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CENSUS 86 - AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

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## FOREWORD

Australia's eleventh national Census of Population and Housing was taken on 30 June 1986. Changes made to this census resulted in more extensive and better quality data on families and households. This report examines the living arrangements of Australia's population at the time of the 1986 Census.

The report is divided into three main sections. The first examines the different types of families and households, their geographic distribution and changes over the last ten years. The second section looks at the demographic characteristics of families and households, such as the age-sex profile and marital status of household and family members, and the number and ages of children. The third section examines some social and economic characteristics of families and households. These include the level of education and labour force status of household and family members and their income and housing situation.

Although the report is primarily about couple families, there is some discussion of other family and household types. Because of their growth in recent years and importance for social policy, one parent families will be the subject of another report in this series. Other titles in this publication series are listed in Appendix $A$.

The report was prepared by Siew-Ean Khoo of the Adelaide Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Contributions in the form of comments on early drafts, preparation of graphics and final editing were provided by members of the Welfare and Social Analysis Section, Canberra.

Ian Castles

## Australian Statistician

## TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

Classification and definitions

The census defines a household as a person living alone or two or more people who live and eat together in private residential accommodation. A family is two or more related people within a household. Households can be either family or non-family households, and family households can have more than one family. Non-family households are either group households containing two or more unrelated people or lone person households.

Three major family types are identified. They are couple families, one parent families and families of related adults. Couple families consist of a male and a female partner who are married or in a de facto relationship. Living with the couple can be one or more dependent children and/or other adult family members. (Non-family members such as friends and boarders can also be present but they are excluded from the data on families.) One parent families consist of a parent and one or more dependent children. There can also be other adult family members. Families of related adults are those in which the adults are neither married to each other nor in a de facto relationship and there are no dependent children. Some examples are an unmarried adult living with an elderly parent, one parent with non-dependent children, or two adult siblings.

In the 1986 Census, household and family structure was based on the number and relationship of the people usually resident in the household. This was a change from previous censuses which took into account only people present in the dwelling on census night in determining household and family structure. Along with other conceptual changes (see Census 86 - Understanding Family Data (Cat. No. 2178.0)), this has resulted in considerable improvements in the data on households and families, but has restricted comparability with previous censuses. The structure of the classification and the numbers of people, households and families classified to each group are shown in Figure 1.1.

A glossary is provided at the end of this report, but for more detailed descriptions of definitions and concepts relating to families and households in the 1986 Census, readers should refer to The 1986 Census Dictionary (Cat. No. 2174.0).

FIGURE 1.1 CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

(a) In classitying people's living arrangements, usual family members who were temporarily absent on census night were taken into consideration (i.e. people in. cluded in Question H 4 on the census form). (b) Family households may include more than one family and may include non-family members, such as boarders or visitors, who spent census night with the household.

## Number of households

 ... family househoids... non-family households
... family households more common in Australla than in other countries

## Number of families

## ... couple families

In 1986, there were over 5 million households of which 4 million or 77 per cent were family households. Most family households (98 per cent) had only one family. There were 94,000 households with two families and 3,000 households with three or more families. Multi-family households may have been extended family households if the families were related, such as an elderly couple living with their son and daughter-in-law, however, inter-family relationships in multi-family households could not be identified. Altogether, 13.6 million people or 90 per cent of the total population lived in family households, including over 200,000 who were not family members.

Of the non-family households, over 200,000 or 4 per cent of all households were group households containing half a million people. Nearly 1 million other people lived alone and lone person households made up 19 per cent of all households.

TABLE 1.1 HOUSEHOLDS: HOUSEHOLD TYPE, AUSTRALIA AND SELECTED COUNTRIES

| Household type | Australia 1986 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { New } \\ \text { Zealand } \\ 1986 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Canada } \\ 1986 \end{array}$ | Great Britain 1985 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { USA(a) } \\ 1986 \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | -per cent- |  |  |  |  |
| 1 family | 75.2 | 73.9 | 72.7 | 71.0 |  |
| 2 or more families | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 |  |
| Total family | 77.1 | 75.4 | 73.8 | 72.0 | 71.9 |
| Group | 4.1 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.2 |
| Lone person | 18.8 | 18.6 | 21.5 | 24.0 | 23.9 |
| Total non-family | 22.9 | 24.6 | 26.2 | 28.0 | 28.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of households ('000) 5,264.5 |  | 1,069.4 | 8.991 .7 | 21.100 .0 | 88,458.0 |

(a) Unmarried couples living together were considered as non-family households in the USA.

Source: Table CSC045; 1986 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings, Households, Series C Report 12 (Cat. No. 02.066). Wellington: Department of Statistics. March 1988. Table 2; Census Canada 86. Population and Dwelling Characteristics, Dwellinos and Households: Patt 11 (Cat. No. 93-104). Ottawa: Statistics Canada, December 1987, Table 6; John Haskey, One-person households in Greal_Britain, Population Trends 50 (Winter 1987). London: Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, pp.23-31, Tables 1 and 2; US Bureau of the Census, Households, Eamilies. Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March_1986. Current Population Reports. Series P-20. No. 412. November 1986, Table 1

Compared with other English speaking countries such as New Zealand, Canada, the United States of America and Great Britain, Australia had a slightly higher proportion of family households. Our proportion of lone person households was about the same as in New Zealand, but less than that in Canada, the United States of America or Great Britain. Less than 7 per cent of all people in Australia lived alone compared to 8 per cent in Canada and 9 per cent in the United States of America and Great Britain.

There were 4.2 million families in 1986; 3.6 million couple families, 324,000 one parent families, and 259,000 families of related adults. About 2.2 million families or 52 per cent of all families had dependent children (i.e. children aged less than 15 years and children aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students). Over four-fifths of families with dependent children were couple families.

Couple families were the predominant family type, making up 86 per cent of all families. The 1986 Canadian and New Zealand Censuses showed that 87 per cent of families in those countries were couple families.

Among couple families, 52 per cent had dependent children, 13 per cent consisted of the couple and at least one other adult family member but no dependent children, and 36 per cent were couple only families. In couple families with an adult family member, 87 per cent of the adult family members were non-dependent children of the couple. This suggests that most families in this category were older couples with non-dependent children still living at home. Therefore, over 60 per cent of all couple families were actually families of parents and their children, the 'traditional' nuclear family unit.

FIGURE 1.2 TYPES OF COUPLE FAMILIES


## Source: Tables CSDO25 and CX4147

Couple only families are either childess or have children who are not living with them, the so-called 'empty-nest' families. Of the couples living by themselves in 1986, 39 per cent of female partners were childless. A large majority of these childless couples were young and might still have children later; the temale partner was less than 35 years old in 71 per cent of childless couples. The remaining couple only families consisted of couples whose children had left home. Seven per cent of couples in families consisting of a couple and at least one adult family member were childess.

TABLE 1.2 WOMEN IN COUPLES WITH NO DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a):
age by family type and number of children ever born
('000)

| Family type, children ever born | Age (years) |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Less than 35 | 35 or more |  |
| Couple only |  |  |  |
| No children | 311.8 | 123.3 | 435.1 |
| One or more children | 8.9 | 683.1 | 692.0 |
| Couple, other adult(s) |  |  |  |
| No children | 15.0 | 12.7 | 27.7 |
| One or more children | 1.3 | 373.2 | 374.5 |
| Total |  |  |  |
| No children | 326.8 | 136.0 | 462.8 |
| One or more children | 10.2 | 1,056.3 | 1,066.5 |

(a) Couples with both partners present on census night, excluding those where number of children ever born was not stated.

## ... one parent families

families of related adults

Household and family size

One parent families represented 8 per cent of all families and in 86 per cent of these families, the mother was the lone parent. In about a quarter of one parent families, other adults were also present, with the majority of these adults being non-dependent children of the parent.

Six per cent of all families consisted of related adults. However, 2 in 3 adult family members were adult children of the reference person, suggesting that many of these families were 'mature' one parent families (i.e. were a lone parent with only non-dependent children).

Most Australian families consisted of one or two parents with their children, and few had other relatives living with them. Fewer than 3 per cent of family members were classified as ancestors or other relatives such as brothers, sisters or cousins.

| TABLE 1.3 | PEOPLE LI | $G \mathbb{N} F A$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ILIES(a): } \\ & \text { PE } \\ & \text { OO) } \end{aligned}$ | FAMILY S | TUS BY | AMILY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family status |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Family type | Reference person or spouse/ partner | Dependent child | Adult child | Ancestor |  | Total number of people |
| Couple only Couple, dependent child(ren) | $2,507.5$ | - | - | - | - | 2,507.5 |
|  | 2,908.2 | 3,043.6 | - | - | - | 5,951.8 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren). adult(s) | 743.7 | 616.3 | 397.4 | 62.0 | 48.9 | 1,868.3 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 885.7 | - | 553.5 | 36.6 | 43.5 | 1,519.3 |
| One parent, dependent ch | $\text { ild(ren) } 247.2$ | 403.2 | - | - | - | 650.4 |
| One parent, dependent child(ren) adult(s) | ild(ren). $77.0$ | 114.7 | 69.5 | 14.8 | 18.8 | 294.9 |
| Related adults | 258.8 | - | 220.5 | 11.2 | 95.5 | 585.9 |
| All familles | 7,628.0 | 4,177.9 | 1,240.9 | 124.7 | 206.7 | 13,378.2 |

(a) As enumerated on census night. No adjustment made for family members temporarily absent.

Source: Table VF0020
Average household size was 2.9 people. Half of all households in 1986 were 1 or 2 person households and only 5 per cent had 6 or more people. Over 80 per cent of one family households had 2 to 4 people but more than half of households with two or more families had 6 or more people. Three-quarters of all group households had two people only. Average household size in Australia was slightly larger than that in other industrialized countries such as Great Britain and the United States of America.

