



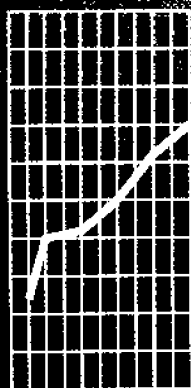
1996

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Births

Australia

Births



NOTES

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Tables 10, 13 and 14 now show all confinements (or all confinements excluding paternity not acknowledged) when previously these tables showed only nuptial confinements.

Data on all previous children for Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory and previous children by nuptial and ex-nuptial births for South Australia have been deleted. Caution should be used if interpreting South Australian previous issue data as national data, particularly as this State has a total fertility rate lower than the national rate.

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PLEASE NOTE

Year of occurrence data are subject to revision as a number of late registrations are reported each year. These revisions have minimal effects on the figures except those of the most recent year.

.....

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
p	preliminary
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

.....

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these statistics, contact Information Services on Canberra (02) 6252 6627.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

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MAIN FEATURES

KEY FIGURES

	1986	1996	Change
	no.	no.	%
Births registered	243 408	253 834	4.3
Nuptial births	202 458	184 266	-9.0
Ex-nuptial births	40 950	69 568	69.9
Confinements registered	240 699	250 363	4.0
	rate	rate	%
Total fertility rate	1.870	1.796	-4.0
Net reproduction rate	0.895	0.860	-3.9

TOTAL BIRTHS REGISTERED

- In 1996, 253,800 births were registered in Australia. This is 4% more than the number registered in 1986 (243,400). There were 105.9 boys per 100 girls born in 1996.

NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

- The number of nuptial births registered in 1996 was 9% lower than the number in 1986. On the other hand, ex-nuptial births registered in 1996 rose by 70%. 27.4% of births were ex-nuptial, compared to 16.8% in 1986.

BIRTH RATES

- In 1996 the total fertility rate for registered births was 1.796, the lowest rate on record. The fertility rate has steadily declined since 1992 (1.894).
- The age group of peak fertility continued to be women aged 25-29, contributing 32% to the total fertility rate in 1996, although down from 38% in 1986.
- Since 1976 the net reproduction rate has been below the replacement level. In 1996, this rate was 0.860, a fall of 12% compared to 1976, and 4% compared to 1986.
- The completed fertility rate was 3.1 for women born in 1930 compared to the projected 2.2 completed fertility rate for women born in 1960.
- Based on current fertility rates, 31% of South Australian women can expect to have two children, while 25% will have none. For further discussion please refer to the special article.

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER

- Australian-born women had a total fertility rate of 1.776, compared to 0.848 for Hong Kong-born women in Australia, and 3.441 for Lebanese-born women.

MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

- The median age at confinement of both mother and father increased by 1.7 years in 1996 compared to 1986, to 29.2 and 31.9, respectively.

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

- 1.4% of all confinements resulted in a multiple birth in 1996, up from 1.1% in 1986.

SPECIAL ARTICLE — FERTILITY RATES AND BIRTH ORDER

INTRODUCTION

Australia's total fertility rate has been falling over the last two decades, from 2.9 babies per woman in 1971 to 1.8 babies in 1996. Since the mid-1970s, the total fertility rate has remained below the natural replacement level of 2.1 babies per woman.

One phenomenon that has affected total fertility rates is that fewer women are having three or more children. In other words, first and second order births are having a higher contribution to total fertility. These changing patterns are covered in more detail below.

BIRTH ORDER FERTILITY

The total fertility rate is the number of births that a woman could expect to have, based on current age-specific birth rates. This concept of fertility is similar to that of birth order-specific fertility, which represents the number of births of a specific order a woman can expect to have. For example, on 1996 rates, a South Australian woman could expect to have 0.75 first births (75% of women would have a first birth), 0.58 second births and so on. Together these add up to the total number of births she can expect to have (1.75).

Data sources and time series

Due to differences in birth registration data collected from each State and Territory, it is not currently possible to compile a national set of birth order-specific fertility rates. Birth registration forms currently collected in some States and Territories only ask for previous births of the current relationship, and not of all previous relationships.

Using three different sources, a national time series is made available using: the 1992 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Survey of Families in Australia (for fertility rates prior to 1992); the mid-wife collection of confinements (for 1992 to 1994 rates); and State and Territory birth registrations (for 1995 rates). The quality of these data are not considered here, although there are differences in the way questions are worded and interpreted.

Birth registrations data for 1995 and 1996 collected in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory enabled the calculation of birth order-specific fertility rates for these States and Territories. Of these regions, South Australia best reflects previous national trends in birth order-specific fertility rates, and so the rates for 1995 and 1996, given below, only relate to South Australia.

BIRTH ORDER-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a)

BIRTH ORDER.....						
	First birth	Second birth	Third birth	Fourth and higher order births	All births	National total fertility rate(b)
Data source and year/period						
.....						
Rates based on the Survey of Families in Australia						
1970 to 1974	897	762	488	373	2 520	2 671
1975 to 1979	782	757	431	238	2 208	2 020
1980 to 1984	764	672	384	202	2 020	1 909
1985 to 1991	747	645	350	199	1 940	1 869
Rates based on mid-wife data						
1992 to 1994	735	609	307	180	1 831	1 868
Rates based on South Australian birth registrations						
1995	746	580	274	150	1 750	1 824
1996	751	582	272	142	1 746	1 796

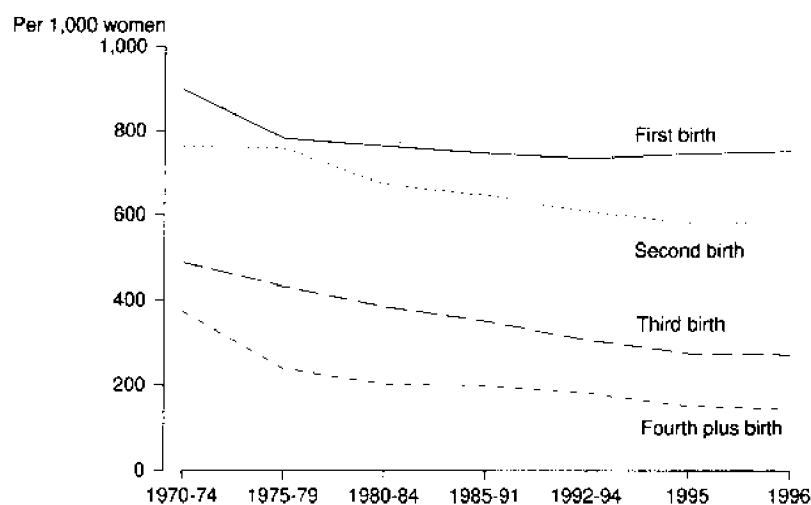
(a) Rates calculated per 1,000 women.

(b) Calculated from birth registrations.

Since the early 1970s, fertility rates have been declining across all birth orders, with the greatest decrease occurring in third and higher order fertility.

The variations in fertility rates for the first and second birth orders between the periods 1970 and 1974, and 1980 and 1984 (illustrated in the graph below) are largely due to the characteristics of the female population in these years. In other words, many of the women who had first births between 1970 and 1974, went on to have second births between 1975 and 1979. Similarly, many women who had first births in the period 1975 to 1979 had second births in the period 1980 to 1984.

BIRTH ORDER-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES



HIGHEST BIRTH ORDER

Birth order-specific fertility rates can be used to provide an indication of the number of children that women bear. This number represents the trends of one year, and may not reflect the entire life experience of a cohort of women (i.e. it is a period rate and not a cohort rate). Based on 1996 fertility rates, 75.1% of all women can expect to have at least one child in their lives and 58.2% of women will have at least two. From this, we can deduce that 24.9% of women remain childless and 16.9% will have only one child (i.e. they will not have a second child).

NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT WOMEN BEAR

	No children	One child	Two children	Three children	More than three children	All women
<i>Data source and year/period</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rates based on the Survey of Families in Australia						
1970 to 1974	10.3	13.6	27.4	11.5	37.3	100.0
1975 to 1979	21.8	2.6	32.6	19.3	23.8	100.0
1980 to 1984	23.7	9.2	28.8	18.2	20.2	100.0
1985 to 1991	25.3	10.2	29.5	15.1	19.9	100.0
Rates based on mid-wife data						
1992 to 1994	26.4	12.3	30.3	12.9	18.2	100.0
Rates based on South Australian birth registrations						
1995	26.5	14.5	31.3	12.8	14.9	100.0
1996	24.9	16.9	31.0	17.8	9.3	100.0

While around 30% of women may continue to expect to have only two children, progressively fewer are having three or more children. Since the mid-1980s, approximately one in four women has remained childless. The number of women who will only have one child has also been increasing.

SECTION 1

OVERVIEW

ANALYSIS

In 1996, 254,000 births were registered in Australia, with 131,000 boys and 123,000 girls.

The 254,000 births registered in 1996 represented an 11% increase over the number registered in 1976 (228,000) and a 4% increase over the number registered in 1986 (243,000). However, as the female population aged 15–49 years increased by 40% between 1976 and 1996 and by 16% between 1986 and 1996, birth rates have declined.

Australia's total fertility rate fell just below 1.8 children per woman in 1996, for the first time since figures have been kept. In 1978 it fell below 2 babies and has fluctuated between 1.89 and 1.94 throughout the 1980s and 1990s although it has declined steadily since 1992. It was comparable to the total fertility rates of the United Kingdom and Canada (both 1.8), lower than those of many of Australia's regional neighbours such as New Zealand (2.1), Indonesia (3.1), Malaysia (3.7) and Papua New Guinea (4.9), but higher than that of Korea (1.7) and Japan (1.4). Australia's total fertility rate in 1996 was also higher than those of many of her past major immigration source countries in Europe such as Italy (1.3), Greece (1.4) and the Netherlands (1.6).

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a), Australia(b) and Selected Countries(c)

Selected countries	Total fertility rate	Selected countries	Total fertility rate
Australia	1.8	Malaysia	3.7
Canada	1.8	Netherlands	1.6
China	2.2	New Zealand	2.1
Greece	1.4	Papua New Guinea	4.9
Hong Kong	1.2	Philippines	4.0
India	3.9	Poland	2.1
Indonesia	3.1	Sri Lanka	2.5
Italy	1.3	United Kingdom	1.8
Japan	1.4	United States of America	2.1
Korea, Republic of	1.7	Former Yugoslavia	1.9
Lebanon	3.1	Viet Nam	3.9

(a) Per woman.

(b) Reference period 1996.

(c) Reference period 1993 and 1994.

Source for overseas countries: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994; United Nations, *1994 Demographic Year Book*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, 1996.

The structure of fertility in Australia, as measured by the age-specific birth rates, was similar to that of some of Australia's major trading partners such as New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan and other low-moderate fertility countries.

The age group of peak fertility in Australia and in these countries was 25–29 years, followed by 30–34 and 20–24 years. Teenage fertility was very low, with women aged less than 20 years contributing between 1% (Japan) and 8% (New Zealand) to the total fertility rate. Australian women aged less than 20 years contributed 6% to the total fertility rate.

ANALYSIS *continued*

For women born since 1930, fertility has been higher in Australia than in most European countries, except Iceland and Ireland. Australian women born between 1930 and 1935 had three children on average, compared to two and a half in most European countries. Women born in the 1930s had the highest fertility of women this century, and were the main contributors to the high fertility in the baby boom era after World War II. Women born between 1943 and 1960 are projected to have had a completed fertility of two children on average.

Of the births registered in 1996, 70,000 (27%) were ex-nuptial, of which paternity was acknowledged in 84% of cases. The proportions of ex-nuptial births and of ex-nuptial births that are paternity-acknowledged, have both increased consistently since 1976.

Of the 250,000 confinements registered in 1996, 189,800 (75.8%) were to mothers born in Australia. About 13,200 births (5.3%) were to mothers born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, 6,300 (2.5%) to mothers born in New Zealand, and 4,500 (1.8%) to mothers born in Viet Nam. This distribution broadly reflects the distribution of the female population of reproductive ages born in these countries. The median age at confinement for Australian-born women was 28.7 years compared to median ages of 30 years and over for almost all overseas countries of birth, except Lebanon (28.1 years), New Zealand (29.4 years), Viet Nam (29.5 years) and the former Yugoslavia (29.6 years). This, to some extent reflects the older age structure of migrants than of the Australian born. Overseas born women have slightly higher fertility and have babies at slightly older ages.

CONFINEMENTS, by Birthplace and Age of Mother

Age group (years)	Australian-born mothers		Overseas-born mothers	
	no.	%	no.	%
19 and under	11 193	5.9	1 236	2.0
20-24	36 887	19.4	7 534	12.4
25-29	63 803	33.6	17 881	29.5
30-34	53 959	28.4	21 254	35.1
35-39	20 763	10.9	10 543	17.4
40 and over	3 168	1.7	1 977	3.3
Not stated	58	0.0	107	0.2
Total	189 831	100.0	60 532	100.0

Indigenous women have higher fertility than women in the total Australian population. In 1996, the total fertility rate of Indigenous women ranged between 2.1 in South Australia and 2.7 in the Northern Territory. Indigenous women having a baby in 1996 were, on average, younger than women in the total Australian population. The median age at childbearing among Indigenous women was between 23 and 24 years compared to 29 years among all Australian women.

Between 1976 and 1996 the number of births registered in Tasmania declined by 4.1%. There was little change in Victoria and South Australia while New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory experienced modest increases. In contrast, there were substantial increases in Queensland (35.4%), the Northern Territory (32.5%) and Western Australia (19.8%). These differences partly reflected changes in the number of women in the reproductive ages in the various States and Territories.

1 BIRTHS: SUMMARY(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other Territories	Australia
BIRTHS										
Total births	86,595	61,143	47,769	19,056	24,793	6,457	3,562	4,396	63	253,834
Males	44,448	31,587	24,533	9,710	12,813	3,346	1,861	2,241	33	130,572
Females	42,147	29,556	23,236	9,346	11,980	3,111	1,701	2,155	30	123,262
Sex ratio	105.5	106.9	105.6	103.9	107.0	107.6	109.4	104.0	110.0	105.9
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births</i>	..	..	..	557	1,538	..	1,343	66	..	..
Males	..	..	..	284	815	..	718	33	..	..
Females	..	..	..	273	723	..	625	33	..	..
Sex ratio	..	..	..	104.0	112.7	..	114.9	100.0	..	..
Nuptial births	64,595	47,933	32,191	13,328	17,128	4,242	1,504	3,288	57	184,266
<i>Ex-nuptial births —</i>										
Number	22,000	13,210	15,578	5,728	7,665	2,215	2,058	1,108	6	69,568
Percentage of total live births	25.4	21.6	32.6	30.1	30.9	34.3	57.8	25.2	9.5	27.4
<i>Paternity acknowledged births —</i>										
Number	18,545	11,367	13,032	4,960	6,473	1,941	1,292	934	5	58,549
Percentage of total ex-nuptial births	84.3	86.0	83.7	86.6	84.4	87.6	62.8	84.3	83.3	84.2
Crude birth rate	14.0	13.5	14.2	12.9	14.1	13.6	20.0	14.3	n.p.	13.9
<i>Age-specific birth rates —</i>										
15-19	19.9	12.8	26.0	18.3	22.8	26.8	78.6	14.4	n.p.	20.1
20-24	66.8	50.4	75.8	62.0	66.9	88.5	118.7	44.9	n.p.	64.6
25-29	117.7	112.1	118.9	114.7	120.6	130.4	116.9	112.5	n.p.	116.7
30-34	106.0	113.1	100.7	103.7	104.7	98.7	92.4	105.8	n.p.	106.2
35-39	46.3	46.0	39.8	42.1	41.2	31.8	44.4	48.7	n.p.	43.8
40-44	8.2	7.8	6.7	8.1	6.0	6.5	6.2	8.9	n.p.	7.6
45-49	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	—	0.3	n.p.	0.3
Total fertility rate	1.825	1.712	1.840	1.746	1.812	1.916	2.286	1.677	n.p.	1.796
Female net reproduction rate	0.877	0.817	0.881	0.845	0.866	0.915	1.065	0.813	n.p.	0.860
CONFINEMENTS										
Total confinements	85,496	60,294	47,118	18,753	24,434	6,356	3,522	4,327	63	250,363
First nuptial	26,125	19,561	12,572	5,332	6,605	1,795	614	1,257	12	73,873
All nuptial	63,705	47,247	31,700	13,112	16,849	4,162	1,488	3,229	57	181,549
Paternity acknowledged	18,374	11,225	12,895	4,881	6,408	1,922	1,276	925	5	57,911
All ex-nuptial	21,791	13,047	15,418	5,641	7,585	2,194	2,034	1,098	6	68,814
<i>Median age of mother (years) —</i>										
First nuptial	28.6	29.1	28.4	29.1	28.7	28.0	28.6	28.6	n.p.	28.7
All nuptial	30.2	30.5	29.9	30.5	30.1	29.6	30.0	30.4	n.p.	30.2
Paternity acknowledged	25.3	26.1	24.7	25.6	25.2	24.5	25.2	26.3	n.p.	25.3
All ex-nuptial	25.1	25.9	24.5	25.4	24.9	24.3	24.3	26.0	n.p.	25.1
Total	29.3	29.9	28.5	29.4	28.9	28.3	27.1	29.6	n.p.	29.2
<i>Median age of father (years) —</i>										
Nuptial	32.8	32.8	32.2	32.8	32.6	32.1	32.7	32.5	n.p.	32.7
Paternity acknowledged	28.0	28.4	27.3	28.2	27.9	27.0	27.7	28.7	n.p.	27.9
All fathers where age is known	32.0	32.3	31.2	32.0	31.6	30.9	30.9	31.8	n.p.	31.9
<i>Median duration of marriage (years) —</i>										
First nuptial	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.5	n.p.	2.5
Nuptial	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.6	n.p.	4.6
<i>Nuptial confinements —</i>										
<i>Previous births —</i>										
0	26,125	19,561	12,572	5,332	6,605	1,795	614	1,257	12	73,873
1	22,475	16,905	11,433	4,933	6,304	1,447	526	1,252	18	65,293
2	10,173	7,544	5,266	2,021	2,768	614	245	522	14	29,167
3	3,373	2,238	1,609	576	823	201	68	141	8	9,037
4	989	612	513	142	215	64	17	34	4	2,590
5 and over	570	387	307	108	134	41	18	23	1	1,589
Average number of births	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.6	2.0

(a) See Glossary for definitions of the terms used.

