

POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 21 APR 1998

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INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Theo Neumann on Adelaide 08 8237 7303, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
May 1998	21 July 1998
August 1998	20 October 1998

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents summary results of the Population Survey Monitor (PSM).

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The PSM is a quarterly household survey of approximately 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.

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey of households throughout Australia and are subject to sampling variability because data are not collected from all households. Relative standard errors give a measure of this variability and indicate the degree of confidence that can be attached to the data (see Technical Notes on pages 19 and 20 for more information). 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.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- * relative standard error greater than 25% — subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- ** relative standard error greater than 50% — subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- .. not applicable

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

INQUIRIES

For information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Theo Neumann on Adelaide (08) 8237 7303.

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

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

HOUSING

Over 4.7 million households (70.3%) own or are purchasing the residence in which they live. Approximately 2.0 million households are living in the first dwelling they purchased. Of those 2.0 million households, almost 20% purchased their dwelling before 1970 (refer to tables 1 and 2).

POLICE

Of all persons aged 18 years and over, 14.2% were very satisfied and 53.7% were satisfied with the services provided by police (refer to table 4).

CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS

Over 2.7 million households (40.7%) indicated in February 1998 that they intend to purchase a major item in the June quarter 1998. Over 1.2 million households (18.4%) indicated that they intend to buy a household item worth more than \$200 in the June quarter 1998, and over 0.9 million households (13.7%) intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 (refer to table 5).

ENERGY USAGE

Electricity is clearly the most popular main energy source for cooking (61.8%) and water heating (57.3%). This compares to around 34.0% of households who use gas for these purposes. No discernable difference is evident in the proportions using gas and electricity for room heating (approximately 34.0%) (refer to table 7).

ORGANISED SPORT

In the last 12 months, 37.0% of males and 27.7% of females aged 18 years and over have participated in sport or physical activity organised by a club or association (refer to table 8).

COMPUTER USAGE

In over one third of all households (35.4%) a household member uses a computer at home at least once a week, and 89.4% of these households also have a printer (refer to tables 9 and 10).

ALCOHOL CONSUMED

Over 59% of people reported consuming alcohol in the last week. Beer was the preferred beverage being consumed by over 4.7 million (35.1%) people, followed by white wine (18.7%) and spirits and liqueurs (16.0%). Alcohol consumption was highest among males in the 25-34 year age group (76.6%) (refer to tables 11 and 12).

MAIN FEATURES *continued*

CULTURAL VENUES

In the last 3 years, 25.4% of all South Australian usual residents visited the South Australian Art Gallery, 32.0% visited the South Australian Museum, and 19.2% visited the South Australian State Library (refer to table 13).

ART AND CRAFT

In the last 3 months, hand made art and hand made craft were purchased by 5.3% and 18.8% of persons aged 18 years and over respectively (refer to table 14).

1

FIRST HOME OWNERS AND FIRST HOME BUYERS

Household type	YEAR OF PURCHASE.....					TOTAL.....	
	Pre 1970	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1998	Don't know	Proportion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	37.7	*4.9	19.0	32.0	*6.4	100.0	344.7
Married couple(a) only	29.0	13.5	18.0	34.2	*5.4	100.0	558.2
Parents(b) with children(c) aged 15+	28.0	40.4	15.0	*9.8	*6.8	100.0	315.3
Parents(b) with children aged 0-14	**	*2.6	41.9	52.3	*2.6	100.0	515.7
Parents(b) with children(c) aged 15+ and 0-14	**	30.5	44.3	*24.1	**	100.0	149.4
Other households	*11.0	*10.4	*18.3	54.1	**	100.0	118.1
All household types	19.9	14.5	25.8	35.1	4.7	100.0	2 001.4
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
All household types	397.4	291.2	517.2	701.5	94.0	..	2 001.4

(a) Includes defacto couples.

(b) Includes married/defacto and single parents.

(c) All children aged 15+ who are unmarried.

