



## THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 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.  
*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

**In May 1982 there were an estimated 6,854,700 persons in the labour force—6,404,800 employed and 449,900 unemployed—and 4,408,700 persons not in the labour force.**

**Between April and May 1982, in seasonally adjusted terms, employment increased by 26,900, unemployment increased by 18,500, the labour force increased by 46,500 and the labour force participation rate rose from 60.6 to 60.9 per cent.**

**In the period May 1981 to May 1982, employment increased by 27,600, unemployment increased by 74,400 and the labour force participation rate fell from 61.2 to 60.9 per cent.**

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 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 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.

## 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.

6. *Unemployed persons* are those aged 15 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 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 219,800 unemployed males looking for full-time work in May 1982 has a standard error of about 5,300. 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 214,500 to 225,100 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 209,200 to 230,400.

(b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from April to May 1982 is an increase of 9,600. 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 May 1982 estimate (219,800) is the larger. From Table B it will be seen that the standard error of the monthly movement is about 4,400. 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 +5,200 to +14,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range +800 to +18,400.

### Seasonal adjustment

22. Seasonal adjustment of a number of monthly series from the labour force survey commenced in the February 1982 issue of this publication. That issue contained an appendix giving details of the methods of seasonal adjustment used and other explanatory notes. Issues of this publication since March 1982 contain seasonally adjusted estimates based on an expanded set of unemployment series for the latest months. The addition of further components of unemployed persons looking for full-time work to the set of available seasonally adjusted series required a change in the method of aggregatively adjusting that series and the total number of unemployed persons. Therefore the figures for these series previously published in the February 1982 issue of this publication were revised slightly. More information about this change in method of adjustment and seasonally adjusted figures for all months since February 1978 for all labour force series which now have been published in seasonally adjusted form are contained in an appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, February 1982* (6203.0).

23. The seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated on the basis of four years of monthly data. 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 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 are certain to be revised at that time. 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.

### Related publications

24. 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

25. 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

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

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Australian Statistician





TABLE 1. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a)

Month	Unemployed											
	Employed		Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Aged 15-19 looking for first job	Total	Total	Total						
	— '000—											
— per cent—												
<b>MALES</b>												
1981—												
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	
March	3,880.4	4,091.8	23.2	216.1	22.0	238.1	4,329.9	1,215.6	5,545.4	5.5	78.1	
April	3,826.5	4,062.7	15.9	210.2	16.9	227.2	4,289.9	1,265.2	5,555.0	5.3	77.2	
May	3,836.5	4,066.9	18.5	219.8	20.0	239.8	4,306.8	1,256.7	5,563.4	5.6	77.4	
Standard error of—												
May 1982 estimates	13.7	14.0	1.9	5.3	2.0	5.5	14.2	9.8	..	0.1	0.3	
April 1982 to May 1982 movement	9.6	9.8	1.9	4.4	2.0	4.5	9.9	7.3	..	0.1	0.2	
<b>MARRIED FEMALES</b>												
1981—												
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	
March	805.6	1,450.6	*	52.2	36.5	88.7	1,539.3	2,014.6	3,553.9	5.8	43.3	
April	809.2	1,426.1	*	48.9	31.3	80.2	1,506.3	2,051.0	3,557.3	5.3	42.3	
May	804.2	1,432.1	*	47.3	36.6	83.9	1,515.9	2,055.2	3,571.2	5.5	42.4	
Standard error of—												
May 1982 estimates	8.4	10.2	..	2.9	2.6	3.6	10.4	11.4	..	0.2	0.3	
April 1982 to May 1982 movement	6.5	7.5	..	2.7	2.4	3.3	7.7	8.3	..	0.2	0.2	

For footnote see end of table.

