

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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CHILD CARE, MAY 1969
(PRELIMINARY STATEMENT)

In May 1969 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey sample (a one per cent sample of households), was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain, for persons who were in the labour force and who also had the responsibility for the care of children under twelve years of age, information about the arrangements they made to have their children cared for while they themselves were at work (including arrangements for after-school and school holiday care). In addition, information was sought as to the numbers of persons who would have entered the labour force had suitable child care facilities been available. The inquiry was directed mainly to working mothers, but males with the sole responsibility for children were also included.

2 This statement contains only a brief summary of the results of the survey. More detailed estimates will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible.

3. The results of the survey showed that in May 1969 an estimated 403,000 women were in the labour force and had responsibility for the care of children under twelve years of age; in addition an estimated 10,000 widowed, divorced or permanently separated men were in the same position. The number with children under six years of age was 206,000 and with children aged six to eleven years, 299,000. About 90,000 had children in both age groups.

4. Of the 206,000 persons with children under six years of age, about 195,000 had jobs at the time of the survey. 43,000 had remunerative work at home; the remainder worked away from home, about 67,000 being absent for nine hours or more per day. Of 257,000 children under six years of age, for whom the 195,000 persons with jobs were responsible, 18,500 were being looked after in nurseries, creches, child care centres or home care centres (see definitions below).

5. Of the females who were not in the labour force in May 1969, an estimated 103,000 considered that they would enter the labour force if suitable child care arrangements were available, and the majority of these regarded a child care centre or home care centre as the most suitable arrangement.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Population Coverage

6. The population survey covers all persons aged fifteen years and over except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

7. For the survey of child care, questions were not asked of persons aged sixty years and over, males who had never married or who were married but not permanently separated (i.e. those who were widowed, divorced or permanently separated were included), persons attending school, university, etc. full-time, persons permanently unable to work, and patients in institutions such as hospitals, sanatoria, gaols, for whom, for the purposes of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

Definitions

8. The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, according to the definitions customarily used in the population survey. For detailed definitions see the Labour Force bulletin (Reference No. 6.20).

9. For the purposes of the survey, a child care centre was defined as a registered or unregistered establishment, other than a private dwelling, where care was provided for five or more children below compulsory school age. Some other common names given to these centres are "child minding centre", "creche", "cot room" and

(Ref. No. 17.2)

"nursery school". Centres such as pre-schools and kindergartens which are educational institutions were also included in this category. A home care centre was defined as one operated on a commercial basis in a private dwelling, in which the proprietor generally lived.

10. The person responsible for the care of a child under twelve years of age was defined as the person who, being a member of the household to which the child belonged, ranked highest in the following list:

- (a) Child's mother, step-mother, foster mother, female guardian.
- (b) Child's father, step-father, foster father, male guardian.
- (c) Any other person considered by the respondent as being responsible for the child.

Reliability of the estimates

11. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. 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 from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of standard errors which is intended to be of general application is given below:

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	750	19	100,000	3,000	3
5,000	850	17	200,000	4,000	2
10,000	1,100	11	500,000	5,000	1
20,000	1,400	7	1,000,000	5,500	0.5
50,000	2,000	4	2,000,000	8,000	0.4

12. In the tables in this bulletin only estimates of 4,000 or over have been shown, as smaller estimates would be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

13. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the denominator. Percentages calculated from figures in this bulletin have generally somewhat lower standard errors (proportionally) than have the estimates which form the numerators of the percentages, particularly where the percentages are large.

14. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - FEMALES, AND WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR PERMANENTLY SEPARATED MALES, WHO WERE IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1969 (a)
('000)

	Persons with children under 6 years of age -				Persons without children under 6 years of age	Total
	with 1 child	With 2 children	With 3 or more children	Total		
Persons with children aged 6-11 years -						
With 1 child	39.1	8.9	*	49.9	117.8	167.7
" 2 children	25.4	) 5.6	*	{ 30.2	69.6	99.8
" 3 or more children	8.0						{ 10.2	21.1	31.3
Total with children aged 6-11	72.5	14.5	*	90.3	208.5	298.8
Persons without children aged 6-11	76.6	33.1	5.5	115.1	..	115.1
Total	149.1	47.6	8.8	205.5	208.5	(b)413.9

(a) Persons aged 15 to 59 years. For definition of "person responsible" see page 2

(b) Comprises 10,600 males and 403,300 females responsible for children under 12 years of age; 194,400 persons were responsible for one child, 141,800 for two children, 57,500 for three and 20,200 for four or more.

