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CHAPTER 6

DEMOGRAPHY

The sources of the statistics in this chapter are population censuses, population surveys, State and Territorial registers of births, deaths and marriages, records of courts dealing with divorce, and other administrative records such as passenger cards required from international travellers and records of family allowance transfers.

With the proclamation of the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Act 1967* on 10 August 1967, the provision in Section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aboriginals in reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth was repealed. Accordingly, population and vital statistics for all dates subsequent to 10 August 1967 no longer exclude full-blood Aboriginals. Also, estimates for periods back to 30 June 1961 have been revised to include Aboriginals.

THE POPULATION

The population census

Basic enumerations of the population have been made since the early days of settlement in Australia. The early enumerations were known as 'musters'. A census conducted in New South Wales in 1828 became the first in a series of regular censuses in that colony. Periodic censuses were taken in the other Australian colonies. The first simultaneous censuses of all the Australian colonies were taken in 1881. The first national census was taken in 1911. It was followed by others in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961 and at five yearly intervals thereafter. A special article on early censuses appears in Year Book No. 15 of 1922. A further article outlining the history, purposes, legal basis, organisation and publication of population censuses appears in Year Book No. 53 of 1967, pages 164-70, but note that the reference in that Year Book to the exclusion of Aboriginals from the census count has not applied since the repeal of the relevant provision of Section 127 of the Constitution (see above).

Every census from 1881 has inquired into age, sex, marital status, birthplace, nationality or citizenship, and occupation. A wide variety of other topics has been included from time to time.

The most recent census in Australia was conducted on 30 June 1981. Counts of persons and dwellings are available for every collection district and for other larger areas, as well as statistics on characteristics of persons and dwellings as collected in the census. 1981 Census statistics were released in publications, on microfiche and on magnetic tape. A list of 1981 Census publications is contained in *Census 81—Data Release Plans* (2142.0) and details of other releases are in *Catalogue of 1981 Census Tables, Edition 2* (2139.0).

The 1981 Census contained fewer questions than the 1976 Census. However, in addition to basic demographic topics mentioned above, questions were asked on such topics as previous residence, birthplace of parents, English language proficiency, Aboriginality, religious affiliation, school attendance, educational qualifications, income, employment, mode of travel to work and certain characteristics of dwellings.

As for previous censuses, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families were out of the scope of the census, as were all persons residing in diplomatic residences on census night.

While every effort is made to minimise undercounting in the census, some inevitably remains for various reasons (e.g. inadvertent omission of very young children, treatment of some dwellings as unoccupied when in fact they were occupied, and failure to find all dwellings). Refusal by householders to complete the census schedule is not a significant cause of undercounting. Since 1966, sample surveys have been taken soon after each census to discover the approximate extent of underenumeration and the effects on the census results of misstatement or nonreply to specific questions. Underenumeration of the population of Australia at the 1981 Census is estimated to have been 1.9 per cent. Estimated underenumeration of State and Territory populations ranged from 0.8 per cent in Tasmania to 5.0 per

cent in the Northern Territory. Underenumeration varies from location to location and for populations of different ages and other characteristics. These and similar problems are common to all population censuses.

Population estimates

Population estimates by sex and State are calculated on a quarterly basis by updating estimates at census dates for subsequent births and deaths and for overseas and interstate migration. Age estimates as at 30 June each year are published by sex for each State and Territory. Small area population estimates down to the local government area level as well as estimates of the birthplaces of the population are also made annually. In addition, small area population estimates by age and sex at the local government area level were compiled for 30 June 1981.

The method of determining the base population at a census date has changed with the 1981 Census results becoming available. Estimates now reflect the usual residence of the population rather than the actual location in which people were counted at the census. At the Australia level this means that overseas visitors counted in the census are subtracted, the remaining population is adjusted for census underenumeration and an estimate of Australian residents temporarily overseas on census night is added. For the States this process involves an additional step which returns those people not at home on census night to their place of usual residence.

This change-over has enabled population estimates after the 1981 Census date to be compiled wholly according to place of usual residence, since components of population increase were already available on a usual residence basis. Estimated resident populations for the 1971 and 1976 Census dates have also been calculated and intercensal estimates have been revised accordingly.

As a result of the above adjustments, estimated resident populations at census dates differ from actual census counts. The figures for estimated resident populations (with actual location census counts shown in brackets) are: 13,067,300 (12,755,638) in 1971; 14,033,100 (13,548,448) in 1976; and 14,923,300 (14,576,330) in 1981.

Size and growth of Australia's population

When Europeans first settled in Australia, the number of Aborigines living in the continent is believed to have numbered at least 300,000. The Aboriginal population suffered a drastic decline in numbers over the next 145 years so that by 1933 it is estimated to have totalled about 67,000. In 1981, however, nearly 145,000 Aborigines were counted in the census.

The overall population of Australia reached 1 million in 1858, 5 million in 1918, 10 million in 1959 and 15 million towards the end of 1981.

From 1861 natural increase has been the major element in population growth, and immigration the most variable. In the years 1861 to 1890, total growth on average exceeded 3 per cent a year and natural increase 2 per cent. The rate of natural increase declined during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, and this, together with a near cessation of immigration during that period, reduced the rate of growth from 3.70 per cent in 1861-70 to 1.63 per cent in 1901-10.

The 1914-18 War was the dominating influence in the decade 1911-1920: during the war and immediate post-war years the birth rate rose and immigration was resumed. In the economic depression of the 1930s, however, natural increase fell to very low levels and immigration ceased; indeed, in some years, overseas departures exceeded arrivals.

With the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, Australia entered a new phase. The immediate effect of the war was to increase the number of marriages and births. The increasing births more than offset the rise in deaths due to war casualties and higher civilian death rates. Migration in these years was negligible.

The period 1947 to 1961 was marked by continued high natural increase and a resumption of immigration, the latter resulting in very high net gains in each of the four years 1949 to 1952.

Between 1961 and 1970, net migration continued at about the same level as in the previous decade, but there were declines in the crude birth rate and the rate of natural increase. The years from 1971 till 1980 were characterised by a reduced rate of natural increase due to a decline in the birth rate. In 1981, however, the crude birth rate rose for the first time since 1971, to 15.8 per 1,000 mean population (15.3 in 1980). This rate was maintained in 1982 and 1983 but preliminary figures for 1984 show a decline to 15.0 or 15.3

if allowance is made for a backlog of registrations in New South Wales. Net migration gain, moderate for most of the seventies, increased sharply during 1979, 1980 and 1981, following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers. However, numbers began to decline in 1982, and in 1983 and 1984 fell back to the level of the seventies.

The rate of population growth in 1981 was 1.63 per cent, the highest since 1971 (2.08 per cent). It has since declined to 1.23 in 1983, and the preliminary growth rate for 1984 is 1.19. The population estimates in the following table relate to the end of December. Estimates for the end of June are given in other tables in this chapter.

POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Period	Population at end of period (000) (a)	Average annual rate of growth (b) (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration (c)	Total
1851-1860.	1,145.6			
1861-1870.	1,647.8	2.47	1.23	3.70
1871-1880.	2,231.5	2.07	1.01	3.08
1881-1890.	3,151.4	2.05	1.46	3.51
1891-1900.	3,765.3	1.73	0.07	1.80
1901-1910.	4,425.1	1.53	0.10	1.63
1911-1920.	5,411.3	1.60	0.43	2.03
1921-1930.	6,500.8	1.32	0.53	1.85
1931-1940.	7,077.6	0.79	0.06	0.85
1941-1950.	8,307.5	1.14	0.47	1.62
1951-1955.	9,311.8	1.38	0.93	2.31
1956-1960.	10,391.9	1.40	0.82	2.22
1961-1965.	11,505.4	(e) 1.27	(e) 0.71	(e) 1.98
1966-1970.	12,663.5	1.11	0.82	1.94
1971-1975.	13,968.9	(d) 1.07	(d) 0.49	(d) 1.56
1976-1980.	14,807.4	0.81	0.45	1.17
1976	14,110.1	0.82	0.24	1.01
1977	14,281.5	0.83	0.48	1.21
1978	14,430.8	0.81	0.33	1.05
1979	14,602.5	0.81	0.48	1.19
1980	14,807.4	0.80	0.69	1.40
1981	15,049.5	0.86	0.82	1.63
1982	15,276.8	0.83	0.67	1.51
1983	15,464.2	0.87	0.36	1.23
1984 ^p	15,648.9	0.82	0.37	1.19

(a) Excludes full-blood Aborigines prior to 1961. Estimated resident populations from 1971 onwards. (b) The average annual rates of population growth for periods greater than one year are calculated on the compound interest principle. The rates refer to the population at the beginning of the period. Discrepancies between the sum of the rate of growth due to natural increase and net migration and the rate of total growth are due to intercensal adjustments. (c) Prior to 30 June 1971, net migration includes discrepancies disclosed by the various censuses. From 30 June 1971, net migration is defined as the excess of overseas arrivals over overseas departures classified as permanent and long-term. From 30 June 1976, net migration consists of net permanent and long-term movement and an adjustment for category jumping, i.e. the net effect of changes in travel intentions which affect the categorization of movements. (d) The estimated resident population at 31 December 1970 used to compute rates of growth for the period 1971-1975 was 12,929,600. (e) The estimated population at 31 December 1960 used to compute rates of growth for the period 1961-65 was 10,430,600. This estimate includes Aborigines.

Projections of the population

Projections of Australia's population have been made by the ABS using the component method in which a base population is brought forward year by year by applying assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and the characteristics of overseas migration.

The 1984 projections presented in the following table give a possible 2021 population in the range 22.0 million to 23.9 million.

Assumptions used in 1984 projection series—

Base population: The series are based on the preliminary estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 1984.

Fertility: Two sets of fertility assumptions have been used.

At the national level, for both assumptions, the total fertility rate declines linearly from 1,932 births per 1,000 women in 1983 to 1,930 in the year 1989. Beyond 1989 the two assumptions diverge:

I—the total fertility rate established in 1989 is maintained for the remainder of the projection period,

II—the total fertility rate gradually moves from the 1989 level to 2,110 (the level required for natural replacement of the population under the current mortality situation) in 1995 and remains at that level for the rest of the projection period.

Mortality: Only one assumption for mortality has been used. For Australia, the States and Territories, the average Australian age-sex-specific mortality rates in 1981 to 1983 (assumed to represent the 1982 level) are used as a base. For each year to 1987, these mortality rates are reduced annually by constant age-specific percentage rates in line with recent trends. For the years 1988 to 1995, lower constant rates of decline are applied. The levels achieved in 1995 are then assumed to remain unchanged for the rest of the projection period.

Overseas migration: Two assumptions for overseas migration have been used. In the short term, to 1987, the net gain each year has been set at 50,000 (75,000 arrivals and 25,000 departures) for both assumptions. For the remainder of the projection period these assumptions are:

I—net gain of 75,000 (100,000 arrivals and 25,000 departures) annually.

II—net gain of 100,000 (130,000 arrivals and 30,000 departures) annually.

Interstate migration: Two assumptions for interstate migration have been used.

I—small net interstate flows annually, resulting from an absolute sum of 29,000 movers in 1984-85 and 26,000 movers every year thereafter.

II—large net interstate flows annually, resulting from an absolute sum of 42,000 movers in 1984-85, 49,000 movers in 1985-86 and 53,000 movers every year thereafter.

For each assumption the pattern of interstate movement follows that experienced in recent years.

Description of the series

Of the eight possible combinations of alternative assumptions only four have been selected for publication. The projections resulting from these four combinations (listed below) are called Series A, B, C and D. Each Series projects the population of the States, Territories and Australia to the year 2021. The following table shows the projected population for Australia from each Series at selected dates. Series A and B are identical at the total Australia level having differing interstate migration assumptions only. (For details see *Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories 1984 to 2021* (3222.0))

Series	Assumption	Series	Assumption
A	Fertility I	C	Fertility I
	Mortality		Mortality
	Overseas migration I		Overseas migration II
	Interstate migration I		Interstate migration I
B	Fertility I	D	Fertility II
	Mortality		Mortality
	Overseas migration I		Overseas migration II
	Interstate migration II		Interstate migration II

POPULATION: ACTUAL AND PROJECTED

('000)

At 30 June	Actual population (a)	Projected population			
		1984 Projections			
		At 30 June	Series A and B	Series C	Series D
1947	7,579.4	(b) 1984	15,543.6	15,543.6	15,543.6
1954	8,986.5	1985	15,725.6	15,725.6	15,725.6
1961	10,548.3	1986	15,909.4	15,909.4	15,909.4
1966	11,599.5	1987	16,094.7	16,094.7	16,094.7
1971	13,067.3	1988	16,306.4	16,331.7	16,331.7
1976	14,033.1	1989	16,517.7	16,568.7	16,568.7
1977	14,192.2	1990	16,728.2	16,805.4	16,807.3
1978	14,359.3	1991	16,937.7	17,041.6	17,049.3
1979	14,515.7	1996	17,962.4	18,206.0	18,302.8
1980	14,695.4	2001	18,917.4	19,309.7	19,530.4
1981	14,923.3	2006	19,773.8	20,322.6	20,666.5
1982	15,178.4	2011	20,561.1	21,274.5	21,746.0
1983	15,378.6	2016	21,314.3	22,200.4	22,819.8
1984	15,555.9	2021	22,029.1	23,095.1	23,902.5

(a) Prior to 1971 population figures are census counts. For 1971 and subsequent years figures shown are estimated resident populations. Figures prior to 1961 exclude full-blood Aborigines. (b) Base population; preliminary estimated resident population.

