

POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 2 FEB 1999

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Main Features	3

TABLES

1 Fire safety measures installed or followed by households	4
2 Concession card holders	4
3 Tenure of current residence by household type	5
4 Tenure of current residence by dwelling type	5
5 Satisfaction with services provided by police	6
6 Households' intention to purchase selected items	7
7 Households' intention to purchase selected items, by income quintile	7
8 Participation in organised sport in the last 12 months	8
9 Household use of computing equipment	9
10 Household use of peripheral computing equipment	9
11 Main energy source used by households in South Australia, 1998	10
12 Persons in the Northern Territory who currently smoke tobacco, May 1998-November 1998	11
13 Persons in the Northern Territory who have smoked tobacco regularly, May 1998-November 1998	11

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes	12
Technical notes	15
Glossary	17

- For more information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.
- For further information about these and other related statistics, contact Grant Pratt on Adelaide (08)8237 7379.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

February 1999

20 April 1999

May 1999

20 July 1999

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents summary results of the Population Survey Monitor (PSM).

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The PSM is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. Each survey includes a core set of socio-demographic questions and a variable set of topics requested by various Commonwealth and State Government clients.

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey of households throughout Australia and are subject to sampling variability because data are not collected from all households. Relative standard errors give a measure of this variability and indicate the degree of confidence that can be attached to the data (see Technical Notes on pages 15 and 16 for more information). The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting the figures. These data cells are marked with * to indicate that they should be viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- * relative standard error greater than 25% — subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- ** relative standard error greater than 50% — subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- . . not applicable

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

INQUIRIES

For information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Grant Pratt on Adelaide (08) 8237 7379.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES



FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

The most common fire safety measures installed or followed in households were smoke alarms/detectors (63.8%) and safety switch/circuit breakers (48.8%) (refer to table 1).

CONCESSION CARDS

Over 4.2 million (31.4%) people aged 18 years and over have a concession card, with 17.3% of the population having a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card and 11.6% having a Health Care Card (refer to table 2).

HOUSING

Over 4.8 million households (71.6%) own or are purchasing the residence in which they live. Of all separate houses, 81.1% are owned or being purchased, 2.9% are publicly rented and 12.1% are privately rented (refer to tables 3 and 4).

POLICE

Of all persons aged 18 years and over, 50.5% were satisfied with the services provided by police and 16.0% were very satisfied (refer to table 5).

CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS

Over 3.2 million households (48.1%) indicated in November 1998 that they intend to purchase a major item in the March quarter 1999. Over 1.7 million households (25.7%) indicated that they intend to buy a household item worth more than \$200 in the March quarter 1999 (refer to tables 6 and 7).

ORGANISED SPORT

In the last 12 months, 35.3% of males and 29.2% of females aged 18 years and over have participated in sport or physical activity organised by a club or association (refer to table 8).

COMPUTER USAGE

Over 2.7 million households (40.3%) use a computer at home at least once a week. The use of computer peripherals among these households is 88.8% who use a printer, 77.3% who use CD Rom equipment and 57.7% who use a modem (refer to tables 9 and 10).

ENERGY USAGE

Electricity is the main energy source used in South Australian households for cooking (53.5%) and room heating (38.4%), followed by the use of gas, 43.2% and 34.7% respectively (refer to table 11).

TOBACCO SMOKING

In the Northern Territory an estimated 34,400 (38.1%) people aged 18 years or over currently smoke tobacco. Over 14,000 of those who currently smoke have tried to quit smoking in the last 12 months. Of the non smokers, 20,400 (36.6%) have smoked regularly in the past (refer to tables 12 and 13).

