

## THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1980 (PRELIMINARY)

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Godfrey Laurie on Canberra 526565 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

*NOTE.* The survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 16 to 19. Standard errors are shown in Table 1 and on page 4.

In February 1980 the estimated number of persons in the civilian labour force was 6,618,600 (4,190,600 males and 2,428,000 females) comprising 6,174,100 employed persons (3,960,100 males and 2,213,900 females) and 444,500 unemployed persons (230,400 males and 214,100 females).

An estimated 194,200 teenagers left school in November or December 1979. Of these 152,400 were in the labour force in February, 104,600 being employed and 47,800 being unemployed.

In February 1980 an estimated 52,400 part-time workers were actively looking for full-time work.

Information on monthly gross changes (flows) in employment <sup>states</sup> is shown for the first time in Table 9. In future, tables on this topic will appear in issues of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

This publication contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the monthly population survey. More detailed estimates will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). Preliminary unemployment estimates have been issued in advance of this publication in *Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0).

#### The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning

on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. Because of operational problems arising from the Christmas and New Year holidays the December surveys commence a week earlier than usual (with most interviews being conducted during the second week) and the January surveys commence a week later than usual. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

#### Scope

3. The survey includes all persons aged fifteen years and over except: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; overseas visitors holidaying in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

#### Definitions

4. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his *actual activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during the survey week. The following definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions recommended by the ILO.

5. *Employed persons* comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers); or
- (c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or

- (d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

6. *Unemployed persons* are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and

- (a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and :

- (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or

- (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;

or (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

7. *Unemployed persons looking for first job* are those who had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job.

8. The *unemployment rate* for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

9. *Duration of unemployment* is the period from the time the person began looking for work or was laid off to the end of the survey week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. *Average (mean) duration* is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group. *Median duration* is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other persons whose duration is below it. Medians are calculated from group data, linear interpolation being used within the group which contains the median.

10. The *labour force* comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined in paragraphs 5 and 6.

11. The *labour force participation rate* for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

12. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more

during the survey week. *Part-time workers* are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

13. *Persons not in the labour force* are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed'.

#### Revision of series

14. The survey estimates for February 1978 and subsequent months are based on population estimates derived from the 1976 Population Census, adjusted for under-enumeration, and were obtained by using a new sample and revised questionnaire. Estimates from August 1966, revised to the new basis, were published in the February 1979 issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

#### Comparability of series

15. When comparing labour force estimates for February 1978 and subsequent months with those for earlier periods it should be noted that with the introduction of monthly surveys the interviews are now conducted during a two-week period, whereas formerly the period was four weeks. The change of timing may affect the level of the figures for any month, but particularly for months during which the employment status of the population may be changing rapidly.

#### Reliability of the estimates

16. Since the survey estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance from the figures 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*. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

17. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are shown in Table 1. Standard errors of other estimates and other *monthly* movements should be determined by using Tables A and B on page 4. Further information on standard errors is contained in the technical note in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

18. *The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are subject to such high relative standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Estimates below the levels shown in Table A and percentages based on such estimates have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

19. Examples of the calculation and use of standard errors are given below :

- (a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of 215,200 unemployed males looking for full-time work in February 1980 has a standard error of about 5,300. 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 be within the range 209,900 to 220,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will be within the range 204,600 to 225,800.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from January 1980 to February 1980 is a decrease of 11,700. Table B relates the standard error of the monthly movement to the larger of the two estimates from which the movement is derived. In this case the January 1980 estimate (226,900) is the larger. From Table B it will be seen that the standard error of the monthly movement is about 4,500. Therefore there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the surveys the movement would have been within the range -16,200 to -7,200 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range -20,700 to -2,700.

#### Seasonal adjustment

20. Seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of the labour force are shown in Table 1. Calculation of seasonally adjusted monthly figures will not be possible until results of monthly surveys for two or three years are available. The move to the higher level of unemployment since 1974 appears to have been accompanied by shifts in the pattern of seasonal

variation. For this reason the publication of seasonally adjusted quarterly figures of unemployment was suspended as from November 1977. The matter will be kept under review.