Without further immigration, Series A, B, and C projections yield a population of 17.6 million by the year 2001 and of 18.6 million by the year 2021. The Series D projection, without immigration, gives populations of 17.8 million for 2001 and 19.3 million for 2021.

For all series, the annual rate of growth would eventually decrease as a consequence of the increasing crude death rate, the falling crude birth rate and the decreasing rate of net migration gain. The median age would continuously increase as a result of the population becoming older. This ageing of the population is also reflected in an increase in the crude death rate whilst age-specific mortality rates are projected to decrease.

PROJECTED ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH AND MEDIAN AGES (a) AUSTRALIA 1984 TO 2021

	Year ending 30 June	Series		
		A and B	Series C	Series D
Birth rate (b)	1984p	15.6	15.6	15.6
	1986	15.7	15.7	15.7
	1991	15.3	15.3	15.7
	1996	14.7	14.7	16.0
	2001	13.9	13.9	15.0
	2006	13.1	13.2	14.2
	2011	12.8	12.9	13.9
	2016	12.8	12.9	14.0
	2021	12.7	12.8	14.1
Death rate (b)	1984p	7.2	7.2	7.2
	1986	7.2	7.2	7.2
	1991	7.3	7.3	7.3
	1996	7.6	7.6	7.5
	2001	8.1	8.0	7.9
	2006	8.6	8.4	8.3
	2011	9.0	8.8	8.6
	2016	9.3	9.1	8.9
	2021	9.8	9.5	9.3
Rate of net migration gain (b)	1984p	2.3	2.3	2.3
	1986	3.2	3.2	3.2
	1991	4.5	5.9	5.9
	1996	4.2	5.5	5.5
	2001	4.0	5.2	5.2
	2006	3.8	4.9	4.9
	2011	3.7	4.7	4.6
	2016	3.5	4.5	4.4
	2021	3.4	4.3	4.2

For footnotes see end of table.

PROJECTED ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH AND MEDIAN AGES (a) AUSTRALIA 1984 TO 2021
(continued)

Year ending 30 June		Series A and B	Series C	Series D
Total rate of growth (per cent)	1984p	1.1	1.1	1.1
	1986.	1.2	1.2	1.2
	1991.	1.2	1.4	1.4
	1996.	1.1	1.3	1.4
	2001.	1.0	1.1	1.2
	2006.	0.8	1.0	1.1
	2011.	0.8	0.9	1.0
	2016.	0.7	0.8	1.0
	2021.	0.6	0.8	0.9
Median age (years)	1984p	30.47	30.47	30.47
	1986.	31.03	31.03	31.03
	1991.	32.35	32.29	32.28
	1996.	33.70	33.56	33.40
	2001.	34.87	34.67	34.29
	2006.	36.00	35.76	35.23
	2011.	37.16	36.86	36.05
	2016.	37.78	37.39	36.34
	2021.	38.20	37.81	36.51

(a) The median age indicates the age at which one half of the population is younger and the other half older. (b) Rate per 1,000 mean population.

Location of the population

For historical, climatic and economic reasons the population of Australia is concentrated in capital cities and other major cities, mainly on the south and east coasts of the continent. In June 1984, 70.5 per cent of the population lived in the national capital, the six State capital cities and Darwin, and five other major cities of 100,000 or more persons (as defined by capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts). Of these, only Canberra is located inland. The percentage of the population living in rural areas declined over the years as the major cities and towns attracted most of the population growth; there were periods when the rural population actually declined in numbers. This trend, however, slowed considerably after 1971 and between 1976 and 1981 it actually reversed, so that a higher percentage of the population was counted in rural areas at the 1981 Census (14.2 per cent) than at the 1976 Census (13.9 per cent). In 1984, New South Wales was the State with the highest per cent of the estimated resident population living in the capital city or towns of over 100,000 (75.0 per cent), followed by Victoria (74.4 per cent), South Australia (72.4 per cent), Western Australia (71.1 per cent), Queensland (56.7 per cent) and Tasmania (40.2 per cent). In the Northern Territory, 47.6 per cent of the estimated resident population lived in the capital city.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION IN CAPITAL CITIES AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES (a) (^{'000})

	30 June 1976	30 June 1981	30 June 1984
Sydney	3,143.8	3,279.5	3,358.6
Melbourne	2,723.7	2,806.3	2,890.7
Brisbane	1,000.9	1,096.2	1,146.6
Adelaide.	924.1	952.7	979.6
Perth	832.8	922.0	983.4
Hobart	164.4	171.1	175.7
Darwin	44.2	56.5	66.1
Canberra (b)	226.5	246.5	264.4
Newcastle	380.0	402.7	419.1
Wollongong	222.3	231.4	235.9
Gold Coast (c)	110.9	162.7	198.3
Geelong	138.3	142.0	145.2
Townsville	90.5	96.3	100.5
Total	10,002.4	10,565.9	10,964.2
Percentage of total population	71.28	70.80	70.48

(a) Capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts of 100,000 persons or more. (b) Includes Queanbeyan. (c) Includes Tweed Heads.

While there has been population growth in all States, between 30 June 1971 and 30 June 1984, there has been substantially higher than average growth in the States of Queensland (35.4 per cent), Western Australia (31.3 per cent), and the two Territories—the Northern Territory (62.0 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (61.8 per cent). During this time the total Australian population increased by 19.0 per cent.

POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES (a)

('000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.(b)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
5 April 1891	1,127.1	1,140.1	393.7	315.5	49.8	146.7	4.9	..	3,177.8
31 March 1901	1,354.8	1,201.1	498.1	358.3	184.1	172.5	4.8	..	3,773.8
3 April 1911	1,646.7	1,315.6	605.8	408.6	282.1	191.2	3.3	1.7	4,455.0
4 April 1921	2,100.4	1,531.3	756.0	495.2	332.7	213.8	3.9	2.6	5,435.7
30 June 1933	2,600.8	1,820.3	947.5	580.9	438.9	227.6	4.9	8.9	6,629.8
30 June 1947	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
30 June 1954	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
30 June 1961	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
30 June 1966	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
30 June 1971	4,725.5	3,601.4	1,851.5	1,200.1	1,053.8	398.1	85.7	151.2	13,067.3
30 June—									
1975	4,932.0	3,787.4	2,051.4	1,265.3	1,154.9	410.1	(c)92.9	199.0	13,893.0
1976	4,959.6	3,810.4	2,092.4	1,274.1	1,178.3	412.3	98.2	207.7	14,033.1
1977	5,001.9	3,837.4	2,129.8	1,286.1	1,204.4	415.0	103.9	213.7	14,192.2
1978	5,053.8	3,863.8	2,172.0	1,296.2	1,227.9	417.6	110.0	218.0	14,359.3
1979	5,111.1	3,886.4	2,214.8	1,301.1	1,246.6	420.8	114.1	220.8	14,515.7
1980	5,171.5	3,914.3	2,265.9	1,308.4	1,269.1	423.6	118.2	224.3	14,695.4
1981	5,234.9	3,946.9	2,345.2	1,318.8	1,300.1	427.2	122.6	227.6	14,923.3
1982	5,307.9	3,994.1	2,419.6	1,328.7	1,336.9	429.8	129.4	231.9	15,178.4
1983	5,360.4	4,037.6	2,471.6	1,341.5	1,364.5	432.6	133.9	236.6	15,378.6
1984	5,412.0	4,078.5	2,507.0	1,353.9	1,383.7	437.4	138.8	244.6	15,555.9
Percentage of total population in 1984	34.79	26.22	16.12	8.70	8.90	2.81	0.99	1.57	100.00

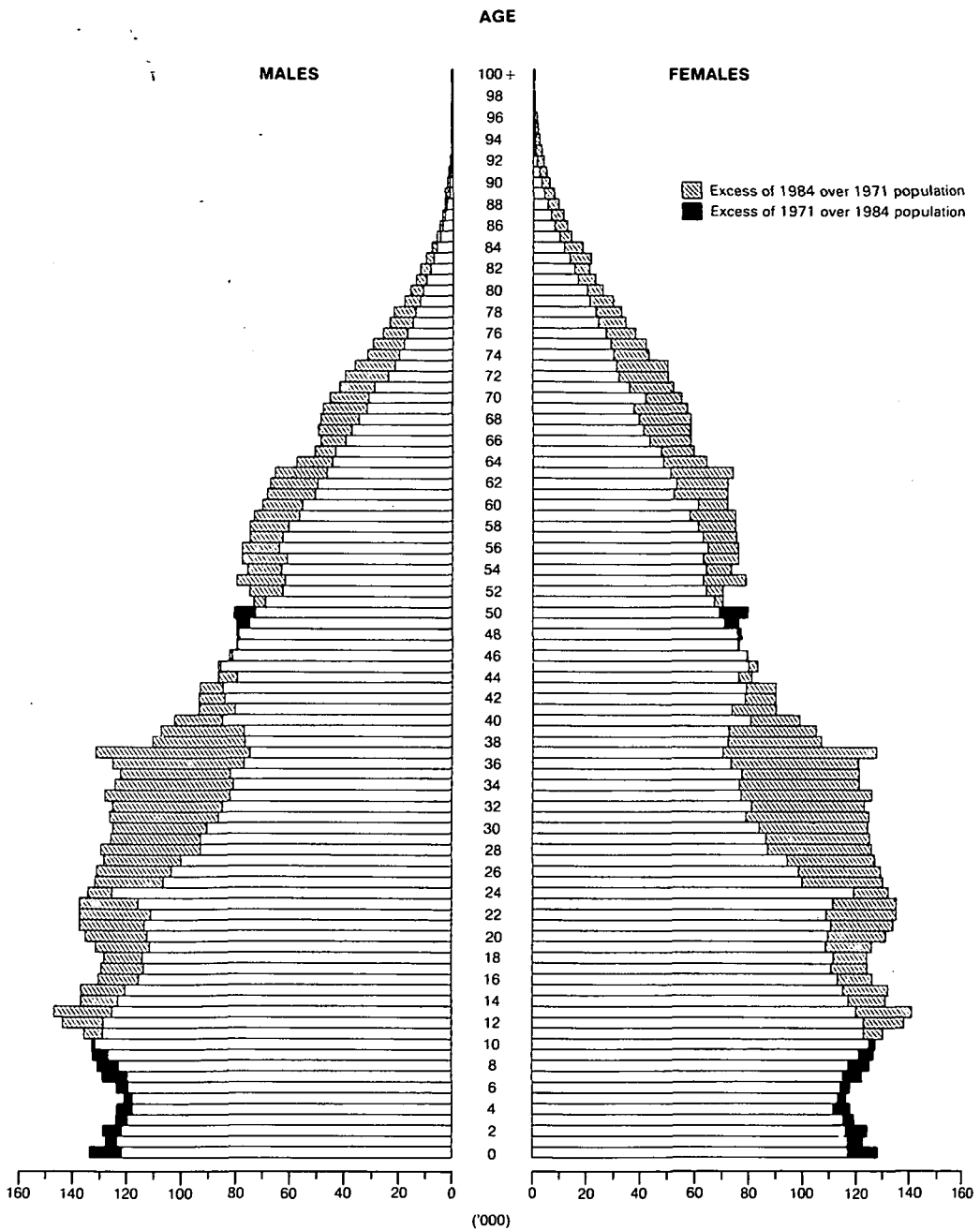
(a) Figures prior to 1961 exclude full-blood Aborigines. The estimates from June 1971 for each State and Territory are estimated resident populations. Intercensal estimates incorporate adjustment to make each intercensal total increase agree with the difference between the estimated resident populations at two consecutive census points. (b) Part of New South Wales before 1911. (c) Decrease due to the effect of cyclone 'Tracy' on the Darwin population.