2

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE

Household type	TENURE.....				TOTAL.....	
	Owner/purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Proportion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	61.6	11.0	23.5	3.9	100.0	1 464.4
Married couple(a) only	79.7	3.6	14.4	2.3	100.0	1 677.9
Married couple(a) with children	81.9	2.1	13.5	2.5	100.0	2 393.5
Single parent with children	45.7	18.6	30.4	*5.3	100.0	528.8
Other households	45.2	*3.4	46.2	*5.1	100.0	722.3
All household types	70.3	5.8	20.7	3.2	100.0	6 786.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
All household types	4 768.2	394.0	1 405.1	219.5	..	6 786.8

(a) Includes defacto couples.

3

PERSONS WHO HAVE MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Characteristic	Moved in the last 12 months....		Didn't move in the last 12 months.....		Total.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Age group						
18-24 years	774.3	42.6	1 042.9	57.4	1 817.2	100.0
25-34 years	941.2	33.5	1 867.2	66.5	2 808.5	100.0
35-44 years	450.4	16.1	2 354.0	83.9	2 804.4	100.0
45-54 years	282.4	11.8	2 114.7	88.2	2 397.0	100.0
55-64 years	101.0	6.5	1 454.6	93.5	1 555.6	100.0
65 and over	117.4	5.8	1 912.4	94.2	2 029.8	100.0
Sex						
Male	1 341.4	20.3	5 261.4	79.7	6 602.8	100.0
Female	1 325.3	19.5	5 484.5	80.5	6 809.8	100.0
Labour force status						
Employed full time	1 315.3	22.8	4 441.4	77.2	5 756.6	100.0
Employed part time	495.3	20.3	1 948.1	79.7	2 443.4	100.0
Unemployed	256.0	37.3	430.5	62.7	686.5	100.0
Not in the labour force	600.2	13.3	3 925.8	86.7	4 525.9	100.0
Highest educational qualification attained						
Still attending	*42.8	*51.1	*40.9	*48.9	83.7	100.0
High school certificate or less	1 282.5	18.6	5 625.3	81.4	6 907.9	100.0
Trade certificate/apprenticeship	347.3	18.8	1 503.6	81.2	1 850.9	100.0
Certificate	416.6	20.2	1 643.2	79.8	2 059.8	100.0
Associate or undergraduate diploma	200.3	23.5	653.3	76.5	853.6	100.0
Bachelor's degree	373.3	22.6	1 276.4	77.4	1 649.7	100.0
Other	**	**	**	**	**	100.0
Total persons	2 666.7	19.9	10 745.9	80.1	13 412.5	100.0

4

SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY POLICE

Level of satisfaction	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	9.1	8.6	17.1	22.4	11.8	13.3	14.0	923.6
Satisfied	52.6	58.0	55.3	47.1	52.3	58.5	54.1	3 571.0
Neither	23.1	16.3	14.4	13.3	*8.6	*5.7	13.9	919.3
Dissatisfied	*7.4	11.4	8.3	12.3	20.8	13.3	11.7	775.1
Very dissatisfied	*7.7	*2.3	**	*3.1	**	*3.5	3.0	200.6
Don't know	**	*3.4	*3.9	*1.9	*4.4	*5.7	3.2	213.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	917.4	1 392.4	1 386.8	1 206.4	783.1	916.8	..	6 602.8
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	12.1	8.6	15.7	13.2	21.1	18.9	14.5	984.8
Satisfied	48.4	57.0	53.4	50.8	50.1	57.6	53.3	3 632.3
Neither	18.5	20.4	13.4	16.1	15.2	*5.2	14.8	1 011.2
Dissatisfied	12.7	6.3	12.3	12.5	*5.6	8.6	9.8	666.0
Very dissatisfied	*5.2	*1.8	*1.4	*2.5	*3.0	**	2.3	153.7
Don't know	*3.0	5.9	*3.7	*4.9	*5.0	9.0	5.3	361.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 809.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	899.9	1 416.1	1 417.6	1 190.7	772.5	1 113.0	..	6 809.8
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Very satisfied	10.6	8.6	16.4	17.8	16.4	16.3	14.2	1 908.4
Satisfied	50.5	57.5	54.4	48.9	51.2	58.0	53.7	7 203.4
Neither	20.8	18.4	13.9	14.7	11.9	5.4	14.4	1 930.5
Dissatisfied	10.0	8.8	10.3	12.4	13.3	10.7	10.7	1 441.1
Very dissatisfied	6.5	*2.0	*1.2	*2.8	*2.5	*2.0	2.6	354.3
Don't know	*1.6	4.7	3.8	3.4	4.7	7.5	4.3	574.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 817.2	2 808.5	2 804.4	2 397.0	1 555.6	2 029.8	..	13 412.5

