

This page was added on 03 December 2012 to included the Disclaimer below.  
No other amendments were made to this Product

#### DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

# Demography

Introduction	77
Population size and growth	77
Population distribution	78
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	81
Age/sex profile	82
Households	85
Families	86
Births and deaths	87
Births	87
Deaths	90
Marriages and divorces	93
Registered marital status of the population	93
Marriages	94
Divorces	97
Remarriages	100
Overseas migration	101
Birthplace of the population	102
Migration to Australia	104
Refugees	107
Permanent departures	108
Internal migration	108
Citizenship	110
Bibliography	111
<b>Special Article — A Profile of Australia's Indigenous People</b>	<b>113</b>



# Demography

## Introduction

The principal source of demographic data is the Census of Population and Housing, which in recent times (since 1961) has been conducted at five-yearly intervals. The most recent Census was conducted in 1991. Compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages also provides valuable information, as do the details supplied by incoming and outgoing overseas travellers. In addition, various surveys are conducted from time to time on specific topics. Divorce data are compiled from court records; administrative records provide data on other aspects such as refugees and interstate migration.

## Population size and growth

For an historic perspective of Australia's demographic characteristics see *Year Book Australia 1988*.

As shown in table 5.1, the estimated resident population at 30 June 1994 was 17.8 million, an increase of 1% over the previous year. The total increase of 184,904 since 1993 comprised 135,301 from natural increase and 49,603 from overseas migration. The natural increase component was above the peak level of 1990–91, while overseas migration was at the lowest level since 1975–76.

**5.1 Estimated resident population and components of growth**

Year ended 30 June	Population ('000)	Annual rate of growth (%)		
		Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Total(a)
1974	13 722.6	1.0	0.6	1.6
1984	15 579.4	0.8	0.3	1.2
1987	16 263.3	0.8	0.7	1.5
1988	16 532.2	0.8	0.9	1.7
1989	16 814.4	0.8	1.0	1.7
1990	17 065.1	0.8	0.7	1.5
1991	17 284.0	0.8	0.5	1.3
1992	17 489.1	0.8	0.4	1.2
1993	17 656.4	0.8	0.2	1.0
1994	17 843.3	0.8	0.3	1.1

(a) The difference between the total and the sum of the component rates is due to distribution of the intercensal discrepancy.

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)*.

Net overseas migration gain, moderate for most of the 1970s, increased sharply at the end of that decade following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers. Very high intakes were recorded in 1980–81 and 1981–82, after which they fell back to previous levels. In the latter half of the 1980s there was a strong resurgence, and the overseas migration gains of 1987–88 and 1988–89 were amongst the highest recorded this century. Since 1989 they have fallen back significantly but were rising in 1994–95.

From year to year overseas migration gains are continuing to be more volatile than natural increase and, because of their size, are setting the pattern for trends in total population growth. From a peak of 1.8% in 1981–82, the total growth rate slumped to 1.2% in the middle of the 1980s as the migration intake declined. In the latter part of the decade, the sharp rise in net migration resulted in a recovery in total growth to 1.7% in 1989. In the 1990s the total growth rate has fallen back again as the migration intake has eased. The total growth of 1% in the year ended 30 June 1994, follows 1993 as being the lowest since the year ended 30 June 1976, which also recorded a 1% growth.

The most recent projections of the Australian population show it growing from 17.8 million in 1994 to 19.0 million in the year 2000, 20.0 million in 2005 and 21.0 million some time between 2009 and 2011. These projections assume that fertility will either remain constant at current levels (1.9 births per woman) or rise to replacement level (2.1 births per woman) and that the annual net gain from overseas migration will rise during the 1990s before levelling off at a constant 70,000 or 100,000 per year. Mortality rates are assumed to continue to fall at all ages.

Population growth in selected countries over the four year period 1990 to 1993 is shown in

table 5.2. Australia's average annual rate of population growth, at 1.1%, was greater than the rates of growth in New Zealand (0.9%), the United Kingdom (0.4%) and Japan (0.1%) but lower than those in Canada (2.6%), Papua New Guinea (2.0%) and Indonesia (1.7%). The average population density of two persons per square kilometres is very low by international standards. The low figure masks the concentration of people along the coast and the high level of urbanisation. Again, there are similarities between Canada and Australia in that both countries are characterised by large areas not conducive to dense settlement.

**5.2 Population levels, growth rates and density, 30 June 1993**

	Population			
	No. ('000)	Average annual rate of growth (%)	Area ('000 km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (persons/km <sup>2</sup> )
Australia	17 661	1.1	7 713	2
Canada	28 755	2.6	9 976	3
China	1 196 360	1.2	9 597	124
Indonesia	189 136	1.7	1 905	99
Japan	123 653	0.1	378	327
Korea	44 056	0.9	99	445
New Zealand	3 451	0.9	271	13
Papua New Guinea	3 922	2.0	463	8
United Kingdom	58 191	0.4	244	238
United States of America	258 233	1.1	9 809	26

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook*.

## Population distribution

Most of the Australian population is concentrated in two widely separated coastal regions. By far the largest of these, in terms of area and population, lies in the south-east and east, stretching in an unbroken crescent from South Australia through Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales to Queensland. The smaller of the two regions is in the south-west of Western Australia. Neither region ever extends inland by more than two or three hundred kilometres. They are separated by two to three thousand kilometres of sparsely populated country which makes up about three-quarters of the total land area. It comprises the whole of the Northern Territory and parts of all five mainland States. In both coastal regions the population is

further concentrated into urban centres. In June 1994, 71.5% of the Australian population lived in the State/Territory capitals (including Canberra, the national capital, and Darwin) and six other major cities of 100,000 persons or more (capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts).

After New South Wales and Victoria, which had populations of 6.0 million and 4.5 million respectively at 30 June 1994, the State and Territory populations were, in order of size, Queensland (3.2 million), Western Australia (1.7 million), South Australia (1.5 million), Tasmania (0.5 million), the Australian Capital Territory (0.3 million) and the Northern Territory (0.2 million) (table 5.3).

**5.3 Estimated resident population of Australia**

30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1974	4 894 053	3 755 726	2 008 340	1 241 538	1 127 598	406 151	102 924	186 241	<b>13 722 571</b>
1984	5 402 729	4 076 492	2 523 859	1 360 048	1 391 237	437 760	142 154	245 112	<b>15 579 391</b>
1987	5 616 736	4 210 111	2 675 107	1 392 764	1 496 248	449 226	158 205	265 477	<b>16 263 874</b>
1988	5 707 309	4 262 569	2 739 907	1 404 909	1 535 167	451 148	159 026	272 129	<b>16 532 164</b>
1989	5 776 283	4 320 164	2 827 637	1 419 029	1 578 434	455 258	161 179	276 432	<b>16 814 416</b>
1990	5 834 021	4 378 592	2 899 283	1 432 056	1 613 049	462 188	163 728	282 211	<b>17 065 128</b>
1991	5 898 731	4 420 373	2 960 951	1 446 299	1 636 067	466 802	165 493	289 320	<b>17 284 036</b>
1992	5 958 707	4 451 045	3 032 834	1 457 595	1 657 350	469 685	167 403	294 453	<b>17 489 072</b>
1993	5 997 432	4 464 188	3 116 018	1 462 894	1 676 341	471 350	169 304	298 900	<b>17 656 427</b>
1994	6 051 446	4 476 100	3 196 934	1 469 784	1 701 879	472 357	171 134	300 912	<b>17 843 268</b>

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0); Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0).

Demographic factors currently acting on the relative size of the States/Territories are above average rates of natural increase in Queensland, Western Australia and the two Territories, above average per capita overseas migration gains in New South Wales and Western Australia and high per capita interstate migration gains in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. State/Territory population growth rates in the year ended June 1994 were, in order of size, Queensland (2.7%), Western Australia (1.5%), Northern Territory (1.1%), New South Wales (0.9%), Australian Capital Territory (0.7%), South Australia (0.5%), Victoria (0.3%) and Tasmania (0.1%).

With the continuing urban development of the 20th century, capital cities have been the consistent choice for settlement of the majority of overseas immigrants, as well as receiving centres in the general internal movement of population from rural to urban areas which persisted until recent times. This trend towards increasing urbanisation continued until the mid-1970s, after which a slight decline has been recorded.

Table 5.4 shows that, at the 1991 Census, 85.3% of the population lived in urban areas.

However, between the 1981 and 1991 Censuses, the proportion of the population living in rural areas actually increased from 14.2% to 14.6%, while the proportion of State populations living in the capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane declined slightly. Parallel with this has been an emerging trend since the 1970s towards selective rapid growth of smaller coastal towns in Queensland and New South Wales which have favoured the development of retirement, recreation and tourist amenities.

Australia's two dominant population centres — Sydney (3.7 million) and Melbourne (3.2 million) — both in the south-east, accounted for 38.9% of the total population in June 1994 (table 5.5). The next largest city is Brisbane (1.4 million). Sydney and Melbourne have traditionally been the favoured ports of entry for overseas arrivals and are the capitals of the two most populous States — New South Wales and Victoria, respectively. In these and every other State and Territory, the capital city is the largest population centre. Most capitals are many times the size of the next largest town. All capitals, with the exception of the national capital, Canberra, are located on the coast.

### 5.4 Urban-rural distribution of persons(a)(b) (%)

Census	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Urban									
1921	67.8	62.3	52.1	60.0	59.3	50.5	36.2	—	<b>62.1</b>
1947	71.9	71.0	59.7	69.4	64.6	58.9	23.4	89.7	<b>68.7</b>
1954	82.6	81.3	73.0	74.5	71.0	65.9	65.9	93.3	<b>78.7</b>
1961	85.1	84.8	75.9	78.8	73.2	70.4	39.6	96.0	<b>81.7</b>
1966	86.4	85.5	76.4	82.4	75.7	70.3	53.4	96.1	<b>82.9</b>
1971	88.6	87.7	79.4	84.6	81.5	74.2	64.1	97.8	<b>85.6</b>
1976	88.7	87.9	80.2	84.9	83.5	74.9	66.4	98.4	<b>86.0</b>
1981	88.2	87.8	79.1	84.9	84.6	75.1	74.2	99.0	<b>85.7</b>
1986	87.9	87.4	78.9	84.6	84.7	74.5	71.7	99.1	<b>85.4</b>
1991	87.7	87.0	79.9	85.1	85.7	72.3	67.6	98.6	<b>85.3</b>
Rural									
1921	31.6	37.3	47.5	39.4	39.1	49.2	62.1	99.7	<b>37.4</b>
1947	27.9	28.9	40.1	30.3	34.9	40.9	75.4	10.4	<b>31.1</b>
1954	17.2	18.4	26.8	25.2	28.7	33.9	32.7	6.7	<b>21.0</b>
1961	14.6	15.0	24.0	20.8	26.4	29.4	59.9	4.0	<b>18.1</b>
1966	13.4	14.4	23.5	17.5	23.9	29.6	46.1	3.9	<b>16.9</b>
1971	11.3	12.2	20.4	15.3	18.2	25.7	35.4	2.2	<b>14.3</b>
1976	11.1	12.1	19.7	15.0	16.3	24.9	33.0	1.6	<b>13.9</b>
1981	11.8	12.1	20.8	15.1	15.3	24.8	25.3	1.0	<b>14.2</b>
1986	12.0	12.5	21.0	15.3	15.0	25.4	27.7	0.9	<b>14.5</b>
1991	12.3	13.0	20.0	14.8	14.2	27.6	31.6	1.4	<b>14.6</b>

(a) Census counts by place of enumeration, except 1991 where counts on a usual residence basis have been used. Excludes some Aboriginal people prior to 1961.

(b) Urban and rural proportions do not add up to 100% as the proportion of migratory population is not included.

Source: *Population Growth and Distribution, Australia (2822.0)*.

### 5.5 Estimated resident population of capital cities

Capital city	1976	1984	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Population ('000 persons)									
Sydney	3 143.8	3 382.9	3 591.0	3 622.9	3 643.7	3 672.9	3 699.8	3 719.0	3 738.5
Melbourne	2 723.7	2 884.6	3 043.6	3 086.6	3 126.9	3 156.7	3 177.9	3 187.5	3 198.2
Brisbane	1 000.9	1 161.2	1 264.5	1 300.2	1 330.9	1 358.0	1 385.5	1 421.7	1 454.8
Adelaide	924.1	984.3	1 021.1	1 033.5	1 044.6	1 057.2	1 065.8	1 070.2	1 076.4
Perth	840.2	995.6	1 110.5	1 147.4	1 175.4	1 188.5	1 205.3	1 221.3	1 239.4
Hobart	164.3	175.5	184.2	185.9	189.0	191.0	192.3	193.3	194.2
Darwin	44.2	68.9	75.9	76.0	76.5	76.7	77.2	77.4	78.1
Canberra	201.8	241.3	272.5	277.6	283.9	288.2	293.3	297.8	300.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 043.0</b>	<b>9 894.3</b>	<b>10 563.3</b>	<b>10 730.1</b>	<b>10 870.9</b>	<b>10 989.5</b>	<b>11 097.3</b>	<b>11 188.2</b>	<b>11 280.1</b>
Proportion of State population (%)									
Sydney	63.4	62.6	62.9	62.7	62.5	62.3	62.1	62.0	61.9
Melbourne	71.5	70.8	71.4	71.4	71.4	71.4	71.4	71.4	71.4
Brisbane	47.8	46.0	46.2	46.0	45.9	45.9	45.7	45.6	45.6
Adelaide	72.5	72.4	72.7	72.8	72.9	73.1	73.1	73.2	73.2
Perth	71.3	71.6	72.3	72.7	72.9	72.7	72.7	72.9	72.9
Hobart	39.8	40.1	40.8	40.8	40.9	40.9	40.9	41.0	41.0
Darwin	45.0	48.5	47.7	47.2	46.7	46.3	46.1	45.7	45.7
Canberra	99.8	99.1	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>63.2</b>

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)* and unpublished ABS data.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

In 1967, the provision in section 127 of the Constitution, which required the exclusion of some Aboriginal people from the official population counts, was repealed. This has had a substantial impact on demographic matters generally.

As shown by the provisional projections in table 5.6, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 30 June 1994 was 303,261, representing 1.7% of the total population. The projection shows an increase of 19,630 (6.9%) over the 283,631 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 1991, and an increase of 75,616 (33.2%) from 1986.

The average annual growth rate of the indigenous population of Australia for the periods 1986 to 1991 and 1991 to 1994 was 2.4% and 4.7% respectively. This is higher than the rate of growth for the total population of 1.5 and 1.1% respectively for the same period.

The sex ratio of males to females in the indigenous population at 30 June 1994 was 101.0 (101 males to 100 females) compared to the total population ratio of 99.2. For most States/Territories the sex ratios of the indigenous population were higher than for the total population. The sex ratio of the indigenous population ranged from 104.7 in Tasmania to 99.3 in the Australian Capital Territory.

New South Wales had the largest indigenous population at 30 June 1994 with 80,440, or 26.5% of the total indigenous population, followed by Queensland with 26.3%. However, they comprised only a small proportion of the population in all States and Territories, except the Northern Territory, where more than one in four people were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The indigenous population of the Northern Territory comprised 26.9% of its total population, the highest proportion of any State/Territory. The lowest was 0.4% (19,183) for Victoria.

### 5.6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

State/Territory	1994				
	Population (No.)	Proportion of Australian indigenous (%)	Proportion of State's total (%)	1986 population(a) (No.)	1991 population(a) (No.)
New South Wales	80 437	26.5	1.3	66 041	75 020
Victoria	19 183	6.3	0.4	15 766	17 890
Queensland	79 842	26.3	2.5	65 933	74 214
South Australia	18 425	6.1	1.2	15 324	17 239
Western Australia	47 251	15.6	2.8	39 001	44 082
Tasmania	10 113	3.3	2.1	8 244	9 461
Northern Territory	46 041	15.2	26.9	38 885	43 273
Australian Capital Territory	1 969	0.7	0.6	1 384	1 616
<b>Australia</b>	<b>303 261</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>250 738</b>	<b>282 979</b>

(a) Census counts by place of usual residence.