Age distribution of the population

The age distribution of the population is shown in the form of an age-sex pyramid on the following page comparing the years 1971 and 1984. The low birth rates of the depression years of the 1930s, the prolonged "baby boom" from the end of World War II to the early 1960s, the declining birth rate of the 1970s and the recovery in the early 1980s in the birth rate are reflected in the profile.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE: 30 JUNE 1984
('000)

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
0-4	605.4	575.8	1,181.2
5-9	607.5	579.3	1,186.9
10-14	696.1	666.0	1,362.0
15-19	660.8	631.5	1,292.3
20-24	685.6	666.0	1,351.6
25-29	650.1	637.2	1,287.4
30-34	631.9	618.8	1,250.7
35-39	601.1	518.1	1,119.2
40-44	473.3	451.1	924.4
45-49	403.2	385.9	789.0
50-54	377.5	361.5	739.0
55-59	380.8	374.9	755.7
60-64	331.4	353.8	685.1
65-69	248.5	290.8	539.2
70+	408.0	620.1	1,028.1
All ages	7,761.2	7,794.7	15,555.9



ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA:
AGE LAST BIRTHDAY, BY SEX, 30 JUNE 1971 AND 1984

PLATE 15

With a median age at 30 June 1984 of 30.5 years, Australia's population is younger than that in much of Europe. This is due to the higher rate of natural increase and the comparatively high proportion of immigrants in the population whose age profile is relatively young. Since the beginning of the 1970s, however, the median age has been rising. Lower birthrates have resulted in a declining proportion of the population aged 0-14 and, combined with lower mortality rates at most ages, an increasing proportion aged 65 and over.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP: 1971 TO 1984

30 June	Number ('000)				Per cent				Median age (a) (years)
	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
MALES									
1971.	1,918.6	2,887.4	1,302.6	459.4	29.2	44.0	19.8	7.0	27.0
1976.	1,940.6	3,158.2	1,407.8	525.5	27.6	44.9	20.0	7.5	27.9
1981.	1,904.6	3,496.6	1,434.9	612.2	25.6	46.9	19.3	8.2	29.0
1982.	1,914.9	3,581.6	1,450.6	629.2	25.3	47.3	19.1	8.3	29.2
1983.	1,918.3	3,645.1	1,469.7	642.2	25.0	47.5	19.1	8.4	29.5
1984.	1,909.0	3,702.9	1,492.9	656.4	24.6	47.7	19.2	8.5	29.8
FEMALES									
1971.	1,828.7	2,734.2	1,305.5	631.0	28.1	42.1	20.1	9.7	28.1
1976.	1,846.5	3,027.2	1,400.0	727.4	26.4	43.2	20.0	10.4	29.0
1981.	1,821.0	3,382.1	1,429.1	842.8	24.4	45.2	19.1	11.3	30.2
1982.	1,829.4	3,463.9	1,441.5	867.3	24.1	45.6	19.0	11.4	30.5
1983.	1,830.5	3,527.5	1,456.6	888.7	23.8	45.8	18.9	11.5	30.8
1984.	1,821.1	3,586.7	1,476.0	910.9	23.2	46.0	18.9	11.7	31.1
PERSONS									
1971.	3,747.3	5,621.6	2,608.1	1,090.4	28.7	43.0	20.0	8.3	27.5
1976.	3,787.1	6,185.4	2,807.8	1,252.8	27.0	44.1	20.0	8.9	28.4
1981.	3,725.5	6,878.7	2,864.0	1,455.0	25.0	46.1	19.2	9.7	29.6
1982.	3,744.3	7,045.5	2,892.1	1,496.5	24.7	46.4	19.1	9.9	29.9
1983.	3,748.7	7,172.6	2,926.3	1,531.0	24.4	46.6	19.0	10.0	30.2
1984.	3,730.1	7,289.6	2,968.9	1,567.4	24.0	46.8	19.1	10.1	30.5

(a) The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger. Medians shown here are calculated from single age data.

The labour force age group and dependency ratios

The proportion of the population in the labour force age group (usually defined as the population aged 15-64) increased between 1971 and 1984 from 63.0 to 65.9 per cent of the population. The increase occurred wholly in the 15-44 year age group, offset by a marginal decline in the proportion aged 45-64.

As a consequence of changes in the age distribution, the old age-dependency ratio (population aged 65 and over per 100 population of working ages 15-64) has increased from 13.2 in 1971 to 15.3 in 1984, while the child-dependency ratio (population aged 0-14 per 100 population of working ages) has declined sharply from 45.5 to 36.4 during the same period. The combined effect is that the total dependency ratio has declined from 58.8 in 1971 to 51.6 in 1984.

DEPENDENCY RATIOS (a): SELECTED YEARS 1971-84

	1971	1976	1981	1982	1983	1984
0-14 years	45.53	42.11	38.24	37.68	37.12	36.36
65 years and over.	13.25	13.93	14.93	15.06	15.16	15.28
Total	58.78	56.04	53.17	52.74	52.28	51.64

(a) A dependency ratio is the ratio of the dependent population (aged 0-14 and 65 and over) per 100 population of working ages (15-64 years).

Marital status

At the 1981 Census the numbers of men and women aged 15 and over were nearly equal, but there were more single men than single women and there were more widows than widowers. The first phenomenon is attributable to women generally marrying about 2 years younger than men, and the second to their greater longevity. In 1981, 31.4 per cent of the male population aged 15 and over was single, 62.7 per cent married (including those who

were married but recorded as permanently separated), 2.5 per cent widowed and 3.4 per cent divorced. For females the figures were 23.2 per cent single, 61.7 per cent married (including married but permanently separated), 11.0 per cent widowed and 4.1 per cent divorced.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION(a) 1971 TO 1981
(Per cent distribution)

Census	Never married		Married (incl. permanently separated)	Widowed	Divorced	Total
	Under 15	15 and over				
MALES						
1971	29.2	21.0	46.7	2.0	1.0	100.0
1976	27.6	21.5	47.5	1.9	1.5	100.0
1981	25.6	23.4	46.7	1.9	2.5	100.0
FEMALES						
1971	28.1	15.0	47.5	8.2	1.1	100.0
1976	26.4	15.6	47.9	8.2	1.8	100.0
1981	24.4	17.5	46.7	8.3	3.1	100.0

(a) Census count, not adjusted for underenumeration.

Sex ratios

The sex ratio of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio varies by age: it is about 105.5 at birth, but higher male mortality gradually erodes the difference so that the numbers of males and females would tend to be about the same soon after age 50 in the absence of migration, and the sex ratio progressively declines thereafter with increasing ages. The overall sex ratio of the population has been declining to such an extent that it fell below 100 in 1979, the first time since World War I. In 1984 it was 99.6.

SEX RATIOS IN EACH AGE GROUP(a)
(Males per hundred females)

<i>30 June</i>	<i>Age in years</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	
1971	104.9	105.6	99.8	72.8	101.1
1976	105.1	104.3	100.6	72.2	100.4
1981	104.6	103.4	100.4	72.6	99.6
1982	104.7	103.4	100.6	72.6	99.7
1983	104.8	103.3	100.9	72.3	99.6
1984	104.8	103.2	101.1	72.1	99.6

(a) Estimated resident populations.

Birthplace of the population

The composition of the population has been changing gradually in post-war decades due to changes in both the numbers and the origins of immigrant flows.

The proportion of the population born overseas increased from 9.8 per cent at the 1947 Census to 21.1 per cent at 30 June 1984. The most common birthplace of overseas-born persons has always been the United Kingdom and Ireland, which in 1984 accounted for 7.7 per cent of the population. As a proportion of the overseas-born, however, it has declined from 72.7 per cent in 1947 to 36.9 per cent in 1984.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE, 1981 TO 1984
(^{'000})

	30 June			
	1981	1982	1983	1984
Australia	11,812.3	11,970.1	12,119.2	12,271.4
Africa	94.4	99.5	103.4	106.2
America	95.6	100.7	104.8	108.2
Asia (a)—				
India	43.7	45.0	46.3	47.4
Lebanon	52.7	53.9	54.6	56.3
Malaysia	32.5	36.4	40.5	43.7
Vietnam	43.4	54.5	63.1	72.5
Other	213.2	230.8	246.0	261.6
Total Asia	385.6	420.5	450.5	481.4
Europe—				
Germany (c)	115.2	117.8	120.8	121.1
Greece	153.2	154.3	154.1	154.1
Italy	285.3	284.9	283.2	281.5
Malta	59.9	60.5	60.3	60.2
Netherlands	100.5	102.5	103.3	102.7
Poland	62.1	66.9	69.8	70.1
UK and Ireland	1,175.7	1,199.1	1,203.2	1,192.8
USSR	53.3	52.7	51.8	50.9
Yugoslavia	156.1	157.3	157.6	158.0
Other	160.3	165.9	170.3	171.8
Total Europe	2,321.6	2,361.8	2,374.4	2,363.1
Oceania (b)—				
New Zealand	175.7	185.8	185.0	183.4
Other	38.0	40.1	41.2	42.2
Total Oceania	213.7	225.8	226.2	225.6
Total	14,923.3	15,178.4	15,378.6	15,555.9

(a) Including countries which are frequently regarded as Middle East countries. This inclusion is based on United Nations classification of world regions. (b) Excluding Australian-born. (c) Includes German Federal Republic and German Democratic Republic.

AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

(Per cent)

30 June	Overseas born			Total
	Australian born	U.K. and Ireland	Other	
1947(a)	90.2	7.1	2.7	100.0
1954(a)	85.7	7.4	6.9	100.0
1961(a)	83.1	7.2	9.7	100.0
1966(a)	81.6	7.8	10.5	100.0
1971(a)	79.8	8.5	11.7	100.0
1976(a)	79.9	8.2	11.8	100.0
1981(b)	79.2	7.9	12.9	100.0
1982(b)	78.9	7.9	13.2	100.0
1983(b)	78.8	7.8	13.4	100.0
1984(b)	78.9	7.7	13.4	100.0

(a) Census counts, not adjusted for underenumeration. (b) Estimated resident population.

The Aboriginal population

A brief account was given of the Australian Aboriginal population, its origin and its numbers as estimated from time to time in Year Book No. 17, pages 951-61. A special article by A. R. Radcliffe Brown dealing with the estimated number and distribution of the Aboriginal population at the date of the first settlement of European people on the continent appeared in Year Book No. 23, pages 687-96. For a more recent comprehensive analysis, see "The Aboriginal Population of Australia" by L. R. Smith, ANU Press, Canberra 1980.

The task of collecting data on the Aboriginal population is difficult, raising problems of coverage, definition and reporting. For this reason, statistics, even of the total Aboriginal population, should be treated with caution. This applies particularly to comparison of the changes in numbers from one census to another which can be affected by social attitudes and

by changes made in the nature of the question in an attempt to improve coverage and reporting. Analysis of results of 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses indicated that in addition to possible higher than average undercoverage of Aboriginals in the censuses, errors in reporting Aboriginal origin also contributed to discrepancies in census counts of Aboriginals. For example, there is evidence of some overstatement of the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in the 1976 census. These issues are discussed in more detail in an ABS occasional paper, *An evaluation of census counts of the Aboriginal population, 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses* (No. 1985/2).

COUNTS OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (TSI) 30 JUNE 1971, 1976, 1981

State	1971(a) number			1976(b) number			1981(c) number		
	Aboriginal	TSI	Total	Aboriginal	TSI	Total	Aboriginal	TSI	Total
New South Wales	23,101	772	23,873	37,688	2,763	40,451	33,414	1,953	35,367
Victoria	5,656	715	6,371	12,415	2,345	14,760	5,283	774	6,057
Queensland	24,414	7,508	31,922	31,948	9,396	41,344	33,966	10,732	44,698
South Australia	7,140	159	7,299	9,940	774	10,714	9,476	349	9,825
Western Australia	21,903	278	22,181	25,565	560	26,125	30,749	602	31,351
Tasmania	575	96	671	2,522	421	2,943	2,334	354	2,688
Northern Territory	23,253	128	23,381	23,535	215	23,750	28,680	408	29,088
Australian Capital Territory	248	7	255	769	59	828	763	60	823
Australia	106,290	9,663	115,953	144,382	16,533	160,915	144,665	15,232	159,897

(a) 1971 figures include a pro-rating of non-response. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to sampling error. (c) Changed editing procedures adopted for 1981 Census results; see (2153.0) for details.

Internal migration

The five-yearly censuses and annual internal migration surveys (conducted in conjunction with the labour force survey) are the principal sources of internal migration data. Estimates of interstate migration are also made from address changes notified to the Department of Social Security. For reasons of timing, methodology, coverage (the surveys for example do not direct questions to children under 15; children are assumed to have the same mobility characteristics as their parents or guardians) and other constraints, these three data series are not comparable.

