

5 Job experience of clients

5.1 Job history

Profiles of jobs as presented in Chapter 4 describe the types of work gained in different industries or occupations. However, such description does not present a full picture of employment trends of clients because a job may vary from a few hours worked casually on one day to a full-time, permanent job worked for the whole year. To examine employment trends it is necessary to summarise the job history of clients over the period that they were receiving support, and thus to have the individual rather than the job as the basic unit of analysis.

Clients who had a job at some time during either 1995–96 or 1996–97 (referred to as ‘workers’ in each financial year) can be classified into four job history groups. For each financial year, this is done depending upon whether they had a job at the beginning and/or at the end of the support period, as in Table 5.1. In each case, not all clients were receiving support for the whole financial year, either because their support began after 1 July, and/or more rarely because support was recorded as withdrawn before 30 June. In these cases, the support period, or time in support, was less than one year and calculated in weeks. (See Appendix 2 for further details.) Within each of the job history groups, clients may have had one or more jobs.

Table 5.1: Classification of job history for workers^(a) in a financial year

| Job history | Job at start of support period | Job at end of support period |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Job retained | Yes | Yes |
| Job lost | Yes | No |
| Job gained and retained | No | Yes |
| Job gained and lost | No | No |

(a) A ‘worker’ is any client who had a job at any time during their support period in 1995–96 or 1996–97 respectively.

There were 12,431 clients who had a job some time during 1996–97 (workers in 1996–97), an increase of 2,085 or 20% over 1995–96 (10,346 workers, Table 5.2).

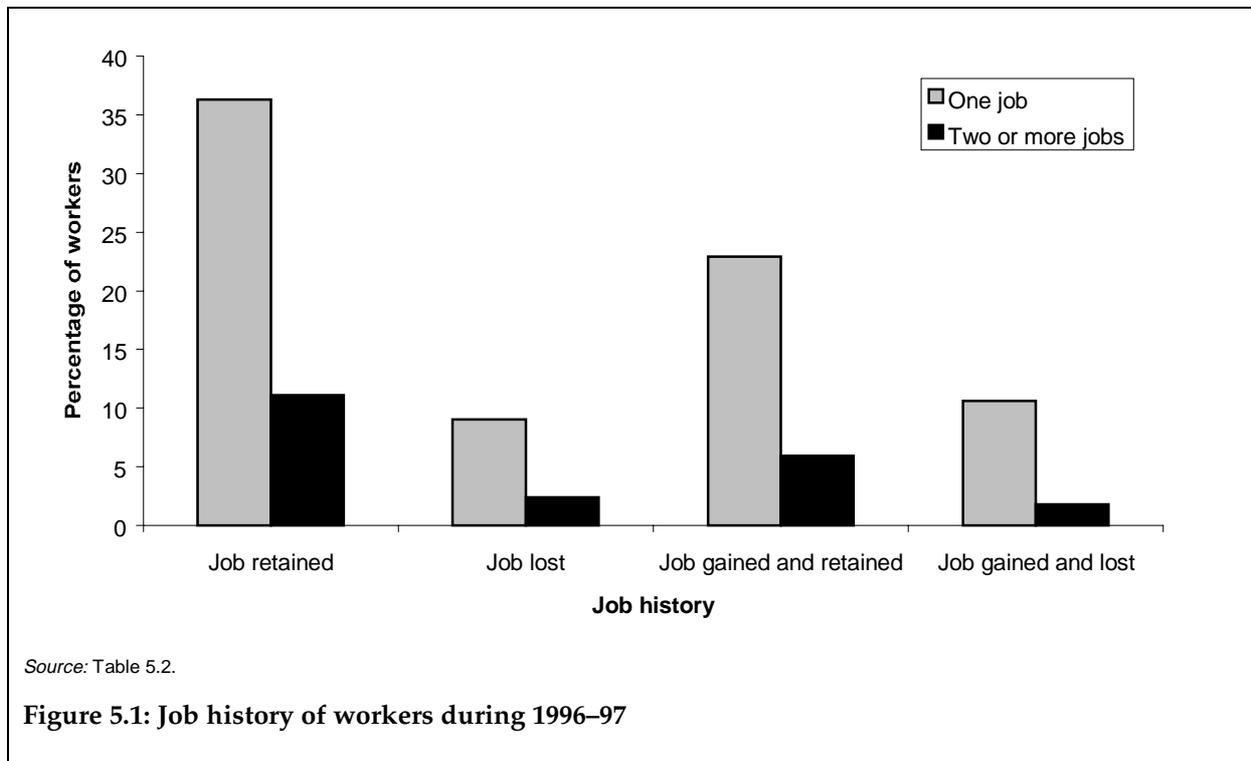
In 1996–97, 7,309 workers had a job at the start of the support period, of whom 1,415 (19%) became and remained unemployed at the end of the period (Table 5.2, Figure 5.1). Another 5,122 who were not employed at the beginning of the support period obtained a job during the period; however, 1,537 (30%) of these workers were unemployed again by the end of the period. The corresponding figures for 1995–96 were 5,720 workers with a job at the start of the year, of whom 1,235 (22%) were unemployed at the end of the period; and 4,626 who obtained a job of whom 1,566 (34%) were unemployed at the end of the period.

The increase in employment over each financial year can be calculated by comparing the number of workers at the beginning with the number at the end. This equals the number of ‘job gained and retained’ workers minus the number of ‘job lost’ workers. As at 1 July 1996, 7,309 clients had a job and this increased by 2,170 or 30% to 9,479 by 30 June 1997. The proportional increase from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 was similar at 32% (1,825 clients, from 5,720 to 7,545).

Table 5.2: Job history of workers during 1995–96, 1996–97

| Job history | With one job | | With more than one job | | All workers | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 3,393 | 32.8 | 1,092 | 10.6 | 4,485 | 43.4 |
| Job lost | 932 | 9.0 | 303 | 2.9 | 1,235 | 11.9 |
| Job gained and retained | 2,442 | 23.6 | 618 | 6.0 | 3,060 | 29.6 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,284 | 12.4 | 282 | 2.7 | 1,566 | 15.1 |
| Total | 8,051 | 77.8 | 2,295 | 22.2 | 10,346 | 100.0 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 4,510 | 36.3 | 1,384 | 11.1 | 5,894 | 47.4 |
| Job lost | 1,118 | 9.0 | 297 | 2.4 | 1,415 | 11.4 |
| Job gained and retained | 2,851 | 22.9 | 734 | 5.9 | 3,585 | 28.8 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,318 | 10.6 | 219 | 1.8 | 1,537 | 12.4 |
| Total | 9,797 | 78.8 | 2,634 | 21.2 | 12,431 | 100.0 |

The worker retention rate is the percentage of workers who had a job at the end of the support period (i.e. the combined percentage of ‘job retained’ and ‘job gained and retained’ workers). This rate is not a measure of overall employment, only of the probability that a worker who had a job at sometime during the year remained in employment at the end of that year (or their support period if they left the agency). In 1995–96 about 73% (7,545 out of 10,346) of workers had a job at the end of the support period. This increased to 76% in 1996–97 (9,479 out of 12,431). In both years this percentage was lower for those who had one job compared with those who had more than one job (75% versus 80% in 1996–97, Table 5.2).



There was an increase in client numbers from 20,624 in 1995–96 to 24,590 in 1996–97. This increase of 3,966 represents the difference between the 6,173 clients who ended support in 1995–96 and the 10,139 clients who started in 1996–97 (Table 5.3). This means that the total number of clients recorded on the database for the two years was 30,763. However, this may include some clients who have been recorded more than once because they left one agency and later began with another. Clients who ended support in 1995–96 include both those who were recorded as leaving the agency, and also those who had support in 1995–96 but no support in 1996–97 (see Table 3.2).

Of the 6,173 clients who left support during 1995–96, over two-thirds (68% or 4,222) had never had a job while in support and 15% (482 + 459 = 941) had worked but did not have a job at the time of leaving (Table 5.3). The remaining 16% (1,010) did have a job when they left and possibly became independent workers, although their subsequent job history is unknown.

From another perspective, those 4,222 non-workers who left support during 1995–96 represented 41% of the 10,278 clients who did not have a job during 1995–96. A further 40% or 4,152 continued with support but did not get a job during 1996–97. The remaining 19% (1,904) did get a job during 1996–97 with two-thirds of these (65% or 1,240) still in work at the end of the year.

Over two-thirds (69% or 7,024) of the clients who started during 1996–97 did not get a job during the year while 24% (688 + 1,783 = 2,471) had a job at the end of the year and 6% (89 + 555 = 624) had a job during the year which was lost. Finally 8,395 (10,346–1,951) clients who had a job in 1995–96 continued support in 1996–97. Of these 1995–96 workers 7,412 or 88% also had a job sometime in 1996–97, with 3,252 (39%) having a job at the start and at the end of the total 2-year period.

Table 5.3: Job history of workers from 1995–96 to 1996–97

| 1995–96 | 1996–97 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Not a client (no support in 1996–97) | No job | Job retained | Job lost | Job gained and retained | Job gained and lost | Total workers | Total clients |
| Not a client (started in 1996–97) | — | 7,024 | 688 | 89 | 1,783 | 555 | 3,115 | 10,139 |
| No job | 4,222 | 4,152 | 2 ^(a) | — | 1,238 | 664 | 1,904 | 10,278 |
| Job retained | 707 | 5 ^(b) | 3,252 | 519 | 2 ^(b) | — | 3,773 | 4,485 |
| Job lost | 482 | 396 | — | — | 256 | 101 | 357 | 1,235 |
| Job gained and retained | 303 | — | 1,949 | 807 | 1 ^(b) | — | 2,757 | 3,060 |
| Job gained and lost | 459 | 582 | 3 ^(a) | — | 305 | 217 | 525 | 1,566 |
| <i>Total workers</i> | <i>1,951</i> | <i>983</i> | <i>5,204</i> | <i>1,326</i> | <i>564</i> | <i>318</i> | <i>7,412</i> | <i>10,346</i> |
| Total clients | 6,173 | 12,159 | 5,894 | 1,415 | 3,585 | 1,537 | 12,431 | 30,763 |

(a) These clients left during 1995–96 and restarted during 1996–97, having obtained a job in between.

(b) These clients left during 1995–96 and restarted during 1996–97, having lost a job in between.

