

LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF  
FAMILIES, NOVEMBER 1974

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*NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Robert White on 52 6523 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

### MAIN FEATURES

- In November 1974 the estimated number of families (within the scope of the survey) was 3,470,100, comprising 3,098,700 married couple families and 371,400 other families (82,100 with a male head and 289,300 with a female head).
- In more than one-third (39.4 per cent) of married couple families both husband and wife were in the labour force. Of these latter 59.3 per cent had dependent children present.
- 38.6 per cent of female heads of families were in the labour force and of these 64.0 per cent had dependent children present.
- In 145,200 families at least one member was unemployed. In 29,500 of these families no members were employed, in 65,400 one member was employed and in 50,300 two or more were employed.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

In the November 1974 population survey some questions were asked at a proportion of dwellings included in the survey mainly in order to obtain information about the income of individuals and families in the year 1973-74. (See *Income Distribution 1973-74: Part 1* - Reference No. 17.6 and *Income Distribution, 1973-74: Families (Preliminary)* - Reference No. 17.27).

2. Some of the information obtained by means of that survey was included in a recent publication *Family Status and Employment Status of the Population, November 1974 and November 1975* (Reference No. 6.55), which provided details of the employment status of family members and their relationship to the family head.
3. Further analysis of the November 1974 survey data has been carried out, with a view to obtaining a better understanding of the labour force characteristics of different types of families at that date.
4. There is very little information of this kind available in Australia, and although the statistics that are included in this publication are now somewhat out of date it is considered that they will be of use to research workers and others interested in labour market analysis, and that they will give an indication of the kind of family data that can on occasion be obtained by means of the quarterly population survey.

5. If there is sufficient demand from users for these statistics similar analyses will be carried out from time to time in future.

6. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 20,000 houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered slightly less than one-half of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being carried out during a four-week period.

#### Scope

7. The estimates relate to all family members except those who are members of the permanent armed forces, certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations and persons who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

8. Married couple families where either the husband or the wife was out of scope of the survey (as defined above) have been excluded from the tables in this bulletin.

#### Definitions

9. 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 15 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 15 years of age of his or her own; or
- (vi) any child under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some person in a second family in the household.

10. The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous

paragraph:

- (i) Family status was determined at the time of the survey. Thus if members of the family were absent (e.g. children at boarding school) the family status of the head and other family members could have been affected
- (ii) the term 'relationship' includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (iii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships
- (iv) widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons are considered to be not married
- (v) a family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if they are husband and wife.

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

#### **Reliability of the estimates**

12. 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. An indication of the likely differences is given in the Technical Note, page 11.

#### **Rounding**

13. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - ALL FAMILIES : FAMILY SIZE, TYPE OF FAMILY AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYED (a) AND UNEMPLOYED (a) FAMILY MEMBERS,  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(\*000)