5

HOUSEHOLDS' INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS(a)

Item	Number		Proportion(b)	
	'000		%	
A new car	202.2		3.0	
A second-hand car	408.4		6.0	
A personal computer	218.8		3.2	
Household item worth more than \$200	1 246.4		18.4	
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	752.5		11.1	
Landscaping worth more than \$500	262.5		3.9	
A holiday worth more than \$500	928.4		13.7	
Any other item worth more than \$500	187.4		2.8	
Total(c)	2 763.1		40.7	

(a) Intention to purchase in the June quarter 1998.

(b) Proportion of all households.

(c) 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.

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HOUSEHOLDS' INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS(a), By Income Quintile

Household income quintile	Intend to purchase...		Do not intend to purchase.....		Total.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
First quintile (lowest 20%)	194.4	17.5	915.8	82.5	1 110.1	100.0
Second quintile	360.9	29.8	849.0	70.2	1 209.8	100.0
Third quintile	509.2	41.6	714.3	58.4	1 223.6	100.0
Fourth quintile	586.7	54.5	489.3	45.5	1 076.1	100.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	720.2	64.5	397.0	35.5	1 117.2	100.0
Don't know(b)	391.6	37.3	658.3	62.7	1 050.0	100.0
Total	2 763.1	40.7	4 023.7	59.3	6 786.8	100.0

(a) Intention to purchase at least one of the selected items listed in table 5 in the June quarter 1998.

(b) Household income not reported.

7

MAIN ENERGY SOURCE USED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a)

Energy Source	Water heating.....		Cooking.....		Room heating.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Electricity	3 212.8	57.3	3 466.9	61.8	1 901.4	33.9
Gas	1 927.3	34.4	1 888.3	33.7	1 921.5	34.3
Electricity/gas(b)	..	..	200.8	3.6	..	..
Solar	275.0	4.9	..	..	..	..
Wood	62.4	1.1	38.8	0.7	971.0	17.3
Other	39.6	0.7	*14.7	*0.3	144.3	2.6
No energy source	..	..	..	..	671.3	12.0
Don't know	92.4	1.6	..	..	..	..
Total	5 609.5	100.0	5 609.5	100.0	5 609.5	100.0

(a) Excludes approximately 1.2 million (17.3%) households which did not provide energy consumption details.

(b) Energy source is considered to be half electricity and half gas.

8

PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED SPORT(a) IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Participation	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	50.3	50.9	36.5	31.2	22.4	23.2	37.0	2 440.8
No participation in organised sport(a)	49.7	49.1	63.5	68.8	77.6	76.8	63.0	4 161.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	917.4	1 392.4	1 386.8	1 206.4	783.1	916.8	..	6 602.8
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	44.3	37.2	29.3	23.6	15.8	12.7	27.7	1 884.6
No participation in organised sport(a)	55.7	62.8	70.7	76.4	84.2	87.3	72.3	4 925.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 809.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	899.9	1 416.1	1 417.6	1 190.7	772.5	1 113.0	..	6 809.8
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Participated in organised sport(a)	47.3	44.0	32.8	27.4	19.1	17.4	32.2	4 325.5
No participation in organised sport(a)	52.7	56.0	67.2	72.6	80.9	82.6	67.8	9 087.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 817.2	2 808.5	2 804.4	2 397.0	1 555.6	2 029.8	..	13 412.5

(a) Includes sport and physical activities organised by a club or association.

