# TIME USE ON RECREATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES 

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 11 MAY 2010

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## I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300135070.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

ABOUT THE SURVEY

AVERAGES

ABBREVIATIONS

This report presents selected results from the 2006 Time Use Survey (TUS) on how people choose to spend their time, with a focus on activities conducted during free time, in particular, sport and outdoor activities.

The 2006 Time Use Survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) across all States and Territories and collected information from people aged 15 years and over. This is the third Time Use Survey conducted by the ABS, with the previous surveys being conducted in 1992 and 1997.

As with previous iterations, the 2006 TUS collected information on how people used their time over a two day period.

Explanatory Notes on the 2006 Time Use Survey can be found in How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0). These Explanatory Notes contain information on the scope of the survey, sample design, data collection, weighting and reliability of estimates. The publication also includes a Technical Note that provides information on data reliability.

For time spent on an activity, all minutes stated are averaged over the seven days of the week and the whole specified population group.

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
TUS Time Use Survey

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

This publication presents summary data on how people choose to spend their time, with a focus on activities conducted during free time, that is, the time allocated to social and community interaction and recreation and leisure activities.

Within this publication there will be a particular focus on time spent on sport and outdoor activity. This category contains a broad range of recreational and physical activities including participation in organised and informal sport, exercise, walking and bush walking, fishing, holiday travel, driving for pleasure and sightseeing, camping, bird watching and simply sitting outside and enjoying nature. For a full list of activities which are included in this item please refer to the Glossary published in the Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006 (cat. no. 4150.0).

The third Time Use Survey (TUS) was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2006 and collected information about how Australians aged 15 years and over used their time over a two day period. The aim of the survey was to measure people's daily activity patterns and to provide profiles of how different people balance work, family, leisure and wider community obligations. Comparisons have also been made with results from the 1997 TUS in order to identify changes over time.

Participants in the 2006 TUS completed a detailed diary for two separate days. They recorded what they were doing against a timeline of five minute intervals covering 24 hours from 12:00am. They were asked to record their primary (or main) activity as well as one other activity they were doing at the same time (if applicable); for whom the activity was done; who else was there; and where the activity took place. The other activity was recorded as the secondary activity. For example, someone may have reported caring for children (primary activity) while listening to a CD (secondary activity). This publication will focus on people's primary activities only.

The TUS identifies four time domains in which people spend their time:

- Necessary time includes activities which are performed for personal survival, such as sleeping, eating and personal hygiene.
- Contracted time includes activities such as paid work and regular education where there are explicit contracts which control the periods of time in which the activities are performed.
- Committed time includes activities to which a person has committed themselves because of previous social or community interactions, such as establishing a household or volunteering. The consequent housework, other household management activities, child care, shopping or provision of help to others are all examples of committed time activities.
- Free time is the amount of time left when the previous three types of time have been taken out of a person's day. Free time includes activities associated with social and community interaction and recreation and leisure.

This publication will use data from the 1997 and 2006 Time Use Surveys. For time spent on an activity, all minutes stated are averaged over the seven days of the week and the whole specified population group; all percentages show the proportion of the day spent on them. Additional data from this survey is published in How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0).

## NECESSARY, CONTRACTED AND COMMITTED TIME

CHANGES SINCE 1997

SEX

There has been little change in how people spent their time between the two survey periods. In 1997 and 2006, Australians spent the largest part of their day (both 46\%) on necessary time activities. In 2006 people spent 16\% (compared with $15 \%$ in 1997) on contracted time activities, $17 \%$ (compared with 16\%) on committed time activities and $21 \%$ (compared with $22 \%$ ) on free time activities.
2.1 PROPORTION OF TIME SPENT ON PRIMARY ACTIVITIES-1997 and 2006


Men and women spend their day in different ways. On average, in 2006 men spent almost twice as much time as women on contracted time activities ( $21 \%$ compared with $12 \%$ ), while women spent nearly twice as much time as men on committed time activities ( $22 \%$ compared with $12 \%$ ). Men and women spent a similar amount of time on necessary time activities ( $45 \%$ compared with $46 \%$ ) and free time activities ( $21 \%$ compared with 20\%).
2.2 PROPORTION OF TIME SPENT ON PRIMARY ACTIVITIES, By sex-2006


CHANGES SINCE 1997

WEEKDAY/WEEKEND

Free time is the time allocated to social and community interaction and recreation and leisure. In 2006, $85 \%$ of people's free time was spent on recreation and leisure with the remaining time spent on social and community interaction. Examples of recreation and leisure activities include playing sport, walking, participating in games or hobbies, reading and watching television. Participation in social and community interaction includes attending a concert, visiting a library or amusement park, attending sports events and participating in religious ceremonies.