#### Related publications

21. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request :

*Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia, 1978* (6204.0)

*Job Vacancies* (6231.0)

*Overtime, Australia* (6330.0)

*Information Paper : Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey* (6232.0)

22. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 18 of explanatory notes.
- n.a. not available.
- .. not applicable.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

23. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**R. J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (a)

Month	Unemployed										Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Employed	Looking for full-time work				Labour force			Not in labour force				
		Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Original	Seasonally adjusted						
								- '000 -					
MALES													
1979													
January	3,869.2	42.4	235.2	14.8	250.0	4,119.3	n.a.	1,098.9	5,218.2	6.1	78.9		
February	3,893.6	33.0	229.5	12.3	241.8	4,135.4	4,101.4	1,091.9	5,227.3	5.8	79.1		
March	3,904.2	24.1	206.6	16.5	223.1	4,127.4	n.a.	1,111.3	5,238.6	5.4	78.8		
April	3,907.4	25.6	202.1	15.1	217.2	4,124.6	n.a.	1,120.6	5,245.2	5.3	78.6		
May	3,908.3	22.0	197.7	13.0	210.6	4,118.9	4,111.4	1,132.4	5,251.3	5.1	78.4		
June	3,909.6	19.7	192.8	13.2	206.0	4,115.6	n.a.	1,139.8	5,255.4	5.0	78.3		
July	3,910.8	18.1	188.2	13.4	201.6	4,112.4	n.a.	1,149.7	5,262.1	4.9	78.2		
August	3,904.5	20.0	182.8	13.3	196.1	4,100.7	4,121.1	1,167.9	5,268.6	4.8	77.8		
September	3,939.3	21.2	184.7	16.9	201.6	4,140.9	n.a.	1,134.7	5,275.7	4.9	78.5		
October	3,930.9	23.2	178.1	17.8	195.9	4,126.8	n.a.	1,157.2	5,284.1	4.7	78.1		
November	3,931.2	20.0	171.5	12.4	183.8	4,115.0	4,136.6	1,177.6	5,292.6	4.5	77.8		
December	3,992.3	38.5	202.2	22.0	224.2	4,216.4	n.a.	1,087.4	5,303.8	5.3	79.5		
1980													
January	3,937.6	41.2	226.9	15.4	242.3	4,179.9	n.a.	1,132.1	5,312.0	5.8	78.7		
February	3,960.1	32.5	215.2	15.3	230.4	4,190.6	4,155.8	1,129.9	5,320.5	5.5	78.8		
Standard error of -													
February estimates	13.9	2.4	5.3	1.7	5.4	14.1	..	9.4	..	0.1	0.3		
January to February movement	9.7	2.6	4.5	1.8	4.6	9.8	..	7.1	..	0.1	0.2		
MARRIED WOMEN													
1979													
January	1,281.6	*	38.4	25.4	63.8	1,345.4	n.a.	2,101.9	3,447.4	4.7	39.0		
February	1,346.1	*	45.5	40.3	85.7	1,431.8	1,435.4	2,024.9	3,456.7	6.0	41.4		
March	1,364.7	*	48.2	36.6	84.8	1,449.5	n.a.	2,002.7	3,452.1	5.8	42.0		
April	1,358.5	*	45.4	38.1	83.5	1,442.0	n.a.	2,007.9	3,449.9	5.8	41.8		
May	1,356.3	*	40.0	32.2	72.2	1,428.5	1,425.0	2,035.9	3,464.4	5.1	41.2		
June	1,362.6	*	38.3	34.7	73.0	1,435.6	n.a.	2,009.4	3,445.0	5.1	41.7		
July	1,368.2	*	41.4	33.6	75.0	1,443.2	n.a.	2,004.3	3,447.5	5.2	41.9		
August	1,347.2	*	41.7	31.9	73.6	1,420.8	1,421.6	2,020.8	3,441.6	5.2	41.3		
September	1,374.8	*	46.8	37.4	84.3	1,459.1	n.a.	1,990.2	3,449.3	5.8	42.3		
October	1,392.7	*	45.1	39.0	84.1	1,476.8	n.a.	1,973.1	3,450.0	5.7	42.8		
November	1,408.5	*	41.8	34.7	76.5	1,485.0	1,484.6	1,980.7	3,465.7	5.1	42.8		
December	1,392.6	*	36.8	31.1	67.9	1,460.5	n.a.	2,011.1	3,471.5	4.6	42.1		
1980													
January	1,318.2	*	38.1	25.3	63.4	1,381.6	n.a.	2,102.7	3,484.3	4.6	39.7		
February	1,370.7	*	48.2	36.4	84.6	1,455.3	1,459.2	2,006.5	3,461.9	5.8	42.0		
Standard error of -													
February estimates	10.0	..	2.9	2.6	3.7	10.2	..	11.3	..	0.3	0.3		
January to February movement	7.5	..	2.7	2.4	3.3	7.6	..	8.3	..	0.2	0.2		