9

HOUSEHOLD USE OF COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
<i>Computer use</i>	'000	%
.....		
Households which use a computer(a)	2 402.2	35.4
Households which do not use a computer	4 384.6	64.6
Total	6 786.8	100.0

(a) Households where any member of the household uses a computer at home at least once a week.

10

HOUSEHOLD(a) USE OF PERIPHERAL COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion(b)</i>
<i>Peripheral equipment</i>	'000	%
.....		
Printer	2 148.6	89.4
Character/image reader or scanner	388.5	16.2
CD ROM equipment	1 784.0	74.3
Modem	1 120.8	46.7
Digital versatile discs	170.7	7.1
Total(b)	2 402.2	100.0

(a) Households where any member of the household uses a computer at home at least once a week.

(b) For the total number of households which use a computer, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households use more than one type of peripheral equipment.

11

PERSONS WHO CONSUMED ALCOHOL IN THE LAST WEEK

Alcohol consumption	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed alcohol	65.5	76.6	71.6	68.2	63.6	61.2	68.8	4 542.6
Did not consume alcohol	34.5	23.4	28.4	31.8	36.4	38.8	31.2	2 060.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	917.4	1 392.4	1 386.8	1 206.4	783.1	916.8	..	6 602.8
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed alcohol	42.7	55.7	52.8	55.6	50.8	36.9	49.7	3 387.1
Did not consume alcohol	57.3	44.3	47.2	44.4	49.2	63.1	50.3	3 422.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 809.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	899.9	1 416.1	1 417.6	1 190.7	772.5	1 113.0	..	6 809.8
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed alcohol	54.2	66.1	62.1	62.0	57.3	47.9	59.1	7 929.8
Did not consume alcohol	45.8	33.9	37.9	38.0	42.7	52.1	40.9	5 482.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 817.2	2 808.5	2 804.4	2 397.0	1 555.6	2 029.8	..	13 412.5

Alcoholic beverage consumption	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
.....								
RED WINE								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed red wine	7.3	13.4	11.9	19.3	15.6	13.5	13.6	1 823.8
Did not consume red wine	92.7	86.6	88.1	80.7	84.4	86.5	86.4	11 588.7
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
WHITE WINE								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed white wine	8.5	18.2	18.3	27.0	21.0	17.3	18.7	2 506.8
Did not consume white wine	91.5	81.8	81.7	73.0	79.0	82.7	81.3	10 905.8
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
SPARKLING WINE(a)								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed sparkling wine(a)	*1.4	5.5	6.0	4.8	*1.9	*1.5	3.9	524.3
Did not consume sparkling wine(a)	98.6	94.5	94.0	95.2	98.1	98.5	96.1	12 888.2
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
BEER								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed beer	36.2	41.2	36.1	35.2	33.9	25.3	35.1	4 710.9
Did not consume beer	63.8	58.8	63.9	64.8	66.1	74.7	64.9	8 701.7
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
SPIRITS/LIQUEURS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed spirits/liqueurs	21.9	24.2	13.3	15.8	9.5	8.2	16.0	2 145.5
Did not consume spirits/liqueurs	78.1	75.8	86.7	84.2	90.5	91.8	84.0	11 267.1
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
OTHER(b)								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Consumed other(b)	4.8	6.5	3.3	*2.0	*2.4	3.7	3.9	525.3
Did not consume other(b)	95.2	93.5	96.7	98.0	97.6	96.3	96.1	12 887.3
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 412.5
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 817.2	2 808.5	2 804.4	2 397.0	1 555.6	2 029.8	..	13 412.5

(a) Sparkling wine includes champagne.

(b) 'Other' includes fortified wine, cider and alcoholic soda.

