



Australian  
Bureau of  
Statistics



**1997 VICTORIA BOOK**

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## **PREFACE**

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The 1997 edition of the Victorian Year Book presents a wide range of statistical information on the social, demographic and economic structure of this state and represents a first point of reference for people throughout the community endeavouring to satisfy their statistical needs.

Significant development in terms of the content and presentation has been undertaken in this, the 109th edition, with strong emphasis placed on extending the scope of information to include a variety of special articles and relevant data from a range of organisations.

The feature article for 1997 focuses on the 'Arts in Victoria'; recent developments within the sector are highlighted together with an outline of the contribution of State government through initiatives such as 'Arts 21'. Special articles in this edition have been provided by: the Department of Treasury and Finance, the University of Melbourne, the Australian Centre for Retail Studies, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Building Control Commission.

Additional data has also been sourced to provide information on a range of relevant and topical issues including casinos and gambling, health and welfare (including acute and public health care), tourism and culture, and climate and the natural environment.

All sources have been carefully referenced to assist those seeking more detailed data. If further information is required ABS publications can be accessed through public libraries, obtained via our subscription service or purchased on an ad-hoc basis. An extensive range of products and services, including a comprehensive consultancy service, is also available through the Information Services Section on (03) 9615 7000.

The production of the Year Book has involved significant input from a number of individuals within the ABS and from various other organisations who have contributed material for inclusion. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all those involved in bringing together this edition of the Victorian Year Book.

Stuart Jackson  
Regional Director  
March 1997

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**Number 109**

## **CONTENTS**

---

<b>Preface</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>General information</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>Feature Article: The Arts in Victoria</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Victoria in Perspective</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2 Climate and Natural Environment</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>3 Government</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>4 Population</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>5 Education</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>6 Labour</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>7 Health and Welfare</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>8 Crime and Justice</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>9 Commerce</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>10 Trade</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>11 Tourism and Culture</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>12 Finance</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>13 Manufacturing</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>14 Primary Industries</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>15 Housing and Construction</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>16 Infrastructure</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>Appendix: Historical Statistics</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>289</b>

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<b>4 Population</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>5 Education</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>6 Labour</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>7 Health and Welfare</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>8 Crime and Justice</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>9 Commerce</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>10 Trade</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>11 Tourism and Culture</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>12 Finance</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>13 Manufacturing</b>	<b>203</b>
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