



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## Canberra



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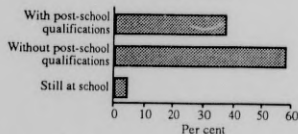
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### LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1988, SUMMARY

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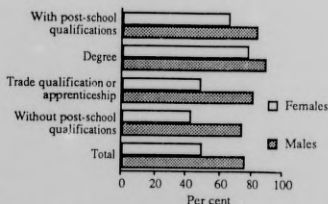
#### MAIN FEATURES

DIAGRAM 1. ALL PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT FEBRUARY 1988  
(Source of data: Table 2)



An estimated 4,684,800 persons with post-school qualifications made up 37.1 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 and over in February 1988. Those with no post-school qualifications numbered 7,351,800 (58.2 per cent) and 586,600 (4.6 per cent) were still at school.

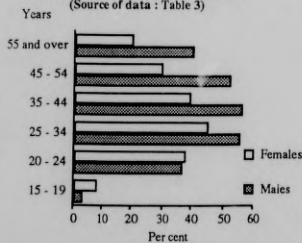
DIAGRAM 2. ALL PERSONS: PROPORTION IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT FEBRUARY 1988 BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT  
(Source of data: Table 2)



Participation in the labour force varied according to educational attainment, with the highest rates recorded by those persons with a degree (84.9 per cent) and those with a trade qualification or apprenticeship (77.3 per cent). For those who had left school, male participation rates were higher than female rates for all categories of educational attainment. The participation rates were closest for those who had a degree (89.2 per cent for males compared to 77.5 per cent for females), and differed most for those who had not attended the highest level of secondary school available (71.2 per cent for males compared to 39.5 per cent for females).

The unemployment rate for persons with post-school qualifications (5.2 per cent) was about half that for persons without post-school qualifications (10.1 per cent). The rate for persons with a degree was 3.6 per cent, and for those with a trade qualification or apprenticeship was 4.8 per cent.

DIAGRAM 3. PROPORTION OF PERSONS WITH POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS: AGE AND SEX AT FEBRUARY 1988  
(Source of data: Table 3)



The overall proportion of males with post-school qualifications (43.7 per cent) is considerably higher than the corresponding estimate of 30.7 per cent for females. The proportions of males and females with post-school qualifications are most dissimilar for older age groups, as illustrated in Diagram 3. In the 55 years and over age group, males were twice as likely to have post-school qualifications as females (40.6 per cent compared with 20.3 per cent). For persons in the 25 to 34 year age group the comparative rates were 55.4 per cent for males and 45.1 per cent for females. The proportions of persons with post-school qualifications were similar for males and females aged 20 to 24 years. While a large number of these persons have yet to complete their tertiary studies, the similarity between these proportions is not expected to alter significantly.

**TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, AVERAGE AND MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1983 TO FEBRUARY 1988**

