

This page was added on 03 December 2012 to included the Disclaimer below.  
No other amendments were made to this Product

#### DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

## CHAPTER 6

### DEMOGRAPHY

This chapter deals with the size, growth, geographic location and characteristics of the population and with components of population change, namely births, deaths, marriages, divorces and migration.

The sources of the statistics in this chapter are population censuses, population surveys, State and Territorial registers of births, deaths and marriages, records of courts dealing with divorce, and other administrative records such as passenger cards required from international travellers and records of family allowance transfers.

With the proclamation of the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Act* 1967 on 10 August 1967, the provision in Section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aboriginals in reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth was repealed. Accordingly, population and vital statistics for all dates subsequent to 10 August 1967 no longer exclude full-blood Aboriginals. Also, estimates for periods back to 30 June 1961 have been revised to include Aboriginals.

The references at the end of this chapter list publications of the Central Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics dealing specifically with the topics of this chapter.

#### THE POPULATION

##### The population census

Basic enumerations of the population have been made since the early days of settlement in Australia. The early enumerations were known as 'musters'. A census conducted in New South Wales in 1828 became the first in a series of regular censuses in that colony. Periodic censuses were taken in the other Australian colonies. The first simultaneous censuses of all the Australian colonies was taken in 1881. The first national census was taken in 1911. It was followed by others in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961 and at five yearly intervals thereafter. A special article on early censuses appears in Year Book No. 15 of 1922. A special article outlining the history, purposes, legal basis, organisation and publication of results of population censuses appears in Year Book No. 53 of 1967, pages 164–70, but note that the reference in that Year Book to the exclusion of Aboriginals from the census count has not applied since the repeal of the relevant provision of Section 127 of the Constitution (see above).

Every census from 1881 has inquired into age, sex, marital status, birthplace, nationality or citizenship, and occupation. A wide variety of other topics has been included from time to time.

The most recent census in Australia was conducted on 30 June 1981. Counts of persons and dwellings are available for every collection district and for other larger areas, as well as statistics on characteristics of persons and dwellings as collected in the census. Census statistics will continue to be released in publications, on microfiche and on magnetic tape until 1985. A list of 1981 Census publications is contained in *Census 81—Data Release Plans* (2142.0).

The 1981 Census contained fewer questions than the 1976 Census. However, in addition to basic demographic topics mentioned above, questions were asked on such topics as previous residence, birth place of parents, English language proficiency, Aboriginality, religious affiliation, school attendance, educational qualifications, income, employment, mode of travel to work and certain characteristics of dwellings.

As for previous censuses, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families were out of the scope of the census, as were all persons residing in diplomatic residences on census night.

Despite elaborate arrangements aimed at obtaining complete coverage, it is not possible to ensure that a census schedule is returned for every individual. Some error inevitably remains for various reasons (e.g. inadvertent omission of very young children, missed dwellings or occupied dwellings mistakenly taken as unoccupied). Since 1966, sample surveys have been taken soon after each census to discover the approximate extent of underenumeration and the effects on the census results of misstatement or nonreply to specific questions. Underenumeration of the population of Australia at the 1981 Census is estimated to have been 1.9 per cent. Estimated underenumeration of State and Territory populations ranged from 0.8 per cent in Tasmania to 5.0 per cent in the Northern Territory. Underenumeration varies from location to location and for populations of different ages and other characteristics. These and similar problems are common to all population censuses.

### Population estimates

Population estimates by sex and State are calculated on a quarterly basis by updating estimates at census dates for subsequent births and deaths and for overseas and interstate migration. Age estimates as at 30 June each year are published by sex for each State and Territory. Small area population estimates down to the local government area level are also made annually.

The method of determining the base population at a census date has recently been changed in that estimates now reflect the usual residence of the population rather than the actual location in which people were counted at the census. At the Australia level this means that overseas visitors counted in the census are subtracted, the remaining population is adjusted for census underenumeration and an estimate of Australian residents temporarily overseas on census night is added. For the States this process involves an additional step which returns those people not at home on census night to their place of usual residence.

This change-over has enabled population estimates after the 1981 Census date to be compiled wholly according to place of usual residence, since components of population increase were already available on a usual residence basis. Estimated resident populations for the 1971 and 1976 Census dates have also been calculated and intercensal estimates have been revised accordingly.

As a result of the above adjustments, estimated resident populations at census dates differ from actual census counts. The figures for estimated resident populations (with actual location census counts shown in brackets) are: 13,067,300 (12,755,600) in 1971; 14,033,100 (13,548,500) in 1976; and 14,926,800, preliminary (14,576,300) in 1981.

### Size and growth of Australia's population

When Europeans first settled in Australia, the Aboriginal population is believed to have been at least 300,000. The Aboriginal population suffered a drastic decline in numbers over the next 145 years so that by 1933 it is estimated to have totalled about 67,000. In 1981, however, nearly 160,000 Aborigines were counted in the census.

The population of Australia reached 1 million in 1858, 5 million in 1918, 10 million in 1959 and 15 million towards the end of 1981.

From 1861 natural increase has been the major element in population growth, and immigration the most variable. In the years 1861 to 1890, total growth on average exceeded 3 per cent a year and natural increase 2 per cent. The rate of natural increase declined during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, and this, together with a near cessation of immigration during that period, reduced the rate of growth from 3.70 per cent in 1861-70 to 1.63 per cent in 1901-10.

The 1914-18 War was the dominating influence in the decade 1911-1920: during the war and immediate post-war years the birth rate rose and immigration was resumed. In the economic depression of the 1930s, however, natural increase fell to very low levels and immigration ceased; indeed, in some years, overseas departures exceeded arrivals.

With the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, Australia entered a new phase. The immediate effect of the war was to increase the number of marriages and births. The increasing births more than offset the rise in deaths due to war casualties and higher civilian death rates. Migration in these years was negligible.

The period 1947 to 1961 was marked by continued high natural increase and a resumption of immigration, the latter resulting in very high net gains in each of the four years 1949 to 1952.

Between 1961 and 1970, net migration continued at about the same level as in the previous decade, but there were declines in the crude birth rate and the rate of natural increase. The years from 1971 till 1980 were characterised by a reduced rate of natural increase due to a decline in the birth rate. In 1981, however, the crude birth rate rose for the first time since 1971 to 15.8 per 1,000 mean population (15.3 in 1980). Net migration gain, moderate for most of the seventies, increased sharply during 1979, 1980 and 1981, following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers.

The rate of population growth in 1981 was 1.67 per cent, the highest since 1971 (1.93 per cent). The population estimates in the following table relate to the end of December. Estimates for the end of June are given in other tables in this Chapter.

## POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Period	Population at end of period ('000) (a)	Average annual rate of growth (b) (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration (c)	Total
1851-1860 . . . . .	1,145.6			
1861-1870 . . . . .	1,647.8	2.47	1.23	3.70
1871-1880 . . . . .	2,231.5	2.07	1.01	3.08
1881-1890 . . . . .	3,151.4	2.05	1.46	3.51
1891-1900 . . . . .	3,765.3	1.73	0.07	1.80
1901-1910 . . . . .	4,425.1	1.53	0.10	1.63
1911-1920 . . . . .	5,411.3	1.60	0.43	2.03
1921-1930 . . . . .	6,500.8	1.32	0.53	1.85
1931-1940 . . . . .	7,077.6	0.79	0.05	0.85
1941-1950 . . . . .	8,307.5	1.13	0.47	1.61
1951-1955 . . . . .	9,311.8	1.38	0.95	2.31
1956-1960 . . . . .	10,391.9	1.40	0.83	2.22
1961-1965 . . . . .	11,505.4	1.27	0.74	1.98
1966-1970 . . . . .	12,663.5	1.11	0.91	1.94
1971-1975 . . . . .	(d) 13,968.9	1.07	0.49	1.56
1976-1980 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,806.3	0.81	0.45	1.17
1974 . . . . .	(d) 13,832.0	0.95	0.64	1.60
1975 . . . . .	(d) 13,968.9	0.90	0.10	0.99
1976 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,109.9	0.82	0.24	1.01
1977 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,280.8	0.83	0.48	1.21
1978 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,429.4	0.81	0.33	1.04
1979 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,599.9	0.81	0.48	1.18
1980 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 14,806.3	0.80	0.71	1.41
1981 <sub>p</sub> . . . . .	(d) 15,053.5	0.86	0.86	1.67

(a) Excludes full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1961. (b) The average annual rates of population growth for periods greater than one year are calculated on the compound interest principle. The rates refer to the population at the beginning of the period. Discrepancies between the sum of the rate of growth due to natural increase and net migration and the rate of total growth are due to intercensal adjustments. (c) Prior to 30 June 1933, net migration includes discrepancies disclosed by the various censuses, which were corrected by adjusting recorded overseas departures. From 30 June 1933 to 30 June 1971, net migration represents the excess of all arrivals over all departures. From 30 June 1971, net migration is defined as the excess of overseas arrivals over overseas departures classified as permanent and long-term. From 30 June 1976, net migration consists of net permanent and long-term movement and an adjustment for the net effect of changes in travel intentions which affect the categorization of movements. (d) Estimated resident population. Estimated resident populations for 1976 onwards are preliminary and subject to revision when final 1981 Census results become available. The estimated resident population at 31 December 1970 used to compute rates of growth for the period 1971-1975 was 12,929,600.

### Projections of the population

Projections of Australia's population have been made by the ABS using the component method in which a base population is brought forward year by year by applying assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and the characteristics of overseas migration.

The 1982 projections presented in the following table give a possible 2021 population in the range 22.1 million to 26.0 million persons.

Assumptions used in 1982 projection series—

Base population: The four series are based on the estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 1981.

Series A: *Fertility*—Total fertility rates for Australia are assumed to initially recover to a level of 2,010, and then decline to 1,900 in 1987, remaining constant thereafter. This 1987 level is about 10 per cent below replacement level.

*Mortality*—The 1971-80 average annual rates of decline in the age-specific death rates are assumed to continue until 1986. From 1987 to 2021 the age-specific death rates are projected to converge linearly to 2021 rates obtained by applying 1961-80 rates of decline for the period 1982-2021.

*Migration*—Net overseas migration to Australia is set at 75,000 persons per year.

Series B: *Fertility*—Total fertility rates for Australia are assumed to recover from 1,936 births per thousand females in 1981 to long-term replacement level of 2,110 by 1987, remaining constant thereafter.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—as in Series A.

Series C: *Fertility*—as in Series A.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—Net overseas migration to Australia is set at 125,000 persons per year.

Series D: *Fertility*—as in Series B.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—as in Series C.

The effect of the alternative fertility assumptions on projected populations can be seen in the table below by comparing Series A with Series B or by comparing Series C with Series D. Similarly comparisons between Series A and Series C or between Series B and Series D will bring out the differences due to the alternative migration assumptions.

**POPULATION: ACTUAL AND PROJECTED**  
(\*000)

At 30 June (a)	Actual population	At 30 June	Projected population			
			1982 Projections			
			Series A	Series B	Series C	Series D
1947	7,579.4	1982	15,128.0	15,129.0	15,179.5	15,179.6
1954	8,986.5	1983	15,335.9	15,336.6	15,438.0	15,438.7
1961	10,508.2	1984	15,550.0	15,552.5	15,704.6	15,707.1
1966	11,550.5	1985	15,766.7	15,776.5	15,974.9	15,984.8
1971	13,067.3	1986	15,981.1	16,006.9	16,243.8	16,270.1
1974	13,722.6					
1975	13,893.0	1991	17,008.6	17,169.0	17,555.8	17,721.3
1976	14,033.1	1996	17,994.2	18,297.8	18,843.9	19,160.0
1977p	14,191.8	2001	18,916.7	19,365.4	20,084.1	20,555.1
1978p	14,358.2	2006	19,760.2	20,359.6	21,261.4	21,895.5
1979p	14,513.8	2011	20,557.1	21,332.9	22,408.5	23,235.0
1980p	14,692.2	2016	21,328.7	22,331.9	23,544.7	24,619.5
1981p	14,926.8	2021	22,062.1	23,337.1	24,653.4	26,026.1

(a) Prior to 1971 population figures are census counts. For 1971 and subsequent years figures shown are estimated resident populations.

Without further immigration, Series A (and C) projections yield a population of 17.2 million by the year 2001 and of 18.1 million by the year 2021; Series B (and D) projections, without immigration, give populations of 17.6 million for 2001 and 19.3 million for 2021.

For all four series, the annual rate of growth would monotonically decrease as a consequence of the increasing crude death rate, the falling crude birth rate and the decreasing rate of net immigration. The median age would continuously increase as a result of the population becoming older. This ageing of the population is also reflected in an increase in the crude death rate whilst age-specific mortality rates are projected to decrease.

