



POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Julie Watkinson on Adelaide 08 8237 7539, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
August 2000	17 October 2000
November 2000	6 February 2000

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 13 and 14 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 * or ** to indicate that they should be viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (i.e. relative standard error between 25% and 50%)
- ** subject to sampling variability too high for practical purposes (i.e. relative standard error greater than 50%)
- . . 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For information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Julie Watkinson on Adelaide (08) 8237 7539.

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

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

The most common fire safety measures installed or followed in households were smoke alarms/detectors (72.0%) and safety switch/circuit breakers (55.1%) (refer to table 1).

COMPUTER USAGE

Almost 3.5 million households (48.9%) use a computer at home at least once a week. Over 2.2 million households (31.2%) access the internet at home at least once a week (refer to tables 2 and 3).

HOUSING

Over 5.0 million households (71.3%) own or are purchasing the residence in which they live. For married couples with children, 82.0 % own or are purchasing the residence in which they live, compared with 49.7% of single parents with children. Of all separate houses, 79.7% are owned or being purchased, 14.2% are privately rented and 3.5% are publicly rented (refer to tables 4 and 5).

POLICE

Of persons aged 18 years and over, 48.7% were satisfied with the services provided by police and 18.7% were very satisfied (refer to table 6).

ORGANISED SPORT

In the last 12 months, 33.3% of males and 25.5% of females aged 18 years and over have participated in sport or physical activity organised by a club or association (refer to table 7).

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

AND SAFETY

Of persons aged 18 years or over who worked in the last 12 months, 9.8% suffered a work-related injury or became aware of a work related illness (refer to table 8).

1

FIRE SAFETY MEASURES INSTALLED OR FOLLOWED BY HOUSEHOLDS

<i>Fire safety measure</i>	METROPOLITAN...		EX-METROPOLITAN..		TOTAL.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<i>Fire safety measure installed or followed</i>						
Operational smoke alarm(s) or smoke detector(s)	3 284.2	72.3	1 825.8	71.4	5 110.0	72.0
Fire sprinkler system	83.7	1.8	*27.5	*1.1	111.2	1.6
Safety switch/circuit breaker	2 489.2	54.8	1 425.3	55.8	3 914.5	55.1
Fire extinguisher	1 114.8	24.5	726.3	28.4	1 841.1	25.9
Fire blanket	450.3	9.9	256.4	10.0	706.7	10.0
Fire evacuation plan	775.9	17.1	427.7	16.7	1 203.6	17.0
External water supply	281.8	6.2	574.2	22.5	856.0	12.1
Removal of external fuel sources	759.6	16.7	811.3	31.7	1 570.8	22.1
External sprinkler	698.5	15.4	617.8	24.2	1 316.3	18.5
Other fire safety measure	*29.7	*0.7	*28.1	*1.1	57.7	0.8
<i>Total households with a fire safety measure(a)</i>	4 029.4	88.7	2 321.4	90.8	6 350.8	89.5
No fire safety measure installed or followed	471.8	10.4	219.3	8.6	691.1	9.7
Don't know	*41.1	*0.9	*15.1	*0.6	56.2	0.8
Total	4 542.4	100.0	2 555.8	100.0	7 098.2	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

HOUSEHOLD USE OF A COMPUTER

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
<i>Computer use</i>	'000	%
Households which frequently use a computer(a)	3 473.2	48.9
Households which do not frequently use a computer	3 624.9	51.1
Total	7 098.2	100.0

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

3

HOUSEHOLD USE OF THE INTERNET

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
<i>Internet use</i>	'000	%
Households which frequently use the internet(a)	2 216.2	31.2
Households which do not frequently use the internet	4 881.9	68.8
Total	7 098.2	100.0

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

4

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Household type	TENURE.....				TOTAL.....	
	Owner/ purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Pro- portion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	60.8	8.3	25.6	5.3	100.0	1 502.1
Married couple(a) only	82.4	3.0	13.0	*1.7	100.0	1 915.9
Married couple(a) with children	82.0	2.6	13.0	2.4	100.0	2 377.5
Single parent with children	49.7	19.7	27.6	*2.9	100.0	636.4
Other households	45.6	*4.6	46.4	*3.5	100.0	666.2
Total	71.3	5.6	20.1	3.0	100.0	7 098.2
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	5 060.8	398.7	1 427.9	210.8	..	7 098.2

(a) Includes de facto couples.

