



Research Bulletin

Census of unemployed Probation and Parole clients, February, 1983

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CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYED

PROBATION AND PAROLE CLIENTS,

FEBRUARY, 1983

Prepared by:

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Preface

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Summary

A census of all unemployed Probation and Parole clients in New South Wales at the end of February, 1983, produced the following findings:-

- Of the 9,963 clients available for work (employed and unemployed) 48% were unemployed. This is almost three times the rate of unemployment in the general population.
- Of those unemployed clients not available for work, less than one third were engaged in full-time domestic duties.
- More than half the unemployed clients available for work were males aged 24 years or less.
- Almost all unemployed clients available for work were in receipt of some type of benefit or pension, with 89% being on unemployment benefits.
- There did not appear to be higher unemployment rates among different supervision types.
- About one third of unemployed clients available for work had been under supervision for one year or more at the census date.

Introduction

In line with the nation-wide increase in unemployment among most sectors of the labour force in recent years, rising levels of unemployment amongst clients of the Probation and Parole Service have been observed.

It is expected that our clients would find it more difficult to obtain employment than the rest of the population. One of the most serious effects of unemployment on Probation and Parole clients is the potential increase in their risk of re-offending.

Special programmes for unemployed clients need to be developed to train them in job skills, or to assist them in finding satisfactory ways of spending their free time. To assist in the planning of such programmes, a census of all unemployed clients of the Probation and Parole Service was carried out on 28th February, 1983.

Method

Probation and Parole Officers were asked to complete the form shown in Appendix A for all clients who were unemployed at the census date. In order to minimise officers' work, no details were requested for employed clients, apart from a total count of all clients (both employed and unemployed) on each officer's caseload. Returns were received for all active caseloads.

The information was coded and entered onto computer. The details which were recorded for each unemployed client were as follows:-

- Office
- Sex
- Age
- Time under current supervision
- Period unemployed
- Whether client was available for employment
- Whether client was engaged in full-time domestic duties
- Type of supervision
- Benefits received or source of income

Limited information for all clients (both employed and unemployed) is collected routinely each month. This information (giving details of office, sex and type of supervision) allowed some comparison of employed and unemployed clients.

Definition of Unemployed

For the purpose of this Census, an unemployed person was defined to be a person who was not engaged in regular weekly full-time, part-time or casual employment. Thus "unemployed" included those who had irregular casual employment and those engaged in full-time domestic duties, regardless of whether they were available for regular paid employment.

However, most of the analyses in this report have excluded those persons who were not available for employment. Unemployment rates are given only for those persons available for employment.

Comparisons between unemployment rates of Probation and Parole Clients given in this report with unemployment rates published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics are not strictly valid. The A.B.S. defines unemployed persons as being (i) not employed, (ii) available for work and (iii) as having actively sought work in the last four weeks..

Thus the A.B.S. definition includes the extra criterion that the person must have actively sought work in the last four weeks. This information was not available for Probation and Parole clients.

Results

1. Employment Status of all Clients

There were 11,555 clients under supervision at the end of February, 1983. Of these, 45% were employed and 41% were unemployed clients available for work. Details are given in Table 1.

Table 1 - Employment Status of All Clients

	No.	%
Employed clients	5214	45.1
Unemployed clients available for work	4749	41.1
Unemployed clients not available for work	1531	13.2
Unemployed clients - unknown whether available for work	61	0.5
TOTAL	11555	100

Of the 9963 clients available for work (employed and unemployed) 47.7% were unemployed.

2. Clients Not Available for Work

It was hypothesised that the majority of clients who were not available for employment would be females engaged in full-time domestic duties. The sex and domestic duty status of clients not available for work are given in Table 2.

