



November 1995

Population Survey Monitor

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**POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR
NOVEMBER 1995**

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Australian Statistician**

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
February 1996	26 April 1996
May 1996	8 July 1996
September 1996	4 November 1996
November 1996	13 January 1997

TOPICS TO BE RELEASED

- Physical activity for persons aged 60 to 79 years
- Support for the Arts
- Housing
- Consumer expectations
- Employment conditions (Victoria)
- Domestic energy use (New South Wales)

Refer to page 11 for more information on the topics released from this survey.

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. Estimates with unacceptably high sampling variability have been suppressed and are marked by **.

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For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Theo Neumann on Adelaide 08 237 7303.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

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR PERSONS AGED 60 TO 79 YEARS

In the two weeks prior to the survey, 77.2% of persons aged 60–79 years had walked for at least 10 minutes continuously on at least one occasion. (Refer to table 1).

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

Nearly one-quarter (24.7%) of females aged 18 years and over had attended a musical theatre performance in the twelve months prior to the survey, and 20.9% of males aged 18 years and over had attended a popular music concert. (Refer to table 2).

HOUSING

Medium density housing is considered to be acceptable or very acceptable in the area they live by 41.5% of males and 41.2% of females aged 18 and over. (Refer to table 3).

CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS

Over three million households (46.2%) indicated that they intend to purchase a major item in the March quarter. There were just over one million households (15.2%) which indicated that they intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 in the March quarter, and 10.8% which intend to pay for home alterations or additions worth more than \$500. (Refer to tables 4 and 5).

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS (VICTORIA)

In Victoria, 84.3% of males and 74.6% of females aged 18 years and over who earn a wage or salary are provided with paid sick leave and 85.1% and 73.3% respectively are provided with paid holiday leave. (Refer to table 6).

DOMESTIC ENERGY USE (NEW SOUTH WALES)

In New South Wales, 24.3% of households use firewood for heating or cooking, and 6.2% used two or more tonnes of firewood in the three months prior to the November survey. (Refer to table 7).

1

PERSONS AGED 60-79 YEARS: TOTAL TIME SPENT WALKING¹ IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BY SEX,
NOVEMBER 1995

Time	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Nil	241.6	22.1	285.0	23.5	526.6	22.8
10 minutes to less than 2 hours	156.2	14.3	223.8	18.4	379.9	16.5
2 hours to less than 4 hours	201.6	18.4	176.5	14.5	378.1	16.4
4 hours to less than 6 hours	117.1	10.7	126.4	10.4	243.5	10.5
6 hours to less than 8 hours	94.2	8.6	79.9	6.6	174.1	7.5
8 hours to less than 10 hours	*63.8	*5.8	*30.8	*2.5	94.6	4.1
10 hours or more	156.4	14.3	224.0	18.5	380.4	16.5
Don't know	*63.9	*5.8	*67.3	*5.5	131.3	5.7
Total	1 094.8	100.0	1 213.8	100.0	2 308.6	100.0

¹ Walking must be for at least 10 minutes continuously for recreation, exercise or to get from one place to another.

2

PERSONS WHO ATTENDED PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: PARTICIPATION RATES
BY AGE AND SEX, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER 1995

Performing arts events	Age (years)						Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	%	'000
MALES (%)								
Musical theatre	12.8	17.1	16.3	25.7	19.8	13.7	17.6	1 130.3
Popular music concerts	36.9	33.9	14.6	16.7	11.1	*7.0	20.9	1 341.1
Theatre (other than musical)	13.0	16.5	15.4	16.7	15.8	*6.6	14.3	919.2
Dance performances	*5.3	7.0	7.7	6.8	*5.1	*4.1	6.3	401.9
Classical music concerts	*5.4	5.8	6.1	*6.4	11.3	*8.0	6.8	437.7
FEMALES (%)								
Musical theatre	24.4	22.0	23.4	32.8	29.1	19.0	24.7	1 628.5
Popular music concerts	31.6	27.2	18.1	16.8	13.6	*5.3	19.1	1 257.6
Theatre (other than musical)	19.0	20.0	24.4	22.2	20.8	14.8	20.4	1 342.4
Dance performances	*6.9	10.5	13.4	9.3	12.4	*6.3	9.9	654.5
Classical music concerts	*4.4	6.4	8.5	9.9	*9.3	7.5	7.6	502.7
PERSONS (%)								
Musical theatre	18.6	19.5	19.9	29.2	24.4	16.6	21.2	2 758.9
Popular music concerts	34.3	30.5	16.4	16.7	12.3	6.1	20.0	2 598.7
Theatre (other than musical)	16.0	18.3	19.9	19.4	18.3	11.1	17.4	2 261.6
Dance performances	6.1	8.8	10.6	8.1	8.7	5.4	8.1	1 056.5
Classical music concerts	4.9	6.1	7.3	8.1	10.3	7.7	7.2	940.3

