JOB*futures*/SAULWICK EMPLOYEE SENTIMENT SURVEY

No. 10: October 2003

A STUDY CONDUCTED FOR

JOB*futures*

by

IRVING SAULWICK AND ASSOCIATES

WITH

DENIS MULLER AND ASSOCIATES

INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted for JOB*futures* by Irving Saulwick & Associates with Denis Muller & Associates.

It canvasses the views of employees -- wage and salary earners -- on:

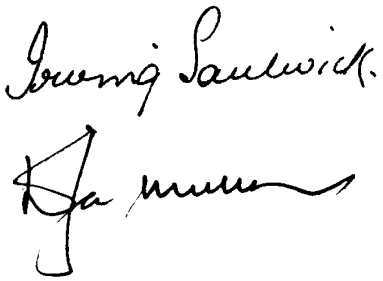
- Job security;
- Job satisfaction;
- Working hours;
- Stress at work;
- The employment outlook;
- Refugee policy, the right to work and other issues, and
- Employment and Aging.

It also canvasses the views of unemployed people. It obtains a snapshot of their level of confidence in finding a job, and analyses this against how long they have been out of work.

The study is based on a national survey of 1002 people who are either in the workforce or looking for work or would like to work.

Field work for the study was conducted between 22 and 29 September 2003.

This report was written by Irving Saulwick and Denis Muller.



IRVING SAULWICK & ASSOCIATES
OCTOBER 2003

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

NOTES:

1. The sample for this survey consisted of 1002 randomly chosen people who were in the paid workforce or were looking for work or would like to work. A sample of this size yields a sampling variance of plus or minus 3.16 per cent. Therefore, when looking at the Total columns in the results, differences of this magnitude should be treated as falling within sampling variance.

2. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. Where a percentage of less than one per cent has been recorded, an * has been used.

THEME 1: EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SECURITY

THE EMPLOYED

Perceptions of job security

A number of questions were devoted to this subject. The results may be summarised as follows:

Question:

How long have you been in your present job?

Table 1: TIME IN PRESENT JOB

Time	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
< 6 months	11	11	11	14	10	7	14	21
6-12 months	10	9	12	10	10	9	11	17
1-5 years	37	35	39	41	42	36	35	44
+5 years	42	46	38	41	42	48	40	18
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

While four in ten people have been in their job over five years, 21% have been in their present job for no more than twelve months.

The mobility of blue and white collar workers continues to show different patterns. Thus white-collar workers are still more likely than blue-collar workers to have been in their jobs longer than one year, and blue-collar workers are still rather more likely to have been in their jobs less than six months.

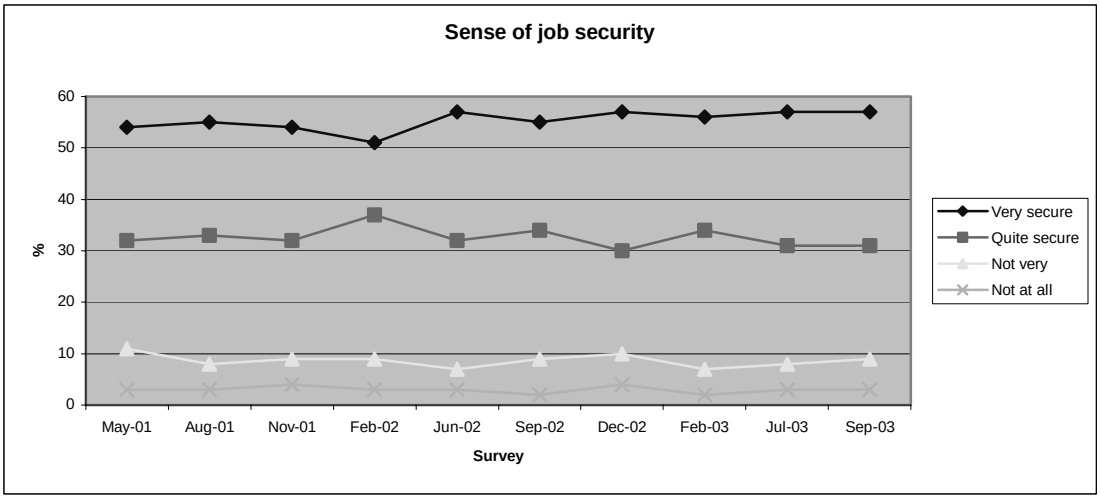
Both full - and part-time workers have much greater job longevity than casual workers. This is a pattern we have now observed for well over twelve months.

Question:

How secure do you feel in your job?

Table 2: SECURITY IN JOB

Degree of security	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very secure	57	53	60	53	58	58	56	51
Quite secure	31	35	29	36	30	32	33	27
Not very secure	9	10	9	9	9	8	7	16
Not at all secure	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	6
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*	-	1	-