	Educational attainment								
	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications					
	Degree	Trade qualification or apprenticeship	Certif. score or diploma	Total(a)	Attended highest level of secondary school available	Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	Total(b)	Total(c)	
<b>MALES</b>									
<i>Unemployment rate -</i>									
	per cent								
1983									
1984	3.6		7.2	6.5	10.8	12.8	12.4	10.0	
1985	4.3		6.4	5.9	11.8	12.8	12.7	9.8	
1986	2.8		5.2	4.7	10.7	12.0	11.7	8.7	
1987(d)	2.7		4.5	4.3	9.7	11.2	10.9	8.1	
1988	3.1	5.0	4.2	4.5	10.6	12.2	11.8	8.5	
	2.6	4.6	4.2	4.1	8.4	10.9	10.3	7.6	
<i>Average duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983									
1984	20.2		23.3	23.4	24.8	37.7	35.3	31.2	
1985	34.7		35.3	35.3	37.5	54.4	51.2	45.6	
1986	30.6		42.9	40.3	32.7	63.5	57.4	54.3	
1987(d)	36.6		48.7	47.2	35.6	65.2	59.3	45.6	
1988	50.0	56.5	47.2	53.2	35.6	67.0	60.5	56.7	
	40.1	48.2	50.1	47.4	32.3	70.7	62.7	56.1	
<i>Median duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983									
1984	11		12	12	12	19	17	14	
1985	13		21	19	15	39	32	26	
1986	12		15	14	12	29	26	22	
1987(d)	11		12	12	10	27	24	17	
1988	13	17	26	17	11	26	24	20	
	11	15	13	14	10	30	24	18	
<b>FEMALES</b>									
<i>Unemployment rate -</i>									
	per cent								
1983				9.2	12.9	12.9	12.9	11.8	
1984	8.0		9.4	8.8	11.0	12.8	12.4	11.3	
1985	7.1		9.2	8.8	11.0	12.0	11.8	10.2	
1986	4.7		6.7	6.5	11.2	12.0	11.3	10.0	
1987(d)	5.8		7.1	7.2	11.4	11.2	11.3	9.9	
1988	4.6	6.1	7.3	6.8	11.8	11.1	11.3	9.9	
	5.4	7.6	7.4	7.1	11.0	9.3	9.8	9.1	
<i>Average duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983				23.3	24.1	36.5	33.8	30.5	
1984	23.6		22.4	26.0	32.9	45.9	43.3	36.4	
1985	11.7		26.6	24.4	23.7	42.5	38.5	34.6	
1986	23.0		27.4	29.4	21.6	34.5	31.6	28.3	
1987(d)	12.1		25.8	23.8	21.6	34.5	31.6	28.3	
1988	19.9	33.2	23.3	23.2	25.6	44.5	39.8	33.2	
	11.1	47.5	28.5	28.5	22.5	38.3	34.5	30.9	
<i>Median duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983				9	10	14	13	12	
1984	9		9	9	12	18	16	13	
1985	8		9	9	10	19	14	11	
1986	5		7	8	8	11	10	9	
1987(d)	11	11	8	8	11	15	13	10	
1988	5	27	8	8	8	15	12	9	
<b>PERSONS</b>									
<i>Unemployment rate -</i>									
	per cent								
1983				7.4	11.6	12.8	12.6	10.7	
1984	5.0		7.9	6.9	11.5	12.8	12.6	10.4	
1985	5.2		7.3	5.4	10.9	12.0	11.7	9.3	
1986	3.4		5.8	5.3	10.4	11.2	11.1	8.9	
1987(d)	3.8		5.4	5.3	11.1	11.7	11.6	9.1	
1988	3.6	5.1	6.2	5.3	9.5	10.2	10.1	8.2	
	3.6	4.8	6.2	5.2					
<i>Average duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983				23.4	24.5	37.2	34.6	30.9	
1984	22.0		23.0	30.9	35.6	51.1	48.1	41.9	
1985	24.9		31.6	35.7	29.0	55.0	49.7	44.6	
1986	27.0		36.6	35.9	29.2	51.2	47.5	42.7	
1987(d)	23.4		38.0	39.4	31.1	52.5	51.9	46.5	
1988	36.9	54.5	29.3	39.1	31.1	57.9	50.9	42.7	
	25.1	48.1	33.9	38.1	27.5	57.9	50.9	44.8	
<i>Median duration of unemployment -</i>									
	weeks								
1983				11	11	17	16	13	
1984	9		10	13	13	28	26	19	
1985	10		15	12	10	26	20	16	
1986	9		13	10	9	19	15	12	
1987(d)	7	15	11	10	9	24	18	14	
1988	11	16	10	12	11	24	18	14	
	7		8	9	9	24	17	13	

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined. (c) Includes persons still at school. (d) Prior to February 1987 the data now published in the Educational Attainment categories 'Trade qualification or apprenticeship' and 'Certificate or diploma' was published as 'Trade, technical or other certificate'. See paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. ALL PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, FEBRUARY 1988