Internal migration surveys

Internal migration surveys have been conducted at approximately annual intervals since 1970. The most recent was for the twelve months ended 30 June 1984. In these surveys, the place of usual residence of respondents is compared with that twelve months ago. If they differ, the respondent is classified as a mover. Estimates are made of the numbers and characteristics of movers and non-movers. Movers are further classified by place of origin and place of destination. (Because the estimates are based on information from occupants of a small sample of dwellings, the imprecision due to sampling variability should be kept in mind. Standard errors of estimates are published in the detailed publications providing the survey results).

Recent internal migration surveys show that about 16 per cent of all persons change their residence within a twelve-month period. Of those who change their residence, about 52 per cent remain within the same capital city and together with another 39 per cent, within the same State or Territory; slightly over 9 per cent are interstate movements.

While the pattern of migration has varied over the years, the age and sex composition of those who changed residence has been rather consistent: the sex ratio remains around 100 to 102 males per 100 females and mobility is highest in the 20-29 year age group (36 per cent of persons aged 20-24 and 31 per cent of persons aged 25-29 moved in the twelve-month period ended 30 June 1984).

INTERNAL MIGRATION (a)

	Year ended—				
	30 June 1980	31 May 1981	30 June 1982	30 June 1983	30 June 1984 (b)
	('000)				
Changed usual residence—					
Intrastate—					
Within the same metropolitan area (c) . . .	1,180.6	1,205.4	1,111.3	1,198.0	1,326.1
To and from metropolitan areas (c) . . .	238.0	217.4	228.0	202.0	227.4
Within the same non-metropolitan area . . .	708.4	732.0	722.6	674.4	780.3
Total, intrastate	2,127.0	2,154.7	2,061.8	2,074.4	2,333.8
Interstate	250.2	266.0	287.1	219.2	214.3
Total	2,377.3	2,420.7	2,348.9	2,293.9	2,548.2
Did not change usual residence	11,817.3	11,974.0	12,262.0	12,618.2	12,584.1
Total	14,194.6	14,394.7	14,610.9	14,912.0	15,132.3
	Movers per thousand of population				
Mobility rate	167	168	161	154	168

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians who were resident in Australia at the beginning and end of the survey year. (b) Excludes persons resident in Australia but with no usual residence at the beginning and/or end of the survey year. (c) Metropolitan areas exclude Canberra and Darwin prior to 1983.

As well as enumerating persons who changed usual residence the 1984 internal migration survey collected data on the reasons for moving and other aspects of population mobility.

Reasons for moving. The predominant reason for moving given by persons aged 15 and over, particularly for intrastate movers, was housing. Of all intrastate movers 63 per cent gave housing as the main reason. The next most quoted reason—employment—accounted for only 16 per cent of intrastate moves. On the other hand employment emerged as the main reason for interstate moves. It accounted for 53 per cent of interstate moves, whilst housing only accounted for 10 per cent.

Persons away from their usual residence

The 1982 and 1983 surveys of internal migration gathered statistics on temporary stays away from the usual residence. A brief summary is given in Year Book No. 69, page 83.

Duration at current usual residence. Although the duration of stay at a person's place of usual residence is age-selective and, for the overseas-born, dependent on year of arrival in Australia, it can be used as a good indicator of internal migration over the long term. At 30 June 1984, 74 per cent of persons aged 15 and over had lived at their current usual residence for less than 15 years—that is they had moved at least once during the past 15 years. In the Northern Territory the figure was 95 per cent—higher than any other State or Territory. In the Australian Capital Territory it was 83 per cent, and in Western Australia, 81 per cent. Looking at the shorter term, 45 per cent of persons aged 15 and over had lived at their current usual residence for less than 5 years. The corresponding figure for the Northern Territory was 68 per cent, for Queensland 52 per cent and for Western Australia 50 per cent. The least mobile populations, both in the longer and shorter term, were in Tasmania and South Australia.

DURATION OF STAY AT USUAL RESIDENCE OF 30 JUNE 1984 (Persons aged 15 and over) (a) (‘000)

Duration of stay at usual residence of 30 June 1984	State of usual residence at 30 June 1984—							
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
1-12 weeks (b)	161.8	115.2	105.1	39.1	60.5	12.8	9.3	9.2
13-25 weeks (b)	167.4	122.4	94.1	42.5	57.3	10.1	6.8	9.9
26-38 weeks (b)	190.2	156.6	122.7	49.4	63.8	17.2	7.5	10.1
39-51 weeks (b)	100.6	84.2	59.9	27.9	32.5	8.3	3.6	5.1
Total less than 1 year (b)	620.0	478.4	381.8	159.0	214.1	48.3	27.2	34.3
1-4 years	1,107.4	800.9	558.8	255.6	285.2	84.1	33.0	49.8
5-9 years	706.3	560.8	285.3	165.1	192.9	58.0	18.9	35.1
10-14 years	475.5	391.9	195.5	129.0	118.6	41.1	5.6	20.2
15-19 years	420.2	306.5	144.5	112.0	71.4	34.7	2.3	15.0
20-24 years	273.3	201.7	89.9	84.8	42.7	20.9	1.5	7.4
25 years or more	433.8	316.9	165.2	120.6	73.3	34.6	*	6.4
Total	4,036.4	3,057.1	1,821.0	1,025.9	998.1	321.8	88.9	168.3

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians with usual residence in Australia at 30 June 1983 and 30 June 1984. (b) Excludes 124,000 persons with a usual residence at 30 June 1984, but with no usual residence in Australia at 30 June 1983.

Asterisk (*) denotes figure subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

Interstate migration

The most reliable data on internal and interstate migration are provided by the five-yearly censuses. The 1971 Census was the first census which set out to measure internal migration by asking respondents where they usually lived and where they had lived 5 years before. An analysis of the data is given in the Census Monograph *Internal Migration in Australia*. In the 1976 and 1981 Censuses, respondents were asked where they had lived one year, as well as 5 years, before. A summary of the 1976 results is given in Year Book No. 65 and the 1981 results in Year Book No. 67. A comparison of data from the 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses is presented in *Interstate Migration, Australia, Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1981* (3411.0).

VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e. births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these occurrences is available for each year since the 1860s and more detailed information since the 1910s. The number of divorces has been published since 1891, but other details have been published on a consistent basis only since the 1950s.

Crude rates are the number of vital events per thousand of the mean population of a particular year. *Natural increase* is the excess of births over deaths. In 1984, births numbered 234,034, deaths 109,914 and the natural increase was 124,120. The rate of natural increase for 1984 was 7.9 per thousand of the mean resident population made up of a crude birth rate of 15.0 and a crude death rate of 7.1. The 1984 figures for deaths and natural increase are preliminary.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE

Period	Number			Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population		
	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
Annual averages—						
1961-65	232,952	95,465	137,487	21.3	8.7	12.6
1966-70	240,325	107,263	133,062	20.0	8.9	11.1
1971-75	253,438	111,217	142,221	18.8	8.3	10.6
1976-80	225,388	109,028	116,360	15.7	7.6	8.1
Annual totals—						
1979	223,129	106,568	116,561	15.4	7.3	8.0
1980	225,527	108,695	116,832	15.3	7.4	8.0
1981	235,842	109,003	126,839	15.8	7.3	8.5
1982	239,903	114,771	125,132	15.8	7.6	8.2
1983	242,570	110,084	132,486	15.8	7.2	8.6
1984(a)	234,034	109,914	124,120	15.0	7.1	7.9

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

There were 108,655 marriages registered in 1984 and the crude marriage rate fell to 7.0 (late registrations in N.S.W. have affected these figures). Divorces numbered 43,012 and the crude divorce rate remained level at 2.8.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Period	Number		Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population	
	Marriages	Divorces	Marriage	Divorce
Annual averages—				
1961-65	83,250	7,568	7.6	0.7
1966-70	106,188	10,681	8.8	0.9
1971-75	111,803	17,348	8.3	1.3
1976-80	106,297	45,220	7.4	3.2
Annual totals—				
1979	104,396	37,854	7.2	2.6
1980	109,240	39,258	7.4	2.7
1981	113,905	41,412	7.6	2.8
1982	117,275	44,088	7.7	2.9
1983	114,860	43,525	7.5	2.8
1984	(a) 108,655	43,012	(a) 7.0	2.8

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

Births and fertility

Special interest attaches to fertility as an element of population change. Fertility has had considerable impact on the population structure. In 1971, there was a record 276,362 births registered but the number of births declined progressively in each year until 1980, when a slight reversal of the trend occurred. This continued to 1983 when 242,570 births were registered, representing a 1.1 per cent increase from 1982, which followed a 1.7 per cent increase over 1981 and a 4.6 per cent increase of 1981 births over 1980. In 1984, 234,034 births were registered, however an estimated 4,438 births were not registered in N.S.W. The adjusted figure of 238,472 constitutes a decrease of 1.7 per cent over 1983 births.

Live births

Extensive statistics of live births are available since the 1910s. These include information about sex of children, the incidence of multiple births, marital status of the parents, the number of previous issue to the mother's existing marriage, the duration of marriage, the age of parents and their country of birth.

With rare exceptions, statistics indicate an excess of male over female births. In 1984, there were 119,816 male births and 114,218 female births, a sex ratio of 104.9.

The proportion of children born to parents not married to each other at the time of birth (i.e. ex-nuptial) has been increasing. In 1961-65, 5.9 per cent of births were ex-nuptial. There were 34,629 ex-nuptial births registered in 1984, 14.8 per cent of the total.

LIVE BIRTHS: SEX AND NUPTIALITY

Period	Live births				Ex-nuptial live births		
	Males	Females	Persons	Sex ratio	Persons	Sex ratio	Percentage of total
Annual averages—							
1961-65	119,777	113,175	232,952	105.8	13,798	106.9	5.9
1966-70	123,326	116,999	240,325	105.4	18,937	105.1	7.9
1971-75	130,047	123,389	253,436	105.4	24,516	106.7	9.7
1976-80	115,783	109,605	225,388	105.6	25,062	106.3	11.1
Annual totals—							
1979	114,613	108,516	223,129	105.6	26,110	103.9	11.7
1980	115,948	109,579	225,527	105.8	28,076	106.8	12.4
1981	121,170	114,672	235,842	105.7	31,200	107.5	13.2
1982	123,254	116,649	239,903	105.7	32,958	105.9	13.7
1983	124,558	118,012	242,570	105.5	35,646	106.2	14.7
1984(a)	119,816	114,218	234,034	104.9	34,629	104.8	14.8

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

About 1 per cent of confinements result in twin births and about one in 10,000 in triplets. Quadruplets occur about once in 250,000 confinements. The likelihood of multiple confinement is about 0.9 per cent for the first nuptial confinement, rising to about 1 per cent at the second confinement and to as much as 1.5 per cent at the fourth and subsequent confinements. The incidence of multiple births also rises with age of mother.

Since the 1950s, there has been a decline in the proportion, and since 1971 in the number, of women having three or more children to their marriage. During the 1950s and early 1960s the median age of mother at first nuptial birth declined, but in recent years it has risen. In 1984, median age at first birth was 26.0 years.

NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: BIRTH ORDER

	Birth order							Total	Total	Total
Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over	nuptial (a)	ex-nuptial	confinements
NUMBER OF CONFINEMENTS										
Annual averages—										
1961-65	69,281	57,971	40,818	23,612	12,125	6,160	6,862	216,829	13,655	230,483
1966-70	80,999	62,930	37,446	18,899	8,961	4,489	5,213	218,937	18,707	237,644
1971-75	88,120	74,641	36,914	15,216	6,006	2,805	2,959	226,674	24,299	250,973
1976-80	77,877	69,291	34,288	11,119	3,332	1,278	1,173	198,373	24,851	223,224
Annual totals—										
1979	77,032	67,250	34,387	11,100	3,124	1,140	1,050	195,084	25,884	220,968
1980	78,680	66,247	34,167	11,084	3,207	1,179	884	195,492	27,826	223,318
1981	82,476	67,627	35,445	11,750	3,282	1,113	880	202,579	30,956	233,535
1982	83,300	69,963	34,670	11,631	3,193	1,162	854	204,775	32,679	237,454
1983	83,466	70,427	34,081	11,343	3,108	1,059	819	204,779	35,335	240,114
1984(b)	79,295	69,312	33,027	10,802	3,013	1,064	761	197,306	34,337	231,643

For footnotes see end of table.

NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: BIRTH ORDER (continued)

	Birth order							Total nuptial (a)	Total ex- nuptial	Total confinement
Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over			
MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER										
Annual averages—										
1961-65	23.1	25.7	28.3	30.6	32.5	33.9	35.0	26.5	22.5	26.4
1966-70	23.1	25.6	28.2	30.5	32.5	34.1	35.4	25.9	21.4	25.7
1971-75	23.6	26.0	28.2	30.6	32.5	34.1	36.8	25.9	21.1	25.6
1976-80	24.8	26.6	28.8	30.6	32.5	34.2	37.3	26.6	21.6	26.3
Annual totals—										
1979	25.1	26.8	28.9	30.7	32.4	34.2	36.8	26.9	21.6	26.5
1980	25.2	27.0	29.1	30.9	32.7	34.1	37.2	27.0	21.9	26.6
1981	25.3	27.2	29.2	30.9	32.6	34.4	36.9	27.1	22.1	26.7
1982	25.5	27.4	29.4	31.1	32.9	34.5	36.8	27.3	22.2	26.8
1983	25.7	27.5	29.4	32.1	32.8	34.3	36.6	27.4	22.5	26.9
1984(b)	26.0	27.6	29.6	31.1	32.9	34.5	36.9	27.6	22.8	27.1

(a) Includes those for whom birth order was not stated.

(b) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

Fertility

The *general fertility rate*, which is the number of births to women of any age per thousand females aged 15-44, is the simplest measure of fertility. The rates have been calculated for the three years' births around each census from 1881 and provide a consistent series for nuptial and ex-nuptial fertility as well as for total fertility.

The rates show a substantial decline in fertility over the total period with a low point in 1932-34 and a minor recovery, peaking in 1960-62. By 1980-82, however, the rates had again declined, this time to the lowest level recorded during the past 100 years. The 1980-82 general rate of 69 births per thousand females aged 15-44 was only 41 per cent of the rate in 1880-82.

FERTILITY RATES: AUSTRALIA

Period	Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44			Index numbers (Base year 1900-02 = 100)		
	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women aged 15-44	Total births per 1,000 women aged 15-44	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women aged 15-44	Total births per 1,000 women aged 15-44
1880-82	170	321	14	145	137	108
1890-92	159	332	16	136	141	123
1900-02	117	235	13	100	100	100
1910-12	117	236	13	100	100	100
1920-22	107	197	11	91	84	85
1932-34	71	131	7	61	56	54
1946-48	104	160	11	89	68	85
1953-55	109	149	14	93	63	108
1960-62	112	154	18	96	66	138
1965-67	95	132	21	81	56	162
1970-72(a)	97	131	28	83	56	215
1975-77(a)	76	104	22	65	44	169
1980-82(a)	69	99	23	59	42	177

(a) Rates expressed per 1,000 estimated resident women aged 15-44.

Age-specific birth rates provide a measure of changing patterns of fertility within the fertile ages. The sum of these rates is the *total fertility rate*. The total fertility rate represents the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

The total fertility rate was declining until 1980 but rose again in 1981, remained stable in 1982 and 1983, and has fallen again in 1984.

The continuing downward trend in the fertility of females aged 15-24 is currently being offset by increases for those aged 25-34.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility (b)
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1961-65	46.5	204.0	207.2	122.4	59.2	18.7	1.2	3.289
1966-70	49.4	172.6	187.5	103.0	46.8	13.9	1.0	2.866
1971-75	48.0	154.0	166.9	85.0	33.7	9.1	0.6	2.484
1976-80	30.7	116.4	143.9	73.8	23.8	5.1	0.3	1.968
1977	32.1	122.0	145.7	74.1	23.9	5.0	0.3	2.016
1978	29.9	115.8	144.0	73.4	23.5	4.5	0.2	1.957
1979	28.5	109.2	142.5	73.9	23.6	4.6	0.3	1.913
1980	27.6	107.0	141.0	75.1	23.7	4.4	0.3	1.895
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.938
1982	27.4	104.0	145.0	80.6	25.6	4.5	0.3	1.937
1983	26.5	102.7	146.1	81.5	25.0	4.3	0.2	1.932
1984(c)	23.2	94.2	140.8	81.4	24.9	4.3	0.3	1.846

(a) Number of births per 1,000 women in each age group. Excludes particulars of full-blooded Aborigines before 1966. Rates from 1971 have been revised using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census. (b) The sum of the age-specific rates multiplied by 5 and divided by 1,000. This is the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown. (c) The rates for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

The *gross reproduction rate* is derived from total fertility and the ratio of female to total births. It indicates the number of female children who would be born on average to women supposing the rates from which it was calculated were to apply throughout the reproductive period. It is an indication of the extent to which the population is reproducing itself except that it does not allow for females who fail to survive to the end of the childbearing period. The *net reproduction rate* allows for such mortality. It is obtained by multiplying the age-specific rates by the survivor proportions in the corresponding age group of the stationary or life table population. A net reproduction rate of 1.0 represents the level of fertility required for the replacement of the population in the long term. Mortality in childhood and young adulthood is now so low that there is little difference between current gross and net reproduction rates.

GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES

Period	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate	Life tables used
1961(a)	1.728	1.672	1960-62
1966	1.401	1.357	1965-67
1971	1.403	1.362	1970-72
1976	1.004	0.981	1975-77
1981	0.942	0.925	1980-82
1982	0.942	0.925	1982
1983	0.940	0.923	1983
1984(b)	0.901	0.885	1983

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines. (b) The rates for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

Mortality

The number of deaths per year is in excess of 100,000. The increase from previous decades arises from the overall growth of the population, and from the advanced age of an increasing proportion of the population. The crude death rate, which fell from over 12 per 1,000 at the beginning of the century to 7.6 per 1,000 in 1982, can be expected to rise slowly as a result of further ageing of the population, unless there is a more than off-setting drop in age-specific death rates.

General mortality

Between 1953-55 and 1960-62 mortality declined in every age group. Between 1960-62 and 1970-72 there were further declines in most age groups, particularly among infants. However, increases in mortality were recorded for males aged 15-24. Since 1970-72, there have been further decreases in mortality at most ages.

Mortality is greater for males than for females at every age. It is relatively high in the first year of life (10.3 per 1,000 males and 7.7 per 1,000 females in 1984), very low in childhood and young adulthood, and then rises in middle and old age.

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES^(a)

Age group (years)	1956-60 (b)	1961-65 (b)	1966-70 (b)	1971-75 (b)	1976-80 (b)	1981	1982	1983	1984 (c)
MALES									
Under 1	24.0	22.0	21.0	18.4	13.6	11.5	11.8	10.5	10.3
1-4	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
5-9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
10-14	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
15-19	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0
20-24	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
25-29	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.1
30-34	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3
35-39	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4
40-44	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.4
45-49	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.2	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.7
50-54	10.0	10.3	10.4	9.6	8.6	7.9	7.5	7.2	6.6
55-59	16.9	16.8	17.2	15.9	13.8	12.9	12.7	12.3	11.6
60-64	26.6	27.4	27.8	25.5	22.2	19.8	20.0	19.0	18.6
65-69	42.0	42.2	44.3	39.3	35.3	32.3	33.1	30.7	29.3
70-74	63.5	64.7	67.0	61.2	54.2	52.0	52.0	47.9	47.6
75-79	97.5	97.2	102.7	95.3	84.7	80.2	82.8	77.3	74.1
80-84	145.0	145.0	149.2	141.2	127.9	121.1	124.8	116.9	114.0
85 and over	251.2	243.7	245.9	231.7	210.7	208.1	217.1	204.0	200.1
FEMALES									
Under 1	19.1	17.2	16.0	14.0	10.7	8.8	9.2	8.8	7.7
1-4	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
5-9	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
10-14	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15-19	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
20-24	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
25-29	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
30-34	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
35-39	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9
40-44	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4
45-49	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.2
50-54	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.2	4.5	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.8
55-59	8.7	8.3	8.7	8.0	6.8	6.2	6.3	6.1	5.6
60-64	13.8	13.6	13.6	12.2	10.8	9.7	10.1	9.6	9.3
65-69	23.0	21.7	22.1	19.4	16.9	15.7	16.0	15.0	14.9
70-74	38.8	37.4	37.3	33.1	27.9	25.5	25.7	25.2	24.7
75-79	63.9	63.3	63.6	57.3	48.4	44.3	45.3	42.6	40.5
80-84	113.5	107.5	105.9	97.4	84.0	76.0	79.7	74.3	74.9
85 and over	215.6	205.1	201.0	187.9	168.4	160.4	171.2	156.0	155.4

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population of the same age group and sex. (b) Average annual rate per 1,000 of population.
(c) The rates for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

AGE AT DEATH, 1984(a)

Age at death (years)	Number			Per cent		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Under 1	1,259	904	2,163	2.1	1.8	2.0
1-4	275	181	456	0.5	0.4	0.4
5-9	133	104	237	0.2	0.2	0.2
10-14	223	118	341	0.4	0.2	0.3
15-19	629	251	880	1.0	0.5	0.8
20-24	1,003	315	1,318	1.7	0.6	1.2
25-29	736	306	1,042	1.2	0.6	1.0
30-34	809	337	1,146	1.4	0.7	1.0
35-39	827	504	1,331	1.4	1.0	1.2
40-44	1,119	617	1,736	1.9	1.2	1.6
45-49	1,488	847	2,335	2.5	1.7	2.1
50-54	2,497	1,360	3,857	4.2	2.7	3.5
55-59	4,412	2,092	6,504	7.4	4.2	5.9
60-64	6,150	3,290	9,440	10.2	6.6	8.6
65-69	7,290	4,336	11,626	12.2	8.7	10.6
70-74	9,418	6,210	15,628	15.7	12.4	14.2
75-79	8,915	7,183	16,098	14.9	14.4	14.6
80-84	6,878	8,268	15,146	11.5	16.6	13.8
85-89	3,735	6,876	10,611	6.2	13.8	9.6
90-94	1,702	4,247	5,949	2.8	8.5	5.4
95-99	432	1,371	1,803	0.7	2.8	1.6
100 and over	43	204	247	0.1	0.4	0.2
Not stated	14	6	20	—	—	—
Total	59,987	49,927	109,914	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

Life expectancy

The life table is a life history of a hypothetical group, or cohort, of people, as it is diminished gradually by deaths. They form the basis for the *stationary population* which is the population that would result from a constant number of births each year which had been subject at each age to the life table mortality rates.

Since 1921, official life tables have been calculated from the separate male and female populations as enumerated at the census, and the deaths of the three years around the census. Earlier life tables were compiled for decennial periods 1881-90, 1891-1900 and 1901-10. Life tables have also been prepared in recent years using annual age estimates and the deaths of a particular year.

A key value in life tables is the expectation of life remaining at each age. Expectation of life, particularly at birth, improved at every age in the first half of this century. Between 1953-55 and 1970-72 there was little change in expectation of life. However, since 1970-72 there have been significant improvements, particularly in expectation of life at birth which has increased between 1970-72 and 1984 from 68.1 years to 72.6 for males and from 74.8 years to 79.1 for females.

COMPLETE EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT SELECTED AGES

Period	Expectation of life (a) at									
	Birth		1 year of age		20 years of age		40 years of age		60 years of age	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1901-10 (b)(c)	55.2	58.8	60.0	62.9	44.7	47.5	28.6	31.5	14.4	16.2
1920-22 (b)(c)	59.2	63.3	62.7	66.0	47.0	50.0	30.1	33.1	15.1	17.2
1932-34 (b)(c)	63.5	67.1	65.5	68.7	48.8	51.7	31.1	34.0	15.6	17.7
1946-48 (b)(c)	66.1	70.6	67.3	71.5	49.6	53.5	31.2	34.9	15.4	18.1
1953-55 (b)(c)	67.1	72.8	67.9	73.5	50.1	55.1	31.7	36.0	15.5	18.8
1960-62 (b)(c)	67.9	74.2	68.5	74.5	50.4	56.2	31.8	37.0	15.6	19.5
1965-67 (c)	67.6	74.2	68.1	74.4	50.0	56.0	31.4	36.9	15.3	19.5
1970-72 (c)	68.1	74.8	68.5	74.9	50.4	56.5	31.8	37.3	15.5	19.9
1975-77 (c)	69.6	76.6	69.6	76.5	51.5	58.0	32.8	38.7	16.4	21.0
1980-82 (c)	71.2	78.3	71.1	78.0	52.8	59.4	34.1	40.0	17.2	22.0
1983 (d)	72.1	78.7	71.8	78.4	53.5	59.8	34.7	40.3	17.7	22.3
1984 (d)	72.6	79.1	72.4	78.7	54.0	60.1	35.1	40.7	17.9	22.5

(a) The average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1965-67. (c) Based on Official Life Tables calculated by the Australian Government Actuary. (d) Based on annual life tables calculated by the Australian Statistician. These tables are based on estimated resident populations.