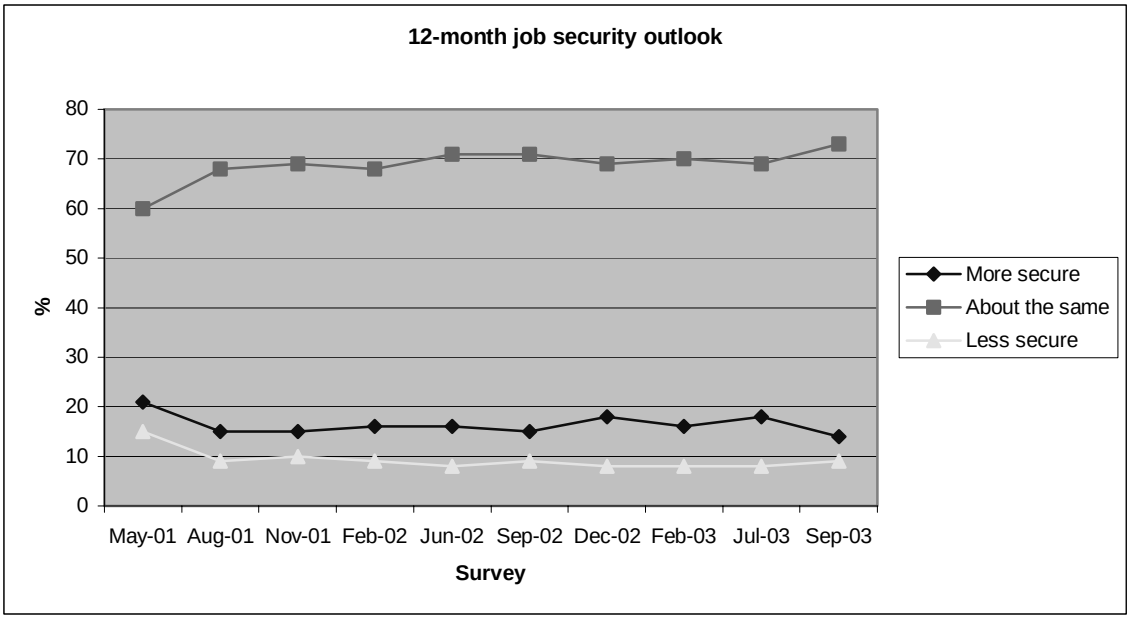
Eighty-eight per cent of employees said they felt secure or very secure in their jobs. This is the same figure as recorded three months ago. As the graph shows, this is generally consistent with recent trends.

Twelve per cent said they felt insecure (previously 11%, 9% and 14%). On this occasion there was virtually no difference between white and blue collar workers on this point, although in the recent past there had been a tendency for more white collar workers than blue collar workers to feel secure. Casual workers are still less likely to feel secure then full time or part time workers.

Question:
And how do you think you will feel in twelve months time?

Table 3: OUTLOOK FOR JOB SECURITY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

Degree of security 12 months out	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More secure	14	12	15	16	13	13	17	14
About the same	73	75	72	68	76	76	70	67
Less secure	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10
Will be retired	1	1	1	1	*	1	2	-
Don't know	3	3	3	6	2	2	2	9



A large proportion of the Australian workforce continues to enjoy a sense of job security. Over the past quarter there has been virtually no change in the sense of job security workers feel.

Once again eighty-seven per cent of workers say they will be as secure or more secure in 12 months' time (previously 87%, 86% and 87%).

Among casual employees, 10% again say they think they will be less secure (previously 10% and 11%).

We repeat the observation we made in July: 'It is interesting to observe that while any change in the sense of job security is very small, the tendency over the past few months has been towards a greater sense of job security, even though the global situation remains uncertain. Why this might be so is a matter of speculation, but the continued strong performance of the Australian economy might be a factor here.'

It will be interesting to observe whether this remains the same if interest rates are increased in the coming months. In this survey there is just the hint of possible unease over the medium-term employment security outlook, with a small drop in the proportion of employees who say they are likely to feel "more secure" in twelve months' time than they do now. There has been a corresponding increase in the proportion of people who say they are likely to feel "about the same" level of job security a year from now.

Taken with other data in this survey, this suggests the possibility that the sentiment of invulnerability that has prevailed for the past year or so in the face of global uncertainty might be yielding to a degree of doubt.

THE UNEMPLOYED

On this occasion 8% of people who defined themselves as being in the workforce said they were unemployed but currently looking for work. The recent small upward trend noted in our last report seems to have abated. In the last survey it was 10%. Before that it was 11% and before that it was steady at 7% over the previous three surveys.

The proportion of people saying they had given up looking for work is again, as it was in July, less than 1%. It had been between 2% and 3% over the previous three surveys.

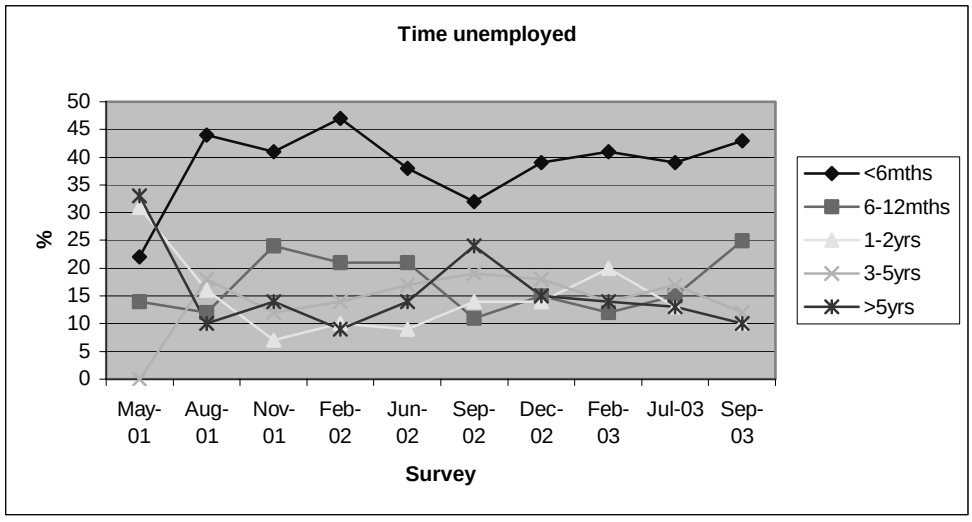
The current survey suggests a current unemployment rate of 8% -- somewhat lower than the 10% reported in July.