1

FIRE SAFETY MEASURES INSTALLED OR FOLLOWED BY HOUSEHOLDS

	Metropolitan.....		Ex-metropolitan.....		Total.....	
Fire safety measure	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
.....						
Fire safety measure installed or followed						
Operational smoke alarm(s) or smoke detector(s)	2 784.6	64.9	1 573.1	62.0	4 357.7	63.8
Fire sprinkler system	68.1	1.6	*31.9	*1.3	99.9	1.5
Safety switch/circuit breaker	2 016.9	47.0	1 313.4	51.7	3 330.3	48.8
Fire extinguisher	929.2	21.7	721.5	28.4	1 650.7	24.2
Fire blanket	326.5	7.6	259.9	10.2	586.4	8.6
Fire evacuation plan	560.6	13.1	450.8	17.8	1 011.4	14.8
External water supply	208.8	4.9	676.5	26.6	885.3	13.0
Removal of external fuel sources	627.7	14.6	741.1	29.2	1 368.8	20.0
External sprinkler	548.7	12.8	629.4	24.8	1 178.1	17.2
Other fire safety measure	50.2	1.2	*23.3	*0.9	73.6	1.1
Total households with a fire safety measure(a)	3 563.8	83.1	2 225.1	87.6	5 788.9	84.8
No fire safety measure installed or followed	697.8	16.3	302.4	11.9	1 000.3	14.6
Don't know	*29.3	*0.7	*11.3	*0.4	*40.6	*0.6
Total households	4 291.0	100.0	2 538.8	100.0	6 829.8	100.0
.....						

(a) For the total number of households with a fire safety measure, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households may have more than one fire safety measure installed or followed.

2

CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

	Male.....		Female.....		Total.....	
Concession card holders	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
.....						
Concession card						
Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card	977.4	14.6	1 364.9	19.9	2 342.3	17.3
Dept of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card	110.8	1.7	147.2	2.1	258.0	1.9
Health Care Card	789.2	11.8	775.7	11.3	1 564.9	11.6
Centrelink Commonwealth Senior Health Card	*25.8	*0.4	*24.7	*0.4	*50.4	*0.4
Veterans' Affairs Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	**	**	*33.5	*0.5	*35.0	*0.3
Total persons with a concession card	1 904.6	28.5	2 346.0	34.2	4 250.6	31.4
No concession card	4 770.3	71.5	4 521.8	65.8	9 292.1	68.6
Total	6 674.9	100.0	6 867.9	100.0	13 542.7	100.0
.....						

3

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

	TENURE.....				TOTAL.....	
	..				.	
Household type	Owner/ purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Pro- portion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	61.1	6.4	24.7	7.8	100.0	1 478.1
Married couple(a) only	82.7	*1.4	13.5	*2.4	100.0	1 678.2
Married couple(a) with children	81.7	2.2	13.0	3.0	100.0	2 498.9
Single parent with children	52.4	17.9	25.4	*4.3	100.0	522.2
Other households	43.8	*2.8	47.9	*5.5	100.0	652.3
All household types	71.6	4.2	19.9	4.2	100.0	6 829.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
All household types	4 893.3	285.7	1 361.4	289.3	..	6 829.8

(a) Includes de facto couples.

4

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE BY DWELLING STRUCTURE

	TENURE.....				TOTAL.....	
	.				.	
Dwelling structure	Owner/ purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Pro- portion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Separate house	81.1	2.9	12.1	3.9	100.0	5 440.2
Semi-detached/row/terrace(a)	39.1	11.8	45.1	*4	100.0	605.1
Flat/unit/apartment	29.9	7.7	57.7	*4.7	100.0	734.4
Other dwelling	*50.2	**	**	*32.5	100.0	50.1
All dwelling structures	71.6	4.2	19.9	4.2	100.0	6 829.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
All dwelling structures	4 893.3	285.7	1 361.4	289.3	..	6 829.8

(a) Includes flat attached to house.

