

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30am, 10 APRIL 1995

The Population Survey Monitor is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia. Results are available to clients within six weeks of the completion of interviewing. This publication only contains a small portion of the available information.

THIS QUARTER'S TOPICS

- **Sport and Recreation**
This dataset contains information on the sporting and recreation activities of Australians. Activities include organised and social sport, and selected physical activities. Data on gambling activities, attendance and watching/listening to sporting events were also collected as was sporting activities of children 5-14 years.
- **Consumer Expectations**
This is an experimental dataset which contains data on the anticipated consumption by households of major items in the June quarter.
- **Books**
This dataset contains information on the reading of various forms of written material and the purchasing and borrowing habits of people aged 18 years and over.
- **Health Issues**
This dataset contains information about a number of health issues, including the incidence of smoking, exercising, alcohol consumption and other health issues for persons aged 18 years and over. The dataset contains more detailed information on wine consumption such as the drinking of bottled or cask wine.
- **Asthma Incidence**
This dataset contains information about the incidence of asthma and the number of days spent hospitalised and away from work for persons aged 18 years and over.
- **Crime- Ranking of Offence Seriousness**
This dataset contains information about attitudes of people aged 18 years and over towards various criminal offences, particularly people's perceptions of the relative seriousness of selected crimes.
- **Botanical Gardens Usage**
This dataset contains information on the usage of botanical gardens around Australia, the number of persons attending, reasons for visit(s) and the amount of money spent.
- **Work Related Health Problems**
This dataset contains information about the number of days absent from work due to a health problem and whether it was work related, the industry in which the health problem occurred and impact on employment for persons aged 18 years and over.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these statistics, contact Theo Neumann on (08) 237 7303

THIS QUARTER'S KEY POINTS

- Sport and recreation**
- 11.8% of females aged 18 years and over participated in either aerobics or callisthenics in the 2 weeks prior to survey and 7.6% of males aged 18 years and over played a game of golf.
 - 78.1% of children aged 5-14 years regularly take part in sporting activities during school hours and 10.9% took part in a school sporting activity after school hours in the last two weeks.
- Consumer expectations**
- 39.5% of households indicated that they intend to purchase a major item in the June quarter.
 - 13.1% of households indicated that they intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 in the next quarter, and 9.5% intend to pay for home alterations or additions worth more than \$500.
- Books**
- 87.9% of males and 82.4% of females aged 18 years and over read a newspaper in the last week and 46.8% of males and 57.8% of females aged 18 years and over read a book in the last week.
- Health issues**
- 26.4% of males and 24.5% of females aged 18 years and over currently smoke. The highest percentage of male smokers was in the 25-34 age group (34.3%) and for females was in the 18-24 age group (34.5%).
 - 67.3% of males and 48.0% of females consumed an alcoholic drink in the last week.
 - 25.7% of persons aged 18 years and over consumed some sort of wine in the last week. 17.2% of people indicated that they drank wine mainly with a meal.
- Asthma Incidence**
- 16.6% of persons 18 years and over indicated that they had been told by a doctor or a hospital that they suffer from asthma.
- Work Related Health Problems**
- 9.9% of employed persons stayed away from work for all or most of a day in the last two weeks because of health problems.
- Botanical Gardens usage**
- 40.2% of persons aged 18 and over have visited at least one botanical garden in the last 12 months.
 - The highest attendance rates for females was in the 25-34 year age group where 51.5% of females attended. The highest attendance rates for males was in the 55-64 year group where 46.3% attended.

Estimates of standard errors for the tables contained in this publication are given on page 6.

Peter Gardner
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
South Australia

TABLE 1: PERSONS AGED 18 AND OVER: PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTING, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1995.

Activity	Males		Females		Total	
	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent
Aerobics/calisthenics	421	6.7	767	11.8	1188	9.3
Sailing	138	2.2	65	1.0	203	1.6
Cricket - outdoor	119	1.9	*	*	n.a	n.a
Cycling, BMX, Mountain Bike	383	6.1	231	3.5	614	4.8
Golf	477	7.6	65	1.0	541	4.2
Lawn bowls	137	2.2	123	1.9	260	2.0
Horse riding	*	*	112	1.7	n.a	n.a
Tennis	221	3.5	258	4.0	479	3.7
Fishing	506	8.0	92	1.4	598	4.7

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

n.a not available

TABLE 2: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: WHETHER VISITED A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1995.

