



February 1996

Population Survey Monitor

Housing

Australian Army

Vitamins and minerals

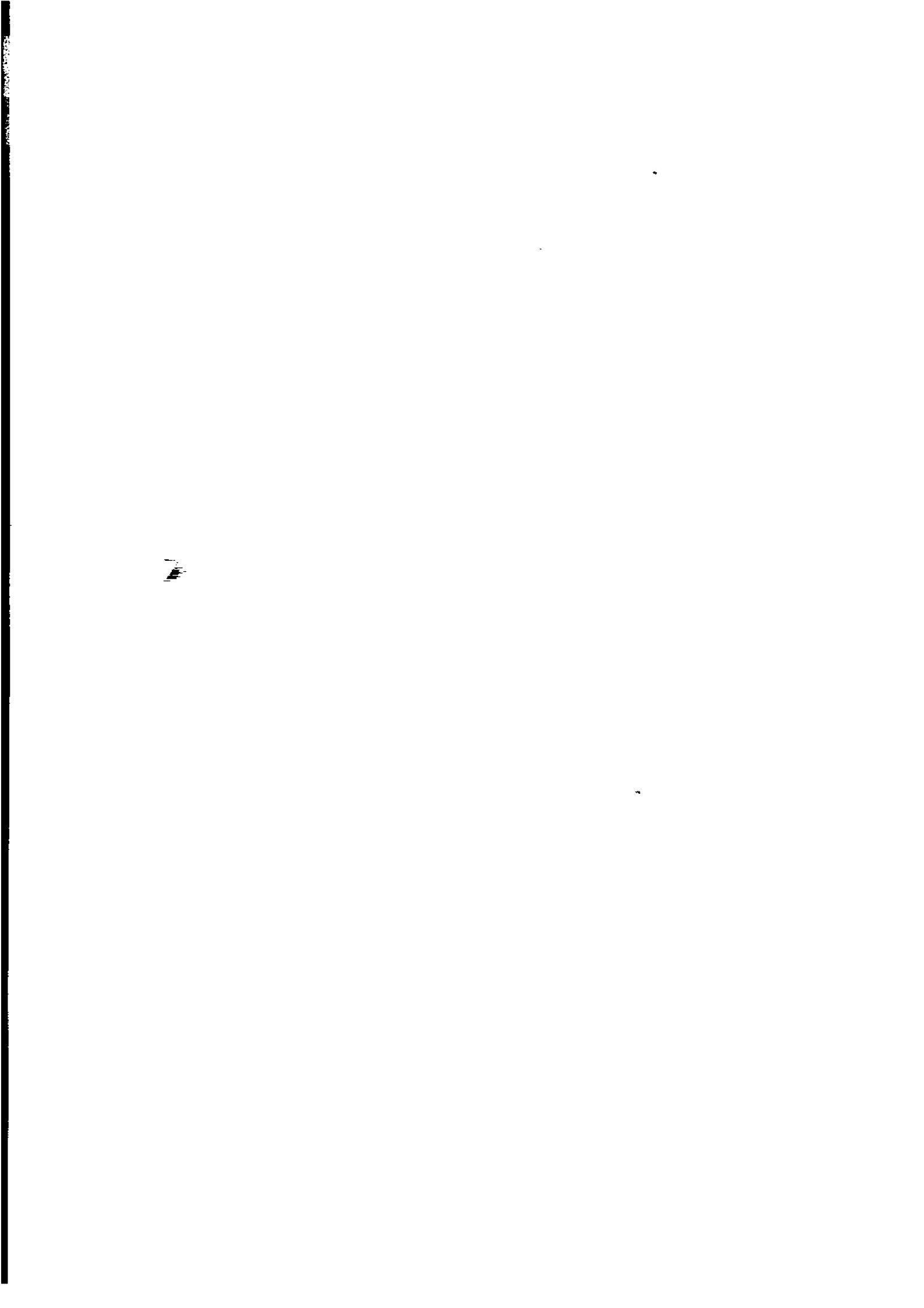
Nutrition

Breast cancer (females aged 30-69 years)