Number in family	None employed			One employed			Two or more employed			Total families		
	None unemployed	One or more unemployed	Total	None unemployed	One or more unemployed	Total	None unemployed	One or more unemployed	Total	None unemployed	One or more unemployed	Total
MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES (b)												
2	255.4	5.9	261.3	328.0	12.4	340.4	361.0	..	361.0	944.4	18.3	962.8
3	21.5	5.6	27.1	279.7	14.2	294.0	326.5	5.4	331.9	627.7	25.2	652.9
4	7.6	4.3	11.9	329.6	14.8	344.4	371.8	13.2	385.0	709.0	32.3	741.3
5 or more	4.9	7.3	12.2	303.2	17.6	320.8	383.1	25.6	408.6	691.2	50.5	741.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>289.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>312.5</b>	<b>1,240.6</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>1,299.6</b>	<b>1,442.3</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>1,486.5</b>	<b>2,972.4</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>3,098.7</b>
OTHER FAMILIES - WITH MALE HEAD												
2	9.2	*	10.5	25.9	*	26.8	19.4	..	19.4	54.5	*	56.7
3 or more	*	*	*	10.1	*	10.5	11.5	*	14.0	22.5	*	25.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>82.1</b>
FAMILIES WITH A FEMALE HEAD												
2	57.9	*	60.3	83.4	*	85.2	24.6	..	24.6	165.9	4.2	170.1
3	18.6	*	20.1	24.1	*	26.1	19.1	*	20.2	61.8	4.6	66.4
4	10.4	*	10.4	12.2	*	13.6	8.5	*	8.6	31.1	*	32.6
5 or more	4.3	*	5.4	6.5	*	6.6	5.9	*	8.2	16.7	*	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>275.5</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>290.3</b>
ALL FAMILIES (b)												
2	322.5	9.6	332.1	437.4	15.1	452.5	405.1	..	405.1	1,165.0	24.7	1,189.6
3	40.6	7.1	47.7	310.0	16.5	326.5	353.5	7.3	360.9	704.1	30.9	735.0
4	18.4	4.5	22.8	343.4	16.1	359.6	381.4	13.9	395.3	743.2	34.5	777.7
5 or more	9.2	8.4	17.6	312.1	17.7	329.8	391.3	29.1	420.4	712.6	55.2	767.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>390.7</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>420.2</b>	<b>1,402.9</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>1,468.4</b>	<b>1,531.3</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>1,581.6</b>	<b>3,324.9</b>	<b>145.2</b>	<b>3,470.1</b>

(a) For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (b) Excludes about 75,000 families in which either the husband or the wife was out of scope of the survey. See page 2, paragraphs 7 and 8.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 2. - MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES (a) : LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE,  
FAMILY SIZE AND BIRTHPLACE OF FAMILY HEAD,  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Number in family	Husband in labour force (b)			Husband not in labour force			Total married couple families
	Wife in labour force (b)	Wife not in labour force	Total	Wife in labour force (b)	Wife not in labour force	Total	
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN AUSTRALIA							
2	257.6	236.3	493.9	9.6	184.6	194.2	688.1
3	149.2	246.3	395.5	4.8	41.0	45.8	441.3
4	180.7	286.8	467.5	*	11.1	14.7	482.2
5 or more	195.9	319.0	515.0	*	9.1	10.9	525.9
Total	783.3	1,088.5	1,871.9	19.8	245.8	265.6	2,137.5
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN MAIN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (c)							
2	58.1	41.5	99.7	*	51.5	55.4	155.0
3	36.3	45.2	81.4	*	4.9	5.0	86.5
4	47.2	46.2	93.5	*	*	*	96.4
5 or more	35.9	40.4	76.3	*	*	*	77.5
Total	177.5	173.4	350.9	5.2	59.2	64.5	415.3
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN OTHER COUNTRIES							
2	59.7	39.3	99.1	*	19.4	20.6	119.7
3	59.9	57.5	117.4	*	6.2	7.7	125.1
4	79.9	77.9	157.8	*	4.1	4.9	162.8
5 or more	61.3	72.3	133.6	*	*	4.7	138.3
Total	260.9	247.0	507.9	4.9	33.0	38.0	545.9
ALL MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES							
2	375.5	317.2	692.7	14.7	255.4	270.1	962.8
3	245.4	349.0	594.3	6.5	52.1	58.6	652.9
4	307.8	411.0	718.8	4.7	17.8	22.5	741.3
5 or more	293.1	431.7	724.8	4.1	12.7	16.9	741.7
Total	1,221.8	1,508.9	2,730.6	30.0	338.0	368.0	3,098.7