Educational attainment	Employed			Unem- ployed	Labour force	Not in labour force		Partici- pation rate	Unem- ployment rate
	Full-time	Part-time	Total			Total	-per- cent-		
MALES									
With post-school qualifications	2,083.9	87.3	2,171.1	93.3	2,264.5	451.2	2,715.7	83.4	4.1
Degree	470.9	22.2	493.1	13.2	506.2	61.1	567.3	89.2	2.6
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	1,109.6	41.0	1,150.6	56.0	1,206.6	285.7	1,492.3	80.9	4.6
Certificate or diploma	497.6	23.0	520.6	22.8	543.4	103.3	646.7	84.0	4.2
Other	5.8	*	6.9	*	8.2	*	9.4	87.9	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	1,973.3	147.0	2,120.3	242.5	2,362.8	851.2	3,214.0	73.5	10.3
Attended highest level of secondary school available	488.2	59.0	547.3	50.2	597.5	131.7	729.2	81.9	8.4
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	1,465.8	85.6	1,551.4	189.6	1,741.0	703.9	2,444.9	71.2	10.9
Left at age--									
18 and over	24.8	*	26.5	*	30.5	7.5	38.1	80.2	*
16 or 17	547.5	30.0	577.6	74.4	651.9	102.0	753.9	86.5	11.4
14 or 15	756.9	43.9	800.7	96.7	897.4	424.0	1,321.4	67.9	10.8
13 and under	136.6	10.0	146.6	14.5	161.1	170.4	331.5	48.6	9.0
Never attended school	5.9	*	7.1	*	8.6	12.7	21.3	40.2	*
Still at school	*	47.7	50.0	18.8	68.8	217.7	286.5	24.0	27.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,059.6</b>	<b>281.9</b>	<b>4,341.5</b>	<b>354.7</b>	<b>4,696.1</b>	<b>1,520.1</b>	<b>6,216.2</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>
FEMALES									
With post-school qualifications	797.5	401.6	1,199.1	91.2	1,290.2	678.9	1,969.1	65.5	7.1
Degree	190.7	55.0	245.7	14.2	259.8	75.6	335.5	77.5	5.4
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	51.7	30.7	82.3	6.8	89.1	94.0	183.1	48.7	7.6
Certificate or diploma	548.1	310.5	858.6	68.2	926.9	494.1	1,421.0	65.2	7.4
Other	7.1	5.4	12.4	*	14.4	15.2	29.6	48.7	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	995.0	612.4	1,607.5	174.9	1,782.4	2,355.4	4,137.9	43.1	9.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	261.8	125.8	387.6	48.0	435.6	281.4	716.9	60.8	11.0
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	725.2	480.1	1,205.2	124.3	1,329.5	2,040.6	3,370.1	39.5	9.3
Left at age--									
18 and over	13.7	*	17.7	*	19.4	15.9	35.3	55.0	*
16 or 17	317.9	170.9	488.9	52.9	541.7	416.1	957.9	56.6	9.8
14 or 15	347.4	276.3	623.7	64.9	688.6	1,276.1	1,964.7	35.0	9.4
13 and under	46.2	28.8	75.0	*	79.8	332.4	412.2	19.3	*
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	5.9	26.7	32.7	18.2	*
Still at school	*	70.3	71.1	22.0	93.1	206.9	300.0	31.0	23.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,793.4</b>	<b>1,084.3</b>	<b>2,877.7</b>	<b>288.1</b>	<b>3,165.8</b>	<b>3,241.2</b>	<b>6,407.0</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>
PERSONS									
With post-school qualifications	2,881.4	488.8	3,370.2	184.5	3,554.7	1,130.1	4,684.8	75.9	5.2
Degree	661.5	77.2	738.8	27.3	766.1	136.7	902.8	84.9	3.6
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	1,161.2	71.7	1,232.9	62.8	1,295.7	379.7	1,675.4	77.3	4.8
Certificate or diploma	1,045.7	333.5	1,379.2	91.1	1,470.3	597.4	2,067.7	71.1	6.2
Other	12.9	6.4	19.3	*	22.6	16.3	39.0	58.1	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	2,968.4	759.4	3,727.8	417.5	4,145.3	3,206.6	7,351.8	56.4	10.1
Attended highest level of secondary school available	750.1	184.8	934.8	98.2	1,033.0	413.1	1,446.1	71.4	9.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	2,191.0	565.6	2,756.6	313.9	3,070.5	2,744.5	5,815.0	52.8	10.2
Left at age--									
18 and over	38.4	5.7	44.1	5.8	49.9	23.4	73.4	68.0	11.6
16 or 17	865.5	201.0	1,066.4	127.2	1,193.7	518.1	1,711.8	69.7	10.7
14 or 15	1,104.2	320.2	1,424.4	161.6	1,586.0	1,700.1	3,286.1	48.3	10.2
13 and under	182.9	38.8	221.6	19.2	240.9	502.9	743.7	32.4	8.0
Never attended school	8.4	*	11.3	*	14.5	39.4	53.9	26.9	*
Still at school	*	117.9	121.1	40.8	161.9	424.6	586.6	27.6	25.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,853.0</b>	<b>1,366.2</b>	<b>7,219.1</b>	<b>642.8</b>	<b>7,861.9</b>	<b>4,761.3</b>	<b>12,623.2</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>

