



# **JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS** AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Sue Barker on Canberra 02 62526112.

# NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents information about unemployed persons' experiences in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. Demographic information is provided about these persons along with information about their previous employment.

**JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS SURVEY** The statistics in this publication are compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2001 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Data from the survey relate to persons who were unemployed in July 2001.

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



## ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ABSCQ Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
- ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
- ASCED Australian Standard Classification of Education
- ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
- LFS Labour Force Survey
- n.f.d. not further defined
- RSE relative standard error
- SE standard error
- TAFE Technical and Further Education

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

In July 2001, there were 613,000 unemployed persons, a 13% increase since July 2000. Three in four (76%) unemployed persons were looking for full-time work. This is the same proportion as recorded 12 months earlier. Most males (85%) were seeking full-time work, as were the majority of females (64%).

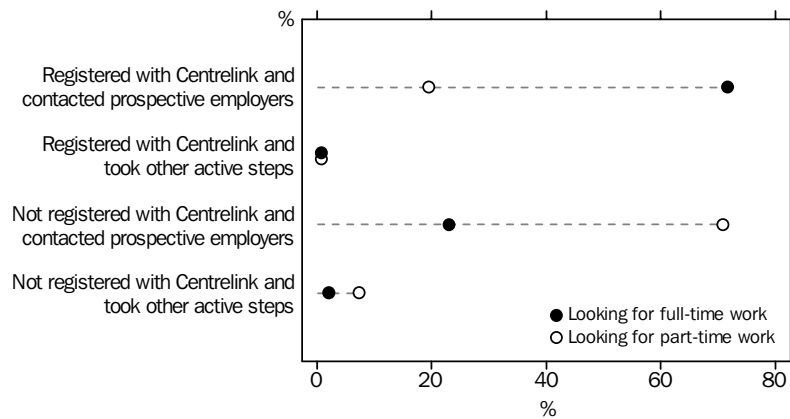
On average, males were unemployed for longer periods of time than females (54 weeks compared to 43 weeks). The mean duration of unemployment has dropped consistently from 60 weeks in July 1998 to 50 weeks in July 2001.

### JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

In July 2001, 62% of unemployed persons were registered as a job seeker with Centrelink. This is similar to the level recorded in July 2000 (61%). Almost all (94%) unemployed persons had contacted prospective employers in their attempts to find work. Of this group, 63% were registered with Centrelink.

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work were more likely to be registered with Centrelink than those looking for part-time work. Of those looking for full-time work, three in four (75%) were registered with Centrelink. Of those looking for part-time work, the most common active step taken was contacting prospective employers without having registered with Centrelink (71%).

ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK



The most commonly reported main difficulties in finding work for unemployed persons were:

- considered too young or too old by employers (12%);
- insufficient work experience (12%);
- too many applicants for available jobs (12%);
- no vacancies at all (11%); and
- lacked necessary skills/education (10%).

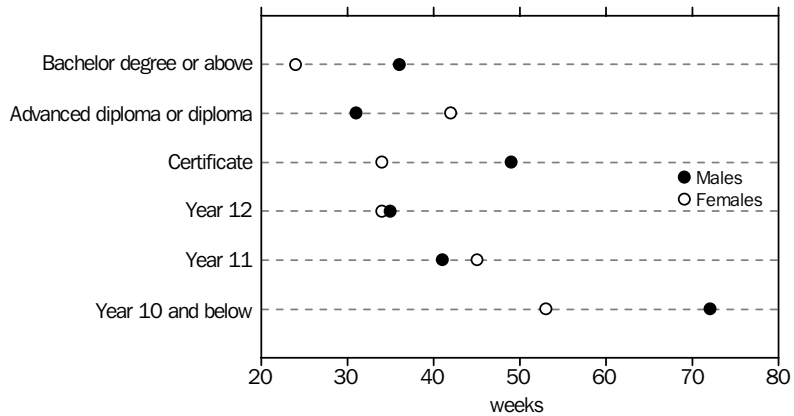
### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In July 2001, three in four (75%) unemployed persons had highest educational qualifications at Year 12 level or below, while those holding Year 10 or below qualifications made up 41%. Persons whose highest qualification was Year 10 or below generally had been unemployed for longer periods of time than people with higher qualifications. Their mean duration of unemployment was highest (64 weeks), and 20% had been unemployed for longer than 2 years compared with 11% of those with a certificate, diploma, bachelor degree or above.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT *continued*

MEAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, By level of highest educational attainment



### YOUNG UNEMPLOYED

Over a third (39%) of unemployed persons were aged between 15–24 years. This has increased slightly from 36% in July 2000.

Half (50%) of unemployed persons aged 15–19 years and 79% of those aged 20–24 years were seeking full-time work. More young males aged 15–24 years (70%) were looking for full-time work than young females (57%).

The main difficulty in gaining employment that young unemployed persons reported was 'insufficient work experience' (18%). Other difficulties experienced were 'no vacancies at all' (15% of those aged 15–19 years and 10% of those aged 20–24 years); and 'lacked the necessary skills/education' (11% and 13%).

### THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

In July 2001, 144,300 persons were considered long-term unemployed, that is, they had been unemployed for 12 months or longer. This represented 24% of all unemployed persons (a decrease of 5 percentage points since July 2000). Of those long-term unemployed persons, the majority (89%) were seeking full-time work and most (90%) reported they had not received any offers of employment during their current period of unemployment.

Being 'too young or too old' was an obstacle to finding work for almost one-fifth (20%) of long-term unemployed persons. A 'lack of the necessary skills or education' sought by employers (14%) and their 'insufficient work experience' (10%) were other commonly reported difficulties.

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## SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

July July July July July July July July  
1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

**Total** '000 **774.2 683.9 701.7 717.5 696.4 591.0 544.3 613.0**

## SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

**Total** % **100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0**

**Active steps taken to find work**

Registered with Centrelink(a)	%	80.5	78.6	78.0	76.6	72.8	64.6	60.8	62.2
Took no other active steps	%	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.8
Contacted prospective employers	%	75.9	74.0	74.5	74.1	70.1	62.8	57.6	59.2
Took other active steps	%	4.2	3.6	2.9	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.0	2.2
Not registered with Centrelink	%	19.5	21.4	22.0	23.4	27.2	35.4	39.2	37.8
Contacted prospective employers	%	18.2	20.2	20.3	1.5	25.7	32.2	36.0	34.4
Took other active steps	%	1.3	1.2	1.8	23.4	1.6	3.2	3.2	3.3

**Main difficulty in finding work**

Too many applicants for available jobs(b)	%	na	11.6	13.0	14.5	13.7	12.1	13.1	11.5
Lacked necessary skills or education	%	11.3	11.0	11.1	12.1	11.5	11.2	11.8	10.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	17.3	15.4	13.5	14.5	16.0	15.4	13.4	11.7
Insufficient work experience	%	11.7	12.3	10.1	10.4	10.9	10.1	10.0	11.6
No vacancies at all	%	17.1	10.9	11.9	12.7	11.2	10.0	8.3	10.7
No vacancies in line of work	%	14.1	10.6	11.6	9.1	8.5	7.9	7.3	10.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	5.6	7.2	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.8
Own ill health or disability	%	4.4	5.0	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.4	5.7
Language difficulties	%	3.9	4.2	3.2	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.4
Unsuitable hours	%	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.3	3.1	3.7	4.0	5.0
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	%	1.7	1.0	1.6	2.4	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.0
Other difficulties(c)	%	4.3	2.4	3.9	3.0	2.9	3.7	4.4	3.4
No difficulties at all	%	6.3	5.9	6.5	5.3	6.4	8.4	9.8	8.6

**Whether looking for full-time or part-time work**

Looking for full-time work	%	83.5	83.3	81.3	83.4	81.9	76.6	76.3	76.3
Looking for part-time work	%	16.5	16.7	18.7	16.5	18.1	23.3	23.7	23.7

**Duration of current period of unemployment**

Under 1 year	%	63.5	65.4	70.3	66.8	65.2	68.3	71.1	76.5
1 and under 4 weeks	%	12.3	11.9	14.9	12.0	13.2	18.2	19.2	19.1
4 and under 8 weeks	%	9.8	10.2	11.0	10.4	10.8	11.3	12.1	13.1
8 and under 13 weeks	%	6.9	8.7	9.7	7.9	8.6	10.0	9.4	8.8
13 and under 26 weeks	%	15.4	14.7	14.3	15.5	13.3	11.2	12.7	19.9
26 and under 52 weeks	%	19.0	19.8	20.4	20.9	19.3	17.6	17.6	15.6
1 year and over	%	36.5	34.6	29.7	33.2	34.8	31.7	28.9	23.5
1 and less than 2 years	%	15.4	14.5	14.1	15.4	15.2	12.5	10.9	8.9
2 years and over	%	21.2	20.1	15.6	17.8	19.6	19.1	18.1	14.6

## DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

<b>Mean duration of unemployment</b>	weeks	62.2	60.0	52.9	56.0	59.9	55.5	52.9	49.8
<b>Median duration of unemployment</b>	weeks	27	26	26	26	26	23	20	18

na not available

(a) Changes to employment service arrangements occurred during the reference period of the July 1998 survey. See paragraphs 13 to 17 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Collected separately for the first time in July 1995.

