

**JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 3 FEB 2004

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

## 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. Also presented is information about employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months. For this group, data on the steps taken to attain work and their current job details are provided.
- Demographic information is provided about both of these groups, along with information about their previous employment.
- JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY** The statistics in this publication are compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2003 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).
- From July 2002, this survey combined the previously conducted annual Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey and biennial Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey.
- Data from the survey relate to persons who were unemployed in July 2003, and persons employed in July 2003 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.
- NOTES ABOUT ESTIMATES** The data item 'Active steps taken to find work' used in tables 3 and 5 in the 2002 publication has been replaced with the data item 'All steps taken to find work' for the 2003 publication. Data can be compared directly between the 2002 and 2003 publications for the categories that appear in both years. The data item refers to all steps taken to find work and as a result persons will appear in more than one category when they took a number of steps to find work.
- ROUNDING** As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

In July 2003, there were 564,500 unemployed persons, a 2% increase since July 2002 but a 20% decrease since July 1996. The median duration of unemployment has dropped from 26 weeks in July 1998 to 16 weeks in July 2003 (the median is the number of weeks which divides the distribution of unemployed persons into two equal groups, one having their duration of unemployment above and the other below that number). In July 2003, over two-thirds (69%) of unemployed persons reported their level of highest educational attainment as being Year 12 or below and a further 9% as being a Bachelor Degree or above.

There were 1,602,800 employed persons who started their current job in the 12 months prior to July 2003. The majority (65%) of them were working full time. Of those employed persons who started their current job in the previous year, 54% reported their level of highest educational attainment as being Year 12 or below and 21% as being a Bachelor Degree or above.

### UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

#### *Job search experience*

The most commonly reported steps taken to find work by unemployed persons in July 2003 were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' and 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (both 84%). Other steps included 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (66%), and 'registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker' (59%). Around 53% of unemployed persons stated they had 'registered with a Job Network employment agency'.

In July 2003, 13% of unemployed persons reported their main difficulty in finding work as being 'considered too young or too old by employers', followed by 'insufficient work experience' and 'too many applicants for available jobs' (both 12%). Almost 62% of those who reported they were 'considered too young or too old by employers' were aged 45 years and over. The median duration of unemployment for those who reported they were 'considered to be too young or too old by employers' was 29 weeks compared to 16 weeks for all unemployed persons.

Other characteristics of persons unemployed at July 2003 include:

- 429,700 or 76% of unemployed persons had not started any job in the previous 12 months, while 50,400 (9%) had started two jobs or more
- 85% did not receive any offers of employment during their current period of unemployment
- 123,300 or 22% of unemployed persons spent the whole of the last year looking for work. Almost 26% of those looking for full-time work and 11% of those looking for part-time work spent the whole year looking for work
- 59% had last held a job for two weeks or more, less than two years ago; while 16% had never worked in a job for two weeks or more.

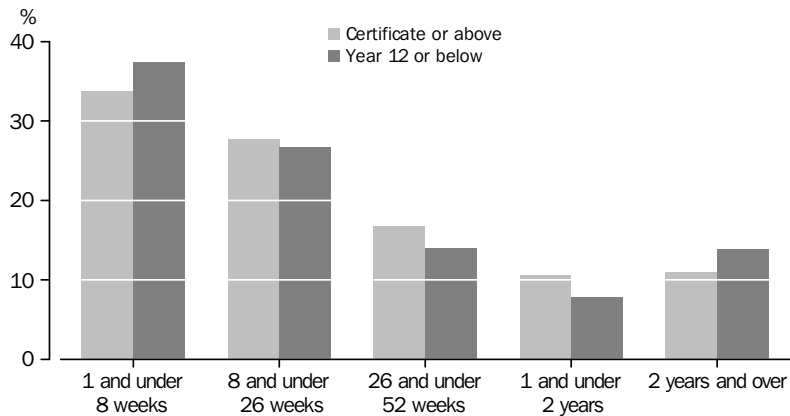
#### *Duration of unemployment*

Just under one-quarter (22%) of unemployed persons in July 2003 were long-term unemployed, that is, they had been unemployed for 12 months or longer. Of the unemployed persons whose level of highest educational attainment was Year 12 or below, 14% had been unemployed for two years or more compared to 11% of those with a Certificate level or above.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Duration of unemployment continued*

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT



### *Young unemployed*

Over one-third (38%) of unemployed persons were aged 15–24 years. Just under half (46%) of unemployed persons aged 15–19 years and 78% of those aged 20–24 years were seeking full-time work.

Of unemployed persons aged 15–19 years, 19% reported their main difficulty in finding work was 'insufficient work experience'. Around 22% of unemployed persons aged 20–24 years also reported this as their main difficulty.

### EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Of those employed persons who started their current job in the 12 months to July 2003, 44% were out of work prior to starting that job, and a further 44% changed employer to start that job. The remainder were employed in their own business.

### *Steps taken to attain a job*

Of those who were out of work prior to starting their current job, 59% 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work'. Almost half (48%) of employed persons who changed employer took this step to attain a job. The other most common steps taken to attain a job were 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (48% of persons out of work prior to starting a job and 37% of persons who changed employer to start a job), 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (38% and 29% respectively) and 'contacted friends or relatives' (31% and 22% respectively).

### *Duration of looking for work*

Over half (55%) of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months looked for work for less than one year before being offered that job. A further 6% looked for one year or more, while 40% of persons didn't look for work at all. More than one-third (35%) of all employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months were aged 15–24 years.

### *Characteristics of current job*

The majority (72%) of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months started one job only, and most (90%) had worked before. Of those who usually work part-time hours, over one-third (40%) would prefer to work more hours.

Of those part-time employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months, 28% were aged 15–19 years.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** *continued*

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*Characteristics of current  
job continued*

The most common occupation groups of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months were Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (20%) and Professionals (15%). Elementary clerical, sales and service workers was the most common occupation group of employed persons aged 15–19 years who started their job in the previous 12 months (37%).



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# UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, AND EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, Summary of characteristics

	UNEMPLOYED PERSONS				EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS			
	Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons	
	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>251.9</b>	<b>564.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>823.5</b>	<b>779.3</b>	<b>1 602.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age group (years)								
15-19	58.5	45.0	103.5	18.3	123.0	141.0	263.9	16.5
20-24	60.5	50.2	110.6	19.6	153.0	149.6	302.5	18.9
25-34	72.5	55.5	128.0	22.7	247.2	207.4	454.6	28.4
35-44	51.7	52.5	104.3	18.5	156.0	163.0	319.0	19.9
45-54	45.2	36.3	81.5	14.4	102.8	95.9	198.7	12.4
55 and over	24.2	12.5	36.7	6.5	41.7	22.4	64.0	4.0
Relationship in household								
Family member	229.1	207.7	436.8	77.4	644.7	622.1	1 266.8	79.0
Husband, wife or partner	97.5	91.8	189.3	33.5	408.4	356.9	765.3	47.7
With dependants	54.8	56.1	110.8	19.6	226.8	183.5	410.4	25.6
Without dependants	42.8	35.8	78.5	13.9	181.6	173.4	355.0	22.1
Lone parent	7.0	44.3	51.3	9.1	6.3	62.8	69.1	4.3
Dependent student	33.9	28.3	62.2	11.0	54.6	84.4	139.1	8.7
Non-dependent child	79.4	35.4	114.8	20.3	155.5	97.8	253.3	15.8
Other family person	11.3	7.9	19.2	3.4	19.8	20.2	40.0	2.5
Non-family member or person living alone	66.8	36.4	103.2	18.3	144.4	122.7	267.1	16.7
Relationship not determined	16.6	7.8	24.4	4.3	34.4	34.5	68.9	4.3
Level of highest educational attainment(a) (b)								
Bachelor Degree or above	29.0	22.9	51.8	9.2	151.3	179.2	330.5	20.6
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	14.8	17.5	32.3	5.7	55.0	59.9	114.9	7.2
Certificate	49.1	36.3	85.4	15.1	188.8	95.9	284.7	17.8
Year 12	62.3	56.2	118.5	21.0	190.3	195.7	385.9	24.1
Year 11	33.9	26.6	60.5	10.7	59.3	67.9	127.1	7.9
Year 10 or below	120.5	90.8	211.3	37.4	174.6	175.6	350.1	21.8
Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months								
None	229.4	200.3	429.7	76.1	..	..	..	..
One	50.4	34.0	84.4	14.9	590.0	570.2	1 160.2	72.4
Two	16.6	9.8	26.4	4.7	160.8	149.5	310.2	19.4
Three or more	16.1	7.9	24.0	4.3	72.8	59.6	132.4	8.3
All steps taken to find work/attain job(c)								
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	267.4	207.0	474.4	84.0	373.3	373.9	747.3	46.6
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	208.0	167.0	375.0	66.4	226.5	246.2	472.7	29.5
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	97.3	81.0	178.3	31.6	116.7	120.6	237.3	14.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	97.3	53.5	150.8	26.7	46.8	38.7	85.5	5.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	31.2	23.6	54.8	9.7	17.6	23.1	40.7	2.5
Contacted friends or relatives	153.5	101.6	255.1	45.2	210.3	161.5	371.9	23.2
Advertised or tendered for work	23.2	14.0	37.2	6.6	19.7	22.6	42.3	2.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	189.3	110.8	300.1	53.2	129.1	107.3	236.4	14.8
Registered with other employment agency	95.4	60.7	156.1	27.7	93.0	97.2	190.2	11.9
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	157.7	94.5	252.2	44.7	93.9	73.3	167.2	10.4
Checked with other employment agency	78.5	48.7	127.2	22.5	64.0	66.8	130.8	8.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	258.0	213.7	471.7	83.6	285.4	307.3	592.7	37.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	149.5	122.4	271.9	48.2	172.3	179.2	351.5	21.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	159.6	95.4	255.0	45.2	84.8	67.7	152.5	9.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	70.0	50.7	120.7	21.4	36.3	41.9	78.2	4.9
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	210.9	123.6	334.5	59.3	127.3	96.7	224.0	14.0
Other	41.8	28.0	69.8	12.4	47.5	49.8	97.3	6.1
Employed persons in own business	..	..	..	..	124.1	75.4	199.6	12.5

.. not applicable

(a) The levels of education are not necessarily listed in order from highest to lowest. See Appendix 1 for further details.