For footnote see page 6.

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (a) - continued

Month	Unemployed						Labour force		Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Employed	Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work	Total	Labour force					
		Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Not in labour force			
ALL FEMALES											
1979											
January	2,070.7	45.3	155.9	40.2	196.1	2,266.8	n.a.	3,081.1	5,347.9	8.7	42.4
February	2,125.4	36.1	152.2	59.9	212.1	2,337.5	2,326.4	3,019.6	5,357.1	9.1	43.6
March	2,157.4	30.8	146.9	54.9	201.8	2,359.2	n.a.	3,006.5	5,365.7	8.6	44.0
April	2,149.0	30.0	144.2	55.3	199.5	2,348.5	n.a.	3,027.2	5,375.7	8.5	43.7
May	2,135.0	28.9	137.5	48.5	186.0	2,321.0	2,315.3	3,061.3	5,382.3	8.0	43.1
June	2,148.0	27.2	130.7	52.6	183.3	2,331.3	n.a.	3,055.4	5,386.7	7.9	43.3
July	2,156.8	24.3	131.3	49.7	181.0	2,337.7	n.a.	3,056.2	5,394.0	7.7	43.3
August	2,136.9	25.2	130.1	47.5	177.7	2,314.6	2,323.7	3,086.4	5,401.0	7.7	42.9
September	2,178.8	27.7	138.3	56.6	194.9	2,373.7	n.a.	3,035.2	5,408.9	8.2	43.9
October	2,194.4	25.1	133.5	58.4	191.8	2,386.2	n.a.	3,031.3	5,417.5	8.0	44.0
November	2,219.4	22.7	125.1	51.7	176.8	2,396.2	2,404.9	3,030.2	5,426.4	7.4	44.2
December	2,227.7	45.6	151.6	51.1	202.7	2,430.4	n.a.	3,007.5	5,437.9	8.3	44.7
1980											
January	2,141.5	48.4	154.1	41.4	195.5	2,337.0	n.a.	3,109.3	5,446.3	8.4	42.9
February	2,213.9	40.0	160.5	53.5	214.1	2,428.0	2,416.8	3,026.9	5,454.9	8.8	44.5
Standard error of -											
February estimates	11.7	2.7	4.7	3.0	5.3	12.0	..	12.8	..	0.2	0.2
January to February movement	8.4	2.7	4.0	2.8	4.4	8.6	..	9.2	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS											
1979											
January	5,939.9	87.7	391.1	55.0	446.2	6,386.1	n.a.	4,180.0	10,566.1	7.0	60.4
February	6,018.9	69.1	381.7	72.3	453.9	6,472.9	6,427.9	4,111.5	10,584.4	7.0	61.2
March	6,061.6	54.9	353.5	71.4	425.0	6,486.6	n.a.	4,117.7	10,604.3	6.6	61.2
April	6,056.4	55.6	346.4	70.4	416.8	6,473.1	n.a.	4,147.8	10,621.0	6.4	60.9
May	6,043.3	51.0	335.1	61.4	396.6	6,439.9	6,426.9	4,193.6	10,633.5	6.2	60.6
June	6,057.6	46.9	323.6	65.8	389.3	6,446.9	n.a.	4,195.2	10,642.1	6.0	60.6
July	6,067.6	42.4	319.5	63.0	382.5	6,450.1	n.a.	4,205.9	10,656.1	5.9	60.5
August	6,041.5	45.2	312.9	60.8	373.8	6,415.3	6,444.5	4,254.3	10,669.6	5.8	60.1
September	6,118.1	48.8	323.0	73.5	396.5	6,514.6	n.a.	4,170.0	10,684.6	6.1	61.0
October	6,125.2	48.3	311.6	76.2	387.8	6,513.0	n.a.	4,188.5	10,701.5	6.0	60.9
November	6,150.6	42.7	296.5	64.1	360.6	6,511.2	6,541.4	4,207.8	10,719.0	5.5	60.7
December	6,219.9	84.0	353.7	73.1	426.9	6,646.8	n.a.	4,094.9	10,741.7	6.4	61.9
1980											
January	6,079.1	89.7	380.9	56.9	437.8	6,516.9	n.a.	4,241.4	10,758.3	6.7	60.6
February	6,174.1	72.5	375.7	68.8	444.5	6,618.6	6,572.5	4,156.8	10,775.4	6.7	61.4
Standard error of -											
February estimates	15.7	3.4	6.5	3.4	6.9	16.0	..	14.1	..	0.1	0.1
January to February movement	10.7	3.3	5.2	3.0	5.5	10.9	..	9.9	..	0.1	0.1

