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DEMOGRAPHY

For an historical perspective of Australia's demographic characteristics see *Year Book* No. 7. The principal source of demographic data is the Census, which in recent times has been conducted at five-yearly intervals. The most recent was in 1986. Compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages also provides valuable information, as does information compulsorily supplied by incoming and outgoing overseas travellers. In addition various surveys are conducted from time to time on specific topics. Divorce data are compiled from court records; administrative records provide data on other aspects such as refugees, interstate migration etc.

Two important pieces of Government legislation in recent times which have had bearing on demographic matters were the repeal in 1967 of the provision in section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aborigines in reckoning the numbers of people in the population, and the passing of the *Family Law Act 1975* which provided for a single ground for divorce — irremediable breakdown of marriage — and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

THE POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA

Size and Growth

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Year ended 30 June	Population ('000)	Annual rate of growth (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration	Total
1972	13,303.7	1.24	0.58	1.81
1973	13,504.5	1.09	0.43	1.51
1974	13,722.6	0.99	0.61	1.61
1975	13,893.0	0.91	0.33	1.24
1976	14,033.1	0.87	0.15	1.01
1977	14,192.2	0.82	0.41	1.13
1978	14,359.3	0.83	0.44	1.18
1979	14,515.7	0.80	0.38	1.09
1980	14,695.4	0.81	0.52	1.24
1981	14,923.3	0.83	0.81	1.55
1982	15,184.2	0.84	0.86	1.75
1983	15,393.5	0.85	0.48	1.38
1984	15,579.4	0.84	0.32	1.21
1985	15,788.3	0.82	0.47	1.34
1986	16,018.4	0.78	0.64	1.46
1987	16,263.3	0.79	0.74	1.53
1988	16,538.2	0.77	0.92	1.69
1989p	16,806.7	0.79	0.83	1.62

The estimated resident population at 30 June 1989 was 16.8 million, an increase of 1.6 per cent over the previous year. The total increase of 268,600 comprised 131,300 from natural increase and 137,300 from overseas migration. This was the second consecutive year in which overseas migration has been the major component of population growth, and only the third in the last two decades.

The 1970s were characterised by a declining rate of natural increase due to the falling birth rate. At the beginning of the 1980s however, the birth rate rose slightly before resuming its downward trend.

Net overseas migration gain, moderate for most of the seventies, increased sharply at the end of the decade following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers. Very high intakes were recorded in 1980-81 and 1981-82, after which they fell back to previous levels. In the latter half of the 1980s there has been a resurgence of overseas migration gains including growing numbers from New Zealand.

Throughout the last two decades overseas migration gains have been more volatile than natural increase and, because of their size, have set the pattern for trends in total population growth. As both natural increase and overseas migration declined, the total population growth rate dropped from 1.8 per cent at the beginning of the seventies, to 1.1 per cent by 1978-79. Then as overseas migration gains recovered, the growth rate rose. By 1981-82 it was back to 1.8 per cent. The subsequent slump in migration intake, however, resulted in lower total growth rates until the recent resurgence which has led to a population growth rate of 1.7 per cent in 1987-88 and a preliminary rate of 1.6 per cent for 1988-89.

Population Distribution

Most of the Australian population is concentrated in two widely separated coastal regions. By far the largest of these, in terms of area and population, lies in the south-east, stretching in an unbroken crescent from South Australia through Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales to Queensland. The smaller of the two regions is in the south-west of Western Australia. Neither region ever extends inland by more than two or three hundred kilometres. They are separated by two to three thousand kilometres of sparsely populated country which makes up about three-quarters of the total land area. It comprises the whole of the Northern Territory and parts of all five mainland States.

In both coastal regions the population is further concentrated into capital cities, other major cities and towns. In June 1988, 70.6 per cent of the Australian population lived in the combined State and Territory capitals (including the national capital) and five other major cities of 100,000 or more persons (capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts). The very low population density figures for Australia (2 persons per square kilometre) mask this pattern of population distribution.

**URBAN-RURAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AT SELECTED CENSUS DATES
AUSTRALIA(a)
(per cent(b))**

<i>Census year</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
URBAN									
1921	67.8	62.3	52.1	60.0	59.3	50.5	36.2	—	62.1
1947	71.9	71.0	59.7	69.4	64.6	58.9	23.4	89.7	68.7
1954	82.6	81.3	73.0	74.5	71.0	65.9	65.9	93.3	78.7
1961	85.1	84.8	75.9	78.8	73.2	70.4	39.6	96.0	81.7
1966	86.4	85.5	76.4	82.4	75.7	70.3	53.4	96.1	82.9
1971	88.6	87.7	79.4	84.6	81.5	74.2	64.1	97.8	85.6
1976	88.7	87.9	80.2	84.9	83.5	74.9	66.4	98.4	86.0
1981	88.2	87.8	79.1	84.9	84.6	75.1	74.2	99.0	85.7
1986	87.9	88.1	78.9	84.6	84.7	74.5	72.0	99.1	85.4
RURAL									
1921	31.6	37.3	47.5	39.4	39.1	49.2	62.1	99.7	37.4
1947	27.9	28.9	40.1	30.3	34.9	40.9	75.4	10.4	31.1
1954	17.2	18.4	26.8	25.2	28.7	33.9	32.7	6.7	21.0
1961	14.6	15.0	24.0	20.8	26.4	29.4	59.9	4.0	18.1
1966	13.4	14.4	23.5	17.5	23.9	29.6	46.1	3.9	16.9
1971	11.3	12.2	20.4	15.3	18.2	25.7	35.4	2.2	14.3
1976	11.1	12.1	19.7	15.0	16.3	24.9	33.0	1.6	13.9
1981	11.8	12.1	20.8	15.1	15.3	24.8	25.3	1.0	14.2
1986	12.0	11.9	21.0	15.3	15.0	25.4	27.8	0.9	14.5

(a) Census counts by State of enumeration. Excludes full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1961. (b) Urban and rural proportions do not add up to 100 per cent as the proportion of migratory population is not included.

With the continuing development of urban industrialisation in the 20th century, capital cities have been the consistent choice for settlement of the majority of overseas immigrants, as well as receiving centres in the general internal trend towards rural to urban migration which persisted until recent times. This trend towards increasing urbanisation continued until the mid 1970s, after which a slight decline has been recorded. At the 1986 Census 85.4 per cent of the population lived in urban areas. Between the 1976 and 1986 Censuses, the proportion of the population living in rural areas actually increased from 13.9 per cent to 14.5 per cent, while the proportion of State populations living in the capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane declined slightly. Parallel with this has been an emerging trend since the 1970s towards selective rapid growth of smaller coastal towns in Queensland and New South Wales which have favoured the development of retirement, recreation and tourist amenities.

Australia's two dominant population centres—Sydney (3.6 million) and Melbourne (3.0 million)—both in the south-east, accounted for 39.9 per cent of the total population in June 1988. The next largest city is Brisbane (1.2 million). Sydney and Melbourne have traditionally been the favoured ports of entry for overseas arrivals and are the capitals of the two most populous States—New South Wales and Victoria respectively. In these and every other State and Territory the capital city is the largest population centre. Most capitals are many times the size of the next largest town. All capitals, with the exception of the national capital (Canberra) are located on the coast.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF CAPITAL CITIES, AUSTRALIA

	1971	1976	1981	1986	1987	1988
POPULATION (PERSONS)						
Sydney	2,935,937	3,143,750	3,279,500	3,472,700	3,531,000	3,596,000
Melbourne	2,503,022	2,723,700	2,806,300	2,931,900	2,965,600	3,002,300
Brisbane	869,579	1,000,850	1,096,200	1,196,000	1,215,300	1,240,300
Adelaide	842,693	924,060	954,300	1,003,800	1,013,000	1,023,700
Perth	703,199	832,760	922,040	1,050,400	1,083,400	1,118,800
Hobart	153,216	164,400	171,110	179,000	179,600	179,900
Darwin	38,885	44,232	56,478	74,800	75,300	72,900
Canberra (a)	159,003	226,450	246,500	281,000	289,000	297,300
(b)	142,925	206,550	226,450	257,850	265,020	272,500
Total (a)	8,205,534	9,060,202	9,532,428	10,189,600	10,352,200	10,531,200
PROPORTION OF STATE POPULATION (PER CENT)						
Sydney	63.8	63.4	62.7	62.8	62.9	63.1
Melbourne	71.5	71.5	71.1	70.1	70.5	70.4
Brisbane	47.6	47.8	46.7	45.6	45.4	45.2
Adelaide	71.8	72.5	72.3	72.6	72.7	72.7
Perth	68.2	70.7	70.9	72.0	72.2	72.4
Hobart	39.2	39.9	40.1	40.1	40.1	40.1
Darwin	45.0	45.0	46.1	48.4	48.1	46.8
Canberra (b)	99.2	99.4	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.6
Total	64.3	64.6	63.9	63.6	63.7	63.7

(a) Canberra Statistical District. (b) Excluding Queanbeyan.

After New South Wales and Victoria, which had populations of 5.8 million and 4.3 million respectively at 30 June 1989, the State populations were, in order of size, Queensland (2.8 million), Western Australia (1.6 million), South Australia (1.4 million), Tasmania (0.5 million), the Australian Capital Territory (0.3 million) and the Northern Territory (0.2 million). The capital city of the Northern Territory, Darwin, is the major population centre outside the south-eastern and south-western coastal regions. Its population in 1988 was 73,000.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES

30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1976	4,959,588	3,810,426	2,092,375	1,274,070	1,178,342	412,314	98,228	207,740	14,033,083
1981	5,234,889	3,946,917	2,345,208	1,318,769	1,300,056	427,224	122,616	227,581	14,923,260
1986	5,531,526	4,160,856	2,624,595	1,382,550	1,459,019	446,473	154,421	258,910	16,018,350
1987	5,612,244	4,208,946	2,676,765	1,394,154	1,500,507	447,941	156,674	266,088	16,263,319
1988	5,701,525	4,261,945	2,743,765	1,408,255	1,544,806	448,457	155,866	273,534	16,538,153
1989p	5,761,919	4,315,170	2,830,198	1,423,337	1,591,077	450,956	156,147	277,926	16,806,730

Demographic factors currently acting on the relative size of the States are above-average rates of natural increase in Western Australia and the two Territories, above-average per capita overseas migration gains in New South Wales and Western Australia and high per capita interstate migration gains in Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. State population growth rates in the year ended June 1988 were, in order of size, Western Australia (2.95 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (2.80 per cent), Queensland (2.50 per cent), New South Wales (1.59 per cent), Victoria (1.26 per cent), South Australia (1.01 per cent), Tasmania (0.12 per cent) and in the Northern Territory a small negative rate of 0.52 per cent. The growth rate for Australia as a whole was 1.69 per cent.

Age/Sex Profile

The sex ratio of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio varies by age: it is about 105 at birth, 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 sex ratio progressively declines thereafter with increasing ages. The overall sex ratio of the population has been declining since the 1950s as the overseas migration intake has become less male dominated. In 1989 there were 99.7 males to every 100 females.

SEX RATIOS, PERCENTAGE AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MEDIAN AGES OF THE POPULATION, AUSTRALIA

<i>Sex ratios (a)—</i>					
<i>30 June</i>	<i>Ages 15–24</i>	<i>Ages 15–44</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Aust. born</i>	<i>O' seas born</i>
1971	103.7	105.6	101.1	98.0	114.3
1976	103.2	104.3	100.4	97.8	109.5
1981	103.3	103.4	99.6	97.4	107.5
1986	104.1	103.1	99.8	98.1	106.2
1987	104.1	102.9	99.7	98.1	105.8
1988	104.1	102.8	99.7	98.1	105.5
1989	104.3	102.8	99.7	98.2	105.3

<i>Per cent of population aged—</i>					
<i>30 June</i>	<i>0–14</i>	<i>15–44</i>	<i>45–64</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>Median ages(b)</i>
1971	28.7	43.0	20.0	8.3	27.5
1976	27.0	44.1	20.0	8.9	28.4
1981	25.0	46.1	19.2	9.7	29.6
1986	23.1	47.3	19.1	10.5	31.1
1987	22.6	47.6	19.0	10.7	31.3
1988	22.3	47.8	19.0	10.9	31.6
1989	22.1	47.9	19.0	11.0	31.9

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) The median age is the age at which half of the population is older and half is younger.