TABLE 2. - FEMALES, AND WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR PERMANENTLY SEPARATED MALES WHO WERE EMPLOYED AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE : USUAL DAILY PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM HOME, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1969 (a)

Usual daily period of absence from home (hours)	Number ('000)	Usual daily period of absence from home (hours)	Number ('000)
Works at home (b)	43.1	9 and under 10	38.4
Under 5	18.3	10 and over	28.2
5 and under 8	21.7	Varies daily	21.3
8 and under 9	24.2	Total	(c)195.2

(a) See note (a) to Table 1. (b) Includes working in a shop or other business on the same premises. (c) These persons were responsible for 256,600 children under 6 years of age. See Table 4.

TABLE 3. - FEMALES, AND WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR PERMANENTLY SEPARATED MALES, WHO WERE IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 4 - 11 YEARS; AFTER-SCHOOL AND HOLIDAY CHILD-CARE ARRANGEMENTS, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1969 (b)
('000)

Type of after-school arrangement	Persons responsible	Type of holiday arrangement	Persons responsible
Works during school hours or at night	96.4	Stops work, takes leave	57.1
Child's father at home	26.7	Works at night	15.4
With other relatives (c) at home	44.3	With relatives (c) at home	72.7
With relatives or friends, not at child's home	41.3	With relatives or friends, not at child's home	70.5
Other arrangements	10.2	Other arrangements	15.2
No arrangements	44.6	No arrangements	32.6
Total	263.5	Total	263.5

(a) Excludes persons working at home. (b) See note (a) to Table 1. For unemployed persons, includes proposed care arrangements. (c) Includes brothers and sisters of the children.

* Less than 4,000. See under reliability of estimates in Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 4. - CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE WHO WERE
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYED PERSONS :
TYPE OF CARE ARRANGEMENT AND USUAL DAILY PERIOD
OF ABSENCE OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON FROM HOME,
AUSTRALIA, MAY 1969 (a)
('000)

Type of care arrangement	Usual daily period of absence of responsible person (hours)						Works at home (b)	Total
	Under 5	5 and under 8	8 and under 9	9 and under 10	10 and over	Varies daily		
Nursery, creche, care centre, home care centre, etc. (a)	*		10.0		4.2	*	-	18.5
Child at school	8.4		9.1		*	4.3	-	25.6
At home with relatives or friends	15.6	10.7	10.7	16.5	13.6	12.0	-	79.1
Relatives, not at child's home	5.9		5.5	6.6	5.2	4.5	-	27.7
Other, not at child's home	6.4		4.5	10.4	7.9	*	-	32.5
Person responsible works at home (b)	..		..	..	..	..	63.2	63.2
Other arrangements	*		*	*	*	*	-	9.8
Total	25.4	28.4	28.8	46.1	35.8	28.9	63.2	256.6

(a) See note (a) to Table 1.

(b) Includes working in a shop or other business on the same premises.

NOTE. 149,200 children were cared for either at home, with relatives or friends; by relatives or others, but not at the child's home; or by other arrangements. The persons responsible for 15,600 of these children stated that they would prefer to be able to make other arrangements.

TABLE 5. - FEMALES NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WOULD HAVE WORKED
IF SUITABLE CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN AVAILABLE,
AUSTRALIA, MAY 1969 (a)
('000)

Number of children under six years of age for whom responsible (b)	Type of child care arrangement required -		
	Care centre, after-school centre, etc. (b)	Other	Total
None	7.9	*	11.3
One	33.7	12.7	46.4
Two	24.6	12.4	37.0
Three or more	4.7	*	8.1
Total	70.9	31.9	102.8

(a) See note (a) to Table 1.

(b) For definition see page 1.

* Less than 4000. See under reliability of estimates in Explanatory Notes.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the Office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.