(a) Includes persons for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

**TABLE 3. ALL PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1988**  
 ('000)

Educational attainment	Age group					Total	
	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54		55 and over
<b>MALES</b>							
With post-school qualifications	22.0	243.9	738.6	679.4	435.2	596.6	2,715.7
Degree	*	36.6	193.3	171.7	80.9	84.8	567.3
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	11.3	152.2	385.4	334.3	241.3	367.8	1,492.3
Certificate or diploma	9.6	53.0	156.6	172.0	112.4	143.1	646.7
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.4
Without post-school qualifications(a)	399.3	415.7	593.5	531.1	401.7	872.7	3,214.0
Attended highest level of secondary school available	139.3	181.2	179.1	105.7	45.7	78.1	729.2
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	259.4	233.1	409.1	418.3	346.3	778.7	2,444.9
Left at age-							
18 and over	*	8.2	10.4	6.9	*	5.0	38.1
16 or 17	151.1	141.0	187.1	133.2	57.6	84.0	753.9
14 or 15	103.2	81.2	195.5	234.4	223.9	483.3	1,321.4
13 and under	*	*	16.1	43.8	61.1	206.4	331.5
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	5.4	12.3	21.3
Still at school	286.5	*	..	..	..	..	286.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>707.9</b>	<b>659.6</b>	<b>1,332.1</b>	<b>1,210.5</b>	<b>836.9</b>	<b>1,469.3</b>	<b>6,216.2</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>							
With post-school qualifications	55.6	247.1	602.3	469.6	239.1	355.4	1,969.1
Degree	*	42.0	144.2	88.3	30.2	30.6	335.5
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	5.4	22.3	34.2	37.2	22.2	61.8	183.1
Certificate or diploma	49.1	179.1	417.3	337.3	182.5	255.7	1,421.0
Other	*	*	6.6	6.9	*	7.4	29.6
Without post-school qualifications(a)	328.9	400.7	733.3	717.6	564.1	1,393.4	4,137.9
Attended highest level of secondary school available	141.6	149.8	156.1	101.9	51.4	116.1	716.9
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	186.7	249.3	571.7	607.3	505.1	1,249.9	3,370.1
Left at age-							
18 and over	*	6.7	13.7	5.1	*	5.2	35.3
16 or 17	102.5	154.8	262.7	185.5	94.4	157.9	957.9
14 or 15	82.3	84.7	273.3	361.3	330.0	833.1	1,964.7
13 and under	*	*	22.0	55.4	77.5	253.6	412.2
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	*	24.0	32.7
Still at school	298.5	*	..	..	..	..	300.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>683.0</b>	<b>649.3</b>	<b>1,335.5</b>	<b>1,187.3</b>	<b>803.1</b>	<b>1,748.7</b>	<b>6,407.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>							
With post-school qualifications	77.6	491.0	1,340.9	1,149.0	674.2	952.0	4,684.8
Degree	*	78.5	337.5	260.0	111.2	115.3	902.8
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	16.7	174.5	419.6	371.5	263.6	429.6	1,675.4
Certificate or diploma	58.7	232.1	573.9	509.3	294.9	398.8	2,067.7
Other	*	5.9	9.9	8.2	*	8.3	39.0
Without post-school qualifications(a)	728.2	816.3	1,326.7	1,248.7	965.8	2,266.0	7,351.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	280.9	331.0	335.3	207.7	97.0	194.2	1,446.1
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	446.2	482.4	980.8	1,025.5	851.4	2,028.7	5,815.0
Left at age-							
18 and over	5.1	14.9	24.2	12.0	6.9	10.2	73.4
16 or 17	253.6	295.8	449.8	318.6	152.1	242.0	1,711.8
14 or 15	185.5	165.9	468.7	595.6	553.9	1,316.4	3,286.1
13 and under	*	5.8	38.1	99.3	138.6	460.0	743.7
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	10.3	36.3	53.0
Still at school	585.1	*	..	..	..	..	586.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,390.9</b>	<b>1,308.8</b>	<b>2,667.6</b>	<b>2,397.7</b>	<b>1,640.0</b>	<b>3,218.0</b>	<b>12,623.2</b>