Source: *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (3230.0).

At 30 June 1994, 27% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population lived in capital cities and just under 20% in rural and remote areas, with 50% in towns and rural localities. Within some States there were significant variations in the regional distribution of indigenous people. In Victoria, almost half of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander population was counted in Melbourne (48%), while in Queensland and Western Australia 20% and 28% respectively were counted in the capital city.

In Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory in 1991, a large proportion of the Aboriginal and



Torres Strait Islander population was counted in localities and communities with a total population between 200 and 999 people. In the Northern Territory over 26% were counted in such localities.

At 30 June 1994, Australia's indigenous population had a median age of 20.3 years, about 13 years younger than for the total population. The median age of the indigenous population ranged from 19.6 years in Tasmania to 21.0 years in Victoria. The median age of the indigenous population increased by 1.1 years from 1986 to 1991, and 0.3 years from 1991 to 1994. For the total population this increase was 1.3 years and 1.0 years respectively.

The median age of indigenous males at 30 June 1994 was 19.9 years and for indigenous females 20.9 years. The median age for females was about one year higher than for males for all States and Territories except Tasmania where the median age for males was about the same for females.

The age structure of the indigenous population differed greatly from that of the total Australian population. The major differences were in the younger and older ages, reflecting the high mortality and high fertility for the indigenous population. Of the total indigenous population, almost 40% were children aged less than 15 years and almost 15% were aged less than 5 years. These figures compare with 21% and 7%, respectively for the non-indigenous population.

In the older age groups, the difference is even greater. Only 6% of indigenous people were aged over 55 years compared with 20% of the non-indigenous population. The age distributions were generally similar in all States and Territories and have changed relatively little since 1991. These differences are illustrated in table 5.7.

### Age/sex profile

The sex ratio of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio declines with age: it is about 105 at birth, but, leaving aside inward or outward migration, higher male mortality gradually

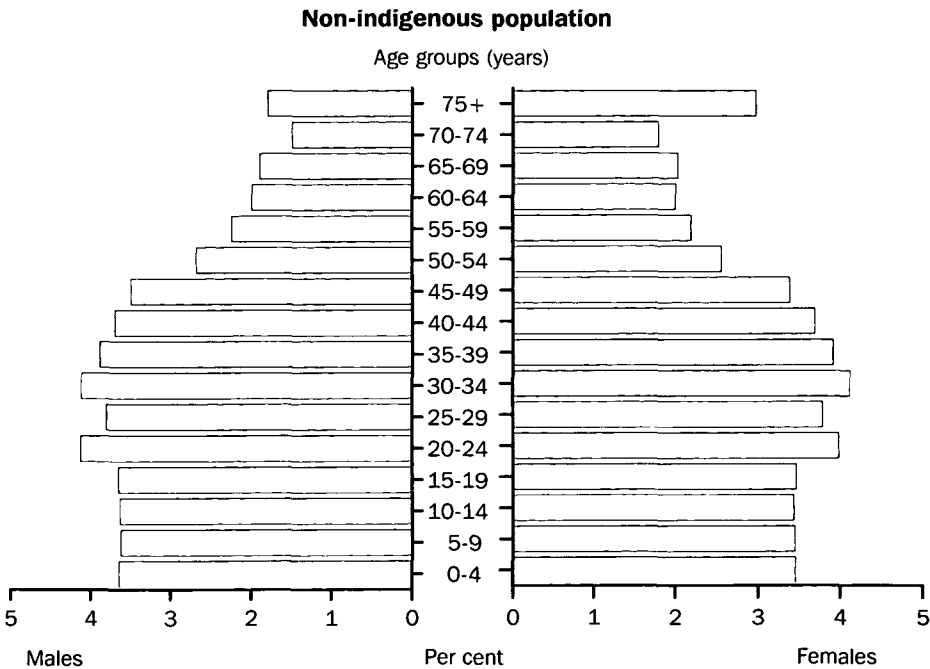
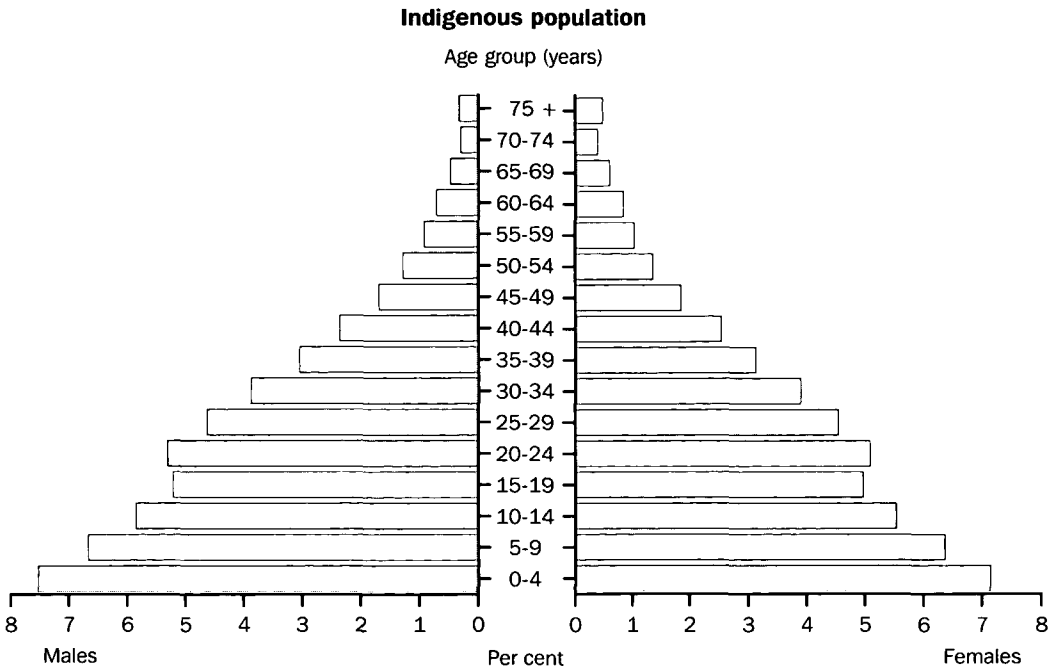
erodes the difference so that the numbers of males and females would tend to be about the same soon after age 60. From then on, due to continuing mortality differentials in favour of females, the female population begins to exceed males and this excess increases towards older ages. The overall sex ratio of the population has been declining since the 1950s as the overseas migration intake has become less male dominated (see the Overseas Migration section of this chapter). In 1994 the Australian population had 99.2 males for every 100 females.

The age distribution of the population is shown in graph 5.8, comparing the years 1984 and 1994. The low birth rates of the depression years of the 1930s, the increased death rate during World War II, the prolonged 'baby boom' from the end of World War II to the early 1960s, and the declining birth rate over the last twenty years are all reflected in the profile.

The median age of the population at 30 June 1994 was 33.4 years. It has been rising consistently since the beginning of the 1970s as a result of lower birth rates as well as lower mortality rates at most ages. (The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has risen from 10.1% in 1984 to 11.8% in 1994.) In descending order, the median ages of the State/Territory populations at 30 June 1994 were South Australia (34.6), New South Wales (33.8), Victoria (33.7), Tasmania (33.6), Queensland (32.7), Western Australia (32.6), Australian Capital Territory (30.4) and the Northern Territory (28.0). The median age of the population in all States/Territories has been steadily rising.

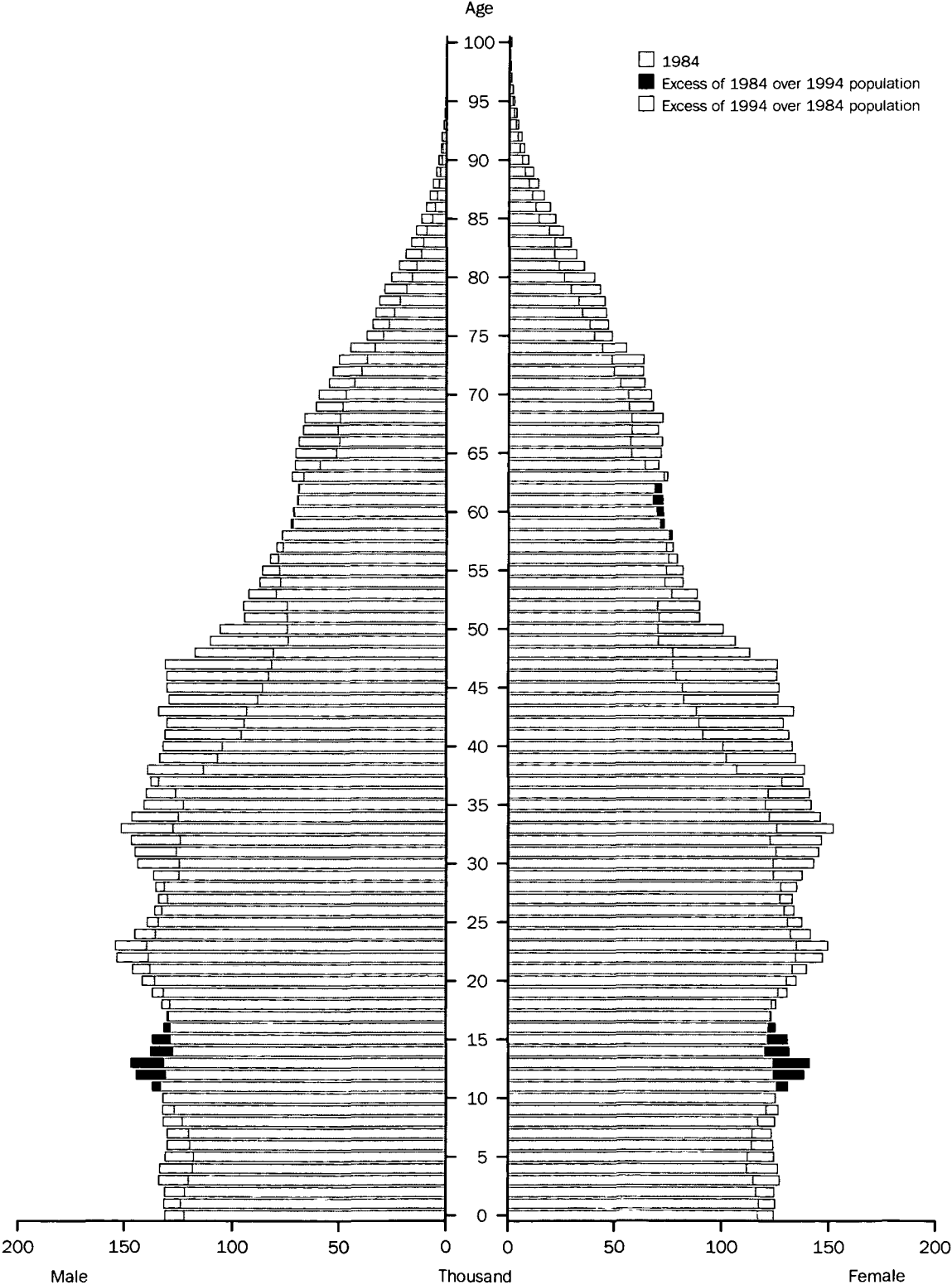
As a consequence of changes in the age distribution, the aged-dependency ratio (population aged 65 and over per 100 population of working ages 15 to 64) has increased from 15.3 in 1984 to 17.7 in 1994, while the child-dependency ratio (population aged under 15 per 100 population of working ages) has declined sharply from 36.4 to 32.3 during the same period. The combined effect is that the total dependency ratio has declined from 57.4 in 1984 to 50.1 in 1994.

5.7 Indigenous and non-indigenous persons: age and sex profile, 1991



Source: 1991 Census, Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (2740.0).

5.8 Estimated resident population of Australia 30 June 1984 and 1994



Source: Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0).

### 5.9 Sex ratios, percentage age distribution and median ages

	Sex ratios at ages(a)					% of population aged					Median ages(b)
	0-14	15-44	45-64	>64	Total	0-14	15-44	45-64	>64		
1974	105.1	105.1	100.2	72.4	100.8	27.9	43.5	20.0	8.6	27.8	
1984	104.9	103.2	101.6	72.3	99.7	24.0	46.8	19.1	10.1	30.5	
1987	105.2	102.7	102.7	73.4	99.7	22.7	47.6	19.0	10.7	31.3	
1988	105.3	102.5	102.9	73.7	99.6	22.4	47.8	19.0	10.8	31.6	
1989	105.3	102.3	103.0	74.1	99.5	22.2	47.8	19.0	11.0	31.8	
1990	105.4	102.1	103.1	74.5	99.5	22.0	47.8	19.1	11.1	32.1	
1991	105.5	101.8	103.0	75.0	99.4	21.9	47.5	19.3	11.3	32.4	
1992	105.4	101.7	103.0	75.5	99.3	21.8	47.1	19.7	11.5	32.7	
1993	105.4	101.6	103.0	76.0	99.3	21.7	46.7	20.0	11.7	33.0	
1994	105.4	101.5	102.8	76.4	99.2	21.6	46.3	20.4	11.8	33.4	

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) The median age is the age at which half of the population is older and half is younger.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)*.

### 5.10 Dependency ratios(a) for children and the aged at 30 June

	1974	1984	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
0-14	44.3	43.9	36.4	33.1	32.9	32.8	32.6	32.6	32.3
>64	11.2	13.6	15.3	16.4	16.6	16.9	17.2	17.5	17.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>50.1</b>

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

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)*.

## Households

For the first time this publication contains estimates of households and the household population on a usual residence basis from 1986 to 1994. The household population is the resident population of Australia that usually lives in private dwellings. Most previous ABS estimates of household numbers were based on census counts of households according to the household structure and place of enumeration on Census night, and were not calculated on the basis of usual residence.

Household estimates calculated on the basis of usual residence address the problem of people who are temporarily absent from their usual residence on Census night. This includes Australian residents temporarily overseas and households staying in a non-private dwelling.

Table 5.11 shows that the estimated number of households in Australia on 30 June 1994, calculated on the basis of usual residence, was 6,636,100, an increase of 1,007,200 households

(17.9%) from 1986, and an increase of 464,000 households (7.5%) from 1991. At 30 June 1994, 98% of Australia's population was living in a private dwelling.

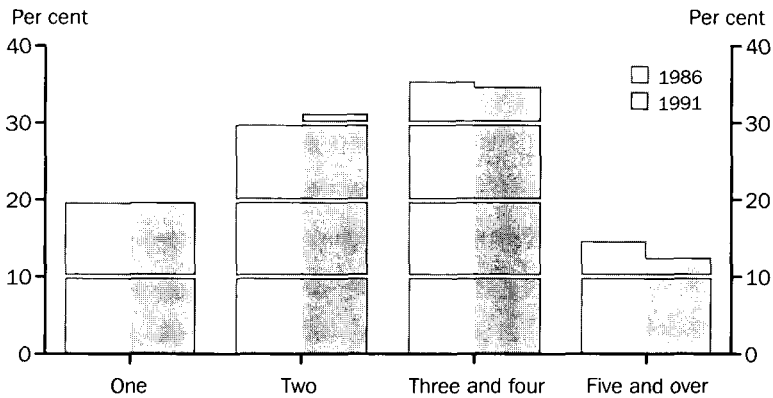
The incidence of household formation in Australia has been exceeding population growth rates. This has been acting in concert with the average number of persons per household declining from 2.79 in 1986 to 2.63 in 1994. Much of the decline in the number of persons per household can be attributed to reductions in family size together with the ageing of the population. With increasing longevity, more elderly people are maintaining separate households. At the same time there have been changing social attitudes to divorce, people living alone, de facto relationships and households formed by groups of unrelated young people. There has been continuing growth in one and two-person households, rising from 51.7% of all households in 1986 to 52.9% at the 1991 Census.

