



2008

3301.0

BIRTHS

AUSTRALIA

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Abdul Hakim on Canberra (02) 6252 6522.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication brings together statistics for live births and fertility in Australia. Data refer to births registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated.

Populations used in the calculation of fertility rates for 2006 and earlier years are the final estimated resident population by age and sex based on results of the *2006 Census of Population and Housing* (2006 Census) and earlier censuses. Fertility rates for 2007 use revised 30 June 2007 estimated resident population while rates for 2008 use preliminary 30 June 2008 estimated resident population.

State or territory relates to the state or territory of usual residence, unless otherwise stated.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Fertility rates for 2007 have been revised using revised 30 June 2007 estimated resident population.

ROUNDING

Calculations as shown in the commentary sections of this publication are based on unrounded figures. Calculations using rounded figures may differ from those published.

It is recommended that when using information presented in this publication, the relevant statistics be rounded. All data are affected by errors in reporting and processing. Birth registration data are also affected by delays in registration.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where necessary, tables have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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RELATED DATA CUBES AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS WEBSITE

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(cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASFR	age-specific fertility rate
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
Aust.	Australia
Bal	Balance
ERP	estimated resident population
LGA	local government area
no.	number
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NPDC	National Perinatal Data Collection
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
Tas.	Tasmania
TFR	total fertility rate
UN	United Nations
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

CHAPTER 1

MAIN FEATURES

INCREASES IN FERTILITY RATES

- Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2008 was 1.97 babies per woman, up from 1.92 babies per woman in 2007 and the highest since 1977 (2.01).
- The increase in the TFR between 2007 and 2008 was largely due to births to women aged 30 to 39 years, who accounted for 55% of the increase.
- Fertility rates increased for all age groups of women between 2007 and 2008, except for women aged 45–49 years for whom the fertility rate remained the same.
- Women aged 30–34 years experienced the highest fertility rate of all age groups in 2008, with 127.8 babies per 1,000 women. This was the highest rate recorded for women aged 30–34 years since 1961.
- Women aged 25–29 years continued to record the second highest fertility rate of all age groups, with 105.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2008.
- The fertility rate for women aged 35–39 years continued to increase, reaching 70.9 babies per 1,000 women in 2008. This was the highest rate for women aged 35–39 years since 1948.
- The fertility rate for women aged 20–24 years increased to 57.1 babies per 1,000 women in 2008. This was the second time that the fertility rate for women aged 20–24 years has increased since 1990, the first being in 2007.
- At the national level, the teenage fertility rate in 2008 was 17.3 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, slightly higher than in 2007 (16.0 babies per 1,000 women).

HIGHEST NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED

- In 2008 there were 296,600 births registered in Australia, 11,400 (4.0%) more than in 2007. This was the highest number of births ever registered in a calendar year in Australia.

MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

- The median age of all mothers of births registered in 2008 was 30.7 years, while the median age of all fathers was 33.1 years.

NUPTIALITY

- In 2008, 66% of births were to parents in a registered marriage, compared to 81% in 1988.
- The proportion of births to parents outside registered marriages has increased steadily since 1975. In 2008, 34% of all births registered were to parents who were not in a registered marriage, compared to 19% in 1988.
- The proportion of births where the father has not acknowledged the birth (by not signing the birth registration form) has decreased from 5% in 1988 to 3% in 2008.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

- Total fertility rates for all states and territories increased in 2008, except for Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory where TFRs were similar to 2007, and the Northern Territory where the TFR was slightly lower.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

continued

- Tasmania recorded the highest TFR in 2008 (2.24 babies per woman), slightly higher than that of the Northern Territory (2.22 babies per woman).
- Tasmania's TFR in 2008 was the highest for this state since 1974.
- Western Australia (2.12) and Queensland (2.10) recorded the third and fourth highest TFRs of the states and territories.
- Western Australia's TFR was the highest for this state since 1976, while Queensland's was the highest since 1977.
- Women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility rates of all age groups in all states and territories in 2008, with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest fertility rates.
- The number of births in 2008 was higher than in 2007 for all states and territories, with Western Australia and New South Wales recording the largest proportional increases (9.2% and 5.8% respectively).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS AND
FERTILITY RATES

- There were 15,000 births registered in Australia during 2008 (5% of all births) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement.
- In 2008 the TFR for Indigenous women increased to 2.52 babies per woman, from 2.40 babies per woman in 2007.
- High fertility rates at younger ages contribute to the relatively high overall fertility rate of Indigenous women. In 2008, women under 30 years of age accounted for 70% of the total fertility rate for Indigenous women, compared to 46% of the total fertility rate for all women in Australia.

INTRODUCTION

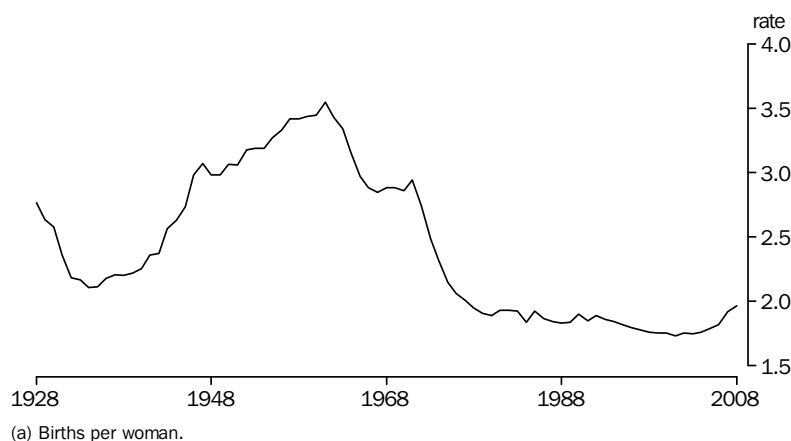
During 2008 there were 296,600 births registered in Australia, born to 292,000 mothers. This was 11,400 (4.0%) more births than the number registered during 2007 and the highest ever recorded, exceeding the 285,200 births registered in 2007 and the 276,400 births registered in 1971. In 2008 all states and territories recorded increases in the number of births registered, with Western Australia recording the largest proportional increase (9.2%), followed by New South Wales (5.8%).

TRENDS IN NATIONAL FERTILITY RATES

The total fertility rate (TFR) represents the average number of babies that a woman could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime, assuming current age-specific fertility rates apply. In 2008 Australia's TFR was 1.97 babies per woman, the highest since 1977 (2.01).

Having reached a TFR of 3.1 during the early 1920s, Australian fertility rates were relatively low during the Great Depression of the 1930s, falling to 2.1 babies per woman in 1934. In 1961, at the height of the 'baby boom', the TFR peaked at 3.5 babies per woman. Since then fertility rates have declined, falling sharply during the early 1960s as the oral contraceptive pill became available, before levelling at around 2.9 babies per woman in the years 1966–1971. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in late 1971 had a substantial impact on women's ability to control their fertility (Carmichael, 1998). Subsequently, a fall in births to young women contributed to a further decrease in the TFR and an increase in the median age of mothers. The TFR fell to replacement level (2.1) in 1976, and continued to fall as increasing numbers of women chose to delay or forego having children. The TFR then stabilised somewhat during the 1980s, before resuming a more gradual decline during the 1990s. The TFR reached a low of 1.73 babies per woman in 2001 and has increased since then, to 1.97 babies per woman in 2008.

2.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Australia



Tempo effects

Care should be exercised in interpreting trends over time in the 'period' TFR as presented in this publication. While the TFR is widely used as a summary measure of a population's current and historical fertility trends, it does not reflect tempo changes in fertility. Tempo changes are the effect of successive cohorts of women who delay or forego having children only to catch up in subsequent years. Analysis of age-specific fertility rates and parity assists in understanding tempo effects in fertility over time.

Age-specific fertility rates

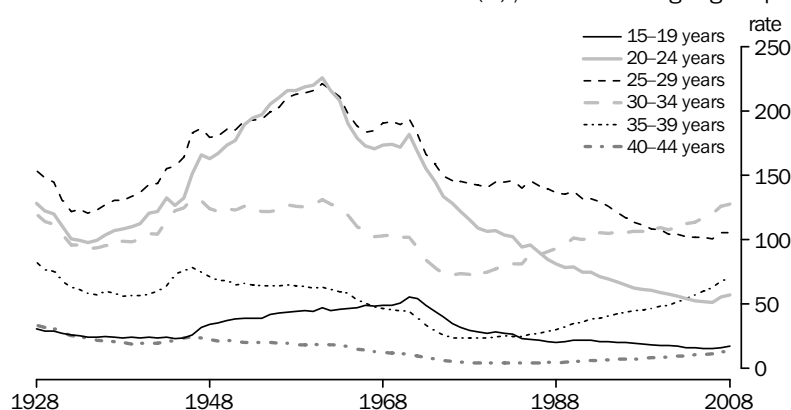
Consistent with the overall increase in Australia's TFR, age-specific fertility rates for all age groups of mother increased between 2007 and 2008, except for women aged 45–49 years, for whom the fertility rate remained the same. The increase in the TFR between 2007 and 2008 was largely due to births to women aged 30 to 39 years, who accounted for 55% of the increase. Births to women aged 15 to 29 years accounted for 31% of the increase in the TFR.

Over the past few decades, the decline in Australia's TFR has been associated with the tendency for women to have their babies at older ages. The median age of all women who gave birth in 1998 was 29.5 years; by 2006 this had increased to 30.8 years and has remained at a similar level since then (30.7 years in 2008) (see graph 2.7).

The transition to an older age-specific fertility pattern is illustrated by the shift in peak fertility rates, from women aged 25–29 years in 1999 to women aged 30–34 years in 2000. Since then, women aged 30–34 years have continued to record the highest fertility rate of all age groups, with 127.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2008.

Women aged 25–29 years experienced the second highest fertility rate in 2008, with 105.8 babies per 1,000 women, while women aged 35–39 years and 20–24 years experienced fertility rates of 70.9 and 57.1 babies per 1,000 women respectively.

2.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Selected age groups



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Until the late 1970s the distribution of fertility rates across age groups was relatively stable, with each age group peaking and troughing together, although some peaks were more pronounced for some age groups than others (graph 2.2). Women aged 25–29 years had the highest fertility rates for most of this period, followed by women aged 20–24 years. Increasing fertility rates since the mid 1970s amongst women aged 30–34 years resulted in the fertility rate for this age group exceeding that of women aged 20–24

*Age-specific fertility rates
continued*

years in 1987 and that of women aged 25–29 years in 2000. In 2004 the fertility rate for women aged 35–39 years exceeded that of women aged 20–24 years for the first time, with this trend continuing since then.

Fertility rates amongst younger women have followed a declining trend over the past two to three decades, however in recent years this trend appears to have halted, with increases in rates being recorded since 2006. Women aged 20–24 years experienced the greatest overall decrease, with the fertility rate halving between 1980 and 2006 (from 107.0 babies per 1,000 women to 51.4 babies per 1,000 women in 2006), but increasing to 57.1 babies per 1,000 women by 2008. Fertility rates for women aged 25–29 years decreased by 28% between 1980 and 2006 (from 141.0 babies per 1,000 women to 101.0 babies per 1,000 women) but increased to 105.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2008. The teenage fertility rate (births to women aged 15–19 years) decreased by 44% between 1980 and 2006 (from 27.6 babies per 1,000 women to 15.3 babies per 1,000 women) and has since risen to 17.3 babies per 1,000 women.

Fertility rates for the older age groups have consistently increased between 1980 and 2008. The fertility rate for women aged 30–34 years increased by 70% (from 75.1 babies per 1,000 women in 1980 to 127.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2008) while the rate for women aged 35–39 years tripled (from 23.7 babies per 1,000 women to 70.9 babies per 1,000 women). The fertility rate for women aged 40–44 years more than tripled over this period, from 4.4 babies per 1,000 women to 14.1 babies per 1,000 women, as the trend towards older motherhood continued.

