

POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 2 FEB 1998

CONTENTS

		pag	
		es	
	Ма	n Features	3
TAI	BLE	S	
	1	First home owners and buyers	4
	2	Tenure of current residence	5
	3	Persons who have moved in the last 12 months	6
	4	Satisfaction with services provided by police	7
	5	Households intention to purchase selected items	8
	6	Households intention to purchase selected items,	
		by income quintile	8
	7	Individual donation of money in the last 12 months	9
	8	Participation in organised sport in the last 12 months 10	0
	9	Importance of art and cultural venues 1:	1
	10	Safety devices installed 12	2
A D	DIT	IONAL INFORMATION	
	Ехр	anatory notes1	3
	Tec	hnical notes 10	6
	Glos	ssary18	8

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	F0	RT	Н	CC	M	ING	ISS	UES
--------------------	----	----	---	----	---	-----	-----	-----

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

February 1998

21 April 1998

May 1998

21 July 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 16 and 17 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 4.8 million households (70.4%) own or are purchasing the residence in which they live (refer to table 2).

POLICE

Of all persons aged 18 years and over, 16.0% were very satisfied and 53.3% were satisfied with the services provided by police (refer to table 4).

CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS

Over 3 million households (45.2%) indicated in November 1997 that they intend to purchase a major item in the March quarter 1998. Over 1.6 million households (24.4%) indicated that they intend to buy a household item worth more that \$200 in the March quarter 1998, and over 1 million households (15.2%) intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 (refer to table 5).

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

In the last 12 months, 66.2% of males and 72.9% of females aged 18 years and over have donated money (refer to table 7).

ORGANISED SPORT

In the last 12 months, 33.0% of males and 27.0% of females aged 18 years and over have participated in sport or physical activity organised by a club or association (refer to table 8).

ART AND CULTURAL VENUES

Libraries were considered to be very important or important in the community by 95.4% of those aged 18 years or over. The corresponding figure for museums was 76.6%, performing arts venues, 76.1% and art galleries, 71.5% (refer to table 9).

SAFETY DEVICES

The most common safety devices installed in households were smoke alarms/detectors (58.2%) and safety switch/circuit breakers (47.5%) (refer to table 10).

	TOTAL						
Household type	Pre 1970	1970– 1979	1980- 1989	1990- 1997	Don't know	Pro- portion	Number
	* * * * * * * * %	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	38.4	12.5	23.4	18.6	*7.1	100.0	370.5
Married couple only	35.3	17.1	14.4	30.7	**	100.0	586.1
Parents(a) with children(b) aged 15+	20.4	41.2	16.1	15.5	*6.7	100.0	261.0
Parents(a) with children aged 0-14	**	*4.2	37.5	55.6	**	100.0	518.7
Parents(a) with children(b) aged 15+ and 0-14	**	*28.0	42.3	*25.5	**	100.0	109.8
Other households	*12.1	*14.5	*12.6	55.4	**	100.0	146.4
All household types	21.3	16.5	23.7	34.5	4.0	100.0	1 992.5
			* * * * * *		* 5 * 4 5		6 8 + e × ×
	'000	'000	,000	'000	'000		'000
All household types	424.8	328.0	472.5	686.7	80.4		1 992.5

⁽a) Includes married and single parents.

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

	TOTAL.					
Household type	Owner/ purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other	Pro- portion	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Person living alone	63.3	7.7	23.8	5.2	100.0	1 509.9
Married couple only	78.4	2.4	16.7	2.6	100.0	1 716.0
Married couple with children	80.3	3.0	14.1	2.6	100.0	2 429.4
Single parent with children	47.3	15.9	34.9	**	100.0	494.2
Other households	48.1	*2.6	46.1	*3.1	100.0	708.4
All household types	70.4	4.8	21.7	3.2	100.0	6 857.9
	. 	* * * * * *	* * * * * * *			
	'000	,000	,000	,000		,000
All household types	4 824.6	327.7	1 487.9	217.7		6 857.9