(c) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

## WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK

	LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK		LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK		TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>308.2</b>	<b>159.7</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>613.0</b>
<b>Age group (years)</b>							
15–19	36.7	27.6	32.2	31.4	68.9	59.0	127.9
20–24	58.6	31.9	9.1	14.5	67.7	46.3	114.0
25–34	77.5	37.3	*5.2	14.4	82.8	51.7	134.5
35–44	57.6	34.5	*1.8	16.6	59.4	51.1	110.5
45–54	48.2	22.3	*3.4	10.0	51.7	32.4	84.1
55 and over	29.5	6.1	*3.2	*3.2	32.7	9.3	42.0
<b>Relationship in household</b>							
Family member	224.8	125.3	46.2	79.2	271.0	204.5	475.5
Husband, wife or partner	122.7	58.7	7.6	34.4	130.2	93.2	223.4
With dependants	71.1	31.9	*3.1	26.3	74.2	58.2	132.3
Without dependants	51.6	26.9	*4.5	8.1	56.1	35.0	91.1
Lone parent	*4.9	25.4	*1.7	12.7	6.6	38.1	44.7
Other family person(b)	97.2	41.2	36.9	32.1	134.1	73.3	207.4
Non-family member	73.5	29.0	6.6	7.7	80.0	36.6	116.7
Lone person	45.5	15.9	*3.0	*4.4	48.6	20.3	68.8
Not living alone	27.9	13.1	*3.5	*3.3	31.5	16.4	47.8
Not determined	10.0	*5.4	*2.2	*3.3	12.2	8.7	20.9
<b>Country of birth</b>							
Born in Australia	230.5	121.1	40.4	62.5	270.9	183.5	454.5
Born overseas	77.7	38.6	14.6	27.7	92.2	66.3	158.5
Born in main							
English-speaking countries	26.4	16.1	*4.7	9.5	31.1	25.5	56.6
Born in other countries	51.3	22.6	9.8	18.2	61.1	40.8	101.9
<b>Level of highest educational attainment(c)</b>							
Bachelor degree or above	27.4	14.1	*1.9	8.6	29.4	22.7	52.0
Advanced diploma or diploma	11.1	8.0	*1.6	*2.7	12.7	10.7	23.5
Certificate	52.0	12.9	*2.2	*4.7	54.3	17.6	71.9
Year 12(d)	52.2	38.7	15.6	17.2	67.8	56.0	123.7
Year 11(d)	38.0	24.4	8.0	13.0	46.0	37.4	83.4
Year 10 or below(d)	123.9	61.3	25.0	43.9	148.8	105.2	254.1
<b>Active steps taken to find work</b>							
Registered with Centrelink	248.5	101.4	10.9	20.6	259.5	122.0	381.5
Took no other active steps	*1.9	*1.8	**0.6	**0.6	*2.4	*2.5	*4.9
Contacted prospective employers	239.0	95.8	9.3	19.0	248.3	114.8	363.1
Took other active steps	7.7	*3.8	*1.1	*1.0	8.8	*4.8	13.5
Not registered with Centrelink	59.7	58.3	44.1	69.5	103.7	127.8	231.5
Contacted prospective employers	53.7	54.5	39.8	63.1	93.5	117.6	211.1
Took other active steps	6.0	*3.8	*4.2	6.4	10.2	10.2	20.5

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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 no educational attainment and level not determined.

(b) Comprises dependent student, non-dependent child and other family person.

(c) The levels of education are not necessarily listed in order from highest to lowest. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

## TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

		LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK		LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK		TOTAL		
		.....		.....		.....		
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS								
<b>Time spent looking for work in previous 12 months</b>								
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	36.4	24.3	15.9	23.0	52.3	47.3	99.6
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	32.5	17.3	6.6	15.3	39.1	32.6	71.7
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	29.0	14.3	6.4	6.6	35.4	20.9	56.3
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	62.5	33.3	10.1	18.2	72.6	51.6	124.2
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	37.9	21.0	9.3	11.3	47.2	32.3	79.5
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	21.8	9.8	*2.1	*3.8	23.9	13.6	37.5
52 weeks	'000	88.0	39.8	*4.6	11.9	92.6	51.7	144.3
<b>Duration of current period of unemployment</b>								
Under 1 year	'000	220.2	119.9	50.4	78.3	270.6	198.1	468.7
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	48.1	28.2	16.5	24.5	64.6	52.7	117.3
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	38.8	18.6	7.2	15.7	46.0	34.2	80.2
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	27.7	14.0	*5.6	6.6	33.2	20.6	53.8
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	59.6	33.2	11.1	18.0	70.7	51.2	121.9
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	34.1	19.1	8.6	11.1	42.7	30.2	72.9
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	12.0	6.7	*1.3	*2.5	13.4	9.1	22.5
1 year and over	'000	88.0	39.8	*4.6	11.9	92.6	51.7	144.3
1 and under 2 years	'000	32.3	16.8	*1.8	*3.6	34.1	20.4	54.6
2 years and over	'000	55.7	23.0	*2.8	8.3	58.4	31.3	89.7
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>308.2</b>	<b>159.7</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>613.0</b>

## DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

<b>Mean duration of unemployment</b>	weeks	59.9	50.1	23.6	30.6	54.4	43.0	49.8
<b>Median duration of unemployment</b>	weeks	21	20	10	10	20	17	18

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



		AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	24.7	49.0	63.7	49.6	37.5	24.1	248.5
Took no other active steps	'000	**0.1	**0.1	*1.0	**0.7	—	—	*1.9
Contacted prospective employers	'000	23.3	46.8	61.4	47.2	36.4	24.0	239.0
Took other active steps	'000	*1.3	*2.1	*1.4	*1.7	*1.1	**0.1	7.7
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	12.1	9.6	13.8	8.1	10.7	*5.4	59.7
Contacted prospective employers	'000	10.4	8.7	13.4	7.5	9.8	*3.8	53.7
Took other active steps	'000	*1.6	**0.9	**0.4	**0.5	**0.9	*1.6	6.0
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>36.7</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>308.2</b>
Registered with Centrelink	%	67.2	83.6	82.2	86.0	77.8	81.6	80.6
Not registered with Centrelink	%	32.8	16.4	17.8	14.0	22.2	*18.4	19.4
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
FEMALES								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	18.4	24.3	22.2	19.9	12.8	*3.7	101.4
Took no other active steps	'000	—	**0.5	**0.8	—	**0.6	—	*1.8
Contacted prospective employers	'000	17.9	22.5	21.1	18.8	11.9	*3.7	95.8
Took other active steps	'000	**0.6	*1.4	**0.3	*1.1	**0.4	—	*3.8
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	9.2	7.5	15.1	14.5	9.5	*2.4	58.3
Contacted prospective employers	'000	8.8	7.5	13.1	14.0	8.7	*2.4	54.5
Took other active steps	'000	**0.4	—	*2.0	**0.5	**0.9	—	*3.8
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>27.6</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>159.7</b>
Registered with Centrelink	%	66.8	76.3	59.4	57.8	57.4	60.7	63.5
Not registered with Centrelink	%	33.2	23.7	40.6	42.2	42.6	*39.3	36.5
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PERSONS								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	43.1	73.3	85.9	69.5	50.3	27.8	350.0
Took no other active steps	'000	**0.1	**0.6	*1.8	**0.7	**0.6	—	*3.7
Contacted prospective employers	'000	41.2	69.2	82.5	66.0	48.3	27.7	334.8
Took other active steps	'000	*1.9	*3.5	*1.6	*2.8	*1.5	**0.1	11.4
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	21.2	17.1	28.9	22.6	20.3	7.8	118.0
Contacted prospective employers	'000	19.2	16.2	26.5	21.5	18.5	6.2	108.1
Took other active steps	'000	*2.0	**0.9	*2.5	*1.1	*1.7	*1.6	9.8
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>64.3</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>467.9</b>
Registered with Centrelink	%	67.0	81.1	74.8	75.5	71.3	78.0	74.8
Not registered with Centrelink	%	33.0	18.9	25.2	24.5	28.7	22.0	25.2
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

## ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK

		AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	26.7	50.7	67.1	49.9	39.3	25.8	259.5
Took no other active steps	'000	**0.4	**0.1	*1.0	**0.7	**0.2	—	*2.4
Contacted prospective employers	'000	25.0	48.4	64.5	47.5	38.0	24.8	248.3
Took other active steps	'000	*1.3	*2.1	*1.5	*1.7	*1.1	*1.0	8.8
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	42.2	17.0	15.7	9.6	12.3	6.9	103.7
Contacted prospective employers	'000	39.3	14.7	15.3	8.0	11.1	*5.2	93.5
Took other active steps	'000	*2.9	*2.3	**0.4	*1.6	*1.3	*1.8	10.2
<b>Total</b>	'000	68.9	67.7	82.8	59.4	51.7	32.7	363.2
Registered with Centrelink	%	38.7	74.9	81.0	83.9	76.1	78.9	71.4
Not registered with Centrelink	%	61.3	25.1	19.0	16.1	23.9	21.1	28.6
<b>Total</b>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
FEMALES								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	20.7	29.2	26.1	25.7	15.3	*5.0	122.0
Took no other active steps	'000	—	**0.5	**0.8	—	*1.2	—	*2.5
Contacted prospective employers	'000	20.1	27.4	25.1	24.0	13.3	*4.9	114.8
Took other active steps	'000	**0.6	*1.4	**0.3	*1.7	**0.8	**0.1	*4.8
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	38.3	17.1	25.6	25.4	17.1	*4.3	127.8
Contacted prospective employers	'000	36.1	16.0	22.1	24.0	15.3	*4.0	117.6
Took other active steps	'000	*2.2	*1.1	*3.5	*1.4	*1.7	**0.3	10.2
<b>Total</b>	'000	59.0	46.3	51.7	51.1	32.4	9.3	249.8
Registered with Centrelink	%	35.1	63.1	50.4	50.3	47.3	*53.5	48.8
Not registered with Centrelink	%	64.9	36.9	49.6	49.7	52.7	*46.5	51.2
<b>Total</b>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERSONS								
Registered with Centrelink	'000	47.4	79.9	93.2	75.6	54.6	30.8	381.5
Took no other active steps	'000	**0.4	**0.6	*1.8	**0.7	*1.4	—	*4.9
Contacted prospective employers	'000	45.1	75.8	89.6	71.5	51.3	29.7	363.1
Took other active steps	'000	*1.9	*3.5	*1.8	*3.4	*1.9	*1.1	13.5
Not registered with Centrelink	'000	80.5	34.1	41.3	34.9	29.4	11.2	231.5
Contacted prospective employers	'000	75.5	30.7	37.4	32.0	26.4	9.2	211.1
Took other active steps	'000	*5.1	*3.4	*4.0	*2.9	*3.0	*2.1	20.5
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>127.9</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>613.0</b>
Registered with Centrelink	%	37.1	70.1	69.3	68.4	65.0	73.3	62.2
Not registered with Centrelink	%	62.9	29.9	30.7	31.6	35.0	26.7	37.8
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK—Previous 12 months

Spells of looking for work	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES							
One	61.8	56.4	68.1	53.7	44.0	29.4	313.5
Two	*4.5	8.5	10.1	*4.1	*4.6	*1.0	32.7
Three or more	*2.6	*2.8	*4.6	*1.6	*3.1	*2.2	17.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>363.2</b>
FEMALES							
One	53.1	40.9	45.9	47.8	30.8	9.2	227.7
Two	*4.1	*4.4	*5.2	*2.7	*1.2	**0.1	17.7
Three or more	*1.9	*1.0	**0.6	**0.6	**0.5	—	*4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>249.8</b>
PERSONS							
One	114.9	97.3	114.0	101.5	74.8	38.6	541.2
Two	8.6	12.9	15.3	6.8	5.7	*1.1	50.4
Three or more	*4.5	*3.8	*5.2	*2.2	*3.5	*2.2	21.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>613.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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)

## OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT IN CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

## DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Offers of employment	1 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 13 weeks	13 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over	Total	Mean duration weeks	Median duration weeks
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000			
MALES										
None	53.0	40.2	29.1	60.1	46.4	30.0	53.3	312.1	56.4	20
One	8.4	5.8	*2.3	6.7	6.2	*2.5	*0.9	32.8	25.4	12
Two or more	*3.2	—	*1.8	*4.0	*3.6	*1.6	*4.2	18.3	72.6	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>20</b>
FEMALES										
None	45.8	27.1	18.5	44.5	32.6	19.2	27.4	215.1	42.9	17
One	6.2	*4.2	*1.3	*4.6	*4.5	*1.0	*1.6	23.4	36.1	13
Two or more	**0.8	*2.9	**0.8	*2.1	*2.2	**0.2	*2.3	11.3	*59.4	*15
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>17</b>
PERSONS										
None	98.8	67.3	47.6	104.5	79.0	49.3	80.7	527.2	50.9	19
One	14.6	10.0	*3.6	11.2	10.7	*3.5	*2.5	56.2	29.8	12
Two or more	*4.0	*2.9	*2.6	6.1	5.8	*1.8	6.5	29.6	67.5	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>121.9</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>18</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

## DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	1 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	12.7	12.6	9.6	*3.0	*5.3	43.2	34.0	16
Lacked necessary skills/education	6.9	11.6	7.2	6.7	8.0	40.4	68.7	27
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.3	8.3	*5.3	*3.8	17.5	44.2	111.7	41
Insufficient work experience	7.5	14.1	*5.3	*3.9	*4.1	34.7	43.3	20
No vacancies at all	14.2	15.1	7.4	*3.3	*5.1	45.1	50.0	15
No vacancies in line of work	21.2	10.4	6.4	*2.8	*2.9	43.8	33.7	9
Too far to travel/transport problems	7.4	7.5	*4.6	*3.0	*4.4	26.9	57.4	24
Own ill health or disability	*5.1	6.8	*3.1	*3.6	*5.6	24.2	73.4	26
Language difficulties	*1.4	*1.7	**0.5	*1.2	*4.7	9.5	*125.1	*88
Unsuitable hours	*3.5	*4.0	*1.7	—	—	9.1	*14.5	*12
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	**0.6	**0.3	**0.2	—	—	*1.1	**10.9	**7
Other difficulties(a)	*3.9	*4.7	*1.6	*2.2	**0.9	13.3	30.5	*16
No difficulties at all	16.9	7.0	*3.3	**0.6	—	27.8	10.3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>20</b>
FEMALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	7.4	9.8	*5.2	*2.5	*2.4	27.3	39.4	18
Lacked necessary skills/education	6.8	7.3	*3.7	*2.5	*3.2	23.5	46.2	24
Considered too young or too old by employers	*5.1	9.3	*5.1	*2.1	5.9	27.6	73.9	23
Insufficient work experience	11.8	11.2	6.6	*2.1	*4.5	36.2	38.3	17
No vacancies at all	6.3	5.9	*4.2	*1.4	*2.6	20.3	42.7	21
No vacancies in line of work	8.7	*3.5	*3.4	*2.7	*1.4	19.7	35.2	10
Too far to travel/transport problems	*5.2	*3.8	*1.8	*1.7	*2.2	14.6	53.1	*13
Own ill health or disability	**0.8	*4.6	*1.1	*1.0	*3.1	10.7	*70.6	*25
Language difficulties	*1.2	*1.1	**0.3	*1.1	*1.6	*5.2	*79.4	*53
Unsuitable hours	6.8	7.0	*3.7	*1.5	*2.3	21.3	41.8	16
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*4.8	*2.4	*1.7	*0.9	*1.2	11.1	*32.1	*9
Other difficulties(a)	*2.0	*3.0	*1.5	**0.5	**0.9	7.8	*34.2	*18
No difficulties at all	20.2	*3.0	*1.1	**0.4	—	24.6	6.2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>17</b>
PERSONS								
Too many applicants for available jobs	20.1	22.4	14.8	*5.5	7.7	70.4	36.1	17
Lacked necessary skills/education	13.7	18.8	10.9	9.3	11.1	63.9	60.4	25
Considered too young or too old by employers	14.4	17.6	10.4	5.9	23.4	71.8	97.2	33
Insufficient work experience	19.2	25.3	11.8	6.0	8.6	70.9	40.7	19
No vacancies at all	20.5	21.0	11.5	*4.7	7.7	65.3	47.8	17
No vacancies in line of work	29.9	13.9	9.9	*5.5	*4.3	63.4	34.2	10
Too far to travel/transport problems	12.6	11.2	6.4	*4.6	6.6	41.5	55.9	21
Own ill health or disability	6.0	11.4	*4.2	*4.6	8.7	34.9	72.5	26
Language difficulties	*2.5	*2.7	**0.8	*2.3	6.2	14.7	108.9	*81
Unsuitable hours	10.3	11.0	*5.3	*1.5	*2.3	30.4	33.6	16
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*5.4	*2.7	*1.9	*0.9	*1.2	12.2	30.2	*9
Other difficulties(a)	5.8	7.7	*3.1	*2.7	*1.8	21.1	31.8	17
No difficulties at all	37.1	10.0	*4.3	*0.9	—	52.4	8.4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>175.7</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>18</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

