



REASONS FOR COMPLETION OR NON-COMPLETION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, AUSTRALIA 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

NEW ISSUE

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics—contact Mr J. Aamodt on Canberra (062) 52 6754 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

Preliminary estimates show that for persons aged 14 to 20 years who continued or intend to continue their secondary schooling to Year 12:

95.0% considered that undertaking Year 12 was important in order to obtain their preferred job;

78.5% considered that undertaking Year 12 was important for continuing on to tertiary study; and

73.8% considered that they enjoyed school and this was important in deciding to undertake Year 12 study.

Of the persons aged 14 to 20 years who left or intend to leave school prior to Year 12:

93.1% considered that getting a job was an important factor in their decision to leave school before Year 12; and

67.2% wanted their own money and considered this an important factor in choosing to leave school prior to Year 12.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

A survey was conducted throughout Australia during September to December 1982 of the population aged 14 to 20 years who were still attending school in August 1982 and those who had left school in the twelve months prior to August 1982. Information was sought about the reasons for choosing to continue to Year 12 schooling or for choosing to leave school prior to Year 12. Interviews were carried out over a period of approximately three months commencing 6 September 1982.

2. This publication contains preliminary estimates of persons aged 14 to 20 years who:

- (a) continued, or intend to continue, to Year 12 by reasons (and influence of those reasons) for continuing to Year 12.

- (b) left or intend to leave school prior to Year 12 by reasons (and influence of those reasons) for not continuing to Year 12.

More detailed estimates will be released at a later date and will include information on the social and economic characteristics of those persons who have left school (e.g. labour force status, income) and of the family unit for those persons still attending school (e.g. income of the family, number of dependents). The estimates in this publication are preliminary and subject to revision.

Scope and coverage

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 18,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covered about one-third of one per cent of the population of Australia.

4. The estimates in this publication relate to all persons aged 14 to 20 years who were either at school in August 1982 or who had left school in the twelve months prior to August 1982 except:

- (a) overseas visitors touring or holidaying in Australia;
- (b) non-Australian servicemen, their spouses and their dependents, stationed in Australia;
- (c) non-Australian diplomatic staff and non-Australian members of their household; and
- (d) long term patients in hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions, some boarding school students, and inmates of reformatories.

Survey method

5. Each person aged 14 to 20 years at school in August 1982 or who had left school in the twelve months prior to August 1982 in the selected dwellings was interviewed personally by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers.

Definitions

6. *School*—refers to only primary and secondary schools. Any form of tertiary attendance is excluded as are coaching or business schools regardless of whether they teach school subjects. (Note that secondary correspondence schools and schools of the air are included.)

7. *Type of school* refers to the governing authority of the school, that is, either government or non-government.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this publication 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 in the survey. 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, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

9. Space does not allow for a separate indication of the standard error of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given below. These figures do not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows: Table 1 shows that the estimated number of males aged 14 to 20 years who intend to continue/continued to Year 12 in a government school because they could not get a job and considered this an important reason for undertaking Year 12 study was 65,300. From the table it will be seen that this estimate has a standard error of about 4,700. This means that there are about two chances in three that the figure that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 60,600 to 70,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the figure will fall within the range 55,900 to 74,700.

10. As the standard errors in the table show, the smaller the estimate, the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates would thus be 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 this publication, only estimates with relative standard error less than approximately 30 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 30 per cent have not been shown and although figures for these components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

Standard errors of estimates

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error (persons)	Relative standard error (per cent)
4,500	1,400	31.4
5,000	1,500	29.8
6,000	1,600	27.1
10,000	2,100	20.8
20,000	2,900	14.3
50,000	4,300	8.5
100,000	5,700	5.7
200,000	7,400	3.7
300,000	8,600	2.9
500,000	10,400	2.1
1,000,000	13,200	1.3

11. The imprecision due to sampling variability should not be confused with inaccuracies that may have occurred 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.

Related publications

12. 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 10.

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

TABLE 1. PERSONS AGED 14 TO 20 YEARS WHO INTEND TO CONTINUE/CONTINUED SCHOOL TO YEAR 12(a)
BY SELECTED REASONS (AND INFLUENCE OF THOSE REASONS) FOR CONTINUING TO
YEAR 12, BY SEX BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED, AUSTRALIA, 1982