Question:

How long have you been unemployed?

Table 4: LENGTH OF TIME UNEMPLOYED

Time unemployed	Total	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	81	33	48	24	23	30	4
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 6 months	43	45	42	58	39	37	25
Six to twelve months	25	27	23	29	30	17	25
One to two years	10	12	8	4	99	10	50
Three to five years	12	6	17	8	13	17	-
More than five years	10	9	10	=	9	20	6
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



The trend towards an increase in short term unemployment seems to have resumed. This time, 43% of the unemployed report having been unemployed for less than six months.

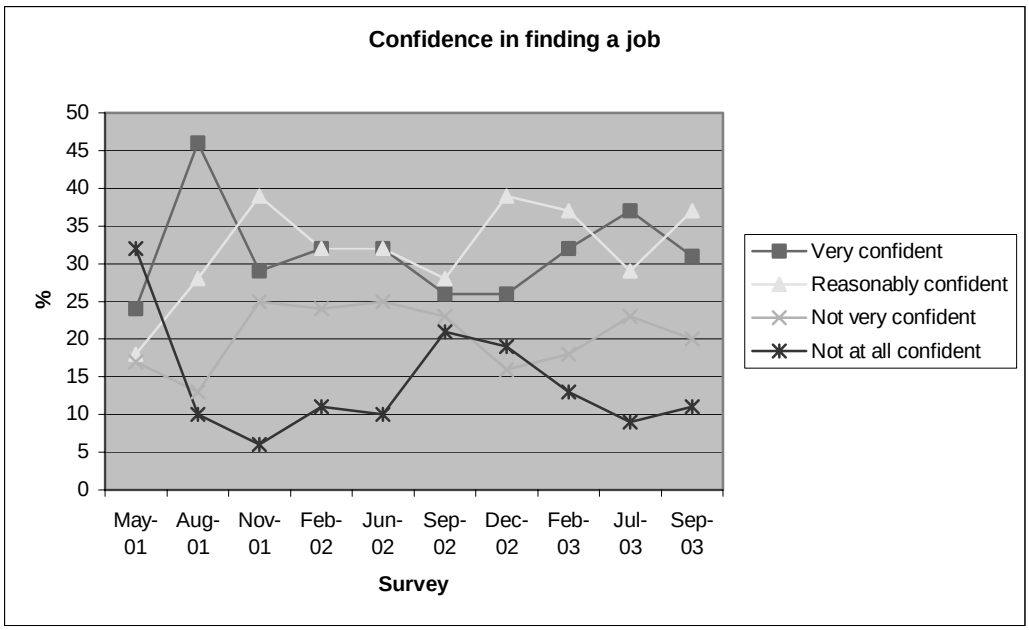
This quarter shows an increase in medium-term unemployment (six to twelve months) and a reduction in the percentage of people who have been unemployed for three years or more. Whether this is a real reduction or a result of people having given up looking is an open question.

Question:

How confident are you that you will find a job in the next six months?

Table 5: CONFIDENCE IN FINDING A JOB IN NEXT SIX MONTHS

Confidence	Total	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+
Base	81	33	48	24	23	30	4
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	31	30	31	42	30	27	-
Reasonably confident	37	30	42	38	43	27	75
Not very confident	20	27	15	17	26	20	-
Not at all confident	11	9	13	4	-	23	25
Don't know	1	3	-	-	-	3	-



Overall, confidence among the unemployed in finding work has improved slightly, even though the proportion saying they are "very confident" has declined.

Of all those who are unemployed, 68% (66% in July and 69% in the March quarter, but with as few as 54% last September) are confident that they will find a job in the next six months. Correspondingly, the proportion not confident of getting a job in the next six months is now 31%, back where it was in the March quarter and well below the high figure of 44% recorded last September.

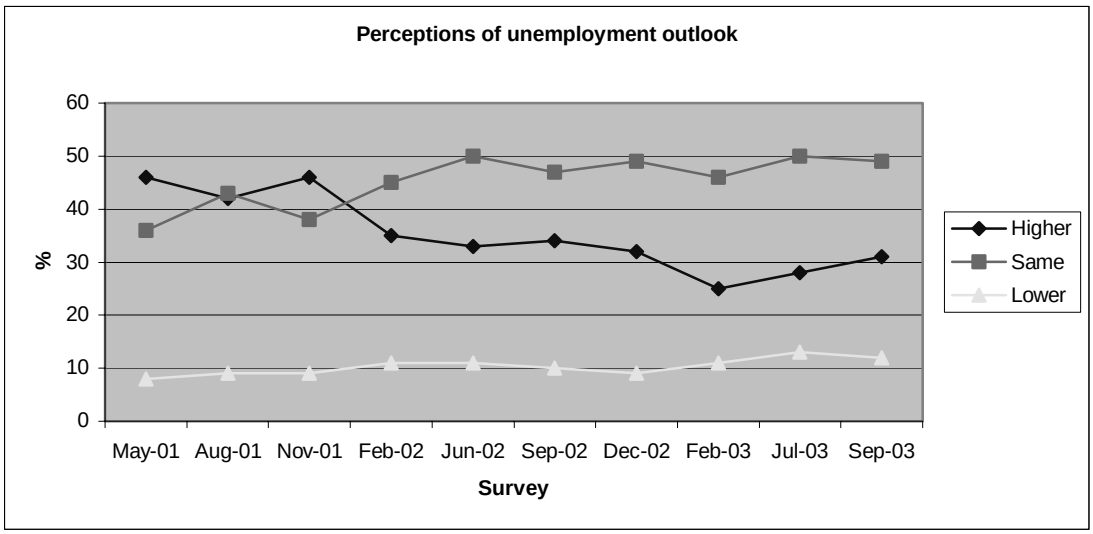
A VIEW OF THE FUTURE FROM THE TOTAL SAMPLE