There was little change in time spent on social and community interaction activities between 1997 and 2006, with the average time reducing only slightly from 45 minutes a day to 43 minutes a day.

There was a much more noticeable change in the amount of time people spent on recreation and leisure activities, which was 4 hours and 13 minutes a day in 2006, 15 minutes less than in 1997. The greatest decreases were reported in time spent on sport and outdoor activities at 21 minutes a day ( 6 minutes less than 1997), talking (including phone) or writing/reading own correspondence at 30 minutes a day ( 5 minutes less than 1997) and games, hobbies arts and crafts at 13 minutes a day ( 4 minutes less then 1997). Interestingly, time spent on audio/visual media activities, as the most popular recreation and leisure activity reported, increased by 8 minutes a day from 2 hours and 10 minutes a day in 1997 to 2 hours and 18 minutes a day in 2006.

Not surprisingly, the average time people spent on free time activities increased on the weekend when compared with weekdays. In 2006 men spent 6 hours and 43 minutes and women spent 5 hours and 46 minutes on free time activities per day on the weekend.

Accordingly, the average amount of time that people spent on recreational and leisure activities also increased on the weekend compared with weekdays, with men spending more time ( 5 hours and 32 minutes a day) on the weekend on recreation and leisure activities than women ( 4 hours and 33 minutes a day).

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued

WEEKDAY/WEEKEND
continued
aVerage time spent on free time activities, By weekday/weekend and sex-2006

The main contributors to the increase in time spent on free time activities on the weekend were audio/visual media activities, sport and outdoor activity and talking. For men, the amount of time spent on sport and outdoor activity increased by 17 minutes per day on the weekend and for women by 5 minutes per day compared with time spent during the week. Men spent more time on the weekend on audio/visual media activities compared with women ( 3 hours and 1 minute per day compared with 2 hours and 14 minutes per day respectively) and also on sport and outdoor activity ( 37 minutes compared with 21 minutes).

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued

WEEKDAY/WEEKEND
continued
3.2 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON SPORT AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY, By weekday/weekend and sex - 2006


The average time spent on free time activities differed between men and women. In 2006 men spent 5 hours and 8 minutes a day on free time activities (down 20 minutes from 1997) compared with women who spent 4 hours and 44 minutes on free time activities (also down 20 minutes from 1997).

In 2006, women spent 6 minutes more a day on social and community interaction (46 minutes) compared with men ( 40 minutes a day). The average amount of time spent on social and community interaction by men and women decreased only slightly by 2 minutes a day and 1 minute a day respectively between 1997 and 2006.

Overall, men spent 31 minutes more a day on recreation and leisure activities in 2006 compared with women ( 4 hours and 28 minutes for men and 3 hours and 57 minutes for women). Men spent more time than women participating in most recreation and leisure activities, in particular sport and outdoor activity ( 25 minutes a day compared with 17 minutes a day), while women spent more time than men reading ( 25 minutes a day compared with 21 minutes) and talking ( 36 minutes a day compared with 24 minutes). Between 1997 and 2006 the amount of time men spent on sport and outdoor activity reduced more noticeably than for women ( 8 minutes less a day for men and 3 minutes less a day for women). The amount of time men spent on audio/visual media activities increased more than for women ( 11 minutes more compared with 4 minutes more respectively).

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued and 2006

|  | 1997 |  |  | 2006 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
|  | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day |
| Socialising | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Attendance at sports event | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Religious activities(b) | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Community participation | 7 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Associated travel | 12 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 12 |
| Social and Community <br> interaction(c) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 33 | 20 | 27 | 25 | 17 | 21 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 18 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 13 |
| Reading | 24 | 26 | 25 | 21 | 25 | 23 |
| Audio/visual media | 143 | 118 | 130 | 154 | 122 | 138 |
| Attendance at recreational courses | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | *1 | 1 |
| Other free time | 23 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 18 | 20 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 27 | 44 | 35 | 24 | 36 | 30 |
| Associated travel | 11 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 283 | 254 | 268 | 268 | 237 | 253 |
| Total free time | 328 | 304 | 316 | 308 | 284 | 296 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Includes cultural venues
(b) Includes ritual ceremonies
(c) Includes additional activities not separately included.
(d) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

Time spent on social and community interaction varies between men and women in different age groups. People aged 15-24 years spend more time each day ( 49 minutes) on these activities than any other age group.

