

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 22 SEP 2004

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or the Family Characteristics Survey Team on Canberra (02) 6252 6682.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication presents results from the Family Characteristics Survey conducted in June 2003. It presents information about the composition of households and families, and the characteristics and circumstances of people within them.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY The 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) was conducted throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The 2003 FCS is the fourth survey on the topic of family composition, the first being conducted in 1982.

This survey collected details on household and family composition including demographic, labour force, and family type. A particular focus of the survey is families with children aged 0–17 years. The additional information collected for these families included information about family structure, the social marital status of the parents, parental income and contact arrangements for children with non-resident parents.

Comparison with data obtained from the 1992 Family Survey and the 1997 Family Characteristics Survey helps to show how the number and proportions of various family types have changed over the last decade.

ROUNDING As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ASCED Australian Standard Classification of Education
- CSA Child Support Agency
- FCS Family Characteristics Survey
- LFS Labour Force Survey
- RSE relative standard error
- SE standard error

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Most Australians live in households as members of a family unit. The numbers of families of different types, reflect patterns of partnering and marriage and subsequent differences in family formation. The ageing of the population, too, has an impact on family composition. This publication presents results of the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) and compares them to the 1997 FCS and the 1992 Family Survey, providing information about the changing patterns of family and household composition in contemporary Australia.

In 2003, there were 7.6 million households, of which 71% (or 5.4 million) were family households. This proportion is slightly higher than in 1997 (70%) but lower than in 1992 (74%).

Reflecting the fact that the majority of households in Australia were family households in 2003, most people (87%) lived in family households. A further 10% lived alone and the remainder (4%) lived with unrelated individuals (i.e. in group households).

The proportion of people who lived in family households (87% in 2003) was slightly higher than that measured in 1997 (86%) but lower than that recorded in 1992 (89%). Similarly, the proportion of people living alone in both 1997 and 2003 (10%) was higher than in 1992 (8%).

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

There were 5.5 million families in Australia in 2003. Most lived as one family households while 4% (213,800) of families lived in multi-family households. The average size of family households was 3.1 persons in both 1997 and 2003, down from 3.3 persons in 1992.

Families are characterised by the presence of certain relationships, such as couple relationships, parent-child relationships and other blood relationships. Therefore, families may be comprised of couples with or without children of any age, lone parents with children of any age, or other families (i.e. families of related adults, where no couple or parent/child relationship exists such as brothers or sisters living together). Of all families in 2003, 84% (4.6 million) were couple families, 14% (799,800) were one parent families and 2% (98,900) were other families. (See diagram on page 4).

