.0
Persons in the labour force	8,316.3	8,514.2	8,591.5	8,647.5	8,744.6
Employed	7,815.5	7,886.8	7,725.5	7,722.2	7,804.9
Unemployed	500.8	627.5	866.0	925.3	939.6
Persons not in the labour force	3,567.1	3,550.1	3,643.9	3,738.1	3,756.4
With marginal attachment to the labour force	708.4	752.5	819.3	846.4	907.8
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	55.3	57.6	46.7	59.1	58.3
Were available to start work within four weeks	27.7	31.5	24.1	33.8	34.8
Were not available to start work within four weeks	27.6	26.1	22.5	25.3	23.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	653.1	694.9	772.7	787.3	849.5
Discouraged jobseekers	76.1	100.9	138.2	145.6	147.4
Other	577.0	594.1	634.5	641.7	702.0
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	2,858.7	2,797.6	2,824.6	2,891.7	2,848.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	286.3	310.5	277.1	255.0	271.0
Did not want to work	2,451.1	2,361.6	2,409.0	2,516.1	2,449.7
Permanently unable to work	35.1	52.4	48.1	44.8	49.1
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	86.2	73.1	90.5	75.8	78.9

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

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

**TABLE 5.5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1993
(^{'000})**

	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992	Sept. 1993
MALES					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	25.8	26.3	23.6	29.4	28.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	161.1	169.2	196.9	217.3	219.0
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	8.0	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.3
Personal reasons	114.7	118.8	130.9	146.4	145.3
Own ill health/physical disability	34.9	35.6	29.4	33.4	36.0
Attending an educational institution	58.2	62.1	79.8	89.0	88.1
Other(b)	21.6	21.1	21.7	24.0	21.1
Family reasons	5.1	5.2	7.3	8.5	7.4
Discouraged jobseekers	18.2	24.2	34.5	37.8	40.0
No jobs in suitable hours	*1.1	*0.7	*2.6	*2.2	*1.1
Other reasons	12.6	12.0	13.5	13.0	16.1
Did not know	*1.5	*1.2	*0.8	*0.9	*0.9
Total	186.9	195.4	220.5	246.7	247.1
FEMALES					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	29.5	31.3	23.0	29.7	30.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	492.0	525.8	575.8	570.0	630.4
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	12.1	12.7	18.8	16.3	13.5
Personal reasons	159.9	160.2	165.2	172.5	193.4
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	44.3	43.3	35.6	38.1	43.4
Attending an educational institution	63.8	62.0	75.3	79.3	90.8
Had no need to work	25.9	31.9	30.2	30.7	32.8
Give others a chance	*2.8	*4.3	7.0	6.8	6.6
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	11.8	10.0	8.0	10.0	8.8
Moved house/holidays	11.2	8.7	9.1	7.6	11.1
Family reasons	222.5	234.5	247.2	241.0	275.5
Ill health of other than self	10.8	10.0	12.2	12.1	16.5
Childcare	175.6	176.3	193.7	200.1	213.9
Other family considerations	36.1	48.1	41.3	28.8	45.2
Discouraged jobseekers	57.9	76.6	103.7	107.8	107.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	22.8	26.0	16.8	25.2	33.7
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*3.0	7.4	5.8	7.6	6.2
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	9.0	11.3	11.6	13.9	18.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	19.3	24.5	38.1	33.3	31.3
No jobs at all	*3.8	7.4	31.4	27.9	17.6
No jobs in suitable hours	9.5	10.4	10.8	10.6	6.9
Other reasons	23.9	25.3	24.5	18.0	26.9
Did not know	6.2	6.0	5.6	3.9	6.8
Total	521.5	557.1	598.8	599.7	660.7
PERSONS					
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	55.3	57.6	46.7	59.1	58.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	653.1	694.9	772.7	787.3	849.5
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>					
Had a job to go to(a)	20.1	19.8	26.1	24.9	21.9
Personal reasons	274.5	279.0	296.1	318.9	338.7
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	79.2	78.9	65.0	71.5	79.5
Attending an educational institution	122.1	124.1	155.1	168.3	178.8
Had no need to work	34.9	42.5	41.5	41.7	42.4
Give others a chance	*3.1	5.1	7.9	7.8	6.9
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	16.3	13.6	11.6	15.5	12.4
Moved house/holidays	19.0	14.8	14.9	14.0	18.6
Family reasons	227.6	239.7	254.5	249.5	282.9
Ill health of other than self	11.4	11.3	14.0	15.0	18.6
Childcare	177.1	179.0	196.5	203.3	217.2
Other family considerations	39.1	49.4	44.1	31.2	47.1
Discouraged jobseekers	76.1	100.9	138.2	145.6	147.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	30.8	38.6	28.8	38.1	50.8
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*3.8	9.2	7.3	9.1	8.8
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	10.6	14.1	13.3	16.1	20.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	25.7	29.9	48.4	45.1	42.2
No jobs at all	5.2	9.0	40.3	37.3	25.5
No jobs in suitable hours	10.6	11.0	13.4	12.8	8.0
Other reasons	36.4	37.3	38.0	31.0	43.0
Did not know	7.7	7.2	6.4	4.7	7.7
Total	708.4	752.5	819.3	846.4	907.8