	AGE (years)						Total (<i>'000's</i>)
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
<i>Botanic gardens visited</i>	MALES (Per cent)						
Yes	43.3	42.5	38.4	43.0	46.3	22.0	39.5
No	56.7	57.5	61.6	57.0	53.7	78.0	60.5
	FEMALES (Per cent)						
Yes	43.0	51.5	41.9	41.7	36.6	26.7	41.0
No	57.0	48.5	58.1	58.3	63.4	73.3	59.0
	PERSONS (Per cent)						
Yes	43.2	47.1	40.2	42.3	41.5	24.6	40.2
No	56.8	52.9	59.8	57.7	58.5	75.4	59.8

TABLE 3: HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO PURCHASE IN JUNE 1995 QUARTER: ITEM TO BE PURCHASED, FEBRUARY 1995.

Item	('000's)	Per cent
A brand new car	89	1.4
A secondhand car	402	6.2
Household item worth more than \$200	1279	19.8
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	613	9.5
Landscaping worth more than \$500	288	4.5
A holiday worth more than \$500	845	13.1
A personal computer	209	3.2
Any other item worth more than \$500	168	2.6
Total households intending to purchase	2556	39.5
<i>Total (Households)*</i>	<i>6468</i>	

* The total is larger than the number of households as many households intend to purchase

TABLE 4: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: HEALTH ISSUES BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1995.

	AGE (years)						Total (<i>'000's</i>)	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
MALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	74.8	64.7	64.7	60.5	77.6	52.0	65.2	4104
Currently smoke	31.4	34.3	31.0	22.4	18.2	13.3	26.4	1658
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	70.5	70.5	66.0	70.5	64.5	59.0	67.3	4233
Total (<i>'000's</i>)	945	1347	1309	1090	731	869	6291	6291
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	77.1	72.4	64.1	76.1	64.6	49.0	67.3	4385
Currently smoke	34.5	29.6	27.4	23.0	13.1	14.7	24.5	1597
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	48.3	51.5	49.8	52.1	48.7	36.2	48.0	3127
Total (<i>'000's</i>)	934	1383	1343	1062	722	1076	6520	6520

TABLE 5: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: READING HABITS IN THE LAST WEEK BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1995.

	AGE (years)						Total (<i>'000's</i>)	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
MALES (Per cent)								
<i>Literature read</i>								
Books	50.9	54.2	44.7	40.9	42.7	44.7	46.8	2943
Magazines	72.3	73.7	68.1	52.7	52.2	45.9	62.3	3922
Newspapers	85.5	88.4	88.1	87.4	94.8	84.4	87.9	5531
Journals	9.1	29.7	27.6	28.8	25.7	20.3	24.2	1525
Other	3.6	7.1	7.3	6.8	8.1	2.7	6.1	381
None	2.4	0.2	2.8	6.3	1.0	8.0	3.3	209
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Books	57.2	61.9	61.1	55.1	55.5	53.2	57.8	3770
Magazines	80.4	78.4	76.0	75.7	73.2	65.9	75.1	4898
Newspapers	79.9	84.1	83.4	85.8	81.1	78.4	82.4	5370
Journals	8.9	16.6	17.4	21.9	18.5	8.9	15.5	1007
Other	6.1	3.3	5.4	4.3	2.8	0.7	3.8	248
None	1.8	2.0	0.7	3.7	3.1	4.5	2.5	163

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Introduction** The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia of approximately 2000 households. The PSM has been introduced to meet the needs of government agencies and non profit organisations. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to include the topic of their choice. Each survey asks a set of core questions of each usual resident aged 15 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic can be asked of a randomly selected person or a particular person within the selected household.
- Scope/Coverage** The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia except sparsely settled areas. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded. All usual residents in private households are included in the PSM.
- Sample size** For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 2,700 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is considered sufficient to provide:
- detailed information for Australia;
 - relatively detailed data for capital city/ urban/ rural areas for Australia;
- at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability after allowing for sample loss through factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope etc.
- Expected Sample Distribution** Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| New South Wales | 482 |
| Victoria | 416 |
| Queensland | 340 |
| South Australia | 241 |
| Western Australia | 254 |
| Tasmania | 136 |
| Northern Territory | 44 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 87 |
| Total | 2000 |
- Data Collection** Information is obtained in the PSM by face to face interviews with adult members of selected households. Interviewers for the PSM are obtained from a panel of trained interviewers who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys. The willing co-operation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage respondent co-operation and maximise response include:
- Advice to selected households by letter, accompanied by an information brochure, explaining that their dwelling has been selected for the survey, the purposes of the survey, its official nature and the confidentiality of the information collected.
 - Through call-backs and follow-up at selected dwellings every effort is made to contact the occupants of each selected dwelling and to conduct the survey in those dwellings.