The age distribution of the population is shown in the form of an age-sex pyramid, comparing the years 1971 and 1989. 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, the declining birth rate of the 1970s and 1980s are all reflected in the profile.

The median age of the population at 30 June 1989 was 31.9 years. It has been rising consistently since the beginning of the 1970s as a result of the lower birthrates as well as lower mortality rates at most ages. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has risen from 8.3 per cent in 1971 to 11.0 per cent in 1989.

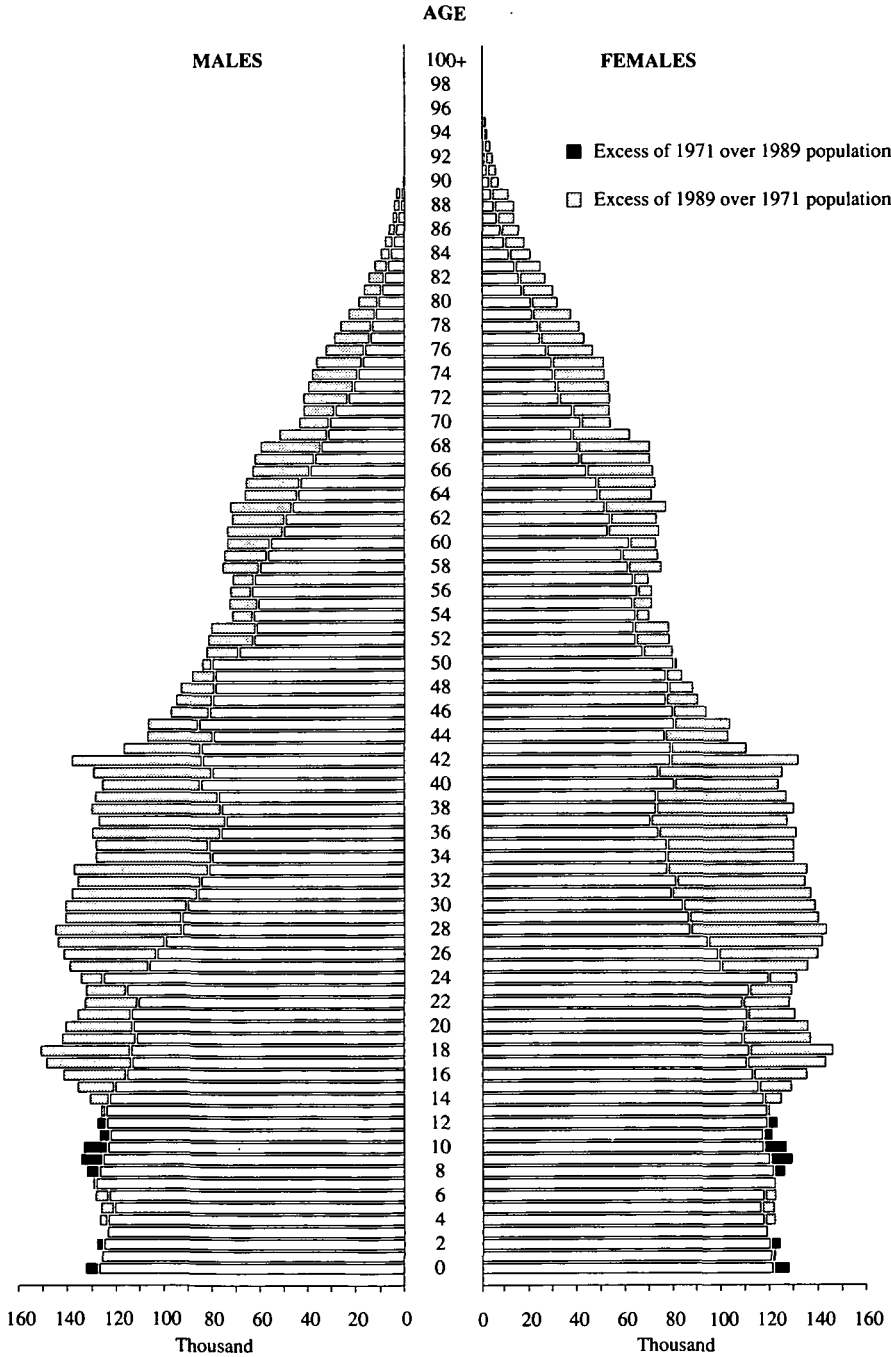
As a consequence of changes in the age distribution, the old age-dependency ratio (population aged 65 and over per 100 population of working ages 15–64) has increased from 13.2 in 1971 to 16.5 in 1989, while the child-dependency ratio (population aged 0–14 per 100 population of working ages) has declined sharply from 45.5 to 33.0 during the same period. The combined effect is that the total dependency ratio has declined from 58.8 in 1971 to 49.5 in 1989.

DEPENDENCY RATIOS (a): SELECTED YEARS 1971–89

<i>Age group</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1976</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>
0–14 years	45.53	42.11	38.24	34.78	33.98	33.40	32.99
65 years and over	13.25	13.93	14.93	15.81	16.07	16.27	16.53
Total	58.78	56.04	53.17	50.59	50.05	49.67	49.52

(a) A dependency ratio is the ratio of the dependant population (aged 0–14 and 65 and over) per 100 population of working ages (15–64 years).

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA,
30 JUNE 1971 AND 1989 (PRELIMINARY)



Marital Status

Between 1976 and 1989 total population aged 15 and over increased by 27.8 per cent. During the same period, the population in various marital status categories increased by 49.8 per cent for never married, 14.9 per cent for married, 16.8 per cent for widowed and 188.9 per cent for divorced persons.

The disproportionate increase in the population of divorced persons is a reflection of the increase in divorce following introduction of the *Family Law Act in 1975*. However, since the beginning of the 1980s there has been a steady decline in the rate of growth of the divorced population.

Females exceed males in all categories excepting the never married. This arises principally from mortality differences in the higher age groups. The effect is particularly noticeable in the widowed category where females far out-number males.

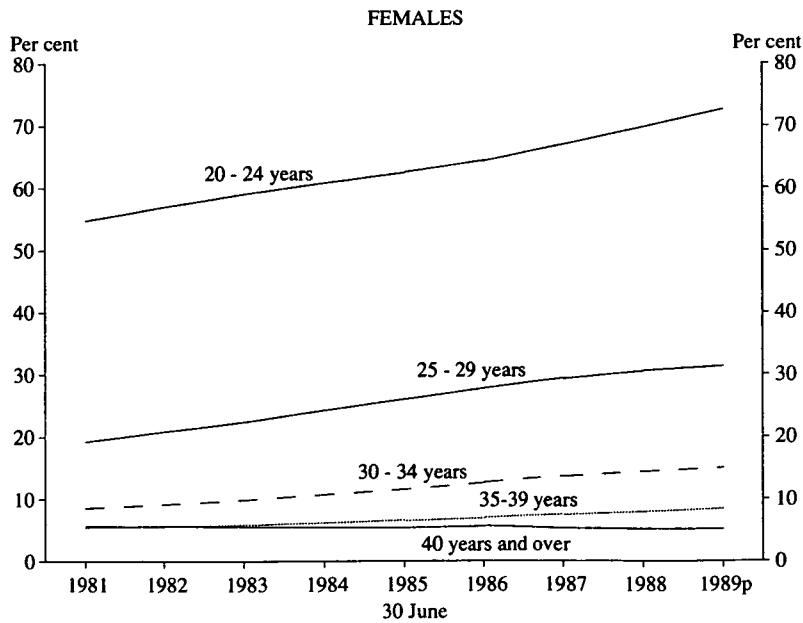
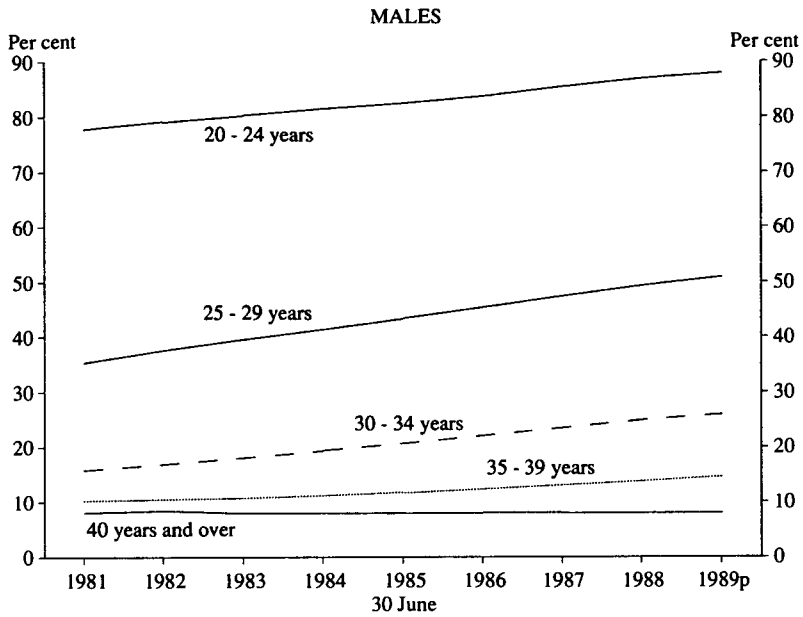
In the never married category males exceed females because of higher sex ratios at younger ages and also because of the customary difference in age between bride and groom at first marriage.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER
BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX, AUSTRALIA
(^{'000})

	<i>Never Married</i>	<i>Married (a)</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
1976—					
Males	1,508.2	3,344.2	134.3	104.7	5,091.5
Females	1,094.8	3,354.9	576.1	128.8	5,154.5
Persons	2,602.9	6,699.3	710.4	233.4	10,246.0
1981—					
Males	1,739.0	3,477.7	139.1	187.9	5,543.7
Females	1,310.8	3,487.6	622.2	233.5	5,654.0
Persons	3,049.8	6,965.3	761.3	421.3	11,197.7
1986—					
Males	2,005.8	3,692.5	144.1	261.7	6,014.1
Females	1,534.2	3,704.3	654.3	322.0	6,214.7
Persons	3,540.0	7,396.7	798.4	583.7	12,318.8
1989p—					
Males	2,196.0	3,841.9	151.1	301.3	6,490.3
Females	1,702.1	3,854.1	678.7	372.9	6,607.8
Persons	3,898.1	7,695.9	829.9	674.3	13,098.1

(a) Includes 'married but permanently separated'.

PROPORTION OF PERSONS NEVER MARRIED, 1981-1989, AUSTRALIA



Birthplace

At the 1947 Census the proportion of the population (excluding Aborigines) born in Australia had risen to its highest level (90.2 per cent) since the beginning of European settlement and 97.9 per cent of the Australian population were either born in Australia or the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand. The largest non-British overseas-born group, the Italians, comprised only 0.4 per cent of the population (33,600), while the number of overseas-born Chinese had fallen to 6,400.

Since 1947, not only has the decline of the overseas-born population been reversed, significant changes have taken place in the composition of that group. The progressive removal of immigration restrictions based on country of origin, race or colour between 1949 and 1973, together with the extension of assisted migration schemes to some non-British groups and refugees, have ensured a greater diversity of ethnic origin among the Australian population (*see also* section on Overseas Migration). The relative size of overseas-born groups from the United Kingdom, Eire and New Zealand combined, increased only slightly as a proportion of the total population between 1947 and 1989, from 7.7 per cent to 8.8 per cent. However, overseas-born persons from other countries increased from 2.1 per cent to 13.4 per cent during the same period. Overseas birthplace groups comprising 0.1 per cent or more of the total population—apart from the United Kingdom, Eire and New Zealand—increased in number from 4 in 1947 to over 30 in 1989.

The largest overseas-born group at the present time remains those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, having risen to 1,208,300 or 7.2 per cent of the population in 1989. By comparison, the second largest overseas-born group, Italians, comprised only 1.6 per cent of the Australian population in 1989 (267,600). Seven of the first nine large overseas-born groups are European, the exceptions being New Zealand which comprised 1.6 per cent of the population and ranked second in 1989, and Vietnam which ranked seventh. Although Europe remains the region of origin of the majority of the overseas-born population, the number of European-born persons has declined as a proportion of the total Australian population from 16.5 per cent in 1976 to 14.1 per cent in 1989, while persons born in other regions have increased their share. Between 1976 and 1989, the European-born population increased by only 60,400 compared with an increase of 482,200 in the Asian-born (including the Middle East) group.