## PROJECTED ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH AND MEDIAN AGES (a) AUSTRALIA 1981 TO 2021

	<i>Year ending 30 June</i>	<i>Series A</i>	<i>Series B</i>	<i>Series C</i>	<i>Series D</i>
Birth rate (per cent)	1981p	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.57
	1986	1.60	1.70	1.60	1.70
	1991	1.52	1.67	1.53	1.69
	1996	1.46	1.59	1.47	1.61
	2001	1.38	1.50	1.39	1.52
	2006	1.31	1.43	1.33	1.45
	2011	1.29	1.43	1.31	1.45
	2016	1.27	1.44	1.30	1.47
	2021	1.25	1.43	1.28	1.45
	Death rate (per cent)	1981p	0.74	0.74	0.74
1986		0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71
1991		0.76	0.76	0.75	0.74
1996		0.80	0.79	0.78	0.77
2001		0.83	0.81	0.80	0.79
2006		0.86	0.83	0.82	0.80
2011		0.83	0.85	0.85	0.82
2016		0.91	0.87	0.87	0.83
2021		0.94	0.90	0.90	0.85
Net immigration (per cent)		1981p	0.87	0.87	0.87
	1986	0.47	0.47	0.78	0.77
	1991	0.44	0.44	0.72	0.71
	1996	0.42	0.41	0.67	0.66
	2001	0.40	0.39	0.63	0.61
	2006	0.38	0.37	0.59	0.57
	2011	0.37	0.35	0.56	0.54
	2016	0.35	0.34	0.53	0.51
	2021	0.34	0.32	0.51	0.48
	Total rate of growth (per cent)	1981p	1.60	1.60	1.60
1986		1.36	1.45	1.67	1.77
1991		1.20	1.35	1.50	1.65
1996		1.08	1.22	1.36	1.50
2001		0.95	1.08	1.22	1.34
2006		0.83	0.96	1.10	1.22
2011		0.77	0.92	1.03	1.17
2016		0.72	0.91	0.96	1.14
2021		0.65	0.86	0.89	1.08
Median age (years)		1981p	29.61	29.61	29.61
	1986	30.86	30.81	30.71	30.66
	1991	32.18	31.88	31.91	31.63
	1996	32.59	32.99	33.15	32.64
	2001	33.61	33.88	34.20	33.44
	2006	35.84	34.89	35.30	34.35
	2011	37.01	35.67	36.31	34.99
	2016	37.68	35.87	36.87	35.18
	2021	38.24	36.17	37.44	35.52

(a) The median age indicates the age at which one half of the population is younger and the other half older.

### Location of the population

For historical, climatic and economic reasons the population of Australia is concentrated in capital cities and other major cities, mainly on the south and east coasts of the continent. In June 1981, 69.66 per cent of the population lived in the national capital, the six State capital cities and four other major cities of 100,000 or more persons (metropolitan statistical divisions and statistical districts). Of these, only Canberra is located inland. The percentage of the population living in rural areas declined over the years as the major cities and towns attracted most of the population growth; there were periods when the rural population actually declined in numbers. This trend, however, slowed considerably after 1971 and between 1976 and 1981 it actually reversed, so that a higher percentage of the population was counted in rural areas at the 1981 Census (14.2 per cent) than at the 1976 Census (13.9 per

cent). In 1981, New South Wales was the State with the highest per cent of the estimated resident population living in the capital city or towns of over 100,000 (75.5 per cent), followed by Victoria (74.6 per cent), South Australia (72.2 per cent), Western Australia (70.7 per cent), Queensland (52.4 per cent) and Tasmania (40.0 per cent).

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION IN STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND  
OTHER MAJOR CITIES(a)**  
(\*000)

	30 June 1976	30 June 1981 <sup>p</sup>
Sydney . . . . .	3,143.8	3,280.9
Melbourne . . . . .	2,723.7	2,803.6
Brisbane . . . . .	1,000.9	1,086.5
Adelaide . . . . .	924.1	952.7
Perth . . . . .	840.2	918.0
Newcastle . . . . .	380.0	402.3
Canberra (b) . . . . .	226.5	246.1
Wollongong . . . . .	222.3	231.0
Hobart . . . . .	164.3	170.9
Gold Coast (c) . . . . .	110.9	164.1
Geelong . . . . .	138.3	142.1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>9,875.0</b>	<b>10,398.2</b>
<b>Percentage of total population . . . . .</b>	<b>70.37</b>	<b>69.66</b>

(a) Capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts of 100,000 persons or more in 1976. (b) Includes Queanbeyan. (c) Includes Tweed Heads.

While there has been population growth in all States during this time, there has, between 30 June 1971 and 30 June 1981, been substantially higher than average growth in the States of Queensland (26.7 per cent), Western Australia (23.3 per cent), and the two Territories—the Northern Territory (43.3 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (50.3 per cent).

**POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES(a)**  
(\*000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.(b)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
5 April 1891 . . . . .	1,127.1	1,140.1	393.7	315.5	49.8	146.7	4.9	..	3,177.8
31 March 1901 . . . . .	1,354.8	1,201.1	498.1	358.3	184.1	172.5	4.8	..	3,773.8
3 April 1911 . . . . .	1,646.7	1,315.6	605.8	408.6	282.1	191.2	3.3	1.7	4,455.0
4 April 1921 . . . . .	2,100.4	1,531.3	756.0	495.2	332.7	213.8	3.9	2.6	5,435.7
30 June 1933 . . . . .	2,600.8	1,820.3	947.5	580.9	438.9	227.6	4.9	8.9	6,629.8
30 June 1947 . . . . .	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
30 June 1954 . . . . .	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
30 June 1961 . . . . .	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
30 June 1966 . . . . .	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
30 June—									
1971 . . . . .	4,725.5	3,601.4	1,851.5	1,200.1	1,053.8	398.1	85.7	151.2	13,067.3
1972 . . . . .	4,795.1	3,661.3	1,898.5	1,214.6	1,082.0	400.3	92.1	159.8	13,303.7
1973 . . . . .	4,841.9	3,707.7	1,952.0	1,228.5	1,101.0	403.1	97.1	173.3	13,504.5
1974 . . . . .	4,894.1	3,755.7	2,008.3	1,241.5	1,127.6	406.2	102.9	186.2	13,722.6
1975 . . . . .	4,932.0	3,787.4	2,051.4	1,265.3	1,154.9	410.1	(c)92.9	199.0	13,893.0
1976 . . . . .	4,959.6	3,810.4	2,092.4	1,274.1	1,178.3	412.3	98.2	207.7	14,033.1
1977 <sup>p</sup> . . . . .	5,003.2	3,837.5	2,132.4	1,286.6	1,204.8	413.9	102.2	211.1	14,191.8
1978 <sup>p</sup> . . . . .	5,049.8	3,863.7	2,177.5	1,297.8	1,230.9	416.4	107.0	215.2	14,358.2
1979 <sup>p</sup> . . . . .	5,103.3	3,883.2	2,223.2	1,301.8	1,254.1	418.7	111.4	218.2	14,513.8
1980 <sup>p</sup> . . . . .	5,165.2	3,909.8	2,275.4	1,308.7	1,273.5	423.5	115.2	220.8	14,692.2
1981 <sup>p</sup> . . . . .	5,237.1	3,948.6	2,345.3	1,319.3	1,299.1	427.3	122.8	227.3	14,926.8
<b>Percentage of total population in 1981<sup>p</sup> . . . . .</b>	<b>35.09</b>	<b>26.45</b>	<b>15.71</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>8.70</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>100.00</b>

(a) Figures before 1961 exclude Aborigines, later figures do not. The estimates from June 1971 for each State and Territory are estimated resident populations. Intercensal estimates incorporate adjustments to make each intercensal total increase agree with the difference between the estimated resident populations at two consecutive census points. (b) Part of New South Wales before 1911. (c) Decrease due to the effect of cyclone 'Tracy' on the Darwin population.

### Age distribution of the population

The age distribution of the population is shown in Plate 30, page 125, in the form of an age-sex pyramid. The low birth rates of the depression years of the 1930s, the prolonged "baby boom" from the end of World War II to the early 1960s and the declining birth rate of the 1970s are reflected in the profile.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE: 30 JUNE 1981p  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Age group (years)	Males	Females	Persons
0-4	583.6	554.9	1,138.5
5-9	650.0	620.9	1,270.9
10-14	672.8	643.8	1,316.6
15-19	661.2	637.3	1,298.5
20-24	660.3	643.0	1,303.4
25-29	623.4	608.3	1,231.7
30-34	620.0	605.4	1,225.4
35-39	503.6	486.0	989.6
40-44	427.5	406.8	834.3
45-49	377.3	357.5	734.8
50-54	394.1	379.2	773.2
55-59	369.8	370.9	740.6
60-64	292.6	321.4	613.9
65-69	250.4	285.4	535.8
70+	363.1	556.4	919.5
<b>All ages</b>	<b>7,449.6</b>	<b>7,477.2</b>	<b>14,926.8</b>

The median age of the population has been increasing since the early 1970s. It stood at 29.6 years on 30 June 1981.

MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION (a), SELECTED YEARS 1901-81

	1901	1921	1933	1947	1961	1971	1981p
Median age (years)	22.5	25.8	27.7	30.7	29.4	27.5	29.6

(a) The median age indicates the age at which one half of the population is younger and the other half older. Based on estimated resident populations from 1971 onwards, prior to 1971 on census counts.

The age distribution of the population has changed gradually in the past decade or so. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has increased, due in part to a declining number of births, but also to improvements in life expectancy resulting from a falling death rate.

Substantial levels of immigration have had the effect of reducing the proportion of the population in elderly groups to levels below what it would otherwise have been.

Australia's age profile, with a median age of approximately 30 years, is comparatively younger than that of much of Europe, the original source of most of Australia's population. This is because of a higher rate of natural increase and the effect of immigration to Australia.

#### The labour force age group

The proportion of the population in the labour force age group (usually defined as the population aged 15-64) increased between 1971 and 1981 from 63.0 to 65.3 per cent of the population. The increase was particularly large in the 15-44 age group.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION(a) BY AGE GROUP: SELECTED YEARS 1947-81

Age group	30 June						
	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981p
	( <sup>'000</sup> )						
0-14 years	25.1	28.5	30.2	29.4	28.7	27.0	25.0
15-44 years	45.2	43.1	41.4	42.2	43.0	44.1	46.1
45-64 years	21.1	20.0	19.9	19.9	20.0	20.0	19.2
Total 15-64 years	66.3	63.2	61.3	62.1	63.0	64.1	65.3
65 years and over	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.9	9.7

(a) Prior to 1971, percentages shown are based on census counts; from 1971 they are based on estimated resident populations at census dates.



