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What's happening in Victoria

Change of Victorian Regional Director

Welcome to the first issue of Statistics Victoria for 2008.

From 28 January I will take on a new role to work on a series of key corporate initiatives during 2008. I would like to thank VSAF members for their support as the Victorian Regional Director over the last six years and feel that ABS has a very positive relationship with Victorian State Government. As outgoing regional director, my view of the statistical challenges in Victoria are:

- Change of federal government, Council of Australian Governments and the new 'cooperative federalism'
- Maximising and optimising information from existing administrative datasets
- Delivering on cross-government collaborations (eg. Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS))
- Improved coordination (including quality, cost effectiveness, consistency and accessibility) across common statistical processes and activities (eg development of community indicators type surveys).

I think we are well placed to progress these challenges in a Victorian context.

I would like to welcome Carl Obst as the new Victorian Regional Director. Carl Obst is currently the Assistant Statistician of National Accounts Branch. He brings with him strong economic qualifications and has made a significant contribution over the last 14 years in national accounts and economic statistics. Carl has also spent 3 years working internationally with the OECD with a particular focus on the measurement of sustainable development.



Vince Lazzaro welcomes Carl Obst as new ABS Victoria Regional Director

Change in Victorian Regional Director *continued*

From 2 July 2007, the new Australian Statistician, Brian Pink, has implemented a new ABS organisational structure. There are now three major statistical groups, each headed by a Deputy Statistician:

- Macroeconomics and Integration Group headed by Ian Ewing;
- Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics Group headed by Peter Harper; and
- Social Statistics Group headed by Susan Linacre.

It is envisaged that this structure will support strengthening the National Statistical Service (NSS), and continue to deliver a high quality responsive service to ABS clients. The ABS Organisational Structure Chart can be accessed via <www.abs.gov.au>. There have also been changes at the senior executive level in ABS, with several senior appointments in December. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation which ABS receives from Victorian and local government officials as well as the Victorian community generally, and look forward to another busy year.

Vince Lazzaro
Regional Director
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum meeting of 13 December 2007

The Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum (VSAF) held its third meeting for 2007 on 13 December, welcoming new members Ms Elizabeth Thomas (Dept of Sustainability and Environment, DSE) and Ms Peggy Hausknecht (Dept of Planning and Community Development, DPCD), in place of Mr Jeremy Reynolds and Ms Alison McClelland, respectively.

Mr Vin Martin, chair of VSAF and Victorian Government representative at the State Statistical Forum (SSF), provided reports on the 20 November Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) meeting and the second SSF meeting for 2007 on 21 November. Mr Vin Martin attended ASAC on behalf of Lynne Williams, the current Victorian Government representative for ASAC. The agenda included the Australian Statistician's report; development of 2011 Census of Population and Housing; progress on standard business reporting; introduction of updated ANZSIC Classification; Census Data Enhancement Project; role of Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS); statistical literacy across government, media and tertiary students; and improving environmental statistics. 2007 is the first year that two SSF meetings have been held. Issues covered in November were statistics available for modelling and the National Reform Agenda; State/Regional Statistical Priorities; and centralising metadata.

Mr Vince Lazzaro (Regional Director, ABS Victoria Office) gave an update on recent ABS activity. He outlined changes in structure and staffing in ABS, including welcoming Mr Carl Obst, who takes over as Victorian Regional Director on 29 January 2008. In addition, Mr Vince Lazzaro highlighted the current collaboration between ABS and State Wide Outcomes for Children (DEECD) to create a means of centralising statistics on Children and Youth, which serves as a pilot study for the National Data Network (NDN). He also noted that the

biggest statistical challenge at the moment is to better utilise existing data by tapping into administrative systems. Finally, he mentioned that figures from the state supplementary survey on Household Preparedness for Emergencies will be published in mid-2008; and that Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) was launched and other states are looking to replicate it.

Ms Marie Apostolou (Director, Statistical Coordination Branch, ABS Victoria) presented the Victorian state government statistical priorities, which generated discussion emphasising the importance of statistics on housing affordability, transport costs, small area data on industry figures, environmental statistics and support for data needs underpinning the national reform agenda.

Ms Jeanette Pope (DPCD) presented a review of Community Wellbeing Indicators Work in Victoria, that revealed the significant provider load placed on households from surveys conducted by Victorian state and local governments. This led to discussion and an agreement to hold a workshop to analyse the situation more thoroughly, and look for opportunities to streamline the number of surveys conducted.

Mr Jeremy Reynolds (DSE) gave a presentation on some early learnings from the 2006 Census, covering the issues of population growth, concentration of knowledge in urban areas, and how to provide for an ageing population.

Mr Paul Taylor (Director, Client Services and PSO Branch, ABS Victoria) and Ms Di Chambers (Assistant Director of Census Field Operations) updated members on progress of the 2011 Census, including key goals; plans/changes to procedures; special enumeration strategies; and proposed topics. In addition, they highlighted to members the opportunity to make submissions and to take part in the current consultation process.