Telephone connections

Domestic energy use (New South Wales)

Consumer expectations



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 10 MAY 1996

**POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR
FEBRUARY 1996**

**W. McLennan
Australian Statistician**

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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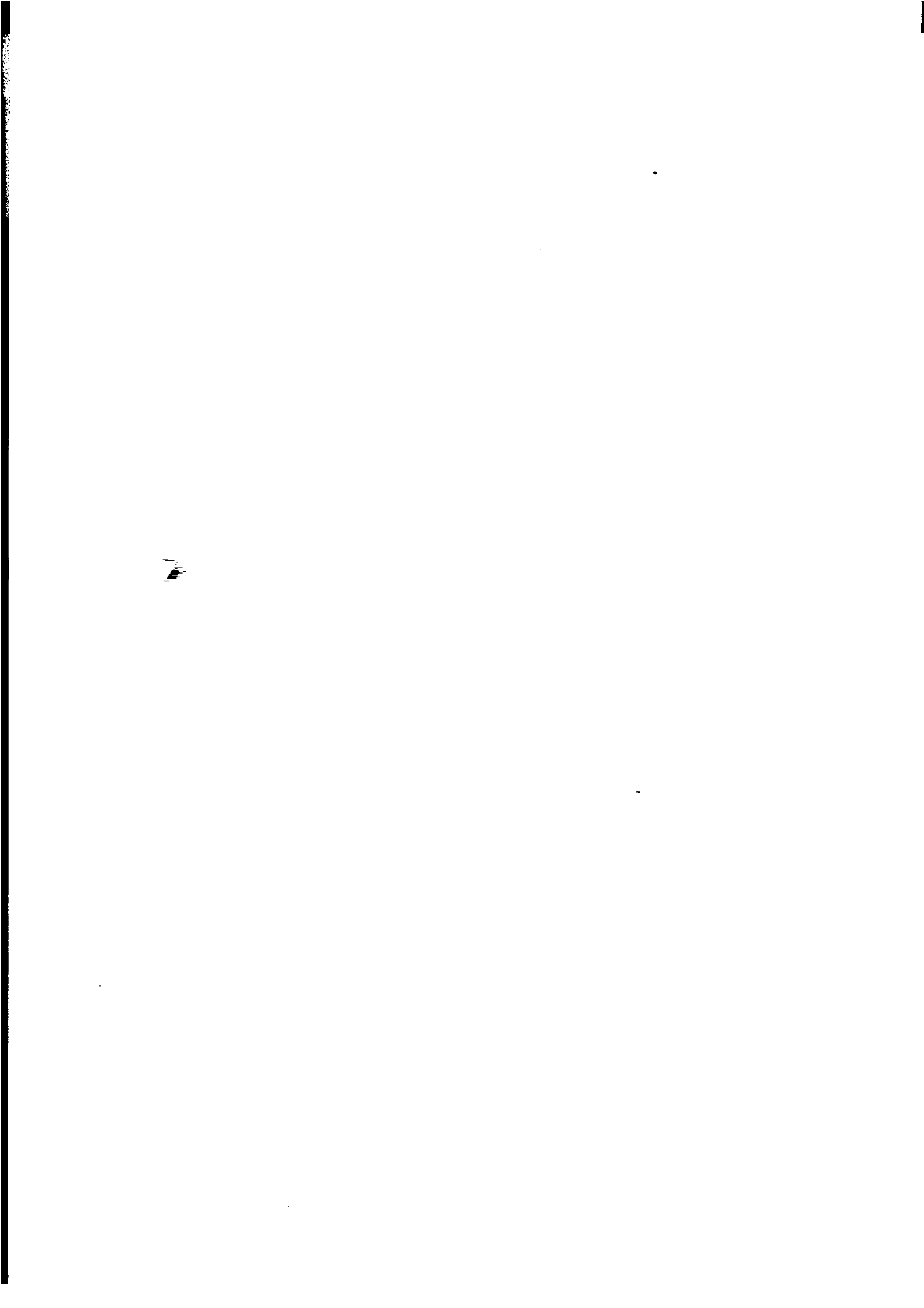
PREFACE

The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey of about 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. Each survey includes a core set of socio-demographic questions and a variable set of topics requested by various Commonwealth and State government clients.