The number and type of jobs they had also affect the job experience of each worker. The ‘job retained’ category includes workers who continued in the same job through the whole period, those who changed jobs without being unemployed and those who lost work and regained it. Similarly the ‘job gained and retained’ category includes workers who gained a permanent job, as well as those who gained one or more casual or temporary jobs, at least one of which they still had at the end of the period. Some workers classed as ‘job lost’ or ‘job gained and lost’ will have been in and out of temporary or casual work.

The primary job of a worker is defined as the job with the highest total hours of work during the whole support period. The basis of employment of the primary job by job history category is shown in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4: Workers, basis of employment of primary job by job history, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Basis of employment | Job retained | | Job lost | | Job gained and retained | | Job gained and lost | | All | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | | |
| One job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 2,748 | 81.0 | 633 | 67.9 | 1,565 | 64.1 | 674 | 52.5 | 5,620 | 69.8 |
| Permanent irregular | 231 | 6.8 | 129 | 13.8 | 381 | 15.6 | 283 | 22.0 | 1,024 | 12.7 |
| Permanent seasonal | 297 | 8.8 | 119 | 12.8 | 310 | 12.7 | 144 | 11.2 | 870 | 10.8 |
| Temporary regular | 81 | 2.4 | 33 | 3.5 | 123 | 5.0 | 114 | 8.9 | 351 | 4.4 |
| Temporary irregular | 8 | 0.2 | 6 | 0.6 | 30 | 1.2 | 46 | 3.6 | 90 | 1.1 |
| Temporary seasonal | 28 | 0.8 | 12 | 1.3 | 33 | 1.4 | 23 | 1.8 | 96 | 1.2 |
| All | 3,393 | 100.0 | 932 | 100.0 | 2,442 | 100.0 | 1,284 | 100.0 | 8,051 | 100.0 |
| More than one job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 722 | 66.1 | 169 | 55.8 | 336 | 54.4 | 148 | 52.5 | 1,375 | 59.9 |
| Permanent irregular | 123 | 11.3 | 63 | 20.8 | 126 | 20.4 | 57 | 20.2 | 369 | 16.1 |
| Permanent seasonal | 151 | 13.8 | 24 | 7.9 | 74 | 12.0 | 31 | 11.0 | 280 | 12.2 |
| Temporary regular | 49 | 4.5 | 25 | 8.3 | 59 | 9.6 | 27 | 9.6 | 160 | 7.0 |
| Temporary irregular | 21 | 1.9 | 15 | 5.0 | 12 | 1.9 | 9 | 3.2 | 57 | 2.5 |
| Temporary seasonal | 26 | 2.4 | 7 | 2.3 | 11 | 1.8 | 10 | 3.6 | 54 | 2.4 |
| All | 1,092 | 100.0 | 303 | 100.0 | 618 | 100.0 | 282 | 100.0 | 2,295 | 100.0 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | | |
| One job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 3,486 | 77.3 | 741 | 66.3 | 1,830 | 64.2 | 746 | 56.6 | 6,803 | 69.4 |
| Permanent irregular | 384 | 8.5 | 180 | 16.1 | 430 | 15.1 | 238 | 18.1 | 1,232 | 12.6 |
| Permanent seasonal | 450 | 10.0 | 124 | 11.1 | 402 | 14.1 | 148 | 11.2 | 1,124 | 11.5 |
| Temporary regular | 136 | 3.0 | 54 | 4.8 | 136 | 4.8 | 138 | 10.5 | 464 | 4.7 |
| Temporary irregular | 21 | 0.5 | 8 | 0.7 | 23 | 0.8 | 32 | 2.4 | 84 | 0.9 |
| Temporary seasonal | 33 | 0.7 | 11 | 1.0 | 30 | 1.1 | 16 | 1.2 | 90 | 0.9 |
| All | 4,510 | 100.0 | 1,118 | 100.0 | 2,851 | 100.0 | 1,318 | 100.0 | 9,797 | 100.0 |
| More than one job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 923 | 66.7 | 169 | 56.9 | 421 | 57.4 | 112 | 51.1 | 1,625 | 61.7 |
| Permanent irregular | 161 | 11.6 | 54 | 18.2 | 138 | 18.8 | 50 | 22.8 | 403 | 15.3 |
| Permanent seasonal | 166 | 12.0 | 44 | 14.8 | 93 | 12.7 | 19 | 8.7 | 322 | 12.2 |
| Temporary regular | 85 | 6.1 | 17 | 5.7 | 41 | 5.6 | 16 | 7.3 | 159 | 6.0 |
| Temporary irregular | 18 | 1.3 | 6 | 2.0 | 26 | 3.5 | 16 | 7.3 | 66 | 2.5 |
| Temporary seasonal | 31 | 2.2 | 7 | 2.4 | 15 | 2.0 | 6 | 2.7 | 59 | 2.2 |
| All | 1,384 | 100.0 | 297 | 100.0 | 734 | 100.0 | 219 | 100.0 | 2,634 | 100.0 |

In both financial years, overall about 68% of workers had a permanent regular primary job (70% of people who had one job, and 60% of those who had more than one in 1995–96, and 69% and 62% in 1996–97). In 1996–97 a further 13% of workers had a job which was permanent irregular, and 12% one which was permanent seasonal (the corresponding

percentages in 1995–96 were 13% and 11%). Workers in the ‘job retained’ category were the most likely to be in permanent regular work, and the least likely to be in temporary work of any kind. Those in the ‘job gained and lost’ category were the least likely to have had permanent regular work. In addition, workers who only had one job during the support period were more likely to be in permanent work than those who had more than one job.

A total of 4,741 workers finished at least one job during 1996–97, and 4,263 during 1995–96 (Table 5.5). By definition, this includes all workers in the ‘job lost’ and ‘job gained and lost’ categories, plus most of those in the ‘job retained’ and ‘job gained and retained’ categories who had two or more jobs (some workers retained two or more concurrent jobs).

In 1996–97, nearly one-third (31%) of workers who had completed a job had resigned because of reasons other than career development. Dismissals accounted for another 11%. Workers in the ‘job lost’ and ‘job gained and lost’ were more likely to have finished a job for one of these reasons, than workers who retained employment during the support period. ‘Job retained’ workers were more likely to have resigned from a job for career development which suggests that they were changing jobs. About a third (32%) of workers finished a job either due to retrenchment or the completion of an employment contract.

The pattern for 1995–96 was similar to that for 1996–97.

Table 5.5: Reason for job(s) ending, by job history, for workers who finished one or more jobs, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Reason for job ending | Job retained | | Job lost | | Job gained and retained | | Job gained and lost | | All | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retrenched | 139 | 15.1 | 179 | 14.5 | 71 | 13.1 | 159 | 10.2 | 548 | 12.9 |
| Dismissed | 67 | 7.3 | 153 | 12.4 | 41 | 7.6 | 214 | 13.7 | 475 | 11.1 |
| Resigned—career development | 189 | 20.5 | 50 | 4.0 | 81 | 14.9 | 42 | 2.7 | 362 | 8.5 |
| Resigned—other reason | 152 | 16.5 | 451 | 36.5 | 100 | 18.5 | 566 | 36.1 | 1,269 | 29.8 |
| Work trial | 27 | 2.9 | 33 | 2.7 | 39 | 7.2 | 106 | 6.8 | 205 | 4.8 |
| Employment contract finished | 172 | 18.7 | 164 | 13.3 | 129 | 23.8 | 290 | 18.5 | 755 | 17.7 |
| Mixed reasons—with dismissal ^(a) | 31 | 3.4 | 62 | 5.0 | 17 | 3.1 | 54 | 3.4 | 164 | 3.8 |
| Mixed reasons—other ^(a) | 109 | 11.8 | 131 | 10.6 | 54 | 10.0 | 133 | 8.5 | 427 | 10.0 |
| Unknown | 34 | 3.7 | 12 | 1.0 | 10 | 1.8 | 2 | 0.1 | 58 | 1.4 |
| Total | 920 | 100.0 | 1,235 | 100.0 | 542 | 100.0 | 1,566 | 100.0 | 4,263 | 100.0 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retrenched | 145 | 13.1 | 218 | 15.4 | 70 | 10.2 | 168 | 10.9 | 601 | 12.7 |
| Dismissed | 70 | 6.3 | 171 | 12.1 | 63 | 9.2 | 237 | 15.4 | 541 | 11.4 |
| Resigned—career development | 203 | 18.4 | 63 | 4.5 | 78 | 11.3 | 42 | 2.7 | 386 | 8.1 |
| Resigned—other reason | 219 | 19.8 | 522 | 37.0 | 156 | 22.7 | 555 | 36.1 | 1,452 | 30.6 |
| Work trial | 33 | 3.0 | 36 | 2.6 | 40 | 5.8 | 96 | 6.2 | 205 | 4.3 |
| Employment contract finished | 223 | 20.2 | 213 | 15.1 | 173 | 25.1 | 298 | 19.4 | 907 | 19.1 |
| Mixed reasons—with dismissal ^(a) | 38 | 3.4 | 59 | 4.2 | 27 | 3.9 | 39 | 2.5 | 163 | 3.4 |
| Mixed reasons—other ^(a) | 118 | 10.7 | 114 | 8.1 | 64 | 9.3 | 94 | 6.1 | 390 | 8.2 |
| Unknown | 55 | 5.0 | 16 | 1.1 | 17 | 2.5 | 8 | 0.5 | 96 | 2.0 |
| Total | 1,104 | 100.0 | 1,412 | 100.0 | 688 | 100.0 | 1,537 | 100.0 | 4,741 | 100.0 |

(a) Workers who finished two or more jobs for different reasons.

5.2 Measures of job experience

To summarise the job experience of each worker, four measures of time spent in work and three of amount of income earned were calculated (Tables 5.6 and 5.7). These measures are based on the total number of weeks with a job or jobs, the total number of hours spent in work for all jobs, and the total amount of income earned from all jobs over the whole of the support period.

The measures for time in work are:

- **Time in work in weeks**—the total number of weeks during the support period that the worker had a job or job(s). If the worker had more than one job, then the weeks in work may not necessarily have been continuous.
- **Time in work as a proportion of time in support**—to adjust for the fact that the support period varied from worker to worker, the number of weeks in work can also be calculated as a proportion of the number of weeks in the support period. This measure is used in most tables rather than the unadjusted time in work in weeks above.
- **Mean hours of work per work week**—the total hours worked in all jobs for each worker during the support period divided by the number of weeks in work; that is, the average weekly time spent in work when working.
- **Mean hours of work per week**—for each worker this is calculated as the total hours worked in all jobs during the support period divided by the number of weeks in the support period, that is the average work time per week for all weeks in support including those without a job. This is a measure of overall time spent in employment.