(b) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'. Includes some persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(c) Refers to all steps taken to find work/attain job, therefore persons may appear in more than one category. For employed persons, refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected characteristics

July    July    July    July    July    July    July    July  
1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

**Total** '000    **701.7**    **717.5**    **696.4**    **591.0**    **544.3**    **613.0**    **554.8**    **564.5**

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

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

Main difficulty in finding work									
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	13.0	14.5	13.7	12.1	13.1	11.5	14.7	11.9
Lacked necessary skills or education	%	11.1	12.1	11.5	11.2	11.8	10.4	10.6	11.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	%	13.5	14.5	16.0	15.4	13.4	11.7	13.4	13.4
Insufficient work experience	%	10.1	10.4	10.9	10.1	10.0	11.6	11.2	12.2
No vacancies at all	%	11.9	12.7	11.2	10.0	8.3	10.7	6.6	8.7
No vacancies in line of work	%	11.6	9.1	8.5	7.9	7.3	10.4	9.5	9.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.4
Own ill health or disability	%	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.4	5.7	6.6	5.6
Language difficulties	%	3.2	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.9
Unsuitable hours	%	2.9	2.3	3.1	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.4	6.0
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	%	1.6	2.4	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.6
Other difficulties(a)	%	3.9	3.0	2.9	3.7	4.4	3.4	3.2	3.2
No difficulties at all	%	6.5	5.3	6.4	8.4	9.8	8.6	6.8	6.0
No feedback from employers(b)	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	1.9	1.6
Whether looking for full-time or part-time work									
Looking for full-time work	%	81.3	83.4	81.9	76.6	76.3	76.3	75.7	74.4
Looking for part-time work	%	18.7	16.5	18.1	23.3	23.7	23.7	24.3	25.6
Duration of current period of unemployment									
Under 1 year	%	70.3	66.8	65.2	68.3	71.1	76.5	73.7	78.2
1 and under 4 weeks	%	14.9	12.0	13.2	18.2	19.2	19.1	20.4	22.7
4 and under 8 weeks	%	11.0	10.4	10.8	11.3	12.1	13.1	10.9	13.6
8 and under 13 weeks	%	9.7	7.9	8.6	10.0	9.4	8.8	10.4	9.1
13 and under 26 weeks	%	14.3	15.5	13.3	11.2	12.7	19.9	17.5	17.9
26 and under 52 weeks	%	20.4	20.9	19.3	17.6	17.6	15.6	14.6	14.9
1 year and over	%	29.7	33.2	34.8	31.7	28.9	23.5	26.3	21.8
1 and under 2 years	%	14.1	15.4	15.2	12.5	10.9	8.9	11.7	8.7
2 years and over	%	15.6	17.8	19.6	19.1	18.1	14.6	14.5	13.2

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Mean duration of unemployment    wks    52.9    56.0    59.9    55.5    52.9    49.8    r50.9    48.8  
Median duration of unemployment    wks    26    26    26    23    20    18    r18    16

na not available  
r revised

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.  
(b) Collected separately for the first time in July 2002.

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Whether looking for full-time or part-time work

	LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK			LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.0</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>420.0</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>251.9</b>	<b>564.5</b>
Age group (years)									
15-19	28.7	19.0	47.7	29.8	25.9	55.7	58.5	45.0	103.5
20-24	50.7	35.3	86.0	9.7	14.9	24.6	60.5	50.2	110.6
25-34	67.5	38.5	106.0	*5.0	17.0	22.0	72.5	55.5	128.0
35-44	48.4	35.6	84.0	*3.3	16.9	20.3	51.7	52.5	104.3
45-54	42.3	25.1	67.4	*2.9	11.2	14.0	45.2	36.3	81.5
55 and over	21.4	7.5	28.9	*2.8	*5.0	7.8	24.2	12.5	36.7
Relationship in household									
Family member	185.9	129.5	315.5	43.1	78.2	121.3	229.1	207.7	436.8
Husband, wife or partner	89.5	60.2	149.7	8.0	31.6	39.6	97.5	91.8	189.3
With dependants	51.6	31.2	82.8	*3.2	24.8	28.1	54.8	56.1	110.8
Without dependants	37.9	29.0	67.0	*4.8	6.7	11.6	42.8	35.8	78.5
Lone parent	5.5	26.7	32.3	*1.5	17.5	19.0	7.0	44.3	51.3
Dependent student	6.3	*3.0	9.2	27.7	25.3	53.0	33.9	28.3	62.2
Non-dependent child	75.4	33.5	108.9	*4.0	*1.9	5.9	79.4	35.4	114.8
Other family person	9.3	6.0	15.3	*2.0	*1.9	*3.9	11.3	7.9	19.2
Non-family member or person living alone	60.1	27.4	87.5	6.7	9.0	15.8	66.8	36.4	103.2
Relationship not determined	13.0	*4.1	17.1	*3.6	*3.7	7.3	16.6	7.8	24.4
Country of birth									
Born in Australia	184.1	118.1	302.1	36.9	66.2	103.1	220.9	184.3	405.2
Born overseas	75.0	42.9	117.9	16.6	24.7	41.3	91.6	67.6	159.2
Born in main English-speaking countries	26.0	12.4	38.4	*2.7	6.4	9.2	28.7	18.9	47.6
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	49.0	30.5	79.5	13.9	18.3	32.2	62.9	48.8	111.6
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)									
Bachelor Degree or above	25.6	17.0	42.6	*3.4	5.8	9.2	29.0	22.9	51.8
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	13.2	13.2	26.4	*1.6	*4.3	5.9	14.8	17.5	32.3
Certificate III / IV	37.1	20.3	57.4	*4.2	9.7	13.9	41.3	30.0	71.3
Certificate I / II	5.2	*2.9	8.1	**0.3	*1.9	*2.2	5.5	*4.8	10.3
Certificate not further defined	*2.3	*1.5	*3.8	—	—	—	*2.3	*1.5	*3.8
Year 12	46.7	33.1	79.7	15.7	23.1	38.7	62.3	56.2	118.5
Year 11	26.0	15.3	41.2	8.0	11.3	19.3	33.9	26.6	60.5
Year 10 or below	100.5	56.9	157.4	20.0	34.0	54.0	120.5	90.8	211.3
All steps taken to find work(c)									
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	227.8	137.5	365.3	39.6	69.5	109.1	267.4	207.0	474.4
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	187.1	119.1	306.1	20.9	47.9	68.9	208.0	167.0	375.0
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	83.9	60.6	144.5	13.4	20.4	33.8	97.3	81.0	178.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	92.0	48.2	140.2	5.4	5.3	10.6	97.3	53.5	150.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	28.5	17.6	46.0	*2.7	6.0	8.8	31.2	23.6	54.8
Contacted friends or relatives	130.5	64.1	194.6	23.0	37.5	60.5	153.5	101.6	255.1
Advertised or tendered for work	20.1	9.9	30.0	*3.1	*4.1	7.3	23.2	14.0	37.2
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	177.1	94.2	271.3	12.2	16.6	28.8	189.3	110.8	300.1
Registered with other employment agency	85.8	49.9	135.7	9.6	10.8	20.4	95.4	60.7	156.1
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	148.3	78.2	226.6	9.4	16.3	25.7	157.7	94.5	252.2
Checked with other employment agency	72.0	41.8	113.8	6.5	6.8	13.3	78.5	48.7	127.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	225.1	143.2	368.3	32.9	70.5	103.4	258.0	213.7	471.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	127.8	86.1	213.8	21.7	36.4	58.1	149.5	122.4	271.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	150.0	79.5	229.5	9.6	15.9	25.6	159.6	95.4	255.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	62.7	37.1	99.8	7.3	13.6	21.0	70.0	50.7	120.7
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	197.7	103.8	301.5	13.2	19.8	33.0	210.9	123.6	334.5
Other	37.0	22.1	59.2	*4.8	5.9	10.7	41.8	28.0	69.8

\* 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 Appendix 1 for further details.