(a) Seasonally adjusted figures are available only at quarterly intervals. See paragraph 20. For information on standard errors see paragraphs 16 to 19 of the explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, FEBRUARY 1980

State or Territory	Employed	Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
- '000 -									
- per cent -									
MALES									
N.S.W.	1,395.1	73.3	*	77.1	1,472.2	404.4	1,876.7	5.2	78.4
Vic.	1,065.0	46.9	5.7	52.7	1,117.6	295.8	1,413.4	4.7	79.1
Qld	588.1	34.8	*	36.7	624.8	188.3	813.1	5.9	76.8
S.A.	354.0	24.6	*	26.2	380.2	102.0	482.2	6.9	78.8
W.A.	349.2	23.8	*	25.1	374.2	90.6	464.8	6.7	80.5
Tas.	113.6	7.0	*	7.2	120.8	31.9	152.7	5.9	79.1
N.T.	33.9	*	*	*	35.2	7.3	42.4	*	82.9
A.C.T.	61.3	3.3	*	4.2	65.5	9.7	75.2	6.4	87.1
<i>Australia</i>	<i>3,960.1</i>	<i>215.2</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>230.4</i>	<i>4,190.6</i>	<i>1,129.9</i>	<i>5,320.5</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>78.8</i>
FEMALES									
N.S.W.	775.6	51.6	15.9	67.5	843.1	1,098.6	1,941.7	8.0	43.4
Vic.	621.3	42.1	14.2	56.3	677.6	784.4	1,462.0	8.3	46.3
Qld	311.8	26.1	9.2	35.3	347.1	481.6	828.7	10.2	41.9
S.A.	198.4	17.1	5.6	22.7	221.1	277.8	498.9	10.3	44.3
W.A.	190.2	15.1	6.1	21.2	211.4	244.4	455.8	10.0	46.4
Tas.	60.1	5.3	*	6.4	66.5	89.0	155.5	9.6	42.8
N.T.	17.3	*	*	*	17.9	15.7	33.6	*	53.3
A.C.T.	39.2	2.6	*	4.1	43.3	35.4	78.6	9.5	55.0
<i>Australia</i>	<i>2,213.9</i>	<i>160.5</i>	<i>53.5</i>	<i>214.1</i>	<i>2,428.0</i>	<i>3,026.9</i>	<i>5,454.9</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>44.5</i>
PERSONS									
N.S.W.	2,170.7	125.0	19.6	144.6	2,315.3	1,503.1	3,818.4	6.2	60.6
Vic.	1,686.2	89.0	20.0	109.0	1,795.2	1,080.2	2,875.4	6.1	62.4
Qld	900.0	61.0	11.0	72.0	971.9	669.9	1,641.8	7.4	59.2
S.A.	552.4	41.8	7.1	48.9	601.3	379.7	981.1	8.1	61.3
W.A.	539.4	38.9	7.3	46.2	585.6	335.0	920.6	7.9	63.6
Tas.	173.8	12.3	*	13.6	187.3	120.9	308.2	7.2	60.8
N.T.	51.1	*	*	*	53.1	22.9	76.0	*	69.8
A.C.T.	100.4	5.9	2.5	8.3	108.7	45.1	153.8	7.7	70.7
<i>Australia</i>	<i>6,174.1</i>	<i>375.7</i>	<i>68.8</i>	<i>444.5</i>	<i>6,618.6</i>	<i>4,156.8</i>	<i>10,775.4</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>61.4</i>