5.11 Persons(a) in private households

Year	Persons in private households	Private households	Persons per private household
1986(a)	15 690 731	5 628 900	2.79
1991(a)	16 929 354	6 172 100	2.74
1992	17 129 224	6 319 000	2.71
1993	17 291 646	6 425 500	2.69
1994	17 469 756	6 636 100	2.63

(a) Census counts, place of enumeration.  
Source: ABS Household Estimates 1981–1994 (3229.0).

5.12 Proportion of households by number of persons



Source: 1991 Census Australia in Profile (2821.0).

Families

Figures from the 1986 Census indicate that 77% of households contained families. In the 1991 Census this had decreased to 73%. Only a small proportion of households include more than one family, about 2.4% at the 1986 Census, which declined further to 1.5% at the 1991 Census. The 1992 Family Survey indicated that 51.7% of families had dependent children. Among families with dependent children, 36.6% had one child and 63.4% had two or

more dependent children. Single-parent families comprised 13.0% of total families and were mostly composed of parent and dependent children (61.3%); the balance included an additional adult family member (38.7%).

Detailed information on the welfare of Australian families is contained in *Chapter 7, Social security and welfare*.

### 5.13 Family type and composition, 1992

Family type	No.	%
Families without dependent children		
Couple	1 619 981	33.9
Couple & adult family member	434 877	9.1
Related adults	255 189	5.3
Families with dependent children		
Couple & 1 dependent child	497 521	10.4
Couple & 2 or more dependent children	1 218 961	25.5
Couple & 1 dependent child & adult family member	193 494	4.1
Couple & 2 or more dependent children & adult family member	121 406	2.5
Single parent & 1 dependent child	185 776	3.9
Single parent & 2 or more dependent children	170 041	3.6
Single parent & 1 dependent child & adult family member	51 258	1.1
Single parent & 2 or more dependent children & adult family member	26 643	0.6
<b>Total families</b>	<b>4 775 147</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Unpublished ABS data from the Survey of Families, Australia, 1992.

## Births and deaths

Registration of births and deaths has been compulsory in Australia since 1856. The total number of these registrations is available for each year since the 1860s and more detailed information since the 1910s.

### 5.14 Births, deaths and natural increase

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
1974	245 177	115 833	129 344
1984	234 034	109 914	124 120
1988	246 193	119 866	126 327
1989	250 853	124 232	126 621
1990	262 648	120 062	142 586
1991	257 247	119 146	138 101
1992	264 151	123 660	140 491
1993	260 229	121 599	138 630
1994	258 247	126 709	131 538

Source: Births, Australia (3301.0) and Deaths, Australia (3302.0).

## Births

Recent fertility levels in Australia have been lower than at any time since records began. In 1994 the total fertility rate was 1.8 per woman. Australia's current fertility rates align with those in several other similar 'more developed' countries in Europe, North America and Japan (table 5.15).

### 5.15 Total fertility rates, selected countries

	Total fertility rate(a)	Latest year
Australia	1.9	1992
New Zealand	2.1	1992
Canada	1.8	1992
United States of America	2.1	1992
United Kingdom	1.9	1992
China	2.2	1992
Japan	1.7	1992
Korea, Republic of	1.8	1992
Indonesia	3.1	1992
Papua New Guinea	4.9	1992

(a) The total fertility rate is the sum of the age-specific birth rates. It represents the number of children that would be born to a female who experienced, throughout her child-bearing life, the age-specific rates for the years shown.

Source: Births, Australia (3301.0) and United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

Despite an overall fertility decline, the number of births has been increasing steadily during the 1980s and 1990s because of increasing numbers of women of reproductive age. The number of births registered in 1994 (258,051) has continued this pattern. The record number of births registered in Australia occurred in 1971 (276,361).

In the 1970s, fertility declines became obvious across all age groups, falling rapidly between 1972 and 1980, and marginally since then. This decline has been attributed to demographic, social, economic and attitudinal changes in the 1970s, which individually or collectively influenced fertility behaviour during this period. Between 1972 and 1987, the total fertility rate declined by 32%, but since 1987 the rate has shown little change. Declines in the age-specific fertility rates between 1984 and 1994 occurred in women

aged under 30 years, particularly in those in the 20 to 24 years age group. Age-specific fertility rates for women aged 30 to 44 years increased with the 35 to 39 years age group recording the greatest percentage increase at 65% (table 5.16).

In 1984, 70% of all births were to mothers aged under 30 years. By 1994 the corresponding percentage was 58%. The 25 to 29 years age group remains the peak fertility group.

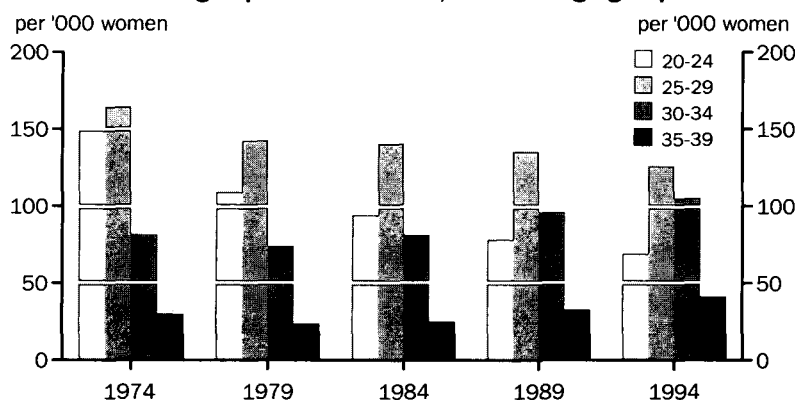
### 5.16 Age-specific birthrates and total fertility rate

Age specific birth rate (per '000 women)								
Age group (years)								
Year	15-19(a)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(b)	Total fertility rate (per woman)
1974	45.2	150.1	164.5	81.5	30.0	7.4	0.5	2.40
1984	23.2	94.3	140.4	81.2	25.0	4.3	0.3	1.84
1988	20.3	81.5	136.9	93.3	30.5	4.6	0.2	1.84
1989	20.6	78.4	135.4	96.1	32.6	5.0	0.2	1.84
1990	22.1	79.4	137.9	101.7	34.7	5.5	0.2	1.91
1991	22.1	75.0	132.0	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1.85
1992	21.9	74.9	132.6	104.6	38.4	6.1	0.3	1.89
1993	20.9	71.1	130.0	105.5	39.0	6.3	0.2	1.87
1994	20.7	69.2	126.0	105.1	41.2	6.7	0.3	1.85

(a) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15. (b) Includes births to mothers aged 50 and over.

Source: *Births, Australia* (3301.0).

### 5.17 Age-specific birthrates, selected age groups



Source: *Births, Australia* (3301.0).

### 5.18 Total confinements by nuptiality and previous issue to the current marriage of mother

Ex-nuptial confinements			Married mothers — number of previous issue to the current marriage							Not stated	Total
Year	Number	% of total	0	1	2	3	4	>4			
1974	23 200	9.5	86 248	75 996	34 810	13 362	4 784	4 429	—	242 829	
1984	34 337	14.8	79 295	69 312	33 027	10 802	3 013	1 825	32	231 643	
1988	46 293	19.0	79 841	68 432	33 419	10 650	2 856	1 699	3	243 193	
1989	50 321	20.3	81 356	67 459	33 066	10 856	2 874	1 688	3	247 623	
1990	56 850	21.9	84 228	68 301	34 026	11 179	3 089	1 761	1	259 435	
1991	58 603	23.0	81 179	67 055	32 231	10 300	2 811	1 680	2	253 861	
1992	62 667	24.0	80 821	69 467	32 644	10 522	2 843	1 702	3	260 669	
1993	64 185	24.9	77 718	68 389	31 801	10 145	2 731	1 733	1	256 703	
1994	65 387	25.6	77 166	67 123	31 118	9 598	2 500	1 655	—	254 547	

Source: Births, Australia (3301.0).

Concurrent with the downward movement that has occurred in the levels of fertility, family formation patterns have changed. An increasing proportion of total births has been occurring outside registered marriage, and for those occurring within marriage, the number of births per mother is declining.

The proportion of females having three or more children in their marriage is continuing

to decline. However, the substantial rate of decline observed between 1974 and 1984 in the proportion of nuptial confinements to women with larger families has since slowed considerably. Of the nuptial confinements registered in 1994, 76% resulted in first or second born children.

The median age of mothers and fathers has risen steadily since 1974.

### 5.19 Confinements — median age of parents

Year	Median age of mother					Median age of father	
	First nuptial	All nuptial	Ex-nuptial	Paternity acknowledged	Total	All nuptial	Paternity acknowledged
1974	23.9	25.9	21.1	n.a.	<b>25.7</b>	28.4	n.a.
1984	26.0	27.6	22.8	23.3	<b>27.1</b>	30.2	26.3
1988	27.1	28.6	23.7	24.2	<b>27.9</b>	31.0	27.0
1989	27.3	28.8	24.0	24.5	<b>28.2</b>	31.2	27.2
1990	27.6	29.0	24.0	24.5	<b>28.3</b>	31.4	27.3
1991	27.8	29.3	24.1	24.5	<b>28.5</b>	31.6	27.3
1992	28.0	29.5	24.3	24.6	<b>28.7</b>	31.8	27.4
1993	28.3	29.7	24.5	24.8	<b>28.9</b>	32.0	27.5
1994	28.5	29.9	24.6	24.9	<b>29.0</b>	32.3	27.6

Source: Births, Australia (3301.0).

The long established upward trend in the proportion of births that are ex-nuptial is continuing. In 1994, 26% of all births registered were ex-nuptial. This compares with 15% in 1984. While the percentage of births that are ex-nuptial is increasing, the percentage of these births where paternity has been acknowledged has also increased substantially, from 67% in 1984 to 82% in 1994 (table 5.20).

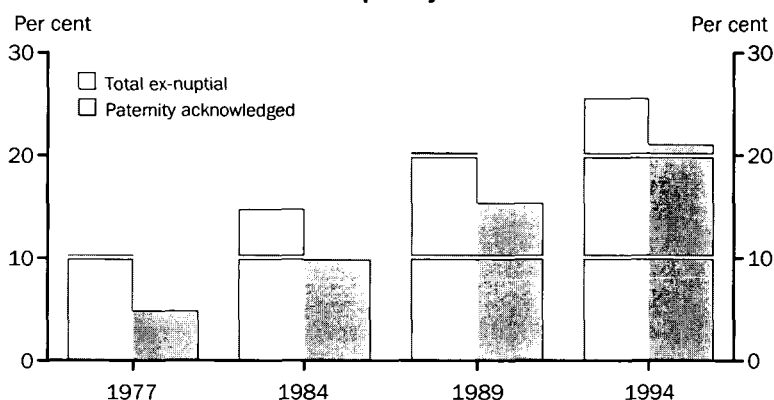
### 5.20 Ex-nuptial births

Year	Paternity acknowledged		
	Ex-nuptial	Number	% of ex-nuptial births
1974	23 408	n.a.	n.a.
1984	34 629	23 200	67.0
1988	46 768	34 773	74.4
1989	50 788	38 572	75.9
1990	57 407	44 257	77.1
1991	59 223	47 064	79.5
1992	63 368	51 349	81.0
1993	64 874	53 016	81.7
1994	66 092	54 333	82.2

Source: Births, Australia (3301.0).



### 5.21 Ex-nuptiality of births



Source: *Births, Australia* (3301.0).

## Deaths

In comparison with other countries, Australia ranks amongst those with the lowest mortality levels and the highest life expectancy.

The number of deaths registered in 1994 was 126,709, an increase of 4.2% from the previous year which, in terms of the crude death rate (the number of deaths per thousand mean population), resulted in a slight increase from 6.9 to 7.1 per thousand population. Generally, there has been a levelling of the crude death rate following two decades of consistent falls.

Mortality trends, as measured by the crude death rate, are distorted by changes in the age structure of the population over time. Australian crude death rates standardised for age show a continuing decline in mortality levels since the early 1970s. Using the age structure of the estimated resident population of persons as at 30 June 1991 as the standard, the adjusted death rate fell from 12.8 per thousand in 1976 to 9.3 per thousand in 1986 and to 8.7 per thousand in 1994 for males; and from 7.6 in 1976 to 5.5 in 1986 and to 5.2 in 1994 per thousand for females during the same period.

One of the most important measures of mortality is the infant mortality rate, expressed as the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births in a given year. There were 1,512 infant deaths registered in Australia in 1994, a 35% decrease on 1984 (2,327), and a 61.8% decrease from 1974 (3,958). The infant mortality rate fell from 16.1 in 1974 to 9.2 in 1984, and continued the established downward trend to 5.8 in 1994. The infant mortality rate for males fell from 10.5 in 1984 to 6.6 in 1994, and for females it fell from 7.9 to 5.2.

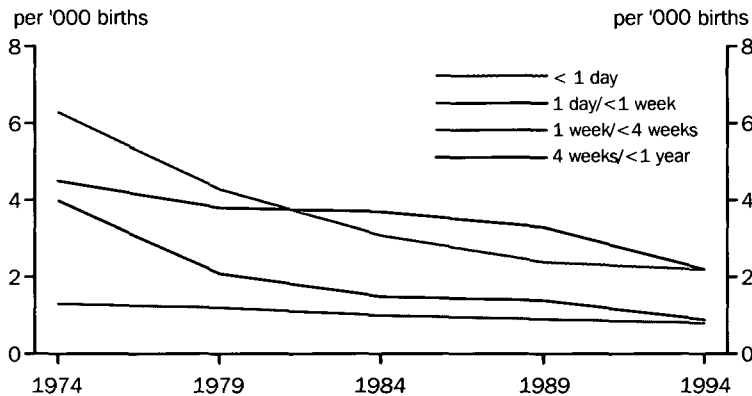
The greatest incidence of infant deaths occurs in the days and weeks immediately following birth. In 1994 neonatal deaths (deaths under 4 weeks of age) accounted for 63.6% of male infant deaths and 64.3% of female infant deaths. It has been in this area, however, that most improvements in infant mortality have been made over the last decade.

### 5.22 Infant mortality rates and expectation of life at birth, selected countries

	Infant mortality		Life expectancy at birth		
	Rate (per '000 live births)	Year	Males	Females	Year
Australia	5.8	1994	75.0	80.9	1994
New Zealand	8.3	1991	71.9	78.0	1988-90
Canada	6.8	1990	74.0	80.8	1990
United States of America	8.4	1992	72.0	78.9	1991
United Kingdom	6.6	1992	73.5	79.1	1992
China	32.0	1985-90	68.0	70.9	1985-90
Japan	4.5	1992	76.1	82.2	1992
Korea	25.0	1985-90	66.9	75.0	1989
Indonesia	75.0	1985-90	58.5	62.0	1985-90
Papua New Guinea	59.0	1985-90	53.2	54.7	1985-90

Source: Deaths, Australia (3302.0) and United Nations Demographic Year Book.

### 5.23 Infant mortality rates by age



The decline in death rates is a result of continuing improvements to community health care, public awareness of health issues and advances in medical science and technology.

In Australia, as in most other countries, females have lower death rates than males. Age-specific rates show this difference occurring across all age groups. In 1994, for example, the female death rate in many age groups was about half that of males. The relative difference between death rates for males and females was greatest in the age range 25 to 34 years where in 1994 the female rate was one-third that of males. The overall effect of these differences in death rates has been to increase the proportion of females in the older age groups of the population.

