



THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Godfrey Laurie on Canberra (062) 52 6565 or any of our State offices.
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MAIN FEATURES

NOTE. *Publication of seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment and other labour force data commences in this publication (Table 2). The calculation of seasonal factors is based on four years data, which is a relatively short time span when the pattern of movement is varying from year to year. As explained in the Appendix to this issue, the seasonally adjusted series is certain to be revised when a further year's data is available.*

Original and Seasonally adjusted estimates of main aggregates for February 1982 are as follows:

	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Employed (' 000)	6,397.5	6,412.8
Unemployed (' 000)		
Looking for full-time work	406.6	366.9
Looking for part-time work	77.8	73.0
Total	484.4	439.9
Labour force (' 000)	6,881.9	6,853.3
Unemployment rate total (per cent)	7.0	6.4
Participation rate (per cent)	61.4	61.2

PART 1. LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Part 1 of this publication contains estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the labour force survey part of 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 population 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 1978 and 1979 surveys commenced a week earlier than usual (with most interviews being conducted during the second week) and the January 1979 and 1980 surveys commenced a week later than usual. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

Scope

3. The labour force survey includes all persons aged 15 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, which conform closely to the international standard definitions specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), relate only to those persons within the scope of the survey.

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 full time for two weeks or more.

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. *Unemployed persons classified by industry and occupation.* Unemployed persons who had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry and occupation of their most recent full-time job. Other unemployed persons are not classified by industry and occupation.

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

12. 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.

13. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours or more a week 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.

14. *Hours of work.* The figures of average hours refer to actual hours worked during the survey week, not hours paid for. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, injury, accident and industrial disputes; and stoppages of work due to bad weather, plant breakdown etc. When hours of work are recorded fractions of an hour are disregarded and this results in slightly lower figures than would be the case if actual time worked was recorded. Persons stood down for the whole of the survey week without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment are regarded as employed and therefore are included (working no hours) in the calculation of average hours worked. Persons stood down in the survey week for reasons other than bad weather and plant breakdown and waiting to be called back to their jobs are regarded as unemployed and are therefore excluded from the calculation.

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

Revision of series

16. 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 Labour Force, Australia, 1978* (6204.0).

Comparability of series

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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).

20. *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.

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

- (a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of 236,300 unemployed males looking for full-time work in February 1982 has a standard error of about 5,500. Therefore there are about two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will be within the range 230,800 to 241,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 225,300 to 247,300.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from January 1982 to February 1982 is an increase of 15,300. 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 February 1982 estimate (236,300) 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 +10,800 to +19,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range +6,300 to +24,300.

Seasonal adjustment

22. Publication of seasonally adjusted estimates from the monthly labour force survey commences in this issue and will be followed by their inclusion in *Unemployment, Australia—Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0) (unemployment series only) and *The Labour Force Australia* (6203.0). Seasonally adjusted data for the past fourteen months are contained in Table 2. Seasonally adjusted series back to February 1978 will be contained in an Appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, February 1982* (6203.0). The Appendix to this issue contains explanatory notes and details of the methods of seasonal adjustment used. The calculation of seasonal factors is based on four years data which is a relatively short time-span when the pattern of movement is varying from year to year. Consequently the seasonally adjusted series are certain to be revised when a further year's data is available.

Related publications

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

Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates (6201.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia, 1980 (6204.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (6231.0)—issued quarterly

Information Paper : Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey, December 1981 (6232.0)

Information Paper : Review of ABS Employment Statistics (6239.0)

Overtime, Australia (6330.0)—issued quarterly

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses (see paragraph 20)
- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- r revised since previous issue

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

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TABLE A. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									— number —		Per cent of estimate
1,500						300				
1,800						330	440			
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

TABLE B. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTHLY MOVEMENTS(a)

Size of larger estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1,500						250			
1,800						260	370		
2,000						270	380	370	
2,500				490	490	290	420	390	
3,000				520	530	310	460	410	
3,500			730	540	560	330	490	430	
4,000			760	570	580	340	520	450	
4,500	1,100	1,100	790	590	610	360	550	460	1,100
5,000	1,100	1,100	820	610	630	370	570	480	1,200
6,000	1,200	1,200	880	650	670	390	620	500	1,200
10,000	1,400	1,400	1,000	760	790	460	760	570	1,500
20,000	1,800	1,700	1,300	930	970	550	1,000	670	2,000
50,000	2,500	2,300	1,700	1,200	1,300	690	1,400	790	2,700
100,000	3,200	2,800	2,100	1,400	1,500	810		880	3,400
200,000	3,900	3,300	2,500	1,700	1,800	920			4,300
300,000	4,400	3,700	2,800	1,900	1,900				4,900
500,000	5,100	4,200	3,200	2,100	2,200				5,700
1,000,000	6,100	4,900	3,800						6,800
2,000,000	7,200	5,600							8,200
5,000,000									10,000

(a) Movements between corresponding months of consecutive years, or between two other non-consecutive months will generally be subject to somewhat greater sampling variability than is indicated in Table B. Standard errors of *quarterly* movements can be obtained by multiplying the figures in Table B by 1.4. Standard errors of *annual* movements can be obtained by multiplying the figures in Table A by 1.4.

