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## CHAPTER 6

### DEMOGRAPHY

The sources of the statistics in this chapter are population censuses, population surveys, State and Territorial registers of births, deaths and marriages, records of courts dealing with divorce, and other administrative records such as passenger cards required from international travellers and records of family allowance transfers.

With the proclamation of the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Act* 1967 on 10 August 1967, the provision in Section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aboriginals in reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth was repealed. Accordingly, population and vital statistics for all dates subsequent to 10 August 1967 no longer exclude full-blood Aboriginals. Also, estimates for periods back to 30 June 1961 have been revised to include Aboriginals.

### THE POPULATION

#### The population census

Basic enumerations of the population have been made since the early days of settlement in Australia. The early enumerations were known as 'musters'. A census conducted in New South Wales in 1828 became the first in a series of regular censuses in that colony. Periodic censuses were taken in the other Australian colonies. The first simultaneous censuses of all the Australian colonies were taken in 1881. The first national census was taken in 1911. It was followed by others in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961 and at five yearly intervals thereafter. A special article on early censuses appears in Year Book No. 15 of 1922. A further article outlining the history, purposes, legal basis, organisation and publication of results of population censuses appears in Year Book No. 53 of 1967, pages 164-70, but note that the reference in that Year Book to the exclusion of Aboriginals from the census count has not applied since the repeal of the relevant provision of Section 127 of the Constitution (see above).

Every census from 1881 has inquired into age, sex, marital status, birthplace, nationality or citizenship, and occupation. A wide variety of other topics has been included from time to time.

The most recent census in Australia was conducted on 30 June 1981. Counts of persons and dwellings are available for every collection district and for other larger areas, as well as statistics on characteristics of persons and dwellings as collected in the census. 1981 Census statistics will continue to be released in publications, on microfiche and on magnetic tape until 1985. A list of 1981 Census publications is contained in *Census 81—Data Release Plans* (2142.0) and details of other releases are in *Catalogue of 1981 Census Tables, Edition 2* (2139.0).

The 1981 Census contained fewer questions than the 1976 Census. However, in addition to basic demographic topics mentioned above, questions were asked on such topics as previous residence, birthplace of parents, English language proficiency, Aboriginality, religious affiliation, school attendance, educational qualifications, income, employment, mode of travel to work and certain characteristics of dwellings.

As for previous censuses, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families were out of the scope of the census, as were all persons residing in diplomatic residences on census night.

While every effort is made to minimise undercounting in the census, some inevitably remains for various reasons (e.g. inadvertent omission of very young children, treatment of some dwellings as unoccupied when in fact, they were occupied, and failure to find all dwellings). Refusal by householders to complete the census schedule is not a significant cause of undercounting. Since 1966, sample surveys have been taken soon after each census to discover the approximate extent of underenumeration and the effects on the census results of misstatement or nonreply to specific questions. Underenumeration of the population of Australia at the 1981 Census is estimated to have been 1.9 per cent. Estimated underenumeration of State and Territory populations ranged from 0.8 per cent in Tasmania to 5.0 per cent in the Northern Territory. Underenumeration varies from location to location and for populations of different ages and other characteristics. These and similar problems are common to all population censuses.

### Population estimates

Population estimates by sex and State are calculated on a quarterly basis by updating estimates at census dates for subsequent births and deaths and for overseas and interstate migration. Age estimates as at 30 June each year are published by sex for each State and Territory. Small area population estimates down to the local government area level are also made annually.

The method of determining the base population at a census date has changed with the 1981 Census results becoming available. Estimates now reflect the usual residence of the population rather than the actual location in which people were counted at the census. At the Australia level this means that overseas visitors counted in the census are subtracted, the remaining population is adjusted for census underenumeration and an estimate of Australian residents temporarily overseas on census night is added. For the States this process involves an additional step which returns those people not at home on census night to their place of usual residence.

This change-over has enabled population estimates after the 1981 Census date to be compiled wholly according to place of usual residence, since components of population increase were already available on a usual residence basis. Estimated resident populations for the 1971 and 1976 Census dates have also been calculated and intercensal estimates have been revised accordingly.

As a result of the above adjustments, estimated resident populations at census dates differ from actual census counts. The figures for estimated resident populations (with actual location census counts shown in brackets) are: 13,067,300 (12,755,638) in 1971; 14,033,100 (13,548,448) in 1976; and 14,923,300 (14,576,330) in 1981.

### Size and growth of Australia's population

When Europeans first settled in Australia, the number of Aborigines living in the continent is believed to have numbered at least 300,000. The Aboriginal population suffered a drastic decline in numbers over the next 145 years so that by 1933 it is estimated to have totalled about 67,000. In 1981, however, nearly 145,000 Aborigines were counted in the census.

The population of Australia reached 1 million in 1858, 5 million in 1918, 10 million in 1959 and 15 million towards the end of 1981.

From 1861 natural increase has been the major element in population growth, and immigration the most variable. In the years 1861 to 1890, total growth on average exceeded 3 per cent a year and natural increase 2 per cent. The rate of natural increase declined during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, and this, together with a near cessation of immigration during that period, reduced the rate of growth from 3.70 per cent in 1861–70 to 1.63 per cent in 1901–10.

The 1914–18 War was the dominating influence in the decade 1911–1920: during the war and immediate post-war years the birth rate rose and immigration was resumed. In the economic depression of the 1930s, however, natural increase fell to very low levels and immigration ceased; indeed, in some years, overseas departures exceeded arrivals.

With the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, Australia entered a new phase. The immediate effect of the war was to increase the number of marriages and births. The increasing births more than offset the rise in deaths due to war casualties and higher civilian death rates. Migration in these years was negligible.

The period 1947 to 1961 was marked by continued high natural increase and a resumption of immigration, the latter resulting in very high net gains in each of the four years 1949 to 1952.

Between 1961 and 1970, net migration continued at about the same level as in the previous decade, but there were declines in the crude birth rate and the rate of natural increase. The years from 1971 till 1980 were characterised by a reduced rate of natural increase due to a decline in the birth rate. In 1981, however, the crude birth rate rose for the first time since 1971, to 15.8 per 1,000 mean population (15.3 in 1980), and this rate was maintained in 1982 and 1983. Net migration gain, moderate for most of the seventies, increased sharply during 1979, 1980 and 1981, following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers. However, numbers began to decline in 1982, and in 1983 fell back to the level of the seventies.

The rate of population growth in 1981 was 1.63 per cent, the highest since 1971 (2.08 per cent). It has since declined to 1.51 in 1982 and the preliminary growth rate for 1983 is 1.15. The population estimates in the following table relate to the end of December. Estimates for the end of June are given in other tables in this chapter.

## POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Period	Population at end of period ( <sup>'000</sup> ) (a)	Average annual rate of growth (b) (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration (c)	Total
1851-1860	1,145.6			
1861-1870	1,647.8	2.47	1.23	3.70
1871-1880	2,231.5	2.07	1.01	3.08
1881-1890	3,151.4	2.05	1.46	3.51
1891-1900	3,765.3	1.73	0.07	1.80
1901-1910	4,425.1	1.53	0.10	1.63
1911-1920	5,411.3	1.60	0.43	2.03
1921-1930	6,500.8	1.32	0.53	1.85
1931-1940	7,077.6	0.79	0.06	0.85
1941-1950	8,307.5	1.14	0.47	1.62
1951-1955	9,311.8	1.38	0.93	2.31
1956-1960	10,391.9	1.40	0.82	2.22
1961-1965	11,505.4	(e) 1.27	(e) 0.71	(e) 1.98
1966-1970	12,663.5	1.11	0.82	1.94
1971-1975	13,968.9	(d) 1.07	(d) 0.49	(d) 1.56
1976-1980	14,807.4	0.81	0.45	1.17
1975	13,968.9	0.90	0.10	0.99
1976	14,110.1	0.82	0.24	1.01
1977	14,281.5	0.83	0.48	1.21
1978	14,430.8	0.81	0.33	1.05
1979	14,602.5	0.81	0.48	1.19
1980	14,807.4	0.80	0.69	1.40
1981	15,049.5	0.86	0.82	1.63
1982	15,276.8	0.83	0.67	1.51
1983 <sub>p</sub>	15,451.9	0.86	0.27	1.15

(a) Excludes full-blood Aborigines prior to 1961. Estimated resident populations from 1971 onwards. (b) The average annual rates of population growth for periods greater than one year are calculated on the compound interest principle. The rates refer to the population at the beginning of the period. Discrepancies between the sum of the rate of growth due to natural increase and net migration and the rate of total growth are due to intercensal adjustments. (c) Prior to 30 June 1971, net migration includes discrepancies disclosed by the various censuses. From 30 June 1971, net migration is defined as the excess of overseas arrivals over overseas departures classified as permanent and long-term. From 30 June 1976, net migration consists of net permanent and long-term movement and an adjustment for category jumping, i.e. the net effect of changes in travel intentions which affect the categorization of movements. (d) The estimated resident population at 31 December 1970 used to compute rates of growth for the period 1971-1975 was 12,929,600. (e) The estimated population at 31 December 1960 used to compute rates of growth for the period 1961-65 was 10,430,600. This estimate includes Aborigines.

## Projections of the population

Projections of Australia's population have been made by the ABS using the component method in which a base population is brought forward year by year by applying assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and the characteristics of overseas migration.

The 1982 projections presented in the following table give a possible 2021 population in the range 22.1 million to 26.0 million.

Assumptions used in 1982 projection series—

Base population: The four series are based on the preliminary estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 1981.

Series A: **Fertility**—Total fertility rates for Australia are assumed to recover initially to a level of 2,010 births per thousand females by 1984, and then decline to 1,900 in 1987, remaining constant thereafter. This 1987 level is about 10 per cent below replacement level.

**Mortality**—The 1971-80 average annual rates of decline in the age-specific death rates are assumed to continue until 1986. From 1987 to 2021 the age-specific death rates are projected to converge linearly to 2021 rates obtained by applying 1961-80 rates of decline for the period 1982-2021.

**Migration**—Net overseas migration to Australia is set at 75,000 persons per year.

Series B: *Fertility*—Total fertility rates for Australia are assumed to recover from 1,936 births per thousand females in 1981 to long-term replacement level of 2,110 by 1987, remaining constant thereafter.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—as in Series A.

Series C: *Fertility*—as in Series A.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—Net overseas migration to Australia is set at 125,000 persons per year.

Series D: *Fertility*—as in Series B.

*Mortality*—as in Series A.

*Migration*—as in Series C.

The effect of the alternative fertility assumptions on projected populations can be seen in the table below by comparing Series A with Series B or by comparing Series C with Series D. Similarly comparisons between Series A and Series C or between Series B and Series D will bring out the differences due to the alternative migration assumptions.

POPULATION: ACTUAL AND PROJECTED  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

At 30 June	Actual population(a)	Projected population				
		1982 Projections				
		At 30 June	Series A	Series B	Series C	Series D
1947 . . . . .	7,579.4	(b) 1981	14,926.8	14,926.8	14,926.8	14,926.8
1954 . . . . .	8,986.5	1982	15,129.0	15,129.0	15,179.5	15,179.6
1961 . . . . .	10,548.3	1983	15,335.9	15,336.6	15,438.0	15,438.7
1966 . . . . .	11,599.5	1984	15,550.0	15,552.5	15,704.6	15,707.1
1971 . . . . .	13,067.3	1985	15,766.7	15,776.5	15,974.9	15,984.8
1976 . . . . .	14,033.1	1986	15,981.1	16,006.9	16,243.8	16,270.1
1977 . . . . .	14,192.2	1991	17,008.6	17,169.0	17,555.8	17,721.3
1978 . . . . .	14,359.3	1996	17,994.2	18,297.8	18,843.9	19,160.0
1979 . . . . .	14,515.7	2001	18,916.7	19,365.4	20,084.1	20,555.1
1980 . . . . .	14,695.4	2006	19,760.2	20,359.6	21,261.4	21,895.5
1981 . . . . .	14,923.3	2011	20,557.1	21,332.9	22,408.5	23,235.0
1982 . . . . .	15,178.4	2016	21,328.7	22,331.9	23,544.7	24,619.5
1983 . . . . .	15,378.6	2021	22,062.1	23,337.1	24,653.4	26,026.1

(a) Prior to 1971 population figures are census counts. For 1971 and subsequent years figures shown are estimated resident populations. Figures prior to 1961 exclude full-blood Aborigines. (b) Base population; preliminary estimated resident population.

Without further immigration, Series A (and C) projections yield a population of 17.2 million by the year 2001 and of 18.1 million by the year 2021; Series B (and D) projections, without immigration, give populations of 17.6 million for 2001 and 19.3 million for 2021.

For all four series, the annual rate of growth would eventually decrease as a consequence of the increasing crude death rate, the falling crude birth rate and the decreasing rate of net migration gain. The median age would continuously increase as a result of the population becoming older. This ageing of the population is also reflected in an increase in the crude death rate whilst age-specific mortality rates are projected to decrease.

