

## Overview

Population statistics underpin discussion of a wide range of issues including immigration, multiculturalism, ageing and population sustainability. The changing size and distribution of Victoria's population has implications for service provision and delivery in areas such as health, education, housing and labour market.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes two types of data on resident population in Australia; counts from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and yearly estimates of population. Estimated resident population (ERP) is the official estimate of resident population at 30 June for a given area. It adjusts the census count (by place of usual residence) for census undercount, interstate and overseas migration, births and deaths.

Using ERP data and migration statistics, this chapter examines population density, components of population increase, population projections and age distribution. Also included are vital statistics on births, deaths, life expectancy, marriages and divorces. The data are complemented with information about families and Indigenous Victorians.

## Population

As at June 1997, Australia's ERP was 18,532,200, an increase of 1.2% over June 1996. Victoria's population rose 1.0% to 4,605,100 over the same period (table 4.1). An estimated 3,321,700 persons lived in the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD), representing 72% of Victoria's population. Victoria is the most densely populated Australian State, averaging 20.2 persons per square kilometre, compared with an Australian average of 2.4 persons.

### 4.1 AREA, ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a), AND POPULATION DENSITY

	Units	Victoria	Australia
Area	km <sup>2</sup>	227 600.0	7 682 300.0
Estimated resident population at June 30			
1991	'000	4 420.4	17 285.3
1996r	'000	4 560.2	18 310.7
1997	'000	4 605.1	18 532.2
Increase in population from 1996 to 1997	%	1.0	1.2
Persons per square kilometre (at 1997)	no.	20.2	2.4
Victorian population as a proportion of Australian population (at 1997)	%	24.8	100.0

(a) ERP should not be confused with the census count, the latter being a count of population on census night. ERP takes into account under-enumeration and reflects normal place of residence.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

## Population increase

The components of population growth are natural increase (number by which live births exceed deaths in State of usual residence) and net migration (both from interstate and overseas). The rate of natural increase in Victoria has fallen steadily, and was 0.6% in the year ended 30 June 1997 (table 4.2). Annual net migration loss from Victoria reached a record of 19,500 in 1994, due to more Victorians moving interstate than people arriving from other States, combined with a low number of overseas migrants. However, net interstate migration loss from Victoria has decreased to 6,300 for the 12 months to June 1997. In addition, 23,000 overseas migrants arrived in Victoria, giving a net migration gain of 16,700.

### 4.2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION INCREASE

Year ended 30 June	Natural increase	Net migration			Total population increase
		Overseas	Interstate	Total	
1992	33 518	18 362	-18 427	-67	<b>34 629</b>
1993	33 679	7 964	-25 388	-17 424	<b>17 385</b>
1994	32 576	10 698	-29 195	-19 497	<b>15 183</b>
1995	31 346	19 295	-22 020	-2 725	<b>29 817</b>
1996	28 497	25 692	-12 800	12 892	<b>42 768</b>
1997	28 311	22 989	-6 307	16 682	<b>44 993</b>

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Interstate departures from Victoria exceeded arrivals in every year between 1972 and 1997. However, the level of interstate departures from Victoria must be seen in the context of overseas migration patterns, because of Melbourne's importance as a point of entry. Outward movement from Victoria is most often to Queensland and New South Wales.

Of arrivals to Victoria, 34% were from New South Wales and 30% from Queensland (table 4.3). Victoria had a net migration loss to Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory.

### 4.3 INTERSTATE MIGRATION

State or Territory of origin/destination	12 months ended			
	June 1996		June 1997	
	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria
New South Wales	19 321	20 847	21 306	21 286
Queensland	16 148	25 944	18 885	25 858
South Australia	7 851	7 015	8 430	6 888
Western Australia	5 560	7 297	6 520	7 676
Tasmania	3 323	2 828	3 305	2 363
Northern Territory	2 050	2 846	2 063	3 127
Australian Capital Territory	2 011	2 289	2 420	2 038
<b>Total</b>	<b>56 264</b>	<b>69 066</b>	<b>62 929</b>	<b>69 236</b>

Source: Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0).

