

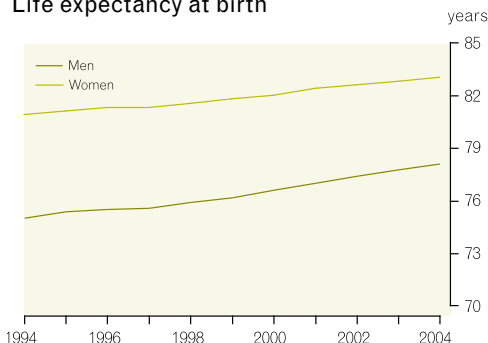
Measures of Australia's Progress At a Glance 2006



Individuals

Health

Life expectancy at birth

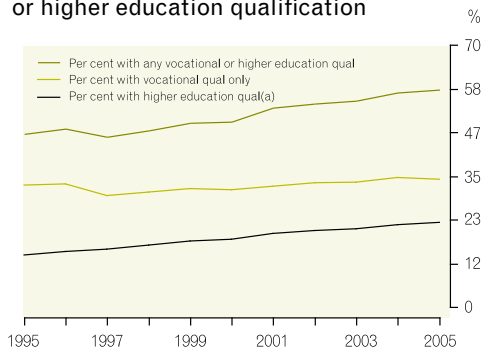


Source: *Deaths, Australia, 2004, cat. no. 3302.0.*

- Between 1994 and 2004, Australian life expectancy at birth increased by 3 years for boys and 2 years for girls.
- A boy born in 2004 could expect to live to be 78, while a girl could expect to reach 83 years of age.

Education and training

People aged 25–64 with a vocational or higher education qualification



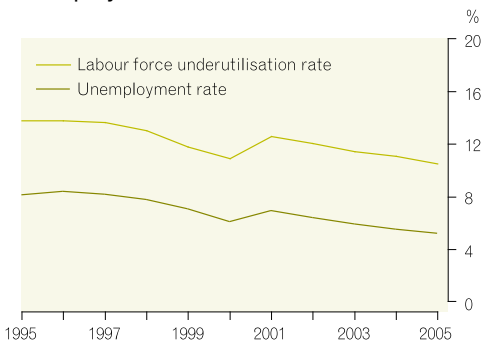
(a) As the data are based on people's level of highest non-school qualification, some of these people may also have a vocational qualification.

Source: *Survey of Education and Work, Australia, 2005, cat. no. 6227.0.*

- The proportion of 25–64 year olds with a vocational or higher education qualification increased from 46% in 1995 to 58% in 2005.
- The proportion of people with a higher education qualification increased from 14% to 23%, while the proportion of people whose highest qualification was a vocational qualification was similar to a decade earlier (34%).

Work

Unemployment and labour force underutilisation rates



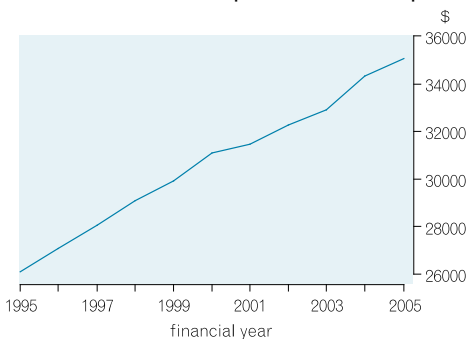
Source: Australia Labour Market Statistics, April 2006, cat. no. 6105.0.

- Australia's annual average unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% in 1995 to 5.1% in 2005.
- The labour force underutilisation rate fell from 13.8% to 10.5% over the same decade.

The Economy and Economic Resources

National income

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)



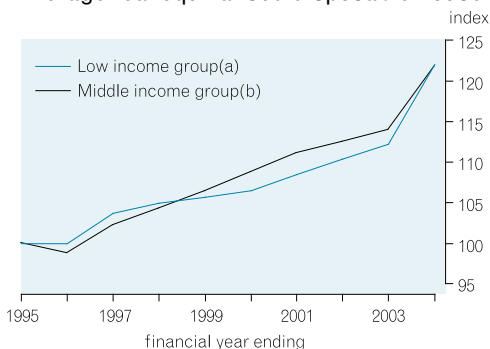
(a) Reference year 2003–04.

Source: Australian System of National Accounts, 2004–2005, cat. no. 5204.0.

- Australia experienced significant real income growth between 1994–95 and 2004–05. Real net national disposable income per capita grew by 3.0% a year, which was appreciably faster than during the preceding 20 year period.