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

## MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, Level of highest educational attainment(a)

	LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
	Certificate or above(b)	Year 11 or 12(c)	Year 10 or below(c)	Total(d)
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.2	13.8	14.5	43.2
Lacked necessary skills/education	5.7	14.9	19.2	40.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	12.4	9.1	21.2	44.2
Insufficient work experience	7.0	15.4	12.4	34.7
No vacancies at all	10.1	11.1	23.9	45.1
No vacancies in line of work	20.7	11.3	11.8	43.8
Too far to travel/transport problems	*4.4	11.7	10.8	26.9
Own ill health or disability	6.0	7.1	10.6	24.2
Language difficulties	*1.7	*2.3	*4.9	9.5
Unsuitable hours	**0.8	6.2	*2.0	9.1
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	**0.2	—	*0.9	*1.1
Other difficulties(e)	*4.7	*3.9	*4.2	13.3
No difficulties at all	8.4	7.0	12.4	27.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>363.2</b>
FEMALES				
Too many applicants for available jobs	*5.5	10.6	11.1	27.3
Lacked necessary skills/education	*3.0	9.8	10.6	23.5
Considered too young or too old by employers	*5.4	9.0	13.2	27.6
Insufficient work experience	9.2	14.1	12.9	36.2
No vacancies at all	*3.1	7.8	9.3	20.3
No vacancies in line of work	6.8	7.7	*5.2	19.7
Too far to travel/transport problems	*1.4	6.6	6.6	14.6
Own ill health or disability	*1.9	*2.8	6.0	10.7
Language difficulties	**0.1	*1.9	*3.3	*5.2
Unsuitable hours	*3.7	7.6	10.0	21.3
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*2.2	*4.0	*4.8	11.1
Other difficulties(e)	*3.0	*3.9	**0.9	7.8
No difficulties at all	5.8	7.6	11.3	24.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>249.8</b>
PERSONS				
Too many applicants for available jobs	19.7	24.3	25.6	70.4
Lacked necessary skills/education	8.7	24.7	29.8	63.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	17.8	18.1	34.5	71.8
Insufficient work experience	16.2	29.4	25.3	70.9
No vacancies at all	13.2	18.9	33.3	65.3
No vacancies in line of work	27.6	18.9	16.9	63.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.8	18.3	17.4	41.5
Own ill health or disability	7.9	9.9	16.7	34.9
Language difficulties	*1.8	*4.2	8.2	14.7
Unsuitable hours	*4.5	13.9	12.0	30.4
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*2.4	*4.0	5.8	12.2
Other difficulties(e)	7.8	7.8	*5.1	21.1
No difficulties at all	14.2	14.6	23.6	52.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>147.4</b>	<b>207.1</b>	<b>254.1</b>	<b>613.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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) The levels of education are not necessarily listed in order from highest to lowest. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Bachelor or above, Advanced diploma, Diploma and Certificate.

(c) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(d) Includes no educational attainment and level not determined.

(e) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

	BORN IN AUSTRALIA		BORN OVERSEAS		TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
	NUMBER ('000)						
Too many applicants for available jobs	31.2	22.1	11.9	*5.1	43.2	27.3	70.4
Lacked necessary skills/education	34.3	18.7	6.1	*4.8	40.4	23.5	63.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	28.7	20.3	15.5	7.3	44.2	27.6	71.8
Insufficient work experience	25.5	26.6	9.2	9.6	34.7	36.2	70.9
No vacancies at all	38.2	15.3	6.9	*5.0	45.1	20.3	65.3
No vacancies in line of work	33.7	16.6	10.1	*3.1	43.8	19.7	63.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	21.6	10.0	*5.4	*4.6	26.9	14.6	41.5
Own ill health or disability	20.5	8.5	*3.7	*2.2	24.2	10.7	34.9
Language difficulties	—	—	9.5	*5.2	9.5	*5.2	14.7
Unsuitable hours	*4.8	14.5	*4.3	6.7	9.1	21.3	30.4
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*1.1	8.6	—	*2.5	*1.1	11.1	12.2
Other difficulties(a)	10.1	*4.2	*3.2	*3.6	13.3	7.8	21.1
No difficulties at all	21.3	18.1	6.5	6.5	27.8	24.6	52.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>270.9</b>	<b>183.5</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>613.0</b>

	PERCENT (%)						
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
	PERCENT (%)						
Too many applicants for available jobs	11.5	12.1	12.9	*7.8	11.9	10.9	11.5
Lacked necessary skills/education	12.6	10.2	6.6	*7.3	11.1	9.4	10.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	10.6	11.1	16.8	11.1	12.2	11.1	11.7
Insufficient work experience	9.4	14.5	10.0	14.5	9.6	14.5	11.6
No vacancies at all	14.1	8.3	7.4	*7.5	12.4	8.1	10.7
No vacancies in line of work	12.4	9.0	11.0	*4.6	12.1	7.9	10.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	8.0	5.4	*5.8	*6.9	7.4	5.8	6.8
Own ill health or disability	7.6	4.6	*4.1	*3.4	6.7	4.3	5.7
Language difficulties	—	—	10.3	*7.9	2.6	*2.1	2.4
Unsuitable hours	*1.8	7.9	*4.7	10.2	2.5	8.5	5.0
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	*0.4	4.7	—	*3.7	*0.3	4.4	2.0
Other difficulties(a)	3.7	*2.3	*3.5	*5.4	3.7	3.1	3.4
No difficulties at all	7.9	9.9	7.0	9.8	7.6	9.9	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						55 and over	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54			
MALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	10.5	11.3	14.7	13.5	13.3	*3.8	11.9
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	12.8	14.8	14.3	*8.3	*6.7	*4.1	11.1
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	*4.9	*3.7	*2.0	*7.7	26.8	55.7	12.2
Insufficient work experience	%	17.9	14.2	8.6	*6.6	*3.3	—	9.6
No vacancies at all	%	17.3	11.8	10.5	11.8	13.3	*7.9	12.4
No vacancies in line of work	%	*7.0	10.7	12.6	22.0	*9.6	*10.0	12.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	*6.9	9.4	11.5	*7.0	*4.1	—	7.4
Own ill health or disability	%	*2.2	*6.0	8.1	*7.2	11.3	*5.7	6.7
Language difficulties	%	—	—	*2.0	*7.2	*2.9	*6.2	2.6
Unsuitable hours	%	*3.7	*7.2	*1.6	—	**0.7	—	2.5
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	%	—	**0.2	**0.8	—	**0.6	—	*0.3
Other difficulties(a)	%	*3.3	*3.6	*4.0	*3.5	*4.9	**1.9	3.7
No difficulties at all	%	13.6	*7.1	9.4	*5.2	*2.4	*4.7	7.6
<i>Total</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	'000	68.9	67.7	82.8	59.4	51.7	32.7	363.2
FEMALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	12.9	*10.1	*7.4	13.8	*12.2	**1.7	10.9
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	*8.9	*9.5	*10.6	11.4	*6.0	**6.5	9.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	*7.3	*7.2	*3.5	*6.2	29.1	*59.7	11.1
Insufficient work experience	%	18.7	23.3	13.6	*8.5	*8.4	**3.1	14.5
No vacancies at all	%	11.3	*6.2	*8.3	*7.7	*5.9	**7.2	8.1
No vacancies in line of work	%	*3.9	*12.0	12.6	*5.9	*5.3	**6.3	7.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	*9.4	*5.3	*4.7	*5.8	*3.7	—	5.8
Own ill health or disability	%	**1.2	*4.3	*4.9	*5.2	*7.2	**4.6	4.3
Language difficulties	%	—	**1.1	*2.5	*4.3	**1.7	**7.7	*2.1
Unsuitable hours	%	*7.0	*6.7	12.2	13.4	**2.8	—	8.5
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	%	—	*5.4	*9.6	*5.8	**1.9	—	4.4
Other difficulties(a)	%	*3.4	*3.1	*4.2	*2.4	*3.1	—	3.1
No difficulties at all	%	16.3	*5.8	*5.9	*9.6	*12.7	**3.2	9.9
<i>Total</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	'000	59.0	46.3	51.7	51.1	32.4	9.3	249.8
<p>* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution</p> <p>— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)</p> <p>** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use</p> <p>(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.</p>								