For further information on VSAF contact Antonella Caruso, Assistant Director, Statistical Coordination Branch on (03) 9615 7860 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Community of Users and Producers of Statistics (CUPS)

The national network, Community of Users and Producers of Statistics (CUPS), is open to anyone with a statistical or a statistically-related role in Australian, State and local governments and the academic and business sectors. The CUPS website <www.nss.gov.au/nss/CUPS> contains information on: training, recruitment and career development; statistical references; and links to conferences, seminars and workshops of interest to the Community. The website also links to relevant professional associations and information networks. If you would like to hear more about CUPS or have an event that you would like to share with the Community please email <inquiries@nss.gov.au>

NATSTATS Conference 2008

ABS will be hosting the NatStats Conference in Melbourne on 20–21 November 2008. The Conference aims to help connect users and producers of statistics from across government, public sector and academia, providing an opportunity to discuss strategies for measuring progress in Australian society and improving statistics for the nation. Broadly, the conference theme is: “Working together for a better informed and performed Australian Society”

Professionals, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and academics will be invited to speak on topics relevant to the conference theme. The conference program will consist of keynote and invited speakers who are significant contributors to national statistics, able to provide insight into measuring the progress of Australian society and future development of national statistics.

Preliminary planning is underway, and conference themes and topics are being considered. We are interested in hearing your suggestions on topics for the conference program, or perhaps you have an interesting or innovative case study which you would like to share with the statistical community. To share your ideas with us please email Mark Lound at <inquiries@nss.gov.au> or phone (02) 6252 6325. Details of the conference will be included in future editions of StatsVic newsletter and posted on the National Statistical Service (NSS) website <www.nss.gov.au>

Household Preparedness for Emergencies Survey, 2007

ABS's Statistical Coordination Branch are currently working collaboratively on a multi-state publication based on the 2007 ABS Household Preparedness for Emergencies Survey conducted in NSW, ACT, Queensland and Victoria. ABS Victoria is taking part to address a data gap identified by the Victorian State Government. The survey was conducted as an October 2007 ABS Labour Force Survey supplement, with a Victorian sample of approximately 5,750 households.

The survey asked questions on household preparedness for emergencies and household experience of emergencies, including:

- whether households have an emergency action plan;
- whether anyone in the household volunteers for an emergency, safety or rescue organisation;
- presence of selected safety precautions; and
- household experience of emergencies such as a house fire, bush fire, storm, flood or medical emergency.

The Office for the Emergency Services Commissioner (Vic) in Department of Justice provided input to ABS Victoria's Statistical Coordination Branch on data user needs in the emergency services sector. A multi-state survey publication is due for release in early June 2008.

For further information contact Jayde Hanson on (03) 9615 7879 or email <victoria.statistics.vic.gov.au>.

2011 Census – your views sought

ABS is now consulting with the community on the nature and content of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. ABS devotes a significant amount of planning to ensure output reflects the information needs of Australians. To facilitate the consultation process, ABS has released *Information Paper: 2011 Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures*. The paper describes proposed procedures for the 2011 Census and topics that might be included. ABS invites comment on the views expressed in the information paper. Submissions are required by 31 March 2008.

The information paper, submission form and other helpful documentation are available on the ABS website (for free download) at <www.abs.gov.au/2011censusviews>. Hardcopy submission forms can be requested by telephoning 1300 175 070 or emailing <2011.census@abs.gov.au>.

Release of Children & Youth Statistical Portal

To expand the National Statistical Service, the ABS has been working with a number of agencies to improve the range of statistical information available to inform policy, analysis and research. The National Data Network (NDN) is a national distributed network for acquiring, sharing and integrating information relevant to policy and research. The first pilot project for the NDN is the Children and Youth Statistical Portal (CYSP) – see <http://portals.nationaldatanetwork.org/childrenandyouth>.

The CYSP was released on 8 October 2007 and aims to provide access to a range of children and youth information resources from a single location. The Portal contains many publicly available information resources related to children and youth from a range of national and state organisations. This data is made available when contributing organisations (data custodians) load to the Portal entries which contain metadata and associated web links. Over 500 information resources are accessible through the Portal, which also contains a Discussion Forum to assist building a ‘community of users’ in the children and youth sphere. It is envisaged that the Forum will operate as a ‘meeting place’ to help people in the field identify important information sources that are not yet visible/accessible, raise issues and share information.

Agencies interested in more information about the Portal are encouraged to contact Lorraine Cornehlis via email, <inquiries@nss.gov.au> or by phone on (02) 6252 6079. If you would like more information about NDN in general, please call Benjamin Symes from the NDN Business Office on Canberra (02) 6252 5727 or email <inquiries@nationaldatanetwork.org>.

Community Indicators Victoria

A major release of new data has recently been made on the Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) website <www.communityindicators.net.au>. Data sourced from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing are now available for ten indicators covering: lifelong learning, economic activity, employment, income and wealth, skills, housing and transport accessibility. Where appropriate, data have also been provided by sex and age. Six indicators have been added to the automated Wellbeing Reports available for each Local Government Area. Additional data by sex and broad age group are also available for those indicators sourced from the CIV Survey. The opportunity has also been taken to revise the survey data to incorporate new 2006 Estimated Resident Population benchmarks and minor corrections to some unit records.