Men and women aged 65 years and over spent more time on recreation and leisure activities ( 6 hours and 19 minutes and 5 hours and 50 minutes a day respectively) than any of the other age groups. People aged $25-44$ years only spent around half this time (3 hours and 40 minutes for men and 3 hours and 1 minute a day for women).

For all age groups, audio/visual activities account for over half of the time spent on recreation and leisure activities. People aged 65 years and over spent the most time on this activity with 3 hours and 11 minutes a day followed by people aged 15-24 years, with 2 hours and 33 minutes. People aged 25-44 years spent the least amount of time on audio/visual media activities.

For both sexes, time spent reading increased with age. For both men and women in the youngest age group (15-24 years), the average time spent on reading was 8 minutes and 12 minutes a day respectively. Women aged 65 and over spent 54 minutes a day compared with men in the same age group who spent 52 minutes a day.

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued

### 3.4 AVERAGE tIMe SPENT ON FREE time Activities, By age and sex-2006

|  | 15-24 | 25-44 | 45-64 | $\begin{aligned} & 65 \text { and } \\ & \text { over } \end{aligned}$ | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Socialising | 15 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Attendance at sports event | *2 | 2 | 3 | **1 | 2 |
| Religious activities(b) | *4 | 4 | 4 | *4 | 4 |
| Community participation | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Associated travel | 13 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Social and Community interaction(c) | 45 | 37 | 38 | 42 | 40 |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 30 | 20 | 22 | 36 | 25 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 30 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 14 |
| Reading | 8 | 12 | 24 | 52 | 21 |
| Audio/visual media | 163 | 127 | 154 | 211 | 154 |
| Other free time | 24 | 20 | 20 | 31 | 23 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 25 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 24 |
| Associated travel | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 291 | 220 | 261 | 379 | 268 |
| Total free time | 335 | 257 | 299 | 421 | 308 |
| FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Socialising | 13 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 10 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 10 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Attendance at sports event | *2 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 |
| Religious activities(b) | *5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Community participation | 8 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 10 |
| Associated travel | 16 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| Social and Community interaction(c) | 53 | 42 | 46 | 49 | 46 |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 21 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 17 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 11 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 12 |
| Reading | 12 | 14 | 28 | 54 | 25 |
| Audio/visual media | 142 | 94 | 116 | 173 | 122 |
| Other free time | 18 | 14 | 18 | 29 | 18 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 35 | 34 | 37 | 41 | 36 |
| Associated travel | 8 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 249 | 181 | 236 | 350 | 237 |
| Total free time | 303 | 223 | 281 | 399 | 284 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than $50 \%$ and is considered too unreliable for general use
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Includes cultural venues.
(b) Includes ritual ceremonies.
(c) Includes additional activities not separately included.
(d) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued
3.4 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES, By age and sex-2006 continued


## PERSONS

| Socialising | 14 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 10 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Attendance at sports event | 2 | 2 | 2 | $* 1$ | 2 |
| Religious activities(b) | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Community participation | 6 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Associated travel | 14 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Social and Community interaction(c) | 49 | 40 | 42 | 46 | 43 |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 26 | 17 | 19 | 27 | 21 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 21 | 8 | 11 | 21 | 13 |
| Reading | 10 | 13 | 26 | 53 | 23 |
| Audio/visual media | 153 | 110 | 135 | 191 | 138 |
| Other free time | 21 | 17 | 19 | 30 | 20 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 30 | 29 | 30 | 34 | 30 |
| Associated travel | 8 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 270 | 200 | 248 | 363 | 253 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total free time | $\mathbf{3 1 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 9 6}$ |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
(a) Includes cultural venues.
(b) Includes ritual ceremonies.
(c) Includes additional activities not separately included.
(d) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

People aged 15-24 years spent a similar amount of time as people aged 65 years and over on sport and outdoor activities ( 26 and 27 minutes per day respectively). Given the wide range of activities contained within the sport and outdoor activity data item, encompassing both high and low intensity physical activities, and also time spent on more leisurely pursuits such as driving for pleasure, enjoying nature and sightseeing, it is likely that the mix of activities making up time spent on sport and outdoor activities differs for each age group.

People aged 25-44 years spent the least amount of time on sport and outdoor activities ( 17 minutes). Men spent more time than women in all age groups on sport and outdoor activities with the greatest difference ( 16 minutes) being between men and women aged 65 years and over.

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued

AGE continued


FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD
TYPES
The amount of free time available to a person depended on the type of household to which they belonged, with people in family households being more likely to have less free time compared with those in other households. Family and household types are classified into categories as detailed in the Glossary published in the Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006 (cat. no. 4150.0).