2 BIRTHS: SUMMARY(a)

	1986	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
BIRTHS							
Total births	243,408	257,247	264,151	260,229	258,051	256,190	253,834
Males	124,914	131,965	135,601	133,572	132,625	131,432	130,572
Females	118,494	125,282	128,550	126,657	125,426	124,758	123,262
Sex ratio	105.4	105.3	105.5	105.5	105.7	105.3	105.9
Nuptial births	202,458	198,024	200,783	195,355	191,959	188,140	184,266
<i>Ex-nuptial births —</i>							
Number	40,950	59,223	63,368	64,874	66,092	68,050	69,568
Percentage of total live births	16.8	23.0	24.0	24.9	25.6	26.6	27.4
<i>Paternity acknowledged births —</i>							
Number	28,893	47,064	51,349	53,016	54,333	56,688	58,549
Percentage of total ex-nuptial births	70.6	79.5	81.0	81.7	82.2	83.3	84.2
Crude birth rate	15.2	14.9	15.1	14.7	14.5	14.2	13.9
<i>Age-specific birth rates —</i>							
15-19	21.8	22.1	21.9	20.9	20.7	20.5	20.1
20-24	90.0	75.0	74.8	71.1	69.2	66.7	64.6
25-29	141.9	132.0	132.5	130.0	126.0	121.6	116.7
30-34	88.7	100.2	104.6	105.5	105.1	106.1	106.2
35-39	27.2	36.0	38.4	39.0	41.2	42.5	43.8
40-44	4.3	5.5	6.1	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.6
45-49	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total fertility rate	1.870	1.855	1.894	1.865	1.846	1.824	1.796
Female net reproduction rate	0.895	0.890	0.909	0.896	0.886	0.876	0.860
CONFINEMENTS							
Total confinements	240,699	253,861	260,669	256,703	254,547	252,708	250,363
First nuptial	80,563	81,179	80,821	77,718	77,166	75,606	73,873
All nuptial	200,119	195,258	198,002	192,518	189,160	185,378	181,549
Paternity acknowledged	28,628	46,560	50,774	52,448	53,742	56,071	57,911
All exnuptial	40,580	58,603	62,667	64,185	65,387	67,330	68,814
<i>Median age of mother (years) —</i>							
First nuptial	26.5	27.8	28.0	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.7
All nuptial	28.0	29.3	29.5	29.7	29.9	30.1	30.2
Paternity acknowledged	23.8	24.5	24.6	24.8	24.9	25.2	25.3
All ex-nuptial	23.3	24.1	24.3	24.5	24.6	24.9	25.1
Total	27.5	28.5	28.7	28.9	29.0	29.1	29.2
<i>Median age of father (years) —</i>							
Nuptial	30.6	31.6	31.8	32.0	32.3	32.5	32.7
Paternity acknowledged	26.6	27.3	27.4	27.5	27.6	27.8	27.9
All fathers where age is known	30.2	31.0	31.2	31.4	31.6	31.7	31.9
<i>Median duration of marriage (years) —</i>							
First nuptial	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nuptial	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
<i>Nuptial confinements —</i>							
<i>Previous births —</i>							
0	80,563	81,179	80,821	77,718	77,166	75,606	73,873
1	70,017	67,055	69,467	68,389	67,123	66,175	65,293
2	33,937	32,231	32,644	31,801	31,118	30,252	29,167
3	10,955	10,300	10,522	10,145	9,598	9,200	9,037
4	2,904	2,811	2,843	2,731	2,500	2,504	2,590
5 and over	1,723	1,680	1,702	1,733	1,655	1,641	1,589
Average number of births	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

(a) See Glossary for definitions of the terms used.

NOTE: Year of occurrence data are subject to revision as a number of late registrations are reported each year. These revisions have minimal effects on the figures except those of the most recent year.

3 BIRTHS: NUMBERS BY YEAR OF OCCURRENCE (PRELIMINARY)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA(a)	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Other Territories	Australia
1986	83,845	60,610	40,613	19,645	23,717	6,990	3,346	4,112	—	242,878
1991	88,010	64,669	44,494	19,445	24,715	6,920	3,630	4,613	—	256,497
1992	90,104	65,559	46,296	19,749	25,027	6,994	3,726	4,430	—	261,886
1993	87,981	64,134	46,814	19,602	24,921	6,815	3,645	4,412	39	258,363
1994	87,678	64,115	46,951	19,418	24,907	6,881	3,592	4,481	43	258,066
1995	86,045	62,580	47,042	19,213	24,786	6,559	3,720	4,421	56	254,422
1996	85,214	60,727	45,892	18,645	24,508	6,238	3,565	4,303	44	249,136

(a) Includes Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island prior to 1993. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory prior to 1993.

4 CRUDE BIRTH RATES BY YEAR OF OCCURRENCE (PRELIMINARY)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA(a)	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Other Territories	Australia
1986	15.2	14.6	15.5	14.2	16.3	15.7	21.7	15.9	—	15.2
1991	14.9	14.6	15.2	13.4	15.1	14.8	21.9	16.0	—	14.8
1992	15.1	14.7	15.3	13.6	15.1	14.9	22.3	15.1	—	15.0
1993	14.7	14.4	15.0	13.4	14.9	14.4	21.5	14.8	n.a.	14.6
1994	14.6	14.3	14.7	13.2	14.6	14.6	21.0	14.9	n.a.	14.5
1995	14.1	13.9	14.4	13.0	14.3	13.9	21.4	14.5	n.a.	14.1
1996	13.8	13.4	13.7	12.6	13.9	13.2	20.1	14.0	n.a.	13.6

(a) Includes Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island prior to 1993. (b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory prior to 1993.

5 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN AUSTRALIA: SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF MOTHER AND FATHER

	Country of birth of mother														
	Australia	China	Former Yugoslav Republics	Greece	Hong Kong	India	Italy	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	UK & Ireland	USA	Viet Nam
BIRTHS															
Total births	192,519	3,276	1,971	548	1,067	1,434	894	2,910	1,223	6,413	2,734	778	13,405	956	4,571
Males	99,032	1,710	1,004	282	555	731	470	1,502	671	3,282	1,401	393	6,829	490	2,379
Females	93,487	1,566	967	266	512	703	424	1,408	552	3,131	1,333	385	6,576	466	2,192
Sex ratio	105.9	109.2	103.8	106.0	108.4	104.0	110.8	106.7	121.6	104.8	105.1	102.1	103.8	105.2	108.5
Mothers born in country shown and father born in(b) --															
Australia --															
Number	157,410	175	475	280	103	221	513	302	404	3,454	1,064	331	8,360	616	79
Per cent	81.8	5.3	24.1	51.1	9.7	15.4	57.4	10.4	33.0	53.9	38.9	42.5	62.4	64.4	1.7
Same overseas country --															
Number	..	2,461	1,306	183	722	1,043	234	2,357	469	1,691	1,044	244	3,324	160	3,799
Per cent	..	75.1	66.3	33.4	67.7	72.7	26.2	81.0	38.3	26.4	38.2	31.4	24.8	16.7	83.1
Other overseas countries --															
Number	25,972	570	166	82	234	164	143	240	330	904	557	185	1,390	165	291
Per cent	13.5	17.4	8.4	15.0	21.9	11.4	16.0	8.2	27.0	14.1	20.4	23.8	10.4	17.3	6.4
Nuptial births	133,807	2,904	1,783	509	1,009	1,391	850	2,807	1,111	3,811	2,307	665	10,563	840	3,572
Ex-nuptial births --															
Number	58,712	372	188	39	58	43	44	103	112	2,602	427	113	2,842	116	999
Percentage of total live births	30.5	11.4	9.5	7.1	5.4	3.0	4.9	3.5	9.2	40.6	15.6	14.5	21.2	12.1	21.9
Paternity acknowledged births --															
Number	49,658	309	165	37	50	37	40	96	94	2,241	359	95	2,514	101	601
Percentage of total ex-nuptial births	84.6	83.1	87.8	94.9	86.2	86.0	90.9	93.2	83.9	86.1	84.1	84.1	88.5	87.1	60.2
Population '000(c)	7095.8	53.2	88.8	70.8	49.7	40.4	121.6	39.6	50.0	144.8	61.1	32.5	599.3	28.9	74.8
Total fertility rate	1.776	2.732	1.833	1.318	0.848	1.986	1.369	3.441	1.206	2.044	2.155	1.420	1.643	1.650	2.358
Birth rate(d)	27.1	61.5	22.2	7.7	21.5	35.5	7.4	73.5	24.5	44.3	44.7	23.9	22.4	33.1	61.1
CONFINEMENTS															
Total confinements	189,831	3,244	1,952	539	1,054	1,415	874	2,869	1,210	6,326	2,706	771	13,178	938	4,542
Nuptial	131,741	2,874	1,765	500	996	1,372	832	2,766	1,099	3,759	2,282	660	10,379	823	3,548
Ex-nuptial	58,090	370	187	39	58	43	42	103	111	2,567	424	111	2,799	115	994
Median age of mother (years) --															
Nuptial	29.9	32.7	29.6	32.0	33.6	30.3	32.6	28.1	33.0	31.0	31.8	31.0	31.9	32.1	29.9
Ex-nuptial	24.6	33.7	30.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28.1	28.8	26.0	29.5	28.4	30.0	30.9	28.0
Total	28.7	32.9	29.6	32.1	33.4	30.3	32.6	28.1	32.8	29.4	31.6	30.8	31.6	32.0	29.5
Median age of father (years) --															
Nuptial	32.2	35.1	32.5	34.1	35.5	34.1	34.1	33.4	35.3	33.4	37.2	33.6	33.6	34.0	33.9
All fathers where age is known	31.2	35.1	32.5	33.9	35.5	34.1	34.2	33.3	35.2	32.1	36.7	33.3	33.3	34.0	33.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.6	4.1	5.1	5.7	5.9	4.8	6.4	5.5	5.6	4.3	3.8	5.3	5.1	5.0	3.7

See footnotes at end of table

5 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN AUSTRALIA: SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF MOTHER AND FATHER—continued

	Country of birth of father(e)									
	Former Yugoslavia					New Zealand				
	Australia	China	Republics	Greece	Hong Kong	India	Italy	Lebanon	Malaysia	Philippines
						BIRTHS				
Total births	179,045	2,861	2,571	1,032	1,147	1,530	1,677	3,536	1,080	6,175
Males	92,096	1,465	1,305	548	577	791	878	1,815	584	3,169
Females	86,949	1,396	1,266	484	570	739	799	1,721	496	3,006
Sex ratio	105.9	104.9	103.1	113.2	101.2	107.0	109.9	105.5	117.7	105.4
<i>Fathers born in country shown and mother born in(b) —</i>										
Australia —										
Number	157,410	64	1,024	712	88	300	1,210	907	315	3,595
Per cent	87.9	2.2	39.8	69.0	7.7	19.6	72.2	25.7	29.2	58.2
Same overseas country —										
Number	..	2,461	1,306	183	722	1,043	234	2,357	469	1,691
Per cent	..	86.0	50.8	17.7	62.9	68.2	14.0	66.7	43.4	27.4
Other overseas countries —										
Number	21,588	329	241	137	337	187	232	272	294	887
Per cent	12.1	11.5	9.4	13.3	29.4	12.2	13.8	7.7	27.2	14.4
Nuptial births	130,850	2,577	2,328	941	1,098	1,459	1,522	3,350	971	3,964
<i>Paternity acknowledged births</i>										
Number	48,195	284	243	91	49	71	155	186	109	2,211
Percentage of total live births	26.9	9.9	9.5	8.8	4.3	4.6	9.2	5.3	10.1	35.8
Population '000(c)	6984.3	50.1	97.3	73.8	48.3	43.3	137.2	43.8	46.1	152.7
Birth rate(d)	25.6	57.1	26.4	14.0	23.8	35.4	12.2	80.7	23.4	40.4
CONFINEMENTS										
Total confinements	176,535	2,833	2,542	1,018	1,135	1,501	1,647	3,497	1,067	6,072
First nuptial	51,575	1,445	894	364	536	701	522	1,015	396	1,606
Nuptial	128,846	2,549	2,302	929	1,086	1,434	1,495	3,312	959	3,891
Paternity acknowledged	47,689	284	240	89	49	67	152	185	108	2,181
<i>Median age of mother (years) —</i>										
Nuptial	30.0	32.7	29.1	31.2	33.3	30.2	31.8	27.2	32.9	30.9
Paternity acknowledged	24.8	33.8	28.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	31.5	25.1	28.1	26.4
All where fathers age is known	29.0	32.8	29.1	31.1	33.2	30.1	31.8	27.2	32.5	29.6
<i>Median age of father (years)</i>										
Nuptial	32.2	34.7	32.5	34.4	35.6	34.1	35.2	32.6	35.2	33.2
Paternity acknowledged	27.2	34.8	32.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	36.8	29.8	31.0	28.8
All fathers where age is known	31.2	34.7	32.5	34.5	35.6	34.1	35.3	32.4	34.9	32.1
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.6	4.1	5.0	5.4	5.6	4.7	6.3	5.2	5.9	4.3

(a) See glossary for definitions of the terms used. (b) Excludes ex-nuptial, paternity acknowledged births and births where the country of birth of mother or father was unknown. (c) Estimated male or female resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary. (d) Per 1,000 male or female estimated resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary. (e) Excludes ex-nuptial, paternity not acknowledged births and confinements.

6 BIRTHS: NUMBER REGISTERED, AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES, AUSTRALIA AND SELECTED COUNTRIES

Selected countries	Registered births		Reference period	Age-specific birth rates							Total fertility rates	
	Reference period	Number '000		Reference period	Age group (years)						Reference period	Rate
					15-19(a)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44			45-49(b)
Australia	1996	253.8	1996	20.1	64.6	116.7	106.2	43.8	7.6	0.3	1.8	
Canada	1994	384.2	1990	25.8	83.3	129.5	86.3	28.2	3.9	9.0	1.8	
China	1989	23,851.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.2	
Fiji	1994	119.4	1987	60.5	214.7	178.9	100.2	52.4	14.6	1.2	3.1	
France	1993	712.0	1991	9.1	73.2	139.4	93.4	37.0	7.4	0.5	1.8	
Germany	1994	765.9	1989	11.1	54.2	107.3	78.1	26.7	4.9	0.2	1.5	
Greece	1993	102.0	1992	18.9	79.9	95.2	57.5	21.9	4.1	0.4	1.4	
Hong Kong	1993	70.5	1993	6.8	42.2	85.5	77.4	29.4	4.5	0.3	1.2	
India	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.9	
Indonesia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.1	
Italy	1994	533.6	1991	8.0	49.7	90.7	71.8	29.3	5.2	0.2	1.3	
Japan	1994	1,258.2	1993	3.9	41.2	122.3	92.0	23.3	2.4	0.1	1.4	
Korea, Republic of	1993	702.5	1993	4.0	73.2	185.1	64.6	12.5	1.7	0.2	1.7	
Lebanon	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.1	
Malaysia	1994	549.6	1990	18.5	123.9	203.3	170.5	105.8	39.3	4.4	3.7	
Netherlands	1993	195.3	1992	7.7	43.4	117.4	110.7	35.2	4.4	0.4	1.6	
New Zealand	1993	58.9	1992	33.8	95.3	142.0	108.5	39.9	6.5	0.3	2.1	
Papua New Guinea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4.9	
Philippines	1991	1,643.3	1991	32.8	163.5	180.3	134.7	91.7	40.5	8.3	4.0	
Poland	1993	492.9	1991	32.2	164.0	122.2	59.8	25.2	6.2	0.3	2.1	
Singapore	1994	49.6	1994	7.6	48.8	136.2	116.0	45.4	7.1	0.1	1.8	
Sri Lanka	1992	350.4	1988	29.2	120.7	150.3	109.0	72.3	21.0	2.4	2.5	
Thailand	1993	957.8	1993	41.6	106.5	99.2	64.8	32.3	13.0	7.8	1.8	
United Kingdom	1993	761.7	1993	30.9	81.8	114.3	86.8	33.8	5.8	0.3	1.8	
United States of America	1993	4,039.0	1991	63.5	115.7	118.2	79.5	32.0	5.5	0.2	2.1	
Viet Nam	1990	1,980.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.9	
Former Yugoslavia	1993	140.7	1990	37.3	141.3	17.5	55.3	19.5	4.5	0.6	1.9	

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

Source for overseas countries: 1994 United Nations Demographic Yearbook (registered births, age-specific birth rates and available total fertility rates) The State of the World's Children, 1994 (remainder total fertility rates).

7 COMPLETED FERTILITY BY YEAR OF BIRTH OF WOMEN

Selected countries	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950(a)	1955(a)	1956(a)	1957(a)	1958(a)	1959(a)	1960(a)
Australia	3.07	3.09	2.87	2.49	2.36	2.26	2.23	2.23	2.22	2.18	2.16
Austria	2.32	2.45	2.17	1.77	1.89	1.70	1.73	1.71	1.68	1.69	1.66
Belgium	2.30	2.27	2.17	1.94	1.84	1.83	1.83	1.84	1.84	1.83	1.85
Denmark	2.36	2.38	2.24	2.06	1.90	1.84	1.84	1.85	1.85	1.86	1.87
Finland	2.51	2.30	2.03	1.87	1.85	1.88	1.90	1.92	1.93	1.93	1.93
France	2.64	2.58	2.41	2.22	2.11	2.13	2.13	2.12	2.11	2.09	2.07
Germany	2.17	2.16	1.98	1.79	1.72	1.67	1.67	1.65	1.65	1.64	1.63
Greece	2.21	2.02	2.01	2.00	2.07	2.03	1.99	1.92	1.90	1.93	1.93
Iceland	3.50	..	..	..	2.70	2.50	2.43	2.49	2.48	2.46	2.49
Ireland	3.50	3.44	3.27	3.27	3.00	2.67	2.57	2.53	2.47	2.42	2.37
Italy	2.29	2.29	2.14	2.07	1.90	1.79	1.76	1.73	1.69	1.67	1.63
Luxembourg	1.97	2.00	..	1.82	1.72	1.68	1.69	1.68	1.66	1.70	1.71
Netherlands	2.65	2.50	2.21	1.99	1.90	1.87	1.87	1.86	1.86	1.83	1.84
Norway	2.49	2.57	2.45	2.21	2.09	2.05	2.05	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06
Portugal	2.95	2.85	2.61	2.31	2.12	1.97	1.95	1.93	1.94	1.90	1.86
Spain	2.59	2.67	2.59	2.43	2.19	1.90	1.87	1.85	1.80	1.75	1.69
Sweden	2.11	2.14	2.05	1.96	2.00	2.03	2.04	2.05	2.06	2.05	2.06
United Kingdom	2.35	2.41	2.36	2.17	2.03	2.02	2.02	2.00	1.98	1.96	1.94

(a) For countries other than Australia, estimates for generations which have not yet completed their fertility are based on the assumption that future rates will be the same as in the most recent years. For Australia, estimates for generations which have not yet completed their fertility are based on the medium term fertility projections in Projections of the Population of Australia, States and Territories 1995 - 2051, (3222.0).
Source for overseas countries: EUROSTAT (1995), 1994 United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1994.

SECTION 2

YEAR OF REGISTRATION — NATIONAL DATA

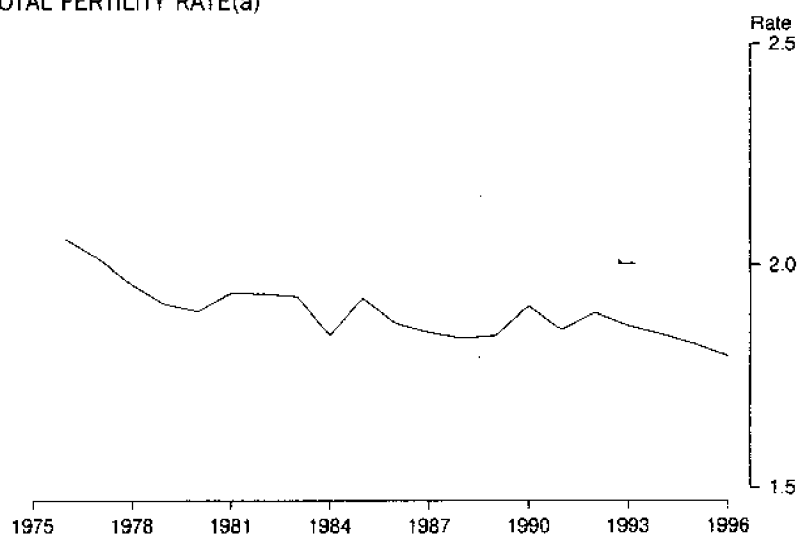
NATIONAL REGISTRATIONS

The total number of births registered in Australia in 1996 was 254,000, out of which 226,000 (88.9%) occurred in 1996. The remaining 28,000 births registered in 1996 had occurred in previous years. Some births that occurred in 1996 are yet to be registered.