Venue	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
.....								
SA ART GALLERY								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
SA Art Gallery visited	*24.1	*18.3	29.5	29.0	*27.2	23.5	25.4	275.7
SA Art Gallery not visited	75.9	81.7	70.5	71.0	72.8	76.5	74.6	811.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 087.3
.....								
SA MUSEUM								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
SA Museum visited	29.1	38.5	36.9	33.8	*32.2	21.3	32.0	347.5
SA Museum not visited	70.9	61.5	63.1	66.2	67.8	78.7	68.0	739.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 087.3
.....								
SA STATE LIBRARY								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
SA State Library visited	*18.1	*15.5	19.6	30.2	*16.7	*13.0	19.2	209.1
SA State Library not visited	81.9	84.5	80.4	69.8	83.3	87.0	80.8	878.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 087.3
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	144.2	187.2	212.6	219.9	107.4	216.0	..	1 087.3
.....								

(a) Visits by South Australian usual residents.

Item purchased	AGE (YEARS).....						TOTAL.....	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Pro-portion	Number
.....								
HAND MADE ART								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Purchased hand made art	4.9	6.7	6.3	6.5	4.2	1.4	5.3	696.5
Did not purchase hand made art	95.1	93.3	93.7	93.5	95.8	98.6	94.7	12 562.6
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 259.2
.....								
HAND MADE CRAFT								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Purchased hand made craft	20.7	25.3	20.3	20.0	13.9	8.0	18.8	2 487.1
Did not purchase hand made craft	79.3	74.7	79.7	80.0	86.1	92.0	81.2	10 772.1
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 259.2
.....								
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total(b)	1 824.5	2 793.4	2 782.9	2 347.3	1 529.0	1 982.0	..	13 259.2
.....								

(a) Includes data collected in the February, May, August and November PSM surveys.

(b) Total persons aged 18 and over is based on the 1997 population.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 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 for 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 18 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic are asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over within the selected household.

LIST OF TOPICS FEB 1998

2 This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in February 1998. The topics included in this survey were as follows:

Housing

3 Contains data on year of purchase by household type for first home owners and first home buyers, tenure of current residence, and characteristics of persons who have moved in the last 12 months.

Satisfaction with police services

4 Contains data on community attitudes to police services.

Consumer expectations

5 Contains data on the anticipated purchases by households of major items in the June quarter 1998.

Energy usage

6 Contains data on the main source of energy used by households for water heating, cooking and room heating.

Organised sport

7 Contains data on the sporting and physical activities undertaken by persons aged 18 years and over for a club or association in the last 12 months.

Computer usage

8 Contains data on technology in the home, with a focus on computer equipment and usage.

Alcohol consumption

9 Contains data on the consumption of alcohol in the last week.

Cultural venues

10 Contains data on cultural venues in South Australia that were visited in the last 3 years by South Australian usual residents.

LIST OF TOPICS 1997

2 This publication also presents summary data collected from the February 1997 to November 1997 PSM surveys on:

Art and craft purchases

12 Contains data on the purchase of hand made art and craft in the last 3 months.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

13 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

14 For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 4,000 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

15 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

16 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.

17 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 PROCEDURE

18 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.

19 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

20 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
 - 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 persons in the survey is given by the standard error (see Technical Notes pages 19 and 20).

TECHNICAL NOTES SAMPLING VARIABILITY

1 As 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, the estimates 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 (see table A1, page 20), 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 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), (see table A2, page 20) which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage of errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

3 From table 5 an estimated 218,800 households intend to purchase a computer in the June quarter. Referring to table A1 of standard errors (on page 20), an estimate of 218,800 has a standard error of approximately 18,300. There are two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey is between 200,500 and 237,100 (i.e. 218,800 plus or minus 18,300). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the number lies between 182,200 and 255,400 (i.e. 218,800 plus or minus 36,600).

4 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.