Level of satisfaction	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
.....								
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	*4.7	8.8	13.0	18.6	18.3	28.4	14.8	987.5
Satisfied	51.6	57.0	48.6	47.8	44.7	55.5	51.1	3 410.8
Neither	26.6	16.3	20.2	14.0	11.3	*4.3	15.8	1 056.7
Dissatisfied	15.7	12.9	13.8	13.7	*8.0	*5.5	12.0	799.5
Very dissatisfied	**	*4.2	*4.3	*3.7	*8.2	*2.4	4.0	266.0
Don't know	**	**	**	*2.3	*9.6	*3.9	2.3	154.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 674.9
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	918.5	1 391.2	1 398.9	1 232.7	811.0	922.6	..	6 674.9
.....								
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	12.8	9.4	18.6	21.2	16.3	25.2	17.2	1 182.8
Satisfied	50.4	50.7	50.6	49.1	49.0	49.4	49.9	3 430.4
Neither	22.8	22.6	14.4	14.5	14.5	12.0	16.8	1 155.5
Dissatisfied	10.3	10.3	10.3	8.4	13.4	*5.0	9.5	649.1
Very dissatisfied	*3.4	*4.5	*3.1	*3.9	*3.1	**	3.2	216.8
Don't know	**	*2.5	*3.0	*2.9	*3.6	7.7	3.4	233.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 867.9
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	887.3	1 418.2	1 429.9	1 223.6	790.2	1 118.7	..	6 867.9
.....								
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	8.7	9.1	15.9	19.9	17.3	26.6	16.0	2 170.3
Satisfied	51.0	53.8	49.6	48.4	46.8	52.2	50.5	6 841.2
Neither	24.7	19.5	17.3	14.3	12.9	8.5	16.3	2 212.2
Dissatisfied	13.0	11.6	12.0	11.0	10.6	5.2	10.7	1 448.6
Very dissatisfied	*2.4	4.4	3.7	3.8	5.7	*1.4	3.6	482.7
Don't know	**	*1.6	*1.6	*2.6	6.7	6.0	2.9	387.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 542.7
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 805.8	2 809.4	2 828.8	2 456.3	1 601.1	2 041.3	..	13 542.7

6

HOUSEHOLDS' INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS(a)

Item	Number	Proportion(b)
	'000	%
A new car	151.0	2.2
A second-hand car	480.3	7.0
A personal computer	376.2	5.5
Household item worth more than \$200	1 752.4	25.7
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	809.5	11.9
Landscaping worth more than \$500	431.4	6.3
A holiday worth more than \$500	1 146.5	16.8
Any other item worth more than \$500	240.5	3.5
Total(c)	3 288.3	48.1

(a) Intention to purchase in the March quarter 1999.

(b) Proportion of all households.

(c) For the total number of households intending to purchase, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households intend to purchase more than one item.

7

HOUSEHOLDS' INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS(a), By Income Quintile

Household income quintile	Intend to purchase...		Do not intend to purchase.....		Total.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
First quintile (lowest 20%)	279.9	22.2	978.5	77.8	1 258.4	100.0
Second quintile	417.3	35.5	757.4	64.5	1 174.7	100.0
Third quintile	628.9	53.7	542.3	46.3	1 171.2	100.0
Fourth quintile	745.4	64.7	407.5	35.3	1 152.9	100.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	785.0	70.3	332.4	29.7	1 117.4	100.0
Don't know(b)	431.8	45.2	523.5	54.8	955.3	100.0
Total	3 288.3	48.1	3 541.5	51.9	6 829.8	100.0

(a) Intention to purchase at least one of the selected items listed in table 6 in the March quarter 1999.

(b) Household income not reported.

PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED SPORT(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
<i>Participation</i>	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	<i>Pro- portion</i>	<i>Number</i>
.....								
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	51.4	46.4	33.5	34.7	19.7	19.7	35.3	2 355.0
No participation in organised sport(a)	48.6	53.6	66.5	65.3	80.3	80.3	64.7	4 319.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 674.9
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	918.5	1 391.2	1 398.9	1 232.7	811.0	922.6	..	6 674.9
.....								
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	50.7	35.3	32.6	21.5	17.5	16.4	29.2	2 002.6
No participation in organised sport(a)	49.3	64.7	67.4	78.5	82.5	83.6	70.8	4 865.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 867.9
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	887.3	1 418.2	1 429.9	1 223.6	790.2	1 118.7	..	6 867.9
.....								
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	51.1	40.8	33.0	28.2	18.6	17.9	32.2	4 357.5
No participation in organised sport(a)	48.9	59.2	67.0	71.8	81.4	82.1	67.8	9 185.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 542.7
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 805.8	2 809.4	2 828.8	2 456.3	1 601.1	2 041.3	..	13 542.7
.....								