The proportion of the Australian population born in Asia has increased continually from 0.3 per cent in 1947 to 4.3 per cent in 1989. As recently as 1966, however, only two Asian birthplace groups had populations amounting to more than 0.1 per cent of the Australian population, namely China and India. By 1989 this number had increased to fourteen. Sources of the largest Asian-born populations in 1989 were Vietnam (108,270), Lebanon (70,640), Malaysia (69,880), Philippines (60,320), India (57,440), China (50,200) and Hong Kong (46,840), comprising 6.4, 4.2, 4.2, 3.6, 3.4, 3.0 and 2.8 per cent of the Australian population respectively.

In June 1989 the median age of the overseas-born population was 41.6 years, ten years older than the median (31.9 years) for the population as a whole. The median age of the Australian-born population was 28.4 years. Overseas-born population groups from recent source countries e.g. Lebanon, South-East Asia, South America and South Africa are noticeably younger than those from traditional sources — the United Kingdom and Europe.

At the 1986 Census, 77.6 per cent of the population was born in Australia. Of these, 74.9 per cent reported Australia as the birthplace of both their parents. This implies that 58.1 per cent of the total population of Australia are at least second generation Australians. A further 13.7 per cent of the Australian-born population (10.6 per cent of the total population) had one parent born in Australia. Conversely, 41.9 per cent of the total population were either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas.

**BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS OF AUSTRALIAN-BORN PERSONS, AUSTRALIA,
CENSUS 1986**

<i>Birthplace of parents</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Both parents born in Australia	9,070,739	74.9
1 parent born in Australia, 1 born overseas or not stated	1,657,548	13.7
Other	1,382,169	11.4
Total	12,110,456	100.0

Citizenship

The grant of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. Prior to 26 January 1949, aliens who were naturalised became British subjects and, with the introduction of the Act, all such persons automatically became Australian citizens.

Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia provided that at the time of birth one of the parents is an Australian citizen or legal resident of Australia, by birth abroad to an Australian parent, or by grant of citizenship to a person 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 two 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.

At the 1981 Census, 88.7 per cent of the population were Australian citizens, with 11.9 per cent of these being born overseas. At the 1986 Census the proportion of the population with Australian citizenship was identical to the 1981 level, but the share of those born overseas increased to 12.5 per cent.

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP, AUSTRALIA, 1981, 1986

<i>Country</i>	<i>Persons</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<i>1981</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1986</i>
Australia—				
Born in Australia	11,393,861	12,110,456	78.2	77.6
Born overseas	1,537,212	1,726,642	10.5	11.1
Other	1,413,654	1,331,335	9.7	8.5
Not Stated	231,603	433,723	1.6	2.8
Total	14,576,330	15,602,156	100.0	100.0

Religion

Details on religious affiliation have been collected in all Australian censuses, however since the 1933 Census, it has been clearly stated on the census form that answering the question on religion is not obligatory. By 1986, 25.0 per cent of the population described themselves as either having 'no religion' or did not answer the question.

Census data show that the Australian population is predominantly Christian with the majority associating themselves with the two major groups, the Catholic Church and the Church of England (26.1 per cent and 23.9 per cent respectively at the 1986 Census).

**MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS, AUSTRALIA, SELECTED CENSUS DATES
(per cent)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Church of England</i>		<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Non-</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Catholic</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>or no religion</i>		
1971	31.0	27.0	28.2	86.2	0.8	13.1	100.0
1976	27.7	25.7	25.2	78.6	0.9	20.5	100.0
1981	26.1	26.0	24.3	76.4	1.4	22.3	100.0
1986	23.9	26.1	23.0	73.0	2.0	25.0	100.0

(a) Includes Protestant undefined.

The remainder of the Christian population, amounting to 23 per cent of the total population at the 1986 Census, is dispersed between several other groups, with only three denominations consisting of more than 2.0 per cent of the population: the Uniting Church (7.6 per cent), Presbyterian (3.6 per cent) and Orthodox (2.7 per cent).

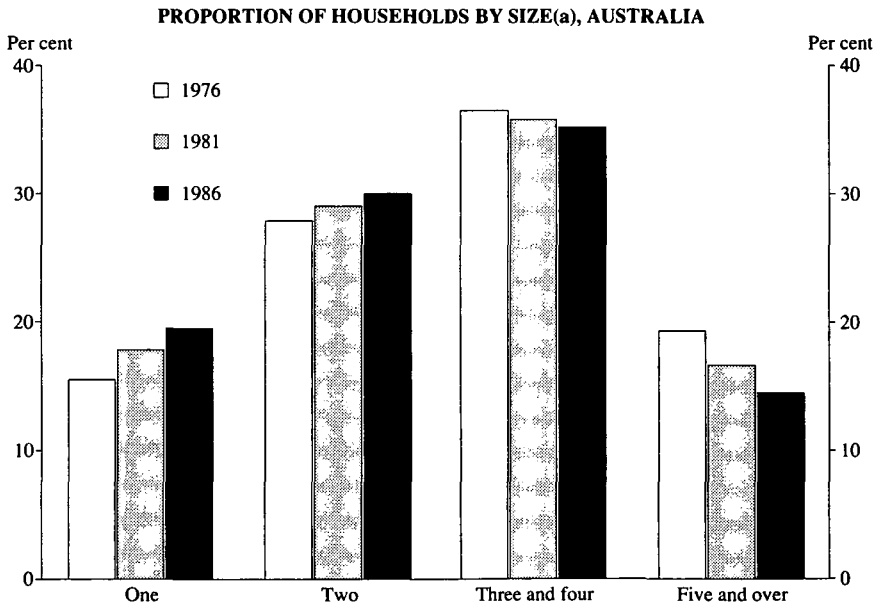
There has been a slight increase in the proportion of persons of non-Christian religions since 1981, from 1.4 per cent to 2.0 per cent in 1986. At the 1986 Census, Muslims comprised 35.0 per cent of the non-Christian response, Hebrews 20.0 per cent and Buddhists 25.0 per cent.

Households

The incidence of household formation in Australia has continued to exceed population growth rates, with the average number of persons per household declining from 3.3 in 1971 to 2.9 in 1986. Much of the decline in the number of persons per household can be attributed to reductions in completed family size and changing social attitudes. There has been continuing growth in one and two-person households, rising from 47.2 per cent of all households in 1981 to 49.5 per cent at the 1986 Census.

POPULATION IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, AUSTRALIA

Year	Persons in private households	Private households	Persons per private household
1971	12,155,386	3,670,554	3.31
1976	12,942,708	4,140,521	3.12
1981	13,918,445	4,668,909	2.98
1986	14,920,230	5,187,422	2.88



(a) Persons per household

Increases in the number of households have also been affected by a complex combination of factors at older ages. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has increased as a result of increases to life expectancy, while both completed family size and age at completion of child-bearing have generally declined. Thus, older families are likely to experience several years of 'empty nesting', that is, time lived in the household without dependants after children leave home. There has been a tendency for increasing numbers of older couples and older persons who are widowed, particularly females, to remain as separate households to a later age—with long-term cumulative effects on the total number of households.

Only a small proportion of households include more than one family, some 3 per cent at the 1981 Census, which declined further to 2.4 per cent at the 1986 Census. The 1986 Census indicated that 47.6 per cent of total families had no dependent children and 52.4 per cent did have dependent children. Among families with dependent children, 35.9 per cent had one child and 64.1 per cent had two or more dependent children. Single parent families comprised 7.9 per cent of total families and were mostly composed of parent and dependent children (76.3 per cent); the balance included an additional adult family member (23.7 per cent).

FAMILY TYPE AND COMPOSITION, AUSTRALIA, 1986

<i>Family Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Families without dependent children		
Couple	1,271,872	30.6
Couple and adult family member	449,208	10.8
Related adults	258,768	6.2
Families with dependent children		
Couple and 1 dependent child	403,298	9.7
Couple and 2 or more dependent children	1,072,968	25.8
Couple and 1 dependent child and adult family member	206,496	5.0
Couple and 2 or more dependent children and adult family member	171,230	4.1
Single parent and 1 dependent child	124,166	3.0
Single parent and 2 or more dependent children	123,016	3.0
Single parent and 1 dependent child and adult family member	48,054	1.2
Single parent and 2 or more dependent children and adult family member	28,935	0.7
Total families	4,158,011	100.0

VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e. births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these registrations 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.

Births

Current fertility levels in Australia are lower than at any time since records began. In 1988 the crude birth rate was 14.9 per 1,000 population and the total fertility rate was 1.84 per woman, showing a continuation of a long-term decline in fertility. Australia's current fertility rates, however, remain higher than in several other industrialised countries in Europe, North America and Japan.

CRUDE BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES, LOW FERTILITY COUNTRIES

Country	Crude birth rate		Total fertility rate (a)	
	1970	1980s	1970	1980s
Australia	20.6	15.2 (1986)	2.86	1.87 (1986)
Canada	17.4	14.8 (1985)	2.26	1.63 (1985)
Denmark	14.4	10.8 (1986p)	1.97	1.44 (1985)
France	16.7	14.1 (1986p)	2.47	1.83 (1985)
Federal Republic of Germany	13.3	10.2 (1986p)	2.01	1.30 (1985)
Japan	18.8	11.9 (1985)	2.07	1.73 (1985)
New Zealand	22.1	16.3 (1986p)	3.16	1.96 (1986)
Norway	16.6	12.6 (1986p)	2.49	1.65 (1984)
Sweden	13.7	12.2 (1986p)	1.94	1.74 (1985)
Switzerland	15.8	11.7 (1986p)	2.09	1.51 (1985p)
United Kingdom	16.2	12.9 (1984)	2.38	1.79 (1985)
United States of America	18.2	15.7 (1985p)	2.46	1.81 (1984)

(a) The total fertility rate is the sum of the age-specific birth rates. It represents the number of children that would be born to a female who experienced, throughout her child-bearing life, the age specific rates for the years shown.

Source: United Nations *Demographic Yearbook 1986* New York.

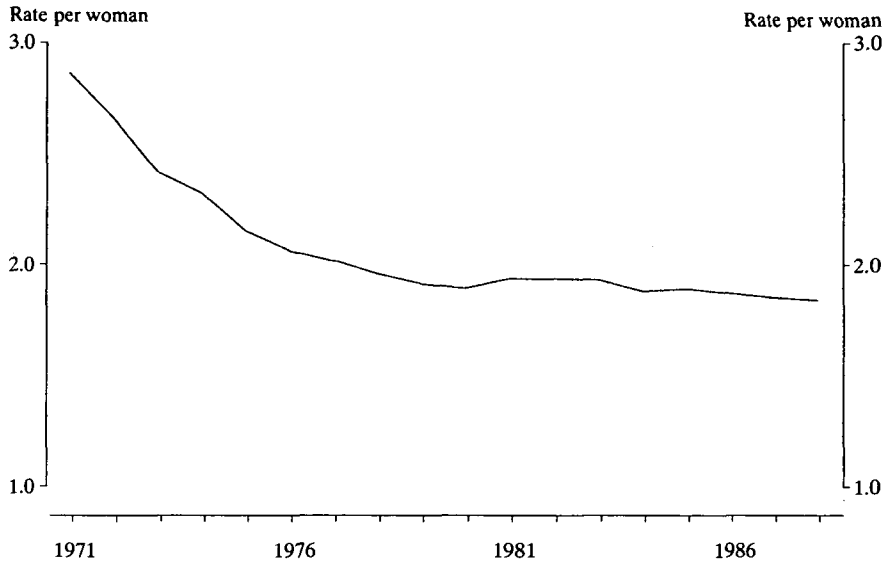
Despite an overall fertility decline, the number of births has shown an increasing trend during the 1980s because of increasing numbers of women of reproductive age. The number of births in 1988 (246.2 thousand) was the highest since 1973, though not as great as the record number of 276.4 thousand in 1971.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY, AUSTRALIA