	Moved in last 12 mg		Didn't move last 12 mor		Total	•••••
Characteristic	,000	%	'000	%	,000	%
**************************************			*****	* * * * * * * *	******	
Age group						
18–24 years	852.0	46.8	970.2	53.2	1 822.2	100.0
25–34 years	1 024.4	36.5	1 780.7	63.5	2 805.1	100.0
35–44 years	498.7	17.7	2 312.6	82.3	2 811.3	100.0
45–54 years	236.9	10.0	2 139.2	90.0	2 376.1	100.0
55–64 years	132.8	8.5	1 424.0	91.5	1 556.8	100.0
65 and over	72.0	3.6	1 937.9	96.4	2 009.9	100.0
Sex						
Male	1 505.3	22.8	5 097.1	77.2	6 602.4	100.0
Female	1 311.5	19.3	5 467.5	80.7	6 779.0	100.0
Labour force status						
Employed full time	1 522.0	25.6	4 436.7	74.4	5 958.7	100.0
Employed part time	501.3	21.1	1 869.7	78.9	2 371.0	100.0
Unemployed	221.9	36.7	382.1	63.3	604.0	100.0
Not in the labour force	571.6	12.9	3 876.1	87.1	4 447.7	100.0
Highest educational qualification attaine	d					
Still attending	**	**	*34.6	*93.4	*37.1	100.0
High school certificate or less	1 317.7	19.1	5 579.2	80.9	6 896.9	100.0
Trade certificate/apprenticeship	344.1	22.2	1 203.8	77.8	1 547.9	100.0
Certificate	455.0	21.1	1 701.0	78.9	2 156.0	100.0
Associate or undergraduate diploma	216.4	20.9	820.7	79.1	1 037.1	100.0
Bachelor's degree	452.2	27.4	1 197.4	72.6	1 649.6	100.0
Other	*29.0	*51.0	*27.8	*49.0	*56.9	100.0
Total persons	2 816.8	21.0	10 564.7	79.0	13 381.4	100.0

	AGE (YEA	ARS)					TOTAL	
						65 and	Pro-	
Level of satisfaction	18-24	25–34	35-44	45–54	55– 64	over	portion	Number
				* * * * * * *			* * * * * * * * * *	• • • • • •
				MALES				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000
Very satisfied	7.9	10.1	11.5	19.8	17.9	17.7	13.8	913.0
Satisfied	61.0	55.4	51.0	52.8	58.3	60.5	55.8	3 685.9
Neither	20.6	24.8	20.9	15.8	10.8	11.1	18.2	1 201.3
Dissatisfied	*4.1	7.4	10.7	*5.3	9.2	*6.1	7.3	480.7
Very dissatisfied	*4.9	**	*3.3	*3.9	**	**	2.5	166.4
Don't know	**	*1.6	*2.5	*2.4	*2.8	*3.8	2.4	155.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.4
					* * * * * * *	******	* * * * * * * * * *	
	'000	.000	'000	,000	,000	'000		'000
Total	927.1	1 389.9	1 389.3	1 200.0	784.0	912.2		6 602.4
		* * * « • « «	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	EMALES	× 4 6 4 4 4 4			* * * * * * *
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000
Very satisfied	8.5	12.8	17.6	20.9	21.8	27.4	18.0	1 222.5
Satisfied	45.7	52.8	48.2	55.7	49.2	52.3	50.9	3 450. 3
Neither	25.0	23.3	15.1	14.0	15.7	8.8	17.0	1 149.5
Dissatisfied	14.2	5.1	12.9	6.9	*2.7	*4.7	7.9	537.5
Very dissatisfied	**	*2.2	*2.6	**	**	**	1.6	106.1
Don't know	*5.0	*3.9	*3.5	*1.8	9.4	*6.3	4.6	313.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 779.0
	. * * * * *		* * * * * *					
	'000	1000	'000	'000	,000	'000		,000
Total	895.1	1 415.2	1 422.1	1 176.2	772.8	1 097.6		6 779.0
*********				EDCONC	* * * * * *		• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • •
			Г	ERSONS				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000
Very satisfied	8.2	11.5	14.6	20.3	19.8	23.0	16.0	2 135.4
Satisfied	53.5	54.0	49.6	54.2	53.8	56.0	53.3	7 136.2
Neither	22.8	24.0	18.0	14.9	13.2	9.8	17.6	2 350.8
Dissatisfied	9.1	6.2	11.8	6.1	6.0	5.3	7.6	1 018.2
Very dissatisfied	*3.3	*1.5	3.0	*2.3	*1.2	**	2.0	272.5
Don't know	*3.2	2.7	3.0	*2.1	6.1	5.2	3.5	468.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		13 381.4
. J.Cai		100.0					100.0	
	'000	,000		000	'000	,000		000
Total	1 822.2	2 805.1	2 811.3	2 376.1	1 556.8	2 009.9		13 381.4