(b) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'. Includes some persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(c) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Recent labour market experience

		LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK			LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK			TOTAL		
		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS										
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>259.0</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>420.0</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>251.9</b>	<b>564.5</b>
Numbers of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment										
None	'000	219.7	133.4	353.2	49.0	78.0	127.0	268.8	211.5	480.2
One	'000	22.3	18.2	40.4	*3.1	9.2	12.3	25.4	27.4	52.8
Two	'000	7.5	6.0	13.5	**0.2	*1.9	*2.1	7.7	7.9	15.6
Three or more	'000	9.5	*3.4	12.9	*1.2	*1.8	*3.0	10.7	5.2	15.9
Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more										
Has previously worked	'000	240.4	139.6	379.9	26.1	68.1	94.1	266.4	207.6	474.1
Last job less than 2 years ago	'000	176.4	99.6	276.0	21.3	36.4	57.7	197.8	135.9	333.7
Last job 2 years or more ago	'000	63.9	40.0	103.9	*4.7	31.7	36.4	68.6	71.7	140.3
Has never worked	'000	18.6	21.4	40.1	27.4	22.9	50.3	46.1	44.3	90.4
Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months										
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	30.5	37.0	67.5	15.0	28.3	43.4	45.5	65.4	110.9
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	25.8	15.5	41.3	9.8	16.1	25.9	35.6	31.5	67.1
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	24.4	17.7	42.2	*4.2	8.5	12.7	28.7	26.2	54.9
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	51.0	26.5	77.5	7.8	15.2	22.9	58.7	41.7	100.4
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	34.5	22.5	57.1	8.1	11.3	19.4	42.7	33.9	76.5
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	20.7	6.2	27.0	*1.9	*2.4	*4.3	22.6	8.6	31.3
52 weeks	'000	72.1	35.4	107.5	6.7	9.2	15.8	78.7	44.6	123.3
Duration of current period of unemployment										
Under 1 year	'000	187.0	125.6	312.5	46.8	81.8	128.6	233.8	207.3	441.2
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	40.7	41.0	81.7	16.5	29.8	46.3	57.2	70.8	128.0
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	31.0	19.9	50.9	9.5	16.5	26.0	40.6	36.4	77.0
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	22.7	16.9	39.6	*3.9	7.9	11.8	26.7	24.8	51.4
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	51.3	25.8	77.1	8.0	15.8	23.7	59.3	41.6	100.9
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	25.7	17.9	43.6	8.1	10.1	18.2	33.8	27.9	61.8
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	15.5	*4.1	19.6	**0.8	*1.7	*2.5	16.3	5.8	22.1
1 year and over	'000	72.1	35.4	107.5	6.7	9.2	15.8	78.7	44.6	123.3
1 and under 2 years	'000	27.6	12.9	40.5	*3.9	*4.7	8.6	31.5	17.6	49.1
2 years and over	'000	44.4	22.6	67.0	*2.8	*4.5	7.3	47.2	27.0	74.2
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT										
Mean duration of unemployment	wks	60.8	49.4	56.4	26.0	26.8	26.5	54.9	41.2	48.8
Median duration of unemployment	wks	22	13	18	8	7	7	20	11	16

\* 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

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, All steps taken to find work(a)

## AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total	%
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%

## MALES

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	47.7	51.6	63.1	44.1	40.8	20.2	267.4	85.6
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	26.7	40.9	51.6	36.6	34.1	18.1	208.0	66.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	13.5	22.7	24.8	13.7	16.1	6.5	97.3	31.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	9.8	20.5	27.6	18.4	15.2	5.8	97.3	31.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*4.0	6.2	6.2	8.2	5.7	*1.0	31.2	10.0
Contacted friends or relatives	20.9	34.8	34.1	29.2	24.8	9.7	153.5	49.1
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.0	*3.0	*4.1	*4.1	7.0	*3.0	23.2	7.4
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	21.8	38.1	48.7	34.0	31.6	15.0	189.3	60.6
Registered with other employment agency	10.6	17.8	26.4	15.4	17.6	7.6	95.4	30.5
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	17.2	31.5	39.6	29.3	28.5	11.5	157.7	50.5
Checked with other employment agency	8.7	17.0	17.9	15.7	14.6	*4.6	78.5	25.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	38.6	51.6	63.0	44.6	39.8	20.5	258.0	82.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	24.0	32.5	36.7	23.1	24.0	9.1	149.5	47.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	17.2	33.8	44.6	28.7	24.6	10.7	159.6	51.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	7.8	14.2	13.9	14.6	15.1	*4.4	70.0	22.4
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	24.2	36.4	56.8	40.9	35.3	17.3	210.9	67.5
Other	6.0	*5.0	8.7	10.7	7.3	*4.1	41.8	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## FEMALES

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	37.2	43.7	44.4	43.2	27.2	11.2	207.0	82.2
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	26.6	37.7	38.4	36.6	21.4	6.2	167.0	66.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	11.4	22.8	18.0	18.8	7.8	*2.2	81.0	32.2
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	*5.1	15.9	17.0	10.7	*4.1	**0.7	53.5	21.2
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*3.4	*4.4	7.0	*3.4	*3.2	*2.2	23.6	9.4
Contacted friends or relatives	16.7	20.2	22.0	22.4	14.4	5.7	101.6	40.3
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.2	*1.4	*3.0	*2.3	*3.0	*1.1	14.0	5.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	12.8	26.1	27.5	23.1	15.0	6.3	110.8	44.0
Registered with other employment agency	6.8	14.9	14.3	13.8	8.4	*2.4	60.7	24.1
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	11.2	22.0	23.0	21.4	11.4	5.7	94.5	37.5
Checked with other employment agency	*4.4	13.2	12.2	10.4	6.6	*1.9	48.7	19.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	34.5	45.0	49.4	45.1	29.4	10.2	213.7	84.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	19.1	33.7	25.4	27.9	12.6	*3.7	122.4	48.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	12.5	21.9	25.8	20.9	9.9	*4.3	95.4	37.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	7.8	8.9	12.5	10.2	7.0	*4.3	50.7	20.1
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	13.2	28.2	29.3	26.0	18.5	8.2	123.6	49.1
Other	*3.9	5.2	7.2	7.8	*2.1	*2.0	28.0	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>251.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

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

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, All steps taken to find work(a) *continued*

## AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total	%
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%

## PERSONS

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	84.9	95.3	107.5	87.3	68.0	31.4	474.4	84.0
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	53.3	78.6	90.0	73.3	55.5	24.3	375.0	66.4
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	24.8	45.6	42.8	32.6	23.9	8.7	178.3	31.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	15.0	36.4	44.6	29.1	19.3	6.5	150.8	26.7
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	7.3	10.6	13.3	11.6	8.9	*3.2	54.8	9.7
Contacted friends or relatives	37.7	55.0	56.1	51.6	39.2	15.5	255.1	45.2
Advertised or tendered for work	5.2	*4.4	7.2	6.3	10.0	*4.1	37.2	6.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	34.7	64.2	76.1	57.1	46.6	21.3	300.1	53.2
Registered with other employment agency	17.5	32.7	40.8	29.2	26.0	10.0	156.1	27.7
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	28.4	53.5	62.6	50.7	39.9	17.2	252.2	44.7
Checked with other employment agency	13.1	30.2	30.0	26.2	21.2	6.5	127.2	22.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	73.1	96.6	112.4	89.7	69.2	30.7	471.7	83.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	43.2	66.3	62.1	51.0	36.6	12.8	271.9	48.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	29.7	55.7	70.4	49.7	34.5	15.0	255.0	45.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	15.5	23.2	26.4	24.8	22.1	8.7	120.7	21.4
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	37.5	64.6	86.1	66.9	53.9	25.6	334.5	59.3
Other	9.8	10.2	15.9	18.5	9.4	6.0	69.8	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>564.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work by duration of unemployment

## 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	wks	wks
<b>Main difficulty in finding work</b>								
Too many applicants for available jobs	26.7	19.5	11.5	*3.7	5.8	67.2	31.7	13
Lacked necessary skills or education	16.8	18.8	9.0	7.2	11.9	63.7	57.8	21
Considered too young or too old by employers	17.1	14.9	11.7	8.0	23.7	75.4	108.2	29
Insufficient work experience	22.2	22.1	11.9	7.7	5.2	69.1	32.6	17
No vacancies at all	20.0	10.4	8.3	*4.3	5.8	48.9	51.5	12
No vacancies in line of work	17.2	17.8	8.7	6.5	*2.4	52.5	30.0	14
Too far to travel/transport problems	9.7	12.0	6.8	*4.6	*2.8	35.9	41.9	20
Own ill health or disability	9.4	8.3	*3.7	*2.4	7.8	31.6	74.3	22
Language difficulties	*3.4	*4.5	*2.9	*0.8	*4.5	16.2	70.3	26
Unsuitable hours	19.4	7.8	*3.3	*2.3	*1.1	33.8	17.6	4
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	*3.2	*3.4	*1.0	—	*1.6	9.3	65.8	18
Other difficulties(a)	6.3	5.5	*3.7	**0.7	*1.6	17.8	41.4	14
No difficulties at all	28.0	*4.1	*1.4	**0.6	—	34.1	6.3	2
No feedback from employers	5.5	*3.2	—	**0.4	—	9.0	9.1	5
<b>Sex</b>								
Males	97.7	86.0	50.1	31.5	47.2	312.5	54.9	20
Females	107.2	66.3	33.8	17.6	27.0	251.9	41.2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>205.0</b>	<b>152.3</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>564.5</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>16</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