5

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE BY DWELLING STRUCTURE

Dwelling structure	TENURE.....				TOTAL.....	
	Owner/ purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Pro- portion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Separate house	79.7	3.5	14.2	2.6	100.0	5 678.8
Semi-detached/row/terrace(a)	45.2	14.1	37.9	*2.8	100.0	600.5
Flat/unit/apartment	30.5	14.7	50.1	*4.7	100.0	773.6
Total(b)	71.3	5.6	20.1	3.0	100.0	7 098.2
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total(b)	5 060.8	398.7	1 427.9	210.8	..	7 098.2

(a) Includes flat attached to house.

(b) Includes other dwelling structures.

6

SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY POLICE

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	*4.6	15.9	15.5	20.7	19.4	25.2	16.9	1 149.9
Satisfied	45.5	48.2	51.2	47.2	58.4	49.9	49.8	3 391.4
Neither	20.1	18.4	18.0	15.3	*8.5	*8.2	15.3	1 045.3
Dissatisfied	23.4	12.8	8.1	9.9	*7.7	*5.6	11.1	756.6
Very dissatisfied	*4.5	*3.0	*5.4	*3.1	*4.5	*4.3	4.1	280.2
Don't know	**1.9	**1.7	*1.8	*3.8	**1.6	*6.8	2.8	192.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 815.6
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	933.1	1 399.1	1 426.2	1 269.7	842.9	944.6	..	6 815.6
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	16.1	15.4	20.1	20.7	20.9	30.0	20.4	1 430.4
Satisfied	47.8	50.3	47.8	47.7	44.1	46.6	47.7	3 335.0
Neither	25.7	17.0	16.0	18.6	17.9	*7.0	16.7	1 168.4
Dissatisfied	*6.7	10.4	11.1	*4.0	*9.5	*5.3	8.0	559.9
Very dissatisfied	**0.0	*2.4	*1.9	*3.0	**2.2	**1.2	1.9	132.4
Don't know	*3.6	*4.5	*3.0	*6.0	*5.5	9.8	5.3	372.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 998.7
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	905.3	1 418.4	1 453.3	1 260.7	834.7	1 126.3	..	6 998.7
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	10.3	15.7	17.8	20.7	20.2	27.8	18.7	2 580.2
Satisfied	46.6	49.3	49.5	47.5	51.2	48.1	48.7	6 726.3
Neither	22.9	17.7	17.0	17.0	13.1	7.5	16.0	2 213.8
Dissatisfied	15.2	11.6	9.7	7.0	8.6	5.5	9.5	1 316.5
Very dissatisfied	*2.3	*2.7	3.7	*3.1	*3.3	*2.6	3.0	412.6
Don't know	*2.7	*3.1	*2.4	4.9	*3.5	8.4	4.1	564.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 814.3
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 838.5	2 817.6	2 879.4	2 530.4	1 677.6	2 070.8	..	13 814.3

7

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

Participation	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport	47.6	40.9	34.1	25.1	29.8	20.5	33.3	2 266.5
No participation in organised sport	52.4	59.1	65.9	74.9	70.2	79.5	66.7	4 549.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 815.6
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	933.1	1 399.1	1 426.2	1 269.7	842.9	944.6	..	6 815.6
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport	43.2	33.8	28.1	14.4	20.9	13.4	25.5	1 784.1
No participation in organised sport	56.8	66.2	71.9	85.6	79.1	86.6	74.5	5 214.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 998.7
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	905.3	1 418.4	1 453.3	1 260.7	834.7	1 126.3	..	6 998.7
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport	45.4	37.3	31.1	19.7	25.4	16.6	29.3	4 050.6
No participation in organised sport	54.6	62.7	68.9	80.3	74.6	83.4	70.7	9 763.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 814.3
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 838.5	2 817.6	2 879.4	2 530.4	1 677.6	2 070.8	..	13 814.3

(a) Includes sport and physical activities undertaken by players and non-players which are organised by a club or association.