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1980  
(000)

Age group (years)	Employed			Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total			
15-19	544.7	129.5	674.2	136.1	18.4	154.4	828.7	453.5	1,282.1
Left school - 1979 to survey date	108.7	28.4	137.1	54.4	*	58.7	195.8	46.3	242.1
November or December 1979	79.7	24.9	104.6	43.8	*	47.8	152.4	41.8	194.2
20-24	819.1	88.4	907.6	86.7	9.1	95.8	1,003.4	218.6	1,222.0
25 and over	3,872.5	719.8	4,592.2	152.9	41.3	194.2	4,786.5	3,484.8	8,271.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,236.3</b>	<b>937.7</b>	<b>6,174.1</b>	<b>375.7</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>444.5</b>	<b>6,618.6</b>	<b>4,156.8</b>	<b>10,775.4</b>

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS, FEBRUARY 1980

	Males	Married women	Other females (a)	All females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)					
All employed persons	3,960.1	1,370.7	843.2	2,213.9	6,174.1
Full-time workers	3,761.8	789.1	685.4	1,474.5	5,236.3
Part-time workers	198.3	581.6	157.8	739.4	937.7
Preferred not to work more hours	154.5	523.3	117.0	640.3	794.8
Preferred to work more hours	43.8	58.3	40.8	99.1	142.9
Were actively looking for full-time work	21.2	9.6	21.6	31.2	52.4
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (b)					
All employed persons	39.9	28.8	32.5	30.2	36.4
Full-time workers	41.2	38.4	36.7	37.7	40.2
Part-time workers	16.7	15.6	14.4	15.4	15.6

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced. (b) Averages have been calculated by using actual hours worked during the survey week, not hours paid for. All employed persons, including those who did not work during the survey week, have been included in the calculations. When recording hours worked, fractions of an hour are disregarded. This procedure results in a slight lowering of the average hours figures. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, accidents and industrial disputes; and work stoppages due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc.

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, FEBRUARY 1980

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	215.2	160.5	375.7	5.4	9.8	6.7
Married	75.3	48.2	123.5	2.7	5.8	3.4
Not married (a)	139.9	112.4	252.2	11.4	14.1	12.4
Aged 15-19 years	65.1	71.0	136.1	17.3	23.2	20.0
Attending school	*	*	7.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24 years	49.6	37.1	86.7	9.2	10.1	9.6
Aged 25 years and over	100.4	52.5	152.9	3.3	5.4	3.8
Born in Australia	153.6	123.1	276.7	5.3	10.1	6.7
Born outside Australia	61.6	37.4	99.0	5.7	9.0	6.6
Arrived before 1971	41.4	21.5	62.9	5.0	7.3	5.6
1971 to 1978	14.2	11.4	25.7	6.6	11.2	8.0
1979 to survey date	5.9	4.5	10.4	18.5	26.3	21.3
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	15.3	53.5	68.8	7.1	6.8	6.8
Aged 15-19 years	7.8	10.6	18.4	11.9	12.9	12.4
Attending school	4.6	4.9	9.5	12.3	13.2	12.8
Aged 20-24 years	*	6.6	9.1	*	9.7	9.3
Aged 25 years and over	5.0	36.3	41.3	4.2	5.7	5.4