	Number F	roportion(b)
Item	,000	ο ^ί ο
A new car	168.7	2.5
A second-hand car	412.1	6.0
A personal computer	318.0	4.6
Household item worth more than \$200	1 670.2	24.4
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	851.0	12.4
Landscaping worth more than \$500	347.8	5.1
A holiday worth more than \$500	1 041.4	15.2
Any other item worth more than \$500	182.7	2.7
Total(c)	3 098.9	45.2

- (a) Intention to purchase in the March 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.

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

	Intend to pu	rchase	Do not intend to purchase.	-	Total		
Household income quintile	'000	%	'000	%	900	%	
• * * • * • * • * * * * * * * * * * *			* * * * * * * * * * *		*******		
First quintile (lowest 20%)	260.4	22.1	919.0	77.9	1 179.4	100.0	
Second quintile	364.7	32.1	771.0	67.9	1 135.7	100.0	
Third quintile	553.5	47.5	611.4	52.5	1 164.9	100.0	
Fourth quintile	684.5	62.6	409.8	37.4	1 094.3	100.0	
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	769.7	73.5	277.7	26.5	1 047.4	100.0	
Don't know(b)	466.1	37.7	770.2	62.3	1 236.2	100.0	
Total	3 098.9	45.2	3 759.0	54.8	6 857.9	100.0	

- (a) Intention to purchase at least one of the selected items listed in table 5 in the March quarter 1998.
- (b) Household income not reported.

	AGE (YEARS)											
						65 and	Pro-					
Donation	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	portion	Number				
********		* * * * * * * *	*****	MALES	e 	* * * * * * *	п у 6 <i>д в 9 4 9 д 9 9</i> 9					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000				
Donation made	60.0	66.8	67.0	70.4	68.6	63.2	66.2	4 373.7				
No donation made	40.0	33.2	33.0	29.6	31.4	36.8	33.8	2 228.7				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.4				
			> ^ * * & # # *	* * * * * * *								
	,000	.000	'000	'000	,000	,000		000				
Total	927.1	1 389.9	1 389.3	1 200.0	784.0	912.2		6 602.4				
FEMALES												
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000				
Donation made	62.7	72.0	74.4	80.0	69.1	75.3	72.9	4 940.3				
No donation made	37.3	28.0	25.6	20.0	30.9	24.7	27.1	1 838.8				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 779.0				
		* * * * * * *					* * * * * * * * * * * *					
	'000	,000	,000	'000	'000	'000		'000				
Total	895.1	1 415.2	1 422.1	1 176.2	772.8	1 097.6		6 779.0				
*********** *****		2 × 4 * * *	P	ERSONS		· • • • • • •	* * * * * * * * * * * *					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000				
Donation made	61.3	69.4	70.8	75.1	68.8	69.8	69.6	9 314.0				
No donation made	38.7	30.6	29.2	24.9	31.2	30.2	30.4	4 067.4				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4				
		* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	*****	* * * * * *							
	,000	,000	'000	,000	,000	'000		'000				
Total	1 822.2	2 805.1	2 811.3	2 376.1	1 556.8	2 009.9		13 381.4				

,		TOTAL.									
						65 and	Pro-				
Participation	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	portion	Number			
						« v » » » 2 » (
			MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000			
Participated in organised sport(a)	56.8	46.3	34.0	26.4	11.2	14.0	33.0	2 176.1			
No participation in organised sport(a)	43.2	53.7	66.0	73.6	88.8	86 .0	67.0	4 426.3			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 602.4			
	* * * * * *	< 0 4 > 0 a p	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * * *		•••••				
	,000	'000	000	'000	,000	000		'000			
Total	927.1	1 389.9	1 389.3	1 200.0	784.0	912.2		6 602.4			
3 0 3 4 0 2 1 4 0 0 0 0 0 5 3 2 7 4 3 4 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 											
FEMALES											
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000			
Participated in organised sport(a)	38 .7	34.6	23.8	22.4	24.8	18.5	27.0	1 832.6			
No participation in organised sport(a)	61.3	65.4	76.2	77.6	75.2	81.5	73.0	4 946.4			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 779.0			
	· · · • • ·				* * * * * * *	* * * * * * * *		* * * * * * *			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	-	'000			
Total	895.1	1 415.2	1 422.1	1 176.2	772.8	1 097.6		6 779.0			
	« » « » « «					* * * * * * * *		• • • • • • •			
			PERSONS	5							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000			
Participated in organised sport(a)	47.9	40.4	28.9	24.5	18.0	16.5	30.0	4 008.7			
No participation in organised sport(a)	52.1	59.6	71.1	75.5	82.0	83.5	70.0	9 372.7			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4			
		* * * * * * *					*******				
	,000	'000	'000	'000	'000	,000		'000			
Total	1 822.2	2 805.1	2 811.3	2 376.1	1 556.8	2 009.9		13 381.4			