The measures of mean income earned from jobs are:

- **Mean wage per hour**—the hourly wage rate for each worker calculated as the total salary earned from all jobs divided by the total number of hours worked.
- **Mean wage per work week**—the weekly wage rate while in work for each worker, calculated as the total salary earned from all jobs divided by the total number of weeks with a job. The mean wage per hour and the mean wage per work week are measures of the pay from all jobs.
- **Mean income per week**—the amount of income earned from all jobs, calculated as the total salary earned from all jobs divided by the total number of weeks in the support period. It is a measure of the amount of income received by the worker over the support period.

For workers who had more than one job, these means are weighted by the total number of hours for each job. That is, the job with the largest number of hours will most influence the mean.

One other job variable is included in most tables:

- **Weeks to get a job**—applies only to workers who did not have a job at the beginning of the support period and who were not recorded as having had a job previously. It is the number of weeks from the beginning of the support period to the start of the first (or only) job gained.

See Appendix 2 for the precise formulas for calculating all of the above measures.

In 1996–97 overall the average worker was in work for about 33 weeks which equated to just under three-quarters (73%) of their time in support (Table 5.7). This was a slight increase over 1995–96 (31 weeks or 70%); however, the mean hours of work per working week fell from 25.5 to 24.8 from 1995–96 to 1996–97 (Table 5.6). The latter trend almost compensated for the former, so that the mean hours of work per week in support increased slightly from 18.3 to 18.6. This figure is a reflection of the total hours of work per working client for the whole year (that is the amount of work averaged over all of the time in support).

From 1995–96 to 1996–97 the mean hourly wage rate increased by 2.7% from \$9.16 to \$9.41. A decrease of a similar magnitude in the mean hours of work per working week meant the weekly wage remained at \$229 for both periods. However, the mean income per week of support increased from \$164 to \$170, reflecting an increase in mean income per year of 3.8% from \$7,344 to \$7,624.

The average time taken to get a job (for those clients who obtained work after the beginning of the financial year) was 14.7 weeks in 1995–96 and 14.0 in 1996–97.

Table 5.6: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by job history, 1995–96

| Job history | Number of workers | Mean jobs/worker | Mean weeks to get job ^(a) | Mean time in work | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Weeks | % ^(b) | Per work week | Per week ^(c) | Per hour | Per work week | Per week ^(c) |
| One job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 3,393 | 1.0 | — | 45.7 | 100.0% | 27.8 | 27.8 | \$9.11 | \$250 | \$250 |
| Job lost | 932 | 1.0 | — | 21.4 | 50.9% | 25.4 | 13.2 | \$9.04 | \$223 | \$117 |
| Job gained and retained | 2,442 | 1.0 | 17.4 | 22.7 | 56.6% | 24.5 | 14.0 | \$9.15 | \$215 | \$126 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,284 | 1.0 | 12.5 | 11.7 | 29.4% | 23.8 | 7.2 | \$9.48 | \$220 | \$66 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>8,051</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>15.8</i> | <i>30.5</i> | <i>69.9%</i> | <i>25.9</i> | <i>18.6</i> | <i>\$9.17</i> | <i>\$231</i> | <i>\$167</i> |
| Two or more jobs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 1,092 | 2.5 | — | 44.0 | 87.8% | 24.8 | 21.6 | \$8.84 | \$219 | \$190 |
| Job lost | 303 | 2.4 | — | 26.4 | 54.8% | 26.4 | 14.5 | \$9.00 | \$235 | \$128 |
| Job gained and retained | 618 | 2.4 | 10.7 | 28.8 | 62.7% | 22.8 | 14.3 | \$9.50 | \$215 | \$134 |
| Job gained and lost | 282 | 2.3 | 9.0 | 18.9 | 41.2% | 24.3 | 10.2 | \$9.41 | \$229 | \$96 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>2,295</i> | <i>2.4</i> | <i>10.2</i> | <i>34.5</i> | <i>71.0%</i> | <i>24.4</i> | <i>17.3</i> | <i>\$9.11</i> | <i>\$221</i> | <i>\$155</i> |
| All workers | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 4,485 | 1.4 | — | 45.3 | 97.0% | 27.0 | 26.3 | \$9.04 | \$242 | \$235 |
| Job lost | 1,235 | 1.3 | — | 22.7 | 57.8% | 25.6 | 13.5 | \$9.03 | \$226 | \$119 |
| Job gained and retained | 3,060 | 1.3 | 16.1 | 23.9 | 57.8% | 24.1 | 14.0 | \$9.22 | \$215 | \$127 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,566 | 1.2 | 11.9 | 13.0 | 31.5% | 23.9 | 7.8 | \$9.47 | \$222 | \$72 |
| Total | 10,346 | 1.3 | 14.7 | 31.4 | 70.1% | 25.5 | 18.3 | \$9.16 | \$229 | \$164 |

(a) Mean time receiving support before commencement of first or only job for workers without a job at the start of the support period.

(b) Percentage of the support period.

(c) Per week of the support period.

On average, workers with one job and workers with two or more jobs were employed for about the same proportion of time in support. In 1995–96 workers with one job earned slightly higher wages than earned by those with two or more jobs, but this was not true in 1996–97. There was substantial variation among job history categories. Workers who retained one job must have been in work 100% of their support time by definition, and workers in the ‘job retained’ category who had two or more jobs on average worked 89% of

their support period in 1996–97, the remaining 11% being spent between jobs. ‘Job gained and lost’ workers on average spent less than a third (29%) of their time in work.

Workers who gained a job during the year had higher mean hourly wage rates than workers who started the period with a job; however, ‘job retained’ workers had the highest mean incomes due to working longer hours for a longer time.

Table 5.7: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by job history, 1996–97

| Job history | Number of workers | Mean jobs/worker | Mean weeks to get job ^(a) | Mean time in work | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Weeks | % ^(b) | Per work week | Per week ^(c) | Per hour | Per work week | Per week ^(c) |
| One job | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 4,510 | 1.0 | — | 46.8 | 100.0% | 26.9 | 26.9 | \$9.18 | \$243 | \$243 |
| Job lost | 1,118 | 1.0 | — | 21.1 | 48.9% | 24.0 | 12.1 | \$9.07 | \$213 | \$108 |
| Job gained and retained | 2,851 | 1.0 | 15.5 | 22.9 | 59.3% | 23.4 | 14.2 | \$9.60 | \$220 | \$133 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,318 | 1.0 | 13.1 | 11.4 | 27.8% | 22.5 | 6.3 | \$9.77 | \$214 | \$60 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>9,797</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>14.8</i> | <i>32.2</i> | <i>72.6%</i> | <i>25.0</i> | <i>18.8</i> | <i>\$9.37</i> | <i>\$229</i> | <i>\$171</i> |
| Two or more jobs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 1,384 | 2.5 | — | 44.8 | 89.2% | 24.8 | 22.0 | \$9.32 | \$229 | \$203 |
| Job lost | 297 | 2.3 | — | 25.0 | 52.4% | 25.0 | 12.8 | \$9.64 | \$238 | \$123 |
| Job gained and retained | 734 | 2.4 | 10.5 | 28.8 | 62.7% | 22.8 | 14.5 | \$9.74 | \$220 | \$138 |
| Job gained and lost | 219 | 2.3 | 8.8 | 17.1 | 37.3% | 25.2 | 9.5 | \$10.13 | \$257 | \$96 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>2,634</i> | <i>2.4</i> | <i>10.1</i> | <i>35.8</i> | <i>73.3%</i> | <i>24.3</i> | <i>17.8</i> | <i>\$9.54</i> | <i>\$230</i> | <i>\$167</i> |
| All workers | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job retained | 5,894 | 1.4 | — | 46.3 | 97.4% | 26.4 | 25.8 | \$9.21 | \$240 | \$234 |
| Job lost | 1,415 | 1.3 | — | 21.9 | 49.6% | 24.2 | 12.3 | \$9.19 | \$218 | \$111 |
| Job gained and retained | 3,585 | 1.3 | 14.6 | 24.1 | 60.0% | 23.3 | 14.2 | \$9.63 | \$220 | \$134 |
| Job gained and lost | 1,537 | 1.2 | 12.6 | 12.2 | 29.1% | 22.8 | 6.8 | \$9.82 | \$220 | \$65 |
| Total | 12,431 | 1.3 | 14.0 | 32.9 | 72.7% | 24.8 | 18.6 | \$9.41 | \$229 | \$170 |

(a) Mean time receiving support before commencement of first or only job for workers without a job at the start of the support period.

(b) Percentage of the support period.

(c) Per week of the support period.

5.3 Job experience by sex

About 52% of male clients had a job during 1996–97 compared with 48% of female clients. The percentages for 1995–96 were similar, although the gap between the sexes has narrowed slightly. In both years men and women spent almost three-quarters of their support period with a job. In 1996–97 the mean hourly wage was 34 cents higher for women than for men (\$9.63 compared with \$9.29) but because on average males worked 4 hours more per work week, they had a higher weekly wage than women. A similar pattern was evident for 1995–96.

From 1995–96 to 1996–97 the mean hourly wage rate has increased by just under 3% for both sexes. The average time taken to get a job has decreased more for females than males so that in 1996–97 it was between 14 and 15 weeks for both.

Table 5.8: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by sex, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Sex | Workers | | | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 6,870 | 51.9% | 14.3 | 70.0% | 26.9 | 19.2 | \$9.05 | \$238 | \$170 |
| Female | 3,476 | 46.9% | 15.7 | 70.4% | 22.9 | 16.5 | \$9.38 | \$210 | \$151 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 8,151 | 52.2% | 14.1 | 72.9% | 26.2 | 19.6 | \$9.29 | \$239 | \$177 |
| Female | 4,280 | 47.6% | 14.5 | 72.4% | 22.2 | 16.7 | \$9.63 | \$210 | \$156 |

5.4 Job experience by age

The proportion of clients with a job during the year has increased for all age groups between 15 and 59 between 1995–96 and 1996–97. In each year this proportion was lowest by far for those aged 15–19 years, at around 39%. The rates for ages 20–29 were well over 50%, while those for ages 30–59 were 45% to 50% (Table 5.9). The small number of clients in the 60–64 age group also had a high rate of employment (56% and 55% for 1995–96 and 1996–97 respectively).