TABLE 1. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a)—continued

Month	Unemployed										
	Employed		Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Aged 15-19 looking for first job	Total	Total	Total					
	—'000—						—per cent—				
<b>ALL FEMALES</b>											
1981—											
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
March	1,524.2	2,369.3	28.8	158.2	63.4	221.6	2,590.9	3,089.4	5,680.3	8.6	45.6
April	1,519.0	2,333.5	25.6	153.1	55.9	209.0	2,542.5	3,148.2	5,690.8	8.2	44.7
May	1,520.3	2,337.9	23.4	152.8	57.2	210.0	2,547.9	3,152.0	5,699.9	8.2	44.7
Standard error of—											
May 1982 estimates	10.4	11.9	2.1	4.6	3.1	5.2	12.2	13.0	..	0.2	0.2
April 1982 to May 1982 movement	7.7	8.5	2.2	4.0	2.9	4.4	8.7	9.2	..	0.2	0.2
<b>PERSONS</b>											
1981—											
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
March	5,404.6	6,461.1	52.0	374.3	85.4	459.7	6,920.8	4,305.0	11,225.8	6.6	61.7
April	5,345.4	6,396.2	41.6	363.3	72.8	436.2	6,832.4	4,413.4	11,245.8	6.4	60.8
May	5,356.8	6,404.8	41.9	372.6	77.3	449.9	6,854.7	4,408.7	11,263.3	6.6	60.9
Standard error of—											
May 1982 estimates	15.1	15.9	2.7	6.4	3.5	6.9	16.2	14.3	..	0.1	0.1
April 1982 to May 1982 movement	10.4	10.8	2.6	5.2	3.2	5.5	11.0	10.0	..	0.1	0.1

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

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES(a)

	Unemployed							
	Employed	Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work	Total	Labour force	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Aged 15-19 looking for first job	Total					
		— '000—						
MALES								
1981—								
April	4,060.5	18.6	175.8	16.6	192.4	4,254.3	4.5	78.3
May	4,062.9	19.2	179.6	15.8	195.4	4,261.4	4.6	78.2
June	4,067.5	17.2	174.1	14.0	188.1	4,258.0	4.4	78.0
July	4,072.1	18.5	188.2	15.8	204.0	4,276.6	4.8	78.2
August	4,070.5	16.5	191.5	14.3	205.8	4,276.1	4.8	78.1
September	4,084.2	17.3	196.3	15.8	212.1	4,295.4	4.9	78.2
October	4,062.5	20.1	199.0	15.1	214.1	4,275.2	5.0	77.8
November	4,061.3	21.6	202.7	18.4	221.1	4,282.1	5.1	77.7
December	4,053.5	21.6	196.3	18.8	215.1	4,267.2	5.0	77.4
1982—								
January	4,074.3	21.0	191.3	17.8	209.1	4,283.1	4.9	77.5
February	4,078.0	23.2	214.5	14.9	229.4	4,307.2	5.3	77.8
March	4,077.0	24.3	215.6	20.7	236.3	4,317.3	5.5	77.9
April	4,055.0	19.0	r214.7	r17.3	r232.0	4,287.9	5.4	77.2
May	4,065.8	23.7	224.6	18.2	242.8	4,311.2	5.6	77.5
MARRIED FEMALES								
1981—								
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
March	1,440.4	..	46.8	32.4	79.2	1,518.4	5.2	42.8
April	1,421.0	..	46.3	28.9	75.2	1,497.2	5.0	42.1
May	1,428.7	..	47.4	35.2	82.6	1,512.7	5.5	42.4
ALL FEMALES								
1981—								
April	2,307.8	26.6	131.9	50.0	181.9	2,489.7	7.3	44.7
May	2,314.6	25.3	132.4	50.2	182.6	2,499.1	7.3	44.8
June	2,317.5	24.4	128.4	47.2	175.6	2,493.5	7.0	44.6
July	2,311.8	29.6	140.5	48.7	189.2	2,503.0	7.6	44.7
August	2,323.5	21.8	137.3	48.7	186.0	2,514.5	7.5	44.8
September	2,355.3	25.8	138.5	46.7	185.2	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	137.9	49.2	187.1	2,527.7	7.4	44.8
December	2,344.9	26.2	141.5	50.2	191.7	2,531.7	7.5	44.8
1982—								
January	2,345.1	25.1	141.4	55.4	196.8	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
March	2,354.2	27.7	150.1	55.6	205.7	2,553.9	8.1	45.0
April	2,320.4	26.6	149.4	52.4	201.8	2,522.7	8.0	44.4
May	2,340.1	24.8	153.1	56.8	209.9	2,552.2	8.2	44.8
PERSONS								
1981—								
April	6,368.5	44.9	309.2	67.0	376.2	6,744.7	5.6	61.2
May	6,374.4	44.7	313.9	65.4	379.3	6,755.3	5.6	61.2
June	6,384.9	42.0	299.3	61.5	360.8	6,747.2	5.3	61.1
July	6,386.2	49.2	328.8	65.2	394.0	6,781.0	5.8	61.2
August	6,393.9	38.4	326.8	63.1	389.9	6,793.8	5.8	61.2
September	6,439.1	43.1	334.4	61.2	395.6	6,834.0	5.8	61.5
October	6,404.0	44.9	333.8	63.2	397.0	6,811.8	5.8	61.2
November	6,403.3	48.2	341.8	65.6	407.4	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	335.3	73.2	408.5	6,819.0	6.0	61.0
February	6,412.8	51.2	365.6	73.0	438.6	6,853.3	6.4	61.2
March	6,427.0	51.1	364.8	77.2	442.0	6,867.3	6.4	61.2
April	6,375.7	45.3	r365.5	r70.1	r435.6	6,811.3	6.4	60.6
May	6,402.6	48.3	379.6	74.5	454.1	6,857.8	6.6	60.9