Table 2 - Clients not available for work - Sex by Domestic Duties

	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Domestic Duties	38	443	0	481
Not in Domestic Duties	907	134	1	1042
Unknown	6	2	0	8
Total	951	579	1	1531

Of the 1531 clients not available for employment, 443 (29%) were women engaged in full-time domestic duties. A much larger group (59%) were men who were not engaged in domestic duties. Anecdotal reports suggest that this group would include drug addicts and alcoholics engaged in rehabilitation programmes, invalids unable to work and youths engaged in job training schemes.

3. Unemployed Clients Available for Work

The remainder of this report will consider only those unemployed clients who were available for work.

3.1 Domestic Duty Status and Sex of Clients Available for Work

Clients who were engaged in full-time domestic duties who considered themselves to be available for work were included with the unemployed clients considered in the remainder of this report. The reason for their inclusion is that they are part of the "hidden unemployed". It is likely that the main reason that they are engaged in full-time domestic duties is that they have been unable to find suitable paid employment.

The sex of clients available for work by whether or not they were engaged in domestic duties is given in Table 3.1

Table 3.1 - Unemployed Clients available for work - Sex by Domestic Duties.

	Male	Female	Total
Domestic Duties	40	162	202
Not in Domestic Duties	4181	357	4538
Unknown	7	2	9
Total	4228	521	4749

3.2 Age and Sex

The ages of male and female unemployed clients who were available for work are given in the following table.

Table 3.2 - Unemployed Clients available for work - Age by Sex.

Age	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
17 or less	113 (2.7)	13 (2.5)	126 (2.7)
18-20	1128 (26.7)	108 (20.7)	1236 (26.0)
21-22	679 (16.1)	67 (12.9)	746 (15.7)
23-24	493 (11.7)	70 (13.4)	563 (11.9)
25-29	877 (20.7)	106 (20.3)	983 (20.7)
30-34	434 (10.3)	57 (10.9)	491 (10.3)
35-39	234 (5.5)	44 (8.4)	278 (5.9)
40-44	128 (3.0)	24 (4.6)	152 (3.2)
45-49	56 (1.3)	9 (1.7)	65 (1.4)
50-54	47 (1.1)	16 (3.1)	63 (1.3)
55-59	17 (0.4)	3 (0.6)	20 (0.4)
60-64	10 (0.2)	2 (0.4)	12 (0.3)
Over 65	2 (0.0)	1 (0.2)	3 (0.1)
Unknown	10 (0.2)	1 (0.2)	11 (0.2)
Total	4228 (89)	521 (11)	4749 (100)

Only 202 (4.2%) of clients who were available for work were engaged in full-time domestic duties. The majority of these were female. Of all unemployed clients available for work, 89% were males and 11% were females. This is similar to the sex distribution amongst all clients under supervision at the end of February: 87% males and 13% females.

For both male and females, the majority of unemployed clients available for work were less than 30 years of age. This could reflect the age distribution of all Probation and Parole clients - there are no comparable statistics for the complete clientele.

The age distribution was slightly older for unemployed males than for unemployed females. For male clients, 57.1% were under 25 years old compared with 49.5% for females. At the older end of the scale, 11.9% of males were 35 years of age or more, compared with 19.2% of females.

3.3 Benefits Received or Source of Income

The following table gives details of the source of income of unemployed clients available for work.

Table 3.3 - Unemployed Clients available for work - Benefits Received or Source of Income.

	No.	%
Unemployment Benefits	4222	88.9
Supporting Parent's Benefit	124	2.6
Sickness Benefit	118	2.5
Other Benefits or Pensions	76	1.6
Partner's Income	81	1.7
Worker's Compensation	8	0.2
Other	29	0.6
No Income	71	1.5
Unknown	20	0.4
Total	4749	100

The overwhelming majority of clients were in receipt of unemployment benefits. A total of 4540 (95.6%) of unemployed clients who were available for work were in receipt of some type of benefit or pension.

3.4 Type of Supervision

The distribution of unemployed clients who are available for work by supervision type is given in the following table. The percentage distribution of all clients (both employed and unemployed) by supervision type is also given, for comparison.