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

# 7

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work by duration of unemployment—Proportion

### 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
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Main difficulty in finding work</b>						
Too many applicants for available jobs	13.0	12.8	13.6	*7.5	7.9	11.9
Lacked necessary skills or education	8.2	12.3	10.7	14.6	16.0	11.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	8.3	9.8	13.9	16.3	32.0	13.4
Insufficient work experience	10.9	14.5	14.2	15.7	7.0	12.2
No vacancies at all	9.8	6.9	9.9	*8.8	7.8	8.7
No vacancies in line of work	8.4	11.7	10.3	13.3	*3.2	9.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	4.8	7.9	8.2	*9.3	*3.8	6.4
Own ill health or disability	4.6	5.5	*4.4	*4.8	10.6	5.6
Language difficulties	*1.6	*3.0	*3.5	*1.7	*6.1	2.9
Unsuitable hours	9.4	5.1	*4.0	*4.6	*1.5	6.0
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	*1.6	*2.2	*1.2	—	*2.2	1.6
Other difficulties(a)	3.1	3.6	*4.4	**1.4	*2.1	3.2
No difficulties at all	13.7	*2.7	*1.6	**1.2	—	6.0
No feedback from employers	2.7	*2.1	—	**0.8	—	1.6
<b>Sex</b>						
Males	47.7	56.4	59.7	64.2	63.6	55.4
Females	52.3	43.6	40.3	35.8	36.4	44.6
<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>

\* 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

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

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work by age

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						SEX		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Males	Females	Total
PERSONS ('000)									
Too many applicants for available jobs	12.4	14.4	14.8	14.7	9.4	*1.5	37.5	29.7	67.2
Lacked necessary skills or education	9.9	15.7	18.1	12.2	5.7	*2.2	38.1	25.6	63.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	*4.8	6.0	5.9	12.3	24.8	21.7	44.6	30.8	75.4
Insufficient work experience	19.3	24.4	13.0	7.5	*4.2	**0.6	30.0	39.1	69.1
No vacancies at all	9.6	9.3	14.4	7.0	5.6	*3.0	31.4	17.5	48.9
No vacancies in line of work	5.2	7.1	18.1	13.0	7.4	*1.7	30.7	21.9	52.5
Too far to travel/transport problems	10.7	8.6	10.3	*4.3	*1.6	**0.4	23.8	12.2	35.9
Own ill health or disability	*3.8	*3.5	6.2	8.2	8.5	*1.5	21.4	10.2	31.6
Language difficulties	—	*2.4	*4.2	*4.4	*3.9	*1.3	8.4	7.8	16.2
Unsuitable hours	10.8	6.6	7.8	7.0	*1.2	**0.4	11.3	22.5	33.8
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	—	*1.9	*1.7	*4.4	*1.3	—	*2.1	7.1	9.3
Other difficulties(a)	*3.5	*2.8	*4.4	*3.8	*2.4	*0.9	9.8	8.0	17.8
No difficulties at all	9.0	6.6	7.3	5.4	*4.2	*1.6	17.9	16.3	34.1
No feedback from employers	*4.4	*1.4	*1.7	**0.2	*1.3	—	5.7	*3.3	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>251.9</b>	<b>564.5</b>

## PERSONS (%)

Too many applicants for available jobs	12.0	13.0	11.6	14.1	11.5	*4.1	12.0	11.8	11.9
Lacked necessary skills or education	9.5	14.2	14.2	11.7	7.0	*6.0	12.2	10.1	11.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	*4.6	5.4	4.6	11.8	30.4	59.0	14.3	12.2	13.4
Insufficient work experience	18.7	22.1	10.2	7.2	*5.2	**1.8	9.6	15.5	12.2
No vacancies at all	9.3	8.4	11.2	6.7	6.9	*8.1	10.1	6.9	8.7
No vacancies in line of work	5.1	6.4	14.1	12.5	9.1	*4.5	9.8	8.7	9.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	10.3	7.8	8.1	*4.2	*1.9	**1.1	7.6	4.8	6.4
Own ill health or disability	*3.6	*3.2	4.8	7.8	10.4	*4.0	6.8	4.0	5.6
Language difficulties	—	*2.1	*3.3	*4.2	*4.8	*3.6	2.7	3.1	2.9
Unsuitable hours	10.4	6.0	6.1	6.7	*1.5	**1.0	3.6	8.9	6.0
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	—	*1.7	*1.4	*4.2	*1.5	—	*0.7	2.8	1.6
Other difficulties(a)	*3.4	*2.5	*3.4	*3.6	*3.0	*2.5	3.1	3.2	3.2
No difficulties at all	8.7	6.0	5.7	5.1	*5.2	*4.2	5.7	6.5	6.0
No feedback from employers	*4.2	*1.3	*1.3	**0.2	*1.6	—	1.8	*1.3	1.6
<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>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</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

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



## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Duration of current period of unemployment

## LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT(a) (b)

	Bachelor Degree or above	Advanced Diploma / Diploma	Certificate III / IV	Certificate I / II	Certificate not further defined	Year 12	Year 11	Year 10 or below	Total(c)
MALES ('000)									
Less than 1 year	22.2	11.4	31.6	*4.6	*1.3	49.4	27.5	84.4	233.8
1 and under 8 weeks	8.9	*4.0	12.9	*2.0	—	22.7	11.6	35.3	97.7
8 and under 26 weeks	9.2	*3.5	10.7	*1.5	**0.6	16.1	11.5	32.2	86.0
26 and under 52 weeks	*4.1	*3.9	8.0	*1.1	**0.7	10.6	*4.4	16.8	50.1
1 and under 2 years	*4.3	**0.5	5.3	—	**0.4	6.9	*2.1	12.0	31.5
2 years and over	*2.4	*3.0	*4.3	*0.8	**0.7	6.1	*4.4	24.1	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>*2.3</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>312.5</b>
FEMALES ('000)									
Less than 1 year	19.4	13.7	24.5	*3.7	**0.4	50.6	21.8	71.7	207.3
1 and under 8 weeks	10.5	6.0	11.3	*1.4	—	31.1	9.4	36.2	107.2
8 and under 26 weeks	7.4	5.8	7.1	*1.6	—	13.2	8.4	22.9	66.3
26 and under 52 weeks	*1.5	*2.0	6.1	**0.7	**0.4	6.2	*3.9	12.7	33.8
1 and under 2 years	*2.0	**0.6	*3.3	**0.5	*1.1	*2.2	*1.8	5.9	17.6
2 years and over	*1.4	*3.2	*2.2	**0.6	—	*3.3	*3.0	13.2	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>*4.8</b>	<b>*1.5</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>251.9</b>
PERSONS ('000)									
Less than 1 year	41.6	25.1	56.2	8.4	*1.6	100.0	49.3	156.1	441.2
1 and under 8 weeks	19.5	10.0	24.3	*3.4	—	53.8	21.0	71.5	205.0
8 and under 26 weeks	16.6	9.2	17.8	*3.1	**0.6	29.3	20.0	55.1	152.3
26 and under 52 weeks	5.6	5.9	14.1	*1.9	*1.1	16.8	8.4	29.5	83.9
1 and under 2 years	6.3	*1.1	8.6	**0.5	*1.5	9.1	*3.9	17.9	49.1
2 years and over	*3.9	6.2	6.6	*1.5	**0.7	9.4	7.4	37.3	74.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>*3.8</b>	<b>118.5</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>211.3</b>	<b>564.5</b>
PERSONS (%)									
Less than 1 year	80.3	77.7	78.8	81.2	*43.0	84.4	81.5	73.9	78.2
1 and under 8 weeks	37.5	31.0	34.0	*33.3	—	45.4	34.6	33.8	36.3
8 and under 26 weeks	31.9	28.5	25.0	*29.8	**14.9	24.8	33.0	26.1	27.0
26 and under 52 weeks	10.8	18.1	19.8	*18.1	*28.1	14.2	13.8	14.0	14.9
1 and under 2 years	12.2	*3.3	12.0	**4.6	*39.1	7.7	*6.4	8.5	8.7
2 years and over	*7.5	19.0	9.2	*14.2	**17.9	7.9	12.2	17.7	13.2
<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>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</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

(a) The levels of education are not necessarily listed in order from highest to lowest. See Appendix 1 for further details.