CIV is a collaborative project hosted by the McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne. The ABS Victorian Office provides support to CIV through provision of an outpost officer. For more information contact Dr Melanie Davern, Research Fellow – Community Indicators Victoria on (03) 8344 3180.

Development of 2008–09 Service Industry Surveys

ABS is planning to conduct surveys on nursing homes, aged care, child care, residential care, and non-residential care in respect of the 2008–09 financial year. The Goods and Services National Statistics Centre (G&S NSC) will commence consultation with relevant stakeholders in late 2007 and continue until mid-2008. The aim of stakeholder consultation is to develop a common understanding between ABS and key clients of the purpose and requirements for each survey; eg. identify and prioritise the content, accuracy, scope; and significant issues that could impact on survey development, implementation or output.

For the purpose of identifying relevant stakeholders for consultations in the broad development phase, the G&S NSC will soon commence contacting those organisations that made relevant submissions to the 2005 Service Industry Survey Forward Work Program review. If you did not make a relevant submission to the review but would still like to be included in development of any of these surveys or for further information contact Melanie Taylor, Director, G&S NSC on (02) 6252 7495 or email <service.industries.program@abs.gov.au>

National Regional Profile

National Regional Profile (NRP) fourth edition (cat. no. 1379.0.55.001) is due for release in late-February 2008, with data spanning 2002 to 2006. NRP provides a brief summary of key economic and social information for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas, making it a useful tool for users of small area data. Data are provided from a variety of ABS and non-ABS sources covering: population characteristics, births and deaths, unemployment, taxable income, wage and salary earners, building approvals and motor vehicle sales etc. Users can obtain a snapshot of a local area or compare characteristics across areas. Recently released 2006 Census data will be included in the upcoming NRP.

Along with traditional Census data items such as occupation, households and families; this NRP will include data on unpaid work, access to the internet and mobility of the population.

Perspectives on Regional Australia: Wealth throughout Australia

This publication (cat no. 1380.0.55.004) is the fourth of a series of reports analysing a range of topics with a particular focus on Regional Australia. This issue examines the level and distribution of wealth, in the form of assets and liabilities, across urban and rural areas of Australia. The data presented are from the 2005–06 Survey of Income and Housing and the regional dimension in this publication is based on the Section of State structure which enables comparison across urban and rural areas of Australia. The report is due for release late March 2008.

For further information contact Aidan Kent (03) 9615 7607 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 Implementation Update

Since the review of ANZSIC in 2002, ABS has been progressively working towards implementing the change from ANZSIC 1993 to ANZSIC 2006. ABS's Business Register is the source of frames for most business collections. The Register has two components, one containing large and complex businesses and maintained by ABS, while the other contains businesses with a simple structure and is sourced from the Australian Business Register maintained by the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Since May 2006, both components of the ABS Business Register have been migrated to ANZSIC 2006. This was achieved in collaboration with the ATO, which coded 5.9 million business records to ANZSIC 2006. The ATO now codes new business registrations on an ANZSIC 2006 basis. The ABS Business Register will carry both ANZSIC 1993 and 2006 until all statistical collections have migrated to the new classification.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) was the first collection to release information based on ANZSIC 2006. In March 2007, LFS released employment statistics by industry on both ANZSIC 1993 and ANZSIC 2006 bases for August Quarter 2006, November Quarter 2006 and February Quarter 2007. Datacubes will continue to be released on both bases until November 2008, after which new data will only be available on the new basis.

Retail and Wholesale Service Industries (RIS/WIS) was the second collection to release information based on ANZSIC 2006 structure. RIS/WIS outputs for the reference period 2005–2006 were released in August 2007. Since RIS/WIS is an irregular economic collection, no historical comparison was made available.

Population Census (2006 reference period) released industry data using ANZSIC 2006 structure in October 2007. Although the Census data is being released on an ANZSIC 2006 basis, data based on ANZSIC 1993 will be available upon request.

Other collections expected to release data on ANZSIC 2006 basis this financial year include Engineering Construction (cat. no. 8755.0 and 8762.0; September Quarter 2007 reference period) in December 2007 and Agricultural Census (cat. no. 7121.0; 2005–2006 reference period) in March 2008.

For further information contact Celia Quiatchon (02) 6252 5604.

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (SRIV) 2006 Census: regional Victoria in profile

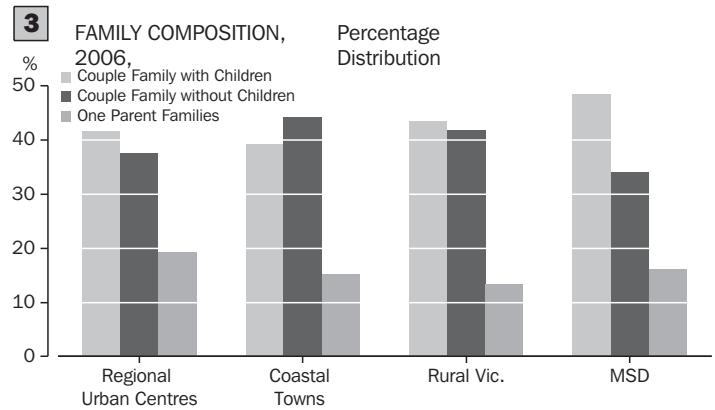
The feature article from 'State and Regional Indicators, Victoria, Sept 2007' examined dwelling, household, family and person characteristics for regional Victoria using 2006 Census data. Regional Victoria is divided into three spatial areas referred to as 'Regional Urban Centres', 'Coastal towns' and 'Rural Victoria'. 'Regional Urban Centres' are urban centres in Regional Victoria with 20,000 or more population. Coastal Towns are urban centres with a population of 1,000 or more located on the coast. Rural Victoria comprised the remainder of Victoria (excluding Melbourne Statistical Region).