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

	AGE (YEARS)													
						65 and	Pro-							
Level of importance	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	portion	Number						
	MUSEUMS													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000						
Very important/important	77.7	82.5	80.3	75.9	70.9	67.6	76.6	10 254.7						
Not important	19.8	15.7	17.9	21.4	23.6	24.9	20.0	2 680.7						
Don't know	*2.4	*1.8	*1.8	*2.7	5.5	7.5	3.3	446.0						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4						
		1 8 0 8 0 7 0			* * * * * *	* . * * • • •	• • • • • • • • • •							
		PERF	ORMING	ARTS VEN	NUES									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	000						
Very important/important	75.2	83.9	76.8	78.7	67.5	69.3	76.1	10 195.5						
Not important	21.3	14.3	20.1	16.5	24.4	21.1	19.1	2 549.8						
Don't know	*3.5	*1.8	3.1	4.8	8.2	9.7	4.8	636.1						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4						
63. 13.14.1 .1.2														
	ART GALLERIES													
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	,000						
Very important/important	79.1	75.1	71.4	70.6	64.1	66.3	71.5	9 563.6						
Not important	18.5	23.2	26.1	25.0	28.8	24.5	24.3	3 254.3						
Don't know	*2.4	*1.7	2.5	4.5	7.0	9.2	4.2	563.5						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4						
					« » « » » »									
			LIBR	ARIES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000						
Very important/important	95.7	98.6	97.4	95.9	90.0	91.7	95.4	12 767.2						
Not important	*3.7	*1.4	*1.6	3.2	6.3	5.0	3.2	425.4						
Don't know	**	**	*1.0	*0.9	*3.7	*3.4	1.4	188.9						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 381.4						
		* 0 * * × * *		* • • • • •		• • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • •						
	'000	'000	,000	'000	'000	.000		'000						
Total	1 822.2	2 805.1	2 811.3	2 376.1	1 556.8	2 009.9		13 381.4						

	Metropolit	an	Ex-metropol	itan	Total	Total	
Safety device	,000	%	,000	%	,000	%	
Safety device installed							
Operational smoke alarm(s) or smoke detector(s)	2 478.0	58.1	1 512.0	58.3	3 990.0	58.2	
Fire sprinkler system	**	**	*29.6	*1.1	*35.1	*0.5	
Safety switch/circuit breaker	2 021.6	47.4	1 232.8	47.6	3 254.4	47.5	
Fire extinguisher	809.2	19.0	654.1	25.2	1 463.3	21.3	
Fire blanket	227.1	5.3	224.3	8.7	451.5	6.6	
Other safety device	*30.1	*0.7	45.9	1.8	75.9	1.1	
Total households with a safety device(a)	3 221.4	75.5	2 051.4	79.1	5 272.8	76.9	
No safety device installed	970.6	22.8	519.1	20.0	1 489.8	21.7	
Don't know	75.3	1.8	*24.7	*1.0	100.0	1.5	
Total households	4 265.6	100.0	2 592.3	100.0	6 857.9	100.0	

⁽a) For the total number of households with a safety device, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a household may have more than one safety device installed.

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 family household data. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to include the topic of their choice. Each survey asks a set of core questions of each usual resident aged 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

2 This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in November 1997. 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 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 March quarter 1998.

Individual donations

6 Contains data on donations given to organisations such as universities, hospitals and research and welfare organisations.

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.

Art and cultural venues

8 Contains data on community attitudes to selected art and cultural venues.

Safety device

9 Contains data on the type of fire safety devices installed in dwellings.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

10 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

11 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES continued

EXPECTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

12 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

- **13** 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.
- **14** 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

- **15** 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.
- **16** 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.

