

SECTION FOUR

ANALYSIS OF ABS LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

This section provides our analysis of relevant labour market statistics, extracted from Australian Bureau of Statistics publications.

The Labour Market in Brief:

- The seasonally adjusted estimate of employment fell to **8,703,200** in March 1999. Full-time employment rose slightly to **6,445,000**. Part-time employment fell to **2,285,000**.
- The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment fell slightly to **695,500** in March 1999.
- In March 1999, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at **7.4%**.

(Source: ABS Catalogue 6203.0, Labour Force, March 1999)

Employed Persons by Age

- The total number of employed persons (full-time or part-time) at March 1999 was **8,697,300**. Of this, **2,596,500** were aged between 45 and 65 – a further **133,500** were 65 and over. Thus, **31.4%** of the full-time/part-time work force is represented by the 45 and over age bracket.
- Table One (Employed Persons: Full-Time and Part-Time Workers) presents this information in graph form.

Unemployed Persons by Age

- The total number of unemployed persons seeking full-time or part-time work at March 1999 was **735,500**. Of this, **145,900** were aged 45 and over (this represents **19.8%**).
- Table Two (Unemployed Persons Seeking Full/Part-time Work by Age) presents this information in graph form. *NOTE:* The figure for 15-24 year olds may be high due to the large number of this age group seeking part-time work whilst studying.
- The total number of job seekers used in the 'duration of unemployment' estimates by the ABS is **736,400**. The ABS does not define the age categories within this survey for 45 and above. Rather, the survey uses the age categories 15-19, 20-24, 25-34, and 35 and over.

- Table Three (Unemployed Persons: Duration of Unemployment by Age) presents in graph form the ABS data collections comparing the length of time unemployed against age.
- Table Four (Unemployed Persons: Reasons for Ceasing Last Full-Time Job and Age). Please also refer to Table Five (Unemployed Persons: Reasons for Ceasing Last Full-Time Job and Occupation Type). Many staff responses to our survey support the ABS figures showing high retrenchment rates for certain categories.

(Source: ABS Catalogue 6203.0, Labour Force, March 1999)

Unemployed Persons by Industry

- Table Five (Unemployed Persons: Reasons for Ceasing Last Full-Time Job by Occupation Group)
- Table Six (Unemployed Persons: Industry Division of Last Full-Time Job and Duration of Unemployment). It can be seen from the graph that the Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Property and Business Industries have the highest total unemployed persons by last full-time job. Further, Manufacturing and Retail Trade also have the highest long term unemployment rates by last full-time job. *NOTE:* Staff responses to our survey indicated these industries as areas where clients have come from.
- Table Seven (Unemployed Persons: Occupation Group of Last Full-Time Job and Duration of Unemployment). Labourers and Related Workers, Intermediate Production and Transport Workers, and Tradespersons and Related Workers all had the highest number of unemployed persons by occupation of last full-time job and duration of unemployment. These occupations also had the highest number of long-term (52 weeks and over) unemployed persons by occupation type of last full-time job. Again, these were all occupation indicated in staff responses.
- Table Eight (Unsuccessful Job Seekers: Preferred Occupation for over 45 Age Bracket). This graph presents data on the over 45 age bracket who were unsuccessful in job seeking at the time of this survey against their preferred occupation. It can be seen that the preferred occupations are Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, Labourers and Related Workers and Professionals.

Unemployed Persons and Main Difficulty in Finding Work

- The main difficulties in finding work most commonly reported were:
 - (i) Considered too young to too old by employers (**16%**)
 - (ii) Too many applicants for available jobs (**14%**)

- (iii) Lacked necessary skills/education (**11%**)
- (iv) No vacancies at all (**11%**)
- Table Nine (Unemployed Persons by Age: Considered too Young/Old by Employers). This graph presents details of the ABS survey into the main difficulties unemployed persons have had finding work. The graph represents those who responded to ‘considered too young or old by employers’ as the main difficulty to finding work by age.
- Table Ten (Unemployed Persons: Considered too Young/Old by Employers Stated as Major Difficulty to Finding Work, and Duration of Current Unemployment). This graph shows that the majority of people who stated ‘considered too young or old by employers’ as their major difficulty in finding work (which has been established as being majority over 45 by table nine) have been unemployed for 2 years and over.
- Table Eleven (Unemployed Persons: Former Full-Time Employees by Duration of Last Full-Time Job). It is probably no great surprise that the duration of last full-time job for unemployed persons increases with age – the over 45 year bracket having the largest number of unemployed persons whose last full-time job had been five or more.

(Source: ABS Catalogue 6222.0, Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, July 1998)