Separate houses (88%) were the dominant dwelling type in regional Victoria. A flat, unit, or apartment was more common in Regional Urban Centres (10%) than Coastal Towns (7%) or Rural Victoria (4%). Semi-detached, row or terrace houses or townhouses were more frequent in Regional Urban Centres (6%) and Coastal Towns (6%) than Rural Victoria (2%). A separate house was more common in Rural Victoria (92%) than Regional Urban Centres (83%) and Coastal Towns (85%).

The median monthly housing loan repayment was \$1,300 in Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD). Rural Victoria had comparatively low repayments of \$975, while Regional Urban Centre and Coastal Town repayments were \$1,083.

The median weekly cost of renting a dwelling was \$200 in Melbourne SD. Rural Victoria (\$130) had the lowest rental costs, followed by Regional Urban Centres (\$160) and Coastal Towns (\$165).

Couple families with children ranged between Coastal Towns (39% of families) and Rural Victoria (44%), compared with Melbourne SD (48%). Couple families without children ranged between Regional Urban Centres (38%) and Coastal Towns (44%), compared with Melbourne SD (34%). One parent families were more prevalent in Regional Urban Centres (19%) than Coastal Towns (15%) and Rural Victoria (14%), with Melbourne SD (16%).



The proportion of people born overseas (around 10%) was consistent throughout areas of regional Victoria, with around 85% of people reporting they were born in Australia, and 5% not stating their country of origin. This contrasts to Melbourne, where almost 30% of people were born overseas. Birthplaces other than Australia were consistent across segments of Regional Victoria. The United Kingdom and New Zealand were most prominent, with UK-born represented in Coastal Towns (5% of people), Regional Urban Centres (3%) and Rural Victoria (4%). New Zealand-born occurred in Coastal Towns (1%) and Rural Victoria (1%), but Italian-born (around 1%) came second in Regional Urban Centres.

The regional spread of registered marriage was: Melbourne SD (50% of all persons aged 15 years or more), Regional Urban Centres (48%), Coastal Towns (52%), and Rural Victoria (55%). De facto marriage occurred as: Melbourne SD (8% of all persons aged 15 years or more), Regional Urban Centres (9%), Coastal Towns (9%), and Rural Victoria (8%). Not married status occurred as: Melbourne SD (42% of all persons aged 15 years or more), Regional Urban Centres (43%), Coastal Towns (39%), and Rural Victoria (36%).

This article is presented in full in the Sept quarter 2007 edition of 'State and Regional Indicators, Victoria' (cat. no. 1367.2), along with many other commentary covering Victorian data at local government area and sub-state level.

For further information contact Pam Boulton (03) 9615 7880 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007. Released 04/12/2007

The estimated resident population of Victoria at end June 2007 was 5,205,200 persons, an increase of 76,900 (1.5%) for the year. The Australian population grew by 1.5% during the 12 months, with natural increase and net overseas migration contributing 44% and 56% respectively to this growth. Western Australia (2.3%) and Queensland (2.2%) recorded the largest proportional annual gains and Tasmania (0.7%) the smallest.

For year ended 30 June 2007, net interstate migration was negative for New South Wales (27,300 persons moved out of the state), South Australia (3,600), Victoria (2,200) and Tasmania (450). Queensland (27,000 persons) experienced net interstate migration gain, followed by Western Australia (4,400), ACT (1,900) and NT (230). Net overseas migration gained Victoria 47,200 persons (61.3% of annual Vic population growth).

3201.0 Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, June 2007. Released 12/12/2007

Contains estimated resident population (ERP) by age and sex based on the 2006 Census.

3301.0 Births, Australia, 2006. Released 29/10/2007

In 2006, Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.81 babies per woman, the highest since 1995 (1.82). The increase in TFR 2005 to 2006 was largely due to births by women aged 30 to 39 years. Women 30–34 years experienced the highest fertility of all age groups in 2006, with 120.1 babies per 1,000 women. Fertility of women 35–39 years increased to 63.3 babies per 1,000 women. Fertility of women 25–29 years decreased slightly to 100.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2006.

In 2006, there were 265,900 births registered in Australia, 6,200 (2.4%) more than in 2005. This was the second highest number of births registered in Australia, with only more births in 1971 (276,400 births). The median age of all mothers who gave birth in 2006 was 30.8 years (the highest on record) and for all fathers was 33.1 years. In 2006, 67% of births were to parents in a registered marriage, compared to 83% in 1986. There were 65,200 registered births in Victoria in 2006, a 3.1% increase on 2005.