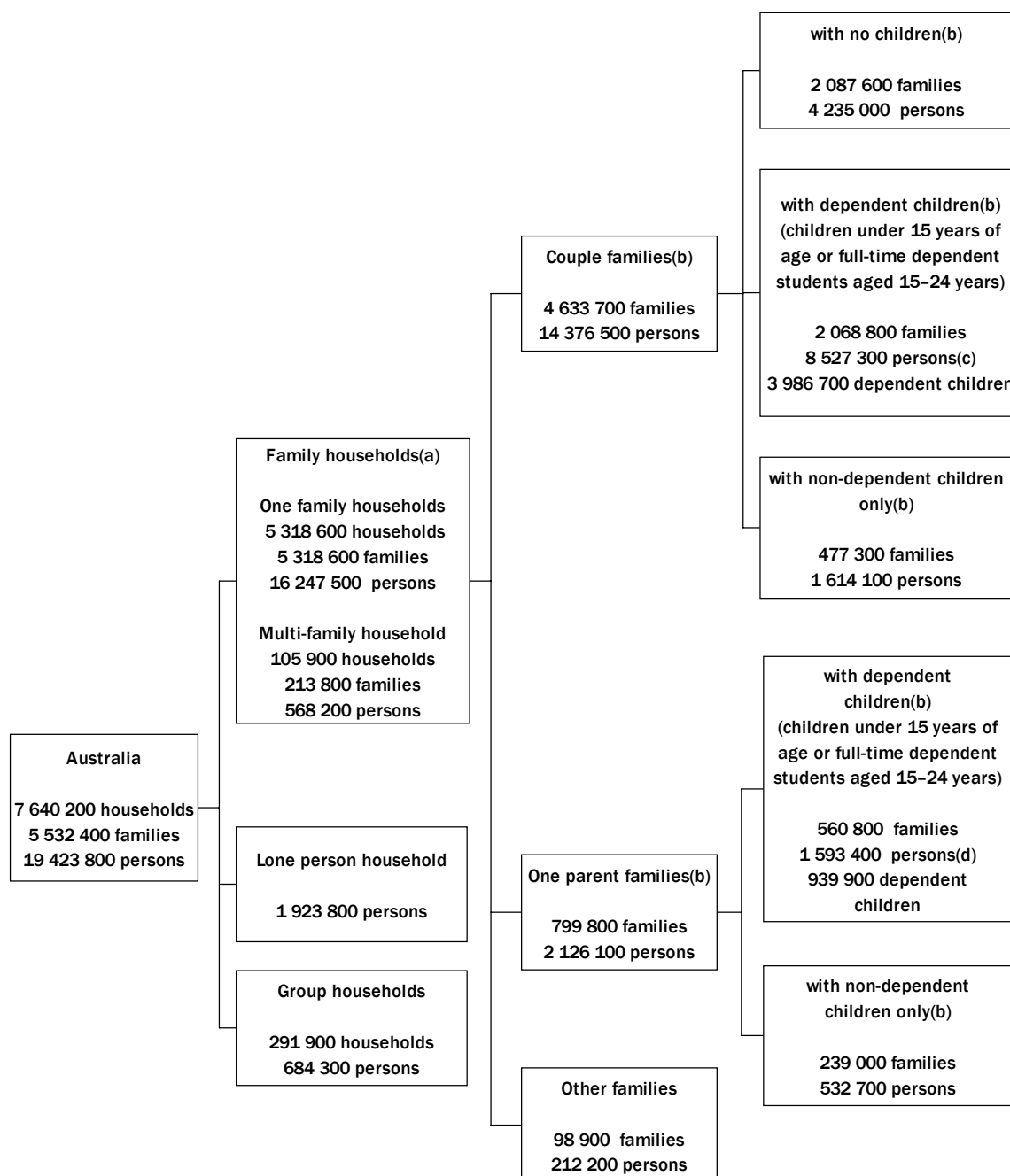
Families with children

Families with children made up 60% of all families. These can be grouped into families with dependent children (i.e. families with a child being aged less than 15 years or a full-time dependent student aged 15–24 years) and families with non-dependent children only. Of all families with children, 79% had dependent children, while 21% had non-dependent children only. The proportion of all families with children with very young children (with the youngest child aged 0–2 years) has decreased from 23% in 1992 to 22% in 1997 and 20% in 2003.

A further group of interest among families with children are those with children aged 0–17 years, because children aged less than 18 years have not attained full adult rights so usually remain reliant in some ways on either their parent(s) or guardian(s). In 2003, there were 2.5 million families with at least one child aged 0–17 years (45% of all families). Of these families, 78% were couple families and 22% were one parent families. (See diagram on page 6).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Households, families and persons, June 2003



(a) In addition to couples, parents, children and other family members, family households may also include unrelated individuals. Therefore, the number of persons in family households will not equal the number of persons in families. A total of 100,900 unrelated individuals lived with families in family households.

(b) These families may include 'other related individuals' as defined in the Glossary.

(c) Includes 332,000 non-dependent children in families with dependent children.

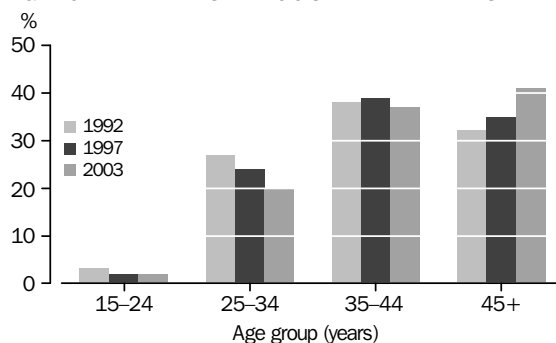
(d) Includes 59,300 non-dependent children in families with dependent children.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Families with children continued

The age profile of parents in couple families with children in 2003 has changed since 1992 and 1997, with lower proportions in younger age groups and higher proportions in older age groups. In 2003, 20% of parents in couple families were aged 25–34 years, down from 24% in 1997 and 27% in 1992. Conversely, 41% of parents in couple families were aged 45 years and over in 2003, compared with 35% and 32% in 1997 and 1992 respectively. (See graph below).