	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						55 and over	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54			
PERSONS								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	11.6	10.8	11.9	13.7	12.9	*3.4	11.5
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	11.0	12.7	12.9	9.7	*6.4	*4.6	10.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	6.0	5.1	*2.6	7.0	27.7	56.6	11.7
Insufficient work experience	%	18.3	17.9	10.5	7.5	*5.3	**0.7	11.6
No vacancies at all	%	14.5	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.5	*7.7	10.7
No vacancies in line of work	%	5.5	11.2	12.6	14.6	8.0	*9.2	10.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	8.0	7.7	8.9	6.5	*3.9	—	6.8
Own ill health or disability	%	*1.7	5.3	6.9	6.3	9.7	*5.5	5.7
Language difficulties	%	—	**0.4	*2.2	5.9	*2.4	*6.6	2.4
Unsuitable hours	%	5.2	7.0	5.7	6.2	*1.5	—	5.0
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	%	—	*2.3	*4.2	*2.7	*1.1	—	2.0
Other difficulties(a)	%	*3.3	*3.4	*4.1	*3.0	*4.2	**1.5	3.4
No difficulties at all	%	14.8	6.5	8.0	7.2	*6.4	*4.4	8.6
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>127.9</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>613.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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 persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						55 and over	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54			
MALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	30.8	43.3	45.7	41.2	50.5	47.9	42.6
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	33.6	40.9	34.9	35.4	38.2	25.2	35.5
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	23.6	19.7	12.8	23.3	51.4	78.9	29.3
Insufficient work experience	%	42.9	42.4	30.0	23.7	19.3	*8.6	30.3
No vacancies at all	%	30.3	29.9	27.5	31.3	30.1	30.8	29.8
No vacancies in line of work	%	17.5	30.4	32.7	41.5	36.6	38.6	31.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	18.9	30.3	25.5	16.8	17.5	*7.9	21.0
Own ill health or disability	%	*3.7	12.6	13.6	14.0	24.1	21.0	13.8
Language difficulties	%	*1.6	**1.3	*3.7	11.1	*2.9	*11.4	4.6
Unsuitable hours	%	8.9	12.6	*4.1	*3.3	*4.2	*4.1	6.5
Difficulties with childcare and other family responsibilities	%	—	**0.2	*2.9	**1.4	**1.3	—	*1.1
Other difficulties(a)	%	*5.0	8.8	7.8	16.5	11.1	*8.6	9.4
No difficulties at all	%	13.6	*7.1	9.4	*5.2	*2.4	*4.7	7.6
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>68.9</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>363.2</b>
FEMALES								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	35.4	42.1	37.7	43.0	41.9	*33.6	39.5
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	33.4	37.0	34.3	31.6	31.9	*31.3	33.6
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	24.3	25.9	17.0	19.4	50.1	78.7	27.4
Insufficient work experience	%	43.6	49.3	35.4	30.4	26.0	*22.7	37.2
No vacancies at all	%	30.6	27.6	30.6	26.2	22.2	*30.4	28.1
No vacancies in line of work	%	13.8	31.9	29.9	20.4	28.4	*19.9	24.0
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	24.3	24.4	17.2	21.0	18.5	**8.0	20.8
Own ill health or disability	%	*2.6	*8.1	*8.1	11.5	*12.2	**8.5	8.1
Language difficulties	%	**0.5	*2.4	*4.2	*8.0	*5.5	*11.8	4.2
Unsuitable hours	%	15.8	16.0	25.1	27.5	*15.2	**9.4	19.8
Difficulties with childcare and other family responsibilities	%	**0.6	*10.2	19.3	16.3	*2.9	**3.8	9.9
Other difficulties(a)	%	*5.4	*11.0	*9.3	*6.4	*8.3	**7.7	7.9
No difficulties at all	%	16.3	*5.8	*5.9	*9.6	*12.7	**3.2	9.9
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>59.0</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>249.8</b>
<p>* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution</p> <p>** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use</p> <p>— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)</p> <p>(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.</p>								

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						55 and over	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54			
PERSONS								
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	32.9	42.8	42.7	42.1	47.2	44.7	41.3
Lacked necessary skills/education	%	33.5	39.3	34.7	33.6	35.8	26.6	34.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	23.9	22.2	14.4	21.5	50.9	78.8	28.5
Insufficient work experience	%	43.2	45.2	32.1	26.8	21.9	*11.8	33.1
No vacancies at all	%	30.5	29.0	28.7	29.0	27.0	30.7	29.1
No vacancies in line of work	%	15.8	31.0	31.6	31.7	33.4	34.4	28.7
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	21.4	27.9	22.3	18.7	17.9	*7.9	20.9
Own ill health or disability	%	*3.2	10.8	11.5	12.9	19.5	18.2	11.4
Language difficulties	%	*1.1	*1.8	*3.9	9.7	*3.9	*11.5	4.5
Unsuitable hours	%	12.1	14.0	12.2	14.5	8.4	*5.2	11.9
Difficulties with childcare and other family responsibilities	%	**0.3	*4.3	9.2	8.3	*1.9	**0.8	4.7
Other difficulties(a)	%	5.2	9.7	8.4	11.8	10.0	*8.4	8.8
No difficulties at all	%	14.8	6.5	8.0	7.2	*6.4	*4.4	8.6
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>127.9</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>613.0</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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 persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

## DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	<i>1 and under 8 weeks</i>	<i>8 and under 26 weeks</i>	<i>26 and under 52 weeks</i>	<i>1 and under 2 years</i>	<i>2 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mean duration</i>	<i>Median duration</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES								
Bachelor degree or above	11.5	7.6	6.2	*1.2	*3.0	29.4	36.4	14
Advanced diploma or diploma	*5.2	*1.9	*3.9	**0.7	*1.0	12.7	31.4	*20
Certificate	17.1	20.5	*4.1	5.7	6.9	54.3	49.4	13
Year 12(b)	22.0	22.7	12.2	*4.6	6.2	67.8	34.9	18
Year 11(b)	13.0	14.3	7.0	5.7	5.9	46.0	40.8	19
Year 10 or below(b)	41.3	36.5	22.7	15.8	32.7	148.8	71.8	24
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>363.2</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>20</b>
FEMALES								
Bachelor degree or above	10.1	6.8	*3.3	**0.8	*1.7	22.7	23.6	12
Advanced diploma or diploma	*3.8	*3.3	*1.0	**0.4	*2.3	10.7	*41.7	*15
Certificate	*5.4	6.3	*2.8	*1.5	*1.6	17.6	33.8	18
Year 12(b)	19.1	15.6	12.8	*4.6	*3.8	56.0	33.6	16
Year 11(b)	12.7	11.4	6.2	*3.2	*3.9	37.4	45.1	17
Year 10 or below(b)	35.9	28.3	13.3	9.8	18.0	105.2	53.3	17
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>17</b>
PERSONS								
Bachelor degree or above	21.5	14.4	9.5	*2.0	*4.6	52.0	30.8	14
Advanced diploma or diploma	9.0	*5.2	*4.8	*1.2	*3.2	23.5	36.1	15
Certificate	22.5	26.8	6.9	7.2	8.5	71.9	45.6	15
Year 12(b)	41.1	38.4	25.1	9.2	10.0	123.7	34.3	18
Year 11(b)	25.7	25.7	13.2	8.9	9.9	83.4	42.7	19
Year 10 or below(b)	77.1	64.8	35.9	25.6	50.7	254.1	64.2	22
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>175.7</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>18</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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) The levels of education are not necessarily listed in order from highest to lowest. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(c) Includes no educational attainment and level not determined.

## DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	<i>1 and under 8 weeks</i>	<i>8 and under 26 weeks</i>	<i>26 and under 52 weeks</i>	<i>1 and under 2 years</i>	<i>2 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>175.7</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>613.0</b>
<b>Age group (years)</b>						
15-19	50.5	41.0	22.7	8.8	*4.9	127.9
20-24	38.5	39.9	15.2	7.5	12.9	114.0
25-34	44.1	37.0	22.5	13.6	17.3	134.5
35-44	30.5	31.0	17.5	11.9	19.6	110.5
45-54	26.7	17.7	11.5	7.6	20.5	84.1
55 and over	7.3	9.2	5.9	*5.1	14.5	42.0
<b>Duration of last job</b>						
Last job less than 2 years ago	140.2	126.5	64.3	30.7	—	361.7
Less than 1 year	81.7	73.3	37.6	15.6	—	208.3
2 and under 4 weeks	8.9	6.8	*2.9	*1.9	—	20.5
4 and under 8 weeks	14.4	11.2	7.8	*3.3	—	36.6
8 and under 26 weeks	35.3	34.3	15.3	6.0	—	90.9
26 and under 52 weeks	23.1	21.0	11.6	*4.5	—	60.2
1 and under 2 years	21.7	20.6	9.4	*4.8	—	56.5
2 and under 5 years	18.7	19.7	10.5	*5.5	—	54.4
5 years and over	17.8	12.3	6.8	*4.8	—	41.7
Unpaid voluntary worker	**0.3	**0.4	—	—	—	**0.7
Last job more than 2 years ago	27.4	22.5	12.6	14.8	76.0	153.4
Has never worked	30.0	26.7	18.5	9.0	13.7	97.9

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT(a) ACT Aust.  
'000 '000 '000 '000 '000 '000 '000 '000 '000

MALES

<b>Population 1</b>										
Unemployed persons	103.5	82.4	81.8	33.3	41.0	12.1	*2.7	6.3	363.2	
<b>Population 2</b>										
Unemployed persons who were employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years	58.8	52.2	53.3	16.9	28.3	6.8	*1.6	*3.1	221.0	
<b>Population 3</b>										
Unemployed persons looking for full-time work	87.4	67.9	69.3	29.1	36.5	11.0	*2.3	*4.6	308.2	

FEMALES

<b>Population 1</b>									
Unemployed persons	70.9	64.9	57.1	19.2	25.3	6.9	*1.9	*3.6	249.8
<b>Population 2</b>									
Unemployed persons who were employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years	34.8	30.1	26.6	9.8	15.4	*3.5	**0.8	*1.4	122.4
<b>Population 3</b>									
Unemployed persons looking for full-time work	44.9	41.5	37.7	11.8	15.9	*4.8	*1.3	*1.9	159.7

PERSONS

<b>Population 1</b>									
Unemployed persons	174.4	147.3	139.0	52.5	66.3	19.0	*4.6	9.9	613.0
<b>Population 2</b>									
Unemployed persons who were employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years	93.5	82.3	79.9	26.6	43.7	10.4	*2.4	*4.6	343.4
<b>Population 3</b>									
Unemployed persons looking for full-time work	132.3	109.4	107.0	40.9	52.4	15.8	*3.5	6.5	467.9

\* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 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.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication are compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2001 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

**2** The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the 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 LFS and supplementary surveys.

### CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**3** The conceptual framework used in Australia's Labour Force Survey 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) which is also available on the ABS web site <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (Statistics-Statistical Concepts Library).

### SCOPE

**4** The scope of the LFS was restricted to persons aged 15 years and over and excluded the following persons:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- 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 persons with handicaps), and inmates of prisons are excluded from this supplementary survey.

**6** The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all States and Territories, but excluded approximately 80,000 persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates produced for individual States and Territories, except the Northern Territory where such persons account for over 20% of the population.

### COVERAGE

**7** The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in July 2001. 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. 6203.0)).

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**8** 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 further information on sampling error, see the Technical Note.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES *continued*

- 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

**9** 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.

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

**10** 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 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 1999 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

**11** Supplementary surveys are not always 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. The reduction in sample size means that the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to previous surveys.

### COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

**12** 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.

### NOTES ON ESTIMATES

**13** The Government made significant changes to the manner in which it provided employment services to the community between September 1997 and May 1998. As a result, the nature of job search activity undertaken by jobseekers changed.

**14** Prior to the change in employment service arrangements, the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) provided jobseekers with access to labour market assistance and offices of the then Department of Social Security (DSS) provided jobseekers with access to income support.

**15** Centrelink progressively replaced the CES and DSS shopfronts from September 1997. A competitive employment services market, the Job Network, was launched on 1 May 1998. The Job Network consists of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment services to the community. As from that date, jobseekers register with Centrelink for job search assistance and can choose to go to any of the Job Network employment agencies. The agency then attempts to match jobseekers with jobs that are registered with them by employers.

**16** During the transition to the new employment services market, Centrelink performed a similar role to the CES. Jobseekers registered at either a CES or Centrelink office, depending on which was operating in their area, for income support and/or job search assistance.

**17** Due to the changes in the nature of employment services, caution should be used in comparing results for periods prior to the introduction of the changes with results from surveys conducted after the changes occurred.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### CHANGES SINCE LAST SURVEY

**18** In April 2001, a redesigned LFS questionnaire was introduced. This has impacted on the information presented in this publication from July 2001 as described in paragraphs 19 and 20.

**19** Some minor changes have been made to the definition of unemployed persons. The new definition excludes persons who were stood down and persons unavailable to start work due to temporary illness and may include some contributing family workers away from work (see *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0)). Note that up to and including July 2000, the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey excluded persons who had been stood down as it was inappropriate to ask them about their job search experience.

**20** Details of last job of unemployed persons are now collected (e.g. usual gross weekly pay in last job and industry of last job). Previously, these details were collected in relation to last full-time job. (Note that industry, occupation and reasons for ceasing last full-time job were not collected in July 2000 due to the conduct of a statistical impact study on the new LFS questionnaire).

**21** This publication contains level of highest educational attainment which has been classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED). The ASCED is a new national standard classification which spans all sectors of the formal Australian education system; that is, School, Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education. From 2001, ASCED replaces a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education (see *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (Cat. no. 1272.0)). For further details on how highest educational attainment is determined, see *Education and Work, Australia* (Cat. no. 6227.0).

### PREVIOUS SURVEYS

**22** Results of similar surveys on job search experience conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 were published in previous issues of *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (Cat. no. 6222.0).

### NEXT SURVEY

**23** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2002.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**24** 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*.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**25** Other publications which may be of interest include:  
*Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0)  
*Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia*  
(Cat. no. 6245.0)  
*Labour Mobility, Australia* (Cat. no. 6209.0)  
*Labour Force Experience, Australia* (Cat. no. 6206.0)  
*Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6220.0)  
*Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia* (Cat. no. 6266.0)  
*Underemployed Workers, Australia* (Cat. no. 6265.0)

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### RELATED PUBLICATIONS *continued*

**26** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS Information Service on the World Wide Web, <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

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The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are also available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth(2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Sue Barker on Canberra 02 6252 6112, or by facsimile on 02 6252 7784.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Population 1</b> | Unemployed persons.  |
| <b>Population 2</b> | Unemployed persons who were employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years. |
| <b>Population 3</b> | Unemployed persons looking for full-time work.   |