(a) Includes sport and physical activities organised by a club or association.

9

HOUSEHOLD USE OF COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

	Number	Proportion
<i>Computer use</i>	'000	%
Households which use a computer(a)	2 752.4	40.3
Households which do not use a computer	4 077.4	59.7
Total	6 829.8	100.0

(a) Households where any member of the household uses a computer at home at least once a week.

10

HOUSEHOLD(a) USE OF PERIPHERAL COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

	Number	Proportion(b)
<i>Peripheral equipment</i>	'000	%
Printer	2 444.2	88.8
Character/image reader or scanner	540.5	19.6
CD ROM equipment	2 126.6	77.3
Modem	1 587.5	57.7
Digital versatile disks	204.8	7.4
Total(b)	2 752.4	100.0

(a) Households where any member of the household uses a computer at home at least once a week.

(b) For the total number of households which use a computer, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households use more than one type of peripheral equipment.

11

MAIN ENERGY SOURCE USED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a) IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA(b)

	<i>Water heating.....</i>		<i>Cooking.....</i>		<i>Room heating.....</i>	
<i>Energy Source</i>	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Electricity	238.4	47.9	266.2	53.5	191.0	38.4
Gas	233.5	46.9	214.7	43.2	172.7	34.7
Solar	13.3	2.7	..	..	..	..
Wood	*1.6	*0.3	*1.8	*0.4	101.3	20.4
Other	*1.6	*0.3	14.7	2.9	22.9	4.6
No energy source	..	..	..	..	9.5	1.9
Don't know	9.0	1.8	..	..	..	..
Total	497.4	100.0	497.4	100.0	497.4	100.0

(a) Excludes approximately 76,000 (13.3%) households which did not provide energy consumption details.

(b) Includes data collected in the February 1998, May 1998, August 1998 and November 1998 PSM surveys.

12

PERSONS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WHO CURRENTLY SMOKE TOBACCO

	Males.....		Females.....		Total.....	
<i>Tobacco smoking</i>	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Currently smoke						
Tried to quit in last 12 months	7.0	15.6	7.7	17.1	14.7	16.3
Haven't tried to quit in last 12 months	11.3	24.9	8.5	18.8	19.7	21.8
<i>Total current smokers</i>	18.3	40.4	16.1	35.9	34.4	38.1
Don't currently smoke	26.9	59.6	28.9	64.1	55.8	61.9
Total Persons	45.2	100.0	45.0	100.0	90.3	100.0

13

PERSONS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WHO HAVE SMOKED TOBACCO REGULARLY(a)

	Males.....		Females.....		Total.....	
<i>Tobacco smoking</i>	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Smoked regularly						
Yes	12.3	45.5	8.2	28.3	20.4	36.6
No	14.7	54.5	20.7	71.7	35.4	63.4
Total Persons	26.9	100.0	28.9	100.0	55.8	100.0

(a) Excludes those who currently smoke.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. The PSM is designed to meet the needs of government agencies for household data. 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 18 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic are asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over within the selected household.

LIST OF TOPICS NOVEMBER 1998

Fire safety measures

2 This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in November 1998. The topics included in this survey were as follows:

3 Contains data on the type of fire safety measures installed or followed in private dwellings.

Concession cards

4 Contains data on concession cards such as Centrelink Pensioner Concession Cards and Health Care Cards.

Housing

5 Contains data on tenure of current residence.

Satisfaction with police services

6 Contains data on community attitudes to police services.

Consumer expectations

7 Contains data on the anticipated purchases by households of major items in the March quarter 1999.

Organised sport

8 Contains data on the sporting and physical activities undertaken by persons aged 18 years and over for a club or association in the last 12 months.

Computer usage

9 Contains data on technology in the home, with a focus on computer equipment and usage.

Energy usage

10 Contains data on the main source of energy used by households in South Australia for water heating, cooking and room heating. This topic presents summary data collected from the February 1998 to November 1998 PSM surveys.

Tobacco Smoking

11 Contains data on tobacco smoking in the Northern Territory. This topic presents summary data collected from the May 1998 to November 1998 PSM surveys.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

12 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

13 For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 4,000 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is generally sufficient to provide quarterly data for Australia and annual data for the States and Territories 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.

EXPECTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

14 Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below:

.....	
New South Wales	482
Victoria	416
Queensland	375
South Australia	375
Western Australia	375
Tasmania	375
Northern Territory	250
Australian Capital Territory	375
Total	3 023

DATA COLLECTION

15 Information is obtained in the PSM by personal 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.

16 The willing cooperation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage cooperation and maximise response include:

- 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.
- 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.

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

17 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 persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

18 Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into each person's record 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

19 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
 - 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 persons in the survey is given by the standard error (see Technical Notes pages 15 and 16).

1 As the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability, that is, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (see table A1, page 16), which estimates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will vary by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), (see table A2, page 16) which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage of errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

3 From table 6 an estimated 376,200 households intend to purchase a computer in the March quarter. Referring to table A1 of standard errors (on page 16), an estimate of 376,200 has a standard error of approximately 26,400. There are two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey is between 349,800 and 402,600 (i.e. 376,200 plus or minus 26,400). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the number lies between 323,400 and 429,000 (i.e. 376,200 plus or minus 52,800).

4 Particular care should be taken when comparing figures. It is not correct to assume that an apparent difference between figures is actually significant. Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates ($x-y$) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics of sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

5 As the table of standard errors shows, the size of the standard error increases with the size of the estimate. However, the smaller the estimate the higher the RSE. Thus, large estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates. Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) and their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less and percentages based on such estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with standard errors of greater than 25% have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *2.8) to indicate that they should be treated with caution and viewed as being merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

6 This publication contains tables which relate to different populations. Standard errors may vary depending on the population and care should be taken to use the appropriate columns in tables A1 and A2.

7 For tables 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 the columns headed *HOUSEHOLDS - November 1998 - Aust* should be used.

8 For tables 2, 5 and 8 the columns headed *PERSONS 18+ YEARS - November 1998 - Aust* should be used.

9 For table 11 the columns headed *HOUSEHOLDS - February 1998-November 1998- SA* should be used.

10 For tables 12 and 13 the columns headed *PERSONS - May 1998-November 1998- NT* should be used.

A1

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

	PERSONS 18+ YEARS		HOUSEHOLDS	
Size of estimate	Nov 1998 Aust	May 1998 - Nov 1998 NT	Nov 1998 Aust	Feb 1998 - Nov 1998 SA
'000	'000		'000	'000
5	..	0.9	3.6	0.8
10	6.9	1.3	5.1	1.1
20	9.8	1.7	7.3	1.5
50	15.1	2.7	11.3	2.1
100	20.8	3.7	15.5	2.7
200	27.9	..	20.9	3.5
500	40.4	..	30.2	4.7
800	48.4	..	35.0	..
1 000	53.0	..	39.2	..
1 500	60.0	..	43.4	..
2 000	68.2	..	50.1	..

A2

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

	PERSONS 18+ YEARS		HOUSEHOLDS	
Size of estimate	Nov 1998 Aust	May 1998 - Nov 1998 NT	Nov 1998 Aust	Feb 1998 - Nov 1998 SA
'000	%		%	%
5	..	18.5	71.2	16.0
10	69.3	13.1	51.3	10.9
20	48.8	8.6	36.4	7.3
50	30.3	5.4	22.6	4.2
100	20.8	3.7	15.5	2.7
200	13.9	..	10.4	1.7
500	8.1	..	6.0	0.9
800	6.0	..	4.4	..
1 000	5.3	..	3.9	..
1 500	4.0	..	2.9	..
2 000	3.4	..	2.5	..