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

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

TABLE 5.6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a): SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1993 ('000)

	With marginal attachment to the labour force				Without marginal attachment to the labour force			Total not in the labour force	
	Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	Discouraged jobseeker	Other	Total	Wanted to work but neither looking nor available for work	Did not want to work		Total(b)
<i>State —</i>									
New South Wales	23.5	47.5	229.3	276.8	300.4	97.8	877.6	1,002.1	1,302.5
Victoria	15.2	41.7	177.8	219.5	234.6	66.7	622.8	695.2	929.8
Queensland	7.9	24.0	129.7	153.7	161.6	42.8	419.5	468.3	629.8
South Australia	3.5	11.2	55.8	67.0	70.6	25.6	208.4	236.3	306.9
Western Australia	4.7	17.0	69.8	86.8	91.5	23.0	212.3	237.8	329.3
Tasmania	2.2	3.7	21.9	25.6	27.8	7.2	63.6	75.0	102.8
Northern Territory	* 0.4	* 1.2	5.7	6.9	7.3	3.3	18.1	21.6	28.9
Australian Capital Territory	* 1.0	1.1	12.0	13.1	14.0	4.7	27.4	33.5	47.6
<i>Age group (years) —</i>									
15-19	14.0	8.2	148.7	156.9	170.9	57.5	333.9	392.4	563.3
20-24	15.5	5.7	77.6	83.3	98.8	36.0	118.0	157.8	256.6
25-34	11.6	16.7	207.2	223.9	235.5	66.4	235.5	309.0	544.5
35-44	9.9	31.4	135.9	167.3	177.2	51.5	219.2	277.1	454.3
45-54	* 4.4	31.3	71.6	102.9	107.3	34.1	302.0	347.1	454.4
55-59	* 1.7	22.3	28.2	50.5	52.2	12.0	264.6	283.9	336.1
60-64	* 1.0	18.5	20.0	38.5	39.5	9.2	415.4	432.6	472.1
65-69	* 0.2	13.2	12.9	26.1	26.3	* 4.3	561.1	569.9	596.2
<i>Family status —</i>									
Member of a family	43.7	127.0	611.3	738.3	782.0	232.3	2,013.5	2,283.5	3,065.4
Husband or wife	19.4	99.9	366.6	466.6	485.9	138.4	1,467.5	1,626.8	2,112.7
Sole parent	* 3.8	9.2	84.0	93.2	97.0	22.7	64.1	87.7	184.7
Other member of a family(c)	20.5	17.8	160.7	178.5	199.0	71.2	481.9	569.0	768.0
Not a member of a family	10.3	14.6	54.2	68.7	79.0	28.1	323.2	360.2	439.2
Family status not determined	* 4.4	5.9	36.5	42.4	46.7	10.6	113.0	126.1	172.9
<i>Birthplace —</i>									
Born in Australia	43.8	90.7	524.2	614.8	658.7	185.5	1,694.1	1,917.0	2,575.7
Born outside Australia	14.5	56.8	177.9	234.6	249.1	85.6	755.6	852.8	1,101.9
Born in main English-speaking countries	* 4.0	19.7	65.4	85.1	89.1	23.6	216.9	244.4	333.6
Born in other countries	10.4	37.1	112.5	149.5	160.0	61.9	538.7	608.3	768.3
<i>Time since last job —</i>									
Had had a job	45.7	134.9	564.7	699.5	745.2	215.1	1,986.0	2,236.0	2,981.2
Under 12 months	23.4	23.1	142.5	165.6	188.9	71.2	227.2	299.0	487.9
1 and under 3 years	10.8	32.9	152.7	185.7	196.5	56.1	291.9	353.5	550.0
3 and under 5 years	* 4.6	20.2	92.9	113.1	117.7	29.2	252.1	287.0	404.7
5 and under 10 years	* 4.1	27.0	101.7	128.7	132.8	30.3	426.1	464.8	597.6
10 and under 20 years	* 2.8	20.7	57.4	78.1	80.8	21.5	388.9	420.4	501.2
20 years or more	* 0.0	10.9	17.5	28.4	28.4	6.8	399.8	411.3	439.7
Had never had a job	12.6	12.5	137.4	149.9	162.6	55.9	463.7	533.8	696.4
<i>Main activity when not in the labour force —</i>									
Home duties/childcare	14.9	97.5	401.4	498.9	513.8	117.8	1,121.2	1,239.1	1,752.9
Attending an educational institution	27.5	9.1	193.0	202.1	229.6	87.4	441.3	528.7	758.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 1.9	25.8	34.6	60.4	62.3	11.7	591.3	603.0	665.3
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	5.5	* 2.0	36.4	38.4	43.9	41.8	193.1	283.9	327.8
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.8	* 1.2	6.4	7.6	8.3	* 3.6	35.2	38.8	47.2
Travel/moving house	* 1.6	* 2.5	13.1	15.5	17.1	* 2.6	11.4	14.1	31.2
Worked in unpaid voluntary job	* 1.0	* 4.1	6.0	10.1	11.1	* 1.9	38.9	40.9	52.0
Unpaid leave	* 0.7	* 0.8	* 1.2	* 2.0	* 2.7	* 1.0	* 0.8	* 1.7	* 4.4
Other	* 4.4	* 4.6	9.9	14.4	18.9	* 3.2	16.5	19.6	38.5
Total	58.3	147.4	702.0	849.5	907.8	271.0	2,449.7	2,769.8	3,677.6
Males	28.1	40.0	179.0	219.0	247.1	98.6	813.1	946.7	1,193.8
Females	30.2	107.4	523.1	630.4	660.7	172.4	1,636.6	1,823.1	2,483.7