Other factors may also affect the amount of free time available to a person. Parents with dependent children had less free time than people who live alone (3 hours and 55 minutes compared with 6 hours). People who live alone had more free time than people in other types of households and spent most of this time on audio/visual media activities (2 hours and 46 minutes a day), reading ( 40 minutes a day), talking on the phone (35 minutes a day).

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued
3.6 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES, By living situation - 2006

|  | Parent with dependent child | Partner in couple family with no children | Non-dependent child | Dependent child | Lone Person | Other | All living conditons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Socialising | 8 | 11 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Attendance at sports event | 3 | *1 | *2 | *2 | *1 | *2 | 2 |
| Religious activities(b) | 5 | 4 | **6 | 5 | 5 | *5 | 5 |
| Community participation | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| Associated travel | 10 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 18 | 12 |
| Social and Community interaction(c) | 38 | 43 | 54 | 48 | 46 | 48 | 43 |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 16 | 24 | 22 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 21 |
| Games/hobbies/arts/crafts | 7 | 15 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 17 | 13 |
| Reading | 16 | 32 | 12 | 12 | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| Audio/visual media | 109 | 152 | 158 | 162 | 166 | 152 | 138 |
| Other free time | 15 | 23 | 26 | 15 | 27 | 34 | 20 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 28 | 33 | 27 | 30 | 35 | 28 | 30 |
| Associated travel | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 196 | 286 | 277 | 283 | 314 | 285 | 253 |
| Total free time | 235 | 328 | 332 | 331 | 360 | 333 | 296 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than $50 \%$ and is considered too unreliable for general use
(a) Includes cultural venues
(b) Includes ritual ceremonies
(c) Includes additional activities not separately included.
(d) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD
TYPES continued

Dependent children (all persons aged 15 years and under or aged 15-24 years and in full-time study with a parent living in the same household) spent the most time (28 minutes a day) on sport and outdoor activities. This was followed by people in a couple family with no children ( 24 minutes). Parents with dependent children spent the least amount of time on sport and outdoor activities ( 16 minutes).
3.7 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON SPORT AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY, By living situation-2006


Employed people spent less time on free time activities than those who were not employed (those who were unemployed or not in the labour force). Part-time employed people spent more time on social and community interaction than full-time employed people ( 49 minutes a day compared with 38 minutes a day). Unemployed people spent more time socialising (14 minutes a day) compared with full-time employed people who only spent 9 minutes a day.
3.8

AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITES, By labour force status-2006

|  | Employed <br> full-time | Employed <br> part-time | Total <br> employed | Unemployed | Not in the <br> labour force |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Minutes <br> per day | Minutes <br> per day | Minutes <br> per day | Minutes <br> per day | Minutes <br> per day |
| Socialising | 9 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 12 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(a) | 4 | 6 | 5 | $* 5$ | 4 |
| Attendance at sports event | 2 | 2 | 2 | $* * 1$ | 1 |
| Religious activities(b) | 3 | 5 | 4 | $* * 5$ | 6 |
| Community participation | 8 | 10 | 9 | $* 9$ | 10 |
| Associated travel | 11 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| Social and Community |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ interaction(c) | 38 | 49 | 42 | 47 | 45 |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 18 | 18 | 18 | 28 | 26 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 8 | 11 | 9 | 25 | 20 |
| Reading | 13 | 18 | 14 | 20 | 39 |
| Audio/visual media | 112 | 120 | 115 | 192 | 176 |
| Other free time | 18 | 18 | 18 | 29 | 25 |
| Talking and correspondence(d) | 23 | 35 | 27 | 36 | 36 |
| Associated travel | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| Recreation and Leisure(c) | 197 | 227 | 207 | 340 | 329 |
| Total free time |  | 235 | $\mathbf{2 7 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 7}$ |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than $50 \%$ and is considered too unreliable for general use
(a) Includes cultural venues
(b) Includes ritual ceremonies
(c) Includes additional activties not separately included.
(d) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

On average, employed persons spent much less time on recreation and leisure activities ( 3 hours and 27 minutes a day) than the unemployed ( 5 hours and 40 minutes a day) and those not in the labour force ( 5 hours and 29 minutes). More than half of the time spent by people for all labour force categories was on audio/visual media activities with the unemployed spending the most time on this activity ( 3 hours and 12 minutes a day). Those who were not employed spent more time on sport and outdoor activity than people who were employed, with unemployed people spending 10 minutes more per day and those not in the labour force spending 6 minutes more per day on these activities.