Concurrent with the decline in death rates over the last two decades there has been a rise in life expectancy at birth, increasing for males from 72.6 years to 75.0 years between the periods 1984 and 1994, and correspondingly for females from 79.1 years to 80.9 years. Female life expectancy at birth has exceeded that of males throughout the period, with the difference varying from six to seven years. Contributing to the increase in life expectancy at birth is the reduction in the age-specific death rate for those under one year, falling from 10.4 per thousand and 7.9 per thousand for males and females, respectively in 1984 to 6.6 and 5.2, respectively in 1994.

**5.24 Age-specific death rates(a)**

Age group (years)	1974	1984	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>Males</b>									
Under 1	18.4	10.4	9.7	8.8	9.1	7.9	7.9	6.9	6.5
1-14	1.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
15-19	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
20-24	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
25-29	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
30-34	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
35-39	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
40-44	3.4	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0
45-49	6.1	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8
50-54	9.9	6.8	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.6
55-59	16.2	11.8	10.1	9.9	9.5	8.9	8.7	8.4	8.0
60-64	26.1	18.9	17.2	16.6	16.0	15.4	15.2	14.3	14.1
65-69	40.0	29.9	27.2	27.3	26.2	24.9	25.0	23.7	23.7
70-74	63.2	48.5	45.0	45.2	41.2	39.3	39.8	38.0	38.4
75-79	96.6	75.4	72.4	72.6	67.5	65.5	66.4	62.4	63.8
80-84	147.4	115.6	110.9	114.0	104.8	105.5	104.4	100.9	102.7
85+	245.6	203.6	189.0	200.0	183.9	175.7	180.5	177.0	187.5
<b>Females</b>									
Under 1	13.7	7.9	7.5	7.1	7.2	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.2
1-14	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
15-19	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
20-24	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
25-29	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
30-34	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
35-39	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
40-44	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
45-49	3.6	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
50-54	5.5	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8
55-59	8.3	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.6
60-64	12.5	9.5	8.7	8.7	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.4
65-69	20.3	15.2	13.9	13.8	13.4	13.0	12.7	12.2	12.3
70-74	33.3	25.2	23.5	24.2	22.8	21.9	21.7	20.8	20.5
75-79	56.3	41.3	41.1	40.8	39.2	38.0	38.0	36.2	36.1
80-84	100.0	76.4	71.7	72.9	67.2	64.9	67.3	64.4	66.2
85+	195.1	158.4	149.5	159.9	149.6	143.5	148.9	141.4	150.0

(a) Deaths per 1 000 mid-year population.

Source: Deaths, Australia (3302.0).

**5.25 Life expectancy at various ages (years)**

Year	At age 0		At age 1		At age 25		At age 45		At age 65	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1974	68.4	75.4	68.8	75.5	46.1	52.2	27.5	33.2	12.6	16.5
1984	72.6	79.1	72.4	78.7	49.3	55.2	30.5	35.9	14.4	18.5
1988	73.1	79.5	72.8	79.1	49.9	55.6	31.2	36.3	14.8	18.8
1989	73.3	79.6	73.0	79.2	49.9	55.7	31.2	36.3	14.7	18.7
1990	73.9	80.1	73.6	79.7	50.5	56.1	31.8	36.8	15.2	19.0
1991	74.4	80.4	74.0	79.9	50.8	56.3	32.1	37.0	15.5	19.3
1992	74.5	80.4	74.1	79.9	50.9	56.3	32.1	37.0	15.4	19.2
1993	75.0	80.9	74.5	80.3	51.3	56.7	32.5	37.4	15.7	19.5
1994	75.0	80.9	74.5	80.4	51.3	57.2	32.6	37.7	15.7	19.7

Source: Deaths, Australia (3302.0).

Changes in levels of mortality and age-specific death rates reflect trends in the incidence of specific causes of death. The three most prevalent causes of death at the present time are cancer, ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease or stroke which in 1994 collectively accounted for 60.8% of deaths registered.

Detailed information on causes of death is contained in *Chapter 8, Health*.

## Marriages and divorces

### Registered marital status of the population

Marital status details in this chapter relate to registered marital status only, which refers to formally registered marriages for which the partners hold (or held) a marriage certificate.

**5.26 Estimated resident population aged 15 and over by marital status and sex at 30 June ('000)**

Year	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Males					
1984	1 880.8	3 606.1	142.1	236.3	<b>5 865.3</b>
1988	2 126.4	3 787.1	152.2	286.2	<b>6 352.0</b>
1989	2 175.7	3 848.1	156.4	297.1	<b>6 477.2</b>
1990	2 216.7	3 898.6	160.0	309.4	<b>6 584.7</b>
1991	2 243.0	3 940.2	165.2	323.9	<b>6 672.4</b>
1992	2 281.9	3 969.2	167.0	341.5	<b>6 759.6</b>
1993	2 319.3	3 990.3	168.7	359.5	<b>6 832.7</b>
1994p	2 357.0	4 007.3	170.9	378.9	<b>6 914.1</b>
Females					
1984	1 427.9	3 616.9	642.9	290.6	<b>5 978.3</b>
1988	1 659.2	3 800.5	667.8	353.7	<b>6 481.2</b>
1989	1 708.3	3 862.5	673.7	367.8	<b>6 612.3</b>
1990	1 751.6	3 912.5	677.9	383.4	<b>6 725.4</b>
1991	1 791.4	3 953.0	681.3	400.5	<b>6 826.2</b>
1992	1 828.1	3 984.5	685.5	421.1	<b>6 919.2</b>
1993	1 858.2	4 007.3	689.7	442.7	<b>6 997.9</b>
1994p	1 897.2	4 026.3	694.8	466.0	<b>7 084.2</b>

Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

Between 1984 and 1994 the total population aged 15 years and over increased by 18.2%. Of these, the numbers of persons never married, married, widowed and divorced increased by 28.6%, 11.2%, 10.3% and 60.4 %, respectively.

The disproportionate increase in the population of divorced persons is a reflection of the increase in divorce following introduction of the Family Law Act in 1975. However, since the beginning of the 1980s there has been a steady decline in the rate of growth of the divorced population.

The number of females exceeds the number of males in all categories except the 'never married'. This arises principally from mortality differences in the higher age groups. The effect is particularly noticeable in the widowed category where females far outnumber males.

In the 'never married' category, males exceed females because of higher sex ratios (number of males per 100 females) of the population at younger ages and also because of the customary difference in age between bride and groom at first marriage.

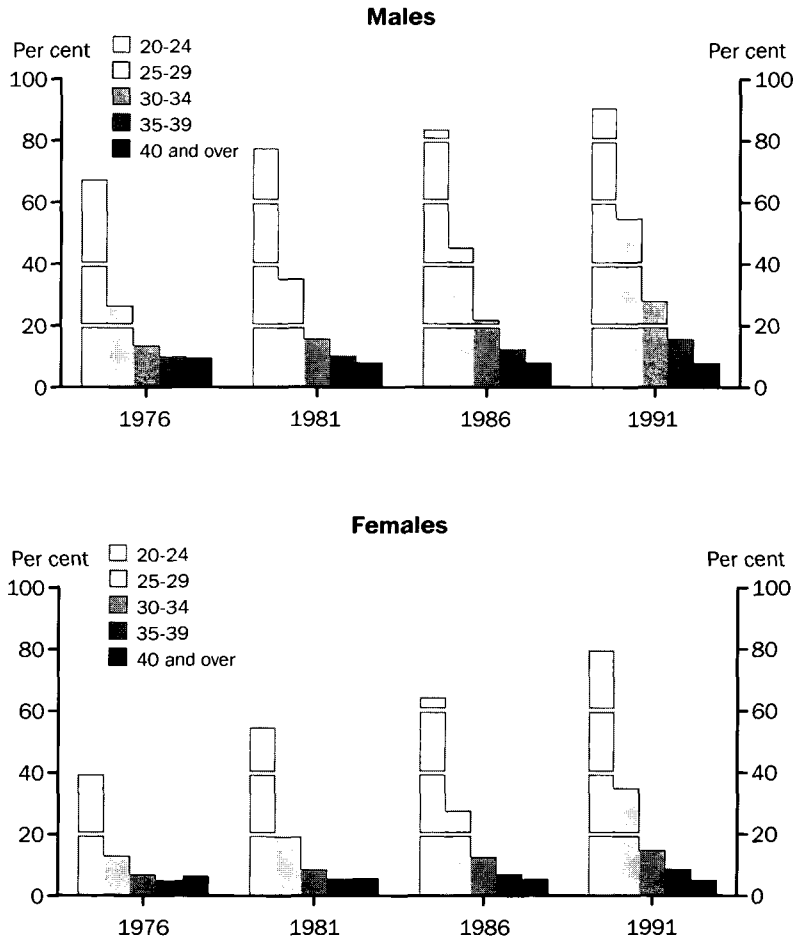
Marriages

The number of marriages occurring in Australia reached a peak of 117,637 in 1971 which, despite a growing population, has not yet been surpassed. The 1971 peak was followed by a rapid decline in numbers which coincided with the increasing incidence of de facto relationships. Although this decline levelled off in the latter half of the 1970s and numbers have recovered since then (there were 111,174 marriages in 1994), the crude marriage rate (number of marriages per thousand mean population) has continued to

drop. In 1994 it was 6.2 per thousand mean population, a fall from 8.1 in 1974 and 7.0 in 1984.

The passing of the Family Law Act in 1976 had a significant effect on the composition of marriages. Prior to the Act 80–85% of marriages were first marriages for both partners, but after 1976 this proportion fell to 65–70%. In 1994 the figure was 67.5% (table 5.28).

5.27 Proportion of persons never married by age group, at 30 June



Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

### 5.28 Marriages registered — relative previous marital status and crude marriage rate

Year	Both partners never married		One or both partners previously married		All marriages	Crude marriage rate (per '000 mean population)
	No.	%	No.	%		
1974	92 367	83.5	18 306	16.5	110 673	8.1
1984	72 540	66.8	36 115	33.2	108 655	7.0
1988	78 400	67.1	38 416	32.9	116 816	7.1
1989	78 850	67.3	38 326	32.7	117 176	7.0
1990	78 782	67.4	38 177	32.6	116 959	6.9
1991	76 811	67.5	37 058	32.5	113 869	6.6
1992	77 092	67.2	37 660	32.8	114 752	6.6
1993	75 968	67.1	37 287	32.9	113 255	6.4
1994	75 045	67.5	36 129	32.5	111 174	6.2

Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

Since 1971 there has been a reversal in the post-war trend towards younger marriages. The median age at first marriage for both males and females is now rising, having increased from 23.3 years in 1974 to

27.2 years in 1994 for males and from 20.9 to 25.1 years for females. The median age for second and subsequent marriages is also rising (table 5.29).

### 5.29 Median ages of bridegrooms and brides

	Median age of bridegrooms				Median age of brides			
	Never married	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widows	Divorced	Total
1974	23.3	58.1	36.7	<b>23.8</b>	20.9	51.2	33.0	<b>21.4</b>
1984	25.1	60.4	37.1	<b>26.7</b>	22.9	52.3	33.9	<b>24.2</b>
1988	26.1	60.9	38.9	<b>27.8</b>	24.0	52.4	35.3	<b>25.4</b>
1989	26.3	61.0	39.3	<b>28.0</b>	24.2	52.6	35.6	<b>25.7</b>
1990	26.5	61.4	39.6	<b>28.2</b>	24.3	52.3	36.0	<b>25.9</b>
1991	26.7	61.9	39.7	<b>28.4</b>	24.5	53.6	36.1	<b>26.0</b>
1992	26.9	61.6	40.1	<b>28.7</b>	24.7	53.2	36.5	<b>26.3</b>
1993	27.0	62.0	40.4	<b>28.8</b>	24.8	52.8	36.8	<b>26.4</b>
1994	27.2	62.1	40.9	<b>29.0</b>	25.1	53.9	37.4	<b>26.6</b>

Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

The first marriage rate enables a comparison of each age group of the population of either sex marrying for the first time. The number of people marrying for the first time continued to decline in 1994. When compared with ten years ago, first marriage rates for both men and women declined in all age groups with the exception of the 35–39 years age group for men and 30–34 years age group for women.

In 1994 the peak age group for men, 25–29 years, remained the same as in 1984 (88 per 1,000 population in 1994 compared with 106 per 1,000 in 1984). Women are waiting longer before marrying as the peak group for women, over the same period, changed from

the 20–24 years age group to the 25–29 years age group. The rate for the 20–24 years age group was only 68 per 1,000 in 1994 compared with 117 in 1984. For the peak group, the 25–29 years age group, first marriage rates were 105 per 1,000 in 1994 compared with 113 in 1984.

The first marriage rates for both sexes reflect the increasing median age at first marriage, and that the falling marriage rate cannot be attributed to changes in the age structure of the population. There has been a real reduction in the propensity to marry in the Australian community (table 5.30).

**5.30 First marriage rates(a)**

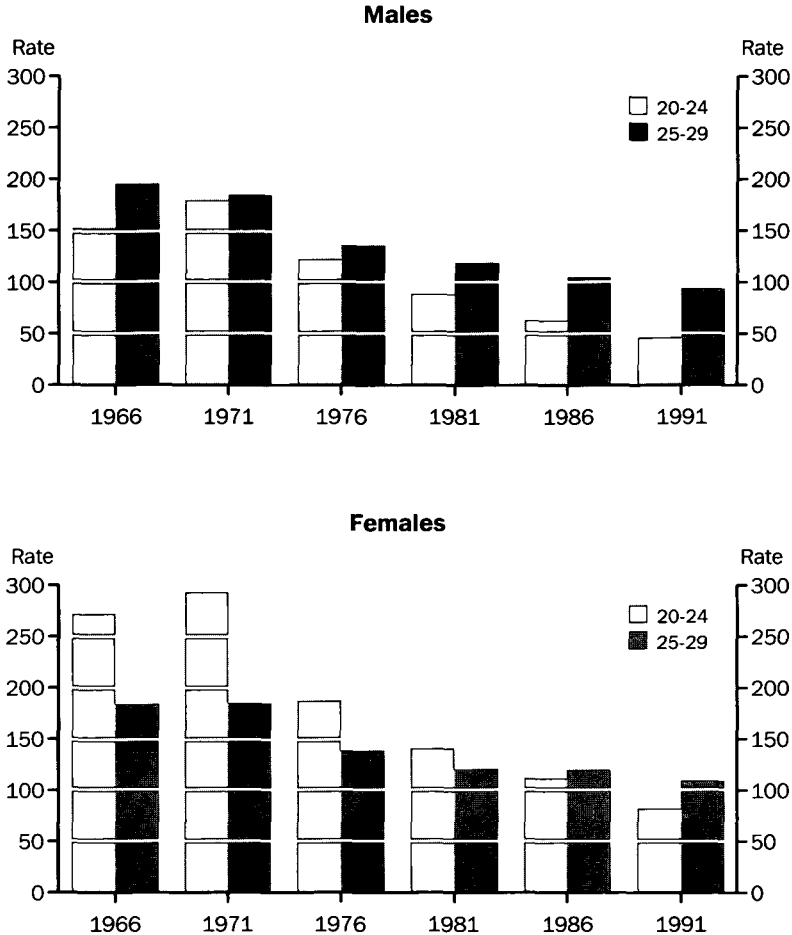
Year	To 19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
Males								
1976	9.9	122.6	135.9	81.8	45.9	25.5	15.7	6.4
1984	3.1	68.0	105.6	73.8	41.1	21.3	12.7	4.7
1988	2.4	55.7	100.8	78.0	44.7	23.0	13.2	4.2
1989	2.2	53.8	98.2	78.0	43.8	23.3	13.9	4.3
1990	2.1	48.8	95.8	74.3	43.9	22.7	13.3	4.4
1991	1.9	46.6	94.0	73.0	42.5	21.7	12.6	3.8
1992	1.5	43.3	93.3	74.3	41.2	22.3	12.3	3.7
1993	1.4	40.5	90.4	72.3	42.0	21.9	12.1	4.0
1994	1.2	36.9	87.7	71.5	41.2	21.0	11.2	3.7
Females								
1976	49.0	187.5	138.8	86.5	49.8	26.3	15.5	3.9
1984	19.2	117.0	113.2	67.9	37.2	20.6	12.0	2.1
1988	12.9	99.9	119.8	76.4	41.0	21.2	12.6	2.4
1989	12.1	94.4	116.1	75.9	41.7	21.4	11.6	2.0
1990	10.7	85.9	119.0	79.5	40.8	20.6	12.8	2.2
1991	9.5	82.4	109.6	69.4	36.6	16.8	11.0	2.1
1992	8.0	77.9	109.8	70.3	36.3	18.7	10.9	2.0
1993	7.4	73.7	105.9	69.8	35.6	17.8	9.8	2.3
1994	6.6	67.7	104.7	69.0	35.5	17.0	10.1	2.0

(a) Per 1 000 mid-year population of males and females of each age, except for age group to 19, where only males and females aged 15 to 19 years have been included in the calculations.  
Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

The decline in first marriage rates under the age of 25 and the increase in the median age at first marriage over the last decade reflects the increasing incidence of couples living together before getting married. Analysis of current trends in marriage is qualified by the absence of any time series data on the formation of de facto relationships. However,

there is evidence, based on data available from the ABS' Family Surveys in 1982 and 1992, that the number of de facto relationships is growing. In 1982 there were 168,600 de facto couples (5% of total couples). In 1992, the number of de facto couples had increased to 344,400 (8% of total couples).