TABLE 1.4 HOUSEHOLDS: TYPE BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

| Household type | Number of people in household(a) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | $\begin{gathered} 6 \text { or } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ | Total |
|  | -per cent- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 family | 1.2 | 35.6 | 21.6 | 23.9 | 12.1 | 5.6 | 100.0 |
| 2 or more families | - | - | 0.8 | 22.1 | 23.9 | 53.1 | 100.0 |
| Total family | 1.2 | 34.8 | 21.1 | 23.8 | 12.4 | 6.7 | 100.0 |
| Group | - | 75.8 | 17.7 | 4.8 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 100.0 |
| Lone person | 100.0 | - | - | - | - | - | 100.0 |
| Total | 19.5 | 30.0 | 17.1 | 18.6 | 9.6 | 5.2 | 100.0 |
| Number of households(b) ('000) | 1,009.11 | 557.5 | 884.7 | 966.4 | 497.8 | 271.85 | 5,187.4 |

(a) As enumerated on census night. No adjustment made for members temporarily absent or visitors to the household. (b) The numbers refer to households in private dwellings only and exclude households in caravan parks.

Source: Table CX0089
Average family size was 3.2 people. There was an average of 2 dependent children in couple families with dependent children and 1.5 children in one parent families.

FIGURE 1.3 AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE BY FAMILY TYPE


Source: Tables VF0020 and CSDO25
Geographic differences
There were some differences in household and family structure across the States and Territories. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of households with 2 or more families. This is related to the higher proportion of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and the greater prevalence of multi-family households among them. Aboriginals made up 22 per cent of the Territory's population and 10 per cent of all Aboriginal households had 2 or more families (see Section 3 for more on Aboriginal households and families).

The two Territories had a higher proportion of group households and a lower proportion of lone person households compared with the States. Tasmania had the lowest proportion of group households. These differences were related to differences in the age structure in the States and Territories. The two Territories had a higher proportion of people in the 15 to 24 years age group, and a much lower proportion of people aged 65 years or more compared to the States. Forty per cent of people in group households were in the 15 to 24 years age group and 40 per cent of people living alone were aged 65 years or more.

TABLE 1.5 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES BY STATE/TERRITORY

| Household or family type | NSW | Vic. | Old | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | -per cent- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Households |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 family | 74.6 | 75.6 | 75.6 | 75.4 | 75.5 | 76.5 | 70.5 | 77.5 | 75.2 |
| 2 or more families | 1.9 | 1.5 | . 2.2 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 6.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Group | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 4.2 |
| Lone person | 19.3 | 19.0 | 17.8 | 19.6 | 17.7 | 18.9 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 18.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total ( 000 ) | 1.832 .6 | 1,356.2 | 860.8 | 476.0 | 467.3 | 149.5 | 42.6 | 79.6 | 5.264 .5 |
| Families |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only Couple, dependent child(ren) | 30.4 | 29.6 | 31.8 | 33.1 | 30.4 | 30.6 | 27.7 | 25.9 | 30.6 |
|  | 34.6 | 36.4 | 35.3 | 33.9 | 36.4 | 36.0 | 40.3 | 44.2 | 35.5 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren). adult(s) | 9.1 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 10.6 | 8.4 | 9.1 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 11.2 | 11.2 | 9.9 | 11.5 | 10.1 | 10.7 | 5.8 | 7.8 | 10.8 |
| All couple families One parent families | 85.3 | 86.8 | 85.9 | 86.6 | 85.7 | 85.8 | 84.4 | 86.3 | 86.0 |
|  | 7.9 | 6.9 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 8.9 | 8.3 | 11.6 | 9.2 | 7.8 |
| Related adults | 6.8 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 6.2 |
| Total <br> Total ( 000 ) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  | 1,438.2 | 1,066.4 | 689.1 | 370.8 | 375.5 | 118.2 | 35.8 | 64.2 | 4,158.0 |

Source: Tables CSC045 and CSDO25
... more families with dependent children in the Territories

Differences in family structure were also observed across the States and Territories which again were related to their population age structure. Because of their younger populations, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory had a lower proportion of couple only families and a higher proportion of families with dependent children than the States.

There were also differences in household and family structure between cities and country areas. One in 4 households in the cities was either a group or lone person household compared with 1 in 6 households in rural areas. Households in rural areas were predominantly family households.

The proportions of one parent families and families comprising related adults were higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Rural areas had the highest proportion of couple families with dependent children.

TABLE 1.6 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES BY LOCALITY

| Household or family type | Major urban areas | Other urban areas | Rural areas |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | -per cen |  |
| Households |  |  |  |
| 1 family | 73.9 | 75.7 | 81.1 |
| 2 or more families | 1.8 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| Group | 4.6 | 3.9 | 2.5 |
| Lone person | 19.7 | 18.7 | 14.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total ( 000 ) 3, | 3,387.8 | 1.177 .4 | 699.2 |
| Families |  |  |  |
| Couple only | 30.4 | 32.1 | 29.2 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren) (and adult(s)) | (s)) 43.1 | 44.7 | 50.9 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 11.6 | 8.9 | 10.2 |
| One parent families | 7.9 | 8.8 | 5.7 |
| Related adults | 7.0 | 5.5 | 4.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total ('000) 2, | 2,624.6 | 932.8 | 600.6 |

Source: Tables CSC045 and CSDO25

Growth in households and families

... Ione person households
... non-family households

Between 1981 and 1986 the number of households increased by 11 per cent, which was less than the 13 per cent recorded between 1976 and 1981. However, the increase in households still exceeded the increase in the number of people living in them so that average household size continued to decline.

Lone person households increased at a much slower rate during the period 1981 to 1986 compared with the preceding 5 -year period. After a shap rise in 1976 when the Family Law Act came into effect. the divorce rate declined and there was also a decline in the death rate of males over the age of 65 in the early 1980 s compared with the late 1970s. These demographic trends slow down the formation of lone person households due to divorce and widowhood.

TABLE 1.7 HOUSEHOLDS: SIZE DISTRIBUTION, 1976 TO 1986

| Household size (a) (people) | 1976 | 1981 | 1986 | Per cent change in number |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 1976-81 | 1981-86 |
|  |  |  | -per ce |  |  |
| 1 | 15.7 | 18.0 | 19.5 | +29.2 | +20.2 |
| $2 \cdot 3$ | 45.4 | 46.1 | 47.1 | +14.3 | +13.6 |
| 4-5 | 30.6 | 29.5 | 28.2 | +8.8 | +6.2 |
| 6 and over | 8.3 | 6.4 | 5.2 | -123 | -9.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | .. | .. |
| Total ('000) | 4,140.5 | 4.668 .9 | 5,187.4 | +12.8 | +11.1 |
| Average size | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | .. | .. |

(a) As enumerated on census night. No adjustment made for members temporarily absent. The 1986 numbers exclude households in caravan parks.

Source: Table 35 in Summary Characteristics of Persons_and Owellings (Cat. No. 2443.0) (1976 and 1981); Table CSD059 (1986)

Non-family households increased by 18 per cent between 1981 and 1986. Although this rate was greater than that of families, there had been a slowing down in the rate of non-family household formation when compared with the 1976-81 period. This is also likely to be due to the more stable and lower divorce rate in recent years after the unsettling effect in the first few years of the Family Law Act.
.. family households

## ... slower growth in one parent families

De facto couple families

A comparison of the number of families in 1986 with the number according to earlier censuses is possible only in terms of estimates of the major family types because of changes in the way families were counted in 1986. In these comparisons, the 1986 family data have been adjusted to achieve as much comparability as possible with earlier census data; however, it has not been possible to adjust for all the changes in definitions.

TABLE 1.8 FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS: GROWTH BY TYPE

| Family/ household type | Number ('000) |  |  | Per cent change in number |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1976 | 1981 | 1986(a) | 1976-81 | 1981-86 |
| Couple only | 955.3 | 1,063.3 | 1,156.2 | +11.3 | +8.7 |
| Couple, others (b) | 2,031.2 | 2,095.4 | 2,188.3 | +3.2 | +4.4 |
| One parent. others (b) | 221.5 | 317.2 | 356.0 | +43.2 | +12.2 |
| Related adults (c) | 200.9 | 223.4 | 273.2 | +11.2 | +22.3 |
| All families | 3,408.9 | 3,699.3 | 3,973.7 | +8.5 | +7.4 |
| Non-family households (d) | 842.4 | 1,113.1 | 1,313.8 | +32.1 | +18.0 |

(a) Adjusted for differences due to coding of family structure and identification of de facto couples without children, and excluding families in caravan parks. (b) 'Others' include dependent children and/or other adult family members. (c) It is not possible to adjust the 1986 data for this category for differences in the definition of dependent children and adult family members. (d) Non-family households were coded as "head only" family type in previous censuses.

Source: Table 46 in Population_and Dwellings: Cross-dassified Tables (Cat No. 2426.0) (1976); Table 54 in Cross-classifiod Charactenstics of Persons_and Dwellings (Cat No. 2452.0) (1981); estimations from tabulations (1986)

The number of families increased by 7 per cent during the years 1981 to 1986, slightly greater than the increase in population, and less than the 8.5 per cent increase during the preceding 5 -year period. Families consisting of a couple with children or other family members showed the smallest increase although they were still greater in number than the other family types. Other family types continued to increase at above average rates but their rate of growth during 1981-86 was slower than during 1976-81.

The large increase in one parent families during the 1976-81 period was related to the sharp rise in the divorce rate immediately following the Family Law Act 1976. The divorce rate has stabilised since then and has declined slightly since 1983 thus slowing down the formation of one parent families. Many individuals who divorced and became lone parents in the late 1970s would also either have remarried or no longer have dependent children by 1986 and would have moved into other family categories. Lone parents with a non-dependent child (or children) would be classified as a family of related adults. They were probably the main contributors to the large increase in this family type between 1981 and 1986.