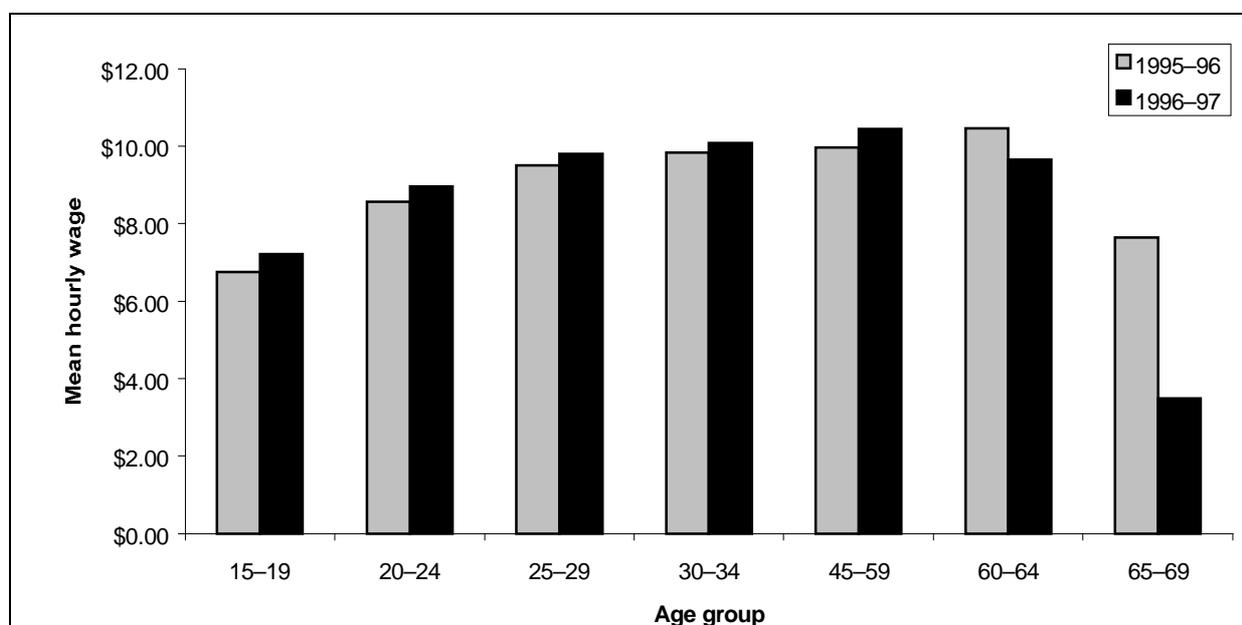
As for workers generally, the percentage time in work increased for workers of all age groups from 1995–96 to 1996–97. In both years the 15–19 year age group is substantially below average for this measure. By contrast, the mean hours of work per working week decreased for all age groups between 15 and 64.

In both years the 15–19 year old age group had by far the lowest hourly wage rate (not including the 65–69 age group), and the rate increased with age (Figure 5.2). However, the increase in the hourly rate between 1995–96 and 1996–97 varied among age groups. The 15–19 age group had the biggest percentage increase (\$6.76 to \$7.22, or 6.8%) followed by the 20–24 and 45–59 age groups (both 4.7%). In general, the differences between age groups decreased.

In both years weekly wage rates peaked at ages 25–29 as did mean hours worked per working week. Because of the drop in mean hours worked per week from 1995–96 to 1996–97, weekly wages did not increase as much as hourly rates and in fact, for two age groups (25–29 and 45–59) there was a decrease in this measure.

Table 5.9: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by age, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Age group | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15–19 | 828 | 38.9% | 13.5 | 62.4% | 26.2 | 16.5 | \$6.76 | \$172 | \$108 |
| 20–24 | 3,015 | 54.9% | 15.6 | 70.9% | 26.0 | 18.8 | \$8.56 | \$219 | \$157 |
| 25–29 | 2,149 | 53.7% | 14.6 | 70.8% | 26.6 | 19.3 | \$9.51 | \$250 | \$182 |
| 30–44 | 3,316 | 48.9% | 15.0 | 70.7% | 24.7 | 18.0 | \$9.84 | \$236 | \$172 |
| 45–59 | 974 | 45.6% | 14.0 | 70.1% | 24.6 | 17.5 | \$9.97 | \$239 | \$168 |
| 60–64 | 41 | 56.1% | 17.3 | 78.0% | 21.5 | 17.0 | \$10.47 | \$217 | \$164 |
| 65–69 | 7 | 50.0% | 36.9 | 80.8% | 16.9 | 15.8 | \$7.64 | \$62 | \$52 |
| Unknown | 16 | 72.7% | 4.4 | 66.5% | 28.4 | 17.8 | \$10.90 | \$318 | \$203 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15–19 | 1,511 | 39.3% | 13.8 | 65.3% | 25.5 | 17.2 | \$7.22 | \$178 | \$119 |
| 20–24 | 3,343 | 55.7% | 14.4 | 73.6% | 25.4 | 19.1 | \$8.96 | \$225 | \$167 |
| 25–29 | 2,381 | 55.1% | 14.5 | 73.6% | 25.8 | 19.6 | \$9.81 | \$249 | \$188 |
| 30–44 | 3,909 | 50.3% | 14.3 | 73.9% | 24.0 | 18.2 | \$10.08 | \$239 | \$179 |
| 45–59 | 1,234 | 48.2% | 13.8 | 74.1% | 23.1 | 17.7 | \$10.44 | \$237 | \$179 |
| 60–64 | 44 | 55.0% | 9.2 | 79.6% | 21.2 | 16.8 | \$9.66 | \$203 | \$155 |
| 65–69 | 5 | 33.3% | — | 94.4% | 31.4 | 29.4 | \$3.49 | \$87 | \$76 |
| Unknown | 4 | 20.0% | 11.9 | 71.2% | 35.3 | 24.3 | \$10.35 | \$383 | \$307 |



Source: Table 5.9.

Figure 5.2: Mean hourly wage rate by age of worker, 1995–96, 1996–97



5.5 Job experience by Indigenous and South Sea Islander status

People who identified as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander descent were less likely to have had a job in 1996-97 or 1995-96, than those who did not so identify or whose Indigenous origins were unknown. In 1996-97 workers in the former group had less time in work than average, but this was not true in 1995-96 when there was no real difference according to Indigenous origin. In both years mean hours of work and mean wages were lower for Indigenous and South Sea Islander workers, and the gap in wages between them and other workers has increased from 1995-96 to 1996-97.

Table 5.10: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by whether Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander, 1995-96, 1996-97

| Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander descent | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|--|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995-96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 202 | 46.5% | 11.6 | 70.2% | 24.5 | 17.3 | \$8.47 | \$208 | \$146 |
| No | 9,501 | 49.8% | 14.7 | 70.0% | 25.6 | 18.3 | \$9.19 | \$230 | \$165 |
| Not known | 643 | 57.5% | 17.3 | 72.1% | 25.3 | 18.5 | \$8.92 | \$221 | \$159 |
| 1996-97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 217 | 47.4% | 12.8 | 63.5% | 23.9 | 15.8 | \$8.64 | \$206 | \$135 |
| No | 11,559 | 50.2% | 14.1 | 72.8% | 24.9 | 18.6 | \$9.43 | \$230 | \$171 |
| Not known | 655 | 58.0% | 17.3 | 74.7% | 24.1 | 18.5 | \$9.29 | \$222 | \$169 |

5.6 Job experience by preferred spoken language

In both 1995–96 and 1996–97 people with a preferred spoken language other than English were slightly more likely to have been employed than others, although overall they took about a week longer to get a job. In 1996–97, on average workers with a preferred spoken language other than English worked over three hours longer per working week and this gap has widened since 1995–96. Their percentage time in work and hourly rates of pay were also slightly greater, so that there is a considerable difference in weekly income between the two groups.

Table 5.11: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by preferred spoken language, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Preferred spoken language other than English | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|--|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 555 | 51.1% | 15.4 | 70.9% | 28.0 | 20.4 | \$9.10 | \$253 | \$183 |
| No | 9,791 | 50.1% | 14.7 | 70.1% | 25.4 | 18.2 | \$9.16 | \$228 | \$163 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 612 | 51.6% | 15.2 | 74.0% | 28.0 | 21.2 | \$9.54 | \$263 | \$197 |
| No | 11,819 | 50.4% | 14.2 | 72.7% | 24.7 | 18.4 | \$9.40 | \$227 | \$168 |

5.7 Job experience by type and nature of primary disability

In 1996–97 there was considerable variation among primary disability groups in the measures of job experience (Table 5.12). People with a speech, hearing or intellectual/learning disability had above-average likelihood of employment. Of the primary disability groups with large numbers, people with a psychiatric or a neurological disability had the least likelihood of having had a job. Workers with a psychiatric disability stood out as having had the lowest proportion of their support time in work, as well as the lowest mean hours of work per week, followed by those with a neurological disability.

Workers with a sensory disability had the highest weekly wages, ranging from \$262 to \$326 per working week in 1996–97. This was because on average their hourly wage rates and hours of work per week were among the highest. These workers also took the least time on average to get a job. Workers with a psychiatric or a physical disability also had high hourly wage rates, but weekly wages were lower due to them working fewer hours per week on average. Workers with an intellectual/learning disability were the only group with a mean hourly wage rate substantially below the overall average (\$8.55 compared with \$9.41, Tables 5.12 and 5.7).

The variation among groups was similar in 1995–96. For all of the seven disability groups with substantial numbers of workers, time in work increased from 1995–96 to 1996–97, while mean hours of work decreased. However, the changes in wage rates were not so consistent. Weekly wage rates increased for workers with a psychiatric, vision or hearing disability but declined or remained static for other groups. The hourly wage rate for workers with a neurological disability also dropped slightly.