Replacement fertility

Since 1976 Australia has experienced total fertility rates below replacement level. That is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life (the TFR) has been insufficient to replace herself and her partner. Although the TFR required for replacement is currently around 2.1 babies per woman, this number is not constant. Because the level of fertility required for replacement is dependent on the number of women who survive to reproductive ages, replacement fertility has declined in parallel with decreases in female mortality. In 1921, when mortality rates were high, replacement fertility was 2.4 babies per woman. By 1954, it had decreased to 2.1, and by 1996 replacement fertility was 2.08. Even if female mortality declined to zero for women up to the end of their reproductive lives, the replacement level would still be 2.05 (1.05 male and 1.0 female babies) — higher than the 2008 TFR of 1.97 babies per woman.

Completed fertility

Completed fertility refers to the number of children that a woman born in a particular year has had by the end of her reproductive life. A limitation of this measure of fertility is that it cannot be observed until a woman's reproductive life is complete. To overcome this limitation, a measure of completed fertility based on observed and assumed age-specific fertility rates is used in table 2.3.

Completed fertility rates of women born in the early 1930s are the highest on record in Australia (3.1 children). These women were the mothers of the 'baby boom' generation. Since then, completed fertility has declined, while the median age of mothers has increased. The 2006 to 2101 issue of *Population Projections, Australia* (cat. no. 3222.0, Series B) assumed completed fertility of women born in 2008 to be 1.8 births per woman.

*Completed fertility
continued*

For more information on completed fertility derived from the 2006 Census, see Chapter 5: How Many Children Do Australian Women Have? of the 2006 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0) .

2.3 COMPLETED FERTILITY(a), Year of birth of women

	Average no. of children	Proportion based on projected births(b) %	Median age years
	no.	%	years
1923	2.7	—	27.8
1933	3.1	—	26.4
1943	2.5	—	25.7
1953	2.3	—	26.5
1963	2.1	0.2	28.4
1973	2.0	21.1	30.2
1983	2.0	82.1	31.0
1993	1.9	100.0	31.5
2003	1.8	100.0	31.6
2008	1.8	100.0	31.7

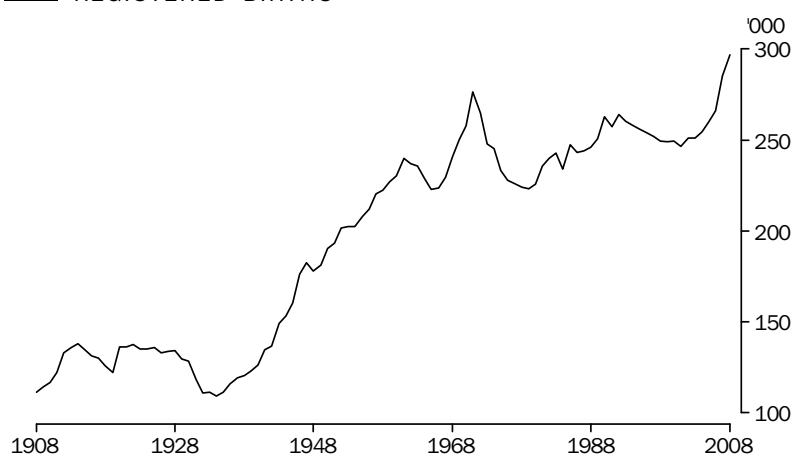
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(a) Based on age-specific fertility rates. Women who have not yet completed their reproductive years are assumed to experience fertility rates used in Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) based on a total fertility rate of 1.8 babies per woman.

(b) Proportion of the average number of children derived from assumed fertility rates.

BIRTHS

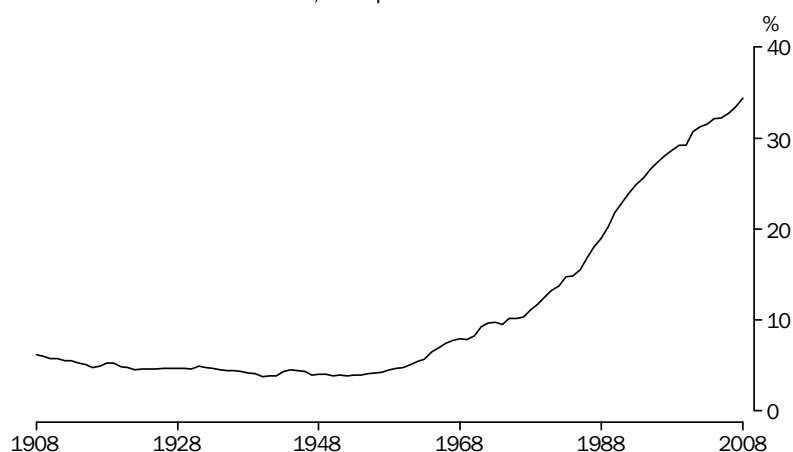
For most of the first half of the last century the number of births registered in Australia each year remained under 140,000, with a trough occurring in the early 1930s during the Great Depression. The number of births then increased rapidly, reaching a peak of 276,400 in 1971, fell sharply during the remainder of the 1970s, then increased from the early 1980s to reach another peak in 1992 of 264,200 births. Following 1992 numbers of births decreased, reaching 246,400 in 2001. Since then, the number of births has increased, reaching 296,600 in 2008, the highest number of births registered in a calendar year in Australia.

BIRTHS *continued***2.4** REGISTERED BIRTHS*Sex ratio*

Just over half (51%) of all births registered in 2008 were male babies, resulting in a sex ratio at birth of 105.5 male babies for every 100 female babies.

Nuptial and exnuptial births

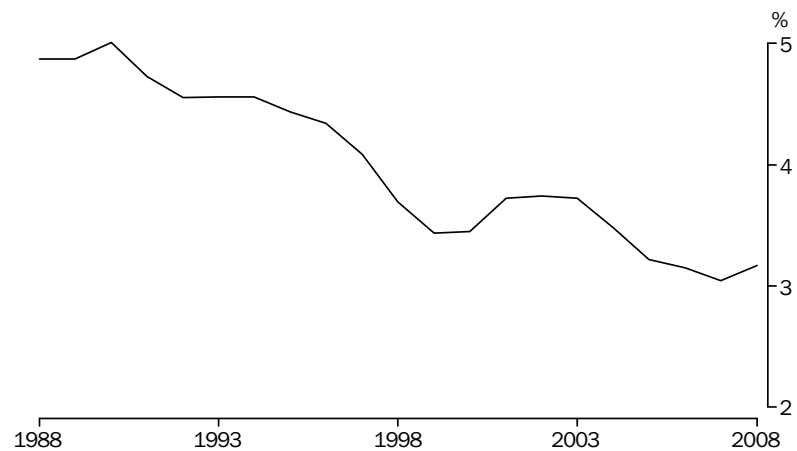
In 2008, 66% of births were nuptial births; that is, births to parents who were married at the time of the birth (marriage in this publication refers to a registered marriage unless otherwise indicated). Exnuptial births accounted for the remaining 34% of births, although many of these births may have been to mothers in de facto relationships. The proportion of exnuptial births has been increasing since the 1950s, and has risen sharply over the last two decades.

2.5 EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS, Proportion of all births*Acknowledgment of paternity*

With exnuptial births comes the possibility that the father may not acknowledge the birth (that is, the father has not signed the birth registration statement). While the number of exnuptial births has increased greatly over the past twenty years, the proportion of these births for which paternity was not acknowledged has decreased. In 1988 around 26% of all exnuptial births were paternity not acknowledged, but by 2008 this proportion had decreased to 9%. In terms of all births, paternity not acknowledged births have decreased from 5% of all births in 1988 to 3% in 2008.

*Acknowledgment of
paternity continued*

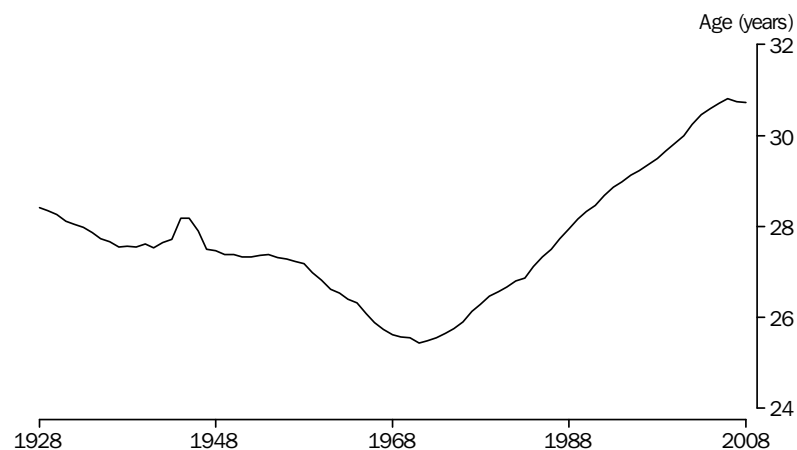
2.6 PATERNITY NOT ACKNOWLEDGED BIRTHS, Proportion of all births



*Age of parents at
confinement*

The median age of all mothers of births registered in 2008 was 30.7 years. Women who registered an exnuptial birth in 2008 had a median age of 27.0 years, almost five years younger than women who registered a nuptial birth (31.9 years). The median age of women who registered an exnuptial birth where paternity was not acknowledged (25.5 years) was lower than the median age of women who registered an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged (27.1 years).

2.7 MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER



Prior to the 1930s the median age of mothers giving birth had been decreasing. During the 1930s the median age stabilised, then rose briefly at the end of the Second World War, with an equally sharp decline immediately following the war. The median age of mothers fell substantially over the following three decades, reaching a low of 25.4 years in 1971. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in 1971 was associated with a substantial fall in births to young women and an increase in the median age of mother. From 1972 onwards, the median age of mothers consistently increased, reaching 30.8 years in 2006, the highest on record.

*Age of parents at
confinement continued*

However, data quality investigations during processing of 2007 birth registrations data indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age, may have been overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years (see paragraph 44 of the Explanatory Notes for more information). Despite the uncertainty associated with information on age of mother, the increases in median age of mother apparent since the early 1970s appear to have slowed or halted.

As age-specific fertility rates indicate, the median age of mothers is affected by current trends towards delayed childbearing, and repartnering and subsequent family formation following separation or divorce.

The median age of all fathers over the past two decades has also followed an upward trend. In 2008 the median age of all fathers was 33.1 years, with no change from 2006 and 2007. Data quality investigations during 2007 processing also indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age, may have been overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years.

Between 1988 and 2008 the median age of married fathers increased by almost three years, from 31.0 to 34.1 years, while the median age of unmarried fathers who acknowledged the birth of their child also increased, from 27.0 years to 29.8 years.

*Number of previous
children of the mother*

Changes in ABS processing of data collected by state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers.

Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the *current* relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007, data on previous births for *all* relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland (see paragraphs 40 to 43 of the Explanatory Notes). Data for 2008 are presented in table 2.8. Due to high proportion of confinements in Tasmania for which no information on previous children of the mother was available, data for Tasmania has been excluded from analysis below.

Of the states and territories that collect data on all children born to a mother, the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion (44%) of first births of the mother (that is, no previous children), followed by Western Australia, New South Wales and South Australia (each 43%).

For mothers who registered a birth in 2008, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia recorded the highest proportions (35% and 34% respectively) of mothers who had had one child previously, while the Northern Territory recorded the highest proportion (31%) of mothers with two or more previous children.