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

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

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total	%
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>263.9</b>	<b>302.5</b>	<b>454.6</b>	<b>319.0</b>	<b>198.7</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>1 602.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Sex								
Males	123.0	153.0	247.2	156.0	102.8	41.7	823.5	51.4
Females	141.0	149.6	207.4	163.0	95.9	22.4	779.3	48.6
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)								
Bachelor Degree or above	—	62.8	134.4	74.0	44.8	14.6	330.5	20.6
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	*2.7	19.0	40.6	27.8	17.2	7.6	114.9	7.2
Certificate III / IV	13.6	47.0	93.2	57.4	40.8	14.3	266.3	16.6
Certificate I / II	*2.8	*3.9	*3.2	*3.1	*3.3	**0.6	16.8	1.1
Certificate not further defined	**0.5	**0.2	**0.2	**0.5	—	**0.2	*1.5	0.1
Year 12	92.7	117.8	98.1	45.8	24.7	6.8	385.9	24.1
Year 11	44.3	20.0	23.6	27.7	9.7	*1.8	127.1	7.9
Year 10 or below	106.8	30.6	58.0	80.2	56.7	17.8	350.1	21.8
Whether had prior knowledge that job was available								
Employed persons not in own business	260.3	283.5	390.8	263.0	159.5	46.1	1 403.2	87.5
Had prior knowledge that job or work was available	165.5	200.2	261.0	175.5	108.9	28.1	939.3	58.6
Did not have prior knowledge that job was available	94.8	83.3	129.8	87.4	50.6	18.0	463.9	28.9
Employed persons in own business	*3.6	19.0	63.8	56.0	39.2	17.9	199.6	12.5
Whether out of work prior to starting job(c)								
Out of work prior to starting job	180.5	141.2	162.1	117.7	78.9	26.4	706.7	44.1
Changed employer to start job	79.8	142.3	228.8	145.3	80.6	19.7	696.5	43.5
Employed persons in own business(d)	*3.6	19.0	63.8	56.0	39.2	17.9	199.6	12.5
Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more								
First job ever held	106.8	24.6	12.4	7.9	*4.0	*1.1	156.9	9.8
Had worked before	157.1	277.9	442.2	311.2	194.6	62.9	1 445.9	90.2
Duration of looking for work before being offered job								
Less than 1 year	172.5	194.3	248.5	149.0	88.9	24.3	877.5	54.7
1 and under 4 weeks	46.6	73.4	96.5	47.8	27.7	8.5	300.6	18.8
4 and under 8 weeks	44.1	38.0	48.1	31.6	14.2	*3.7	179.7	11.2
8 and under 13 weeks	32.9	33.7	45.8	28.5	15.9	*3.3	160.1	10.0
13 and under 26 weeks	24.4	30.1	32.5	20.5	19.1	*4.4	130.9	8.2
26 and under 52 weeks	24.3	19.1	25.7	20.7	11.9	*4.5	106.2	6.6
1 and under 2 years	8.9	7.0	13.2	11.8	9.6	*1.4	51.8	3.2
2 and under 5 years	*2.1	*3.9	7.1	6.0	7.4	*2.5	29.0	1.8
5 years and over	**0.2	—	*3.1	*2.5	*3.4	*1.4	10.6	0.7
Didn't look for work	80.2	97.4	182.8	149.8	89.4	34.4	633.9	39.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

\* 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 Appendix 1 for further details.

(b) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'.

Includes some persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(c) Derivation changed in 2003. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes 67,000 persons who were out of work prior to starting current business.

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						WHETHER EMPLOYED IN OWN BUSINESS		Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Employed not in own business	Employed in own business	
PERSONS ('000)									
<b>Total</b>	<b>263.9</b>	<b>302.5</b>	<b>454.6</b>	<b>319.0</b>	<b>198.7</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>1 403.2</b>	<b>199.6</b>	<b>1 602.8</b>
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	*0.8	*3.2	16.9	21.2	16.0	6.8	44.7	20.2	65.0
Professionals	*4.7	42.2	90.5	56.6	33.7	11.2	202.0	36.8	238.8
Associate professionals	7.6	25.9	55.6	43.3	29.7	13.0	129.3	45.9	175.2
Tradespersons and related workers	39.4	32.7	56.9	34.2	17.8	*4.4	155.2	30.2	185.4
Advanced clerical and service workers	*2.4	7.6	15.8	10.8	*4.7	*1.4	39.7	*3.0	42.7
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	47.8	78.7	95.9	54.1	37.3	6.8	302.6	18.2	320.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	19.0	25.1	45.7	28.8	15.0	6.0	124.2	15.3	139.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	98.5	42.1	35.5	30.2	16.2	5.3	217.3	10.6	227.9
Labourers and related workers	43.9	45.0	41.8	39.7	28.3	9.0	188.3	19.3	207.6
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	105.2	209.0	342.8	208.2	133.5	37.6	893.1	143.2	1 036.3
Part-time worker	158.7	93.5	111.8	110.8	65.2	26.4	510.1	56.4	566.5
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	165.9	102.2	119.1	116.4	69.4	27.5	541.2	59.3	600.5
Would prefer to work more hours	59.8	46.2	49.7	43.5	31.8	10.2	219.9	21.3	241.2
Would not prefer to work more hours	99.7	52.6	65.7	67.7	35.2	16.4	300.9	36.4	337.3
Does not know	6.5	*3.5	*3.7	5.2	*2.3	*0.9	20.4	*1.6	22.0
Usually works full-time hours	98.0	200.3	335.5	202.6	129.3	36.5	862.0	140.3	1 002.3
PERSONS (%)									
<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>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	*0.3	*1.1	3.7	6.6	8.1	10.6	3.2	10.1	4.1
Professionals	*1.8	13.9	19.9	17.7	16.9	17.5	14.4	18.4	14.9
Associate professionals	2.9	8.6	12.2	13.6	15.0	20.4	9.2	23.0	10.9
Tradespersons and related workers	14.9	10.8	12.5	10.7	8.9	*6.9	11.1	15.1	11.6
Advanced clerical and service workers	*0.9	2.5	3.5	3.4	*2.4	*2.2	2.8	*1.5	2.7
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	18.1	26.0	21.1	17.0	18.8	10.7	21.6	9.1	20.0
Intermediate production and transport workers	7.2	8.3	10.1	9.0	7.5	9.4	8.9	7.7	8.7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	37.3	13.9	7.8	9.5	8.1	8.3	15.5	5.3	14.2
Labourers and related workers	16.6	14.9	9.2	12.5	14.2	14.0	13.4	9.7	13.0
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	39.9	69.1	75.4	65.3	67.2	58.7	63.6	71.8	64.7
Part-time worker	60.1	30.9	24.6	34.7	32.8	41.3	36.4	28.2	35.3
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	62.9	33.8	26.2	36.5	34.9	42.9	38.6	29.7	37.5
Would prefer to work more hours	22.6	15.3	10.9	13.6	16.0	16.0	15.7	10.7	15.0
Would not prefer to work more hours	37.8	17.4	14.5	21.2	17.7	25.6	21.4	18.2	21.0
Does not know	2.4	*1.2	*0.8	1.6	*1.2	*1.3	1.5	*0.8	1.4
Usually works full-time hours	37.1	66.2	73.8	63.5	65.1	57.1	61.4	70.3	62.5

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

# EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, All steps taken to attain job(a)

	OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB			CHANGED EMPLOYER TO START JOB			TOTAL(b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	'000								
Employed persons not in own business(c)	281.0	274.2	555.2	232.7	247.1	479.8	513.7	521.3	1 035.0
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	213.2	202.3	415.5	160.1	171.6	331.8	373.3	373.9	747.3
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	137.4	134.2	271.6	89.1	112.0	201.1	226.5	246.2	472.7
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	69.9	71.7	141.6	46.8	48.9	95.7	116.7	120.6	237.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	38.2	31.1	69.4	8.6	7.6	16.2	46.8	38.7	85.5
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	13.0	17.5	30.5	*4.7	5.6	10.3	17.6	23.1	40.7
Contacted friends or relatives	129.3	92.7	222.0	81.0	68.9	149.9	210.3	161.5	371.9
Advertised or tendered for work	12.3	11.6	23.9	7.4	11.0	18.4	19.7	22.6	42.3
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	97.4	72.5	169.9	31.7	34.8	66.5	129.1	107.3	236.4
Registered with other employment agency	59.8	55.1	114.9	33.1	42.1	75.3	93.0	97.2	190.2
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	72.5	52.0	124.5	21.4	21.3	42.7	93.9	73.3	167.2
Checked with other employment agency	44.6	40.4	84.9	19.5	26.4	45.8	64.0	66.8	130.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	171.4	166.3	337.7	114.0	141.0	255.0	285.4	307.3	592.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	106.9	98.5	205.4	65.4	80.8	146.1	172.3	179.2	351.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	68.2	51.2	119.4	16.6	16.5	33.1	84.8	67.7	152.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	26.7	30.0	56.7	9.6	11.9	21.5	36.3	41.9	78.2
Registered with Centrelink as a job seekers	108.1	68.8	176.9	19.2	27.9	47.1	127.3	96.7	224.0
Other	26.1	28.8	54.9	21.4	20.9	42.4	47.5	49.8	97.3
Employed persons in own business(d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	124.1	75.4	199.6
<b>Total(e)</b>	<b>349.1</b>	<b>357.6</b>	<b>706.7</b>	<b>350.3</b>	<b>346.2</b>	<b>696.5</b>	<b>823.5</b>	<b>779.3</b>	<b>1 602.8</b>