(a) See note (b) to Table 1. (b) Employed or unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (c) Comprises the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 3. — MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES (a) : LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE,  
NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (b) AND BIRTHPLACE OF FAMILY HEAD,  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Number of dependent children (b)	Husband in labour force (c)			Husband not in labour force			Total married couple families
	Wife in labour force (c)	Wife not in labour force	Total	Wife in labour force (c)	Wife not in labour force	Total	
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN AUSTRALIA							
None	340.6	349.6	690.2	12.8	227.0	239.8	930.0
One	141.3	218.3	359.6	*	8.0	11.8	371.4
Two	158.2	260.2	418.4	*	5.9	8.1	426.5
Three or more	143.2	260.4	403.7	*	4.8	5.9	409.6
Total	783.3	1,088.5	1,871.9	19.8	245.8	265.6	2,137.5
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN MAIN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (d)							
None	69.9	59.0	128.9	4.2	57.4	61.6	190.5
One	37.6	37.2	74.8	*	*	*	76.2
Two	42.0	42.4	84.4	*	*	*	84.9
Three or more	28.1	34.7	62.9	*	*	*	63.7
Total	177.5	173.4	350.9	5.2	59.2	64.5	415.3
FAMILY HEAD BORN IN OTHER COUNTRIES							
None	86.8	56.8	143.6	*	26.7	29.2	172.8
One	59.8	56.8	116.6	*	*	4.2	120.8
Two	70.9	73.6	144.5	*	*	*	146.1
Three or more	43.4	59.8	103.2	*	*	*	106.1
Total	260.9	247.0	507.9	4.9	33.0	38.0	545.9
ALL MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES							
None	497.2	465.4	962.7	19.6	311.0	330.6	1,293.3
One	238.7	312.3	551.0	4.9	12.7	17.5	568.5
Two	271.1	376.1	647.2	*	7.5	10.2	657.5
Three or more	214.7	355.0	569.8	*	6.9	9.7	579.4
Total	1,221.8	1,508.9	2,730.6	30.0	338.0	368.0	3,098.7

(a) See note (b) to Table 1. (b) For definitions see page 3, paragraph 11. (c) Employed or unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (d) See note (c) to Table 2.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 4. - MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES (a) WITH BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE IN THE LABOUR FORCE (b),  
AGE OF WIFE AND AGE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (c),  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Age of dependent children (c)	Age of wife (years)					55 years and over	Total married couple families
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54		
Families with dependent children (c) present	*	51.3	272.8	265.8	124.4	6.9	724.5
0-14 years only	*	51.3	262.5	166.4	54.5	*	540.1
15-20 years only	..	..	*	16.0	42.8	4.3	65.2
0-14 and 15-20 years	..	..	8.3	83.4	27.1	*	119.2
Families without dependent children (c) present	16.5	123.2	89.4	49.2	147.5	71.5	497.2
Total	19.8	174.5	362.2	315.1	271.8	78.4	1,221.8

(a) See note (b) to Table 1. (b) Employed or unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (c) For definition see page 3, paragraph 11.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 5. - MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES (a) WITH BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE IN THE LABOUR FORCE (b) :  
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE,  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Occupational status of wife	Occupational status of husband					Total
	Employed (b)				Unemployed	
	Employer	Self-employed	Wage or Salary earner	Total (c)		
Employer	55.2	*	17.7	74.5	*	74.5
Self-employed	5.4	61.1	27.9	94.9	*	95.0
Wage or salary earner	51.3	54.0	891.7	997.5	9.1	1,006.6
Total employed (c)	116.6	120.7	939.3	1,177.7	9.2	1,186.8
Unemployed	*	*	29.5	31.9	*	34.9
Total	117.3	122.3	968.9	1,209.5	12.2	1,221.8

(a) See note (b) to Table 1. (b) Employed and unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (c) includes unpaid family helpers.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 6. - OTHER FAMILIES (a) WITH A MALE HEAD : LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND BIRTHPLACE OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (b), NOVEMBER 1974 ('000)

<i>Labour force status and birthplace of head</i>	<i>Number of dependent children (b)</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>None</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3 or more</i>	
Head in the labour force (c)	39.4	12.0	5.1	6.3	62.8
Born in Australia	29.9	8.7	4.3	*	46.7
Born overseas	9.5	*	*	*	16.1
Head not in the labour force	18.0	*	*	*	19.3
Born in Australia	14.4	*	*	*	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>82.1</b>
Born in Australia	44.3	9.9	4.3	*	62.3
Born overseas	13.2	*	*	*	19.8