2.8 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother—2008

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER(a)

State or territory of registration	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not stated	Total confinements
	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
New South Wales	39 319	30 593	13 930	5 047	1 882	1 047	np	91 820
Victoria	32 725	23 904	9 702	3 002	934	685	—	70 952
Queensland	30 965	19 065	7 747	2 525	823	606	—	61 731
South Australia	8 512	6 703	2 982	1 070	404	311	5	19 987
Western Australia	13 658	10 177	4 636	1 644	626	537	176	31 454
Tasmania(b)	1 187	2 056	1 040	415	181	113	1 669	6 661
Northern Territory	1 561	1 105	638	300	128	107	—	3 839
Australian Capital Territory	2 458	1 929	756	245	77	65	—	5 530

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes all children born to a mother, for all states and territories excluding Victoria and Queensland. For Victoria and Queensland, includes previous children of the current relationship only.

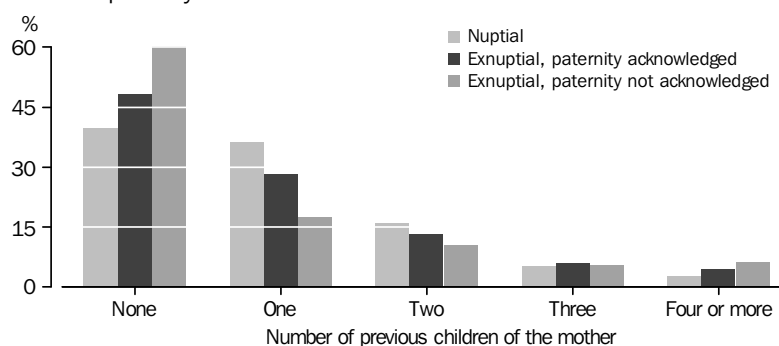
(b) Due to the high proportion of confinements in Tasmania for which no information on previous children of the mother was available, data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution.

Number of previous children of the mother continued

Graph 2.9 presents aggregate data for all states and territories excluding Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. In 2008, 40% of nuptial confinements were to mothers with no previous children, 48% of exnuptial paternity acknowledged confinements were to mothers with no previous children, and 60% of exnuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with no previous children.

This pattern is reversed for mothers having their second or third child. In 2008, 36% of nuptial confinements were to mothers with one previous child, 28% of exnuptial paternity acknowledged confinements were to mothers with one previous child, and 18% of exnuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with one previous child.

2.9 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother(a)(b), Nuptiality—2008



(a) Includes all children of the mother. Excludes births registered in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

(b) Excludes confinements for which the number of previous children of the mother was not stated.

Confinements resulting in a multiple birth

The number of confinements resulting in a multiple birth has increased consistently since the 1970s. In 2008, the number was 4,600, 24% more than the number recorded in 1988 (3,700 confinements) and 5% more than the number recorded in 2007 (4,400 confinements).

STATE AND TERRITORY

Total fertility rate

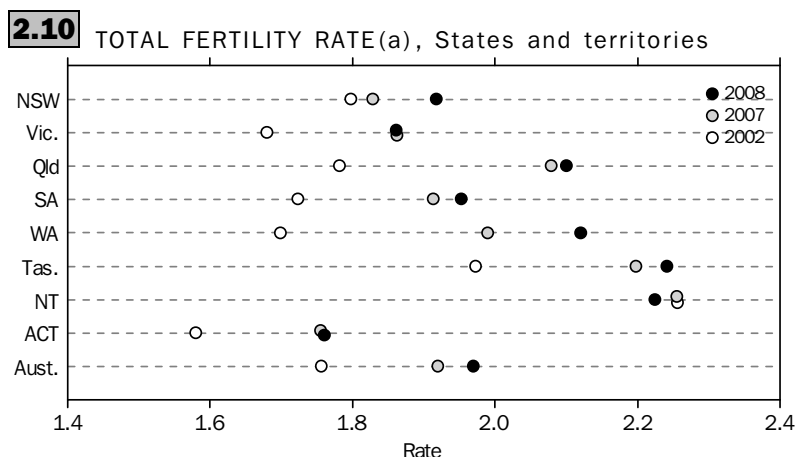
Total fertility rates for the states and territories varied substantially in 2008, from 1.76 babies per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.24 babies per woman in Tasmania. In recent years the TFR has generally trended upwards for all jurisdictions excluding the Northern Territory, following a long period of stability or gradual decline.

Tasmania's TFR has increased from 1.81 babies per woman in 2000 to 2.24 babies per woman in 2008, the highest rate recorded for Tasmania since 1974 (2.42 babies). The TFR for Western Australia has increased consistently over the past six years, from a low of 1.70 babies per woman in 2002 to 2.12 babies per woman in 2008, the highest rate for this state since 1976.

Queensland's TFR has increased from 1.77 babies per woman in 2003 to 2.10 babies per woman in 2008, the highest rate recorded for Queensland since 1977 (2.11 babies). However, caution should be exercised when interpreting recent increases in Queensland's TFR, in particular, the increase between 2006 and 2007 (for more information see paragraph 29 of the Explanatory Notes).

Moderate increases in the TFR have been recorded for Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia since around 2001, although rates for Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory remained the same between 2007 and 2008. Between 2001 and 2007 the TFR for New South Wales increased only slowly, with a larger increase between 2007 and 2008 (from 1.83 babies per woman to 1.92 babies per woman).

The Northern Territory's TFR has fluctuated at around 2.2 to 2.3 babies per woman since the mid 1980s.



Age-specific fertility rates

In 2008 women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility rates of all age groups in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest fertility rates. Between 2007 and 2008, all states and territories, with the exception of Victoria and Queensland, recorded increases in fertility rates for women aged 30–34 years. Western Australia recorded the largest increase, with women aged 30–34 years having 132.0 babies per 1,000 women in 2008 (up from 124.6 in 2007), followed by the Northern Territory (105.4 babies per 1,000 women in 2008, up from 98.5 in 2007).

Teenage fertility rates

At the national level, the teenage fertility rate in 2008 was 17.3 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, slightly higher than in 2007 (16.0 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years). However, amongst the states and territories different patterns in teenage fertility rates exist. In 2008 the Australian Capital Territory (8.0) and Victoria (10.7) recorded the lowest teenage fertility rates in Australia, while the Northern Territory (52.2) recorded the highest.

The Northern Territory recorded a decrease in the teenage fertility rate (from 58.8 in 2007 to 52.2 in 2008), while Western Australia recorded an increase (from 20.5 in 2007 to 22.8 in 2008). The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a decrease in the teenage fertility rate while the remaining states recorded small increases.

2.11 BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS—2007 and 2008

	BIRTHS			TEENAGE FERTILITY RATE(a)		
	2007	2008	change	2007	2008	change
	no	no	%	no	no	%
New South Wales	2 788	3 226	15.7	12.3	14.0	14.0
Victoria	1 731	1 864	7.7	10.0	10.7	6.2
Queensland	3 289	3 636	10.6	23.0	24.7	7.6
South Australia	902	953	5.7	17.5	18.3	4.7
Western Australia	1 485	1 686	13.5	20.5	22.8	11.3
Tasmania	437	449	2.7	27.4	27.6	0.4
Northern Territory	449	412	–8.2	58.8	52.2	–11.3
Australian Capital Territory	123	95	–22.8	10.3	8.0	–22.4
Australia (b)	11 204	12 326	10.0	16.0	17.3	8.1

(a) Births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years. Includes births to women aged less than 15 years.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Births

The three most populous states accounted for over three-quarters (77%) of births registered in Australia in 2008: 94,700 in New South Wales (32%), 71,200 in Victoria (24%) and 63,100 in Queensland (21%). These proportions reflect the proportions of the Australian female population in reproductive ages living in these states.

Between 2007 and 2008 all states and territories recorded increases in registered births (table 2.12). Western Australia and New South Wales recorded the largest proportional increases (up 9.2% and 5.8% respectively).

*Births continued***2.12** BIRTHS REGISTERED, States and territories—2007 and 2008

	2007	2008	CHANGE	
			2007–2008	2007–2008
	no.	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	89 495	94 684	5 189	5.8
Victoria	70 313	71 175	862	1.2
Queensland	61 249	63 132	1 883	3.1
South Australia	19 662	20 229	567	2.9
Western Australia	29 164	31 850	2 686	9.2
Tasmania	6 662	6 775	113	1.7
Northern Territory	3 894	3 942	48	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	4 753	4 804	51	1.1
Australia (a)	285 213	296 621	11 408	4.0

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Median age of parents at confinement

Of the states and territories, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had the oldest mothers of births registered in 2008, both with a median age of 31.6 years. The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the youngest mothers, with median ages of 28.1 years and 29.2 years respectively. The median age of all mothers who gave birth in Australia in 2008 was 30.7 years.

The Northern Territory and Tasmania also had the youngest fathers in 2008, with median ages of 31.4 and 31.9 years respectively, while Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had the oldest fathers, both with a median age of 33.8 years. For Australia, the median age of all fathers (where age is known) was 33.1 years.

Nuptiality

In 2008, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of births to parents in a registered marriage (both 72%), followed by New South Wales (70%).

The highest proportions of births to women who were not in a registered marriage were recorded in the Northern Territory (63%) and Tasmania (50%), with these regions also recording the highest proportions of births where paternity was not acknowledged (15% and 6% respectively). Note that the number of exnuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated. See paragraphs 36 to 38 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

INTERVAL BETWEEN
OCCURRENCE AND
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

ABS births statistics are sourced from birth registrations systems administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, based on data provided on an information form completed by the parent(s) of the child. Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. Amendments to the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* which took effect from 1 July 2007 require the registration of, or application for registration of the birth of a child as a condition for applying for the Baby Bonus.

There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity to obtain missing information on the form, or resource

INTERVAL BETWEEN
OCCURRENCE AND
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS
continued

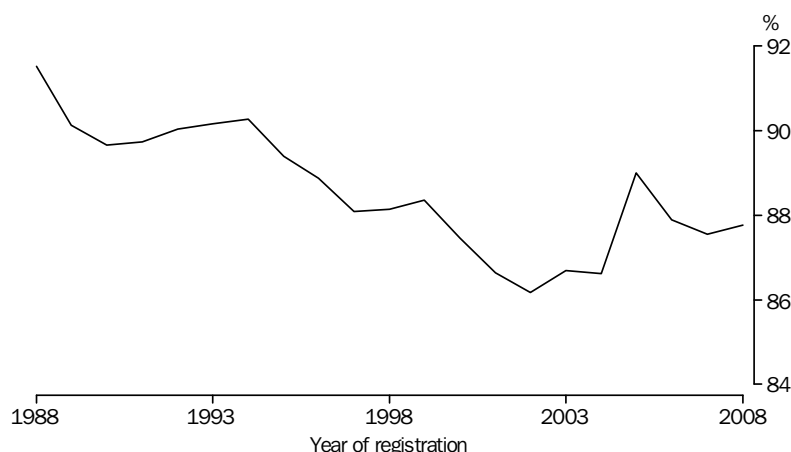
limitations). In addition, the registration date, essentially the processing date, that each state and territory Registrar assigns to a birth registration, differs. For more information see paragraphs 10 to 12 and 27 to 28 of the Explanatory Notes.

The following analysis considers whether improvements in the timeliness of registration of births have occurred since 1 July 2007.

*Births registered in the
year of occurrence*

Of the 296,600 births registered in 2008, 87.8% (260,400) occurred in 2008. The remaining 12.2% (36,200) occurred in 2007 or earlier years. Prior to 2005, the proportion of births registered in the year they occurred was generally declining. Of all births registered in 1988, 91.5% occurred in 1988 with the remainder occurring in earlier years. By 2002 this proportion had declined to 86.2%. In 2005 the proportion increased to 89.0%, largely as a result of changes to follow-up procedures introduced by the New South Wales registry. In 2006 and 2007 the proportion of births registered that occurred in the same year declined, due largely to decreases in Queensland (see paragraphs 27 to 29 of the Explanatory Notes for more information). The proportion of births registered in 2008 that occurred in 2008 was 87.8%, slightly higher than in 2007 (87.5%).