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

Month	Unemployed										Civilian population 15 years and over	Unem- ployment rate	Partici- pation rate
	Employed		Looking for full-time work		Looking for part- time work	Labour force	Not in labour force	15 years and over	Unem- ployment rate	Partici- pation rate			
	Full-time workers	Total	15-19 years looking for first job	Total									
	—'000—													—per cent—
MALES													
1981—													
January	3,823.7	4,017.7	34.4	218.2	15.7	233.9	4,251.6	1,161.4	5,413.0	5.5	78.5		
February	3,855.8	4,051.4	29.8	203.6	16.4	220.0	4,271.4	1,149.2	5,420.6	5.2	78.8		
March	3,860.4	4,075.7	19.7	185.8	17.5	203.2	4,278.9	1,152.3	5,431.2	4.8	78.8		
April	3,854.2	4,068.3	15.6	171.7	16.2	187.9	4,256.2	1,183.1	5,439.3	4.4	78.2		
May	3,842.8	4,064.2	15.0	175.5	17.3	192.9	4,257.1	1,190.7	5,447.8	4.5	78.1		
June	3,841.3	4,062.8	12.4	169.2	12.3	181.5	4,244.3	1,212.0	5,456.3	4.3	77.8		
July	3,853.9	4,065.7	12.5	182.1	14.7	196.8	4,262.5	1,203.3	5,465.7	4.6	78.0		
August	3,823.8	4,045.3	12.5	187.0	12.7	199.7	4,245.0	1,230.3	5,475.3	4.7	77.5		
September	3,869.2	4,088.0	15.1	194.2	15.3	209.5	4,297.5	1,188.9	5,486.3	4.9	78.3		
October	3,829.5	4,049.7	18.0	185.4	14.3	199.7	4,249.4	1,243.7	5,493.1	4.7	77.4		
November	3,831.5	4,043.1	18.5	185.6	14.8	200.4	4,243.5	1,263.2	5,506.7	4.7	77.1		
December	3,896.6	4,101.7	36.6	206.1	26.5	232.6	4,334.4	1,181.9	5,516.3	5.4	78.6		
1982—													
January	3,863.5	4,061.0	33.9	221.0	17.6	238.6	4,299.6	1,225.6	5,525.2	5.5	77.8		
February	3,885.6	4,083.0	30.7	236.3	15.5	251.7	4,334.7	1,200.7	5,535.4	5.8	78.3		
Standard error of—													
February 1982 estimates	13.8	14.0	2.4	5.5	1.8	5.6	14.2	9.6	..	0.1	0.3		
January 1982 to February 1982 movement	9.7	9.8	2.4	4.5	1.9	4.6	9.9	7.2	..	0.1	0.2		
MARRIED FEMALES													
1981—													
January	779.3	1,320.9	*	39.5	23.0	62.5	1,383.4	2,121.7	3,505.1	4.5	39.5		
February	777.0	1,374.5	*	46.8	32.9	79.8	1,454.2	2,056.7	3,510.9	5.5	41.4		
March	776.4	1,417.7	*	45.6	44.5	90.0	1,507.7	2,005.1	3,512.8	6.0	42.9		
April	789.8	1,423.8	*	43.9	34.9	78.8	1,502.6	2,015.7	3,518.3	5.2	42.7		
May	787.4	1,423.3	*	44.0	34.5	78.4	1,501.7	2,030.2	3,531.9	5.2	42.5		
June	779.8	1,411.9	*	39.1	32.8	71.9	1,483.8	2,040.9	3,524.7	4.8	42.1		
July	794.8	1,437.4	*	43.3	26.3	69.7	1,507.1	2,029.7	3,536.7	4.6	42.6		
August	777.4	1,417.8	*	42.6	30.1	72.7	1,490.5	2,034.1	3,524.6	4.9	42.3		
September	807.8	1,453.1	*	43.8	29.5	73.4	1,526.4	1,995.3	3,521.8	4.8	43.3		
October	802.8	1,440.2	*	39.6	32.8	72.3	1,512.6	2,002.3	3,514.8	4.8	43.0		
November	796.0	1,437.5	*	43.2	30.2	73.4	1,510.9	2,022.8	3,533.6	4.9	42.8		
December	804.4	1,411.2	*	42.8	28.0	70.7	1,482.0	2,047.8	3,529.8	4.8	42.0		
1982—													
January	789.3	1,340.4	*	38.7	24.2	62.9	1,403.3	2,137.7	3,541.0	4.5	39.6		
February	789.4	1,391.5	*	51.3	40.2	91.4	1,483.0	2,051.0	3,533.9	6.2	42.0		
Standard error of—													
February 1982 estimates	8.4	10.1	..	3.0	2.7	3.8	10.3	11.4	..	0.3	0.3		
January 1982 to February 1982 movement	6.4	7.5	..	2.8	2.5	3.3	7.6	8.4	..	0.2	0.2		

For footnote see end of table.

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

Month	Unemployed										
	Employed		Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
			15-19 years looking for first job	Total							
	Full-time workers	Total		Total							
—'000—											
—per cent—											
ALL FEMALES											
1981—											
January	1,489.8	2,201.3	43.0	158.7	37.7	196.5	2,397.8	3,151.8	5,549.5	8.2	43.2
February	1,485.2	2,269.3	33.4	154.7	49.4	204.1	2,473.4	3,084.7	5,558.2	8.3	44.5
March	1,479.0	2,314.4	28.4	144.9	61.7	206.6	2,521.0	3,047.6	5,568.6	8.2	45.3
April	1,500.7	2,321.1	25.6	134.8	53.3	188.1	2,509.2	3,067.7	5,576.9	7.5	45.0
May	1,492.2	2,313.0	23.9	132.1	50.5	182.6	2,495.6	3,089.8	5,585.4	7.3	44.7
June	1,497.2	2,316.2	20.6	120.5	48.3	168.7	2,484.9	3,109.1	5,594.0	6.8	44.4
July	1,502.0	2,323.3	23.3	132.8	45.2	178.0	2,501.3	3,102.1	5,603.4	7.1	44.6
August	1,484.7	2,311.0	17.9	133.8	43.5	177.4	2,488.4	3,124.3	5,612.7	7.1	44.3
September	1,539.6	2,378.1	21.2	133.9	47.7	181.6	2,559.7	3,063.6	5,623.3	7.1	45.5
October	1,524.3	2,356.8	19.5	118.7	52.0	170.6	2,527.4	3,102.6	5,630.0	6.8	44.9
November	1,513.4	2,356.4	19.6	125.1	46.4	171.5	2,527.9	3,115.3	5,643.2	6.8	44.8
December	1,562.9	2,370.9	38.1	152.6	48.1	200.7	2,571.6	3,080.9	5,652.5	7.8	45.5
1982—											
January	1,535.9	2,260.3	39.0	156.0	45.1	201.0	2,461.4	3,200.5	5,661.9	8.2	43.5
February	1,524.5	2,314.5	35.2	170.3	62.4	232.7	2,547.2	3,123.5	5,670.7	9.1	44.9
Standard error of—											
February 1982 estimates	10.4	11.8	2.5	4.8	3.2	5.4	12.2	12.9	..	0.2	0.2
January 1982 to February 1982 movement	7.7	8.5	2.5	4.1	2.9	4.5	8.7	9.2	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS											
1981—											
January	5,313.5	6,219.1	77.4	377.0	53.4	430.4	6,649.4	4,313.2	10,962.6	6.5	60.7
February	5,341.0	6,320.7	63.2	358.4	65.8	424.1	6,744.8	4,233.9	10,978.8	6.3	61.4
March	5,339.4	6,390.1	48.1	330.7	79.2	409.9	6,799.9	4,200.0	10,999.9	6.0	61.8
April	5,354.9	6,389.4	41.2	306.5	69.5	376.0	6,765.4	4,250.8	11,016.2	5.6	61.4
May	5,335.0	6,377.2	38.8	307.7	67.8	375.5	6,752.7	4,280.5	11,033.2	5.6	61.2
June	5,338.5	6,379.0	33.0	289.7	60.6	350.2	6,729.2	4,321.1	11,050.3	5.2	60.9
July	5,355.9	6,388.9	35.8	314.9	59.9	374.8	6,763.8	4,305.4	11,069.2	5.5	61.1
August	5,308.5	6,356.3	30.4	320.9	56.2	377.1	6,733.4	4,354.7	11,088.0	5.6	60.7
September	5,408.8	6,466.1	36.3	328.1	63.0	391.1	6,857.2	4,252.5	11,109.6	5.7	61.7
October	5,353.8	6,406.5	37.4	304.1	66.3	370.4	6,776.9	4,346.3	11,123.1	5.5	60.9
November	5,344.8	6,399.5	38.1	310.7	61.2	371.9	6,771.4	4,378.5	11,149.9	5.5	60.7
December	5,459.5	6,472.6	74.8	358.7	74.6	433.3	6,905.9	4,262.8	11,168.7	6.3	61.8
1982—											
January	5,399.4	6,321.3	72.8	377.0	62.6	439.6	6,761.0	4,426.1	11,187.1	6.5	60.4
February	5,410.1	6,397.5	65.9	406.6	77.8	484.4	6,881.9	4,324.1	11,206.0	7.0	61.4
Standard error of—											
February 1982 estimates	15.1	15.9	3.3	6.7	3.5	7.1	16.2	14.2	..	0.1	0.1
January 1982 to February 1982 movement	10.4	10.8	3.1	5.3	3.2	5.6	11.0	10.0	..	0.1	0.1