**Population projections**

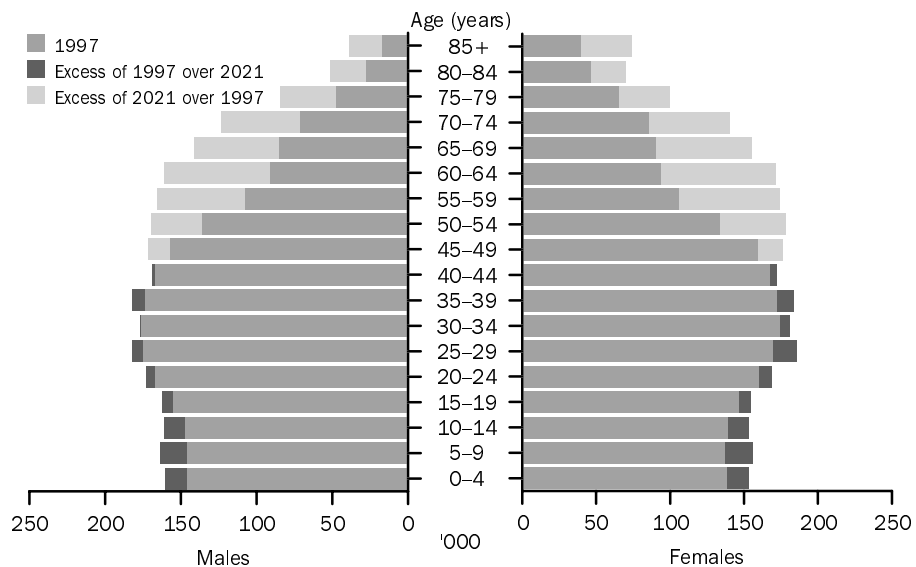
The following projections are based on a model that assumes a fertility rate only slightly lower than the current rate, a lower overseas migration gain and medium interstate migration losses. Using these assumptions, the Victorian population is expected to reach 5.0 million by 2011, and grow to 5.3 million by 2029, when the MSD population is expected to reach 4.0 million. By comparison, Australia’s population is expected to be 21.0 million in 2011, and reach 23.5 million in 2029.

Comparison of proportional population distribution between now and 2051 shows losses in the share of national population living in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory; in favour of Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory. It is expected that Queensland will replace Victoria as the second most populous State between 2022 and 2048.

**Age distribution**

In 1997, 20.6% of the Victorian population were aged under 15 years, and 12.6% were 65 years or over (graph 4.4 and table 4.5). By 2051, the proportion of the population aged under 15 years will decrease to 14.8%, while those over 65 years are projected to increase to 25.8%. The Australian population aged 85 years and over is expected to increase from 0.2 million in 1997 to 1.1 million in the year 2051.

**4.4 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION—1997 And Projected Population 2021**



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (Cat. no. 3201.0); Population Projections (Cat. no. 3222.0).

## 4.5 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, By Age Groups—30 June 1997(a)

Age group (years)	Males		Females		Persons	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
0-4	160 801	7.0	153 004	6.6	313 805	6.8
5-9	163 748	7.2	155 910	6.7	319 658	6.9
10-14	160 742	7.0	153 621	6.6	314 363	6.8
15-19	162 543	7.1	154 677	6.6	317 220	6.9
20-24	173 059	7.6	168 887	7.2	341 946	7.4
25-29	182 978	8.0	185 747	7.8	368 725	8.0
30-34	177 018	7.8	180 658	7.7	357 676	7.8
35-39	181 713	8.0	183 985	7.9	365 698	7.9
40-44	169 241	7.4	172 446	7.4	341 687	7.4
45-49	157 563	7.0	159 502	6.8	317 065	6.9
50-54	136 022	6.0	133 847	5.7	269 869	5.9
55-59	107 773	4.7	106 269	4.6	214 042	4.6
60-64	91 102	4.0	93 703	4.0	184 805	4.0
65-69	85 569	3.8	90 505	3.9	176 074	3.8
70-74	71 467	3.1	85 779	3.7	157 246	3.4
75-79	47 714	2.0	65 723	2.8	113 437	2.4
80-84	27 977	1.2	46 473	2.0	74 450	1.6
85 and over	17 261	0.7	40 121	1.7	57 382	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 274 291</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 330 857</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4 605 148</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Data in this table are preliminary.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, June Quarter 1997 (Cat. no. 3101.0).