Marriages

Marriages in Australia are solemnised under Federal legislation, namely the *Marriage Act 1961* as amended. The original Act, which superseded State Acts, came into part operation on 6 May 1961. The first regulations and major provisions under the Act commenced on 1 September 1963.

Under the Act, marriages may be celebrated by Ministers of Religion registered as Authorised Celebrants, Registrars or other persons whose function is the registration of marriages, and other authorised civil and religious celebrants.

One month's written notice of intended marriage must be given to the Celebrant, though this may be shortened in special circumstances. Celebrants issue marriage certificates to the parties and transmit copies of the certificates to Registrars in the States or Territories in which the marriages took place.

The marriageable age under the Act is 18 for males and 16 for females. After inquiry, a Judge or Magistrate may authorise, in exceptional and unusual circumstances, the marriage of a person below marriageable age, but not below 16 for males and 14 for females.

Minors require, generally speaking, parental consent. A prescribed authority, usually a Registrar, may dispense with consent where such consent can be presumed and it would be unreasonable to require it. If parental consent is refused unreasonably, a Magistrate may give consent in lieu of the parent or guardian. Such a Magistrate's decision is subject to appeal. The age of majority was reduced in 1973 from 21 to 18. Because the marriageable age for males is also 18, the only persons of marriageable age requiring parental consent are now females between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Act makes provision, on a uniform basis, in respect of prohibited relations, other grounds for void marriages, legitimation, marriages overseas, and pre-marital education.

In 1984, 75.6 per cent of grooms and 76.7 per cent of brides were marrying for the first time; approximately 2.6 per cent were widowers and 3.0 per cent widows; and 21.8 per cent of grooms and 20.3 per cent of brides had been divorced. The proportion of marriages involving divorced persons increased sharply in 1976 and slightly thereafter. This is associated with the larger numbers of divorces granted since the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975*.

Median age at first marriage declined during the 1950s and 1960s but has risen slightly in recent years. In 1984 it was 25.1 years for males and 22.9 for females. In 1984, 1.9 per cent of grooms and 10.8 per cent of brides married under the age of 20.

MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE, 1961-1984

Period	Grooms				Brides			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total bride-grooms	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total brides
NUMBER								
Annual averages—								
1961-65	75,384	3,063	4,803	83,250	74,962	3,218	5,070	83,250
1966-70	96,438	3,320	6,430	106,188	96,341	3,568	6,279	106,188
1971-75	99,203	3,473	9,126	111,802	99,287	3,810	8,705	111,802
1976-80	82,344	3,394	20,559	106,297	82,987	4,022	19,288	106,297
Annual totals—								
1979	80,226	3,266	20,904	104,396	80,893	3,996	19,507	104,396
1980	83,950	3,264	22,026	109,240	84,770	3,920	20,550	109,240
1981	87,460	3,152	23,293	113,905	88,308	3,727	21,870	113,905
1982	89,858	2,988	24,429	117,275	90,844	3,579	22,852	117,275
1983	87,568	2,959	24,333	114,860	89,029	3,457	22,374	114,860
1984(a)	82,149	2,798	23,708	108,655	83,325	3,312	22,018	108,655

For footnote see end of table.

MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE, 1961-1984 (continued)

Period	Grooms				Brides			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total bride-grooms	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total brides
MEDIAN AGES								
Annual averages—								
1961-65	24.2	56.6	40.4	24.7	21.3	49.2	36.6	21.7
1966-70	23.5	56.7	39.8	23.9	21.2	50.1	36.1	21.5
1971-75	23.3	57.8	37.3	23.9	21.0	51.1	33.0	21.4
1976-80	23.9	58.4	36.1	25.4	21.6	51.6	32.5	22.7
Annual totals—								
1979	24.1	58.6	36.1	25.6	21.7	52.3	32.6	22.9
1980	24.2	58.6	35.8	25.7	21.9	52.0	32.8	23.0
1981	24.4	59.1	36.0	25.9	22.1	52.1	32.9	23.3
1982	24.6	59.4	36.1	26.1	22.4	51.5	33.1	23.6
1983	24.9	59.7	36.5	26.4	22.7	52.3	33.4	23.9
1984(a)	25.1	60.4	37.1	26.7	22.9	52.3	33.9	24.2

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1961-1984

Period	Age								Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	
GROOM									
Annual averages --									
1961-65	5,278	38,845	20,344	7,495	3,799	2,154	1,498	3,837	83,250
1966-70	7,917	55,824	23,398	7,008	3,544	2,473	1,763	4,258	106,185
1971-75	8,427	59,058	24,374	7,408	3,425	2,376	1,970	4,765	111,802
1976-80	4,830	45,796	26,139	11,245	5,500	3,512	2,822	6,452	106,297
Annual totals--									
1979	4,069	43,778	26,537	11,687	5,706	3,576	2,710	6,333	104,396
1980	3,943	45,519	28,256	12,785	5,928	3,690	2,737	6,382	109,240
1981	3,619	46,114	30,522	13,674	6,800	3,958	2,686	6,532	113,905
1982	3,288	45,811	32,336	14,751	7,605	4,347	2,823	6,314	117,275
1983	2,575	42,956	32,719	15,115	7,954	4,390	2,837	6,314	114,860
1984(a)	2,046	38,347	32,051	14,670	8,048	4,449	2,913	6,131	108,655
BRIDE									
Annual averages--									
1961-65	23,454	39,370	8,760	3,553	2,416	1,715	1,367	2,616	83,250
1966-70	30,475	53,356	10,334	3,521	2,143	1,764	1,545	3,047	106,185
1971-75	34,319	51,846	12,363	4,280	2,279	1,733	1,621	3,362	111,802
1976-80	23,006	45,938	16,560	7,700	4,092	2,669	2,124	4,208	106,297
Annual totals--									
1979	20,382	46,029	16,974	7,873	4,225	2,803	1,950	4,160	104,396
1980	19,466	49,467	18,267	8,591	4,370	2,858	1,965	4,256	109,240
1981	18,769	51,769	20,039	9,354	4,871	3,053	1,992	4,058	113,905
1982	17,045	53,267	22,292	10,031	5,510	3,150	2,117	3,863	117,275
1983	14,119	52,631	23,066	10,310	5,596	3,209	2,118	3,811	114,860
1984(a)	11,691	48,757	22,940	10,277	5,814	3,306	2,151	3,719	108,655

(a) The figures for 1984 have been affected by late registrations in N.S.W.

Marriage rates of the marriageable population provide a measure of changing marriage patterns. Marriage rates have been calculated for the three years around the census per thousand single, widowed and divorced males, females and persons aged 15 and over.

The rates for 1980-82 were 57.3 for males, 54.0 for females, and 55.6 for persons.

The proportion of all marriages celebrated by civil officers rose to 39.6 per cent of all marriages registered in 1984.

Divorce

The *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-66* provided for dissolution of marriage on one or more of 14 grounds. It also provided for nullity of marriage and for judicial separation. This Act, which came into operation in 1961, replaced separate State and Territory legislation. The *Family Law Act 1975*, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce—irretrievable breakdown of marriage—and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

Statistics prior to 1976 in the following tables relate to divorces granted under the Matrimonial Causes Act or under previous State or Territory legislation.

When comparing the number and rate of decrees granted from year to year it should be borne in mind that the availability of judges to hear petitions lodged can affect the number of decrees granted. A rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier year. In addition, changes to legislation, rules or practices may also affect the number of divorce applications.

Following a sharp rise in the number of divorces in 1976, the first year of Family Law legislation, the number dropped by 29 per cent to 45,150 in 1977. However, this number was still 86 per cent higher than the number granted in 1975 under Matrimonial Causes legislation.

DIVORCES, AUSTRALIA, 1961-84

Period	Petitions filed	Petitions granted
Annual averages—		
1961-65	9,956	7,568
1966-70	13,089	10,681
1971-75	22,704	17,348
1976-80	45,503	45,220
Annual totals—		
1979	37,393	37,854
1980	41,482	39,258
1981	43,520	41,412
1982	43,055	44,088
1983	42,569	43,525
1984	40,574	43,012

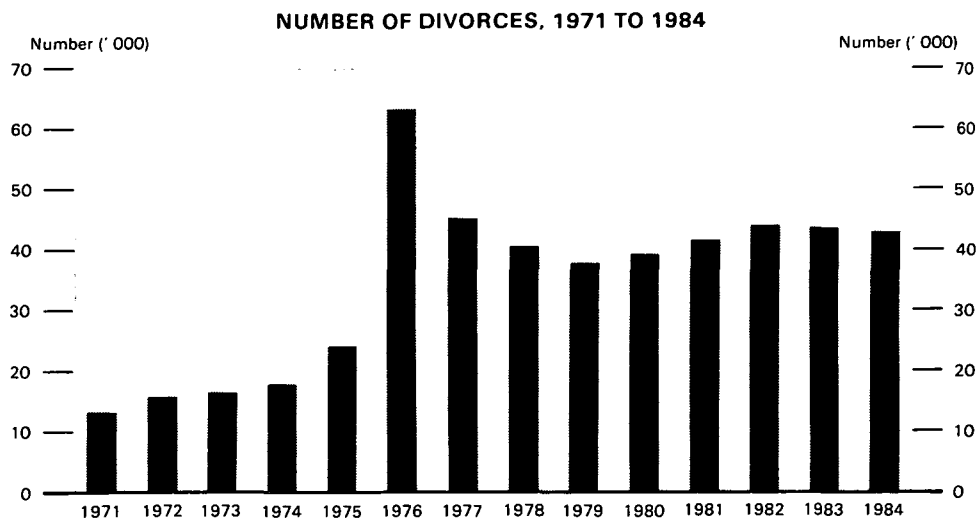


PLATE 16

Duration of marriage, age at marriage and age at divorce

The median duration of marriages dissolved in 1984 was 10.5 years. Of the 43,012 marriages which were dissolved, 47.8 per cent had lasted less than ten years, 33.3 per cent between ten and twenty years and 19.0 per cent twenty years or more.

DIVORCE, YEARS MARRIED, 1961-1984

Period	Years married						Total	Median duration of marriage
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 and over		
Annual averages—								
1961-65	501	1,999	1,747	1,329	926	1,040	7,542	13.6
1966-70	903	2,937	2,146	1,685	1,429	1,581	10,681	13.4
1971-75	1,693	5,478	3,432	2,398	1,930	2,417	17,349	11.9
1976-80	8,234	13,112	8,359	5,556	4,265	5,694	45,220	10.6
Annual totals—								
1979	7,621	10,754	6,929	4,646	3,502	4,402	37,854	10.3
1980	8,115	11,138	7,558	4,644	3,496	4,306	39,258	10.2
1981	8,606	11,800	8,118	4,941	3,550	4,397	41,412	10.2
1982	8,952	12,323	8,792	5,744	3,819	4,456	44,088	10.4
1983	9,046	11,685	8,836	5,756	3,737	4,461	43,525	10.5
1984	9,185	11,356	8,425	5,896	3,744	4,406	43,012	10.5

In 1984, the median age at marriage of divorcing husbands was 23.9 years and of wives 21.3 years. Of husbands, 8.9 per cent had been aged under 20 at marriage and 50.7 per cent aged 20-24; of wives 33.4 per cent had been aged under 20 and 43.7 per cent between 20-24.

DIVORCE, MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1961-1984

<i>Period</i>	<i>Median age at marriage of—</i>	
	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>		
1966-70	24.2	21.7
1971-75	23.5	20.9
1976-80	23.4	20.8
<i>Annual—</i>		
1979	23.4	20.8
1980	23.4	20.9
1981	23.5	20.9
1982	23.6	21.0
1983	23.7	21.1
1984	23.9	21.3

At time of divorce, the median age of husbands was 36.3 years and of wives 34.1 years. A total of 21.4 per cent of husbands and 32.8 per cent of wives were aged under 30 when the marriage was dissolved.

Children of the marriage**DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, 1961-1984**

	Number of children of the marriage								Average
Period	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total dissolutions	Total children	number of children
Annual averages—									
1961-65	2,834	1,950	1,611	753	279	143	7,568	9,347	1.2
1966-70	3,628	2,656	2,428	1,212	497	261	10,681	14,588	1.4
1971-75	5,628	4,062	4,200	2,147	874	438	17,349	24,840	1.4
1976-80	17,013	10,186	10,970	4,746	1,633	671	45,220	55,218	1.2
Annual totals—									
1979	14,641	8,167	9,488	3,876	1,243	439	37,854	46,130	1.2
1980	15,471	8,412	9,890	3,900	1,173	412	39,258	46,836	1.2
1981	16,127	8,898	10,621	4,141	1,231	394	41,412	49,616	1.2
1982	16,931	9,501	11,544	4,556	1,179	377	44,088	53,010	1.2
1983	16,697	9,469	11,422	4,439	1,189	309	43,525	52,059	1.2
1984	16,794	9,291	11,296	4,221	1,113	295	43,012	50,603	1.2

For the years in which the Matrimonial Causes Act was in force, children of the marriage were defined as living children under the age of 21 at the time of the petition. Under previous legislation there were differences between States. The Family Law Act defines them as children of the marriage if they were under the age of 18 at the time of application. In 1984, of the dissolutions granted under the Family Law Act, no children were involved in 39.0 per cent of the dissolutions, while 21.6 per cent of the dissolutions involved 1 child, 26.3 per cent 2 children, and 13.1 per cent 3 or more children.