Question:

Some people think that unemployment will fall in the next twelve months, others disagree. Do you think that in twelve months' time the number of people UNEMPLOYED will be higher than at present, about the same or lower than at present?

Table 6: UNEMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

Unemploy't in 12 mths	Total	Gender		Occupation	
		Men	Women	Blue	White
Base	1002	429	573	269	622
	%	%	%	%	%
Higher	31	32	30	32	31
Same	49	46	51	47	50
Lower	12	14	12	12	13
Don't know	7	8	7	10	6



Overall the community is still tending to report mixed messages about trends in unemployment.

The percentage of people who feel that unemployment will be lower over the next twelve months is now 12% - it has fluctuated between 9% and 13% in recent surveys. However, 49% (previously 48% and46%) now think that unemployment will stay the same, while 31% (previously 28% and 25%) now believe that it will be higher .

This might be another early sign of a softening of confidence in the medium-term employment outlook.

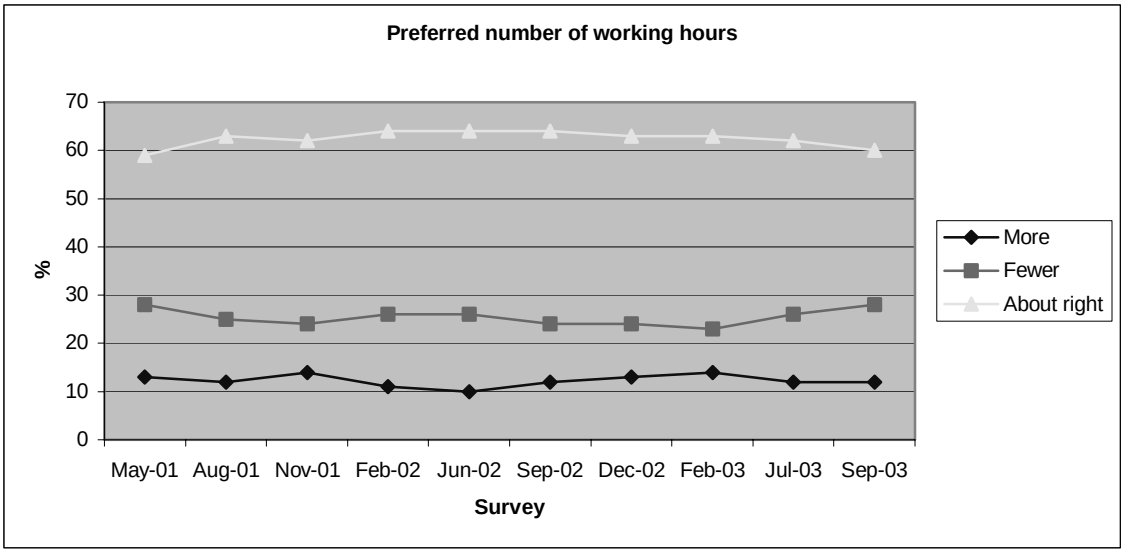
THEME 2: JOB SATISFACTION

Question:

Would you like to work more hours or fewer hours than you do at the moment, or are the hours you are now working about right?

Table 7: ATTITUDE TO NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED

Atitude	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More	12	10	13	15	10	5	22	27
Fewer	28	33	24	23	30	38	11	9
About right	60	57	63	61	60	57	68	63



Twenty-eight per cent of the workforce would like to work fewer hours (previously 26% and 23%) – but this is still more the case among full-time and white-collar workers than among part-time, casual or blue-collar workers.

As in previous surveys, a large minority of casual workers in particular (this time 27% (previously 27%, 36% and 31%) would like to work more hours and so, to a lesser extent, would part-time (still 22%, previously 22% and 24%).