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued

LABOUR FORCE STATUS
continued


LOCATION
People in South Australia and Queensland reported the most available free time ( 5 hours and 9 minutes and 5 hours and 7 minutes a day respectively). People in Western Australia had the least amount of free time ( 4 hours and 42 minutes a day).

People in Victoria and South Australia spent more time socialising than those in other states (both 12 minutes a day). The least amount of time spent on socialising was by people in Tasmania ( 9 minutes a day).

Those living in Queensland and South Australia spent more time on recreation and leisure activities than the other states (both 4 hours and 26 minutes a day). Western Australia recorded the least amount of free time (4 hours a day) spent on recreation and leisure activity. South Australians also spent more time on audio/visual media activities than people in any other state with 2 hours and 30 minutes a day compared with Western Australia who reported the least amount of time spent on audio/visual activities ( 2 hours and 7 minutes a day). Queenslanders spent the most time on sport and outdoor activity ( 25 minutes a day) with South Australians and Victorians spending least amount of time (both 19 minutes a day).

TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES continued
3.10 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON FREE TIME ACTIVITIES, By state-2006

|  | New |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | South |  |  | South | Western |  |
|  | Wales | Victoria | Queensland | Australia | Australia | Australia (a) |
|  | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day | Minutes per day |
| Socialising | 9 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 10 |
| Visiting entertainment venues(b) | 5 | 5 | 5 | **4 | *4 | 5 |
| Attendance at sports event | 1 | 2 | 2 | *2 | *3 | 2 |
| Religious activities(c) | 6 | 4 | 3 | *3 | *4 | 5 |
| Community participation | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Associated travel | 12 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 12 |
| Social and Community |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sport and outdoor activity | 21 | 19 | 25 | 19 | 22 | 21 |
| Games, hobbies, arts, crafts | 12 | 15 | 15 | *15 | 10 | 13 |
| Reading | 22 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 23 |
| Audio/visual media | 135 | 141 | 142 | 150 | 127 | 138 |
| Other free time | 21 | 17 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 20 |
| Talking and correspondence(e) | 31 | 29 | 29 | 34 | 29 | 30 |
| Associated travel | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Recreation and Leisure(d) | 248 | 251 | 266 | 266 | 240 | 253 |
| Total free time | 292 | 296 | 307 | 309 | 282 | 296 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of $25 \%$ to $50 \%$ and should be used with caution
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than $50 \%$ and is considered too unreliable for general use
(a) Includes Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.
(b) Includes cultural venues
(c) Includes ritual ceremonies
(d) Includes additional activities not separately included.
(e) Includes talking on phone or reading/writing own correspondence.

INTRODUCTION

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

1 This publication presents statistics compiled from data, collected by both computer assisted personal interview and respondent diary completion, in the 2006 Time Use Survey (TUS). The 2006 survey was the third national time use survey conducted in Australia. Previous time use surveys were conducted in 1992 and 1997.

2 Time use surveys collect detailed information on the daily activity patterns of people in Australia. The information is used to examine how people allocate time to activities such as paid and unpaid work and to analyse such issues as gender equality, care giving and balancing family and other responsibilities.
3 Further Explanatory Notes on the 2006 Time Use Survey can be found in How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0). These Explanatory Notes contain information on the scope of the survey, sample design, data collection, data processing, weighting, bench marking and reliability of estimates.

4 The Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006 (cat. no. 4150.0) is an essential reference tool for understanding data released from the 2006 TUS. It describes the definitions, concepts, methodology and estimation procedures used in the TUS. The questionnaires, diary and output data item list are also available as part of this publication.

5 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include: How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0) Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006 (cat. no. 4150.0) Time Use Survey, Australia, Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2006 (cat. no. 4152.0.55.001).

6 The ABS National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics' 'Topics @ a Glance' page also contains a wealth of information and useful references on culture and recreation statistics. This site can be accessed through the ABS website [http://www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Topics @ a Glance - Culture and Recreation).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{l}\text { INTERNET } \begin{array}{l}\text { www.abs.gov.au the ABS website is the best place for } \\
\text { data from our publications and information about the ABS }\end{array}
$$ <br>
IN FORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE <br>
Our consultants can help you access the full range of <br>
information published by the ABS that is available free of <br>
charge from our website. Information tailored to your <br>
needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. <br>
Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or <br>

methodological advice.\end{array}\right\}\)| 1300135070 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| PHONE | client.services@abs.gov.au |
| FAX | 1300135211 |
| POST | Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001 |

## FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS www.abs.gov.au