Successful and Unsuccessful Job Seekers

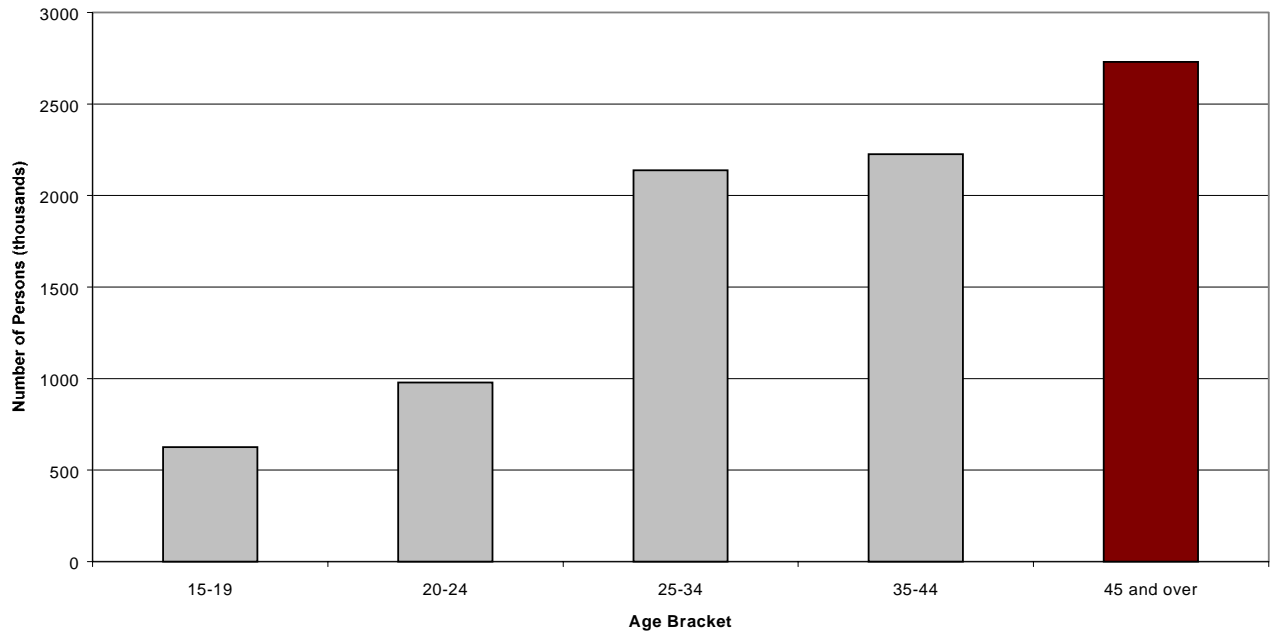
- In July 1998, **31%** of all job seekers looked unsuccessfully for work in the previous 12 months. Some **56%** of these job seekers had a preferred occupation in which they were seeking a job. Of those with a preferred occupation, the largest group was looking for work as intermediate clerical sales and service workers (**18%**)
- Job Seekers in older age groups were more likely to be unsuccessful. Some **36%** of all job seekers aged 35-44 were unsuccessful, as were **39%** of those aged 45 – 54 and **56%** of those aged 55 and over. The lowest proportion of unsuccessful job seekers was recorded for those aged 20-24 years (**25%**)
- Table Twelve (Successful Job Seekers at July 1998 by Age)
- Table Thirteen (Unsuccessful Job Seekers at July 1998 by Age)

(Source: ABS Catalogue 6245.0, Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, July 1998)

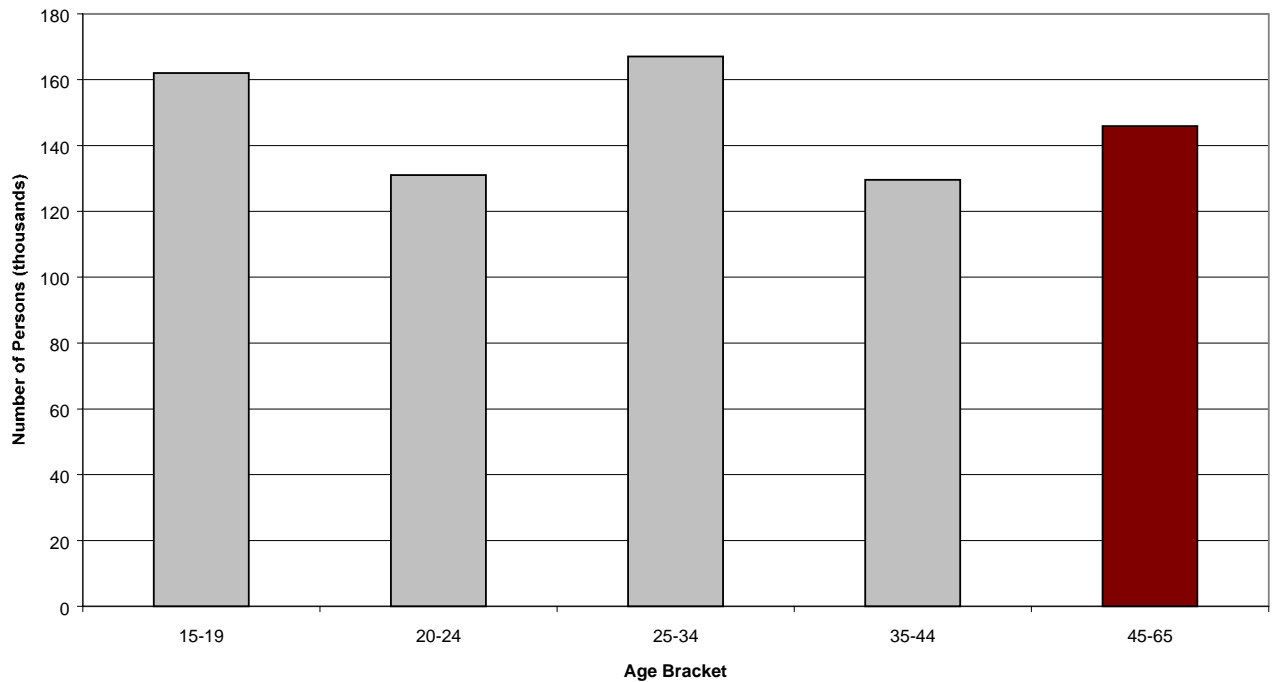
Unemployment and Gender

- Table Fourteen (Unemployed Persons: Male/Female (45 and Above) whether Looking for Full-Time or Part-Time Work)
- Table Fifteen (Unemployed Persons: Looking for Full-Time or Part-Time Work by Age and Gender)
- Table Sixteen (Unemployed Over 45 Year Old Person: Main Difficulty in Finding Work by Gender)