(a) For information on standard errors see paragraphs 18 to 21.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES(a)

	Unemployed							
	Employed	Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work		Labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Total	Total			
		— '000—							— per cent—
MALES								
1981—								
January	4,030.7	21.1	190.6	15.9	206.5	4,235.3	4.9	78.3
February	4,046.7	22.5	185.0	15.7	200.7	4,244.0	4.7	78.3
March	4,061.1	20.6	184.6	16.5	201.1	4,266.6	4.7	78.6
April	4,060.5	18.6	176.1	16.6	192.7	4,254.3	4.5	78.3
May	4,062.9	19.2	180.2	15.8	196.0	4,261.4	4.6	78.2
June	4,067.5	17.2	174.2	14.0	188.2	4,258.0	4.4	78.0
July	4,072.1	18.5	187.7	15.8	203.5	4,276.6	4.8	78.2
August	4,070.5	16.5	191.3	14.3	205.6	4,276.1	4.8	78.1
September	4,084.2	17.3	195.8	15.8	211.6	4,295.4	4.9	78.2
October	4,062.5	20.1	198.4	15.1	213.5	4,275.2	5.0	77.8
November	4,061.3	21.6	201.3	18.4	219.7	4,282.1	5.1	77.7
December	4,053.5	21.6	195.9	18.8	214.7	4,267.2	5.0	77.4
1982—								
January	4,074.3	21.0	193.2	17.8	210.9	4,283.1	4.9	77.5
February	4,078.0	23.2	215.1	14.9	230.0	4,307.2	5.3	77.8
MARRIED FEMALES								
1981—								
January	1,395.3	..	42.9	30.3	73.2	1,469.8	5.0	42.1
February	1,394.3	..	41.5	28.2	69.7	1,463.0	4.8	41.7
March	1,407.9	..	40.9	39.5	80.4	1,487.5	5.4	42.4
April	1,418.6	..	41.6	32.2	73.8	1,493.4	4.9	42.5
May	1,419.6	..	44.0	33.2	77.2	1,498.0	5.1	42.5
June	1,413.9	..	41.5	31.0	72.5	1,481.5	4.9	42.1
July	1,422.9	..	43.5	29.0	72.5	1,497.0	4.8	42.3
August	1,414.5	..	42.6	32.3	74.9	1,489.1	5.0	42.2
September	1,440.2	..	41.3	29.1	70.4	1,507.2	4.7	42.6
October	1,423.5	..	42.1	31.0	73.1	1,497.0	4.9	42.3
November	1,414.0	..	44.2	31.9	76.1	1,491.9	5.1	42.2
December	1,403.3	..	49.1	30.6	79.7	1,485.6	5.4	42.1
1982—								
January	1,415.3	..	42.2	32.1	74.3	1,491.0	5.0	42.3
February	1,411.4	..	45.5	34.5	80.0	1,491.8	5.4	42.3
ALL FEMALES								
1981—								
January	2,283.2	27.7	141.1	46.3	187.4	2,470.6	7.6	44.5
February	2,290.7	26.9	137.8	43.4	181.2	2,471.6	7.3	44.5
March	2,300.1	27.3	138.1	54.2	192.3	2,485.1	7.7	44.7
April	2,307.8	26.6	131.6	50.0	181.6	2,489.7	7.3	44.7
May	2,314.6	25.3	133.0	50.2	183.2	2,499.1	7.3	44.8
June	2,317.5	24.4	127.4	47.2	174.6	2,493.5	7.0	44.6
July	2,311.8	29.6	140.9	48.7	189.6	2,503.0	7.6	44.7
August	2,323.5	21.8	139.5	48.7	188.2	2,514.5	7.5	44.8
September	2,355.3	25.8	138.0	46.7	184.7	2,536.8	7.3	45.1
October	2,342.1	24.8	134.9	48.5	183.4	2,533.4	7.2	44.9
November	2,337.8	26.5	137.6	49.2	186.8	2,527.7	7.4	44.8
December	2,344.9	26.2	140.9	50.2	191.1	2,531.7	7.5	44.8
1982—								
January	2,345.1	25.1	140.0	55.4	195.4	2,537.0	7.7	44.8
February	2,335.8	28.4	151.8	55.0	206.8	2,544.9	8.1	44.9
PERSONS								
1981—								
January	6,313.1	49.0	333.6	62.5	396.1	6,705.6	5.9	61.2
February	6,336.2	49.1	322.9	61.5	384.4	6,716.9	5.7	61.2
March	6,357.1	47.2	320.1	71.7	391.8	6,747.5	5.8	61.4
April	6,368.5	44.9	307.7	67.0	374.7	6,744.7	5.6	61.2
May	6,374.4	44.7	312.3	65.4	377.7	6,755.3	5.6	61.2
June	6,384.9	42.0	298.9	61.5	360.4	6,747.2	5.3	61.1
July	6,386.2	49.2	330.3	65.2	395.5	6,781.0	5.8	61.2
August	6,393.9	38.4	329.8	63.1	392.9	6,793.8	5.8	61.2
September	6,439.1	43.1	334.5	61.2	395.7	6,834.0	5.8	61.5
October	6,404.0	44.9	334.3	63.2	397.5	6,811.8	5.8	61.2
November	6,403.3	48.2	342.0	65.6	407.6	6,809.2	6.0	61.1
December	6,402.9	48.0	337.6	68.3	405.9	6,802.5	6.0	60.9
1982—								
January	6,417.8	46.3	335.1	73.2	408.3	6,819.0	6.0	61.0
February	6,412.8	51.2	366.9	73.0	439.9	6,853.3	6.4	61.2

(a) These seasonally adjusted figures are subject to revisions which may be substantial. For more information regarding seasonal adjustment see the Appendix.