Table 5.12: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by primary disability type, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Primary disability type | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Intellectual/learning | 5,858 | 54.7% | 15.8 | 72.6% | 25.8 | 19.1 | \$8.46 | \$215 | \$160 |
| Psychiatric | 1,760 | 42.1% | 13.1 | 60.5% | 22.7 | 14.0 | \$10.24 | \$227 | \$140 |
| Physical | 1,130 | 45.3% | 14.7 | 70.3% | 25.3 | 18.0 | \$10.16 | \$255 | \$181 |
| Acquired brain injury | 367 | 47.1% | 14.9 | 63.9% | 23.9 | 15.8 | \$9.45 | \$226 | \$149 |
| Neurological | 295 | 44.4% | 14.9 | 68.3% | 24.7 | 17.2 | \$9.46 | \$230 | \$160 |
| Vision | 471 | 46.7% | 15.9 | 77.8% | 31.3 | 25.1 | \$10.60 | \$315 | \$239 |
| Hearing | 422 | 57.7% | 12.0 | 72.2% | 29.6 | 22.0 | \$9.86 | \$289 | \$217 |
| Speech | 36 | 60.0% | 8.3 | 80.5% | 29.4 | 24.1 | \$10.03 | \$289 | \$244 |
| Deaf and blind | 7 | 41.1% | 6.0 | 74.1% | 25.3 | 19.9 | \$10.92 | \$267 | \$197 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Intellectual/learning | 6,542 | 55.2% | 14.9 | 75.5% | 25.3 | 19.6 | \$8.55 | \$213 | \$163 |
| Psychiatric | 2,382 | 43.1% | 13.2 | 64.5% | 22.0 | 14.4 | \$10.63 | \$231 | \$151 |
| Physical | 1,563 | 47.9% | 14.6 | 72.8% | 24.4 | 18.3 | \$10.40 | \$251 | \$188 |
| Acquired brain injury | 463 | 48.0% | 14.8 | 69.5% | 23.4 | 16.6 | \$9.50 | \$223 | \$157 |
| Neurological | 380 | 43.9% | 14.6 | 69.7% | 23.3 | 16.8 | \$9.36 | \$216 | \$154 |
| Vision | 518 | 47.2% | 12.7 | 79.9% | 30.3 | 24.8 | \$11.03 | \$326 | \$263 |
| Hearing | 529 | 55.6% | 12.6 | 73.1% | 29.6 | 22.3 | \$10.18 | \$297 | \$226 |
| Speech | 43 | 59.7% | 11.0 | 72.6% | 26.5 | 20.5 | \$10.07 | \$262 | \$198 |
| Deaf and blind | 11 | 36.6% | 5.5 | 75.6% | 26.6 | 19.7 | \$10.19 | \$290 | \$218 |

In both 1995–96 and 1996–97, clients with an episodic primary disability were less likely to have had a job than those with a non-episodic disability were. Those who did have a job spent less time in work, and worked fewer hours per week on average. However, because the average hourly wage for workers with an episodic disability was 12% or 13% higher than other workers, there was not much difference in the wage per working week. These differences reflect the fact that the majority (75–80%, Table 3.8) of people with an episodic disability have a psychiatric disability.

Table 5.13: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by episodic nature of primary disability, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Nature of primary disability | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Episodic | 1,680 | 44.4% | 13.8 | 63.0% | 23.1 | 14.9 | \$10.06 | \$227 | \$146 |
| Not episodic | 8,666 | 51.4% | 15.0 | 71.5% | 26.0 | 19.0 | \$8.98 | \$229 | \$167 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Episodic | 2,139 | 44.9% | 13.1 | 66.3% | 14.9 | 22.0 | \$10.41 | \$226 | \$152 |
| Not episodic | 10,292 | 51.8% | 14.5 | 74.1% | 19.3 | 25.4 | \$9.19 | \$230 | \$174 |

5.8 Job experience and presence of other disability

In both years, clients with more than one disability were slightly less likely to have had a job than those with only one disability (Table 5.14). On average, workers with one disability worked more hours per week and had greater hourly and weekly wage rates than those with more than one disability. In 1996–97 the hourly wage rate of workers with one disability was 10% higher, and the weekly wage rate 19% higher. They also took one week less on average to obtain a job.

Table 5.14: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by presence of other disability, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Presence of other disability | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 2,136 | 48.5% | 17.1 | 67.1% | 24.0 | 16.2 | \$8.58 | \$202 | \$137 |
| No | 8,210 | 50.5% | 14.2 | 70.9% | 25.9 | 18.9 | \$9.31 | \$236 | \$171 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 2,345 | 49.0% | 15.3 | 73.2% | 23.3 | 17.5 | \$8.69 | \$199 | \$147 |
| No | 10,086 | 50.9% | 14.0 | 72.6% | 25.2 | 18.8 | \$9.57 | \$236 | \$175 |

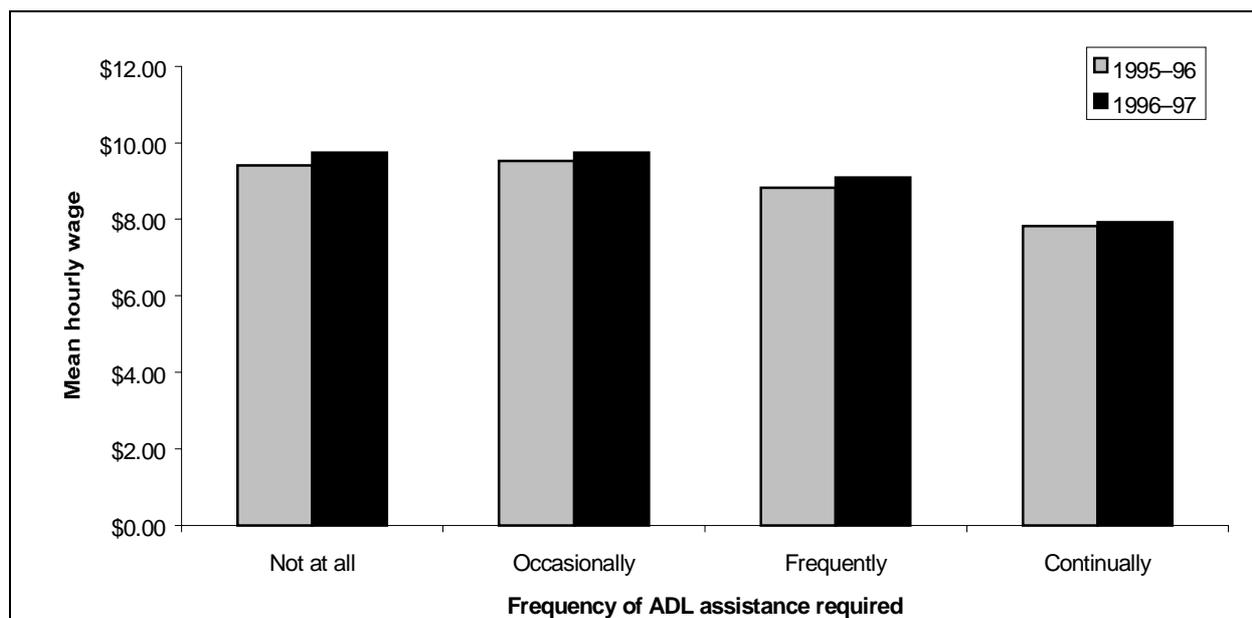
5.9 Job experience and frequency of assistance required for activities of daily living

In 1996–97 there was no consistent trend for either the proportion of clients who had a job, or the percentage time in work, with the frequency of assistance required for activities of daily living (ADL assistance). People who required only occasional ADL assistance had the highest means for each of these measures (Table 5.15, Figure 5.4). Workers who required no or occasional ADL assistance had higher mean hours per working week, and higher hourly and weekly wage rates than those who required frequent or continual assistance. Mean wage rates were particularly low for workers who required continual assistance; per hour (\$7.93) and per work week rates (\$170) were respectively 85% and 72% of the overall averages.

The above patterns were similar for 1995–96.

Table 5.15: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by frequency of assistance required for activities of daily living (ADL), 1995–96, 1996–97

| Frequency of ADL assistance required | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Not at all | 3,775 | 49.0% | 14.3 | 67.6% | 26.2 | 18.1 | \$9.41 | \$239 | \$165 |
| Occasionally | 3,268 | 52.9% | 14.3 | 74.4% | 27.0 | 20.7 | \$9.53 | \$251 | \$191 |
| Frequently | 2,258 | 49.5% | 15.1 | 68.5% | 24.1 | 16.9 | \$8.83 | \$211 | \$148 |
| Continually | 1,045 | 47.6% | 16.9 | 69.0% | 22.1 | 14.7 | \$7.83 | \$164 | \$112 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Not at all | 4,287 | 49.6% | 14.1 | 70.0% | 25.0 | 18.0 | \$9.75 | \$237 | \$170 |
| Occasionally | 3,953 | 51.7% | 14.2 | 75.6% | 26.2 | 20.5 | \$9.75 | \$249 | \$194 |
| Frequently | 2,881 | 50.0% | 13.9 | 72.5% | 23.9 | 17.5 | \$9.10 | \$217 | \$158 |
| Continually | 1,310 | 51.2% | 15.0 | 73.7% | 22.3 | 16.7 | \$7.93 | \$170 | \$122 |



Source: Table 5.15.

Figure 5.4: Mean hourly wage rate by frequency of ADL assistance required, 1995–96, 1996–97

5.10 Job experience and type of living arrangement

In 1996–97, about 86% of clients either lived alone or lived with family members, with the latter being the most common living arrangement (67%, see Table 3.6). These clients were more likely to have been workers than were those who lived in other types of accommodation (Table 5.17). Workers who lived alone had the highest mean hourly wage rate (\$10.28), about a dollar more than those who lived with family members, but the latter on average spent more time in work and worked more hours per week. Workers whose residence was unknown had the highest mean hours of work per week, and also high mean hourly and weekly wage rates; this suggests that this group may not be a random sample of all clients.

The variation between the major groups with respect to living arrangement was similar for 1995–96.