**The aged population**

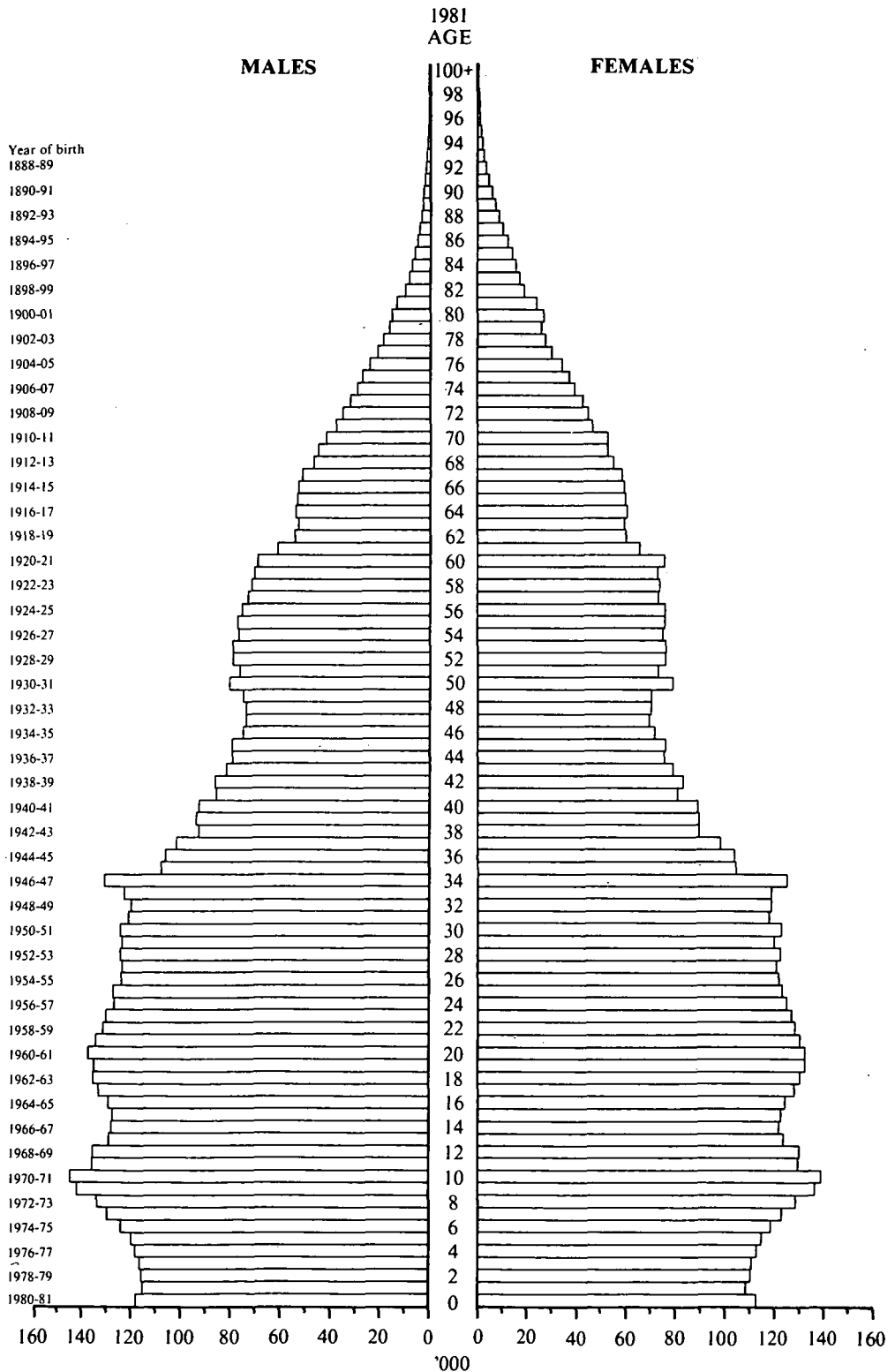
The proportion of total population aged 65 years and above was 9.75 per cent in 1981, an increase from 8.34 per cent in 1971 and 8.93 per cent in 1976.

The proportion of females in this group is high; 57.85 per cent of the total in 1981. The female proportion increases with age due to higher male mortality at every age.

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION IN AGE GROUPS: 1971 TO 1981**

30 June	Number ('000)				Per cent			
	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over
<b>MALES</b>								
1971	1,918.6	2,887.4	1,302.6	459.4	29.2	44.0	19.8	7.0
1976	1,940.6	3,158.2	1,407.8	525.5	27.6	44.9	20.0	7.5
1978 <sub>p</sub>	1,915.6	3,288.5	1,418.6	557.5	26.7	45.8	19.8	7.8
1979 <sub>p</sub>	1,902.7	3,352.6	1,420.3	576.3	26.2	46.2	19.6	7.9
1980 <sub>p</sub>	1,898.8	3,417.7	1,423.5	595.5	25.9	46.6	19.4	8.1
1981 <sub>p</sub>	1,906.4	3,496.1	1,433.7	613.5	25.6	46.9	19.2	8.2
<b>FEMALES</b>								
1971	1,828.7	2,734.2	1,305.5	631.0	28.1	42.1	20.1	9.7
1976	1,846.5	3,027.2	1,400.0	727.4	26.4	43.2	20.0	10.4
1978 <sub>p</sub>	1,828.6	3,168.8	1,411.3	769.4	25.5	44.1	19.7	10.7
1979 <sub>p</sub>	1,817.3	3,237.9	1,413.3	793.5	25.0	44.6	19.5	10.9
1980 <sub>p</sub>	1,813.0	3,307.7	1,418.2	817.7	24.6	45.0	19.3	11.1
1981 <sub>p</sub>	1,819.7	3,386.8	1,428.9	841.8	24.3	45.3	19.1	11.3
<b>PERSONS</b>								
1971	3,747.3	5,621.6	2,608.1	1,090.4	28.7	43.0	20.0	8.3
1976	3,787.1	6,185.4	2,807.8	1,252.8	27.0	44.1	20.0	8.9
1978 <sub>p</sub>	3,744.2	6,457.3	2,829.9	1,326.8	26.1	45.0	19.7	9.2
1979 <sub>p</sub>	3,720.0	6,590.5	2,833.6	1,369.8	25.6	45.4	19.5	9.4
1980 <sub>p</sub>	3,711.8	6,725.5	2,841.7	1,413.2	25.3	45.8	19.3	9.6
1981 <sub>p</sub>	3,726.1	6,882.9	2,862.6	1,455.2	25.0	46.1	19.2	9.7

AGE PYRAMID OF THE ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1981 (PRELIMINARY)



POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA: AGE LAST BIRTHDAY, BY SEX, 30 JUNE 1981

**Marital status**

The numbers of men and women aged 15 and over are nearly equal, but there are more single men than single women and there are more widows than widowers. The first phenomenon is attributable to women generally marrying about 2 years younger than men, and the second to their greater longevity. In 1981, 30.9 per cent of the male population aged 15 and over was single, 60.9 per cent married (excluding 2.4 per cent married but recorded as permanently separated), 2.5 per cent widowed and 3.3 per cent divorced. For females the figures were 22.9 per cent single, 59.3 per cent married (excluding 2.7 per cent married but permanently separated), 11.1 per cent widowed and 4.1 per cent divorced.

**MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION 1954 TO 1981**

(Per cent distribution)

Census	Never married		Married but permanently separated		Widowed	Divorced	Total
	Under 15	15 and over	Married	separated			
MALES							
1954	28.9	21.2	45.4	1.3	2.5	0.7	100.0
1961	30.6	20.7	44.5	1.3	2.2	0.7	100.0
1966	29.9	21.4	44.5	1.3	2.1	0.7	100.0
1971	29.3	20.7	45.6	1.3	2.0	1.0	100.0
1976	28.0	21.0	46.1	1.6	1.9	1.4	100.0
1981	25.8	22.9	45.2	1.8	1.9	2.4	100.0
FEMALES							
1954	28.3	15.4	46.1	1.5	7.9	0.8	100.0
1961	29.8	14.8	45.1	1.5	7.9	0.8	100.0
1966	28.9	15.7	44.9	1.5	8.1	0.9	100.0
1971	28.2	14.9	46.1	1.5	8.2	1.1	100.0
1976	26.6	15.6	45.9	2.0	8.1	1.8	100.0
1981	24.4	17.3	44.8	2.1	8.4	3.1	100.0

**Masculinity**

The masculinity of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio is influenced by the age structure: masculinity at birth is about 105.5, but higher male mortality gradually erodes the difference so that the numbers of males and females would tend to be about the same soon after age 50 in the absence of migration, and the masculinity ratio progressively declines thereafter. The overall masculinity of the population has been declining to such an extent that it fell below 100 in 1979, the first time since World War 1. In 1981 it was 99.63.

**MASCULINITY IN EACH AGE GROUP (males per hundred females)(a)**

30 June	Age in years				Total
	0-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
1971	104.92	105.60	99.78	72.80	101.06
1976	105.09	104.33	100.56	72.24	100.44
1978p	104.75	103.78	100.51	72.46	100.03
1979p	104.70	103.54	100.49	72.63	99.86
1980p	104.73	103.32	100.37	72.82	99.71
1981p	104.76	103.23	100.34	72.87	99.63

(a) Based on estimated resident populations.

### Ethnic composition

The composition of the population has been changing gradually in post-war decades due to changes in both the numbers and the origins of immigrant flows.

In 1981, persons born outside Australia made up 22 per cent of the population, a slight increase on earlier censuses. This represents a substantially higher proportion than that recorded at the 1947 Census (following the end of World War II) when the proportion was 10 per cent.

#### PERSONS BY BIRTHPLACE 30 JUNE 1981(a)

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Australia . . . . .	5,615,436	5,778,425	11,393,861
UK and Eire . . . . .	575,375	557,226	1,132,601
New Zealand . . . . .	89,782	86,931	176,713
Germany (b) . . . . .	55,126	55,632	110,758
Greece . . . . .	75,215	71,410	146,625
Italy . . . . .	149,684	126,199	275,883
Lebanon . . . . .	26,622	23,001	49,623
Malta . . . . .	30,628	26,373	57,001
Netherlands . . . . .	51,863	44,181	96,044
Poland . . . . .	33,031	26,410	59,441
Yugoslavia . . . . .	81,527	67,808	149,335
Other Europe . . . . .	111,208	93,822	205,030
Other Asia . . . . .	162,146	159,819	321,965
America . . . . .	48,974	47,273	96,247
Africa . . . . .	45,609	44,628	90,237
Other Oceania . . . . .	17,621	18,511	36,132
At sea and not stated . . . . .	97,229	81,605	178,834
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>7,267,076</b>	<b>7,309,254</b>	<b>14,576,330</b>

(a) Based on census counts, actual location, not adjusted for underenumeration.

(b) Includes German Federal Republic and German Democratic Republic.

#### AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS

(Per cent)

<i>Census (a)</i>	<i>Australian born</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>U.K. and Eire</i>	<i>Other</i>	
1954 . . . . .	85.7	7.4	6.9	100.0
1961 . . . . .	83.1	7.2	9.7	100.0
1966 . . . . .	81.6	7.9	10.6	100.0
1971 . . . . .	79.8	8.5	11.7	100.0
1976 . . . . .	79.9	8.2	11.8	100.0
1981 . . . . .	78.2	7.8	14.1	100.0

(a) Based on census counts, actual location, not adjusted for underenumeration.

### The Aboriginal population

A brief account was given of the Australian Aboriginal population, its origin and its numbers as estimated from time to time in Year Book No. 17, pages 951–61. A special article by A. R. Radcliffe Brown dealing with the estimated number and distribution of the Aboriginal population at the date of the first settlement of European people on the continent appeared in Year Book No. 23, pages 687–96. For a more recent comprehensive analysis, see "The Aboriginal Population of Australia" by L. R. Smith, ANU Press, Canberra 1980.

The task of collecting data on the Aboriginal population is difficult, raising problems of coverage, definition and reporting. For this reason, statistics, even of the total Aboriginal population, should be treated with caution. This applies particularly to comparison of the changes in numbers from one census to another which can be affected by social attitudes and by changes made in the nature of the question in an attempt to improve coverage and reporting. Analysis of 1976 Census results indicated that some overstatement of the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders occurred in the 1976 Census. These issues are discussed in more detail in *Census 81—Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders* (2153.0)

## COUNTS OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (TSI) 30 JUNE 1971, 1976, 1981

State	1971(a) number		1976(b) number		1981(c) number			Total	
	Aboriginal	TSI	Total Aboriginal	TSI	Total Aboriginal	TSI	Total		
New South Wales	23,101	772	23,873	37,688	2,763	40,451	33,414	1,953	35,367
Victoria	5,656	715	6,371	12,415	2,345	14,760	5,283	774	6,057
Queensland	24,414	7,508	31,922	31,948	9,396	41,344	33,966	10,732	44,698
South Australia	7,140	159	7,299	9,940	774	10,714	9,476	349	9,825
Western Australia	21,903	278	22,181	25,565	560	26,125	30,749	602	31,351
Tasmania	575	96	671	2,522	421	2,943	2,334	354	2,688
Northern Territory	23,253	128	23,381	23,535	215	23,750	28,680	408	29,088
Australian Capital Territory	248	7	255	769	59	828	763	60	823
<b>Australia</b>	<b>106,290</b>	<b>9,663</b>	<b>115,953</b>	<b>144,382</b>	<b>16,533</b>	<b>160,915</b>	<b>144,665</b>	<b>15,232</b>	<b>159,897</b>

(a) 1971 figures include a pro-rating of non-response. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to sampling error. (c) Changed editing procedures adopted for 1981 Census results; see (2153.0) for details.

## Internal migration

The five-yearly censuses and annual internal migration surveys (conducted in conjunction with the labour-force survey) are the principal sources of internal migration data. Estimates of interstate migration are also made from address changes notified to the Department of Social Security. For reasons of timing, methodology, coverage (the surveys for example exclude children under 15) and other constraints, these three data series are not comparable.

## Internal migration surveys

Internal migration surveys have been conducted at approximately annual intervals since 1970. The most recent was for the twelve months ended 31 May 1981. In these surveys, the place of usual residence of respondents is compared with that twelve months ago. If they differ, the respondent is classified as a mover. Estimates are made of the numbers and characteristics of movers and non-movers. Movers are further classified by place of origin and place of destination. (Because the estimates are based on information from occupants of a small sample of dwellings, the imprecision due to sampling variability should be kept in mind. Standard errors of estimates are published in the detailed bulletins providing the survey results.)