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, FEBRUARY 1982

State or Territory	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
MALES										
N.S.W.	1,372.0	1,438.7	83.8	4.9	88.7	1,527.4	423.4	1,950.8	5.8	78.3
Vic.	1,026.9	1,078.1	56.3	*	60.1	1,138.1	318.0	1,456.1	5.3	78.2
Qld	597.1	631.9	31.6	3.5	35.1	667.0	202.2	869.2	5.3	76.7
S.A.	340.2	358.0	26.5	*	28.0	386.0	108.9	494.9	7.2	78.0
W.A.	347.4	365.8	22.2	*	23.4	389.2	95.2	484.3	6.0	80.4
Tas.	107.8	112.5	10.4	*	10.6	123.1	32.9	156.0	8.6	78.9
N.T.	34.5	35.5	2.1	*	2.2	37.7	8.2	45.9	6.0	82.2
A.C.T.	59.6	62.5	3.4	*	3.7	66.1	12.0	78.1	5.5	84.7
Australia	3,885.6	4,083.0	236.3	15.5	251.7	4,334.7	1,200.7	5,535.4	5.8	78.3
FEMALES										
N.S.W.	545.0	804.0	53.2	20.1	73.4	877.4	1,130.9	2,008.3	8.4	43.7
Vic.	433.5	631.8	44.7	16.9	61.6	693.4	812.9	1,506.2	8.9	46.0
Qld	219.6	348.0	27.5	10.7	38.2	386.2	496.7	882.9	9.9	43.7
S.A.	124.7	207.7	17.3	5.5	22.8	230.5	276.1	506.6	9.9	45.5
W.A.	118.2	200.4	17.6	4.9	22.5	222.9	257.2	480.0	10.1	46.4
Tas.	37.7	57.4	5.6	1.9	7.5	64.8	98.1	162.9	11.5	39.8
N.T.	16.9	22.2	2.0	*	2.4	24.7	15.9	40.6	9.9	60.8
A.C.T.	28.9	43.1	2.4	*	4.3	47.4	35.7	83.1	9.1	57.0
Australia	1,524.5	2,314.5	170.3	62.4	232.7	2,547.2	3,123.5	5,670.7	9.1	44.9
PERSONS										
N.S.W.	1,917.1	2,242.7	137.0	25.1	162.1	2,404.8	1,554.4	3,959.2	6.7	60.7
Vic.	1,460.3	1,709.8	101.0	20.7	121.7	1,831.5	1,130.8	2,962.3	6.6	61.8
Qld	816.7	979.9	59.1	14.2	73.3	1,053.2	698.9	1,752.1	7.0	60.1
S.A.	464.9	565.7	43.8	7.0	50.8	616.5	385.0	1,001.5	8.2	61.6
W.A.	465.6	566.2	39.8	6.1	45.8	612.0	352.3	964.4	7.5	63.5
Tas.	145.5	169.9	15.9	2.2	18.1	188.0	130.9	318.9	9.6	58.9
N.T.	51.4	57.7	4.1	*	4.7	62.4	24.1	86.5	7.5	72.1
A.C.T.	88.5	105.6	5.8	2.1	7.9	113.5	47.7	161.2	7.0	70.4
Australia	5,410.1	6,397.5	406.6	77.8	484.4	6,881.9	4,324.1	11,206.0	7.0	61.4

TABLE 4. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1982 ('000)

Age group (years)	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population	
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work				
15-19	536.6	136.1	672.7	136.0	22.5	158.5	831.2	436.3	1,267.5
Attending school(a)	4.7	71.0	75.8	7.6	13.0	20.6	96.3	315.0	411.4
Left school(a)	531.9	65.1	597.0	128.5	9.4	137.9	734.9	117.5	852.4
Before 1981	424.5	38.3	462.8	76.1	5.9	82.0	544.8	72.7	617.5
Nov. or Dec. 1981	74.1	23.3	97.4	40.8	*	43.8	141.3	38.0	179.3
20-24	869.5	90.1	959.6	94.9	11.2	106.1	1,065.7	224.7	1,290.4
25 and over	4,003.9	761.2	4,765.1	175.7	44.2	219.9	4,985.0	3,663.2	8,648.2
Total	5,410.1	987.4	6,397.5	406.6	77.8	484.4	6,881.9	4,324.1	11,206.0

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED PERSONS, FEBRUARY 1982

	Females			Total	Persons
	Males	Married	Not married(a)		
NUMBER (' 000)					
All employed persons	4,083.0	1,391.5	923.0	2,314.5	6,397.5
Full-time workers	3,885.6	789.4	735.1	1,524.5	5,410.1
Part-time workers	197.4	602.1	187.9	790.0	987.4
Preferred not to work more hours	150.5	549.6	136.1	685.7	836.1
Preferred to work more hours	47.0	52.5	51.9	104.4	151.3
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	21.1	10.7	24.8	35.5	56.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(c)					
All employed persons	37.6	26.5	30.5	28.1	34.2
Full-time workers	38.7	35.5	34.7	35.1	37.7
Part-time workers	15.9	14.7	14.3	14.6	14.8

(a) Comprises never married, widowed, and divorced. (b) In the four weeks up to the end of the survey week. (c) See paragraph 14.

TABLE 6. PART-TIME WORKERS : WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK MORE HOURS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK : AGE AND HOURS WORKED, FEBRUARY 1982 (' 000)

	Age group (years)			Persons who worked in the survey week			Persons who did not work in the survey week(a)	Total
	15-19	20-24	25 and over	Hours worked in the survey week				
				1-5	6-10	11 and over		
Total	136.1	90.1	761.2	131.5	196.4	594.8	64.7	987.4
Preferred not to work more hours	99.0	61.5	675.6	105.2	162.2	510.9	57.8	836.1
Preferred to work more hours	37.1	28.6	85.6	26.3	34.2	83.9	6.8	151.3
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	18.8	13.7	24.0	8.2	14.1	32.9	*	56.6

(a) Persons who had a part-time job from which they were absent for the whole of the survey week. (b) In the four weeks up to the end of the survey week.