This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in February 1996. The topics included in this survey were as follows:

HOUSING	This topic includes data on attitudes to medium density housing, the likelihood of respondents moving to medium density housing in the near future and tenure of the previous residence of recent movers.
AUSTRALIAN ARMY	This topic includes data on opinions and knowledge of the Australian Army.
VITAMINS AND MINERALS	This topic contains data on consumption of vitamin and mineral supplements and awareness of folic acid or folate.
NUTRITION	This topic contains data on consumption of vegetables, fruit, milk and meat.
BREAST CANCER	This topic includes data about knowledge of breast cancer risk factors and detection by females aged 30-69 years.
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS	This topic contains data on the number of telephones connected and mobile phones used in households.
DOMESTIC ENERGY USAGE (NEW SOUTH WALES ONLY)	This topic contains data on the use and cost of firewood and fossil fuels for energy purposes by households in New South Wales.
CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS	This topic contains data on the anticipated purchases by households of major items in the June quarter.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician



NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>SURVEY</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
May 1996	15 July 1996
September 1996	11 November 1996
November 1996	20 January 1997

SAMPLING ERROR

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey of households throughout Australia. Because data is not collected from all households, the published estimates derived from them are subject to sampling variability. Relative standard errors give a measure of this variability and therefore indicate the degree of confidence that can be attached to the data. They are more fully discussed and presented on pages 9 and 10. *The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting the figures.* These data cells are marked with * to indicate that they should be viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Theo Neumann on Adelaide 08 237 7303.

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

MAIN FEATURES

HOUSING	43.2% of males and 45.0% of females aged 18 and over consider medium density housing in their local area is acceptable or very acceptable. (Refer to table 1).
AUSTRALIAN ARMY	Over half of the population aged 18 and over (56.6% of males and 60.2% of females) usually hear about the activities of the Australian Army through television documentaries or news. (Refer to table 2).
VITAMINS AND MINERALS	On the day prior to the February survey, 28.0% of females and 17.0% of males aged 18 and over took a vitamin or mineral supplement. (Refer to table 3).
NUTRITION	Of those aged 18 and over, 36.9% (44.0% of males and 30.0% of females) usually eat 1 serve or less of vegetables each day and 41.5% (49.2% of males and 33.9% of females) usually eat 1 serve or less of fruit each day. (Refer to table 4).
BREAST CANCER	During the twelve months prior to the February survey, 38.5% of females aged 30-69 years performed breast self-examination at least once a month, and 16.5% had not done so at all. (Refer to table 5).
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS	Over 1.8 million households (27.7%) have at least one mobile phone. Nearly half (48.9%) of households in the highest household income quintile have a mobile phone, compared with 5.8% of households in the lowest income quintile. (Refer to table 6).
DOMESTIC ENERGY USE (NEW SOUTH WALES)	In New South Wales, 22.0% of households used firewood for heating or cooking in the three months prior to the February survey. (Refer to table 7).
CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS	Over 2.7 million households (41.5%) indicated in February 1996 that they intend to purchase a major item in the June quarter 1996. Nearly 1.4 million households (20.5%) indicated they intend to buy a household item worth more than \$200 in the June quarter 1996, and 13.0% intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500. (Refer to tables 8 and 9).

