

# POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30am, 13 JANUARY 1995

The **Population Survey Monitor** is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia. Results are available to clients within six weeks of the completion of interviewing. This publication only contains a small portion of the available information.

## THIS QUARTER'S TOPICS

- **Sport and Recreation**

This dataset contains information on the sporting and recreation activities of Australians. Activities include organised and social sport, and selected physical activities. Data on gambling activities, attendance and watching/listening to sporting events were also collected as was sporting activities of children 5-14 years.

- **Consumer expectations**

This is an experimental dataset which contains data on the anticipated consumption by households of major items in the March quarter.

- **Books**

This dataset contains information on the reading of various forms of written material and the purchasing and borrowing habits of people aged 15 years and over.

- **Health issues**

This dataset contains information about a number of health issues, including the incidence of smoking, exercising, alcohol consumption and other health issues for persons aged 18 years and over. The dataset contains more detailed information on wine consumption such as the drinking of bottled or cask wine.

- **Asthma Incidence**

This dataset contains information about the incidence of asthma and the number of days spent hospitalised and away from work for persons aged 18 years and over.

- **Australian Films and T.V**

This dataset contains information about attitudes of people aged 18 years and over towards aspects of Australian films and T.V..

- **Botanical Gardens Usage**

This dataset contains information on the usage of botanical gardens around Australia, the number of persons attending, reasons for visit(s) and the amount of money spent.

- **Work Related Health Problems**

This dataset contains information about the number of days absent from work due to a health problem and whether it was work related, the industry in which the health problem occurred and impact on employment for persons aged 18 years and over.

- **Workplace Bargaining**

This dataset contains information about the number of people employed with organisations where workplace bargaining has occurred over the last 12 months.

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■ For further information about these statistics, contact  
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## THIS QUARTER'S KEY POINTS

<b>Sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.6% of females aged 18 years and over participated in either aerobics or callisthenics in the 2 weeks prior to survey and 6.8% of males aged 18 years and over played a game of golf.</li> <li>• 78.4% of children aged 5-14 years regularly take part in sporting activities during school hours and 14.6% took part in a school sporting activity after school hours in the last two weeks.</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46.3% of households indicated that they intend to purchase a major item in the March quarter.</li> <li>• 15.2% of households indicated that they intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 in the next quarter, and 12.0% intend to pay for home alterations or additions worth more than \$500.</li> </ul>
<b>Books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 88.9% of males and 82.3% of females aged 18 years and over read a newspaper in the last week and 41.4% of males and 54.4% of females aged 18 years and over read a book in the last week.</li> </ul>
<b>Health issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28.7% of males and 21.8% of females aged 18 years and over currently smoke. The highest percentage of male smokers was in the 18-24 age group (36.9%) and in the 45-54 age group (34.5%) and for females was in the 18-24 age group (29.7%).</li> <li>• 71.8% of males and 50.9% of females consumed an alcoholic drink in the last week.</li> <li>• 29.4% of persons aged 18 years and over consumed some sort of wine in the last week. 22.0% of people indicated that they drank wine mainly with a meal.</li> </ul>
<b>Asthma Incidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.6% of persons 18 years and over indicated that they had been told by a doctor or a hospital that they suffer from asthma.</li> </ul>
<b>Work Related Health Problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11.0% of employed persons stayed away from work for all or most of a day in the last two weeks because of health problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Botanical Gardens usage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44.0% of persons aged 18 and over have visited at least one botanical garden in the last 12 months.</li> <li>• The highest attendance rates for females was in the 18-24 year age group where 51.6% of females attended. The highest attendance rates for males was in the 25-34 year group where 50.3% attended.</li> </ul>
<b>Workplace bargaining</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37.2% of employed persons work in organisations where workplace bargaining has occurred during the last 12 months.</li> </ul>

Estimates of standard errors for the tables contained in this publication are given on page 6.

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Acting Deputy Commonwealth Statistician  
South Australia

TABLE 1: PERSONS AGED 18 AND OVER: PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTING, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BY AGE AND SEX, NOVEMBER 1994.

Activity	Males		Females		Total	
	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent
Aerobics/calisthenics	193	3.1	623	9.6	816	6.4
Basketball	126	2.0	71	1.1	197	1.5
Cricket - outdoor	169	2.7	*	*	n.a	n.a
Cycling, BMX, Mountain Bike	229	3.7	136	2.1	364	2.9
Golf	423	6.8	102	1.6	525	4.1
Lawn bowls	138	2.2	109	1.7	248	1.9
Netball (indoor/outdoor)	*	*	251	3.9	n.a	n.a
Tennis	185	3.0	226	3.5	411	3.2
Fishing	241	3.9	75	1.2	315	2.5

\* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

n.a not available

TABLE 2: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: WHETHER VISITED A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE AND SEX, NOVEMBER 1994.

