

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 6227.0

NOON 7 DECEMBER 1978

LEAVERS FROM SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AUGUST 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Michael Salloom on Canberra 526503 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

- Over one third (36.7 per cent) of all civilians aged 15 to 25 years in August 1978 had attended an educational institution full time in 1977.
- Of these, 25.7 per cent did not return to full-time education in 1978.
- 96.8 per cent of these leavers were in the labour force in August 1978. Of those in the labour force seven out of eight (87.2 per cent) were employed – nearly all full time – and one in eight (12.8 per cent) was unemployed. Corresponding figures for August 1977 were 84.9 per cent employed and 15.1 per cent unemployed.
- 96.4 per cent of leavers employed in August 1978 were wage or salary earners. Their average weekly earnings were: school leavers \$90, leavers from other educational institutions \$149.
- One quarter (25.8 per cent) of persons who left secondary school in 1977 studied full time at a post-school educational institution in 1978.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In August 1978 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 25 years who had attended full time at a school, university or other educational institution at some time during 1977. Separate information was obtained in respect of persons who had returned to full-time education in 1978 and those who had not returned to full-time education (described in this publication as *leavers*). Similar surveys were conducted in February of each year from 1964 to 1974, in May 1975 and 1976 and in August 1977. Results from some earlier surveys are shown in Table 7. However, see paragraphs 6 and 7 regarding the comparability of results.

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and

covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews generally being conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between 6th and 12th of each month.

Scope of the estimates

3. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen to twenty five years except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia, and
- (e) some patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc. and persons reported as permanently unable to work. Estimates of the numbers of such persons are shown in Tables 1 and 7.

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 a specified week known as the *survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal categories appearing in this statement are given in *The Labour Force* (6203.0).

5. For this survey, *leavers from schools, universities or other educational institutions* are defined as persons who had not attended an educational institution full-time at any time in 1978 but who had completed or withdrawn from a course they were attending full-time at an educational institution in 1977. *Non-leavers* are defined as persons who attended an educational institution full-time in 1978 and who had done so in 1977.

Comparability of series

6. Because the August 1978 survey estimates are

based on revised population estimates derived from the results of the 1976 Population Census (adjusted for underenumeration) and a new population survey questionnaire, care should be used in comparing estimates with those shown in previous issues of this publication.

7. Caution should also be exercised in comparing the results of the August 1977 and 1978 surveys with those of previous surveys because :

- (i) some persons who would have been 14 years of age if the survey had been conducted in February or May (as in previous years), and consequently out of scope of the survey, had reached 15 years of age by August and were therefore included in the 1977 and 1978 surveys.
- (ii) the scope of the 1977 and 1978 surveys was extended to include persons aged 25 years.
- (iii) for the August surveys the definition of *non-leavers* was changed to include all persons who had attended an educational institution full-time at some time in the current year and not only those who were attending full-time at the time of the survey.
- (iv) before 1975, surveys were conducted in February, i.e. generally before the start of the academic year for tertiary courses, and information was, of necessity, partly a reflection of expectations.
- (v) for surveys conducted in 1971 and earlier years trainee teachers (enrolled at Colleges of Advanced Education and in some cases also at other institutions) were classified as "in the labour force" but for later years have been included in the category "attended an educational institution full-time in the previous year". It is estimated that in August 1971 there were about 7,000 males and 17,000 females who were reclassified in population surveys as not in the labour force.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. An indication of the likely differences is given in the Technical Note, page 8. See also paragraph 6 of the Technical Note regarding non-sampling errors.

Related publications

9. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include :

- *The Labour Force* (6203.0)
- *Labour Force Experience* (6206.0)
- *Persons not in the Labour Force* (6220.0)
- *Persons Looking for Work* (6222.0)
- *Persons aged 15 to 64 years : Employment Status and Period Since Leaving School* (6225.0)
- *School Leavers, 1970 to 1974 : Their Employment Status and Education Experience in May 1975* (6226.0)
- *Employment Status of Teenagers* (6234.0)
- *Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution)* (6310.0)

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

Symbols and other usages

- Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 8 above.
- n.a. Not available.
- .. Not applicable.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 25 YEARS IN AUGUST 1978: FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE OR NON-ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN 1977 AND 1978

