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JOB VACANCIES, MARCH 1977

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Preliminary results of the *annual* March 1977 job vacancy survey were published on 4 August 1977 in *Job Vacancies May 1977*, (Catalogue No. 6231.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.69). This bulletin contains revised and more detailed figures for the March survey. The May bulletin also contained results of the first *quarterly* survey of job vacancies conducted in May 1977.

Scope and coverage

2. This survey covered vacancies in private employment and in Australian, State and local government employment. All vacancies for wage and salary earners were included except those:

- in the defence forces
- in agriculture
- in private households employing staff
- for waterside workers employed on a casual basis, and
- for employees of private employers (other than hospitals) not subject to payroll tax.

3. Included in the survey results are vacancies for all categories of employees, including managerial, full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and seasonal employees; and adults, juniors, trainees, apprentices, cadets, etc. Excluded are vacancies that are to be filled by persons already hired, by promotion or transfer of existing employees, or by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes. Also excluded are vacancies that were not immediately available for filling on the survey date, that is, those that became available after the specified date, and vacancies for work to be done under contract, such as by building sub-contractors, owner-drivers, etc.

4. Because of limitations in scope and coverage, survey results do not give the total number of job vacancies in Australia at the survey date, that is, 25 March 1977. The underestimation may be greater in

those industries (e.g. retail trade) and occupations (e.g. shop assistants) where the payroll tax coverage is relatively low.

Sample design

5. Employers included in the survey were selected from lists of employers stratified by State, sector, industry and number of employees. All Australian and State government departments and authorities, private employers with 500 or more employees and local government authorities with 250 or more employees were included. Samples of private payroll taxpayers, non-government hospitals and local government authorities were selected from the remainder. The total number of employers in the survey was about 8,800.

Definitions

6. A *job vacancy* was defined as a job immediately available for filling on the survey date and for which active steps were being taken by the employer to find or recruit an employee from outside the enterprise or authority in the particular State or Territory. Active steps to find or recruit an employee included efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying government or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or authority.

7. *Vacancies for adults* comprise those for which the adult rate of pay would be paid, and include all vacancies open to either adult or junior applicants without preference.

8. *Vacancies for juniors* are those open to applicants under 21 years of age who would not be paid at the adult rate for the occupation. Vacancies for apprentices, trainees, cadets and other juniors were reported against the occupation for which they were to be trained.

9. *Vacancies for males or females* are those jobs open to male or female applicants without preference.

10. *Private sector* refers to private employers subject to payroll tax and employees of non-government hospitals not subject to payroll tax.

11. *Government sector* refers to employees of Australian and State government departments, authorities and semi-government bodies and of local government authorities.

12. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

Reliability of the estimates

13. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of employers, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from all employers. 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 employers 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 employers had been included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

14. Relative standard errors for estimates shown in this bulletin are less than 20 per cent except where indicated. Estimates with relative standard errors of 30 per cent and over are not shown. Approximate relative percentage standard errors of estimates of total vacancies for each State and Territory and for Australia are: New South Wales 4.8, Victoria 4.7, Queensland 13.7, South Australia 6.7, Western Australia 9.1, Tasmania 9.9, Northern Territory 12.0, Australian Capital Territory 6.6, Australia 2.8. Thus, there are, for example, about two chances in three that the true figure for the number of job vacancies shown for Australia in Table 1 as 49,600 is within the range 48,200 to 51,000 (i.e. $49,600 \pm 2.8$ per cent of 49,600).

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service statistics

15. For a number of reasons the estimates obtained from the survey differ from the number of

vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). The table below shows the number of job vacancies in March of each year 1975 to 1977 as measured by the two sets of statistics. For purposes of comparison, job vacancies in primary production have been excluded from the CES figures.

16. The principal reason for the differences is that, because notification of vacancies is voluntary, many vacancies are not registered with the CES. Other reasons are:

- the survey estimates relate to vacancies *immediately* available for filling on the survey date, whereas the CES statistics relate to vacancies which were unfilled at the Friday nearest the end of the month and which employers claimed could be filled if labour were supplied *immediately or within the following month*
- the coverage of the job vacancy surveys was somewhat restricted (see paragraph 2) and the results are subject to sampling variability (see paragraphs 13 and 14).
- the CES figures may include some vacancies already filled or cancelled by the date at which the figures are compiled, but about which the CES may not have been notified.

Related publications

Users may also wish to refer to the publications *Job Vacancies, March 1976* (Catalogue No. 6218.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.49) and *Job Vacancies, May 1977* (Catalogue No. 6231.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.69) which are available on request.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8).

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA

Comparison of CES and survey figures

	March 1975	March 1976	March 1977
Registered with the CES (a)	32,915	22,190	22,265
ABS survey	55,200	50,800	49,600
Ratio of CES to survey figures (per cent) (b)	60	44	45

(a) Excludes primary production. (b) Because the coverage of the surveys was somewhat restricted (see paragraph 2) the percentages may be affected by the exclusion of some vacancies.

