

## RENTERS IN AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1994, PRELIMINARY

### Introduction

During April 1994, the ABS conducted a survey throughout Australia to obtain information about the characteristics of people who are renters, boarders and those who live rent-free. The survey was based on a sample of approximately 35 000 dwellings. Information was sought, by interview (from persons aged 15 years and over) on demographic characteristics, employment status, nature of occupancy, housing costs, income, landlord type and rental history.

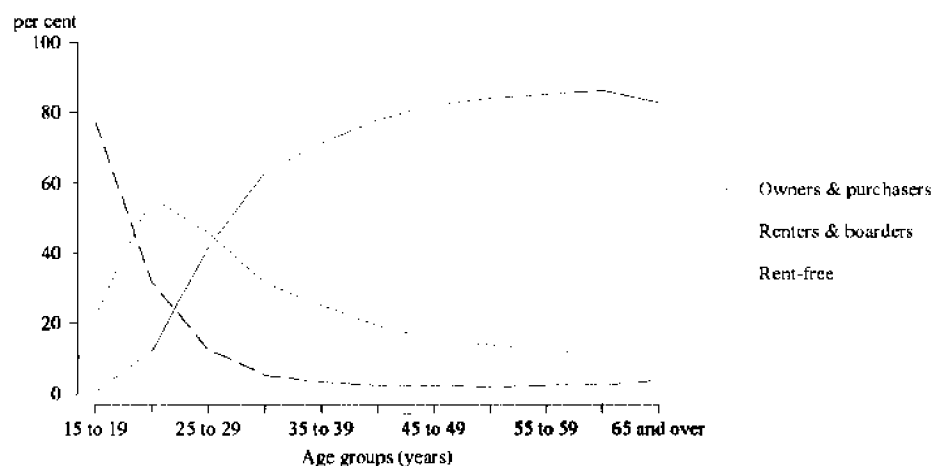
2. This publication contains preliminary information from the survey. Detailed information from the survey will be available in the publication *Renters in Australia, April 1994* (4138.0) which is expected to be released shortly.

### Characteristics of rental tenants

3. In April 1994, 61 per cent of Australia's adult population either owned or were purchasing their home, while 25 per cent (3 400 100 persons) were renters or boarders. The remaining 14 per cent of people lived rent-free or had some other form of tenure.

4. Renters and boarders tend to be concentrated in the younger age ranges. More than half of all renters were aged between 20-34 years and the median age group for renters was 30-34 years. In contrast, 47 per cent of all owners and purchasers were aged between 30-49 years with the median age group being 45-49 years. Nearly 20 per cent of all owners and purchasers were aged 65 or more compared with only 7 per cent of renters and boarders. Those in the rent-free category also tended to be younger, with 75 per cent aged 15-24 years. A significant proportion of these would be children living in the family home.

**FIGURE 1 PROPORTION OF PERSONS BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY AND AGE, AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1994**



### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Helen Zadoroznyj on Canberra (06) 252 7373 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

**TABLE 1 HOUSEHOLDS: HOUSEHOLD TYPE BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY  
AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1994**

Household type	Nature of occupancy			Total <sup>(a)</sup>	All households
	Owners/ purchasers	Renters	Rent-free		
		— per cent —			'000
Couple only	83.0	15.9	0.9	100.0	1 565.6
Couple with children	82.7	16.3	0.8	100.0	2 386.7
One parent	53.2	45.5	1.0	100.0	543.1
One person	62.9	34.5	2.3	100.0	1 309.2
Other	51.6	46.4	1.8	100.0	664.0
Total	73.1	25.4	1.2	100.0	6 468.8

(a) Includes a small proportion of persons who have some other form of tenure.

### Household characteristics

5. Owners and purchasers accounted for 73 per cent of the 6 468 800 households in Australia in April 1994. Renters made up 25 per cent, rent-free one per cent and other types of occupancy less than one per cent. These proportions are slightly different from those for persons. The main difference is the very low proportion of rent-free and boarder households. Most of the persons boarding or living rent-free do so as part of a wider household as opposed to being a household in their own right. Renters accounted for a far greater percentage of one parent, one person and other households than they did for couple households. Renters accounted for 46 per cent of one

parent households, 35 per cent of one person households and 46 per cent of other households, but only 16 per cent of all couple households.

6. For all households in all types of occupancy the most common type of dwelling was a separate house (80% of all households in Australia). Over 90 per cent of all owner and purchaser households lived in a separate house. However, the propensity for renting households to live in separate houses was much lower at just over 50 per cent.

**TABLE 2 HOUSEHOLDS: TYPE OF DWELLING BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY  
AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1994**

Type of dwelling	Nature of occupancy			Total <sup>(a)</sup>
	Owners/ purchasers	Renters	Rent free	
	per cent			
Separate house	90.5	50.4	76.3	80.1
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	4.6	15.3	7.8	7.3
Flat, unit or apartment	4.2	33.4	13.8	11.8
Other	0.5	0.8	* 1.9	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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(a) Includes a small proportion of persons who have some other form of tenure.

\* Relative standard error of 30 per cent or more

**RICHARD MADDEN**  
Acting Australian Statistician