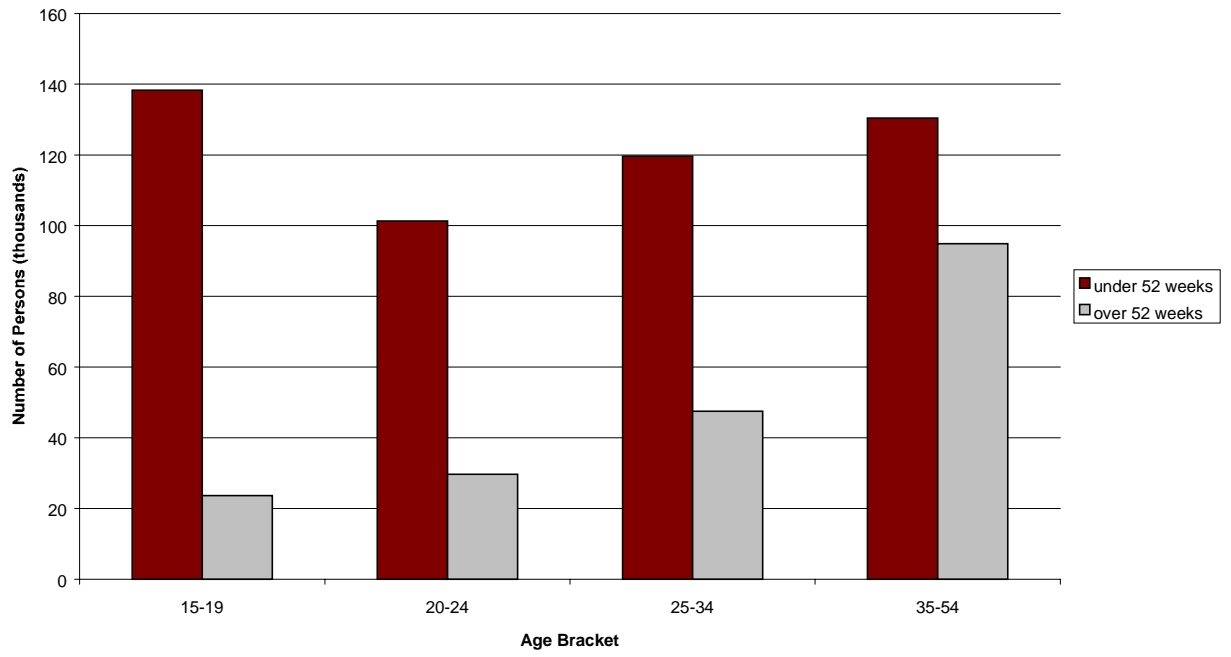
Employed Persons: Full-Time and Part-Time Workers



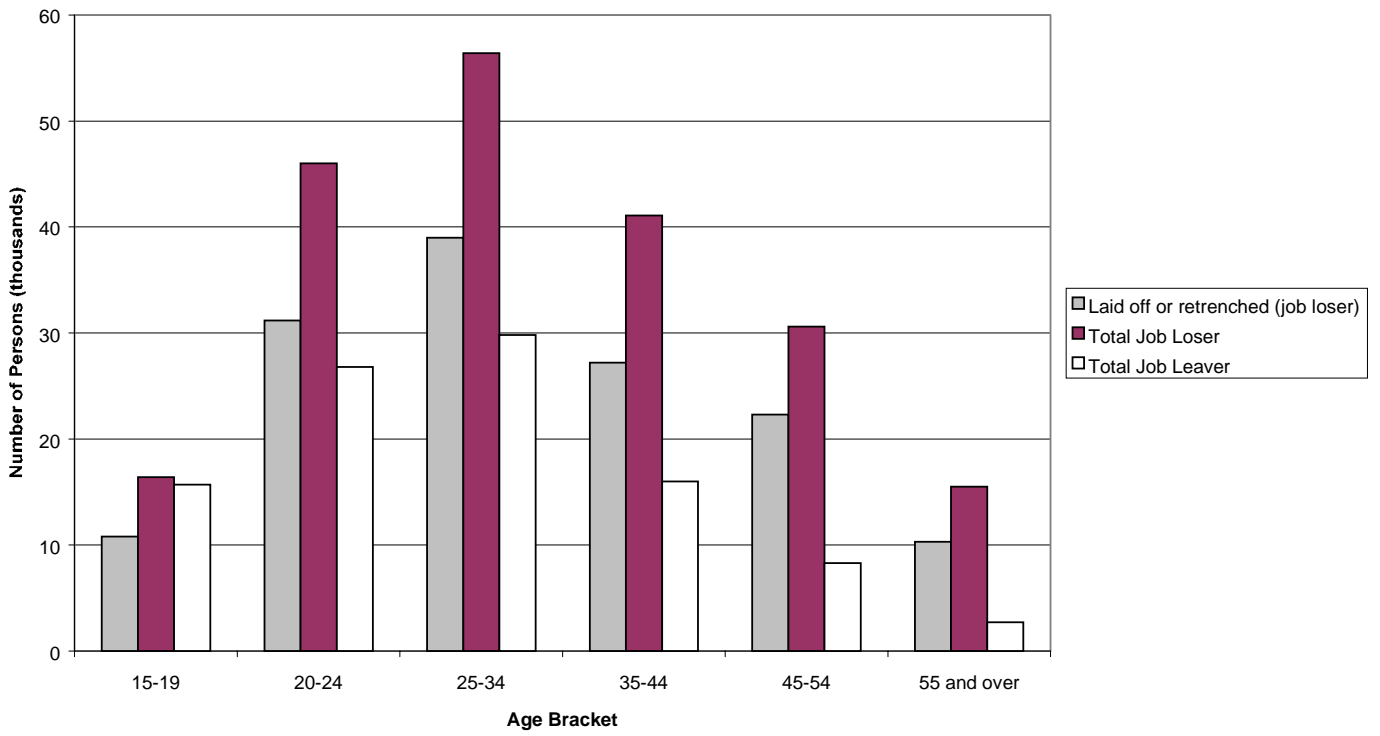
Unemployed Persons Seeking Full-Time or Part-Time Work by Age