Estimation Procedures

Estimates obtained from the survey are derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure that ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age, sex and area (rather than to the age-sex-area distribution within the sample itself). The estimation procedure is designed to adjust estimates in such a way as to reduce any non-response bias by adjusting the weights of responding persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into responding person's records to enable the data provided by these persons to be expanded to provide estimates relating to the whole population within the scope of the survey.

Reliability of estimates

The two types of error possible in an estimate based on a sample survey are:

- Non sampling error which arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: misreporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; non-response; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise these errors by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures.
- Sampling error which occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all establishments in the survey is given by the standard error, see below.

Standard Errors

There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all in-scope units had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution in interpreting these statistics. Users interested in obtaining further information should contact the number shown in the Inquiries box on page 1 of this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ALL PUBLICATION TABLES

Size of estimate (^{'000's})	Standard Error (^{'000's})
100	23
200	31
500	45
800	56
1000	59
2000	76
5000	105

Example using the standard error table

Table 4 on Page 4 shows that the estimated percentage of males aged between 25 and 34 who consumed an alcoholic drink last week was 70.5%. This represents about 950,000 males. The standard error table above shows that the standard error on an estimate of this size is approximately 59,000. This means that there are two chances in three that the true figure is in the range 891,000 to 1,009,000 and nineteen chances in twenty that the true figure is in the range 832,000 to 1,068,000.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS - CORE DATA ITEMS

Age	Age is the age of the person at their last birthday.
Birthplace	A person's birthplace is the country where the person was born.
Dependents	All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15 to 19 attending school or aged 15 to 24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time, except those classified as husbands, wives, sole parents or other family heads.
Dwelling structure	This classifies the type of structure of the private dwellings selected in the survey. The information is recorded by the interviewer. A dwelling is classified as one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate house • Semi-detached/ row or terrace house/ town house • Other flat/ unit / apartment • Other dwelling structure
Employed	Persons 15 and over who, during the reference week: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business or on a farm; or b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were on leave; or d) were employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Household	A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, ie at other times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of family and non-family members.
Income	Income is the gross annual income before tax and superannuation are deducted. This includes such things as family allowance, pensions, unemployment benefits, student allowances, wages, salary, overtime, dividends, rents received, interest received, business or farm income and workers compensation expenses.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
Marital status	Persons are classified as married if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey.
Nature of occupancy	Households are classified as renting, purchasing or owning the private dwelling in which they live.
Not in the labour force	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily out of the workforce, studying, recovering from illness or injury, caring for an aged/ill/disabled person, or doing unpaid voluntary work.
Occupation	Classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) 1986 (ABS Catalogue No. 1222.0).
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 and over who were not employed during the reference week, and had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the last four weeks up to the end of the reference period and were available to work in the reference week.

May 1995 Survey

- Topics to be included
- Sport and recreation participation
 - Consumer expectations
 - Health risk factors
 - Health index
 - Botanical gardens
 - Education and training
 - Wine consumption
 - Army awareness
 - Energy (NSW only)
 - Employment conditions (Vic only)
 - Conservation (Vic only)
 - Smoke detectors (Vic only)

Key dates

Closing dates for topics 10 Apr 1995
Interviewing commences 22 May 1995.
Standard output available 10 July 1995.

August 1995 Survey

- Topics to be included
- Sport and recreation participation
 - Consumer expectations

Key dates

Closing dates for topics 10 July 1995
Interviewing commences 21 August 1995.
Standard output available 9 October 1995.

Space is still available for topics on the August 1995 survey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PSM please contact:

John Palmer, Project Director, on (08) 237 7312
or
Theo Neumann, Senior Consultant, on (08) 237 7303
Fax: (08) 237 7376

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GPO BOX 2272
ADELAIDE SA 5001