Reasons (and influence of those reasons) for continuing to Year 12		Number ('000)			Per cent		
		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
		GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS					
Students							
Liked the subjects at school	Important	118.8	151.6	270.4	70.9	72.5	71.8
	Not important	48.8	57.6	106.4	29.1	27.5	28.2
Could not obtain a job	Important	65.3	84.4	149.7	39.0	40.4	39.7
	Not important	102.4	124.7	227.1	61.1	59.6	60.3
Enjoyed school	Important	114.9	159.8	274.8	68.6	76.4	72.9
	Not important	52.7	49.3	102.0	31.4	23.6	27.1
Had friends who were staying on	Important	46.9	45.3	92.2	28.0	21.7	24.5
	Not important	120.7	163.8	284.6	72.0	78.3	75.5
Needed Year 12 for tertiary study	Important	118.1	160.4	278.5	70.5	76.7	73.9
	Not important	49.5	48.8	98.3	29.5	23.3	26.1
Hadn't much else to do	Important	32.8	46.3	79.1	19.6	22.1	21.0
	Not important	134.8	162.9	297.7	80.4	77.9	79.0
Considered Year 12 would help to obtain preferred job	Important	158.8	202.1	360.9	94.7	96.7	95.8
	Not important	8.9	7.0	15.9	5.3	3.3	4.2
Total persons(b)		167.6	209.1	376.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS							
Students							
Liked the subjects at school	Important	63.1	76.2	139.3	70.1	76.4	73.4
	Not important	26.9	23.6	50.5	29.9	23.6	26.6
Could not obtain a job	Important	32.3	40.5	72.8	35.9	40.6	38.4
	Not important	57.7	59.3	116.9	64.1	59.4	61.6
Enjoyed school	Important	63.4	79.6	143.0	70.4	79.8	75.3
	Not important	26.6	20.2	46.8	29.6	20.2	24.7
Had friends who were staying on	Important	25.4	26.2	51.6	28.2	26.3	27.2
	Not important	64.6	73.6	138.2	71.8	73.7	72.8
Needed Year 12 for tertiary study	Important	77.6	88.7	166.2	86.2	88.9	87.6
	Not important	12.4	11.1	23.6	13.8	11.1	12.4
Hadn't much else to do	Important	23.8	21.2	44.9	26.4	21.2	23.7
	Not important	66.2	78.7	144.9	73.6	78.9	76.3
Considered Year 12 would help to obtain preferred job	Important	82.6	94.7	177.3	91.8	94.9	93.4
	Not important	7.4	5.1	12.5	8.2	5.1	6.6
Total persons(b)		90.0	99.8	189.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
ALL SCHOOLS							
Students							
Liked the subjects at school	Important	181.9	227.8	409.7	70.6	73.7	72.3
	Not important	75.7	81.2	156.9	29.4	26.3	27.7
Could not obtain a job	Important	97.6	124.9	222.5	37.9	40.4	39.3
	Not important	160.0	184.0	344.0	62.1	59.6	60.7
Enjoyed school	Important	178.3	239.5	417.8	69.2	77.5	73.8
	Not important	79.3	69.5	148.8	30.8	22.5	26.3
Had friends who were staying on	Important	72.3	71.5	143.8	28.1	23.1	25.4
	Not important	185.3	217.4	402.8	71.9	76.9	74.6
Needed Year 12 for tertiary study	Important	195.7	249.0	444.7	76.0	80.6	78.5
	Not important	61.9	59.9	121.8	24.0	19.4	21.5
Hadn't much else to do	Important	56.6	67.4	124.0	21.0	21.8	21.9
	Not important	201.0	241.5	442.5	71.0	78.2	78.1
Considered Year 12 would help to obtain preferred job	Important	241.3	296.8	538.1	93.7	96.1	95.0
	Not important	16.3	12.1	28.4	6.3	3.9	5.0
Total persons(b)		257.6	308.9	566.5	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons who 'intend to continue school to Year 12' refer to students still attending school in August 1982; persons who 'continued school to Year 12' refer to persons who had left full-time school in the twelve months prior to August 1982. (b) This refers to the total population in the table and the combined data for each listed reason represents this group.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 14 TO 20 YEARS WHO INTEND TO LEAVE/LEFT SCHOOL BEFORE YEAR 12(a)
BY SELECTED REASONS (AND INFLUENCE OF THOSE REASONS) FOR NOT CONTINUING
TO YEAR 12, BY SEX BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED, AUSTRALIA, 1982