2.13 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE YEAR OF OCCURRENCE



*Average interval between
occurrence and
registration of births*

In order to analyse changes in the interval between the occurrence and registration of births, monthly intervals between the occurrence and registration of births were averaged over six month periods. Table 2.14 shows the average interval between the occurrence and registration of births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2005 to 2008.

For Australia overall, the average intervals for each half year following 1 July 2007 (2.3 months, 2.5 months and 2.4 months) were similar to earlier periods, indicating no improvement in the timeliness of registration of births since then.

Among the states and territories, average intervals varied widely for the three most recent half-year periods, from 0.9 months for births registered in the Northern Territory to 5.0 months for births registered in Queensland. A comparison of average intervals over time shows year to year volatility, but no indication that average intervals since 1 July 2007 have decreased compared to earlier periods.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of births continued

It should be noted however that changes in timeliness of registration of births occurring after 1 July 2007 may be being masked by other factors such as changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by state and territory registries.

2.14 BIRTHS (a), Average interval between occurrence and registration

State or territory of registration	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.4
Victoria	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.6	1.7	1.9
Queensland	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.6	5.0
South Australia	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9
Western Australia	2.3	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4
Tasmania	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.6
Northern Territory	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
Australia	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4

(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as interval of 72 months.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of Indigenous births

Table 2.15 shows the average interval between the occurrence and registration of births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2005 to 2008, for births where one or both parents identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration statement (Indigenous births). In general, average intervals for Indigenous births are significantly larger than intervals for all births.

As for all births, the average intervals for each half year following 1 July 2007 (5.7 months, 7.7 months and 8.4 months) are similar (or higher) than earlier periods, indicating no improvement in the timeliness of registration of Indigenous births since then.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of Indigenous births continued

2.15 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS(a), Average interval between occurrence and registration

State or territory of registration	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half	First half	Second half
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	4.7	2.5	3.3	3.8	3.2	2.4	3.4	2.4
Victoria	6.1	5.8	6.2	4.7	6.2	6.6	4.9	6.3
Queensland	9.6	7.8	9.7	9.8	12.0	8.0	12.9	16.0
South Australia	9.0	9.8	8.4	9.4	9.4	5.5	7.9	9.1
Western Australia	8.6	11.8	10.8	10.0	9.8	9.9	10.9	10.8
Tasmania	5.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	6.3	4.7	4.0	6.7
Northern Territory	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.9	3.3	5.8	2.5
Australia	6.8	5.9	6.5	6.4	7.4	5.7	7.7	8.4

(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as intervals of 72 months.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION GROWTH

Births form an important component of population growth. In 2008 there were 296,600 births in Australia. This is roughly twice the number of deaths (143,900), resulting in natural increase of around 152,700 people. Since 1976 Australian fertility has been below replacement level of 2.1 babies per woman; that is, below the number of births required to replace a woman and her partner. On current fertility rates, each woman can expect, on average, to have 1.97 babies over her lifetime. Despite this, natural increase is still positive because of the relatively young age structure of Australia's population. Although the number of births per woman is low, there are enough women currently in childbearing ages to keep the total number of births relatively high. Conversely, there are relatively few people at older ages, resulting in a relatively low number of deaths per year. As the population ages, the difference between numbers of births and deaths will decrease. Based on Series B of the most recent ABS population projections (*Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101*, cat. no. 3222.0), the number of births is projected to remain higher than the number of deaths until 2101.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT
OF POPULATION GROWTH
continued

2.16 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE (a)

	Births(b)	Deaths(b)	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Population at end of period	Population increase (c)	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
1988	246.2	119.9	126.3	172.8	16 687.1	292.4	1.8
1989	250.9	124.2	126.6	129.5	16 936.7	249.6	1.5
1990	262.6	120.1	142.6	97.1	17 169.8	233.0	1.4
1991	259.1	119.7	139.4	81.7	17 387.0	217.3	1.3
1992	262.1	122.9	139.2	51.4	17 581.3	194.3	1.1
1993	258.6	120.8	137.8	34.8	17 760.0	178.7	1.0
1994	258.4	127.0	131.4	55.5	17 951.5	191.5	1.1
1995	254.9	125.1	129.8	106.9	18 196.1	244.6	1.4
1996	252.9	128.2	124.7	97.4	18 420.3	224.3	1.2
1997	251.1	128.8	122.3	72.4	18 609.1	188.8	1.0
1998	248.3	127.4	120.8	88.8	18 814.3	205.2	1.1
1999	250.2	128.2	122.0	104.2	19 038.3	224.1	1.2
2000	249.2	128.8	120.4	111.4	19 272.6	234.3	1.2
2001	246.0	128.8	117.1	136.1	19 534.0	261.3	1.4
2002	247.7	133.0	114.7	110.5	19 771.0	237.0	1.2
2003	248.0	131.8	116.2	110.1	20 011.9	240.9	1.2
2004	248.6	132.4	116.2	106.4	20 252.1	240.3	1.2
2005	263.4	131.4	132.0	137.0	20 544.1	291.9	1.4
2006	r268.5	r134.5	r134.0	r182.2	r20 873.7	r329.6	1.6
2007	r287.0	r138.9	r148.1	r216.2	r21 237.9	r364.2	p1.7
2008	p296.6	p143.9	p152.7	p253.4	p21 644.0	p406.1	p1.9

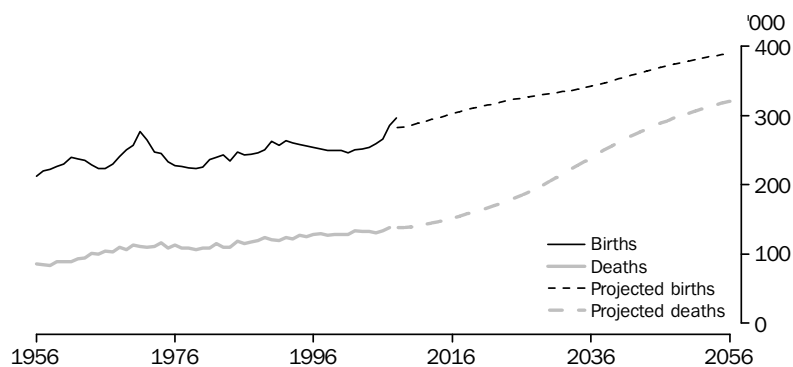
p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Calendar year.

(b) For 2006 and earlier years, births and deaths in this table are based on year of occurrence, for population estimation purposes. For 2007, a combination of data based on quarter of occurrence (for the March and June quarters) and quarter of registration (for the September and December quarters) is used. Data for 2008 are based on year of registration. Numbers of births in this table will therefore differ from data elsewhere in this publication.

(c) Population increase will not necessarily equal the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration due to intercensal discrepancy. See Glossary for more information.

2.17 ACTUAL AND PROJECTED BIRTHS AND DEATHS—Year ended 30 June



Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
Australian Demographic Statistics, March Quarter 2009 (cat. no. 3101.0)
Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) (Series B)

INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY
RATES

According to the United Nations, the projected world average TFR for 2005–2010 is 2.6 babies per woman, declining from the relatively constant 5 births per woman that existed until the 1960s. However, TFRs for individual countries vary considerably. There are many factors that can influence a country's fertility rate, such as differences in social and economic development and contraceptive prevalence. In general, developing countries have higher fertility rates while developed countries have lower rates.

Australia's TFR for 2008 of 1.97 babies per woman is well below the world average (2.6), although it is above the average TFR for developed countries (1.6). According to United Nations projections, a number of European and developed Asian countries will have low fertility rates in 2005–2010. Hong Kong's projected TFR of 1.0 is one of the lowest in the world, while Japan and Singapore are both projected to have a TFR of 1.3. In Europe, low TFRs are projected for Germany (1.3) and Spain, Italy and Greece (each 1.4). Middle Eastern and African countries have the highest fertility rates, with Niger (7.2), Afghanistan (6.6) and Uganda (6.4) some of the highest. East Timor also has a high total fertility rate, of 6.5 babies per woman.

Projected fertility rates for the United States of America and New Zealand (2.1 and 2.0 respectively) are higher than Australia while the rate for Canada is lower (1.6).

2.18 INTERNATIONAL TOTAL FERTILITY RATES—1965–1970 to 2005–2010

	1965–1970	1970–1975	1975–1980	1980–1985	1985–1990	1990–1995	1995–2000	2000–2005	2005–2010
Afghanistan	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.4	6.6
Australia	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Canada	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6
China	5.9	4.8	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8
East Timor	6.2	6.2	4.3	5.4	5.2	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.5
France	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Germany	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Greece	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Hong Kong	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
India	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.8
Indonesia	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2
Italy	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Japan	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Korea, Republic of	4.7	4.3	2.9	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2
Malaysia	5.9	5.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6
New Zealand	3.4	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Niger	7.5	7.7	8.0	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.2
Papua New Guinea	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.1
Singapore	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Somalia	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4
Spain	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Sweden	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.9
Uganda	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4
United Kingdom	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
United States of America	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Viet Nam	7.3	6.7	5.9	4.5	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Yemen	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.4	7.7	6.7	5.9	5.3
World	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Medium variant* <<http://esa.un.org/unpp>>.

2.19 SUMMARY, Australia—Selected years

	1988	1993	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
FERTILITY RATES									
Age-specific fertility rates(a)									
15–19 years(b)	20.3	20.9	18.9	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.3	16.0	17.3
20–24 years	81.5	71.3	61.4	54.2	52.7	51.8	51.4	55.5	57.1
25–29 years	136.9	129.8	111.4	102.5	101.8	102.0	101.0	105.6	105.8
30–34 years	93.3	105.4	107.0	112.3	114.0	117.0	120.4	125.9	127.8
35–39 years	30.5	38.9	45.5	54.2	57.2	60.3	63.4	67.8	70.9
40–44 years	4.6	6.3	8.0	10.0	10.5	10.8	11.3	12.6	14.1
45–49 years(c)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
Total fertility rate(d)	1.831	1.859	1.762	1.748	1.763	1.791	1.817	1.920	1.969
Crude birth rate(e)	14.9	14.7	13.3	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.8	13.5	13.8
Net reproduction rate(f)	0.877	0.893	0.848	0.839	0.848	0.858	0.870	0.878	nya
BIRTHS									
Total births	246 193	260 229	249 616	251 161	254 246	259 791	265 949	285 213	296 621
Males	126 223	133 572	128 016	129 193	130 600	133 428	136 692	146 456	152 287
Females	119 970	126 657	121 600	121 968	123 646	126 363	129 257	138 757	144 334
Sex ratio	105.2	105.5	105.3	105.9	105.6	105.6	105.8	105.5	105.5
Indigenous births registered(g)	1 999	5 523	10 445	11 740	12 006	12 078	12 496	14 192	15 011
Age of mother									
15–19 years(b)	13 961	13 175	11 849	10 811	10 857	10 744	10 552	11 204	12 326
20–24 years	53 171	50 681	40 052	36 302	36 146	36 482	37 151	40 907	42 678
25–29 years	95 241	88 279	81 677	69 604	68 846	69 420	70 224	75 998	79 012
30–34 years	61 651	77 004	75 876	86 077	87 395	89 158	89 883	93 072	94 124
35–39 years	19 357	26 728	34 223	39 876	42 139	44 873	48 505	53 561	56 976
40–44 years	2 634	4 092	5 632	7 706	8 183	8 376	8 679	9 642	10 771
45–49 years(c)	96	140	215	330	379	358	438	506	512
Age of father									
15–19 years(h)	2 938	3 500	3 566	3 405	3 425	3 558	3 469	3 910	4 391
20–24 years	26 926	27 420	22 499	20 271	20 652	21 110	21 345	23 537	24 550
25–29 years	76 442	67 659	61 579	52 195	51 538	51 616	52 456	56 589	59 254
30–34 years	74 819	84 083	77 580	82 525	83 064	85 212	85 548	89 233	89 871
35–39 years	36 231	44 045	50 102	52 765	54 780	56 814	60 659	66 157	69 784
40–44 years	11 894	15 113	17 441	21 746	22 613	23 168	23 802	25 556	27 202
45–49 years	3 252	4 557	5 266	6 004	6 482	6 718	7 010	8 109	8 566
50 years and over	1 595	1 881	2 292	2 648	2 769	3 050	3 135	3 340	3 507
Nuptial births	199 425	195 355	178 046	171 853	172 481	176 078	179 019	189 896	194 704
Exnuptial births	46 768	64 874	71 570	79 308	81 765	83 713	86 930	95 317	101 917
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	34 773	53 016	62 345	69 952	72 915	75 353	78 550	86 640	92 512
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	11 995	11 858	9 225	9 356	8 850	8 360	8 380	8 677	9 405

nya not yet available

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman.