	%								
Employed persons not in own business(c)	80.5	76.7	78.6	66.4	71.4	68.9	62.4	66.9	64.6
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	61.1	56.6	58.8	45.7	49.6	47.6	45.3	48.0	46.6
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	39.4	37.5	38.4	25.4	32.4	28.9	27.5	31.6	29.5
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	20.0	20.0	20.0	13.4	14.1	13.7	14.2	15.5	14.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	11.0	8.7	9.8	2.4	2.2	2.3	5.7	5.0	5.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	3.7	4.9	4.3	*1.3	1.6	1.5	2.1	3.0	2.5
Contacted friends or relatives	37.0	25.9	31.4	23.1	19.9	21.5	25.5	20.7	23.2
Advertised or tendered for work	3.5	3.2	3.4	2.1	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.9	2.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	27.9	20.3	24.0	9.0	10.1	9.5	15.7	13.8	14.8
Registered with other employment agency	17.1	15.4	16.3	9.5	12.2	10.8	11.3	12.5	11.9
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	20.8	14.6	17.6	6.1	6.1	6.1	11.4	9.4	10.4
Checked with other employment agency	12.8	11.3	12.0	5.6	7.6	6.6	7.8	8.6	8.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	49.1	46.5	47.8	32.6	40.7	36.6	34.7	39.4	37.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	30.6	27.5	29.1	18.7	23.3	21.0	20.9	23.0	21.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	19.5	14.3	16.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	10.3	8.7	9.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	7.7	8.4	8.0	2.7	3.4	3.1	4.4	5.4	4.9
Registered with Centrelink as a job seekers	31.0	19.2	25.0	5.5	8.1	6.8	15.5	12.4	14.0
Other	7.5	8.1	7.8	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.1
Employed persons in own business(d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.1	9.7	12.5
<b>Total(e)</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>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

.. not applicable

(a) Refers to all steps taken to attain job, therefore persons may appear in more than one category. For employed persons, refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

(b) Includes persons employed in own business.

(c) Includes only the people who took steps to attain job and were not approached by their employer.

(d) Includes 67,000 persons who were out of work prior to starting current business.

(e) Includes 334,400 persons who were approached by employer and 33,900 persons who reported they did not take any steps to attain a job.

EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS,  
Duration of looking for work before being offered job

LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT(a) (b)

	Bachelor Degree or above	Advanced Diploma / Diploma	Certificate III / IV	Certificate I / II	Certificate not further defined	Year 12	Year 11	Year 10 or below	Total(c)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Less than 1 year	83.4	26.5	87.1	*4.7	**0.5	108.1	36.4	95.4	444.0
1 and under 4 weeks	20.6	9.1	36.2	*1.6	—	36.9	15.5	32.9	153.9
4 and under 8 weeks	20.4	5.9	13.2	*1.1	—	22.9	7.9	19.4	91.0
8 and under 13 weeks	15.3	*4.4	13.5	*1.1	—	19.0	*4.1	18.1	75.7
13 and under 26 weeks	16.2	*4.1	13.8	**0.6	**0.5	18.9	5.3	12.5	72.0
26 and under 52 weeks	10.9	*3.0	10.4	**0.2	—	10.4	*3.6	12.5	51.4
1 and under 2 years	*4.3	*2.4	6.4	*1.2	—	5.2	*4.1	6.5	30.1
2 and under 5 years	*0.9	**0.5	*4.5	—	**0.2	*2.0	*1.1	5.4	14.9
5 years and over	**0.8	**0.8	*1.8	—	—	*1.1	—	*1.0	5.5
Didn't look for work	61.9	24.8	80.0	*2.3	**0.2	73.8	17.6	66.3	329.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>179.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>*0.8</b>	<b>190.3</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>174.6</b>	<b>823.5</b>
FEMALES									
Less than 1 year	98.5	33.0	45.9	6.4	**0.7	111.0	37.9	97.6	433.5
1 and under 4 weeks	32.9	15.3	16.3	*2.6	**0.5	36.3	12.4	30.1	146.7
4 and under 8 weeks	20.4	5.2	8.1	*0.8	**0.2	24.4	8.4	20.8	88.8
8 and under 13 weeks	20.3	*4.6	8.0	*1.5	—	24.2	8.4	17.1	84.4
13 and under 26 weeks	13.4	*4.5	8.5	*1.2	—	13.0	*3.3	13.8	59.0
26 and under 52 weeks	11.6	*3.5	*4.9	**0.3	—	13.1	5.5	15.7	54.8
1 and under 2 years	*4.9	*2.1	*3.2	—	—	*3.1	*1.5	6.3	21.7
2 and under 5 years	*3.4	*1.2	*2.3	—	—	*2.6	**0.8	*3.3	14.1
5 years and over	*1.0	—	—	**0.1	—	**0.6	**0.5	*2.7	*5.1
Didn't look for work	71.3	23.6	35.1	*2.1	—	78.5	27.2	65.7	304.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>179.2</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>**0.7</b>	<b>195.7</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>175.6</b>	<b>779.3</b>
PERSONS									
Less than 1 year	182.0	59.6	133.0	11.1	*1.2	219.0	74.4	192.9	877.5
1 and under 4 weeks	53.5	24.4	52.5	*4.2	**0.5	73.2	27.9	63.1	300.6
4 and under 8 weeks	40.8	11.1	21.3	*2.0	**0.2	47.3	16.3	40.2	179.7
8 and under 13 weeks	35.6	9.0	21.5	*2.6	—	43.2	12.4	35.2	160.1
13 and under 26 weeks	29.5	8.6	22.3	*1.8	**0.5	31.9	8.6	26.3	130.9
26 and under 52 weeks	22.5	6.5	15.3	**0.5	—	23.4	9.1	28.2	106.2
1 and under 2 years	9.2	*4.5	9.6	*1.2	—	8.3	5.7	12.8	51.8
2 and under 5 years	*4.4	*1.7	6.8	—	**0.2	*4.6	*1.9	8.7	29.0
5 years and over	*1.8	**0.8	*1.8	**0.1	—	*1.7	**0.5	*3.7	10.6
Didn't look for work	133.3	48.4	115.2	*4.5	**0.2	152.3	44.7	132.0	633.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>330.5</b>	<b>114.9</b>	<b>266.3</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>*1.5</b>	<b>385.9</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>350.1</b>	<b>1 602.8</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 Appendix 1 for further details.

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

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

STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE, Populations

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	106.7	74.3	63.8	23.1	30.9	7.8	2.0	3.9	312.5
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	230.4	213.7	177.6	62.6	99.6	16.2	9.1	14.3	823.5
FEMALES									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	81.2	60.7	54.6	19.0	26.3	6.4	*0.8	3.0	251.9
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	234.0	194.1	176.4	54.6	81.5	15.8	7.6	15.4	779.3
PERSONS									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	187.9	135.0	118.4	42.1	57.2	14.2	2.7	6.9	564.5
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	464.4	407.9	354.0	117.1	181.1	32.0	16.6	29.7	1 602.8

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

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2003 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. 6202.0) 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 <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (About Statistics—Concepts and Classifications).

### 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 the census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

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

**6** The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote 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 around 20% of the population.

### COVERAGE

**7** The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in July 2003. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

### 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 refer to the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient processing procedures.

### SEASONAL FACTORS

**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.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### CLASSIFICATIONS USED

**10** Occupation data are classified according to the *ASCO—Australian Standard of Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0).

**11** Industry data are classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

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

**13** Educational attainment data are classified according to the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

**14** 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.

**15** 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. Therefore the reduction in sample size means that the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to surveys conducted prior to August 1994.

### COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

**16** 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 ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

*Revision of mean and median duration of unemployment*

**17** The mean and median duration of unemployment in table 2 have been revised for July 2002. In the July 2002 publication, the mean and median duration of unemployment were calculated excluding durations of unemployment greater than 20 years. This has been corrected for the 2003 publication.

*Change in derivation for 'whether out of work prior to starting job'*

**18** Persons employed in their own business are treated differently in the data item 'whether out of work prior to starting job' in the 2003 publication. In 2002, 69,400 persons employed in their own business were classified as 'out of work prior to starting job'. In 2003 the figure was 67,000 persons. For 2003, all persons employed in their own business are shown in a separate category. As a result, the proportion of persons who were out of work prior to starting their current job is lower than in 2002 (44% in 2003 compared to 52% in 2002).

*Changes to employment services to the community*

**19** 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.

**20** 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.

**21** 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.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

*Changes to employment services to the community continued*

**22** 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.

**23** 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.

### PREVIOUS SURVEYS

**24** The Job Search Experience Survey was first conducted in July 2002. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed persons conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in previous issues of *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on persons who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6245.0).

### NEXT SURVEY

**25** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2004.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**26** 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

**27** Other publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics*, cat. no. 6105.0
- *Career Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6254.0
- *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0
- *Labour Force Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6206.0
- *Labour Mobility, Australia*, cat. no. 6209.0
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, cat. no. 6102.0
- *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

**28** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or from the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
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
CES	Commonwealth Employment Service
DSS	Department of Social Security
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error
wks	weeks

## APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the *ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED Level of education codes	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

## APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

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### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Job Search Experience 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 bracket numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Cassandra Gligora on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile (02) 6252 7784, or by email to <cassandra.gligora@abs.gov.au>.

*Population 1*

Unemployed persons.