Attended an educational institution full time in 1977 (a)									
Educational institution attended full time in 1977	Non-leavers (b)				Per cent of total	Total ('000)	Did not attend an educational institution full time in 1977 (a) ('000)	In hospitals, etc. (c) ('000)	Total persons aged 15 to 25 years ('000)
	Leavers ('000)	Institution attended full time at some time in 1978							
		School ('000)	Other ('000)	Total ('000)					
MALES									
School	94.8	279.1	23.8	303.0	76.2	397.8	..	..	397.8
Other	38.1	*	76.4	76.7	66.8	114.9	..	..	114.9
Total	133.0	279.5	100.2	379.7	74.1	512.6	839.5	12.3	1,364.4
FEMALES									
School	80.1	260.0	37.1	297.1	78.8	377.2	..	..	377.2
Other	43.0	*	61.7	61.9	59.0	104.9	..	..	104.9
Total	123.1	260.2	98.7	358.9	74.5	482.0	856.4	*	1,342.6
PERSONS									
School	174.9	539.1	60.9	600.0	77.4	774.9	..	..	774.9
Other	81.1	*	138.1	138.6	63.1	219.7	..	..	219.7
Total	256.0	539.7	199.0	738.6	74.3	994.7	1,695.9	16.4	2,707.1

(a) Excludes some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and some inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., at the time of the survey, and persons permanently unable to work, who were not asked the survey questions. (b) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (c) Estimated numbers of persons for whom the hospital, sanatorium, gaol, reformatory, etc., was regarded as their dwelling and persons who were reported as permanently unable to work. Particulars of attendance at schools, etc., were not obtained in respect of such persons.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 25 YEARS IN AUGUST 1978 (a): TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDED FULL TIME IN 1977, AGE AND BIRTHPLACE ('000)

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 25 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 25 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 25 years	Total
BORN IN AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1977	369.1	65.7	434.8	354.9	54.0	408.9	724.0	119.7	843.7
School	338.5	*	342.9	321.6	*	323.9	660.1	6.7	666.8
Other	30.5	61.3	91.8	33.3	51.7	85.1	63.9	113.0	176.9
Did not attend full time in 1977	188.9	515.7	704.6	176.2	527.5	703.6	365.1	1,043.2	1,408.3
Total	558.0	581.4	1,139.4	531.1	581.5	1,112.5	1,089.1	1,162.9	2,251.9
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1977	58.7	19.2	77.9	59.2	13.9	73.1	117.8	33.2	151.0
School	53.8	*	54.9	52.2	*	53.3	106.0	*	108.1
Other	4.8	18.2	23.0	7.0	12.8	19.8	11.8	31.0	42.9
Did not attend full time in 1977	29.5	105.4	134.8	34.0	118.8	152.8	63.5	224.1	287.7
Total	88.2	124.6	212.7	93.2	132.7	225.9	181.4	257.3	438.7

(a) See note (a) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. LEAVERS (a) : EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND BIRTHPLACE, AUGUST 1978

	Employment status				Total leavers			
	Employed (b) (<i>'000</i>)	Unemployed (<i>'000</i>)	Total in the labour force (<i>'000</i>)	Not in the labour force (<i>'000</i>)	Aged 15-19 years (<i>'000</i>)	Aged 20-25 years (<i>'000</i>)	Total	
							Number (<i>'000</i>)	Participation rate (c) (per cent)
MALES								
New South Wales	35.1	6.6	41.7	*	35.6	7.7	43.3	96.4
Victoria	30.6	*	34.7	*	26.4	9.7	36.1	96.2
Queensland	18.6	*	21.0	*	18.7	*	21.5	97.7
South Australia	10.2	*	12.5	*	11.3	*	12.6	99.2
Western Australia	10.5	*	11.8	*	10.1	*	12.4	95.6
Tasmania	3.9	*	4.3	*	3.4	*	4.4	97.1
<i>Australia (d)</i>	<i>110.9</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>128.7</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>107.1</i>	<i>25.8</i>	<i>133.0</i>	<i>96.8</i>
Born in Australia	93.1	15.1	108.2	*	91.6	20.2	111.7	96.9
Born outside Australia	17.8	*	20.5	*	15.6	5.7	21.2	96.6
FEMALES								
New South Wales	37.4	*	40.5	*	33.4	10.4	43.9	92.3
Victoria	27.3	5.0	32.4	*	27.6	6.9	34.6	93.6
Queensland	14.2	*	15.7	*	13.9	*	16.7	94.3
South Australia	9.6	*	11.0	*	9.1	2.8	12.0	92.1
Western Australia	7.9	*	9.5	*	8.4	*	10.4	91.4
Tasmania	2.7	*	3.1	*	2.7	*	3.2	96.1
<i>Australia (d)</i>	<i>101.0</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>114.3</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>96.7</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>123.1</i>	<i>92.8</i>
Born in Australia	88.1	10.4	98.6	7.4	85.4	20.6	106.0	93.0
Born outside Australia	12.8	*	15.7	*	11.3	5.8	17.1	91.9
PERSONS								
New South Wales	72.4	9.8	82.2	4.9	69.0	18.1	87.1	94.3
Victoria	57.9	9.2	67.1	*	54.1	16.6	70.7	94.9
Queensland	32.7	4.0	36.8	*	32.7	5.5	38.2	96.2
South Australia	19.8	3.7	23.5	*	20.5	4.1	24.5	95.7
Western Australia	18.4	2.9	21.3	*	18.5	4.2	22.8	93.7
Tasmania	6.6	*	7.4	*	6.1	1.5	7.6	96.7
Australian Capital Territory	2.5	*	3.1	*	*	*	3.3	94.7
<i>Australia (e)</i>	<i>211.9</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>243.0</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>203.8</i>	<i>52.2</i>	<i>256.0</i>	<i>94.9</i>
Born in Australia	181.3	25.5	206.8	10.9	176.9	40.8	217.7	95.0
Born outside Australia	30.6	5.6	36.2	*	26.9	11.4	38.3	94.5