## Births

There were 60,732 live births registered to women resident in Victoria during 1997, a 1% decrease on 1996 registrations (table 4.6 and graph 4.7). This represented 24% of total Australian births.

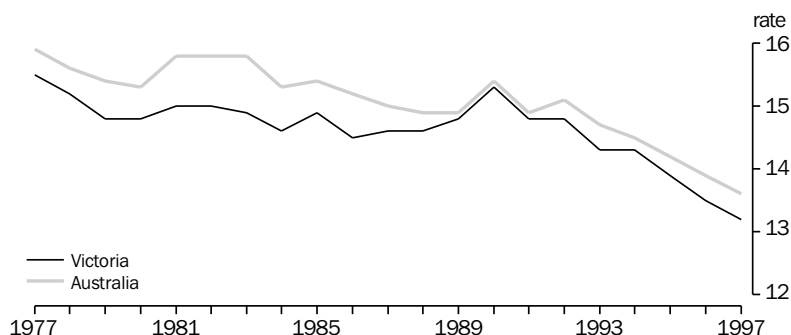
## 4.6 SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1997

Particulars	Victoria	Australia
<b>Live births</b>		
Males	31 248	129 179
Females	29 484	122 663
Persons		
Number	60 732	251 842
Rate(a)	13.2	13.6
<b>Deaths</b>		
Males	17 122	67 752
Females	16 139	61 598
Persons		
Number	33 261	129 350
Rate(a)	7.2	7.0
<b>Infant deaths</b>	300	1 341
<b>Perinatal deaths(b)</b>		
Number	433	2 170
Rate(c)	7.1	8.5
<b>Marriages</b>		
Number	25 456	106 735
Rate(a)	5.5	5.8
<b>Divorces</b>		
Number	12 463	51 288
Rate(a)	2.7	2.8

(a) Number per 1,000 estimated resident population. (b) Perinatal deaths comprise neonatal and fetal deaths. (c) The number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 live and still births.

Source: Demography, Victoria, 1997 (Cat. no. 3311.2).

## 4.7 CRUDE BIRTH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

The upward trend of ex-nuptial births continued in 1997, with 22.3% of births classified as ex-nuptial; a slight increase on the 21.6% recorded in 1996 (table 4.8). The median age of mothers giving birth (all confinements) was 30.0 years, with a median marriage duration of 2.7 years before first-born births.

## 4.8 SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS

Particulars	Units	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Live births							
Males	no.	33 691	32 793	32 904	32 108	31 587	31 248
Females	no.	32 075	31 256	31 070	30 483	29 556	29 484
Persons	no.	65 766	64 049	63 974	62 591	61 143	60 732
Sex ratio(a)	ratio	105.0	104.9	105.9	105.3	106.9	106.0
Birth rate(b)	rate	14.8	14.3	14.3	13.9	13.5	13.2
Nuptial births	no.	53 175	51 420	50 860	48 962	47 933	47 191
Ex-nuptial births	no.	12 591	12 629	13 114	13 629	13 210	13 541
Ex-nuptial births as proportion of total live births	%	19.1	19.7	20.5	21.8	21.6	22.3
Confinements	no.	64 898	63 172	63 085	61 685	60 294	59 804
Median age of mother for all confinements	years	29.2	29.3	29.5	29.7	29.9	30.0
Median duration of marriage for nuptial first confinements	years	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7

(a) Number of male live births per 100 female live births. (b) Number of live births registered during calendar year per 1,000 of mean estimated resident population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

## Deaths

There were 33,261 deaths of Victorian residents registered in 1997, of which 17,122 were male and 16,139 were female. This represented an increase of 0.1% over 1996 (table 4.9 and graph 4.10). The 1997 crude death rate was 7.2 deaths per 1,000 of ERP, the same as 1996. The median age at death was 74.7 years for males and 81.4 years for females. The infant mortality rate was 4.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, marginally lower than the 5.0 recorded in 1996.