3302.0 Deaths, Australia, 2006. Released 09/11/2007

There were 133,700 deaths registered in Australia in 2006, approximately 3,000 (2.3%) more than the number registered in 2005 (130,700). The standardised death rate in 2006 (6.0 deaths per 1,000 standard population) was the lowest on record. Over the past 20 years, life expectancy has improved by 5.8 years for males and 4.3 years for females. A boy born in 2004–2006 can expect to live 78.7 years, while a girl can expect to live 83.5 years. The infant mortality rate of 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 was 5% lower than the 2005 rate (5.0), and 46% below the 1986 rate (8.8). In 2006, the median age at death was 77.3 years for males and 83.3 years for females.

3306.0.55.001 Marriages, Australia, 2006. Released 04/10/2007

In Australia during 2006, there were 114,222 registered marriages, a 4.5% increase on 2005 and the highest number of registrations since 1999. This increase was consistent across all states and territories, with the exception of ACT. New South Wales was the largest contributor with a rise of 2,144 (6.0%) marriages from 2005 to 2006, and Victoria increased by 1,298 (5.1%). In 2006, the median age at marriage was 31.6 years for Australian bridegrooms and 29.3 years for brides. Median age at first marriage was 29.6 years for bridegrooms and 27.6 years for brides. Since 1986, the median age at marriage has increased 4.3 years for bridegrooms and 4.4 years for brides.

3415.0 Migrant Data Matrices, 2007. Released 22/11/2007. First Issue

The Migrant Data Matrices provide an easy and quick method of finding ABS migrant and ethnicity related data. Migrant related data items from a range of ABS collections are shown in a series of matrices with direct links to datacubes. More migrant series will be added to this product in future releases.

4130.0.55.001 Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005–06. Released 31/10/2007

Data from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) on housing occupancy and costs, are related to characteristics of occupants and dwellings such as tenure, family composition of household, dwelling structure, age, and income. It also includes value of dwelling estimates, information on recent home buyers, and a feature article on first home buyers. Housing costs include rates payments (general and water), rent payments and mortgage repayments if the initial purpose of the loan was primarily to buy, add or alter the dwelling; with information for years in the range 1994–95 to 2005–06.

During 2005–06, there were approximately 19.9 million people, or 7.9 million households, living in private dwellings in Australia, up 13% on people in private dwellings during 1994–95. The number of households increased 21% over this period, reflecting a decrease from 2.69 to 2.51 persons average per household. The average dwelling size increased over this period from 2.88 to 3.06 bedrooms per dwelling.

The proportion of households that own their own home with or without a mortgage has ranged between 69% and 71% from 1994–95 to 2005–06. The proportion that owned their dwelling outright decreased from 42% in 1994–95 to 34% in 2005–06. The proportion that owned their dwelling with a mortgage increased from 30% to 35%, as did the proportion of households renting privately (from 18% to 22%).

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

4130.0.55.001 Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2005–06. Released 31/10/2007 *continued*

In Melbourne during 2005–06, an owner without a mortgage had mean housing costs per week of \$35, an owner with a mortgage \$320, and a private landlord renter \$217. In Balance of Victoria, an owner without a mortgage had mean housing costs per week of \$25, an owner with a mortgage \$280, and a renter (private landlord) \$158. In Victoria, there were an estimated 741,800 owner without mortgage households, 690,900 owner with mortgage households, and 423,500 private landlord renter households.

4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia, Sep 2007. Released 29/11/2007

The average daily number of full-time prisoners in Australia in the September quarter 2007 was 26,407. Nationally, the September quarter 2007 average daily imprisonment rate was 164 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, an increase of 2% from the September quarter 2006. The Northern Territory had the highest imprisonment rate (553 prisoners per 100,000 adult population), followed by Western Australia (243) and New South Wales (181). The ACT (including ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons) and Victoria had the lowest imprisonment rates (66 and 105 prisoners per 100,000 adults, respectively).

4613.0 Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, 2007. Released 10/12/2007

Explores water as a major environmental concern, and examines major trends of relevance to the environment, including: population, human activities, atmosphere, water, and landscape. Contains state level data.

5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2006–07. Released 16/11/2007

During 2006–07, gross state product (GSP) in volume terms increased in all states. Western Australia experienced the strongest growth (6.3%) followed by Northern Territory (5.6%), ACT (5.0%) and Queensland (4.9%). Growth in South Australia (0.8%), New South Wales (1.8%), Tasmania (2.1%) and Victoria (2.7%) was below Australian GDP growth of 3.2%.

Volume growth in gross value added was positive in all states in 2006–07. Growth in Western Australia was mainly driven by Construction (15.7%) and Mining (12.6%). Northern Territory experienced strong growth in Mining (12.1%), Queensland's growth was due to Construction (19.2%) and ACT's strongest growth was in Communication (11.0%). The main industries contributing to 2006–07 Australian gross value added growth were Mining, Construction, and Property and business services. Major contributors to Victorian gross value added growth were: Property and business services (0.5% points) and Construction (0.4% points).

Government final consumption expenditure rose in all states during 2006–07. Queensland (6.0%) showed the strongest growth in volume terms, driven by strong state and local expenditure. The lowest growth was recorded in Victoria (2.6%), followed by South Australia (3.2%).