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. See also note (a) to Table 1. (b) Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (c) Leavers in the labour force as a percentage of total leavers. (d) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (e) Includes the Northern Territory.

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a): INDUSTRY, AUGUST 1978
(^{'000})

<i>Industry division</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	7.2	*	9.3
Manufacturing	26.1	9.1	35.2
Construction	10.6	*	11.4
Wholesale and retail trade	30.9	30.2	61.1
Transport, storage and communication	6.1	*	7.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	9.8	17.4	27.2
Community services (b)	6.9	27.3	34.3
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	5.5	5.4	10.9
Other (c)	7.8	7.3	15.1
Total	110.9	101.0	211.9
Full-time workers	104.0	91.6	195.6
Part-time workers	6.9	9.4	16.3

(a) For definitions see page 1, paragraph 5. See also note (a) to Table 1. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (b) Comprises health, education, libraries, etc.; welfare and religious institutions; and other community services. (c) Comprises mining; electricity, gas and water; and public administration and defence.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a): OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1978
(^{'000})

<i>Occupation group</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Professional and technical	10.7	22.5	33.2
Administrative, executive, managerial and clerical	16.6	41.6	58.3
Sales	10.6	18.0	28.6
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	8.9	*	10.1
Transport and communication	*	*	*
Tradesmen, production-process workers, labourers (n.e.c.) and miners, etc.	56.8	6.9	63.6
Service, sport and recreation	4.8	9.5	14.3
Total	110.9	101.0	211.9

(a) For definitions see page 1, paragraph 5. See also note (a) to Table 1. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers.

TABLE 6. LEAVERS (a) WHO WERE EMPLOYEES: TYPE OF INSTITUTION ATTENDED
FULL TIME IN 1977, AGE AND WEEKLY EARNINGS (b), AUGUST 1978

Institution attended full time in 1977								
Weekly earnings (b) (\$)	School		Other			Total		
	Aged 15-19 years	Total	Aged 15-19 years	Aged 20-25 years	Total	Aged 15-19 years	Aged 20-25 years	Total
MALES								
- '000 -								
Under 60	6.1	6.1	*	*	*	6.8	*	7.2
60 and under 80	29.2	29.2	*	*	*	31.1	*	31.4
80 " " 100	17.4	17.4	*	*	*	18.9	*	19.1
100 " " 120	12.7	12.7	*	*	*	15.4	*	16.7
120 " " 140	7.4	7.5	4.7	*	*	6.2	*	7.8
140 " " 180	*	*	*	6.3	7.4	5.8	6.4	10.7
180 " " 220	*	*	*	6.2	6.9	*	6.4	7.9
Total (c)	74.4	75.0	10.7	19.5	30.1	85.1	20.0	105.1
- dollars -								
Mean earnings	91	91	111	183	157	93	184	110
FEMALES								
- '000 -								
Under 60	4.6	4.6	*	*	*	4.7	*	5.2
60 and under 80	21.6	21.6	*	*	*	23.6	*	24.3
80 " " 100	21.2	21.2	5.3	*	6.1	26.5	*	27.3
100 " " 120	9.4	9.4	6.3	*	*	13.0	*	13.6
120 " " 140	5.9	6.2	*	*	4.7	6.5	*	8.8
140 " " 180	*	*	*	6.2	6.8	*	6.2	8.9
180 " " 220	*	*	*	9.6	9.6	*	9.6	9.6
Total (c)	63.2	63.6	14.3	21.2	35.5	77.5	21.6	99.1
- dollars -								
Mean earnings	89	89	101	170	142	91	169	108
PERSONS								
- '000 -								
Under 60	10.7	10.7	4.6	*	*	11.5	*	12.4
60 and under 80	50.8	50.8	6.8	*	4.9	54.7	*	55.7
80 " " 100	38.6	38.6	6.2	*	7.7	45.4	*	46.4
100 " " 120	22.2	22.2	4.8	5.5	8.1	28.4	5.8	30.3
120 " " 140	7.9	8.2	*	12.6	8.4	12.7	12.6	16.6
140 " " 180	5.4	5.5	*	15.8	14.2	7.0	16.0	19.7
180 " " 220	*	*	*	15.8	16.5	*	16.0	17.5
Total (c)	137.7	138.6	24.9	40.7	65.6	162.6	41.6	204.2
- dollars -								
Mean earnings	90	90	106	176	149	92	176	109