## PROJECTED ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH AND MEDIAN AGES (a) AUSTRALIA 1981 TO 2021

	<i>Year ending 30 June</i>	<i>Series A</i>	<i>Series B</i>	<i>Series C</i>	<i>Series D</i>
Birth rate (per cent)	1981p	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.57
	1986	1.60	1.70	1.60	1.70
	1991	1.52	1.67	1.53	1.69
	1996	1.46	1.59	1.47	1.61
	2001	1.38	1.50	1.39	1.52
	2006	1.31	1.43	1.33	1.45
	2011	1.29	1.43	1.31	1.45
	2016	1.27	1.44	1.30	1.47
	2021	1.25	1.43	1.28	1.45
Death rate (per cent)	1981p	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
	1986	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71
	1991	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.74
	1996	0.80	0.79	0.78	0.77
	2001	0.83	0.81	0.80	0.79
	2006	0.86	0.83	0.82	0.80
	2011	0.83	0.85	0.85	0.82
	2016	0.91	0.87	0.87	0.83
	2021	0.94	0.90	0.90	0.85
Rate of net migration gain (per cent)	1981p	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87
	1986	0.47	0.47	0.78	0.77
	1991	0.44	0.44	0.72	0.71
	1996	0.42	0.41	0.67	0.66
	2001	0.40	0.39	0.63	0.61
	2006	0.38	0.37	0.59	0.57
	2011	0.37	0.35	0.56	0.54
	2016	0.35	0.34	0.53	0.51
	2021	0.34	0.32	0.51	0.48
Total rate of growth (per cent)	1981p	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
	1986	1.36	1.45	1.67	1.77
	1991	1.20	1.35	1.50	1.65
	1996	1.08	1.22	1.36	1.50
	2001	0.95	1.08	1.22	1.34
	2006	0.83	0.96	1.10	1.22
	2011	0.77	0.92	1.03	1.17
	2016	0.72	0.91	0.96	1.14
	2021	0.65	0.86	0.89	1.08
Median age (years)	1981p	29.61	29.61	29.61	29.61
	1986	30.86	30.81	30.71	30.66
	1991	32.18	31.88	31.91	31.63
	1996	32.59	32.99	33.15	32.64
	2001	33.61	33.88	34.20	33.44
	2006	35.84	34.89	35.30	34.35
	2011	37.01	35.67	36.31	34.99
	2016	37.68	35.87	36.87	35.18
	2021	38.24	36.17	37.44	35.52

(a) The median age indicates the age at which one half of the population is younger and the other half older.

### Location of the population

For historical, climatic and economic reasons the population of Australia is concentrated in capital cities and other major cities, mainly on the south and east coasts of the continent. In June 1983, 69.9 per cent of the population lived in the national capital, the six State capital cities and Darwin, and four other major cities of 100,000 or more persons (capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts). Of these, only Canberra is located inland. The percentage of the population living in rural areas declined over the years as the major cities and towns attracted most of the population growth; there were periods when the rural population actually declined in numbers. This trend, however, slowed considerably after 1971 and between 1976 and 1981 it actually reversed, so that a higher percentage of the population was counted in rural areas at the 1981 Census (14.2 per cent) than at the 1976 Census (13.9 per cent). In 1983, New South Wales was the State with the highest per cent of the estimated resident population living in the capital city or towns of over 100,000 (74.7 per cent), followed by Victoria (74.4 per cent), South Australia (72.2 per cent), Western Australia (71.0 per cent), Queensland (52.9 per cent) and Tasmania (40.2 per cent). In the Northern Territory, 47.3 per cent of the estimated resident population lived in the capital city.

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION IN CAPITAL CITIES AND OTHER  
MAJOR CITIES<sup>(a)</sup>**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	30 June 1976	30 June 1981	30 June 1983
Sydney . . . . .	3,143.8	3,279.5	3,335.0
Melbourne . . . . .	2,723.7	2,806.3	2,864.6
Brisbane . . . . .	1,000.9	1,096.2	1,138.4
Adelaide . . . . .	924.1	952.7	969.2
Perth . . . . .	832.8	922.0	969.1
Hobart . . . . .	164.4	171.1	173.7
Darwin . . . . .	44.2	56.5	63.3
Canberra <sup>(b)</sup> . . . . .	226.5	246.5	255.9
Newcastle . . . . .	380.0	402.7	414.7
Wollongong . . . . .	222.3	231.4	235.0
Gold Coast <sup>(c)</sup> . . . . .	110.9	162.7	189.1
Geelong . . . . .	138.3	142.0	<sup>(d)</sup> 142.9
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>9,911.9</b>	<b>10,469.6</b>	<b>10,750.7</b>
<b>Percentage of total population . . . . .</b>	<b>70.63</b>	<b>70.16</b>	<b>69.91</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts of 100,000 persons or more.

<sup>(b)</sup> Includes Queanbeyan. <sup>(c)</sup> Includes Tweed Heads. <sup>(d)</sup> Estimated resident population at 30 June 1982.

While there has been population growth in all States during this time, there has, between 30 June 1971 and 30 June 1983, been substantially higher than average growth in the States of Queensland (33.5 per cent), Western Australia (29.5 per cent), and the two Territories—the Northern Territory (56.2 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (56.5 per cent). During this time the total Australian population increased by 17.7 per cent.

**POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES<sup>(a)</sup>**  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T. <sup>(b)</sup>	Aust.
5 April 1891 . . . . .	1,127.1	1,140.1	393.7	315.5	49.8	146.7	4.9	..	3,177.8
31 March 1901 . . . . .	1,354.8	1,201.1	498.1	358.3	184.1	172.5	4.8	..	3,773.8
3 April 1911 . . . . .	1,646.7	1,315.6	605.8	408.6	282.1	191.2	3.3	1.7	4,455.0
4 April 1921 . . . . .	2,100.4	1,531.3	756.0	495.2	332.7	213.8	3.9	2.6	5,435.7
30 June 1933 . . . . .	2,600.8	1,820.3	947.5	580.9	438.9	227.6	4.9	8.9	6,629.8
30 June 1947 . . . . .	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
30 June 1954 . . . . .	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
30 June 1961 . . . . .	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
30 June 1966 . . . . .	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
30 June 1971 . . . . .	4,725.5	3,601.4	1,851.5	1,200.1	1,053.8	398.1	85.7	151.2	13,067.3
30 June—									
1974 . . . . .	4,894.1	3,755.7	2,008.3	1,241.5	1,127.6	406.2	102.9	186.2	13,722.6
1975 . . . . .	4,932.0	3,787.4	2,051.4	1,265.3	1,154.9	410.1	<sup>(c)</sup> 92.9	199.0	13,893.0
1976 . . . . .	4,959.6	3,810.4	2,092.4	1,274.1	1,178.3	412.3	98.2	207.7	14,033.1
1977 . . . . .	5,001.9	3,837.4	2,129.8	1,286.1	1,204.4	415.0	103.9	213.7	14,192.2
1978 . . . . .	5,053.8	3,863.8	2,172.0	1,296.2	1,227.9	417.6	110.0	218.0	14,359.3
1979 . . . . .	5,111.1	3,886.4	2,214.8	1,301.1	1,246.6	420.8	114.1	220.8	14,515.7
1980 . . . . .	5,171.5	3,914.3	2,265.9	1,308.4	1,269.1	423.6	118.2	224.3	14,695.4
1981 . . . . .	5,234.9	3,946.9	2,345.2	1,318.8	1,300.1	427.2	122.6	227.6	14,923.3
1982 . . . . .	5,307.9	3,994.1	2,419.6	1,328.7	1,336.9	429.8	129.4	231.9	15,178.4
1983 . . . . .	5,360.4	4,037.6	2,471.6	1,341.5	1,364.5	432.6	133.9	236.6	15,378.6
<b>Percentage of total population in 1983 . . . . .</b>	<b>34.86</b>	<b>26.25</b>	<b>16.07</b>	<b>8.72</b>	<b>8.87</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Figures prior to 1961 exclude full-blood Aborigines. The estimates from June 1971 for each State and Territory are estimated resident populations. Intercensal estimates incorporate adjustments to make each intercensal total increase agree with the difference between the estimated resident populations at two consecutive census points. <sup>(b)</sup> Part of New South Wales before 1911. <sup>(c)</sup> Decrease due to the effect of cyclone 'Tracy' on the Darwin population.

### Age distribution of the population

The age distribution of the population is shown in Plate 14, page 79, in the form of an age-sex pyramid. The low birth rates of the depression years of the 1930s, the prolonged "baby boom" from the end of World War II to the early 1960s, the declining birth rate of the 1970s and the very recent recovery in the birth rate are reflected in the profile.

#### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE: 30 JUNE 1983 (<sup>'000</sup>)

Age group (years)	Males	Females	Persons
0-4 . . . . .	599.2	569.8	1,169.0
5-9 . . . . .	619.8	589.9	1,209.6
10-14 . . . . .	699.3	670.8	1,370.1
15-19 . . . . .	656.8	627.9	1,284.7
20-24 . . . . .	681.5	664.0	1,345.5
25-29 . . . . .	642.2	627.9	1,270.2
30-34 . . . . .	628.0	614.0	1,242.1
35-39 . . . . .	579.7	558.9	1,138.5
40-44 . . . . .	456.9	434.7	891.6
45-49 . . . . .	390.3	372.1	762.4
50-54 . . . . .	384.5	368.5	753.0
55-59 . . . . .	377.6	372.7	750.3
60-64 . . . . .	317.2	343.4	660.6
65-69 . . . . .	251.3	291.2	542.5
70+ . . . . .	390.9	597.5	988.5
<b>All ages . . . . .</b>	<b>7,675.3</b>	<b>7,703.3</b>	<b>15,378.6</b>

The median age of the population has been increasing since the early 1970s. It stood at 30.2 years on 30 June 1983.

#### MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION (a), SELECTED YEARS 1901-83

	1901	1921	1933	1947	1961	1971	1981	1983
<b>Median age (years) . . . . .</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>30.2</b>

(a) The median age indicates the age at which one half of the population is younger and the other half older. Based on estimated resident populations from 1971 onwards, prior to 1971 on census counts.

The age distribution of the population has changed gradually in the past decade or so. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has increased, due in part to a declining number of births, but also to improvements in life expectancy resulting from a falling death rate.

Substantial levels of immigration have had the effect of reducing the proportion of the population in elderly groups to levels below what it would otherwise have been.

Australia's age profile, with a median age of approximately 30 years, is comparatively younger than that of much of Europe, the original source of most of Australia's population. This is because of a higher rate of natural increase and the effect of immigration to Australia.

#### The labour force age group

The proportion of the population in the labour force age group (usually defined as the population aged 15-64) increased between 1971 and 1983 from 63.0 to 65.6 per cent of the population. The increase was particularly large in the 15-44 age group.