Recent internal migration surveys show that about 16 per cent of all persons aged 15 and over change their residence within a twelve-month period. Of those who change their residence, about 50 per cent remain within the same capital city and together with another 40 per cent, within the same State or Territory; slightly over 10 per cent are interstate movements.

While the pattern of migration has varied over the years, the age and sex composition of those who changed residence has been rather consistent: the masculinity ratio remains around 50 to 51 per cent and movers show a concentration in the ages 20 to 34 (57 per cent of all movers in the twelve-month period ended 31 May 1981).

## INTERNAL MIGRATION(a)

(Persons aged 15 years and over)

	Year ended—			
	30 September 1978	30 June 1979	30 June 1980	31 May 1981
	('000)			
Changed usual residence—				
Intrastate—				
Within State capital cities (b)	827.4	854.4	885.4	924.6
To and from State capital cities (b)	158.1	168.0	177.7	170.0
Within Territories and rest of States	505.2	451.5	508.4	520.0
Total, intrastate	1,490.6	1,473.9	1,571.5	1,614.6
Interstate	193.5	179.2	185.6	193.8
Total	1,684.1	1,653.1	1,757.0	1,808.5
Did not change usual residence	8,522.1	8,672.5	8,783.6	8,931.0
Total	10,206.2	10,325.6	10,540.6	10,739.5
	<i>Movers per thousand of population</i>			
Mobility rate	165	160	167	168

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians aged 15 years and over at the time of the survey who were resident in Australia at the beginning and end of the survey year. (b) State capital cities exclude Canberra and Darwin.

**Interstate migration**

The most reliable data on internal and interstate migration are provided by the five-yearly censuses. The 1971 Census was the first census which set out to measure internal migration by asking respondents where they usually lived and where they had lived five years before. An analysis of the data is given in the Census Monograph *Internal Migration in Australia*. In the 1976 and 1981 Censuses, respondents were asked where they had lived one year, as well as five years, before. A summary of the 1976 results is given in Year Book No. 65.

The 1981 Census results show that interstate migration has continued to increase compared with results from the 1971 and 1976 Censuses. At the 1981 Census, 651,200 persons reported a change of State or Territory of usual residence between 1976 and 1981. This represents 5.2 per cent of all persons who actually reported their State or Territory of usual residence for both census dates. (The figure for the 1971-76 period was 569,500, representing 5.0 per cent.) The census figures are understated in the sense that:

- (i) a person who moved out of and back into a State during the five year, or the one year period is not counted as a mover; and
- (ii) persons who failed to answer either or both questions and those who were missed from the census altogether were excluded.

The net effect of interstate migration on the State populations is less than gross flows indicate because arrivals in a State are offset to a greater or lesser extent by departures.

The following tables indicate the origin and destination of the 1976-81 and 1980-81 interstate movers identified by the 1981 Census. Queensland was the major destination State, followed by New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. The major State of origin was New South Wales, followed by Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Queensland made by far the largest population gain from interstate migration, 83,600 persons aged 5 years and over, in the five years to June 1981 and 35,100 in the year ending 30 June 1981. The only other State to make any significant gain was Western Australia with 10,600 in the five years to June 1981 and 2,100 in the year ending 30 June 1981.

The major changes in relation to the 1971-76 period were the substantial increase in net gain by Queensland, and the reduced gain by the Australian Capital Territory. Both South Australia and Victoria recorded increased net losses in 1976-81 as compared to the 1971-76 period. New South Wales reduced its net loss from interstate migration from 74,000 in the 1971-76 period to 24,500 in the 1976-81 period; however New South Wales recorded a net loss of 15,000 in the year to June 1981.

**STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE AT JUNE 1976 AND 1981 BY ORIGIN AND DESTINATION OF PERSONS WHO MOVED INTERSTATE BETWEEN 1976 AND 1981(a)**

Persons aged 5 years and over in 1981 ('000)

State or Territory of residence in 1976	State or Territory of residence in 1981								Total
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	
New South Wales . . . . .	—	44.3	80.2	15.3	17.1	4.9	5.1	22.1	189.0
Victoria . . . . .	55.4	—	56.1	16.1	17.9	7.4	4.5	7.2	164.7
Queensland . . . . .	47.4	20.0	—	5.9	8.7	2.7	5.7	4.5	94.9
South Australia . . . . .	16.8	17.5	12.5	—	8.9	2.1	6.5	2.4	66.7
Western Australia . . . . .	13.8	12.2	9.9	6.4	—	2.1	3.5	1.8	49.6
Tasmania . . . . .	5.6	7.4	6.0	2.0	2.5	—	0.7	0.7	24.8
Northern Territory . . . . .	4.2	3.0	6.8	4.3	3.1	0.4	—	0.8	22.6
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	21.3	5.0	6.9	2.0	2.0	0.7	1.0	—	38.9
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>164.5</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>178.4</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>651.2</b>
Net gain 1976-81 . . . . .	-24.5	-55.4	83.6	-14.8	10.6	-4.5	4.5	0.6	—

**STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE AT JUNE 1980 AND 1981 BY ORIGIN AND  
DESTINATION OF PERSONS WHO MOVED INTERSTATE BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981(a)**

Persons aged 1 year and over in 1981 ('000)

State or Territory of residence in 1980	State or Territory of residence in 1981								Total
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	
New South Wales	—	18.8	38.2	6.0	7.1	2.1	2.3	8.4	83.0
Victoria	21.8	—	21.1	5.8	6.4	2.8	1.9	2.6	62.5
Queensland	20.6	9.9	—	2.7	3.6	1.3	2.5	1.7	42.3
South Australia	6.5	6.9	5.0	—	3.1	0.8	2.8	0.8	25.9
Western Australia	6.1	5.0	4.2	2.8	—	0.9	1.8	0.7	21.4
Tasmania	2.1	2.8	2.5	0.7	0.9	—	0.3	0.3	9.6
Northern Territory	2.2	1.6	3.4	2.2	1.7	0.2	—	0.4	11.7
Australian Capital Territory	8.7	2.1	2.9	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	—	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>272.1</b>
Net gain 1980-81	-15.0	-15.4	35.1	-5.1	2.1	-1.0	0.3	-1.0	—

(a) The figures are based on the number of persons who, in the 1981 Census, provided a State or Territory of usual residence for 1976 and 1981, or respectively 1980 and 1981, and whose State or Territory of residence differed at the two dates.

### VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e. births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these occurrences is available for each year since the 1860s and more detailed information since the 1910s. The number of divorces has been published since 1891, but other details have been published on a consistent basis only since the 1950s.

*Crude rates* are the number of vital events per thousand of the mean population of a particular year. *Natural increase* is the excess of births over deaths. In 1981, births numbered 235,842, deaths 109,003 and the natural increase was 126,839. The rate of natural increase for 1981 was 8.50 per thousand of the mean resident population made up of crude birth rate 15.80 and crude death rate 7.30. This was the first time since 1971 that an increase in the crude birth rate occurred.

#### BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE

Period	Number			Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population(a)		
	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
<b>Annual averages—</b>						
1961-65	232,952	95,465	137,487	21.34	8.75	12.60
1966-70	240,325	107,263	133,062	19.95	8.90	11.05
1971-75	253,438	111,217	142,221	18.81	8.24	10.57
1976-80	225,388	109,028	116,360	15.70	7.60	8.10
<b>Annual totals—</b>						
1976	227,810	112,662	115,148	16.23	8.03	8.20
1977	226,291	108,790	117,501	15.94	7.66	8.28
1978	224,181	108,425	115,756	15.61	7.55	8.06
1979	223,129	106,568	116,561	15.37	7.34	8.03
1980	225,527	108,695	116,832	15.35	7.40	7.95
1981	235,842	109,003	126,839	15.80	7.30	8.50

(a) Rates for 1976 onwards are preliminary and subject to revision when mean resident populations based on final 1981 Census data have been calculated.

There were 113,905 marriages registered in 1981, a crude rate of 7.6. Divorces numbered 41,412 bringing the crude divorce rate to 2.8, which was a reduction from a peak of 4.5 in 1976.

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Period	Number		Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population(a)	
	Marriages	Divorces(b)	Marriage	Divorce
Annual averages—				
1961-65 . . . . .	83,250	7,568	7.6	0.7
1966-70 . . . . .	106,188	10,681	8.8	0.9
1971-75 . . . . .	111,803	17,348	8.4	1.3
1976-80 . . . . .	106,297	45,220	7.4	3.2
Annual totals—				
1976 . . . . .	109,973	63,230	7.8	4.5
1977 . . . . .	104,918	45,150	7.4	3.2
1978 . . . . .	102,958	40,608	7.2	2.8
1979 . . . . .	104,396	37,854	7.2	2.6
1980 . . . . .	109,240	39,258	7.4	2.7
1981 . . . . .	113,905	41,412	7.6	2.8

(a) Rates shown in this table for the years 1971 to 1981 have been re-calculated using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census. (b) Figures for 1979 and earlier years have been revised to exclude nullities and show dissolutions only.

## Births and fertility

Special interest attaches to fertility as an element of population change. Fertility has had considerable impact on the population structure. In 1971, there was a record 276,362 births registered but the number of births declined progressively in each year until 1980, when a slight reversal of the trend occurred. This continued in 1981 when 235,842 births were registered, representing a 4.6 per cent increase from 1980.

## Live births

Extensive statistics of live births are available since the 1910s. These include information about sex of children, the incidence of multiple births, marital status of the parents, the number of previous issue to the mother's existing marriage, the duration of marriage, the age of parents and their country of birth.

With rare exceptions, statistics indicate an excess of male over female births. In 1981, there were 121,170 male births and 114,672 female births, a masculinity ratio of 105.67.

The proportion of children born to parents not married to each other at the time of birth has been increasing. In 1951-55, 3.97 per cent of births were ex-nuptial. In 1981, there were 31,200 ex-nuptial births, 13.23 per cent of the total.

## LIVE BIRTHS: SEX AND NUPTIALITY

Period	Live births				Ex-nuptial live births				Per 1,000 of mean population(a)
	Males	Females	Persons	Masculinity	Persons	Masculinity	Percentage of total		
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . . . .	119,777	113,175	232,952	105.83	13,798	106.88	5.92	1.26	
1966-70 . . . . .	123,326	116,999	240,325	105.41	18,937	105.11	7.88	1.57	
1971-75 . . . . .	130,047	123,389	253,436	105.39	24,516	106.71	9.69	1.88	
1976-80 . . . . .	115,783	109,605	225,388	105.64	25,062	106.34	11.12	1.74	
Annual totals—									
1976 . . . . .	116,838	110,972	227,810	105.29	23,064	108.20	10.12	1.64	
1977 . . . . .	116,551	109,740	226,291	106.21	23,314	106.03	10.30	1.64	
1978 . . . . .	114,964	109,217	224,181	105.26	24,744	106.73	11.04	1.72	
1979 . . . . .	114,613	108,516	223,129	105.62	26,110	103.94	11.70	1.80	
1980 . . . . .	115,948	109,579	225,527	105.81	28,076	106.78	12.45	1.91	
1981 . . . . .	121,170	114,672	235,842	105.67	31,200	107.49	13.23	2.09	

(a) Rates shown in this table for the years 1971 to 1981 have been re-calculated using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census.



About 1 per cent of confinements result in twin births and about one in 10,000 in triplets. Quadruplets occur about once in 250,000 confinements. The likelihood of multiple confinement is about 0.9 per cent for the first nuptial confinement, rising to about 1 per cent at the second confinement and to as much as 1.5 per cent at the fourth and subsequent confinements. The incidence of multiple births also rises with age of mother.

Since the 1950s, there has been a decline in the proportion, and since 1971 in the number, of women having three or more children to their marriage. During the 1950s and early 1960s the median age of mother at first nuptial birth declined, but in recent years it has risen. In 1981, median age at first birth was 25.26 years.

#### NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: BIRTH ORDER

Period	Birth order							Total nuptial (a)	Ex- nuptial	Confine- ments
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over			
NUMBER OF CONFINEMENTS										
Annual averages—										
1961-65 . . . .	69,281	57,971	40,818	23,612	12,125	6,160	6,862	216,829	13,655	230,483
1966-70 . . . .	80,999	62,930	37,446	18,899	8,961	4,489	5,213	218,937	18,707	237,644
1971-75 . . . .	88,120	74,641	36,914	15,216	6,006	2,805	2,959	226,674	24,299	250,973
1976-80 . . . .	77,877	69,291	34,288	11,119	3,332	1,278	1,173	198,373	24,851	223,224
Annual totals—										
1976 . . . . .	78,086	73,338	33,505	11,130	3,584	1,497	1,534	202,692	22,873	225,565
1977 . . . . .	78,588	70,859	34,596	11,032	3,438	1,349	1,263	201,135	23,134	224,269
1978 . . . . .	76,999	68,759	34,783	11,248	3,307	1,224	1,134	197,461	24,538	221,999
1979 . . . . .	77,032	67,250	34,387	11,100	3,124	1,140	1,050	195,084	25,884	220,968
1980 . . . . .	78,680	66,247	34,167	11,084	3,207	1,179	884	195,492	27,826	223,318
1981 . . . . .	82,476	67,627	35,445	11,750	3,282	1,113	886	202,579	30,956	233,535
MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER										
Annual averages—										
1961-65 . . . .	23.12	25.72	28.35	30.64	32.51	33.88	35.02	26.54	22.54	26.38
1966-70 . . . .	23.14	25.63	28.21	30.54	32.53	34.06	35.42	25.92	21.37	25.67
1971-75 . . . .	23.60	25.96	28.21	30.55	32.53	34.09	36.84	25.87	21.12	25.58
1976-80 . . . .	24.79	26.60	28.77	30.59	32.47	34.23	37.29	26.64	21.63	26.27
Annual totals—										
1976 . . . . .	24.23	26.22	28.45	30.40	32.38	34.30	37.32	26.22	21.60	25.91
1977 . . . . .	24.59	26.39	28.64	30.53	32.41	34.54	37.08	26.46	21.51	26.13
1978 . . . . .	24.85	26.56	28.75	30.48	32.46	33.98	37.99	26.65	21.55	26.28
1979 . . . . .	25.07	26.82	28.89	30.66	32.44	34.23	36.83	26.86	21.62	26.46
1980 . . . . .	25.20	27.02	29.11	30.88	32.68	34.12	37.23	27.00	21.89	26.56
1981 . . . . .	25.26	27.20	29.22	30.89	32.63	34.38	36.88	27.11	22.07	26.66

(a) Includes those for whom birth order was not stated.

#### Fertility

The general fertility rate, which is the number of births to women of any age per thousand females aged 15-44, is the simplest measure of fertility. The rates have been calculated for the three years' births around each census from 1881 and provide a consistent series for nuptial and ex-nuptial fertility as well as for total fertility.

The rates show a substantial decline in fertility over the total period with a low point in 1932-34 and a minor recovery, peaking in 1960-62. The 1975-77 general rate of 78 births per thousand females aged 15-44 was only 46 per cent of the rate in 1880-82. The decline has been greater among married women, the rate for 1975-77 of 107 per thousand being only 33 per cent of the 1880-82 rate. Ex-nuptial fertility in 1975-77 was 23 per thousand, 64 per cent above 1880-82.

FERTILITY RATES: AUSTRALIA

Period	Nuptial births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years			Index numbers (base year 1880-82=100)		
	Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women aged 15-44 years	Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women
1880-82	170	321	14	100	100	100
1890-92	159	332	16	94	103	114
1900-02	117	235	13	69	73	93
1910-12	117	236	13	69	74	93
1920-22	107	197	11	63	61	79
1932-34	71	131	7	42	41	50
1946-48	104	160	11	61	50	79
1953-55	109	149	14	64	46	100
1960-62	112	154	18	66	48	129
1965-67	95	132	21	56	41	150
1970-72	100	134	29	59	42	207
1975-77	78	107	23	46	33	164

Age specific birth rates provide a measure of changing patterns of fertility within the fertile ages. The sum of these rates is the total fertility rate. The total fertility rate represents the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

Age specific birth rates rose for every age group from 15 to 44 years in 1981, the first such general increase to occur since a sharp reduction in birth rates commenced in 1972.

The birth rate for the most fertile age group of mothers (25-29) rose from 140.9 per 1,000 population in 1980 to 145.1 in 1981. The birth rate in this group has been as high as 200 per thousand in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

Birth rates for mothers in the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age groups rose marginally for the first time since 1971.

The birth rate for mothers in the 30-34 year old age groups rose for the third successive year to 77.5 (the low point for this age group was reached in 1976 at 72.5 per 1,000).

The general increases in age-specific birth rates resulted in an increase of 2.2 per cent in the total fertility rate (i.e. the sum of the age-specific rates) to 1,936 per 1,000 females in 1981.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility (b)
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1956-60	44.20	216.42	211.47	126.06	63.91	18.96	1.45	3.412
1961-65	46.50	203.95	207.15	122.38	59.18	17.54	1.19	3.289
1966-70	49.39	172.59	187.64	103.03	46.84	12.89	1.00	2.866
1971-75r	47.98	154.02	166.90	85.04	33.68	8.50	0.58	2.484
1976-80r	30.69	116.37	143.81	73.80	23.73	4.80	0.31	1.968
1976r	35.19	128.23	146.14	72.54	24.07	5.52	0.41	2.061
1977r	32.15	121.97	145.68	74.10	23.86	5.03	0.30	2.015
1978r	29.96	115.69	143.89	73.38	23.49	4.50	0.25	1.956
1979r	28.52	109.07	142.41	73.89	23.60	4.57	0.33	1.912
1980r	27.63	106.90	140.92	75.10	23.63	4.36	0.28	1.894
1981	28.10	107.27	145.05	77.54	24.41	4.45	0.27	1.936

(a) Number of births per 1,000 women in each age group. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals before 1966. Rates from 1971 have been revised using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census. (b) The sum of the age specific rates multiplied by 5 and divided by 1,000. This is the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

The *gross reproduction rate* is derived from total fertility and the ratio of female to total births. It indicates the number of female children who would be born on average to women supposing the rates from which it was calculated were to apply throughout the reproductive period. It is an indication of the extent to which the population is reproducing itself except that it does not allow for females who fail to survive to the end of the childbearing period. The *net reproduction rate* allows for such mortality. It is obtained by multiplying the age-specific rates by the survivor proportions in the corresponding age group of the stationary or life table population. Mortality in childhood and young adulthood is now so low that there is little difference between current gross and net reproduction rates.

#### GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Gross reproduction rate</i>	<i>Net reproduction rate</i>	<i>Life tables used</i>
1961	1.728	1.672	1960-62
1966	1.400	1.357	1965-67
1971	1.403	1.362	1971
1978	0.953	0.933	1978
1979	0.930	0.911	1979
1980	0.920	0.902	1980
1981	0.941	0.924	1981

### Mortality

The number of deaths per year is in excess of 100,000. The increase from previous decades arises from the overall growth of the population, and from the advanced age of an increasing proportion of the population. The crude death rate, which fell from over 12 per 1,000 at the beginning of the century to 7.3 per 1,000 in 1981, can be expected to rise slowly as a result of further ageing of the population, unless there is a more than off-setting drop in age specific death rates.

#### General mortality

Between 1953-55 and 1960-62 mortality declined in every age-group. Between 1960-62 and 1970-72 there were further declines in most age groups, particularly infant mortality. However, increases in mortality were recorded for males aged 15-24 years. Since 1970-72, there have been further decreases in mortality at most ages.

Mortality is greater for males than for females at every age. It is relatively high in the first year of life (11.2 per 1,000 males and 8.7 per 1,000 females in 1981), very low in childhood and young adulthood, and then rises in middle and old age.

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES<sup>(a)</sup>

Age group (years)	1953-55 (b)	1960-62 (b)	1965-67 (b)	1970-72 (b)	1975-77 (b)	1979	1980	1981
MALES								
Under 1 <sup>(c)</sup>	25.18	22.36	20.85	18.85	15.27	12.57	11.93	11.17
1-4 . . . .	1.69	1.15	1.08	0.98	0.78	0.64	0.66	0.61
5-9 . . . .	0.67	0.52	0.45	0.45	0.37	0.30	0.32	0.34
10-14 . . . .	0.63	0.48	0.46	0.41	0.39	0.35	0.34	0.29
15-19 . . . .	1.51	1.23	1.33	1.51	1.49	1.31	1.29	1.24
20-24 . . . .	1.82	1.62	1.67	1.76	1.72	1.70	1.60	1.53
25-29 . . . .	1.68	1.49	1.48	1.34	1.28	1.40	1.36	1.33
30-34 . . . .	1.79	1.69	1.64	1.48	1.40	1.31	1.23	1.23
35-39 . . . .	2.40	2.26	2.45	2.24	1.98	1.75	1.72	1.66
40-44 . . . .	3.64	3.67	3.82	3.42	3.27	2.76	2.77	2.61
45-49 . . . .	6.01	5.96	6.14	5.96	5.62	4.99	4.92	4.55
50-54 . . . .	10.44	10.01	10.45	9.85	9.12	8.31	8.30	7.93
55-59 . . . .	17.03	16.57	16.96	16.52	14.66	13.27	12.96	12.95
60-64 . . . .	26.58	26.44	27.59	26.54	23.55	21.09	20.89	19.78
65-69 . . . .	41.28	41.68	43.66	41.29	36.93	33.75	33.51	32.28
70-74 . . . .	64.53	63.04	66.84	63.60	57.88	52.55	52.14	51.96
75-79 . . . .	98.77	94.43	99.77	99.97	87.14	79.96	81.99	79.80
80-84 . . . .	145.88	141.83	146.95	145.48	133.86	120.94	122.58	120.22
85 and over	248.14	243.69	241.98	235.41	218.48	204.86	202.32	206.80
FEMALES								
Under 1 <sup>(c)</sup>	19.88	17.57	16.35	14.37	11.85	10.07	9.44	8.66
1-4 . . . .	1.35	1.08	1.14	0.77	0.58	0.54	0.48	0.47
5-9 . . . .	0.50	0.38	0.34	0.32	0.26	0.24	0.23	0.18
10-14 . . . .	0.37	0.29	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.17	0.22	0.20
15-19 . . . .	0.58	0.50	0.54	0.59	0.52	0.47	0.44	0.45
20-24 . . . .	0.67	0.60	0.63	0.57	0.51	0.57	0.54	0.47
25-29 . . . .	0.83	0.71	0.72	0.64	0.52	0.53	0.44	0.51
30-34 . . . .	1.11	0.95	0.98	0.89	0.75	0.64	0.66	0.57
35-39 . . . .	1.74	1.47	1.54	1.41	1.20	0.96	0.92	0.87
40-44 . . . .	2.55	2.26	2.31	2.19	1.96	1.61	1.59	1.43
45-49 . . . .	4.19	3.65	3.86	3.56	3.11	2.69	2.54	2.66
50-54 . . . .	6.43	5.55	5.87	5.46	4.84	4.22	4.09	3.78
55-59 . . . .	9.25	8.14	8.67	8.35	7.33	6.45	6.35	6.16
60-64 . . . .	14.75	13.31	13.56	12.69	11.43	10.31	9.77	9.71
65-69 . . . .	23.89	21.99	21.94	20.69	18.11	16.07	15.86	15.72
70-74 . . . .	40.93	37.14	37.47	35.44	29.86	26.46	26.30	25.54
75-79 . . . .	69.72	63.18	62.37	61.35	51.22	45.12	45.58	44.27
80-84 . . . .	117.36	105.10	107.93	102.28	88.33	80.35	79.78	75.89
85 and over	213.69	210.20	197.73	191.86	173.74	163.66	163.68	160.91

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population of the same age group and sex. The populations used in the calculation of these rates are based on census counts at 30 June 1954, 1961, and 1966. Rates from 1971 have been revised using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census.

(b) Average annual rate per 1,000 of population, based on deaths in the three year period, i.e. census year and the years preceding and following it.

(c) Infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

## DEMOGRAPHY

## AGE AT DEATH, 1981

Age at death (years)	Number			Per cent		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Under 1	1,354	993	2,347	2.23	2.06	2.15
1-4	283	210	493	0.47	0.43	0.45
5-9	222	114	336	0.37	0.24	0.31
10-14	194	127	321	0.32	0.26	0.29
15-19	822	284	1,106	1.35	0.59	1.01
20-24	1,008	305	1,313	1.66	0.63	1.20
25-29	827	310	1,137	1.36	0.64	1.04
30-34	764	343	1,107	1.26	0.71	1.02
35-39	834	422	1,256	1.37	0.87	1.15
40-44	1,117	580	1,697	1.84	1.20	1.56
45-49	1,715	950	2,665	2.83	1.97	2.44
50-54	3,124	1,432	4,556	5.15	2.96	4.18
55-59	4,789	2,286	7,075	7.89	4.73	6.49
60-64	5,786	3,121	8,907	9.53	6.46	8.17
65-69	8,081	4,487	12,568	13.31	9.29	11.53
70-74	9,144	5,752	14,896	15.07	11.91	13.67
75-79	8,514	6,835	15,349	14.03	14.15	14.08
80-84	6,305	7,754	14,059	10.39	16.05	12.90
85-89	3,686	6,857	10,543	6.07	14.19	9.67
90-94	1,686	3,804	5,490	2.78	7.87	5.05
95-99	371	1,165	1,536	0.61	2.41	1.41
100 and over	40	169	209	0.07	0.35	0.19
Not stated	30	7	37	0.05	0.01	0.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,696</b>	<b>48,307</b>	<b>109,003</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### Life expectancy

The life table is a life history of a hypothetical group, or cohort, of people, as it is diminished gradually by deaths. They form the basis for the *stationary population* which is the population that would result from a constant number of births each year which had been subject at each age to the life table mortality rates.