### 5.31 First marriage rates (a): selected age groups, census years



(a) The number of first marriages per 1 000 population of single persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June.

Source: *Marriages, Australia (3306.0)*

## Divorces

Divorce in Australia comes under the jurisdiction of the *Family Law Act 1975*. This Act, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce, namely irretrievable breakdown of marriage, which is established by a minimum one-year separation of the husband and wife. Passing of the Act provided easier and faster access to divorce for either party by

its removal of the need to prove fault, together with a reduction of the separation period from five years to one year. In 1976 the number of divorces granted peaked at 63,230. Since then the numbers granted have varied, declining to a post-1976 low of 39,417 in 1986 but since then have slowly increased. In 1994 the number of divorces granted was 48,256.



**5.32 Divorces**

Year	Number
1974	17 744
1984	43 124
1988	41 007
1989	41 383
1990	42 635
1991	45 630
1992	45 665
1993	48 324
1994	48 256

Source: *Marriage and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

The median duration of marriage of divorcing couples decreased from 11.8 years in 1974 to 10.9 years in 1994.

There is currently a tendency for divorce to occur in the early years of marriage and at an early age. The proportion of divorces taking place within the first five years of marriage was 19.7% in 1994 and within the first 10 years it was 46.4% (table 5.33).

**5.33 Divorces — duration of marriage (%)**

Year	Duration of marriage (years)					Total	Median
	<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	>19		
At date decree made absolute							
1974	9.4	31.7	20.2	13.5	25.2	100.0	11.8
1984	20.8	26.6	19.6	13.8	19.1	100.0	10.6
1988	21.4	28.1	17.3	14.2	19.1	100.0	10.1
1989	20.9	28.3	17.1	13.9	19.8	100.0	10.2
1990	20.9	28.5	17.3	13.1	20.2	100.0	10.1
1991	21.3	27.4	17.6	13.1	20.6	100.0	10.3
1992	21.0	26.8	18.4	12.9	20.9	100.0	10.5
1993	20.5	26.3	18.1	12.9	22.1	100.0	10.7
1994	19.7	26.7	18.7	12.5	22.5	100.0	10.9
At date of final separation							
1974	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1984	36.9	22.7	16.8	11.1	12.5	100.0	7.7
1988	38.5	22.1	15.1	11.8	12.6	100.0	7.3
1989	37.9	22.3	14.9	12.0	12.7	100.0	7.3
1990	38.2	22.4	14.4	11.7	13.0	100.0	7.3
1991	37.7	22.5	14.4	12.0	13.4	100.0	7.4
1992	37.8	22.5	14.4	11.7	13.6	100.0	7.4
1993	37.4	22.1	14.3	11.8	14.4	100.0	7.6
1994	37.0	22.2	14.5	11.5	14.8	100.0	7.7

Source: *Marriage and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

The highest divorce rates for males occurred in the 30-34 year age group (20.2 per thousand married men), while for females they occurred in the under 25-29 year age group (21.7 per thousand married women). The incidence of divorce in 1994 was

12.0 per thousand married population. After a period between 1982 and 1987 in which a significant decline occurred (from 12.5 to 10.6 per thousand married population), the rate seems to be achieving some stability (table 5.34).

**5.34 Age-specific divorce rates per 1 000 married population**

	Age group (years)									
Year	<25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>59	Total
Husband										
1984	12.9	20.8	19.6	17.0	14.5	11.7	8.3	6.0	2.4	12.0
1988	12.6	19.3	18.3	15.6	13.3	11.0	8.0	5.2	2.1	10.8
1989	10.7	19.0	18.1	15.4	13.5	11.2	8.1	5.6	2.1	10.8
1990	9.9	19.4	18.4	15.8	13.8	11.7	8.5	5.6	2.0	10.9
1991	10.6	20.5	19.7	17.0	14.7	12.5	9.0	5.9	2.2	11.6
1992	10.6	19.9	19.5	17.4	14.7	12.5	9.3	6.0	2.2	11.5
1993	11.5	20.3	20.5	17.7	16.2	13.3	10.2	6.5	2.4	12.1
1994	10.6	20.1	20.2	18.0	16.1	13.5	10.5	6.7	2.4	12.0
Wife										
1984	16.8	21.2	17.7	15.5	13.3	9.7	6.1	4.0	1.8	11.9
1988	17.0	19.6	16.6	14.1	12.0	9.5	5.7	3.6	1.4	10.8
1989	15.1	19.8	16.5	14.2	12.3	9.4	6.1	3.6	1.4	10.7
1990	15.1	20.5	16.8	14.4	12.7	9.7	6.3	3.6	1.3	10.9
1991	16.1	21.5	18.3	15.6	13.5	10.6	6.5	3.8	1.4	11.5
1992	16.2	21.4	18.1	15.9	13.4	10.7	6.9	3.8	1.4	11.5
1993	16.6	21.9	19.1	16.9	14.4	11.7	7.4	4.2	1.6	12.1
1994	15.9	21.7	19.1	16.8	14.9	11.7	8.0	4.3	1.5	12.0

Source: *Marriage and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

The current low median duration between marriage and final separation combined with the increasing average interval between marriage and first birth (see Births section above) is reducing the proportion of divorcing couples with children. The proportion of

divorces in which children were involved declined from 61.0% in 1984 to 52.6% in 1993. The average number of children per divorce involving children from 1984 to 1993 has continued to remain at 1.9 (table 5.35).

**5.35 Divorces — number of children of the marriage**

Year	Number of children (%)					Total divorces	Total children	Average no. of children(a)
	0	1	2	3	4+			
1974	31.7	23.4	25.1	12.4	4.9	<b>17 688</b>	<b>25 505</b>	2.1
1984	39.1	21.6	26.2	9.8	3.3	<b>43 124</b>	<b>50 713</b>	1.9
1988	42.5	21.5	24.7	8.7	2.7	<b>41 007</b>	<b>44 395</b>	1.9
1989	44.7	20.4	23.7	8.7	2.6	<b>41 383</b>	<b>43 317</b>	1.9
1990	44.4	20.5	23.8	8.6	2.8	<b>42 635</b>	<b>44 913</b>	1.9
1991	45.8	20.1	23.2	8.4	2.5	<b>45 630</b>	<b>46 697</b>	1.9
1992	47.1	19.9	22.2	8.2	2.6	<b>45 665</b>	<b>45 704</b>	1.9
1993	47.4	20.0	21.8	8.2	2.7	<b>48 324</b>	<b>40 055</b>	1.9

(a) Divorces involving one or more children.

Source: *Marriage and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

## Remarriages

In the decade to 1994, the number of remarriages (that is, marriages involving one or more previously married parties) remained steady but on a higher plateau than in the 1970s. The 1994 total of 36,129 remarriages, which represented 32.5% of all marriages, is similar to the number of remarriages in 1984 which was 36,115 or 33.2% of all marriages (table 5.36).

The reason for the sudden rise in remarriages at the beginning of the 1980s was growth in the numbers of marriages in which one or both parties were divorced at the time of marriage and was an after-effect of the *Family Law Act 1975* (see Divorces section above).

**5.36 Marriages in which one or both partners have been previously married**

Year	Both partners divorced		One partner divorced		Other(a)		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1974	3 523	19.3	11 266	61.5	3 517	19.2	<b>18 306</b>
1984	11 956	33.1	21 814	60.3	2 390	6.6	<b>36 160</b>
1988	12 709	33.1	23 359	60.8	2 348	6.1	<b>38 416</b>
1989	12 471	32.5	23 496	61.3	2 359	6.2	<b>38 326</b>
1990	12 802	33.5	23 239	60.9	2 136	5.6	<b>38 177</b>
1991	12 298	33.2	22 649	61.1	2 111	5.7	<b>37 058</b>
1992	12 940	34.4	22 706	60.3	2 014	5.3	<b>37 660</b>
1993	12 548	33.1	23 227	61.2	2 151	5.7	<b>37 926</b>
1994	12 405	34.3	21 717	60.1	2 007	5.6	<b>36 129</b>

(a) Includes 'not stated' previous marital status.

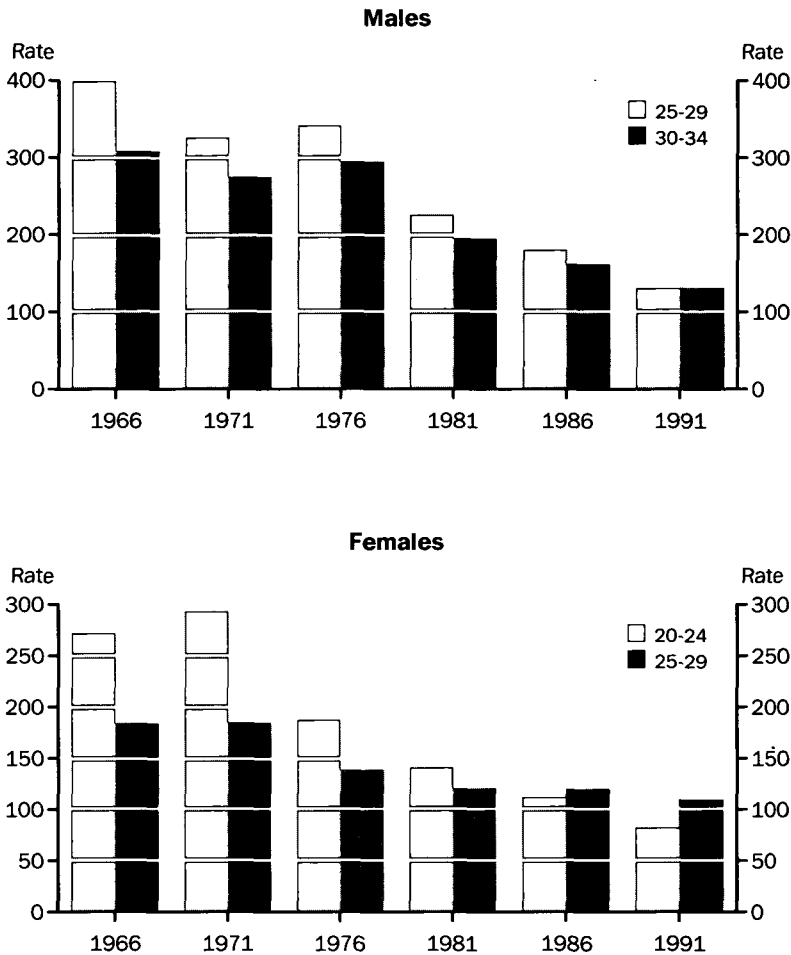
Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

Set against rising population numbers, the current plateau in the number of remarriages is resulting in declining remarriage rates. The remarriage rate for males was 48.5 per thousand widowed and divorced male population in 1994, down from 70.0 in 1984. The female rate has fallen from 27.1 in 1984 to 21.9 in 1994. Again (see Marriages section above) the absence of data on de facto unions of people previously married impedes analysis of current trends. The discrepancy between male and female remarriage rates is caused by longer female survival and therefore greater numbers of females at older ages.

Remarriage rates for both men and women, after divorce or widowhood, also continued to fall in 1994. When 1994 and 1984 are

compared remarriage rates declined in all age groups for men and in all but two of the older age groups for women (50–54 and 55–59 years age groups). In 1994 the peak remarriage age group for men was the 30–34 years age group (114 per 1,000 population) and for women the 25–29 years age group (115 per 1,000). Ten years ago, for both men and women, the peak remarriage age groups were to be found in the preceding age group. In 1984 the peak remarriage age group for men was the 25–29 years age group (193 per 1,000 population), while the peak group for women was the 20–24 years age group (181 per 1,000 population).

5.37 Remarriage rates(a): selected age groups



(a) The number of remarriages per 1 000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June.

Source: *Marriages, Australia* (3306.0).

## Overseas migration

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from passenger cards which are collected from all incoming and outgoing travellers under the *Migration Act 1958* and *Migration Reform Act 1992*. Earlier statistics were obtained from shipping and plane manifests required under various Acts.

Until the 1960s, total net gains (that is, the excess of total arrivals over total departures) provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration.

In recent years, however, because of the large increase in short-term movements (10.8 million in 1994), distortions arising from seasonality of these movements 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. Net overseas migration is estimated to have directly contributed 41.5% of the total population increase between 1984 and 1994.

**5.38 Overseas migration — net permanent and long-term movement**

	1984	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Arrivals							
Permanent	68 810	145 320	121 230	121 690	107 390	76 330	69 770
Long-term	76 470	104 570	110 690	114 710	126 780	127 440	137 600
Total	145 280	249 880	231 920	236 400	234 170	203 770	207 370
Departures							
Permanent	24 300	21 650	27 860	31 130	29 120	27 910	27 280
Long-term	74 440	90 990	100 200	110 510	115 160	113 190	112 710
Total	98 750	112 640	128 060	141 640	144 280	141 100	139 990
<b>Net permanent &amp; long-term migration</b>	<b>46 530</b>	<b>137 240</b>	<b>103 870</b>	<b>94 760</b>	<b>89 890</b>	<b>62 670</b>	<b>67 380</b>
Category jumping(a)	2 560	20 195	20 781	-8 325	-20 892	-32 213	-20 619
Net overseas migration gain	49 090	157 435	124 651	86 435	68 998	30 457	46 761

(a) Adjustment for changes in travel intentions from short-term to permanent or long-term or vice versa.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0) and Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3401.0).

**Birthplace of the population**

At the 1947 Census, the proportion of the population (excluding some Aboriginal people) born in Australia had risen to its highest level (90.2%) since the beginning of European settlement and 97.9% of the Australian population were either born in Australia or the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand. In that Census, the largest non-British overseas-born group, the Italians, comprised only 0.4% of the population (33,600).

Since 1947, not only has the decline of the overseas-born population been reversed, but significant changes have taken place in the composition of that group. The progressive removal of immigration restrictions based on country of origin, race or colour between 1949 and 1973, together with the extension of assisted migration schemes to non-British groups and refugees, have ensured a greater diversity of ethnic origin among the Australian population. Overseas-born persons from the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand combined, increased only slightly as a proportion of the total population between 1947 and 1994, from 7.7% to 8.4%. However,

overseas-born persons from other countries increased from 2.1% to 14.4% during the same period. Overseas countries of birth contributing 0.1% or more of the total population — apart from the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand — increased in number from 4 in 1947 to 40 in 1994.