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

Data Items	Populations	Data Items	Populations
<b>1 State or Territory of usual residence</b>	All	<b>8 Age group (years)</b>	All
New South Wales		15–19	
Victoria		20–24	
Queensland		25–34	
South Australia		35–44	
Western Australia		45–54	
Tasmania		55 and over	
Northern Territory		<b>9 Level of highest educational attainment</b>	All
Australian Capital Territory		Postgraduate degree	
<b>2 Area of usual residence</b>	All	Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	
State capital city		Bachelor degree	
Balance of State/Territory		Advanced diploma or diploma	
<b>3 Region of usual residence</b>	All	Certificate III or IV	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Certificate I or II	
<b>4 Sex</b>	All	Certificate n.f.d.	
Males		Year 12	
Females		Year 11	
<b>5 Marital status</b>	All	Year 10 and below	
Married		Other education	
Not married		Level not determined	
<b>6 Relationship in household</b>	All	No educational attainment/attendance	
Family member		<b>10 Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia</b>	All
Husband, wife or partner		Born in Australia	
With dependants		Born overseas	
Without dependants		With non-school qualifications	
Lone parent		Qualifications obtained overseas	
With dependants		Qualifications obtained in Australia	
Without dependants		Without non-school qualifications	
Dependent student		<b>11 Whether looking for full-time or part-time work</b>	All
Non-dependent child		Looking for full-time work	
Other family person		Looking for part-time work	
Non-family member		<b>12 Duration of current period of unemployment</b>	All
Lone person		Under 1 year	
Not living alone		1 and under 4 weeks	
Not determined		4 and under 8 weeks	
<b>7A Country of birth and period of arrival</b>	All	8 and under 13 weeks	
Born in Australia		13 and under 26 weeks	
Born overseas		26 and under 39 weeks	
Arrived before 1971		39 and under 52 weeks	
Arrived 1971–1980		1 year and over	
Arrived 1981–1990		1 and under 2 years	
Arrived 1991 to survey date		2 years and over	
<b>7B Country of birth (1)</b>	All	<b>13A All active steps taken to find work</b>	All
Born in Australia		Contacted prospective employers	
Born overseas		Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	
Born in main English-speaking countries		Checked Centrelink touchscreens	
Born in other countries		Checked factory noticeboards	
<b>7C Country of birth (2)</b>	All	Registered with Centrelink	
Born in Australia		Contacted an employment agency	
Born overseas		Advertised or tendered for work	
The Middle East and North Africa		Contacted friends or relatives	
Africa (excluding North Africa)		<b>13B Active steps taken to find work</b>	All
Northern America		Registered with Centrelink	
South America, Central America and the Caribbean		Took no other active steps	
North-East Asia		Contacted prospective employers	
South-East Asia		Took other active steps	
Southern Asia		Not registered with Centrelink	
Europe and the Former USSR		Contacted prospective employers	
Oceania and Antarctica		Took other active steps	

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<p><b>14A Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job</b>            Would move interstate            May move interstate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on other reasons            Would not move interstate            Undecided</p>	All	<p><b>17 All difficulties in finding work</b>            Too many applicants for available jobs            Lacked necessary skills/education            Considered too young or too old by employers            Insufficient work experience            No vacancies at all            No vacancies in line of work            Too far to travel/transport problems            Own ill health or disability            Language difficulties            Unsuitable hours            Difficulties with child care            Other family responsibilities            Difficulties because of ethnic background            Other difficulties            No difficulties at all</p>	All
<p><b>14B Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job</b>            Has applied for a job interstate            Would move interstate            May move interstate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on personal/family reasons                Depending on specific state                Depending on other reason            Has not applied for a job interstate            Would move interstate            May move interstate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on personal/family reasons                Depending on specific state                Depending on other reasons            Would not move interstate            Undecided</p>	All	<p><b>18 Main difficulties in finding work</b>            Too many applicants for available jobs            Lacked necessary skills/education            Considered too young or too old by employers            Insufficient work experience            No vacancies at all            No vacancies in line of work            Too far to travel/transport problems            Own ill health or disability            Language difficulties            Unsuitable hours            Difficulties with child care            Other family responsibilities            Difficulties because of ethnic background            Other difficulties            No difficulties at all</p>	All
<p><b>15A Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job</b>            Would move intrastate            May move intrastate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on other reasons            Would not move intrastate            Undecided</p>	All	<p><b>19 Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months</b>            One            Two            Three or more</p>	All
<p><b>15B Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job</b>            Has applied for a job intrastate            Would move intrastate            May move intrastate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on personal/family reasons                Depending on specific state                Depending on other reason            Has not applied for a job intrastate            Would move intrastate            May move intrastate                Depending on job conditions                Depending on personal/family reasons                Depending on specific state                Depending on other reason            Would not move intrastate            Undecided</p>	All	<p><b>20 Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months (weeks)</b>            1 and under 2            2 and under 4            4 and under 8            8 and under 13            13 and under 26            26 and under 39            39 and under 52            52 weeks</p>	All
<p><b>16 Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment</b>            None            One            Two            Three or more</p>	All	<p><b>21 Whether had worked full-time in last job</b>            Last full-time job less than 2 years ago            Last full-time job 2 years or more            Has never worked full-time but has worked            Has never worked</p>	All

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data Items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>22 Industry of last job</b>	All	<b>25 Duration of last job</b>	All
Last job less than 2 years ago		Last job less than 2 years ago	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		Less than 1 year	
Mining		2 and under 4 weeks	
Manufacturing		4 and under 8 weeks	
Electricity, gas and water supply		8 and under 26 weeks	
Construction		26 and under 52 weeks	
Wholesale trade			
Retail trade		1 and under 2 years	
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants		2 and under 5 years	
Transport and storage		5 years and over	
Communication service		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Finance and insurance		Last job more than 2 years ago	
Property and business services		Has never worked	
Government administration and defence		<b>26 Reason for ceasing last job</b>	All
Education		Last job less than 2 years ago	
Health and community services		Job loser	
Cultural and recreational services		Laid off or retrenched	
Personal and other services		Job was temporary or seasonal	
Unpaid voluntary worker		Own ill health or disability	
Last job more than 2 years ago		Own business closed down for economic reasons	
Has never worked		Job leaver	
<b>23 Occupation of last job</b>	All	Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
Last job less than 2 years ago		Holiday job/return to studies	
Manager and administrators		Other	
Professionals		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Associate professionals		Last job more than 2 years ago	
Tradespersons and related workers		Has never worked	
Advanced clerical and service workers		<b>27 Status in employment in last job</b>	All
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers		Last job less than 2 years ago	
Intermediate production and transport workers		Employee	
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers		Employer	
Labourers and related workers		Own account worker	
Unpaid voluntary worker		Contributing family worker	
Last job more than 2 years ago		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Has never worked		Last job more than 2 years ago	
<b>24 Usual gross weekly pay in last job</b>	2	Has never worked	
Australian currency (\$)			
Under 80			
80 and under 160			
160 and under 240			
240 and under 320			
320 and under 400			
400 and under 480			
480 and under 560			
560 and under 640			
640 and under 720			
720 and under 800			
800 and under 880			
880 and under 960			
960 and under 1,040			
1,040 and under 1,120			
1,120 and under 1,200			
1,200 and under 1,280			
1,280 and under 1,360			
1,360 and over			
Don't know, not stated			
Non-Australian currency			
Payment in kind			

## APPENDIX 2 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force survey. Data are available in publication form, by subscription or on request. Additional data from these surveys is available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

- *Career Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1998 (Cat. no. 6254.0)
- *Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications*. Final issue 1993 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6243.0)
- *Child Care*. Irregular. Latest issue June 1999 (Cat. no. 4402.0)
- *Education and Training Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue 1997 (Cat. no. 6278.0)
- *Education and Work, Australia*. Annual. Latest issue May 2001 (Cat. no. 6227.0)
- *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership*. Annual. Latest issue August 2001 (Cat. no. 6310.0)
- *Employment Benefits*. Final issue August 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6334.0.40.001)
- *Forms of Employment*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1998 (Cat. no. 6359.0)
- *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons*. Annual. Latest issue July 2001 (Cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 2001 (Cat. no. 6206.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment*. Final issue February 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6235.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families*. Final issue June 2000 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6224.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1999 (Cat. no. 6250.0)
- *Labour Mobility*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 2000 (Cat. no. 6209.0)
- *Locations of Work*. Irregular. Latest issue June 2000 (Cat. no. 6275.0)
- *Multiple Jobholding*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1997 (Cat. no. 6216.0)
- *Participation in Education*. Final issue September 1999 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6272.0)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force*. Annual. Latest issue September 2000 (Cat. no. 6220.0)
- *Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force*. Final issue July 1995 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6264.0.40.001)
- *Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force*. Final issue September 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6267.0.40.001)
- *Retirement and Retirement Intentions*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1997 (Cat. no. 6238.0)
- *Retrenchment and Redundancy*. Irregular. Latest issue July 1997 (Cat. no. 6266.0)
- *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue July 2000 (Cat. no. 6245.0)
- *Superannuation*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1995 (Cat. no. 6319.0)
- *Trade Union Members*. Final issue August 1996 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6325.0)
- *Underemployed Workers*. Annual. Latest issue September 2000 (Cat. no. 6265.0)
- *Working Arrangements*. Irregular. Latest issue November 2000 (Cat. no. 6342.0)

**APPENDIX 2** SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS *continued*

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SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS  
*continued*