GLOSSARY

Age	The age of persons on their last birthday.
CD ROM equipment	Compact Disk Read Only Memory. Compact disk drives read digital data for use by a computer.
Character/image reader or scanner	Devices which scan a page of printed text or graphics and turn them into a form which can be read by a computer or communications network.
Computer	Portable, desktop and dedicated computers, and items such as pocket computers or 'personal organisers' which can be plugged into larger computers, are considered to be computers if they are usually in working order.
Concession cards	Concession cards are issued to recipients of Commonwealth income support payments (excludes State Government Seniors Card).
Consumer expectations	See 'Households intending to purchase'.
Digital Versatile Disks	DVD-ROM format is intended to distribute computer games and other software as well as a medium for distributing films. A DVD-ROM disk has 12 times the capacity of a CD-ROM disk providing superior graphics and sound to computers.
Dwelling structure	Categories include; separate house: where a house stands separately in its own grounds separated from other dwellings by at least a metre, semi-detached, row or terrace house: where the dwelling has its own private grounds and no other dwelling above or below it, flat or apartment: these dwellings do not have their own private grounds and usually share a common entrance, foyer or stairwell.
External sprinkler	A heavy duty sprinkler capable of wetting the home externally in order to help it become fire resistant.
External water supply	refers to a non mains external water supply which is suitable for fighting fire. It includes pools, dams or creeks.
Fire blanket	Fire blankets are used to attack small fires, and fires involving cooking oils and fats. The blankets may also be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and to control clothing fires.
Fire evacuation plan	Refers to any fire evacuation plan that the respondent has set out in case of emergency. For example, how residents should evacuate the building, and what they should do once they have evacuated the building.
Fire extinguisher	A fire extinguisher is a container that contains either, water, carbon dioxide or foam and is designed to spray at and extinguish fires.
Fire sprinkler system	A fire sprinkler system is usually installed in the ceiling and is an automatic sprinkler which is activated by heat or smoke.
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, i.e. 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.

Household income	Household income is the sum of personal income from all members of the household aged 15 years and over. Personal income is gross income from all sources and includes government pensions/benefits, workers compensation, royalties, rent, etc. It excludes money from the sale of assets, gambling, lottery wins, gifts, bequests or lump sum settlements.
Household's intending to purchase	A household in which any person within the household expects to buy, pay for or make some payment towards an item with an individual worth of \$200 or more for a household item or \$500 or more for other items. Planned purchases must be for the period 1 January 1999 to 31 March 1999.
Metropolitan	Metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical divisions. These delimit an area which is stable for general statistical purposes. The boundary is defined to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. They contain more than just the urban centre, and represent the city in the wider sense.
Modem	A device which connects the computer to a telephone system enabling communication between two computers.
Organised sport	Sport and physical activities that are organised by a club or association.
Peripheral equipment	Peripheral equipment includes equipment which must be plugged into a computer, eg. printers, character/image readers or scanners, CD ROM equipment, modems and other equipment such as additional keyboards and external disk or tape drives.
Police services	Services provided by officers of Federal and State police departments.
Printer	Devices used for printing computer output on to paper.
Private renter	Private renters rent their home from a private landlord or real estate agent.
Public renters	Public renters rent their home from a government agency whose main activity is to provide housing to the public. This does not include government departments that provide housing to their employees.
Removal of external fuel sources	Refers to removal of all possible sources of fuel for a bushfire. This includes such measures as removing overhanging eucalypt trees, removing dry leaves/firewood from around the home etc.
Safety switch/circuit breaker	A safety switch/circuit breaker is a device intended to isolate electricity supply to protected circuits, socket outlets or electrical equipment in the event of a current flow to earth which exceeds a predetermined value.
Smoke detector/smoke alarm	Smoke detectors or smoke alarms are for the detection and warning of smoke from fires and not for the detection of cigarette smoke.
Tobacco smoking	Tobacco smoking includes manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own, pipes and cigars but excludes chewing tobacco.

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

PHONE Call 1900 986 400 for the latest statistics on CPI, Labour Force, Earnings, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and other topics. (Call cost is 75c per minute)

INTERNET <http://www.abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

PHONE +61 1300 366 323

FAX +61 3 9615 7848

CONTACTING THE ABS

ABS provides a range of services, including: a telephone inquiry service; information consultancy tailored to your needs; survey, sample and questionnaire design; survey evaluation and methodological reviews; and statistical training.

<i>INQUIRIES</i>	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
Canberra	02 6252 6627	02 6253 1404
Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Darwin	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

POST Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au



2410300011985
ISSN 1320-6494

RRP \$16.00