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility
	15-19(a)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(b)	
AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES								
	—per '000 women—							per woman
1971-75	48.0	154.0	166.9	85.0	33.7	8.5	0.6	2.484
1976-80	30.7	116.4	143.9	73.8	23.8	4.8	0.3	1.968
1981-85 (c)	25.7	100.8	144.5	82.0	25.4	4.4	0.3	1.915
ANNUAL RATES								
	—per '000 women—							per woman
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.938
1982	27.5	104.0	144.9	80.6	25.6	4.6	0.3	1.936
1983	26.6	102.7	145.9	81.5	25.0	4.4	0.2	1.931
1984	23.6	96.0	143.0	83.0	25.6	4.4	0.3	1.879
1985	22.5	94.1	143.4	87.2	25.4	4.4	0.2	1.891
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1.870
1987	20.6	85.2	139.8	90.6	28.9	4.8	0.3	1.851
1988	20.2	81.8	137.2	93.4	30.5	4.6	0.2	1.840

(a) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15. (b) Includes births to mothers aged 50 and over. (c) Rates are adjusted for late registrations of births in New South Wales in 1984.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES, AUSTRALIA



MARRIED FEMALES UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE: YEAR MARRIED AND TIMING OF FIRST NUPTIAL CONFINEMENT

Year of marriage	Premaritally pregnant (b)	Having the first nuptial confinement before the end of a given year of marriage duration (a)						Number of brides aged under 45 years
		1	2	3	4	5	10	
		—cumulative per cent—						
1971	19.8	28.1	46.5	60.6	70.6	77.0	87.0	112,817
1972	18.0	25.5	43.7	57.9	68.0	74.9	86.2	109,007
1973	15.6	22.8	41.0	54.7	64.8	72.0	84.5	107,563
1974	13.4	20.6	38.0	51.5	61.7	69.0	82.4	105,759
1975	12.2	19.3	36.9	50.5	60.8	68.5	82.6	98,951
1976	10.9	18.0	35.0	47.5	57.2	64.5	76.2	103,108
1977	11.1	17.6	34.1	46.9	57.0	64.5	77.4	98,551
1978	11.3	17.7	34.6	47.8	57.8	65.1	77.7	96,859
1979	11.3	17.7	35.4	48.8	58.7	65.7	—	98,286
1980	11.5	17.9	35.7	48.9	58.6	65.5	—	103,019
1981	11.3	17.9	33.5	48.3	57.8	64.6	—	107,855
1982	10.4	16.8	33.7	46.0	55.3	61.8	—	111,295
1983	9.9	16.0	33.0	45.8	55.0	61.6	—	108,931
1984	10.1	16.6	34.8	48.1	57.8	—	—	102,785
1985	9.2	15.4	32.3	44.5	—	—	—	109,377
1986	8.3	15.0	31.6	—	—	—	—	108,442
1987	7.8	15.4	—	—	—	—	—	107,668

(a) Includes premarital pregnancies. (b) Premaritally pregnant comprises wives who delivered their first child within marriage duration of 0-7 completed months.

Women in the 1980s prefer to commence child-bearing later and complete their families earlier than previous generations. The proportion of first nuptial confinements occurring in the first two years of marriage is continuing to decline. In 1971 the proportion was 46.5 per cent, but in 1988 it had fallen to 31.6 per cent. This postponement of child-bearing is even more significant in the context of the rising median age at marriage (23.2 years in 1971 and 27.1 years in 1988).

In the 1970s, fertility declines became obvious across all age-groups, falling rapidly between 1971 and 1980, and marginally since then. This decline has been attributed to demographic, social, economic and attitudinal changes of the 1970s, which individually or collectively influenced fertility behaviour during this period. Between 1971 and 1988, the total fertility rate for all ages declined by 36 per cent. The largest declines in age-specific fertility rates occurred to younger women aged 15–29 years, in particular the 20–24 age group. Women in the 1980s are more likely to defer and restrict child-bearing to the middle range of their reproductive years. In 1971, 46.6 per cent of births occurred to women aged 15–24. By 1988, the corresponding figure was 27.3 per cent. The proportion of births occurring to women aged 25–34 in 1971 was 45.9 per cent, whereas in 1988 it was 63.7 per cent. Women in the 25–29 age group maintained the highest fertility rates.

Concurrent with the downward movement that has occurred in the levels of fertility, the family formation patterns of couples have changed. An increasing proportion of total births has now been occurring outside marriage, and for those occurring within marriage, concentration has been on the first and second order births.

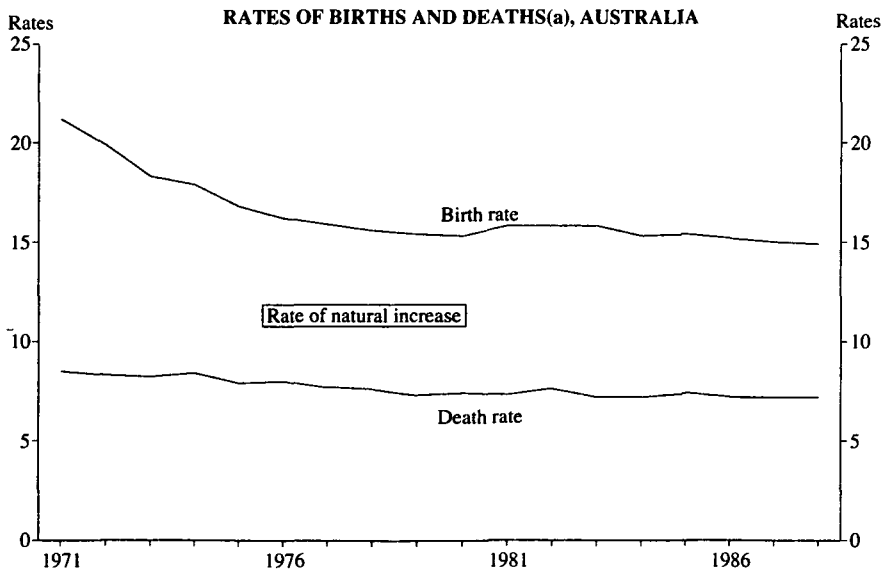
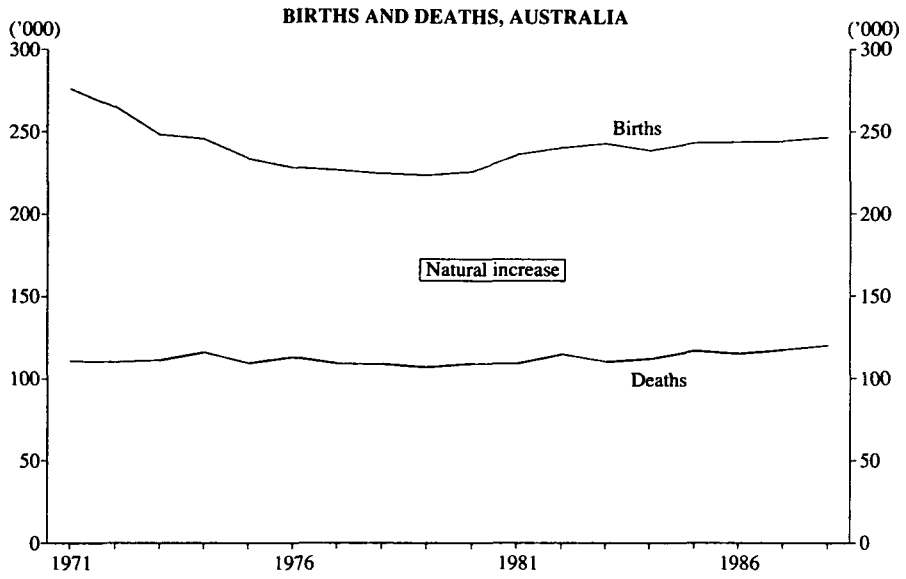
Confinements resulting in ex-nuptial births have increased continually as a proportion of total confinements over the past two decades increasing from 9.3 per cent in 1971 to 19.0 per cent in 1988. The median age of ex-nuptial mothers has been lower than that at first nuptial confinement throughout the period and it seems likely that ex-nuptial births are predominantly first order births, though birth order data are not available for ex-nuptial births.

TOTAL CONFINEMENTS BY NUPTIALITY AND PREVIOUS ISSUE TO THE CURRENT MARRIAGE OF MOTHER (NUPTIAL BIRTHS), AUSTRALIA

<i>Period</i>	<i>Ex-nuptial confinements</i>	<i>Married mothers with number of previous issue to the current marriage of—</i>							<i>Total</i>
		<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 or more</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	
ANNUAL AVERAGES									
1971–1975	24,299	88,120	74,641	36,914	15,216	6,006	5,765	12	250,973
1976–1980	24,851	77,877	69,291	34,288	11,119	3,332	2,451	15	223,224
1981–1985	34,248	82,279	70,089	34,399	11,354	3,093	1,918	103	237,483
ANNUAL TOTALS									
1981	30,956	82,476	67,627	35,445	11,750	3,282	1,993	6	233,535
1982	32,679	83,300	69,963	34,670	11,631	3,193	2,016	—	237,452
1983	35,335	83,466	70,427	34,081	11,343	3,108	1,878	476	240,114
1984(a)	34,337	79,295	69,312	33,027	10,802	3,013	1,825	32	231,643
1985(a)	37,933	82,860	73,114	34,774	11,246	2,867	1,877	—	244,671
1986	40,580	80,563	70,017	33,937	10,955	2,904	1,723	20	240,699
1987	43,418	80,241	68,730	33,472	10,793	2,873	1,742	—	241,269
1988	46,293	79,841	68,432	33,419	10,650	2,856	1,699	3	243,193

(a) These figures have been affected by late registration in New South Wales.

The proportion of females having three or more children in their marriage is continuing to decline. The proportion of nuptial confinements that produced a fourth or higher order birth has declined from 22.5 per cent in 1971 to 7.7 per cent in 1988. In the same year (1988) 75.3 per cent of nuptial confinements resulted in first or second children.



(a) Per thousand mean population.

Deaths

In comparison with other countries, Australia ranks amongst those with the lowest mortality levels and the highest expectations of life.

EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT BIRTH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN SELECTED LOW MORTALITY COUNTRIES, RECENT YEARS

Country	Infant mortality		Life expectancy at birth		
	Rate	Year	Males	Females	Year
Australia	8.7	1988	73.1	79.5	1988
Canada	7.9	p1985	71.9	79.0	1980-82
Denmark	7.7	1984	71.6	77.5	1984-85
England and Wales	(a)9.4	p1985	71.8	77.5	1983-85
Federal Republic of Germany	8.9	1985	71.2	77.8	1983-85
France	7.9	p1986	71.0	79.2	1983-85
Italy	10.9	1985	71.1	77.8	1981
Japan	5.5	1985	74.8	80.5	1985
Netherlands	8.1	p1986	72.9	79.8	1984-85
New Zealand	10.8	1985	71.0	76.8	1985
Sweden	5.9	p1986	73.8	79.9	1985
Switzerland	6.9	1986	73.5	80.0	1984-85
United States	10.3	p1986	71.2	78.2	1984

(a) Total United Kingdom.

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook*, 1984 and 1986, New York.

The number of deaths in 1988 was 119,866, an increase of 2.3 per cent over the previous year which, in the context of the crude death rate, resulted in a slight increase from 7.21 to 7.25 per thousand population. Generally, however, the current trend is towards a levelling of the crude death rate following two decades of consistent falls.

Mortality trends, as measured by the crude death rate, are distorted by changes in the age structure of the population over time. Australian crude death rates standardised for age show a considerably greater decline in mortality levels since the early 1970s and instead of a current levelling off, a continuation of this decline. Using the age structure of the estimated resident population of persons as at 30 June 1981 as the standard, the adjusted death rate fell from 12.0 per thousand in 1971 to 8.5 per thousand in 1988 for males and from 7.3 to 4.9 per thousand for females during the same period.

The decline in death rates is a result of continuing improvements to community health care, public awareness of health issues and advances in medical science and technology.

In Australia, as in most other countries, females have lower death rates than males. Age-specific rates show this discrepancy occurring across all age groups. In 1988, for example, the female death rate in many age groups was about half that of males. The relative difference between death rates for males and females was greatest in the age group 15 to 24 years where in 1988 the female rate was about one-third that of males. The overall effect of these differences in death rates has been to increase the proportion of females in the older age groups of the population.

Concurrent with the decline in death rates over the last two decades has been a rise in life expectancy at birth, increasing for males from 67.9 years to 73.1 years between the periods 1970-1972 and 1988, and correspondingly for females from 74.6 years to 79.5 years. Female life expectancy at birth has exceeded that of males throughout the period, with the difference varying from 6 to 7 years. Contributing to the increase in life expectancy at birth is the reduction in infant mortality, falling from rates of 19.5 per thousand and 15.0 per thousand for males and females respectively in 1970-72 to 9.8 and 7.6 respectively in 1988.