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, FEBRUARY 1982

	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	236.3	170.3	406.6	5.7	10.0	7.0
Married	82.0	51.3	133.2	3.0	6.1	3.7
Not married(a)	154.3	119.1	273.4	11.5	13.9	12.4
15-19 years	67.2	68.8	136.0	17.4	24.0	20.2
Attending school	*	*	7.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
20-24 years	53.6	41.3	94.9	9.3	10.7	9.8
Looking for first job	*	5.8	7.7	...	...	...
25 years and over	115.5	60.2	175.7	3.7	5.9	4.2
Born in Australia	166.7	126.3	293.0	5.6	10.1	6.9
Born outside Australia	69.6	44.0	113.6	6.0	9.8	7.1
Arrived before 1971	41.8	23.4	65.2	5.1	8.4	5.9
1971 to 1975	11.7	7.3	19.0	7.2	8.5	7.7
1976 to 1980	7.8	7.0	14.9	6.4	11.2	8.1
1981 to survey date	8.2	6.3	14.5	16.4	31.0	20.6
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	15.5	62.4	77.8	7.3	7.3	7.3
15-19 years	8.1	14.3	22.5	13.9	14.3	14.2
Attending school	4.8	8.3	13.0	13.8	16.7	15.5
20-24 years	*	7.4	11.2	*	10.4	11.0
25 years and over	*	40.6	44.2	*	6.0	5.5

(a) Comprises never married, widowed, and divorced.

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, STATE CAPITAL CITIES(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES, FEBRUARY 1982

	State capital city(a)						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.	74.8	16.4	91.2	5.6	7.2	5.8	137.0	25.1	162.1	6.7	7.1	6.7
Vic.	76.1	16.8	92.9	6.6	8.7	6.9	101.0	20.7	121.7	6.5	7.7	6.6
Qld	23.2	8.4	31.6	5.7	9.9	6.4	59.1	14.2	73.3	6.8	8.0	7.0
S.A.	35.2	5.4	40.6	9.5	7.4	9.1	43.8	7.0	50.8	8.6	6.5	8.2
W.A.	32.2	4.7	36.9	8.9	6.2	8.4	39.8	6.1	45.8	7.9	5.7	7.5
Tas.	7.7	*	8.5	11.2	*	10.7	15.9	2.2	18.1	9.9	8.2	9.6
N.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.1	*	4.7	7.4	*	7.5
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.8	2.1	7.9	6.2	11.1	7.0
Total	249.1	52.5	301.7	6.8	7.9	6.9	406.6	77.8	484.4	7.0	7.3	7.0

(a) Comprises Capital City Statistical Divisions, as defined for the Census of Population and Housing, 1976.

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, FEBRUARY 1982

	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years	171.6	107.4	278.9	4.0	4.4	4.2
<i>Industry division or subdivision(a)—</i>						
Agriculture and services to agriculture	12.4	4.6	17.0	4.3	4.6	4.3
Manufacturing	48.3	21.5	69.8	4.9	6.4	5.3
Food, beverages and tobacco	9.3	5.1	14.4	6.5	8.6	7.1
Metal products	10.3	*	11.6	4.8	*	4.7
Other manufacturing	28.7	15.1	43.8	4.6	6.1	5.1
Construction	26.6	*	27.3	5.8	*	5.4
Wholesale trade	12.1	5.5	17.6	4.1	5.0	4.4
Retail trade	22.6	26.1	48.7	4.8	5.6	5.2
Transport and storage	7.9	*	9.7	2.5	*	2.6
Finance, property and business services	7.7	8.4	16.1	2.4	3.2	2.7
Community services	7.3	19.0	26.2	1.9	2.9	2.5
Recreation, personal and other services	12.4	14.7	27.1	6.6	6.3	6.4
Other industries	14.2	5.0	19.2	2.6	3.1	2.7
<i>Occupation group—</i>						
Professional, technical, etc.	5.6	14.3	19.9	1.1	3.4	2.1
Administrative, executive, and managerial	5.2	*	6.3	1.5	*	1.5
Clerical	10.0	25.4	35.4	3.0	3.1	3.1
Sales	14.0	20.8	34.8	5.0	6.6	5.8
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	16.0	5.5	21.4	4.3	5.4	4.6
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	8.9	*	11.1	2.9	*	3.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	95.3	18.9	114.2	5.3	7.2	5.5
Service, sport and recreation	13.4	19.3	32.7	5.6	4.9	5.2
Other(b)	77.2	117.5	194.7	..	..	..
Looking for first job	40.2	53.6	93.8	..	..	..
Looking for full-time work	33.6	43.1	76.7	..	..	..
Other	37.0	63.9	100.8	..	..	..
Stood down	*	7.8	10.8	..	..	..
Total	251.7	232.7	484.4	5.8	9.1	7.0

(a) Classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), 1978 (1201.0 and 1202.0). (b) See paragraph 10.

TABLE 10. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1982

Duration of unemployment (weeks)—	Persons						
	Females				Looking for—		
	Males	Married	Not married(a)	Total	Full-time work	Part-time work	Total
NUMBER ('000)							
Under 2	17.7	18.1	12.1	30.1	27.2	20.6	47.8
2 and under 4	32.5	16.1	17.8	33.9	49.4	17.0	66.4
4 and under 8	43.5	15.7	26.2	42.0	72.6	12.8	85.4
8 and under 13	41.2	9.0	29.4	38.4	69.8	9.8	79.6
13 and under 26	36.0	10.2	17.1	27.2	56.7	6.6	63.3
26 and under 39	20.0	7.0	9.7	16.7	32.6	} 5.1 {	36.7
39 and under 52	8.6	} 6.6 {	4.7	7.1	14.8		15.7
52 and under 65	16.9		8.7	12.8	27.6	} 5.9 {	29.7
65 and under 78	5.3	} * {	4.7	8.0	8.0		8.3
78 and under 91	5.0		8.4	8.0	8.4	8.9	
91 and under 104	*			*		*	
104 and over	24.2	5.6	10.8	16.4	37.9		40.6
Total	251.7	91.4	141.2	232.7	406.6	77.8	484.4
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	31.6	23.5	26.2	25.1	31.0	15.4	28.5
15-19 years	18.0	*	21.1	21.4	21.6	8.8	19.8
20 years and over	37.3	23.4	32.9	27.2	35.7	18.0	32.7
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	11.9	6.9	10.5	9.3	11.9	4.4	10.7
15-19 years	9.7	*	9.9	9.9	10.6	4.8	9.8
20 years and over	14.8	6.9	11.4	8.8	13.2	4.2	11.5

(a) Comprises never married, widowed, and divorced.