1

ACCEPTABILITY OF MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING IN LOCAL AREA BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1996

Acceptability	Age (years)						Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	%	'000
MALES (%)								
Very acceptable	8.8	*1.1	*3.8	*2.5	*5.6	*5.4	4.1	266.8
Acceptable	42.0	44.4	40.0	44.5	32.1	25.2	39.1	2 512.5
Not very acceptable	16.0	22.9	27.0	24.3	26.4	26.0	23.8	1 531.5
Don't know	*4.8	5.2	*3.8	*4.6	*3.1	*6.4	4.7	301.1
Not applicable ¹	28.4	26.4	25.4	24.1	32.9	37.0	28.3	1 819.6
Total ('000)	950.6	1 369.1	1 340.7	1 134.2	747.9	889.0	100.0	6 431.5
FEMALES (%)								
Very acceptable	*4.6	9.7	6.8	*3.7	*3.4	*3.5	5.7	372.8
Acceptable	55.0	39.5	33.9	39.4	33.4	36.5	39.3	2 592.1
Not very acceptable	17.6	21.8	30.4	24.2	31.4	23.1	24.7	1 626.6
Don't know	*2.9	*3.0	*3.0	*3.7	*4.7	*1.7	3.1	202.4
Not applicable ²	20.0	26.1	25.9	29.1	27.1	35.2	27.3	1 800.9
Total ('000)	913.2	1 388.2	1 365.0	1 107.5	736.8	1 084.2	100.0	6 594.8
PERSONS (%)								
Very acceptable	6.7	5.4	5.3	3.1	4.5	4.4	4.9	639.6
Acceptable	48.3	41.9	36.9	42.0	32.8	31.4	39.2	5 104.6
Not very acceptable	16.8	22.3	28.7	24.2	28.9	24.4	24.2	3 158.2
Don't know	3.9	4.1	3.4	4.2	*3.9	3.8	3.9	503.5
Not applicable ²	24.3	26.2	25.6	26.5	30.0	36.0	27.8	3 620.4
Total ('000)	1 863.8	2 757.3	2 705.7	2 241.7	1 484.6	1 973.2	100.0	13 026.2

¹ Medium density housing not in local area.

2

SOURCE OF INFORMATION¹ ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BY SEX, FEBRUARY 1996

Source	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
TV documentaries/news	3 640.6	56.6	3 971.8	60.2	7 612.4	58.4
TV advertisements	2 617.3	40.7	2 748.6	41.7	5 365.9	41.2
Newspaper articles	2 221.0	34.5	2 204.1	33.4	4 425.1	34.0
Friends and relatives	974.5	15.2	1 006.3	15.3	1 980.8	15.2
Current affairs programs	948.4	14.7	1 024.3	15.5	1 972.7	15.1
Radio programs	769.6	12.0	851.6	12.9	1 621.2	12.4
Newspaper advertisements	684.8	10.6	656.8	10.0	1 341.6	10.3
Brochures and publications	263.7	4.1	260.8	4.0	524.5	4.0
Cinema documentaries	99.9	1.6	188.6	2.9	288.5	2.2
Total² ('000)	6 431.5		6 594.8		13 026.2	

¹ Categories chosen in response to the question, "How do you usually hear about what the Australian Army does?". Selected sources only.

² The sum of the components is larger than the total number of persons as more than one source could be chosen.