(e) Births per 1,000 estimated resident population.

(f) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(g) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.

(h) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.19 SUMMARY, Australia—Selected years *continued*

	1988	1993	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CONFINEMENTS									
All confinements	243 193	256 703	245 898	247 089	250 045	255 481	261 550	280 781	291 974
Nuptial	196 900	192 518	175 162	168 777	169 312	172 894	175 827	186 694	191 385
Exnuptial	46 293	64 185	70 736	78 312	80 733	82 587	85 723	94 087	100 589
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	34 419	52 448	61 616	69 055	72 002	74 340	77 471	85 517	91 323
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	11 874	11 737	9 120	9 257	8 731	8 247	8 252	8 570	9 266
Median age of mother (years)(a)									
All confinements	27.9	28.9	29.5	30.5	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.7	30.7
Nuptial	28.6	29.7	30.5	31.4	31.6	31.7	31.8	31.8	31.9
Exnuptial	23.7	24.5	25.7	26.7	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.1	27.0
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.2	24.8	25.9	26.9	27.1	27.2	27.4	27.2	27.1
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	22.2	23.2	23.9	24.8	25.0	25.1	25.3	25.4	25.5
Median age of father (years)(a)									
All fathers where age is known	30.6	31.4	32.0	32.6	32.8	32.9	33.1	33.1	33.1
Nuptial	31.0	32.0	32.9	33.5	33.6	33.7	33.9	34.0	34.1
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	27.0	27.5	28.4	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.0	29.9	29.8
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1

(a) Prior to 2007, median age of parents may be overstated. For more information, see paragraph 44 of the Explanatory Notes.

2.20 SUMMARY, States and territories—2008

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas. (a)	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
FERTILITY RATES									
Age-specific fertility rates(c)									
15–19 years(d)	14.0	10.7	24.7	18.3	22.8	27.6	52.2	8.0	17.3
20–24 years	52.8	42.2	73.8	57.9	66.9	88.1	105.3	35.3	57.1
25–29 years	102.3	93.1	119.8	110.6	117.2	133.0	111.1	84.3	105.8
30–34 years	126.5	131.5	124.7	127.1	132.0	127.8	105.4	130.6	127.8
35–39 years	72.6	77.9	63.7	62.3	71.1	58.1	57.7	77.5	70.9
40–44 years	14.9	15.9	12.3	12.2	13.1	11.9	12.5	15.5	14.1
45–49 years(e)	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7
Total fertility rate(f)	1.917	1.861	2.100	1.952	2.120	2.241	2.224	1.760	1.969
Crude birth rate(g)	13.6	13.4	14.7	12.6	14.7	13.6	17.9	13.9	13.8
Net reproduction rate(h)	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya
BIRTHS									
Total births	94 684	71 175	63 132	20 229	31 850	6 775	3 942	4 804	296 621
Males	48 321	36 781	32 589	10 333	16 317	3 453	2 007	2 469	152 287
Females	46 363	34 394	30 543	9 896	15 533	3 322	1 935	2 335	144 334
Sex ratio	104.2	106.9	106.7	104.4	105.0	103.9	103.7	105.7	105.5
Indigenous births registered(i)	4 003	1 096	4 402	976	2 473	364	1 560	134	15 011
Age of mother									
15–19 years(d)	3 226	1 864	3 636	953	1 686	449	412	95	12 326
20–24 years	12 619	7 963	11 160	3 154	5 069	1 309	893	507	42 678
25–29 years	25 234	17 644	17 762	5 576	8 612	1 852	1 076	1 247	79 012
30–34 years	30 908	24 542	18 264	6 292	9 646	1 814	945	1 708	94 124
35–39 years	18 903	15 946	10 316	3 509	5 748	986	514	1 048	56 976
40–44 years	3 635	3 051	1 876	691	1 027	200	np	np	10 771
45–49 years(e)	158	154	96	46	42	7	np	np	512
Age of father									
15–19 years(j)	1 137	637	1 352	325	598	170	138	33	4 391
20–24 years	6 656	4 336	7 144	1 819	3 017	821	502	251	24 550
25–29 years	18 465	12 790	14 038	4 353	6 431	1 475	807	891	59 254
30–34 years	29 461	22 891	17 972	5 956	9 272	1 861	865	1 585	89 871
35–39 years	22 990	18 783	13 020	4 473	7 326	1 286	643	1 256	69 784
40–44 years	9 189	7 372	4 873	1 825	2 744	482	246	469	27 202
45–49 years	2 978	2 170	1 524	549	874	206	107	156	8 566
50 years and over	1 198	846	667	260	362	74	43	57	3 507
Nuptial births	66 478	51 131	36 423	12 584	19 713	3 400	1 476	3 474	194 704
Exnuptial births	28 206	20 044	26 709	7 645	12 137	3 375	2 466	1 330	101 917
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25 599	18 701	24 179	6 980	10 952	2 992	1 882	1 224	92 512
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 607	1 343	2 530	665	1 185	383	584	106	9 405

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

nya not yet available

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. For further information see paragraphs 36 to 38 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) Births per 1,000 women.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Births per woman.

(g) Births per 1,000 estimated resident population.

(h) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(i) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.

(j) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.20 SUMMARY, States and territories—2008 *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.(a)	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
CONFINEMENTS									
All confinements	93 238	69 976	62 072	19 937	31 418	6 683	3 903	4 718	291 974
Nuptial	65 418	50 187	35 727	12 390	19 424	3 349	1 461	3 405	191 385
Exnuptial	27 820	19 789	26 345	7 547	11 994	3 334	2 442	1 313	100 589
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25 257	18 467	23 855	6 888	10 829	2 952	1 865	1 207	91 323
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 563	1 322	2 490	659	1 165	382	577	106	9 266
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements	31.0	31.6	29.7	30.3	30.3	29.2	28.1	31.6	30.7
Nuptial	31.8	32.3	31.5	31.6	31.8	31.6	31.1	32.2	31.9
Exnuptial	27.4	28.6	26.1	26.6	26.3	25.7	25.4	28.9	27.0
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	27.5	28.7	26.2	26.8	26.6	25.8	25.9	29.2	27.1
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	26.6	28.3	24.9	25.1	24.1	24.5	23.8	24.6	25.5
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers where the age is known	33.4	33.8	32.1	32.7	32.8	31.9	31.4	33.8	33.1
Nuptial	34.2	34.4	33.6	33.8	34.1	33.8	33.8	34.2	34.1
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	30.2	31.1	28.8	29.5	29.3	28.8	28.7	31.4	29.8
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.4	4.1	4.1
Previous children of the mother(c)									
0	39 319	32 725	30 965	8 512	13 658	1 187	1 561	2 458	na
1	30 593	23 904	19 065	6 703	10 177	2 056	1 105	1 929	na
2	13 930	9 702	7 747	2 982	4 636	1 040	638	756	na
3	5 047	3 002	2 525	1 070	1 644	415	300	245	na
4	1 882	934	823	404	626	181	128	77	na
5 or more	1 047	685	606	311	537	113	107	65	na
Average number of previous children of the mother(c)	1.95	1.85	1.79	1.97	1.96	2.35	2.14	1.88	na

na not available

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. For further information see paragraphs 36 to 38 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) By state/territory of registration. Includes all children born to a mother, for all states and territories excluding Victoria and Queensland. For Victoria and Queensland, includes previous children of the current relationship only. Due to the high proportion of confinements in Tasmania for which no information on previous children of mother was available, data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution. See paragraph 40 to 43 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

CHAPTER 3

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER BIRTHS

INTRODUCTION

Birth registrations classify a birth as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (Indigenous) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement. Indigenous fertility rates refer to births to Indigenous mothers.

This chapter reports on the characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility rates in each state and territory, except for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories (comprising Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory). Data for these jurisdictions have not been analysed separately because of small numbers of Indigenous births. Numbers of Indigenous births in the Australian Capital Territory are reported in table 2.20 and table 3.1, while Other Territories data are included in Australian totals.

Some Indigenous births are not identified as such when they are registered. Data presented in this chapter may therefore underestimate the levels of Indigenous births and fertility rates in Australia. Lags in registrations may also affect reliability of measures of Indigenous births and fertility. Caution should be exercised when interpreting data presented in this chapter, especially with regard to year to year changes.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

There were 15,000 births registered in Australia in 2008 where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement. This was 6% higher than 2007 (14,200 births), and accounted for 5% of all births registered in 2008.

Queensland and New South Wales, the states with the largest Indigenous populations, had the highest number of Indigenous births (4,400 and 4,000 births respectively), followed by Western Australia (2,500) and the Northern Territory (1,600).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

*continued***3.1** INDIGENOUS BIRTHS(a), State/territory of usual residence—1991–2008

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
1991	50	508	9	593	33	190	1 257	58	2 698
1992	42	503	4	561	1 215	218	1 354	14	3 911
1993	1 278	493	31	519	1 535	264	1 359	43	5 523
1994	2 011	520	25	531	1 578	247	1 338	59	6 310
1995	2 345	542	29	554	1 492	267	1 354	52	6 640
1996	2 444	474	2 534	557	1 538	244	1 343	66	9 204
1997	2 813	457	3 038	591	1 474	310	1 259	53	9 999
1998	3 014	590	3 085	661	1 468	300	1 284	42	10 445
1999	3 052	521	2 974	640	1 558	339	1 419	75	10 580
2000	2 991	452	3 172	632	1 721	336	1 530	57	10 895
2001	3 112	522	3 337	612	1 597	468	1 688	67	11 405
2002	3 339	601	3 349	679	1 481	431	1 539	66	11 488
2003	3 254	722	3 408	578	1 687	376	1 630	85	11 740
2004	3 533	719	3 424	653	1 719	357	1 509	91	12 006
2005	3 139	802	3 657	718	1 763	415	1 485	98	12 078
2006	3 516	782	3 463	733	1 910	413	1 565	109	12 496
2007	3 720	1 025	4 486	808	2 121	308	1 595	129	14 192
2008	4 003	1 096	4 402	976	2 473	364	1 560	134	15 011

(a) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in number of births.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS
FERTILITY RATES*Total fertility rate*

Graph 3.2 presents TFRs for Indigenous and all women for the period 1963 to 2008. Due to the poor quality of historical Indigenous birth registrations data, fertility rates of Indigenous women up to 1991 were derived using data collected in the Australian censuses (Gray, 1997).

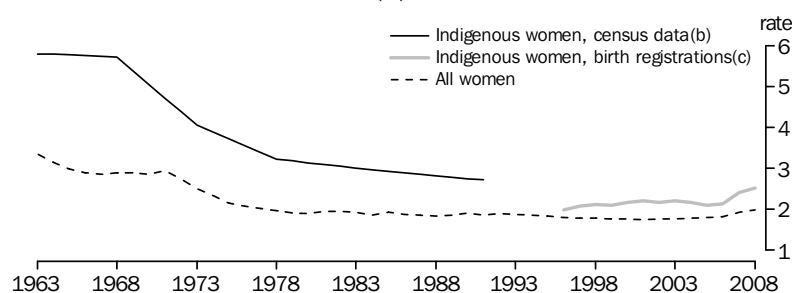
With improvements in coverage, birth registrations data has been used for 1996 onwards. Due to the uncertainty in numbers of Indigenous births as well as Indigenous population estimates used as denominators in the calculation of fertility rates, data should be interpreted with caution. For more information on Indigenous population estimates, see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0).