In Australia, as in many other western industrialized countries, de facto relationships are becoming increasingly common. In 1986, 205,000 couples or 6 per cent of all couple families were based on de facto relationships. The proportion de facto was 9 per cent among couple only families and 4 per cent among couples with children and/or other family members. The proportion of de facto couples in Australia was less than in Canada or New Zealand where, according to their 1986 Censuses, about 8 per cent of all couples were de facto.

TABLE 1.9 COUPLE FAMILIES: FAMILY TYPE BY TYPE OF UNION

| Family type | Married | De facto | De facto couples <br> as proportion <br> of tamily type |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $-000-$ | per cent |  |

Source: Table CSCO13
... differences across States and Territories

The proportion of de facto couple families varied across the States and Territories. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion ( 14.5 per cent) while Victoria had the lowest ( 5 per cent). The higher proportion of de facto couples in the Northern Territory can be explained by the Territory's younger population age structure and higher proportion of Aboriginal population. De facto partners were mainly young adults (see later section on age profile), and the proportion of de facto couples was higher among Aboriginals. (Aboriginals married according to tribal custom were recorded as married in the census, but some might have identified as de facto rather than married couples.)

FIGURE 1.4 DE FACTO COUPLES BY STATE/TERRITORY: PERCENTAGE OF ALL COUPLES


Source: Table CSCO13
Blended families
About 120,000 families in 1986 had dependent step-children and they comprised 7 per cent of couple families with dependent children but less than 4 per cent of all couple families. Some 260,000 children lived in blended families. In 44,300 families involving 127,000 children ( 2.5 per cent of couple families with dependent children or 1 per cent of all couple families) there were both step-children and the natural children of the couple. Only families with dependent children could be identified as blended families.

TABLE 1.10 COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a): TYPE OF CHILDREN BY TYPE OF UNION

| Dependent child type | Married | De facto | All couples |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  | -000 |  | per cent |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Natural/adopted child(ren) | $1,600.2$ | 35.1 | $1,635.3$ | 91.8 |
| Step-child(ren) | 48.3 | 27.5 | 75.8 | 4.3 |
| Natural plus step-children | 36.2 | 8.1 | 44.3 | 2.5 |
| Other child(ren) only (b) | 24.1 | 1.6 | 25.7 | 1.4 |
| Total with dependent children | $1,708.7$ | 72.4 | $1,781.1$ | 100.0 |

(a) Couple families with both partners and at least one dependent child present on census night. (b) Includes child(ren) of secondary tamilies.

Source: Table CX4128
The proportion of blended families was higher among families formed by de facto couples than those formed by married couples. Half of all de facto couples with dependent children were blended families compared to 5 per cent of married couples with dependent children. A higher proportion of de facto partners than married partners had been previously married (see section on marital status).

FIGURE 1.5 COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: TYPE OF CHILDREN BY TYPE OF UNION


## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age and sex protile ... group households

Members of group households were mostly young adults aged less than 35 years. Over 40 per cent of people living in group households were between 15 and 24 years old. There were more men than women living in group households, particularly in the 25 to 44 years age group.

TABLE 2.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER IN NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS(a): AGE AND SEX

| Age (years) | Group households | Lone person households |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | - per cent - |  |
|  |  |  |
| $15-24$ | 41.8 | 7.5 |
| $25-44$ | 40.2 | 25.9 |
| $45-64$ | 11.3 | 26.3 |
| $65 \&$ over | 6.7 | 40.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  |  | 961.4 |
| No. ('000) | 497.2 | 75 |
| Sex ratio(b) | 126 |  |

(a) Excludes households in caravan parks. Less than 1 per cent of people in group househoids were aged less than 15 years. No one in lone person households was less than 15 years old. (b) Sex ratio is the number of men per 100 women.

Source: Table CX0101
FIGURE 2.1 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF GROUP HOUSEHOLDS


Source: Tables CX0007 and CX0101

Many people living alone were elderly. Forty per cent of all people who lived alone were at least 65 years old, and of these three-quarters were women. However, there were more men than women among younger adults (those less than 45 years old) who lived alone.
figure 2.2 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF LONE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS


Source: Tables CSC007 and CX0101
The age and sex profile of family and household members varied with type of family or household. Among couple families, those with dependent children had the youngest age profile while couple only families naturally had a much older age profile. More than half of all people in couple only families were at least 55 years old and one-quarter were at least 65 years old.

Compared to couple families with dependent children only, couple families with dependent children and other adults had fewer children aged less than 15 years and almost one-third of their family members were in the 15 to 24 years age group. These were mostly non-dependent children of the couple still living with their parents. Couples with other adult family members were also mainly families with grown-up children who still lived at home, as was indicated by the relatively large proportion of people aged 15 to 24 years.


TABLE 2.2 FAMILY MEMBERS: TYPE OF FAMILY BY AGE AND SEX

| Age (years) | Couple families |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Couple only | Couple, dependent child(ren) | Couple, dependent child(ren). adult(s) | Couple, adull(s) |
|  | - per cent - |  |  |  |
| 0-14 | - | 45.4 | 22.9 | - |
| 15-24 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 31.8 | 27.9 |
| 25-44 | 23.4 | 40.2 | 24.0 | 19.1 |
| 45-64 | 38.8 | 5.9 | 18.6 | 42.9 |
| 65 \& over | 27.8 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 10.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| No. ('000) | 2,507.5 | 5,951.8 | 1,868.3 | 1.519.3 |
| Sex ratio (a) | 100 | 102 | 104 | 116 |
| Dependency ratio (b) | 0.39 | 0.84 | 0.34 | 0.11 |
|  | One parent families |  |  |  |
|  |  | Parent, dependent child(ren) | Parent, dependent child(ren), adult(s) | Families of related adults |
|  | - per cent - |  |  |  |
| 0-14 |  | 53.6 | 29.1 | - |
| 15-24 |  | 13.9 | 35.6 | 28.0 |
| 25-44 |  | 27.7 | 20.2 | 24.9 |
| 45-64 |  | 4.5 | 11.6 | 26.8 |
| 65 \& over |  | 0.2 | 3.4 | 20.3 |
| Total |  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| No. ('000) |  | 650.4 | 294.9 | 585.9 |
| Sex ratio (a) |  | 58 | 72 | 81 |
| Dependency ratio (b) |  | 1.17 | 0.48 | 0.25 |

(a) Sex ratio is the number of men per 100 women. (b) Dependency ratio is the population under age 15 years and aged 65 years and over divided by the population aged 15 to 64 years.

Source: Table Cx0007
... one parent families
One parent families had a younger age profile than couple families. The dependency ratio in families consisting of one parent and dependent children only was the highest of all family types because of the large proportion of children. Women outnumbered men in one parent families, indicating that most one parent families consisted of the mother and children.

FIGURE 2.4 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF ONE PARENT FAMILIES



The age and sex profile of families consisting of only related adults showed a relatively large proportion of people aged 15 to 24 years and women aged 65 years and over. As noted earlier, many families of this type consisted of an older parent and non-dependent children.

FIGURE 2.5 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF RELATED ADULTS FAMILIES


Source: Tables CX0007 and CX0101
De facto relationships were more common among young adults. Three in 5 couples where the female partner was less than 20 years old and 1 in 5 where the female partner was between 20 and 24 years old were de facto. Half of all people in de facto relationships in 1986 were under age 30 years and 65 per cent were under age 35 years. By comparison, only 25 per cent of currently married people were less than 35 years old.

FIGURE 2.6(a) AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF DE FACTO PARTNERS


Age group (years)


15-19


## Source: Tables CX0007 and CX0101

Living arrangements over the life cycle

People's living arrangements and family status change over the life cycle. Children were the most likely to live in families with 98 per cent living in family households. Among people aged 15 to 24 years, 82 per cent lived in families. Many in this age group lived at home with their parent(s); 23 per cent were dependent children and 35 per cent were adult children in the family.

FIGURE 2.7 PEOPLE: PERCENTAGE LIVING IN A FAMILY SITUATION BY AGE AND SEX


## Marital status <br> ... members of group households

... people living alone
... married more than once
... de facto partners

Most people aged 25 to 54 years lived in families because many were married and bringing up children. Above age 55 years, the proportion living in families declined because of family dissolution through death of spouse and because many older people lived alone or in institutions. Two-thirds of people aged 65 years and over still lived in families however, with the proportion much higher among men than women. Women generally live longer than men and are usually younger than their husbands, therefore, they are more likely to survive their husbands to live alone or in a non-family situation upon widowhood. In 1986, 3 in 10 women aged 65 years and over lived alone.

Another publication in this series Census 86 - Ageing Australia (Cat. No. 2508.0) examines the elderly population in more detail. For more information about Australia's young adult population, see Australia's Youth Population 1984 (Cat. No. 4111.0).

About three-quarters of both men and women living in group households had never been married. Among the remainder, men were more likely to be separated or divorced while women were more likely to be widowed.

More than half of all men living alone had never married while the majority of women living alone were widowed; only 25 per cent had never married. The proportion divorced or separated was also higher among men than among women in lone person households.

## TABLE 2.3 PEOPLE IN NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS: SEX BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE BY MARITAL STATUS (per cent)

| Household type, <br> marital status | Men | Women | Total |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Group households |  |  |  |
| Never married | 77.4 | 74.3 | 76.0 |
| Married | 3.4 | 2.4 | 3.0 |
| Separated | 5.8 | 4.4 | 10.2 |
| Divorced | 10.8 | 9.5 | 5.6 |
| Widowed | 2.7 | 9.4 | 100.0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
|  |  |  | 36.3 |
| Lone person households | 50.4 | 25.4 | 7.3 |
| $\quad$ Never married | 5.2 | 3.3 | 15.1 |
| Married | 10.7 | 4.8 | 37.1 |
| Separated | 18.6 | 12.4 | 100.0 |
| Divorced | 15.1 | 54.1 |  |
| Widowed |  |  |  |
|  | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| Total |  |  |  |

Source: Tables CSDO52 and CSDO52
One in 10 married people had been married more than once. By comparison, 4 in 10 de facto partners had been married. One or both partners had been previously married in 12 per cent of married couple families with dependent children

Sixty per cent of de facto partners had never been married and 25 per cent were divorced. People in de facto relationships represented 8 per cent of all single people aged 15 years or more.