*Population 2*

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>1 State or territory of usual residence</b>	All	<b>6 Relationship in household</b>	All
New South Wales		Family member	
Victoria		Husband, wife or partner	
Queensland		With dependants	
South Australia		Without dependants	
Western Australia		Lone parent	
Tasmania		With dependants	
Northern Territory		Without dependants	
Australian Capital Territory		Dependent student	
		Non-dependent child	
<b>2 Area of usual residence</b>	All	Other family person	
State capital city		Non-family member	
Balance of state/territory		Lone person	
<b>3 Region of usual residence</b>	All	Not living alone	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Relationship not determined	
<b>4 Sex</b>	All	<b>7A Country of birth and period of arrival</b>	All
Males		Born in Australia	
Females		Born overseas	
<b>5 Marital status</b>	All	Arrived before 1971	
Married		Arrived 1971–1980	
Not married		Arrived 1981–1990	
		Arrived 1991–2000	
		Arrived 2001 to survey date	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>7B</b>	All	<b>10</b>	All
<b>Country of birth (1)</b> Born in Australia Born overseas Born in main English-speaking countries Born in other than main English speaking countries		<b>Level of highest non-school qualification</b> With non-school qualifications Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma / Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate not further defined Level not determined Without non-school qualifications	
<b>7C</b>	All	<b>11</b>	All
<b>Country of birth (2)</b> Born in Australia Born overseas Oceania and Antarctica North-West Europe Southern and Eastern Europe North Africa and the Middle East South-East Asia North-East Asia Southern and Central Asia Americas Sub-Saharan Africa		<b>Highest year of school completed</b> Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 or below Never attended school	
<b>8</b>	All	<b>12</b>	All
<b>Age group (years)</b> 15–19 20–24 25–34 35–44 45–54 55 and over Note: Age collected in single years.		<b>Highest non-school qualification of those born overseas and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia</b> Born in Australia Born overseas With non-school qualifications Qualification obtained overseas Qualification obtained in Australia Without non-school qualifications	
<b>9</b>	All	<b>13A</b>	All
<b>Level of highest educational attainment</b> Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma / Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate not further defined Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 and below Level not determined No educational attainment		<b>Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months</b> None One Two Three or more	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>13B</b>	All	<b>15</b>	1
<b>Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months</b> None One Two Three or more		<b>Whether looking for full-time or part-time work</b> Looking for full-time work Looking for part-time work	
<b>14</b>	All	<b>16</b>	1
<b>All steps taken to find work/attain job</b> Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work Registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with other employment agency Checked with a Job Network employment agency Checked with other employment agency Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker Other Did not take steps to find work/attain job Employed persons in own business(a) Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.		<b>Number of hours of work sought</b> 1 to 15 hours 16 to 29 hours 30 to 34 hours 35 to 39 hours 40 hours 41 to 44 hours 45 to 48 hours 49 hours or more Did not know Note: Collected in single hours.	
		<b>17</b>	1
		<b>Duration of current period of unemployment</b> Under 1 year 1 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 39 weeks 39 and under 52 weeks 1 year and over 1 and under 2 years 2 years and over	
		<b>18</b>	1
		<b>Whether registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker</b> Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker Not registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	

(a) Persons employed in own business were not asked questions about steps taken to find work.

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>19A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19B</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>All steps taken to find work</b>		<b>Active steps taken to find work</b>	
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work		Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper		Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet		Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens		Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards		Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	
Contacted friends or relatives		Contacted friends or relatives	
Advertised or tendered for work		Advertised or tendered for work	
Registered with a Job Network employment agency		Registered with a Job Network employment agency	
Registered with other employment agency		Registered with other employment agency	
Checked with a Job Network employment agency		Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
Checked with other employment agency		Took no active steps	
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper		Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet			
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens			
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards			
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker			
Other			
Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.			



## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>19C</b> <b>Active steps taken to find work while registered with a Job Network employment agency</b> Registered with a Job Network employment agency Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work Took no other active steps  Not registered with a Job Network employment agency Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1	<b>21A</b> <b>All difficulties in finding work</b> Too many applicants for available jobs Lacked necessary skills or 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 No feedback from employers  Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1
<b>19D</b> <b>Whether registered with a Job Network employment agency</b> Registered with a Job Network employment agency Not registered with a Job Network employment agency	1	<b>21B</b> <b>Main difficulty in finding work</b> Too many applicants for available jobs Lacked necessary skills or 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 No feedback from employers	1
<b>20</b> <b>Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment</b> None One Two Three or more	1		

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>22</b>	1	<b>26</b>	1
<b>Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months</b> One Two Three or more		<b>Occupation of last job</b> Last job less than 2 years ago Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Unpaid voluntary worker	
<b>23</b>	1		
<b>Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months</b> 1 and under 2 weeks 2 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 39 weeks 39 and under 52 weeks 52 weeks			
<b>24</b>	1		
<b>Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more</b> Has previously worked Last job less than 2 years ago Last job 2 years or more ago Has never worked		Last job 2 or more years ago Has never worked	
<b>25</b>	1		
<b>Status in employment of last job</b> Last job less than 2 years ago Employee Employer Own account worker Contributing family worker Unpaid voluntary worker  Last job 2 or more years ago Has never worked			

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>27</b>	1	<b>30</b>	1
<b>Industry of last job</b>		<b>Reason for ceasing last job</b>	
Last job less than 2 years ago		Last job less than 2 years ago	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		Job loser	
Mining		Laid off or retrenched	
Manufacturing		Job was temporary or seasonal	
Electricity, gas and water supply		Own ill health or disability	
Construction		Own business closed down for economic reasons	
Wholesale trade		Job leaver	
Retail trade		Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants		Holiday job/returned to studies	
Transport and storage		Other	
Communication services		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Finance and insurance		Last job 2 or more years ago	
Property and business services		Has never worked	
Government administration and defence		<b>31</b>	1
Education		<b>Whether has job to go to lasting two weeks or more</b>	
Health and community services		Has a job to go to	
Cultural and recreational services		Does not have a job to go to	
Personal and other services		<b>32</b>	2
Unpaid voluntary worker		<b>Whether out of work prior to starting job</b>	
Last job 2 or more years ago		Out of work prior to starting job	
Has never worked		Changed employer to start job	
<b>28</b>	1	Employed in own business	
<b>Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job</b>		<b>33</b>	2
Worked full-time		<b>Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more</b>	
Worked part-time		First job ever held	
Has never worked		Had worked before	
<b>29</b>	1	<b>34</b>	2
<b>Duration of last job</b>		<b>Whether employed in own business</b>	
Last job less than 2 years ago		Employed not in own business	
Less than 1 year		Employed in own business	
2 and under 4 weeks			
4 and under 8 weeks			
8 and under 26 weeks			
26 and under 52 weeks			
1 and under 2 years			
2 and under 5 years			
5 years and over			
Unpaid voluntary worker			
Last job 2 or more years ago			
Has never worked			

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>All steps taken to attain job</b></p> <p>Employed persons not in own business</p> <p>Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work</p> <p>Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper</p> <p>Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet</p> <p>Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens</p> <p>Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards</p> <p>Contacted friends or relatives</p> <p>Advertised or tendered for work</p> <p>Registered with a Job Network employment agency</p> <p>Registered with other employment agency</p> <p>Checked with a Job Network employment agency</p> <p>Checked with other employment agency</p> <p>Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper</p> <p>Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet</p> <p>Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens</p> <p>Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards</p> <p>Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Did not take steps to attain job</p> <p>Employed persons in own business(a)</p>		<p><b>Whether jobseeker approached employer</b></p> <p>Employed persons not in own business</p> <p>Jobseeker approached employer</p> <p>Employer approached jobseeker</p> <p>Employed persons in own business</p> <p><b>37</b></p> <p><b>Whether had prior knowledge that job was available</b></p> <p>Employed persons not in own business</p> <p>Had prior knowledge that job or work was available—through:</p> <p>Job Network</p> <p>employment agency</p> <p>Other employment agency</p> <p>School programs</p> <p>Careers service at educational institution</p> <p>Advertisements in a newspaper</p> <p>Advertisements on the Internet</p> <p>Advertisements on Centrelink touchscreens</p> <p>Advertisements on workplace noticeboards</p> <p>Friends, relatives or company contacts</p> <p>Other sources</p> <p>Did not have prior knowledge that job was available</p> <p>Employed persons in own business</p>	

(a) Persons employed in own business were not asked questions about steps taken to find work.

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

*continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>38</b>		<b>41</b>	
<b>Role of Job Network in job attainment</b>	2	<b>Occupation of current job</b>	2
Employed persons not in own business		Managers and administrators	
Job Network helped jobseeker to obtain job in some way		Professionals	
Job Network did not help jobseeker to obtain job in any way		Associate professionals	
Did not know		Tradespersons and related workers	
Did not use Job Network in job attainment		Advanced clerical and service workers	
Employed persons in own business		Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	
		Intermediate production and transport workers	
		Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	
		Labourers and related workers	
<b>39</b>		<b>42</b>	
<b>Month started job</b>	2	<b>Full-time or part-time status of employment</b>	2
July 2002		Full-time worker	
August 2002		Part-time worker	
September 2002			
October 2002		<b>43</b>	
November 2002		<b>Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works</b>	2
December 2002		Usually works part-time hours	
January 2003		Would prefer to work more hours	
February 2003		Would not prefer to work more hours	
March 2003		Does not know	
April 2003		Usually works full-time hours	
May 2003			
June 2003			
July 2003			
<b>40</b>			
<b>Duration of looking for work before being offered job</b>	2		
Less than 1 year			
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 and under 5 years			
5 years and over			
Didn't look for work			
Note: Available in single weeks/years.			