The largest overseas-born group at the present time remains those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, comprising 1,216 100 or 6.8% of the population in 1994. By comparison, the second largest overseas-born group, New Zealanders, comprised only 1.6% of the Australian population in 1994 (285,500). Six of the first eleven largest overseas-born groups are European, the exceptions being New Zealand, Viet Nam, Philippines, Malaysia and Lebanon. Although Europe remains the region of origin of the majority of the overseas-born population, the number of European-born persons has declined as a proportion of the total Australian population from 15.5% in 1982 to 13.3% in 1994, while persons born in other regions have increased their share.

### 5.39 Major countries of birth of the population at 30 June ('000)

Country of birth	1984	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994(p)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>12 300.4</b>	<b>13 041.2</b>	<b>13 179.5</b>	<b>13 318.8</b>	<b>13 470.9</b>	<b>13 623.4</b>	<b>13 779.6</b>
Overseas							
UK & Ireland	1 189.4	1 225.8	1 238.6	1 244.3	1 236.2	1 224.7	1 216.1
New Zealand	189.1	280.2	287.2	286.4	285.5	284.4	285.5
Italy	278.4	272.5	271.7	272.0	269.3	266.6	263.9
Former Yugoslav Republics	157.7	166.1	167.3	168.0	169.4	171.7	174.8
Greece	149.9	148.2	147.9	147.4	146.5	145.7	145.2
Viet Nam	72.4	103.9	114.3	124.8	133.1	137.3	142.0
Germany	120.8	121.3	121.2	120.4	119.9	119.2	118.8
Netherlands	102.0	100.6	100.4	100.9	100.0	98.9	98.2
Philippines	25.6	64.2	71.5	79.1	83.6	85.5	88.4
Malaysia	43.1	69.2	75.7	79.9	83.0	84.7	88.0
Lebanon	55.2	72.3	75.3	78.5	79.4	80.1	80.9
Other	895.2	1 149.0	1 214.5	1 263.6	1 312.3	1 334.2	1 361.8
Total overseas	3 279.0	3 773.3	3 885.6	3 965.3	4 018.2	4 033.0	4 063.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 579.4</b>	<b>16 814.4</b>	<b>17 065.1</b>	<b>17 284.0</b>	<b>17 489.1</b>	<b>17 656.4</b>	<b>17 843.3</b>

Source: Migration, Australia (3412.0).

Of Northeast, Southeast and Southern Asia, the people born in Southeast Asia comprise the greatest numbers in the Australian population. In 1994 there were 446,760 people from Southeast Asia, an increase of 236,640 or 113% since 1984. However, the group with the highest percentage increase over the same period is Northeast Asia, which has risen by 245% from 70,620 in 1984 to 243,380 in 1994. This increase has mainly comprised people from China and Hong Kong. The numbers of people from Southern Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc.) have increased by 93% from 70,430 in 1984 to 135,960 in 1994. Predominant countries of birth of Australia's Northeast, Southeast and Southern Asia populations are Viet Nam (142,010), China (9,350), Philippines (88,420), Malaysia (88,040), Hong Kong (85,830) and India (74,890).

In June 1994, the median age of the overseas-born population was 43.6 years, almost 10 years older than the median

(33.4 years) for the population as a whole. The median age of the Australian-born population was 29.5 years. Australia's high levels of post-war immigration has contributed to this median age differential, where migrants who predominantly arrived as adults in the 1950's and 1960's are starting to swell the numbers at older ages. Overseas-born population groups from recent source countries, for example, Lebanon, South Africa, and those in Southeast Asia and South America are noticeably younger than those from European sources.

At the 1991 Census, 75.6% of persons had been born in Australia. Of these, 74.1% reported Australia as the birthplace of both their parents. This implies that 56.0% of the total population of Australia are at least second generation Australians. A further 14.6% of the Australian-born population (11.0% of the total population) had one parent born in Australia.

### 5.40 Birthplace of parents of Australian-born persons(a)

Birthplace of parents	No.	%
Both parents born in Australia	9 419 384	74.1
One parent born in Australia, the other -		
Born overseas	1 754 519	13.8
Not stated	98 013	0.8
One parent born overseas, the other -		
Not stated	19 573	0.2
Both parents born overseas	1 359 014	10.7
Not stated	63 768	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 714 271</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Census counts, place of usual residence.

Source: Census 1991, unpublished ABS data.

## 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 introduction of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited non-citizen. Exempted persons include New Zealand citizens, overseas-born children of Australian citizens, diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter Australian ports while on leave.

During the last decade, migrants from the United Kingdom and Ireland have remained the most numerous group of settlers, although they have declined in absolute numbers and as a proportion of total settler arrivals. In 1982 they comprised 32.5% of settler arrivals, however, by 1994 this contribution had fallen to 13.2%. At the same time the number of settlers from other European sources, such as Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands have also declined, although the numbers from the former Yugoslav Republics and the former USSR and Baltic States have increased. Settlers from Europe and the former USSR in total accounted for 29.5% of all settler arrivals in 1994. Despite a fall in settlers from these more traditional sources, the overall number of settler arrivals in Australia increased markedly during the early 1980s, before beginning to decline from 1988. However,

there have been peaks and troughs during the past decade, coinciding with economic boom and recession years. These have occurred most notably in 1984 when the number of settlers arriving in Australia totalled only 73,110, contrasting with 1988 when 151,550 settlers arrived.

During the 1980s through to the early 1990s, settlers from Southeast, Northeast and Southern Asia have increased substantially. In 1982, European-born settlers accounted for 54.5% of arrivals in Australia, compared with only 3.3% from Northeast Asia. By 1994, Northeast Asia alone accounted for 11% of total settler arrivals compared with 29.5% from Europe. Hong Kong sourced settlers have contributed most to the overall increase from the three Asian regions. In 1991, Hong Kong born settlers numbered 14,490 and accounted for 61.7% of arrivals from Northeast Asia. The level of Vietnamese-born settlers arriving in Australia has been consistently high since 1984 when the intake was 9,900 compared to 5,350 in 1994, accounting for 36.2% of arrivals from Southeast Asia. Indian-born settlers have increased from 1,730 in 1984 to 3,128 in 1994 accounting for 49% of arrivals from Southern Asia. Other countries belonging to the three Asian regions from where settler arrivals have increased between 1984 and 1994 were China, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia.

## 5.41 Birthplace of settler arrivals(a)

Birthplace	1974	1982	1984	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No.									
United Kingdom & Ireland	53 230	34 800	11 750	26 490	23 530	18 940	12 290	9 240	10 330
Hong Kong	950	1 350	3 070	7 400	10 520	14 490	9 820	3 830	3 640
Viet Nam	n.a.	8 380	9 900	10 050	13 730	10 670	7 390	5 660	5 350
New Zealand	3 400	9 810	6 860	17 340	8 970	6 730	7 310	6 840	8 970
India	2 580	1 620	1 730	2 990	3 760	5 790	5 110	2 490	3 130
Philippines	770	3 090	2 950	6 940	6 150	6 480	4 930	3 740	4 050
China	n.a.	1 070	2 600	3 440	3 270	3 390	3 360	2 580	2 940
Former USSR & Baltic States	250	240	150	1 530	1 200	1 550	3 320	1 820	2 350
Former Yugoslav Republics	65 207	1 520	1 310	2 180	1 830	2 300	3 000	4 600	2 870
Sri Lanka	1660	540	2 570	2 010	3 120	2 800	2 490	1 150	1 830
Taiwan	n.a.	140	180	2 910	3 140	3 710	2 220	910	710
Malaysia	1 090	2 120	1 870	6 920	6 210	4 380	2 170	1 310	1 160
Fiji	300	720	580	2 510	2 510	2 460	1 940	1 270	1 280
Poland	440	6 190	1 380	1 590	1 570	1 820	1 540	670	660
United States of America	3 620	1 960	1 570	1 960	1 980	1 710	1 530	1 270	1 550
South Africa	1 250	3 060	1 360	2 680	2 150	1 700	1 240	990	2 390
Lebanon	3 000	830	2 440	2 270	2 610	2 420	1 120	1 030	1 150
Germany, Fed. Rep.	1 890	4 040	1 140	1 150	970	860	730	610	780
Italy	3 070	830	510	340	340	310	290	240	360
Greece	3 700	660	650	520	350	300	230	270	260
Other	33 600	24 200	18 570	27 840	23 650	23 840	22 220	15 160	21 080
<b>Total</b>	<b>121 320</b>	<b>107 170</b>	<b>73 110</b>	<b>131 060</b>	<b>121 560</b>	<b>116 650</b>	<b>94 250</b>	<b>65 680</b>	<b>77 940</b>
%									
United Kingdom & Ireland	43.9	32.5	16.1	20.2	19.4	16.2	13.0	14.0	13.3
Hong Kong	0.8	1.3	4.2	5.6	8.7	12.4	10.4	5.8	4.7
Viet Nam	n.a.	7.8	13.5	7.7	11.3	9.1	7.8	8.6	6.9
New Zealand	2.8	9.2	9.4	13.2	7.4	5.8	7.8	10.4	11.5
India	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.3	3.1	5.0	5.4	3.8	4.0
Philippines	0.6	2.9	4.0	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.2	5.7	5.2
China	n.a.	1.0	3.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.6	3.9	3.8
Former USSR & Baltic States	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	3.5	2.8	4.4
Former Yugoslav Republics	5.4	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.5	2.0	3.2	7.0	3.7
Sri Lanka	1.4	0.5	3.5	1.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	1.8	2.3
Taiwan	n.a.	0.1	0.2	2.2	2.6	3.2	2.4	1.4	0.9
Malaysia	0.9	2.0	2.6	5.3	5.1	3.8	2.3	2.0	1.5
Fiji	0.2	0.7	0.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.6
Poland	0.4	5.8	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.8
United States of America	3.0	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.0
South Africa	1.0	2.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	3.1
Lebanon	2.5	0.8	3.3	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.6	1.5
Germany, Fed. Rep.	1.6	3.8	1.6	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Italy	2.5	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
Greece	3.0	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
Other	27.7	22.6	25.4	21.2	19.5	20.4	23.6	23.1	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Permanent arrivals only.

Source: Migration, Australia (3412.0).



Since 1979, family immigration has increased in importance, with migration of family members now amounting to over 40% of settler arrivals. Non-visaed migrants continue to be a major contributor to Australian settlement. These are primarily New Zealand citizens migrating under the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement under which Australian and New Zealand citizens may enter each country without the need to obtain visas or entry permits. Other non-visaed migrants include children born to Australian citizens overseas, persons who have acquired Australian citizenship overseas and residents of the external Australian Territory of Norfolk Island. Settlers from New Zealand accounted

for 9.4% of total permanent settlement in 1984, peaking at 24,870 in 1988 (16.4%) and falling to 11.5% in 1994.

The age composition of settlers arriving has been younger than that of Australia's population for some time and reflects the predominance of young families arriving in Australia. Persons aged 65 years and over represented 4.8% of migrants arriving in 1984, which contrasts with the proportion of this age group of Australia's total population in the same year, which was 10.7%. In 1994, only 3.3% of settlers were aged 65 years and over, whereas the proportion of the total population had risen to 11.8%.

#### 5.42 Permanent arrivals, distribution by age and sex (%)

Year	Age group (years)							Total
	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	>64	
Males								
1972	29.6	24.7	24.5	11.4	4.7	2.7	2.4	57 820
1984	30.2	18.3	24.3	13.5	4.9	4.4	4.4	35 530
1988	29.3	15.6	26.6	16.4	5.4	3.5	3.1	75 720
1989	28.7	16.7	25.8	16.2	5.8	3.8	3.1	64 490
1990	28.4	15.5	28.7	16.2	5.2	3.4	2.6	60 570
1991	27.9	13.2	30.7	17.6	4.9	3.4	2.2	57 640
1992	27.7	13.5	31.6	16.3	5.2	3.3	2.4	46 040
1993	26.8	15.2	30.7	14.4	5.9	3.9	3.2	30 860
1994	26.0	14.4	31.4	15.5	5.6	4.0	3.1	36 880
Females								
1972	29.3	26.3	22.2	9.5	5.0	4.4	3.3	54 650
1984	27.3	18.7	25.1	12.1	5.1	6.5	5.2	37 580
1988	27.8	17.4	27.5	14.4	4.9	4.6	3.5	75 830
1989	26.6	18.5	26.9	14.6	5.4	4.5	3.6	66 570
1990	26.3	18.1	28.8	14.5	5.0	4.2	3.1	61 000
1991	25.7	16.8	31.8	14.5	4.8	3.8	2.7	59 010
1992	24.7	17.5	32.3	13.9	4.9	3.9	2.8	48 210
1993	22.2	20.3	30.9	13.1	5.7	4.6	3.3	34 810
1994	23.0	18.7	30.6	13.9	5.7	4.6	3.5	41 060

Source: Unpublished ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures data.

Despite the comparative youthfulness of the settlers, their median age has been rising. Since 1984, when the numbers of migrants under the 'family reunion' category began to increase, the median age of settlers has risen from 26.1 years to 28.1 years in 1994. Settlers in the 15-24 year age group increased by 10% in 1994 compared to 1991 and those in the 25-44 year age group decreased by 11.5% over the same period. Conversely, the 45-64 and 65 plus year age groups increased over the same period by 36.1% and 32.0% respectively.

The sex ratio (number of male settlers per 100 female settlers) tends to be high in years of large intake, and falls as intake declines. There was a rise in the sex ratio in the first half of the 1980s as settler arrivals increased, but in the last five years the sex ratio has remained below 100.0. In 1994 the sex ratio was 89.7 males per 100 females. In 1994, males predominated in only the 0 to 14 year age group.

**5.43 Permanent arrivals — sex ratios(a) by age**

Year	Age group (years)							Total
	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	>64	
1972	106.9	99.1	117.1	126.8	101.0	65.6	74.9	<b>105.8</b>
1984	104.9	92.2	91.6	105.0	91.6	64.2	79.2	<b>94.5</b>
1988	105.3	89.9	96.7	113.8	111.1	75.6	89.1	<b>99.9</b>
1989	104.7	87.2	92.8	107.8	104.2	80.1	84.4	<b>96.9</b>
1990	107.4	85.0	98.7	111.2	102.3	80.5	83.2	<b>99.3</b>
1991	106.0	76.9	94.5	119.2	101.4	87.1	79.5	<b>97.7</b>
1992	107.0	73.8	93.6	112.0	100.0	81.3	81.8	<b>95.5</b>
1993	107.0	66.4	87.9	97.4	91.9	76.3	86.0	<b>88.7</b>
1994	105.0	67.6	90.7	99.6	89.8	79.1	83.4	<b>89.7</b>

(a) The number of males per 100 females.

Source: Unpublished ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures data.

**Refugees**

Australia's Humanitarian Program consists of three main categories: Refugee, Special Humanitarian and Special Assistance Categories. Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 470,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by World War II and its aftermath. Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The high profile Indo-Chinese refugee program which has been a feature of recent years is continuing into the 1990s. Australia's intake of refugees in 1993-94 was 11,350 persons, an increase of 3.8% from 1992-93 (10,939), and an increase of 58.6% from 1991-92 (7,157). This was a reflection of the large increase in numbers from the former Yugoslav Republics (3,655) and the former USSR and Baltic States (820), which together made up 39.5% of Australia's total refugee intake for 1993-94. Refugees from Asian regions were in similar numbers to the previous year, although their proportion of total refugee arrivals was down from 76% in 1982-83, to 44% in 1991-92 and 37% in 1993-94.

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 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 twofold. 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.