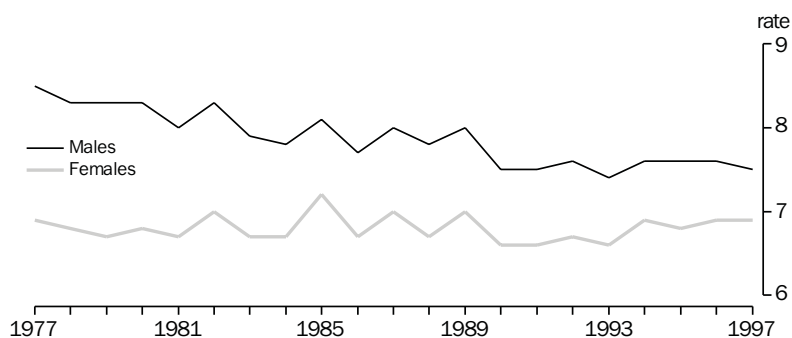
## 4.9 SUMMARY OF DEATHS

Particulars	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Deaths						
Males	16 816	16 389	16 765	16 960	17 009	17 122
Females	15 135	14 808	15 588	15 465	15 717	16 139
Persons	31 951	31 197	32 353	32 425	32 726	33 261
Sex ratio(a)	111.1	110.7	107.6	110.0	108.2	106.1
Standardised death rate(b)						
Males	8.8	8.4	8.5	7.7	8.1	—
Females	5.3	5.1	5.1	7.0	5.0	—
Persons	6.8	6.5	6.6	7.2	6.3	—
Crude death rate(b)						
Males	7.6	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
Females	6.7	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9
Persons	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
Infant deaths						
Males	220	200	189	161	179	158
Females	146	147	138	147	129	142
Persons	366	347	327	308	308	450
Infant mortality rate(c)	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9
Perinatal deaths						
Males	292	273	317	275	260	240
Females	249	209	196	210	190	193
Persons	541	482	513	485	450	433
Perinatal death rate(d)	8.2	7.5	8.0	7.7	7.4	7.1
Median age at death (years)						
Males	73.2	73.5	74.0	73.9	74.7	74.7
Females	80.1	80.1	80.6	80.9	81.3	81.4

(a) Number of male deaths per 100 female deaths. (b) Number of deaths registered per 1,000 of the mean estimated resident population. (c) Deaths of children aged less than one year per 1,000 live births. (d) Still births (foetal) and neonatal deaths (within 28 days of birth) per 1,000 live births.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

## 4.10 CRUDE DEATH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

**Life expectancy**

Life expectancy refers to the average number of additional years a person of given age and sex might expect to live, if the age-specific death rates of the given year continued throughout his or her lifetime. A child born during 1995–97 to a mother resident in Victoria has a life expectancy of 81.4 years if female and 75.8 years if male (table 4.11). A woman aged 40 in 1995–1997 has a life expectancy of a further 42.5 years, and a man of the same age 37.8 years.

**4.11 LIFE EXPECTANCY—1995–97**

Age (years)	Males	Females
	years	years
0	75.8	81.4
5	71.3	76.8
10	66.3	71.9
15	61.4	66.9
20	56.6	62.0
25	51.9	57.1
30	47.2	52.2
35	42.5	47.4
40	37.8	42.5
45	33.1	37.7
50	28.5	33.0
55	24.0	28.4
60	19.9	24.0
65	16.0	19.7
70	12.6	15.7
75	9.7	12.1
80	7.2	8.9
85	5.3	6.4
90	4.0	4.5
95	3.3	3.3

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

**Marriages**

In 1997, there were 25,456 marriages registered in Victoria, a decrease of 2% on 1996 (table 4.12). The number of marriages registered per year is continuing a downward trend, with the numbers registered in 1997 recording a 10% decrease on 1992. This is reflected in the crude marriage rate decreasing from 6.4 marriages per 1,000 population in 1992 to 5.5 in 1997. Of total marriages, 69% were first marriages for both partners, 18% a first for one partner, and 13% a remarriage for both partners.