FERTILITY

The fertility of women, as reflected in the total fertility rate based on registered births in 1996, was just under 1.8 children per woman. It is the lowest level ever recorded.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a)



(a) Per woman.

In 1978, the fertility rate declined to less than two babies per women and has remained there ever since. During the 1980s and 1990s the fertility rate has fluctuated between 1.80 and 1.94 although it has steadily declined in the past five years from 1.894 in 1992 to 1.796 in 1996. These declines were accompanied by changes in the age pattern of fertility, with the median age of mothers increasing and higher proportions of births occurring to older women.

According to McDonald and Hayes¹, low fertility has large effects on the ageing of the population but also greatly impacts on the size of the population. 'Low fertility for any length of time produces an age structure which has a momentum of population decline built into it, meaning that subsequent population decline would be difficult to stop.

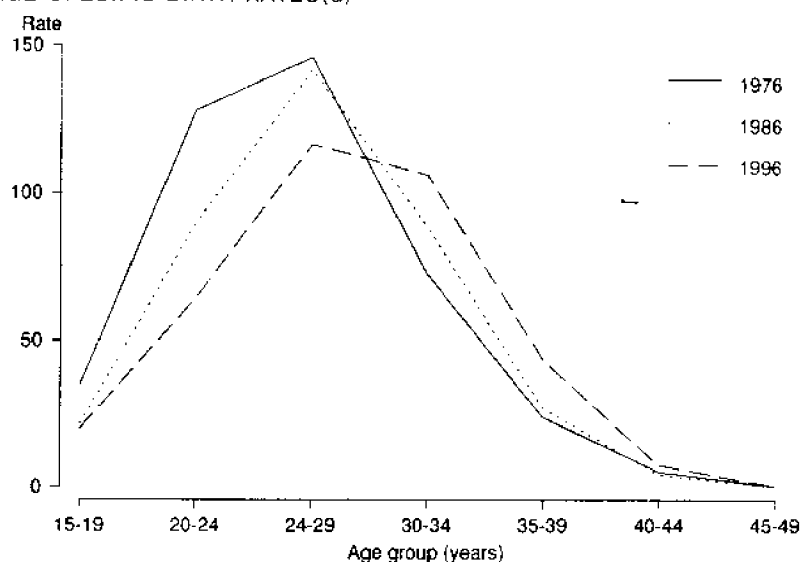
¹ D. Cocks, 'People Policy, Australia's Population Choices' reviewed by P. McDonald and A. Hayes, *Journal of Australian Population Association*, vol. 14, no. 1, Canberra, p. 125. 1997.

Age

Most of the decline in the fertility rate over the period 1976 to 1996 occurred among younger women. The fertility of women aged less than 20 and 20–24 years declined by 48% between 1976 and 1996, while that for women aged 25–29 years declined by about 20%. On the other hand, the fertility of women aged 30–34 years and 35–39 years increased during the period.

The decline in fertility among women aged less than 20 years and 20–24 years accounted for almost all of the decline in fertility in the period 1976 to 1986. In the period 1986 to 1996 the bulk of the decline was contributed by women aged 20–24 and 25–29 years. This is related to the social, economic and demographic factors that influence fertility and which tend to exert a more varied and powerful influence on women's fertility behaviour at younger ages than at older ages. Among these factors are marital status, level of education, labour force status, occupation and career aspirations.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 women.

Although the age group of peak fertility, women aged 25–29 years, did not change over the decade 1986 to 1996, its proportional contribution to the total fertility rate declined from 38% in 1986 to 32% in 1996. At the same time, the contribution of women aged 20–24 years declined from 24% to 18%, while that of women aged 30–34 years increased from 24% to 30%. Since 1987 women aged 30–34 years have been the second most fertile group, while women aged 20–24 years have been the third most fertile group.

With fertility decline and a shifting of fertility to older ages, the total contribution of the three most fertile age groups (20–24, 25–29 and 30–34 years) to the total fertility rates declined from 86% in 1986 to 80% in 1996. Teenage contribution to fertility also declined from 8.5% of the total fertility rate in 1976 to 5.6% in 1996.

Replacement fertility

For two decades Australia's fertility has been below the replacement level. The net reproduction rate in 1996 was 0.860, a figure which has declined by 12% from its level of 0.981 in 1976 and 4% from its level of 0.895 in 1986.

CONFINEMENTS

There were 250,000 confinements registered in 1996.

Age of mothers

The average age of women having a baby has risen steadily over the years. Women who registered a birth in 1996 were almost two years older than comparable women in 1986. The median age of mothers who registered a birth in 1996 was 29.2 years compared to 27.5 years in 1986 and 25.9 years in 1976.

Women who registered a nuptial birth in 1996 were, on average, about five years older than women registering an ex-nuptial birth. The median age at first nuptial confinement was 28.7 years compared to a median age of 30.2 years for all nuptial confinements and a median age of 25.1 years for all ex-nuptial confinements. In 1996, women whose ex-nuptial births were paternity-acknowledged were slightly older (25.3 years) than all women having ex-nuptial births (25.1 years), although this age gap has been decreasing.

For both nuptial and ex-nuptial confinements, the age at confinement was higher in 1996 than in any previous year. The greatest increase occurred for married women giving birth to their first baby. Between 1976 and 1996 the median age of mother for all confinements increased by 3.3 years and for all nuptial confinements by 4.0 years, while that of first nuptial confinements increased by 4.5 years. The median age for all unmarried mothers increased by 3.5 years, from 21.6 years in 1976 to 25.1 years in 1996. For those whose births were paternity-acknowledged the median age increased by 1.5 years between 1986 and 1996.

Age of fathers

In line with the age of mothers, the age of fathers has also increased. The median age of all fathers whose partners had a baby in 1996 was 31.9 years. Much of the increase was contributed by married fathers. Between 1976 and 1996 the median age of married fathers increased by almost four years, from 28.8 to 32.7 years. In contrast, the median age of unmarried fathers who acknowledged ex-nuptial births increased by two years between 1979 (the first year for which reliable data are available) and 1996, from 25.8 years to 27.9 years. In 1996, married fathers were, on average, about five years older (32.7 years) than fathers who acknowledged ex-nuptial births (27.9 years).

Ex-nuptial confinements

An increasing number of births is occurring to women who are not in a registered marriage. In 1996, 27% of all births occurred to women who were not in a registered marriage, compared to 17% in 1986 and 10% in 1976. This increase is due to a rise in paternity acknowledged births. Births where paternity is not acknowledged has fallen slightly from 5% of all births in 1979 to 4.3% in 1996.

TOTAL CONFINEMENTS, By Age and Nuptiality

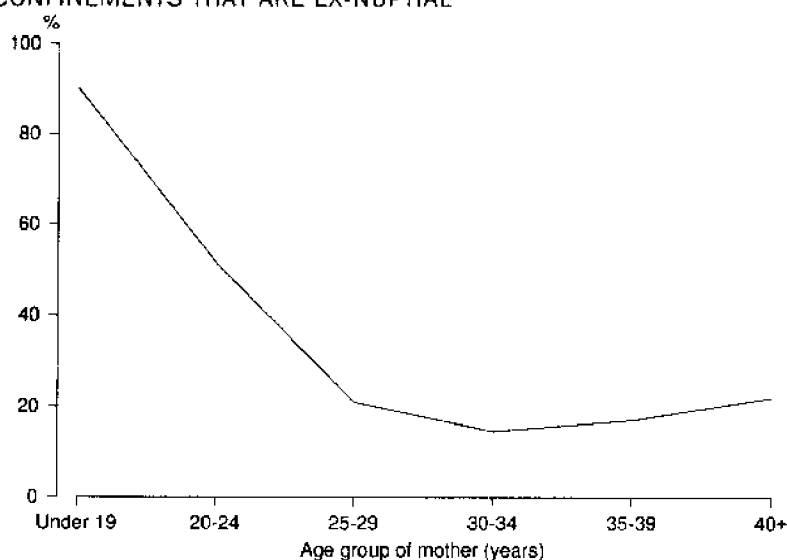
Age group (years)	All confinements.....		Ex-nuptial confinements.....	
	no.	%	no.	%
19 and under	12 429	5.0	11 202	16.3
20-24	44 421	17.7	22 884	33.3
25-29	81 684	32.6	17 060	24.8
30-34	75 213	30.0	11 090	16.1
35-39	31 306	12.5	5 345	7.8
40 and over	5 145	2.1	1 126	1.6
Not stated	165	0.1	107	0.2
Total	250 363	100.0	68 814	100.0

The bulk of ex-nuptial confinements occur to younger women, with over two-thirds of all ex-nuptial confinements occurring to women aged less than 30 years. In 1996, women aged 20-24 years accounted for 33% of all ex-nuptial confinements, while women aged 25-29 years contributed 25%. Teenage mothers accounted for 16% of all ex-nuptial confinements, compared to 5% of all confinements.

The younger the mother, the higher the likelihood that her confinement will be ex-nuptial. In 1996, some 90% of all confinements to teenage mothers were ex-nuptial, dropping to 52% for 20-24 year-old women and to 15% for women aged 30-34 years.

The proportion increased to 22% for women aged 40 years and over. This pattern among older women is associated with the increasing incidence of de facto marriages, particularly among those who have previously been in a registered marriage.

CONFINEMENTS THAT ARE EX-NUPTIAL



Birthplace of mother

Reflecting the birthplace composition of women in the reproductive age groups, 76% of mothers were born in Australia. A further 8% were born in Europe, 5% in South-East Asia and 4% in countries in Oceania (other than Australia), mainly New Zealand.

Among mothers born overseas, the United Kingdom was the most common country of birth with 5.0% (12,500) of all mothers. New Zealand was the second most common, accounting for 6,300 women or 2.5% of all confinements, followed by Viet Nam with 4,500 confinements or 1.8% of all confinements.

The peak age group for confinements in 1996 was 25–29 years, followed by 30–34 years and 20–24 years. This pattern held for women born in Australia, other Oceania, and the Middle-East and North Africa, but not for women born elsewhere.

Other overseas-born women who registered a confinement in 1996 were slightly older, with the peak age group being 30–34 years, followed by 25–29 years and 35–39 years. The older age of overseas-born women at confinement is related to their age structure. Compared to Australian-born women, there are higher proportions of overseas-born women at the older ages where most of the confinements took place.

CONFINEMENTS, By Birthplace and Age of Mother

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER.....

	Australia	Other Oceania	Europe and USSR	Mid-East and North Africa	South- East Asia	North- East Asia	Southern Asia	The Americas	Africa (excl. North Africa)
Age group (years)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
19 and under	5.9	4.3	1.4	2.9	2.3	0.2	0.4	1.8	1.8
20–24	19.4	19.2	8.2	22.7	14.5	4.1	12.1	10.5	11.0
25–29	33.6	31.2	28.4	33.0	30.0	24.7	34.0	28.9	30.4
30–34	28.4	28.5	40.4	27.0	30.2	44.0	35.5	36.0	36.4
35–39	10.9	14.5	18.2	11.9	18.4	23.5	15.9	18.8	17.3
40 and over	1.7	2.3	3.4	2.3	4.4	3.4	1.9	3.9	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Country of birth

Overseas-born women had, in most cases, total fertility rates higher than the total fertility rate of women born in Australia, but lower than the total fertility rates of their countries of birth. Women born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the former Yugoslavia had total fertility rates marginally lower than women living in those three countries, while women born in Viet Nam, the Philippines, India or Malaysia had total fertility rates substantially lower than the rates for their countries of birth. The total fertility rates for women born in China or Lebanon were higher than the corresponding rates for women living in those two countries.

Since fertility is related to a complex set of socioeconomic factors, the difference between overseas-born women living in Australia and women living in corresponding overseas countries in these characteristics will affect the fertility of the two groups.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES OF SELECTED COUNTRIES AND AUSTRALIA

OVERSEAS WOMEN.....

WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA.....

<i>Selected countries</i>	<i>Total fertility rate</i>	<i>Country of birth</i>	<i>Total fertility rate</i>
Australia	1.8	Australia	1.8
United Kingdom	1.8	United Kingdom(a)	1.6
New Zealand	2.1	New Zealand	2.0
Viet Nam	3.9	Viet Nam	2.4
China	2.2	China	2.7
Lebanon	3.1	Lebanon	3.4
Philippines	4.0	Philippines	2.2
Former Yugoslavia	1.9	Former Yugoslavia	1.8
India	3.9	India	2.0
Malaysia	3.7	Malaysia	1.2

(a) Includes Ireland.

Birthplace of parents

Among the parents of nuptial and paternity-acknowledged births in 1996, fathers born in Viet Nam, China, Lebanon, the Philippines, or India were more likely than those born elsewhere to have a partner born in the same country. Mothers born in Viet Nam, China, Lebanon, the former Yugoslavia or India were also more likely than those born elsewhere to have a partner born in the same country. In most cases overseas-born fathers were more likely to have an Australian-born partner than were overseas-born mothers. A major exception is the Philippines where the proportion of mothers with Australian-born partners was three times the proportion of fathers with Australian-born partners. These proportions reflect the marriage patterns of women in Australia.

CONFINEMENTS, By Country of Birth of Parents(a)

COUNTRIES OF BIRTH.....

	Australia	United Kingdom	New Zealand	Viet Nam	China	Lebanon	Philippines	Former Yugoslav Republics	India	Malaysia
Characteristics of parents	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Father born in country shown and										
mother born in Australia	87.9	68.0	58.3	1.9	2.2	25.8	12.1	39.7	19.5	29.1
mother born in same overseas country	..	20.0	27.5	89.1	86.0	66.5	83.0	50.9	68.4	43.5
mother born in other overseas country	12.0	11.9	14.2	9.0	11.5	7.7	5.0	9.3	12.1	27.2
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother born in country shown and										
father born in Australia	85.8	65.1	57.0	1.9	5.4	10.3	39.8	24.2	15.6	33.6
father born in same overseas country	..	23.4	27.9	91.0	76.6	81.2	39.3	67.0	72.9	38.9
father born in other overseas country	14.1	11.4	15.0	7.0	17.8	8.3	20.8	8.6	11.5	27.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes paternity not acknowledged.

(b) Includes not stated.

PREVIOUS BIRTHS

The number of previous births a woman has had provides an indication of past and current fertility. The distribution of women according to previous births shows that the pattern of fertility has changed very little over the past 20 years. About 41% of married women who registered a birth in 1996 were first-time mothers. This proportion had changed only marginally since 1976. Similarly, the proportion of women who had had one previous birth fluctuated between 33% and 36% throughout the period 1976 to 1996, with 36% of women who registered a birth in 1996 having only had one previous birth. The proportion of women who had had two or more previous births also remained relatively unchanged at 23%–26% over the same period.

NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Mothers with Previous Births(a)

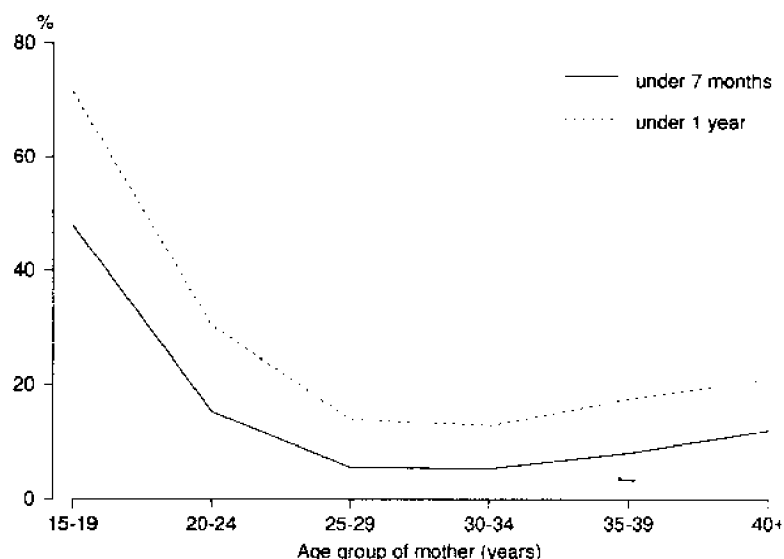
	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
Previous issue	%	%	%	%	%
0	38.5	40.7	40.3	41.6	40.6
1	36.2	33.4	35.0	34.3	36.0
2	16.5	17.5	17.0	16.5	16.1
3 or more	8.8	8.4	7.8	7.6	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes all previous children of the mother in current relationship.

PREVIOUS BIRTHS *continued*

The proportion of women having their first nuptial confinement in the first year of marriage declines with age. About 48% and 71% of 15–19 year old mothers had a nuptial confinement within the first seven months and one year, respectively, of marriage. The proportion reducing to 5% and 13%, respectively, for 30–34 year old women and then increasing thereafter to 12% and 21%, respectively, for women aged 40 years and over.

FIRST NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, By Duration of Marriage



Multiple births

About 1.4% of all confinements result in a multiple birth, compared to 1.1% in 1986. The proportion is higher for nuptial confinements (1.5%) than for ex-nuptial confinements (1.1%). The difference in the proportion of multiple births between nuptial and ex-nuptial confinements may be due, among other factors, to the higher incidence of in-vitro fertilisation techniques among married than unmarried women. These techniques are known to produce a higher incidence of multiple births than natural fertilisation methods.