### 5.44 Birthplace of refugee arrivals — years ended 30 June

Birthplace	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Romania	280	311	38	82	9	—
Former USSR & Baltic States	475	1 065	97	18	1 605	820
Former Yugoslav Republics	4	5	—	337	3 133	3 665
Iran	521	321	338	318	97	156
Iraq	33	58	98	1 231	1 333	949
Lebanon	91	484	1 147	230	8	4
Indonesia	36	17	15	130	446	148
Cambodia	1 217	172	35	14	5	452
Laos	352	241	301	197	23	46
Viet Nam	3 851	5 679	3 126	1 561	1 902	2 298
Chile	361	109	—	—	—	—
El Salvador	1 492	1 848	1 460	1 194	343	95
Ethiopia	62	111	111	210	493	440
Other	2 093	1 527	967	1 633	1 540	2 277
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 868</b>	<b>11 948</b>	<b>7 745</b>	<b>7 157</b>	<b>10 939</b>	<b>11 350</b>

Source: Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.

## Permanent departures

An important component constraining population growth is the level of population loss due to emigration. Between 1984 and 1994, total permanent departures numbered 268,820 persons or an average of 24,438 per year, a level which is 23.5% of the total permanent arrivals over this period. The ratio of permanent departures to permanent arrivals in 1994 was 34.7%. The highest ratio in the post World War II period was recorded in 1975 (53.7%).

Of the two categories of permanent departures, that is, 'former settlers' and 'other residents', it has been under the first category that there has been the greatest outflow of persons. Between 1984 and 1994, 'former settlers' represented 50.6% of all permanent departures. The departure of 'other residents' has fluctuated from a low of 8,860 in 1986 to a record high level of 16,150 persons in 1990 falling to 14,280 in 1994.

### 5.45 Permanent departures and arrivals

Year	Permanent departures			Permanent arrivals	Departures as % of arrivals
	Former settlers	Other residents	Total		
1972	33 170	12 710	<b>45 880</b>	112 470	40.8
1984	12 550	9 760	<b>22 310</b>	73 110	30.5
1988	10 480	9 840	<b>20 320</b>	151 550	13.4
1989	11 940	12 890	<b>24 830</b>	131 060	18.9
1990	14 220	16 150	<b>30 370</b>	121 560	25.0
1991	15 870	14 030	<b>29 900</b>	116 650	25.6
1992	14 040	14 090	<b>28 140</b>	94 250	29.9
1993	13 280	14 800	<b>28 070</b>	65 680	42.7
1994	12 740	14 280	<b>27 020</b>	77 940	34.7

Source: Migration, Australia (3412.0).

## Internal migration

Information on internal migration (migration from one part of Australia to another) has been available from the population censuses since 1971. During the census, people are asked to state their place of usual residence on census night and also on the same date one year ago and five years ago. Comparison of these addresses has provided data on interstate migration and also (for the 1986 and 1991 Censuses only) intrastate movement. Movers are classified by age, sex, birthplace and other selected characteristics. The census also provides data on where people recently arrived from overseas are now living.

Between censuses, data on interstate migration are estimated, at quarterly intervals, from information on interstate changes of address advised to the Health Insurance Commission in the process of administering Medicare. (No comprehensive data are compiled on intrastate migration between censuses.) Prior to 1986, postcensal interstate migration estimates were based on changes of address advised to the Department of Social Security by recipients of the Family Allowance.

Interstate migration has had an important influence on the distribution of Australia's population amongst the States and Territories. Historically, it has been much more important than fertility or mortality and in many periods more important than overseas migration. Net interstate migration tends to be volatile in nature and large gains and losses have been recorded by all States.

#### 5.46 Net interstate migration ('000)

Year ended 30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
1974	-19 500	-9 200	19 000	-2 000	3 000	-1 100	2 800	7 000
1984	-10 267	-3 340	9 957	553	732	695	726	942
1989	-37 974	-12 504	47 062	-221	5 017	203	-1 469	-114
1990	-35 983	-7 829	38 102	-252	3 012	2 790	-1 170	1 330
1991	-17 206	-14 853	29 709	1 545	-1 791	816	-1 152	2 932
1992	-15 199	-21 131	38 170	-133	-1 441	-343	-1 591	1 668
1993	-19 077	-28 442	53 811	-4 650	-311	-1 553	-1 403	1 625
1994	-13 541	-31 895	49 066	-3 466	3 664	-2 162	-1 515	-151

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0).

New South Wales has experienced substantial net losses, particularly to Queensland, but also to Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The loss of 37,974 in the year ended June 1989 was the largest ever recorded by any State or Territory over a 12 month period.

Victoria has experienced net losses throughout the period. The most popular destinations are Queensland and New South Wales.

Queensland has made major net gains, consistently ranking as the favourite destination for Australians moving interstate. Its net gain of 55,811 in the year ended June 1993 was the highest ever recorded by any State or Territory over a 12 month period.

South Australia has experienced small net gains and losses. It is frequently the State with the smallest net interstate movement per head of population.

Western Australia recorded considerable net gains in the second half of the 1980s when it ranked as the second most popular destination for Australians moving interstate. Since 1990 the number of interstate arrivals

has fallen. The small net loss in 1990-91 was the State's first loss since the 1960s.

Tasmania has experienced small net gains and losses.

The Northern Territory made consistent net gains in the first half of the 1980s but has experienced small losses in more recent years. The Australian Capital Territory has made small net gains throughout the period. For both Territories, the levels of net interstate movement per head of population are high.

During the twenty years from 1971 to 1991, the flow of persons interstate increased. Census data indicate that for the four five-year periods, 1971-76, 1976-81, 1981-86 and 1986-91, the number of interstate movers was 569,500, 651,200, 716,555 and 779,966, respectively.

Proportional to total population (mobility rate), the number of interstate movers numbered 46 per thousand in the 1971-76 intercensal period, rising to 49 per thousand during 1976-81 and 50 per thousand in the 1981-86 period, before falling to 47 per thousand during 1986-91.

Interstate mobility rates by age have revealed a clear and consistent life cycle pattern in the propensity of persons to move interstate. Data for 1971–76, 1976–81, 1981–86 and 1986–91 show that there was, initially, an above average rate for the 5–9 year age group (because of the high mobility of their parents). This was followed by a period of below average mobility in the early teenage years.

Mobility was highest at ages 20–39 years, after which it steadily declined with age. The highest mobility rates occurred at ages 25–29 years and the lowest at ages 65 and over. Females were generally less likely to move interstate than males, with differences being most pronounced during the child-rearing ages from 25–45 years.

#### 5.47 Interstate movers by age, mobility rates(a) and sex ratios(b)

	Number of interstate movers				Mobility rates			
	1971–76	1976–81	1981–86	1986–91	1971–76	1976–81	1981–86	1986–91
Age group (years)								
1–4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5–9	69 810	75 603	69 830	76 555	56	61	60	61
10–14	49 979	59 096	62 803	61 143	40	46	49	50
15–19	49 899	53 025	59 331	62 130	41	42	45	47
20–24	83 239	89 139	92 223	91 554	75	72	72	69
25–29	99 102	100 337	110 169	108 725	88	85	85	82
30–34	64 271	85 729	89 571	100 377	68	72	73	73
35–39	42 174	55 606	73 719	78 440	52	57	60	61
40–44	27 380	34 104	44 539	61 355	38	42	45	49
45–49	22 328	21 948	27 629	37 223	29	30	34	37
50–54	17 993	19 155	19 134	25 420	24	25	27	31
55–59	12 933	16 929	18 700	19 730	21	23	26	28
60–64	11 008	14 769	18 214	19 683	20	25	26	28
>64	19 402	25 745	30 693	37 631	16	18	19	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>569 518</b>	<b>651 185</b>	<b>716 555</b>	<b>779 966</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>
Sex ratios								
Interstate movers	106	107	107	104	..	..	..	..
Total population	100	100	100	99	..	..	..	..

(a) Interstate movers per 1 000 population of Australian residents enumerated in the Census at the end of the period. (b) The number of males per 100 females.

Source: 1991 Census, unpublished data.

## Citizenship

The granting of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. Prior to 26 January 1949, persons who were naturalised became British subjects but with the introduction of the Act, all such persons automatically became Australian citizens.

Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia provided that at the time of birth one of the parents is an Australian citizen or legal resident of Australia, by birth abroad to an Australian parent, or by grant of citizenship to a person resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act. All persons are now eligible for Australian citizenship

provided that they have resided in Australia for at least two years, are of good character, have an adequate knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

At the 1981 Census, 88.7% of the population were Australian citizens, with 11.9% of these being born overseas. At the 1991 Census the proportion of the population who were Australian citizens had fallen to 87.7%, but the share of those born overseas who have Australian citizenship increased to 12.2%.

**5.48 Country of citizenship(a)**

	Persons			%		
	1981	1986	1991	1981	1986	1991
Australia						
Born in Australia	11 393 861	11 917 624	12 725 164	78.2	76.4	75.5
Born overseas	1 537 212	1 919 474	2 051 589	10.5	12.3	12.2
Other(b)	1 645 257	1 765 058	2 073 787	11.3	11.3	12.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 576 330</b>	<b>15 602 156</b>	<b>16 850 540</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Census counts, place of enumeration. (b) Includes not stated.

Source: Census 1991, unpublished data.

## Bibliography

### ABS publications

*Australia in Profile (1991 Census)* (2821.0).

*Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (1991 Census)* (2740.0).

*Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0).

*Australia's Families - Selected Findings from the Survey of Families, Australia, 1992* (4418.0).

*Births, Australia* (3301.0).

*Deaths, Australia* (3302.0).

*Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (3310.0).

*Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia* (3201.0).

*Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (3230.0).

*Household Estimates* (3229.0).

*Marriages, Australia* (3306.0).

*Migration Australia* (3412.0).

*Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (3401.0).

*Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (3228.0).

*Population Growth and Distribution, Australia* (2822.0).

*Projections of the Populations of Australia States and Territories 1993 to 2041* (3222.0).

### Other publications

*United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1993.*



# A Profile of Australia's Indigenous People

## 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommended that a special national survey be conducted to provide information about a range of characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The ABS commenced development of the national survey in early 1992, in consultation with many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. Over 15,700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were interviewed for the survey in mid 1994. Most of the interviewers were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. The results were released in February 1995.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) results provide a wealth of information about health; family and culture; housing, education and training; employment and income; and law and justice. This article provides an overview of the information available from the NATSIS. Only a small selection of the total available information is included. Many of the statistics in this article come from the first major publication, *Detailed Findings* (4190.0) which is a national summary of results.

## The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

The NATSIS interviewed a sample of the total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The ABS estimated that there were over 303,250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia at 30 June 1994.

Table S1.1 shows that New South Wales and Queensland had the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, while there were fewest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 27.4% of the total population in the Northern Territory, but less than 3% in all other States.

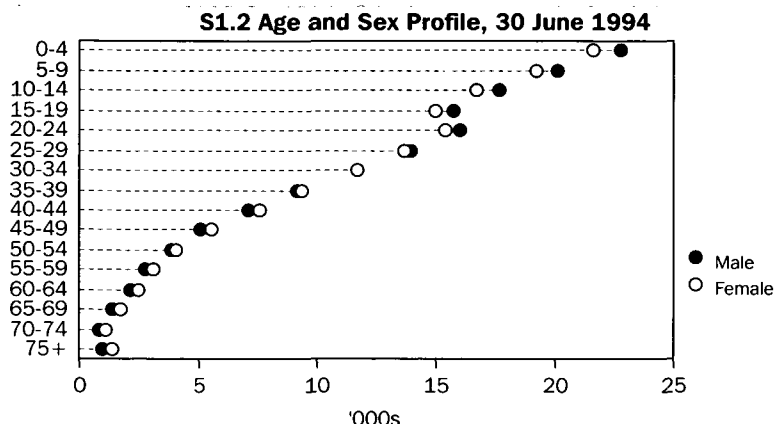
**S1.1 Estimated population, 30 June 1994**

State	Males	Females	Persons	% of total population
New South Wales(a)	40 460	39 970	<b>80 430</b>	1.3
Victoria	9 590	9 590	<b>19 180</b>	0.4
Queensland	40 080	39 760	<b>79 840</b>	2.6
South Australia	9 220	9 200	<b>18 420</b>	1.3
Western Australia	23 790	23 450	<b>47 240</b>	2.8
Tasmania	5 160	4 950	<b>10 110</b>	2.1
Northern Territory	23 100	22 950	<b>46 050</b>	27.4
<b>Australia (including ACT)</b>	<b>152 400</b>	<b>150 850</b>	<b>303 250</b>	<b>1.7</b>

(a) Information for the Australian Capital Territory is included in New South Wales.

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.





Source: 1991 Census of Population and Housing.

Graph S1.2 highlights the young age structure of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. At the 1991 Census, almost 40% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were aged less than 15 years, compared with 22% for the non-indigenous population.

It was estimated that, in June 1994, 28% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in capital cities. The most centralised states were Victoria (48% in Melbourne) and South Australia (43% in Adelaide). The least centralised were Queensland (19% in Brisbane) and the Northern Territory (14% in Darwin).

## Health

The NATSIS asked questions about health status and health actions; attitudes to health; illness conditions; health risk factors; and access to health services. Overall, 88% of

people considered themselves to be in good, very good, or excellent health. Despite this self reported health status, 44% of people took a health related action (which may have included admission to hospital, consulting a doctor, or using bush medicine) in the two weeks leading up to the survey and 41% reported a current health condition or illness.

Almost 35% of people had a health condition which they had experienced for six months or more (long-term sufferers). Table S1.3 lists the major health conditions reported during the survey, and the percentage of males and females who experienced those conditions. Table S1.3 is concerned with all sufferers of current health conditions, not only those considered to be long-term sufferers.

**S1.3 Type of current health conditions by sex, 1994 (%)**

Condition	Males	Females	Persons
Asthma	13.8	16.8	15.3
Diabetes	11.7	10.2	10.9
Heart problems	7.2	8.5	7.8
Chest problems	6.6	8.9	7.7
Skin problems	6.8	6.5	6.6
High blood pressure	4.5	4.8	4.6
Ear or hearing problems	3.8	5.2	4.5
Eye problems(a)	3.1	4.4	3.6
Kidney problems	3.1	2.8	3.0

(a) Excludes eye problems which can be corrected by glasses.

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

The major reported current health conditions included asthma, which was a condition experienced by over 15% of people, diabetes, heart problems and chest problems. Diabetes was more common amongst males, while asthma, heart and chest problems were more common amongst females.

Alcohol was perceived by survey respondents as the major health problem in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as being the major substance use problem. Almost 60% of people aged 13 years and over stated that alcohol was one of the main health problems in their local area. Similarly, 76.2% of people aged 13 years and over also listed alcohol as a common social problem for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their area.

In the 1989–90 National Health Survey, 84% of people aged 18 years and over stated that they had consumed alcohol in the past year. The 1994 NATSIS found that 70% of Indigenous people aged 18 years or over had consumed alcohol in the past year.

The proportion of people who had consumed alcohol in the past year was higher in the south-eastern ATSI Regions, and lower in the centre and north. The Hobart ATSI Region (Tasmania) had the highest percentage (84%), while the

Nhulunbuy Region (north-east Northern Territory) had the lowest percentage (34%). Seventy-nine per cent of adults said that they were happy with local health services, and 77% said there were no problems with local health services. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander involvement in health services was considered to be important by 78% of adults. Nearly 68% of people had access to Aboriginal health workers within 25 kilometres of where they lived.

### Family and culture

The NATSIS asked questions about family size and structure, separation from families, child care, cultural affiliation, and language. Of the 76,400 households containing families in June 1994, 7,100 (9.3%) contained more than one standard family unit. The ABS defines a family unit as a collection of related individuals residing together, where at least one of the individuals is aged 15 years or over. The survey found that over half (53%) of the families in which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people lived consisted of couples with children, and less than one third (29%) were single parent families.

Over 10% of persons aged 25 years and over reported being taken away from their natural family. This compared to less than 2% for people aged 14 years or under.