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

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

TABLE 5.7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a): MAIN ACTIVITY WHEN NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND AGE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1993 ('000)

Main activity when not in the labour force	Age group (years)							Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64		65-69
MALES									
Home duties/childcare	* 0.3	* 1.7	8.2	11.7	6.0	5.1	11.3	6.9	51.2
Attending an educational institution	271.4	68.0	28.6	9.9	* 3.8	* 1.7	* 0.7	* 0.2	384.4
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 2.0	* 2.1	6.3	9.6	28.4	45.2	118.5	234.3	446.5
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	* 2.9	13.5	25.5	35.4	58.7	40.6	42.4	17.7	236.7
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.0	* 0.0	* 0.9	* 2.2	* 3.5	* 3.0	* 2.0	* 1.1	12.7
Other(b)	* 3.4	6.6	7.7	6.8	11.0	6.3	7.6	12.9	62.4
Total	280.1	92.0	77.1	75.7	111.5	101.9	182.6	273.0	1,193.8
FEMALES									
Home duties/childcare	18.3	88.5	416.6	332.6	274.6	175.4	197.1	198.6	1,701.7
Attending an educational institution	259.5	65.4	27.3	13.3	5.1	* 2.1	* 0.7	* 0.6	373.9
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 0.0	* 1.0	* 2.3	* 4.2	16.5	30.0	66.1	98.7	218.9
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	* 3.3	5.2	12.5	15.2	22.5	14.5	10.2	7.7	91.1
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.2	* 0.0	* 1.8	* 3.3	12.0	6.8	* 4.6	5.8	34.4
Other(b)	* 1.9	* 4.5	7.0	10.0	12.2	5.4	10.8	11.8	63.7
Total	283.2	164.6	467.4	378.7	342.9	234.2	289.5	323.2	2,483.7
PERSONS									
Home duties/childcare	18.6	90.2	424.9	344.3	280.6	180.5	208.3	205.6	1,752.9
Attending an educational institution	531.0	133.4	55.8	23.2	8.9	* 3.8	* 1.5	* 0.7	758.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	* 2.0	* 3.1	8.6	13.8	45.0	75.2	184.7	333.0	665.3
Own illness/injury/own disability/handicap	6.2	18.7	37.9	50.6	81.2	55.1	52.6	25.4	327.8
Looking after ill/disabled person	* 0.2	* 0.0	* 2.6	5.5	15.6	9.9	6.6	6.9	47.2
Other(b)	5.4	11.2	14.7	16.9	23.2	11.7	18.4	24.7	126.1
Total	563.3	256.6	544.5	454.3	454.4	336.1	472.1	596.2	3,677.6

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

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

Discouraged Jobseekers

In September 1993 there were an estimated 147,400 discouraged jobseekers, an increase of 1 per cent from September 1992. Over the same period there was a 2 per cent increase in the number of unemployed persons. Discouraged jobseekers are persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who want to work, and were available to start within four weeks, but are not actively looking for work because they believe they could not get a job. The proportion of discouraged jobseekers as a component of all persons not in the labour force has remained at 4 per cent since September 1991, which is almost double the proportion in September 1989.