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from incoming and outgoing passenger cards which are collected from all travellers under the *Migration Act 1958*. Earlier statistics were obtained from passenger lists required under various Acts.

Since 1924, overseas travellers have been classified into two principal categories which distinguish movements for short terms from movements for longer periods (including permanent movements). Revised questions for travellers were introduced in 1958 and again in 1974. The 1958 revision enabled the separation, after 1959, of permanent from other long-term movements and also the identification of former settlers departing permanently. The 1974 revisions improved the classification without change of principle. The categories of overseas movement are:

Permanent—consists of persons arriving with the stated intention of settling permanently in Australia (settlers), and Australian residents (including former settlers) departing with the stated intention of residing permanently abroad. Before 1974, former settlers were not so classified unless they had spent at least 12 months in Australia.

Long-term—consists of overseas visitor arrivals and departures of Australian residents with the stated intention of staying in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more; and departures of visitors and return of residents who have stayed in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more. Until 1974, Australian residents returning were classified as long-term only if their time spent abroad included a period of 12 months in any one country. Their classification is now governed solely by their total absence from Australia.

Short-term—consists of overseas visitor arrivals and departures of Australian residents whose intended or actual period of stay in Australia or abroad respectively is less than 12 months.

The classification of overseas movements is based on statements made by the traveller on arrival in or departure from Australia. The statistics represent the travellers' intentions at the time of arrival or departure; travellers may subsequently change their intentions, and this must be borne in mind in interpreting the statistics.

An upsurge of international tourism, particularly by Australian residents, occurred in the 1970s. The volume of sea travel has changed little over the period (the figures exclude pleasure cruises in the south west Pacific beginning and ending in Australia), so that in 1983 less than one half of one per cent of arrivals and departures had travelled by ship. Net gains, i.e. the excess of total arrivals over total departures, until recently provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, distortions arising from seasonality of short-term arrivals and departures have become very large. For the purpose of estimating the population of Australia and the States and Territories, therefore, the migration component of population growth has been measured since 1 July 1971 by reference to permanent and long-term movements only.

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: AUSTRALIA, 1961-1984

ARRIVALS									
Period	Permanent and long-term movement				Short-term movement(a)				
	Per- manent Settlers arriving	Long-term Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Overseas visitors				Total arrivals
					Australian residents	In transit	Other	Total	
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . .	115,200	22,260	14,770	152,230	117,000	28,700	102,800	131,500	400,700
1966-70 . . .	160,810	36,150	24,480	221,440	259,700	41,500	255,800	297,300	778,400
1971-75 . . .	109,690	57,750	26,250	193,690	631,400	74,400	401,600	475,900	1,301,100
1976-80 . . .	73,820	59,140	28,730	161,700	1,062,100	62,500	622,200	684,700	1,908,500
Annual totals—									
1979 . . .	72,240	61,440	33,450	167,130	1,144,300	68,300	725,000	793,300	2,104,800
1980 . . .	94,500	58,760	31,030	184,290	1,194,800	67,300	837,300	904,600	2,283,600
1981 . . .	118,740	59,400	34,550	212,690	1,181,400	62,800	874,000	936,700	2,330,800
1982 . . .	107,170	53,770	34,270	195,200	1,259,600	64,400	890,200	954,700	2,409,500
1983 . . .	78,390	47,810	27,380	153,570	1,219,600	62,300	881,600	943,900	2,317,100
1984 . . .	73,110	51,550	28,870	153,530	1,374,700	64,400	950,700	1,015,100	2,543,300
DEPARTURES									
Period	Permanent and long-term movement				Short-term movement(a)				
	Permanent Former settlers departing	Other residents departing	Total permanent departures	Long-term Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total permanent and long-term departures	Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total departures
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . .	9,700	6,800	16,500	37,910	12,720	67,120	118,600	135,000	320,700
1966-70 . . .	23,190	8,750	31,940	56,220	14,350	102,510	258,800	308,300	669,700
1971-75 . . .	26,620	12,030	38,650	66,430	22,980	128,070	647,600	479,000	1,254,700
1976-80 . . .	13,830	9,920	23,740	59,220	19,840	102,800	1,077,330	655,400	1,835,500
Annual totals—									
1979 . . .	12,670	10,750	23,420	54,270	20,420	98,110	1,175,800	752,400	2,026,300
1980 . . .	11,450	9,390	20,840	50,710	19,310	90,860	1,203,600	874,100	2,168,600
1981 . . .	11,280	8,580	19,860	46,740	19,020	85,610	1,217,300	900,400	2,203,300
1982 . . .	13,350	9,140	22,490	46,890	22,960	92,340	1,286,900	921,500	2,300,700
1983 . . .	16,920	8,950	25,870	48,180	26,450	100,510	1,253,000	928,900	2,282,400
1984 . . .	12,550	9,760	22,310	50,780	23,270	96,360	1,418,600	985,800	2,500,800

(a) Statistics of short-term movement since 1974 have been derived from a stratified sample of travellers and are subject to sampling error.

The total number of overseas arrivals and departures (excluding passengers on cruises which commence and complete their journeys in an Australian port) for the year 1984 was 5,044,100, 10 per cent more than for 1983.

New South Wales, with 52.5 per cent of clearances, remained the principal State of arrival and departure in 1984.

Short-term movements accounted for approximately 95 per cent of total movements in 1984.

Changes in the pattern and volume of short-term movements are shown in Chapter 26, under the heading 'Tourism'.

Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is regulated by the *Migration Act 1958* which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the commencement of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited immigrant. Exempted persons include diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter with leave in Australian ports.

Immigration has contributed substantially to Australia's post-war population growth. In the post-war years, some 3.9 million migrants have arrived, of which it is estimated that more than 80 per cent settled.

Settler arrivals in 1984 totalled 73,110, a decrease of 7.0 per cent from the total for the previous year.

Settlers born in Asia became the major source, contributing 48 per cent of the overall settler intake. This was primarily due to the large contribution from East and South East Asia (30 per cent of the total). The number of European born settlers was 21,070 which constituted 29 per cent of settler arrivals. New Zealand born settlers were the third largest group, after Europe, with 6,860 settlers, 9 per cent of the total.

PERMANENT ARRIVALS (SETTLERS) BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, AUSTRALIA

	Number		Per cent	
	1974	1984	1974	1984
South Africa	1,590	1,360	1.3	1.9
Other Africa	1,910	1,930	1.6	2.6
<i>Total Africa</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>3,290</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>4.5</i>
Canada	2,230	800	1.8	1.1
Chile	2,380	1,260	2.0	1.7
U.S.A.	3,880	1,530	3.2	2.1
Other America	6,990	1,990	5.8	2.7
<i>Total America</i>	<i>15,470</i>	<i>5,580</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>7.6</i>
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka	3,550	4,490	2.9	6.1
China	n.a.	2,600	n.a.	3.6
Hong Kong	1,490	3,070	1.2	4.2
Indonesia	140	640	0.1	0.9
Lebanon	3,180	2,440	2.6	3.3
Malaysia and Singapore	1,970	2,540	1.6	3.5
Philippines	760	2,950	0.6	4.0
Thailand	n.a.	330	n.a.	0.5
Turkey	3,000	740	2.5	1.0
Vietnam	n.a.	9,900	n.a.	13.5
Other Asia	3,220	5,050	2.7	6.9
<i>Total Asia (a)</i>	<i>17,290</i>	<i>34,750</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>47.5</i>
U.K. and Ireland	53,820	11,740	44.4	16.1
Austria	1,340	120	1.1	0.2
Germany	2,030	1,140	1.7	1.6
Greece	3,730	650	3.1	0.9
Italy	2,940	510	2.4	0.7
Yugoslavia	5,380	1,310	4.4	1.8
Other Europe	9,370	5,600	7.7	7.7
<i>Total Europe</i>	<i>78,610</i>	<i>21,070</i>	<i>64.8</i>	<i>28.8</i>
New Zealand	4,180	6,860	3.4	9.4
Other Oceania	1,550	1,560	1.3	2.1
<i>Total Oceania</i>	<i>5,730</i>	<i>8,420</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>11.5</i>
Not Stated	720	—	0.6	—
Total	121,320	73,110	100.0	100.0

(a) Asia includes countries which are frequently regarded as 'Middle East' countries, for example Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, etc. This inclusion is based on United Nations' classification of world regions.

Each year Australia loses a proportion of its previous migrant intakes. Additionally, partly as a result of the high international mobility of professional and skilled workers, substantial numbers of Australians take up job opportunities overseas.

Eligibility for entry for settlement is restricted to certain family members and fiancées/fiances of Australian residents, to others who possess skills, qualifications, personal or other qualities which represent an economic, social or cultural gain to Australia, and to refugees.

DEMOGRAPHY

SETTLER ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Unassisted</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>			
1966-70	107,500	53,320	160,810
1971-75	58,180	51,510	109,690
1976-80	19,660	54,160	73,820
<i>Annual totals—</i>			
1979	19,060	53,170	72,240
1980	26,320	68,180	94,500
1981	29,960	88,780	118,730
1982	20,200	86,970	107,170
1983	12,130	66,270	78,390
1984	—	73,110	73,110

SETTLER ARRIVALS BY AGE

	Age in years						
Period	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	All ages
MALES							
Annual averages—							
1966-70	10,540	15,430	21,180	32,270	5,810	1,240	86,480
1971-75	7,410	10,010	12,880	20,330	3,920	1,250	55,790
1976-80	4,940	7,150	7,710	12,670	2,970	1,390	36,830
Annual totals—							
1979	4,990	6,840	7,600	12,210	2,870	1,340	35,840
1980	5,950	9,400	10,130	17,820	3,520	1,680	48,500
1981	7,550	12,060	13,100	23,160	4,200	1,790	61,870
1982	6,980	10,960	10,000	21,860	3,790	1,780	55,370
1983	5,220	7,410	6,960	15,330	3,230	1,700	39,830
1984	4,050	6,700	6,490	13,420	3,310	1,560	35,530
FEMALES							
Annual averages—							
1966-70	9,910	14,440	17,750	24,130	6,240	1,860	74,330
1971-75	6,950	9,300	13,690	17,450	4,790	1,730	53,900
1976-80	4,640	6,390	8,110	12,170	3,890	1,810	37,000
Annual totals—							
1979	4,620	6,060	8,440	11,870	3,610	1,800	36,400
1980	5,590	8,330	9,900	15,830	4,200	2,150	46,010
1981	7,070	10,620	11,650	20,840	4,540	2,150	56,870
1982	6,380	9,430	9,800	19,950	4,200	2,060	51,800
1983	4,730	6,360	7,130	14,390	3,960	2,010	38,560
1984	4,060	6,190	7,040	13,980	4,340	1,980	37,580
PERSONS							
Annual averages—							
1966-70	20,450	29,870	38,940	56,410	12,050	3,100	160,810
1971-75	14,360	19,310	26,560	37,770	8,710	2,970	109,690
1976-80	9,580	13,550	15,810	24,840	6,860	3,190	73,820
Annual totals—							
1979	9,610	12,900	16,040	24,080	6,480	3,140	72,240
1980	11,540	17,740	20,030	33,650	7,720	3,830	94,500
1981	14,630	22,680	24,760	44,000	8,740	3,930	118,740
1982	13,360	20,380	19,800	41,810	7,980	3,840	107,170
1983	9,950	13,760	14,090	29,710	7,180	3,710	78,390
1984	8,110	12,900	13,530	27,390	7,650	3,520	73,110

SETTLER ARRIVALS BY MARITAL STATUS

	<i>Never married</i>				
<i>Period</i>	<i>Under 15 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed and divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES					
Annual averages—					
1966-70	25,980	25,740	33,670	1,100	86,480
1971-75	17,420	14,750	22,600	1,030	55,790
1976-80	12,100	9,050	14,770	910	36,830
Annual totals—					
1979	11,820	8,450	14,560	1,010	35,840
1980	15,340	12,020	19,760	1,370	48,500
1981	19,600	15,160	25,640	1,470	61,870
1982	17,910	12,180	23,960	1,320	55,370
1983	12,620	9,250	16,890	1,070	39,830
1984	10,730	9,290	14,500	990	35,530
FEMALES					
Annual averages—					
1966-70	24,340	12,530	34,130	3,330	74,330
1971-75	16,250	9,750	25,060	2,840	53,900
1976-80	11,010	6,440	17,040	2,510	37,000
Annual totals—					
1979	10,670	6,610	16,520	2,600	36,400
1980	13,910	7,820	20,990	3,290	46,010
1981	17,630	9,250	26,770	3,220	56,870
1982	15,750	7,940	25,290	2,820	51,800
1983	11,040	6,230	18,390	2,900	38,560
1984	10,140	7,070	17,520	2,840	37,580
PERSONS					
Annual averages—					
1966-70	50,320	38,270	67,790	4,430	160,810
1971-75	33,670	24,500	47,660	3,870	109,690
1976-80	23,100	15,490	31,810	3,420	73,820
Annual totals—					
1979	22,490	15,060	31,080	3,610	72,240
1980	29,260	19,830	40,750	4,660	94,500
1981	37,230	24,410	52,410	4,690	118,740
1982	33,660	20,120	49,250	4,140	107,170
1983	23,650	15,490	35,280	3,970	78,390
1984	20,870	16,410	32,020	3,840	73,110

Language

In May 1983 the ABS conducted a survey throughout Australia of persons aged 15 and over to obtain details of the languages they first spoke, their current usage of these languages and their understanding and usage of later acquired languages. Questions were also asked of the acquisition and use of English by persons whose first language spoken was a non-English language.