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : STATES AND TERRITORIES, STATE CAPITAL CITIES, FEBRUARY 1980

	STATE CAPITAL CITY						STATE OR TERRITORY					
	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)			Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total
N.S.W.	72.0	13.6	85.7	5.6	6.2	5.7	125.0	19.6	144.6	6.3	5.8	6.2
Vic.	66.4	15.4	81.8	5.9	8.0	6.2	89.0	20.0	109.0	5.8	7.4	6.1
Qld.	26.5	5.1	31.7	6.8	7.6	6.9	61.0	11.0	72.0	7.4	7.4	7.4
S.A.	33.6	6.1	39.7	9.3	8.2	9.1	41.8	7.1	48.9	8.3	7.1	8.1
W.A.	30.4	5.7	36.1	8.9	7.7	8.7	38.9	7.3	46.2	8.0	7.3	7.9
Tas.	5.5	*	6.0	8.1	*	7.5	12.3	*	13.6	7.7	*	7.2
N.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.9	2.5	8.3	6.3	16.0	7.7
Total	234.5	46.4	280.9	6.6	7.3	6.7	375.7	68.8	444.5	6.7	6.8	6.7



TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, FEBRUARY 1980

Industry division or subdivision (a)	Number ('000)	Unemployment rate (per cent)	Occupation group	Number ('000)	Unemployment rate (per cent)
Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	253.3	3.9	Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	253.3	3.9
Agriculture and services to agriculture	14.1	3.6	Professional, technical, etc.	21.7	2.5
Manufacturing	63.4	4.9	Administrative, executive, and managerial	5.6	1.3
Food, beverages and tobacco	13.2	6.5	Clerical	30.5	2.8
Metal products	7.6	3.5	Sales	27.2	4.6
Other manufacturing	42.6	4.8	Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	16.1	3.5
Construction	28.6	5.6	Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*
Wholesale trade	11.1	2.9	Transport and communication	12.8	3.9
Retail trade	43.9	4.7	Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	107.5	5.4
Transport and storage	11.6	3.4	Service, sport and recreation	30.6	4.9
Finance, property and business services	11.8	2.3			
Community services	27.7	2.8			
Recreation, personal and other services	23.2	5.6			
Other industries	17.8	2.7			
Stood down (b)	7.0	..			
Other (c)	184.2	..			
<b>Total</b>	<b>444.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>			

(a) Classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978. (b) For definition, see paragraph 6(b) of the explanatory notes. (c) Had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job or had not done so in the last two years. Industry and occupation were not obtained for these persons.

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1980

	Persons						
	Looking for -						
	Males	Married women	Other females (a)	All females	Full-time work	Part-time work	Total
NUMBER ('000)							
Duration of unemployment (weeks) --							
Under 2	16.7	14.9	9.2	24.1	26.8	14.0	40.8
2 and under 4	27.6	13.1	15.1	28.2	41.1	14.7	55.8
4 and under 8	34.8	14.8	20.5	35.3	57.4	12.7	70.1
8 and under 13	45.0	10.8	28.3	39.1	75.0	9.1	84.1
13 and under 26	34.1	8.5	15.9	24.4	53.3	8.3	58.5
26 and under 39	20.4	6.6	9.1	15.7	33.0		36.1
39 and under 52	7.5	*	5.2	7.3	13.8	*	14.8
52 and over	44.3	13.7	26.3	39.9	75.3	8.9	84.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>230.4</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>214.1</b>	<b>375.7</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>444.5</b>
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	28.5	22.6	28.4	26.1	29.2	17.1	27.3
Aged 15-19 years	19.9	*	23.6	23.1	22.6	14.4	21.6
Aged 20 years and over	32.4	23.0	35.7	27.9	33.0	18.1	30.4
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	12.0	7.9	11.5	10.5	12.2	5.8	11.3
Aged 15-19 years	10.9	*	11.3	11.2	11.5	6.3	11.0
Aged 20 years and over	13.0	8.0	12.1	9.7	12.9	5.6	11.6

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

## GROSS FLOWS

In order to minimise respondent fatigue and at the same time maintain continuity within the population survey sample, one eighth of the dwellings in the sample (except the large non-private dwellings) are replaced after each survey. Adoption of this rotation procedure, whereby about seven eighths of the sample remains unchanged from one month to the next, enables more reliable measurements of changes in the labour force characteristics of the population to be made than would be possible if a new sample were introduced each month.