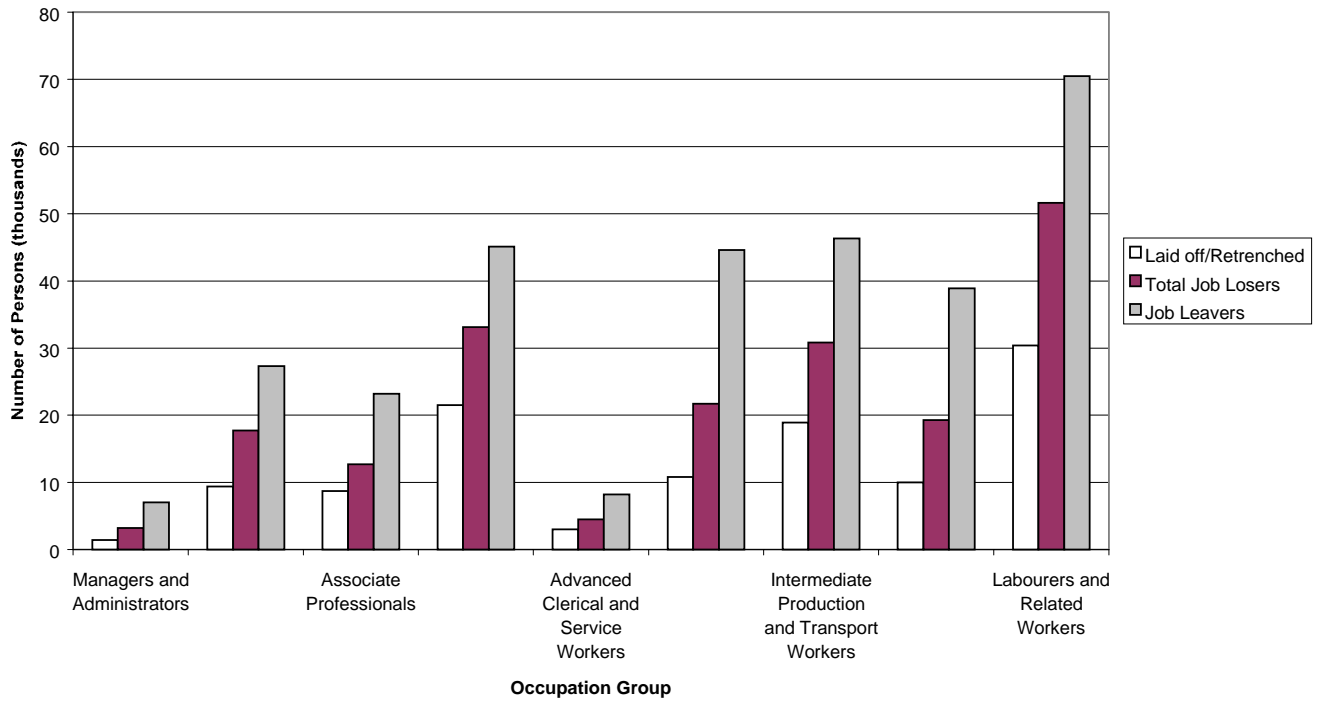
Unemployed Persons: Duration of Unemployment by Age



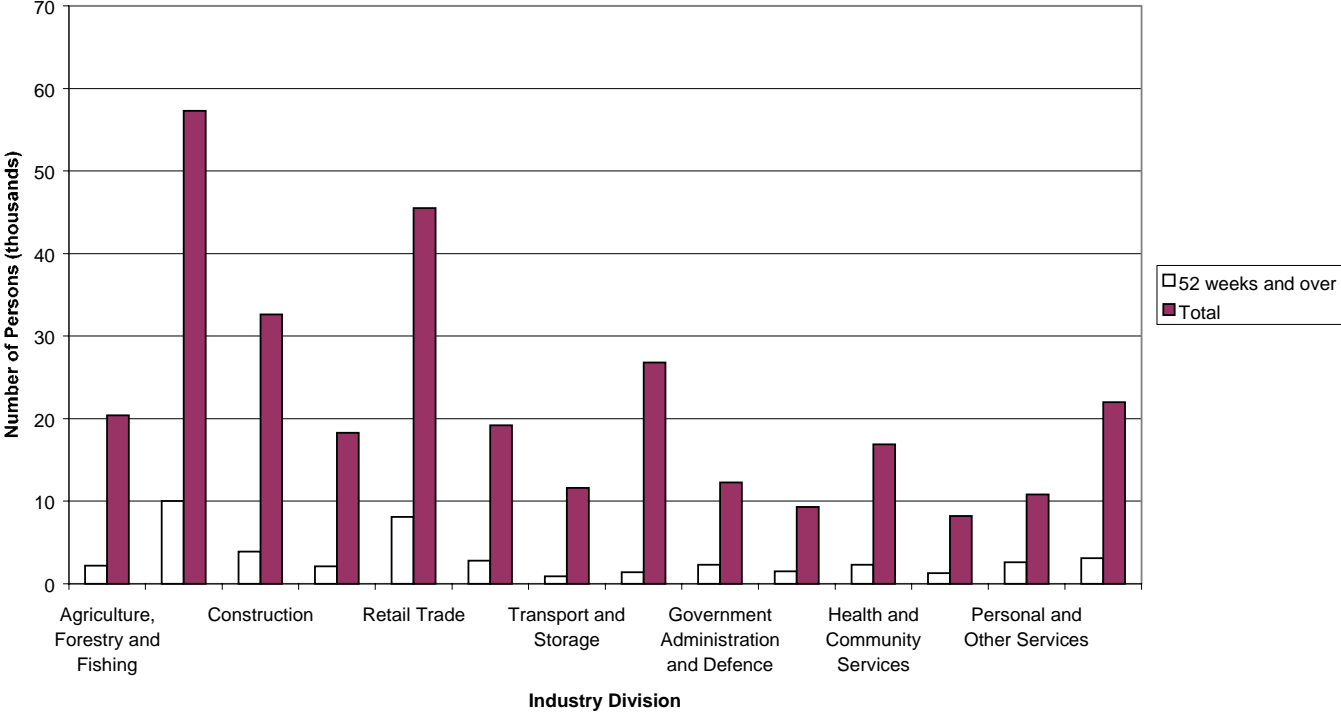
Unemployed Persons: Reason for Ceasing Lat Full-Time Job by Age



