

## JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, WA

This report presents information about unemployed persons' experiences in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. The statistics were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2001 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey.

### Unemployed Persons

In July 2001 there were 66,300 unemployed persons in WA, a 25 per cent increase since July 2000. Just over three-quarters (79%) of unemployed persons were looking for full-time work. This is the a similar proportion to that recorded 12 months earlier (80%). A higher proportion of males were seeking full-time work (89%) than were females (63%).

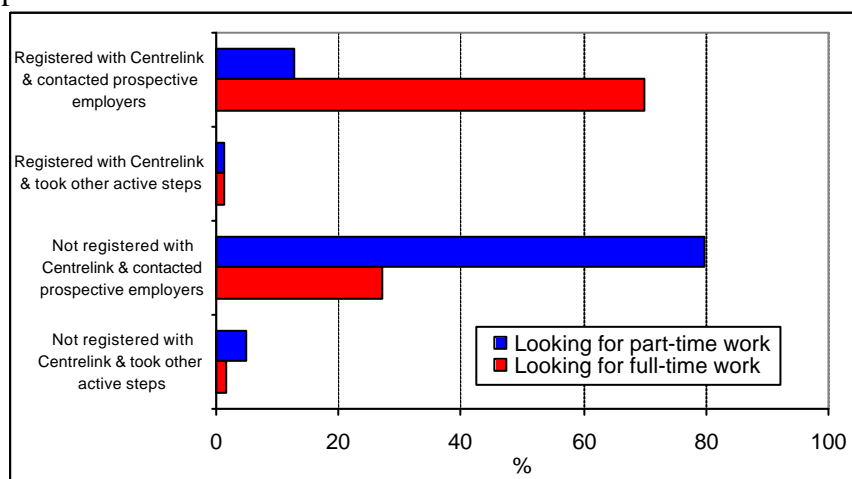
On average, males were unemployed for longer periods of time than females (47.5 weeks compared to 24.6 weeks) in July 2001. At 38.7 weeks the mean duration of unemployment in WA is however, significantly lower than the national average of 49.8 weeks.

### Job Search Experience

In July 2001, 60 per cent of unemployed persons were registered as a job seeker with Centrelink, similar to the national level of 62 per cent. Almost all (96.2%) unemployed persons had contacted prospective employers in their attempts to find work. Of this group, 58 per cent were registered with Centrelink.

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work were more likely to be registered with Centrelink than those looking for part-time work. Of those looking for full-time work, nearly three in four (71%) were registered with Centrelink. Of those looking for part-time work, the most active step taken was contacting prospective employers without having registered with Centrelink (80%).

### Active Steps Taken to Find Work



Source: ABS Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, (Cat. No.6222.0), Unpublished state data

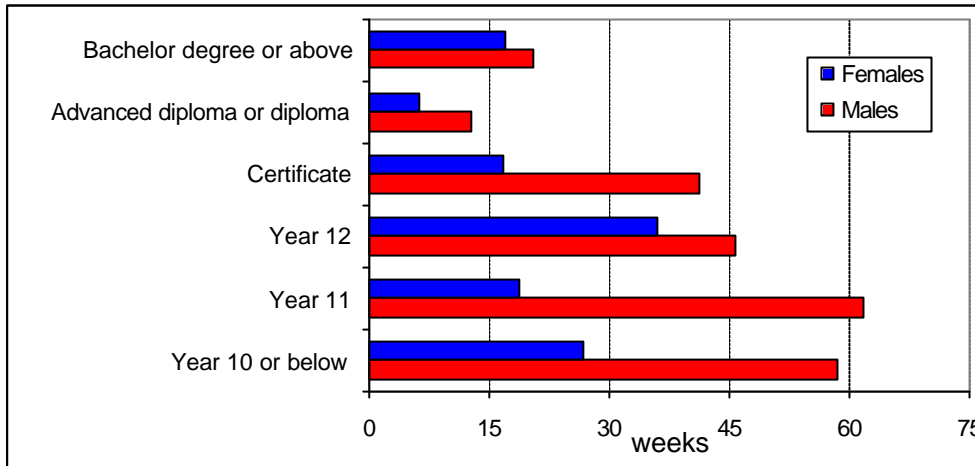
The most commonly reported difficulties in finding work for unemployed persons were:

- considered too young or too old by employers (14%);
- lacked necessary skills/education (13%);
- too many applicants for available jobs (12%);
- no vacancies in line of work (11%); and
- insufficient work experience (11%).

## Educational Attainment

In July 2001, 69 per cent of unemployed persons in WA had highest educational qualifications at Year 12 level of below, while those holding Year 10 qualifications made up 42 per cent. Persons whose highest qualification was Year 11 or Year 10 or below, generally had been unemployed for longer periods of time than people with higher qualifications. Their mean duration of unemployment was highest (47.5 weeks and 45.2 weeks respectively) and a higher proportion had been unemployed for longer than 2 years (8% and 14% respectively) compared with 5 per cent of those with a certificate, diploma, bachelor degree or above.

### Mean Duration of Employment by Level of Highest Educational Attainment



Source: ABS Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, (Cat. No.6222.0), Unpublished state data

## Young Unemployed

Over half (55.4%) of unemployed persons aged 15-19 years and 85.2 per cent of those aged 20-24 years were seeking full-time work. More young males aged 15-24 years (75.0%) were looking for full-time work than young females (61.5%).

The main difficulty in gaining employment that young unemployed persons reported was 'insufficient work experience' (18.8%), while other difficulties experienced were 'lacked necessary skills/education' (14.2%) and 'too many applicants for available jobs' (13.8%).

## The Long-term Unemployed

In July 2001, 12,100 persons were considered long-term unemployed, that is, they had been unemployed for 12 months or longer. This represented 18.3 per cent of all unemployed persons (a decrease of nearly 3 percentage points since July 2000). Of those long-term unemployed persons, the majority (92.6%) were seeking full-time work and most (93.4%) reported they had not received any offers of employment during their current period of unemployment.

'Considered too young or too old' was an obstacle to over one-fifth (21.5%) of long-term unemployed persons. A 'lack of necessary skills/education' sought by employers (15.7%) and their 'insufficient work experience' (14.9%) were other commonly reported difficulties.