

Reference No. 6.35

UNEMPLOYMENT, NOVEMBER 1975
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

Estimates for August 1975 and earlier periods have been revised following the adoption of new population benchmarks based on the results of the 1971 population census. For details, see *The Labour Force*, May 1975.

MAIN FEATURES

- In November 1975 the estimated number of unemployed persons, as defined in paragraph 4 below, was 279,200 (4.6 per cent of the estimated labour force) – an increase of 45,700 over the level in August. The figure includes persons who stated that they were actively looking for either full-time or part-time work during the survey week.
- There were 148,500 unemployed males (3.8 per cent of the male labour force) and 130,700 unemployed females (6.0 per cent of the female labour force).
- Of persons in the labour force aged 15-19 years about one in seven was unemployed (14.9 per cent). The unemployment rate for persons aged 20 years and over was 3.2 per cent.
- For the November 1975 survey a special family analysis was made of the unemployed. For details see page 4.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This statement contains preliminary unemployment estimates for Australia derived from the quarterly population survey. More detailed estimates are published each quarter in *The Labour Force (Preliminary)* (Reference No. 6.32) and *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.). The information being obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

3. The survey normally covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia, but because of special circumstances in November 1975 the sample size was reduced to one half of one per cent.

Definition

4. For purposes of the survey, unemployed persons are defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who, during the whole of the week prior to the interview week, did no work at all and either:

- did not have a job or business and were actively looking for work (including those who stated that they would have done so if they had not (i) been temporarily ill, or (ii) believed no work was available, or (iii) already made definite arrangements to start in a new job in which they would have preferred to start during survey week) or
- had a job from which they were temporarily laid off without pay for the whole week.

5. Unemployed persons therefore comprise those looking for full-time work, those looking for part-time work and those temporarily laid off from either full-time or part-time jobs. This definition of unemployed persons conforms closely to that recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1954).

Seasonally adjusted estimates

6. All adjustment methods which compute seasonal factors as some average of the seasonal pattern for previous years are subject to inherent limitations when the pattern changes. The method currently used assumes that seasonal variations (such as that which occurs in November when young people leave school and seek employment) are proportional to the level of the series. However, when the number of unemployed becomes exceptionally high this proportional relationship may change. If it does, the change cannot be accommodated quickly enough by the current method. Such a change has been occurring in recent quarters and as a result the seasonally adjusted estimates for August are overstated while those for November are understated. It is difficult in these circumstances to draw any reliable conclusions from the movement in the seasonally adjusted estimates between August and November 1975.

Reliability of the estimates

7. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. Because of the reduction in the size of the sample in November 1975, the standard errors are larger than usual. For November 1975 there are about two chances in three that the differences would be less than 4,100 for total unemployed males, less than 3,800 for total unemployed females and less than 5,500 for total unemployed persons, and about nineteen chances in twenty that they would be less than twice these figures. Corresponding figures for recent months shown are: 3,500, 3,100 and 4,100. Further details about the survey and the reliability of the estimates will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service figures

8. The sample estimates will differ from the number of persons registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (C.E.S.) as not employed, awaiting placement in full-time employment, for a number of reasons, including the following:

- . the survey estimates include persons looking for *part-time* work as well as those looking for *full-time* work
- . they exclude persons who did any work at all during the survey week, even though they may subsequently have become unemployed and registered with the C.E.S., or have done so little work as not to lose eligibility for unemployment benefit

- . they represent *averages over a period* (see paragraph 2), whereas the numbers registered with the C.E.S. refer to a particular day at the end of the month
- . they are subject to sampling variability (see paragraph 7)
- . they include some unemployed persons (particularly females) who do not register with the C.E.S.
- . they exclude any persons registered as unemployed who find jobs but do not notify the C.E.S. at once that they have done so.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the table are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a): AUSTRALIA