The main reasons given by discouraged jobseekers for not actively looking for work were 'Considered too young or too old by employers' (51%), 'No job in locality or line of work' (42%) and 'No jobs at all' (26%).

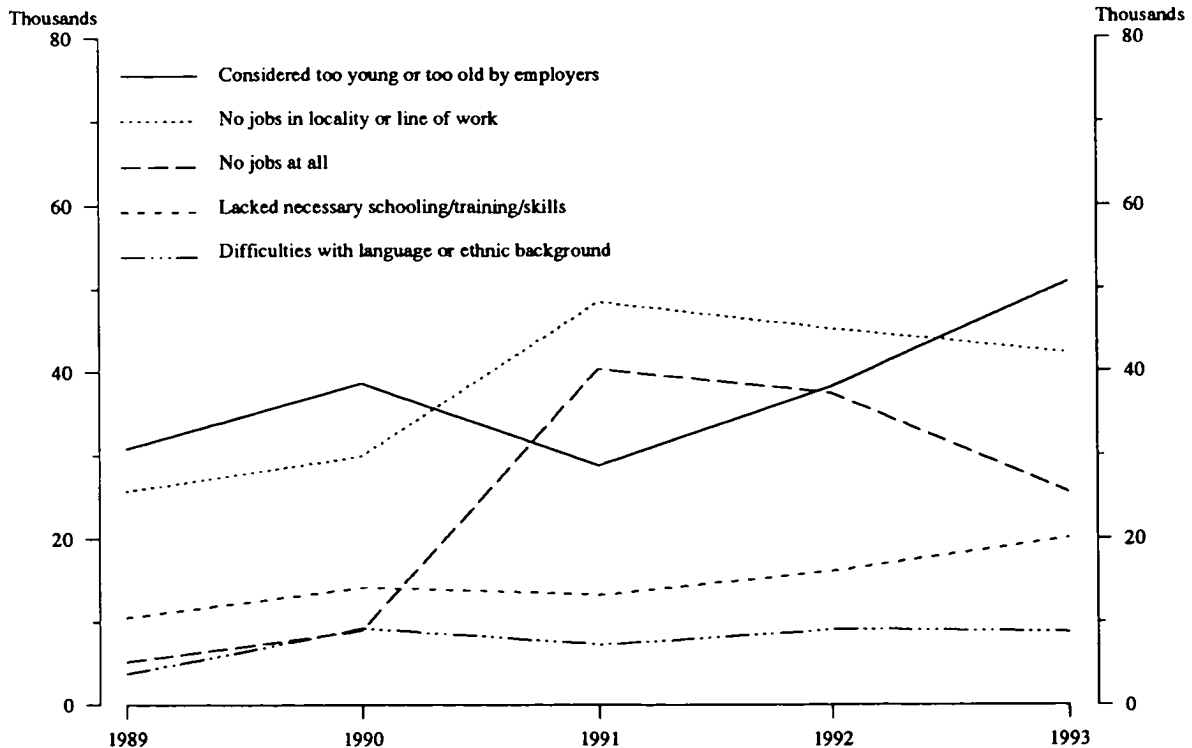
The greatest numbers of discouraged jobseekers were in the 35 to 44 year and 45 to 54 year age groups for females and the 65 to 69 year age group for males.

TABLE 5.8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: AGE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 1993 ('000)

Age group (years)	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991	Sept. 1992	Sept. 1993		
							Males	Females	Persons
15-19	7.9	8.0	5.5	6.8	14.5	11.1	5.8	*2.4	8.2
20-24	*2.7	*3.5	*3.6	5.4	7.2	6.2	*3.3	*2.6	5.7
25-34	15.3	12.8	10.2	14.8	19.3	15.6	*3.6	13.0	16.7
35-44	19.0	15.3	13.9	18.9	28.0	33.4	*2.5	29.0	31.4
45-54	15.4	14.8	15.0	19.2	30.2	32.2	*3.3	28.0	31.3
55-64	22.3	22.3	20.2	24.3	28.5	32.8	14.5	26.3	40.8
65-69	9.5	7.1	7.7	11.6	10.4	14.3	7.1	6.2	13.2
Total	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2	145.6	40.0	107.4	147.4