(a) These seasonally adjusted figures are subject to revisions which may be substantial. For more information regarding seasonal adjustment see paragraphs 22 and 23.



**TABLE 3. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, MAY 1982**

State or Territory	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
	— '000—									
<b>MALES</b>										
N.S.W.	1,357.7	1,430.9	77.7	6.7	84.4	1,515.3	442.7	1,957.9	5.6	77.4
Vic.	1,010.9	1,078.3	51.4	6.3	57.7	1,136.0	326.2	1,462.2	5.1	77.7
Qld	598.1	635.2	29.7	*	32.6	667.8	209.4	877.2	4.9	76.1
S.A.	329.3	350.9	24.2	*	25.4	376.3	120.3	496.7	6.7	75.8
W.A.	345.6	366.1	20.1	*	21.4	387.5	100.6	488.1	5.5	79.4
Tas.	104.0	109.6	10.8	*	10.9	120.6	35.8	156.3	9.1	77.1
N.T.	34.4	35.9	2.3	*	2.7	38.6	7.9	46.6	7.0	82.9
A.C.T.	56.6	60.0	3.7	*	4.7	64.7	13.8	78.5	7.2	82.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>3,836.5</b>	<b>4,066.9</b>	<b>219.8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>239.8</b>	<b>4,306.8</b>	<b>1,256.7</b>	<b>5,563.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>77.4</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>										
N.S.W.	550.9	812.7	46.2	18.3	64.5	877.2	1,138.1	2,015.2	7.4	43.5
Vic.	416.8	633.0	43.4	15.9	59.3	692.2	820.0	1,512.3	8.6	45.8
Qld	221.5	347.6	23.9	8.5	32.4	380.0	511.1	891.1	8.5	42.6
S.A.	124.4	209.8	16.8	4.9	21.7	231.5	276.9	508.5	9.4	45.5
W.A.	123.4	209.5	14.1	5.5	19.6	229.1	254.8	483.9	8.6	47.3
Tas.	36.9	59.3	4.7	1.8	6.5	65.8	97.6	163.4	9.9	40.3
N.T.	18.1	23.8	*	*	2.4	26.2	15.9	42.1	9.1	62.3
A.C.T.	28.3	42.2	*	*	3.6	45.8	37.6	83.4	7.9	54.9
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,520.3</b>	<b>2,337.9</b>	<b>152.8</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>2,547.9</b>	<b>3,152.0</b>	<b>5,699.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>44.7</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>										
N.S.W.	1,908.6	2,243.5	123.9	25.0	148.9	2,392.4	1,580.7	3,973.2	6.2	60.2
Vic.	1,427.7	1,711.3	94.8	22.2	117.0	1,828.3	1,146.2	2,974.4	6.4	61.5
Qld	819.5	982.8	53.6	11.4	65.0	1,047.8	720.5	1,768.3	6.2	59.3
S.A.	453.7	560.7	41.0	6.1	47.1	607.8	397.3	1,005.1	7.8	60.5
W.A.	469.0	575.6	34.2	6.8	41.0	616.6	355.4	972.0	6.6	63.4
Tas.	140.9	168.9	15.5	2.0	17.5	186.4	133.4	319.7	9.4	58.3
N.T.	52.5	59.8	4.0	*	5.1	64.8	23.8	88.7	7.8	73.1
A.C.T.	84.8	102.2	5.6	2.7	8.3	110.5	51.4	161.9	7.5	68.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>5,356.8</b>	<b>6,404.8</b>	<b>372.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>6,854.7</b>	<b>4,408.7</b>	<b>11,263.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>60.9</b>