Since 1921, official life tables have been calculated from the separate male and female populations as enumerated at the census, and the deaths of the three years around the census. Earlier life tables were compiled for decennial periods 1881-90, 1891-1900 and 1901-10. Life tables have also been prepared in recent years using annual age estimates and the deaths of a particular year.

A key value in life tables is the expectation of life remaining at each age. Expectation of life, particularly at birth, improved at every age in the first half of this century. Between 1953-55 and 1970-72 there was little change in expectation of life. However, since 1970-72 there have been significant improvements, particularly in expectation of life at birth which has increased between 1970-72 and 1981 from 68.1 years to 71.4 for males and from 74.8 years to 78.4 for females.

## COMPLETE EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT SELECTED AGES

Period	Expectation of life (a) at									
	Birth		1 year of age		20 years of age		40 years of age		60 years of age	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1901-11 (b)(c)	55.2	58.8	60.0	62.9	44.7	47.5	28.6	31.5	14.4	16.2
1920-22 (b)(c)	59.2	63.3	62.7	66.0	47.0	50.0	30.1	33.1	15.1	17.2
1932-34 (b)(c)	63.5	67.1	65.5	68.7	48.8	51.7	31.1	34.0	15.6	17.7
1946-48 (b)(c)	66.1	70.6	67.3	71.5	49.6	53.5	31.2	34.9	15.4	18.1
1953-55 (b)(c)	67.1	72.8	67.9	73.5	50.1	55.1	31.7	36.0	15.5	18.8
1960-62 (b)(c)	67.9	74.2	68.5	74.5	50.4	56.2	31.8	37.0	15.6	19.5
1965-67 (c)	67.6	74.2	68.1	74.4	50.0	56.0	31.4	36.9	15.3	19.5
1970-72 (c)	68.1	74.8	68.5	74.9	50.4	56.5	31.8	37.3	15.5	19.9
1975-77 (c)	69.6	76.6	69.6	76.5	51.5	58.0	32.8	38.7	16.4	21.0
1978 (d)r	70.3	77.3	70.3	77.2	52.1	58.6	33.5	39.3	16.8	21.5
1979(d)r	70.9	77.9	70.8	77.7	52.5	59.1	33.8	39.8	17.1	21.9
1980(d)	71.0	78.1	70.9	77.8	52.6	59.3	33.9	39.9	17.1	21.9
1981(d)	71.4	78.4	71.2	78.1	52.9	59.5	34.1	40.1	17.3	22.1

(a) The average number of additional years a person of the given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1967. (c) Based on Official Life Tables calculated by the Australian Government Actuary. (d) Based on annual life tables calculated by the Australian Statistician. These tables are based on preliminary estimated resident population.

## Marriages

Marriages in Australia are solemnised under Federal legislation, namely the *Marriage Act* 1961 as amended. The original Act, which superseded State Acts, came into part operation on 6 May 1961. The first regulations and major provisions under the Act commenced on 1 September 1963.

Under the Act, marriages may be celebrated by Ministers of Religion registered as Authorised Celebrants, Registrars or other persons whose function is the registration of marriages, and other authorised civil and religious celebrants.

One month's written notice of intended marriage must be given to the Celebrant, though this may be shortened in special circumstances. Celebrants issue marriage certificates to the parties and transmit copies of the certificates to Registrars in the States or Territories in which the marriages took place.

The marriageable age under the Act is 18 for males and 16 for females. After inquiry, a Judge or Magistrate may authorise, in exceptional and unusual circumstances, the marriage of a person below marriageable age, but not below 16 for males and 14 for females.

Minors require, generally speaking, parental consent. A prescribed authority, usually a Registrar, may dispense with consent where such consent can be presumed and it would be unreasonable to require it. If parental consent is refused unreasonably, a Magistrate may give consent in lieu of the parent or guardian. Such a Magistrate's decision is subject to appeal. The age of majority was reduced in 1973 from 21 to 18. Because the marriageable age for males is also 18, the only persons of marriageable age requiring parental consent are now females between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Act makes provision, on a uniform basis, in respect of prohibited relations, other grounds for void marriages, legitimation, marriages overseas, and pre-marital education.

In 1981, 76.8 per cent of grooms and 77.5 per cent of brides were marrying for the first time; approximately 2.8 per cent were widowers and 3.3 per cent widows; and 20.4 per cent of grooms and 19.2 per cent of brides had been divorced. The proportion of marriages involving divorced persons increased sharply in 1976 and slightly thereafter. This is associated with the larger numbers of divorces granted since the introduction of the *Family Law Act* 1975.

Median age at first marriage declined during the 1950s and 1960s but has risen slightly in recent years. In 1981 it was 24.4 years for males and 22.1 for females. In 1981, 3.2 per cent of grooms and 16.5 per cent of brides married under the age of 20.

## DEMOGRAPHY

## MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE

Period	Grooms			Total bride- grooms	Brides			Total brides
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced		Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	
NUMBER								
Annual averages—								
1961-65 . . . . .	75,384	3,063	4,803	83,250	74,962	3,218	5,070	83,250
1966-70 . . . . .	96,438	3,320	6,430	106,188	96,341	3,568	6,279	106,188
1971-75 . . . . .	99,203	3,473	9,126	111,802	99,287	3,810	8,705	111,802
1976-80 . . . . .	82,344	3,394	20,559	106,297	82,987	4,022	19,288	106,297
Annual totals—								
1976 . . . . .	86,792	3,777	19,404	109,973	87,434	4,378	18,161	109,973
1977 . . . . .	81,172	3,385	20,361	104,918	81,694	3,999	19,225	104,918
1978 . . . . .	79,581	3,279	20,098	102,958	80,142	3,818	18,998	102,958
1979 . . . . .	80,226	3,266	20,904	104,396	80,893	3,996	19,507	104,396
1980 . . . . .	83,950	3,264	22,026	109,240	84,770	3,920	20,550	109,240
1981 . . . . .	87,460	3,152	23,293	113,905	88,308	3,727	21,870	113,905
MEDIAN AGES								
Annual averages—								
1961-65 . . . . .	24.16	56.60	40.41	24.69	21.32	49.25	36.63	21.67
1966-70 . . . . .	23.54	56.69	39.75	23.94	21.19	50.05	36.08	21.50
1971-75 . . . . .	23.33	57.78	37.25	23.86	20.99	51.13	33.04	21.43
1976-80 . . . . .	23.93	58.42	36.07	25.35	21.55	51.64	32.52	22.67
Annual totals—								
1976 . . . . .	23.62	57.86	36.56	24.89	21.23	51.19	32.58	22.24
1977 . . . . .	23.76	58.43	35.92	25.17	21.35	50.88	32.24	22.48
1978 . . . . .	23.94	58.54	35.95	25.41	21.55	51.81	32.37	22.71
1979 . . . . .	24.10	58.65	36.07	25.60	21.72	52.30	32.63	22.89
1980 . . . . .	24.22	58.63	35.83	25.66	21.91	52.04	32.80	23.03
1981 . . . . .	24.42	59.13	36.00	25.86	22.08	52.11	32.88	23.29

AGE AT MARRIAGE

Period	Age								Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	
<b>GROOM</b>									
<b>Annual averages—</b>									
1961-65	5,278	38,845	20,344	7,495	3,799	2,154	1,498	3,837	83,250
1966-70	7,917	55,824	23,398	7,008	3,544	2,473	1,763	4,258	106,185
1971-75	8,427	59,058	24,374	7,408	3,425	2,376	1,970	4,765	111,802
1976-80	4,830	45,796	26,139	11,245	5,500	3,512	2,822	6,452	106,297
<b>Annual totals—</b>									
1976	6,302	49,614	25,659	9,776	5,198	3,450	3,057	6,917	109,973
1977	5,242	46,059	24,908	10,750	5,216	3,399	2,915	6,429	104,918
1978	4,592	44,011	25,337	11,229	5,451	3,447	2,691	6,200	102,958
1979	4,069	43,778	26,537	11,687	5,706	3,576	2,710	6,333	104,396
1980	3,943	45,519	28,256	12,785	5,928	3,690	2,737	6,382	109,240
1981	3,619	46,114	30,522	13,674	6,800	3,958	2,686	6,532	113,905

BRIDE

<b>Annual averages—</b>									
1961-65	23,454	39,370	8,760	3,553	2,416	1,715	1,367	2,616	83,250
1966-70	30,475	53,356	10,334	3,521	2,143	1,764	1,545	3,047	106,185
1971-75	34,319	51,846	12,363	4,280	2,279	1,733	1,621	3,362	111,802
1976-80	23,006	45,938	16,560	7,700	4,092	2,669	2,124	4,208	106,297
<b>Annual totals—</b>									
1976	28,063	45,891	15,755	6,866	3,892	2,641	2,356	4,509	109,973
1977	24,827	44,208	15,692	7,360	3,945	2,519	2,229	4,138	104,918
1978	22,290	44,094	16,114	7,810	4,026	2,525	2,121	3,978	102,958
1979	20,382	46,029	16,974	7,873	4,225	2,803	1,950	4,160	104,396
1980	19,466	49,467	18,267	8,591	4,370	2,858	1,965	4,256	109,240
1981	18,769	51,769	20,039	9,354	4,871	3,053	1,992	4,058	113,905

Marriage rates of the marriageable population provide a measure of changing marriage patterns. Marriage rates have been calculated for the three years around the census per thousand single, widowed and divorced males, females and persons.

The rates for 1975-77 were 64.86 for males, 61.92 for females, and 63.36 for persons.

The proportion of all marriages celebrated by civil officers rose to 37.6 per cent of all marriages registered in 1981. This proportion has more than doubled since 1973.

MARRIAGE RATES OF MARRIAGEABLE POPULATION

Censal period	Per thousand single, widowed and divorced, aged 15 and over			Per thousand persons	
	Males rate	Females rate	Persons rate	Rate	Index
1880-82	39.38	63.56	48.63	7.62	100
1890-92	36.50	35.50	44.04	7.28	96
1900-02	37.32	48.39	42.14	7.27	95
1910-12	45.80	55.33	50.12	8.74	115
1920-22	54.00	58.08	55.97	8.75	115
1932-34	41.70	44.13	42.88	7.12	93
1946-48	71.89	70.60	71.24	10.15	133
1953-55	64.20	66.46	65.32	7.92	104
1960-62	61.50	63.07	62.27	7.34	96
1965-67	68.06	68.04	68.05	8.32	109
1970-72	70.34	67.11	68.69	9.09	119
1975-77	64.86	61.92	63.36	7.84	103



## Divorce

The *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959-66 provided for dissolution of marriage on one or more of 14 grounds. It also provided for nullity of marriage and for judicial separation. This Act, which came into operation in 1961, replaced separate State and Territory legislation. The *Family Law Act* 1975, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce—irretrievable breakdown of marriage—and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

Statistics prior to 1976 in the following tables relate to divorces granted under the Matrimonial Causes Act or under previous State or Territory legislation. Statistics for 1976 differentiate between divorces granted under Matrimonial Causes and Family Law legislation. Although Family Law legislation provides for petitions filed before 1976 to be heard under the superseded Matrimonial Causes legislation, statistics of divorces granted after 1976 make no such differentiation.

When comparing the number and rate of decrees granted from year to year it should be borne in mind that the availability of judges to hear petitions lodged can affect the number of decrees granted. A rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier year. In addition, changes to legislature, rules or practices may also affect the number of divorce applications.

Following a sharp rise in the number of divorces in 1976, the first year of Family Law legislation, the number dropped by 29 per cent to 45,150 in 1977. However, this number was still 86 per cent higher than the number granted in 1975 under Matrimonial Causes legislation. The total number for 1980 was 39,258 and for 1981, 41,412.