AGE OF PARENTS IN COUPLE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Labour force status

For over half (60%) of couple families with dependent children (those with children aged less than 15 years or full-time dependent students aged 15–24 years) both parents were employed. The likelihood of both parents being employed tended to increase with the age of the youngest dependent child, from 45% in families where the youngest child was aged 0–2 years to 67% where the youngest dependent child was a full-time student aged 15–24 years. Of the 698,800 couple families with dependent children where only one parent was employed, the employed parent was the father in 89% of cases.

In 2003, 52% of lone parents with dependent children were employed and of these just over half (52%) were employed full time. As with couple families, lone parents with older children were more likely to be employed than those with younger children – 76% were employed in families where the youngest dependent child was a full-time student aged 15–24 years compared to 28% where the youngest child was aged 0–2 years.

Of all dependent children in 2003, 753,600 (15%) were in families without an employed parent. Almost two-thirds of these children (64% or 482,100) were in one parent families.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–17 YEARS *Family structures*

Of all families with children, those with children aged 0–17 years are discussed as children in this age group living with a parent/guardian usually remain the responsibility of their parent(s)/guardian(s), having not yet attained the full legal status afforded to adults (e.g. the right to vote or the right to marry without parental consent). There were 2.5 million families with at least one child aged 0–17 years in 2003. The majority, 1.8 million (71%), were intact couple families (see Glossary for a full definition), 542,600 (22%) were one parent families, with 176,700 families being step or blended families. A further 14,900 were classified as other families (see Glossary). (See diagram on page 6).

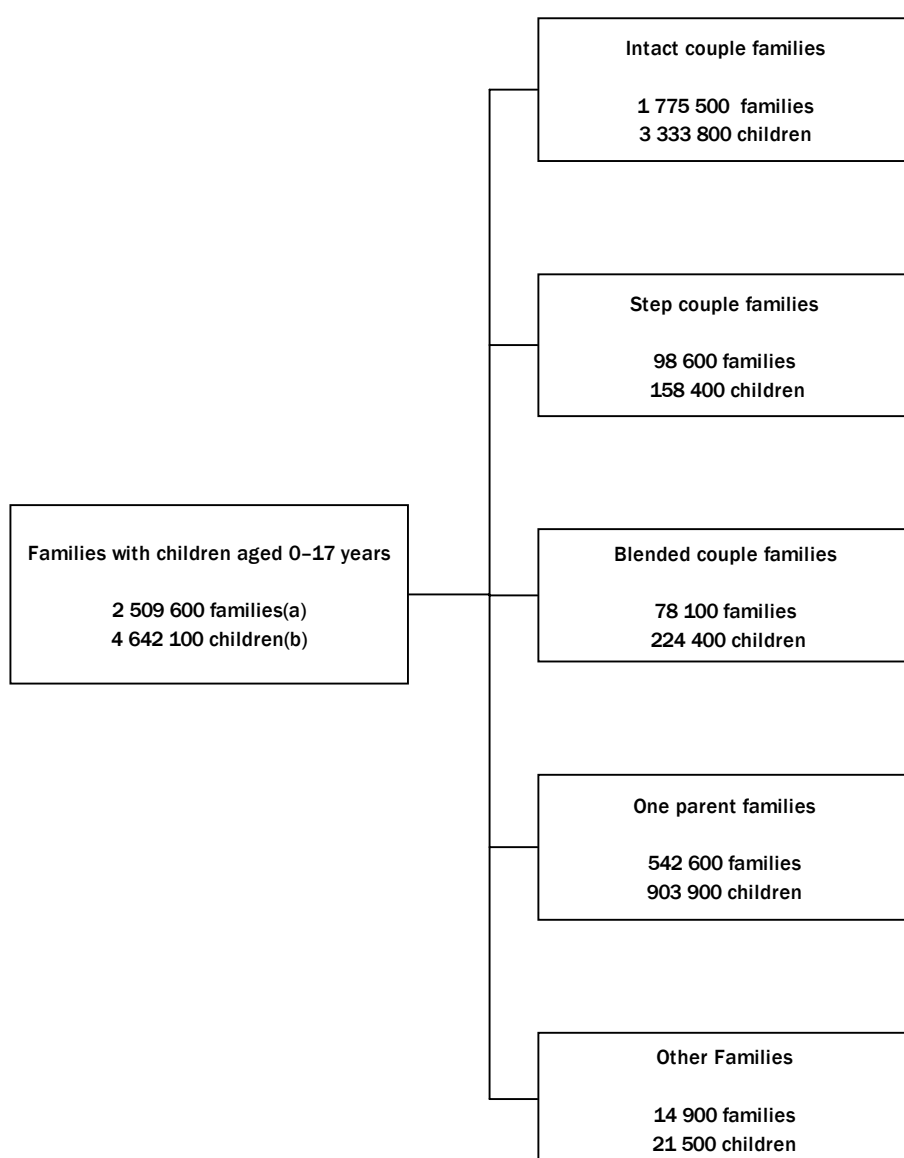
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Family structures continued