3

CONSUMPTION OF VITAMIN/MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS¹ BY AGE AND SEX, FEBRUARY 1996

Age (years)	Vitamin/mineral supplement taken		Vitamin/mineral supplement not taken		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
MALES						
18-24	167.2	17.6	783.4	82.4	950.6	100.0
25-34	192.3	14.0	1 176.8	86.0	1 369.1	100.0
35-44	217.0	16.2	1 123.7	83.8	1 340.7	100.0
45-54	208.7	18.4	925.6	81.6	1 134.2	100.0
55-64	177.1	23.7	570.8	76.3	747.9	100.0
65 and over	129.4	14.6	759.6	85.4	889.0	100.0
Total ('000)	1 091.6	17.0	5 339.9	83.0	6 431.5	100.0
FEMALES						
18-24	222.3	24.3	690.9	75.7	913.2	100.0
25-34	361.0	26.0	1 027.2	74.0	1 388.2	100.0
35-44	357.8	26.2	1 007.2	73.8	1 365.0	100.0
45-54	396.1	35.8	711.4	64.2	1 107.5	100.0
55-64	229.7	31.2	507.1	68.8	736.8	100.0
65 and over	278.7	25.7	805.5	74.3	1 084.2	100.0
Total ('000)	1 845.6	28.0	4 749.2	72.0	6 594.8	100.0
PERSONS						
18-24	389.5	20.9	1 474.3	79.1	1 863.8	100.0
25-34	553.3	20.1	2 204.0	79.9	2 757.3	100.0
35-44	574.8	21.2	2 130.9	78.8	2 705.7	100.0
45-54	604.8	27.0	1 636.9	73.0	2 241.7	100.0
55-64	406.7	27.4	1 077.9	72.6	1 484.6	100.0
65 and over	408.2	20.7	1 565.0	79.3	1 973.2	100.0
Total ('000)	2 937.2	22.5	10 089.1	77.5	13 026.2	100.0

¹ Vitamin or mineral supplements taken in tablet, capsule, drop or powder form on the day prior to the survey.

4

QUANTITY OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT USUALLY EATEN EACH DAY BY SEX, FEBRUARY 1996

Number of serves eaten ¹	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Vegetables						
1 serve or less	2 828.1	44.0	1 975.5	30.0	4 803.6	36.9
2-3 serves	2 896.8	45.0	3 358.7	50.9	6 255.5	48.0
4-5 serves	585.7	9.1	1 108.0	16.8	1 693.7	13.0
6 serves or more	86.6	1.3	122.5	1.9	209.1	1.6
Don't eat vegetables/Don't know	*34.2	*0.5	*30.0	*0.5	*64.3	*0.5
Fruit						
1 serve or less	3 166.4	49.2	2 236.9	33.9	5 403.3	41.5
2-3 serves	2 494.5	38.8	3 539.6	53.7	6 034.0	46.3
4-5 serves	333.3	5.2	497.4	7.5	830.7	6.4
6 serves or more	*45.9	*0.7	91.6	1.4	137.5	1.1
Don't eat fruit/Don't know	391.4	6.1	229.3	3.5	620.7	4.7
Total ('000)	6 431.5	100.0	6 594.8	100.0	13 026.2	100.0

¹ One serve of vegetables is equivalent to 1/2 cup of cooked vegetables or 1 cup of salad vegetables, and one serve of fruit is equivalent to 1 medium piece of fruit, 2 small pieces of fruit or 1 cup of diced fruit pieces.

5

FEMALES AGED 30-69 YEARS: FREQUENCY OF BREAST SELF-EXAMINATION¹ OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BY AGE, FEBRUARY 1996

Frequency	Age (years)				Total	
	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	%	'000
At least once a month	35.4	38.3	43.5	38.6	38.5	1 636.0
Every 2-3 months	20.3	19.7	14.3	15.9	18.2	772.4
Every 4-12 months	25.1	24.8	25.3	21.2	24.4	1 038.9
Not at all in the last 12 months	18.7	14.2	12.5	21.6	16.5	703.9
Don't know	*0.6	*3.0	*4.4	*2.7	2.4	103.6
Total ('000)	1 411.5	1 280.6	878.3	684.3	100.0	4 254.8

¹ Breast self-examination is defined as the deliberate self-checking of the breast in case there are lumps, and does not include checking of breasts after accidentally noticing some problem.