CONFINEMENTS ENDING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Confinement	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nuptial	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.8	1.5
Ex-nuptial	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.1
Total	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.6	1.4

8 AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES

Selected years	Age group (years)							Total fertility rate
	15-19(a)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(b)	
1976	35.2	128.2	146.2	72.5	24.1	5.5	0.4	2.061
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.938
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1.870
1991	22.1	75.0	132.0	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1.855
1992	21.9	74.8	132.5	104.6	38.4	6.1	0.3	1.894
1993	20.9	71.1	130.0	105.5	39.0	6.3	0.2	1.865
1994	20.7	69.2	126.0	105.1	41.2	6.7	0.3	1.846
1995	20.5	66.7	121.6	106.1	42.5	7.2	0.3	1.824
1996	20.1	64.6	116.7	106.2	43.8	7.6	0.3	1.796

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

9 CONFINEMENTS: MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

Selected years	Median age (years)					
	Fathers of nuptial children of current marriage	Mothers of			Ex-nuptial children	Total mothers
		First nuptial children of current marriage	All nuptial children of current marriage			
1976	28.8	24.2	26.2	21.6	25.9	
1981	29.8	25.3	27.1	22.1	26.7	
1986	30.6	26.5	28.1	23.3	27.5	
1991	31.6	27.8	29.3	24.1	28.5	
1992	31.8	28.0	29.5	24.3	28.7	
1993	32.0	28.3	29.7	24.5	28.9	
1994	32.3	28.5	29.9	24.6	29.0	
1995	32.5	28.6	30.1	24.9	29.1	
1996	32.7	28.7	30.2	25.1	29.2	

10 CONFINEMENTS: AGES OF PARENTS

Age of father (years)	Age of mother (years)																			Total
	15 and under	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
17 and under	91	160	198	114	54	23	19	10	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	—	1	—	—	—
18	53	108	263	312	140	61	35	21	13	7	12	5	1	3	4	2	1	—	—	1
19	38	109	264	399	371	233	116	77	43	26	23	10	9	6	8	6	3	1	1	4
20	20	99	258	410	553	530	287	174	97	82	44	30	24	10	11	4	5	4	1	6
21	17	66	201	353	571	651	599	372	216	161	116	58	32	31	28	17	4	6	8	5
22	11	52	170	278	484	705	767	710	479	280	184	130	95	62	38	32	20	15	8	14
23	5	42	128	240	412	686	826	954	900	647	413	225	172	106	69	60	41	32	18	17
24	7	22	93	191	351	542	773	1,002	1,262	1,242	738	401	314	220	154	117	77	55	32	26
25	5	16	65	120	269	447	629	904	1,230	1,516	1,582	946	585	387	228	151	135	93	62	59
26	3	12	54	87	215	314	495	692	1,103	1,505	1,809	1,687	1,048	582	409	285	187	155	109	66
27	1	6	37	64	151	214	394	606	854	1,241	1,726	1,982	1,858	1,126	674	428	310	211	145	113
28	—	9	24	61	120	198	283	452	698	1,117	1,533	1,806	2,183	1,970	1,202	742	482	346	236	138
29	2	4	18	38	90	144	237	368	599	888	1,212	1,619	2,080	2,247	2,047	1,232	758	515	312	229
30	—	6	15	30	76	123	166	298	421	745	998	1,331	1,820	2,173	2,367	2,059	1,177	676	472	345
31	—	3	8	17	66	92	147	217	344	473	770	1,054	1,405	1,892	2,129	2,341	2,078	1,204	673	437
32	—	3	3	18	42	75	112	210	273	432	637	929	1,177	1,553	1,907	2,104	2,273	1,931	1,089	661
33	—	3	7	13	40	50	70	132	239	373	483	613	924	1,136	1,487	1,755	2,072	2,145	1,749	939
34	—	2	5	9	23	38	71	109	170	297	348	523	699	877	1,141	1,403	1,713	1,920	1,791	1,408
35	—	3	7	10	17	39	69	89	131	224	306	384	516	719	889	1,075	1,293	1,486	1,578	1,505
36	—	2	7	11	21	19	40	60	86	155	202	286	385	496	604	818	960	1,099	1,302	1,290
37	1	—	4	7	20	18	39	43	66	123	142	209	282	341	413	607	680	800	1,002	1,058
38	—	—	1	3	16	13	27	36	55	92	113	132	203	271	350	416	489	652	755	786
39	—	—	—	3	4	10	13	11	29	37	54	99	126	148	182	261	382	497	527	660
40	—	1	—	—	6	5	6	25	21	38	43	64	68	106	129	146	210	251	274	331
41	—	—	—	3	1	5	6	25	21	38	43	64	68	106	129	146	210	251	274	331
42	—	—	1	3	3	5	10	23	18	35	38	58	82	101	84	126	150	204	246	255
43	1	—	1	1	2	3	3	15	15	42	31	37	59	80	97	96	141	156	175	183
44	—	—	—	—	2	6	6	11	9	21	20	24	43	48	52	58	90	105	127	134
45	1	—	1	2	5	—	4	7	8	12	21	19	20	32	45	63	82	71	103	104
46	—	—	2	—	3	3	7	6	6	12	13	18	21	34	38	47	54	77	91	89
47	—	1	—	—	1	4	2	1	4	10	10	23	15	24	27	30	32	52	60	63
48	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	5	4	12	14	16	37	27	30	47	47	67	73
49	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	3	2	12	14	9	12	24	19	33	29	35	51
50	—	—	2	—	1	3	1	—	2	1	6	9	9	14	13	11	29	30	30	30
51	1	—	—	—	1	3	3	6	6	7	1	5	8	10	17	10	15	17	24	28
52	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	6	4	7	6	4	8	16	12	18	25	17
53	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	2	5	6	7	4	7	4	7	14	11	12	14
54	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	2	—	3	4	5	8	4	7	8	5	11
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	8	12	11	15	17	14	19	26	31	32	24
60 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	3	4	4	8	9	8	12	14	11	13	14
Not stated	4	—	3	—	5	2	4	4	10	5	9	9	5	4	7	3	9	5	5	5
Nuptial and paternity acknowledged	261	730	1,840	2,803	4,138	5,282	6,305	7,719	9,482	11,958	13,793	14,915	16,473	17,088	17,207	16,863	16,393	15,317	13,575	11,654
Paternity not acknowledged	206	352	575	712	812	792	773	743	714	653	540	497	426	400	345	328	309	279	247	248
Total confinements	467	1,082	2,415	3,515	4,950	6,074	7,078	8,462	10,196	12,611	14,333	15,412	16,899	17,488	17,552	17,191	16,702	15,596	13,822	11,902

10 CONFINEMENTS: AGES OF PARENTS—continued

Age of father (years)	Age of mother (years)																50 and over	Not stated	Total confinements
	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49				
17 and under																			
18	2																	687	
19		1																1,046	
20	1	2				1					1							1,751	
21	4	5	2														1	2,655	
22	8	2	6	1	3	1	1										1	3,529	
23	11	7	5	5	4	2					1						4	4,560	
24	27	19	9	7	7	2	3	1									3	6,032	
25	32	13	21	13	9	12	5	1	1	1							2	7,696	
26	44	30	30	16	19	5	2	2	1								4	9,541	
27	69	41	44	22	17	10	5	4	1	1							4	10,970	
28	104	88	40	24	21	21	13	5	4								3	12,358	
29	144	94	59	44	35	13	6	6	1								3	13,923	
30	226	146	86	63	24	27	12	7	6	1		1					4	15,046	
31	329	208	119	79	52	27	17	9	4	2	2						3	15,899	
32	433	240	198	102	63	42	27	15	5	3	1						2	16,201	
33	647	371	234	128	83	55	27	17	7	6							10	16,568	
34	812	456	306	200	110	47	27	19	12	1	2						2	15,807	
35	1,129	588	366	220	159	90	42	33	10	6							5	14,544	
36	1,270	881	448	257	147	84	40	20	12	7							4	12,987	
37	1,010	871	631	351	222	108	68	24	17	4	3						3	11,013	
38	801	762	620	475	240	124	74	25	22	4	5	2					4	9,168	
39	642	600	604	486	293	170	68	43	15	8	4	1					1	7,565	
40	503	519	442	385	324	195	96	39	25	10	3						1	6,302	
41	312	326	362	308	225	199	117	58	21	9	2	1					2	5,036	
42	287	276	261	241	228	161	91	72	25	17	2	2					—	3,663	
43	238	210	209	196	182	141	106	80	45	15	5						—	3,106	
44	162	182	152	151	119	110	102	69	23	22	8	2					—	2,566	
45	134	140	112	121	104	71	67	48	27	18	8	1					1	1,861	
46	89	107	104	103	90	77	51	49	35	20	6	4	1				—	1,452	
47	76	74	71	74	74	48	47	31	32	13	9	1					—	1,257	
48	49	65	67	65	52	45	36	20	29	13	6	5					1	911	
49	53	55	48	36	41	33	36	26	12	13	4	4	1				—	821	
50	37	40	33	28	36	28	26	16	11	7	2	2					1	614	
51	24	23	36	25	24	17	11	14	6	4	4	3	1				—	457	
52	22	25	13	16	17	13	12	8	3	5	1						1	355	
53	14	15	19	12	13	10	9	10	10	6							—	272	
54	11	18	15	13	12	8	12	8	4	2							2	224	
55-59	31	38	37	36	27	27	30	20	6	8	1						—	169	
60 and over	16	13	15	20	11	4	12	9	5	2	4						1	488	
Not stated	5	2	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	29	219	
Nuptial and paternity acknowledged	9,808	7,553	5,827	4,327	3,093	2,028	1,299	809	438	228	84	39	13	6	3	10	99	239,460	
Paternity not acknowledged	185	162	151	112	88	67	54	28	19	9	4	3	1	2	—	1	66	10,903	
Total confinements	9,993	7,715	5,978	4,439	3,181	2,095	1,353	837	457	237	88	42	14	8	3	11	165	250,363	

11 CONFINEMENTS: NUPITAL AND EX-NUPITAL CONFINEMENTS, BY AGE OF MOTHER

Age of mother (years)	Nuptial (selected years)					Ex-nuptial (selected years)						
	1981	1986	1991	1994	1995	1996	1981	1986	1991	1994	1995	1996
15 and under	22	6	5	2	2	2	551	513	440	491	440	465
16	234	93	46	19	17	17	1,261	1,106	1,086	1,072	1,128	1,065
17	881	408	251	54	65	68	2,304	2,263	2,358	2,225	2,347	2,347
18	2,312	1,193	710	325	300	300	2,937	2,972	3,596	3,174	3,200	3,215
19	4,287	2,350	1,581	1,069	920	840	3,023	3,326	4,568	4,336	4,237	4,110
20	6,563	4,017	2,835	1,927	1,702	1,537	2,795	3,289	4,653	4,670	4,619	4,537
21	9,139	5,963	4,255	3,202	2,822	2,532	2,448	3,030	4,414	4,832	4,634	4,546
22	11,794	8,697	5,943	4,960	4,354	3,841	2,118	2,930	4,151	4,800	4,703	4,621
23	14,293	11,278	7,949	6,964	6,543	5,605	1,968	2,748	3,756	4,536	4,665	4,591
24	15,579	14,072	9,847	8,989	8,438	8,022	1,702	2,499	3,395	4,027	4,330	4,589
25	16,915	16,102	12,174	11,035	10,422	10,121	1,447	2,360	3,202	3,700	3,822	4,212
26	17,255	17,561	14,350	12,766	12,298	11,864	1,331	1,940	3,002	3,342	3,572	3,548
27	16,947	17,624	16,195	13,934	13,647	13,485	1,208	1,814	2,771	3,110	3,182	3,414
28	16,067	17,098	17,250	15,019	14,653	14,390	1,029	1,580	2,547	2,899	2,915	3,098
29	14,232	16,034	16,909	15,883	15,188	14,764	866	1,402	2,330	2,613	2,795	2,788
30	12,516	14,055	16,489	15,784	15,182	14,626	775	1,318	2,155	2,408	2,598	2,565
31	10,303	12,039	14,442	15,002	14,682	14,329	597	1,066	1,851	2,264	2,394	2,373
32	8,312	9,892	12,139	13,535	13,639	13,319	540	917	1,675	2,049	2,229	2,277
33	6,850	8,320	10,494	11,805	11,861	11,775	441	770	1,382	1,791	1,878	2,047
34	5,666	6,395	8,366	9,653	10,065	10,074	399	645	1,182	1,513	1,653	1,828
35	3,699	5,052	6,703	7,628	8,086	8,466	307	531	949	1,313	1,412	1,527
36	2,737	3,837	5,124	5,959	6,186	6,433	246	408	850	1,074	1,176	1,282
37	1,945	2,727	3,661	4,532	4,663	4,884	167	328	621	863	971	1,094
38	1,411	2,035	2,774	3,185	3,382	3,615	137	245	532	666	781	824
39	934	1,389	1,873	2,342	2,351	2,563	120	220	363	535	577	618
40	691	796	1,185	1,516	1,585	1,647	73	129	251	395	384	448
41	428	497	745	884	1,010	1,032	70	78	165	265	296	321
42	246	277	432	577	628	666	31	57	129	150	160	171
43	152	150	291	296	362	351	30	36	65	90	95	106
44	69	82	132	135	146	190	8	18	29	34	55	47
45	43	45	53	67	65	70	7	8	13	16	26	18
46	26	20	24	35	37	34	2	5	6	3	7	8
47	10	6	6	11	9	13	2	--	1	6	4	1
48	4	2	1	2	3	5	--	--	1	4	2	3
49	2	--	3	4	3	3	--	1	--	--	2	--
50 and over	2	--	1	4	3	8	--	--	--	--	--	3
Not stated	13	7	20	56	59	58	16	28	114	121	150	107
Total	202,579	200,119	195,258	189,160	185,378	181,549	30,956	40,580	58,603	65,387	67,330	68,814

12 CONFINEMENTS: AGE AND BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER

Birthplace of mother	Age group (years)						Not stated	Total
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over		
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia	11,193	36,887	63,803	53,959	20,763	3,168	58	189,831
Fiji	34	227	309	271	135	19	—	995
New Zealand	313	1,217	1,893	1,830	924	146	3	6,326
Papua New Guinea	22	147	293	179	85	9	—	735
Other	30	176	386	344	189	39	—	1,164
Total	11,592	38,654	66,684	56,583	22,096	3,381	61	199,051
Europe and Former USSR								
Austria	1	7	33	39	23	6	—	109
Former Czechoslovakia	2	18	50	58	22	5	—	155
Cyprus	5	39	86	88	41	6	—	265
Denmark	1	13	38	69	18	2	—	141
Former USSR and Baltic States	5	50	105	94	35	8	—	297
Former Yugoslav Republics	25	263	749	630	245	38	2	1,952
France	1	23	88	95	46	9	—	262
Germany	14	62	203	306	153	45	—	783
Greece	3	35	146	215	114	23	3	539
Hungary	3	15	22	28	14	7	1	90
Ireland	8	27	117	339	140	20	—	651
Italy	3	17	203	395	202	53	1	874
Malta	3	14	56	87	68	21	—	249
Netherlands	2	39	122	135	88	20	1	407
Poland	11	60	124	127	90	33	—	445
Portugal	6	26	79	76	33	10	—	230
Romania	5	39	64	37	29	5	—	179
Spain	2	20	50	45	27	5	—	149
Switzerland	4	8	30	79	24	4	—	149
United Kingdom	180	887	3,447	5,315	2,316	378	4	12,527
Other	5	39	110	161	62	15	—	392
Total	289	1,701	5,922	8,418	3,790	713	12	20,845
Middle East and North Africa								
Egypt	3	51	132	144	89	19	—	438
Iran	2	22	66	114	46	8	—	258
Israel	1	11	22	32	18	5	—	89
Lebanon	108	744	908	731	314	56	8	2,869
Syria	7	64	92	76	33	4	1	277
Turkey	24	249	366	186	64	16	3	908
Other	18	132	265	234	102	23	1	775
Total	163	1,273	1,851	1,517	666	131	13	5,614
Southeast Asia								
Cambodia	15	173	268	157	94	24	2	733
Indonesia	23	112	314	281	114	20	—	864
Laos	16	48	84	93	26	6	2	275
Malaysia	13	64	296	451	317	69	—	1,210
Philippines	71	319	688	885	594	149	—	2,706
Singapore	3	44	120	156	105	13	—	441
Thailand	11	52	142	147	88	24	—	464
Viet Nam	107	838	1,458	1,215	722	194	8	4,542
Other	2	3	38	55	37	7	—	142
Total	261	1,653	3,408	3,440	2,097	506	12	11,377
Northeast Asia								
China	3	113	756	1,452	783	131	6	3,244
Hong Kong	1	38	182	491	314	28	—	1,054
Japan	3	27	142	205	84	13	—	474
Korea	1	31	207	140	60	7	—	446
Other	3	16	58	109	40	4	—	230
Total	11	225	1,345	2,397	1,281	183	6	5,448

12 CONFINEMENTS: AGE AND BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER—continued

Birthplace of mother	Age group (years)						Not stated	Total
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over		
Southern Asia								
India	3	171	500	529	192	19	1	1,415
Pakistan	2	52	90	55	30	1	—	230
Sri Lanka	2	49	278	379	208	27	1	944
Other	6	88	140	90	40	10	1	375
<i>Total</i>	13	360	1,008	1,053	470	57	3	2,964
The Americas								
Argentina	3	22	62	72	24	3	—	186
Canada	5	38	129	204	123	20	—	519
Caribbean	—	2	7	24	19	4	—	56
Central America	21	41	74	83	26	4	—	249
Chile	8	89	159	137	63	17	1	474
United States of America	9	68	245	360	212	43	1	938
Uruguay	2	18	77	54	10	4	—	165
Other	4	26	86	110	68	19	—	313
<i>Total</i>	52	304	839	1,044	545	114	2	2,900
Africa (excluding North Africa)								
Kenya	—	6	19	45	27	4	1	102
Mauritius	7	11	83	122	47	8	—	278
South Africa	17	75	243	278	131	27	—	771
Zimbabwe	3	18	36	59	39	5	—	160
Other	7	99	199	190	86	11	2	594
<i>Total</i>	34	209	580	694	330	55	3	1,905
Other and not stated	14	42	47	67	31	5	53	259
Total	12,429	44,421	81,684	75,213	31,306	5,145	165	250,363

13 CONFINEMENTS(a): BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS

Country of birth	Father born in country shown and mother born in				Mother born in country shown and father born in			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(b)	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(b)
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia	155,210	..	21,278	176,535	155,210	..	25,582	180,874
Fiji	188	618	94	900	212	618	136	967
New Zealand	3,540	1,667	863	6,072	3,404	1,667	897	5,971
Papua New Guinea	481	84	91	657	509	84	112	705
Other	350	725	220	1,295	154	725	192	1,072
Total	159,769	3,094	22,546	185,459	159,489	3,094	26,919	189,589
Europe and Former USSR								
Austria	81	8	44	133	53	8	45	106
Former Czechoslovakia	54	49	39	142	65	49	34	148
Cyprus	159	116	61	336	90	116	56	263
Denmark	77	27	34	138	90	27	22	139
Former USSR and Baltic States	33	175	22	230	57	175	58	290
Former Yugoslav Republics	1,010	1,295	237	2,542	467	1,295	166	1,929
France	196	38	84	318	137	38	83	258
Germany	547	110	230	888	432	110	208	750
Greece	703	181	134	1,018	275	181	80	537
Hungary	40	40	43	123	26	40	21	87
Ireland	361	199	174	734	287	199	148	634
Italy	1,192	225	229	1,647	504	225	141	870
Malta	243	60	71	374	147	60	38	246
Netherlands	426	34	138	599	270	34	93	397
Poland	97	275	57	430	90	275	71	436
Portugal	94	124	52	270	61	124	43	228
Romania	44	141	36	221	13	141	21	175
Spain	115	24	59	198	76	24	45	145
Switzerland	91	31	40	162	82	31	32	145
United Kingdom	9,725	2,864	1,700	14,295	7,954	2,864	1,398	12,219
Other	213	76	95	384	205	76	103	385
Total	15,501	6,092	3,579	25,182	11,381	6,092	2,906	20,387
Middle East and North Africa								
Egypt	150	336	111	597	53	336	48	437
Iran	45	211	66	322	13	211	31	255
Israel	77	37	44	159	25	37	27	89
Lebanon	901	2,325	271	3,497	295	2,325	238	2,862
Syria	42	128	119	289	16	128	133	277
Turkey	222	764	87	1,075	75	764	63	902
Other	175	531	243	950	74	531	166	771
Total	1,612	4,332	941	6,889	551	4,332	706	5,593
Southeast Asia								
Cambodia	19	520	101	640	20	520	146	686
Indonesia	140	517	116	774	163	517	168	848
Laos	15	171	66	252	20	171	57	248
Malaysia	311	464	290	1,067	401	464	325	1,192
Philippines	151	1,038	62	1,251	1,050	1,038	550	2,639
Singapore	118	109	119	346	169	109	158	436
Thailand	25	80	42	147	225	80	136	441
Viet Nam	80	3,772	381	4,233	79	3,772	289	4,144
Other	55	61	56	172	45	61	33	139
Total	914	6,732	1,233	8,882	2,172	6,732	1,862	10,773
Northeast Asia								
China	63	2,436	327	2,833	173	2,436	566	3,182
Hong Kong	88	715	332	1,135	100	715	231	1,046
Japan	59	165	30	255	190	165	116	471
Korea	9	383	18	411	21	383	38	442
Other	10	135	57	202	21	135	69	225
Total	229	3,834	764	4,836	505	3,834	1,020	5,366

13 CONFINEMENTS(a): BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS—continued

Country of birth	Father born in country shown and mother born in				Mother born in country shown and father born in			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(b)	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(b)
Southern Asia								
India	293	1,027	181	1,501	220	1,027	162	1,409
Pakistan	48	188	64	300	17	188	23	228
Sri Lanka	122	787	81	990	90	787	63	940
Other	24	349	26	399	10	349	15	374
<i>Total</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>2,351</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>3,190</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>2,351</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>2,951</i>
The Americas								
Argentina	88	62	50	200	55	62	66	183
Canada	327	39	91	457	345	39	121	506
Caribbean	50	5	14	69	35	5	16	56
Central America	44	147	44	235	34	147	55	236
Chile	139	247	114	500	109	247	87	443
United States of America	573	157	193	924	604	157	162	923
Uruguay	74	40	58	172	63	40	60	163
Other	104	93	87	284	98	93	116	307
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,399</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>651</i>	<i>2,841</i>	<i>1,343</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>683</i>	<i>2,817</i>
Africa (excluding North Africa)								
Kenya	60	14	46	120	58	14	29	101
Mauritius	119	107	48	275	106	107	60	273
South Africa	352	243	152	747	327	243	183	753
Zimbabwe	100	31	63	194	81	31	46	158
Other	250	262	175	687	138	262	177	577
<i>Total</i>	<i>881</i>	<i>657</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>2,023</i>	<i>710</i>	<i>657</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>1,862</i>
Other and not stated	82	44	32	158	47	44	31	122
Total	180,874	27,926	30,582	239,460	176,535	27,926	34,885	239,460

(a) Excludes paternity not acknowledged. (b) Includes not stated.