**TABLE 4. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER, BY AGE, MAY 1982**

Age group	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work						Total
	— '000—										—per cent—
15-19	505.2	153.9	659.1	112.1	25.4	137.5	796.5	468.8	1,265.3	17.3	63.0
Attending school(a)	*	84.5	87.6	6.1	16.2	22.3	109.8	336.3	446.1	20.3	24.6
Left school(a) Before 1981	502.1	69.3	571.5	106.1	9.2	115.2	686.7	130.0	816.7	16.8	84.1
20-24	367.2	41.1	408.2	70.7	5.6	76.2	484.5	74.3	558.8	15.7	86.7
25 and over	848.3	99.4	947.6	93.2	8.7	101.8	1,049.5	248.4	1,297.8	9.7	80.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,003.4</b>	<b>794.7</b>	<b>4,798.1</b>	<b>167.3</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>210.6</b>	<b>5,008.7</b>	<b>3,691.5</b>	<b>8,700.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>57.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,356.8</b>	<b>1,048.0</b>	<b>6,404.8</b>	<b>372.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>6,854.7</b>	<b>4,408.7</b>	<b>11,263.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>60.9</b>

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED PERSONS, MAY 1982

	Females			Total	Persons
	Males	Married	Not married(a)		
NUMBER ('000)					
All employed persons	4,066.9	1,432.1	905.8	2,337.9	6,404.8
Full-time workers	3,836.5	804.2	716.1	1,520.3	5,356.8
Part-time workers	230.4	627.8	189.7	817.5	1,048.0
Preferred not to work more hours	173.3	568.8	140.3	709.2	882.5
Preferred to work more hours	57.1	59.0	49.4	108.4	165.5
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	24.0	12.7	20.4	33.0	57.1
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(c)					
All employed persons	39.1	27.3	31.6	29.0	35.4
Full-time workers	40.5	36.8	36.3	36.5	39.4
Part-time workers	16.1	15.1	14.0	14.8	15.1

(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, MAY 1982 ('000)

	Age group			Hours worked by 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	1-5	6-10	11 and over		
Total	153.9	99.4	794.7	132.8	207.4	632.2	75.5	1,048.0
Preferred not to work more hours	114.3	71.7	696.5	104.5	174.8	535.8	67.4	882.5
Preferred to work more hours	39.6	27.7	98.2	28.3	32.6	96.4	8.2	165.5
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	16.9	13.7	26.5	7.6	14.0	33.7	*	57.1