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES BY SEX, AUSTRALIA
(per '000)

Period	Age group (years)																	85 and over	
	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79		80-84
MALES																			
Average annual rates—																			
1971-75	18.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.4	2.1	3.4	6.0	9.6	15.9	25.5	39.3	61.2	95.3	141.2	231.7
1976-80	13.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.9	3.0	5.2	8.6	13.8	22.2	35.3	54.2	87.7	127.9	210.7
1981-85(a)	11.0	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.4	4.1	7.2	12.2	19.2	31.1	49.4	78.0	119.1	205.6
Annual rates—																			
1981	11.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.7	2.6	4.6	7.9	13.0	19.8	32.3	52.0	80.2	121.2	208.1
1982	11.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.6	2.5	4.5	7.5	12.7	20.0	33.0	51.9	82.7	124.4	216.0
1983	10.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	2.3	3.9	7.3	12.2	18.9	30.7	47.8	76.9	115.8	201.4
1984(a)	10.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.4	3.7	6.7	11.7	18.7	29.8	48.2	75.3	114.1	195.8
1985(a)	11.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.2	3.7	6.6	11.4	18.5	29.5	47.1	74.7	119.4	205.1
1986	10.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.3	3.5	6.3	10.7	18.0	28.3	45.4	72.1	110.7	187.2
1987	10.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.0	3.5	6.1	10.9	17.2	27.9	45.3	71.2	111.2	190.9
1988	9.8	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.2	3.4	6.0	10.0	17.3	27.2	45.0	71.9	110.7	186.6
FEMALES																			
Average annual rates—																			
1971-75	14.0	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.1	3.5	5.2	8.0	12.2	19.4	33.1	57.3	97.4	187.9
1976-80	10.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.8	2.8	4.5	6.8	10.8	16.9	27.9	48.4	84.0	168.4
1981-85(a)	8.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.4	3.9	6.0	9.6	15.3	25.3	43.3	76.4	160.5
Annual rates—																			
1981	8.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.7	3.8	6.2	9.7	15.7	25.5	44.3	76.0	160.4
1982	9.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.5	2.5	4.2	6.2	10.1	16.0	25.7	45.1	79.3	170.4
1983	8.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.3	2.3	4.0	6.1	9.7	15.2	25.2	42.5	73.6	154.2
1984(a)	7.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.2	3.8	5.7	9.4	15.3	25.0	41.5	76.6	157.0
1985(a)	8.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.3	3.8	5.9	9.0	14.6	25.5	42.9	76.4	157.9
1986	7.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.4	2.2	3.5	5.7	8.8	15.1	24.8	41.1	71.2	148.3
1987	7.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.1	3.5	5.5	8.6	13.9	23.9	40.8	72.1	151.3
1988	7.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	2.1	3.4	5.5	8.7	13.8	23.5	40.7	71.4	147.7

(a) Adjusted for late registrations in New South Wales.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT VARIOUS AGES, AUSTRALIA

Period	Ages—									
	0		1		25		45		65	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1970-72(a)	67.9	74.6	68.3	74.7	45.8	51.5	27.1	32.6	12.2	15.9
1975-77(a)	69.6	75.6	69.6	76.5	46.9	53.1	28.3	34.0	13.1	17.1
1980-82(a)	71.2	78.3	71.1	78.0	48.2	54.5	29.5	35.3	13.8	18.0
1981 (b)	71.4	78.4	71.2	78.1	48.3	54.7	29.6	35.4	13.9	18.1
1982 (b)	71.2	78.2	71.1	77.9	48.2	54.5	29.5	35.2	13.9	17.9
1983 (b)	72.1	78.7	71.9	78.4	48.9	54.9	30.1	35.6	14.2	18.3
1984 (b)(c)	72.6	79.1	72.4	78.7	49.3	55.2	30.5	35.9	14.5	18.5
1985 (b)(c)	72.3	78.8	72.1	78.5	49.2	55.0	30.4	35.7	14.3	18.2
1986 (b)	72.9	79.2	72.6	78.8	49.6	55.3	30.9	36.0	14.7	18.5
1987 (b)	73.0	79.5	72.8	79.1	49.7	55.5	31.0	36.2	14.7	18.6
1988 (b)	73.1	79.5	72.8	79.1	49.8	55.6	31.1	36.3	14.8	18.7

(a) Source: Australian Government Actuary rates. (b) Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. (c) Adjusted for late registrations in New South Wales.

Changes in levels of mortality and age-specific death rates reflect trends in the incidence of specific causes of death. The three most prevalent causes of death for both sexes at the present time are ischaemic heart disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease or stroke which in 1988 collectively accounted for 67.0 per cent of deaths registered. In recent years there have been decreases in the incidence of most of the major causes of death with the exception of cancer, with age-standardised death rates falling by half or more for some classes of disease between 1971 and 1988.

STANDARDISED DEATH RATES (a), CAUSES OF DEATH BY SEX, AUSTRALIA

<i>Cause of death</i>	1971	1976	1981	1986	1987	1988
MALES						
Neoplasms	198	205	215	214	213	217
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	20	17	16	17	19	18
Cardiovascular diseases	458	419	349	292	284	272
Cerebrovascular diseases	143	123	98	73	72	69
Other circulatory diseases	62	53	40	31	30	29
Respiratory diseases	106	109	83	73	74	76
Diseases of the digestive system	29	32	32	28	28	28
Diseases of infancy	25	20	14	12	11	12
Accidents	80	70	58	48	47	49
Violence, suicide	21	19	20	21	24	23
Other	58	53	49	52	53	57
Total	1,200	1,120	974	861	855	851
FEMALES						
Neoplasms	125	125	122	130	127	129
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	19	16	13	13	13	13
Cardiovascular diseases	246	212	175	159	155	148
Cerebrovascular diseases	136	113	86	66	63	61
Other circulatory diseases	46	37	27	20	19	19
Respiratory diseases	37	40	28	27	29	31
Diseases of the digestive system	17	18	17	17	17	17
Diseases of infancy	21	17	11	10	9	10
Accidents	32	28	22	20	18	20
Violence, suicide	11	7	7	7	7	7
Other	45	37	35	38	39	39
Total	735	650	543	507	496	494

(a) Per 100,000 persons, standardised to age distribution for persons, 1981.

Cause of death is age- and sex-related, with different causes assuming greater or lesser significance in males and females of different age groups. The most common causes of death during the first year of life are the culmination of conditions originating in the perinatal period. These include prematurity, birth injury and respiratory conditions present from birth.

Accidents, poisoning and violence were the leading causes of death for each age group in the range 1-44 years, and particularly at ages 15 to 24 years where external causes accounted for 75.0 per cent of all deaths.

When male and female deaths were compared for particular age groups there were marked differences for certain main causes of death. For example, in the age group 25 to 44 years, the male death rates for heart disease and accidents, poisonings and violence (external causes) were over three times the equivalent rates for females.

The main cause of death for people in the 45-64 year age range was malignant neoplasms, accounting for 40.0 per cent of deaths. Deaths due to malignant neoplasms as a proportion of all deaths have risen slightly over the period 1980 to 1988. However, there has been little change in the distribution of cancer deaths by the primary site of growth. Malignant

neoplasms of the digestive organs and peritoneum accounted for approximately 30 per cent of both male and female cancer deaths. The pattern of cancer deaths across other sites varied between the sexes. Whereas for 29.6 per cent of male deaths due to malignant neoplasms the primary site of growth was located in the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, this site accounted for only 12.7 per cent of female cancer deaths. However, malignant neoplasms of the breast accounted for 2,348 female deaths in 1988, representing 18.4 per cent of all female cancer deaths.

For people aged 65 and over the main cause of death was heart disease. In 1988, 32.3 per cent of all deaths registered in Australia were attributed to heart disease. While this proportion was similar for males and females overall, the distribution of deaths by age group differed between the sexes. Heart disease was a more significant cause of death at younger ages for males than for females. For males, heart disease was the leading cause of death for most age groups over 40, while for females, heart disease was only the leading cause of death for age groups over 70 years. These age groups accounted for 83 per cent of all female deaths from heart disease.

Marriages

The number of marriages occurring in Australia reached a peak of 117,600 in 1971 which, despite a growing population, has not yet been surpassed. The 1971 peak was followed by a rapid decline in numbers which coincided with growing public acceptance of de facto relationships. Although this decline levelled off in the latter half of the 1970s and numbers have recovered in the 1980s (there were 116,800 marriages in 1988) the crude marriage rate has continued to drop. In 1988 it was 7.1 per thousand mean population.

The passing of the *Family Law Act in 1976* (which provided easy and faster access to divorce) had a significant effect on the composition of marriages. Prior to the Act approximately 80–85 per cent of marriages were first marriages for both partners, but after 1976 this proportion fell to 65–70 per cent. In 1988 the figure was 67.1 per cent.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED: RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, NUMBER AND PER CENT, AND CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Both partners never married		One or both partners previously married		All marriages	Crude marriage rate
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		
Annual averages—						
1971–1975	93,734	83.8	18,068	16.2	111,802	8.3
1976–1980	73,401	69.1	32,896	30.9	106,297	7.4
1981–1985	77,003	67.5	37,035	32.5	114,038	7.4
1986	76,647	66.7	38,266	33.3	114,913	7.2
1987	76,706	67.2	37,407	32.8	114,113	7.0
1988	78,400	67.1	38,416	32.9	116,816	7.1

MEDIAN AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA

Period	Median age of bridegrooms				Median age of brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
Annual averages—								
1971–75	23.3	57.8	37.3	23.9	21.0	51.1	33.0	21.4
1976–80	23.9	58.4	36.1	25.4	21.6	51.6	32.5	22.7
1981–85	24.9	59.8	36.6	26.4	22.7	52.2	33.5	23.9
1986	25.6	60.5	38.3	27.3	23.5	52.6	34.8	24.9
1987	25.9	60.6	38.6	27.6	23.8	52.4	35.1	25.2
1988	26.1	60.9	38.9	27.8	24.0	52.4	35.3	25.4

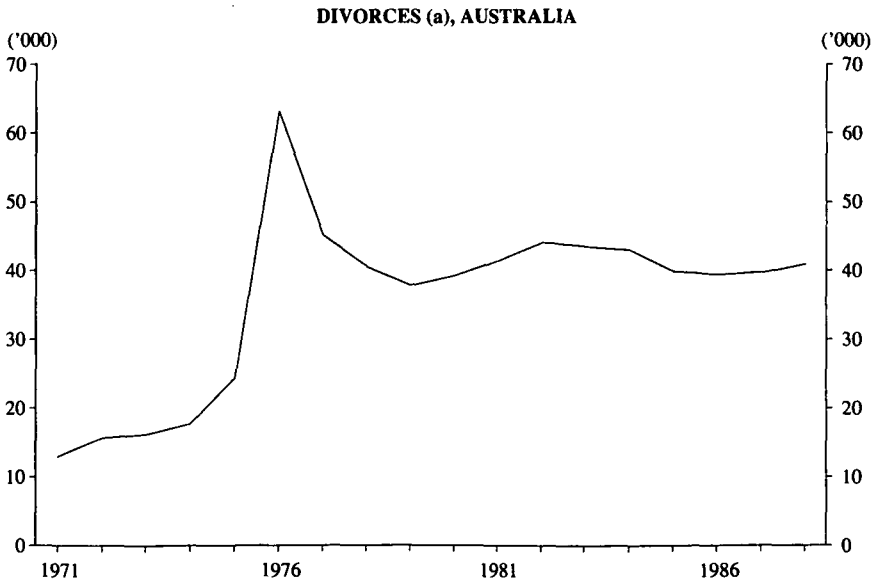
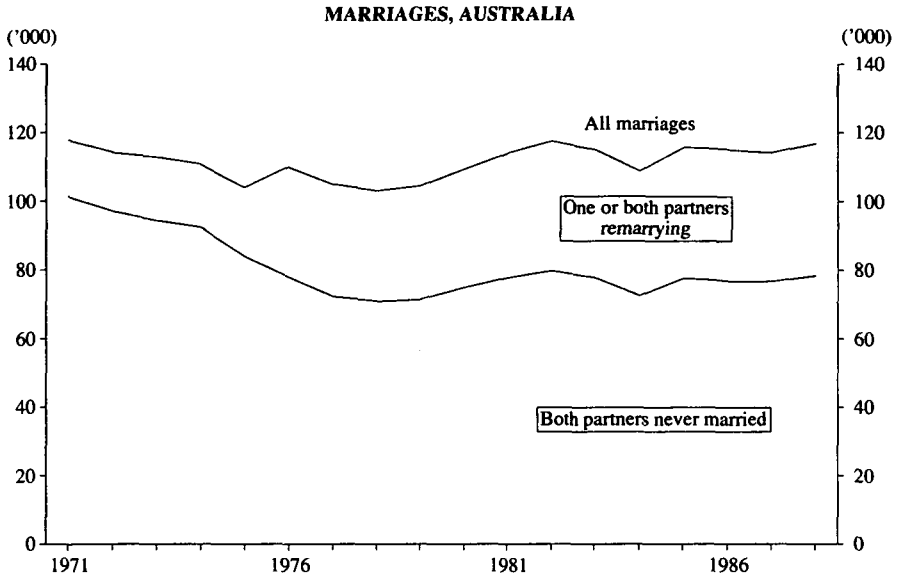
Since 1971 there has been a reversal in the post-war trend towards younger marriages. The median age at first marriage for both males and females is now rising, having increased from 23.3 years in 1971 to 26.1 years in 1988 for males and from 21.0 to 24.0 years for females. The median age for second and subsequent marriages is also rising. There is also a trend towards a narrower gap between the age of the bride and groom at the time of first marriage, having fallen from 2.3 years in 1971 to 2.1 years in 1988.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATIOS (a), AUSTRALIA