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) - AUSTRALIA

Month	Looking for		Total	Age (years)			Per cent of labour force (b)				
	Full-time work ('000)	Part-time work ('000)		15-19			15-19	20 and over	Total		
			Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (c) ('000)	Looking for first job ('000)	Total ('000)			20 and over ('000)	Original	Seasonally adjusted
MALES											
1973 -											
August	35.3	5.5	40.8	49.6	*	12.0	28.8	3.5	0.8	1.1	1.3
November	47.9	6.1	54.1	48.7	14.6	26.6	27.5	7.6	0.8	1.4	1.3
1974 -											
February	51.0	5.3	56.3	48.1	7.2	18.8	37.5	5.1	1.1	1.5	1.3
May	40.8	4.3	45.2	49.8	*	10.4	34.8	2.9	1.0	1.2	1.3
August	56.3	4.5	60.8	72.3	*	15.2	45.5	4.5	1.3	1.6	1.9
November	99.0	12.4	111.4	106.9	17.0	42.7	68.7	11.9	1.9	2.9	2.7
1975 -											
February	137.1	6.7	143.8	122.3	13.4	41.6	102.2	11.1	2.9	3.7	3.1
May	117.4	7.1	124.5	139.5	8.3	30.8	93.7	8.5	2.7	3.2	3.6
August	116.3	8.3	124.6	151.0	9.6	37.5	87.0	10.6	2.5	3.2	3.9
November (d)	136.3	12.2	148.5	143.1	20.6	52.7	95.8	14.0	2.7	3.8	3.6
FEMALES											
1973 -											
August	24.9	15.7	40.7	49.6	4.2	13.2	27.5	4.4	1.7	2.1	2.6
November	33.9	17.5	51.4	49.7	15.3	24.8	26.6	7.8	1.6	2.6	2.6
1974 -											
February	42.4	21.6	63.9	50.6	8.8	23.4	40.6	7.1	2.4	3.2	2.5
May	30.9	19.2	50.1	56.6	5.7	18.2	31.9	5.6	1.9	2.5	2.8
August	37.9	17.0	55.0	67.1	5.6	18.4	36.5	6.0	2.2	2.8	3.4
November	68.6	21.0	89.6	92.1	16.3	40.4	49.1	12.3	2.8	4.3	4.5
1975 -											
February	95.3	33.4	128.6	101.9	19.0	52.7	75.9	15.2	4.4	6.2	5.0
May	74.1	31.0	105.1	120.0	13.0	38.7	66.4	11.7	3.9	5.1	5.8
August	79.7	29.2	108.9	136.8	15.6	44.6	64.3	13.6	3.7	5.3	6.6
November (d)	89.7	40.9	130.7	133.3	25.1	57.0	73.6	15.9	4.1	6.0	6.2
PERSONS											
1973 -											
August	60.3	21.2	81.5	101.4	7.8	25.2	56.3	3.9	1.1	1.4	1.8
November	81.8	23.6	105.4	98.9	29.8	51.4	54.0	7.7	1.1	1.8	1.7
1974 -											
February	93.4	26.8	120.2	98.3	15.8	42.2	78.1	6.0	1.5	2.1	1.7
May	71.7	23.5	95.2	104.9	8.3	28.6	66.7	4.2	1.3	1.6	1.8
August	94.2	21.5	115.7	142.8	9.2	33.7	82.1	5.2	1.6	2.0	2.4
November	167.6	33.4	201.0	200.2	33.2	83.1	117.9	12.1	2.2	3.4	3.4
1975 -											
February	232.4	40.1	272.4	222.3	32.2	94.3	178.1	13.1	3.4	4.6	3.7
May	191.5	38.1	229.6	259.5	21.3	69.5	160.1	10.0	3.1	3.9	4.4
August	195.9	37.5	233.5	295.3	25.2	82.1	151.3	12.0	2.9	3.9	5.0
November (d)	226.0	53.2	279.2	277.5	45.7	109.8	169.4	14.9	3.2	4.6	4.6

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definition, see paragraph 4. (b) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. (c) The method used in seasonally adjusting estimates for unemployed persons is to adjust estimates for unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first job and estimates for the remainder of unemployed persons separately and to add the two figures to obtain total estimates for unemployed persons. Estimates for unemployed males and females are treated similarly. See also paragraph 6. (d) Preliminary estimates, subject to revision.

* Estimates less than 4,000 are not published, because they would be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

FAMILY STATUS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

A family was generally defined to consist of two or more persons living in the same household, including the head of the family and any person or persons having any of the following relationships to the head:

- (i) wife
- (ii) son or daughter of any age, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (iii) brother or sister 16 years of age or over, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (iv) grandchild, if unmarried and not accompanied by either of his or her parents, nor by children of his or her own
- (v) ancestor, if not married and not accompanied by children under 16 years of age of his or her own; or
- (vi) any child under 16 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some

person in a second family in the household.

The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous paragraph:

- (i) the term 'relationship' includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (ii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships
- (iii) the term "not married" comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons.

A family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if these persons are husband and wife.

Dependent children comprise all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15-20 years who are full-time students.

TABLE 2. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) BY FAMILY STATUS, NOVEMBER 1975 ('000)

<i>Family status</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Members of families	122.9	112.9	235.8
Family head - married with dependent children present	24.7	*	26.5
- married without dependent children present	22.2	*	24.1
- never married, widowed, divorced or permanently separated with dependent children present	*	4.1	5.0
Wife of family head	..	47.7	47.7
Child (b) of family head	72.4	57.6	130.0
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	*	*	4.5
Other (c)	25.6	15.8	41.4
Total	148.5	130.7	279.2

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definition, see paragraph 4. (b) Of any age. (c) Includes a small number of not married persons living with their non-dependent children.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. P. Power on 52 7911 extension 6654 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.