Step families (98,600 or 4% of all families with children aged 0–17 years) are those formed when parents repartner following separation, and where there is at least one step child of either member of the couple present. To be counted as a blended family, a family must contain a step child but also have a child born to both parents. In 2003, there were 78,100 blended families representing 3% of all families with children aged 0–17 years. This proportion is the same as that recorded in 1992 and 1997.

As a proportion of all families with children aged 0–17 years, one parent families increased from 17% in 1992 to 21% in 1997, but remained at the same level in 2003 (22%).

Families with children aged 0–17 years, June 2003



Marital status of parent(s)

Of all couples with children aged 0–17 years, 12% were in a de facto marriage in 2003. Couples in both step (56%) and blended families (39%) were more likely than those in intact families (8%) to be in a de facto marriage.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Marital status of parent(s) continued

Of the 542,600 lone parents of children aged 0–17 years, 35% reported that they had never married. Of lone parents who had ever been married, 51% were divorced, 38% were separated, with the remainder being widowed (8%) or reporting their status as still married (2%). Lone mothers were more likely to have been never married than lone fathers (38% and 15% respectively).

PARENTAL INCOME

Couple families with children aged 0–17 years

In 2003, the median weekly parental income for couple families with children aged 0–17 years was \$1,167. The median weekly income generally increased with the age of the youngest child, up from \$1,053 for those whose youngest child was aged 0–2 years to \$1,292 for those whose youngest child was aged 15–17 years. The median weekly parental income for intact and step families was \$1,186 and \$1,169 respectively, compared with \$985 for blended families (where the children were more likely to be younger). The majority of couple families with children aged 0–17 years (72%) had wages or salary as their main source of income.

One parent families with children aged 0–17 years

The median weekly income of lone parents with children aged 0–17 years was \$412, less than half the income of parents in couple families with children (\$1,167 per week). In 2003, 58% of lone parents received a government pension, benefit or allowance as their main source of income compared to 8% of couples with children aged 0–17 years.

As with the income of parents in couple families, the income of lone parents generally increased with the age of the youngest child. For lone parents the median weekly income of the parent increased from \$390 for those whose youngest child was aged 0–2 years, up to \$575 for those whose youngest child was aged 15–17 years. Lone fathers tended to have higher incomes than lone mothers, with median weekly incomes of \$550 and \$400 respectively.

CHILDREN AGED 0–17 YEARS WITH A NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE

There were 1.1 million children aged 0–17 years in 2003 (23% of all children in this age group) who had a natural parent living elsewhere. Of these children, 76% lived in one parent families, 13% in step families and 9% in blended families. Children were more likely to live with their mother than their father after parents separate. The survey found that in 84% of cases it was the father who was the natural parent living elsewhere.