Table 3.4 - Unemployed Clients available for work, and all clients - Type of Supervision.

Type of Supervision	Unemployed Clients Available for work		All Clients %
	No	%	
Probation	3372	(71.0)	71.6
Parole	763	(16.1)	14.3
Licence	136	(2.9)	3.3
Short Term Licence	114	(2.4)	2.0
C.S.O. *	255	(5.4)	5.0
Probation and Parole	28	(0.6)	1.4
Probation and C.S.O. *	67	(1.4)	2.0
Other Multiple Orders	11	(0.2)	0.3
Unknown	3	(0.1)	-
Total	4749	(100)	100

* C.S.O. = Community Service Orders.

It might be considered that clients who have been in gaol would be more likely to be unemployed than clients who were released under supervision directly from court.

However, adding together the categories of Parole, Licence, Short Term Licence, and Probation and Parole, it is seen that 21.9% of unemployed clients available for work fell in this combined category (implying prior imprisonment) compared with 21.0% of all clients. Hence, it does not appear that previous imprisonment considerably increases a client's chances of being unemployed.

3.5 Time Under Supervision

Some clients may be under more than one supervision order, which may have commenced at different times. In such cases, the time under supervision has been measured from the commencement of the earliest order.

The following table gives the time under supervision of unemployed clients who are available for work.

Table 3.5 - Unemployed Clients available for work - Time Under Supervision.

Time under Supervision	No.	%
1 month or less	257	5.4
1 month	241	5.1
2 months	332	7.0
3-5 months	1186	25.0
6-11 months	1205	25.4
1 year	1022	21.5
2 years	357	7.5
3 years or more	127	2.7
Unknown	22	0.5
Total	4749	100

It is not possible to predict from this information the distribution of the expected length of supervision. However, about one third of unemployed clients had already been under supervision for one year or more at the Census date.

4. Regional Comparisons

4.1 Employment Status by Region

Details of employment status of clients in the five Probation and Parole regions are given in the following table. The District Offices in each region are listed in the appendix.

Table 4.1 - Employment Status by Region.

REGION	AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT			TOTAL AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL CLIENTS
	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	(% UNEMPLOYED)			
METRO NORTH	1520	1004	(39.8)	2524	478	3002
METRO SOUTH	1605	1349	(45.7)	2954	464	3418
NORTH	833	1006	(54.7)	1839	240	2079
SOUTH	432	509	(54.1)	941	152	1093
WEST	824	881	(51.7)	1705	258	1963
Total	5214	4749	(47.7)	9963	1592	11555

Of those clients who were available for employment (both employed and unemployed), the percentage unemployed was greater in the country regions than in the city regions.

4.2 Age by Region

The following table lists the ages of unemployed clients available for work in each region.

Table 4.2 - Clients available for work - Age by Region

AGE	METRO NORTH (%)	METRO SOUTH (%)	NORTH (%)	SOUTH (%)	WEST (%)	TOTAL (%)
17 or less	25 (2.5)	49 (3.6)	18 (1.8)	16 (3.1)	18 (2.0)	126 (2.7)
18-20	234 (23.3)	332 (24.6)	249 (24.8)	153 (30.1)	268 (30.4)	1236 (26.0)
21-22	151 (15.0)	230 (17.0)	148 (14.7)	80 (15.7)	137 (15.6)	746 (15.7)
23-24	117 (11.7)	169 (12.5)	117 (11.6)	53 (10.4)	107 (12.1)	563 (11.9)
25-29	198 (19.7)	278 (20.6)	241 (24.0)	100 (19.6)	166 (18.8)	983 (20.7)
30-34	118 (11.8)	121 (9.0)	117 (11.6)	48 (9.4)	87 (9.9)	491 (10.3)
35-39	68 (6.8)	79 (5.9)	61 (6.1)	21 (4.1)	49 (5.6)	278 (5.9)
40-44	39 (3.9)	42 (3.1)	26 (2.6)	16 (3.1)	29 (3.3)	152 (3.2)
45-49	19 (1.9)	20 (1.5)	11 (1.1)	8 (1.6)	7 (0.8)	65 (1.4)
50-54	22 (2.2)	18 (1.3)	8 (0.8)	6 (1.2)	9 (1.0)	63 (1.3)
55-59	3 (0.3)	5 (0.4)	4 (0.4)	6 (1.2)	2 (0.2)	20 (0.4)
60-64	4 (0.4)	3 (0.2)	3 (0.3)	1 (0.2)	1 (0.1)	12 (0.3)
Over 65	0 (-)	0 (-)	3 (0.3)	0 (-)	0 (-)	3 (0.1)
Unknown	6 (0.6)	3 (0.2)	0 (-)	1 (0.2)	1 (0.1)	11 (0.2)
Total	1004 (100)	1349 (100)	1006 (100)	509 (100)	881 (100)	4749 (100)