In the early 1960s, the total fertility rate (TFR) of Indigenous women was 5.8 babies per woman, compared with 3.2 babies for all women in Australia. Since then, fertility rates of both Indigenous and all women have declined substantially, with the largest decreases being recorded during the 1970s. While fertility rates for all women began to decline in the 1960s, fertility rates for Indigenous women remained relatively stable during the 1960s, followed by a sharp decline during the 1970s and slower decreases during the 1980s.

In 1996 the TFR for Indigenous women was 1.97 babies per woman, the lowest on record. Over the following decade the TFR remained at around 2.1 to 2.2 babies per woman, with an increase to 2.40 babies per woman in 2007. In 2008 the TFR for Indigenous women increased further, to 2.52 babies per woman (compared with a rate of 1.97 for all women in Australia).

Total fertility rate

continued

3.2 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (a)

(a) Births per woman.

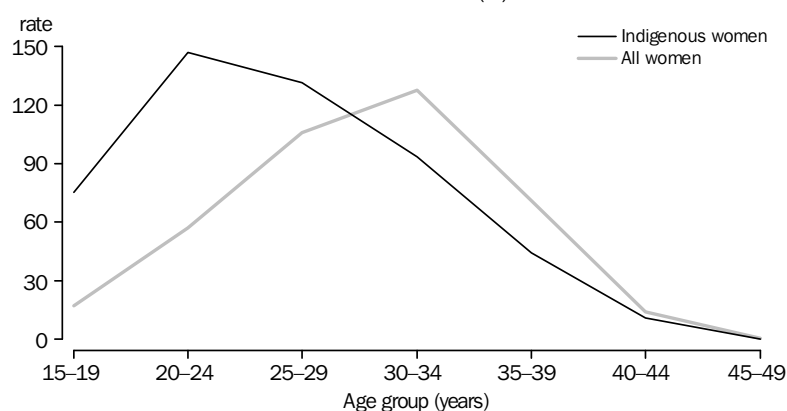
(b) Five-year TFRs (from 1961–66 to 1981–86) and ten-year TFR (1986–96) plotted against the middle year of the period.

(c) TFRs for 1996 to 2007 revised using Indigenous population estimates and projections based on the 2006 Census.

Source: Gray (1997).

Age-specific fertility rates

High fertility rates at younger ages contribute to the relatively high overall fertility rate of Indigenous women compared to all women. Births to women aged under 30 years contributed more than two-thirds (70%) of the total fertility rate of Indigenous women in 2008, compared to less than half of the total fertility rate for all women (46%).

3.3 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a)—2008

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

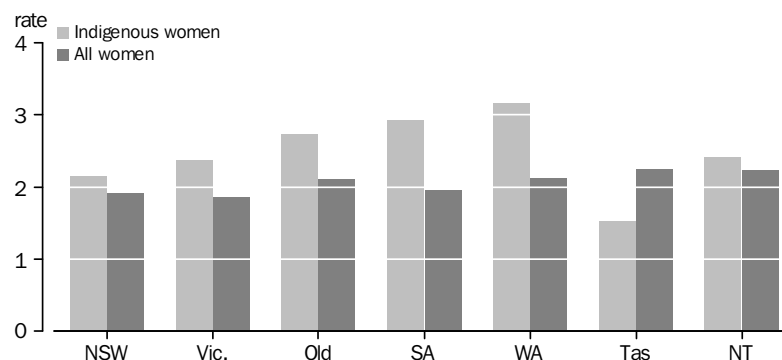
For Indigenous women, the peak age group for births in 2008 was 20–24 years (147 babies per 1,000 women), followed by women aged 25–29 years (132 babies). In contrast, the peak age group for all women was 30–34 years (128 babies).

In 2008, births to teenage Indigenous women (2,200 births) accounted for 20% of all births to Indigenous women (11,000 births). In comparison, births to all teenage women accounted for only 4% of all births.

The teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women (75 babies per 1,000 women) was more than four times the teenage fertility rate of all women (17 babies), while the fertility rate of Indigenous women aged 20–24 years (147 babies) was two and a half times the fertility rate of all women in this age group (57 babies). Conversely, fertility rates of Indigenous women aged 30 years and over were lower than those of all women for 2008.

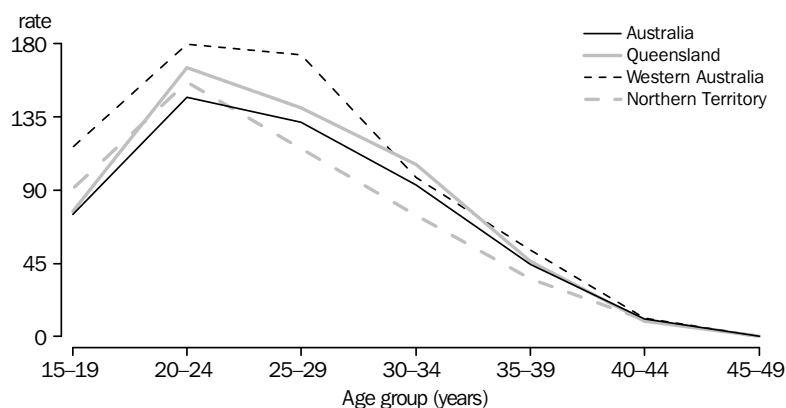
STATE VARIATIONS IN
FERTILITY*Total fertility rate*

Indigenous TFRs vary between the states and territories. In 2008 Western Australia (with 3.2 babies per woman) recorded the highest TFR, followed by South Australia (2.9), Queensland (2.7), the Northern Territory and Victoria (both 2.4), and New South Wales (2.1). In 2008, Indigenous TFRs for all states and territories increased from the previous year, excluding Victoria and the Northern Territory.

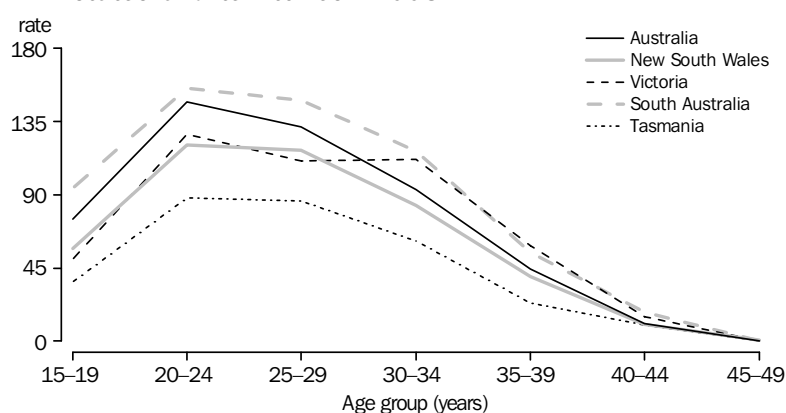
3.4 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (a)(b)—2008

(a) Births per woman.

(b) ACT not included due to small numbers of Indigenous births. See paragraph 32 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

*Age-specific fertility rates***3.5** AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a), Indigenous women, Selected states and territories—2008

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

*Age-specific fertility rates**continued***3.6** AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a), Indigenous women, Selected states and territories—2008

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Indigenous women aged 20–24 years recorded the highest fertility rate of all age groups in all states and territories in 2008, with Western Australia (180 babies per 1,000 women) and Queensland (165 babies per 1,000 women) the highest.

Indigenous women aged 25–29 years recorded the second highest fertility rate in all states and territories other than Victoria, where Indigenous women aged 30–34 years recorded the second highest rate.

Indigenous teenage fertility rates

Of the 12,300 births registered to teenage women in Australia in 2008, 18% (2,200 births) were to Indigenous women. Of the 400 births registered to teenage women in the Northern Territory in 2008, 75% (300 births) were to Indigenous women.

The teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women living in Western Australia was 117 babies per 1,000 women, almost seven times the rate of all teenage women in Australia (17 babies per 1,000 women). South Australian Indigenous teenagers experienced the second highest teenage fertility rate of the states and territories (94 babies per 1,000 women), followed by Indigenous teenagers in the Northern Territory (91 babies per 1,000 women).

CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS

Indigenous status

Around one-third (32%) of Indigenous births registered in 2008 were births for which both parents identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement, while for 41% of Indigenous births only the mother identified herself as being of Indigenous origin (including births where paternity was not acknowledged and those where the father's Indigenous status was unknown). The remaining 27% of Indigenous births had an Indigenous father and a non-Indigenous mother (including births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated).

Median age

Overall, Indigenous women have children at younger ages than all women. The median age of Indigenous women who registered a birth in 2008 was 24.7 years, six years lower than the median age of all mothers (30.7 years). Of the states and territories, Indigenous mothers living in the Northern Territory had the lowest median age (24.1 years), followed by Indigenous mothers in Western Australia (24.2 years).

Median age continued

Fathers of Indigenous births in 2008 were younger than all fathers (27.8 years compared with 33.1 years respectively). Western Australia recorded the lowest median age of fathers of Indigenous births (27.2 years), followed by Queensland (27.6) and the Northern Territory and South Australia (both 27.7 years).

Nuptiality

In 2008, 84% of Indigenous births were exnuptial (that is, births to women who were not in a registered marriage at the time of birth) compared to 34% of all births. Exnuptial births where the father did not sign the birth registration statement (that is, paternity not acknowledged births) accounted for 12% of all Indigenous births, compared to 3% of all births.

At the state and territory level the highest proportions of exnuptial Indigenous births were recorded in the Northern Territory, where 94% of all Indigenous births were exnuptial, and in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland (87%, 86% and 84% respectively). In the Northern Territory, 32% of all Indigenous births were exnuptial births where paternity was not acknowledged.

BIRTH WEIGHT

Birth weight is a key indicator of the relative health status of babies. A comparison of the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers with all babies shows that Indigenous babies are generally smaller. According to the Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW, 2008) the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers in 2006 was 3,169 grams, 209 grams lower than the national average for all babies (3,370 grams).

Babies are defined as being of low birth weight if their birth weight is less than 2,500 grams. In 2006, 12% of babies to Indigenous mothers were of low birth weight, more than twice the rate of all babies (6%).

**INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS FERTILITY**

In 2008 the TFR for Australian Indigenous mothers (2.52 babies per woman) was lower than that for New Zealand Maori women (2.95) (Statistics New Zealand, 2008). In 2007, the latest year for which American Indian fertility rates are available, the TFR for Australian Indigenous women was 0.7 babies per woman higher than that of American Indian women (1.86) (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2007).

These differences are reflected in age-specific fertility rates for the different populations. Higher fertility rates were experienced by Maori women in all age groups. All Indigenous populations experienced the highest age-specific fertility rate in the 20–24 year age group.

INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS FERTILITY
continued

3.7 INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES, Selected countries

	AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN	NEW ZEALAND MAORI WOMEN	AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Age-specific fertility rates(a)				
15–19 years(b)	59.0	80.0	70.0	75.2
20–24 years	116.3	162.4	142.5	147.2
25–29 years	96.4	150.1	125.5	131.6
30–34 years	63.7	114.9	89.7	93.4
35–39 years	29.4	64.2	43.1	44.5
40–44 years	6.1	15.7	8.2	11.0
45–49 years(c)	0.3	1.1	0.7	0.3
Total fertility rate(d)	1.861	2.951	2.399	2.515

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) For Australian Indigenous women, includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman. Includes births to women aged 10–14 years for American Indian and New Zealand Maori women.

Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Health Statistics, <<http://www.cdc.gov>> for American Indian data. Statistics New Zealand <<http://www.stats.govt.nz>> for New Zealand Maori data.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication contains statistics for births and fertility in Australia. Detailed information can be obtained from data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) available for download from the ABS website.
- 2** A glossary is provided detailing definitions of terminology used. Also provided is a list of abbreviations.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Scope of births statistics

- 3** The statistics in this publication relate to the number of births registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated.
- 4** The ABS Birth Registrations collection includes all births that occurred and were registered in Australia, including births to mothers whose place of usual residence is overseas.
- 5** The scope of the statistics includes:
 - all births that are live born and have not been previously registered. A live birth is delivery of a child, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as heartbeat;
 - births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island);
 - births occurring within Australian Territorial waters;
 - births occurring in transit (births on ships or planes) if registered in the state of 'next port of call';
 - births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (for example, children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families); and
 - births that occurred in earlier years that have not previously been registered (late registrations).
- 6** The scope of the statistics exclude:
 - still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in *Perinatal Deaths, Australia*, cat. no. 3304.0, and previously, *Causes of Death, Australia*, cat. no. 3303.0);
 - adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections;
 - births to foreign diplomatic staff; and
 - births occurring on Norfolk Island.
- 7** Up to and including the 2006 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0), the scope for each reference year of the Birth Registrations collection included:
 - all births registered in Australia for the reference year and received by ABS in the reference year;
 - births registered during the two years prior to the reference year but not received by ABS until the reference year; and
 - births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the first quarter of the subsequent year.
- 8** For example, birth records received by ABS during the March quarter 2007 which were initially registered in 2006 (but not fully completed until 2007) were assigned to the 2007 reference year. Any registrations relating to 2006 which were received by ABS after the end of the March quarter 2007 were assigned to the 2007 reference year.

*Scope of births statistics**continued*

9 Under these rules, it was possible for a birth registration to not be recorded in the collection. For 2007 onwards, the scope of the Birth Registrations collection has been reviewed and amended. The scope includes:

- all births registered in Australia for the reference year and received by ABS in the reference year;
- births registered in the years prior to the reference year but not received by ABS until the reference year or the first quarter of the subsequent year, provided that these records have not been included in any statistics from earlier periods; and
- births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the first quarter of the subsequent year.

Coverage of births statistics

10 Ideally, for compiling annual time series, the number of events (births) should be recorded as all those occurring within a given reference period such as a calendar year. Due to lags in registration of births and the provision of that information to ABS from state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, data in this publication are presented on a year of registration basis.

11 In effect there are three dates attributable to each birth registration:

- the date of occurrence (of the birth);
- the date of registration or inclusion on the state/territory register; and
- the month in which the registered event is provided to the ABS.

12 Data in this publication are presented according to date of registration, unless otherwise stated. The registration date differs between states and territories, and should be taken into account when analysing birth statistics:

- for births registered in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the birth registration date is the date at which the record is entered into the registration processing system;
- for births registered in South Australia, preliminary and final registration dates are allocated. Where a record requires further information a preliminary date is assigned. Once all data is finalised, a final registration date is assigned to the birth record which is provided to the ABS as the registration date;
- for births registered in Queensland, the registration date is the date at which all data on the birth record is finalised. This may be before the birth is entered into the registration system;
- for births registered in the Northern Territory, the registration date is the date at which the record is entered into the registration system. For birth records not received by the Registrar within 60 days of the birth, the Registrar will register the child as 'unnamed' and not finalised; and
- for births registered in Tasmania, a date is allocated when the birth record is entered into the registration system. The ABS receives an 'insertion' date which is the date when any information relating to the birth is entered into the registration system.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Nuptiality

13 Nuptiality relates to the registered marital status of the parent(s) of the child at the time of birth. Confinements and births are classified as:

- nuptial where the father registered was married to the mother at the time of the child's birth, or where the husband died during pregnancy. Confinements and births of Indigenous mothers considered to be tribally married are classified as nuptial; and
- exnuptial where the parents were not in a registered marriage at the time of the child's birth, irrespective of whether the parents were living together at the time of the birth.

14 Exnuptial births and confinements are further classified as paternity acknowledged (where the father signed the birth registration form) or paternity not acknowledged (where the father did not sign the form).

*Australian Standard
Geographical Classification*

15 The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical classification system consisting of six interrelated classification structures. The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography and thereby enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

16 For further information refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

*Standard Australian
Classification of Countries*

17 The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Second Edition) groups neighbouring countries into progressively broader geographical areas on the basis of their similarity in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics. The SACC (Second Edition) is the revised edition of the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS) and includes concordances between the SACC (First Edition) and the SACC (Second Edition).

18 For further information refer to *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0).

DATA SOURCES

19 Registration of births is the responsibility of state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is based on data provided on an information form completed by the parent(s) of the child. This form is the basis of the data provided to the ABS by the Registrars, for compilation into aggregate statistics in this publication. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at the national level are available for most characteristics. Some states collect additional information.

20 Hospitals and birth clinics notify state and territory registries of recent births on a regular basis. For those births known to a registry that have not been registered within a prescribed time period, a reminder letter is sent to the parent(s) of the child to follow-up the birth registration.

States and territories

21 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.

22 Prior to 1993 births to mothers usually resident in Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included with Off-Shore Areas and Migratory in Western Australia, while births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory were included with the Australian Capital Territory. In 2008 there were 30 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

23 Statistics for states and territories have been compiled and presented in respect of the state or territory of usual residence of the mother, except where otherwise stated. In the following table data are presented on a state or territory of registration basis. Births which took place outside Australia are excluded from the statistics. Births to mothers who were usual residents of Australia's Other Territories (Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory) are registered in other Australian states.

BIRTHS, State or territory of usual residence of mother and state or territory of registration—2008

State or territory of usual residence	STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION								Total
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
New South Wales	92 025	1 091	572	39	34	np	np	918	94 684
Victoria	98	70 892	60	78	28	8	3	8	71 175
Queensland	917	75	62 077	13	35	8	np	np	63 132
South Australia	24	37	10	20 107	np	np	29	—	20 229
Western Australia	39	25	26	12	31 713	np	25	np	31 850
Tasmania	14	23	11	np	np	6 724	np	—	6 775
Northern Territory	25	13	36	31	29	—	3 808	—	3 942
Australian Capital Territory	70	9	4	np	—	np	—	4 718	4 804
Other Territories	5	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	30
Australia	93 217	72 165	62 796	20 282	31 886	6 752	3 875	5 648	296 621

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

States and territories continued

24 In 2008 there were 429 births to women who usually lived overseas. These have been included in this publication with state or territory of usual residence classified according to the state or territory in which the birth was registered.

BIRTHS, Babies born in Australia to non-resident mothers

State or territory of registration	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
New South Wales	338	398	380	281	308	324	341
Victoria	22	24	20	23	21	17	20
Queensland	116	92	61	38	41	86	42
South Australia	4	5	9	—	—	3	3
Western Australia	16	24	18	8	13	21	18
Tasmania	4	5	—	3	—	—	—
Northern Territory	6	5	3	5	4	np	np
Australian Capital Territory	5	4	—	7	3	np	np
Australia	511	557	491	364	391	456	429

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

Sub-state/territory fertility rates

25 Age-specific and total fertility rates for sub-state/territory regions (for example, Statistical Divisions) presented in this publication are calculated as average rates over three years ending in the reference year. Rates for Australia and the states and territories in all other tables are based on single years of birth registrations data.

DATA QUALITY

26 In compiling births statistics, the ABS employs a variety of measures to improve the quality of the births collection. While every opportunity is undertaken to ensure that the highest quality of statistics are provided, the following is a list of known issues associated with the quality of births statistics included in this publication.

Interval between occurrence and registration of births

27 For the most part, statistics in this publication refer to births registered during the calendar year shown. There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth (referred to as a registration 'lag'), and as a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth.

Interval between occurrence
and registration of births
continued

YEAR OF OCCURRENCE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2008

State or territory of registration	2002 and earlier	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	9.7	89.7
Victoria	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	9.7	88.8
Queensland	2.1	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	13.2	81.3
South Australia	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	7.0	90.9
Western Australia	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	9.2	87.7
Tasmania	2.0	—	—	—	0.1	3.4	94.4
Northern Territory	0.4	—	—	—	0.1	6.2	93.3
Australian Capital Territory	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	7.8	91.3
Australia	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	10.0	87.8

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

28 Of the 296,600 births registered in 2008, 87.8% occurred in 2008, while 10.0% occurred in 2007 and the remainder (2.3%) occurred in 2006 or earlier years.

Recent registration lags in
Queensland

29 As a result of recent changes in the timeliness of registration of births in Queensland, care should be taken when interpreting changes in Queensland births between 2005 and 2008. In the table below, 13.2% of the 62,800 births registered in Queensland in 2008 occurred in 2007. This proportion, although lower than 2006 and 2007 (14.8% and 16.2% respectively), is still relatively high, indicating that the higher total number of births registered in Queensland in 2008 is to some extent due to changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, as well as increases in the absolute number of registrations processed in 2008.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN QUEENSLAND, Year of registration by year of birth

Year of birth	YEAR OF REGISTRATION					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2002 and earlier	14.8	4.0	2.9	2.4	1.9	2.1
2003	85.2	11.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
2004	—	84.7	10.7	0.8	0.5	0.9
2005	—	—	85.4	14.8	1.1	0.6
2006	—	—	—	81.3	16.2	1.1
2007	—	—	—	—	79.7	13.2
2008	—	—	—	—	—	81.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Indigenous births and fertility rates

30 In this publication the term Indigenous is used to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. In the Birth Registrations collection, the Indigenous status of a birth is derived from the Indigenous status of the parent(s).

31 There are several data collection forms on which people are asked to state whether they are of Indigenous origin. Due to a number of factors, results collated from these forms are not always consistent. The way in which a person identifies, or is identified, as Indigenous on a specific form can change over time leading to unexpected changes in Indigenous statistics. Responses to Indigenous status questions can be influenced by a range of factors, including the perception of how information will be used, education programs about identifying as Indigenous, who completes the question on behalf of others, and emotional reaction to identifying as Indigenous. The data presented may therefore underestimate the level of Indigenous births and fertility in Australia. Lags in registrations may also affect reliability of measures of Indigenous fertility. Caution should be exercised when interpreting Indigenous births and fertility data presented in this publication, especially with regard to year-to-year changes.

32 Chapter 3 reports on the number and characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility rates in each state and territory, excluding the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories. Indigenous data for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories are not analysed separately due to small numbers but are included in totals for Australia. Numbers of Indigenous births for the Australian Capital Territory are published in Table 2.20 and data cube Table 1: Births, Summary, Australia, States and territories.

33 The populations used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 1996 to 2008 are the experimental estimates and projections of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female population aged 15–49 years, based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. For more information see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0).

34 Estimates of annual numbers of Indigenous births in Australia are available from two collections:

- ABS Birth Registrations: this publication is based on the registration of births with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory; and
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit perinatal statistics series: these data are primarily about babies born in hospitals and their mothers (see Appendix: Differences Between Collections for more information).

35 In addition to these collections, it is possible to derive indirect estimates and projections of numbers of Indigenous births, based on 2006 census-based Indigenous population estimates:

- for 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2005, estimates of the Indigenous population were derived from experimental Indigenous resident population as at 30 June 2006 using a reverse survival technique based on experimental Indigenous life tables (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021*, cat. no. 3238.0). Indirect estimates of Indigenous births can then be derived using the number of Indigenous children aged 0 at 30 June of each year; and

Indigenous births and fertility rates continued

- for 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2021, projections of the Indigenous population were derived from experimental Indigenous resident population as at 30 June 2006 using assumptions on future levels of Indigenous fertility, mortality and migration. Numbers of projected Indigenous births were derived by applying assumed fertility rates to the Indigenous female population aged 15–49 years at 30 June of each year (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021*, cat. no. 3238.0).