(a) Includes persons for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

**TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1988**  
 ('000)

Educational attainment	Occupation								Total
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators, and drivers	Labourers and related workers	
With post-school qualifications(a)	368.8	786.7	306.8	722.7	473.4	315.4	158.1	238.4	3,370.2
Degree	93.9	498.2	24.2	10.5	54.4	38.4	5.6	13.6	738.8
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	116.6	33.3	68.7	651.7	41.7	77.8	107.0	136.2	1,232.9
Certificate or diploma	155.9	254.7	213.9	58.8	373.5	194.2	44.1	84.0	1,379.2
Without post-school qualifications(b)	439.6	93.5	104.2	410.3	785.9	622.9	412.5	858.9	3,727.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	106.2	53.5	49.1	69.8	271.4	200.8	53.3	130.7	934.8
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	325.2	38.4	53.1	338.6	505.6	418.6	358.0	719.2	2,756.6
Left at age-									
16 and over	114.6	18.9	27.0	160.9	261.8	202.8	102.9	221.6	1,110.5
15 and under	210.6	19.5	26.1	177.7	243.9	215.7	255.0	497.6	1,646.1
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>809.1</b>	<b>880.5</b>	<b>411.1</b>	<b>1,133.8</b>	<b>1,263.5</b>	<b>1,010.9</b>	<b>571.4</b>	<b>1,138.7</b>	<b>7,219.1</b>

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined. (c) Includes persons still at school.

**TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1988**

Educational attainment	Duration of current period of unemployment(weeks)							Average Total duration	Median duration
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 52	52 and under 104	104 and over		
	-'000-								-weeks-
With post-school qualifications(a)	47.0	32.5	23.6	21.8	18.0	20.1	21.5	184.5	38.1
Degree	9.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	27.3	25.1
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	13.5	10.9	5.5	7.2	8.3	6.8	10.6	62.8	48.1
Certificate or diploma	24.3	16.3	14.5	10.8	5.2	10.7	9.1	91.1	33.9
Without post-school qualifications(b)	75.4	54.3	57.8	49.9	50.3	60.1	69.8	417.5	50.9
Attended highest level of secondary school available	23.8	19.3	20.4	12.4	6.9	9.4	6.0	98.2	27.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	50.8	34.9	37.3	37.3	42.1	49.2	62.3	313.9	57.9
Left at age-									
16 and over	24.0	16.2	19.2	16.7	18.2	20.7	18.1	133.0	45.5
15 and under	26.8	18.7	18.1	20.7	23.8	28.5	44.2	180.8	67.0
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>642.8</b>	<b>44.8</b>
	-per cent-								
Proportion of unemployed persons	20.9	15.0	13.7	12.1	11.0	13.0	14.2	100.0	...