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. See also note (a) to Table 1. (b) Weekly earnings refers to gross weekly wages and salaries (i.e. before taxation and other deductions were made) in main job. For persons paid other than weekly, earnings were converted to a weekly equivalent. (c) Includes a small number of persons whose weekly earnings were \$220 or more.

TABLE 7. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 25 YEARS (a) : FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE OR NON-ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, 1972 TO 1978

	Attended an educational institution full time in the previous year (b)				Did not attend an educational institution full time in the previous year (b) (<i>'000</i>)	In hospitals, etc. (d) (<i>'000</i>)	Total (<i>'000</i>)
	Leavers (c) (<i>'000</i>)	Non-leavers (c)		Total (<i>'000</i>)			
		(<i>'000</i>)	Per cent of total				
MALES							
Feb. - 1972	101.2	262.8	72.2	364.0	744.6	11.6	1,120.1
1973	114.8	281.0	71.0	395.9	719.2	15.6	1,130.7
1974	119.4	283.3	70.3	402.7	722.7	12.1	1,137.5
May - 1975	123.1	316.0	72.0	439.2	726.0	12.5	1,177.7
1976	137.1	316.8	69.8	453.9	729.2	13.4	1,196.4
Aug. - 1977	118.1	368.4	75.7	486.5	828.3	15.2	1,330.0
1978	133.0	379.7	74.1	512.6	839.5	12.3	1,364.4
FEMALES							
Feb. - 1972	92.0	225.4	71.0	317.3	774.1	7.0	1,098.4
1973	103.7	245.2	70.3	348.9	750.2	8.3	1,107.3
1974	109.9	246.9	69.2	356.8	753.7	*	1,114.3
May - 1975	115.3	283.6	71.1	398.9	748.0	4.3	1,151.2
1976	120.1	292.3	70.9	412.4	745.9	4.3	1,162.5
Aug. - 1977	108.9	359.3	76.7	468.1	827.0	7.3	1,302.4
1978	123.1	358.9	74.5	482.0	856.4	*	1,342.6
PERSONS							
Feb. - 1972	193.1	488.2	71.7	681.3	1,518.7	18.6	2,218.5
1973	218.5	526.2	70.7	744.7	1,469.4	23.9	2,238.0
1974	229.4	530.2	69.8	759.6	1,476.5	15.8	2,251.8
May - 1975	238.4	599.6	71.5	838.1	1,474.0	16.8	2,328.9
1976	257.2	609.0	70.3	866.3	1,475.0	17.6	2,358.9
Aug. - 1977	226.9	727.7	76.2	954.6	1,655.2	22.6	2,632.4
1978	256.0	738.6	74.3	994.7	1,695.9	16.4	2,707.1

(a) Aged 15 to 24 years for surveys up to May 1976. (b) See note (a) to Table 1. (c) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (d) See note (c) to Table 1.

NOTE. See page 1, paragraphs 6 and 7, regarding comparability of series.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. 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.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of *standard errors* for general application is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows: the estimated number of persons aged 15 to 25 years in August 1978 who attended an educational institution full time in 1977 was 994,700 (Table 1.). From the table below it will be seen that the estimate has a standard error of about 9,000 and therefore there are about two

chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 985,700 to 1,003,700 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it will fall within the range 976,700 to 1,012,700.

4. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the per cent standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the per cent standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The per cent standard errors of the numerator can be obtained from the table below.

5. As the standard errors in the table below show the *smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this bulletin, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the table below 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.

6. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Per cent of estimate	
— number —										
1,500						300				
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	3,900				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

— Estimates below the levels indicated have not been published — see paragraph 5 above.