Period	Cumulative ratios of age-groups (b)—					40 and over	Index of total first marriages (c)
	To 19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39		
BRIDEGROOMS							
Average annual ratios—							
1971-75	72.0	506.4	201.4	58.7	22.9	30.9	892.2
1976-80	37.6	368.2	184.4	55.2	20.8	28.5	694.7
1981-85(d)	16.9	310.1	221.1	71.2	23.3	24.6	667.3
Annual ratios—							
1981	29.0	346.7	209.4	62.7	22.7	27.5	695.7
1982	24.1	337.0	220.3	68.2	22.9	27.3	699.8
1983	19.1	312.6	223.4	71.0	22.9	24.6	673.7
1984(d)	15.6	277.3	218.4	70.9	22.7	23.9	628.7
1985(d)	14.1	280.3	236.9	81.2	25.2	25.0	662.9
1986(d)	9.8	263.0	237.1	85.0	26.6	23.6	645.0
1987	9.0	247.2	241.5	90.4	27.4	24.3	639.8
1988	9.8	239.9	248.3	96.3	30.8	23.1	648.1
BRIDES							
Average annual ratios—							
1971-75	299.1	452.2	92.7	27.5	10.9	15.8	898.2
1976-80	182.9	362.7	95.5	28.0	11.4	14.7	695.0
1981-85(d)	111.9	377.0	135.0	36.1	11.8	11.2	682.8
Annual ratios—							
1981	142.9	384.6	116.1	30.7	11.2	12.7	698.2
1982	130.7	389.2	129.8	34.3	11.4	12.2	707.9
1983	110.4	382.8	136.9	36.4	11.5	11.4	689.3
1984(d)	93.2	355.5	137.4	36.6	11.3	11.1	645.0
1985(d)	88.7	372.5	156.1	39.5	13.4	12.0	685.0
1986(d)	76.3	360.7	165.8	46.5	14.0	11.2	674.6
1987	67.3	350.0	173.5	50.8	15.8	11.5	668.9
1988	63.1	346.9	184.5	55.2	16.3	11.2	677.2

(a) Per 1,000 mid-year population of males and females of each age. (b) Ratios for each age-group are calculated by summing the ratios for single years. (c) The sum of all single year ratios. (d) These ratios have been affected by late registrations of births, deaths and marriages in New South Wales.

The increasing median age at first marriage is reflected in first marriage ratios which show declines for both brides and grooms under the age of 25 and increases in the age range 25-39. The discrepancy in age at first marriage between brides and grooms is also revealed by the lower ratios for grooms under the age of 25. The Index of total first marriages, which is the cumulative total of first marriage ratios at each age, has been declining throughout the last two decades. It shows that the falling crude marriage rate cannot be attributed to changes in the age structure of the population i.e. that there is a real reduction in the propensity to marry in the Australian community.



(a) The sharp increase in divorces between 1975 and 1976 is due to the introduction of the Family Law Act in 1976.

The decline in first marriage ratios under the age of 25 and the increase in the median age at first marriage over the last decade may reflect to some extent the tendency of some couples to live together before getting married. It seems reasonable to postulate that amongst de facto couples a certain proportion will eventually marry, even though at a later age, whereas others will prefer to remain unmarried. Analysis of current trends in marriage is qualified by the absence of any time series data on the formation of de facto relationships. However there is evidence from the Family Formation Surveys in 1982 and 1986, the 1986 Census and, indirectly, Censuses in 1971, 1976 and 1981, that the number of de facto relationships is growing. At 30 June 1986 there were 204,900 de facto 'couple families' compared with 3,370,100 married couple families.

Divorces

DIVORCES, AUSTRALIA

<i>Period</i>	<i>Divorces</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Divorces</i>
Annual averages—		Annual totals—	
1971–75	17,348	1978	40,608
1976–80	45,220	1979	37,854
1981–85	42,396	1980	39,258
Annual totals—		1981	41,412
1971	13,002	1982	44,088
1972	15,707	1983	43,525
1973	16,266	1984	43,124
1974	17,744	1985	39,830
1975	24,307	1986	39,417
1976	63,230	1987	39,725
1977	45,150	1988	41,007

Divorce in Australia comes under the jurisdiction of the *Family Law Act 1975*. This Act which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce, namely irretrievable breakdown of marriage, which is established by a minimum one-year separation of the husband and wife. Passing of the Act provided easier and faster access to divorce for either party by its removal of the need to prove fault, together with a reduction of the separation period from five years to one year. After the introduction of the Family Law Act, the number of divorces rose from annual averages of 17,350 to 45,220 between 1971–75 and 1976–80 respectively, while the median duration of marriage of divorcing couples decreased from 12.5 years in 1971 to 10.2 years in 1981, increased slightly to 10.6 in the years to 1986 and then declined to 10.1 years in 1988.

DIVORCES: DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Year	Duration of marriage (years)					Total	Median duration of marriage
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20 and over		
AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE							
	—per cent—						years
1976	15.5	30.2	18.1	12.5	23.7	100.0	11.0
1977	17.3	28.7	18.6	12.5	23.0	100.0	10.9
1978	19.3	28.6	18.5	12.2	21.4	100.0	10.5
1979	20.1	28.4	18.3	12.3	20.9	100.0	10.3
1980	20.7	28.4	19.3	11.8	19.8	100.0	10.2
1981	20.8	28.5	19.6	11.9	19.2	100.0	10.2
1982	20.3	28.0	20.0	13.0	18.8	100.0	10.4
1983 r	20.3	26.9	20.5	13.3	19.0	100.0	10.6
1984 r	20.8	26.6	19.6	13.8	19.1	100.0	10.6
1985 r	21.2	26.4	18.7	14.1	19.5	100.0	10.6
1986	21.7	26.2	17.8	14.3	19.3	100.0	10.6
1987 r	22.1	26.9	17.3	14.4	19.1	100.0	10.2
1988	21.4	28.1	17.3	14.2	19.1	100.0	10.1
AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION							
	—per cent—						years
1976	39.6	22.5	13.6	10.6	13.8	100.0	6.9
1977	36.9	24.2	14.9	10.7	13.4	100.0	7.4
1978	36.4	24.6	15.1	10.6	13.3	100.0	7.4
1979	36.2	24.5	15.0	11.0	13.3	100.0	7.5
1980	36.4	24.9	15.4	10.5	12.8	100.0	7.5
1981	36.4	24.9	15.9	10.2	12.6	100.0	7.5
1982	36.2	24.3	16.3	10.9	12.3	100.0	7.6
1983 r	35.9	23.4	17.1	11.0	12.5	100.0	7.8
1984 r	36.4	22.8	16.9	11.1	12.6	100.0	7.8
1985 r	36.6	22.3	16.7	11.6	12.9	100.0	7.7
1986	37.6	21.5	16.0	11.7	13.2	100.0	7.6
1987 r	38.3	21.7	15.4	11.8	12.8	100.0	7.3
1988	38.5	22.1	15.1	11.8	12.6	100.0	7.3

There is currently a tendency for divorce to occur in the early years of marriage and at an early age. The proportion of divorces taking place within the first five years of marriage was 21.4 per cent in 1988 and within the first ten years it was 49.5 per cent. The highest divorce rates for both males and females occurred in the 25-29 year age group, with 19.3 per thousand married men and 19.6 per thousand married women completing divorce proceedings. The overall incidence of divorce increased slightly in 1988 (to 10.8 per thousand married population) after a period between 1982 and 1987 in which a significant decline occurred (from 12.5 to 10.6 per thousand married population).

AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES PER 1,000 MARRIED POPULATION, AUSTRALIA

Year	Age group (years)									Total
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	
HUSBAND										
1976	18.0	31.6	28.8	23.9	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.1	18.9
1981	13.8	22.4	18.9	16.2	13.5	10.9	8.3	5.2	2.3	11.9
1982	13.5	22.9	20.6	17.1	14.9	11.6	8.3	5.8	2.3	12.5
1983	13.4	21.3	20.0	17.1	14.7	11.6	8.5	5.7	2.4	12.2
1984	12.9	20.8	19.6	17.0	14.5	11.7	8.3	6.0	2.4	12.0
1985	12.2	18.6	17.8	15.8	13.4	10.7	7.7	5.6	2.1	10.9
1986	12.1	18.6	17.1	14.8	13.3	11.1	8.3	5.4	2.1	10.7
1987	12.3	18.7	17.8	15.0	13.0	10.8	7.8	5.1	2.1	10.6
1988	12.2	19.3	18.3	15.6	13.3	11.0	8.0	5.2	2.0	10.8
WIFE										
1976	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.0	19.2	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.1	18.8
1981	18.0	22.0	16.9	14.7	11.8	8.9	6.2	4.1	1.8	11.9
1982	17.7	23.0	18.4	15.7	12.9	9.7	6.4	4.0	1.8	12.5
1983	17.3	21.9	18.1	15.6	12.7	9.7	6.4	4.1	1.8	12.2
1984	16.8	21.2	17.7	15.5	13.3	9.7	6.1	4.0	1.8	11.9
1985	15.3	19.0	16.5	14.4	12.1	9.0	5.7	3.8	1.6	10.9
1986	15.9	18.5	15.8	13.7	12.0	9.5	6.0	3.7	1.5	10.6
1987	16.6	18.9	16.0	13.8	11.8	9.2	5.7	3.5	1.5	10.6
1988	16.8	19.6	16.6	14.1	12.0	9.4	5.7	3.6	1.4	10.8