Table 5.16: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by type of living arrangement, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Type of living arrangement | Workers | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Lives with family members | 7,133 | 52.0% | 14.8 | 71.0% | 26.0 | 18.9 | \$9.04 | \$230 | \$167 |
| Lives alone | 1,885 | 48.1% | 13.6 | 67.1% | 24.6 | 17.0 | \$10.04 | \$244 | \$170 |
| Special purpose | 448 | 44.2% | 15.5 | 70.9% | 18.9 | 13.6 | \$7.87 | \$144 | \$101 |
| Other community | 414 | 52.8% | 19.0 | 63.1% | 25.1 | 15.7 | \$8.19 | \$193 | \$129 |
| Institutional | 29 | 31.8% | 9.5 | 86.7% | 16.4 | 14.3 | \$7.37 | \$123 | \$105 |
| No usual residence | 22 | 48.8% | 12.6 | 70.8% | 29.0 | 22.1 | \$8.90 | \$244 | \$179 |
| Not known | 415 | 39.1% | 14.5 | 73.2% | 30.2 | 22.7 | \$9.78 | \$283 | \$203 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Lives with family members | 8,585 | 52.1% | 14.2 | 73.3% | 25.4 | 19.1 | \$9.27 | \$232 | \$173 |
| Lives alone | 2,269 | 49.1% | 13.4 | 70.2% | 23.2 | 16.7 | \$10.28 | \$235 | \$169 |
| Special purpose | 512 | 47.2% | 14.7 | 75.0% | 19.1 | 14.7 | \$7.82 | \$144 | \$105 |
| Other community | 419 | 46.1% | 14.0 | 73.5% | 25.0 | 18.9 | \$8.73 | \$205 | \$144 |
| Institutional | 40 | 39.2% | 17.8 | 67.2% | 15.7 | 11.3 | \$7.56 | \$117 | \$87 |
| No usual residence | 28 | 37.3% | 7.3 | 87.5% | 26.8 | 24.4 | \$8.67 | \$223 | \$206 |
| Not known | 578 | 42.8% | 16.4 | 71.4% | 28.5 | 21.1 | \$10.14 | \$276 | \$203 |

5.11 Job experience and disability panel endorsement

In both years, clients who were endorsed by one of the now-defunct disability panels were much more likely to have had a job (55% in 1996–97) than those who were referred (44%), or who did not go through the panel process (46%, Table 5.17). On average, the latter clients had by far the most time in work and the highest hours per week of the three groups. Endorsed clients had a higher proportion of time in work but a lower mean for hours worked per week than referred clients. Hourly wages differed only slightly among the three groups; however, there was more variation in weekly wages due to the above differences. The small number of rejected clients (43 in 1995–96 and 40 in 1996–97) had very high hourly and weekly wage rates.

Table 5.17: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by disability panel status, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Disability panel endorsement | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| | Number | % of clients | | | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Endorsed | 6,161 | 53.9% | 14.4 | 68.0% | 24.1 | 16.6 | \$9.11 | \$215 | \$147 |
| Referred | 1,074 | 45.8% | 14.9 | 62.4% | 25.2 | 16.1 | \$9.25 | \$228 | \$145 |
| Rejected | 43 | 44.3% | 15.6 | 76.2% | 28.5 | 21.8 | \$10.27 | \$294 | \$235 |
| Not referred, endorsed or rejected | 3,068 | 45.3% | 15.7 | 6.9% | 28.6 | 22.5 | \$9.21 | \$257 | \$205 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Endorsed | 7,292 | 54.8% | 14.3 | 71.4% | 23.7 | 17.3 | \$9.31 | \$217 | \$156 |
| Referred | 1,439 | 44.1% | 13.9 | 67.6% | 24.6 | 17.0 | \$9.50 | \$230 | \$157 |
| Rejected | 40 | 57.9% | 15.7 | 80.5% | 26.6 | 20.9 | \$10.40 | \$282 | \$221 |
| Not referred, endorsed or rejected | 3,660 | 46.0% | 14.1 | 77.4% | 27.1 | 21.7 | \$9.56 | \$253 | \$202 |

5.12 Job experience, client type and referral source

In 1995–96 and 1996–97 ISJ clients had a higher employment rate than CETP clients (52% to 49% in 1995–96, and 54% to 50% in 1996–97) and ISJ workers had slightly more time in work (Table 5.18). However, on average they worked substantially less hours per week and had lower hourly and weekly wage rates, although these differences narrowed slightly between 1995–96 and 1996–97.

Table 5.18: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by client type, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Client type | Workers | | | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| CETP | 6,745 | 49.3% | 14.0 | 69.4% | 27.1 | 19.3 | \$9.50 | \$249 | \$177 |
| ISJ | 2,899 | 52.0% | 16.7 | 70.9% | 22.7 | 16.3 | \$8.62 | \$193 | \$142 |
| Other | 702 | 50.9% | 14.6 | 73.8% | 22.7 | 16.8 | \$8.18 | \$184 | \$132 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| CETP | 8,092 | 49.6% | 14.1 | 71.1% | 26.1 | 19.1 | \$9.73 | \$247 | \$181 |
| ISJ | 3,497 | 54.2% | 13.9 | 75.3% | 22.6 | 17.5 | \$8.91 | \$199 | \$152 |
| Other | 833 | 46.2% | 16.6 | 78.4% | 22.3 | 17.8 | \$8.39 | \$184 | \$142 |
| Not known | 9 | 34.6% | 8.9 | 65.9% | 24.9 | 17.0 | \$10.84 | \$264 | \$179 |

In both 1995–96 and 1996–97 clients referred to agencies by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) programs or services were the most likely to have had a job, whereas those from ‘other’ sources were the least likely (Table 5.19). The latter group had the lowest hours of work per week on average. Workers who were self- or family-referred and those referred by DEETYA programs had the highest hourly and weekly wage rates. Those referred by educational institutions had the lowest rates, presumably because they were generally younger.

The mean time to get a job for DHFS referrals decreased from 16.3 weeks in 1995–96 to 13.8 weeks in 1996–97, while that for DEETYA referrals increased slightly from 13.3 to 14.0 weeks.

Table 5.19: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by referral source, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Referral source | Workers | | | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Self or family | 2,432 | 50.2% | 13.8 | 71.6% | 26.0 | 19.2 | \$9.88 | \$248 | \$181 |
| Education system | 1,323 | 53.2% | 16.0 | 73.0% | 26.4 | 19.7 | \$8.06 | \$210 | \$159 |
| DEETYA programs | 856 | 52.4% | 13.3 | 69.0% | 27.9 | 19.4 | \$9.77 | \$265 | \$186 |
| DHFS programs and services | 2,781 | 57.1% | 16.3 | 71.6% | 25.5 | 18.5 | \$8.61 | \$215 | \$158 |
| Other | 2,954 | 43.4% | 14.3 | 66.6% | 24.1 | 16.5 | \$9.43 | \$225 | \$153 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Self or family | 2,980 | 50.1% | 13.8 | 72.8% | 25.2 | 19.0 | \$10.12 | \$248 | \$186 |
| Education system | 1,568 | 52.2% | 15.4 | 74.2% | 26.0 | 19.9 | \$8.31 | \$211 | \$162 |
| DHFS programs and services | 951 | 53.0% | 14.0 | 71.2% | 26.6 | 19.5 | \$10.08 | \$260 | \$189 |
| DHFS | 3,122 | 57.6% | 13.8 | 77.0% | 25.0 | 19.7 | \$8.72 | \$216 | \$167 |
| Other | 3,810 | 45.1% | 14.4 | 69.0% | 23.5 | 16.5 | \$9.71 | \$226 | \$158 |

5.13 Job experience, employment basis, occupation and industry

For workers with more than one job, the basis of employment, occupation and type of industry may have varied from job to job, so for these three variables each worker was classified by primary job (defined as the job in which the most hours were worked during the support period). However, the measures of job experience were calculated across all of a worker's jobs as before.

In both 1995–96 and 1996–97 about two-thirds (68%) of workers had a permanent, regular primary job (Table 5.20). Compared with other workers, these workers spent considerably more time in work (14% more in 1995–96 and 11% more in 1996–97) and worked about seven hours more per week. Because of these differences they had much higher weekly wages, even though their hourly wage rate was lower. Their mean time to get a job was also about one week less than other workers.

Table 5.20: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by basis of employment of primary job, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Basis of employment | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number | % workers | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 6,995 | 67.6% | 14.4 | 74.6% | 28.0 | 21.1 | \$8.97 | \$246 | \$186 |
| Other | 3,351 | 32.4% | 15.3 | 60.7% | 20.5 | 12.5 | \$9.54 | \$193 | \$118 |
| Total | 10,346 | 100.0 | 14.8 | 70.1% | 25.5 | 18.3 | \$9.16 | \$229 | \$164 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent regular | 8,428 | 67.8% | 13.8 | 76.2% | 27.2 | 21.1 | \$9.16 | \$245 | \$189 |
| Other | 4,003 | 32.2% | 14.9 | 65.5% | 19.9 | 13.2 | \$9.93 | \$196 | \$129 |
| Total | 12,431 | 100.0 | 14.2 | 72.7% | 24.8 | 18.6 | \$9.41 | \$229 | \$170 |

In 1996–97, three-fifths (60%) of all workers had a primary job classified as labourer/related worker. The other main occupation categories were clerks (14%), sales/personal staff (13%) and tradespersons (7%, Table 5.21). Professionals, managers and para-professionals had the highest hourly wage rates followed by clerks. These groups also had above-average percentage of time in work. Surprisingly tradespersons had the lowest hourly rate, about a dollar below average (\$8.50 compared with \$9.41 in 1996–97). Labourers/related workers also had below-average wages. Sales and personal staff worked the least hours per week and thus had the lowest average weekly wage.

As a result of all these differences, in 1996–97 the income earned, averaged over all weeks, covered a twofold range from \$154 and \$155 per week for sales/personal staff and labourers/related workers respectively, to \$293 and \$317 per week for professionals and managers respectively.

Hourly wage rates increased from 1995–96 to 1996–97 for all occupations except managers, of whom there was only a very small number (48 in 1996–97). Of the other groups, the three largest had below-average increases of 2.1% for labourers/related workers, 1.3% for clerks and 1.8% for sales/personal staff (overall average increase was 2.7%). However, the range remained similar with the highest rate about 1.6 times the lowest for both years.