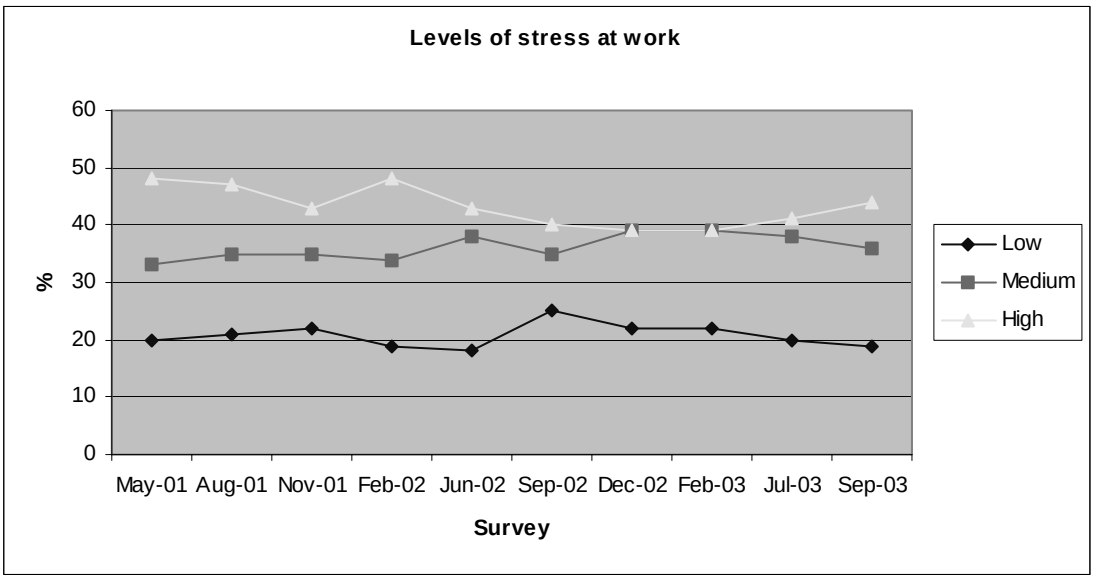
Fifteen per cent of blue collar workers on this occasion would like to work more hours (previously 20%, 23% and18%). This still probably reflects their interest in earning more money.

Question:

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all stressful and 10 is extremely stressful, how would you rate your job?

Table 8: ASSESSMENT OF STRESSFULNESS OF JOB

Sentiment	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
0 - 3	19	22	18	27	15	14	25	33
4- - 6	36	35	39	40	36	36	38	43
7 – 10	44	45	43	32	47	50	36	25
Mean	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.9	6.1	5.2	4.7



Stress levels in the workforce, although easing slightly in the previous two quarters, remain high. Forty-four per cent of the total workforce (previously 41%, 39%, 40% and 43%) report high stress levels at work, and 47% (previously 47%%%, 44%, 44% and 45%) of white collar workers and 50% (previously 47%, 45%, 44% and 45%) of full time workers report high stress levels at work.

We again repeat what we said in previous reports: "This continues to raise questions about the connection between the working lives and the health and well-being of a significant minority of the Australian workforce."

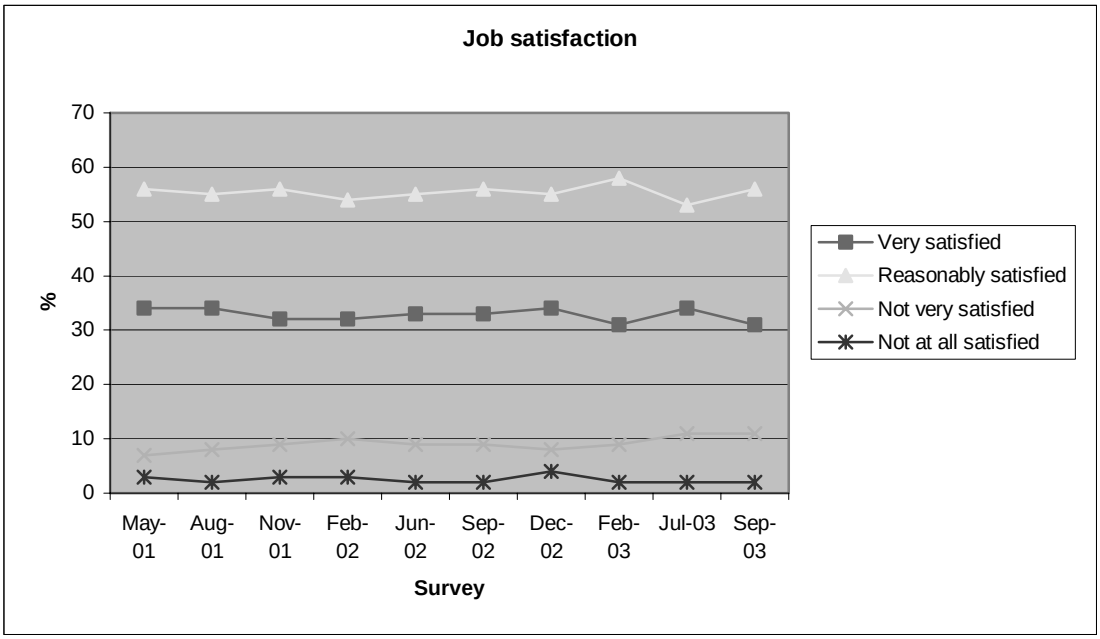
Question:

Taking all things into account, how satisfied would you say you are with your job at the moment? Would you say you are very, reasonably, not very or not at all satisfied?

Table 9: LEVEL OF JOB SATISFACTION

How satisfied	Total	Gender		Occupation		Workforce status		
		Men	Women	Blue	White	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Base	921	396	525	269	644	591	189	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very	31	25	35	29	32	28	35	38
Reasonably	56	61	53	54	58	59	57	45
Not very	11	13	10	15	9	12	8	13
Not at all	2	1	2	2	1	2	-	4
Mean	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0

Mean range from +2 to –2.