5368.0.55.006 Number and Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2006–07. Released 13/11/2007

There were 44,310 exporters of goods and services in 2006–07, a 5% increase on 2005–06. In 2006–07, less than 1% of goods exporters had aggregate exports of \$100m or more, but these exporters contributed 79% of the value of total goods exports. About 1% of service exporters had aggregate exports of \$100m or more, and contributed 21% by value to total services exports. In 2006–07, the Wholesale trade industry accounted for 28% of all goods exporters. Only 9% of agriculture, forestry and fishing commodities were exported by businesses in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry.

6554.0 Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia, 2005–06. Released 09/11/2007

Includes summary measures of the distribution of household net worth (or wealth) in Australia. Households are described by net worth quintile, income quintile, principal source of household income, family composition, age, tenure type and geographic location. For each category of household, estimates of various assets and liabilities comprising net worth are provided along with estimates of household income, household size and other characteristics.

Wealth is a net concept and measures the extent to which value of household assets (both financial and non-financial) exceeds value of liabilities. In Australia during 2005–06, the mean value of household assets was \$655,000. The corresponding value of mean household liabilities was \$92,000, resulting in mean household net worth of \$563,000; or a median (mid-point when all households are ranked in ascending order of net worth) of \$340,000. Contains state level tables (capital city/balance of state/total state).

7122.0.55.001 Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders, Australia, Oct 2007. Released 27/11/2007

Total grain held in storage facilities operated by the major grain handling companies at 31 October 2007 was 2.5 million tonnes. Current stocks are 7.9 million tonnes (76%) below the October 2006 level.

8146.0.55.001 Patterns of internet access in Australia, 2006. Released 29/11/2007. First Issue

Research suggests that significant differences exist in Internet access based on income, education and age. In 2001, 35% of Australian dwellings had Internet access in the previous week, while in 2006 some 63% of dwellings had access. Nationally in 2006, 66% of dwellings in major cities had access to the Internet and 46% to Broadband. Inner Regional, Outer Regional and Remote Australia Internet access rates were 59%, 55% and 54%; and for Broadband 32%, 27% and 28%.

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

8146.0.55.001 Patterns of internet access in Australia, 2006. Released 29/11/2007. First Issue *continued*

Overall, 63% of Victorian dwellings had Internet connectivity, and 42% had Broadband connectivity. Melbourne (c) – Southbank Docklands SLA had the highest rate of Internet (89% of persons) and Broadband (75%) connectivity at SLA level in Victoria. The Melbourne SLAs of Melbourne (C) – Southlands-Docklands, Bayside (C) – Brighton and Melbourne (C) – Inner had Broadband connectivity rates in excess of 70%. In the Rest of State: SLAs of Newtown, Surfcoast (S) – East, Greater Bendigo (C) – Strathfieldsaye and Macedon Ranges (S) – Bal had Broadband connectivity rates in excess of 50%.

The Melbourne SLAs of Cardina (S) – South, Mornington Peninsula (S) – South, Yarra Ranges (S) – Central, and Brimbank (C) – Sunshine Inner had Broadband connectivity rates below 40%. In the Rest of State, SLAs of Loddon (S) – South, Horsham (RC) – Bal, and Wangaratta (RC) – South had Broadband connectivity rates below 15%.

8155.0 Australian Industry, 2005–06. Released 23/11/2007

Data compiled from the ABS Economic Activity Survey and ATO business income tax data. There were 2,491,900 total businesses operating in total selected industries (15 industry divisions) of the Australian economy, an increase of 126,800 businesses (5%) from 2004–05 to 2005–06. For total selected industries, the key aggregates of income, expenses and industry value added increased by 9%, 8% and 12% respectively during 2005–06. Operating profit before tax increased 21%.

In 2005–06, the largest number of operating businesses were in property and business services (with 718,400 businesses, or 29% of total selected industries), construction (16%), retail trade and agriculture, forestry and fishing (10% each). For total selected industries, total income increased in current price terms by \$186b (9%) between 2004–05 and 2005–06, to \$2,153b. Of this increase, sales of goods accounted for \$80b; income from services \$79b (excluding rent, leasing and hiring income); and rent, leasing and hiring income \$11b. All industries increased total income in current price terms, with the largest proportional increase occurring in mining (30%).

Total selected industries employed 8.4m persons at end-June 2006, a 4% (or 312,000 persons) increase on a year earlier. Almost half of this total employment was accounted for by three industries: property and business services (1.5m persons, or 18%), retail trade (1.4m, or 17%) and manufacturing (1.1m, or 13%). From 2004–05 to 2005–06, profit margins increased notably in the two top-ranked industries: mining (34.9%, up from 29.5%), and property and business services (23.2%, up from 17.9%). The smallest profit margins were in wholesale trade and retail trade (4.3% and 4.1% respectively).

In 2005–06, Victorian total selected industries had an operating profit before tax of \$53.8b, total expenses of \$495.7b, total income of \$547.5b, and paid out \$77.1b in wages and salaries. Contains limited state level data.