Table 5.21: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by occupation group of primary job, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Occupation group of primary job | Workers | | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number | % workers | | | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Managers | 33 | 0.3% | 15.0 | 75.4% | 30.2 | 23.6 | \$11.78 | \$358 | \$274 |
| Professionals | 193 | 1.9% | 14.8 | 77.4% | 27.3 | 21.8 | \$12.89 | \$341 | \$268 |
| Para-professionals | 183 | 1.8% | 12.8 | 73.2% | 26.6 | 19.8 | \$11.53 | \$296 | \$226 |
| Tradespersons | 691 | 6.7% | 13.8 | 74.9% | 28.3 | 21.3 | \$8.13 | \$228 | \$169 |
| Clerks | 1,431 | 13.8% | 17.2 | 71.6% | 28.0 | 20.8 | \$10.26 | \$283 | \$207 |
| Sales/personal staff | 1,239 | 12.0% | 14.2 | 69.3% | 22.0 | 15.5 | \$9.63 | \$209 | \$146 |
| Plant/machine operators/drivers | 175 | 1.7% | 15.3 | 69.0% | 32.7 | 22.9 | \$9.47 | \$311 | \$223 |
| Labourers/related workers | 6,400 | 61.9% | 14.5 | 69.1% | 25.1 | 17.7 | \$8.76 | \$214 | \$151 |
| Total(a) | 10,346 | 100.0% | 14.8 | 70.1% | 25.5 | 18.3 | \$9.16 | \$229 | \$164 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Managers | 48 | 0.4% | 16.5 | 83.3% | 33.1 | 27.8 | \$11.72 | \$394 | \$317 |
| Professionals | 259 | 2.1% | 14.5 | 81.2% | 26.5 | 22.3 | \$13.39 | \$348 | \$293 |
| Para-professionals | 270 | 2.2% | 12.9 | 75.4% | 23.6 | 18.3 | \$12.38 | \$288 | \$221 |
| Tradespersons | 835 | 6.7% | 11.5 | 76.0% | 28.4 | 21.8 | \$8.50 | \$236 | \$177 |
| Clerks | 1,694 | 13.6% | 14.3 | 74.9% | 26.5 | 20.8 | \$10.39 | \$272 | \$211 |
| Sales/personal staff | 1,614 | 13.0% | 14.0 | 71.6% | 22.0 | 16.0 | \$9.80 | \$211 | \$154 |
| Plant/machine operators/drivers | 244 | 2.0% | 13.8 | 69.5% | 30.1 | 21.5 | \$9.94 | \$299 | \$212 |
| Labourers/related workers | 7,463 | 60.0% | 14.6 | 71.8% | 24.4 | 18.0 | \$8.94 | \$214 | \$155 |
| Total(a) | 12,431 | 100.0% | 14.2 | 72.7% | 24.8 | 18.6 | \$9.41 | \$229 | \$170 |

(a) Total includes 1 worker with missing occupation.

In 1995–96 and 1996–97 mean hours of work per working week varied from 18 for the fast-food industry to 32 for manufacturing (Tables 5.22 and 5.23). In 1996–97, the mean hourly wage rate varied from \$7.99 for the clothing, textiles and footwear industry to \$11.54 for the mining industry (up from \$7.57 and \$10.81 for the same two industries in 1995–96). Mining, finance and insurance, and government/defence had the highest mean incomes and weekly wages, due to a combination of relatively high number of hours worked, time in work and hourly wages. The lowest mean weekly wages were for the fast food industry (\$152 in 1996–97) and personal and other services (\$187). On average, the industries with the least time spent in work were agriculture, forestry and fishing, construction and mining.

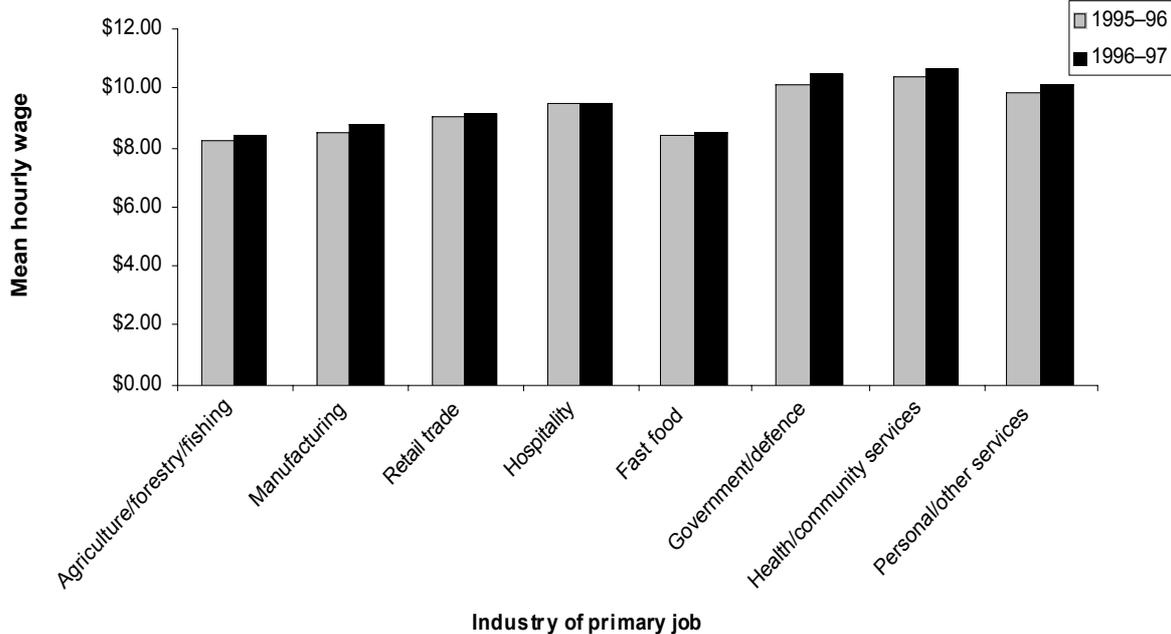
Hourly wage rates increased from 1995–96 to 1996–97 for all industries except the electricity, gas and water industry which had only 49 workers in 1996–97 and is not included in the figure (Figure 5.5). However, mean weekly wages and income per week decreased for some industries due to drops in the number of hours worked (Figure 5.6).

Table 5.22: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by industry of primary job, 1995–96

| Industry of primary job | Workers | | Mean | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number | % workers | weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| Agriculture/forestry/fishing | 559 | 5.4% | 15.0 | 61.8% | 26.8 | 16.8 | \$8.15 | \$218 | \$136 |
| Mining | 21 | 0.2% | 11.7 | 65.0% | 27.5 | 18.5 | \$10.21 | \$288 | \$191 |
| Manufacturing | 1,683 | 16.3% | 13.4 | 72.1% | 32.4 | 23.9 | \$8.51 | \$275 | \$201 |
| Electricity/gas/water | 38 | 0.4% | 7.7 | 76.1% | 28.4 | 21.6 | \$10.41 | \$306 | \$225 |
| Construction | 144 | 1.4% | 15.0 | 63.0% | 31.9 | 21.0 | \$9.05 | \$291 | \$193 |
| Wholesale trade | 367 | 3.5% | 16.0 | 68.0% | 28.3 | 19.5 | \$8.49 | \$242 | \$164 |
| Retail trade | 1,385 | 13.4% | 16.3 | 68.5% | 22.9 | 16.0 | \$8.97 | \$197 | \$141 |
| Clothing/textiles/footwear | 158 | 1.5% | 18.4 | 66.5% | 28.3 | 19.4 | \$7.57 | \$223 | \$153 |
| Hospitality | 816 | 7.9% | 12.8 | 71.0% | 23.7 | 17.4 | \$9.42 | \$219 | \$159 |
| Fast food | 537 | 5.2% | 14.1 | 73.2% | 17.9 | 13.2 | \$8.36 | \$149 | \$109 |
| Transport/storage | 225 | 2.2% | 13.7 | 66.5% | 29.7 | 20.8 | \$9.52 | \$275 | \$192 |
| Communication services | 201 | 1.9% | 13.6 | 74.0% | 26.8 | 20.5 | \$10.70 | \$286 | \$217 |
| Finance and insurance | 92 | 0.9% | 14.7 | 72.9% | 31.4 | 23.6 | \$10.81 | \$336 | \$245 |
| Property/business services | 361 | 3.5% | 16.4 | 66.2% | 24.2 | 16.2 | \$9.39 | \$217 | \$144 |
| Government/defence | 566 | 5.5% | 15.9 | 79.7% | 30.2 | 24.6 | \$10.06 | \$302 | \$247 |
| Education | 336 | 3.2% | 18.9 | 69.0% | 23.8 | 16.9 | \$9.65 | \$223 | \$158 |
| Health/community services | 947 | 9.2% | 15.5 | 73.1% | 23.1 | 17.3 | \$10.34 | \$233 | \$174 |
| Cultural/recreational services | 190 | 1.8% | 16.1 | 70.0% | 23.7 | 17.2 | \$9.65 | \$215 | \$156 |
| Personal/other services | 565 | 5.5% | 12.4 | 68.4% | 19.7 | 13.5 | \$9.84 | \$187 | \$127 |
| Other | 1,155 | 11.2% | 14.8 | 67.9% | 23.2 | 15.9 | \$8.96 | \$200 | \$137 |
| Total | 10,346 | 100.0% | 14.8 | 70.1% | 25.5 | 18.3 | \$9.16 | \$229 | \$164 |

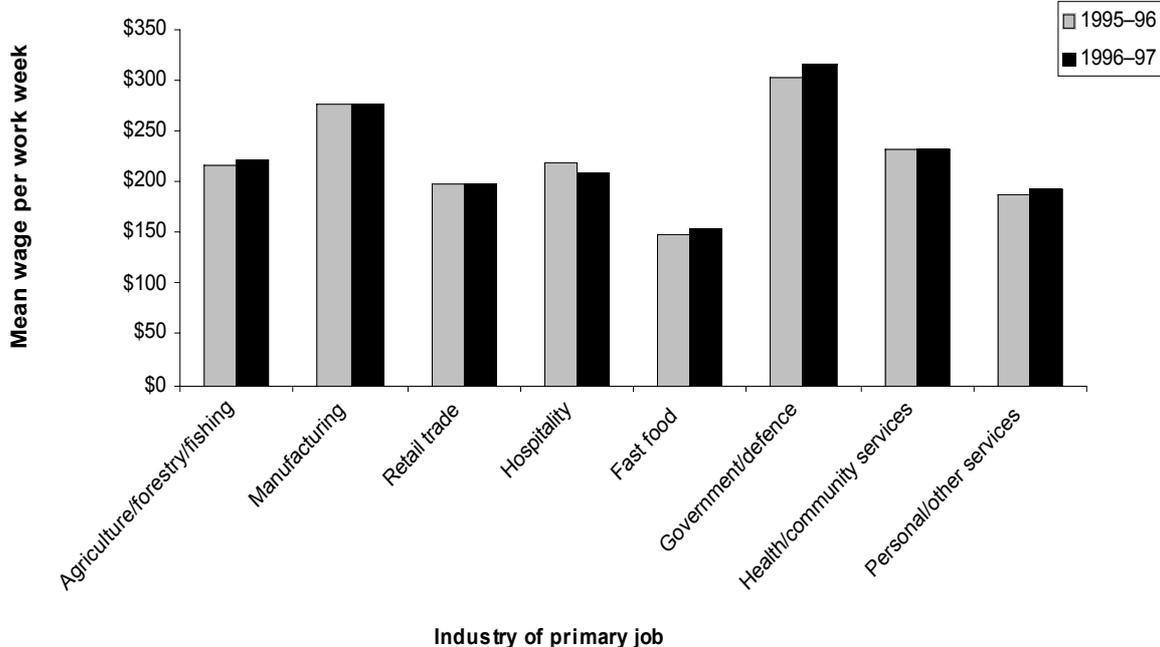
Table 5.23: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by industry of primary job, 1996–97