Previously married men were more likely than previously married women to be living in de facto relationships while never married women were more likely than never married men to be in de facto relationships.

TABLE 2.4 DE FACTO PARTNERS: SEX BY MARITAL STATUS AND PERCENTAGE OF MARITAL STATUS CATEGORY (per cent)

Families with dependent children
.. two-child family most
common

|  |  |  | Proportion of marital <br> status category |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Marital status | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Never married | 60.4 | 60.1 | 6.3 | 8.2 |
| Married (a) | 3.7 | 2.8 | - | - |
| Separated | 9.0 | 8.1 | 12.7 | 9.8 |
| Divorced | 25.5 | 25.5 | 20.4 | 16.6 |
| Widowed | 1.7 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 1.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | (b) 8.2 | (b) 7.8 |

(a) People likely to separated from legal spouse. (b) Percentage of not married (including separated) people aged 15 years and over.
Source: Tables VF0015 and CSC002
There were over 1.8 million couple families with dependent children and 324,000 one parent families (which by definition have dependent children). Married couples were more likely than de facto couples to have dependent children. More than half of all married couples had dependent children, compared with 37 per cent of de facto couples.

Over three-quarters of families with dependent children had only 1 or 2 dependent children. More than half of one parent families and slightly less than half of de facto couples with children had only one child. This compares with less than one-third of married couple families.

TABLE 2.5 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE

| Family type | Number of dependent children |  |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | $\begin{aligned} & 5 \text { or } \\ & \text { more } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| ('000) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All couple families | 609.8 | 773.5 | 345.9 | 96.2 | 28.6 | 1.854 .0 |
| Married couple families | 573.4 | 748.6 | 336.3 | 92.8 | 27.0 | 1.778.1 |
| De facto couple families | 36.4 | 24.9 | 9.6 | 3.4 | 1.6 | 75.9 |
| One parent families | 172.2 | 104.5 | 34.9 | 9.4 | 3.2 | 324.2 |
| All families | 782.0 | 878.0 | 380.8 | 105.6 | 31.8 | 2,178.2 |
| - per cent - |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All couple families | 32.9 | 41.7 | 18.7 | 5.2 | 1.5 | 100.0 |
| Married couple families | 32.3 | 42.1 | 18.9 | 5.2 | 1.5 | 100.0 |
| De facto couple families | 48.0 | 32.8 | 12.6 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 100.0 |
| One parent families | 53.1 | 32.2 | 10.8 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 100.0 |
| All families | 35.9 | 40.3 | 17.5 | 4.8 | 1.5 | 100.0 |

## Source: Tables CX0071 and CX0072

The number of dependent children or the number of children living at home is not always equal to the total number of children in the family since some children may no longer be dependent or living at home. The number of children ever born to married women is a better measure of family size.

Data on children ever born to married women show that families have become smaller. While 17 per cent of women who married before 1940 had 5 or more children, only 7 per cent of those who married in the 1960s did so. Two-thirds of women who married after 1960 and who were likely to have completed their childbearing by 1986 had either 2 or 3 children. Studies of tertility trends and birth expectations of Australian women also indicate that the two-child family is now the norm (ABS, 1976, 1980 (Cat. No. 3215.0); McDonald, 1984; Hugo, 1986). A recent ABS survey showed that 87 per cent of women with two children did not expect to have any more children, while 59 per cent with one child expected to have additional children (see Family Formation Survey 1986 (Cat. No. 3223.0)).

TABLE 2.6 EVER MARRIED WOMEN: NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN BY YEAR OF FIRST MARRIAGE
(per cent)

|  | Year of first marriage |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Number of <br> children | Before <br> 1940 | $1940-49$ | $1950-59$ | $1960-69$ | $1970-74$ |
| None | 6.7 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 7.5 |
| 1 | 14.2 | 11.6 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 10.2 |
| 2 | 24.3 | 25.4 | 24.1 | 34.9 | 40.9 |
| 3 | 19.1 | 21.0 | 24.4 | 27.5 | 25.4 |
| 4 | 12.2 | 13.4 | 16.2 | 12.6 | 8.7 |
| 5 or more | 16.9 | 15.1 | 15.2 | 6.6 | 3.0 |
| Not stated | 6.7 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 4.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: Table CX0030
Although other family types such as one parent and de facto couple families have become more common in recent years, the great majority of children still lived in the 'traditional' married couple nuclear family. Eighty four per cent of children aged 0 to 14 years lived in married couple families, and 95 per cent of these children were the natural or adopted children of the couple. Twelve per cent of children aged 0 to 14 years lived in one parent families and less than 4 per cent lived with de facto couples. Over 40 per cent of children living with de facto couples were not the natural children of the couple but of one partner only.

Children living with de facto couples were younger than those living with married couples. Over 40 per cent of children living with de facto couples were less than 5 years old compared to 33 per cent of children living with married couples. Children living in one parent families were generally a little older than those living with couple families. (For more information on children in Australia, see the ABS report, Australia's Children (Cat. No. 4119.0).)

TABLE 2.7 CHILDREN IN FAMILIES(a): AGE BY FAMILY RELATIONSHIP BY FAMILY TYPE

|  | Child's age (years) |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Family type, <br> relationship | 0.4 | 5.9 | $10-14$ | 0.14 |  |
|  |  | Number of children ('000) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 996.5 | 969.2 | 1.043 .8 | $3,009.5$ |  |
| Married couple families | 967.5 | 925.2 | 966.4 | 2.859 .1 |  |
| Natural/adopted children | 7.9 | 31.6 | 64.8 | 104.3 |  |
| Step-children | 21.1 | 12.3 | 12.6 | 46.0 |  |
| Other children (b) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 52.6 | 36.1 | 34.4 | 123.1 |  |
| De facto couple families | 42.9 | 16.0 | 8.9 | 67.8 |  |
| Natural/adopted children | 7.9 | 19.4 | 24.6 | 51.9 |  |
| Step-children | 1.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 3.5 |  |
| Other children (b) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 120.8 | 139.1 | 174.8 | 434.8 |  |
|  | 92.2 | 123.2 | 158.9 | 374.2 |  |
| One parent families | 1.4 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 5.7 |  |
| Natural/adopted children | 27.3 | 14.1 | 13.4 | 54.8 |  |
| Step-children |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other children (b) | $1,169.9$ | $1,144.4$ | $1,253.0$ | $3,567.3$ |  |
| All families | $1,102.6$ | $1,064.4$ | 1.134 .2 | 3.301 .1 |  |
| Natural/adopted children | 17.1 | 52.9 | 91.9 | 161.9 |  |
| Step-children | 50.2 | 27.2 | 26.9 | 104.3 |  |
| Other children (b) |  |  |  |  |  |

(a) Excludes 69,500 children who were not living in families. (b) Other children in this table include nieces, nephews and cousins of the couple or lone parent and children of secondary families.

Source: Table CX4044
FIGURE 2.8 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN: FAMILY TYPE

... but 15 per cent lived with only one natural parent

Although most children lived with both their natural or adoptive parents, about 1 in 7 children aged less than 15 years lived with only one natural parent in either a blended or one parent family. Nine per cent of children less than 5 years old lived with only one natural parent, with the proportion increasing to 15 per cent among children aged 5 to 9 years and 20 per cent among children aged 10 to 14 years. A little more than one-third of these children lived in blended families and the rest in one parent families. These were children whose parents were separated, divorced or widowed as well as those who had had only one parent since birth. The Australian Institute of Family Studies has estimated that, based on recent divorce rates, about 18 per cent of children will experience a parental divorce by their sixteenth birthday (Carmichael and McDonald, 1986).


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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

## Education

... couple families

The socio-economic status of families and households is largely dependent on the educational level, labour force status and income of their members. Other characteristics such as ethnicity and religion can also influence the social environment in the family or household.

Education is an important indicator of social and economic status. The type of jobs that family members have and the level of family income are largely dependent on their level of education. The home environment of families where adult members are well educated is also likely to be different from that of families with less well educated members

In almost half of all couple families in 1986, neither partner had any post-school qualifications and 46 per cent of these couples had dependent children. In 1 in 5 couples both partners had some post-school qualifications and 59 per cent of them had dependent children. Couples with post-school qualifications were generally younger and it could therefore be expected that a larger proportion of them would have dependent children compared with couples without post-school qualifications.

TABLE 3.1 COUPLE FAMILIES(a): TYPE OF FAMILY BY COUPLE'S LEVEL OF EDUCATION

|  | Both partners had: |  | One partner had qualifications: |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Degree/ diploma | Other qualification | Male partner | Female parner | without qualifications(b) |  |
|  | ('000) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only Couple, dependent child(ren) | 44.9 | 169.1 | 275.9 | 78.0 | 667.7 | 1.235 .6 |
|  | 85.3 | 233.1 | 389.5 | 114.6 | 609.5 | 1.432 .0 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s) Couple, adult(s) | 9.8 | 44.0 | 96.0 | 19.7 | 196.5 | 365.9 |
|  | 6.7 | 45.4 | 105.8 | 19.2 | 259.3 | 436.5 |
| Total | 146.7 | 491.7 | 867.1 | 231.5 | 1,733.0 | 3,470.0 |
|  | - per cent- |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only Couple, dependent child(ren) | 3.6 | 13.7 | 22.3 | 6.3 | 54.0 | 100.0 |
|  | 6.0 | 16.3 | 27.2 | 8.0 | 42.6 | 100.0 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s) | 2.7 | 12.0 | 26.2 | 5.4 | 53.7 | 100.0 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 1.5 | 10.4 | 24.2 | 4.4 | 59.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 4.2 | 14.2 | 25.0 | 6.7 | 49.9 | 100.0 |

[^0] qualification and other partner had no qualification.