3

ACCEPTABILITY OF MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING IN LOCAL AREA BY AGE AND SEX, NOVEMBER 1995

Acceptability	Age (years)						Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	%	'000
MALES (%)								
Very acceptable	10.6	6.8	7.0	*3.0	*5.0	10.1	7.0	447.2
Acceptable	37.2	45.0	36.8	28.8	25.3	27.3	34.6	2 214.9
Not very acceptable	15.1	15.2	22.9	32.9	31.1	25.4	23.1	1 483.6
Don't know	**	**	*2.1	**	**	*2.9	1.6	103.3
Not applicable ¹	35.4	32.5	31.2	34.2	36.9	34.3	33.7	2 160.9
Total ('000)	949.2	1 367.6	1 341.0	1 121.7	742.7	887.7	100.0	6 409.9
FEMALES (%)								
Very acceptable	10.8	7.4	*4.6	*2.6	*3.0	7.0	5.9	391.8
Acceptable	40.5	38.3	29.7	39.9	30.5	32.2	35.2	2 321.6
Not very acceptable	13.9	18.9	20.4	19.2	32.6	15.6	19.5	1 286.8
Don't know	*4.8	*2.0	**	—	*3.0	*2.0	1.9	126.5
Not applicable ¹	30.1	33.3	44.6	38.3	30.9	43.2	37.4	2 463.6
Total ('000)	923.0	1 394.5	1 361.1	1 092.9	731.7	1 087.0	100.0	6 590.3
PERSONS (%)								
Very acceptable	10.7	7.1	5.8	*2.8	*4.0	8.4	6.5	839.0
Acceptable	38.8	41.6	33.2	34.2	27.9	30.0	34.9	4 536.5
Not very acceptable	14.5	17.1	21.7	26.1	31.8	20.0	21.3	2 770.4
Don't know	*3.2	*1.3	*1.4	**	*2.3	*2.4	1.8	229.8
Not applicable ¹	32.8	32.9	37.9	36.3	33.9	39.2	35.6	4 624.5
Total ('000)	1 872.2	2 762.1	2 702.1	2 214.7	1 474.4	1 974.6	100.0	13 000.2

¹ Medium density housing not in local area.

4

HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS IN MARCH QUARTER: ITEM TO BE PURCHASED, NOVEMBER 1995

Item	'000	%
A new car	112.8	1.7
A second-hand car	472.2	7.0
A personal computer	343.7	5.1
Household item worth more than \$200	1 639.2	24.4
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	722.3	10.8
Landscaping worth more than \$500	354.5	5.3
A holiday worth more than \$500	1 019.9	15.2
Any other item worth more than \$500	311.8	4.6
Total¹	3 098.8	46.2

¹ The sum of the components is larger than the total number of households intending to purchase as a number of households intend to purchase more than one item.