| Industry of primary job | Workers | | Mean | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number | % workers | weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| Agriculture/forestry/fishing | 658 | 5.3% | 15.2 | 67.7% | 26.1 | 18.1 | \$8.36 | \$220 | \$150 |
| Mining | 24 | 0.2% | 11.5 | 71.3% | 30.7 | 22.3 | \$11.54 | \$353 | \$254 |
| Manufacturing | 1,923 | 15.5% | 13.5 | 74.3% | 31.6 | 24.1 | \$8.70 | \$275 | \$207 |
| Electricity/gas/water | 49 | 0.4% | 11.2 | 73.2% | 29.5 | 21.9 | \$9.90 | \$298 | \$213 |
| Construction | 165 | 1.3% | 13.9 | 66.4% | 29.9 | 20.1 | \$9.85 | \$293 | \$189 |
| Wholesale trade | 475 | 3.8% | 16.0 | 68.2% | 27.1 | 18.6 | \$8.57 | \$235 | \$161 |
| Retail trade | 1,795 | 14.4% | 14.3 | 72.3% | 22.6 | 16.8 | \$9.11 | \$198 | \$145 |
| Clothing/textiles/footwear | 133 | 1.1% | 16.9 | 70.4% | 27.7 | 19.9 | \$7.99 | \$229 | \$159 |
| Hospitality | 969 | 7.8% | 14.1 | 69.8% | 22.7 | 16.4 | \$9.48 | \$210 | \$150 |
| Fast food | 614 | 4.9% | 14.5 | 76.0% | 18.1 | 13.8 | \$8.45 | \$152 | \$115 |
| Transport/storage | 313 | 2.5% | 12.4 | 72.7% | 28.6 | 21.4 | \$9.84 | \$279 | \$207 |
| Communication services | 233 | 1.9% | 12.7 | 77.9% | 26.7 | 21.3 | \$11.15 | \$297 | \$236 |
| Finance and insurance | 132 | 1.1% | 15.3 | 83.9% | 29.6 | 25.2 | \$10.87 | \$323 | \$276 |
| Property/business services | 431 | 3.5% | 15.6 | 73.2% | 22.7 | 17.3 | \$9.76 | \$213 | \$157 |
| Government/defence | 601 | 4.8% | 14.1 | 81.7% | 30.1 | 25.3 | \$10.48 | \$315 | \$262 |
| Education | 400 | 3.2% | 13.5 | 71.3% | 22.9 | 16.7 | \$10.47 | \$234 | \$170 |
| Health/community services | 1,133 | 9.1% | 13.1 | 75.8% | 22.2 | 17.6 | \$10.58 | \$230 | \$181 |
| Cultural and recreational services | 218 | 1.8% | 18.2 | 70.0% | 22.9 | 16.5 | \$9.68 | \$209 | \$150 |
| Personal/other services | 776 | 6.2% | 14.0 | 68.9% | 19.7 | 14.0 | \$10.07 | \$192 | \$136 |
| Other | 1,389 | 11.2% | 14.5 | 71.2% | 22.9 | 16.5 | \$9.22 | \$205 | \$147 |
| Total | 12,431 | 100.0% | 14.2 | 72.7% | 24.8 | 18.6 | \$9.41 | \$229 | \$170 |



Source: Tables 5.22, 5.23.

Figure 5.5: Mean hourly wage rate by selected industries of primary job, 1995-96, 1996-97



Source: Tables 5.22, 5.23.

Figure 5.6: Mean wage per work week by selected industries of primary job, 1995-96, 1996-97

5.14 Job experience by State and Territory

There was considerable variation among States and Territories in all aspects of job experience in both 1995–96 and 1996–97 (Table 5.24). Generally the pattern was similar for both years, particularly for the four more populous States (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia). In 1996–97, Western Australia had the highest percentage of clients employed (65%, as in 1995–96) and the time workers spent in work was above average. However, in both financial years this State had the lowest hourly and weekly wage rates of all States and Territories.

The Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory also had a high percentage of clients in work in 1996–97, although in both cases it was less than in 1995–96. Tasmania had the lowest percentage of clients in work with the lowest time in work in both financial years. The Northern Territory had the highest hourly and weekly wages. In 1996–97 Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia had mean hourly wage rates above the overall average (\$9.41), although the rate in South Australia dropped from 1995–96 to 1996–97.

In 1996–97 the mean hours of work per working week ranged from 23.4 for Western Australia to 27.2 for the Northern Territory. The Australian Capital Territory was the only State or Territory for which the mean hours per week increased from 1995–96 to 1996–97.

Table 5.24: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by State and Territory, 1995–96, 1996–97

| State/Territory | Workers | | | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 2,654 | 47.3% | 15.7 | 71.2% | 27.0 | 19.8 | \$9.42 | \$249 | \$183 |
| Victoria | 3,048 | 46.0% | 13.7 | 68.8% | 24.6 | 17.3 | \$9.50 | \$225 | \$155 |
| Queensland | 2,358 | 50.9% | 15.2 | 65.2% | 25.3 | 16.7 | \$8.80 | \$215 | \$143 |
| Western Australia | 1,289 | 65.4% | 14.7 | 72.6% | 24.6 | 18.3 | \$8.31 | \$205 | \$152 |
| South Australia | 442 | 48.7% | 15.8 | 82.7% | 28.0 | 23.6 | \$9.82 | \$271 | \$235 |
| Tasmania | 127 | 45.1% | 16.8 | 56.9% | 26.6 | 15.0 | \$9.23 | \$240 | \$140 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 348 | 66.0% | 15.3 | 82.0% | 23.9 | 20.0 | \$8.78 | \$217 | \$182 |
| Northern Territory | 80 | 85.1% | 7.7 | 84.5% | 28.7 | 24.8 | \$10.32 | \$296 | \$258 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 3114 | 48.3% | 14.7 | 73.4% | 26.6 | 20.0 | \$9.74 | \$254 | \$191 |
| Victoria | 3864 | 47.9% | 14.0 | 70.2% | 23.7 | 17.1 | \$9.80 | \$225 | \$160 |
| Queensland | 2798 | 50.2% | 14.2 | 69.8% | 24.5 | 17.6 | \$8.97 | \$214 | \$149 |
| Western Australia | 1406 | 65.4% | 13.1 | 76.0% | 23.4 | 18.4 | \$8.49 | \$202 | \$158 |
| South Australia | 577 | 51.5% | 16.1 | 84.3% | 27.0 | 23.3 | \$9.59 | \$260 | \$227 |
| Tasmania | 163 | 45.2% | 16.1 | 64.1% | 23.6 | 15.0 | \$9.30 | \$219 | \$144 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 407 | 55.7% | 13.9 | 84.4% | 25.4 | 21.7 | \$8.94 | \$230 | \$193 |
| Northern Territory | 102 | 63.3% | 6.1 | 89.0% | 27.2 | 24.6 | \$10.39 | \$280 | \$252 |

5.15 Job experience and location

In 1995–96 and 1996–97 a higher proportion of clients from remote and rural locations had a job during the year than did those from urban locations (Table 5.25). However, on average, urban workers spent a higher proportion of their support time in work, and worked around four hours more per week. This meant that weekly income was substantially higher in urban locations than in rural and remote locations, even when the mean hourly wage rate was higher for the latter, as it was for remote workers in 1996–97. For rural workers, the mean hourly wage rate was 2.1% lower than that for urban workers in both years.

Table 5.25: Workers: number of jobs, weeks to get job, time in work, hours of work and income earned from jobs, by location, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Location | Workers | | | | Mean hours of work | | Income earned from jobs | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Number | % of clients | Mean weeks to get job | % time in work | Per work week | Per week | Per hour | Per work week | Per week |
| 1995–96 | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 7,501 | 49.7% | 14.9 | 71.4% | 26.8 | 19.5 | \$9.21 | \$241 | \$176 |
| Rural | 2,642 | 51.2% | 14.9 | 66.9% | 22.2 | 15.2 | \$9.02 | \$196 | \$134 |
| Remote | 203 | 51.2% | 10.0 | 64.3% | 23.4 | 14.5 | \$9.14 | \$213 | \$132 |
| 1996–97 | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 9,137 | 50.1% | 13.7 | 74.0% | 25.9 | 19.7 | \$9.44 | \$241 | \$181 |
| Rural | 3,046 | 51.4% | 15.1 | 69.6% | 21.8 | 15.6 | \$9.25 | \$197 | \$140 |
| Remote | 248 | 54.7% | 12.2 | 64.5% | 21.7 | 13.4 | \$10.02 | \$217 | \$131 |

The differences between urban, and rural and remote workers can be largely explained by the frequency of permanent regular work (Table 5.26). Urban workers were much more likely to have had a permanent regular primary job. In 1996–97, 71% of urban workers had a permanent regular job, compared with 59% of rural workers and 54% of remote workers.

Table 5.26: Workers: employment status of primary job by location, 1995–96, 1996–97

| Location | 1995–96 | | | | 1996–97 | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Permanent regular | | Other | | Permanent regular | | Other | |
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Urban | 5,365 | 71.5 | 2,136 | 28.5 | 6,502 | 71.2 | 2,635 | 28.8 |
| Rural | 1,536 | 58.1 | 1,106 | 41.9 | 1,793 | 58.9 | 1,253 | 41.1 |
| Remote | 94 | 46.3 | 109 | 53.7 | 133 | 53.6 | 115 | 46.4 |
| Total | 6,995 | 67.6 | 3,351 | 32.4 | 8,428 | 67.8 | 4,003 | 32.3 |