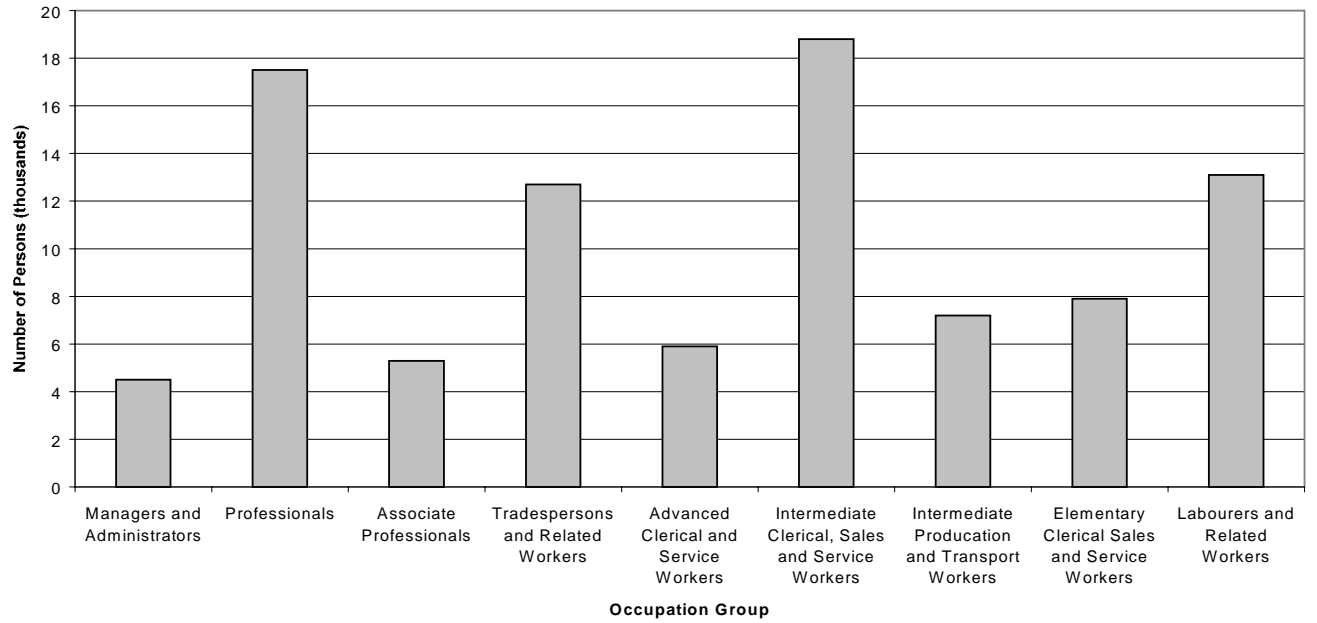
Unemployed Persons: Reasons for Ceasing Last Full-Time Job by Occupation Group



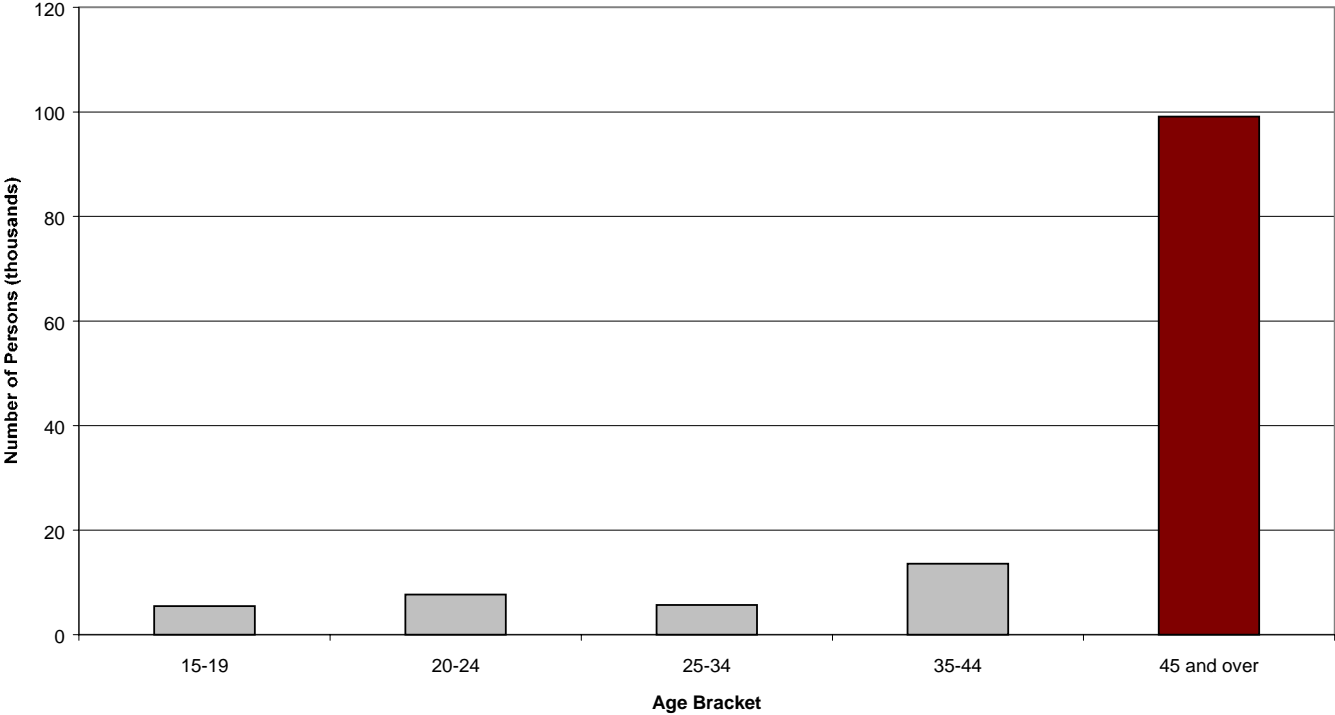
Unemployed Persons: Industry Division of Last Full-Time Job and Duration of Unemployment