14 CONFINEMENTS(a): AGE AND PREVIOUS BIRTHS OF MOTHER

Age (years)	Previous births of the current relationship						Not stated	Total confinements	Total births (b)	Average births (b)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over				
15 and under	257	4	—	—	—	—	—	261	266	1.0
16	704	26	—	—	—	—	—	730	763	1.0
17	1,725	108	7	—	—	—	—	1,840	1,972	1.1
18	2,463	322	16	2	—	—	—	2,803	3,176	1.1
19	3,427	636	74	1	—	—	—	4,138	4,957	1.2
20	4,017	1,084	161	17	2	1	—	5,282	6,795	1.3
21	4,367	1,570	320	44	3	1	—	6,305	8,724	1.4
22	4,953	2,157	520	74	13	2	—	7,719	11,257	1.5
23	5,820	2,701	788	152	17	4	—	9,482	14,405	1.5
24	7,058	3,554	1,075	221	45	5	—	11,958	18,659	1.6
25	7,912	4,199	1,294	320	55	13	—	13,793	22,021	1.6
26	7,903	4,798	1,669	433	89	23	—	14,915	24,993	1.7
27	8,412	5,476	1,908	513	129	35	—	16,473	28,238	1.7
28	8,253	5,930	2,145	565	155	40	—	17,088	30,057	1.8
29	7,578	6,209	2,481	690	177	72	—	17,207	31,800	1.8
30	6,878	6,286	2,716	724	183	76	—	16,863	32,136	1.9
31	6,322	6,133	2,773	852	216	97	—	16,393	32,284	2.0
32	5,458	5,737	2,900	880	235	107	—	15,317	31,271	2.0
33	4,433	5,106	2,764	871	263	138	—	13,575	28,901	2.1
34	3,846	4,272	2,342	773	264	157	—	11,654	25,071	2.2
35	3,047	3,493	2,117	785	213	153	—	9,808	21,782	2.2
36	2,422	2,580	1,526	660	216	149	—	7,553	17,017	2.3
37	1,911	1,925	1,200	479	181	131	—	5,827	13,173	2.3
38	1,349	1,443	843	402	158	132	—	4,327	10,151	2.3
39	1,031	1,008	551	280	104	119	—	3,093	7,207	2.3
40	690	618	363	181	85	91	—	2,028	4,873	2.4
41	484	388	223	96	40	68	—	1,299	3,019	2.3
42	301	242	116	60	34	56	—	809	1,979	2.4
43	166	105	71	37	19	40	—	438	1,118	2.6
44	81	61	33	19	10	24	—	228	608	2.7
45	29	24	9	5	4	13	—	84	237	2.8
46	10	9	6	5	4	5	—	39	122	3.1
47	7	2	1	1	1	1	—	13	30	2.3
48	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	6	21	3.5
49	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	10	3.3
50 and over	7	—	1	—	—	2	—	10	27	2.7
Not stated	49	27	14	5	3	1	—	99	189	1.9
Total	113,372	78,235	33,027	10,150	2,918	1,758	—	239,460	439,309	1.8

(a) Excludes paternity not acknowledged. (b) Excludes previous births not stated.

15 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: PREVIOUS BIRTHS OF MOTHER

Selected years	Previous births of the current relationship						Not stated	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over		
1976	78,086	73,338	33,505	11,130	3,584	3,031	18	202,692
1981	82,476	67,627	35,445	11,750	3,282	1,993	6	202,579
1986	80,563	70,017	33,937	10,955	2,904	1,723	20	200,119
1991	81,179	67,055	32,231	10,300	2,811	1,680	2	195,258
1992	80,821	69,467	32,644	10,522	2,843	1,702	3	198,002
1993	77,718	68,389	31,801	10,145	2,731	1,733	1	192,518
1994	77,166	67,123	31,118	9,598	2,500	1,655	—	189,160
1995	75,606	66,175	30,252	9,200	2,504	1,641	—	185,378
1996	73,873	65,293	29,167	9,037	2,590	1,589	—	181,549

16 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE

Selected years	Duration of current marriage (years)													Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10-14	15 and over	Not stated	
1976	18,774	21,231	25,706	26,555	25,359	22,060	17,576	12,757	9,009	6,266	13,136	3,822	441	202,692
1981	20,625	21,990	22,018	21,625	21,010	19,467	17,398	15,132	11,836	9,092	18,556	3,499	331	202,579
1986	18,359	22,486	23,290	23,390	21,803	19,025	15,658	12,645	9,969	8,428	20,807	4,226	33	200,119
1991	19,180	22,724	22,573	22,111	19,952	18,113	15,786	12,917	10,378	8,125	18,633	4,738	28	195,258
1992	18,781	22,934	23,101	22,557	21,039	18,000	15,657	13,092	10,661	8,410	18,861	4,848	61	198,002
1993	17,946	22,126	21,949	22,410	20,630	18,166	14,793	12,819	10,350	7,983	18,647	4,612	1	192,518
1994	16,658	22,211	21,932	21,763	20,252	17,935	15,207	12,424	9,928	7,994	18,278	4,578	—	189,160
1995	16,112	21,772	21,765	21,226	19,459	17,623	15,109	12,463	9,775	7,658	18,118	4,298	—	185,378
1996	15,844	21,411	20,741	20,775	19,363	17,333	14,924	12,188	9,794	7,475	17,457	4,244	—	181,549

17 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE AND PREVIOUS BIRTHS OF RELATIONSHIP

Duration of current marriage (years)	Previous births of the current relationship							Total confinements	Total births (a)	Average births (a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Not stated			
Under 1	13,138	2,155	440	77	24	10	—	15,844	19,465	1.2
1	17,004	3,642	613	117	27	8	—	21,411	27,040	1.3
2	12,681	6,992	874	150	35	9	—	20,741	30,378	1.5
3	9,242	9,803	1,493	198	32	7	—	20,775	34,620	1.7
4	6,866	9,681	2,443	312	42	19	—	19,363	35,395	1.8
5	4,783	8,668	3,275	513	81	13	—	17,333	34,773	2.0
6	3,349	6,981	3,686	762	120	26	—	14,924	32,424	2.2
7	2,167	5,334	3,521	940	189	37	—	12,188	28,548	2.3
8	1,533	3,747	3,217	1,018	223	56	—	9,794	24,400	2.5
9	979	2,650	2,552	966	254	74	—	7,475	19,673	2.6
10-14	1,846	4,956	5,956	3,072	1,019	608	—	17,457	51,305	2.9
15 and over	285	684	1,097	912	544	722	—	4,244	16,498	3.9
Total	73,873	65,293	29,167	9,037	2,590	1,589	—	181,549	354,519	2.0

(a) Excludes previous births not stated.

18 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS(a): DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE

Selected years	Duration of current marriage (years)								Total	Median duration (years)
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10 and over	Not stated		
1976	17,892	17,644	14,705	10,810	7,288	9,059	596	92	78,086	2.2
1981	19,190	17,987	13,035	9,777	7,513	13,773	1,127	74	82,476	2.3
1986	16,441	18,554	13,765	10,022	7,280	12,446	2,050	5	80,563	2.4
1991	17,190	18,602	13,488	9,771	6,800	13,167	2,154	7	81,179	2.4
1992	16,175	18,406	13,459	9,959	7,261	13,314	2,205	42	80,821	2.4
1993	15,234	17,613	12,946	9,897	7,043	12,867	2,090	1	77,718	2.5
1994	13,740	17,794	13,402	9,753	7,127	13,108	2,242	—	77,166	2.5
1995	13,342	17,405	13,113	9,556	6,740	13,301	2,149	—	75,606	2.5
1996	13,138	17,004	12,681	9,242	6,866	12,811	2,131	—	73,873	2.5

(a) Excludes confinements to relationships with ex-nuptial births.

19 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS(a): AGE OF MOTHER

Selected years	Age of mother (years)							Total	Median age
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated		
1976	10,179	34,691	25,344	6,169	1,432	269	2	78,086	24.2
1981	6,305	32,917	30,608	10,156	2,168	318	4	82,476	25.3
1986	3,233	25,220	34,255	13,619	3,766	469	1	80,563	26.5
1991	2,097	19,005	34,827	19,076	5,334	834	6	81,179	27.8
1992	1,765	17,927	34,377	20,057	5,749	919	27	80,821	28.0
1993	1,343	16,207	32,850	20,574	5,772	956	1	77,718	28.3
1994	1,133	15,351	32,143	21,266	6,248	1,003	22	77,166	28.5
1995	1,039	13,934	31,689	21,296	6,539	1,090	19	75,606	28.6
1996	989	12,815	30,890	21,090	6,896	1,171	22	73,873	28.7

(a) Excludes confinements to relationships with ex-nuptial births.

20 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS(a): AGE OF MOTHER AND DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE

<i>Duration of current marriage</i>	<i>Age of mother (years)</i>						<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>19 and under</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40 and over</i>		
Under 7 months	473	1,970	1,741	1,147	563	141	1	6,036
7 months	46	287	358	221	102	17	—	1,031
8 months	34	259	342	227	108	13	—	983
9 months	48	402	619	388	167	26	—	1,650
10 months	53	476	623	390	134	24	—	1,700
11 months	52	491	654	375	140	25	1	1,738
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>706</i>	<i>3,885</i>	<i>4,337</i>	<i>2,748</i>	<i>1,214</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13,138</i>
1 year	256	4,422	6,779	3,934	1,390	219	4	17,004
2 years	21	2,551	6,007	3,039	910	149	4	12,681
3 years	2	1,275	4,773	2,466	611	111	4	9,242
4 years	3	457	3,757	2,046	537	65	1	6,866
5-9 years	1	225	5,169	5,804	1,387	219	6	12,811
10-14 years	—	—	68	1,032	663	82	1	1,846
15 years and over	—	—	—	21	184	80	—	285
Total	989	12,815	30,890	21,090	6,896	1,171	22	73,873

(a) Excludes confinements to relationships with ex-nuptial births.

SECTION 3

YEAR OF REGISTRATION — STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

The three largest populated States accounted for nearly three-quarters of births registered in 1996. Out of the total 254,000 births registered in 1996, 87,000, or 34% were registered in New South Wales, 24% were registered in Victoria and 19% were registered in Queensland. These proportions broadly reflect the distribution of the female population in the reproductive ages.

At the national level, the number of births registered grew by 11% between 1976 (228,000) and 1996, but the States and Territories experienced different rates of growth. The number of births registered grew faster in Queensland (35.4%), the Northern Territory (32.5%) and Western Australia (19.8%) than in New South Wales (10.0%), the Australian Capital Territory (2.9%), Victoria (1.2%) and South Australia (1.0%), and the number declined in Tasmania by 4.1%. These interstate relativities largely reflect the relative growth rates of the States after these two decades.

In 1996, the crude birth rate was 20.0 per 1,000 population for the Northern Territory and between 12.9 and 14.3 for the remaining States and the Australian Capital Territory. South Australia had the lowest crude birth rate (12.9) followed by Victoria (13.5) and Tasmania (13.6). The high crude birth rate in the Northern Territory is attributable to its large proportion of Indigenous people who have high fertility, and to its young age structure.

FERTILITY

The total fertility rate in 1996 varied substantially between the States and Territories, from 1.7 births per woman for Victoria to 2.3 for the Northern Territory. Between 1976 and 1996, the total fertility rate declined in all States and Territories. However, between 1986 and 1996, the rate for the Northern Territory increased slightly, while the rate for South Australia and Tasmania remained largely unchanged. All other States and Territories experienced marginal declines during this ten year period, ranging from 0.06 births per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 0.17 in Western Australia.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1976	2.04	2.03	2.18	1.86	2.14	2.09	3.06	2.09	2.06
1986	1.91	1.78	1.91	1.76	1.98	1.93	2.21	1.74	1.87
1996	1.83	1.71	1.84	1.75	1.81	1.92	2.29	1.68	1.80

(a) Per woman.

Age

For all States and Territories except the Northern Territory the largest contribution to the total fertility rate in 1996 was made by women aged 25–29 years followed by women aged 30–34 years and then by women aged 20–24 years. In the Northern Territory, the age group of peak fertility was 20–24 years, followed by 25–29 years.

The Northern Territory has a much younger fertility age structure, with women aged less than 25 years contributing 43% of the total fertility rate, compared to contributions of between 18% and 30% for the States and the Australian Capital Territory. The age-specific birth rate for 15–19 year old women was more than three to four times as high in the Northern Territory as it was in the States and the Australian Capital Territory, and the age-specific birth rate for women aged 20–24 years in the Northern Territory was one to two times higher than rates for the States and the Australian Capital Territory.

CONTRIBUTION OF AGE GROUPS TO THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
Age group (years)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
19 and under	5.5	3.7	7.1	5.2	6.3	7.0	17.2	4.3
20–24	18.3	14.7	20.6	17.8	18.5	23.1	26.0	13.4
25–29	32.2	32.7	32.3	32.8	33.3	34.0	25.6	33.5
30–34	29.0	33.0	27.4	29.7	28.9	25.8	20.2	31.5
35–39	12.7	13.4	10.8	12.1	11.4	8.3	9.7	14.5
40 and over	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CONFINEMENTS

The peak age group for confinements in all States and Territories, except Victoria, in 1996 was 25–29 years. This group accounted for between 29% (Northern Territory) and 33% (Western Australia) of all confinements. The second most common age group, accounting for between 27% (Tasmania) and 31% (South Australia) of all confinements was 30–34 years. In the Northern Territory, 24% of confinements were to women aged 20–24 years and 22% to women aged 30–34 years. In Victoria there were marginally more births to 30–34 year olds than to 25–29 year olds.

CONTRIBUTION OF AGE GROUPS TO TOTAL CONFINEMENTS

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
Age group (years)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
19 and under	4.8	3.2	6.5	4.6	5.8	7.0	13.3	3.9
20–24	17.9	14.4	21.0	16.8	18.4	21.9	24.1	15.6
25–29	32.3	33.2	32.4	32.7	33.0	32.9	29.5	33.2
30–34	29.8	33.3	27.4	30.5	29.3	27.0	22.0	30.2
35–39	13.0	13.6	10.9	13.0	11.8	9.4	9.7	13.8
40 and over	2.2	2.2	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.4
Total(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes not stated.

NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

About 27% of all births registered in Australia in 1996 were ex-nuptial. More than one-half (58%) of the births registered in the Northern Territory were ex-nuptial, compared to proportions of between 22% for Victoria and 34% for Tasmania. New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory recorded proportions below the national average while the remaining States recorded proportions above the national average.

The proportion of all births that are ex-nuptial has increased considerably since 1976 when the national average was 10%, the proportion for the Northern Territory was 23% and those for the States and the Australian Capital Territory ranged between 6% (for the Australian Capital Territory) and 13% (for Queensland). The increase in the proportion of ex-nuptial births is associated with the increase, over the same period, in the incidence of de facto marriages.

Most ex-nuptial births are paternity-acknowledged, with the proportion increasing over the years. With the exception of the Northern Territory, the proportion of paternity-acknowledged ex-nuptial births increased in all States and Territories by between 10 and 20 percentage points between 1986 and 1996. In the Northern Territory, the proportion of ex-nuptial births that were paternity-acknowledged declined between 1986 and 1996.

21 BIRTHS: NUMBER REGISTERED

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Other Territories</i>	<i>Australia</i>
MALES										
1976(a)	40,253	30,957	18,004	9,787	10,673	3,482	1,392	2,242	..	116,838
1981	42,280	30,268	20,136	9,769	11,355	3,674	1,606	2,082	..	121,170
1986	43,458	30,855	20,782	9,930	12,448	3,615	1,711	2,115	..	124,914
1991	44,942	33,636	22,564	10,175	12,959	3,454	1,799	2,436	..	131,965
1992	47,710	33,691	23,600	9,957	12,879	3,595	1,913	2,256	..	135,601
1993	45,906	32,793	24,055	10,232	12,925	3,523	1,884	2,234	20	133,572
1994	45,187	32,904	24,148	9,951	12,867	3,497	1,818	2,232	21	132,625
1995	44,884	32,108	23,863	9,977	12,942	3,390	1,960	2,291	17	131,432
1996	44,448	31,587	24,533	9,710	12,813	3,346	1,861	2,241	33	130,572
FEMALES										
1976(a)	38,496	29,456	17,264	9,079	10,027	3,254	1,296	2,030	..	110,972
1981	39,691	29,016	18,799	9,502	10,545	3,556	1,503	2,060	..	114,672
1986	41,073	29,307	19,589	9,811	11,788	3,335	1,604	1,987	..	118,494
1991	42,425	31,802	21,596	9,465	12,458	3,416	1,800	2,320	..	125,282
1992	44,875	32,075	22,640	9,354	12,194	3,392	1,829	2,191	..	128,550
1993	43,448	31,256	22,723	9,846	12,156	3,312	1,719	2,180	17	126,657
1994	42,790	31,070	22,430	9,458	12,271	3,347	1,808	2,229	23	125,426
1995	42,965	30,483	22,621	9,359	12,197	3,180	1,806	2,124	23	124,758
1996	42,147	29,556	23,236	9,346	11,980	3,111	1,701	2,155	30	123,262
PERSONS										
1976(a)	78,749	60,413	35,268	18,866	20,700	6,736	2,688	4,272	..	227,810
1981	81,971	59,284	38,935	19,271	21,900	7,230	3,109	4,142	..	235,842
1986	84,531	60,162	40,371	19,741	24,236	6,950	3,315	4,102	..	243,408
1991	87,367	65,438	44,160	19,640	25,417	6,870	3,599	4,756	..	257,247
1992	92,585	65,766	46,240	19,311	25,073	6,987	3,742	4,447	..	264,151
1993	89,354	64,049	46,778	20,078	25,081	6,835	3,603	4,414	37	260,229
1994	87,977	63,974	46,578	19,409	25,138	6,844	3,626	4,461	44	258,051
1995	87,849	62,591	46,484	19,336	25,139	6,570	3,766	4,415	40	256,190
1996	86,595	61,143	47,769	19,056	24,793	6,457	3,562	4,396	63	253,834

(a) Includes not stated.