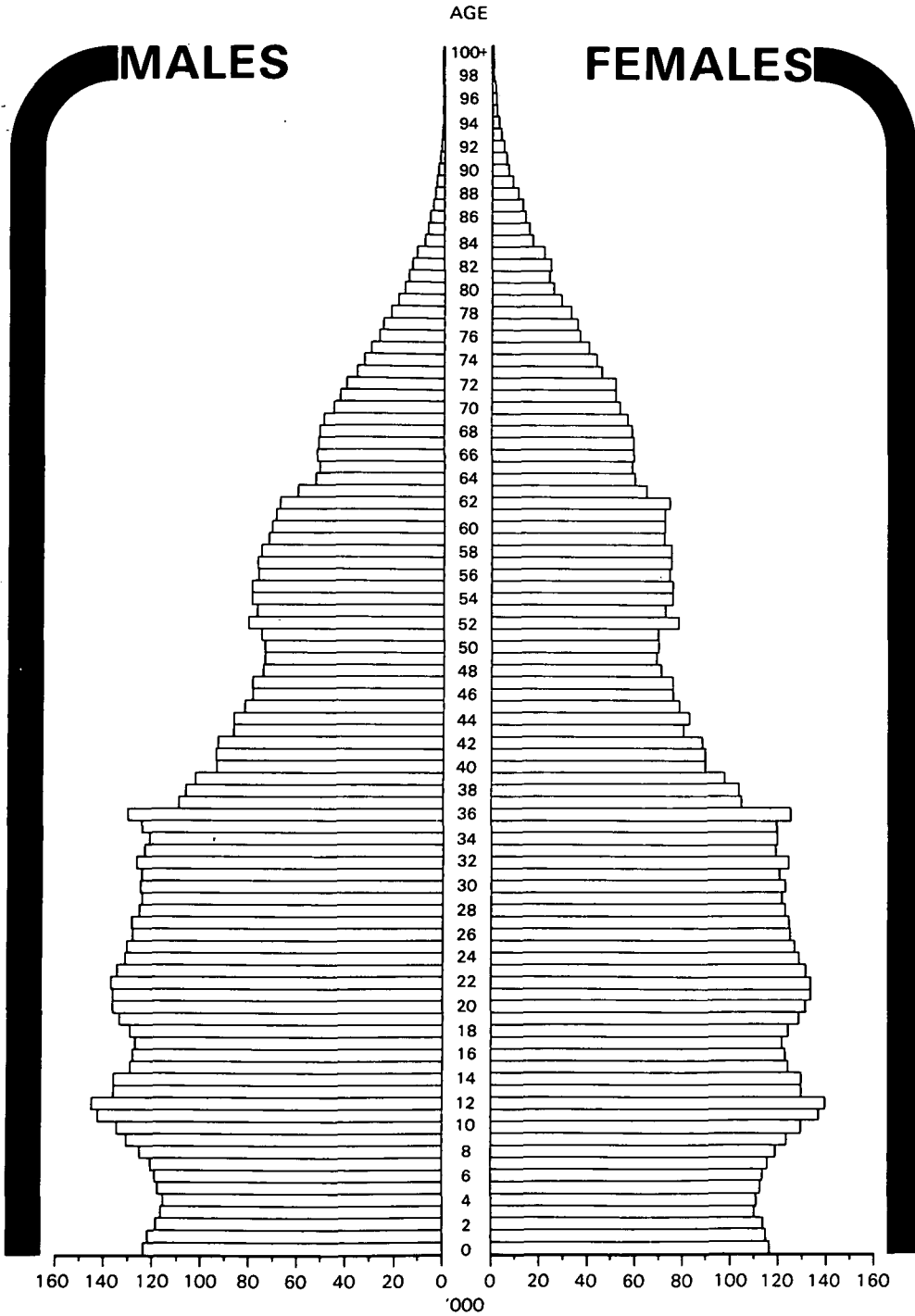
#### PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION (a) BY AGE GROUP: SELECTED YEARS 1947-83

Age group	30 June							
	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981	1983
	(per cent)							
0-14 years . . . . .	25.1	28.5	30.2	29.4	28.7	27.0	25.0	24.4
15-44 years . . . . .	45.6	43.1	41.4	42.2	43.0	44.1	46.1	46.6
45-64 years . . . . .	21.3	20.0	19.9	19.9	20.0	20.0	19.2	19.0
<b>Total 15-64 years . . . . .</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.6</b>
65 years and over . . . . .	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.9	9.7	10.0

(a) Prior to 1971, percentages shown are based on census counts; from 1971 they are based on estimated resident populations. Figures prior to 1961 exclude Aborigines.



AGE PYRAMID OF THE ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1983



POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA : AGE LAST BIRTHDAY, BY SEX, 30 JUNE 1983

**PLATE 14**

**The aged population**

The proportion of total population aged 65 years and above was 10.0 per cent in 1983, an increase from 8.3 per cent in 1971 and 8.9 per cent in 1976.

The proportion of females in this group is high; 58.1 per cent of the total in 1983. The female proportion increases with age due to higher male mortality at every age.

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP: 1971 TO 1983**

30 June	Number ('000)				Per cent			
	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Under 15	15-44	45-64	65 and over
<b>MALES</b>								
1971	1,918.6	2,887.4	1,302.6	459.4	29.2	44.0	19.8	7.0
1976	1,940.6	3,158.2	1,407.8	525.5	27.6	44.9	20.0	7.5
1979	1,901.4	3,355.3	1,421.3	575.8	26.2	46.3	19.6	7.9
1980	1,897.6	3,420.9	1,424.8	594.8	25.9	46.6	19.4	8.1
1981	1,904.6	3,496.6	1,434.9	612.2	25.6	46.9	19.3	8.2
1982	1,914.9	3,581.6	1,450.6	629.2	25.3	47.3	19.1	8.3
1983	1,918.3	3,645.1	1,469.7	642.2	25.0	47.5	19.1	8.4
<b>FEMALES</b>								
1971	1,828.7	2,734.2	1,305.5	631.0	28.1	42.1	20.1	9.7
1976	1,846.5	3,027.2	1,400.0	727.4	26.4	43.2	20.0	10.4
1979	1,817.0	3,237.1	1,413.9	794.0	25.0	44.6	19.5	10.9
1980	1,813.4	3,306.5	1,418.9	818.5	24.6	44.9	19.3	11.1
1981	1,821.0	3,382.1	1,429.1	842.8	24.4	45.2	19.1	11.3
1982	1,829.4	3,463.9	1,441.5	867.3	24.1	45.6	19.0	11.4
1983	1,830.5	3,527.5	1,456.6	888.7	23.8	45.8	18.9	11.5
<b>PERSONS</b>								
1971	3,747.3	5,621.6	2,608.1	1,090.4	28.7	43.0	20.0	8.3
1976	3,787.1	6,185.4	2,807.8	1,252.8	27.0	44.1	20.0	8.9
1979	3,718.4	6,592.4	2,835.1	1,369.7	25.6	45.4	19.5	9.4
1980	3,711.0	6,727.5	2,843.6	1,413.3	25.3	45.8	19.4	9.6
1981	3,725.5	6,878.7	2,864.0	1,455.0	25.0	46.1	19.2	9.7
1982	3,744.3	7,045.5	2,892.1	1,496.5	24.7	46.4	19.1	9.9
1983	3,748.7	7,172.6	2,926.3	1,531.0	24.4	46.6	19.0	10.0

**Marital status****MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION(a) 1971 TO 1981**

(Per cent distribution)

Census	Never married		Married (incl. permanently separated)	Widowed	Divorced	Total
	Under 15	15 and over				
MALES						
1971	29.2	21.0	46.7	2.0	1.0	100.0
1976	27.6	21.5	47.5	1.9	1.5	100.0
1981	25.6	23.4	46.7	1.9	2.5	100.0
FEMALES						
1971	28.1	15.0	47.5	8.2	1.1	100.0
1976	26.4	15.6	47.9	8.2	1.8	100.0
1981	24.4	17.5	46.7	8.3	3.1	100.0

(a) Census count, not adjusted for underenumeration.

At the 1981 Census the numbers of men and women aged 15 and over were nearly equal, but there were more single men than single women and there were more widows than widowers. The first phenomenon is attributable to women generally marrying about 2 years younger than men, and the second to their greater longevity. In 1981, 31.4 per cent of the male population aged 15 and over was single, 62.7 per cent married (including those who were married but recorded as permanently separated), 2.5 per cent widowed and 3.4 per cent divorced. For females the figures were 23.2 per cent single, 61.7 per cent married (including married but permanently separated), 11.0 per cent widowed and 4.1 per cent divorced.

### Masculinity ratios

The masculinity ratio of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio varies by age: it is about 105.5 at birth, but higher male mortality gradually erodes the difference so that the numbers of males and females would tend to be about the same soon after age 50 in the absence of migration, and the masculinity ratio progressively declines thereafter. The overall masculinity ratio of the population has been declining to such an extent that it fell below 100 in 1979, the first time since World War I. In 1983 it was 99.6.

MASCULINITY RATIOS IN EACH AGE GROUP(a)  
(MALES PER HUNDRED FEMALES)

30 June	Age in years				Total
	0-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
1971	104.9	105.6	99.8	72.8	101.1
1976	105.1	104.3	100.6	72.2	100.4
1979	104.7	103.7	100.5	72.5	99.9
1980	104.6	103.5	100.4	72.7	99.7
1981	104.6	103.4	100.4	72.6	99.6
1982	104.7	103.4	100.6	72.6	99.7
1983	104.8	103.3	100.9	72.3	99.6

(a) Estimated resident populations.

### Ethnic composition

The composition of the population has been changing gradually in post-war decades due to changes in both the numbers and the origins of immigrant flows.

At 30 June 1981, persons born outside Australia made up 21 per cent of the population, a slight increase on earlier censuses. This represents a substantially higher proportion than that recorded at the 1947 Census (following the end of World War II) when the proportion was 10 per cent.

PERSONS BY BIRTHPLACE 30 JUNE 1981(a)

	Males	Females	Persons
Australia	5,615,436	5,778,425	11,393,861
UK and Eire	575,375	557,226	1,132,601
New Zealand	89,782	86,931	176,713
Germany (b)	55,126	55,632	110,758
Greece	75,215	71,410	146,625
Italy	149,684	126,199	275,883
Lebanon	26,622	23,001	49,623
Malta	30,628	26,373	57,001
Netherlands	51,863	44,181	96,044
Poland	33,031	26,410	59,441
Yugoslavia	81,527	67,808	149,335
Other Europe	111,208	93,822	205,030
Other Asia	162,146	159,819	321,965
America	48,974	47,273	96,247
Africa	45,609	44,628	90,237
Other Oceania	17,621	18,511	36,132
At sea and not stated	97,229	81,605	178,834
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,267,076</b>	<b>7,309,254</b>	<b>14,576,330</b>

(a) Census counts, not adjusted for underenumeration. (b) Includes German Federal Republic and German Democratic Republic.

**AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS(a)**  
(Per cent)

30 June	Australian born	Overseas born		Total
		U.K. and Eire	Other	
1954 . . . . .	85.7	7.4	6.9	100.0
1961 . . . . .	83.1	7.2	9.7	100.0
1966 . . . . .	81.6	7.8	10.5	100.0
1971 . . . . .	79.8	8.5	11.7	100.0
1976 . . . . .	79.9	8.2	11.8	100.0
1981 . . . . .	78.2	7.8	(b) 14.1	100.0

(a) Census counts, not adjusted for underenumeration. (b) Includes 'not stated' which was imputed for censuses prior to the 1981 Census.

### The Aboriginal population

A brief account was given of the Australian Aboriginal population, its origin and its numbers as estimated from time to time in Year Book No. 17, pages 951-61. A special article by A. R. Radcliffe Brown dealing with the estimated number and distribution of the Aboriginal population at the date of the first settlement of European people on the continent appeared in Year Book No. 23, pages 687-96. For a more recent comprehensive analysis, see "The Aboriginal Population of Australia" by L. R. Smith, ANU Press, Canberra 1980.

The task of collecting data on the Aboriginal population is difficult, raising problems of coverage, definition and reporting. For this reason, statistics, even of the total Aboriginal population, should be treated with caution. This applies particularly to comparison of the changes in numbers from one census to another which can be affected by social attitudes and by changes made in the nature of the question in an attempt to improve coverage and reporting. Analysis of 1976 Census results indicated that some overstatement of the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders occurred in the 1976 Census. These issues are discussed in more detail in *Census 81—Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders* (2153.0)

**COUNTS OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (TSI) 30 JUNE 1971, 1976, 1981**

State	1971(a) number		1976(b) number		1981(c) number		Total
	Aboriginal	TSI	Aboriginal	TSI	Aboriginal	TSI	
New South Wales . . . . .	23,101	772	23,873	37,688	2,763	40,451	33,414
Victoria . . . . .	5,656	715	6,371	12,415	2,345	14,760	5,283
Queensland . . . . .	24,414	7,508	31,922	31,948	9,396	41,344	33,966
South Australia . . . . .	7,140	159	7,299	9,940	774	10,714	9,476
Western Australia . . . . .	21,903	278	22,181	25,565	560	26,125	30,749
Tasmania . . . . .	575	96	671	2,522	421	2,943	2,334
Northern Territory . . . . .	23,253	128	23,381	23,535	215	23,750	28,680
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	248	7	255	769	59	828	763
<b>Australia . . . . .</b>	<b>106,290</b>	<b>9,663</b>	<b>115,953</b>	<b>144,382</b>	<b>16,533</b>	<b>160,915</b>	<b>144,665</b>
							<b>15,232</b>
							<b>159,897</b>

(a) 1971 figures include a pro-rating of non-response. (b) Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to sampling error. (c) Changed editing procedures adopted for 1981 Census results; see (2153.0) for details.

### Internal migration

The five-yearly censuses and annual internal migration surveys (conducted in conjunction with the labour-force survey) are the principal sources of internal migration data. Estimates of interstate migration are also made from address changes notified to the Department of Social Security. For reasons of timing, methodology, coverage (the surveys for example exclude children under 15) and other constraints, these three data series are not comparable.

#### Internal migration surveys

Internal migration surveys have been conducted at approximately annual intervals since 1970. The most recent was for the twelve months ended 30 June 1983. In these surveys, the place of usual residence of respondents is compared with that twelve months ago. If they differ, the respondent is classified as a mover. Estimates are made of the numbers and characteristics of movers and

non-movers. Movers are further classified by place of origin and place of destination. (Because the estimates are based on information from occupants of a small sample of dwellings, the imprecision due to sampling variability should be kept in mind. Standard errors of estimates are published in the detailed bulletins providing the survey results).