The Southern and Western Country Regions had higher percentages of their unemployed under 25 years of age than the other regions.

4.3 Sex by Region

Table 4.3 - Clients available for work - Sex by Region.

SEX	METRO NORTH (%)	METRO SOUTH (%)	NORTH (%)	SOUTH (%)	WEST (%)	TOTAL (%)
Male	861 (85.8)	1183 (87.7)	907 (90.2)	468 (91.9)	809 (91.8)	4228 (89.0)
Female	143 (14.2)	166 (12.3)	99 (9.8)	41 (8.1)	72 (8.2)	521 (11.0)
Total	1004 (100)	1349 (100)	1006 (100)	509 (100)	881 (100)	4749 (100)

The country regions have higher proportions of males among their unemployed clients than the metropolitan regions.

4.4 Benefits Received by Region

Table 4.4 - Clients Available for Work - Benefits Received or Source of Income by Region.

BENEFITS/ INCOME	METRO NORTH (%)	METRO SOUTH (%)	NORTH (%)	SOUTH (%)	WEST (%)	TOTAL (%)
Unemployment Benefit	860 (85.7)	1197 (88.7)	910 (90.5)	466 (91.6)	789 (89.6)	4222 (88.9)
Supp. Parent's Benefit	28 (2.8)	28 (2.1)	32 (3.2)	4 (0.8)	32 (3.6)	124 (2.6)
Sickness Benefit	48 (4.8)	35 (2.6)	9 (0.9)	13 (2.6)	13 (1.5)	118 (2.5)
Other Benefits or Pensions	15 (1.5)	24 (1.8)	20 (2.0)	8 (1.6)	9 (1.0)	76 (1.6)
Partner's Income	13 (1.3)	24 (1.8)	14 (1.4)	13 (2.6)	17 (1.9)	81 (1.7)
Worker's Compensation	3 (0.3)	2 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.2)	1 (0.1)	8 (0.2)
Other	9 (0.9)	11 (0.8)	2 (0.2)	0 (-)	7 (0.8)	29 (0.6)
No Income	23 (2.3)	21 (1.6)	13 (1.3)	1 (0.2)	13 (1.5)	71 (1.5)
Unknown	5 (0.5)	7 (0.5)	5 (0.5)	3 (0.6)	0 (-)	20 (0.4)
Total	1004 (100)	1349 (100)	1006 (100)	509 (100)	881 (100)	4749 (100)

All regions reflect the State-wide pattern, with around 90% of unemployed clients receiving unemployment benefits.

4.5 Type of Supervision by Region

The following table gives the numbers and percentages of unemployed clients available for work in each region by supervision type, as well as the percentage distribution of supervision type in each region for all clients at the end of February, 1983.

Table 4.5 - Unemployed clients available for work, and all clients - Type of Supervision by Region.