- *Work-Related Injuries*. Irregular. Latest issue September 2000  
(Cat. no. 6324.0)



# TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

## 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.

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

**3** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 3 shows the estimated number of unemployed males in Australia who were looking for full-time work was 308,200. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 7,950 and 9,650 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

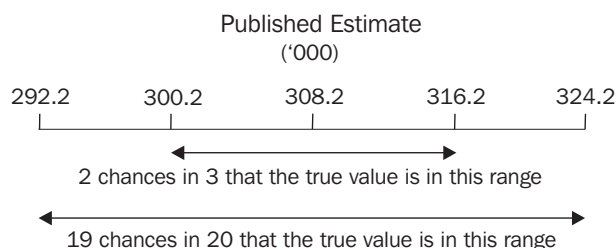
*SE of estimate* =

$$\text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right)$$

$$= 7,950 + \left( \left( \frac{308,200 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (9,650 - 7,950) \right)$$

$$= 8,000 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}$$

**4** 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 300,200 to 316,200 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 292,200 to 324,200. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR *continued*

**5** 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. \*3.4) 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. \*\*0.3), 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%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

**6** The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of unemployment and median duration of unemployment are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors:

- mean duration of unemployment: 1.3
- median duration of unemployment: 2.0

**7** The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 3 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed males in Australia was 20 weeks and shows that the number of males was estimated as 363,200. The SE of 363,200 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 8,500. To convert this to a RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or  $8,500/363,200=2.3\%$ .

**8** The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment is calculated by multiplying this number (2.3%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 2.0):  $2.3 \times 2.0 = 4.6\%$ . The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment is therefore 4.6% of 20, i.e. about 1 week. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 19–21 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 18–22 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

**9** 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.

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

**10** Considering the example from the previous page, of the 308,200 unemployed males who were looking for full-time work, 88,000 or 28.6% had been unemployed for 1 year or more. The SE of 88,000 may be calculated by interpolation as 5,000. To convert this to a RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $5,000/88,000 = 5.7\%$ . The SE for 308,200 was calculated previously as 8,000, which converted to a RSE is  $8,000/308,200 = 2.6\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(5.7)^2 - (2.6)^2} = 5.1\%$$

**11** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of unemployed males looking for full-time work who had been unemployed for one year or more is 1.5 percentage points  $(= (28.6/100) \times 5.1)$ . Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed persons looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 27.1% and 30.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 25.6% to 31.6%.

DIFFERENCES

**12** 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:

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

**13** 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*

### T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

	AUST. .....									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	90.0
200	180	190	..	..	..	160	160	180	150	75.0
300	240	250	..	290	290	190	190	200	210	70.0
500	350	350	430	350	360	230	230	240	300	60.0
700	450	440	500	410	420	270	260	260	380	54.3
1,000	570	550	590	470	500	310	300	300	490	49.0
1,500	750	690	710	560	600	370	350	340	630	42.0
2,000	890	820	810	630	670	410	400	380	760	38.0
2,500	1 000	900	900	700	750	450	450	400	900	36.0
3,000	1 150	1 000	1 000	750	800	500	450	450	1 000	33.3
3,500	1 250	1 100	1 050	800	850	500	500	450	1 050	30.0
4,000	1 350	1 200	1 100	850	900	550	500	500	1 150	28.8
5,000	1 500	1 300	1 250	900	1 000	600	550	550	1 300	26.0
7,000	1 800	1 550	1 400	1 050	1 150	700	650	600	1 600	22.9
10,000	2 150	1 850	1 650	1 200	1 300	800	750	700	1 900	19.0
15,000	2 550	2 200	2 000	1 450	1 550	900	850	800	2 350	15.7
20,000	2 900	2 450	2 250	1 600	1 750	1 000	950	900	2 700	13.5
30,000	3 450	2 900	2 650	1 900	2 050	1 200	1 100	1 100	3 250	10.8
40,000	3 800	3 200	3 000	2 150	2 250	1 350	1 200	1 250	3 700	9.3
50,000	4 150	3 450	3 300	2 350	2 450	1 450	1 300	1 350	4 050	8.1
100,000	5 150	4 350	4 400	3 100	3 150	1 850	1 700	1 850	5 300	5.3
150,000	5 800	5 050	5 200	3 650	3 650	2 200	1 950	2 200	6 150	4.1
200,000	6 400	5 650	5 850	4 050	4 050	2 400	2 150	2 500	6 800	3.4
300,000	7 450	6 700	6 850	4 800	4 650	2 800	..	3 000	7 950	2.7
500,000	9 250	8 400	8 400	5 850	5 500	3 350	..	..	9 650	1.9
1,000,000	12 950	11 800	11 000	7 650	6 850	..	..	..	12 650	1.3
2,000,000	19 050	17 150	14 350	10 000	8 500	..	..	..	16 700	0.8
5,000,000	34 150	29 450	20 250	..	..	..	..	..	25 600	0.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44 850	0.4

.. 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.
25% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	11 800	10 800	8 300	4 600	5 600	2 000	1 500	2 100	12 000
Median duration of unemployment	18 900	14 300	12 200	6 700	8 000	3 200	3 300	2 900	16 300
All other estimates	7 300	5 600	4 800	3 000	3 400	1 400	1 400	1 300	5 600
50% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	2 800	2 800	2 400	1 400	1 700	600	500	700	2 500
Median duration of unemployment	5 000	3 900	3 500	2 100	2 400	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 700
All other estimates	1 500	1 200	1 400	1 000	1 000	500	400	500	900

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

## GLOSSARY

<b>Active steps taken to find work</b>	<p>Steps taken during the 12 months up to the time of the survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work;</li> <li>■ answering a newspaper advertisement for a job;</li> <li>■ checking Centrelink touchscreens;</li> <li>■ checking factory noticeboards;</li> <li>■ registering with Centrelink for job search assistance;</li> <li>■ contacting an employment agency;</li> <li>■ advertising or tendering for work; and</li> <li>■ contacting friends or relatives.</li> </ul>
<b>All difficulties in finding work</b>	All difficulties in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.
<b>Mean duration (of current period of unemployment)</b>	The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.
<b>Bachelor degree or above</b>	Bachelor degree or above includes qualifications at the Post graduate degree level, Master degree level, Graduate diploma and Graduate certificate level and Bachelor degree level.
<b>Centrelink</b>	Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of persons for job search assistance and income support.
<b>CES</b>	Prior to April 1998, the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) provided a job placement service for jobseekers and managed labour market programs. It also provided the contact point for eligible jobseekers to register for income support.
<b>Duration of current period of unemployment</b>	The elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is the shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.
<b>Former employees</b>	Unemployed persons who were employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years.
<b>Interstate</b>	Between States and Territories.
<b>Intrastate</b>	Within the State or Territory.
<b>Job leavers</b>	Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job voluntarily, for example, because of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.
<b>Job losers</b>	Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job involuntarily, that is, were laid off or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.
<b>Job Network</b>	Job Network is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Jobseekers, who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact any Job Network provider in their area to receive this service.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Level of highest educational attainment</b>	Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. For further details on how highest educational attainment is determined, see <i>Education and Work, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 6227.0).
<b>Looking for full-time work</b>	Unemployed persons who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ actively looked for full-time work and were available for work in the reference week; or</li><li>■ actively looked for work and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.</li></ul>
<b>Looking for part-time work</b>	Unemployed persons who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ actively looked for part-time work only and were available for work in the reference week; or</li><li>■ actively looked for work and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.</li></ul>
<b>Main difficulty in finding work</b>	The main difficulty experienced during the current period of unemployment.
<b>Main English-speaking countries</b>	Comprises the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
<b>Median duration of current period of unemployment</b>	The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal size groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median, and the other, persons whose duration is below it.
<b>Number of offers of employment</b>	The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.
<b>Spells of looking for work</b>	The number of times in the previous 12 months that a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time.
<b>Persons who were stood down</b>	Persons who have been stood down without pay for less than 4 weeks for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.
<b>Time spent looking for work</b>	The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time. Excludes the time a person spent looking for work while on holiday from a job and any week in which the person did any work at all.
<b>Unemployed</b>	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ were available for work in the reference week; or</li><li>■ 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.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Usual gross weekly pay</b>	The amount of usual weekly pay before taxation and other deductions have been made.
<b>Year 12 or below</b>	Year 12 or below is participation in pre-primary, primary or secondary level education, regardless of the institution or location where the study is or was undertaken. It therefore includes such study undertaken in a TAFE or other institution.



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