	AGE (years)						Total
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
							('000's)
Botanic gardens visited							
Yes	45.8	50.3	42.1	45.3	25.7	38.3	2657
No	54.2	49.7	57.9	54.7	74.3	61.7	3596
Yes	51.6	42.8	47.1	47.7	49.3	36.3	2945
No	48.4	57.2	52.9	52.3	50.7	63.7	3541
Yes	48.6	46.5	44.6	46.5	37.5	37.2	5602
No	51.4	53.5	55.4	53.5	62.5	62.8	7136

TABLE 3: HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO PURCHASE IN MARCH 1994 QUARTER: ITEM TO BE PURCHASED, NOVEMBER 1994.

Item	('000's)	Per cent
A brand new car	113	1.8
A secondhand car	485	7.6
Household item worth more than \$200	1621	25.3
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	770	12.0
Landscaping worth more than \$500	363	5.7
A holiday worth more than \$500	976	15.2
A personal computer	264	4.1
Any other item worth more than \$500	300	4.7
Total intending to purchase	2970	46.3
Total (Households)*	6411	

TABLE 4: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: HEALTH ISSUES BY AGE AND SEX, NOVEMBER 1994.

	AGE (years)						Total ( <i>'000's</i> )	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
MALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	72.6	72.5	71.8	67.4	62.6	67.6	69.7	4355
Currently smoke	36.9	34.5	31.0	26.4	22.6	15.2	28.7	1793
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	73.2	77.8	73.6	72.7	70.5	58.3	71.8	4490
<i>Total Males ('000's)</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>1335</i>	<i>1307</i>	<i>1074</i>	<i>729</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>6253</i>	<i>6253</i>
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	88.5	76.3	71.9	67.3	75.0	59.2	72.7	4717
Currently smoke	29.7	25.0	26.7	20.1	16.0	10.1	21.8	1412
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	52.2	51.7	53.6	63.8	46.2	35.8	50.9	3300
<i>Total Females ('000's)</i>	<i>929</i>	<i>1377</i>	<i>1337</i>	<i>1050</i>	<i>724</i>	<i>1070</i>	<i>6486</i>	<i>6486</i>

TABLE 5: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: READING HABITS IN THE LAST WEEK BY AGE AND SEX, NOVEMBER 1994.

	AGE (years)						Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
( '000's)								
Literature read	MALES (Per cent)							
Books	53.1	42.5	38.9	40.1	33.4	38.9	41.4	2587
Magazines	70.3	68.2	60.1	55.9	44.3	48.4	59.2	3700
Newspapers	90.9	88.5	86.5	94.5	81.9	90.0	88.9	5560
Journals	18.4	30.1	34.6	30.6	21.9	14.8	26.3	1643
Other	4.5	4.3	4.8	5.7	5.8	0.2	4.3	268
None	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.6	12.7	3.6	4.2	262
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Books	56.5	56.0	60.3	53.2	50.3	47.3	54.4	3531
Magazines	83.0	69.3	70.8	72.3	68.5	57.2	70.0	4539
Newspapers	78.6	82.9	86.4	88.5	80.4	74.9	82.3	5340
Journals	15.9	17.9	15.9	21.3	18.8	9.6	16.5	1071
Other	3.1	3.2	6.7	7.0	4.2	2.4	4.5	291
None	2.4	5.8	2.4	1.9	3.2	7.0	3.9	252

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction	The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia of approximately 2000 households. The PSM has been introduced to meet the needs of government agencies and non profit organisations. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to include the topic of their choice. Each survey asks a set of core questions of each usual resident aged 15 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic can be asked of a randomly selected person or a particular person within the selected household.																		
Scope/Coverage	The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia except sparsely settled areas. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded. All usual residents in private households are included in the PSM.																		
Sample size	<p>For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 2,700 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is considered sufficient to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• detailed information for Australia;</li><li>• relatively detailed data for capital city/ urban/ rural areas for Australia;</li></ul> <p>at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability after allowing for sample loss through factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope etc.</p>																		
Expected Sample Distribution	<p>Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below:</p> <table><tr><td>New South Wales</td><td>482</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria</td><td>416</td></tr><tr><td>Queensland</td><td>340</td></tr><tr><td>South Australia</td><td>241</td></tr><tr><td>Western Australia</td><td>254</td></tr><tr><td>Tasmania</td><td>136</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Territory</td><td>44</td></tr><tr><td>Australian Capital Territory</td><td>87</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>2000</td></tr></table>	New South Wales	482	Victoria	416	Queensland	340	South Australia	241	Western Australia	254	Tasmania	136	Northern Territory	44	Australian Capital Territory	87	Total	2000
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Victoria	416																		
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South Australia	241																		
Western Australia	254																		
Tasmania	136																		
Northern Territory	44																		
Australian Capital Territory	87																		
Total	2000																		
Data Collection	<p>Information is obtained in the PSM by face to face interviews with adult members of selected households. Interviewers for the PSM are obtained from a panel of trained interviewers who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys.</p> <p>The willing co-operation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage respondent co-operation and maximise response include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advice to selected households by letter, accompanied by an information brochure, explaining that their dwelling has been selected for the survey, the purposes of the survey, its official nature and the confidentiality of the information collected.</li><li>• Through call-backs and follow-up at selected dwellings every effort is made to contact the occupants of each selected dwelling and to conduct the survey in those dwellings.</li></ul>																		