Levels of job satisfaction also still appear to be fairly stable: 31% (previously 34%, 31%, 34%, 33% and 32%) of Australia's workers are very satisfied with their jobs, and more than half the rest, 56% (previously 53%, 58%, 55%, 55% and 54%) are reasonably satisfied. Now, about 13% (previously 11%) are dissatisfied.

Looking at the means, it would appear that blue-collar workers are the least satisfied and that part-time workers are the most satisfied.

THEME 3: EMPLOYEES' VIEWS ON SOME CURRENT ISSUES

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

Question:

At the moment, people who are able to prove they are genuine refugees – that is, they are at risk of being killed or persecuted if they return home – are given permission to stay in Australia for three years. Did you know that this was the case?

Table 10: AWARENESS OF INITIAL PERIOD OF RECOGNITION OF REFUGEE STATUS

Aware	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	White	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	622	149	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	40	44	38	33	44	31	38	44	46	39	45
No	60	56	62	67	56	69	61	56	54	61	54
Don't know	*	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

It is not widely known among the Australian workforce that the initial period during which a refugee's status is recognised by the Australian Government is three years. Only 40% are aware that this is the case.

Question:

Government policy allows these genuine refugees to work during those three years. Do you think that these refugees should or should not be allowed to use government-funded employment services that are available to other unemployed people?

Table 11: ATTITUDE TO ALLOWING REFUGEES ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT-FUNDED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Attitude	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	Aust	Over-seas	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	783	219	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should	71	69	63	61	76	69	74	70	67	71	71
Should not	23	24	22	31	19	27	19	24	27	22	23
Don't know	6	7	6	9	5	4	7	7	7	7	6

A large majority of the Australian workforce believes that refugees should be allowed access to government-funded employment services during their initial three-year period in Australia.

Question:

If they want to stay beyond the three years, they have to then show that they are still at risk if they return home. Would you say that after three years they should be allowed to stay anyway, or they should only be allowed to stay if they are still at risk?

Table 12: ATTITUDE TO REFUGEES' STAYING BEYOND 3 YEARS

Attitude	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	Aust	Over-seas	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	783	219	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should be allowed to stay anyway	39	37	41	33	43	42	37	39	43	38	44
Should be allowed to stay only if still at risk	54	56	52	59	51	52	55	54	48	55	50
Don't know	7	8	7	8	6	7	8	6	9	7	6

A majority of Australian workers supports the policy that requires refugees to re-establish their refugee status after three years, although a significant minority say they should be allowed to stay regardless.

Question:

Some people say it is up to the Australian Government to decide whether it is safe for refugees to return home. Others say the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should decide. Who do you think should decide whether it is safe for refugees to return home?

Table 13: ATTITUDE TO WHO SHOULD DECIDE FATE OF REFUGEES

Who should decide	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	White	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	622	149	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Australian Government	37	41	34	40	34	40	31	39	50	37	37
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	55	51	59	50	59	48	62	54	47	56	54
Don't know	8	8	7	10	7	12	7	8	3	7	9

Question:

Thinking more generally about this matter of refugees. Would you say that over the past few years Australia has been too generous in the way it treats people who claim to be refugees, too harsh in the way it treats people who claim or has its treatment of people who claim to be refugees been about right?

Table 14: PERCEPTIONS OF AUSTRALIA'S RECENT TREATMENT OF REFUGEES

Treatment	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	White	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+	Empl Oyed	Unempl oyed
Base	1002	429	573	269	622	149	391	368	90	Aust	Over-seas
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	783	219
Too generous	24	28	21	36	18	21	21	26	31	25	21
Too harsh	32	28	35	20	36	32	34	32	28	31	35
About right	37	38	37	38	38	40	38	35	36	38	35
Don't know	7	7	8	6	7	7	7	7	6	7	8

The Australian workforce is divided in its assessment of Australia's treatment of refugees over the past few years. Just over one-third say it has been about right, but almost one-third say it has been too harsh. Just under a quarter say it has been too generous.

Question:

A variety of terms have been used in recent years to describe the people who have attempted to come to Australia as refugees. As I mention each one, would you tell me whether you think it is all right or not all right to use that term.

Table 15: ACCEPTABILITY OF VARIOUS TERMS FOR REFUGEES

Attitude	Term				
	Illegals	Asylum-seekers	Queue-jumpers	Detainees	Boat people
Base 1002	%	%	%	%	%
All right	47	78	30	48	45
Not all right	51	18	65	47	52
Don't know	3	3	5	5	3

Among the terms commonly used by the Federal Government and others over recent years to describe people who have attempted to come to Australia as refugees, the only one acceptable to the majority of Australian workers is "asylum-seekers". They particularly shun the term "queue-jumpers", and a majority do not accept the terms "illegals" or "boat people" either. They are equally divided over the term "detainees".

Question:

Taking all things into account, would you say that over the past two or three years the number of refugees has represented a very serious threat, a quite serious threat, not a very serious threat or no threat at all to the country?

Table 16: PERCEPTIONS OF THREAT POSED BY REFUGEES

Threat	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	White	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	622	149	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very serious	10	11	9	15	7	11	7	10	17	10	10
Quite serious	26	24	26	29	25	24	25	26	30	26	23
Not very serious	40	40	40	38	41	45	40	39	38	40	40
No threat at all	21	21	20	14	23	17	23	22	12	20	23
Don't know	4	3	4	3	4	3	5	3	3	4	5

A clear majority – 61% -- of the Australian workforce believe that refugees have posed little by way of a threat to Australia over the past two or three years, with just over one-fifth saying they have posed no threat to the country at all.