Economic hardship

Average real equivalised disposable household income



- (a) People in the 2nd and 3rd income deciles from the bottom of the distribution when all people are ranked, from lowest to highest, by their equivalised disposable household income.
- (b) People in the middle income quintile (5th and 6th deciles) after being ranked, from lowest to highest, by their equivalised disposable household income.

Source: *Household Income and Distribution, Australia, 2003–04*, cat.no. 6523.0.

- People in economic hardship are more likely to have low income and low wealth. This can impact on their ability to access a minimum standard of goods and services.
- From 1994–95 to 2003–04, there has been a continuing upward trend in the real income of low income Australians.

National wealth

Real national net worth per capita(a)



- (a) Reference year 2003–04.

Source: *Australian System of National Accounts 2004–2005*, cat. no. 5204.0.

- 'Real national net worth per capita' shows the amount by which Australia's assets exceed its liabilities to the rest of the world, adjusted to remove the effects of price change.
- Australia's real net worth per capita rose at an average annual rate of 0.9% between June 1995 and June 2005.

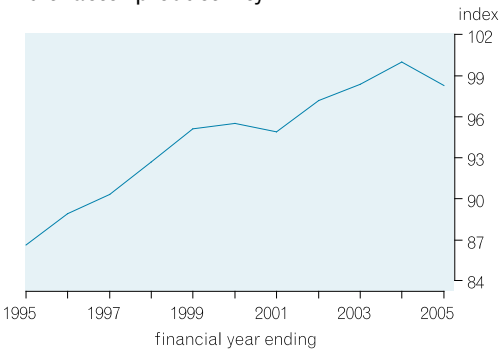
Housing: No headline indicator

- Housing in Australia is generally good, and while Australians are continuing to invest significantly in the homes that they own, there is no one indicator that succinctly captures whether people's many needs and desires for suitable housing are being met.
- Taking just one aspect as an example – in 2003–04, 5% of private dwellings across Australia required an extra bedroom to accommodate the residents of those dwellings, but 69% had one or more bedrooms spare.

Source: *Survey of Income and Housing Australia, 2003–04*, data available on request.

Productivity

Multifactor productivity



Source: *Australian System of National Accounts 2004–2005*, cat. no. 5204.0.

- 'Multifactor productivity' represents productivity growth (improvement), which occurs when increases in goods and services (outputs) exceed what can be accounted for by increases in labour, capital or other inputs.
- During the decade 1994–95 to 2004–05, multifactor productivity rose 1.3% per year on average.

Living Together

Family, community and social cohesion:

No headline indicator

- The quality and strength of people's relationships and bonds with others contribute to social cohesion, but there is no one indicator that captures all that might be important.
- Over recent decades there have been extensive changes in the way families are structured and function. While couple families are the most common family type, there have been increases in the proportions of one parent families over recent decades. One parent families with dependent children have increased from 7% of families in 1976 to 11% in 2001.

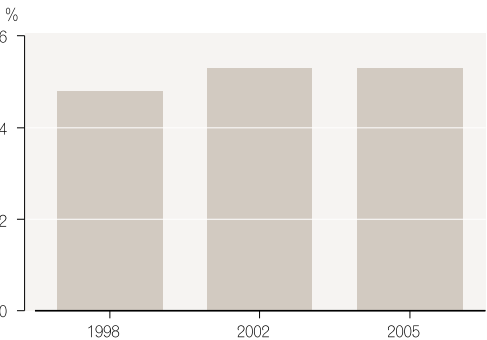
Source: *Censuses of Population and Housing, 1976 and 2001, cat. no. 2032.0.*

- Between 1995 and 2002, there was an increase from 24% to 34% in the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who did some voluntary work during the previous 12 months.

Source: *Voluntary Work Australia, 2000, cat.no. 4441.0 and General Social Survey, 2002, cat. no. 4159.0.*

Crime: Two headline indicators

Victims of personal crimes(a)

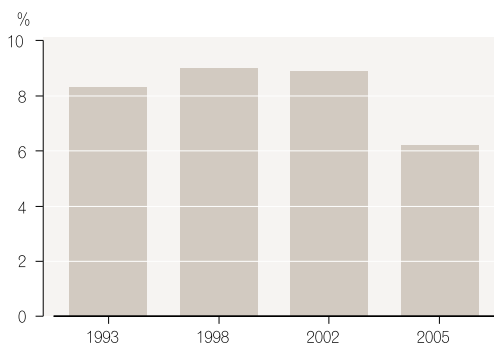


(a) Assault and robbery among people aged 15 and over.
Sexual assault among people aged 18 and over.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia, 2005, cat. no. 4509.0.*

- Though small, the changes in the victimisation prevalence rates for personal crimes between 1998 and 2005 showed an increase from 4.8% to 5.3%, the same level as in 2002.