PART 2. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This part contains details of the numbers of employees of government bodies. More information will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). Figures for months prior to May 1980 were published in *Civilian Employees, Australia* (6213.0) but, as that publication was suspended following the April 1980 issue (see paragraphs 4 to 6 of the Explanatory notes in that issue), government employment figures will now be included in publications 6202.0 and 6203.0.

2. Government employees comprise not only administrative employees but also all other employees of government bodies (Commonwealth, State, local and semi-government) on services such as railways, road transport, banks, postal and telecommunications, air transport, education (including universities, colleges of advanced education, etc), radio, television, police, public works, factories, marketing authorities, public hospitals (other than those run by charitable or religious organisations) and departmental hospitals and institutions.

3. The numbers of employees shown in Table 11 have been derived from returns obtained from government bodies. Generally, Commonwealth government employees are included in the figures if they are on the

payroll on the last working day of the month, whereas for State and local government the reporting date is usually the last day of the last pay period ending in the month.

4. Data shown for defence forces include all permanent defence personnel in Australia and overseas. Other government employees based overseas are excluded, as are employees of foreign governments in Australia.

Comparability of Labour Force Survey Estimates and Government Employment Figures

5. The government employment figures shown in Table 11 are not strictly comparable with the labour force survey estimates included in Part 1 of this publication and in other ABS publications. Persons in the survey are allocated to an appropriate labour force category according to their activity during the survey week. If they had more than one job in that week only the job in which they usually worked the greater number of hours is considered. The government employment figures are derived from payroll data, and although some returns are adjusted to exclude some part-time employees considered to have full-time jobs elsewhere, some persons will be included even though their government job is not their main one. Other reasons for difference are that the survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, and the reference periods of the two collections are different.

TABLE 11. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES—AUSTRALIA(a)
(Excluding agriculture and services to agriculture)
(' 000)

Month	Civilian employees					Defence forces(b)	Total Government
	Commonwealth	State	Northern Territory	Local	Total		
MALES							
1980—							
November	276.4	581.5	7.6	102.9	968.3	67.6	1,035.9
December	277.9	580.7	7.5	103.4	969.5	67.3	1,036.8
1981—							
January	278.2	580.2	7.6	103.8	969.6	67.9	1,037.5
February	278.3	581.8	7.5	103.2	970.8	68.0	1,038.8
March	278.3	582.7	7.6	103.7	972.3	68.1	1,040.4
April	278.3	583.3	7.7	103.1	972.5	68.1	1,040.6
May	277.9	583.0	7.7	103.0	971.6	68.1	1,039.7
June	277.8	582.0	7.7	102.5	970.0	68.2	1,038.2
July	276.9	579.3	7.7	102.8	966.7	68.1	1,034.8
August	276.7	578.8	7.7	103.0	966.2	68.0	1,034.2
September	276.3	579.3	7.7	103.0	966.3	68.0	1,034.3
October	276.2	578.2	7.8	102.8	965.0	68.1	1,033.1
November	276.3	579.3	7.7	102.7	965.9	68.0	1,033.9
December	276.9	578.8	7.7	103.1	966.5	67.8	1,034.3
FEMALES							
1980—							
November	123.3	415.9	6.6	27.3	573.1	4.5	577.6
December	124.5	412.5	6.6	27.5	571.1	4.4	575.5
1981—							
January	124.3	401.0	6.5	26.6	558.5	4.4	562.9
February	124.9	414.5	6.5	27.6	573.6	4.4	578.0
March	125.6	418.9	6.6	27.8	578.8	4.4	583.2
April	125.6	420.8	6.6	27.7	580.7	4.4	585.1
May	125.5	419.1	6.6	27.7	579.0	4.3	583.3
June	125.0	418.2	6.6	27.7	577.6	4.3	581.9
July	126.1	418.1	6.7	27.9	578.7	4.4	583.1
August	126.6	419.2	6.7	28.0	580.4	4.4	584.8
September	126.7	420.4	6.6	28.2	582.0	4.5	586.5
October	128.0	419.5	6.6	28.3	582.3	4.5	586.8
November	128.1	418.8	6.6	28.5	581.9	4.6	586.5
December	128.2	413.5	6.6	28.3	576.6	4.5	581.1
PERSONS							
1980—							
November	399.7	997.4	14.1	130.2	1,541.4	72.1	1,613.5
December	402.4	993.2	14.1	130.9	1,540.6	71.7	1,612.3
1981—							
January	402.5	981.1	14.1	130.3	1,528.1	72.3	1,600.4
February	403.2	996.4	14.1	130.8	1,544.3	72.4	1,616.7
March	403.9	1,001.6	14.2	131.4	1,551.1	72.5	1,623.6
April	403.9	1,004.1	14.3	130.8	1,553.1	72.5	1,625.6
May	403.4	1,002.1	14.3	130.7	1,550.5	72.4	1,622.9
June	402.8	1,000.2	14.3	130.2	1,547.5	72.5	1,620.0
July	403.0	997.4	14.3	130.7	1,545.4	72.5	1,617.9
August	403.4	997.9	14.4	131.0	1,546.6	72.5	1,619.1
September	403.0	999.7	14.3	131.2	1,548.2	72.5	1,620.7
October	404.1	997.7	14.4	131.2	1,547.4	72.6	1,620.0
November	404.4	998.0	14.4	131.1	1,547.9	72.6	1,620.5
December	405.1	992.3	14.3	131.4	1,543.1	72.3	1,615.4

(a) See Explanatory notes, page 11. Figures for States and Territories will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). (b) Permanent defence forces in Australia and overseas.

APPENDIX

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES

Publication of seasonally adjusted estimates from the monthly labour force survey commences in this issue and will be followed by their inclusion in *Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0) (unemployment series only) and *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). The February 1982 issue of the last-mentioned publication will have an Appendix containing seasonally adjusted estimates for each month from February 1978 to February 1982.

2. Labour force surveys were conducted quarterly by the ABS up to and including November 1977 and have been conducted each month since February 1978. Seasonal adjustment of the quarterly unemployment estimates was suspended in 1977 following marked and unpredictable changes in seasonal pattern which accompanied the higher levels of unemployment after 1974. Seasonal adjustment of other quarterly labour force series was not discontinued as the change in level of unemployment after 1974 did not cause any serious discontinuity of the seasonal pattern of these other labour force series.

3. There are now four years of monthly data on which to calculate seasonal factors for labour force survey series. This is a relatively short series of data on which to base the calculation of seasonal factors, particularly when the pattern of movement is varying from year to year. This effect is particularly marked in the unemployment figures, as can be seen from Graphs 1-3. Nevertheless, in view of public interest, publication of seasonally adjusted monthly figures is being commenced.