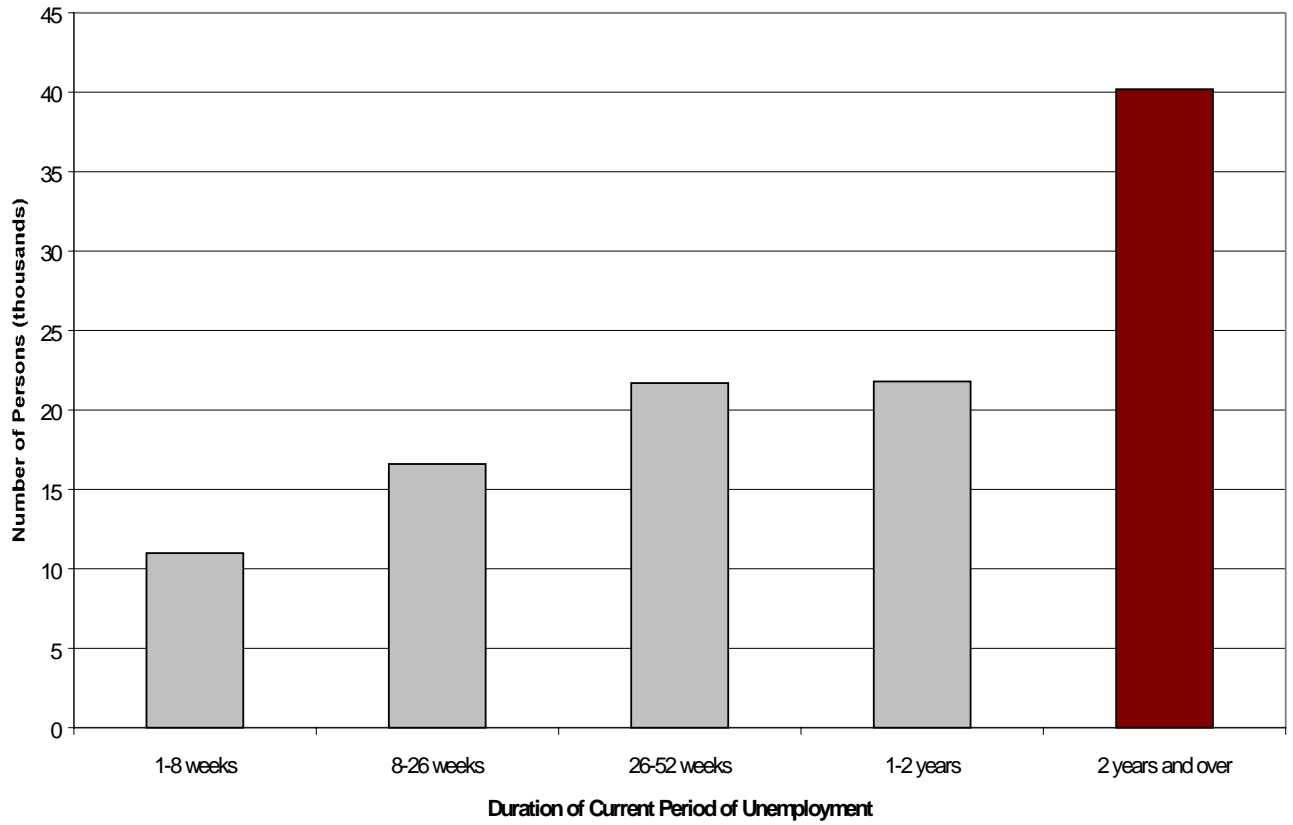
Unsuccessful Job Seekers: Preferred Occupation for over 45 Age Bracket



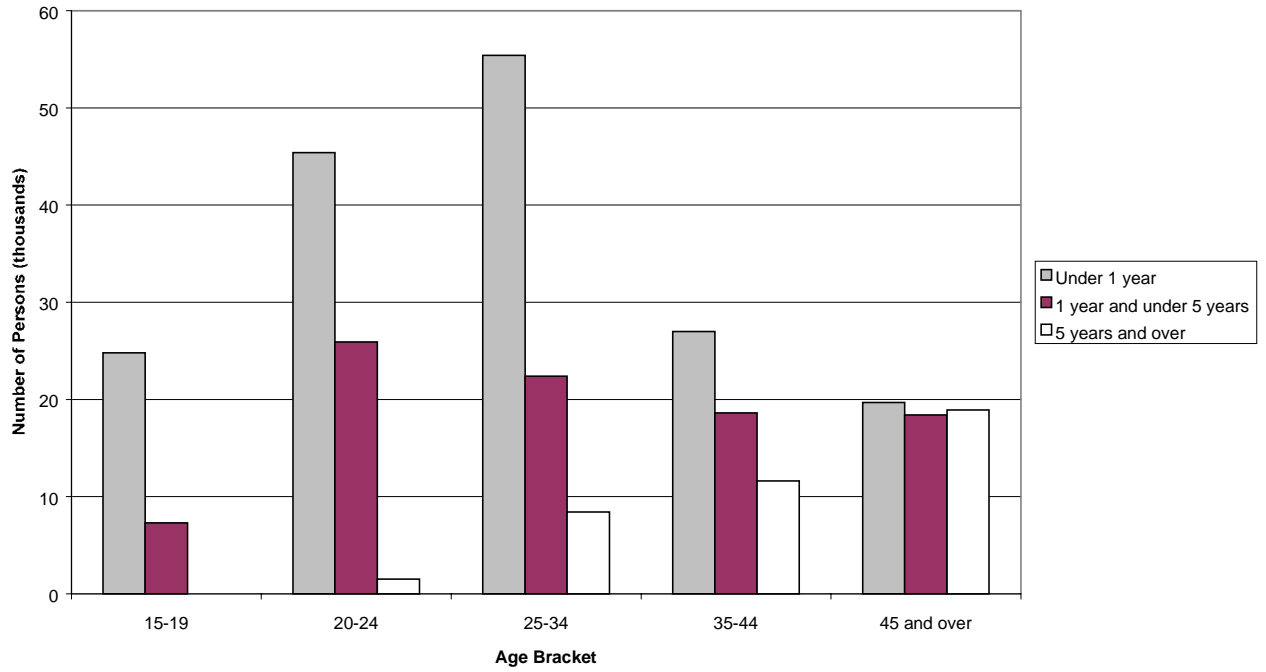
Unemployed Persons: Considered too Young/too Old by Employers by Age