Recent internal migration surveys show that about 16 per cent of all persons aged 15 and over change their residence within a twelve-month period. Of those who change their residence, about 53 per cent remain within the same capital city and together with another 37 per cent, within the same State or Territory; slightly over 10 per cent are interstate movements.

While the pattern of migration has varied over the years, the age and sex composition of those who changed residence has been rather consistent: the masculinity ratio remains around 50 to 51 per cent and movers show a concentration in the ages 20 to 34 (59 per cent of all movers in the twelve-month period ended 30 June 1983).

**INTERNAL MIGRATION(a)**  
(Persons aged 15 years and over)

	Year ended—			
	30 June 1980	31 May 1981	30 June 1982 (b)	30 June 1983 (b)
	('000)			
Changed usual residence—				
Intrastate—				
Within State capital cities (c)	885.4	924.6	857.2	929.1
To and from State capital cities (c)	177.7	170.0	173.9	155.5
Within Territories and rest of States	508.4	520.0	512.1	484.3
Total, intrastate	1,571.5	1,614.6	1,543.2	1,568.9
Interstate	185.6	193.8	208.3	172.5
Total	1,757.0	1,808.5	1,751.5	1,741.5
Did not change usual residence	8,783.6	8,931.0	9,188.7	9,441.7
Total	10,540.6	10,739.5	10,940.2	11,183.2
	<i>Movers per thousand of population</i>			
<i>Mobility rate</i>	167	168	160	156

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians aged 15 years and over at the time of the survey who were resident in Australia at the beginning and end of the survey year. (b) Excludes persons resident in Australia but with no usual residence at the beginning and/or end of the survey year. (c) State capital cities exclude Canberra and Darwin prior to 1983.

As well as enumerating persons who changed usual residence the 1983 internal migration survey collected data on the reasons for moving and other aspects of population mobility.

*Reasons for moving.* The predominant reason for moving, particularly for intrastate movers, was housing. Of all intrastate movers 56 per cent gave housing as the main reason. The next most quoted reason—employment—accounted for only 15 per cent of intrastate moves. On the other hand employment emerged as the main reason for interstate moves. It accounted for 58 per cent of interstate moves, whilst housing only accounted for 6 per cent.

*Persons away from their usual residence*

Approximately 4.2 per cent of the population were away from their place of usual residence on 30 June 1983—2.7 per cent were elsewhere within the same State, and 1.5 per cent in another State or overseas. The reasons given for stays within the same State were equally divided between 'work', 'visiting relatives or friends', 'holiday' or 'other reasons'. The reasons for out-of-State stays were predominantly 'holiday', which accounted for 45 per cent of stays; this was followed by 'visiting relatives or friends' (31 per cent) and 'work' (16 per cent).

Not including absences from usual residence on 30 June 1983, 521,600 persons reported at least one stay of 6 weeks or more away from their usual residence during the year ended 30 June 1983. Reasons given were fairly evenly divided between 'visiting relatives or friends', 'work', 'holiday' and 'other reasons'. 'Work'-related stays tended to be of longer duration (approximately 13 weeks on average). 56 per cent of stays were within the State of usual residence, 18 per cent were in another State and 26 per cent were overseas. Of those in the same State the main reason given was 'work' whilst those out of State were usually 'visits to relatives or friends' or 'holidays'.

**PERSONS AWAY FROM USUAL RESIDENCE AT 30 JUNE 1983 (a)**  
(Persons aged 15 years and over)

Reason for absence	Persons ('000)		Average duration of stay (weeks)	
	Staying intra-State	Staying inter-State	Staying intra-State	Staying inter-State
Work . . . . .	78.9	20.5	3.3	3.1
Visiting relatives or friends . . . . .	97.1	40.3	1.6	3.3
Holiday . . . . .	61.7	58.5	1.7	3.2
Other . . . . .	69.0	10.2	3.9	7.2
Total . . . . .	306.8	129.5	2.5	3.5

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians with usual residence in Australia at 30 June 1982 and 30 June 1983 who were staying away from usual residence at 30 June 1983. Excludes 40,800 persons staying overseas and persons whose duration of stay away from usual residence was not known.

**Duration at current usual residence.** People in Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, reported the shortest average duration at usual residence of 30 June 1983. Those who had lived at their place of usual residence for less than 1 year numbered 19 per cent of the population in Queensland, 19 per cent in Western Australia, 26 per cent in the Northern Territory and 20 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory. This reflects the higher than average population growth rates of these States and Territories due to gains from interstate migration. The other States all fell within the range 13-15 per cent.

**DURATION OF STAY AT USUAL RESIDENCE OF 30 JUNE 1983**  
(Persons aged 15 years and over) (a)  
(‘000)

Duration of stay at usual residence of 30 June 1983	State of usual residence at 30 June 1983—								
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1-12 weeks (b) . . . . .	160.3	103.9	93.0	36.8	48.4	13.7	6.9	10.8	473.9
13-25 weeks (b) . . . . .	135.3	101.8	85.7	32.0	49.3	11.5	5.8	10.3	431.7
26-38 weeks (b) . . . . .	176.4	126.6	103.1	35.3	49.8	11.4	5.4	6.7	514.7
39-51 weeks (b) . . . . .	108.2	80.1	54.2	26.6	34.6	8.7	4.1	4.9	321.4
Total less than 1 year (b) . . . . .	580.3	412.4	336.1	130.7	182.1	45.3	22.1	32.7	1,741.7
1-4 years . . . . .	1,121.2	776.6	562.5	255.5	288.8	80.4	38.2	42.1	3,165.1
5-9 years . . . . .	667.9	580.9	269.5	186.4	189.2	59.6	15.1	34.3	2,002.8
10-14 years . . . . .	505.1	380.4	190.0	132.0	111.2	39.9	7.0	25.3	1,390.9
15-19 years . . . . .	400.4	309.2	132.9	109.4	75.8	33.8	1.7	13.9	1,077.2
20-24 years . . . . .	246.6	192.2	87.4	68.3	45.6	23.5	*	6.7	670.9
25 years or more . . . . .	424.7	312.7	167.5	119.5	68.3	35.8	1.1	5.3	1,134.9
Total (b) . . . . .	3,946.1	2,964.4	1,745.9	1,001.7	960.9	318.2	85.7	160.4	11,183.4

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians with usual residence in Australia at 30 June 1982 and 30 June 1983. with a usual residence at 30 June 1983 but with no usual residence in Australia at 30 June 1982.

(b) Excludes 135,500 persons

Asterisk (\*) denotes figure subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

### Interstate migration

The most reliable data on internal and interstate migration are provided by the five-yearly censuses. The 1971 Census was the first census which set out to measure internal migration by asking respondents where they usually lived and where they had lived five years before. An analysis of the data is given in the Census Monograph *Internal Migration in Australia*. In the 1976 and 1981 Censuses, respondents were asked where they had lived one year, as well as five years, before. A summary of the 1976 results is given in Year Book No. 65 and the 1981 results in Year Book No. 67. A comparison of data from the 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses is presented in *Interstate Migration, Australia, Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1981* (3411.0).

### VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e. births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these occurrences is available for each year since the 1860s and more detailed information since the 1910s. The number of divorces has been published since 1891, but other details have been published on a consistent basis only since the 1950s.

**Crude rates** are the number of vital events per thousand of the mean population of a particular year. **Natural increase** is the excess of births over deaths. In 1983, births numbered 242,570, deaths 110,084 and the natural increase was 132,486. The rate of natural increase for 1983 was 8.6 per thousand of the mean resident population made up of crude birth rate 15.8 and crude death rate 7.2. The 1983 figures for deaths and natural increase are preliminary.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE

Period	Number			Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population		
	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
Annual averages—						
1961-65	232,952	95,465	137,487	21.3	8.7	12.6
1966-70	240,325	107,263	133,062	20.0	8.9	11.1
1971-75	253,438	111,217	142,221	18.8	8.3	10.6
1976-80	225,388	109,028	116,360	15.7	7.6	8.1
Annual totals—						
1978	224,181	108,425	115,756	15.6	7.5	8.1
1979	223,129	106,568	116,561	15.4	7.3	8.0
1980	225,527	108,695	116,832	15.3	7.4	8.0
1981	235,842	109,003	126,839	15.8	7.3	8.5
1982	239,903	114,771	125,132	15.8	7.6	8.2
1983	242,570	p110,084	p132,486	15.8	p7.2	p8.6

There were 114,860 marriages registered in 1983 and the crude marriage rate fell to 7.5. Divorces numbered 43,525 and the crude divorce rate fell to 2.8.

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Period	Number		Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population	
	Marriages	Divorces	Marriage	Divorce
Annual averages—				
1961-65	83,250	7,568	7.6	0.7
1966-70	106,188	10,681	8.8	0.9
1971-75	111,803	17,348	8.3	1.3
1976-80	106,297	45,220	7.4	3.2
Annual totals—				
1978	102,958	40,608	7.2	2.8
1979	104,396	37,854	7.2	2.6
1980	109,240	39,258	7.4	2.7
1981	113,905	41,412	7.6	2.8
1982	117,275	44,088	7.7	2.9
1983	114,860	43,525	7.5	2.9

## Births and fertility

Special interest attaches to fertility as an element of population change. Fertility has had considerable impact on the population structure. In 1971, there was a record 276,362 births registered but the number of births declined progressively in each year until 1980, when a slight reversal of the trend occurred. This continued in 1983 when 242,570 births were registered, representing a 1.1 per cent increase from 1982, which followed a 1.7 per cent increase over 1981 and a 4.6 per cent increase of 1981 births over 1980.

## Live births

Extensive statistics of live births are available since the 1910s. These include information about sex of children, the incidence of multiple births, marital status of the parents, the number of previous issue to the mother's existing marriage, the duration of marriage, the age of parents and their country of birth.

With rare exceptions, statistics indicate an excess of male over female births. In 1983, there were 124,558 male births and 118,012 female births, a masculinity ratio of 105.5.

The proportion of children born to parents not married to each other at the time of birth has been increasing. In 1961-65, 5.9 per cent of births were ex-nuptial. There were 35,646 ex-nuptial births registered in 1983, 14.7 per cent of the total.

## LIVE BIRTHS: SEX AND NUPTIALITY

Period	Live births				Ex-nuptial live births		
	Males	Females	Persons	Masculinity ratio	Persons	Masculinity ratio	Percentage of total
Annual averages—							
1961-65	119,777	113,175	232,952	105.8	13,798	106.9	5.9
1966-70	123,326	116,999	240,325	105.4	18,937	105.1	7.9
1971-75	130,047	123,389	253,436	105.4	24,516	106.7	9.7
1976-80	115,783	109,605	225,388	105.6	25,062	106.3	11.1
Annual totals—							
1978	114,964	109,217	224,181	105.3	24,744	106.7	11.0
1979	114,613	108,516	223,129	105.6	26,110	103.9	11.7
1980	115,948	109,579	225,527	105.8	28,076	106.8	12.4
1981	121,170	114,672	235,842	105.7	31,200	107.5	13.2
1982	123,254	116,649	239,903	105.7	32,958	105.9	13.7
1983	124,558	118,012	242,570	105.5	35,646	106.2	14.7

About 1 per cent of confinements result in twin births and about one in 10,000 in triplets. Quadruplets occur about once in 250,000 confinements. The likelihood of multiple confinement is about 0.9 per cent for the first nuptial confinement, rising to about 1 per cent at the second confinement and to as much as 1.5 per cent at the fourth and subsequent confinements. The incidence of multiple births also rises with age of mother.

Since the 1950s, there has been a decline in the proportion, and since 1971 in the number, of women having three or more children to their marriage. During the 1950s and early 1960s the median age of mother at first nuptial birth declined, but in recent years it has risen. In 1983, median age at first birth was 25.7 years.

## NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: BIRTH ORDER

Period	Birth order							Total nuptial (a)	Total ex-nuptial	Total confinements
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 and over			

## NUMBER OF CONFINEMENTS

Annual averages—										
1961-65	69,281	57,971	40,818	23,612	12,125	6,160	6,862	216,829	13,655	230,483
1966-70	80,999	62,930	37,446	18,899	8,961	4,489	5,213	218,937	18,707	237,644
1971-75	88,120	74,641	36,914	15,216	6,006	2,805	2,959	226,674	24,299	250,973
1976-80	77,877	69,291	34,288	11,119	3,332	1,278	1,173	198,373	24,851	223,224
Annual totals—										
1978	76,999	68,759	34,783	11,248	3,307	1,224	1,134	197,461	24,538	221,999
1979	77,032	67,250	34,387	11,100	3,124	1,140	1,050	195,084	25,884	220,968
1980	78,680	66,247	34,167	11,084	3,207	1,179	884	195,492	27,826	223,318
1981	82,476	67,627	35,445	11,750	3,282	1,113	880	202,579	30,956	233,535
1982	83,300	69,963	34,670	11,631	3,193	1,162	854	204,775	32,679	237,454
1983	83,466	70,427	34,081	11,343	3,108	1,059	819	204,779	35,335	240,114

## MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER

Annual averages—										
1961-65	23.1	25.7	28.3	30.6	32.5	33.9	35.0	26.5	22.5	26.4
1966-70	23.1	25.6	28.2	30.5	32.5	34.1	35.4	25.9	21.4	25.7
1971-75	23.6	26.0	28.2	30.6	32.5	34.1	36.8	25.9	21.1	25.6
1976-80	24.8	26.6	28.8	30.6	32.5	34.2	37.3	26.6	21.6	26.3
Annual totals—										
1978	24.9	26.6	28.7	30.5	32.5	34.0	38.0	26.7	21.6	26.3
1979	25.1	26.8	28.9	30.7	32.4	34.2	36.8	26.9	21.6	26.5
1980	25.2	27.0	29.1	30.9	32.7	34.1	37.2	27.0	21.9	26.6
1981	25.3	27.2	29.2	30.9	32.6	34.4	36.9	27.1	22.1	26.7
1982	25.5	27.4	29.4	31.1	32.9	34.5	36.8	27.3	22.2	26.8
1983	25.7	27.5	29.4	32.1	32.8	34.3	36.6	27.4	22.5	26.9

(a) Includes those for whom birth order was not stated.



### Fertility

The *general fertility rate*, which is the number of births to women of any age per thousand females aged 15-44, is the simplest measure of fertility. The rates have been calculated for the three years' births around each census from 1881 and provide a consistent series for nuptial and ex-nuptial fertility as well as for total fertility.

The rates show a substantial decline in fertility over the total period with a low point in 1932-34 and a minor recovery, peaking in 1960-62. By 1980-82, however, the rates had again declined, this time to the lowest level recorded during the past 100 years. The 1980-82 general rate of 69 births per thousand females aged 15-44 was only 41 per cent of the rate in 1880-82.

#### FERTILITY RATES: AUSTRALIA

Period	Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women aged 15-44 years	Index numbers (base year 1900-02=100)		
				Births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1,000 single, widowed or divorced women
1880-82	170	321	14	145	137	108
1890-92	159	332	16	136	141	123
1900-02	117	235	13	100	100	100
1910-12	117	236	13	100	100	100
1920-22	107	197	11	91	84	85
1932-34	71	131	7	61	56	54
1946-48	104	160	11	89	68	85
1953-55	109	149	14	93	63	108
1960-62	112	154	18	96	66	138
1965-67	95	132	21	81	56	162
1970-72(a)	97	131	28	83	56	215
1975-77(a)	76	104	22	65	44	169
1980-82(a)	69	99	23	59	42	177

(a) Rates expressed per 1,000 estimated resident women aged 15-44 years.

*Age specific birth rates* provide a measure of changing patterns of fertility within the fertile ages. The sum of these rates is the *total fertility rate*. The total fertility rate represents the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

The total fertility rate was declining until 1980 but rose again in 1981 and has remained stable in 1982 and 1983.

The continuing downward trend in the fertility of females aged 15-24 is currently being offset by increases for those aged 25-34.

#### AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility (b)
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1961-65	46.5	204.0	207.1	122.4	59.2	17.5	1.2	3.289
1966-70	49.4	172.6	187.6	103.0	46.8	12.9	1.0	2.866
1971-75	48.0	154.0	166.9	85.0	33.7	8.5	0.6	2.484
1976-80	30.7	116.4	143.8	73.8	23.7	4.8	0.3	1.968
1977	32.1	122.0	145.7	74.1	23.9	5.0	0.3	2.016
1978	29.9	115.8	144.0	73.4	23.5	4.5	0.2	1.957
1979	28.5	109.1	142.5	73.9	23.6	4.6	0.3	1.913
1980	27.6	107.0	141.0	75.1	23.7	4.4	0.3	1.895
1981	28.2	107.4	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.938
1982	27.4	103.9	145.0	80.6	25.6	4.5	0.3	1.937
1983	26.6	102.8	146.4	81.6	25.0	4.4	0.2	1.935

(a) Number of births per 1,000 women in each age group. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines before 1966. Rates from 1971 have been revised using estimated resident population introduced after the 1981 Census. (b) The sum of the age specific rates multiplied by 5 and divided by 1,000. This is the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

The *gross reproduction rate* is derived from total fertility and the ratio of female to total births. It indicates the number of female children who would be born on average to women supposing the rates from which it was calculated were to apply throughout the reproductive period. It is an indication of the extent to which the population is reproducing itself except that it does not allow for females who fail to survive to the end of the childbearing period. The *net reproduction rate* allows for such mortality. It is obtained by multiplying the age-specific rates by the survivor proportions in the corresponding age group of the stationary or life table population. Mortality in childhood and young adulthood is now so low that there is little difference between current gross and net reproduction rates.

#### GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES

Period	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate	Life tables used
1961 (a)	1.728	1.672	1960-62
1966	1.401	1.357	1965-67
1971	1.403	1.362	1971
1976	1.004	0.981	1976
1980	0.921	0.903	1980
1981	0.942	0.925	1981
1982	0.942	0.924	1982
1983	0.940	0.923	1983

(a) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aborigines.

### Mortality

The number of deaths per year is in excess of 100,000. The increase from previous decades arises from the overall growth of the population, and from the advanced age of an increasing proportion of the population. The crude death rate, which fell from over 12 per 1,000 at the beginning of the century to 7.6 per 1,000 in 1982, can be expected to rise slowly as a result of further ageing of the population, unless there is a more than off-setting drop in age specific death rates.

#### General mortality

Between 1953-55 and 1960-62 mortality declined in every age-group. Between 1960-62 and 1970-72 there were further declines in most age groups, particularly among infants. However, increases in mortality were recorded for males aged 15-24 years. Since 1970-72, there have been further decreases in mortality at most ages.

Mortality is greater for males than for females at every age. It is relatively high in the first year of life (10.5 per 1,000 males and 8.8 per 1,000 females in 1983), very low in childhood and young adulthood, and then rises in middle and old age.

#### AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES(a)

Age group (years)	1956-60 (b)	1961-65 (b)	1966-70 (b)	1971-75 (b)	1976-80 (b)	1980	1981	1982	1983
MALES									
Under 1	24.0	22.0	21.0	18.4	13.6	12.1	11.5	11.8	10.5
1-4	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
5-9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
10-14	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
15-19	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1
20-24	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5
25-29	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
30-34	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
35-39	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4
40-44	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3
45-49	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.5	3.9
50-54	10.0	10.3	10.4	9.6	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.5	7.2
55-59	16.9	16.8	17.2	15.9	13.8	13.0	13.0	12.7	12.3
60-64	26.6	27.4	27.8	25.5	22.2	20.9	19.8	20.0	19.0
65-69	42.0	42.2	44.3	39.3	35.3	33.5	32.3	33.1	30.6
70-74	63.5	64.7	67.0	61.2	54.2	52.1	52.0	52.0	47.9
75-79	97.5	97.2	102.7	95.3	84.7	82.0	79.8	82.8	77.3
80-84	145.0	145.0	149.2	141.2	127.9	122.6	120.2	124.8	116.8
85 and over	251.2	243.7	245.9	231.7	210.7	203.3	206.8	217.1	204.5

AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES<sup>(a)</sup>

Age group (years)	1956-60 (b)	1961-65 (b)	1966-70 (b)	1971-75 (b)	1976-80 (b)	1980	1981	1982	1983
FEMALES									
Under 1	19.1	17.2	16.0	14.0	10.7	9.6	8.8	9.2	8.8
1-4	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
5-9	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
10-14	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15-19	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
20-24	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
25-29	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
30-34	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
35-39	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
40-44	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3
45-49	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.5	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.3
50-54	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.2	4.5	4.1	3.8	4.2	4.0
55-59	8.7	8.3	8.7	8.0	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.1
60-64	13.8	13.6	13.6	12.2	10.8	9.8	9.7	10.1	9.6
65-69	23.0	21.7	22.1	19.4	16.9	15.9	15.7	16.0	15.0
70-74	38.8	37.4	37.3	33.1	27.9	26.3	25.5	25.7	25.2
75-79	63.9	63.3	63.6	57.3	48.4	45.6	44.3	45.3	42.6
80-84	113.5	107.5	105.9	97.4	84.0	79.8	75.9	79.7	74.3
85 and over	215.6	205.1	201.0	187.9	168.4	163.7	160.9	171.2	156.0

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population of the same age group and sex.

(b) Average annual rate per 1,000 of population.

## AGE AT DEATH, 1982

Age at death (years)	Number			Per cent		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Under 1	1,425	1,057	2,482	2.3	2.1	2.2
1-4	313	226	539	0.5	0.4	0.5
5-9	223	108	331	0.4	0.2	0.3
10-14	263	121	384	0.4	0.2	0.3
15-19	827	263	1,090	1.3	0.5	0.9
20-24	1,084	306	1,390	1.7	0.6	1.2
25-29	893	330	1,223	1.4	0.6	1.1
30-34	812	327	1,139	1.3	0.6	1.0
35-39	859	439	1,298	1.4	0.9	1.1
40-44	1,090	629	1,719	1.7	1.2	1.5
45-49	1,728	910	2,638	2.7	1.8	2.3
50-54	2,954	1,583	4,537	4.7	3.1	4.0
55-59	4,742	2,320	7,062	7.5	4.5	6.2
60-64	6,069	3,340	9,409	9.6	6.5	8.2
65-69	8,338	4,646	12,984	13.2	9.0	11.3
70-74	9,531	6,038	15,569	15.1	11.7	13.6
75-79	9,162	7,265	16,427	14.5	14.1	14.3
80-84	6,823	8,325	15,148	10.8	16.2	13.2
85-89	3,891	7,359	11,250	6.1	14.3	9.8
90-94	1,804	4,397	6,201	2.8	8.5	5.4
95-99	415	1,291	1,706	0.7	2.5	1.5
100 and over	35	196	231	0.1	0.4	0.2
Not stated	14	—	14	—	—	—
Total	63,295	51,476	114,771	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Life expectancy

The life table is a life history of a hypothetical group, or cohort, of people, as it is diminished gradually by deaths. They form the basis for the *stationary population* which is the population that would result from a constant number of births each year which had been subject at each age to the life table mortality rates.

Since 1921, official life tables have been calculated from the separate male and female populations as enumerated at the census, and the deaths of the three years around the census. Earlier life tables were compiled for decennial periods 1881-90, 1891-1900 and 1901-10. Life tables have also been prepared in recent years using annual age estimates and the deaths of a particular year.

A key value in life tables is the expectation of life remaining at each age. Expectation of life, particularly at birth, improved at every age in the first half of this century. Between 1953-55 and 1970-72 there was little change in expectation of life. However, since 1970-72 there have been significant improvements, particularly in expectation of life at birth which has increased between 1970-72 and 1983 from 68.1 years to 72.1 for males and from 74.8 years to 78.7 for females.

#### COMPLETE EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT SELECTED AGES

Period	Expectation of life (a) at									
	Birth		1 year of age		20 years of age		40 years of age		60 years of age	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1901-10 (b)(c)	55.2	58.8	60.0	62.9	44.7	47.5	28.6	31.5	14.4	16.2
1920-22 (b)(c)	59.2	63.3	62.7	66.0	47.0	50.0	30.1	33.1	15.1	17.2
1932-34 (b)(c)	63.5	67.1	65.5	68.7	48.8	51.7	31.1	34.0	15.6	17.7
1946-48 (b)(c)	66.1	70.6	67.3	71.5	49.6	53.5	31.2	34.9	15.4	18.1
1953-55 (b)(c)	67.1	72.8	67.9	73.5	50.1	55.1	31.7	36.0	15.5	18.8
1960-62 (b)(c)	67.9	74.2	68.5	74.5	50.4	56.2	31.8	37.0	15.6	19.5
1965-67 (c)	67.6	74.2	68.1	74.4	50.0	56.0	31.4	36.9	15.3	19.5
1970-72 (c)	68.1	74.8	68.5	74.9	50.4	56.5	31.8	37.3	15.5	19.9
1975-77 (c)	69.6	76.6	69.6	76.5	51.5	58.0	32.8	38.7	16.4	21.0
1978 (d)	70.3	77.3	70.3	77.2	52.1	58.6	33.4	39.3	16.8	21.5
1979 (d)	70.9	77.9	70.8	77.7	52.5	59.1	33.8	39.8	17.1	21.9
1980 (d)	71.0	78.1	70.8	77.8	52.6	59.3	33.9	39.9	17.1	21.9
1981 (d)	71.4	78.4	71.2	78.1	52.9	59.5	34.1	40.1	17.3	22.1
1982 (d)	71.2	78.2	71.1	77.9	52.8	59.3	34.1	39.9	17.1	21.9
1983 (d)	72.1	78.7	71.9	78.4	53.5	59.8	34.7	40.4	17.7	22.3

(a) The average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime. (b) Excludes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1965-67. (c) Based on Official Life Tables calculated by the Australian Government Actuary. (d) Based on annual life tables calculated by the Australian Statistician. These tables are based on estimated resident populations.