22 NET REPRODUCTION RATE(a)

Selected years	Net reproduction rate								Australia
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
1976	0.974	0.970	1.038	0.877	1.013	1.005	1.417	0.971	0.981
1981	0.927	0.891	0.973	0.868	0.940	0.994	1.209	0.941	0.925
1986	0.913	0.850	0.911	0.862	0.946	0.909	1.032	0.831	0.895
1991	0.897	0.870	0.904	0.821	0.922	0.935	1.094	0.896	0.890
1992	0.944	0.878	0.929	0.813	0.899	0.933	1.131	0.839	0.909
1993	0.918	0.859	0.913	0.862	0.902	0.923	1.063	0.829	0.896
1994	0.902	0.861	0.883	0.836	0.905	0.945	1.138	0.848	0.886
1995	0.901	0.845	0.871	0.836	0.891	0.916	1.134	0.804	0.876
1996	0.877	0.817	0.881	0.845	0.866	0.915	1.065	0.813	0.860

(a) Net reproduction rates are based on Annual Life Tables calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

23 CRUDE BIRTH RATES

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other	Australia
									Territories	
1976	15.9	15.9	16.9	14.8	17.6	16.3	27.3	20.6	..	16.2
1981	15.7	15.0	16.6	14.6	16.8	16.9	25.2	18.2	..	15.8
1986	15.3	14.5	15.4	14.3	16.6	15.6	21.5	15.8	..	15.2
1991	14.8	14.8	14.9	13.6	15.5	14.7	21.7	16.5	..	14.9
1992	15.5	14.8	15.2	13.3	15.1	14.9	22.3	15.1	..	15.1
1993	14.9	14.3	15.0	13.7	15.0	14.5	21.2	14.8	n.p.	14.7
1994	14.5	14.3	14.6	13.2	14.8	14.5	21.2	14.8	n.p.	14.5
1995	14.4	13.9	14.2	13.1	14.5	13.9	21.6	14.5	n.p.	14.2
1996	14.0	13.5	14.2	12.9	14.1	13.6	20.0	14.3	n.p.	13.9

24 BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other Territories	Australia
MALES										
19 and under	2,114	994	1,606	459	772	244	243	79	—	6,511
20-24	7,914	4,517	5,146	1,646	2,275	721	450	357	4	23,030
25-29	14,205	10,569	7,963	3,169	4,176	1,115	563	733	11	42,504
30-34	13,356	10,426	6,660	2,933	3,856	888	391	684	14	39,208
35-39	5,877	4,321	2,710	1,259	1,518	315	188	314	3	16,505
40 and over	978	712	446	228	215	61	21	48	1	2,710
Not stated	4	48	2	16	1	2	5	26	—	104
Total	44,448	31,587	24,533	9,710	12,813	3,346	1,861	2,241	33	130,572
FEMALES										
19 and under	1,972	961	1,477	413	653	201	228	90	3	5,998
20-24	7,511	4,249	4,832	1,533	2,263	684	407	324	4	21,807
25-29	13,746	9,735	7,503	3,044	4,012	1,011	489	728	10	40,278
30-34	12,552	9,952	6,489	2,902	3,423	863	393	645	8	37,227
35-39	5,449	3,991	2,537	1,219	1,417	291	160	292	3	15,359
40 and over	916	637	398	227	211	60	21	59	2	2,531
Not stated	1	31	—	8	1	1	3	17	—	62
Total	42,147	29,556	23,236	9,346	11,980	3,111	1,701	2,155	30	123,262
PERSONS										
19 and under	4,086	1,955	3,083	872	1,425	445	471	169	3	12,509
20-24	15,425	8,766	9,978	3,179	4,538	1,405	857	681	8	44,837
25-29	27,951	20,304	15,466	6,213	8,188	2,126	1,052	1,461	21	82,782
30-34	25,908	20,378	13,149	5,835	7,279	1,751	784	1,329	22	76,435
35-39	11,326	8,312	5,247	2,478	2,935	606	348	606	6	31,864
40 and over	1,894	1,349	844	455	426	121	42	107	3	5,241
Not stated	5	79	2	24	2	3	8	43	—	166
Total births	86,595	61,143	47,769	19,056	24,793	6,457	3,562	4,396	63	253,834
CONFINEMENTS (a)										
19 and under	4,063	1,946	3,058	863	1,418	442	468	168	3	12,429
20-24	15,301	8,669	9,894	3,143	4,492	1,390	850	674	8	44,421
25-29	27,609	20,027	15,264	6,123	8,075	2,090	1,038	1,437	21	81,684
30-34	25,508	20,079	12,925	5,729	7,151	1,717	776	1,306	22	75,213
35-39	11,141	8,170	5,152	2,429	2,875	595	340	598	6	31,306
40 and over	1,869	1,324	823	442	421	119	42	102	3	5,145
Not stated	5	79	2	24	2	3	8	42	—	165
Total confinements	85,496	60,294	47,118	18,753	24,434	6,356	3,522	4,327	63	250,363

(a) Resulting in one or more births.

25 BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS(a): NUPTIALITY AND PLURALITY

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other Territories	Australia
BIRTHS										
<i>Nuptial —</i>										
Single	62,807	46,568	31,228	12,897	16,578	4,085	1,472	3,173	57	178,865
Twins	1,732	1,304	884	407	513	145	32	106	—	5,123
Triplets and higher order	56	61	79	24	37	12	—	9	—	278
<i>Total</i>	<i>64,595</i>	<i>47,933</i>	<i>32,191</i>	<i>13,328</i>	<i>17,128</i>	<i>4,242</i>	<i>1,504</i>	<i>3,288</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>184,266</i>
<i>Ex-nuptial —</i>										
Single	21,579	12,879	15,256	5,556	7,505	2,173	2,008	1,087	6	68,049
Twins	412	328	315	163	156	42	50	19	—	1,485
Triplets and higher order	9	3	7	9	4	—	—	2	—	34
<i>Total</i>	<i>22,000</i>	<i>13,210</i>	<i>15,578</i>	<i>5,728</i>	<i>7,665</i>	<i>2,215</i>	<i>2,058</i>	<i>1,108</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>69,568</i>
Total births	86,595	61,143	47,769	19,056	24,793	6,457	3,562	4,396	63	253,834
CONFINEMENTS (b)										
<i>Nuptial —</i>										
Single	62,807	46,568	31,228	12,897	16,578	4,085	1,472	3,173	57	178,865
Twins	879	658	447	207	259	73	16	53	—	2,592
Triplets and higher order	19	21	25	8	12	4	—	3	—	92
<i>Total</i>	<i>63,705</i>	<i>47,247</i>	<i>31,700</i>	<i>13,112</i>	<i>16,849</i>	<i>4,162</i>	<i>1,488</i>	<i>3,229</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>181,549</i>
<i>Ex-nuptial —</i>										
Single	21,579	12,879	15,256	5,556	7,505	2,173	2,008	1,087	6	68,049
Twins	209	167	159	82	79	21	26	10	—	753
Triplets and higher order	3	1	3	3	1	—	—	1	—	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>21,791</i>	<i>13,047</i>	<i>15,418</i>	<i>5,641</i>	<i>7,585</i>	<i>2,194</i>	<i>2,034</i>	<i>1,098</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>68,814</i>
Total confinements	85,496	60,294	47,118	18,753	24,434	6,356	3,522	4,327	63	250,363

(a) The apparent discrepancy between the number of births occurring in multiple confinements and the number of births which can be expected to arise from such confinements is due to the exclusion of fetal deaths. (b) Resulting in one or more births.

26 EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS: TOTAL NUMBER AND NUMBER WHERE PATERNITY WAS ACKNOWLEDGED

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Other Territories</i>	<i>Australia</i>
EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS										
1976	7,993	4,390	4,667	1,785	2,627	717	629	237	..	23,064
1981	10,977	5,560	6,390	2,503	3,304	1,073	1,028	365	..	31,200
1986	14,329	7,395	7,923	3,451	4,481	1,197	1,644	530	..	40,950
1991	19,427	12,221	11,662	4,763	6,422	1,893	1,913	922	..	59,223
1992	21,412	12,591	12,897	4,834	6,673	1,984	2,068	909	..	63,368
1993	21,351	12,629	13,644	5,096	6,991	2,155	1,992	1,010	6	64,874
1994	21,548	13,114	13,851	5,148	7,220	2,119	2,043	1,042	7	66,092
1995	21,910	13,629	14,255	5,295	7,475	2,189	2,153	1,135	9	68,050
1996	22,000	13,210	15,578	5,728	7,665	2,215	2,058	1,108	6	69,568
PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGED EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS(a)										
1981	7,038	3,134	3,786	1,543	1,810	562	774	238	..	18,885
1986	10,723	5,075	5,195	2,509	3,048	823	1,154	366	..	28,893
1991	15,709	10,043	8,894	3,845	5,094	1,531	1,264	684	..	47,064
1992	17,494	10,372	10,353	3,980	5,348	1,660	1,365	777	..	51,349
1993	17,504	10,514	11,036	4,227	5,713	1,854	1,279	886	3	53,016
1994	17,777	11,034	11,228	4,328	5,951	1,808	1,347	855	5	54,333
1995	18,359	11,527	11,769	4,516	6,304	1,896	1,384	925	8	56,688
1996	18,545	11,367	13,032	4,960	6,473	1,941	1,292	934	5	58,549

(a) Ex-nuptial births where the fathers particulars have been legally recorded.

27 BIRTHS: STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER AND STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION

State or Territory of usual residence of mother	State or Territory of registration								Australia
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
New South Wales	85,031	599	373	38	14	5	2	533	86,595
Victoria	215	60,769	35	91	16	5	5	7	61,143
Queensland	537	52	47,132	15	14	7	6	6	47,769
South Australia	24	43	12	18,907	16	—	50	4	19,056
Western Australia	27	21	21	11	24,663	5	44	1	24,793
Tasmania	12	29	2	2	3	6,409	—	—	6,457
Northern Territory	22	10	32	47	23	—	3,428	—	3,562
Australian Capital Territory	88	6	5	2	—	—	—	4,295	4,396
Other Territories	10	—	1	1	51	—	—	—	63
Australia	85,966	61,529	47,613	19,114	24,800	6,431	3,535	4,846	253,834

28 BIRTHS: NUMBER REGISTERED, YEAR OF OCCURRENCE, STATES AND TERRITORIES(a), 1996

Year of occurrence	State or Territory of registration								Australia
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
Before 1986	349	118	17	89	49	21	4	—	647
1986	33	3	3	2	7	1	—	—	49
1987	46	3	8	4	6	2	—	—	69
1988	41	3	6	9	8	4	—	—	71
1989	53	10	18	12	13	3	—	—	109
1990	139	28	33	12	20	1	1	—	234
1991	217	44	72	21	23	8	—	—	385
1992	253	64	56	29	35	7	4	—	448
1993	251	47	91	38	32	4	1	—	464
1994	399	89	212	53	126	20	1	—	900
1995	9,209	5,411	5,381	1,430	2,043	592	332	470	24,868
1996	74,976	55,709	41,716	17,415	22,438	5,768	3,192	4,376	225,590
Total	85,966	61,529	47,613	19,114	24,800	6,431	3,535	4,846	253,834

(a) See Paragraph 2 and 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

SECTION 4

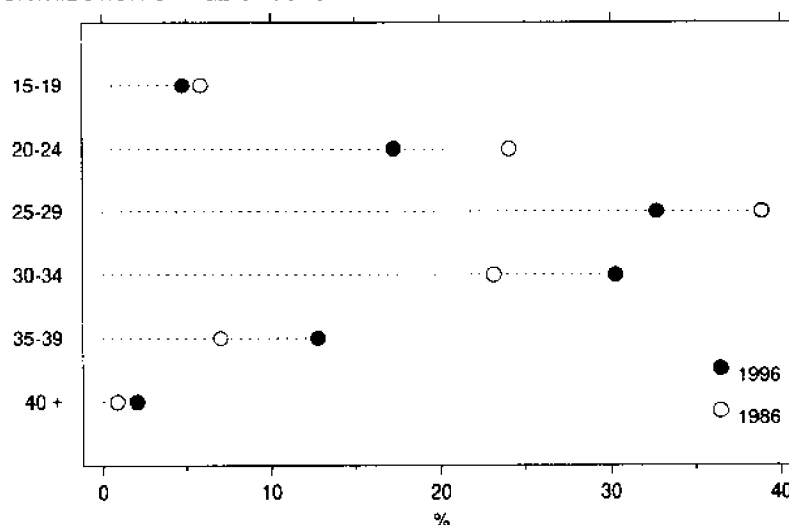
YEAR OF OCCURRENCE

About 249,000 births occurred in Australia in 1996 and had been registered by May 1997, this represents a 2.5% increase over the number of births that occurred in 1986 (242,900). The number of births occurring each year has fluctuated, reaching a peak of 261,900 in 1992 and declining thereafter.

Year of occurrence data differs from year of registration. Births that occurred during the calendar year may not be registered until the following year or several years after the event. The following tables include occurrence data for 1996 based on both 1996 registration data and four months of 1997 registration data to attain an estimate of the births that occurred in 1996. Based on the pattern of delay in registration shown in the 1996 registrations, it appears likely that about 98% of births that occurred in 1997 were registered in time for inclusion in this analysis. As 89% of births registered in 1986 occurred in 1986, the patterns of age and other variables are very similar. For this reason, year of occurrence data are subject to revision, although these revisions have minimal effects on the figures except those of the most recent year. Caution should therefore be exercised in interpreting birth rates based on occurrence data.

Over 80% of all births in 1996 occurred to women aged 20–34 years. Women aged 25–29 years made the single largest contribution (33%) of any age group to the total number of births but the contribution of women aged 30–34 years was only marginally less (30%). Older women, aged 35 years and over, accounted for about 15% of the total. In contrast, in 1986, younger women contributed more to the total number of births than older women. Women aged under 25 years contributed almost one-third of the total number of births in 1986 compared to just under a quarter in 1996. The contribution of women aged 35 years and over was just under 8% in 1986.

CONTRIBUTION OF AGE GROUPS TO BIRTHS

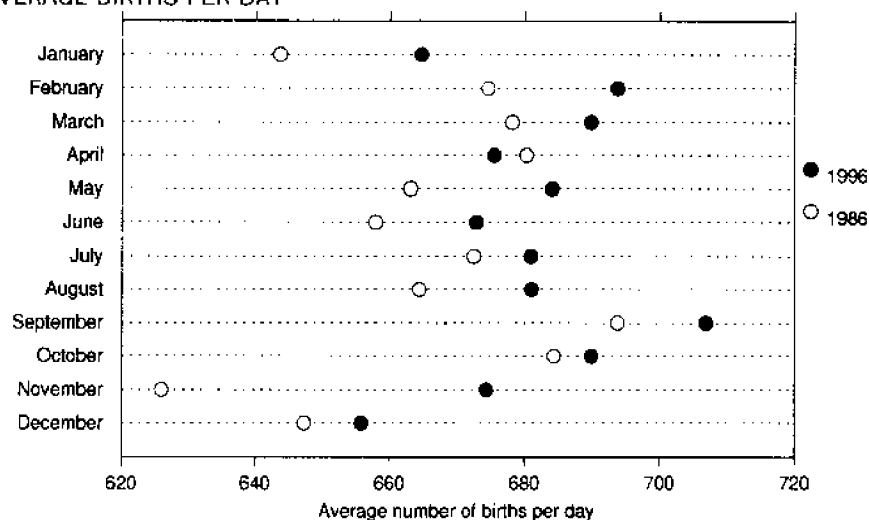


The distribution of births in 1996 points to a continuation of the shift in fertility from younger to older women.

MONTHLY OCCURRENCE OF BIRTHS

The number of births that occur each year varies considerably from month to month, ranging between 20,100 and 21,400 births per month in 1996. September had the highest number of births per day (707). December had the lowest number of births per day (656) although this may be partly due to late registrations.

AVERAGE BIRTHS PER DAY



FERTILITY

Age-specific birth rates based on births occurring in 1996 had the same pattern as those based on births registered in 1996. The age group of peak fertility was 25–29 years, contributing 33% to the total fertility rate, followed by women aged 30–34 years, who contributed 30% and those aged 20–24 years who contributed 17%.

Consistent with fertility shifting towards older age groups, the contribution to the total fertility rate of women aged less than 25 years declined from 30% in 1986 to 22% in 1996, while that of women aged 30 years and over increased from 31% in 1986 to 45% in 1996.

29 BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER BY YEAR OF OCCURRENCE (PRELIMINARY)

	<i>Age group (years)</i>						<i>Total(a)</i>
	<i>19 and under</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40 and over</i>	
1986	14,306	58,505	94,488	56,263	17,035	2,229	242,878
1991	14,595	51,299	91,581	71,372	23,919	3,647	256,497
1992	13,814	52,405	90,375	75,360	25,791	4,054	261,886
1993	12,933	50,157	87,413	76,736	26,776	4,238	258,363
1994	12,801	49,027	85,308	77,343	28,871	4,561	258,066
1995	12,311	46,343	83,106	77,428	30,049	4,987	254,422
1996	11,940	43,041	81,514	75,551	31,811	5,151	249,136

(a) Includes not stated.

30 AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES BY YEAR OF OCCURRENCE (PRELIMINARY)

	Age group (years)							Total fertility rate
	15-19(a)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(b)	
1986	21.7	89.1	141.7	88.8	27.3	4.3	0.2	1.866
1991	21.9	74.4	131.4	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1.849
1992	21.4	74.2	131.2	104.0	38.2	6.0	0.3	1.877
1993	20.5	70.3	128.7	105.1	39.1	6.3	0.2	1.851
1994	20.6	68.7	125.9	105.4	41.5	6.7	0.3	1.845
1995	20.0	65.4	120.9	106.0	42.4	7.3	0.3	1.811
1996	19.2	62.0	114.8	104.9	43.7	7.4	0.2	1.762

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

31 BIRTHS: YEAR AND MONTH OF OCCURRENCE, NUMBER AND PROPORTION (PRELIMINARY)

<i>Month of occurrence</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>
NUMBER							
January	19,952	21,554	21,858	21,347	21,592	21,440	20,602
February	18,888	19,905	21,134	20,037	20,124	20,078	20,122
March	21,025	22,240	22,565	22,688	23,306	22,778	21,386
April	20,409	21,777	21,750	21,494	21,050	20,733	20,266
May	20,552	22,062	22,234	21,841	21,755	22,129	21,206
June	19,738	21,154	21,688	21,637	20,871	21,262	20,183
July	20,848	21,801	22,668	21,930	21,650	21,607	21,108
August	20,594	21,859	21,834	21,641	21,882	21,902	21,111
September	20,815	21,470	22,475	22,213	22,234	21,568	21,209
October	21,215	21,927	22,485	21,932	21,947	21,409	21,386
November	18,776	19,838	20,338	20,252	20,490	19,908	20,228
December	20,066	20,910	20,857	21,351	21,165	19,608	20,329
Total	242,878	256,497	261,886	258,363	258,066	254,422	249,136
PROPORTION (per cent)							
January	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.3
February	7.8	7.8	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.1
March	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.6
April	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1
May	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.7	8.5
June	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.4	8.1
July	8.6	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.5
August	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.5
September	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5
October	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6
November	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.8	8.1
December	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.3	8.2	7.7	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

SECTION 5

PREVIOUS BIRTHS

RELIABILITY OF DATA

Data on all previous births of the mother are currently available for South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. However, investigation into the data indicates that South Australia is the only State considered of publishable quality. Users should be cautioned about using this State as the basis for the whole of Australia, given it's low fertility.