Contact arrangements

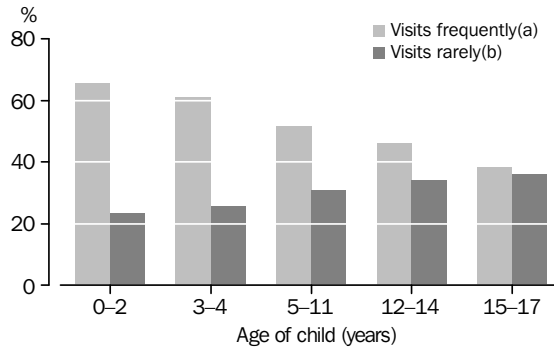
Of the children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere, 50% (or 543,500) saw their other parent frequently (at least once per fortnight), while 31% (339,000) only saw their other natural parent either rarely (once per year, or less often) or never. Of the 283,000 children who saw their other natural parent less than once a year or never saw them, 64,300 (23%) had some indirect contact with their parent (e.g. via phone, email, or letter).

The proportion of children whose mother or father lived elsewhere who saw their other parent frequently increased from 44% in 1997 to 50% in 2003.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Contact arrangements *continued*

CHILDREN SEEING ANOTHER NATURAL PARENT, Proportion of children seeing other natural parent frequently/rarely



(a) Frequently is defined as at least once per fortnight.
(b) Rarely is defined as at most once per year.

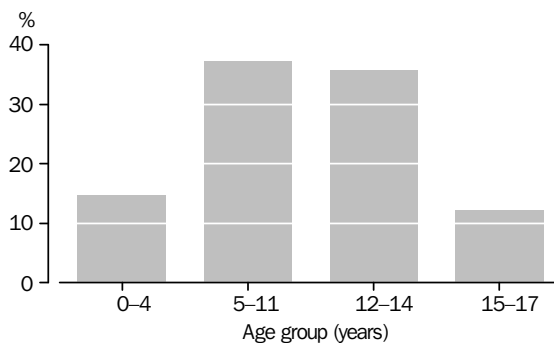
Younger children were likely to see their other natural parent more frequently than were older children. Of children aged 0–2 years, 66% saw their other natural parent frequently while 23% saw them rarely or never. The corresponding proportions for children aged 15–17 years were 38% and 36% respectively. (See graph above).

On average, 50% of children with a parent living elsewhere in 2003 had overnight stays with the other natural parent, compared with 46% in 1997. The proportion of children staying for 30% or more nights (equivalent to an average of 2 nights per week) with the other natural parent was higher in 2003 (6%) compared with 3% in 1997.

GRANDPARENT FAMILIES

There were 22,500 grandparent families with children aged 0–17 years in Australia in 2003. These families represented around one percent of all families with children aged 0–17 years. The majority of grandparent families (73%) reported the age of the youngest child was between 5 and 14 years. (See graph below).

GRANDPARENT FAMILIES BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD



In 39% of grandparent families, the younger partner or lone grandparent was younger than 55 years, while in the majority (61%) of grandparent families, the younger partner or lone grandparent was aged 55 years or more.

In around one-third (34%) of grandparent families, one or both grandparents were employed, and 62% received a government pension, benefit or allowance as their main source of income. Over two-thirds (71%) of the 31,100 children in grandparent families saw their natural parent(s) living elsewhere.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

NON-RESIDENT PARENTS

Of the 493,200 non-resident parents (i.e. those parents with children aged 0–17 years living with the other natural parent), most (82%) were fathers. As indicated by their relationship in the household in which they lived, 40% of the fathers had formed new relationships, while 32% of them lived alone. Other non-resident fathers lived as dependent students (7.8%), in group households (7.7%) and as lone parents (6.4%). Of non-resident mothers, 48% had formed new relationships, 33% were lone parents, and only 10% lived alone.