Question:

Which of these statements comes closest to your view:
Because Australia took part in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have a special responsibility to accept refugees from those countries.

Or

Even though Australia took part in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have no special responsibility to accept refugees from those countries.

Table 17: ATTITUDE TO WHETHER AUSTRALIA HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REFUGEES FROM WAR ZONES

Threat	Total	Gender		Occupation		Age				Country of Birth	
		Men	Women	Blue	White	18-24	25-39	40-54	55+	Aust	Over-seas
Base	1002	429	573	269	622	149	391	368	90	783	219
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Does have a special responsibility	47	43	50	38	51	53	50	44	37	45	53
Has no special responsibility	49	53	46	59	45	42	47	52	58	51	43
Don't know	4	3	4	3	4	5	3	3	6	4	4

The Australian workforce is equally divided on the question of whether, by virtue of its involvement in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Australia has a special responsibility to accept refugees from those countries. The difference

of two percentage points between those who say Australia does have a special responsibility and those who say it does not, falls within the sampling variance of plus or minus 3.16% for this survey.

Looking at these questions about refugees as a whole, a pattern emerges.

In general, women, white collar workers, people aged under 40 and people born overseas were more likely than others to express views that were tolerant of refugees. The same groups were also less likely to tolerate the use of terms such as 'illegals' and 'detainees' that implied negative judgements about refugees.

The Australian workforce does not appear to be willing to make it easy for refugees to settle here if they can go home safely. At the same time, they prefer this matter to be decided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees rather than by the Australian Government.

This would suggest a shift in public sentiment away from the rhetoric current at the 2001 federal election when it was asserted by the Government that "we will decide who comes to Australia".

Moreover, the pejorative term "queue-jumpers" now appears to be repudiated by a substantial majority in the Australian workforce, indicating that the political usefulness of this term might now be reduced.

There would also appear to be a sense that, on reflection, refugees pose no great threat to Australia, and the existence of a good deal of ambivalence about the way refugees have been treated by Australia in recent years.

EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS

Question:

There have been some suggestions lately that older workers – that is, people aged between 55 and 65 – should be encouraged to stay on at work instead of retiring early.

Thinking about this issue, would you agree or disagree with the following statements (See Table 18):

Table 18: ATTITUDE TO OLDER WORKERS STAYING IN THE WORKFORCE

Statement	Agree			Disagree			Don't know
	Total	U40	40+	Total	U40	40+	Total
Base	1002	540	458	1002	540	458	1002
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Older people should move aside to allow younger people to get on	21	21	21	73	73	73	6
Older people have experience that should be valued by employers	96	97	96	3	3	3	*
Older people should be allowed to keep working to save for their old age	90	90	90	8	8	8	2
Older people can't keep up with the demand of today's workforce	17	19	15	79	75	83	4
If older people keep working, our economy will benefit	69	64	74	20	22	17	12

There is considerable consensus across age groups in the workforce supporting the continued involvement of older workers in the workforce.

An overwhelming majority of workers – under 40 as well as over 40 – agree that older people have experience that should be valued by employers, and that older workers should be allowed to keep working to save for their old age.

A very large majority of workers across the age groups disagree with the proposition that older workers should move aside to allow younger people to get on.

On two points, however, there is some difference between the under-40s and over-40s.

Even though a very large majority of workers overall disagree with the proposition that older workers can't keep up with the demands of today's

workforce, younger workers are slightly more inclined to think that perhaps they can't.

Similarly, although a large majority agree that if older people keep working our economy will benefit, the under-40s are less convinced of this than are the over-40s.

APPENDIX I

EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Good evening. My name is ……. and I am phoning from Saulwick Research, the market research company. This evening we a doing a survey about employment and I need to speak with people who work for a wage or a salary. Is there anyone at home at the moment who is an employee, that is, a person who works for a wage or a salary, including people who receive a regular commission or retainer, or someone who is at present looking for paid work or who would like to find paid work? If YES: I need to speak to the youngest such person home at the moment who is eighteen or over. Is that you or someone else? (If someone else) Could I speak to that person please.

(If necessary repeat introduction)

I have only a few questions to ask: the survey will only take a few minutes.

Q1. Firstly, are you:

Employed	□ 1
Looking for paid work	□ 2
or have you given up looking although you would still like to work if you could find it?	□ 3
(Don't read out)	
Self employed	□ 4
Don't know / not established	□ 5

If self employed: terminate

If Looking for paid work or would work if could find it skip to Q 9
If Employed continue

Q 2. Are you employed:

Full time	□ 1
Part time	□ 2
Casual (either full or part time)	□ 3
(Don't read out)	
Don't know / not established	□ 4

(If both full time and part time):
For the rest of this short questionnaire, I would like to talk about your <u>full time</u> job.