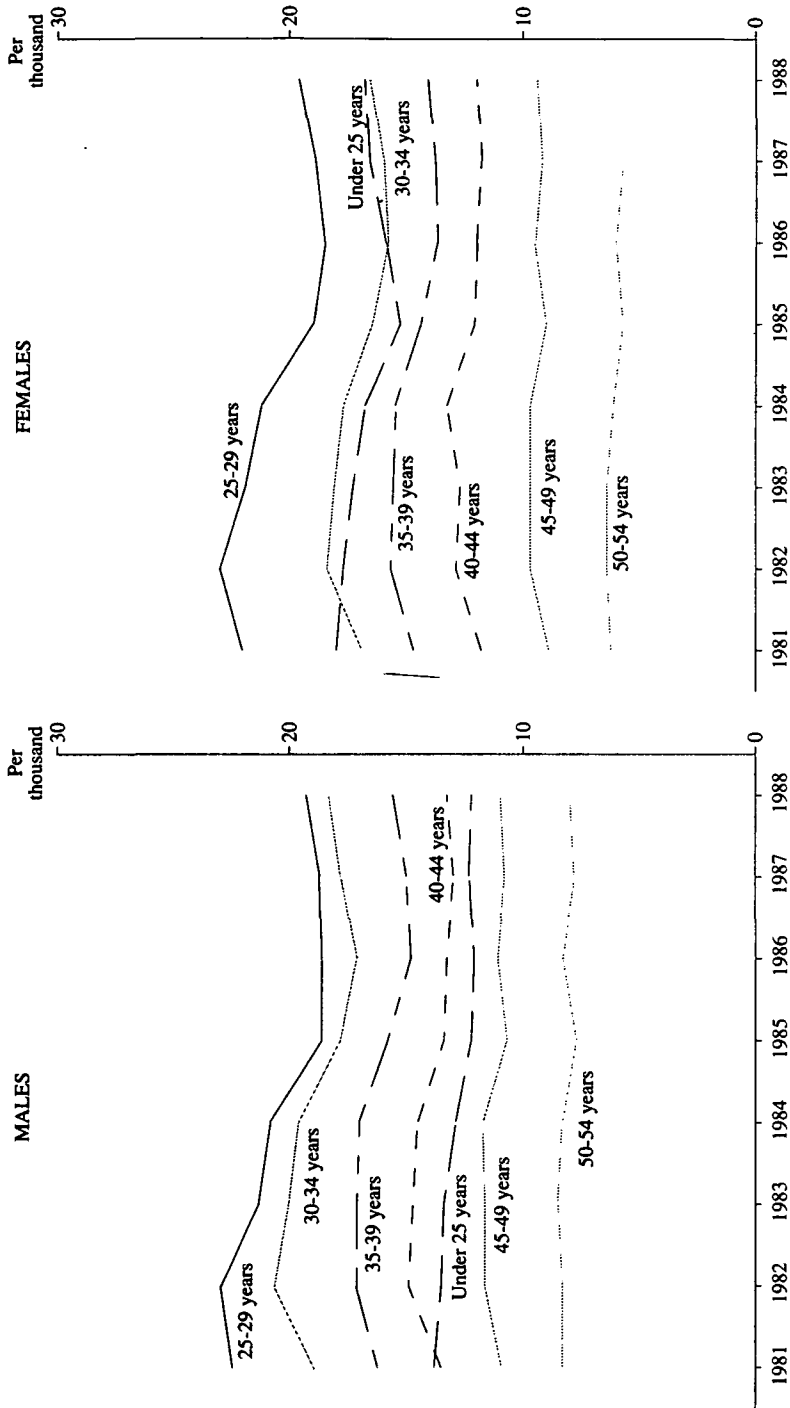
The current declining median duration between marriage and final separation combined with increasing average interval between marriage and first birth (see Births section above) is having the beneficial effect of reducing the proportion of divorcing couples with children. The proportion of divorces in which children were involved declined from 61.6 per cent in 1983 to 57.5 per cent in 1988. The average number of children per divorce has remained steady at 1.9.

DIVORCES: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of children							Total divorces	Total children	Average number of children(a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more			
	—per cent—							No.	No.	No.
1976-80	37.6	22.5	24.3	10.5	3.6	1.0	0.5	226,100	276,088	2.0
1981-85	38.8	21.5	26.1	10.1	2.7	0.6	0.2	211,979	252,198	1.9
1981	38.9	21.5	25.6	10.0	3.0	0.7	0.3	41,412	49,616	2.0
1982	38.4	21.6	26.2	10.3	2.7	0.6	0.2	44,088	53,010	2.0
1983	38.4	21.8	26.2	10.2	2.7	0.5	0.2	43,525	52,059	1.9
1984	39.1	21.6	26.2	9.8	2.6	0.5	0.2	43,124	50,713	1.9
1985	39.4	21.1	26.2	10.0	2.6	0.5	0.2	39,830	46,800	1.9
1986	40.3	21.2	25.8	9.5	2.5	0.5	0.2	39,417	45,231	1.9
1987	41.4	21.7	25.1	9.0	2.2	0.5	0.1	39,723	44,050	1.9
1988	42.5	21.5	24.7	8.7	2.2	0.4	0.1	41,007	44,395	1.9

(a) Divorces involving one or more children.

AGE SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES PER 1000 MARRIED POPULATION : SELECTED AGE GROUPS AUSTRALIA



Remarriages

During the 1980s the number of remarriages (i.e. marriages involving one or more previously married parties) has remained steady but on a higher plateau than in the 1970s. The 1988 total of 38,400 remarriages, which represented 32.9 per cent of all marriages, was typical of the current level. The average number of remarriages in the second half of the 1970s, 1976-80, was 32,900 or 30.9 per cent of all marriages. This was also a period in which numbers remained remarkably steady.

The reason for the sudden rise in remarriages at the beginning of the 1980s was brought about entirely by growth in the numbers of marriages in which one or both parties were divorced at the time of marriage and was an after-effect of the *Family Law Act 1976* (see Divorces section above).

Set against rising population numbers, the current plateau in remarriages is resulting in declining remarriage rates. The remarriage rate for males was 64.2 per thousand widowed and divorced male population in 1988, down from 84.2 in 1981. The female rate has fallen from 30.5 in 1981 to 26.1 in 1988. Again (see above) the absence of data on de facto unions of people previously married qualifies analysis of current trends. The discrepancy between male and female remarriage rates is caused by longer female survival and therefore greater numbers of females being available for remarriage at older ages.

MARRIAGES IN WHICH ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED: RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, NUMBER AND PER CENT, AUSTRALIA

Period	Both partners divorced		One partner divorced		Other (a)		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Annual averages—							
1976-80	9,961	30.3	19,924	60.6	3,011	9.2	32,896
1981-85(b)	12,125	32.7	22,399	60.5	2,511	6.8	37,035
Annual totals—							
1976	8,767	27.3	20,031	62.3	3,359	10.4	32,157
1981	11,656	32.1	21,851	60.3	2,758	7.6	36,265
1982	12,208	32.4	22,865	60.8	2,569	6.8	37,642
1983	12,108	32.7	22,491	60.6	2,499	6.7	37,098
1984(b)	11,956	33.1	21,814	60.4	2,345	6.5	36,115
1985(b)	12,698	33.3	22,973	60.4	2,383	6.3	38,054
1986(b)	12,870	33.5	22,868	59.9	2,528	6.5	38,266
1987	12,438	33.2	22,594	60.4	2,396	6.4	37,428
1988	12,709	33.1	23,359	60.8	2,348	6.1	38,416

(a) One or both partners widowed. (b) The statistics for 1984, 1985 and 1986 were affected by late registrations in New South Wales.

REMARRIAGES, DIVORCED AND WIDOWED PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER, AUSTRALIA

Year	Total marriages	Remarriages of persons previously—		Remarriage rates			
		Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed (a)	Divorced (b)	Total (c)
MALES							
1976	109,973	3,777	19,404	23,181	29.6	201.2	103.5
1981	113,905	3,152	23,293	26,445	23.1	131.1	84.2
1982	117,275	2,988	24,429	27,417	21.3	119.5	79.6
1983	114,860	2,959	24,333	27,292	21.0	110.5	75.5
1984	108,655	2,798	23,708	26,506	19.7	100.3	70.0
1985	115,493	2,843	25,129	27,972	19.8	100.7	71.2
1986	114,913	2,952	25,285	28,237	20.9	101.8	72.5
1987	114,113	2,920	24,602	27,522	19.9	89.3	65.2
1988	116,816	2,845	25,281	28,126	19.1	87.5	64.2
FEMALES							
1976	109,973	4,378	18,161	22,539	7.9	146.3	33.3
1981	113,905	3,727	21,870	25,597	6.1	96.9	30.5
1982	117,275	3,579	22,852	26,431	5.7	90.5	30.0
1983	114,860	3,457	22,374	25,831	5.4	82.5	28.5
1984	108,655	3,312	22,018	25,330	5.2	75.8	27.1
1985	115,493	3,414	23,240	26,654	5.3	75.7	27.9
1986	114,913	3,564	23,279	26,843	5.6	74.8	28.2
1987	114,113	3,393	22,783	26,176	5.1	67.1	26.1
1988	116,816	3,324	23,496	26,820	5.0	65.8	26.1

(a) Per thousand widowed males. (b) Per thousand divorced males. (c) Per thousand widowed and divorced males. (d) Per thousand widowed females. (e) Per thousand divorced females. (f) Per thousand widowed and divorced females.

MIGRATION

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 Shipping and Plane manifests required under various Acts.

Since 1924, overseas travellers have been classified into two principal categories which distinguish short-term movements (of less than 12 months duration) from long-term movements (of 12 months duration or longer, including permanent movements). Revised questions for travellers were introduced in 1959 and again in 1974. The 1959 revision enabled the distinction of permanent from other long-term movements and also the identification of former settlers departing permanently. The 1974 revisions improved the layout of the passenger card without changing the classification.

Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is presently regulated by the Migration Act 1958 which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the introduction of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited non-citizen. Exempted persons include New Zealand citizens, diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter Australian ports while on leave.

Until recently, total net gains (i.e., the excess of total arrivals over total departures) provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, because of the large increase in short term movements (nearly 8 million in 1988), distortions arising from seasonality of these movements 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. Net permanent and long-term migration is estimated to have directly contributed 39.6 per cent of the total population increase between 1971 and 1989.

Throughout the last two decades, British migrants have remained the most numerous group of settlers, although they have declined in absolute numbers and as a proportion of total settler arrivals. In the first half of the 1970s they comprised 41.2 per cent of settler arrivals but in the three years 1986 to 1988 this proportion had fallen to 19.1 per cent. At the same time the number of settlers from other European sources, such as Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Germany and the Netherlands, have also declined. Indirectly, though, the fall in British and European immigration has been somewhat offset by substantial increases in settlers arriving from New Zealand.

BIRTHPLACE OF SETTLER ARRIVALS (a), AUSTRALIA, SELECTED YEARS

Birthplace	1971-	1976-	1981-	1986-	1971-	1976-	1981-	1986-
	75	80	85	88	75	80	85	88
	—'000—				—per cent—			
United Kingdom and Ireland	226.0	94.8	115.9	73.0	41.2	25.7	25.2	19.1
New Zealand	17.5	46.5	48.6	56.6	3.2	12.6	10.6	14.8
Italy	18.4	6.6	4.3	1.9	3.4	1.8	0.9	0.5
Yugoslavia	40.3	7.9	7.3	9.1	7.3	2.2	1.6	2.4
Greece	21.1	5.6	3.9	2.7	3.8	1.5	0.8	0.7
Vietnam	(b)	36.4	47.2	15.1	(b)	9.8	10.3	3.9
Germany	10.3	5.1	11.6	4.3	1.9	1.4	2.5	1.1
United States of America	19.5	6.1	8.4	6.2	3.6	1.7	1.8	1.6
Lebanon	12.8	18.1	7.0	10.0	2.3	4.9	1.5	2.6
Netherlands	5.6	4.7	6.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.4	0.4
India	12.1	4.5	8.3	7.8	2.2	1.2	1.8	2.0
South Africa	6.3	11.2	12.2	12.6	1.1	3.0	2.7	3.3
Poland	2.2	3.6	14.8	4.4	0.4	1.0	3.2	1.2
Turkey	11.6	5.0	3.7	3.8	2.1	1.4	0.8	1.0
Philippines	3.1	8.4	15.4	24.5	0.6	2.3	3.4	6.4
Malaysia	4.8	8.7	10.4	16.6	0.9	2.4	2.3	4.3
Hong Kong	(b)	5.4	9.9	16.2	(b)	1.5	2.2	4.2
Kampuchea	(b)	2.4	10.3	3.8	(b)	0.7	2.2	1.0
Other	136.8	88.1	113.8	112.9	24.9	23.9	24.8	29.5
Total	548.4	369.1	459.4	383.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Permanent arrivals only. (b) The statistics for this country are not separately available but are included in the category 'Other'.

Since the first large intakes of Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s increasing numbers of settlers have been arriving from Asian countries. Growth is currently strongest in the numbers arriving from Hong Kong, Malaysia and the Philippines, which combined, have accounted for 15.0 per cent of the settler arrivals in the three years 1986 to 1988.

Since 1978-79, family immigration has increased in importance, with migration of family members now amounting to over 50 per cent of settler arrivals. Another recent trend has been the increase in non-visaed migrants to Australia. These are primarily New Zealand citizens migrating under the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement under which Australian and New Zealand citizens may enter each country without the need to obtain visas or entry permits. Other non-visaed migrants include children born to Australian citizens overseas, persons who have acquired Australian citizenship overseas and residents of Norfolk Island (an Australian Territory). New Zealand migrants increased numerically from 17,500 to 48,600 between 1971-75 and 1981-85 and as a proportion of total migrants from 3.2 per cent to 10.6 per cent between those periods. In 1988, New Zealanders comprised 16.0 per cent of total settler arrivals for the year.