Victims of household crimes(a)



(a) Actual or attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 4509.0.

- Between 1993 and 2005, the proportion of households that were the victim of a household crime fell from 8.3% to 6.2%, after remaining at about 9% in 1998 and 2002.

Democracy, governance and citizenship:

No headline indicator

- A healthy democracy needs citizens who take part in shaping the common agenda of a society. In Australia, voting is compulsory and in 2005 the vast majority of eligible citizens were enrolled to vote.

Source: *Australian Electoral Commission 2005, Annual Report 2004–05*.

- Between 1993 and 2004, the number of candidates standing for election at Australian federal elections increased. Over 1,400 candidates stood for election at the 2004 federal parliamentary election, compared with 1,200 in 1993.

Source: *Australian Electoral Commission 2005, Behind the scenes, AEC Federal Election Report 2004*.

Is life in Australia getting better?


This brochure provides a summary of 14 headline dimensions which encapsulate major features of Australian life.

If you would like to find out more about whether life in Australia is getting better, discover the wealth of information in the full publication *Measures of Australia's Progress 2006* (cat. no. 1370.0).

The publication looks at headline dimensions in more detail, and presents a whole suite of several hundred indicators, designed to allow Australians to make their own assessment of whether life is getting better in Australia.

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An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of numerous thin, light blue lines radiating from a central point near the bottom edge. Interspersed among these lines are several small circles in shades of blue and white, some of which are connected to the lines by short segments.

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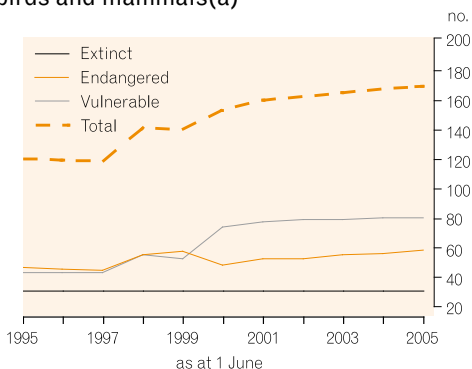
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The Environment

The natural landscape: Four headline indicators

Biodiversity: Extinct, endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals(a)

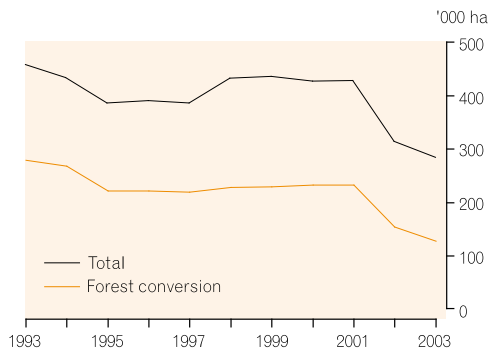


(a) Excludes seabirds, marine mammals and animals living on islands far offshore.

Source: *National List of Threatened Fauna*, The Department of Environment and Heritage, 2005.

- Although the numbers of extinct, endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals are only a small part of the overall biological diversity in Australia, a decline in these groups threatens ecological processes and can point to a wider decline in biodiversity.
- Between 1995 and 2005 the number of terrestrial bird and mammal species assessed as extinct, endangered or vulnerable rose from 120 to 169, an increase of 41%.

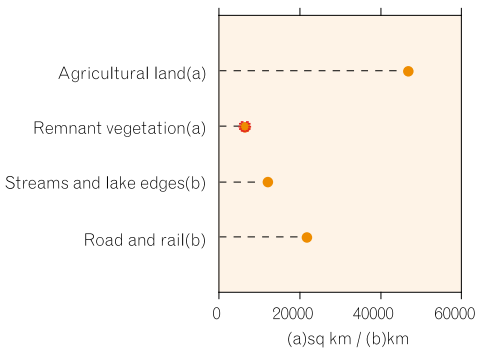
Biodiversity: Annual area of land cleared



Source: *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2003*, Australian Greenhouse Office.