## 4.12 SUMMARY OF MARRIAGES

Particulars	Unit	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
First marriage both partners	no.	19 882	19 195	19 078	18 752	18 026	17 666
First marriage one partner	no.	4 926	4 737	4 443	4 458	4 546	4 485
Remarriage both partners	no.	3 621	3 486	3 453	3 397	3 502	3 305
<i>Total marriages</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>28 429</i>	<i>27 418</i>	<i>26 974</i>	<i>26 607</i>	<i>26 074</i>	<i>25 456</i>
Crude marriage(a)	rate	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5
Performed by ministers of religion							
Marriages	no.	17 361	16 613	16 153	n.a.	14 415	14 004
Proportion of all marriages	%	61.1	60.6	59.9	n.a.	55.3	55.0

(a) Number of marriages per 1,000 mean estimated resident population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

## Divorces

There were 12,463 divorces granted in Victoria during 1997, a marginal decrease of 0.2% on the number granted in 1996 (table 4.13). There were 2.7 divorces per 1,000 population, with a median interval of 7.7 years between marriage and separation. The median duration of marriages was 11.0 years. Divorces involving children increased by 2.3% from 1996 to 1997, and represented 53.4% of total divorces granted in 1997.

## 4.13 SUMMARY OF DIVORCES

Particulars	Unit	1992	1993	1994	1995(a)	1996	1997
Divorces granted	no.	10 533	11 050	11 320	11 838	12 491	12 463
Crude divorce(b)	rate	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.7
Median duration of marriage	years	10.4	10.6	10.9	10.9	10.8	11.0
Median interval between marriage and separation	years	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7
Divorces of persons involving children(c)							
Divorces	no.	5 616	5 905	n.a.	n.a.	6 482	6 661
Total divorces	%	53.3	53.4	n.a.	n.a.	51.9	53.4
Average children	no.	1.9	1.9	n.a.	n.a.	1.9	1.9

(a) A number of data items, including marital status of parties, were not processed in 1995. (b) Number of divorces per 1,000 mean estimated resident population. (c) Family Court data for 1994 are incomplete; children's data not processed in 1995.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

## Indigenous population

Indigenous population data have been collected in every census since Federation, but prior to the 1967 repeal of section 127 of the Constitution, only those deemed to be of less than half Aboriginal origin were included in official population figures for States and Territories. Since then, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has made considerable efforts to collect data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, through the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and other surveys.

As at 30 June 1996, the estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Victoria was 22,598 (table 4.14), an increase of 2,339 on June 1991. Indigenous people comprised 0.5% of Victoria's total population, the lowest proportion of any State or Territory.



**4.14 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)—30 June 1996**

	Indigenous population(b)	Total population	Indigenous as proportion of total population	Proportion of Australian Indigenous population
	'000	'000	%	%
Victoria	22.6	4 560.2	0.5	5.9
Australia	386.0	18 310.7	2.1	100.0

(a) ERPs have been rounded to the nearest 100, and as a result discrepancies may occur between sum of components and totals.

(b) Experimental estimates.

Source: *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 1996* (Cat. no. 3230.0); *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 1997* (Cat. no. 3101.0).

At 30 June 1996, 38.7% of Victoria's Indigenous population were aged under 15 years and 3.2% were aged over 65 years. This compared with 20.8% and 12.5% respectively for the total Victorian population. These figures reflect the relatively high fertility and, to a lesser extent, the high mortality of the Indigenous population.

The median age of the Indigenous population was 21.3 years which was much younger than that of the total population of 34.3 years.

The proportion of Indigenous and total Victorian females aged 15 years and over who have ever had children are similar at 62.1% and 63.2%, respectively. However, Indigenous females tended to have more children than the total female population. Approximately 10.0% of Indigenous females had five or more children, compared with 5.1% of total females.

## References

### Data sources

Statistics in this chapter are derived from various sources, including ERP, which is compiled according to place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the conceptual basis of this estimate is given in *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates and Projections—Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1995* (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Data on overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from information supplied by the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.

Interstate migration data are currently estimated on the basis of changes to Medicare registration information. Further details are given in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)

Births, deaths, and marriages statistics are compiled from data supplied by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages; while divorce statistics are compiled from statistical reports completed by the Family Court of Australia.

### ABS sources

*Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)

*Births, Australia* (Cat. no. 3301.0)

*Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Victoria, 1996* (Cat. no. 2034.2)

*Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0)

*Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2)

*Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Population, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 1996* (Cat. no. 3230.0)

*Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (Cat. no. 3310.0)

*Migration, Australia* (Cat. no. 3412.0)

*Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*  
(Cat. no. 3201.0)

*Population Projections* (Cat. no. 3222.0)