Source: Table CX4148

## ... parents in couple and one parent families

## Labour force participation

... couple families
... with unemployed members

In 1.3 million couple families with dependent children and 208,000 one parent families, the mother had no post-school qualifications. This represented 72 per cent of families with a mother and dependent children. In 52 per cent of families with a father and dependent children, the father had no qualifications. Both parents had degrees or diplomas in 5 per cent of couple families with dependent children, while 7 per cent of mothers in one parent families and 12 per cent of fathers in one parent families did so.

Mothers in couple families were generally better educated than those in one parent families. The same was true of fathers.

TABLE 3.2 FATHERS AND MOTHERS IN COUPLE FAMILIES(a) AND ONE PARENT FAMILIES BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

| Educational qualification | Fathers |  | Mothers |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Couple families | One parent families | Couple families | ne parent families |
|  | - per cent- |  |  |  |
| Degree, diploma | 13.3 | 12.5 | 9.9 | 7.3 |
| Certificate, other | 34.4 | 28.5 | 18.3 | 16.1 |
| None | 46.1 | 49.1 | 63.7 | 68.7 |
| Not stated | 6.2 | 9.9 | 8.1 | 7.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number ('000) | 1,797.9 | (b)48.7 | 1.797 .9 | (b)272.3 |

(a) Couple families with dependent children and both partners present on census night. (b) Data on one parent families are from a one per cent sample file and may differ from total counts.

Source: Tables CX4148 and AH4001
One of the most significant changes in the labour force during the past two decades has been the increased participation of married women. Between 1966 and 1986 the labour force participation rate of married women grew from 27 per cent to 46 per cent with most of the change occurring during the years 1966 to 1976. In contrast, the labour force participation rate of other women remained more or less stable and that of married men declined from 89 per cent to 76 per cent. The increase in married women's participation in the work force has meant an increase in two-earner families and has brought many other changes to family lifestyle.

There were 1.5 million two-earner couple families in 1986, i.e. couple families in which both partners were employed. More than half had dependent children. Two-earner families comprised 44 per cent of all couple families. In another 1 million families ( 30 per cent of couple families), one partner was employed while the other was not in the labour force. The male partner was the one employed in 95 per cent of families with one employed patner. However, in 50,000 families it was the female partner who was employed while the male partner was not in the labour force.

One or both partners were unemployed in 220,000 couple families or 6.5 per cent of all couple families. One partner was employed in 92,000 families but in 128,000 families both partners did not have earned income, either because both were unemployed or one was unemployed and the other was not in the labour force. Two in 3 of these couples had dependent children. There were 38,000 families in which both partners were unemployed ( 1 per cent of couple families); 22,000 of these families had dependent children.

In 651,000 families or 19 per cent of couple families, both partners were not in the labour force. These were mostly older couples without dependent children.

FIGURE 3.1 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE: SEX AND MARITAL STATUS, 1966-1986


Source: Table 11 in Volume 2, Pant 4, Work Force (1966); Table 51 in Population and Dwellings: Cross-classified Tables (Cat. No. 2426.0) (1976); Table CSD040 (1986)

TABLE 3.3 COUPLE FAMILES(a): LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARTNERS BY PRESENCE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

| Labour force status of partners | With dependent children | No dependent children | Total number of families |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ('000) |  | per cent |
| Both employed | 839.9 | 645.9 | 1,485.8 | 44.0 |
| One employed, other not in labour force | 682.8 | 337.5 | 1,020.3 | 30.2 |
| Male partner employed | 665.9 | 304.0 | 969.9 | 28.7 |
| Female partner employed | ed 16.9 | 33.5 | 50.4 | 1.5 |
| One employed, other unemployed | mployed 57.4 | 34.3 | 91.7 | 2.7 |
| Male partner unemployed | yed 12.5 | 13.4 | 25.9 | 0.8 |
| Female partner unemployed | loyed 44.9 | 20.9 | 65.8 | 1.9 |
| Both unemployed | 22.2 | 15.7 | 37.9 | 1.1 |
| One unemployed, other not in labour force | 61.3 | 29.5 | 90.8 | 2.7 |
| Male partner unemployed | yed 58.8 | 27.4 | 86.2 | 2.6 |
| Female partner unemployed | loyed 2.5 | 2.1 | 4.6 | 0.1 |
| Both not in the labour force | e 65.5 | 585.5 | 651.1 | 19.3 |
| Total | 1,729.1 | 1,648.4 | 3,377.6 | 100.0 |

[^1]
## ... increase in two-earner families

... differences between married
and de facto couples

The proportion of two-earner couple families increased from 41 per cent to 44 per cent between 1981 and 1986 while couple families with one earner decreased from 38 per cent to 30 per cent of couples. There was also an increase in the proportion of couples with both partners not in the labour force. Contributing factors include the greater number of older couples as a result of population ageing and the trend to early retirement among men in recent years. Of more concern, however, was the rise in the proportion of couples with one or both partners unemployed, from less than 4 per cent to over 6 per cent. This was a reflection of the general rise in unemployment over the same period.

TABLE 3.4 COUPLE FAMILIES: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARTNERS, 1981 AND 1986

| Labour force status of partners | 1981 |  | 1986(a) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | '000 | per cent | '000 | per cent |
| Both employed | 1,312.1 | 41.5 | 1.485 .8 | 44.0 |
| One employed, other not in labour force | 1,201.2 | 38.0 | 1.020 .3 | 30.2 |
| One or both unemployed(b) | 115.6 | 3.7 | 220.4 | 6.5 |
| Both not in labour force | 529.9 | 16.8 | 651.1 | 19.3 |
| Total(c) | 3,158.7 | 100.0 | 3,377.6 | 100.0 |

(a) Oniy couples where both partners were in the household on census night. (b) Other partner either employed or not in the labour force. (c) Excludes couples in which one or both parthers did not state their labour force status.

Source: Cross dassified tables on microfiche, Table No. 137 (1981); Table CSC014 (1986)
The labour force status of married couples was quite different from that of de facto couples, mainly because of their different age structures. Married couple families had a much older age structure than de facto couples and therefore there was a larger proportion with both partners not in the labour torce. Both partners were employed in a higher proportion of de facto couples than married couples and the proportion with one or both partners unemployed was also much higher among de facto couples than married couples. This was partly due to differences in age; a larger proportion of de facto partners were aged 15 to 24 years, an age group with a relatively high unemployment rate. However, it is also possible that unemployment may be a factor in a couple's decision to live in a de facto relationship and defer marriage until their economic situation improves (Khoo, 1987).

TABLE 3.5 MARRIED AND DE FACTO COUPLES(a): LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARTNERS

| Labour force <br> status of <br> partners | Married couples |  |  | De facto couples |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | '000 | per cent |  | 000 | per cent |
| Both employed | $1,373.5$ | 43.1 | 112.3 | 57.8 |  |
| One employed, <br> other not in labour force | 984.2 | 30.9 | 36.1 | 18.6 |  |
| One employed, other unemployed <br> Both unemployed | 78.0 | 2.5 | 13.7 | 7.1 |  |
| One unemployed, <br> other not in labour force | 29.7 | 0.9 | 8.1 | 4.2 |  |
| Both not in labour force | 79.0 | 2.5 | 11.8 | 6.1 |  |
| Total | 639.0 | 20.1 | 12.0 | 6.2 |  |

[^2]Source: Table CX0075

## .. presence of dependent children

full-time and part-time work

As may be expected, parents of pre school-age children were less likely to be both working compared with parents of school-age children. Both parents worked in 36 per cent of couples with children less than 5 years old compared to 60 per cent of couples with children aged 10 years or more. In 51 per cent of all couple families with children aged less than 5 years, only one parent worked while the other, usually the mother, was not in the labour force.

Couples with young children were more likely to be faced with unemployment than those with older children. One or both partners were unemployed in 10 per cent of couples with pre school-age children compared with 6 per cent of couples whose youngest child was over 10 years old.

Altogether, 91 per cent of couples with dependent children had at least one income earner and nearly 50 per cent were two-earner families. Couples with no dependent children were mainly older couples and this explained their lower labour force participation rate. Both partners were not in the labour force in 35 per cent of couples with no dependent children.

TABLE 3.6 COUPLE FAMILIES: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARTNERS(a) BY PRESENCE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND AGE OF YOUNGEST DEPENDENT CHILD

| Labour force status of partners | Age of youngest child (years) |  |  | All with dependent children | No <br> dependent children |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $0-4$ | 5-9 | 10 or more |  |  |
|  |  |  | - per cent- |  |  |
| Both employed | 36.1 | 54.9 | 59.6 | 48.6 | 39.2 |
| One employed, other not in labour force | 51.3 | 33.4 | 29.1 | 39.5 | 20.5 |
| One employed, other unemployed | 3.3 | 4.1 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 2.1 |
| Both unemployed | 1.6 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| One unemployed, other not in labour force | 5.0 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 1.8 |
| Both not in labour force | 2.7 | 3.3 | 5.5 | 3.8 | 35.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of couples ('000) | 731.4 | 406.3 | 591.5 | 1,729.1 | 1,648.4 |

(a) Excludes couples in which one or both partners did not state their labour force status or where a spouse was temporarily absent.

Source: Unpublished data
Although a large proportion of married women with dependent children were in the labour force, most of them worked part-time only. Two out of three employed women whose youngest child was less than 5 years old worked less than 35 hours a week. The corresponding figure for women whose youngest child was 5 to 14 years old was 54 per cent. In contrast, over 90 per cent of married men with dependent children, regardless of the children's ages, worked 35 or more hours a week. Both parents worked full-time in 34 per cent of employed couple families in which the youngest child was less than 5 years old and in 42 per cent of couple families in which the youngest child was 5 to 14 years old.