## Estimation

### Procedures

Estimates obtained from the survey are derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure that ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age, sex and area (rather than to the age-sex-area distribution within the sample itself). The estimation procedure is designed to adjust estimates in such a way as to reduce any non-response bias by adjusting the weights of responding persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into responding person's records to enable the data provided by these persons to be expanded to provide estimates relating to the whole population within the scope of the survey.

### Reliability of estimates

The two types of error possible in an estimate based on a sample survey are:

- Non sampling error which arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: misreporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; non-response; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise these errors by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures.
- Sampling error which occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all establishments in the survey is given by the standard error, see below.

### Standard Errors

There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all in-scope units had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution in interpreting these statistics. Users interested in obtaining further information should contact the number shown in the Inquiries box on page 1 of this publication.

#### STANDARD ERRORS FOR ALL PUBLICATION TABLES

Size of estimate ( <sup>'000's</sup> )	Standard Error ( <sup>'000's</sup> )
100	23
200	31
500	45
800	56
1000	59
2000	76
5000	105

#### Example using the standard error table

Table 4 on Page 4 shows that the estimated percentage of males aged between 25 and 34 who consumed an alcoholic drink last week was 77.8%. This represents about 1,039,000 males. The standard error table above shows that the standard error on an estimate of this size is approximately 59,000. This means that there are two chances in three that the true figure is in the range 980,000 to 1,098,000 and nineteen chances in twenty that the true figure is in the range 921,000 to 1,157,000.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS - CORE DATA ITEMS

Age	Age is the age of the person at their last birthday.
Birthplace	A person's birthplace is the country where the person was born.
Dependents	All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15 to 19 attending school or aged 15 to 24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time, except those classified as husbands, wives, sole parents or other family heads.
Dwelling structure	<p>This classifies the type of structure of the private dwellings selected in the survey. The information is recorded by the interviewer. A dwelling is classified as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate house</li> <li>• Semi-detached/ row or terrace house/ town house</li> <li>• Other flat/ unit / apartment</li> <li>• Other dwelling structure</li> </ul>
Employed	<p>Persons 15 and over who, during the reference week:</p> <p>a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business or on a farm; or</p> <p>b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or</p> <p>c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were on leave; or</p> <p>d) were employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</p>
Household	A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, ie at other times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of family and non-family members.
Income	Income is the gross annual income before tax and superannuation are deducted. This includes such things as family allowance, pensions, unemployment benefits, student allowances, wages, salary, overtime, dividends, rents received, interest received, business or farm income and workers compensation expenses.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
Marital status	Persons are classified as married if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey.
Nature of occupancy	Households are classified as renting, purchasing or owning the private dwelling in which they live.
Not in the labour force	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily out of the workforce, studying, recovering from illness or injury, caring for an aged/ill/disabled person, or doing unpaid voluntary work.
Occupation	Classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) 1986 (ABS Catalogue No. 1222.0).
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 and over who were not employed during the reference week, and had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the last four weeks up to the end of the reference period and were available to work in the reference week.

**February 1995 Survey**

Topics to be included	Sport and recreation participation Consumer expectations Health risk factors Asthma incidence Work related injuries Wine consumption Botanical gardens Attitudes to crime
Key dates	Closing dates for topics 9 Jan 1995 Interviewing commences 20 Feb 1995. Standard output available 10 Apr 1995.

**May 1995 Survey**

Topics to be included	Sport and recreation participation Consumer expectations Health risk factors Health index Botanical gardens Adult education Wine consumption
Key dates	Closing dates for topics 10 Apr 1995 Interviewing commences 22 May 1995. Standard output available 10 July 1995.

Space is still available for topics on the May 1995 survey.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PSM please contact:**  
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