#### S1.4 Persons aged 25 years or over — whether taken from natural family and who raised by, 1994 (%)

	25–34	35–44	45–54	55+	Total
Taken away	8.6	12.0	10.6	10.8	10.3
Raised by(a)					
Unrelated Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people	6.9	2.3	7.2	1.2	4.5
Non-Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander adoptive or foster parents	44.5	34.7	13.5	17.1	31.7
Orphanage/children's home	24.7	40.3	23.8	14.4	27.9
Mission	9.0	28.3	42.5	68.4	30.7
Other people	13.8	8.5	19.2	1.6	10.8
Not stated	2.9	0.5	—	0.6	1.3
Not taken away	89.2	86.4	87.1	85.7	87.7
Did not answer	2.2	1.6	2.3	3.5	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) People could answer that they were bought up by more than one agent.

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

Of the 12,500 people taken away from their natural families, 31.7% were raised by non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander adoptive or foster parents, 30.7% by missions, and 27.9% by orphanages or children's homes.

Graph S1.5 summarises some of the main findings of the survey in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural affiliation and practices. Over 84% of people aged 13 years and over saw elders as important, while slightly less than 60% identified with a clan, tribal or language

group. Graph S1.5 also shows the percentage of people who recognised an area as their homelands (75%) and who had attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural activities in the past year (72%). The level of cultural affiliation is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Twenty-one per cent of persons aged 5 years and over spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language. For 14% of people aged 13 years and over, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language was their main language.

**S1.5 Cultural affiliation and practices, 1994**



Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

## Housing

The NATSIS collected information about a range of housing issues including nature of occupancy, satisfaction with housing, and housing costs.

Ninety-eight per cent of households containing an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person were living in private dwellings, and 2% in special dwellings such as hostels or boarding schools. Just under 2% of all private dwellings were improvised dwellings (that is, dwellings without permanent amenities). The mean household size, according to the survey, was 3.5 persons.

More than three quarters of households (77%) were living in dwellings which satisfied their housing needs. Over 21% of households were living in dwellings which did not satisfy their needs, usually because the dwelling needed repair or did not have enough bedrooms. A higher percentage of renters were dissatisfied with their housing (24%) than purchasers (9%) or owners (5%).

**S1.6 Households in private dwellings — nature of occupancy and type of landlord, 1994**  
(%)

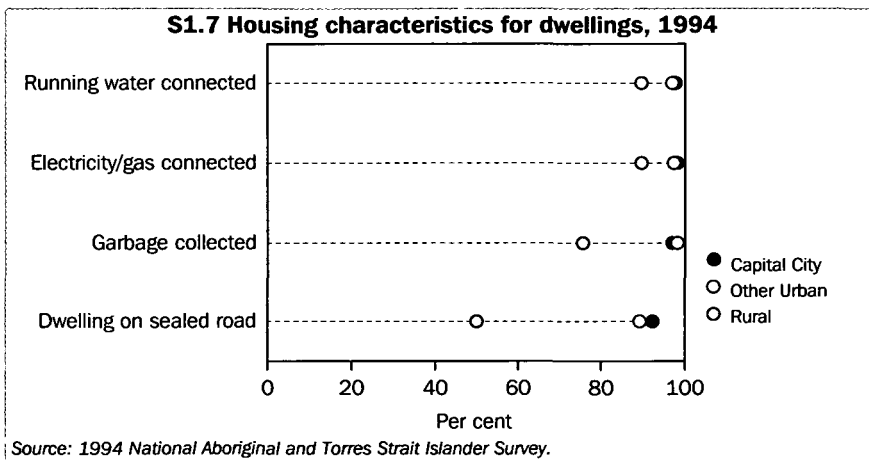
	Capital city	Other urban	Rural	Total
Renters	63.6	76.7	62.4	<b>69.0</b>
Purchasers	20.6	9.4	6.8	<b>12.5</b>
Owners	13.3	11.5	13.2	<b>12.5</b>
Other/not stated	2.4	2.7	17.1	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Type of landlord for rented dwellings</b>				
Private	42.3	21.3	14.1	<b>26.2</b>
Community	4.4	15.0	57.0	<b>21.0</b>
State housing	47.3	53.5	10.9	<b>42.6</b>
Other government	3.8	2.8	7.0	<b>3.9</b>
Other(a)	2.7	7.3	10.2	<b>6.5</b>

(a) Includes employer provided housing and not stated.

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

Over 42% of rented dwellings were rented from state housing authorities. There were more privately rented dwellings in capital cities (42.3%) than in other urban areas (26.3%) or rural areas (14.1%). Community housing was a far more prevalent renting option in rural areas (57%) than in other urban areas (15%) or capital cities (4.4%).

Graph S1.7 shows that capital cities and other urban areas had consistently higher rates of housing amenities and infrastructure, particularly sealed roads and garbage collection, than rural areas. The lower rates of housing amenities and infrastructure in rural areas was additionally important considering that there were more people, on average, in households in rural areas (4.9 persons per household) than urban areas (4.1) or capital cities (3.5).

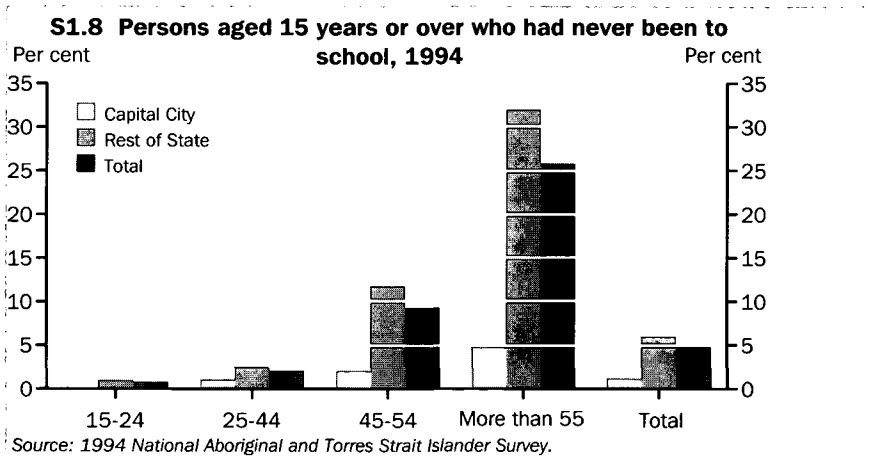


## Education and training

The NATSIS collected information about types and levels of schooling, attitudes to schooling, and access to post-school education. Overall, 86% of parents stated that they were happy with their children's education, and 84% said that they were made to feel welcome at their children's school.

Five per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people aged 15 years and over had never been to school. The 1994 Survey of Education Attainment found that only 0.3% of the total population aged 15 years and over had never been to school.

Graph S1.8 shows a sharp decline in the percentage of people who had never been to school from a peak of over 26% for people aged 55 years and over, to less than 1% for people aged 15 to 24 years. Far fewer people living in capital cities than the rest of the State/Northern Territory had never been to school. This is particularly highlighted in the 55 years and over age group, where 5% of people in capital cities had never been to school, compared to 32% of those in the rest of the State.



Seventeen per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or over had obtained a post-school qualification, and a further 7% had obtained the year twelve school certificate. Six per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over who had left school were studying for a qualification, mainly diplomas or bachelors degrees at universities or TAFE colleges.

Over half (52%) of the students were taught about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures at school. In addition, 18% were taught Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages. Over 8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attended Aboriginal

Independent schools, while 87% went to government schools.

Table S1.9 shows the percentage of students taught about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures and language, and whether they were taught by any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander teacher, education worker, or community member. More students were taught about culture and language at Aboriginal Independent schools than other types of schools. Students at Catholic, Aboriginal Independent or government schools were more likely to be taught about culture and language, or by Indigenous staff, than students at non-government schools.

### S1.9 School students : characteristics of schooling by type of school attended, 1994 (%)

	Government	Aboriginal Independent	Catholic	Other non- government	Don't know/ not stated	Total
Taught about culture	51.1	88.5	55.6	33.7	51.9	<b>52.2</b>
Taught language	16.9	74.4	17.4	9.0	25.1	<b>18.4</b>
Taught by Indigenous teacher	12.7	45.4	15.5	4.5	19.0	<b>13.7</b>
Taught by Indigenous education worker	22.5	43.0	10.7	4.4	17.1	<b>21.8</b>
Taught by Indigenous community member	12.3	15.9	6.4	8.3	10.4	<b>11.9</b>

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

## Employment and Income

The NATSIS collected information about labour force status, income, voluntary work and difficulties in finding a job.

### S1.10 Persons aged 15 years and over — labour force status, 1994 (%)

State/Territory	Employed			Unemployed	Total labour force	Not in the labour force	Total	Participation rate
	Full-time	Part-time	Total employed					
New South Wales	21.8	10.6	32.4	27.1	59.5	40.5	100.0	59.5
Victoria	31.1	8.6	39.7	24.7	64.4	35.6	100.0	64.4
Queensland	22.8	16.7	39.5	19.4	58.9	41.1	100.0	58.9
South Australia	19.8	10.8	30.6	25.5	56.1	43.9	100.0	56.1
Western Australia	17.4	19.3	36.7	21.3	58.0	42.0	100.0	58.0
Tasmania	31.2	13.1	44.3	18.3	62.6	37.4	100.0	62.6
Northern Territory	15.3	16.1	31.4	18.3	49.7	50.3	100.0	49.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.0</b>

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

The labour force participation rate is the total percentage of people aged 15 years or over who are in the labour force, either employed or unemployed. Victoria had the highest participation rate (63%), and the Northern Territory had the lowest (50%). In 1994 the participation rate for the total population was 63%.

Part-time employment was a major component of all employment in each State and the Northern Territory. There was a higher percentage of people employed part-time in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland, and a lower percentage in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Approximately one fifth of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland (17.2%), Western Australia (20.7%) and Northern Territory (18.0%) were employed in Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) schemes.

Around 27% of persons aged 15 years and over engaged in voluntary work including: hunting, fishing, or gathering food; working for community or sporting organisations; working on committees and working at a school or with youth groups.

For unemployed people, the main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no jobs available in the local area, or that people had insufficient education. Over 46% of employed people felt that their work allowed them to meet their cultural obligations.

The mean income for employed persons in Australia in June 1994 was \$27,100. The NATSIS showed a mean income for employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of \$21,300, although this figure changed to \$24,300 when people employed in CDEP schemes were excluded.

**S1.11 Employed persons — mean annual income, 1994 (\$)**

	Employed non-CDEP	Employed CDEP	Total employed
New South Wales			
Males	27 000	13 500	24 800
Females	22 200	13 400	21 300
Total	25 100	13 500	23 500
Victoria			
Males	26 200	11 500	24 600
Females	19 300	22 100	19 400
Total	23 700	13 600	22 800
Queensland			
Males	25 800	13 300	21 500
Females	22 000	14 500	20 100
Total	24 300	13 700	21 000
South Australia			
Males	25 600	13 400	22 600
Females	21 800	15 500	20 300
Total	24 300	14 000	21 800
Western Australia			
Males	29 200	9 800	21 000
Females	20 200	11 900	17 300
Total	25 100	10 600	19 400
Tasmania			
Males	26 600	5 000	26 400
Females	16 900	*	16 900
Total	22 600	5 000	22 500
Northern Territory			
Males	22 200	11 800	17 000
Females	21 100	14 400	19 200
Total	21 600	12 600	17 900
Australia (Including ACT)			
Males	26 500	12 200	22 300
Females	21 200	13 800	19 600
Total	24 300	12 700	21 300

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

Employed females consistently earned less than males except in the Northern Territory, where female incomes were higher than male incomes. Female incomes from CDEP were generally higher than male incomes. The Northern Territory had the lowest mean incomes and New South Wales had the highest.

Government payments were the main source of income for 55% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over. The highest rate was 62% in South Australia and the lowest rate was 48% in Tasmania.

## Law

The NATSIS collected information about the use of legal services, arrest rates, personal safety and attitudes to police.

One fifth of people aged 13 years and over stated that they had been arrested at least once in the five years prior to the survey. A much greater proportion of males (32%)

than females (9%) had been arrested. Approximately 25% of people aged between 15 and 44 years had been arrested in comparison to 8% of people aged 45 years and over. Fifty-seven per cent of those arrested reported having been arrested more than once.

**S1.12 Persons arrested in past five years — reasons for most recent arrest, 1994 (%)**

	Males	Females	Total
Arrested	31.5	9.2	20.4
Not arrested	68.4	90.6	79.6
Reasons for most recent arrest(a)			
Drink driving	26.1	13.8	23.5
Disorderly conduct/Drinking in public	30.6	37.2	32.2
Outstanding warrants/Breach of order	18.1	11.7	16.6
Assault	16.1	19.1	16.8
Theft/Burglary	15.8	12.8	15.1
Other reasons	18.7	18.1	18.3
No answer	4.8	6.4	5.7

(a) More than one reason for arrest could be given.

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

The most common reasons for arrest were disorderly conduct/drinking in public, and drink driving. Females had a lower percentage of drink driving arrests than males but a higher percentage of disorderly conduct/drinking in public and assault.

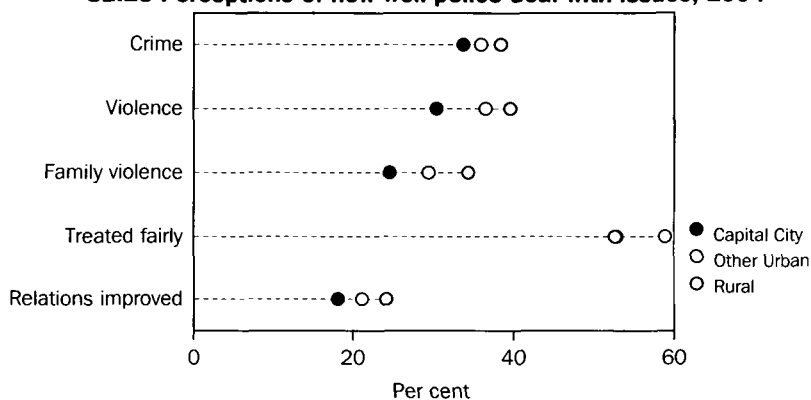
Approximately 13% of persons aged 13 years and over had been physically attacked or verbally threatened in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Graph S1.13 depicts how well people aged 13 years and over in capital cities, urban and rural areas thought that police performed their jobs. Graph S1.13 records whether people thought police did a good job in dealing with crime, violence, and family

violence, whether people felt they were treated fairly by police, and whether relations with police were better at the time of the survey than five years ago.

Generally, people in rural areas had more positive perceptions of police performance than people in urban areas or capital cities. Over half of those aged 13 years and over thought that they were treated fairly by police. Thirty per cent thought that police did a good job in dealing with family violence, and 37% felt that police did a good job in dealing with crime or violence. Around 20% felt that relations with police were better than five years ago, and a further 39% thought that relations were 'about the same'.



**S1.13 Perceptions of how well police deal with issues, 1994**

Source: 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

## Conclusion

This article has provided an overview of the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on the results of the 1994 NATSIS.

Only a small selection of the total information available from the survey has been included here. There are opportunities for in-depth analysis of a range of issues that are important for planning, community development, and equity and social justice issues.

The National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics within the ABS is planning a range of publications for release throughout 1995 and 1996 which will provide detailed information in each of the major topic areas examined in this article, and for each ATSIC Region, State and the Northern Territory.

## Bibliography

*1991 Census: Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (2740.0).

*1991 Census: Aboriginal People in South Australia* (2841.4).

*Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (3230.0).

*Western Australia's Aboriginal People* (4107.5).

*Northern Territory's Indigenous People* (4107.7).

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Detailed Findings* (4190.0).

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Getting Results — Australian Summary* (4190.1).

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Regional Overviews* (one for each ATSIC Region) (4190.0.40.001-036).