4. As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors will be reviewed when a further year's figures are available. The additional year's figures will cause the factors to be revised; it follows that the seasonally adjusted figures in this publication, for unemployment in particular, are certain to be revised in a year's time.

5. When interpreting trends based on seasonally adjusted series, it should always be borne in mind that seasonally adjusted figures by their nature will be revised when later information is used in calculating the seasonal factors.

Unemployment series

6. Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment estimates for the period January 1981 to February 1982 are published in Table 2.

7. The seasonally adjusted estimates of unemployed males, females and persons looking for full-time work have been obtained by aggregating the independently adjusted estimates of two components, i.e. unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first full-time job and other unemployed persons looking for full-time work. In the case of unemployed married females, the series has been adjusted directly. Seasonally adjusted

estimates of unemployed persons looking for part-time work are then added to the above estimates to obtain seasonally adjusted estimates of total unemployment. This aggregative approach is used because of the disparate trends and seasonal patterns in the component series. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for unemployed persons looking for full-time work and for total unemployed are calculated by dividing the appropriate seasonally adjusted unemployment series by the corresponding seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force.

8. Seasonal adjustments of the quarterly unemployment series for the period August 1966 to November 1977 are available on request and will be included in future issues of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0), *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0) and *Time Series Data on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche* (1311.0). The quarterly series are adjusted in two segments because of the changes in level and seasonality referred to in paragraph 2 above. Data prior to February 1974 have been analysed to provide seasonal adjustment factors for the period up to and including November 1974. Factors for the period from February 1975 to November 1977 have been obtained by analysing estimates for this period together with the corresponding monthly observations from the monthly survey up to May 1980, the latter being included in the analysis to obtain a sufficiently long series for reliable estimation of seasonal factors for the three-year period in question.

9. Those wishing to assess trends in unemployment series over the last fifteen years or so should take into account that the seasonally adjusted figures have been estimated as three different segments: a quarterly series until November 1974; another quarterly series from February 1975 to November 1977; and a monthly series from February 1978. The quarterly survey was conducted in the months of February, May, August and November. When comparing 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. This change of timing may affect the level of the figures for any month, but especially for months during which the employment status of the population may be changing rapidly.

10. Also the quarterly series for February, May, August and November omits the months of December and January in which unemployment is seasonally high. Therefore the average annual value of the quarterly series is less than that of the monthly series, which affects the level of the seasonal adjustment factors as between the two segments. This results in a further discontinuity in the general level of the seasonally adjusted series between the quarterly and monthly segments. The effect is small for most components of the seasonally adjusted unemployment series, but for unemployed persons 15 to 19 years looking for their first full-time job it is pronounced.

Other labour force series

11. Seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of labour force series other than the unemployment series (namely, employed persons, labour force and labour force participation rate) were previously included in this publication and in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). The series were based on estimates from the quarterly labour force survey which ceased in November 1977 and corresponding monthly data for February, May, August and November from the monthly labour force survey which commenced in February 1978.

12. Seasonally adjusted monthly estimates of employed persons, labour force and labour force participation rate are in Table 2. These monthly adjusted estimates replace the previously published quarterly adjusted estimates.

13. As the change in level of unemployment in 1974 did not cause any serious discontinuity of the seasonal pattern, the seasonal adjustment of these labour force series is performed in two segments. The first segment is the quarterly series up until November 1977 and the second segment is the monthly series from February 1978. When comparing estimates for February 1978 and subsequent months with the quarterly estimates from the earlier period the differences between the quarterly and monthly surveys should be noted (see paragraph 9 above).

Interpretation of seasonally adjusted series

14. As with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonally adjusted figures still reflect the sampling and non-sampling errors to which the original figures are subject. Furthermore, the seasonal adjustment process does not attempt to remove the effects of random influences (such as industrial disputes) on the estimates. Care should be taken in drawing conclusions as to the trend of the series on the basis of only a few months of seasonally adjusted figures.

15. Data for males, females and persons for each labour force series have been adjusted independently of each other. Because of this approach, the adjusted series for males and females may not add to the adjusted series for persons. Similarly adjusted series for employment and unemployment may not add to the adjusted labour force series. The differences are generally not large in comparison with the month-to-month variability of the seasonally adjusted series.

