

**YEAR BOOK  
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1992**

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# P r e f a c e

Year Book Australia is the principal reference work produced by the Central Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical review of various aspects of the economy and social conditions in Australia. In addition, it contains descriptive matter dealing with Australia's government, international relations, defence, climate, physiography, culture and environment.

The first *Official Year Book of the Commonwealth* was published in 1908, although individual Australian States and colonies had been producing year books for several decades before that. *Year Book Australia 1992* is issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

While the 1992 edition follows the basic structure of past issues, the contents and particularly the presentation have undergone some changes as part of a program of improvements which will continue over the next couple of issues.

Each year a number of *Special Articles* appear in the *Year Book*. This year's *Special Articles* are listed in the Table of Contents.

Most of the statistics contained in this volume relate to the years ended June or December 1990 or 1991. More detailed and, in most cases, more recent statistics are available in other ABS publications. The more significant of these publications are listed at the end of the relevant chapters of the *Year Book*, while the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) lists all current publications of the ABS.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to all those officers involved in the preparation of *Year Book Australia 1992* and those organisations which have kindly supplied material for inclusion in this publication.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra  
August 1992

IAN CASTLES  
*Australian Statistician*

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Year Book Australia is planned, compiled and edited in the Information Services Branch of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

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Much of the material contained in the *Year Book* is prepared by the staff responsible for respective fields of statistics in the Australian Bureau of Statistics, whose contribution is appreciated.

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# A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

A number of government departments and agencies, as well as private organisations and bodies, also provide much information in cooperation with the Bureau for inclusion in the *Year Book*. The Bureau wishes to thank the following for their cooperation and contributions.

ACT Electricity & Water  
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Australian Dairy Corporation  
Australian Institute of Health  
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National Housing Strategy

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Power & Water Authority, NT

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# Introduction to Year Book Australia and how to use it

*Year Book Australia* provides a comprehensive overview of the economic and social conditions of contemporary Australia. It is a statistically oriented publication with sufficient background information to establish a context for the statistics and to assist in understanding and interpreting them.

Much of the statistics are derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the official statistical agency which produces the *Year Book*. However, a great deal of statistics and background information on the various subjects is also contributed by other, predominantly government, organisations. The official nature of the sources of the contents of the *Year Book* ensures a high degree of objectivity and reliability in the picture presented of contemporary Australia.

The *Year Book* also presents, some historical and international perspectives of contemporary Australia, both in individual chapters and in the sections containing historical series and international comparisons of statistics at the end of the publication.

## Finding information

The contents pages at the beginning of the *Year Book* and preceding each chapter provide a guide to the broad subjects contained in each chapter. The index assists in locating information on more specific subjects. A list of special, one-off articles which have appeared in previous editions is contained at the end of the *Year Book*.

## Symbols and abbreviations

The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:

n.a.	not available
n.y.a	not yet available
—	nil or rounded to zero
. .	not applicable
n.p.	not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
p	preliminary — figures or series subject to revision
r	figures or series revised since previous issue
n.e.i.	not elsewhere included
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
—	break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
*	subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

The following abbreviations are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and Australia: NSW (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), WA (Western Australia), SA (South Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), NT (Northern Territory), ACT (Australian Capital Territory), Aust. (Australia).

In general, the statistics in this volume relate to the State and Territories of Australia, i.e., they exclude particulars of the External Territories of Australia, which, however, are specifically dealt with in Chapter 3, The Territories of Australia.

Yearly periods shown as, for example, 1990 refer to the year ended 31 December 1990; those shown as, for example, 1989–90 refer to the year ended 30 June 1990. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated. The range of years shown in the table headings, for example, 1901 to 1989–90, indicates the period covered but does not necessarily imply that each intervening year is included or that the yearly period has remained the same throughout the series.

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Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the components items and totals.

### **Directory for further information**

While the statistics and descriptive information contained in the *Year Book* provides a comprehensive overview of Australia, they represent only a relatively small part of the total stock of statistics and other information on respective subjects available from the ABS and other organisations. It is aimed primarily at providing a ready and convenient source of reference, both to those familiar and unfamiliar with a particular subject. In other words, because of the range of subjects and limitations on the size of the *Year Book* it aims at breadth rather than depth of information.

However, for those requiring information in greater depth, the *Year Book* also serves as a directory to more detailed sources. To this end the source is shown for each statistical table, graph and map. Where the ABS is the source, the title and catalogue number of the relevant publication is quoted. For other sources the name of the organisation is shown, and the publication title where appropriate. Relevant ABS and other publications are also listed at the end of each chapter, together with a reference to the information services available from the offices of the ABS, listed at the front of the *Year Book*. A useful complementary publication is the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which lists all current publications and products of the ABS.

The *Year Books* or *Statistical Summaries* produced by the ABS for each State or Territory, respectively, provide information similar to that contained in the *Year Book*

Australia but focused on the State or Territory concerned.

In many cases, the ABS can also provide information which is not published or which is historical or compiled from a variety of published and unpublished sources. Information of this kind may be obtained through the Information Consultancy Service. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: consultancy reports, microfiche, floppy disk, magnetic tape, computer printout or photocopy. Charges are generally made for such information. Inquiries may be made by contacting Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

The annual reports of government departments and agencies also provide a valuable source of more detailed information on the administrative and other aspects of subjects covered in the *Year Book*.

For a variety of reasons it is not possible for all statistics in the *Year Book* to relate to the latest or same year. Readers wishing to obtain or clarify the latest available statistics should contact the relevant source.

This current (75th) edition is the latest in a long series of *Year Books* extending back to the first edition in 1908. This series provides a valuable source of information on the state of Australia at any particular point in this period.

### **Feedback from readers**

The ABS endeavours to keep the balance of the contents of the *Year Book* in line with the ever changing nature of the nation. For this reason comments on the adequacy and balance of the contents of the *Year Book* are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor of the *Year Book* at ABS Central Office, Canberra.

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# Geography and Climate

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