TABLE 3.7 EMPLOYED COUPLES(a): HOURS WORKED PER WEEK BY AGE OF YOUNGEST DEPENDENT CHILD

| Hours worked per week | Youngest child aged 0.4 years |  | Youngest child aged $5-14$ years |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Father | Mother | Father | Mother |
|  | -per cent- |  |  |  |
| Less than 15 | 4.9 | 34.9 | 5.1 | 22.4 |
| 16-24 | 1.5 | 19.1 | 1.3 | 18.2 |
| 25-34 | 3.4 | 10.1 | 2.9 | 13.9 |
| 35 or more | 90.2 | 35.9 | 90.7 | 45.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of employed couples('000)(b) | 252.5 |  | 448.1 |  |

(a) Only couples with both partners present in the household on census night, and both partiners employed. (b) Excludes those who did not state number of hours worked

Source: Table CSD034
The proportion of lone parents who were employed was much less than among parents in couple families, and the proportion unemployed was higher. Lone parents were less likely to be in the labour force compared with parents in couple families. Lone parents and their work patterns are examined further in another report in this series (Census 86 - Australia's One Parent Families (Cat. No.2511.0)).

TABLE 3.8 FATHERS AND MOTHERS IN COUPLE FAMILIES(a) AND ONE PARENT FAMILIES: LABOUR FORCE STATUS

| Labour force status | Fathers |  | Mothers |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Couple families | One parent families | Couple families | e paren families |
|  | - per cent- |  |  |  |
| Employed | 88.5 | 71.1 | 48.9 | 34.2 |
| Unemployed | 5.3 | 8.7 | 3.9 | 7.5 |
| Not in the labour force | 4.8 | 18.2 | 44.6 | 56.6 |
| Not stated | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 1.6 |
| Total(b) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number ('000) | 1.781 .1 | 46.3 | 1.781 .1 | 277.8 |

(a) Couple families with dependent children and both spouses present on census night. (b)
Excludes families in caravan parks.

Source: Table CSCO16 and unpublished data
Census data on the characteristics of unemployed family members provide some information about how unemployment affects families. About half a million people living in families were unemployed at the time of the census. Sixty one per cent were either the reference person or spouse, 33 per cent were adult children who were mostly aged 15 to 24 years and the rest were other adult family members. About 70 per cent of the unemployed had no post-school qualifications.

The economic consequences of unemployment on the family were most severe when it was the reference person or the spouse who was unemployed. In these cases, median family income was less than $\$ 15,000$ per year. Families with unemployed adult children had a much higher median family income indicating that there were other income earners in the family, most likely either one or both parents.

TABLE 3.9 UNEMPLOYED FAMILY MEMBERS: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS BY FAMILY STATUS

| Family status | Per cent aged 15-24 years | Per cent without qualifications | Median family income (\$) | Total unemployed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | '000 | Per cent |
| Reference person |  |  |  |  |  |
| or spouse | 15.1 | 67.3 | 14,900 | 301.3 | 60.9 |
| Adult child | 80.2 | 77.6 | 28,400 | 164.4 | 33.2 |
| Other adult family member | - 57.6 | 76.1 | 22,300 | 29.1 | 5.9 |
| Total | 39.2 | 71.3 | 19,400 | 494.8 | 100.0 |

Source: Table Cx0069
Two in 3 people living in group households were employed and 1 in 8 were unemployed. Many people in group households were aged 15 to 24 years, a group with higher than average unemployment. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force. Less than 10 per cent of the people in group households were full-time students and 7 per cent were part-time students.

People living alone had a much lower labour force participation rate than people in other types of households because many of them were elderly women. Nearly 60 per cent of men in lone person households but only 27 per cent of women were employed. The proportion unemployed was lower than average. Over 68 per cent of women and 31 per cent of men living alone were not in the labour force.

TABLE 3.10 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER IN NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS: LABOUR FORCE STATUS

| Labour force status | People in group households |  |  | People in lone person households |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| -per cent- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employed | 70.5 | 64.4 | 67.8 | 59.0 | 27.4 | 41.2 |
| Unemployed | 12.6 | 11.0 | 11.9 | 6.9 | 2.3 | 4.3 |
| Not in labour force | 14.6 | 22.7 | 18.2 | 31.0 | 68.5 | 52.2 |
| Not stated | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total ('000) | 283.9 | 223.4 | 507.4 | 431.6 | 556.3 | 987.9 |

Source: Tables CSDO52 and CSOO53

## Income

... household income
Household and family income is obtained by aggregating the income reported by all members of the household or family. Thus, households and families which have one earner are likely to have lower household or family income than those which have two or more earners although people were asked to report their income from all sources, not only from wages and salaries.

The median household income in 1986 was $\$ 22,000$ a year. Median income was highest in group households and lowest in lone person households, many of which consisted of elderly people not in the labour force.

FIGURE 3.2 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME


Source: Tables CSD025 and CSD062
Two-thirds of people living alone had an annual income of $\$ 15,000$ or less in 1986. By comparison, only one-fifth of group households and one-quarter of family households had an annual income of $\$ 15,000$ or less in 1986. The proportions of family, group and lone person households with an annual income of more than $\$ 40,000$ were 23 per cent, 28 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

TABLE 3.11 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES(a): INCOME BY TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD OR FAMILY

| Household or family type | Annual household/family income |  |  |  | Total number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Up to } \\ \$ 15,000 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 15,001- \\ \$ 40,000 \end{array}$ | More than $\$ 40,000$ | Total |  |
|  |  |  | cent- |  | (000) |
| Households |  |  |  |  |  |
| Family | 24.4 | 53.0 | 22.6 | 100.0 | 3,501.1 |
| Group | 19.1 | 52.8 | 28.2 | 100.0 | 200.6 |
| Lone person | 66.7 | 31.4 | 1.8 | 100.0 | 910.5 |
| Total | 32.5 | 48.8 | 18.7 | 100.0 | 4,612.2 |
| Families |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only | 40.6 | 44.5 | 15.0 | 100.0 | 1.144 .0 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren) | 15.8 | 65.8 | 18.4 | 100.0 | 1,261.4 |
| Couple, dependent |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple, adult(s) | 8.5 | 48.1 | 43.4 | 100.0 | 391.4 |
| One parent | 66.4 | 30.7 | 2.9 | 100.0 | 296.5 |
| Related adults | 29.3 | 58.1 | 12.5 | 100.0 | 239.6 |
| Total | 26.9 | 52.5 | 20.5 | 100.0 | 3,638.0 |

(a) Excludes households and families where one or more members' income was not stated, and couple families where the spouse was absent on census night.

Source: Tables CSD025 and CSD062

The median family income was $\$ 24,500$ a year. It varied with type of family, being highest in couple families with other adult family members and lowest in one parent families. Couples with other adult family members were more mature families and were more likely to have both partners working or earning higher incomes than young couples with dependent children.

There was a higher proportion of families with income of less than $\$ 15,000$ a year among couple only and one parent families. Many of these families were likely to have no earned income. A large number of couples living by themselves were retired and many lone parents were not in the labour force.

According to the census, the typical Australian home was a 3 bedroom free-standing house. Only a small proportion of the population lived in medium density housing and high-rise flats, even in the large cities.

Three-quarters of all households in 1986 ( 12.6 million people) lived in separate houses and family households were much more likely to live in a separate house than group or lone person households. Thirty two per cent of non-family households were in medium density housing compared to less than 10 per cent of family households. Less than 2 per cent of all households lived in high-rise flats.

Most families with dependent children lived in separate or semi-detached houses, but a comparatively high proportion of one parent families lived in medium density housing and flats. However, families living in medium density housing, flats and caravan parks were mainly couple only families many of whom were retired people.

TABLE 3.12 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES(a) BY STRUCTURE OF DWELLING
(per cent)

| Household Sep <br> or family  <br> type semi-deta |  | Structure of dwelling |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Medium density housing | Flats over 3 storeys | Other(b) |  |
| Households |  |  |  |  |  |
| Family | 86.7 | 8.7 | 1.2 | 3.4 | 100.0 |
| Group | 57.6 | 32.5 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 100.0 |
| Lone person | On 56.6 | 32.4 | 4.7 | 6.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 79.8 | 14.1 | 2.0 | 4.1 | 100.0 |
| Families |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only | ly 80.5 | 13.0 | 1.8 | 4.7 | 100.0 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren) | pendent $91.5$ | 4.8 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 100.0 |
| Couple, dependent <br> $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { child(ren), adult(s) } & 93.9 & 3.0 & 0.5 & 2.6 \\ 100.0\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple, adult(s) | dult(s) 92.7 | 4.3 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 100.0 |
| One parent | t 76.4 | 18.0 | 2.0 | 3.6 | 100.0 |
| Related adults | dults 78.5 | 16.3 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86.7 | 8.7 | 1.2 | 3.4 | 100.0 |

[^3]Source: Tables CSD063 and CSC018

## Home ownership

... by type of household

Home ownership is one of the most important goals of Australians and most families would like to own their home. The majority of families and households in 1986 owned their homes or were paying off a mortgage. However, home ownership varied by family type and life cycle stage. Young families were less likely to own their homes compared with older families.

About 40 per cent of households owned their homes and another 30 per cent were paying off a mortgage on a home. Lone person households had the highest rate of home ownership and group households the lowest. This is to be expected since people living alone were mainly elderly while those in group households were mostly young adults. Over 60 per cent of group households were in rented dwellings. Family households were the least likely to be renting and had the highest proportion paying off a mortgage. Three in 4 family households were living in their own homes which they either owned fully or for which they were paying off a mortgage.

It can also be observed that a greater proportion of lower income households owned their homes compared with higher income households. This is again related to life cycle stage. Households with lower incomes usually had members who were retired but who had also paid off their mortgages.