### DIVORCES(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Petitions filed</i>	<i>Petitions granted</i>
Annual averages—		
1961-65r . . . . .	9,955	7,568
1966-70r . . . . .	13,089	10,681
1971-75r . . . . .	22,704	17,348
1976-80r . . . . .	45,312	45,220
Annual totals—		
1976r . . . . .	66,092	63,230
Matrimonial Causes . . . . .	—	15,720
Family Law . . . . .	66,092	47,510
1977r . . . . .	41,628	45,150
1978r . . . . .	40,918	40,608
1979r . . . . .	37,393	37,854
1980 . . . . .	40,531	39,258
1981 . . . . .	41,652	41,412

(a) Dissolutions of marriage. Numbers from 1961 have been revised to exclude nullities.

NUMBER OF DIVORCES, 1969 TO 1981

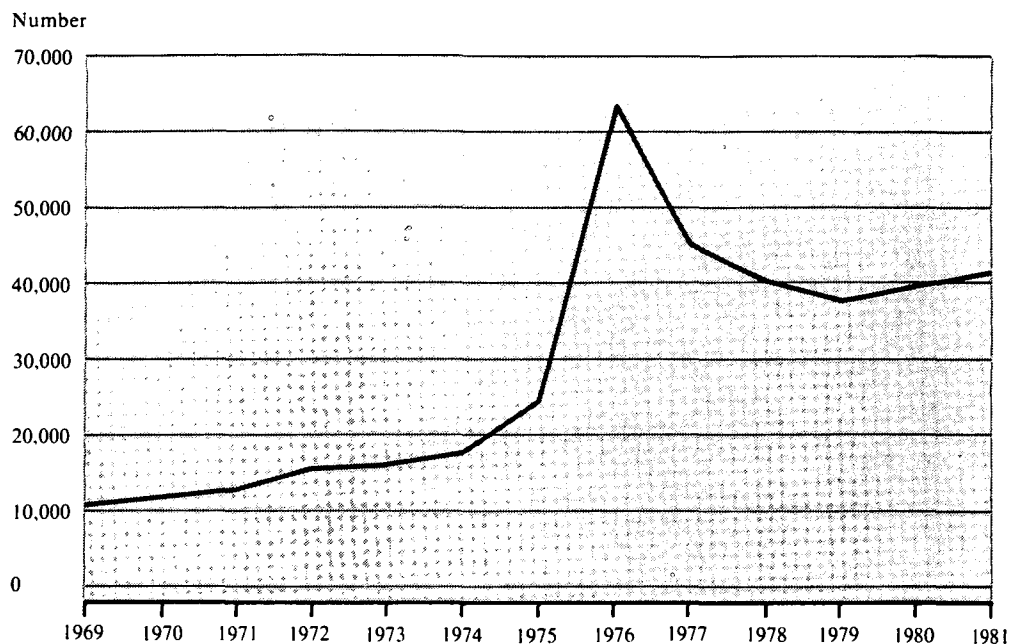


PLATE 31

Duration of marriage, age at marriage and age at divorce

The median duration of marriages dissolved in 1981 was 10.2 years. Of the 41,412 marriages which were dissolved, 49.3 per cent had lasted less than ten years, 31.5 per cent between ten and twenty years and 19.2 per cent twenty years or more.

DIVORCE, YEARS MARRIED

Period	Years married						Total	Median duration of marriage
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 and over		
Annual averages—								
1961-65	501	1,999	1,747	1,329	926	1,040	7,542	13.6
1966-70	903	2,937	2,146	1,685	1,429	1,581	10,681	13.4
1971-75	1,693	5,478	3,432	2,398	1,930	2,417	17,349	11.9
1976-80	8,234	13,112	8,359	5,556	4,265	5,694	45,220	10.6
Annual totals—								
1976	9,791	19,108	11,421	7,917	6,200	8,793	63,230	11.0
1977	7,802	12,960	8,383	5,630	4,374	6,001	45,150	10.9
1978	7,839	11,599	7,504	4,941	3,755	4,970	40,608	10.5
1979	7,621	10,754	6,929	4,646	3,502	4,402	37,854	10.3
1980	8,115	11,138	7,558	4,644	3,496	4,306	39,258	10.2
1981	8,606	11,800	8,118	4,941	3,550	4,397	41,412	10.2

In 1981, the median age at marriage of divorcing husbands was 23.5 years and of wives 20.9 years. Of husbands, 10.3 per cent had been aged under 20 at marriage and 53.4 per cent aged 20-24; of wives 37.3 per cent had been aged under age 20 and 43.5 per cent between 20-24.

#### DIVORCE, MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Median age at marriage of—</i>	
	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>		
1966-70 . . . . .	24.2	21.7
1971-75 . . . . .	23.5	20.9
1976-80 . . . . .	23.4	20.8
<i>Annual</i>		
1976 . . . . .	23.4	21.0
1977 . . . . .	23.3	20.7
1978 . . . . .	23.3	20.8
1979 . . . . .	23.4	20.8
1980 . . . . .	23.4	20.9
1981 . . . . .	23.5	20.9

At time of divorce, the median age of husbands was 35.5 years and of wives 32.8 years. A total of 25.6 per cent of husbands and 37.7 per cent of wives were aged under 30 years when the marriage was dissolved.

#### Children of the marriage

For the years in which the Matrimonial Causes Act was in force, children of the marriage were defined as living children under the age of 21 at the time of the petition. Under previous legislation there were differences between States. The Family Law Act defines them as children of the marriage if they were under the age of 18 at the time of application. In 1981, of the dissolutions granted under the Family Law Act, no children were involved in 38.9 per cent of the dissolutions, while 21.5 per cent of the dissolutions involved 1 child, 25.6 per cent 2 children, and 13.9 per cent 3 or more children.

#### DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number of children of the marriage</i>						<i>Total dissolutions</i>	<i>Total children</i>	<i>Average number of children</i>
	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 and over</i>			
<i>Annual averages—</i>									
1961-65 . . . . .	2,834	1,950	1,611	753	279	143	7,568	9,347	1.2
1966-70 . . . . .	3,628	2,656	2,428	1,212	497	261	10,681	14,588	1.4
1971-75 . . . . .	5,628	4,062	4,200	2,147	874	438	17,349	24,840	1.4
1976-80 . . . . .	17,013	10,186	10,970	4,746	1,633	671	45,220	55,218	1.2
<i>Annual totals—</i>									
1976 . . . . .	23,606	14,751	14,422	6,761	2,542	1,148	63,230	73,645	1.2
1977 . . . . .	16,381	10,473	11,005	4,857	1,679	755	45,150	57,878	1.3
1978 . . . . .	14,965	9,127	10,047	4,336	1,530	603	40,608	51,599	1.3
1979 . . . . .	14,641	8,167	9,488	3,876	1,243	439	37,854	46,130	1.2
1980 . . . . .	15,471	8,412	9,890	3,900	1,173	412	39,258	46,836	1.2
1981 . . . . .	16,127	8,898	10,621	4,141	1,231	394	41,412	49,616	1.2

## INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from incoming and outgoing passenger cards which are collected from all travellers under the *Migration Act 1958*. Earlier statistics were obtained from passenger lists required under various Acts.

Since 1924, overseas travellers have been classified into two principal categories which distinguish movements for short terms from movements for longer periods (including permanent movements). Revised questions for travellers were introduced in 1958 and again in 1974. The 1958 revision enabled the separation, after 1959, of permanent from other long-term movements and also the identification of former settlers departing permanently. The 1974 revisions improved the classification without change of principle. The categories of overseas movement are:

*Permanent*—consists of persons arriving with the stated intention of settling permanently in Australia (settlers), and Australian residents (including former settlers) departing with the stated intention of residing permanently abroad. Before 1974, former settlers were not so classified unless they had spent at least 12 months in Australia.

*Long-term*—consists of overseas visitors arriving and Australian residents departing with the stated intention of staying in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more; and visitors departing and residents returning who have stayed in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more. Until 1974, Australian residents returning were classified as long-term only if their time spent abroad included a period of 12 months in any one country. Their classification is now governed solely by their total absence from Australia.

*Short-term*—consists of overseas visitors arriving and Australian residents departing whose intended or actual period of stay in Australia or abroad respectively is less than twelve months.

The classification of overseas movements is based on statements made by the traveller on arrival in or departure from Australia. The statistics represent the travellers' intentions at the time of arrival or departure; travellers may subsequently change their intentions, and this must be borne in mind in interpreting the statistics.

An upsurge of international tourism, particularly by Australian residents, occurred in the 1970s. The volume of sea travel has changed little over the period (the figures exclude pleasure cruises in the south west Pacific beginning and ending in Australia), so that in 1981 less than one per cent of arrivals and departures had travelled by ship. Net gain, i.e. the excess of total arrivals over total departures, until recently provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, distortions arising from seasonality of short-term arrivals and departures have become very large. For the purpose of estimating the population of Australia and the States and Territories, therefore, the migration component of population growth has been measured since 1 July 1971 by reference to permanent and long-term movements only.

## OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: AUSTRALIA 1961-1980

## ARRIVALS

Period	<i>Permanent and long-term movement</i>				<i>Short-term movement(a)</i>				
	<i>Per- manent Settlers arriving</i>	<i>Long-term Australian residents returning</i>	<i>Overseas visitors arriving</i>	<i>Total permanent and long-term arrivals</i>	<i>Overseas visitors arriving</i>				
					<i>Australian residents returning</i>	<i>In transit</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total arrivals</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>									
1961-65 . . . . .	115,198	22,258	14,770	152,226	117,041	28,685	102,776	131,461	400,727
1966-70 . . . . .	160,813	36,148	24,481	221,442	259,700	41,476	255,800	297,275	778,417
1971-75 . . . . .	109,687	57,751	26,254	193,692	631,446	74,356	401,569	475,925	1,301,063
1976-80 . . . . .	73,823	59,143	28,730	161,695	1,062,105	62,521	622,208	684,729	1,908,530
<i>Annual totals—</i>									
1976 . . . . .	58,317	59,875	23,312	141,504	968,265	66,462	465,406	531,868	1,641,636
1977 . . . . .	75,640	57,700	27,472	160,813	973,677	53,032	510,249	563,281	1,697,771
1978 . . . . .	68,419	57,938	28,389	154,745	1,029,482	57,501	573,093	630,594	1,814,822
1979 . . . . .	72,236	61,441	33,450	167,127	1,144,334	68,339	725,006	793,345	2,104,807
1980 . . . . .	94,502	58,760	31,025	184,288	1,194,768	67,270	837,288	904,558	2,283,613
1981 . . . . .	118,735	59,402	34,552	212,689	1,181,387	62,772	873,955	936,727	2,330,803

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: AUSTRALIA 1961-1980—*continued*  
DEPARTURES

Period	Permanent and long-term movement					Short-term movement(a)			
	Permanent		Total permanent departures	Long-term		Total permanent and long-term departures	Australian residents departing	Overseas visitors departing	Total departures
	Former settlers departing	Other residents departing		Australian residents departing	Overseas visitors departing				
Annual averages -									
1961-65 . . . . .	9,698	6,798	16,496	37,905	12,719	67,120	118,624	135,006	320,749
1966-70 . . . . .	23,191	8,752	31,942	56,219	14,349	102,511	258,824	308,321	669,656
1971-75 . . . . .	26,622	12,032	38,654	66,430	22,984	128,067	647,608	479,015	1,254,690
1976-80 . . . . .	13,827	9,917	23,744	59,223	19,837	102,803	1,077,331	655,413	1,835,548
Annual totals—									
1976 . . . . .	16,815	9,918	26,733	68,526	20,631	115,890	973,799	512,468	1,602,156
1977 . . . . .	14,171	8,591	22,762	64,091	19,182	106,035	971,253	540,943	1,618,230
1978 . . . . .	14,027	10,933	24,960	58,519	19,643	103,122	1,062,234	597,123	1,762,480
1979 . . . . .	12,670	10,750	23,420	54,266	20,422	98,107	1,175,768	752,440	2,026,317
1980 . . . . .	11,450	9,393	20,843	50,713	19,306	90,862	1,203,603	874,090	2,168,555
1981 . . . . .	11,280	8,576	19,856	46,738	19,018	85,612	1,217,299	900,376	2,203,287

(a) Statistics of short-term movement since 1974 have been derived from a stratified sample of travellers and are subject to sampling error.

The total number of overseas arrivals and departures (excluding passengers on cruises which commence and complete their journeys in an Australian port) for the year 1981 was 4,534,100, 2 per cent more than for 1980. Growth in both arrivals and departures was particularly significant in the March quarter with almost half the total growth.

New South Wales, with 56.4 per cent of clearances, remained the principal State of arrival and departure in 1981.

Short-term movements accounted for approximately 94 per cent of total movements in both 1980 and 1981.