(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, MAY 1982

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	219.8	152.8	372.6	5.4	9.1	6.5
Married	80.7	47.3	128.1	2.9	5.6	3.5
Not married(a)	139.0	105.5	244.5	10.7	12.8	11.6
Aged 15-19	54.0	58.2	112.1	15.6	21.5	18.2
Attending school	*	*	6.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24	55.0	38.1	93.2	9.9	9.9	9.9
Looking for first job	*	4.6	7.5	..	..	..
Aged 25 and over	110.8	56.5	167.3	3.5	5.5	4.0
Born in Australia	150.5	106.4	256.8	5.2	8.7	6.2
Born outside Australia	69.3	46.4	115.8	6.1	10.3	7.3
Arrived before 1971	39.2	23.3	62.5	4.9	8.3	5.8
1971 to 1975	10.6	6.2	16.7	6.6	8.3	7.2
1976 to 1980	9.4	7.6	17.0	7.6	10.9	8.8
1981 to survey date	10.1	9.4	19.6	16.8	34.4	22.3
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	20.0	57.3	77.3	8.0	6.5	6.9
Aged 15-19	12.1	13.3	25.4	15.6	13.0	14.1
Attending school	8.7	7.5	16.2	18.5	13.9	16.1
Aged 20-24	*	5.9	8.7	*	8.0	8.0
Aged 25 and over	5.2	38.1	43.3	3.7	5.4	5.2

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

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, STATE CAPITAL CITIES(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES, MAY 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.	72.4	17.1	89.5	5.5	7.6	5.8	123.9	25.0	148.9	6.1	7.0	6.2
Vic.	73.1	16.7	89.8	6.5	7.7	6.7	94.8	22.2	117.0	6.2	7.3	6.4
Qld	23.2	6.3	29.5	5.8	7.4	6.0	53.6	11.4	65.0	6.1	6.6	6.2
S.A.	31.1	5.7	36.7	8.7	6.9	8.4	41.0	6.1	47.1	8.3	5.4	7.8
W.A.	26.4	5.4	31.8	7.3	6.6	7.2	34.2	6.8	41.0	6.8	6.0	6.6
Tas.	7.3	*	8.2	11.0	*	10.5	15.5	2.0	17.5	9.9	6.6	9.4
N.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.0	*	5.1	7.0	*	7.8
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6	2.7	8.3	6.2	13.3	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>233.4</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>285.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>372.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>

(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, MAY 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	166.0	110.4	276.4	3.9	4.5	4.1
<i>Industry division or subdivision(a)—</i>						
Agriculture and services to agriculture	11.2	*	15.3	3.8	*	3.9
Manufacturing	45.0	21.6	66.6	4.6	6.5	5.1
Food, beverages and tobacco	9.8	5.7	15.5	6.9	10.2	7.8
Metal products	10.1	*	12.6	4.9	*	5.3
Other manufacturing	25.1	13.4	38.5	4.0	5.4	4.4
Construction	28.5	*	29.9	6.3	*	6.0
Wholesale trade	11.2	*	15.5	3.8	*	3.8
Retail trade	21.0	26.0	46.9	4.5	5.6	5.0
Transport and storage	7.6	*	9.9	2.4	*	2.6
Finance, property and business services	7.8	7.2	14.9	2.4	2.7	2.5
Community services	7.0	20.4	27.5	1.9	3.1	2.6
Recreation, personal and other services	13.4	17.8	31.2	7.3	7.2	7.2
Other industries	13.4	5.2	18.6	2.4	3.4	2.7
<i>Occupation group—</i>						
Professional, technical, etc.	6.5	11.2	17.7	1.2	2.6	1.8
Administrative, executive, and managerial	*	*	6.5	*	*	1.6
Clerical	6.8	31.5	38.3	2.0	3.9	3.3
Sales	10.9	20.3	31.2	3.9	6.1	5.1
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	15.9	4.6	20.5	4.2	4.8	4.3
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	9.6	*	11.5	3.1	*	3.2
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	94.3	17.9	112.1	5.3	6.9	5.5
Service, sport and recreation	15.6	20.9	36.5	6.6	5.2	5.7
Other(b)	70.2	93.2	163.4	..	..	..
Looking for first job	31.4	40.3	71.7	..	..	..
Looking for full-time work	22.3	30.5	52.8	..	..	..
Other	38.7	52.9	91.7	..	..	..
Stood down	*	6.4	10.1	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>239.8</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>