8

WORK-RELATED INJURIES OR ILLNESSES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (a)

Work-related injuries or illnesses	MALES.....		FEMALES.....		PERSONS.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
.....						
Suffered a work-related injury in the last 12 months						
No absences from work (b)	242.9	4.5	198.1	4.4	441.0	4.5
Absences from work	393.2	7.3	133.4	3.0	526.6	5.4
<i>Total persons suffered a work-related injury in the last 12 months</i>	636.2	11.8	331.5	7.4	967.6	9.8
Did not suffer a work-related injury in the last 12 months	4 741.0	88.2	4 130.5	92.6	8 871.5	90.2
Total	5 377.2	100.0	4 462.0	100.0	9 839.2	100.0

(a) Only includes persons who have worked in the last 12 months.

(b) Relates to any time absent from work due to a work-related injury or illness.

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. Questions for each client's topic and a set of core questions are asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over within the selected household.

LIST OF TOPICS MAY 2000

Fire safety measures

2 This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in May 2000. The topics included in this publication are as follows:

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

Computing technology

4 Contains data on the use of computing technology in the home.

Housing

5 Contains data on tenure of current residence.

Satisfaction with police services

6 Contains data on community attitudes to police services.

Organised sport

7 Contains data on the sporting and physical activities undertaken by persons aged 18 years and over in the last 12 months.

Occupational Health and Safety

8 Contains data on persons who suffered a work-related injury or became aware of a work-related illness in the last 12 months.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

9 All usual residents in private households are included in the PSM. The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia, except sparsely settled and Indigenous areas, which accounts for approximately 85,000 persons aged 18 years and over. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for approximately 19% of the population. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE SIZE

10 For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 4,000 private dwellings is chosen. The sample is sufficient to provide quarterly data for Australia and annual data for the States and Territories at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability. Sample loss is allowed for through factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope, etc.

EXPECTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

11 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

12 Information is obtained in the PSM by personal interviews with adult members of selected households. Interviewers for the PSM are selected from a panel of trained interviewers who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys.

13 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

14 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.

15 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

16 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 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 13 and 14).

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 14), 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 14) 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 1,149,900 males were very satisfied with the services provided by the police. Referring to table A1 of standard errors (on page 14), an estimate of 1,149,900 has a standard error of approximately 62,000. 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 1,087,900 and 1,211,900 (i.e. 1,149,900 plus or minus 62,000). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the number lies between 1,025,900 and 1,273,900 (i.e. 1,149,900 plus or minus 124,000).

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. Estimates with a RSE between 25% and 50% have been included but 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. Estimates with a RSE greater than 50% have also been included but are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.4) to indicate that they should be treated with extreme caution.

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, 2, 3, 4, and 5 the columns headed *HOUSEHOLDS - May 2000 - Aust* should be used.

8 For tables 6, 7, and 8 the columns headed *PERSONS 18+ YEARS - May 2000 - Aust* should be used.

A1

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	PERSONS 18+ YEARS	HOUSEHOLDS
	May 2000 Aust	May 2000 Aust
	'000	'000
5	..	3.6
10	7.1	5.1
20	10.5	7.3
50	17.0	11.3
100	23.8	15.5
200	32.4	20.9
500	46.6	30.2
800	55.2	35.0
1 000	59.5	39.2
1 500	67.7	43.4
2 000	73.8	50.1

A2

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	PERSONS 18+ YEARS	HOUSEHOLDS
	May 2000 Aust	May 2000 Aust
	%	%
5	..	71.2
10	70.1	51.3
20	52.3	36.4
50	34.0	22.6
100	23.8	15.5
200	16.2	10.4
500	9.4	6.0
800	6.9	4.4
1 000	6.0	3.9
1 500	4.6	2.9
2 000	3.7	2.5

GLOSSARY

Age	The age of persons on their last birthday.
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.
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. Other dwelling structures include a flat or house attached to any commercial or non-residential building.
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 extinguish 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 an 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.
Internet	A facility that enables the user to access a wide range of information facilities, home pages or websites and allows users to send and receive electronic mail (email) messages.
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.
Organised sport	Sport and physical activities that are organised by a club or association.
Police services	Services provided by officers of Federal and State police departments.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Private renters	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 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 used for the detection and warning of smoke from fires and not for the detection of cigarette smoke.
Work-related injury or illness	An injury or illness resulting from a work-related factor which may include muscular strain, falling, tripping or slipping, being hit by a moving object or hitting an object and mental stress.

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