Q 3 How long have you been in your present job:

Less than six months	□ 1
Between six months and a year	□ 2
Between one year and five years	□ 3
More than five years	□ 4
(Don't read out)	
Don't know / not established	□ 5

Q 4. How secure do you feel in your job: would you say you felt

very secure	□ 1
quite secure	□ 2
not very secure	□ 3
not at all secure	□ 4
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 5

Q 5. And how do you think you will feel in twelve months time: do you think you will feel

More secure in your job than you do now	□ 1
About the same as now	□ 2
Less secure in your job than you do now	□ 3
(Don't read out)	
Will be retired in twelve months	□ 4
Don't know	□ 5

Q6. Would you like to work

more hours than you do at the moment	□ 1
fewer hours than you do at the moment	□ 2
or	
are the hours you are now working about right	□ 3
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 4

Q7. And now a question about stress at work. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all stressful and 10 is extremely stressful, how would you rate your job?

Write in number □

Don't know □

Q 8. Taking all things into account, how satisfied would you say you are with your job at the moment? Would you say you are:

Very satisfied	□ 1
Reasonably satisfied	□ 2
Not very satisfied	□ 3
Not at all satisfied	□ 4
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 5

Now skip to Question 11

(Only if looking for paid work or would accept work if could find it)

Q 9. How long have you been out of work:

Less than six months	□ 1
Between six and twelve months	□ 2
Between one year and two years	□ 3
Between two and five years	□ 4
More than five years	□ 5
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 6

Q 10. How confident are you that you will find a job in the next six months:

Very confident	□ 1
Reasonably confident	□ 2
Not very confident	□ 3
Not at all confident	□ 4

All respondents

Q11. Some people think that unemployment will fall in the next twelve months, others disagree. Do you think that in twelve months time the number of people unemployed will be

higher than at present	□ 1
about the same or	□ 2
lower than at present	□ 2
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 4

Q12. And now a question about refugees. Thinking about refugees from places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

At the moment, people who are able to prove they are genuine refugees – that is, they are at risk of being killed or persecuted if they return home – are given permission to stay in Australia for three years.

Did you know that this was the case?

Yes	1
No	2
DK / NE	3

Q13. Government policy allows these genuine refugees to work during those 3 years.
Do you think that these refugees

should	1
or	
should not	2

be allowed to use government funded employment service which are available to other unemployed people?

(Don't read out)	
Don't know	3

Q14. If they want to stay beyond the three years, they have to then show that they are still at risk if they return home. Would you say that after three years

they should be allowed to stay anyway	1
or	
they should only be allowed to stay if they are still at risk	2
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	3

Q15. Some people say it is up to the Australian Government to decide whether it is safe for refugees to return home. Others say the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees should decide.

Who do you think should decide whether it is safe for refugees to return home:

The Australian Government	1
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	3

Q 16. Thinking more generally about this matter of refugees. Would you say that over the past few years Australia has been:

Too generous in the way it treats people who claim to be refugees	1
Too harsh in the way it treats people who claim to be refugees	2
or Has its treatment of people who claim to be refugees been about right	3
(Don't read out) Don't know	4

Q 17. A variety of terms have been used in recent years to describe the people who have attempted to come to Australia as refugees. As I mention each one, would you tell me whether you think it is all right or not all right to use that term:

Term	All right	Not all right	DK / NE
Illegals	1	2	3
Asylum-seekers	1	2	3
Queue-jumpers	1	2	3
Detainees	1	2	3
Boat people	1	2	3

Q18. Taking all things into account, would you say that over the past two or three years the number of refugees has represented

A very serious threat to the country	1
A quite serious threat to the country	2
Not a very serious threat to the country	3
No threat to the country at all	4
(Don't read out) Don't know	5

Q 19. And which of these statements comes closest to your view:

Because Australia took part in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have a special responsibility to accept refugees from those countries.	1
Or Even though Australia took part in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have no special responsibility to accept refugees from those countries.	2
(Don't read out) Don't know	3

Q 20. There has been some suggestions lately that older workers – that is, people aged between 55 and 65 – should be encouraged to stay on at work instead of retiring early.

Thinking about this issue, would you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Statement	**Agree**	**Disgree**	**DK**
Older people should move aside to allow younger people to get on	1	2	3
Older people have experience that should be valued by employers	1	2	3
Older people should be allowed to keep working to save for their old age.	1	2	3
Older people can't keep up with the demands of today's workforce	1	2	3
If older people keep working, our economy will benefit.	1	2	3

And now just a couple of questions about yourself.

Q 21. Education Level

Nil	□ 1
Primary only	□ 2
Some secondary	□ 3
Completed secondary	□ 4
Trade / technical qualification	□ 5
University / College of Advanced Education	□ 6
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 7

Q 22. What is you occupation?

Write in and code _____

Lower Blue	□ 1
Upper Blue	□ 2
Lower White	□ 3
Middle White	□ 4
Upper White	□ 5
Looking for paid work	□ 6
Not established	□ 7

Q 23. Were you:

Born in Australia	□ 1
Born somewhere else	□ 2
(Don't read out)	
Don't know	□ 3

Q 24. Could you tell me how old you are?

Write in _____

(Only if they refuse to say exactly how old they are, ask:)

In which of the following age groups do you belong:

18 – 24	□ 1
25 – 39	□ 2
40 – 54	□ 3
55 and over	□ 4

Q 25. Sex

Male	□ 1
Female	□ 2

Q 26. Location

Melbourne	□ 11	Adelaide	□ 17
Other Vic	□ 12	Other SA	□ 18
Sydney	□ 13	Perth	□ 19
Other NSW	□ 14	Other WA	□ 20
Brisbane	□ 15	ACT	□ 21
Other Qld	□ 16	Tasmania	□ 22
		NT	□ 23