The age composition of settlers has been younger than that of Australia's population for some time and reflects the predominance of young families arriving in Australia. Persons aged 65 years and over represented 3.6 per cent of migrants arriving between 1971 and 1985, which contrasts with the share of these people in Australia's population of 10.5 per cent in 1986. In 1988 3.3 per cent of settlers were aged 65 years and over, whereas the share in the total population has risen to 10.9 per cent.

PERMANENT ARRIVALS BY SEX AND AGE, PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, AUSTRALIA

Period	Age group						Total number
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
MALES							
Annual averages—							
1971-75	13.3	17.9	23.1	36.4	7.0	2.2	55,790
1976-80	13.4	19.4	20.9	34.4	8.1	3.8	36,830
1981-85	12.2	19.1	19.0	38.4	7.8	3.6	46,760
1986	10.4	18.2	18.3	40.0	9.1	3.9	51,000
1987	11.2	18.0	16.6	41.8	8.7	3.7	63,798
1988	11.0	18.3	15.6	43.0	8.9	3.1	75,718
FEMALES							
Annual averages—							
1971-75	12.9	17.3	25.4	32.4	8.9	3.2	53,900
1976-80	12.5	17.3	21.9	32.9	10.5	4.9	37,000
1981-85	11.8	17.4	19.3	37.6	9.4	4.5	45,122
1986	10.0	15.8	19.2	40.4	10.3	4.3	52,326
1987	10.7	16.3	18.0	40.8	10.0	4.2	64,490
1988	10.6	17.1	17.4	41.8	9.5	3.5	75,831
PERSONS							
Annual averages—							
1971-75	13.1	17.6	24.2	34.4	7.9	2.7	109,690
1976-80	13.0	18.3	21.4	33.6	9.3	4.3	73,830
1981-85	12.0	18.3	19.2	38.0	8.6	4.0	91,882
1986	10.2	17.0	18.8	40.2	9.7	4.1	103,326
1987	11.0	17.2	17.3	41.3	9.4	4.0	128,288
1988	10.8	17.7	16.5	42.4	9.2	3.3	151,549

Despite the youthfulness of the settlers, their median age has been rising. In 1971 it was 23.1 years and in 1988 it was 26.0 years. This rise has been particularly marked since 1981, when the numbers of migrants under the 'family reunion' category began to increase. At the younger ages, declines have taken place since the mid 1970s in the proportion of settlers in the 15-24 year age group while there has been an increase in the proportion of settlers in the 25-44 year age group.

The sex ratio of settlers tends to be high in years of large intake, and falls as intake declines. There has been a rise in the sex ratio in recent years as numbers of settler arrivals have increased, although at 99.9 males per 100 females in 1988 the sex ratio is historically low. (Traditionally male settlers have predominated.) Males currently predominate in the 0-14 and 25-44 year age groups only. There is a low and declining sex ratio for settlers aged 15-24 years. The ratio for settlers aged 45 years and over, though at the same level as the 15-24 year age group, is historically high for those ages and rising.

PERMANENT ARRIVALS: SEX RATIOS (a) BY AGE, AUSTRALIA

<i>Period</i>	<i>Age group</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	
Annual averages—						
1971-75	109.6	94.1	116.5	81.2	72.3	103.5
1976-80	109.6	95.1	104.1	76.4	76.8	99.5
1981-85	111.3	101.7	105.7	85.1	83.2	103.6
1986	108.1	93.0	96.6	86.5	88.1	97.5
1987	106.8	91.5	101.4	86.4	85.6	98.9
1988	105.3	89.9	102.6	93.8	89.1	99.9

(a) The number of males per 100 females.

Refugees

Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 420,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by World War II and its aftermath. Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The largest element in recent years in Australia's refugee intake has been the Indo-Chinese program which currently accounts for just over half the number of refugee arrivals.

REFUGEE ARRIVALS(a), AUSTRALIA

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>
Annual averages—	
1971-75	10,549
1976-80	12,558
1981-85	17,072
Annual totals—	
1981	21,972
1982	17,522
1983	17,016
1984	15,761
1985	13,089
1986	10,196
1987	12,255
1988	10,303

(a) Includes arrivals under the Special Humanitarian Program instituted late in 1981.

Australia is one of 97 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. The final determination of a refugee's status and the decision to accept refugees for resettlement in Australia rests with the Australian Government. Australia is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Australia's response to refugee situations is twofold. Through aid programs directed principally through UNHCR, refugees are offered protection and assistance in countries of first refuge. Those refugees for whom other durable solutions are not feasible may be offered resettlement (in Australia) if they have relatives in Australia, other close ties with Australia or the potential for successful settlement in their own right. Such refugees must also be presented to Australia by the UNHCR as being registered or otherwise eligible for resettlement.

Permanent Departures

An important component constraining population growth is the level of population loss due to outmigration. Between 1971 and 1988, total permanent departures numbered 480,695 persons or an average of 26,705 per year, a level which is 27.3 per cent of the total permanent arrivals over this period. The ratio of departures to arrivals has fallen from 26.4 per cent in 1971 to 13.4 per cent in 1988.

PERMANENT DEPARTURES BY CATEGORY AND PERMANENT ARRIVALS, AUSTRALIA

Year	<i>Permanent departures</i>			<i>Permanent arrivals</i>	<i>Ratio of permanent departures to permanent arrivals</i>
	<i>Former settlers</i>	<i>Other residents</i>	<i>Total</i>		
1971	29,449	11,673	41,122	155,525	0.264
1972	33,172	12,709	45,881	112,468	0.408
1973	30,325	13,105	43,430	105,003	0.414
1974	21,849	11,902	33,751	121,324	0.278
1975	18,315	10,769	29,084	54,117	0.537
1976	16,815	9,917	26,732	58,317	0.458
1977	14,171	8,591	22,762	75,640	0.301
1978	14,027	10,934	24,961	68,420	0.365
1979	12,670	10,750	23,420	72,420	0.323
1980	11,450	9,393	20,843	94,500	0.221
1981	11,280	8,576	19,856	118,740	0.167
1982	13,352	9,141	22,493	107,170	0.210
1983	16,920	8,950	25,870	78,400	0.330
1984	12,550	9,760	22,310	73,110	0.305
1985	10,020	8,600	18,620	82,000	0.227
1986	9,960	8,860	18,820	103,330	0.182
1987	11,010	9,400	20,410	128,290	0.159
1988	10,480	9,840	20,320	151,550	0.134

Of the two categories of permanent departures, that is 'former settlers' and 'other residents', it has been under the first category that there has been the greatest outflow of persons. Between 1971 and 1988, 'former settlers' represented 62.0 per cent of all permanent departures. The departure of 'other residents' fluctuated between 9,000 and 13,000 persons from year to year throughout the period. The fall in the total number of departures, noted above, is largely attributable to the decline in the number of 'former settlers' departing. Two policy initiatives have contributed to the decline. These are firstly the shift in emphasis to family reunion as a basis for acceptance and secondly the refugee settlement program. Both family members and refugees are less likely than other settlers to return to their own country.

Internal Migration

Information on internal migration (migration from one part of Australia to another) has been available from the population censuses since 1971. The census asks people to state their place of usual residence on Census night and also on the same date one year ago and five years ago. Comparison of these addresses has provided data on interstate migration and also (for the 1986 census only) intrastate movement. Movers are classified by age, sex, birthplace and other selected characteristics. These census questions also provide data on where migrants, recently arrived from overseas, are now living.

Postcensal data on interstate migration are estimated, for quarterly intervals from information on interstate changes of address advised to the Health Insurance Commission in the process of administering Medicare. (No postcensal data is compiled on intrastate migration). Prior to 1986 postcensal interstate migration data were based on changes of address advised to the Department of Social Security by recipients of the Family Allowance.

Interstate migration has been an important influence on the distribution of Australia's population amongst the States and Territories. Historically it has been much more important than differential fertility or mortality and in many periods more important than overseas migration. The table below presents estimates of net interstate migration for the financial years from 1981-82 to 1988-89. Net interstate migration tends to be volatile in nature and large gains and losses have been recorded by all States.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION, AUSTRALIA

<i>Year ended 30 June</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>
1982	-19.6	-14.4	35.5	-4.9	3.6	-2.0	2.1	-0.2
1983	-17.2	-5.1	20.8	-0.3	1.5	-1.2	0.5	1.0
1984	-10.3	-3.3	10.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9
1985	-9.3	-5.8	12.9	-2.3	2.0	0.8	0.6	1.2
1986	-12.5	-13.2	16.5	-1.4	9.4	-0.1	-0.5	1.8
1987	-10.3	-13.4	18.1	-3.2	10.4	-2.8	-1.4	2.7
1988	-14.2	-14.8	26.2	-0.3	8.4	-3.4	-4.6	2.8
1989p	-39.1	-12.9	45.3	0.8	9.5	-1.3	-3.0	0.7

New South Wales has experienced substantial net losses, particularly to Queensland, but also to Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The loss of 39.1 thousand in the year ended June 1989 was the largest ever recorded by this or any other State or Territory over a twelve month period.

Victoria has experienced net losses throughout the 1980s. These declined in the first half of the decade but have since risen again to former levels. The most popular destinations are Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Queensland has made major net gains in the 1980s, maintaining its ranking as the favourite destination for Australians moving interstate. Its net gain of 45.3 thousand in the year ended June 1989 was the highest ever recorded by it or any other State or Territory over a twelve month period.

South Australia has experienced small net losses throughout most of the 1980s, though marginal gains were posted in 1983-84 and 1988-89.

Western Australia has made consistent net gains reaching a higher plateau in the second half of the decade. It now ranks as the second most popular destination for Australians moving interstate. The major sources of new arrivals are New South Wales and Victoria.

Tasmania has experienced small net losses in all but two years of the 1980s. Marginal gains were posted in 1983-84 and 1984-85.

The Northern Territory made consistent net gains in the first half of the 1980s but has experienced small losses in more recent years. The Australian Capital Territory, with the exception of 1981-82, has made small net gains throughout the decade.

During the fifteen years from 1971 to 1986, the flow of persons interstate increased. Census data indicate that for the three five-year periods, 1971-76, 1976-81 and 1981-86, the number of interstate movers was 569,500, 651,200 and 716,555 respectively. This increase was evident for both males and females, with the sex ratio of interstate flows remaining virtually constant at 107.

Proportional to total population, the number of interstate moves numbered 46 per thousand in the 1971-76 intercensal period, rising to 49 per thousand during 1976-81 before falling back to 45 per thousand in the 1981-86 period.

INTERSTATE MOVERS BY AGE, MOBILITY RATES (a) AND SEX RATIOS (b) AUSTRALIA

Age group years	Number of interstate movers			Mobility rates		
	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86
1-4
5-9	69,810	75,603	69,830	56	61	59
10-14	49,979	59,096	62,803	40	46	48
15-19	49,899	53,025	59,331	41	42	44
20-24	83,239	89,139	92,223	75	72	69
25-29	99,102	100,337	110,169	88	85	82
30-34	64,271	85,729	89,571	68	72	71
35-39	42,174	55,606	73,719	52	57	58
40-44	27,380	34,104	44,539	38	42	44
45-49	22,328	21,948	27,629	29	30	33
50-54	17,993	19,155	19,134	24	25	26
55-59	12,933	16,929	18,700	21	23	25
60-64	11,008	14,769	18,214	20	25	25
65 and over	19,402	25,745	30,693	16	18	18
Total	569,518	651,185	716,555	46	49	45
Sex ratios—						
Interstate movers	106	107	107			
Total population	100	100	100			

(a) Interstate movers per 1,000 population of the same age group at end of period. (b) The number of males per 100 females.

Interstate mobility rates by age have revealed a clear and consistent life cycle pattern in the propensity of persons to move interstate. Looking at the five-yearly migration data, there was, initially, an above-average rate for the 5-9 year age group because of the high mobility of their parents. This was followed by a period of below average mobility in the early teenage years. Mobility was highest at ages 20-39 years, from whence it steadily declined with age. The highest mobility rates occurred at ages 25-29 years and the lowest at ages 65 and over. Females were generally less likely to move interstate than males, with differences being most pronounced during the child-rearing ages from 25 to 45 years.

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