TABLE 1. JOB VACANCIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1977

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia		Total	
									For adults (a)	For juniors (a)		
JOB VACANCIES												
	Number ('000)										Per cent	
For males	8.1	11.0	2.8	1.7	2.5	0.9	(d)0.3	0.3	25.0	2.5	27.5	55.5
For females	3.0	2.6	(d)0.7	0.5	(d)0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	6.1	1.8	7.9	15.9
For males or females (a)	3.5	4.4	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.8	13.2	1.0	14.2	28.6
Total	14.5	18.0	5.3	3.3	4.0	1.6	0.7	2.2	44.3	5.3	49.6	100.0
Private sector (a)	9.8	13.0	(d)3.3	2.1	3.0	1.0	(e)	(e)	29.1	3.9	33.0	66.4
Government sector (a)	4.8	5.0	2.0	1.2	1.0	0.6	(e)	(e)	15.3	1.4	16.7	33.6
Manufacturing (b)	3.9	6.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	(e)	(e)	12.9	1.2	14.0	28.3
Non-manufacturing (c)	10.6	11.4	4.4	2.3	3.0	1.1	(e)	(e)	31.5	4.1	35.6	71.7
JOB VACANCY RATE (a) (per cent)												
	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.7	(e)	(e)	1.2	

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 12. (b) *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (ASIC) Division C. (c) ASIC Divisions A to L, excluding Division C (manufacturing), Sub-divisions 01, 02 (agriculture, etc.) and 94 (private households employing staff), and defence forces. (d) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent - see paragraph 14, page 2. (e) Not available.

TABLE 2. JOB VACANCIES: PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS, MARCH 1977 ('000)

Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	March 1977	Code number (a)	Occupation (a)	March 1977
025	Medical practitioners	0.4	670	Carpenters, joiners	0.6
030-034	Nurses, including probationers and trainees	2.1	673,697	Tradesmen assistants	(b)0.5
041-059	Lecturers, teachers	0.7		Production - process workers -	
071-081	Technicians and technical assistants, n.e.c.	1.1	720-728, 736	Food and drink	0.9
100-106, 110-119	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	1.2	670-672, 735, 737 } 743-745, 748, 750 }	Other	2.1
155	Stenographers and typists	2.0	.767	Storemen and packers	0.9
161-163	Other clerical workers	8.1		Labourers -	
200-201, 211-217	Sales workers, excluding commercial travellers	4.3	772-781, 783-785	Building and construction	(b)0.1
520-522, 524	Drivers, road transport	(b)0.9	801	Other	3.0
609-612, 614-617	Clothing (trades workers)	(b)1.1	802	Police	0.8
642	Fitters, turners - metal trade	1.4	807-809	Other protective service workers	0.3
644	Metal machinists, machine setters, etc.	0.6		Cooks, maids, catering and kitchen workers	(b)1.4
646	Motor vehicle mechanics	1.5	821	Cleaners, offices, buildings	(b)0.6
653	Welders and flame cutters	(b)0.5	851	Nursing aides and assistant nurses	0.5
654	Boilermakers, structural steel workers	0.8		Other occupations	10.1
657	Mechanics (not motor vehicles)	(b)0.6	..		
660	Electricians, including electrical mechanics	0.5		Total	49.6

(a) As defined in the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent - see paragraph 14, page 2.

TABLE 3. JOB VACANCIES - OCCUPATION GROUPS (a), PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS, MARCH 1977

Major occupation group (a)	Private sector (b) ('000)	Government sector (b) ('000)	Total	
			Number ('000)	Per cent
0. Professional, technical and related workers	2.8	5.4	8.2	16.5
1. Administrative, executive and managerial workers				
2. Clerical workers				
3. Sales workers	4.2	0.1	4.3	8.7
5. Miners, quarrymen and related workers	0.2	†	0.2	0.5
6. Workers in transport and communication	(d)0.9	0.4	1.3	2.6
4,7/8 Tradesmen, production - process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (c)	18.4	1.8	20.2	40.7
9. Service, sport and recreation workers	2.8	2.1	4.9	9.9
Total	33.0	16.7	49.6	100.0

(a) Major occupation groups of the *Australian Classification of Occupations*. (b) For definitions see paragraphs 10 and 11. (c) Includes farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber getters and related workers as reported by respondents whose principal industry was other than Agriculture etc. (ASIC sub-divisions 01 and 02). Respondents whose principal industry was Agriculture etc. were not included in the survey. (d) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent - see paragraph 14, page 2. † Less than 50.

TABLE 4. JOB VACANCIES : INDUSTRIES (a), MARCH 1977

A.S.I.C. Code (a)		Job vacancy rate (b)		A.S.I.C. Code (a)		Job vacancy rate (b)	
Division	Sub-division Industry (a)	Number ('000)	(per cent)	Division	Sub-division Industry (a)	Number ('000)	(per cent)
B	Mining	0.8	1.0	F	Wholesale and retail trade	9.8	1.3
C	Manufacturing	14.0	1.2	46-47	Wholesale trade	4.0	1.3
	21-22 Food, beverages and tobacco	1.2	0.6	48	Retail trade	5.8	1.3
	23,24 Textiles; clothing and footwear	1.6	1.4	G,H	Transport and storage; communication	1.5	0.5
	26 Paper, printing, etc.	0.9	0.9	I	Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	3.4	1.0
	27 Chemical, petroleum and coal products	0.8	1.3				
	Metal products, machinery and equipment	7.1	1.4				
	29 Basic metal products	1.0	1.0	J,K	Public administration and defence; community services (c)	14.4	1.7
	31,33 Fabricated metal products; other machinery, etc.	4.3	1.6	A,L	Other (d)	(e)2.6	(e)1.1
	32 Transport equipment	1.9	1.3				
	25,28,34 Other	2.3	1.2				
				Total	49.6	1.2	
D	Electricity, gas and water	0.3	0.4				
E	Construction	2.8	1.0				

(a) As defined in the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (A.S.I.C.). (b) For definition see paragraph 12. (c) Excludes defence forces. (d) Excludes agriculture (A.S.I.C. sub-division 01), services to agriculture (02) and private households employing staff (94). (e) Standard error greater than 20 per cent, but less than 30 per cent - see paragraph 14, page 2.