TABLE 3.13 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES(a): NATURE OF OCCUPANCY BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND ANNUAL INCOME AND BY FAMILY TYPE

| Annual income | Nature of occupancy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Owned | Purch. asing | Renting (gov) | Renting (private) | Other (b) | Total |  |
|  |  |  | - per cent- |  |  |  | ('000) |
| Household type: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Group households | 15.1 | 15.8 | 3.6 | 59.9 | 5.6 | 100.0 | (c) 214.6 |
| Income <\$15,000 | 31.0 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 50.9 | 6.8 | 100.0 | 38.2 |
| Income \$15,000-\$32,000 | 15.4 | 12.2 | 3.4 | 64.7 | 4.4 | 100.0 | 71.0 |
| Income > \$32,000 | 7.8 | 23.6 | 3.2 | 62.1 | 3.4 | 100.0 | 91.4 |
| Lone person households | 43.6 | 13.6 | 7.4 | 27.6 | 7.9 | 100.0 | (c) 961.4 |
| Income <\$15,000 | 52.8 | 7.0 | 9.6 | 23.5 | 7.1 | 100.0 | 607.7 |
| Income \$15,000-\$32,000 | 25.4 | 27.2 | 3.1 | 39.2 | 5.1 | 100.0 | 263.5 |
| Income > $\$ 32,000$ | 31.6 | 34.0 | 2.2 | 27.1 | 5.2 | 100.0 | 39.3 |
| Family households | 38.2 | 35.9 | 6.7 | 14.8 | 4.4 | 100.0 | (d)4,011.4 |
| Income <\$15,000 | 50.8 | 16.4 | 11.6 | 16.5 | 4.7 | 100.0 | 853.1 |
| Income \$15,000-\$32,000 | 35.0 | 38.9 | 6.7 | 15.9 | 3.4 | 1000 | 1.372 .4 |
| Income > $\$ 32,000$ | 33.9 | 47.2 | 3.3 | 13.0 | 2.6 | 100.0 | 1,275.6 |
| Family type: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Couple only | 50.1 | 25.2 | 3.8 | 15.7 | 5.1 | 1000 | 1,199.4 |
| Couple, dopendent child(ren) | 23.8 | 51.7 | 6.3 | 13.8 | 4.3 | 100.0 | 1,450.3 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s) | 39.4 | 40.5 | 6.3 | 10.1 | 3.7 | 100.0 | 376.0 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 57.6 | 26.9 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 3.8 | 100.0 | 445.5 |
| One parent | 18.5 | 25.7 | 22.8 | 29.4 | 3.7 | 1000 | 288.0 |
| Related adults | 49.8 | 16.8 | 8.9 | 19.6 | 4.9 | 100.0 | 252.1 |
| Total families | 38.2 | 35.9 | 6.7 | 14.8 | 4.5 | 1000 | 4.011 .4 |
| Total households | 38.2 | 30.9 | 6.7 | 19.0 | 5.1 | 100.0 | 5,187.4 |

[^4]Household housing costs

Nearly 40 per cent of primary families owned their homes and another 36 per cent were purchasing theirs. Couple families with dependent children only were least likely to own their homes outright compared with other types of couple families and most likely to be paying off a mortgage. Based on the proportion who either owned or were purchasing their homes in 1986, three-quarters of the couple families with dependent children should eventually own their homes. Nearly 60 per cent of couple families with an adult family member (but no dependent children) already owned their homes.

One parent families had the lowest rate of home ownership; less than half of one parent families owned or were purchasing their homes.

FIGURE 3.3 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: PERCENTAGE OWNING OR PURCHASING THEIR HOMES


The median mortgage payment for the 1.6 million households purchasing their homes was $\$ 360$ a month in 1986 . Group households generally had higher payments and lone person households tended to have lower payments.

FIGURE 3.4 HOUSEHOLDS IN MORTGAGED OR RENTED DWELLINGS: MEDIAN WEEKLY MORTGAGE OR RENT PAYMENTS BY TYPE OF household


Source: Tables CX0091 and CX0092
One in four households had a mortgage payment of over $\$ 500$ a month.

More than 1.3 million households lived in rented housing with nearly 350,000 living in government housing. Over 30 per cent of family households in rented housing were renting from government authorities while group households were renting mostly from private sources. Median household rent paid was $\$ 75$ a week.

## TABLE 3.14 HOUSEHOLDS IN MORTGAGED OR RENTED DWELLINGS:

 mortgage or rent payments by household type| Payments | Household type |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Family | Group | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Lone } \\ \text { person } \end{array}$ |  |
|  | -per cent- |  |  |  |
| Morgage (monthly) |  |  |  |  |
| \$1-\$99 | 11.3 | 5.9 | 18.7 | 11.8 |
| \$100-\$199 | 10.8 | 4.6 | 8.1 | 10.4 |
| \$200-\$299 | 16.8 | 10.8 | 14.1 | 16.4 |
| \$300-\$399 | 18.0 | 16.9 | 17.6 | 17.9 |
| \$400-\$499 | 14.7 | 19.8 | 15.6 | 14.8 |
| \$500-\$599 | 9.3 | 14.2 | 9.7 | 9.5 |
| \$600-\$699 | 6.5 | 9.8 | 5.7 | 6.5 |
| \$700-\$799 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 2.4 | 3.2 |
| \$800 \& over | 6.0 | 8.4 | 3.6 | 5.9 |
| Not stated | 3.4 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total households ( 000 ) | 1,439.8 | 33.9 | 130.6 | 1,604.3 |
| Rent (weekly) |  |  |  |  |
| \$0-\$24 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 19.3 | 8.8 |
| \$25-\$49 | 21.2 | 5.8 | 16.9 | 18.5 |
| \$50-\$74 | 21.0 | 17.2 | 27.7 | 22.3 |
| \$75-\$99 | 22.9 | 27.5 | 19.2 | 22.4 |
| \$100-\$124 | 14.0 | 22.1 | 7.8 | 13.3 |
| \$125-\$149 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 2.5 | 5.1 |
| \$150-\$174 | 2.7 | 6.4 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| \$175-\$199 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| \$200 \& over | 2.7 | 4.1 | 1.6 | 2.6 |
| Not stated | 3.4 | 2.0 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total households ('000) | 862.1 | 136.5 | 335.7 | 1,334.3 |

Source: Tables CX0091 and CX0092

## Family housing costs

Of single family households with a mortgage, couple only families had the highest median monthly mortgage payment. Couple only families who were purchasing their homes were likely to be young couples. Mature families such as couples with other adult family members had relatively low mortgage payments

Among single family households in rented accommodation, the more mature families (couple and other adults) paid higher median rents than their counterparts in mortgaged accommodation, while the younger families paid less.

TABLE 3.15 SINGLE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN MORTGAGED OR RENTED DWELLINGS: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD MORTGAGE OR RENT PAYMENT

|  | Median <br> family <br> income | Median <br> per wousehold | mortgage or <br> rent payment <br> per week |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Source: Tables CX0082 and CX0083

FIGURE 3.5 SINGLE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN MORTGAGED OR RENTED DWELLINGS: RATIO OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD MORTGAGE OR RENT PAYMENT TO MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE


Source: Tables CX0082 and CX0083

## Ethnicity ... Aborlginal households and families

... migrant families

Single family households living in rented accommodation had lower incomes than those who lived in mortgaged dwellings and the ratios of the median rent payments to the median incomes of those in rented dwellings were higher than the ratios of the median mongage payments to the median incomes of those in mortgaged dwellings.

Most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were family households and very few Aboriginal people lived alone. The larger proportion of multi-family households among the Aboriginal population compared to the total Australian population, 10 per cent compared to 2 per cent, may indicate both a greater preference for Aboriginal families to reside together and a shortage of housing available for Aboriginal families.

Because of their relatively young age structure, three-quarters of Aboriginal families had dependent children. The proportion of couple only families was much less than among all families in Australia, 13 per cent compared to 31 per cent. The proportion of one parent families, at aimost 25 per cent, was 3 times higher than among all Australian families.

TABLE 3.16 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

|  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Number <br> $(000)$ | Per cent |
| Household type |  |  |
| 1 family |  |  |
| 2 or more families | 41.9 | 81.3 |
| Lone person | 5.4 | 10.5 |
| Total | 4.2 | 8.2 |
|  | 51.5 | 100.0 |
| Family type |  |  |
| Couple only | 7.2 | 13.3 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren) | 18.4 | 34.1 |
| Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s) | 8.7 | 16.2 |
| Couple, adult(s) | 8.6 | 5.5 |
| One parent, dependent child(ren) | 4.8 | 15.9 |
| One parent, dependent | 3.4 | 8.8 |
| child(ren), adult(s) | 54.1 | 6.2 |
| Related adults |  | 100.0 |
| Total |  |  |

Source: Tables CA0067 and CA0068
In 61 per cent of couple families, both partners were born in Australia, in 16 per cent one partner was born in Australia, and in 21 per cent both partners were born overseas. Birthplace was not stated by one or both partners in the remaining 2 per cent.

Couples with both partners born in the United Kingdom or Ireland represented 5 per cent of all couple families while couples with both partners born in the other European countries represented 9 per cent of all couple families. Asian couple families made up 3 per cent of couple families.

Migrant couples were less likely to be in de facto relationships when compared with couples with either one or both partners born in Australia. Less than 3 per cent of migrant couples were in de facto relationships compared with 6 per cent of Australian born couples and 9 per cent of couples with one Australian born partner. Among migrant couple families, Asian couples were less likely to be in de facto relationships than couples from other regions.