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS BIRTHS

In 1996, 19,000 women in South Australia registered a birth. Including this birth and all previous births, these women had given birth to a total of 37,000 children, an average of 2.0 children ever born to women registering a birth in South Australia in 1996. The average issue increased according to the age group of mothers, from 1.1 children for mothers aged 15-19 years, to 3.3 children for mothers aged 45-49.

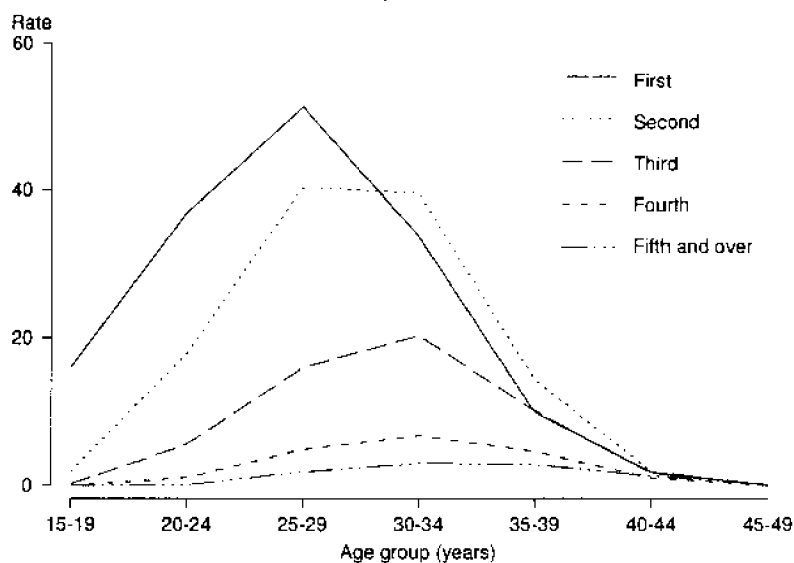
First births age-specific birth rates

Of all births registered in 1996 to women living in South Australia, 42% were first births. The proportion of young women having first births is much higher than for women of older age groups, as the number of children ever born increases with age.

Age-specific birth rates

The age-specific birth rates shows that both first and second order births are highest for women aged 25-29 years, and that third, fourth, fifth and higher order births peak at age 30-34 years.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a), By Order of Birth, South Australia



(a) Per 1,000 women.

Highest birth order

On 1996 rates, 31% of South Australian women would have two children; the most common family size. A further 25% would not have any children and 17% would have only one child.

CHILDREN THAT WOMEN BEAR, South Australia

<i>Children</i>	<i>%</i>
No children	24.9
One child	16.9
Two children	31.0
Three children	17.8
More than three children	9.3

The special article provides further discussion about the topic of previous births. It uses data from three different sources for birth order to produce a time series from 1970 to 1995. The main findings show that about one-quarter of all women will remain childless, more are limiting their families to one or two children and progressively fewer are having three or more children.

32 ALL BIRTHS: AGE OF MOTHER, BIRTH ORDER OF ALL PREVIOUS BIRTHS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

<i>Order of birth</i>	<i>Age of mother</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19(a)</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45-49(b)</i>	
First	765	1,898	2,785	1,906	587	103	3	8,048
Second	93	919	2,192	2,230	848	109	4	6,394
Third	12	294	869	1,147	601	91	5	3,019
Fourth	2	60	269	382	272	58	—	1,044
Fifth and over	1	12	106	177	173	78	4	551
<i>Total</i>	873	3,183	6,221	5,842	2,481	439	16	19,056

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

33 ALL BIRTHS: AGE-ORDER-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

<i>Order of birth</i>	<i>Order specific birth rate</i>	<i>Age-specific birth rates</i>							<i>Median age at childbearing</i>
		<i>15-19(a)</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45-49(b)</i>	
First	750.6	16.1	37.0	51.3	33.8	10.0	1.9	0.1	27.4
Second	581.4	2.0	17.9	40.4	39.6	14.4	2.0	0.1	30.0
Third	271.6	0.3	5.7	16.0	20.3	10.2	1.7	0.1	31.5
Fourth	93.2	—	1.2	5.0	6.8	4.6	1.1	—	32.5
Fifth and over	49.0	—	0.2	2.0	3.1	2.9	1.4	0.1	34.4
<i>Total</i>	1,745.8	18.3	62.0	114.7	103.7	42.1	8.1	0.3	29.5
<i>Average issue</i>	2.0	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.0	3.3	—

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

SECTION 6

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

Although all states collect information on Indigenous births, analysis indicates that only South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory are more than 90% complete.

In 1996, a total of 577 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were born in South Australia, 1,538 in Western Australia and 1,343 in the Northern Territory. Of these births, 76%, 83% and 93%, respectively, were to Indigenous women. The remainder were to non Indigenous mothers and Indigenous fathers. Western Australia had the highest proportion of Indigenous babies where both parents were Indigenous, 47%, compared to South Australia with the lowest number at 38%. The largest proportion of only Indigenous fathers was 24% in South Australia and only Indigenous mothers was 52% in the Northern Territory.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Indigenous births are much more likely to be ex-nuptial than non-Indigenous births. The Northern Territory recorded the highest proportion of Indigenous births that were ex-nuptial (94%), while South Australia recorded the lowest proportion (82%).

Paternity-acknowledged ex-nuptial births

For South Australia and Western Australia around 80% of all ex-nuptial births have paternity acknowledged, whether the birth be Indigenous or non-Indigenous. The Northern Territory, which has a smaller proportion of paternity-acknowledged ex-nuptial births, shows greater variation between Indigenous (52% paternity-acknowledged) and non-Indigenous births (63%).

FERTILITY

As the 1996 Census of Population and Housing saw more people identifying themselves as Indigenous, fertility rates from 1991 to 1995 have been recalculated using the population figures based on the 1996 census. The increased propensity to identify as Indigenous affected some States more than others. The revised rates show that from 1991 onwards there has been a steady decline in fertility. These changes to the estimates of Indigenous population illustrate that these fertility rates are highly variant.

The fertility of Indigenous women is higher than that of women in the total Australian population. In 1996, the total fertility rate for Indigenous mothers was 2.1 for South Australia, 2.6 for Western Australia and 2.7 for the Northern Territory. In contrast, the total fertility rate for all women ranged between 1.7 in South Australia and 2.3 in the Northern Territory.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a)

	INDIGENOUS MOTHERS ...		ALL MOTHERS..	
<i>Selected States and Territories</i>	1995	1996	1995	1996
South Australia	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.7
Western Australia	2.5	2.6	1.9	1.8
Northern Territory	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.3

(a) Per woman.

Age of mothers

The age-specific birth rates of Indigenous mothers show considerable variation from those of all mothers. For Indigenous mothers the age group of peak fertility was 20–24 years, compared to 25–29 years for all mothers. The gap between the fertility rates of Indigenous mothers and of all mothers was greatest in the 15–19 and 20–24 years age groups. Fertility rates of older Indigenous mothers more closely resembled those of all mothers.

AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a)

	INDIGENOUS.....			TOTAL
	SA	WA	NT	Aust.
<i>Age group (years)</i>	%	%	%	%
19 and under	79.2	110.9	139.6	20.1
20–24	148.7	162.6	151.9	64.6
25–29	121.1	132.4	126.2	116.7
30–34	50.2	77.8	75.1	106.2
35–39	26.7	33.4	31.6	43.8
40–44	3.7	4.3	6.4	7.9
Total fertility rate(b)	2.1	2.6	2.7	1.8

(a) Per 1,000 women.

(b) Per woman.

The fact that mothers of Indigenous children have their children at younger ages than women in the total population is also reflected in the median age of mothers, which for Indigenous women was about 24.0 years in both States and the Northern Territory. In contrast, for all mothers the median age ranged from 27.1 years in the Northern Territory to 29.4 years in South Australia.

34 BIRTHS OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>
TOTAL BIRTHS				
1988	508	n.a.	1,138	n.a.
1989	467	n.a.	1,277	n.a.
1990	588	n.a.	1,289	n.a.
1991	593	n.a.	1,257	58
1992	561	n.a.	1,354	n.p.
1993	519	1,535	1,359	43
1994	531	1,578	1,338	59
1995	554	1,492	1,354	52
1996	557	1,538	1,343	66
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a)				
1988	2.654	n.a.	2.751	n.a.
1989	2.392	n.a.	2.953	n.a.
1990	3.049	n.a.	2.908	n.a.
1991	2.803	n.a.	2.773	n.p.
1991 r (b)	2.489	n.a.	2.717	n.p.
1992 r (b)	2.401	n.a.	2.846	n.p.
1993 r (b)	2.173	2.742	2.806	n.p.
1994 r (b)	2.134	2.719	2.726	n.p.
1995 r (b)	2.112	2.510	2.733	n.p.
1996 (b)	2.148	2.612	2.654	n.p.

(a) Total fertility rates include only births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers. (b) See Paragraph 7 of Explanatory Notes.

35 BIRTHS OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND ALL CHILDREN(a), SOUTH AUSTRALIA

	Mothers of indigenous children						All children	
	Total		Indigenous mothers					
			Number		Per cent			
	1995r	1996	1995r	1996	1995r	1996	1995r	1996
BIRTHS								
Total births	554	557	411	423	74.2	75.9	19,336	19,056
Males	281	284	216	215	76.9	75.7	9,977	9,710
Females	273	273	195	208	71.4	76.2	9,359	9,346
Sex ratio	102.9	104.0	110.8	103.4	..	..	106.6	103.9
Nuptial births	112	102	56	60	50.0	58.8	14,041	13,328
Ex-nuptial births—								
Number	442	455	355	363	80.3	79.8	5,295	5,728
Percentage of live births	79.8	81.7	86.4	85.8	..	..	27.4	30.1
Paternity acknowledged births—								
Number	354	383	270	291	76.3	76.0	4,516	4,960
Percentage of ex-nuptial births	80.1	84.2	76.1	80.2	..	..	85.3	86.6
Both parents indigenous	208	214	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mother only	203	209	..	..	..	..	..	..
Father only	143	134	..	..	..	..	..	..
Age group of mother (years)—								
14 and under	4	1	3	1	75.0	100.0	5	3
15–19	118	100	87	79	73.7	79.0	823	869
20–24	177	200	149	152	84.2	76.0	3,207	3,179
25–29	148	153	107	121	72.3	79.1	6,423	6,213
30–34	75	72	44	45	58.7	62.5	6,048	5,835
35–39	25	24	17	19	68.0	79.2	2,386	2,478
40–44	5	3	3	2	60.0	66.7	425	439
45 and over	1	—	1	—	100.0	—	12	16
Not stated	1	4	—	4	—	100.0	7	24
Age-specific birth rates—								
15–19(b)	..	..	91.2	79.2	..	..	17.4	18.3
20–24	..	..	139.3	148.7	..	..	60.0	62.0
25–29	..	..	108.7	121.1	..	..	119.3	114.7
30–34	..	..	49.7	50.2	..	..	104.0	103.7
35–39	..	..	25.2	26.7	..	..	41.1	42.1
40–44	..	..	5.7	3.7	..	..	7.8	8.1
45–49(c)	..	..	2.6	—	..	..	0.2	0.3
Total fertility rate	..	..	2.112	2.148	..	..	1.750	1.746
CONFINEMENTS								
Total confinements	549	554	407	420	74.1	75.8	19,053	18,753
Median age of mother	24.4	24.3	23.8	24.0	..	..	29.4	29.4
Median age of father(d)	27.1	27.4	26.4	27.0	..	..	31.9	32.0
Previous births(d)—								
0	224	254	161	180	71.9	70.9	8,754	8,741
1	133	118	86	86	64.7	72.9	6,115	5,994
2	58	67	40	44	69.0	65.7	2,418	2,326
3	32	26	24	23	75.0	88.5	708	652
4 and over	14	18	11	16	78.6	88.9	288	280
Average number of births	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	..	..	1.8	1.8

See footnotes at end of table.

35 BIRTHS OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND ALL CHILDREN(a), WESTERN AUSTRALIA—continued

	Mothers of indigenous children						All children	
	Total		Indigenous mothers				1995r	1996
	1995r	1996	Number		Per cent			
			1995r	1996	1995r	1996		
BIRTHS								
Total births	1,492	1,538	1,225	1,272	82.1	82.7	25,139	24,793
Males	744	815	618	674	83.1	82.7	12,942	12,813
Females	748	723	607	598	81.1	82.7	12,197	11,980
Sex ratio	99.5	112.7	101.8	112.7	..	..	106.1	107.0
Nuptial births	219	229	137	161	62.6	70.3	17,664	17,128
Ex-nuptial births—								
Number	1,273	1,309	1,088	1,111	85.5	84.9	7,475	7,665
Percentage of live births	85.3	85.1	88.8	87.3	..	..	29.7	30.9
Paternity acknowledged births—								
Number	955	1,014	771	816	80.7	80.5	6,304	6,473
Percentage of ex-nuptial births	75.0	77.5	70.9	73.4	..	..	84.3	84.4
Both parents indigenous	660	719	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mother only	565	553	..	..	..	..	..	..
Father only	267	266	..	..	..	..	..	..
Age group of mother (years)—								
14 and under	10	10	10	10	100.0	100.0	12	23
15–19	357	331	308	278	86.3	84.0	1,492	1,402
20–24	537	489	439	411	81.8	84.0	4,886	4,538
25–29	353	413	293	336	83.0	81.4	8,172	8,188
30–34	172	210	130	169	75.6	80.5	7,365	7,279
35–39	61	73	44	60	72.1	82.2	2,790	2,935
40–44	2	10	1	6	50.0	60.0	407	411
45 and over	—	1	—	1	—	100.0	15	15
Not stated	—	1	—	1	—	100.0	—	2
Age-specific birth rates—								
15–19(b)	..	..	124.6	110.9	..	..	24.4	22.8
20–24	..	..	171.5	162.6	..	..	71.7	66.9
25–29	..	..	118.5	132.4	..	..	124.8	120.6
30–34	..	..	61.5	77.8	..	..	104.7	104.7
35–39	..	..	25.2	33.4	..	..	39.8	41.2
40–44	..	..	0.8	4.3	..	..	6.1	6.0
45–49(c)	..	..	—	1.0	..	..	0.3	0.2
Total fertility rate	..	..	2.510	2.612	..	..	1.859	1.812
CONFINEMENTS								
Total confinements	1,478	1,522	1,217	1,256	82.3	82.5	24,791	24,434
Median age of mother	23.4	24.2	23.2	24.0	..	..	28.8	28.9
Median age of father(d)	26.3	27.1	26.0	27.0	..	..	31.5	31.6
Previous births(d)—								
0	579	580	442	449	76.3	77.4	11,285	10,853
1	286	311	217	246	75.9	79.1	7,690	7,860
2	158	179	127	137	80.4	76.5	3,273	3,185
3	77	86	61	67	79.2	77.9	951	952
4 and over	60	75	53	66	88.3	88.0	427	407
Average number of births	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	..	..	1.8	1.8

See footnotes at end of table.

35 BIRTHS OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND ALL CHILDREN(a), NORTHERN TERRITORY—continued

	Mothers of indigenous children						All children	
	Total		Indigenous mothers				1995r	1996
	1995r	1996	Number		Per cent			
			1995r	1996	1995r	1996		
BIRTHS								
Total births	1,354	1,343	1,286	1,251	95.0	93.1	3,766	3,562
Males	681	718	645	675	94.7	94.0	1,960	1,861
Females	673	625	641	576	95.2	92.2	1,806	1,701
Sex ratio	101.2	114.9	100.6	117.2	..	..	108.5	109.4
Nuptial births	71	78	57	56	80.3	71.8	1,613	1,504
Ex-nuptial births—								
Number	1,283	1,265	1,229	1,195	95.8	94.5	2,153	2,058
Percentage of live births	94.8	94.2	95.6	95.5	..	..	57.2	57.8
Paternity acknowledged births—								
Number	669	661	617	591	92.2	89.4	1,384	1,292
Percentage of ex-nuptial births	52.1	52.3	50.2	49.5	..	..	64.3	62.8
Both parents indigenous	575	558	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mother only	711	693	..	..	..	..	..	..
Father only	67	92	..	..	..	..	..	..
Age group of mother (years)—								
14 and under	23	14	23	13	100.0	92.9	23	17
15-19	354	352	345	338	97.5	96.0	496	454
20-24	457	433	435	400	95.2	92.4	976	857
25-29	312	320	296	294	94.9	91.9	1,086	1,052
30-34	151	152	136	141	90.1	92.8	816	784
35-39	52	57	47	50	90.4	87.7	312	348
40-44	3	8	2	8	66.7	100.0	51	42
45 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	2	7	2	7	100.0	100.0	6	8
Age-specific birth rates—								
15-19(b)	..	..	141.8	139.6	..	..	88.0	78.6
20-24	..	..	168.9	151.9	..	..	129.5	118.7
25-29	..	..	129.0	126.2	..	..	124.1	116.9
30-34	..	..	75.3	75.1	..	..	95.9	92.4
35-39	..	..	29.9	31.6	..	..	41.4	44.4
40-44	..	..	1.7	6.4	..	..	7.7	6.2
45-49(c)	..	..	—	—	..	..	—	—
Total fertility rate	..	..	2.733	2.654	..	..	2.433	2.286
CONFINEMENTS								
Total confinements	1,345	1,332	1,277	1,240	94.9	93.1	3,711	3,522
Median age of mother	23.3	23.4	23.2	23.3	..	..	26.8	27.1
Median age of father(d)	26.9	26.5	26.7	26.4	..	..	30.4	30.9
Previous births(d)—								
0	351	322	314	269	89.5	83.5	1,475	1,357
1	182	187	166	164	91.2	87.7	899	828
2	111	117	104	106	93.7	90.6	386	376
3	44	58	40	54	90.9	93.1	123	128
4 and over	46	48	44	47	95.7	97.9	65	75
Average number of births	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	..	..	1.8	1.9

(a) See Explanatory Notes for further details and Glossary for definitions used. (b) Includes births to mothers under 15 years of age. (c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over. (d) Includes both nuptial confinements and ex-nuptial confinements where paternity was acknowledged of the current relationship.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 Registration of births is the responsibility of individual State and Territory Registrars and is based on the data provided on an information form completed by one of the parents. This information form is the basis of the data provided to the ABS, by individual Registrars, for compilation into the aggregate statistics in this publication. There is a high commonality of data items collected across States and Territories and thus statistics at the national level are available for most characteristics. Some States, however collect additional information and this is available on request.

2 In the main, statistics in this publication refer to births registered by the State and Territory Registrars during the calendar year shown. There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth and, as a result of delay in registration, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE SAME YEAR AS THEY OCCURRED

Year	%	Year	%
.....			
1985	89.7	1991	89.7
1986	91.1	1992	90.0
1987	91.2	1993	90.2
1988	91.5	1994	90.1
1989	90.1	1995	89.4
1990	89.7	1996	88.9
.....			