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

CHART 5.2. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: REASONS FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1993



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

Transition from Education to Work

In May 1993, 801,300 (25%) of the 3,165,500 persons not in the labour force aged 15 to 64 were attending an educational institution to obtain an educational qualification. Of this group 57 per cent (455,900) were attending school, 29 per cent (231,700) were attending a higher education institution, 11 per cent (91,400) were attending TAFE and the remaining 2.8 per cent (22,300) were attending other tertiary institutions. The proportion of males not in the labour force who were attending an educational institution was 43 per cent (397,700) compared with 18 per cent (403,600) of females not in the labour force.

TABLE 5.9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDING, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1988 TO MAY 1993 ('000)

Type of educational institution attending	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990	May 1991	May 1992	May 1993(a)
MALES						
Attending	353.7	347.4	331.5	382.4	398.5	397.7
School	235.7	220.1	216.9	239.2	229.4	238.7
Higher Education	79.0	90.2	79.8	103.0	112.5	109.3
TAFE	31.2	27.8	25.3	32.0	44.1	43.3
Other tertiary	7.8	9.0	9.6	8.2	12.6	6.4
Not attending	476.8	463.5	469.1	475.4	499.3	536.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>830.5</i>	<i>810.8</i>	<i>800.7</i>	<i>857.8</i>	<i>897.9</i>	<i>933.7</i>
FEMALES						
Attending	391.8	379.3	374.4	399.3	441.9	403.6
School	214.3	205.3	199.1	219.7	219.4	217.2
Higher Education	83.7	83.8	92.5	99.8	121.1	122.4
TAFE	70.6	61.2	55.7	54.5	70.2	48.1
Other tertiary	23.2	28.7	27.2	25.2	31.2	15.9
Not attending	1,814.7	1,752.4	1,723.6	1,734.0	1,747.3	1,828.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,206.5</i>	<i>2,131.8</i>	<i>2,098.0</i>	<i>2,133.3</i>	<i>2,189.2</i>	<i>2,231.8</i>
PERSONS						
Attending	745.6	726.7	706.0	781.8	840.4	801.3
School	450.0	426.2	416.0	458.9	448.7	455.9
Higher Education	162.7	174.0	172.2	202.9	233.6	231.7
TAFE	101.8	89.0	81.0	86.6	114.4	91.4
Other tertiary	31.0	37.6	36.7	33.4	43.8	22.3
Not attending	2,291.5	2,215.9	2,192.7	2,209.3	2,246.6	2,364.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,037.1</i>	<i>2,942.6</i>	<i>2,898.7</i>	<i>2,991.1</i>	<i>3,087.0</i>	<i>3,165.5</i>

(a) There is a break in series between 1992 and 1993 owing to the introduction of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ) and the exclusion of persons, from the attendance estimates, who are undertaking a course of study which does not lead to an educational qualification.

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

TABLE 5.10. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1991 TO MAY 1993 ('000)

Educational attainment	Males			Females			Persons		
	1991	1992	1993(a)	1991	1992	1993(a)	1991	1992	1993(a)
With post-school qualifications	191.8	216.5	211.8	464.9	496.0	458.8	656.8	712.5	670.7
Without post-school qualifications(b)	426.8	452.0	486.0	1,448.7	1,473.8	1,560.2	1,875.4	1,925.8	2,046.2
Attended highest level of secondary school available	156.1	177.6	173.7	359.5	396.4	406.0	515.6	573.9	579.7
Attending a tertiary institution in May	98.7	112.9	111.0	95.4	116.7	111.8	194.0	229.5	222.8
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	268.6	271.4	312.3	1,079.8	1,066.7	1,154.0	1,348.4	1,338.2	1,466.2
Attending a tertiary institution in May	16.6	19.0	15.0	35.1	40.9	27.5	51.7	59.9	42.6
Still at school	239.2	229.4	235.9	219.7	219.4	235.9	458.9	448.7	448.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>857.8</i>	<i>897.9</i>	<i>933.7</i>	<i>2,133.3</i>	<i>2,189.2</i>	<i>933.7</i>	<i>2,991.1</i>	<i>3,087.0</i>	<i>3,165.5</i>

(a) There is a break in series between 1992 and 1993 owing to the introduction of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ) in the May 1993 survey. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom attendance at a secondary school could not be determined.

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