

YEAR BOOK

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PREFACE

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, 'to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to . . . Census and statistics.' In the exercise of the power so conferred, a Census and Statistics Act was passed in 1905, and in the year following the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was created. During the late 1960s and early 1970s it became increasingly evident that new statistical legislation was required to enable the Bureau to respond to the changing needs of Government. As a consequence, the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act, 1975* was enacted in mid 1975. The Act came into operation from 3 May 1976. The legislation established the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as the central statistical authority for the Commonwealth Government, the office of the Australian Statistician and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC).

The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. This is the sixty-second Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government. The Year Book is the principal general reference work produced by the Central Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical review of all aspects of the economy and social conditions of Australia, and in addition contains descriptive matter dealing with Australia's history, geography, physiography, climate and meteorology, government, defence and repatriation services, and international relations.

In the various chapters of the Year Book, and in the special index which precedes the general index, there are references to special articles, background material and items of historic interest which have appeared in previous issues.

Most of the statistics contained in this volume relate to the years ended June or December 1976 or 1977; however, some 1978 statistics have also been included. More detailed statistics on subjects dealt with in the Year Book are available in the various annual reports published by the ABS, while more recent statistics are contained in the *Digest of Current Economic Statistics* (monthly), (1305.0), the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1304.0) and in other ABS publications issued monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following symbols, where shown in tables, mean:

- n.a. —not available
- . . —nil or less than half the final digit shown, or not applicable
- p —preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- r —figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.e.i. —not elsewhere included
- n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified
- n.s. —not stated
- m.—males; f.—females; p.—persons
- Break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures).

A blank space in a column of figures means that the figure concerned is not yet available.

Other forms of usage

The following *abbreviations* are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and Australia: N.S.W. (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), S.A. (South Australia), W.A. (Western Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), N.T. (Northern Territory), A.C.T. (Australian Capital Territory), Aust. (Australia).

In general, the *statistics in this volume relate to the States and Territories of Australia*, i.e. they exclude particulars of the External Territories of Australia, which, however, are specifically dealt with in Chapter 27, Territories of Australia. A few series elsewhere include particulars of Papua New Guinea because of the nature of the subject-matter; these series are indicated.

Yearly periods shown as e.g. 1975 refer to the year ended 31 December 1975; those shown as e.g. 1974–75 refer to the year ended 30 June 1975. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated. The range of years shown in table headings, e.g. 1901 to 1974–75, indicates the period covered, but does not necessarily imply that each intervening year is included.

Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

Catalogue numbers (previously Reference numbers). Throughout this book references are made to ABS publications. In each case the catalogue number is shown in brackets; this should be quoted when ordering these publications (*see below*).

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