8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007. Released 14/12/2007

Detailed business counts are presented by industry, State and Territory, sector, type of legal organisation, and employment and turnover size. Detailed datacubes have been released for the first time at Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. This publication presents counts of businesses sourced from ABS's Business Register. Some key points:

- There were 2,011,770 actively trading business in Australia as at June 2007.
- The number of businesses grew by 2.2% during 2003–04; 1.5% during 2004–05; 1.3% during 2005–06 and 2.4% during 2006–07.
- Contributing to the high growth rate was a higher entry rate (17.0%) and a lower exit rate (14.6%) for the period. The 14.6% exit rate was the lowest recorded over the four year period of the survey.
- Of the 1,868,969 businesses operating in June 2003, 58.4% were still operating in June 2007.
- Of the 325,935 business entries during 2003–04, 48.6% were still operating in June 2007.
- Survival rates for non-employing businesses are significantly lower than employing businesses but contribute the greatest proportion of both stock of existing businesses and business entries.

8166.0 Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2005–06. Released 19/11/2007. First Issue

Internet use during the year ended 30 June 2006 was reported by 81% of businesses, while 30% of businesses reported having a web presence at the end of the period. Broadband (an 'always on' Internet connection of 256 kbps or higher) was the main Internet connection type for 82% of businesses with Internet use in 2006, up from 63% in June 2005. Some 37% of businesses placed orders via the Internet during 2005–06; and 21% of businesses received orders via the Internet in 2005–06, compared with 12% in 2004–05. Income received from these orders (i.e. Internet income) grew by approximately 40% from \$40 billion in 2004–05 to \$57 billion.

At end-June 2006, Wholesale trade (97%) and Health and community services (96%) had the highest proportion of businesses using computers, while Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (76%) had the lowest. Internet use was highest for Finance and insurance services (93%) and Cultural and recreational services (92%), and least in Transport and storage (66%). Cultural and recreational services had the highest rate with a web presence (54%) followed by Electricity, gas and water supply (51%), while least was Construction (13%).

8221.0 Manufacturing Industry, Australia, 2005–06. Released 10/12/2007.

Estimates from the annual Economic Activity Survey of the performance of Australian manufacturing industry for 2005–06, together with data on a comparable basis from 2001–02 and intervening years. Contains state level data.

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

8415.0 Mining Operations, Australia, 2005–06.

Released 18/10/2007

From 2004–05 to 2005–06, industry value added (IVA) for selected mining in Western Australia increased by \$8.3b (44%) to \$27.3b, and in Queensland by \$6.8b (78%) to \$15.5b. After declining each year since 2001–02, IVA for 2005–06 in Victoria and the Northern Territory increased by 13% (\$376m) and 34% (\$437m) respectively. In 2005–06, Western Australia's \$27.3b of industry value added represented 48% of the Australian total for selected mining, followed by Queensland (27%), New South Wales (11%) and Victoria (6%). Sales and service income for selected mining industry rose in Victoria by 7% (\$262m) in 2005–06, and employment increased 21%.

9208.0 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia, 12 months ended 31 Oct 2006. Released 19/10/2007

Presents estimates on such variables as distance travelled, tonne-kilometres and fuel consumption. Victoria had an average 3,740,570 vehicles registered in 2006, up 297,997 vehicles (8.7%) on 2002. They travelled an estimated 54,698 million kilometres in 2006, or an average of 14,600 km per vehicle. The largest vehicle class was passenger vehicles (3,021,479 vehicles), followed by light commercial (470,861), motor cycles (112,120), and rigid trucks (95,802); with 14,078 buses also registered.

9309.0 Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 Mar 2007.

Released 16/11/2007

There were 14.8 million motor vehicles, including motor cycles, registered in Australia at 31 March 2007. This represents an increase of 2.9% since 2006, and an increase of 12.2% since 2003, when there were 13.2 million vehicles. Average annual growth over 4 years was 2.9%. There were 705 motor vehicles per 1,000 resident population in Australia in 2007, compared with 663 vehicles per 1,000 residents in 2003. The average age of all registered vehicles rose from 6.1 years in 1971 to 10.7 years in 1997, and was 10.0 years in 2007.

Victoria had 3.8 million registered vehicles (25.8% of Australia's fleet). Victoria's fleet increased 2.1% from 2006 to 2007; and 9.3% since 2003, giving 2.2% average annual growth over 4 years. Motor cycles accounted for 3.5% of all vehicles in Australia during 2007, up slightly from 2.9% in 2003. Victoria had the largest share (10,269) of articulated trucks with a gross combination mass (GCM) greater than 60 tonnes, followed by Queensland with 9,868.

In 2007, there were 11.7 million vehicles in Australia (78.9% of total) that used unleaded petrol, while 1.1 million vehicles (7.3%) used leaded petrol. Compared with 2003, this represents a 23.9% increase in unleaded petrol vehicles and a 50.7% decrease in leaded petrol vehicles. Vehicles using diesel fuel made up 11.2% (or 1.7 million vehicles) of total fleet, an increase of 34.5% since 2003. A total of 6.1 million passenger vehicles were either Toyota (19.1% of total passenger fleet), Holden (18.1%) or Ford (16.0%) at 31 March 2007.

INFORMATION PAPERS, RESEARCH PAPERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

1220.0.30.001 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Coder, 2007.