5 As the table of standard errors shows, the size of the standard error increases with the size of the estimate. However, the smaller the estimate the higher the RSE. 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) and their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs 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 (e.g. *2.8) to indicate that they should be treated with caution and viewed as being merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

6 This publication contains tables which relate to different populations. Standard errors may vary depending on the population and care should be taken to use the appropriate columns in tables A1 and A2.

7 For tables 1,2,5,6,7,9, and 10 the columns headed *HOUSEHOLDS - Feb 1998 - Aust* should be used.

8 For tables 3,4,8,11 and 12 the columns headed *PERSONS 18+ YEARS - Feb 1998 - Aust* should be used.

TECHNICAL NOTES SAMPLING VARIABILITY *continued*

9 For table 13 the column headed *PERSONS 18+ YEARS - Feb 1998 - SA* should be used.

10 For table 14 the column headed *PERSONS 18+ YEARS - 1997 - Aust* should be used.

A1

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	PERSONS 18+ YEARS			HOUSEHOLDS
	Feb 1998 Aust	Feb 1998 SA	1997 Aust	Feb 1998 Aust
	'000	'000	'000	'000
10	6.6	5.0	3.5	4.7
20	9.4	6.8	4.9	6.7
50	14.5	9.9	7.6	9.9
100	19.7	12.9	10.4	13.3
200	26.5	16.5	13.9	17.8
500	38.5	23.1	20.2	25.2
800	46.1	27.0	24.2	29.5
1 000	50.4	29.0	26.5	32.3
1 500	57.1	33.4	30.0	37.1
2 000	65.0	36.2	34.1	41.8

A2

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	PERSONS 18+ YEARS			HOUSEHOLDS
	Feb 1998 Aust	Feb 1998 SA	1997 Aust	Feb 1998 Aust
	%	%	%	%
10	66.5	49.5	35.0	47.1
20	47.0	33.9	24.5	33.3
50	29.0	19.8	15.2	19.8
100	19.7	12.9	10.4	13.3
200	13.3	8.3	7.0	8.9
500	7.7	4.6	4.0	5.0
800	5.8	3.4	3.0	3.7
1 000	5.0	2.9	2.7	3.2
1 500	3.8	2.2	2.0	2.5
2 000	3.3	1.8	1.7	2.1

GLOSSARY

Age	The age of persons on their last birthday.
Art	Includes hand made paintings, sculptures, original photographs/prints, and drawings.
CD ROM equipment	Compact Disc Read Only Memory. Compact disk drives read digital data for use by a computer.
Character/image reader or scanner	Devices which scan a page of printed text or graphics and turn them into a form which can be read by a computer or communications network.
Computer	Portable, desktop and dedicated computers, and items such as pocket computers or 'personal organisers' which can be plugged into larger computers, are considered to be computers if they are usually in working order.
Consumer expectations	See 'Households intending to purchase'.
Craft	Includes hand made pottery, garments, woven or printed textiles, glass, jewellery, furniture, wood, metal and leather goods.
Cultural venues	Includes art galleries, museums, and libraries.
Digital Versatile Disks	DVD-ROM format is intended to distribute computer games and other software as well as a medium for distributing films. A DVD-ROM disc has 12 times the capacity of a CD-ROM disc providing superior graphics and sound to computers.
First home owners and first home buyers	Households who own or are purchasing their home and who have never previously owned a dwelling.
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 1998 to 30 June 1998.
Modem	Boxes which connect the computer to a telephone system which enables communication between two computers.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Organised sport Sport and physical activities that are organised by a club or association.

Peripheral equipment Peripheral equipment includes equipment which must be plugged into a computer, eg. printers, character/image readers or scanners, CD ROM equipment, modems and other equipment such as additional keyboards and external disk or tape drives.

Police services Services provided by officers of Federal and State police departments.

Printer Devices used for printing computer output on to paper.

Private renter Private renters rent their home from a private landlord or real estate agent.

Public renters Public renters rent their home from a government agency whose main activity is to provide housing to the public. This does not include government departments that provide housing to their employees.



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