5

HOUSEHOLDS: INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS IN MARCH QUARTER BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILE, NOVEMBER 1995

<i>Income quintile</i>	<i>Intend to purchase</i>		<i>Do not intend to purchase</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>	
First quintile (lowest 20%)	307.4	23.4	1 003.5	76.6	1 310.9
Second quintile	329.9	34.0	641.7	66.0	971.6
Third quintile	554.5	49.6	564.8	50.5	1 119.0
Fourth quintile	673.8	60.3	444.2	39.7	1 118.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	779.8	73.0	289.1	27.0	1 068.9
Don't know	453.4	40.3	671.4	59.7	1 124.8
Total	3 098.8	46.2	3 614.5	53.8	6 713.3

6

WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS: EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS BY AGE AND SEX, VICTORIA 1995

Employment conditions	Age (years)					Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	%	'000
MALES (%)							
Provided with paid sick leave							
Yes	55.7	94.2	85.8	88.1	90.1	84.3	762.6
No	44.3	*5.8	*14.2	*11.9	**	15.7	141.9
Provided with paid holiday leave							
Yes	53.5	95.6	87.6	88.1	92.6	85.1	769.9
No	46.5	*4.4	*12.4	*11.9	**	14.9	134.6
Receiving casual pay loading							
Yes	36.4	*9.9	*12.4	*13.0	**	15.1	136.1
No	59.9	85.2	86.2	86.2	91.3	82.1	742.7
Don't know	**	*4.9	**	**	**	*2.8	*25.6
Total ('000)	144.6	276.9	250.2	154.3	78.5	100.0	904.5
FEMALES (%)							
Provided with paid sick leave							
Yes	73.9	79.8	70.5	79.1	**	74.6	554.5
No	26.1	20.2	29.5	*20.9	*60.7	25.4	188.6
Provided with paid holiday leave							
Yes	68.4	80.2	69.4	78.4	*46.0	73.3	544.7
No	31.6	19.8	30.6	*21.6	*54.0	26.7	198.5
Receiving casual pay loading							
Yes	*22.8	*15.5	22.3	*12.4	**	18.8	139.4
No	73.1	81.7	75.2	83.7	*61.3	77.8	578.0
Don't know	**	**	**	**	**	*3.5	*25.8
Total ('000)	171.2	217.6	189.5	140.6	24.2	100.0	743.2
PERSONS (%)							
Provided with paid sick leave							
Yes	65.6	87.8	79.2	83.8	78.1	79.9	1 317.1
No	34.4	12.2	20.8	16.2	*21.9	20.1	330.5
Provided with paid holiday leave							
Yes	61.6	88.8	79.8	83.5	81.6	79.8	1 314.6
No	38.4	11.2	20.2	16.5	*18.4	20.2	333.0
Receiving casual pay loading							
Yes	29.0	12.4	16.7	*12.7	*11.3	16.7	275.6
No	67.0	83.7	81.4	85.0	84.2	80.2	1 320.7
Don't know	*3.9	*3.9	**	**	**	3.1	51.4
Total ('000)	315.8	494.5	439.7	294.9	102.7	100.0	1 647.6

7

HOUSEHOLDS WHICH USE FIREWOOD FOR HEATING OR COOKING: QUANTITY USED IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, NEW SOUTH WALES 1995

Quantity	May 1995 %	August 1995 %	November 1995 %
Less than 0.5 tonnes	10.4	*0.8	7.2
0.5 to less than 1 tonne	4.4	—	3.6
1 to less than 2 tonnes	*1.6	4.6	6.0
2 tonnes or more	*2.1	16.1	6.2
Don't know	**	**	*1.2
Total	19.0	22.2	24.3

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia of approximately 2,120 households. The PSM has been introduced to meet the needs of government agencies and non profit organisations. 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 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 3,200 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is considered sufficient to provide:

- detailed information for Australia;
- relatively detailed data for urban/rural areas for Australia;

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

New South Wales	482
Victoria	411
Queensland	340
South Australia	241
Western Australia	254
Tasmania	136
Northern Territory	125
Australian Capital Territory	125
Total	2 120

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
- ** data suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability
- 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 1 an estimated 380,400 persons aged 60-79 years walked for 10 hours or more in the two weeks prior to the survey. Referring to the table of standard errors (table A on page 10), an estimate of 380,400 has a standard error of approximately 35,500. 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 344,900 and 415,900 (ie 380,400 plus or minus 35,500). There are about nineteen chances in twenty that the number lies between 309,400 and 451,400 (ie 380,400 plus or minus 71,000).

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% but less than 50% 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. Estimates with a relative standard error of greater than 50% have been suppressed and are marked by **.

A STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate ('000)	Standard error of estimate ('000)			
	Persons 18+ yrs		Households	
	Aust Nov 1995	Vic 1995	Aust Nov 1995	NSW 1995
10	—	5.0	—	6.1
20	9.9	6.5	7.0	8.2
50	15.3	9.5	10.4	11.9
100	20.7	12.7	14.0	15.5
200	27.9	16.7	18.7	20.8
500	40.5	23.4	26.5	28.5
800	48.5	27.4	31.0	33.0
1 000	53.1	30.0	34.0	36.0
1 500	60.1	34.4	39.0	42.0
2 000	68.4	37.8	44.0	48.0

B RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate ('000)	Relative standard error of estimate (%)			
	Persons 18+ yrs		Households	
	Aust Nov 1995	Vic 1995	Aust Nov 1995	NSW 1995
10	—	50.0	—	61.2
20	49.5	32.5	35.0	41.0
50	30.6	19.0	20.8	23.8
100	20.7	12.7	14.0	15.5
200	14.0	8.4	9.4	10.4
500	8.1	4.7	5.3	5.7
800	6.1	3.4	3.9	4.1
1 000	5.3	3.0	3.4	3.6
1 500	4.0	2.3	2.6	2.8
2 000	3.4	1.9	2.2	2.4

TOPICS RELEASED FROM THIS SURVEY

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OF PERSONS AGED 60 TO 79 YEARS	This topic collected data on the total amount of physical activity undertaken by persons aged 60 to 79 years. A number of attitudinal questions sought reasons for people taking part or not taking part in activities.
SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS	This topic contains information about support for the arts and other cultural organisations by persons. It includes rates of attendance in the last twelve months for various cultural activities such as musical theatre, musical concerts and libraries.
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. Some data have also been collected on reported property crime.
CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS	This topic contains data on the anticipated purchases by households of major items in the March quarter.
EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS (VICTORIA ONLY)	This topic was collected for Victoria only and contains information on access to paid sick and holiday leave for wage and salary earners aged 15 years and over.
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.

GLOSSARY

Age	Age is the age of the person at their last birthday.
Casual pay loading	An additional payment to compensate for the absence of employment conditions such as holiday leave and sick leave.
Classical music concerts	Refers to performances given by symphony, philharmonic, youth and theatre orchestras, chamber and choral groups presenting, in the main, performances of classical, oratorio, early and contemporary music. Individual performers and singers, vocal ensembles and other groups presenting music other than popular music are also included.
Dance performance	Included are ballet, classical dance, contemporary dance, modern dance, dance theatre, dance revue, ethnic and folk dance companies. Variety dance shows such as <i>Dance on ice</i> are excluded.
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	Any person within the household must expect to buy, pay for or make some payment towards an item within an individual worth of \$200 or more for a household item or \$500 or more for other items. Planned purchases must be made between 1 January 1996 and 31 March 1996.
Medium density housing	Includes semi-detached, row, terrace, town houses and flats. Medium density flats are those with no more than two storeys.
Musical theatre	Includes major musical productions, operas and operettas.
Paid holiday leave	Provision by employers of paid holiday leave, as collected by responses to the question 'Does your employer provide you with paid holiday leave?'

Paid sick leave	Provision by employers of paid sick leave, as collected by responses to the question 'Does your employer provide you with paid sick leave?'
Performing arts events	These include the following performance art: musical theatre performance; dance performance; popular music concerts; classical music concerts and theatre performances.
Popular music concerts	This includes the presentation in front of live audiences of popular music performances by individual musicians and vocalists as well as by orchestras, brass and concert bands, music groups etc. Included are rock, jazz, country and western, folk, popular, ethnic, aboriginal and multicultural music.
Quantity used (firewood)	Amount of firewood used by a household for the purpose of heating or cooking in the last three months.
Theatre (other than musical)	Consists of live performances, by actors or puppets, of plays where the entire or major part of the performance does not use song or music. Included are dramas, comedy, mime, plays, poetry readings, theatre of the deaf, puppet shows and children's theatre.
Walking	Walking must be for at least 10 minutes continuously for recreation, exercise or to get from one place to another.





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