Because a high proportion of private dwellings selected in one survey remains in the sample for the following survey, it is possible to match the characteristics of most of the persons in those dwellings from one month to the next, to record any changes that occur, and hence to produce estimates of 'flows' between the different categories of the population and labour force. However, because of the mobility of the population, non-response in either or both surveys and other reasons, a complete matching is not possible; nevertheless, residents of matched private dwellings represent about 80 per cent of all persons in the sample. (The procedures used to select persons in non-private dwellings preclude the possibility of matching any of them who may be included in successive surveys). Changes in the characteristics of persons in the matched group can be measured, but those of the other 20 per cent are unknown, although they are likely to be somewhat different from those of the larger group.

Gross flow estimates for the period July to November 1979 are shown in the following table. They relate only to those persons in private dwellings for whom information was obtained in successive surveys. The expansion factors used in calculating the estimates were those applying to the second of each pair of months.

Although it is not possible to provide gross flow estimates for all persons in the survey it is considered that the estimates derived from matched records will be a useful guide to the magnitude of the movements between categories which underly the changes in monthly levels.

While every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors to a minimum, any such errors affecting employment status will tend to accumulate in the gross flow statistics rather than to cancel out. The estimates are also subject to sampling variability, the standard errors being the same as those for other labour force estimates. (See Table A on page 4.) For these reasons the estimates of flows should be used with caution.

TABLE 9. ESTIMATES OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN SUCCESSIVE MONTHS, AND GROSS CHANGES (FLOWS),  
DERIVED FROM MATCHED RECORDS, JULY TO NOVEMBER 1979 (a)  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

		<i>July to August</i>			<i>August to September</i>			<i>September to October</i>			<i>October to November</i>		
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Employment status in —	<i>Second of the two months</i>												
<i>First of the two months</i>													
Employed	Employed	3,077.3	1,616.6	4,693.9	3,059.0	1,597.3	4,656.3	3,056.0	1,610.7	4,666.7	3,093.6	1,663.7	4,757.3
	Unemployed	25.6	17.3	42.9	27.1	19.2	46.3	24.4	18.7	43.1	23.3	13.3	36.6
	Not in the labour force	47.9	91.1	139.0	35.9	77.6	113.5	50.2	96.2	146.5	47.2	95.1	142.3
Unemployed	Employed	34.1	22.1	56.2	39.2	27.9	67.1	33.9	28.2	62.2	34.6	31.2	65.8
	Unemployed	98.7	82.6	181.3	90.5	79.9	170.3	99.6	80.8	180.4	89.4	79.3	168.7
	Not in the labour force	15.5	37.2	52.7	12.9	33.2	46.1	15.9	43.7	59.6	24.9	38.7	63.6
Not in the labour force	Employed	40.2	79.4	119.7	53.6	101.6	155.2	34.0	79.0	113.1	41.2	93.4	134.5
	Unemployed	18.8	37.7	56.5	25.0	49.6	74.6	18.9	48.0	66.8	21.3	43.2	64.5
	Not in the labour force	793.8	2,272.7	3,066.6	768.9	2,220.2	2,989.0	787.0	2,198.3	2,985.4	793.0	2,192.9	2,985.9
Total flows into:	Employed	74.3	101.6	175.9	92.8	129.4	222.3	68.0	107.3	175.2	75.7	124.6	200.4
	Unemployed	44.4	55.0	99.3	52.1	68.8	120.9	43.3	66.7	110.0	44.6	56.6	101.2
	Not in the labour force	63.4	128.3	191.7	48.8	110.8	159.6	66.2	140.0	206.1	72.1	133.9	205.9
Total flows out of:	Employed	73.4	108.4	181.9	63.0	96.8	159.8	74.7	115.0	189.6	70.4	108.5	178.9
	Unemployed	49.6	59.3	108.9	52.1	61.1	113.2	49.8	72.0	121.8	59.5	70.0	129.4
	Not in the labour force	59.0	117.1	176.2	78.6	151.2	229.8	52.9	127.0	179.9	62.5	136.6	199.1
Total changes of status		182.1	284.8	466.9	193.7	309.1	502.7	177.4	313.9	491.3	192.4	315.0	507.4
Number of matched records		4,152.0	4,256.8	8,408.8	4,112.0	4,206.4	8,318.3	4,120.0	4,203.8	8,323.8	4,168.3	4,251.0	8,419.4

(a) See text on page 10.

NOTE: When comparing figures for different periods, it is important to take into account the number of matched records for each period. These are shown in the last line of the table.