

LABOUR MOBILITY

This publication presents information about employment changes of persons aged 15–69 years who had held a job in the 12 months ending February 2002.

Statistics in this report were obtained from the Labour Mobility Survey, conducted throughout Australia in February 2002 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey.

This survey provides information on job mobility and job tenure for persons aged 15–69 years. The survey collected details about jobs held during the 12 months ending February 2002, including whether a job holder changed employer or locality and reasons for change, full-time or part-time status, occupation, industry and duration of job. This information is cross-classified by a range of personal characteristics such as age, sex and educational attainment.

All data are for Western Australia (WA) unless otherwise stated.

The following diagram illustrates the conceptual framework for the Labour Mobility Survey. Persons aged 15–69 were classified according to whether they were working at February 2002, whether they were working at February 2001 and duration of current job. Data are '000s.



Overview

An estimated 1,028,100 persons aged 15-69 years had worked at some time during the year ending February 2002. Of these persons, 91.1 per cent were working at February 2002, with the balance either looking for work (3.8%) or not in the labour force (5.1%).

Of the 936,600 persons working at February 2002:

- 76.6 per cent had been in their current job for the whole year;
- 15.5 per cent had been in their current job for less than one year and had worked in a previous job during the year (that is, they had changed jobs during the year); and
- 7.9 per cent had been in their current job for less than one year and had not had a previous job during the year.

Of the 144,700 persons working at February 2002 who had changed jobs during the year:

- 42.8 per cent had changed industry from last to current job; and
- 33.4 per cent had changed occupation from last to current job.

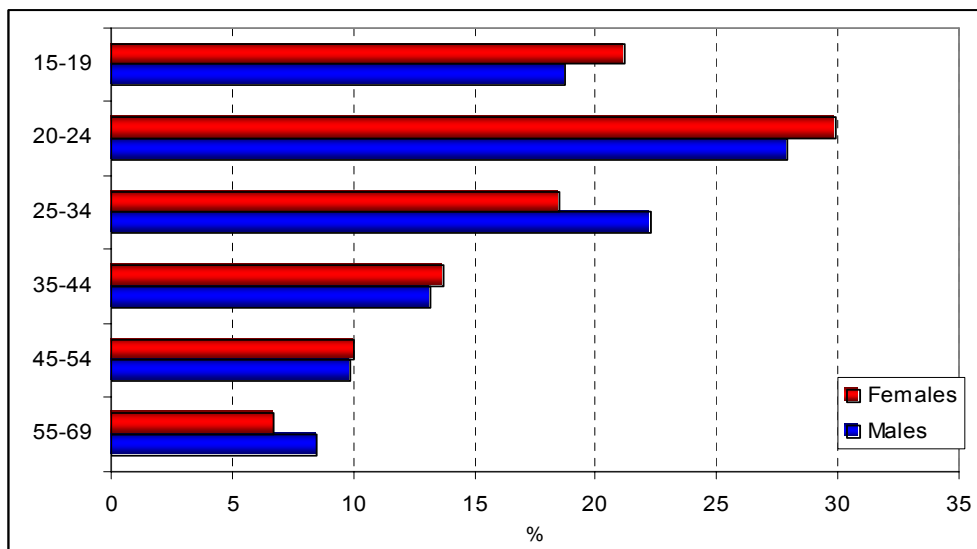
Job Mobility

Of those persons who had worked at some time during the year ending February 2002, 16.1 per cent (165,900) were job mobile (that is, they changed their employer and/or their locality at least once within the previous year).

Of those persons who were job mobile during the year ending February 2002:

- 81.8 per cent (135,700) changed their employer or business;
- 18.2 per cent (30,200) changed locality while still working for the same employer or business; and
- 28.8 per cent of persons aged 20–24 years were job mobile, whereas only 7.9 per cent of those aged 55–69 years were job mobile.

Job Mobility, by age group



ABS Labour Mobility (Catalogue No. 6209.0) Unpublished State data

Source:

Family members were generally less job mobile than non-family members (14.5% compared with 23.8%) and married persons were less job mobile than those who were not married (12.7% compared with 22.0%).

For those 23,800 persons who were non-family members, job mobility was higher among persons not living alone (33.7%) than among those living alone (18.9%).