More detailed information was published in the 1985 Australia Year Book and is also available from the ABS publications *Language Survey, Australia, May 1983* (4503.0) and *Language in Australia* (4504.0).

Refugees

Australia accepted 15,761 people under refugee and special humanitarian programs in 1984. This compared with an intake of 17,016 in 1983.

Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 420,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by the Second World War and its aftermath.

Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The largest element in Australia's current refugee intake is the Indo-Chinese program. In 1984, 8,537 Indo-Chinese refugees were resettled in Australia.

Australia is one of 97 countries which have become party to an international convention and protocol on the status of refugees and, in so doing, have taken on certain international

legal obligations to assist refugees. The final determination of a refugee's status and the decision to accept those refugees for resettlement in Australia rests with the Australian Government. Australia is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Australia's response to refugee situations is two-fold. Through aid programs directed principally through UNHCR, refugees are offered protection and assistance in countries of first refuge. Those refugees for whom other durable solutions are not feasible may be offered resettlement (in Australia) if they have relatives in Australia, other close ties with Australia or the potential for successful settlement in their own right. Such refugees must also be presented to Australia by the UNHCR as being registered or otherwise eligible for resettlement.

REFUGEE ARRIVALS(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>			
1961-65.	1,799	n.a.	n.a.
1966-70.	7,446	n.a.	n.a.
1971-75.	2,773	7,776	10,549
1976-80.	9,274	3,284	12,558
<i>Annual totals—</i>			
1979.	14,639	2,418	17,057
1980.	19,875	1,817	21,692
1981.	19,055	2,917	21,972
1982.	16,467	1,055	17,522
1983.	16,194	822	17,016
1984.	12,087	3,674	15,761

(a) Includes arrivals under the Special Humanitarian Program instituted late in 1981.

Citizenship

The grant of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia, by descent (birth abroad to an Australian parent), by grant of citizenship to persons resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act, or by adoption for children aged under 18 who were not Australian citizens and were adopted on or after 22 October 1984.

All persons are now eligible for the grant of Australian citizenship provided that they have resided in Australia for at least two years, are of good character, have a basic knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

PERSONS GRANTED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>	
1961-65	43,823
1966-70	40,934
1971-75	61,182
1976-80	75,138
<i>Annual totals—</i>	
1978	65,094
1979	53,555
1980	68,145
1981	56,459
1982	75,047
1983	101,900

BIBLIOGRAPHY**ABS Publications**

- 1976 Census publications including: Population of States and Territories Adjusted for Under-Enumeration as Shown by Post-Enumeration Survey (2212.0); Summary of Population and Dwelling Characteristics: States, Territories and Australia (2409.0 to 2417.0); Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings in Local Government Areas (2427.0 to 2434.0).
- 1981 Census publications including: Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings: States, Territories and Australia (2435.0 to 2443.0); Counts of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, Australia, States and Territories 30 June 1971, 1976, 1981 (2164.0).
 Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0).
 Methods and Procedures in the Compilation of Estimated Resident Population 1981 and in the Construction of the 1971-81 Time Series (3103.0).
 Estimates of Residents Temporarily Overseas, Visitors in Australia and Category Jumping (3104.0).
 Estimated Age Distribution of the Population: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0).
 Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth and Sex: Australia (3221.0).
 Projections of the Population of Australia, States and Territories, 1984 to 2021 (3222.0).
 Birth Expectations of Married Women (3215.0).
 Births, Australia (3301.0).
 Deaths, Australia (3302.0).
 Perinatal Deaths, Australia (3304.0).
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 Australian Mortality—A Study By Causes of Death—Occasional Paper (1980/1).
 Fertility of Australian Marriages (R Series, Demog 2).
 Language Survey, Australia, May 1983 (4503.0).
 Language in Australia (4504.0).

1981 Census Information

In addition to the publications listed above, final results of the 1981 Census have been released on microfiche, on computer printout and on magnetic tape. These results include small area statistics for Census collection districts, local government areas and larger regions.

A number of Census topic information papers have also been published.

THE 1986 CENSUS: A PORTRAIT OF AUSTRALIA

Introduction

The eleventh Census of Population and Housing was held on 30 June 1986 and involved contact with every household in Australia. The information derived from questions on the census form will provide a statistical portrait of the Australian population and the dwellings in which they live. The population census provides accurate counts which give a base for regular population estimates made for each State and each local government area. These estimates are required for the determination of the number of representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament and the allocation of federal funds to each State and local government authority. Census statistics are also used extensively by government bodies for policy formulation and administration at the federal, State and local level. Other users include welfare and social organisations, business organisations, research institutions and individuals.

Selection of topics

Experience in Australia and other countries in recent years indicates the critical importance of having public co-operation when conducting a census. Recognising the high level of public interest, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) once again undertook an extensive program of topic selection and question development for the 1986 Census. The 1986 topic development program took place during 1983 and 1984. Known users of census data were invited to submit possible topics, while advertisements were placed in newspapers inviting public submissions. Approximately 3000 submissions were received, of which 900 requested 100 new topics. Each topic was assessed according to its importance and suitability to a census format. The assessment was supported by field testing of possible new questions and questions on difficult or sensitive topics.

Particular effort was made in developing the question on ethnicity. In 1982 the Population Census Ethnicity Committee was established, under the chairmanship of Professor Borrie, to consider the requirements for census data on the ethnic background of the population. The committee took into account overseas experience and the views of users. A number of possible questions were tested by the ABS. The Committee's recommendations, which included a question on ancestry, were published by the ABS (*The Measurement of Ethnicity in the Australian Census of Population and Housing*, Cat. No. 2172.0) and released for public consideration.

Recommendations on other census topics were also published by the ABS. Following further discussions with users, suggested census questions for all topics were considered by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council prior to Government consideration. In approving the content of the 1986 Census, the Government sought to obtain a balance between the needs of users for data, the need to elicit accurate and consistent answers and the need to avoid placing too great a burden on the public.

The 1986 Census Form

The 1986 Census Household Form contained 40 questions, of which 34 related to personal characteristics and six to dwelling characteristics. Of these questions, 38 were answered by householders (requiring up to 46 responses), and two questions were answered by the collector. This form was distributed to all private dwellings and caravan parks prior to Census Night. All persons not in private dwellings on Census Night received a Personal Form which contained only the questions on personal characteristics. Questions on demographic topics (sex, age, marital status, relationship and fertility) and ethnicity topics (birthplace, ancestry, language, citizenship and year of arrival) constituted half of the personal questions. The remaining personal questions concerned education, income, usual residence and internal migration, religion, and employment status and labour force activity. The six dwelling questions concerned the number of bedrooms and motor vehicles, rent and mortgage details, persons temporarily absent from the dwelling, dwelling structure and whether the dwelling was occupied. The latter two questions were completed by census collectors.

For the first time, questions on each person's ancestry and language other than English spoken at home were included. This will greatly improve census data collected on the ethnic

composition of the Australian population. Census family data will also be improved. The new question on usual residents temporarily absent will correct an over-statement of the number of single parent families. Over-statements previously occurred where the spouse was away from the household over census night. Also, the question on relationship was altered to provide statistics on de facto living arrangements and children in blended families. Further important changes were an additional question on attendance at an educational institution and the deletion of the question on the material of outer walls of dwellings. The latter question is no longer considered a satisfactory indicator of housing conditions.

Publicity

Public understanding and acceptance of the census is essential if statistics of a high quality are to be produced. For this reason, a public awareness campaign was conducted prior to the 1981 and 1986 Censuses. Research carried out before and after the 1981 Census showed that the public were more favourably disposed to the population census as a result of the publicity campaign. An increase in the quality of response was achieved in 1981. The number of persons missed in the census (under-enumeration) fell, as did the number of persons failing to answer particular questions (non-response). The aims of the 1986 campaign were to inform the public about the uses made of census information, to assist those who experience difficulty in completing the form, where to obtain assistance, and to explain the measures undertaken to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided. A census form and a separate booklet explaining the Census were delivered together to each household. Persons with questions had access to a telephone inquiry service, whilst a multi-language leaflet included in every booklet referred persons with difficulty in understanding English to the census telephone interpreter service. Census collectors were trained to assist persons to complete the form. In areas of sizeable ethnic communities, collectors proficient in a foreign language were employed. These procedures were supplemented by an extensive media campaign which included advertising on radio and television and in newspapers, including non-English language papers.

Aboriginal Enumeration

The ABS has given considerable attention in the last four censuses to obtaining accurate statistics on the Aboriginal population. There is a strong demand for this information, particularly to aid the planning and funding of federal government programs. Special procedures were designed to gain the confidence and support of Aboriginals. Additional staff were employed to increase the level of contact between Aboriginal communities and the ABS. Aboriginal collectors were employed in areas with a high Aboriginal population.

Conduct of the Census

As in previous Australian censuses, the 1986 Census was self-enumerating whereby forms were distributed to, and collected from, the public over a three week period. This operation involved extensive planning and employment of a large number of people on a short-term basis. Valuable assistance was provided by staff of the Australian Electoral Commission who were responsible for the recruitment, training and general supervision of temporary census staff. The Division of National Mapping assisted in updating maps required for the distribution of census forms. Approximately 38,000 temporary staff were employed to distribute and collect census forms. Generally, each collector delivered forms to each occupied dwelling in their collection district. The size of these districts varied greatly, from less than one hectare to over 33,000 square kilometres. A small number of collectors were responsible for people in transit, such as those on trains, buses and aircraft. Approximately 11.2 million household and personal forms were distributed to field staff around Australia.

Despite the diligence of collectors, it is inevitable that some persons are missed on Census Night. Since the 1966 Census an attempt has been made to estimate this under-enumeration. During the third and fourth weeks after Census Night, a sample of about 40,000 households across Australia were interviewed to determine whether the members of the household had been included on a census form. The results of this survey (known as the Post-Enumeration Survey) supplemented by demographic analysis and estimates of the number of residents temporarily overseas on Census Night, are used to adjust the census population count on a usual residence basis to provide the estimated resident population of Australia at census date. Processing of 1986 census forms is being undertaken at the Census Data Transcription Centre in Sydney. This involves the checking and coding of answers on forms and the recording of coded information on computer files. Names and addresses will not be entered on to the

computer files. After processing, all household and personal forms are destroyed to ensure that personal information cannot be revealed. The processing of approximately 5-6 million completed household and personal forms will take nearly a year.

Census Results

Census counts based on where people were on Census Night will be released progressively from February 1987, commencing with data for the Australian Capital Territory, then the Northern Territory followed by the States in order of population size. Further data releases will be in the form of statistical publications, microfiche and magnetic tape. There will be considerable flexibility for users to obtain census statistics on specific topics for a variety of geographical areas. Results based on place of enumeration will be available for areas such as collection districts, statistical local areas, urban centres/localities, statistical divisions, postcodes and electoral divisions. Results based on place of usual residence will be released much later in 1987, and will be available only for statistical local areas, or aggregations of those areas. In addition, magnetic tape files containing samples of unidentifiable persons in households will be released.

The ABS will also release a number of information papers on census topics, general information on the census, details of data release and the Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables (Cat. No. 2175.0) which will list all standard tables to be released. Information on the census, as well as census results, will be available from ABS offices in each capital city.