3 To aid comparison of the number of births registered and the number occurring in a particular year, summary statistics on the basis of year of occurrence are presented in table 28.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

4 In the main, statistics for States and Territories have been compiled and presented in respect of the State or Territory of usual residence of the mother. However, in table 27 and table 28 data have been presented on a State or Territory of registration basis. Births which took place outside Australia are excluded from the statistics.

5 As a result of an amendment made in 1992 to section 17 (a) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1973* (Cwlth) the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been included as part of geographic Australia, hence another category of the State and Territory classification has been created. This category is known as 'Other Territories' and includes Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory.

STATES AND TERRITORIES *continued*

Prior to 1993 usual residence data for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included with offshore areas and migratory in Western Australia while usual residence data for Jervis Bay Territory were included with the Australian Capital Territory. In 1994 there were 18 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, 18 to mothers usually resident in Christmas Island and four to mothers usually resident in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

6 This publication includes a section on the number of Indigenous births for South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Data from these States and Territories are generally at least 90% complete, other states have provision for identification of Indigenous births on their birth registration forms, data for these States are currently considered to be significantly underrecorded. Due to the small number of Indigenous births, data for the Australian Capital Territory are highly variable and only the number of Indigenous births are considered of publishable quality.

7 The population used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 1996 are based on preliminary estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations at 30 June 1996 (see Appendix C). These estimates are in turn based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. Fertility rates for the years 1991 and 1995 have been recalculated using population estimates derived from the 1996 Census and mortality data for Indigenous people for those years. The 1996 Census of Population and Housing saw more people identifying themselves as Indigenous than in previous censuses. As a consequence, the revised rates for 1991 to 1995 are much lower than those previously published. These changes to the estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations illustrate that these fertility rates are highly variant.

8 The unrevised rates for 1988 to 1991 used population projections based on the 1991 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

9 Other ABS publications which may be of interest to users include:
Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
Australian Demographic Trends (Cat. no. 3102.0) — issued irregularly
Causes of Death, Australia (Cat. no. 3303.0) — issued annually
Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0) — issued annually

10 A compendium of all demographic data for each State and the Australian Capital Territory has been released in State or Territory specific publications, *Demography* (Cat. nos. 3311.1–8). The first release contained 1990 data. These publications are released each year for each State or Territory and contain a variety of demographic data. The first release for the Northern Territory contained 1993 data.

11 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both are available from any ABS office.

12 For more information about related unpublished statistics or data concepts contact Tim Carlton on Canberra (02) 6252 6627.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

13 In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. Appendix D lists characteristics processed by the ABS for births registered. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information.

APPENDIX A

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES, YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT(b)</i>	<i>Australia(c)</i>
1976	4,960,845	3,811,360	2,091,743	1,274,618	1,178,928	412,449	98,313	207,398	14,035,654
1981	5,237,350	3,949,277	2,344,597	1,318,377	1,301,238	427,122	123,372	227,756	14,929,089
1986	5,533,249	4,161,497	2,623,482	1,382,506	1,457,917	446,495	154,433	258,937	16,018,516
1991	5,899,171	4,420,801	2,962,411	1,446,263	1,636,559	466,721	165,808	288,808	17,286,542
1992	5,958,510	4,450,294	3,034,702	1,457,177	1,657,900	469,641	167,459	294,241	17,489,924
1993	<u>6,001,486</u>	<u>4,465,040</u>	<u>3,117,246</u>	<u>1,463,286</u>	<u>1,677,058</u>	<u>471,522</u>	<u>169,617</u>	<u>298,907</u>	<u>17,664,162</u>
1994	6,049,238	4,475,465	3,196,134	1,469,371	1,701,064	472,464	171,072	300,867	17,838,401
1995	6,112,216	4,501,065	3,277,053	1,473,627	1,731,160	472,998	174,065	304,064	18,049,016
1996 p	6,190,156	4,541,003	3,354,675	1,479,153	1,762,733	473,379	177,722	307,511	18,289,142

(a) For years prior to 1994 details relate to estimated mean resident population for year ended 31 December. For 1994 and later years details relate to the estimated resident population at 30 June. (b) Excludes Jervis Bay Territory from 1 July, 1993. (c) Includes Other Territories from 1 July, 1993. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

APPENDIX B

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, AGE GROUPS, SEX, 30 JUNE

Age group (years)	1976	1981	1986	1991	1994	1995	1996 p
MALES							
Under 1	115,457	117,842	122,376	132,946	131,108	131,349	128,938
1-4	516,841	465,376	496,644	519,356	530,356	530,211	529,645
5-9	655,996	649,103	604,878	652,418	655,429	659,735	665,896
10-14	652,288	672,237	672,202	638,311	654,722	662,145	666,386
15-19	643,699	660,779	688,551	698,773	656,284	651,620	656,804
20-24	592,784	659,839	680,422	707,124	740,128	736,147	722,081
25-29	599,550	622,410	681,757	702,728	680,879	692,898	715,736
30-34	502,792	622,253	635,695	713,784	733,993	727,632	716,142
35-39	433,617	504,178	641,746	664,228	691,065	706,720	723,123
40-44	385,744	427,182	520,117	655,138	656,094	661,653	669,202
45-49	411,312	377,330	433,181	526,498	619,079	637,487	655,076
50-54	393,500	395,549	376,999	433,762	474,887	496,818	520,968
55-59	321,856	370,137	384,834	367,302	395,977	409,248	423,779
60-64	281,141	291,847	351,599	366,779	352,123	349,212	350,638
65-69	218,207	250,145	266,052	320,142	333,955	336,897	336,355
70-74	149,580	176,029	209,344	228,494	262,919	269,491	276,773
75-79	88,772	106,191	132,742	158,993	164,977	170,910	179,662
80-84	43,985	52,056	66,341	84,413	97,651	102,230	106,903
85 and over	24,913	27,784	34,707	44,220	53,111	56,267	60,529
Total	7,032,034	7,448,267	8,000,187	8,615,409	8,884,737	8,988,670	9,104,636
FEMALES							
Under 1	110,899	112,880	116,208	126,139	124,367	124,346	122,338
1-4	494,694	443,520	473,257	493,262	503,316	503,562	502,471
5-9	625,093	620,451	574,610	619,790	623,797	626,500	632,662
10-14	615,827	644,131	639,343	603,308	619,375	628,572	633,721
15-19	617,078	636,266	658,671	665,301	622,558	617,045	621,542
20-24	580,574	642,027	656,287	689,640	713,739	708,717	694,273
25-29	583,738	607,572	666,710	696,935	677,648	687,387	709,746
30-34	472,595	604,689	633,512	711,951	733,853	730,377	720,453
35-39	409,597	484,894	624,946	664,159	695,109	709,221	727,555
40-44	363,594	406,623	494,215	639,133	654,395	663,996	672,182
45-49	384,193	358,334	409,091	502,647	599,084	619,246	640,985
50-54	382,944	379,060	359,852	413,172	451,745	475,734	500,499
55-59	328,312	370,456	370,702	358,648	386,324	396,135	409,308
60-64	304,541	321,296	367,834	370,089	353,294	352,071	351,525
65-69	247,930	286,071	304,099	351,248	356,636	355,525	354,995
70-74	188,866	225,431	263,853	282,261	315,508	322,206	325,682
75-79	141,525	154,420	191,700	225,502	231,270	235,904	246,815
80-84	89,363	102,067	118,684	145,415	164,858	171,269	176,836
85 and over	59,686	74,805	94,589	110,027	126,788	132,533	140,918
Total	7,001,049	7,474,993	8,018,163	8,668,627	8,953,664	9,060,346	9,184,506

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, AGE GROUPS, SEX, 30 JUNE---continued

Age group (years)	1976	1981	1986	1991	1994	1995	1996 p
PERSONS							
Under 1	226,356	230,722	238,584	259,085	255,475	255,695	251,276
1-4	1,011,535	908,896	969,901	1,012,618	1,033,672	1,033,773	1,032,116
5-9	1,281,089	1,269,554	1,179,488	1,272,208	1,279,226	1,286,235	1,298,558
10-14	1,268,115	1,316,368	1,311,545	1,241,619	1,274,097	1,290,717	1,300,107
15-19	1,260,777	1,297,045	1,347,222	1,364,074	1,278,842	1,268,665	1,278,346
20-24	1,173,358	1,301,866	1,336,709	1,396,764	1,453,867	1,444,864	1,416,354
25-29	1,183,288	1,229,982	1,348,467	1,399,663	1,358,527	1,380,285	1,425,482
30-34	975,387	1,226,942	1,269,207	1,425,735	1,467,846	1,458,009	1,436,595
35-39	843,214	989,072	1,266,692	1,328,387	1,386,174	1,415,941	1,450,678
40-44	749,338	833,805	1,014,332	1,294,271	1,310,489	1,325,649	1,341,384
45-49	795,505	735,664	842,272	1,029,145	1,218,163	1,256,733	1,296,061
50-54	776,444	774,609	736,851	846,934	926,632	972,552	1,021,467
55-59	650,168	740,593	755,536	725,950	782,301	805,383	833,087
60-64	585,682	613,143	719,433	736,868	705,417	701,283	702,163
65-69	466,137	536,216	570,151	671,390	690,591	692,422	691,350
70-74	338,446	401,460	473,197	510,755	578,427	591,697	602,455
75-79	230,297	260,611	324,442	384,495	396,247	406,814	426,477
80-84	133,348	154,123	185,025	229,828	262,509	273,499	283,739
85 and over	84,599	102,589	129,296	154,247	179,899	188,800	201,447
Total	14,033,083	14,923,260	16,018,350	17,284,036	17,838,401	18,049,016	18,289,142

APPENDIX C

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1996

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
MALES									
0-4	8,092	1,668	7,628	1,499	3,819	1,027	3,448	238	27,429
5-9	7,498	1,468	7,030	1,498	3,938	1,037	3,397	187	26,062
10-14	6,605	1,318	6,223	1,254	3,260	1,011	2,985	183	22,852
15-19	5,160	1,043	5,064	996	2,668	799	2,649	146	18,542
20-24	4,804	1,008	4,737	981	2,555	604	2,638	157	17,492
25-29	4,150	997	4,136	942	2,380	555	2,309	138	15,614
30-34	3,724	825	3,562	848	2,010	498	1,741	110	13,326
35-39	3,182	757	3,004	666	1,743	469	1,478	115	11,422
40-44	2,631	607	2,369	574	1,258	417	1,175	81	9,118
45-49	2,177	496	1,887	384	969	337	875	51	7,181
50-54	1,566	344	1,275	296	698	216	690	36	5,125
55-59	1,129	243	868	197	513	134	470	18	3,576
60-64	826	161	743	125	367	108	369	5	2,705
65-69	506	124	472	102	305	60	239	7	1,815
70-74	290	80	321	55	161	27	141	1	1,076
75 and over	285	92	371	81	233	32	209	5	1,310
Total	52,625	11,231	49,690	10,498	26,877	7,331	24,813	1,478	184,645
FEMALES									
0-4	7,861	1,585	7,380	1,450	3,607	971	3,145	196	26,205
5-9	7,039	1,485	6,629	1,428	3,703	904	3,019	197	24,414
10-14	6,195	1,203	5,931	1,253	3,261	1,009	2,873	175	21,908
15-19	4,928	1,027	4,970	1,020	2,600	845	2,529	159	18,085
20-24	4,900	1,045	4,851	1,032	2,529	629	2,648	166	17,809
25-29	4,679	1,012	4,566	1,009	2,540	589	2,343	145	16,892
30-34	4,195	915	3,832	905	2,173	530	1,887	128	14,570
35-39	3,549	792	3,221	717	1,797	556	1,589	108	12,335
40-44	2,875	604	2,644	547	1,388	386	1,260	80	9,789
45-49	2,234	497	2,076	412	1,008	313	978	54	7,578
50-54	1,580	308	1,395	290	731	172	712	33	5,225
55-59	1,193	249	1,049	223	537	144	546	13	3,955
60-64	912	203	784	166	446	94	484	5	3,095
65-69	669	182	598	132	360	69	285	5	2,301
70-74	375	91	400	66	217	51	197	5	1,403
75 and over	485	145	488	123	281	58	258	5	1,843
Total	53,669	11,343	50,814	10,773	27,178	7,320	24,753	1,474	187,407
PERSONS									
0-4	15,953	3,253	15,008	2,949	7,426	1,998	6,593	434	53,634
5-9	14,537	2,953	13,659	2,926	7,641	1,941	6,416	384	50,476
10-14	12,800	2,521	12,154	2,507	6,521	2,020	5,858	358	44,760
15-19	10,088	2,070	10,034	2,016	5,268	1,644	5,178	305	36,627
20-24	9,704	2,053	9,588	2,013	5,084	1,233	5,286	323	35,301
25-29	8,829	2,009	8,702	1,951	4,920	1,144	4,652	283	32,506
30-34	7,919	1,740	7,394	1,753	4,183	1,028	3,628	238	27,896
35-39	6,731	1,549	6,225	1,383	3,540	1,025	3,067	223	23,757
40-44	5,506	1,211	5,013	1,121	2,646	803	2,435	161	18,907
45-49	4,411	993	3,963	796	1,977	650	1,853	105	14,759
50-54	3,146	652	2,670	586	1,429	388	1,402	69	10,350
55-59	2,322	492	1,917	420	1,050	278	1,016	31	7,531
60-64	1,738	364	1,527	291	813	202	853	10	5,800
65-69	1,175	306	1,070	234	665	129	524	12	4,116
70-74	665	171	721	121	378	78	338	6	2,479
75 and over	770	237	859	204	514	90	467	10	3,153
Total	106,294	22,574	100,504	21,271	54,055	14,651	49,566	2,952	372,052

(a) Includes Other Territories.

APPENDIX **D**

CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE FOR REGISTERED BIRTHS

Date of registration
State of registration
Date of birth
Sex of child
Nuptiality
Plurality
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (only available for some States)
Mother's age
Usual residence of mother
Birthplace of mother
Father's age
Birthplace of father
Previous children (only available for some States)
Previous children of the current marriage
Duration of marriage

GLOSSARY

Age-specific birth rate	Age-specific birth rates are the number of live births registered during the calendar year, according to age of mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age as estimated for 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 are included in the 15–19 age group, and births to mothers aged 50 and over are included in the 45–49 age group. Pro rata adjustment is made in respect of births for which age of mother is not given.
Birth interval	Birth interval refers to the interval between two live births. It is usually estimated by subtracting a later birth date from the immediately preceding birth date. The interval between marriage and the first birth is known as the first birth interval, that between the first birth and the second as the second birth interval, that between the second and third births as the third birth interval and so on. A birth interval can be open or closed. An open birth interval is that period following the birth of the last child before the interval is closed by the birth of another child.
Birth order	Birth order refers to the numerical ordering of the total number of children born alive to a woman, including the present child. The first birth order refers to the first birth, the second birth order to the second birth, the third birth order to the third birth and so on.
Birth order-specific birth rates	This refers to birth rates calculated for each order of birth rather than for all births or for the current birth only. These rates make it possible to examine the level of fertility at each birth order and the relative contribution of fertility at each birth order to the total fertility rate.
Births	The delivery of a child, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, who after being born, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as a heartbeat.
Completed fertility	The completed fertility rate represents the average number of births a cohort of women have borne. It is obtained by summing the age-specific birth rates experienced by that cohort of women over their reproductive lives.
Confinements	A pregnancy which results in at least one birth.
Country of birth	<p>The classification of countries in this publication is the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication <i>Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics</i> (ASCCSS) (Cat. no. 1269.0).</p> <p>Recent political developments in Europe and the former USSR have resulted in a number of changes to the ASCCSS. These changes have affected some of the categories in this publication and are detailed in Revision 1.03 of the ASCCSS.</p>
Crude birth rates	The crude birth rate is the number of live births registered during the calendar year, per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1994, the crude birth rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year.

Estimated resident population Estimated resident population data are quarterly estimates of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For the States and Territories, account is also taken of estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence. After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional quarterly adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two respective census dates.

Estimates of the resident population are based on adjusted (for underenumeration) census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the census.

The concept of estimated resident population links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in a reference year.

Birth rates shown in this publication for the years since 1976 are calculated using estimates of resident population. A description of the conceptual basis of the estimated resident population is contained in Information Paper: *Population Estimates—Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0). Revised population estimates are shown in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0) (issued quarterly).

Indigenous Persons who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Indigenous birth The birth of a child where either the mother or the father has identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration forms.

Marital status Two separate concepts are measured by the ABS. These are registered marital status and social marital status. They are different personal characteristics and are independent variables with separate classifications. Marital status in this publication is registered marital status which refers to formally registered marriages for which the partners hold a marriage certificate.

Median age at childbearing The term refers to the age when approximately one-half of the women in a population have their children, either for a particular birth order or for all birth orders. It measures the age at childbearing within the broad female population, as distinct from the median age of mother at confinement which measures the median age of the women who gave birth in a particular year.

Median value The median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculations.

Multiple birth A multiple birth is a confinement which results in two or more issues, at least one of which is live born.

Net reproduction rate The net reproduction rate makes allowance for all women not surviving until the end of the reproductive period. It represents the average number of daughters born to a group of women who are subject to the fertility rates of that year and to the mortality rates of the life table. It indicates the extent to which the population would reproduce itself. The net reproduction rate is obtained by multiplying the

	female age-specific birth rates by the proportion of survivors at corresponding ages in a life table and adding the products.
Nuptial first confinement	A nuptial first confinement is the first confinement in the current marriage and therefore does not necessarily represent the woman's first ever confinement resulting in a live birth.
Nuptiality	Nuptiality relates to the relative marital status of parents. Confinements and births are identified as being nuptial where the father registered was married to the mother at the time of birth, or where the husband died during pregnancy. Confinements and children of Indigenous mothers considered to be tribally married are classified as nuptial. Other confinements, and the children resulting from them, are classified as ex-nuptial whether or not both parents were living together at the time of birth, and whether or not the child may subsequently have been legitimised or adopted.
Parity progression ratios	Parity progression ratios show the proportion of women progressing from one level of parity to the next level of parity. It is obtained by dividing a birth order-specific rate by the previous birth order-specific rate.
Paternity-acknowledged births	A paternity-acknowledged birth refers to ex-nuptial births where paternity was acknowledged by the child's father.
Previous births	<p>Previous births refer to children born alive (who may be still living or now dead) to a mother prior to the registration of the current birth in the processing period. In some States, legitimised and legally adopted children may also be included.</p> <p>Due to variation in data collection and processing methods across States and Territories, different definitions of the concept of previous births have been applied throughout this publication.</p> <p>All previous births of the mother includes all births prior to the current confinement, regardless of nuptiality and paternity.</p> <p>Previous births of the current relationship where paternity was acknowledged includes all births prior to the current confinement where the current confinement relates to a nuptial birth, or an ex-nuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged. In regard to Indigenous births, this information provides a more meaningful indication of previous issue than previous births of the current marriage.</p>
Previous issue	See Previous births.
Replacement fertility	Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a woman would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of women up to age 49, replacement fertility is 2.1.
Sex ratio	The sex ratio of births relates to the number of male births per 100 female births.
State or Territory of registration	State or Territory of registration refers to the State or Territory in which the birth was registered.

State or Territory of usual residence	State or Territory of usual residence refers to the State or Territory of usual residence of the population in estimated resident population and the State or Territory of usual residence of the mother at confinement.
Total fertility rate	The total fertility rate represents the number of children one woman would bear if the age-specific birth rates of the year shown continued during her childbearing lifetime. It is obtained by summing the five-year age-specific birth rates and multiplying by five.
Year of occurrence	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the birth occurred.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the birth was registered.

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