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HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES AND PERSONS, Household type 1992, 1997, 2003

Household type	1992		1997		2003	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
HOUSEHOLDS						
Family households						
One family households	4 616.9	73.0	4 859.9	68.9	5 318.6	69.6
Multi-family households	77.5	1.2	73.7	1.0	105.9	1.4
<i>Total family households</i>	4 694.4	74.3	4 933.6	69.9	5 424.5	71.0
Non-family households						
Lone person households	1 386.9	21.9	1 730.2	24.5	1 923.8	25.2
Group households	240.6	3.8	390.5	5.5	291.9	3.8
<i>Total non-family households</i>	1 627.5	25.7	2 120.7	30.1	2 215.7	29.0
Total households	6 321.9	100.0	7 054.3	100.0	7 640.2	100.0
FAMILIES						
Families						
In one family households	4 616.1	96.7	4 859.9	97.0	5 318.6	96.1
In multi-family households	159.1	(a)3.3	149.7	(a)3.0	213.8	3.9
Total families	4 775.1	100.0	5 009.6	100.0	5 532.4	100.0
PERSONS						
Persons in family households						
In one family households	14 897.8	86.2	15 115.1	83.3	16 247.5	83.6
In multi-family households	439.6	2.5	416.6	2.3	568.2	2.9
<i>Total persons in family households</i>	15 337.5	88.7	15 531.7	85.6	16 815.7	86.6
Persons in non-family households						
In lone person households	1 386.9	8.0	1 730.2	9.5	1 923.8	9.9
In group households	558.9	3.2	887.5	4.9	684.3	3.5
<i>Total persons in non-family households</i>	1 945.8	11.3	2 617.7	14.4	2 608.1	13.4
Total persons	17 283.3	100.0	18 149.4	100.0	19 423.8	100.0

(a) Difference between the 1992 and 1997 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES AND PERSONS, Selected characteristics by state

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)									
Household type									
Family households									
One family households	1 764.3	1 324.2	1 022.4	425.2	529.0	133.0	35.6	84.9	5 318.6
Multi-family households	44.6	21.7	22.7	*4.4	9.3	**1.0	**1.0	*1.2	105.9
<i>Total family households</i>	1 808.9	1 345.9	1 045.1	429.6	538.3	134.0	36.7	86.0	5 424.5
Non-family households									
Lone person households	614.3	462.2	359.8	180.0	204.7	54.8	16.2	31.9	1 923.8
Group households	102.1	72.3	60.8	17.5	25.5	*5.4	*2.4	5.7	291.9
<i>Total non-family households</i>	716.4	534.5	420.6	197.6	230.2	60.2	18.7	37.6	2 215.7
Total households	2 525.3	1 880.4	1 465.7	627.2	768.5	194.2	55.3	123.6	7 640.2
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)									
Families									
In one family households	1 764.3	1 324.2	1 022.4	425.2	529.0	133.0	35.6	84.9	5 318.6
In multi-family households	89.8	44.1	45.6	8.8	19.0	*2.1	*2.1	*2.3	213.8
Family type									
Couple families without children	687.7	492.9	419.8	177.7	213.7	53.5	11.8	30.5	2 087.6
Couple families with children									
with dependent children	694.1	532.1	386.5	147.8	209.9	48.9	16.0	33.4	2 068.8
with non-dependent children only	168.8	130.7	83.3	35.1	42.0	8.1	*3.2	6.2	477.3
<i>Total couple families with children</i>	862.9	662.8	469.8	182.8	251.9	57.0	19.2	39.6	2 546.1
One parent families									
with dependent children	185.2	128.0	115.1	49.3	50.5	16.5	*4.3	11.8	560.8
with non-dependent children only	83.7	58.5	47.6	18.6	18.3	6.9	*1.7	*3.9	239.0
<i>Total one parent families</i>	268.9	186.5	162.7	67.9	68.8	23.4	6.0	15.6	799.8
Other families(b)	34.6	26.2	15.7	5.6	13.6	*1.2	**0.7	*1.4	98.9
Total families	1 854.1	1 368.3	1 068.0	434.0	548.0	135.1	37.7	87.2	5 532.4
Families with children aged 0–17 years									
Intact families(c)	601.4	453.0	330.7	127.7	179.6	40.2	14.4	28.4	1 775.5
Step and blended families									
with children with a natural parent elsewhere	48.6	32.4	36.9	12.8	20.0	5.9	*1.4	*3.1	161.1
with no children with a natural parent elsewhere	5.7	*3.4	*2.7	**0.6	*2.1	**0.4	**0.6	**0.1	15.6
<i>Total step and blended families</i>	54.3	35.8	39.6	13.4	22.0	6.4	*2.0	*3.3	176.7
One parent families									
with children with a natural parent elsewhere	166.3	106.8	104.0	44.2	45.8	14.6	*4.1	10.1	495.9
with no children with a natural parent elsewhere	13.8	15.2	9.1	*3.1	*2.8	*1.5	**0.4	**0.7	46.6
<i>Total one parent families</i>	180.1	121.9	113.1	47.4	48.6	16.1	*4.5	10.9	542.6
<i>Total families with children aged 0–17 years(d)</i>	841.0	612.6	487.7	189.3	252.2	62.8	21.3	42.8	2 509.6