- Land clearing destroys plants and local ecosystems and removes the food and habitat on which other native species rely, as well it diminishes the cultural, aesthetic and recreational aspects of native bushland that many Australians consider important.
- Between 1993 and 2003, the rate of land clearing declined. The estimated 283,000 ha of land cleared in 2003 was about 38% less than that cleared in 1993.

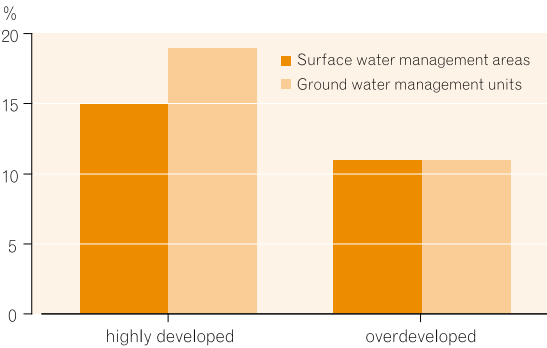
Land: Assets affected by, or at risk from, salinity – 2000



Source: Australian Dryland Salinity Assessment 2000, National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001.

- Salinity occurs when the water table rises, bringing natural salts to the surface which, in sufficient quantity, are toxic to most plants. Salinity can also impact adversely on structures, as well as flora and fauna.
- In 2000, about 46,500 sq kms of agricultural land, as well as 1,600 kms of rail and 19,900 kms of roads, were assessed as having a high salinity hazard or as being in an area at high risk from shallow water tables.

Inland waters: Highly developed and overdeveloped water sources – 2000(a)



(a) A highly developed water source is one where 70%–100% of the sustainable yield of water is extracted. An overdeveloped water source is one where more than 100% of the sustainable yield is extracted.

Source: Australian Water Resources Assessment 2000, National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001.

- Much of our economy (agriculture in particular) relies on water, so the condition of freshwater ecosystems has a critical impact on the wider environment.
- In 2000, about 11% of Australia's water management areas and units were classed as overdeveloped. A further 19% of ground water management units and 15% of surface water management areas were classed as highly developed.

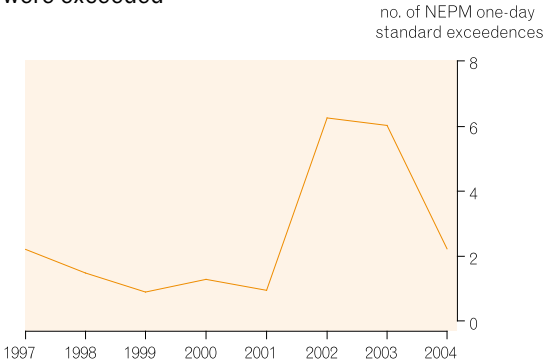
Oceans and estuaries: No headline indicator

- The marine environment is important to Australian society and the economy and although this dimension has no headline indicator, it has important aspects which different organisations have attempted to measure.
- One such attempt in 2002, The Estuarine Condition Index developed by the National Land and Water Resources Audit, assessed that half of the 979 estuaries audited were in near-pristine condition. Less than one tenth of the estuaries audited were assessed as extensively modified.

Source: National Land and Water Resources Audit 2002, Catchment, River and Estuary Condition in Australia.

The air and atmosphere: Two headline indicators

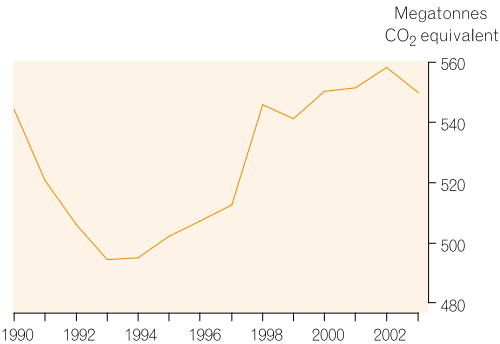
Urban air quality, days fine particle health standards were exceeded



Source: State environmental protection agencies, 2006.

- The headline indicator measures the number of days when fine particle (PM10) concentrations in the air exceeded the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) standard.
- The sharp increase after 2001 was mainly due to forest fires and dust storms around the Sydney and Melbourne areas, which masked the contribution from longer trend sources, such as car exhausts.

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions



Source: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2003, Australian Greenhouse Office.

- Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions in 2003 totalled about 550 megatonnes (Mt) CO₂ equivalent, an increase of 1.1% since 1990.

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