(a) Other than married couple families (b) For definition see page 3, paragraph 11. (c) Employed and unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 7. - OTHER FAMILIES (a) WITH A MALE HEAD : AGE OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (b), NOVEMBER 1974 ('000)

<i>Dependent children (b)</i>	<i>Age of head (years)</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	
None	4.5	5.6	5.1	26.0	16.2	57.4
One or more	*	4.7	8.5	9.7	*	(c)24.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>82.1</b>

(a) Other than married couple families. (b) For definitions see page 3, paragraph 11. (c) Comprises 13,300 with one dependent child, 5,100 with two dependent children and 6,300 with three or more dependent children.

\* Less than 4,000. see page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 8. - FAMILIES WITH A FEMALE HEAD : LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND  
BIRTHPLACE OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (a),  
NOVEMBER 1974  
(<sup>000</sup>)

<i>Number of dependent children (a)</i>	<i>Head in the labour force (b)</i>	<i>Head not in the labour force</i>	<i>Total</i>
HEAD BORN IN AUSTRALIA			
None	30.5	69.5	99.9
One	31.8	38.1	69.9
Two	12.0	18.1	30.1
Three or more	10.2	15.7	25.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>84.5</i>	<i>141.4</i>	<i>225.9</i>
HEAD BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA			
None	9.8	21.1	30.8
One	7.1	9.4	16.5
Two	7.0	5.8	10.4
Three or more	*		5.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>27.1</i>	<i>36.3</i>	<i>63.4</i>
ALL FAMILIES WITH A FEMALE HEAD			
None	40.2	90.6	130.8
One	38.9	47.6	86.4
Two	19.1	21.4	40.5
Three or more	13.5	18.1	31.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>111.6</i>	<i>177.7</i>	<i>289.3</i>

(a) For definitions see page 3, paragraph 11. (b) Employed and unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20)

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

TABLE 9. - FAMILIES WITH A FEMALE HEAD : LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND AGE OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (a), NOVEMBER 1974 ('000)

Number of dependent children (a)	Age of female head (years)				Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45 and over	
HEAD IN THE LABOUR FORCE (b)					
None	6.6	*	4.5	26.0	40.2
One	9.0	10.7	7.8	11.4	38.9
Two	*	6.3	8.3		19.1
Three or more	*	4.7	8.0	4.0	13.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>111.6</b>
HEAD NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE					
None	*	*	*	88.9	90.6
One	14.3	6.6	8.1	18.5	47.6
Two	4.6	7.1	4.7	5.7	21.4
Three or more		6.5	7.8	*	18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>116.2</b>	<b>177.7</b>
ALL FAMILIES WITH A FEMALE HEAD					
None	7.6		5.1	114.8	130.8
One	23.4	17.4	15.9	29.9	86.4
Two	4.6	13.4	13.0	9.5	40.5
Three or more	*	11.2	15.8	*	31.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>289.3</b>

(a) For definitions see page 3, paragraph 11. (b) Employed and unemployed. For definitions see *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

\* Less than 4,000. See page 11, paragraph 3.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

## Estimation procedure

Estimates derived from the quarterly population survey are obtained by using a ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

## Reliability of estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin 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. 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, and not the whole population, was enumerated. 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 from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of standard errors which is intended to be of general application is given below. An example of the use of this table is as follows: if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000 and the standard error is 5.0 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 5,000, there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 95,000 to 105,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 90,000 and 110,000.

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
4,000	900	22.5	50,000	3,500	7.0
5,000	1,000	20.0	100,000	5,000	5.0
8,000	1,350	16.9	200,000	7,200	3.6
10,000	1,500	15.0	500,000	11,500	2.3
20,000	2,200	11.0	1,000,000	17,000	1.7

3. In the tables in this bulletin only estimates of 4,000 or over have been shown, as smaller estimates would 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. Although, in some cases, figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

4. 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.

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