(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, MAY 1982

	Persons						
	Females				Looking for—		
	Males	Married	Not married(a)	Total	Full-time work	Part-time work	Total
NUMBER ('000)							
Duration of unemployment (weeks)—							
Under 2	19.9	11.1	7.6	18.7	24.5	14.1	38.6
2 and under 4	24.4	12.2	10.8	23.0	34.5	12.9	47.3
4 and under 8	34.5	15.0	19.2	34.1	56.4	12.2	68.6
8 and under 13	27.2	10.7	14.7	25.4	43.8	8.9	52.6
13 and under 26	52.2	13.7	32.3	46.0	86.7	11.4	98.2
26 and under 39	21.1	8.6	14.2	22.8	36.8	7.1	43.9
39 and under 52	7.0	*	*	5.7	11.5	} 4.7 {	12.6
52 and under 65	15.6	4.5	5.0	9.5	21.5		25.0
65 and under 78	4.9	*	} 7.3	8.4 {	8.4	*	9.1
78 and under 91	4.9	*			*	8.6	*
91 and under 104	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
104 and over	27.0	5.2	10.1	15.3	37.5	4.7	42.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>239.8</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>372.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>449.9</b>
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	35.1	22.6	32.0	28.3	33.9	22.5	31.9
Aged 15-19	21.4	*	27.1	26.7	26.5	13.8	24.2
Aged 20 and over	40.3	22.8	37.9	29.1	37.1	26.7	35.3
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	16.5	9.7	17.4	14.1	17.1	7.8	15.4
Aged 15-19	13.5	*	16.4	15.8	16.4	6.8	14.7
Aged 20 and over	18.2	9.9	18.7	12.9	17.5	8.4	15.8

(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.

## Inquiries

6. For information about these statistics contact Mr Terry Sharp on Canberra (062) 52 6655.

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

Month	Civilian employees				Total	Defence forces(b)	Total Government
	Commonwealth	State	Northern Territory	Local			
MALES							
1981—							
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
1982—							
January	276.6	576.6	7.7	103.4	964.3	68.3	1,032.6
February	276.2	579.3	7.7	103.8	966.9	68.8	1,035.7
March	276.1	581.0	7.7	104.2	968.9	68.8	1,037.7
April	275.6	579.6	7.7	104.1	967.3	68.7	1,036.0
FEMALES							
1981—							
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	414.4	6.6	28.3	577.6	4.5	582.1
1982—							
January	128.2	405.9	6.5	27.8	568.5	4.5	573.0
February	127.9	419.8	6.5	28.8	583.1	4.5	587.6
March	128.4	423.7	6.6	28.8	587.6	4.6	592.2
April	128.7	424.3	6.6	28.9	588.5	4.7	593.2
PERSONS							
1981—							
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	993.2	14.3	131.4	1,544.1	72.3	1,616.4
1982—							
January	404.8	982.5	14.2	131.2	1,532.8	72.7	1,605.5
February	404.1	999.1	14.2	132.6	1,550.0	73.3	1,623.3
March	404.5	1,004.7	14.2	133.0	1,556.5	73.4	1,629.9
April	404.3	1,004.3	14.2	133.0	1,555.8	73.4	1,629.2

(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.