### Marriages

Marriages in Australia are solemnised under Federal legislation, namely the *Marriage Act* 1961 as amended. The original Act, which superseded State Acts, came into part operation on 6 May 1961. The first regulations and major provisions under the Act commenced on 1 September 1963.

Under the Act, marriages may be celebrated by Ministers of Religion registered as Authorised Celebrants, Registrars or other persons whose function is the registration of marriages, and other authorised civil and religious celebrants.

One month's written notice of intended marriage must be given to the Celebrant, though this may be shortened in special circumstances. Celebrants issue marriage certificates to the parties and transmit copies of the certificates to Registrars in the States or Territories in which the marriages took place.

The marriageable age under the Act is 18 for males and 16 for females. After inquiry, a Judge or Magistrate may authorise, in exceptional and unusual circumstances, the marriage of a person below marriageable age, but not below 16 for males and 14 for females.

Minors require, generally speaking, parental consent. A prescribed authority, usually a Registrar, may dispense with consent where such consent can be presumed and it would be unreasonable to require it. If parental consent is refused unreasonably, a Magistrate may give consent in lieu of the parent or guardian. Such a Magistrate's decision is subject to appeal. The age of majority was reduced in 1973 from 21 to 18. Because the marriageable age for males is also 18, the only persons of marriageable age requiring parental consent are now females between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Act makes provision, on a uniform basis, in respect of prohibited relations, other grounds for void marriages, legitimation, marriages overseas, and pre-marital education.

In 1983, 76.2 per cent of grooms and 77.5 per cent of brides were marrying for the first time; approximately 2.6 per cent were widowers and 3.0 per cent widows; and 21.2 per cent of grooms and 19.5 per cent of brides had been divorced. The proportion of marriages involving divorced persons increased sharply in 1976 and slightly thereafter. This is associated with the larger numbers of divorces granted since the introduction of the *Family Law Act* 1975.

Median age at first marriage declined during the 1950s and 1960s but has risen slightly in recent years. In 1983 it was 24.9 years for males and 22.7 for females. In 1983, 2.2 per cent of grooms and 12.3 per cent of brides married under the age of 20.

## MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE

Period	Grooms				Brides			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total bride-grooms	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total brides
NUMBER								
Annual averages—								
1961-65 . . . . .	75,384	3,063	4,803	83,250	74,962	3,218	5,070	83,250
1966-70 . . . . .	96,438	3,320	6,430	106,188	96,341	3,568	6,279	106,188
1971-75 . . . . .	99,203	3,473	9,126	111,802	99,287	3,810	8,705	111,802
1976-80 . . . . .	82,344	3,394	20,559	106,297	82,987	4,022	19,288	106,297
Annual totals—								
1978 . . . . .	79,581	3,279	20,098	102,958	80,142	3,818	18,998	102,958
1979 . . . . .	80,226	3,266	20,904	104,396	80,893	3,996	19,507	104,396
1980 . . . . .	83,950	3,264	22,026	109,240	84,770	3,920	20,550	109,240
1981 . . . . .	87,460	3,152	23,293	113,905	88,308	3,727	21,870	113,905
1982 . . . . .	89,858	2,988	24,429	117,275	90,844	3,579	22,852	117,275
1983 . . . . .	87,568	2,959	24,333	114,860	89,029	3,457	22,374	114,860

## MEDIAN AGES

Annual averages—								
1961-65 . . . . .	24.2	56.6	40.4	24.7	21.3	49.2	36.6	21.7
1966-70 . . . . .	23.5	56.7	39.8	23.9	21.2	50.1	36.1	21.5
1971-75 . . . . .	23.3	57.8	37.3	23.9	21.0	51.1	33.0	21.4
1976-80 . . . . .	23.9	58.4	36.1	25.4	21.6	51.6	32.5	22.7
Annual totals—								
1978 . . . . .	23.9	58.5	35.9	25.4	21.6	51.8	32.4	22.7
1979 . . . . .	24.1	58.6	36.1	25.6	21.7	52.3	32.6	22.9
1980 . . . . .	24.2	58.6	35.8	25.7	21.9	52.0	32.8	23.0
1981 . . . . .	24.4	59.1	36.0	25.9	22.1	52.1	32.9	23.3
1982 . . . . .	24.6	59.4	36.1	26.1	22.4	51.5	33.1	23.6
1983 . . . . .	24.9	59.7	35.3	25.3	22.7	52.3	33.4	23.9

## AGE AT MARRIAGE

	Age								
Period	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Total
GROOM									
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . . . .	5,278	38,845	20,344	7,495	3,799	2,154	1,498	3,837	83,250
1966-70 . . . . .	7,917	55,824	23,398	7,008	3,544	2,473	1,763	4,258	106,185
1971-75 . . . . .	8,427	59,058	24,374	7,408	3,425	2,376	1,970	4,765	111,802
1976-80 . . . . .	4,830	45,796	26,139	11,245	5,500	3,512	2,822	6,452	106,297
Annual totals—									
1978 . . . . .	4,592	44,011	25,337	11,229	5,451	3,447	2,691	6,200	102,958
1979 . . . . .	4,069	43,778	26,537	11,687	5,706	3,576	2,710	6,333	104,396
1980 . . . . .	3,943	45,519	28,256	12,785	5,928	3,690	2,737	6,382	109,240
1981 . . . . .	3,619	46,114	30,522	13,674	6,800	3,958	2,686	6,532	113,905
1982 . . . . .	3,288	45,811	32,336	14,751	7,605	4,347	2,823	6,314	117,275
1983 . . . . .	2,575	42,956	32,719	15,115	7,954	4,390	2,837	6,314	114,860

## AGE AT MARRIAGE

Period	Age								Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	
BRIDE									
Annual averages—									
1961-65	23,454	39,370	8,760	3,553	2,416	1,715	1,367	2,616	83,250
1966-70	30,475	53,356	10,334	3,521	2,143	1,764	1,545	3,047	106,185
1971-75	34,319	51,846	12,363	4,280	2,279	1,733	1,621	3,362	111,802
1976-80	23,006	45,938	16,560	7,700	4,092	2,669	2,124	4,208	106,297
Annual totals—									
1978	22,290	44,094	16,114	7,810	4,026	2,525	2,121	3,978	102,958
1979	20,382	46,029	16,974	7,873	4,225	2,803	1,950	4,160	104,396
1980	19,466	49,467	18,267	8,591	4,370	2,858	1,965	4,256	109,240
1981	18,769	51,769	20,039	9,354	4,871	3,053	1,992	4,058	113,905
1982	17,045	53,267	22,292	10,031	5,510	3,150	2,117	3,863	117,275
1983	14,119	52,631	23,066	10,310	5,596	3,209	2,118	3,811	114,860

Marriage rates of the marriageable population provide a measure of changing marriage patterns. Marriage rates have been calculated for the three years around the census per thousand single, widowed and divorced males, females and persons aged 15 years and over.

The rates for 1980-82 were 57.3 for males, 54.0 for females, and 55.6 for persons.

The proportion of all marriages celebrated by civil officers rose to 39.4 per cent of all marriages registered in 1983.

## Divorce

The *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-66* provided for dissolution of marriage on one or more of 14 grounds. It also provided for nullity of marriage and for judicial separation. This Act, which came into operation in 1961, replaced separate State and Territory legislation. The *Family Law Act 1975*, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce—irretrievable breakdown of marriage—and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

Statistics prior to 1976 in the following tables relate to divorces granted under the Matrimonial Causes Act or under previous State or Territory legislation.

When comparing the number and rate of decrees granted from year to year it should be borne in mind that the availability of judges to hear petitions lodged can affect the number of decrees granted. A rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier year. In addition, changes to legislation, rules or practices may also affect the number of divorce applications.

Following a sharp rise in the number of divorces in 1976, the first year of Family Law legislation, the number dropped by 29 per cent to 45,150 in 1977. However, this number was still 86 per cent higher than the number granted in 1975 under Matrimonial Causes legislation.

## DIVORCES

Period	Petitions filed	Petitions granted
Annual averages—		
1961-65	9,955	7,542
1966-70	13,089	10,681
1971-75	22,704	17,348
1976-80	45,503	45,220
Annual totals—		
1978	40,918	40,608
1979	37,393	37,854
1980	41,482	39,258
1981	43,520	41,412
1982	43,055	44,088
1983	42,569	43,525

**PLATE 15****Duration of marriage, age at marriage and age at divorce**

The median duration of marriages dissolved in 1983 was 10.5 years. Of the 43,525 marriages which were dissolved, 47.6 per cent had lasted less than ten years, 33.5 per cent between ten and twenty years and 18.9 per cent twenty years or more.

**DIVORCE, YEARS MARRIED**

	Years married						Total	Median duration of marriage
Period	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 and over		
Annual averages—								
1961-65 . . . . .	501	1,999	1,747	1,329	926	1,040	7,542	13.6
1966-70 . . . . .	903	2,937	2,146	1,685	1,429	1,581	10,681	13.4
1971-75 . . . . .	1,693	5,478	3,432	2,398	1,930	2,417	17,349	11.9
1976-80 . . . . .	8,234	13,112	8,359	5,556	4,265	5,694	45,220	10.6
Annual totals—								
1978 . . . . .	7,839	11,599	7,504	4,941	3,755	4,970	40,608	10.5
1979 . . . . .	7,621	10,754	6,929	4,646	3,502	4,402	37,854	10.3
1980 . . . . .	8,115	11,138	7,558	4,644	3,496	4,306	39,258	10.2
1981 . . . . .	8,606	11,800	8,118	4,941	3,550	4,397	41,412	10.2
1982 . . . . .	8,952	12,323	8,792	5,744	3,819	4,456	44,088	10.4
1983 . . . . .	9,046	11,685	8,836	5,756	3,737	4,461	43,525	10.5

In 1983, the median age at marriage of divorcing husbands was 23.7 years and of wives 21.1 years. Of husbands, 9.3 per cent had been aged under 20 at marriage and 52.0 per cent aged 20-24; of wives 35.0 per cent had been aged under 20 and 43.9 per cent between 20-24.

## DIVORCE, MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE

Period	Median age at marriage of—	
	Husband	Wife
Annual averages—		
1966-70 . . . . .	24.2	21.7
1971-75 . . . . .	23.5	20.9
1976-80 . . . . .	23.4	20.8
Annual—		
1978 . . . . .	23.3	20.8
1979 . . . . .	23.4	20.8
1980 . . . . .	23.4	20.9
1981 . . . . .	23.5	20.9
1982 . . . . .	23.6	21.0
1983 . . . . .	23.7	21.1

At time of divorce, the median age of husbands was 36.3 years and of wives 33.7 years. A total of 22.2 per cent of husbands and 34.3 per cent of wives were aged under 30 years when the marriage was dissolved.

## Children of the marriage

## DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN

	Number of children of the marriage								Average
Period	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total dissolutions	Total children	number of children
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . . . .	2,834	1,950	1,611	753	279	143	7,568	9,347	1.2
1966-70 . . . . .	3,628	2,656	2,428	1,212	497	261	10,681	14,588	1.4
1971-75 . . . . .	5,628	4,062	4,200	2,147	874	438	17,349	24,840	1.4
1976-80 . . . . .	17,013	10,186	10,970	4,746	1,633	671	45,220	55,218	1.2
Annual totals—									
1978 . . . . .	14,965	9,127	10,047	4,336	1,530	603	40,608	51,599	1.3
1979 . . . . .	14,641	8,167	9,488	3,876	1,243	439	37,854	46,130	1.2
1980 . . . . .	15,471	8,412	9,890	3,900	1,173	412	39,258	46,836	1.2
1981 . . . . .	16,127	8,898	10,621	4,141	1,231	394	41,412	49,616	1.2
1982 . . . . .	16,931	9,501	11,544	4,556	1,179	377	44,088	53,010	1.2
1983 . . . . .	16,697	9,469	11,422	4,439	1,189	309	43,525	52,059	1.2

For the years in which the Matrimonial Causes Act was in force, children of the marriage were defined as living children under the age of 21 at the time of the petition. Under previous legislation there were differences between States. The Family Law Act defines them as children of the marriage if they were under the age of 18 at the time of application. In 1983, of the dissolutions granted under the Family Law Act, no children were involved in 38.4 per cent of the dissolutions, while 21.8 per cent of the dissolutions involved 1 child, 26.2 per cent 2 children, and 13.6 per cent 3 or more children.

## INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from incoming and outgoing passenger cards which are collected from all travellers under the *Migration Act 1958*. Earlier statistics were obtained from passenger lists required under various Acts.