Type of Supervision	Metropolitan North		Metropolitan South		North		South		West		Total	
	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %	Unemployed Clients No. (%)	All Clients %
Probation	668 (66.5)	67.8	984 (72.9)	72.9	714 (71.0)	72.1	383 (75.2)	75.8	623 (70.7)	72.2	3372 (71.0)	71.6
Parole	181 (18.0)	16.1	218 (16.2)	14.6	157 (15.6)	12.9	63 (12.4)	11.0	144 (16.3)	14.7	763 (16.1)	14.3
Licence	31 (3.1)	4.8	49 (3.6)	3.3	36 (3.6)	3.4	11 (2.2)	1.9	9 (1.0)	1.4	136 (2.9)	3.3
Short Term Licence	29 (2.9)	1.8	27 (2.0)	2.1	18 (1.8)	1.9	14 (2.8)	2.3	26 (3.0)	2.4	114 (2.4)	2.0
C.S.O. *	66 (6.6)	5.5	48 (3.6)	3.8	70 (7.0)	6.0	24 (4.7)	5.3	47 (5.3)	5.3	255 (5.4)	5.0
Probation <u>and</u> Parole	1 (0.1)	1.5	8 (0.6)	1.4	4 (0.4)	1.5	5 (1.0)	1.1	10 (1.1)	1.2	28 (0.6)	1.4
Probation <u>and</u> C.S.O. *	23 (2.3)	2.1	13 (1.0)	1.4	5 (0.5)	1.9	7 (1.4)	2.2	19 (2.2)	2.8	67 (1.4)	2.0
Other Multiple Orders	4 (0.4)	0.4	2 (0.1)	0.5	1 (0.1)	0.3	1 (0.2)	0.4	3 (0.3)	0.1	11 (0.2)	0.3
Unknown	1 (0.1)	-	0 (-)	-	1 (0.1)	-	1 (0.2)	-	0 (-)	-	3 (0.1)	-
Total	1004 (100)		1349 (100)		1006 (100)		509 (100)		881 (100)		4749 (100)	

4.6 TIME UNDER SUPERVISION BY REGION

Table 4.6 - Clients available for work - Time under supervision by Region

TIME UNDER SUPERVISION	METRO NORTH (%)	METRO SOUTH (%)	NORTH (%)	SOUTH (%)	WEST (%)	TOTAL (%)
1 Month or less	53 (5.3)	52 (3.9)	69 (6.9)	31 (6.1)	52 (5.9)	257 (5.4)
1 Month	55 (5.5)	60 (4.4)	62 (6.2)	26 (5.1)	38 (4.3)	241 (5.1)
2 Months	78 (7.8)	101 (7.5)	64 (6.4)	32 (6.3)	57 (6.5)	332 (7.0)
3-5 Months	246 (24.5)	359 (26.6)	234 (23.3)	129 (25.3)	218 (24.7)	1186 (25.0)
6-11 Months	263 (26.2)	340 (25.2)	249 (24.8)	128 (25.1)	225 (25.5)	1205 (25.4)
1 Year	211 (21.0)	284 (21.1)	229 (22.8)	105 (20.6)	193 (21.9)	1022 (21.5)
2 Years	67 (6.7)	112 (8.3)	72 (7.2)	40 (7.9)	66 (7.5)	357 (7.5)
3 Years or more	22 (2.2)	39 (2.9)	25 (2.5)	16 (3.1)	25 (2.8)	127 (2.7)
Unknown	9 (0.9)	2 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	2 (0.4)	7 (0.8)	22 (0.5)
Total	1004 (100)	1349 (100)	1006 (100)	509 (100)	881 (100)	4749 (100)

The Southern Metropolitan Region had a small proportion of "new" unemployed clients under supervision (i.e. clients who had been under supervision for 2 months or less) than other regions, and a correspondingly higher proportion of "long-term" clients who had been unemployed.

Discussion

The most startling result of this study is the extremely high percentage (47.7%) of Probation and Parole clients available for work who are unemployed. It is difficult to compare this with the unemployment rate among the whole population, because of the definitional problems outlined previously.

The following are some results of a survey carried out in September, 1982 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1983), and refer to the whole of Australia.