6

HOUSEHOLDS: POSSESSION OF AT LEAST ONE MOBILE PHONE¹ BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILE, FEBRUARY 1996

Income quintile	Have mobile phone		Do not have mobile phone		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
First quintile (lowest 20%)	*57.1	*5.8	926.8	94.2	983.9	100.0
Second quintile	177.4	12.7	1 216.5	87.3	1 393.8	100.0
Third quintile	375.6	31.3	826.2	68.7	1 201.8	100.0
Fourth quintile	413.6	38.0	673.9	62.0	1 087.5	100.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	502.4	48.9	524.9	51.1	1 027.4	100.0
Don't know ²	313.4	33.1	632.4	66.9	945.8	100.0
Total	1 839.4	27.7	4 800.8	72.3	6 640.2	100.0

¹ Excluded are fixed car phones or cordless phones, both of which need to be very near to the car or home to operate.

² Household income not reported.

7

HOUSEHOLDS: QUANTITY OF FIREWOOD USED FOR HEATING OR COOKING, NEW SOUTH WALES 1995-1996

Quantity	Three months ending			
	May 1995	August 1995	November 1995	February 1996
Less than 0.5 tonnes	10.4	*0.8	7.2	20.6
0.5 to less than 1 tonne	4.4	—	3.6	*0.2
1 to less than 2 tonnes	*1.6	4.6	6.0	*0.8
2 tonnes or more	*2.1	16.1	6.2	*0.3
Don't know	*0.6	*0.7	*1.2	*0.1
Total (%)	19.0	22.2	24.3	22.0

8

HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS IN JUNE QUARTER 1996: ITEM TO BE PURCHASED, FEBRUARY 1996

<i>Item</i>	'000	% ¹
A new car	118.2	1.8
A second-hand car	455.2	6.9
A personal computer	229.8	3.5
Household item worth more than \$200	1 362.4	20.5
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	770.9	11.6
Landscaping worth more than \$500	268.3	4.0
A holiday worth more than \$500	860.9	13.0
Any other item worth more than \$500	252.0	3.8
Total²	2 752.5	41.5

¹ Percentage of all households.

² For the total number of households intending to purchase, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households intend to purchase more than one item.

9

HOUSEHOLDS: INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS IN JUNE QUARTER 1996 BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILE, FEBRUARY 1996

<i>Income quintile</i>	<i>Intend to purchase</i>		<i>Do not intend to purchase</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
First quintile (lowest 20%)	188.4	19.1	795.5	80.9	983.9	100.0
Second quintile	412.4	29.6	981.4	70.4	1 393.8	100.0
Third quintile	551.6	45.9	650.2	54.1	1 201.8	100.0
Fourth quintile	573.2	52.6	514.4	47.4	1 087.5	100.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	673.0	65.4	354.4	34.6	1 027.4	100.0
Don't know ¹	353.9	37.4	591.9	62.6	945.8	100.0
Total	2 752.5	41.5	3 887.7	58.5	6 640.2	100.0

¹ Household income not reported.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. The PSM is designed to meet the needs of government agencies and non profit organisations for family household data. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to include the topic of their choice. Each survey asks a set of core questions of each usual resident aged 15 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic can be asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over or of a particular person within the selected household.

SCOPE/COVERAGE

The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia, except sparsely settled areas. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded. All usual residents in private households are included in the PSM.

SAMPLE SIZE

For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 4,600 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is generally sufficient to provide quarterly data for Australia and annual data for the States and Territories at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability after allowing for sample loss through factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope etc.

EXPECTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

The sample size for the February 1996 survey has been increased in all States and Territories with the exception of New South Wales and Victoria. Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below.

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

DATA COLLECTION

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

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

- Advice to selected households by letter, accompanied by an information brochure, explaining that their dwelling has been selected for the survey, the purposes of the survey, its official nature and the confidentiality of the information collected.
- Through call-backs and follow-up at selected dwellings every effort is made to contact the occupants of each selected dwelling and to conduct the survey in those dwellings.

ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

Estimates obtained from the survey are derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure that ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age, sex and area (rather than to the age-sex-area distribution within the sample itself). The estimation procedure is designed to adjust estimates in such a way as to reduce any non-response bias by adjusting the weights of persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into each person's record to enable the data provided by these persons to be expanded to provide estimates relating to the whole population within the scope of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The two types of error possible in an estimate based on a sample survey are:

- Non sampling error which arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: misreporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; non-response; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise these errors by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures.
- Sampling error which occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all establishments in the survey is given by the standard error, see Technical Notes pages 9 and 10.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- no observations recorded

TECHNICAL NOTES

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

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

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

From table 3 an estimated 167,200 males aged 18-24 years took a vitamin or mineral supplement on the day prior to the survey. Referring to the table of standard errors (table A on page 10), an estimate of 167,200 has a standard error of approximately 24,000. There are two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey was between 143,200 and 191,200 (ie 167,200 plus or minus 24,000). There are about nineteen chances in twenty that the number lies between 119,200 and 215,200 (ie 167,200 plus or minus 48,000).

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

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

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

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

A STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate ('000)	Standard error of estimate ('000)		
	Persons 18+ yrs	Households	
	Aust Feb 1996	Aust Feb 1996	NSW 1996
10	6.6	—	6.1
20	9.4	—	8.2
50	14.5	9.9	11.9
100	19.7	13.3	15.5
200	26.5	17.8	20.8
500	38.5	25.2	28.5
800	46.1	29.5	33.0
1 000	50.4	32.3	36.0
1 500	57.1	37.1	42.0
2 000	65.0	41.8	48.0

B RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

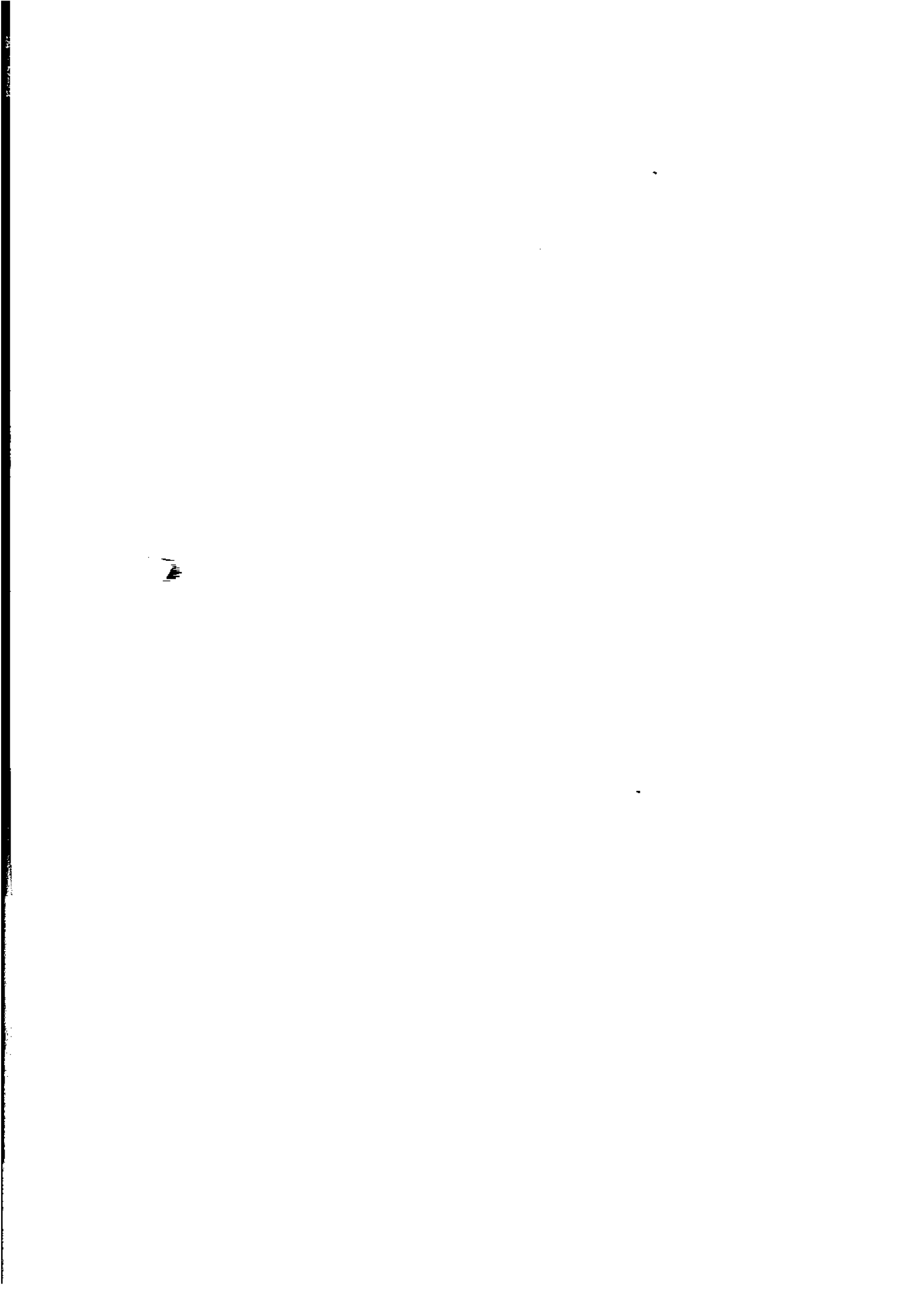
Size of estimate ('000)	Relative standard error of estimate (%)		
	Persons 18+ yrs	Households	
	Aust Feb 1996	Aust Feb 1996	NSW 1996
10	66.5	—	6.1
20	47.0	—	8.2
50	29.0	19.8	11.9
100	19.7	13.3	15.5
200	13.3	8.9	20.8
500	7.7	5.0	28.5
800	5.8	3.7	33.0
1 000	5.0	3.2	36.0
1 500	3.8	2.5	42.0
2 000	3.3	2.1	48.0