Since 1924, overseas travellers have been classified into two principal categories which distinguish movements for short terms from movements for longer periods (including permanent movements). Revised questions for travellers were introduced in 1958 and again in 1974. The 1958 revision enabled the separation, after 1959, of permanent from other long-term movements and also the identification of former settlers departing permanently. The 1974 revisions improved the classification without change of principle. The categories of overseas movement are:

*Permanent*—consists of persons arriving with the stated intention of settling permanently in Australia (settlers), and Australian residents (including former settlers) departing with the stated intention of residing permanently abroad. Before 1974, former settlers were not so classified unless they had spent at least 12 months in Australia.



**Long-term**—consists of overseas visitor arrivals and departures of Australian residents with the stated intention of staying in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more; and departures of visitors and return of residents who have stayed in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more. Until 1974, Australian residents returning were classified as long-term only if their time spent abroad included a period of 12 months in any one country. Their classification is now governed solely by their total absence from Australia.

**Short-term**—consists of overseas visitor arrivals and departures of Australian residents whose intended or actual period of stay in Australia or abroad respectively is less than twelve months.

The classification of overseas movements is based on statements made by the traveller on arrival in or departure from Australia. The statistics represent the travellers' intentions at the time of arrival or departure; travellers may subsequently change their intentions, and this must be borne in mind in interpreting the statistics.

An upsurge of international tourism, particularly by Australian residents, occurred in the 1970s. The volume of sea travel has changed little over the period (the figures exclude pleasure cruises in the south west Pacific beginning and ending in Australia), so that in 1983 less than one half of one per cent of arrivals and departures had travelled by ship. Net gain, i.e. the excess of total arrivals over total departures, until recently provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, distortions arising from seasonality of short-term arrivals and departures have become very large. For the purpose of estimating the population of Australia and the States and Territories, therefore, the migration component of population growth has been measured since 1 July 1971 by reference to permanent and long-term movements only.

## OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: AUSTRALIA 1961-1983

## ARRIVALS

Period	Permanent and long-term movement				Short-term movement(a)				
	Per- manent  Settlers arriving	Long-term  Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Overseas visitors				
					Australian residents	In transit	Other	Total	Total arrivals
Annual averages---									
1961-65 . . . . .	115,200	22,260	14,770	152,230	117,000	28,700	102,800	131,500	400,700
1966-70 . . . . .	160,810	36,150	24,480	221,440	259,700	41,500	255,800	297,300	778,400
1971-75 . . . . .	109,690	57,750	26,250	193,690	631,400	74,400	401,600	475,900	1,301,100
1976-80 . . . . .	73,820	59,140	28,730	161,700	1,062,100	62,500	622,200	684,700	1,908,500
Annual totals---									
1978 . . . . .	68,420	57,940	28,390	154,750	1,029,500	57,500	573,100	630,600	1,814,800
1979 . . . . .	72,240	61,440	33,450	167,130	1,144,300	68,300	725,000	793,300	2,104,800
1980 . . . . .	94,500	58,760	31,030	184,290	1,194,800	67,300	837,300	904,600	2,283,600
1981 . . . . .	118,740	59,400	34,550	212,690	1,181,400	62,800	874,000	936,700	2,330,800
1982 . . . . .	107,170	53,770	34,270	195,200	1,259,600	64,400	890,200	954,700	2,409,500
1983 . . . . .	78,390	47,810	27,380	153,570	1,219,600	62,300	881,600	943,900	2,317,100

## DEPARTURES

Period	Permanent and long-term movement						Short-term movement(a)		
	Permanent			Long-term		Total permanent and long-term departures	Australian residents	Overseas visitors	Total
	Former settlers departing	Other residents departing	Total permanent departures	Australian residents	Overseas visitors				
Annual averages—									
1961-65 . . . . .	9,700	6,800	16,500	37,910	12,720	67,120	118,600	135,000	320,700
1966-70 . . . . .	23,190	8,750	31,940	56,220	14,350	102,510	258,800	308,300	669,700
1971-75 . . . . .	26,620	12,030	38,650	66,430	22,980	128,070	647,600	479,000	1,254,700
1976-80 . . . . .	13,830	9,920	23,740	59,220	19,840	102,800	1,077,330	655,400	1,835,500
Annual totals—									
1978 . . . . .	14,030	10,930	24,960	58,520	19,640	103,120	1,062,200	597,100	1,762,500
1979 . . . . .	12,670	10,750	23,420	54,270	20,420	98,110	1,175,800	752,400	2,026,300
1980 . . . . .	11,450	9,390	20,840	50,710	19,310	90,860	1,203,600	874,100	2,168,600
1981 . . . . .	11,280	8,580	19,860	46,740	19,020	85,610	1,217,300	900,400	2,203,300
1982 . . . . .	13,350	9,140	22,490	46,890	22,960	92,340	1,286,900	921,500	2,300,700
1983 . . . . .	16,920	8,950	25,870	48,180	26,450	100,510	1,253,000	928,900	2,282,400

(a) Statistics of short-term movement since 1974 have been derived from a stratified sample of travellers and are subject to sampling error.

The total number of overseas arrivals and departures (excluding passengers on cruises which commence and complete their journeys in an Australian port) for the year 1983 was 4,599,500, 2 per cent less than for 1982.

New South Wales, with 54.3 per cent of clearances, remained the principal State of arrival and departure in 1983.

Short-term movements accounted for approximately 94 per cent of total movements in 1983.

Changes in the pattern and volume of short-term movements are shown in Chapter 26, under the heading 'Tourism'.

### Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is regulated by the *Migration Act 1958* which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the commencement of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited immigrant. Exempted persons include diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter with leave in Australian ports.

Immigration has contributed substantially to Australia's post-war population growth. In the post-war years, some 3.9 million migrants have arrived, of which it is estimated that more than 80 per cent settled.

Settler arrivals in 1983 totalled 78,390, a decrease of 27.0 per cent from the total for the previous year.

European born settlers continued to be the major source, contributing 43 per cent of the overall settler intake. This was primarily due to the large contribution from the U.K. and Ireland (25 per cent of the total). The number of Asian born settlers was 29,700 which constituted 38 per cent of settler arrivals. New Zealand born settlers constituted the third largest group, after Vietnam, with 5,320 settlers, 7 per cent of the total.

The number of assisted arrivals in 1983 was 12,130. From May 1981 the grant of assisted passage was restricted to refugees.

#### SETTLERS ARRIVING BY COUNTRY OF LAST RESIDENCE

	Number		Per cent	
	1973	1983	1973	1983
South Africa . . . . .	1,440	2,650	1.4	3.4
Other Africa . . . . .	2,630	1,860	2.5	2.4
<i>Total Africa</i> . . . . .	<i>4,070</i>	<i>4,510</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>
Canada . . . . .	1,930	1,220	1.8	1.6
U.S.A. . . . .	3,240	1,960	3.1	2.5
Other America . . . . .	4,660	1,600	4.4	2.0
<i>Total America</i> . . . . .	<i>9,830</i>	<i>4,780</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>6.1</i>
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka . . . . .	3,710	2,070	3.5	2.6
Indonesia . . . . .	80	2,620	0.1	3.3
Lebanon . . . . .	3,130	700	3.0	0.9
Malaysia and Singapore . . . . .	1,660	5,620	1.6	7.2
Philippines . . . . .	480	3,750	0.5	4.8
Thailand . . . . .	110	6,030	0.1	7.7
Turkey . . . . .	2,570	550	2.4	0.7
Other Asia . . . . .	3,250	6,640	3.1	8.5
<i>Total Asia</i> . . . . .	<i>14,990</i>	<i>27,980</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>35.7</i>
U.K. and Ireland . . . . .	46,100	19,580	43.9	25.0
Austria . . . . .	1,550	1,380	1.5	1.8
Germany . . . . .	2,160	3,840	2.1	4.9
Greece . . . . .	3,220	630	3.1	0.8
Italy . . . . .	2,890	610	2.8	0.8
Yugoslavia . . . . .	4,550	1,470	4.3	1.9
Other Europe . . . . .	9,170	5,990	8.7	7.6
<i>Total Europe</i> . . . . .	<i>69,640</i>	<i>33,500</i>	<i>66.3</i>	<i>42.7</i>
New Zealand . . . . .	4,700	6,170	4.5	7.9
Other Oceania . . . . .	1,780	1,440	1.7	1.8
<i>Total Oceania</i> . . . . .	<i>6,480</i>	<i>7,610</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>9.7</i>
<i>Not Stated</i> . . . . .	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>105,000</b>	<b>78,390</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Each year Australia loses a proportion of its previous migrant intakes. Additionally, partly as a result of the high international mobility of professional and skilled workers, substantial numbers of Australians take up job opportunities overseas.

Eligibility for entry for settlement is restricted to certain family members and fiancées/fiancés of Australian residents, to others who possess skills, qualifications, personal or other qualities which represent an economic, social or cultural gain to Australia, and to refugees.

## SETTLER ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Unassisted</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Annual averages—</i>			
1966-70 . . . . .	107,500	53,320	160,810
1971-75 . . . . .	58,180	51,510	109,690
1976-80 . . . . .	19,660	54,160	73,820
<i>Annual totals—</i>			
1978 . . . . .	19,550	48,870	68,420
1979 . . . . .	19,060	53,170	72,240
1980 . . . . .	26,320	68,180	94,500
1981 . . . . .	29,960	88,780	118,730
1982 . . . . .	20,200	86,970	107,170
1983 . . . . .	12,130	66,270	78,390

## SETTLER ARRIVALS BY AGE

	Age in years						
Period	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	All ages
MALES							
Annual averages—							
1966-70 . . . . .	10,540	15,430	21,180	32,270	5,810	1,240	86,480
1971-75 . . . . .	7,410	10,010	12,880	20,330	3,920	1,250	55,790
1976-80 . . . . .	4,940	7,150	7,710	12,670	2,970	1,390	36,830
Annual totals—							
1978 . . . . .	4,580	6,770	7,460	11,350	2,900	1,380	34,430
1979 . . . . .	4,990	6,840	7,600	12,210	2,870	1,340	35,840
1980 . . . . .	5,950	9,400	10,130	17,820	3,520	1,680	48,500
1981 . . . . .	7,550	12,060	13,100	23,160	4,200	1,790	61,870
1982 . . . . .	6,980	10,960	10,000	21,860	3,790	1,780	55,370
1983 . . . . .	5,220	7,410	6,960	15,330	3,230	1,700	39,830
FEMALES							
Annual averages—							
1966-70 . . . . .	9,910	14,440	17,750	24,130	6,240	1,860	74,330
1971-75 . . . . .	6,950	9,300	13,690	17,450	4,790	1,730	53,900
1976-80 . . . . .	4,640	6,390	8,110	12,170	3,890	1,810	37,000
Annual totals—							
1978 . . . . .	4,060	5,650	7,580	11,200	3,740	1,750	33,990
1979 . . . . .	4,620	6,060	8,440	11,870	3,610	1,800	36,400
1980 . . . . .	5,590	8,330	9,900	15,830	4,200	2,150	46,010
1981 . . . . .	7,070	10,620	11,650	20,840	4,540	2,150	56,870
1982 . . . . .	6,380	9,430	9,800	19,950	4,200	2,060	51,800
1983 . . . . .	4,730	6,360	7,130	14,390	3,960	2,010	38,560
PERSONS							
Annual averages—							
1966-70 . . . . .	20,450	29,870	38,940	56,410	12,050	3,100	160,810
1971-75 . . . . .	14,360	19,310	26,560	37,770	8,710	2,970	109,690
1976-80 . . . . .	9 580	13 550	15,810	24,840	6,860	3,190	73,820
Annual totals—							
1978 . . . . .	8,640	12,420	15,040	22,550	6,640	3,130	68,420
1979 . . . . .	9,610	12,900	16,040	24,080	6,480	3,140	72,240
1980 . . . . .	11,540	17,740	20,030	33,650	7,720	3,830	94,500
1981 . . . . .	14,630	22,680	24,760	44,000	8,740	3,930	118,740
1982 . . . . .	13,360	20,380	19,800	41,810	7,980	3,840	107,170
1983 . . . . .	9,950	13,760	14,090	29,710	7,180	3,710	78,390

## SETTLER ARRIVALS BY MARITAL STATUS

	<i>Never married</i>				
<i>Period</i>	<i>Under 15 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed and divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES					
Annual averages—					
1966-70 . . . . .	25,980	25,740	33,670	1,100	86,480
1971-75 . . . . .	17,420	14,750	22,600	1,030	55,790
1976-80 . . . . .	12,100	9,050	14,770	910	36,830
Annual totals—					
1978 . . . . .	11,350	8,450	13,810	830	34,430
1979 . . . . .	11,820	8,450	14,560	1,010	35,840
1980 . . . . .	15,340	12,020	19,760	1,370	48,500
1981 . . . . .	19,600	15,160	25,640	1,470	61,870
1982 . . . . .	17,910	12,180	23,960	1,320	55,370
1983 . . . . .	12,620	9,250	16,890	1,070	39,830
FEMALES					
Annual averages—					
1966-70 . . . . .	24,340	12,530	34,130	3,330	74,330
1971-75 . . . . .	16,250	9,750	25,060	2,840	53,900
1976-80 . . . . .	11,010	6,440	17,040	2,510	37,000
Annual totals—					
1978 . . . . .	9,700	5,960	15,950	2,380	33,990
1979 . . . . .	10,670	6,610	16,520	2,600	36,400
1980 . . . . .	13,910	7,820	20,990	3,290	46,010
1981 . . . . .	17,630	9,250	26,770	3,220	56,870
1982 . . . . .	15,750	7,940	25,290	2,820	51,800
1983 . . . . .	11,040	6,230	18,390	2,900	38,560
PERSONS					
Annual averages—					
1966-70 . . . . .	50,320	38,270	67,790	4,430	160,810
1971-75 . . . . .	33,670	24,500	47,660	3,870	109,690
1976-80 . . . . .	23,100	15,490	31,810	3,420	73,820
Annual totals—					
1978 . . . . .	21,050	14,410	29,760	3,210	68,420
1979 . . . . .	22,490	15,060	31,080	3,610	72,240
1980 . . . . .	29,260	19,830	40,750	4,660	94,500
1981 . . . . .	37,230	24,410	52,410	4,690	118,740
1982 . . . . .	33,660	20,120	49,250	4,140	107,170
1983 . . . . .	23,650	15,490	35,280	3,970	78,390

## Language

In May 1983 the ABS conducted a survey throughout Australia of persons aged 15 years and over to obtain details of the languages they first spoke, their current usage of these languages and their understanding and usage of later acquired languages. Questions were also asked of the acquisition and use of English by persons whose first language spoken was a non-English language.