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined. (c) Includes persons still at school.

## APPENDIX 1

## GLOSSARY

*Certificate or diploma:* completion of an approved certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.

*Degree:* a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate.

*Educational attainment:* measures the highest qualification obtained by the respondent. Qualifications may include those obtained at other than educational institutions (e.g. nursing qualifications obtained at a hospital).

*Highest level of secondary school available:* the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

*Other post-school qualifications:* completion of other types of education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

*Persons with a post-school qualification:* those who had left school and answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a trade qualification, certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'. Respondents indicated which of the following groups best described their highest qualification: Degree; Trade qualification or apprenticeship; Certificate or diploma; Other post-school qualification.

*Still at school:* current school attendance was recorded only for persons aged fifteen to twenty years.

*Trade qualification or apprenticeship:* completion of an approved trade/technical apprenticeship in fitting and turning, hairdressing, plumbing, carpentry, etc.

## APPENDIX 2

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

The monthly population survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the February 1988 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked about their highest educational qualifications. For persons with post-school qualifications, the information sought included field of study, and for those without post-school qualifications, it included whether they completed the highest level of secondary schooling available, and if not, at what age they left school.

**Scope**

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it excluded visitors to private dwellings, students who were boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of gaols, reformatories etc.

4. In the tables, "All Persons" refers to all persons within the scope of the survey.

**Coverage**

5. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

**Definitions**

6. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

7. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview.

**Results of the survey**

8. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the labour force survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the corresponding issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

9. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. A more detailed publication *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment* (6235.0) will be released as soon as possible. Tables of unpublished data may be purchased on request.

10. Results of similar surveys, conducted annually since February 1979, have been published in *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0).

11. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in February 1989.

**Discontinuities in the series**

12. Educational attainment of persons not in the labour force is not available for the February 1979, 1980 and 1981 surveys.

13. Since February 1987 an expanded classification of post-school qualifications has been used. As a result a small number of persons previously categorised as "Degree" or "Other" may now be included in the categories "Trade qualification or apprenticeship" or "Certificate or diploma".

14. Estimates contained in this publication are based on a revised labour force questionnaire introduced in April 1986. The definition of employment was expanded, resulting in decreases in the estimates of unemployed persons and persons not in the labour force. Further information is contained in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) and in an information paper *Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (6232.0).

15. Classification of occupation according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO 1986) was introduced in the August 1986 labour force survey, replacing the Classification and Classified List of Occupations (CCLO), used in previous surveys. The main difference between these classifications is that ASCO occupations are classified on the basis of the level and specialisation of skill required for the satisfactory performance of primary tasks. For a more detailed explanation of ASCO see the appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0).

16. To provide a link between the two classifications, a matrix has been produced and is shown in Table 41 of *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0). It shows the relationship between ASCO and CCLO at the broadest classification level (the Major Group). The estimates in the matrix are based on a sub-sample of respondents to the May 1986 labour force survey.

**Survey sample redesign**

17. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample has been redesigned and reselected using information collected in the 1986 Population Census. As a result, the standard errors used in this supplementary survey differ from those used in surveys of the same topic run prior to September 1987. For details, see *Information Paper — Labour Force Survey — Sample Design* (6269.0).

### Reliability of the estimates

18. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they may differ from those 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*. More information about this topic can be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, estimates for these small components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable; and
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or 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.

### Related publications

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

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Transition from Education to Work, Australia* (6227.0)—issued annually

20. 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 18 above.
- .. not applicable

21. Because estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES  
Australian Statistician

### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
5,000	1,200	24.3	200,000	6,500	3.3
6,000	1,350	22.2	500,000	9,300	1.9
10,000	1,700	17.2	1,000,000	12,000	1.2
20,000	2,400	12.0	2,000,000	15,200	0.8
50,000	3,650	7.3	5,000,000	20,500	0.4
100,000	4,900	4.9	10,000,000	25,200	0.3
			12,000,000	30,600	0.2