Released 14/12/2007

ANZSCO Coder is a Windows-based structured coding system on CD-ROM which provides a quick and efficient way to code occupation information to ANZSCO.

4232.0 Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Concepts and Directions in Early Childhood Learning, 2007. Released 20/12/2007. First Issue

This paper outlines a project to develop quality statistics in early childhood learning, focussing on children aged 0 to 8 years. The paper proposes a suite of early childhood learning measures and data development activities which would be needed in order to provide relevant and quality data for comparable analysis across states and territories. Description and evaluation of currently reported indicators and data collections are included. The paper provides an opportunity for input and further discussion among researchers and the community.

4525.0 Information Paper: National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework, 2007. Released 21/09/2007

The National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework (NCJSF) discusses the various connections across the main sectors of the criminal justice system and identifies some of the key counting units (such as "person" and "criminal incident") and data variables that characterise its main aspects. The Framework aims to support integration of criminal justice data between the different, interconnecting sectors of the criminal justice system as well as across states and territories of Australia.

6465.0 Analytical Living Cost Indexes: 15th Series Weighting Pattern, Sep 2005.

Released 03/10/2007. First Issue

An Excel spreadsheet that provides weighting patterns for the four household index types: employee, age pensioner, other government transfer recipient and self-funded retiree; as at June quarter 2005.

INFORMATION PAPERS, RESEARCH PAPERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Cat. no.		Release date
1216.0	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2007	28/09/2007
1216.0.15.001	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) – Electronic Structures, 01 Jul 2007.	28/09/2007
1216.0.15.002	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Concordances, 01 Jul 2007.	28/09/2007
1259.0.30.004	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure (RA) Digital Boundaries, Australia, 2006.	08/11/2007 First Issue
2007.0	Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2011	26/10/2007
2919.0.55.001	Census Collection District Comparability Listing, 1996 to 2006.	17/10/2007
5260.0.55.001	Information paper: Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity, 2007.	07/09/2007 First Issue
5260.0.55.002	Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity, 2006–07.	23/11/2007 First Issue
8163.0	Patterns of Innovation in Australian Businesses, 2005.	01/11/2007

OTHER SELECTED RELEASES

Cat. no.		Release date
1001.0	Australian Bureau of Statistics Annual Report, 2006–07.	12/10/2007
1303.0	Discover the ABS, 2006 to 2008.	26/09/2007 First Issue
1329.0.55.002	Vineyards Estimates, Australia, 2006–07.	07/12/2007
1391.0.55.001	Planning for Business, 2007.	26/10/2007 First Issue
2007.0	Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2011.	26/10/2007
3302.2.55.001	Life Tables, Victoria, 2006.	09/11/2007
4183.0	Cultural Funding by Government, Australia, 2005–06.	23/08/2007
4229.0	Adult Learning, Australia, 2006–07.	21/12/2007 First Issue
4517.0	Prisoners in Australia, 2007.	13/12/2007
5368.0.55.003	International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Financial Year, 2006–07.	01/11/2007
7126.0	Principal Agricultural Commodities, Third Estimates, Australia, 2005–06.	13/12/2007 First Issue
8129.0	Business Use of Information Technology, 2005–06.	07/12/2007
9210.0.55.001	Survey of Motor Vehicle Use: Data Cubes, Australia, 01 Nov 2005 to 31 Oct 2006.	26/10/2007

Main Economic Indicators (MEIs) Also released during the past quarter were a number of monthly and quarterly MEIs which can be accessed from the ABS website home page <www.abs.gov.au>. Examples of MEIs include: housing finance, building approvals, labour force, consumer price index, sales of new motor vehicles, and retail trade.

Free ABS publications online. All ABS electronic publications from 1998 onwards are available free from <www.abs.gov.au>.

What statistical training courses are available at ABS Victoria?

- Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)
- Analysing Data Made Simple (ASDMS)
- Turning Data Into Information (TDII)
- Basic Survey Design (BSD)

Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)

This course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework for a statistical collection. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course aims to provide a framework to evaluate the quality of available data sources and use this knowledge in the decision-making process.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Length: 1 day
Fee: \$450.00

2008 Course Dates: 13 February & 14 August

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)

This computer based course develops practical skills in summarising and displaying survey data in graphical and tabular form. It provides the tools for finding simple relationships in survey data and testing for statistically significant differences in past and current survey results.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Length: 2 days
Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 2 & 3 April and 2 & 3 September

Turning Data Into Information (TDII)

This course develops skills in interpreting, displaying and communicating data clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful written information.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Length: 2 days
Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 20 & 21 May and 15 & 16 October

Basic Survey Design (BSD)

This course aims to provide a broad overview of all facets of survey development. Topics include developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire design, data processing, reporting of results and management of the design process.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Length: 2 days
Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 9 & 10 July and 26 & 27 November

For further information go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. Select 'Services We Provide' then 'ABS Training' or contact Maxine McDermott on (03) 9615 7080 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

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Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum (VSAF)

VSAF is a major forum for statistical liaison between Victorian Government Agencies and ABS. The following group of departmental representatives meet 3 times each year.

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Vin Martin

Department of Treasury and Finance
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