Tasmanian birth registrations

- 36** As required by the *Tasmanian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999*, hospitals, doctors, midwives or other responsible persons provide the Tasmanian Registrar with a list of babies born containing basic information such as date of birth and sex of the baby. In the case of a live birth, the birth notification must be provided within 21 days of the birth. These notifications have been provided to the ABS since 2002 and are also used in producing quarterly population estimates.
- 37** Under the Act, the birth of a child must also be registered by lodging a birth registration statement with the Registrar within 60 days after the date of birth of the child. Once the parent(s) submits the birth registration statement, the record is updated and the Registrar provides ABS with a complete registration record. Where a match between a birth notification and birth registration statement is identified, the record is quality assured to ensure completeness of the record.
- 38** If the birth registration form is not received by the Tasmanian Registry, only the basic birth notification data is available. For these records, no information on age of mother is collected. As well, no information regarding the father is collected, therefore these births are coded as exnuptial paternity unknown births and included in exnuptial paternity not acknowledged statistics. As a result, the number of exnuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated and the number of nuptial births understated for 2002 onwards. In 2008, the number of unmatched birth registration forms was 150. Measures based on age of mother/father may also be affected, however the extent is unable to be determined.

Edits and imputations

- 39** During edit processes for the Birth Registrations collection, some items are corrected where they conflict with other known information. Missing data for some data items are imputed when appropriate. In 2008, there were 360 birth registrations for which place of usual residence was imputed, and 56 registrations for which sex was imputed.

Parity (previous children of mother)

- 40** Parity refers to the number of (live) births that a woman (or man) has had. Birth order refers to whether a birth is the first, second, third or higher-order birth of the parent. In registering births, information is collected on the number of previous children born to a mother.
- 41** Changes in ABS processing of birth registrations from 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers. Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the *current* relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007 onwards, data on previous births for *all* relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland. Due to high proportion of confinements in Tasmania in 2008 for which no information on previous children of the mother was available (table 2.8), data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution.
- 42** The collection of these data are a result of the increasing demand for parity data for analysis and dissemination. For more information on the reasons behind the increased use of parity data and collection methods associated with these statistics, see Corr, P. and Kippen, R. 2006, *The Case for Parity and Birth-Order Statistics*, Australia and New Zealand Journal of Statistics, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 171–200.

Parity (previous children of mother) continued

43 As a result of the above changes, data on previous births for 2007 and 2008 are not comparable with data for earlier years. However, the improved information indicates that the prevalence of first births (that is, mothers with no previous children) was overestimated prior to 2007, while numbers of mothers with two or more previous children were underestimated.

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF MOTHER(a)(b), Australia

	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total
Year of registration (c)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2003	49.4	33.0	12.9	3.2	0.9	0.6	100.0
2004	49.4	33.0	12.9	3.1	0.9	0.6	100.0
2005	49.0	33.3	12.6	3.5	1.0	0.6	100.0
2006	48.7	33.0	12.8	3.8	1.0	0.7	100.0
2007	43.3	33.2	15.1	5.2	2.0	1.2	100.0
2008	43.0	33.1	15.0	5.4	2.0	1.4	100.0

- (a) Previous children refers to the number of previous births of the mother, at the time of the birth registered in the reference year.
- (b) Excluding Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.
- (c) Data for 2003 to 2006 are the number of previous births of the mother, from the current relationship only. Data for 2007 and 2008 are previous births of the mother, for all relationships.

Age of parent(s)

44 In processing 2007 birth registrations, discrepancies were identified between age of mother data as provided to the ABS and age of mother derived from date of birth of mother. Similarly, in 2008 there were 18,323 records (6% of all confinements) for which the derived age of mother was found to be inconsistent with the reported age. For these records, the derived age of mother was used, resulting in more accurate data on age of mother at the time of the birth. The same process was applied to information on age of father, for which 17,651 records were affected. For years prior to 2007, median age may therefore have been overstated.

CONFIDENTIALITY

45 The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the authority for the ABS to collect statistical information, and requires that statistical output shall not be published or disseminated in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. This requirement means that the ABS must take care and make assurances that any statistical information about individual respondents cannot be derived from published data.

46 Where necessary, tables in this publication have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

ROUNDING

47 Calculations as shown in the commentary sections of this publication are based on unrounded figures. Calculations using rounded figures may differ from those published. Where figures have been rounded in tables, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

48 The ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, business, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PRODUCTS

49 Other ABS products which may be of interest to users include:

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.65.001)
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (cat. no. 1216.0)
Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)
Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0)
Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods
 (cat. no. 3228.0)
Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)
Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0)
Perinatal Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3304.0)
Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (cat. no. 3201.0)
Population Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3222.0)
Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (cat. no. 1269.0)

50 Other publications which may be of interest to users include *Australia's Mothers and Babies, 2006*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit, AIHW website <www.aihw.gov.au>ADDITIONAL STATISTICS
AVAILABLE**51** More detailed births and fertility statistics can be obtained from data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) available for download from the ABS website in *Births, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 3301.0):

- Table 1: Births, Summary, Australia, states and territories—1998 to 2008
- Table 2: Births, Summary, Statistical Divisions—2003 to 2008
- Table 3: Births, Summary, Statistical Local Areas—2003 to 2008
- Table 4: Births, Summary, Local Government Areas—2003 to 2008
- Table 5: Births, Year and month of occurrence, Australia—1998 to 2008
- Table 6: Births, Nuptiality and age of parents, Australia—2008
- Table 7: Births, Summary, Country of birth of parents, Australia—2008
- Table 8: Multiple births, Australia, states and territories—2008
- Table 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, Summary, Australia, states and territories—2008
- Table 10: Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, Single year of age of mother, Australia—1975 to 2008

52 Additional demographic information is available on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>; click Themes, then under People click on Demography. Users can also access the full range of electronic ABS data from the ABS website.**53** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.**54** The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details the products to be released in the week ahead.

GLOSSARY

Age-sex pyramid	An age-sex pyramid is a bar chart graphically representing the age structure of the population, usually in five-year age groups, for males and females separately. The age structure of the population usually approximates the shape of a pyramid because mortality progressively reduces the number in each birth cohort as it ages. The age pyramid is useful to show the existence of unusually large or small cohorts, and in this way, not only conveys information about a country's past demographic history, but also a great deal about its demographic future.
Ageing of the population	Ageing of the population is the consideration of the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over, and the way this proportion is continuing to increase, mostly due to persistent low fertility rates and declining mortality rates.
Age-specific fertility rates	Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) are the number of live births (occurred or registered) during the calendar year, according to the age of the mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 years are included in the 15–19 years age group, and births to mothers aged 50 years and over are included in the 45–49 years age group. Pro rata adjustment is made for births for which the age of the mother is not given.
Average annual growth rate	<p>The average annual growth rate, r, is calculated as a percentage using the formula:</p> $\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$ <p>where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_0 and P_n in years.</p>
Baby boom	Baby boom refers to the generation born between the end of World War II and the mid-1960s. Baby boomers are usually taken to be those born in the years 1946 to 1965 inclusive.
Balance of state or territory	The aggregation of all Statistical Divisions (SD) within a state or territory other than its Capital City SD. See Major Statistical Region in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Birth	The delivery of a child, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as heartbeat.
Capital city	Refers to the Capital City Statistical Divisions of states and territories as defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Completed fertility	Completed fertility represents the average number of births a cohort of females have borne over their reproductive lifetimes.
Confinement	A pregnancy which results in at least one live birth.
Crude birth rate	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 1992, the crude birth rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year.
Estimated resident population (ERP)	The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months.

Exnuptial birth	An exnuptial birth is the birth of a child whose parents are not legally married to each other at the time of the child's birth.
Indigenous	Persons who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Indigenous birth	The birth of a live-born child where either the mother or the father was identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration form.
Indigenous origin	Persons who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Intercensal discrepancy	Intercensal discrepancy is the difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous census year with intercensal components of population change which take account of information available from the latest census. It is caused by errors in the start and/or finish population estimates and/or in estimates of births, deaths or migration in the intervening period which cannot be attributed to a particular source.
Marital status	<p>Two separate concepts of marital status are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status.</p> <p>Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages and divorces. Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person. Accordingly, people are classified as either 'never married', 'married', 'widowed' or 'divorced'.</p> <p>Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married' with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married'.</p>
Median age at childbearing	The term refers to the age at which approximately one-half of the females in a population have their children, either for a birth of particular birth order or for all births. It measures the age at childbearing within the female population, as distinct from the median age of mother at confinement which measures the median age of the females who gave birth in a particular year.
Median age of mother at confinement	The median age of mother at confinement measures the median age of females who gave birth in a particular year.
Median value	For any distribution 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 calculation.
Mortality	Death.
Multiple birth	A multiple birth is a confinement which results in two or more children, at least one of which is live-born.
Natural increase	Excess of births over deaths.

Net overseas migration (NOM)	<p>Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia or emigration from Australia. It is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; ■ the difference between the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and are added to the population and the number of outgoing travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more and are subtracted from the population.
Net population growth	For Australia, net population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For the states and territories, net population growth also includes net interstate migration.
Net reproduction rate	The net reproduction rate represents the average number of daughters that would be born to a group of females if they are subject to the fertility and mortality rates of a given year during their future life. It indicates the extent to which the population would reproduce itself. The net reproduction rate is obtained by multiplying the age-specific birth rates (for female births only) by the proportion of survivors at corresponding ages in a life table and adding the products.
Nuptial birth	A nuptial birth is the birth of a child born of parents who are legally married at the time of the child's birth.
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 registered marital status of persons and the events such as marriages, divorces and widowhood. 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 exnuptial whether or not both parents were living together at the time of birth.
Parity	Parity refers to the number of live births a woman has had previous to the most recent birth. Parity is also an attribute of any live birth, being the order of that birth (e.g. first birth, second birth, and so on) of a woman.
Part of state	Part of state is used to refer to the remainder of a state outside the Capital City Statistical Division (SD). See also Balance of state or territory.
Paternity acknowledged birth	A paternity acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged.
Paternity not acknowledged birth	A paternity not acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was not acknowledged.
Population growth	For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the census, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.

Previous births	<p>Previous births refer to children born alive (who may or may not be living) 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.</p> <p>Changes in ABS processing of data collected by state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages for 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers. Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the <i>current</i> relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007, data on previous births for <i>all</i> relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland.</p>
Previous children	See Previous births.
Rate of population growth	Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.
Registered marital status	Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages for which the partners hold a marriage certificate. In this publication the distinction is between married parents (nuptial births) and unmarried parents (exnuptial births).
Replacement fertility	Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a female would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of females up to age 49 years, replacement fertility is estimated at around 2.1 babies per female.
Sex ratio	The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by appropriately selecting the numerator and denominator of the ratio.
Social marital status	Social marital status is the consensual union status of a person with reference to another person in the household. In this publication data are only available from midwives' collection. The categories are married/de facto; single; and separated/divorced/widowed.
State or territory of registration	State or territory of registration refers to the state or territory in which the event was registered.
State or territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence	<p>State or territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the population (estimated resident population) ■ the mother (birth collection) ■ the deceased (death collection).
Statistical Division (SD)	Statistical Divisions (SD) consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions (SSD). The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SDs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Statistical Local Areas (SLA) are, in most cases, identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole Local Government Areas (LGA). In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap statistical subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs (Part A, Part B and, if necessary, Part C). Further information concerning SLAs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Statistical Subdivision (SSD)	In aggregate, Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region,

Statistical Subdivision (SSD) <i>continued</i>	under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SSDs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Teenage fertility rate	The number of births during the calendar year to women aged 15–19 years, per 1,000 female estimated resident population aged 15–19 years at 30 June of the same year. Births to women aged under 15 years are included.
Total fertility rate	The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.
Usual residence	Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
Year of occurrence	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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