Changes in the pattern and volume of short-term movements is shown in Chapter 26, under the heading 'Tourism'.

### Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is regulated by the *Migration Act* 1958 which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the commencement of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited immigrant. Exempted persons include diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter with leave in Australian ports.

Immigration has contributed substantially to Australia's post war population growth. In the post-war years, some 3.7 million migrants have arrived, of which it is estimated that more than 80 per cent settled.

Settler arrivals in 1981 totalled 118,735, an increase of 25.6 per cent over the total for the previous year.

European born settlers continued to be the major source, contributing 50 per cent of the overall settler intake. This was primarily due to the large contribution from the U.K. and Ireland (32 per cent of the total). The number of Asian born settlers was 31,501 which constituted 26.5 per cent of settler arrivals. More than half of these were included in the refugee program. New Zealand born settlers again constituted the second largest group, after the U.K. and Ireland, with 15,328 settlers, 13 per cent of the total.

Although the actual number of assisted arrivals increased by 3,634 to 29,958, the percentage of total settlers fell from 28 per cent in the previous year to 25 per cent in 1981. From May 1981 the grant of assisted passage was restricted to refugees.

## SETTLERS ARRIVING BY COUNTRY OF LAST RESIDENCE

	<i>Number</i>		<i>Per cent</i>	
	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>
South Africa . . . . .	1,996	3,411	1.3	2.9
Other Africa . . . . .	3,815	1,726	2.5	1.5
<i>Total Africa</i> . . . . .	<i>5,811</i>	<i>5,137</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>
Canada . . . . .	2,998	1,406	1.9	1.2
U.S.A. . . . .	7,050	2,314	4.5	1.9
Other America . . . . .	5,123	1,311	3.3	1.1
<i>Total America</i> . . . . .	<i>15,171</i>	<i>5,031</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>4.2</i>
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka . . . . .	3,968	1,201	2.6	1.0
Indonesia . . . . .	113	2,524	0.1	2.1
Lebanon . . . . .	3,856	763	2.5	0.6
Malaysia and Singapore . . . . .	2,048	9,730	1.3	8.2
Philippines . . . . .	429	3,330	0.3	2.8
Thailand . . . . .	128	4,710	0.1	4.0
Turkey . . . . .	3,192	969	2.1	0.8
Other Asia . . . . .	4,578	5,557	2.9	4.7
<i>Total Asia</i> . . . . .	<i>18,312</i>	<i>28,784</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>24.2</i>
U.K. and Ireland . . . . .	59,276	37,476	38.1	31.6
Austria . . . . .	6,901	3,234	4.4	2.7
Germany . . . . .	3,951	2,970	2.5	2.5
Greece . . . . .	8,632	1,769	5.6	1.5
Italy . . . . .	6,334	2,511	4.1	2.1
Yugoslavia . . . . .	11,223	1,861	7.2	1.6
Other Europe . . . . .	13,751	10,160	8.8	8.6
<i>Total Europe</i> . . . . .	<i>110,068</i>	<i>59,981</i>	<i>70.8</i>	<i>50.5</i>
New Zealand . . . . .	5,117	17,884	3.3	15.1
Other Oceania . . . . .	1,046	1,898	0.7	1.6
<i>Total Oceania</i> . . . . .	<i>6,163</i>	<i>19,782</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>16.7</i>
<i>Not Stated</i> . . . . .	<i>..</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>155,525</b>	<b>118,735</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Each year Australia loses a proportion of its previous migrant intakes. Additionally, partly as a result of the high international mobility of professional and skilled workers, substantial numbers of Australians take up job opportunities overseas.

Eligibility for entry for settlement is restricted to certain family members and fiancées and fiancés of Australian residents, to others who possess skills, qualifications, personal or other qualities which represent an economic, social or cultural gain to Australia, and to certain refugees.

## DEMOGRAPHY

## SETTLER ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Unassisted</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Annual averages—</b>			
1966-70 . . . . .	107,496	53,317	160,813
1971-75 . . . . .	58,176	51,511	109,687
1976-80 . . . . .	19,662	54,162	73,824
<b>Annual totals—</b>			
1976 . . . . .	15,840	42,481	58,321
1977 . . . . .	17,532	58,108	75,640
1978 . . . . .	19,549	48,870	68,419
1979 . . . . .	19,063	53,173	72,236
1980 . . . . .	26,324	68,178	94,502
1981 . . . . .	29,958	88,777	118,735

## SETTLER ARRIVALS BY AGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Age in years</i>						<i>65 and over</i>	<i>All ages</i>
	<i>0-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>			
<b>MALES</b>								
<b>Annual averages—</b>								
1966-70 . . . . .	10,542	15,434	21,184	32,272	5,809	1,243	86,484	
1971-75 . . . . .	7,411	10,009	12,878	20,326	3,921	1,247	55,792	
1976-80 . . . . .	4,942	7,154	7,707	12,669	2,971	1,385	36,828	
<b>Annual totals—</b>								
1976 . . . . .	3,996	5,543	5,339	9,556	2,105	1,183	27,722	
1977 . . . . .	5,205	7,221	8,009	12,410	3,461	1,344	37,650	
1978 . . . . .	4,577	6,768	7,463	11,351	2,897	1,378	34,434	
1979 . . . . .	4,986	6,837	7,598	12,205	2,873	1,339	35,838	
1980 . . . . .	5,947	9,403	10,126	17,822	3,517	1,680	48,495	
1981 . . . . .	7,554	12,064	13,102	23,155	4,204	1,787	61,866	
<b>FEMALES</b>								
<b>Annual averages—</b>								
1966-70 . . . . .	9,909	14,435	17,751	24,132	6,240	1,861	74,328	
1971-75 . . . . .	6,952	9,301	13,685	17,445	4,787	1,725	53,895	
1976-80 . . . . .	4,639	6,392	8,105	12,168	3,885	1,808	36,996	
<b>Annual totals—</b>								
1976 . . . . .	4,100	5,314	6,537	9,830	3,280	1,538	30,599	
1977 . . . . .	4,821	6,597	8,070	12,104	4,595	1,803	37,990	
1978 . . . . .	4,062	5,651	7,578	11,202	3,738	1,754	33,985	
1979 . . . . .	4,621	6,062	8,438	11,874	3,607	1,796	36,398	
1980 . . . . .	5,591	8,334	9,904	15,828	4,204	2,147	46,008	
1981 . . . . .	7,073	10,616	11,654	20,843	4,536	2,147	56,869	
<b>PERSONS</b>								
<b>Annual averages—</b>								
1966-70 . . . . .	20,451	29,869	38,935	56,405	12,049	3,104	160,813	
1971-75 . . . . .	14,363	19,311	26,563	37,771	8,708	2,972	109,687	
1976-80 . . . . .	9,581	13,546	15,812	24,837	6,855	3,192	73,824	
<b>Annual totals—</b>								
1976 . . . . .	8,096	10,857	11,876	19,386	5,385	2,721	58,321	
1977 . . . . .	10,026	13,818	16,075	24,518	8,056	3,147	75,640	
1978 . . . . .	8,639	12,419	15,041	22,553	6,635	3,132	68,419	
1979 . . . . .	9,607	12,899	16,036	24,079	6,480	3,135	72,236	
1980 . . . . .	11,538	17,737	20,030	33,650	7,721	3,827	94,502	
1981 . . . . .	14,627	22,680	24,756	43,998	8,740	3,934	118,735	

## SETTLER ARRIVALS BY MARITAL STATUS

Period	<i>Never married</i>		<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed and divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Under 15 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>			
<b>MALES</b>					
<b>Annual averages—</b>					
1966-70	25,976	25,742	33,668	1,098	86,484
1971-75	17,420	14,750	22,595	1,027	55,792
1976-80	12,095	9,052	14,769	912	36,827
<b>Annual totals—</b>					
1976	9,541	6,710	10,888	581	27,720
1977	12,426	9,631	14,826	767	37,650
1978	11,345	8,451	13,808	830	34,434
1979	11,817	8,453	14,562	1,006	35,838
1980	15,344	12,015	19,762	1,374	48,495
1981	19,601	15,155	25,641	1,469	61,866
<b>FEMALES</b>					
<b>Annual averages—</b>					
1966-70	24,344	12,530	34,125	3,330	74,328
1971-75	16,246	9,752	25,055	2,842	53,895
1976-80	11,005	6,435	17,043	2,513	36,996
<b>Annual totals—</b>					
1976	9,361	5,473	13,886	1,877	30,597
1977	11,378	6,319	17,874	2,419	37,990
1978	9,700	5,955	15,950	2,380	33,985
1979	10,672	6,609	16,518	2,599	36,398
1980	13,914	7,818	20,987	3,289	46,008
1981	17,627	9,250	26,771	3,221	56,869
<b>PERSONS</b>					
<b>Annual averages—</b>					
1966-70	50,320	38,272	67,793	4,427	160,813
1971-75	33,666	24,502	47,651	3,869	109,687
1976-80	23,100	15,487	31,813	3,424	73,824
<b>Annual totals—</b>					
1976	18,902	12,182	24,779	2,458	58,321
1977	23,804	15,950	32,700	3,186	75,640
1978	21,045	14,406	29,758	3,210	68,419
1979	22,489	15,062	31,080	3,605	72,236
1980	29,258	19,833	40,748	4,663	94,502
1981	37,228	24,405	52,412	4,690	118,735



## Refugees

Australia accepted 21,972 people under refugee and special humanitarian programs in 1981. This compared with an intake of 21,692 in 1980.

Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 400,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by the Second World War and its aftermath.

Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The largest single element in Australia's current refugee intake is the Indo-Chinese program. In 1981, 14,667 Indo-Chinese refugees were resettled in Australia.

Australia is one of 90 countries which have become party to an international convention and protocol on the status of refugees and, in so doing, have taken on certain international legal obligations to assist refugees. It is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Australia's response to refugee situations is two-fold. Through aid programs directed principally through UNHCR refugees are offered protection and assistance in countries of first asylum. Those refugees for whom other durable solutions are not feasible are offered resettlement (in Australia) when the group has cultural or historical ties with Australia, or in response to a regional problem.

### REFUGEE ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Annual average—			
1961-65 . . . . .	1,799	n.a.	n.a.
1966-70 . . . . .	7,446	n.a.	n.a.
1971-75 . . . . .	2,773	7,776	10,549
1976-80 . . . . .	9,274	3,284	12,558
Annual totals—			
1976 . . . . .	865	3,231	4,096
1977 . . . . .	2,202	7,272	9,474
1978 . . . . .	8,790	1,682	10,472
1979 . . . . .	14,639	2,418	17,057
1980 . . . . .	19,875	1,817	21,692
1981 . . . . .	19,055	2,917	21,972

## Citizenship

The grant of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act* 1948. Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia, by birth abroad to an Australian parent, or by grant of citizenship to persons resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act.

All persons are now eligible for the grant of Australian citizenship provided that they have resided in Australia for at least three years, are of good character, have an adequate knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

### PERSONS GRANTED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>
Annual averages—	
1961-65 . . . . .	43,823
1966-70 . . . . .	40,934
1971-75 . . . . .	61,182
1976-80 . . . . .	75,138
Annual totals—	
1976 . . . . .	118,189
1977 . . . . .	70,706
1978 . . . . .	65,094
1979 . . . . .	53,555
1980 . . . . .	68,145
1981 . . . . .	56,459

### Sources

Comprehensive statistics on aspects of demography are in the following publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

1976 Census publications including: *Population of States and Territories Adjusted for Under-Enumeration as Shown by Post-Enumeration Survey* (2212.0); *Summary of Population and Dwelling Characteristics: States, Territories and Australia* (2409.0 to 2417.0); *Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings: States, Territories and Australia* (2418.0 to 2426.0); *Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings in Local Government Areas* (2427.0 to 2434.0).

*Australian Life Tables* (3305.0).

*Australian Mortality—A Study By Causes of Death—Occasional Paper* (1980/1).

*Birth Expectations of Married Women* (3215.0).

*Births, Australia* (3301.0).

*Deaths, Australia* (3302.0).

*Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly* (3101.0).

*Divorces, Australia* (3307.0).

*Estimated Age Distribution of the Population: States and Territories of Australia* (3201.0).

*Fertility of Australian Marriages* (R Series, Demog 2)

*Internal Migration* (3408.0).

*Internal Migration in Australia*, D. T. Rowland, Census Monograph, Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Demography, Australian National University, 1979 (3409.0).

*Marriages, Australia* (3306.0).

*Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (3401.0, 3402.0, 3404.0).

*Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (3304.0).

*Projections of the Population of Australia* (3204.0).

*Projections of the Population of the States and Territories of Australia* (3214.0).