* 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) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Refers to families where there were no partners or children (e.g. adult siblings living together without a parent).

(c) Includes a small number of families where one or more children had a natural parent elsewhere (for example, a foster child living in an intact family).

(d) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
NUMBER OF PERSONS ('000)									
Persons									
In one family households	5 430.8	4 104.2	3 089.6	1 245.2	1 610.9	392.1	117.2	257.5	16 247.5
In multi-family households	241.0	122.1	118.3	21.9	48.8	*5.4	*4.5	*6.2	568.2
In lone person households	614.3	462.2	359.8	180.0	204.7	54.8	16.2	31.9	1 923.8
women living alone	321.0	251.3	177.1	94.0	107.3	29.9	*5.7	17.3	1 003.5
men living alone	293.3	210.9	182.6	86.0	97.4	24.9	10.5	14.6	920.3
In group households	237.3	178.3	135.7	39.1	60.5	12.7	*6.6	14.0	684.3
Total persons	6 523.4	4 866.8	3 703.3	1 486.2	1 924.9	465.0	144.6	309.6	19 423.8
Children aged 0–17 years									
In intact families(b)	1 126.9	850.6	626.6	234.1	341.2	75.1	27.3	51.9	3 333.8
In step and blended families									
with a natural parent living elsewhere	69.0	52.9	55.9	17.9	29.7	9.1	*2.4	*4.8	241.7
with no natural parent living elsewhere	48.6	24.9	35.8	8.5	15.6	*3.5	*3.0	**1.2	141.1
<i>Total in step and blended families</i>	<i>117.7</i>	<i>77.8</i>	<i>91.6</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>45.4</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>*5.4</i>	<i>*5.9</i>	<i>382.9</i>
In one parent families									
with a natural parent living elsewhere	278.7	176.4	173.6	75.7	72.4	24.4	*6.5	15.9	823.6
with no natural parent living elsewhere	26.7	26.1	12.6	*4.6	*5.3	*2.0	**1.3	*1.7	80.3
<i>Total in one parent families</i>	<i>305.4</i>	<i>202.5</i>	<i>186.2</i>	<i>80.4</i>	<i>77.7</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>903.9</i>
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years(c)</i>	<i>1 556.8</i>	<i>1 133.8</i>	<i>911.5</i>	<i>341.7</i>	<i>467.1</i>	<i>114.4</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>75.7</i>	<i>4 642.1</i>

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

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(b) Includes a small number of families where one or more children had a natural parent elsewhere (for example, a foster child living in an intact family).