Reasons (and influence of those reasons) for not continuing to Year 12		Number ('000)			Per cent		
		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS							
Students							
Wanted their own money	Important	144.3	97.8	242.1	71.8	66.8	69.7
	Not important	56.8	48.5	105.3	28.2	33.2	30.3
Had friends leaving school	Important	38.9	22.7	61.6	19.3	15.5	17.7
	Not important	162.2	123.7	285.9	80.7	84.5	82.3
Wanted to begin an apprenticeship	Important	148.6	49.7	198.3	73.9	34.0	57.1
	Not important	52.5	96.6	149.1	26.1	66.0	42.9
Wanted to undertake job training not available at school	Important	166.9	86.2	253.1	83.0	59.0	72.9
	Not important	34.2	60.1	94.3	17.0	41.0	27.1
Wanted to get a job	Important	194.0	132.3	326.3	96.5	90.5	94.0
	Not important	7.1	13.9	21.0	3.5	9.5	6.0
Did not want to undertake tertiary education	Important	57.6	40.5	98.1	28.6	27.7	28.2
	Not important	143.5	105.8	249.3	71.4	72.3	71.8
Considered some subjects to be useless	Important	86.5	69.7	156.2	43.0	47.6	44.9
	Not important	114.7	76.6	191.3	57.0	52.4	55.1
Did not get on with the teachers	Important	53.8	35.3	89.1	26.8	24.1	25.6
	Not important	147.3	111.0	258.3	73.2	75.9	74.4
Considered some subjects to be too hard	Important	51.1	46.9	98.0	25.4	32.1	28.2
	Not important	150.0	99.4	249.4	74.6	67.9	71.8
Were fed up with school	Important	92.9	67.8	160.7	46.2	46.3	46.3
	Not important	108.2	78.5	186.7	53.8	53.7	53.7
Total persons(b)		201.1	146.3	347.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
NCN-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS							
Students							
Wanted their own money	Important	21.9	12.5	34.4	57.2	48.8	53.7
	Not important	16.4	13.1	29.5	42.8	51.2	46.3
Had friends leaving school	Important	*	*	6.9	*	*	10.8
	Not important	34.3	22.7	57.0	89.6	88.7	89.2
Wanted to begin an apprenticeship	Important	27.6	9.7	37.3	72.1	37.9	58.5
	Not important	10.7	15.9	26.6	27.9	62.1	41.5
Wanted to undertake job training not available at school	Important	30.7	14.9	45.6	80.2	58.2	71.4
	Not important	7.6	10.7	18.3	19.8	41.8	28.6
Wanted to get a job	Important	35.3	21.2	56.5	92.2	82.8	88.4
	Not important	*	*	7.4	*	*	11.6
Did not want to undertake tertiary education	Important	11.0	7.7	18.7	28.7	30.1	29.4
	Not important	27.3	17.9	45.2	71.3	69.9	70.6
Considered some subjects to be useless	Important	16.5	10.6	27.1	43.1	41.6	42.6
	Not important	21.8	14.9	36.7	56.9	58.4	57.4
Did not get on with the teachers	Important	9.7	*	13.9	25.3	*	21.6
	Not important	28.7	21.4	50.1	74.7	83.6	78.4
Considered some subjects to be too hard	Important	9.6	8.8	18.4	25.1	34.5	28.8
	Not important	28.7	16.7	45.4	74.9	65.5	71.2
Were fed up with school	Important	14.0	11.3	25.3	36.6	44.1	39.6
	Not important	24.3	14.3	38.6	63.4	55.9	60.4
Total persons(b)		38.3	25.6	63.9	100.0	100.0	100.0

For footnotes, see end of table.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 14 TO 20 YEARS WHO INTEND TO LEAVE/LEFT SCHOOL BEFORE YEAR 12(a)
BY SELECTED REASONS (AND INFLUENCE OF THOSE REASONS) FOR NOT CONTINUING
TO YEAR 12, BY SEX BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED, AUSTRALIA, 1982

		Number ('000)			Per cent		
Reasons (and influence of those reasons) for not continuing to Year 12		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
ALL SCHOOLS							
Students							
Wanted their own money	Important	166.2	110.3	276.5	69.4	64.2	67.2
	Not important	73.2	61.6	134.8	30.6	35.8	32.8
Had friends leaving school	Important	42.9	25.5	68.5	17.9	14.8	16.7
	Not important	196.5	146.4	342.9	82.1	85.2	83.3
Wanted to begin an apprenticeship	Important	176.3	59.5	235.7	73.6	34.6	57.3
	Not important	63.2	112.4	175.6	26.4	65.4	42.7
Wanted to undertake job training not available at school	Important	197.6	101.1	298.7	82.5	58.8	72.6
	Not important	41.8	70.8	112.6	17.5	41.2	27.4
Wanted to get a job	Important	229.3	153.5	382.8	95.8	89.3	93.1
	Not important	10.2	18.3	28.5	4.2	10.7	6.9
Did not want to undertake tertiary education	Important	68.6	48.2	116.9	28.7	28.0	28.4
	Not important	170.8	123.7	294.5	71.3	72.0	71.6
Considered some subjects to be useless	Important	103.0	80.3	183.3	43.0	46.7	44.6
	Not important	136.4	91.6	228.0	57.0	53.3	55.4
Did not get on with teachers	Important	63.4	39.5	102.9	26.5	23.0	25.0
	Not important	176.0	132.4	308.4	73.5	77.0	75.0
Considered some subjects to be too hard	Important	60.7	55.8	116.4	25.3	32.5	28.3
	Not important	178.8	116.1	294.9	74.7	67.5	71.7
Were fed up with school	Important	106.9	79.1	186.0	44.6	46.0	45.2
	Not important	132.6	92.8	225.3	55.4	54.0	54.8
Total persons(b)		239.5	171.9	411.3	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons who 'intend to leave school prior to Year 12' refer to students still attending school in August 1982; persons who 'left school prior to Year 12' refer to persons who had left full-time school in the twelve months prior to August 1982. (b) This refers to the total population in the table and the combined data for each listed reason represents this group.