## APPENDIX 3 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 surveys. Data are available from these surveys in publication form, by subscription or on request.

### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Irregular	November 2002
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia	6243.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1993
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2002
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2003
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2002
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2001
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2003
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2003
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia	6235.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(a)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 1999
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2002
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	June 2000
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2002
Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia	6264.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia	6267.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Irregular	November 1997
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Irregular	July 2001
Superannuation, Australia	6319.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2002
Working Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2000
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	September 2000

(a) Latest data available June 2003, from the ABS web site  
cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 annual, or on request.

(b) Latest data available on request July 2001.

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.

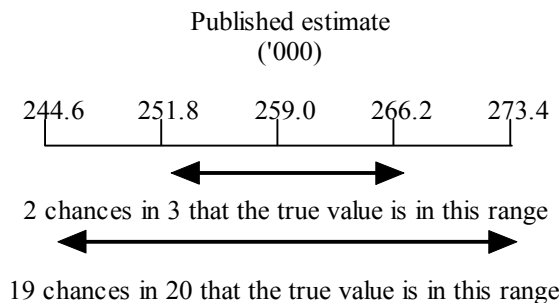
**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to 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 4 shows the estimated number of unemployed males in Australia who were looking for full-time work was 259,000. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 6,550 and 7,650 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,550 + \left( \left( \frac{259,000 - 200,000}{300,000 - 200,000} \right) \times (7,650 - 6,550) \right) \\
 &= 7,200 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**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 251,800 to 266,200 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 244,600 to 273,400. 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: 1.5
- median duration of unemployment: 1.7

**7** The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed males in Australia was 20 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed males was estimated as 312,500. The SE of 312,500 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,800. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or  $7,800/312,500 = 2.5\%$ .

**8** The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is calculated by multiplying this number (2.5%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 1.7):  $2.5 \times 1.7 = 4.3\%$ . The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is therefore 4.3% of 20, i.e. almost one 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 weeks to 21 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 18 weeks to 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 259,000 unemployed males who were looking for full-time work, 72,100 or 27.8% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 72,100 may be calculated by interpolation as 4,400. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $4,400/72,100 = 6.1\%$ . The SE for 259,000 was calculated previously as 7,200, which converted to an RSE is  $7,200/259,000 = 2.8\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is  $RSE = \sqrt{(6.1)^2 - (2.8)^2} = 5.4\%$

**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 ( $= (27.8/100) \times 5.4$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed males looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 26.3% and 29.3% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 24.8% to 30.8%.



## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### 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.

### T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	AUST. .....									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	100	110	190	170	160	110	120	140	80	80.0
200	170	180	270	220	230	150	150	170	140	70.0
300	230	240	330	270	280	180	180	190	200	66.7
500	340	340	420	330	350	220	220	230	290	58.0
700	430	420	490	380	410	250	260	250	370	52.9
1,000	550	530	580	440	480	290	300	280	470	47.0
1,500	720	670	690	520	570	340	350	330	610	40.7
2,000	860	790	790	590	650	380	390	360	730	36.5
2,500	1 000	900	850	650	700	400	400	400	850	34.0
3,000	1 100	1 000	950	700	750	450	450	400	950	31.7
3,500	1 200	1 050	1 000	750	800	500	500	450	1 050	30.0
4,000	1 300	1 150	1 100	800	850	500	500	450	1 100	27.5
5,000	1 450	1 250	1 200	850	950	550	550	500	1 250	25.0
7,000	1 700	1 500	1 400	1 000	1 100	650	650	600	1 550	22.1
10,000	2 050	1 750	1 600	1 150	1 250	700	700	650	1 850	18.5
15,000	2 450	2 100	1 900	1 350	1 500	850	850	800	2 250	15.0
20,000	2 800	2 350	2 200	1 500	1 650	950	950	900	2 600	13.0
30,000	3 300	2 750	2 600	1 800	1 950	1 100	1 100	1 050	3 150	10.5
40,000	3 650	3 100	2 900	2 000	2 200	1 250	1 200	1 150	3 550	8.9
50,000	3 950	3 300	3 200	2 200	2 350	1 350	1 300	1 300	3 900	7.8
100,000	4 950	4 200	4 250	2 900	3 050	1 750	1 650	1 750	5 100	5.1
150,000	5 600	4 850	5 050	3 400	3 500	2 000	1 900	2 100	5 900	3.9
200,000	6 150	5 450	5 650	3 800	3 900	2 250	..	2 400	6 550	3.3
300,000	7 200	6 450	6 650	4 450	4 450	2 600	..	2 850	7 650	2.6
500,000	8 900	8 100	8 150	5 450	5 300	3 100	..	..	9 300	1.9
1,000,000	12 450	11 350	10 700	7 150	6 600	..	..	..	12 150	1.2
2,000,000	18 300	16 450	13 950	9 350	8 150	..	..	..	16 050	0.8
5,000,000	32 850	28 350	19 650	..	..	..	..	..	24 600	0.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43 150	0.4

.. not applicable

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### 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	14 720	11 100	9 440	5 280	6 320	2 510	2 560	2 280	12 290
Median duration of unemployment	18 370	13 850	11 780	6 520	7 810	3 090	3 140	2 780	15 750
All other estimates	6 790	5 190	4 580	2 650	3 150	1 270	1 320	1 220	5 150
.....									
50% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	3 670	2 880	2 730	1 620	1 910	780	820	790	2 570
Median duration of unemployment	4 830	3 740	3 420	2 010	2 370	970	1 010	950	3 510
All other estimates	1 330	1 130	1 300	810	920	390	410	430	810
.....									

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

## GLOSSARY

<b>Active steps taken to find work</b>	<p>Active steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work</li><li>■ answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper</li><li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet</li><li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens</li><li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards</li><li>■ contacted friends or relatives</li><li>■ advertised or tendered for work</li><li>■ registered with a Job Network employment agency</li><li>■ registered with other employment agency</li><li>■ registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker.</li></ul>
<b>All difficulties in finding work</b>	<p>All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed persons during the current period of unemployment.</p>
<b>All steps taken to find work</b>	<p>All steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.</p>
<b>All steps taken to attain work</b>	<p>All steps taken to attain a job by persons who started their current job in the last 12 months, but not necessarily only the steps taken to attain their current job.</p>
<b>Bachelor Degree or above</b>	<p>Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level and Bachelor Degree Level.</p>
<b>Centrelink</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Certificate not further defined</b>	<p>Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), Level of Education Classification.</p>
<b>Contributing family workers</b>	<p>A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.</p>
<b>Duration of current period of unemployment</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Employed</b>	<p>Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or</li><li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li><li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li><li>■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or</li><li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li><li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li><li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li></ul></li><li>■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li></ul>
<b>Employee</b>	<p>A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

**Employed in own business** Persons who worked in their own business, with or without employees, whether the business is incorporated or not. Those who work in their own incorporated enterprise are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Those who work in their own unincorporated enterprise are classified under 'status in employment' as employers if their business has employees or own account workers if they do not. In this survey, these people are not asked about their job search experience.

**Employed not in own business** Employees excluding persons working in their own incorporated business; and contributing family workers.

**Family** Two or more related persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will therefore contain more than one family. Further details on the determination of family relationships are given in *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0).

**Full-time workers** Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

**Incorporated enterprise** An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

**Industry** All occurrences of industry in this publication refer to Division, as classified by the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

**Job leavers** 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.

**Job losers** 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.

**Job Network employment agency** The 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.

**Level of highest educational attainment** Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is defined as the highest educational attainment a person has achieved, and is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.

**Level of highest non-school qualification** Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Master Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level, Bachelor Degree Level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<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 in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.
<b>Main English-speaking countries</b>	Main English-speaking countries are the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
<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>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>Occupation</b>	All occurrences of occupation in this publication relate to Major Group as defined by the ASCO— <i>Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition</i> , (cat. no. 1220.0).
<b>Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months</b>	The number of times the person reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.
<b>Part-time workers</b>	Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and who did so during the reference week in their current job.
<b>Prefers to work more hours</b>	Whether an employed person who usually works part-time hours would prefer to work more hours.
<b>Status in employment</b>	Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.
<b>Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months</b>	The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week. Excludes the time a person spent looking for work while on holiday from a job and any weeks 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>Whether had prior knowledge that job was available</b>	Whether an employed person knew that a job was available with their current employer before making an approach to the employer for a job.
<b>Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more</b>	Whether the job currently held by an employed person is the first job they have ever held lasting two weeks or more.

**GLOSSARY** *continued*

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<b>Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more</b>	Whether an unemployed person has previously held a job lasting two weeks or more.
<b>Whether out of work prior to starting job</b>	Whether an employed person was unemployed prior to starting the job they currently held.



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