IR •

A B

EXPLANATORY NOTES continued

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

- **17** 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 16 and 17).

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, 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), 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 318,000 households intend to purchase a computer in the March quarter. Referring to the table of standard errors (on page 17), an estimate of 318,000 has a standard error of approximately 20,700. 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 297,300 and 338,700 (i.e. 318,000 plus or minus 20,700). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the number lies between 276,600 and 359,400 (i.e. 318,000 plus or minus 41,400).
- **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.

TECHNICAL NOTES SAMPLING VARIABILITY continued

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

STANDARD ERRORS			RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS		
Size of estimate	Persons 18+	Households	Persons 18+	Households	
'000	,000	'000	%	%	
10	6.6	4.7	66.5	47.1	
20	9.4	6.7	47.0	33.3	
50	14.5	9.9	29.0	19.8	
100	19.7	13.3	19.7	13.3	
200	26.5	17.8	13.3	8.9	
500	38.5	25.2	7.7	5.0	
800	46.1	29.5	5.8	3.7	
1 000	50.4	32.3	5.0	3.2	
1 500	57.1	37.1	3.8	2.5	
2 000	65.0	41.8	3.3	2.1	

Age The age of persons at their last birthday.

Art and cultural venues Includes libraries, museums, performing arts venues and art galleries.

Consumer expectations See Household's intending to purchase.

Fire blanket Fire blankets are used to attack small fires, and fires involving cooking oils and

fats. The blankets may also be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and

to control clothing fires.

Fire extinguisher A fire extinguisher is a container that contains either, water, carbon dioxide or

foam and is designed to spray at and extinguish fires.

Fire sprinkler system A fire sprinkler system is usually installed in the ceiling and is an automatic

sprinkler which is activated by heat or smoke.

First home owners and 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, roughlities, rent, etc. It excludes money from the sale of assets, gambling, lottery

wins, gifts, bequests or lump sum settlements.

Household's intending to 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 January 1998 to 31 March 1998.

Individual donation of money Donation of money includes money given in doorknocks, badge days,

sponsorship of walkathons, etc., but excludes money given in exchange for goods or other tangible benefits. Raffle ticket expenditure is included if the main

reason for purchasing the raffle ticket was to donate money to a specific

organisation.

purchase

Metropolitan Metropolitan refers to the capital city statistical divisions. These delimit an area

which is stable for general statistical purposes. The boundary is defined to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. They contain more than just the urban centre, and represent the city in the wider

sense.

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

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

Private renter Private renters rent their home from a private landlord or through a 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 who provide housing to their employees.

Safety devices Includes devices designed to prevent, detect or extinguish fires in and around a

dwelling.

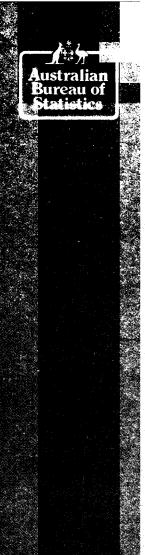
Safety switch/circuit breaker A safety switch/circuit breaker is a device intended to isolate electricity supply to

protected circuits, socket outlets or electrical equipment in the event of a current

flow to earth which exceeds a predetermined value.

Smoke detector/smoke alarm Smoke detectors or smoke alarms are for the detection and warning of smoke

from fires and not for the detection of cigarette smoke.





RRP \$16.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/20 secs.

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of important economic statistics including the CPI.

Internet

http://www.abs.gov.au

A wide range of ABS information is available via the Internet, with basic statistics available for each State, Territory and Australia. We also have Key National Indicators, ABS product release details and other information of general interest.

Sales and Inquiries

client.services@abs.gov.au

National Mail Order Service	(02)	6252 5249
Subscription Service	1300	366 323

	Information	Inquiries	Bookshop Sales	
CANBERRA	(02)	6252 6627	(02)	6207 0326
SYDNEY	(02)	9268 4611	(02)	9268 4620
MELBOURNE	(03)	9615 7755	(03)	9615 7755
BRISBANE	(07)	3222 6351	(07)	3222 6350
PERTH	(08)	9360 5140	(80)	9360 5307
ADELAIDE	(08)	8237 7100	(80)	8237 7582
HOBART	(03)	6222 5800	(03)	6222 5800
DARWIN	(80)	8943 2111	(80)	8943 2111



Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

© Commonwealth of Australia 1998