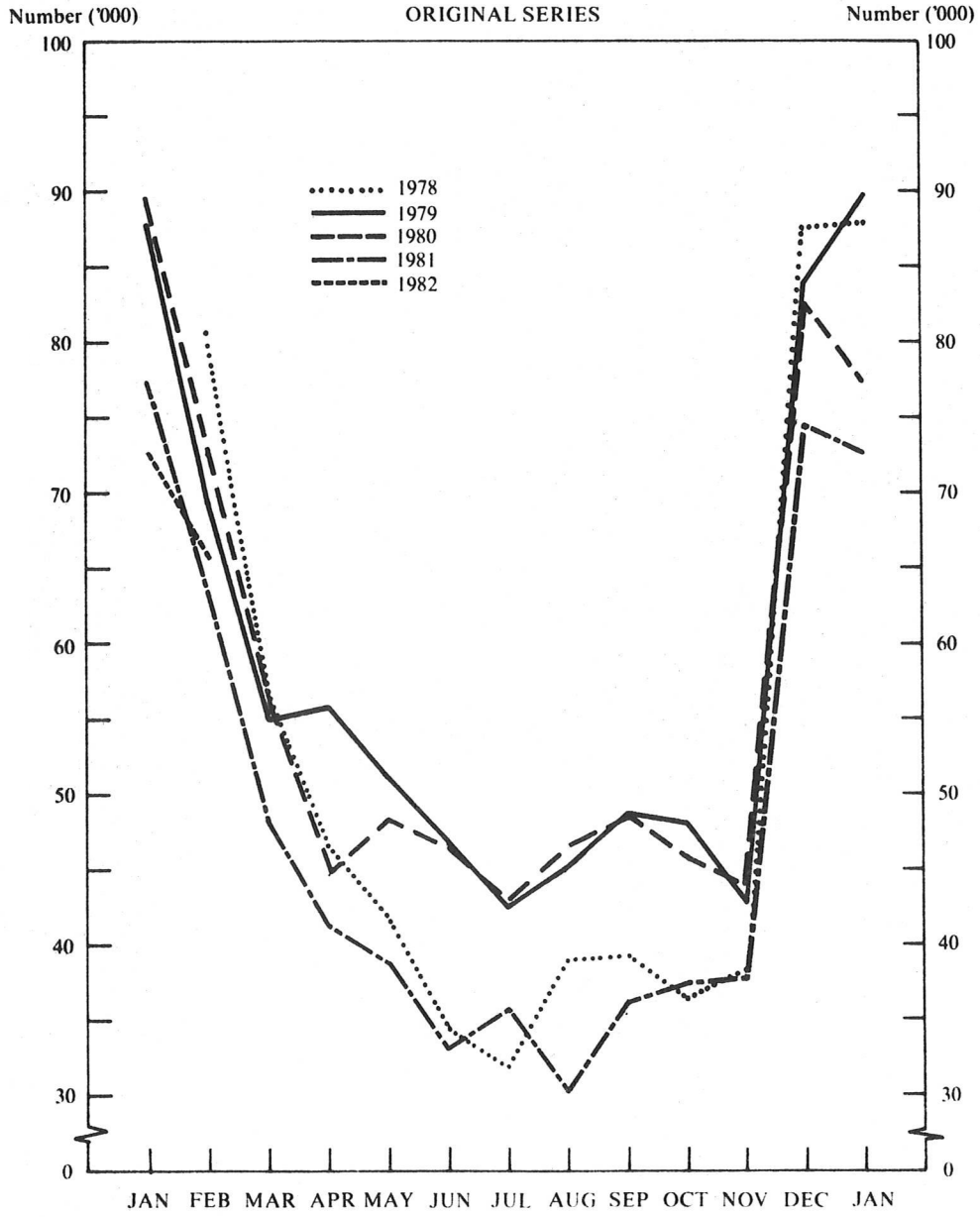
Further information

16. Seasonally adjusted quarterly labour force series up to November 1977 are available on request. The quarterly and monthly labour force survey series will also be published in future issues of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0), *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0) and *Time Series Data on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche* (1311.0).

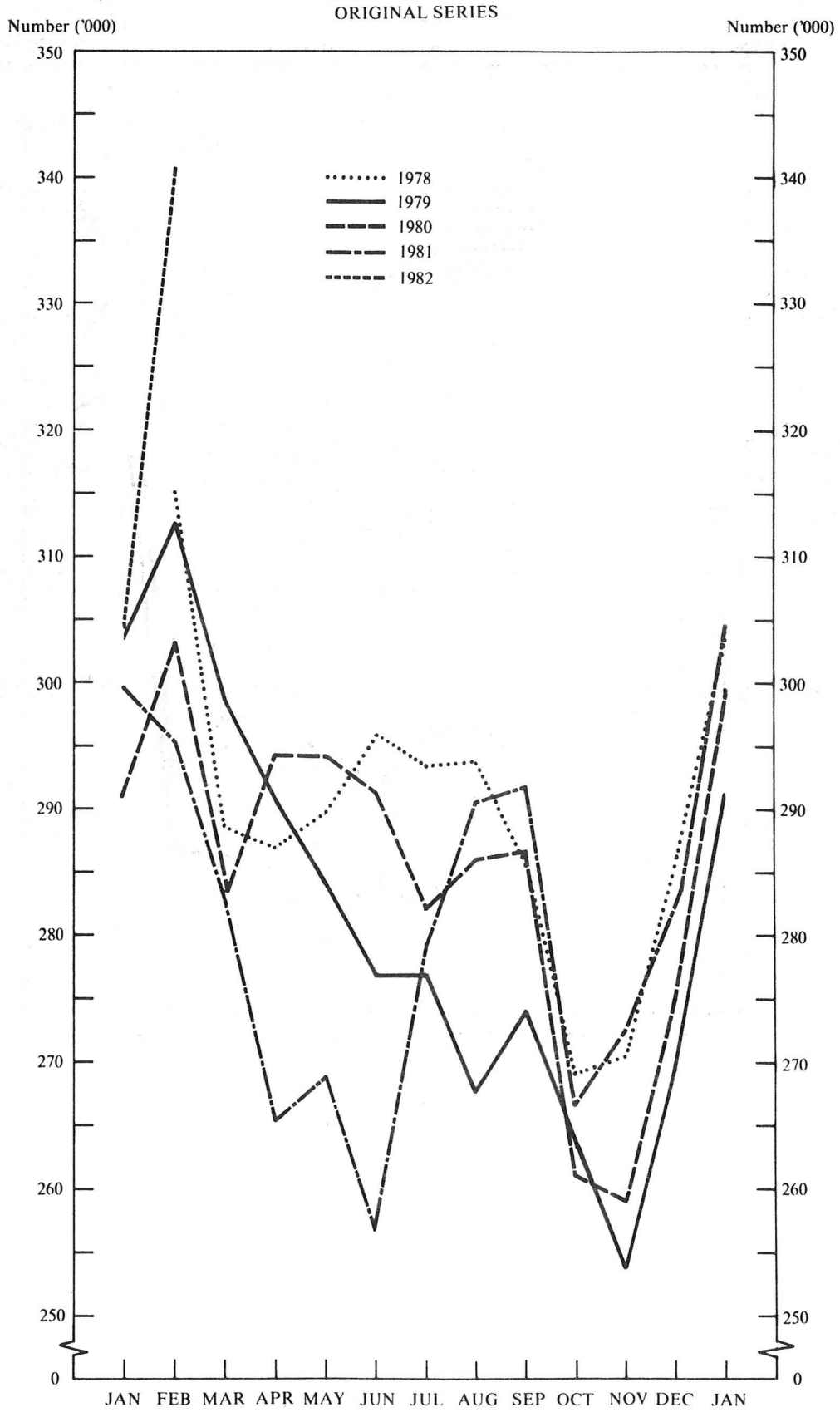
17. Further details of the methods of adjustment of, and selected measures of variability for these series are also available upon request and will be included in the next issue of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0).

18. Graphs of the original series for the three components of unemployed persons which are independently seasonally adjusted—i.e. unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first full-time job, other unemployed persons looking for full-time work and unemployed persons looking for part-time work—are shown in Graphs 1 to 3 on pages 15 to 17. Each graph is presented as a series of separate lines, one line for each full calendar year of data. This presentation aids the study of seasonal and other movements in the series. It can be seen that the pattern of movement is varying from year to year. Because the X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program used to seasonally adjust these series calculates seasonal factors which change very little from year to year, when only four years of data are available, it is certain that when the seasonal factors are reviewed after a further year's figures are available, the seasonally adjusted figures in this publication will be revised.

**GRAPH 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK—
PERSONS 15-19 YEARS LOOKING FOR THEIR FIRST JOB**



GRAPH 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK—OTHER(a)



(a) Excluding persons 15-19 years looking for their first full-time job.

GRAPH 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK
ORIGINAL SERIES