TABLE 3.17 COUPLE FAMILES(a): BIRTHPLACE OF PARTNERS BY TYPE OF UNION ('000)

| Birthplace of partners | Married <br> couples | De facto <br> couples | couples |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $2,000.0$ | 128.4 | $2,128.5$ |
| Both born in Australia | 500.8 | 47.8 | 548.7 |
| One born overseas | 252.9 | 24.6 | 277.5 |
| UK, Ireland | 139.2 | 9.4 | 148.7 |
| Other European countries | 38.1 | 2.8 | 40.9 |
| Asia | 70.6 | 11.0 | 81.6 |
| America, Africa, Oceania | 711.9 | 19.7 | 731.6 |
| Both born overseas | 181.2 | 4.6 | 185.8 |
| UK, Ireland | 314.7 | 5.4 | 320.1 |
| Other European countries | 103.0 | 1.1 | 104.1 |
| Asia | 52.5 | 3.8 | 56.4 |
| America, Alrica, Oceania | 60.4 | 4.8 | 65.3 |
| Combinations of above | 58.5 | 2.8 | 61.3 |
| One or both did not state birthplace |  |  |  |
| Total | $3,271.2$ | 198.8 | $3,470.0$ |

(a) Excludes couples with one partner temporarily absent on census night.

Source: Table CX0076
Religious affiliation
It has been suggested that families who have a religious affiliation are generally more conservative and more 'traditional' in structure while those who profess to have no religion may be more likely to adopt less traditional lifestyles (English and King, 1983).

In 1986, 71 per cent of couples stated that they were of Christian religion and less than 2 per cent were of non-Christian religion. One partner either had no religion or did not state a religion in 8 per cent of couples and both partners stated no religion or did not state their religion in 19 per cent of couple families. The percentage of couple families with no religion or religion not stated was highest among couples with dependent children and lowest among couple families with other adult members. Couples with dependent children were usually younger than those with other adult family members and the census showed that younger people were more likely than older people to have no religion or not state a religion.

TABLE 3.18 COUPLE FAMILIES(a): RELIGION

| Religion of couple | Family type |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Couple only | Couple, dependent child(ren) | Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s) | Couple, adult(s) |  |
|  | - per cent- |  |  |  |  |
| Both partners |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christian | 70.4 | 68.1 | 74.7 | 76.6 | 70.7 |
| One Christian, other non-Christian | an 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Both non-Christian | 1.2 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 1.8 |
| One no religion or not stated, other Christian/non |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christian | 8.8 | 93 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 8.3 |
| Both no religion |  |  |  |  |  |
| or not stated | 19.0 | 19.7 | 15.9 | 16.2 | 18.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of |  |  |  |  |  |

(a) Only couple families with bọth parthers present on census night.

Source: Table CX4149
The 1986 Census also showed that the proportion of parents with no religion was higher in one parent families than in couple families. Both fathers and mothers in one parent families were also more likely than those in couple families to belong to the Anglican church and less likely to belong to the Catholic or Uniting churches.

## TABLE 3.19 FATHERS AND MOTHERS IN COUPLE FAMILIES(a) AND ONE

 PARENT FAMILIES: RELIGION| Religion | Fathers |  | Mothers |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Couple families | One parent families | Couple families | ne parent families |
|  | - per cent- |  |  |  |
| Anglican | 22.8 | 23.8 | 23.7 | 26.7 |
| Catholic | 25.8 | 22.2 | 27.5 | 25.4 |
| Uniting Church | 7.3 | 5.5 | 8.2 | 6.6 |
| Other Christian | 16.0 | 13.3 | 16.8 | 13.1 |
| Non-Christian | 2.8 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 1.5 |
| No religion | 13.9 | 17.0 | 10.2 | 16.1 |
| Not stated | 11.4 | 14.8 | 11.0 | 10.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number ('000) | 1.797 .9 | (b)48.7 | 1.797 .9 | (b)272.3 |

[^5]
## References

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English, B.A. and R. J. King, 1983. Families in Australia. Sydney: The University of New South Wales, Family Research Unit.

Hugo, G., 1986. Australia's Changing Population. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Khoo, S.E., 1987. "Living Together as Married: A Profile of De Facto Couples in Australia." Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 49, pp. 185-191.

McDonald, P., 1984. "The Baby Boom Generation as Reproducers: Fertility in Australia in the late 1970s and the 1980s." Proceedings, Australian Family Research Conference, Vol. 1, pp. 13-52.

## Glossary

Adult family child

Ancestor
Blended family

Couple

De facto couple

Dependent family child

| Family | Two or more people related by blood, marriage or de facto <br> relationship who live in the same household. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Family income | The sum of the midpoints of the income ranges of all family members <br> aged 15 years and over. Excludes families where one or more <br> members were temporarily absent or did not state their income, <br> except those families where stated incomes exceeded $\$ 50,000$, the <br> largest income category. |
| Family reference person | A person aged 15 years or over around whom a family can be <br> constructed, usually Person 1 on the census form. |
| Group household | A non-family household consisting of two or more unrelated persons. |
| Household | A person living alone, or two or more persons who live and eat <br> together in private residential accommodation. |
| Household income | The sum of the midpoints of the income ranges of all household <br> members aged 15 years and over. Excludes households where one <br> or more members were temporarily absent or did not state their <br> income, except those households where stated incomes exceeded <br> $\$ 50,000$, the largest income category. |


| Lone person household | A household where only one person was counted and no spouse or <br> dependent children were listed as usual residents temporarily absent. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Other adult family member | A brother, sister, cousin or other blood or marriage relative of the <br> family reference person and/or spouse of the primary family; must be <br> 15 years of age or over or, if a full-time student, 21 years or over; <br> and must not have a spouse or dependent children present, or listed <br> as a usual resident temporarily absent. |
| Primary family | The family in a one family household, or one of the families in a <br> multiple family household, usually the one with dependent children. |
| Secondary family(ies) | The other family(ies) in a multiple family household apart from the <br> primary family. |
| Spouse | A married or de facto partner of the reference person; must be 15 <br> years of age or over. |

## APPENDIX A

## Publications in the series

Cat. No.
Title
2501.0 Census 86 - Australia in Brief
2502.0 Census 86 - Australia in Profile
2503.0 Census 86 - Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
2504.0 Census 86 - Population Growth and Distribution in Australia (including internal migration)
2505.0 Census 86 - Multicultural Australia
2506.0 Census 86 - Australian Families and Households
2507.0 Census 86 - Rural Australia
2508.0 Census 86 - Ageing Australia
2509.0 Census 86 - Australia's Caravan Park Dwellers
2510.0 Census 86 - Religion in Australia
2511.0 Census 86 - Australia's One Parent Families
2512.0 Census 86 - Housing in Australia
2513.0 Census 86 - Australians at Work
2514.0 Census 86 - Fertility in Australia

## APPENDIX B

Guide to data sources
$A H$

CA*

CSC*

CSD*

CX

VF

A number of sources given for tables and figures in this publication are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviated titles follows.

Table derived from a one per cent sample of unidentified households in private dwellings and all people within them, plus a one per cent sample of unidentified people in non-private dwellings. For further information see Census 86 - Sample Files on Magnetic Tape (Cat. No. 2184.0).

Tables of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on census count at place of enumeration (i.e. where people actually were on census night which may not have been where they usually resided).

Seven page format consisting of 46 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.

Twenty one page format consisting of 70 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.

Cross-classified table on microfiche.
Tables produced for internal use.

If you require further information about the data sources used in this publication, refer to the Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables (Cat. No. 2175.0) available free of charge from the nearest ABS office (see Appendix $C$ for addresses and telephone numbers) or contact an Information Officer.

[^6]
## APPENDIX C

Inquiries

NEW SOUTH WALES
Information Services
St Andrew's House
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
(Box 796, G.P.O. Sydney 2001)
Phone (02) 2684611
Telex AA20819
Keylink 6009: ABS187

## VICTORIA

Information Services
Rialto Tower North
525 Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC. 3000
(Box 2796Y, G.P.O. Melbourne 3001)
Phone (03) 6157840
Telex AA30086
Keylink 6009: ABS257

## QUEENSLAND

Information Services
313 Adelaide Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000
(Box 1160, G.P.O. Brisbane 4001)
Phone (07) 2226351
Telex AA40271
Keylink 6009: ABS359

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Information Services
Merlin Centre
30 Terrace Road
Perth, W.A. 6000
(Box K881, G.P.O. Perth 6001)
Phone (09) 3235140
Keylink 6009: ABS588

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Information Services
Citibank Building
41 Currie Street
Adelaide, S.A. 5000
(Box 2272, G.P.O. Adelaide 5001)
Phone (08) 2377100
Telex AA82106
Keylink 6009: ABS454
TASMANIA
Information Services
175 Collins Street
Hobart, TAS. 7000
(Box 66A, G.P.O. Hobart 7001)
Phone (002) 209409
Telex AA58098
Keylink 6009: ABS657

NORTHERN TERRITORY
The Statistician - Northern Territory
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81 Smith Street
Darwin, N.T. 5790
(Box 3796, P.O. Darwin 5794)
Phone (089) 815222
Telex AA85075
Keylink 6009: ABS708
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
Information Services
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Unit 5, Cameron Offices
Belconnen, A.C.T. 2617
(Box 10, P.O. Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616)
Phone (062) 526627
Telex AA 62020
Keylink 6009: ABS875


[^0]:    (a) Only couple families with both spouses present on census night. (b) Includes couples in which both partners did not state their qualifications and couples where one partner did not state

[^1]:    (a) Excludes families in which the labour force status of one or boin partners was not stated and where one partner was temporarily absent from the household on census night.

    Source: Table CSC014 and unpublished data

[^2]:    (a) Only couples where both partners were in the househoid on census night. Excludes couples in which one or both partners did not state their labour force status.

[^3]:    (a) Primary families only. (b) Includes caravans, houseboats, improvised dwellings, houses/flats attached to shops and offices, and structure not stated.

[^4]:    (a) Primary families excluding families living in caravan parks. (b) Includes rent free and not stated. (c) Number includes income not stated. (d) Number includes income not stated or spouse absent.

    Source: Tables CSD062 and CSD028

[^5]:    (a) Couple families with dependent children and both partners present on census night. (b) Data on one parent families are trom a 1 per cent sample file and may ditter from total counts.

    Source: Tables CX4149 and AH4002

[^6]:    * Available for a range of geographic areas. Refer to the Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables (Cat. No. 2175.0) for further information.