GLOSSARY

Age	Age is the age of persons at their last birthday.
Australian Army	This refers to the Australian Army only, and not the Navy or Air Force.
Breast self-examination	Breast self-examination is defined as the deliberate self-checking of the breast in case there are lumps, and does not include the checking of breasts after accidentally noticing some problem.
Day prior to the survey	The day prior to the survey is defined as running from midnight to midnight the previous day.
Household	A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at other times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of family and non-family members.
Household income	Household income is the sum of personal income from all members of the household aged 15 years and over. Personal income is gross income from all sources and includes government pensions/benefits, workers compensation, royalties, rent etc. It excludes money from the sale of assets, gambling, lottery wins, gifts, bequests or lump sum settlements.
Households intending to purchase	A household in which any person within the household expects to buy, pay for or make some payment towards an item with an individual worth of \$200 or more for a household item or \$500 or more for other items. Planned purchases must be for the period 1 April 1996 and 30 June 1996.
Medium density housing	Includes semi-detached, row, terrace, town houses and flats. Medium density flats are those with no more than two storeys.
Mobile phone	A personal telephone, sometimes called a cellular mobile phone, which operates by battery from any location within range of a receiving/relay station and is used for either personal or business purposes. Excluded are fixed car phones or cordless phones, both of which need to be very near to the car or home to operate.
Quantity used (firewood)	Amount of firewood used by a household for the purpose of heating or cooking in the last three months. Firewood includes woodettes, and cooking includes cooking on barbecues.

Serve One serve of vegetables is equivalent to 1/2 cup of cooked vegetables or one cup of salad vegetables. One serve of fruit is equivalent to one medium piece of fruit, two small pieces of fruit or one cup of diced fruit pieces.

**Source of information
(see table 2)** Categories chosen in response to the question, "How do you usually hear about what the Australian Army does?". Respondents could choose one or more of twelve categories listed on the survey form (including an 'Other, please specify' category).



For more information ...

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