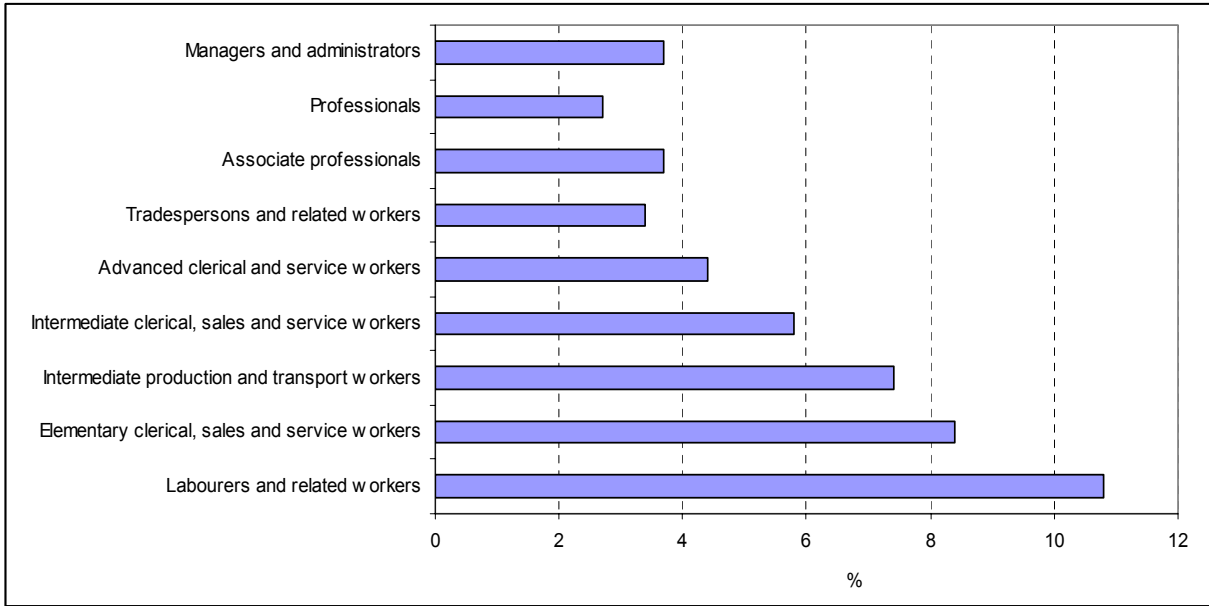
Occupation

There were 857,000 persons who were working at both February 2001 and February 2002. Of those, 83.7 per cent had remained in their current job for one year or more (and therefore had not changed their occupation), and a further 11.1 per cent had changed their job but not their occupation. Only 5.2 per cent had changed both their job and their occupation.

Of all occupations, Labourers and related workers were most likely to have changed occupation (10.8%) over the previous 12 months, whereas Professionals were least likely (2.7%).

Of the 7,200 Labourers and related workers who changed their occupation between February 2001 and February 2002, 47.2 per cent became Intermediate production and transport workers, and a further 23.6 per cent became Elementary clerical, sales and service workers.

Working at February 2001 and 2002, Proportion who changed occupation since February 2001



Source: ABS Labour Mobility (Catalogue No. 6209.0) Unpublished State data

Full-time or Part-time Status

Of the 857,000 persons who were working at February 2001 and February 2002, 610,100 (73.3%) were working full time at both points in time. A further 23.7 per cent were working part time at both points in time and 3.0 per cent had changed their full-time or part-time status.

Of the 27,100 persons who changed their full-time or part-time status, nearly sixty per cent (59.8%) had changed from part-time work at February 2001 to full-time work at February 2002.

Duration of Current Job

Some 218,900 persons working at February 2002 had been in their current job for less than one year. The Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry had the highest proportion (38.3%) of persons who had worked in their current job for less than one year. In comparison, only 16.5 per cent of persons employed in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had worked in their current job for less than one year.

There were 206,300 persons who were working at February 2002 and who had been in their current job for 10 years or more. The highest concentrations were recorded in the Electricity, gas and water supply industry (49.2%) and the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (41.5%). The Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry (7.2%) and Retail trade industry (14.0%) had the lowest proportions of persons who had been in their current job for 10 years or more. A greater proportion of males than females had been in their current job for 10 years or more (25.1% compared with 18.0%).

Persons who Ceased a Job During the Year

Of the 1,028,100 persons who had worked during the year ending February 2002, 236,200 (23.0%) ceased a job during that period.

Of these persons, 144,800 (61.3%) were job leavers (ceased their last job voluntarily/changed locality) and 91,400 (38.7%) were job losers (ceased their last job involuntarily). Just over a third (34.2%) of those who had ceased employment had been in that job for less than one year, and a further 14.2 per cent had worked in that job for between one and two years.

Of those who were job leavers, 59,000 retired, started a new business, had a better job or left for family or other reasons, 42,300 left due to unsatisfactory working conditions and 7,700 left for a holiday job or return to studies.

Of those who lost their job 43,900 were retrenched or the employer went out of business, 37,600 left because the job was temporary or seasonal and 9,900 left due to their own ill health or injury.