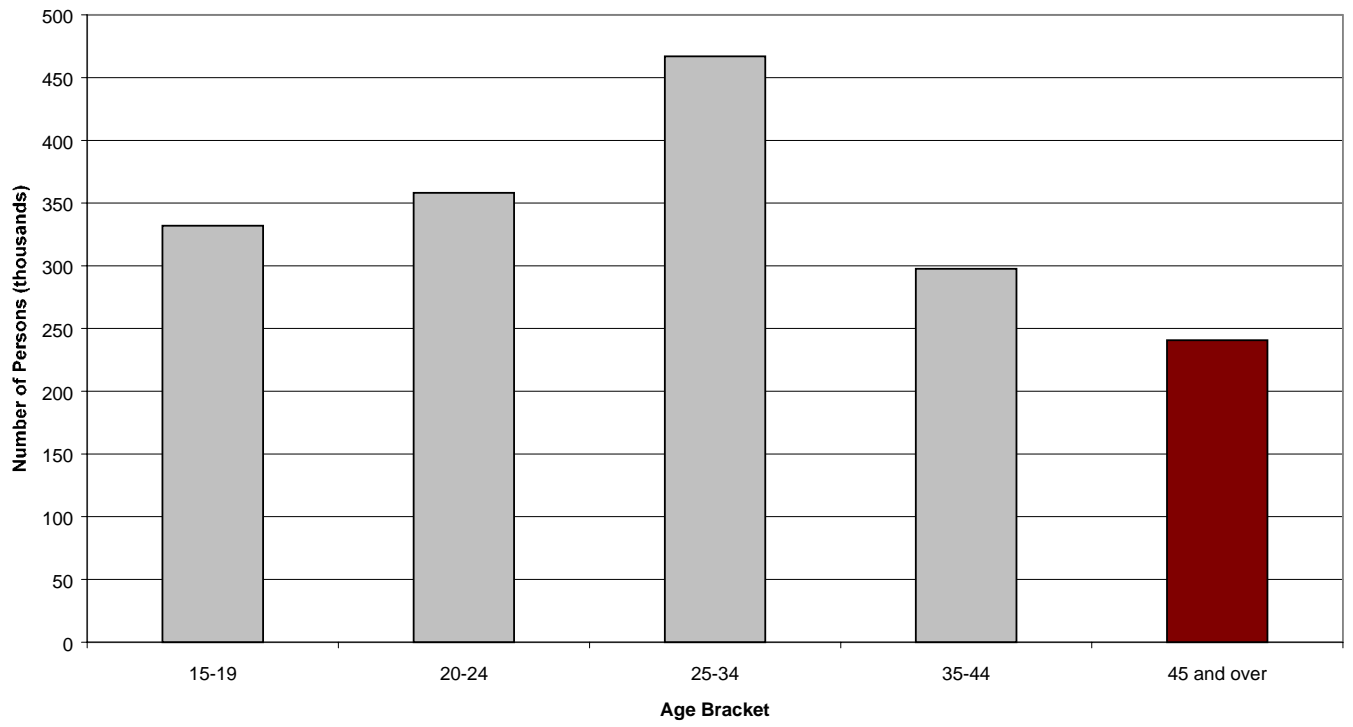
Unemployed Persons: 'Considered Too Young or Old by Employers' Stated as Main Difficulty in Finding Work, and Duration of Current Period of Unemployment



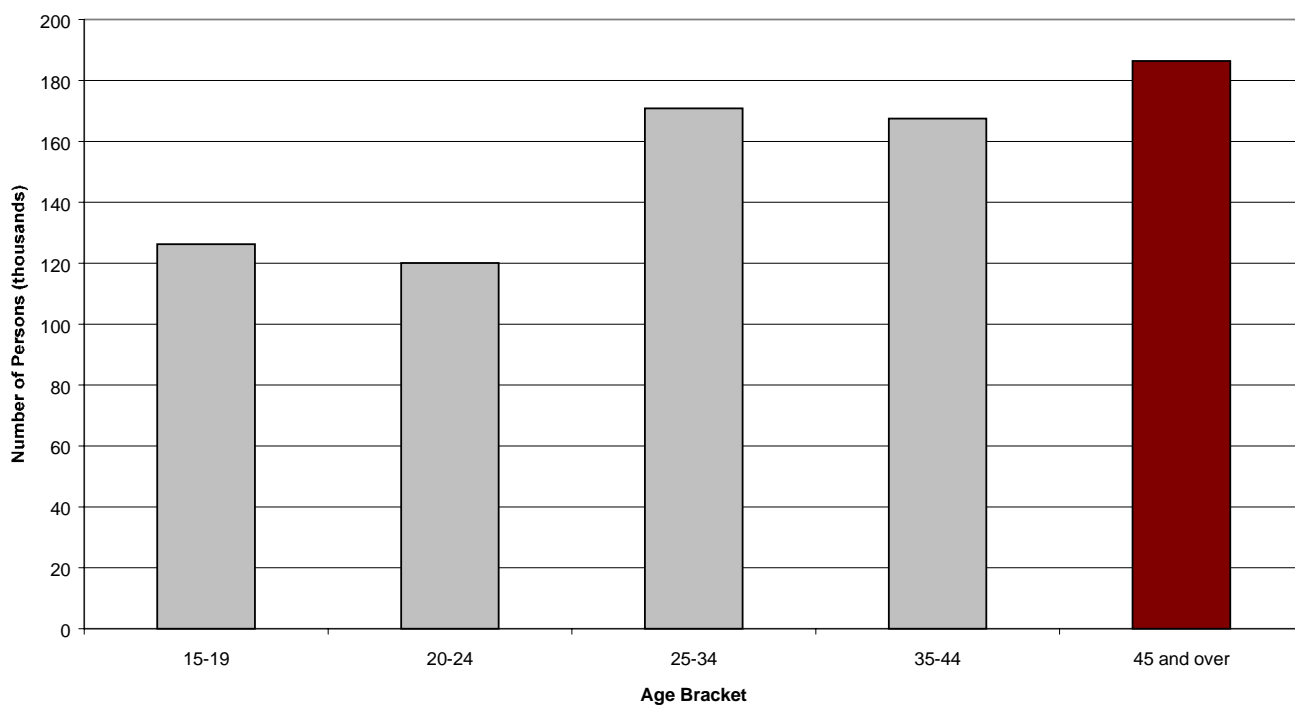
Unemployed Persons: Former Full-Time Employees by Duration of Last Full Time Job