The survey indicated that there were an estimated 11,329,300 persons aged 15 years and over in Australia and of these 9,428,800 (83 per cent) spoke English as a first language. Of these, 1,225,800 persons (13 per cent) had acquired at least one non-English language by assimilation or education.

There were an estimated 1,703,400 persons for whom English was not a first language and of these 570,700 (33 per cent) had acquired at least one additional non-English language.

There were an estimated 1,900,400 person who first spoke a non-English language (of whom 197,400 spoke English plus a non-English first language). Of these persons, 73.4 per cent spoke the non-English language in the home and 86.7 per cent spoke it socially. 54 per cent of persons read in their non-English first language and 63.4 per cent wrote in that language.

Generally, persons who first spoke in a non-English language used English more frequently than they did their non-English first language. Overall, 86.7 per cent of persons spoke English in the home, 90.1 per cent spoke it socially, 84.3 per cent read in English and 70.9 per cent wrote in English.

The survey found that 3.5 per cent of persons with a non-English first language did not use English at all, 11.6 per cent could speak but did not read or write in English, and 7.1 per cent of persons no longer used their non-English first language.

Further information is available from the ABS publications *Language Survey, Australia May 1983* (Catalogue Number 4503.0) and *Language in Australia* (4504.0).

**PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: LANGUAGES FIRST SPOKEN, WHETHER ENGLISH ACQUIRED AND NUMBER OF ACQUIRED NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1983**

<i>Languages first spoken</i>	<i>Total persons</i>	<i>Number of acquired non-English languages</i>		
		<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two or more</i>
		<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Persons with English as a language first spoken (a) . . . . .	9,625,900	86.8	10.2	3.0
Persons with a non-English language only first spoken (b) . . . . .	1,703,400	66.5	22.4	11.1
English acquired . . . . .	1,656,400	66.0	22.7	11.3
English not acquired . . . . .	47,000	84.5	13.6	*
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>11,329,300</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>

\* Data suppressed due to high sampling variability.

(a) Includes 197,000 persons who spoke English and another language as their first languages.

(b) Includes 28,600 persons with two or more non-English first languages.

**PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WITH A NON-ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE SPOKEN (a):  
LANGUAGE FIRST SPOKEN BY ENGLISH USAGE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1983**

<i>First language spoken other than English</i>	<i>Total persons</i>	<i>English spoken</i>				<i>English read</i>	<i>English written</i>
		<i>Home</i>	<i>Work (b)</i>	<i>Socially</i>	<i>Elsewhere</i>		
		<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Italian . . . . .	440,800	84.6	92.8	88.7	93.7	80.2	62.9
Greek . . . . .	227,200	84.5	94.5	86.6	95.1	75.8	60.6
German . . . . .	165,600	96.0	97.9	99.0	99.2	98.0	88.7
Dutch . . . . .	110,500	97.0	97.9	99.0	99.9	98.5	94.3
Polish . . . . .	86,000	91.0	96.0	94.6	97.4	91.1	72.8
Chinese (c) . . . . .	84,900	75.0	86.3	80.4	89.8	75.3	70.7
Arabic/Lebanese . . . . .	77,600	79.7	90.7	79.0	91.0	71.9	58.0
Other Yugoslavian (c) . . . . .	66,800	85.6	96.4	90.5	96.2	72.7	53.2
Croatian . . . . .	65,800	90.3	95.3	90.8	98.0	85.2	60.0
Maltese . . . . .	59,800	94.0	94.4	94.9	97.9	85.9	76.9
Spanish . . . . .	56,500	76.7	90.4	84.3	92.0	83.5	66.0
French . . . . .	54,700	91.9	94.4	95.8	97.7	96.5	89.9
Hungarian . . . . .	37,000	88.5	97.6	89.2	95.8	90.0	73.5
Russian . . . . .	27,500	80.2	94.4	83.6	92.3	86.4	70.3
Serbian . . . . .	26,600	89.3	95.8	91.4	97.5	88.7	64.7
Vietnamese . . . . .	24,500	56.2	73.8	71.3	86.9	66.3	56.1
Indian (c) . . . . .	22,400	98.0	98.6	98.1	100.0	98.0	98.0
Turkish . . . . .	20,300	68.0	87.5	73.2	89.7	52.3	32.3
Latvian . . . . .	20,000	85.7	98.4	93.9	96.8	95.9	82.7
Other (d) . . . . .	225,800	89.5	95.5	93.4	97.1	89.6	81.1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,900,400</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>70.9</b>

Note: Persons may be counted in more than one column.

(a) Includes 197,000 persons who spoke English and another language as their first language.

(b) Proportion of persons in the labour force who used English at work.

(c) Includes all relevant dialects.

(d) All languages not elsewhere included.

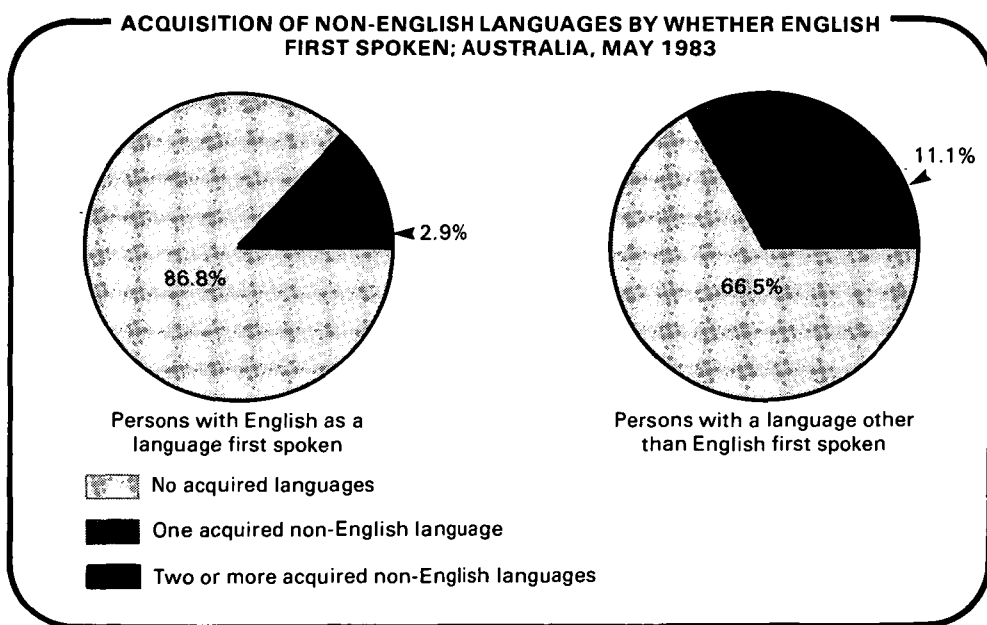
**PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WITH A NON-ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE SPOKEN(a):  
FIRST LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY USAGE OF THAT LANGUAGE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1983**

First language spoken other than English	Total persons	Speaks the language				Reads in the language	Writes in the language
		Home	Work(b)	Socially	Elsewhere		
		%	%	%	%		
Italian	440,800	81.9	48.0	94.0	60.9	64.1	61.7
Greek	227,200	89.8	49.6	95.4	67.2	78.2	76.9
German	165,600	48.2	20.4	72.1	28.3	62.3	59.2
Dutch	110,500	41.0	10.3	67.6	19.4	54.0	55.3
Polish	86,000	59.9	23.7	83.0	42.2	55.3	58.6
Chinese(c)	84,900	84.0	45.5	91.8	62.7	63.1	61.5
Arabic/Lebanese	77,600	92.5	34.3	94.6	59.5	65.1	64.2
Other Yugoslavian(c)	66,800	87.4	47.1	91.5	54.3	63.9	70.9
Croatian	65,800	80.3	36.6	93.5	55.8	67.1	73.3
Maltese	59,800	73.4	33.4	89.3	45.0	45.5	42.5
Spanish	56,500	81.0	35.5	84.6	49.6	75.4	75.3
French	54,700	65.9	17.3	80.5	33.7	71.3	64.6
Hungarian	37,000	66.4	27.5	84.3	41.4	59.0	62.3
Russian	27,500	67.4	22.4	85.9	53.5	58.3	59.8
Serbian	26,600	74.7	30.0	88.4	45.9	70.8	73.2
Vietnamese	24,500	96.7	58.0	95.8	73.5	94.2	97.5
Indian(c)	22,400	55.9	*	76.8	27.6	40.2	50.7
Turkish	20,300	96.8	59.1	98.9	68.5	80.6	77.5
Latvian	20,000	68.1	*	86.2	52.4	79.0	70.2
Other	225,800	62.4	20.5	77.9	40.6	55.2	55.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,900,400</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>63.4</b>

\* Data suppressed due to high sampling variability.

Note: Persons may be counted in more than one column.

(a) Includes 197,000 persons who spoke English and another language as their first languages. (b) Proportion of persons in the labour force who use the language first spoken at work. (c) Includes all relevant dialects. (d) All languages not elsewhere included.



## Refugees

Australia accepted 17,016 people under refugee and special humanitarian programs in 1983. This compared with an intake of 17,522 in 1982.

Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 420,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by the Second World War and its aftermath.

Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The largest single element in Australia's current refugee intake is the Indo-Chinese program. In 1983, 13,350 Indo-Chinese refugees were resettled in Australia.

Australia is one of 90 countries which have become party to an international convention and protocol on the status of refugees and, in so doing, have taken on certain international legal obligations to assist refugees. The final determination of a refugee's status and the decision to accept those refugees for resettlement in Australia rests with the Australian Government. Australia is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Australia's response to refugee situations is two-fold. Through aid programs directed principally through UNHCR refugees are offered protection and assistance in countries of first asylum. Those refugees for whom other durable solutions are not feasible are offered resettlement (in Australia) if they have relatives in Australia other close ties with Australia or the potential for successful settlement in their own right.

### REFUGEE ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Annual average—			
1961-65 . . . . .	1,799	n.a.	n.a.
1966-70 . . . . .	7,446	n.a.	n.a.
1971-75 . . . . .	2,773	7,776	10,549
1976-80 . . . . .	9,274	3,284	12,558
Annual totals—			
1978 . . . . .	8,790	1,682	10,472
1979 . . . . .	14,639	2,418	17,057
1980 . . . . .	19,875	1,817	21,692
1981 . . . . .	19,055	2,917	21,972
1982 . . . . .	16,467	1,055	17,522
1983 . . . . .	16,194	822	17,016

## Citizenship

The grant of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act* 1948. Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia, by birth abroad to an Australian parent, or by grant of citizenship to persons resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act.

All persons are now eligible for the grant of Australian citizenship provided that they have resided in Australia for at least three years, are of good character, have an adequate knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

### PERSONS GRANTED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>
Annual averages—	
1961-65 . . . . .	43,823
1966-70 . . . . .	40,934
1971-75 . . . . .	61,182
1976-80 . . . . .	75,138
Annual totals—	
1978 . . . . .	65,094
1979 . . . . .	53,555
1980 . . . . .	68,145
1981 . . . . .	56,459
1982 . . . . .	75,047
1983 . . . . .	101,900

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