Persons in Labour Force:	
Employed	6,414,200
Unemployed	<u>505,900</u>
Total, labour force	6,920,100
Persons not in Labour Force, but wanting a job	<u>643,400</u>
Total, persons in Labour Force or not in Labour Force but wanting a job	7,563,500

Thus, a total of 1,149,300 persons (15.2%) were estimated to be either "unemployed" (as defined by the A.B.S.) or not in the labour force but wanting a job. Details for N.S.W. only are not available, but since N.S.W. has a slightly higher "unemployment" rate than the whole of Australia, it is possible that the combined "unemployment and wanting a job" rate could be as high as 17% or 18% in N.S.W. The percentage of unemployed Probation and Parole clients in N.S.W. (48%) is therefore almost three times the rate for the general population of N.S.W.

Reference

Australian Bureau of Statistics (1983), "Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia, September, 1982 (Preliminary)", Catalogue No. 6219.0, A.B.S., Canberra.

CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYED CLIENTS

Officer: _____

Office: _____

1. Client's initials: _____
2. Sex (M or F): _____ (3) Date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____
4. Date released under current supervision: ____ / ____ / ____
5. Period unemployed: ____ years, ____ months, ____ weeks
6. Is client available for employment? _____
7. Is client engaged in full time domestic duties? _____
8. SUPERVISION type - circle appropriate numbers.

1. Probation	4. Short Term License or Early Release on License
2. Parole	5. C.S.O.
3. License	
9. BENEFITS received/or other source of income - circle appropriate number

1. None	7. Service Pension (Veterans)
2. Unemployment Benefits	8. Disability Pension (Veterans)
3. Aged Pension	9. Supporting Parent's Benefit
4. Wives' Pension	10. Sickness Benefit
5. Widows' Pension	11. Special Benefit (Social Security)
6. Invalid Pension	12. Partner's/Spouse's Income

Other (specify) _____

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1. Client's initials: _____
2. Sex (M or F): _____ (3) Date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____
4. Date released under current supervision: ____ / ____ / ____
5. Period unemployed: ____ years, ____ months, ____ weeks
6. Is client available for employment? _____
7. Is client engaged in full time domestic duties? _____
8. SUPERVISION type - circle appropriate numbers.

1. Probation	4. Short Term License or Early Release on License
2. Parole	5. C.S.O.
3. License	
9. BENEFITS received/or other source of income - circle appropriate number

1. None	7. Service Pension (Veterans)
2. Unemployment Benefits	8. Disability Pension (Veterans)
3. Aged Pension	9. Supporting Parent's Benefit
4. Wives' Pension	10. Sickness Benefit
5. Widows' Pension	11. Special Benefit (Social Security)
6. Invalid Pension	12. Partner's/Spouse's Income

Other (specify) _____

HEAD OFFICE USE ONLY

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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APPENDIX B

DISTRICT OFFICES BY REGION

Metropolitan North

Burwood
City
Crows Nest
Hornsby
Newtown
Parramatta
Ryde
Warringah

Metropolitan South

Bankstown
Bondi
Campbelltown
Fairfield
Hurstville
Liverpool
Maroubra
Wollongong

North

Coffs Harbour
Glen Innes
Gosford
Grafton
Inverell
Kempsey
Lismore
Maitland
Murwillumbah
Muswellbrook
Newcastle
Port Macquarie
Taree
Tuggerah lakes

South

Albury
Bowral
Cooma
Goulburn
Griffith
Nowra
Queanbeyan
Tumbarumba
Tumut
Wagga Wagga
Young

West

Armidale
Bathurst
Blacktown
Broken Hill
Coonamble
Dubbo
Lithgow
Moree
Narrabri
Orange
Penrith
Tamworth
Windsor

NOTE:

The other three District Offices, namely Cessnock, Long Bay Parole Unit and Western Suburbs Parole Unit were not included in the Census as they are not involved in community supervision.