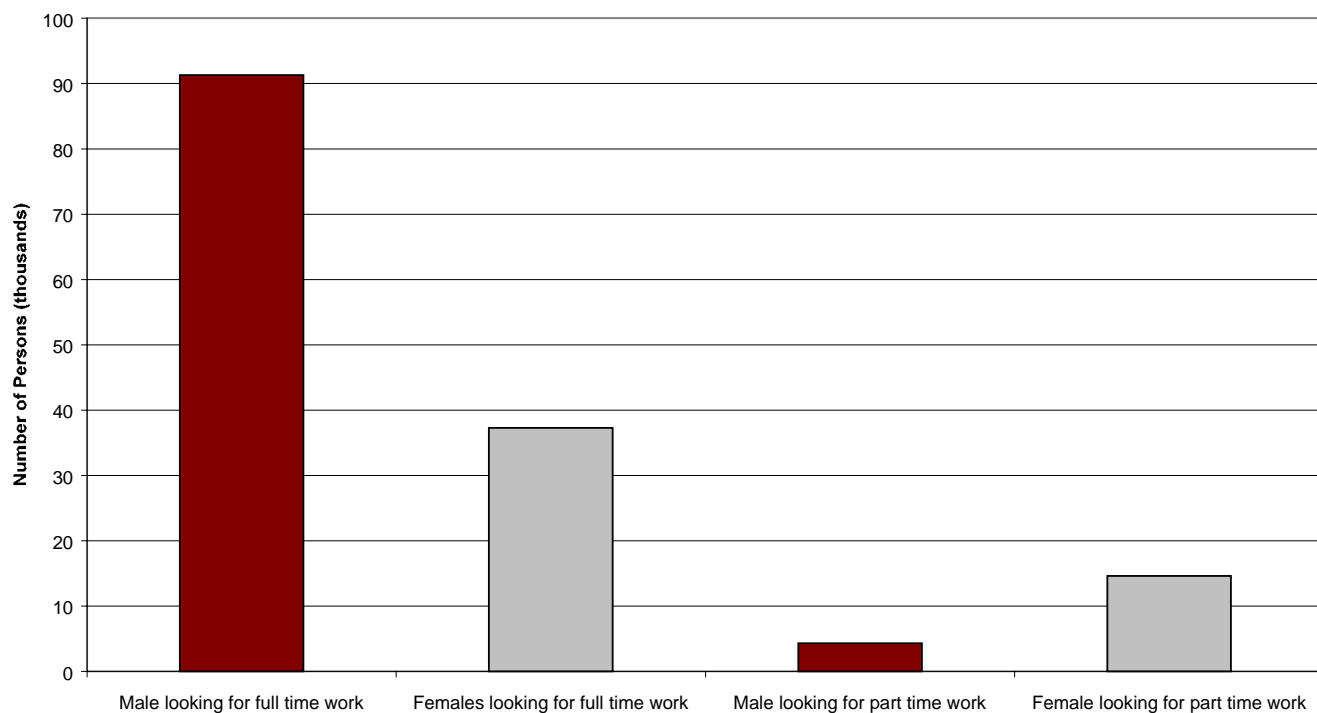
Successful Job Seekers at July 1998 by Age



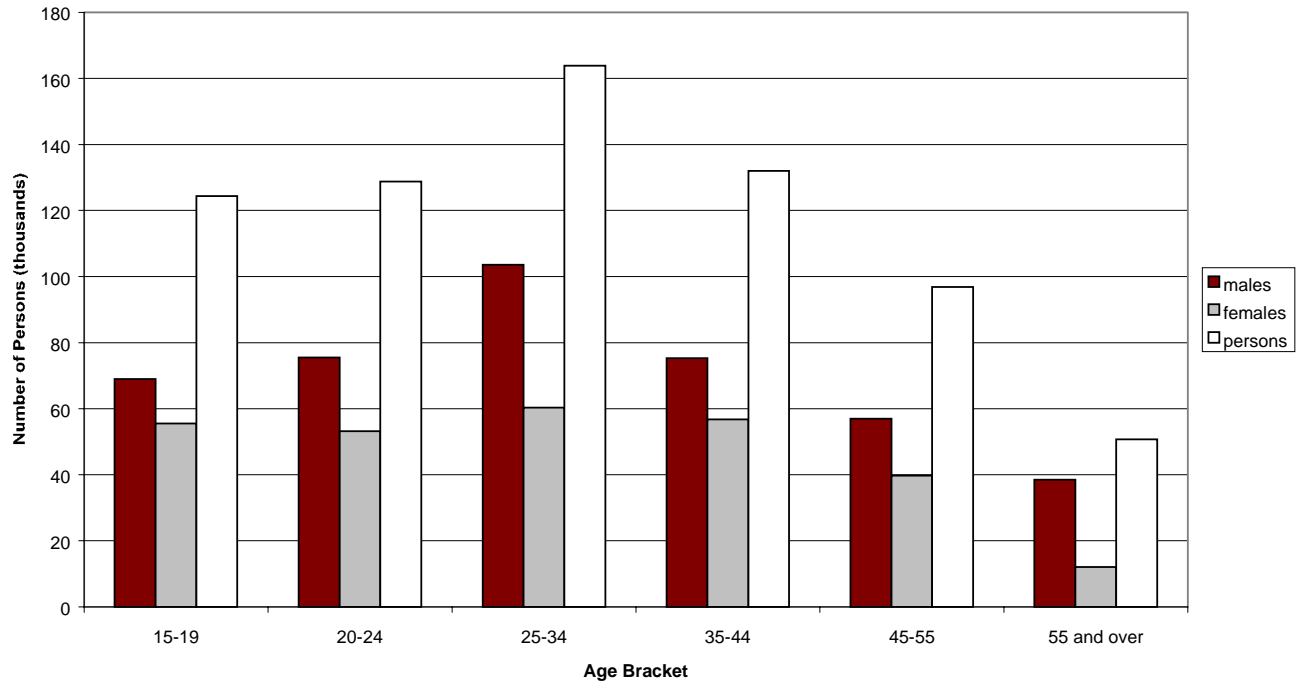
Unsuccessful Job Seekers at July 1998 by Age



Unemployed Persons: Male/Female (45 and Above) Whether Looking for Full-Time or Part-Time Work



Unemployed Persons: Looking for Full-Time or Part-Time Work



Unemployed Over 45 Year Old Persons: Main Difficulty in Finding Work, by Sex