(c) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS (%)									
Household type									
Family households									
One family households	69.9	70.4	69.8	67.8	68.8	68.5	64.4	68.6	69.6
Multi-family households	1.8	1.2	1.5	*0.7	1.2	**0.5	**1.9	*0.9	1.4
<i>Total family households</i>	71.6	71.6	71.3	68.5	70.0	69.0	66.3	69.6	71.0
Non-family households									
Lone person households	24.3	24.6	24.5	28.7	26.6	28.2	29.4	25.8	25.2
Group households	4.0	3.8	4.1	2.8	3.3	*2.8	*4.4	4.6	3.8
<i>Total non-family households</i>	28.4	28.4	28.7	31.5	30.0	31.0	33.7	30.4	29.0
Total households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)									
Families									
In one family households	95.2	96.8	95.7	98.0	96.5	98.5	94.5	97.3	96.1
In multi-family households	4.8	3.2	4.3	2.0	3.5	*1.5	*5.5	*2.7	3.9
Family type									
Couple families without children	37.1	36.0	39.3	40.9	39.0	39.6	31.4	35.0	37.7
Couple families with children									
with dependent children	37.4	38.9	36.2	34.0	38.3	36.2	42.5	38.3	37.4
with non-dependent children only	9.1	9.6	7.8	8.1	7.7	6.0	*8.4	7.1	8.6
<i>Total couple families with children</i>	46.5	48.4	44.0	42.1	46.0	42.2	50.9	45.4	46.0
One parent families									
with dependent children	10.0	9.4	10.8	11.4	9.2	12.2	*11.5	13.5	10.1
with non-dependent children only	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.3	3.3	5.1	*4.4	*4.4	4.3
<i>Total one parent families</i>	14.5	13.6	15.2	15.6	12.6	17.3	15.9	17.9	14.5
Other families(b)	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.3	2.5	*0.9	**1.8	*1.6	1.8
Total families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Families with children aged 0–17 years									
Intact families(c)	71.5	73.9	67.8	67.5	71.2	64.0	67.9	66.5	70.7
Step and blended families									
with children with a natural parent elsewhere	5.8	5.3	7.6	6.8	7.9	9.5	*6.6	*7.3	6.4
with no children with a natural parent elsewhere	0.7	*0.6	*0.6	**0.3	*0.8	**0.7	**2.6	**0.3	0.6
<i>Total step and blended families</i>	6.5	5.8	8.1	7.1	8.7	10.2	*9.2	*7.6	7.0
One parent families									
with children with a natural parent elsewhere	19.8	17.4	21.3	23.4	18.2	23.2	*19.3	23.7	19.8
with no children with a natural parent elsewhere	1.6	2.5	1.9	*1.7	*1.1	*2.3	**2.0	**1.7	1.9
<i>Total one parent families</i>	21.4	19.9	23.2	25.0	19.3	25.6	*21.3	25.5	21.6
<i>Total families with children aged 0–17 years(d)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

* 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) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Refers to families where there were no partners or children (e.g. adult siblings living together without a parent).

(c) Includes a small number of families where one or more children had a natural parent elsewhere (for example, a foster child living in an intact family).

(d) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
PROPORTION OF PERSONS (%)									
Persons									
In one family households	83.3	84.3	83.4	83.8	83.7	84.3	81.1	83.2	83.6
In multi-family households	3.7	2.5	3.2	1.5	2.5	*1.2	*3.1	*2.0	2.9
In lone person households	9.4	9.5	9.7	12.1	10.6	11.8	11.2	10.3	9.9
women living alone	4.9	5.2	4.8	6.3	5.6	6.4	*4.0	5.6	5.2
men living alone	4.5	4.3	4.9	5.8	5.1	5.4	7.3	4.7	4.7
In group households	3.6	3.7	3.7	2.6	3.1	2.7	*4.6	4.5	3.5
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children aged 0–17 years									
In intact families(b)	72.4	75.0	68.8	68.5	73.0	65.7	66.6	68.6	71.8
In step and blended families									
with a natural parent living elsewhere	4.4	4.7	6.1	5.2	6.4	8.0	*5.9	*6.3	5.2
with no natural parent living elsewhere	3.1	2.2	3.9	2.5	3.4	*3.0	*7.3	**1.5	3.0
Total in step and blended families	7.6	6.9	10.1	7.7	9.7	11.0	*13.3	*7.8	8.2
In one parent families									
with a natural parent living elsewhere	17.9	15.6	19.0	22.2	15.5	21.3	*15.9	21.0	17.7
with no natural parent living elsewhere	1.7	2.3	1.4	*1.4	*1.1	*1.8	**3.1	*2.2	1.7
Total in one parent families	19.6	17.9	20.4	23.5	16.6	23.1	19.1	23.2	19.5
Total children aged 0–17 years(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes a small number of families where one or more children had a natural parent elsewhere (for example, a foster child living in an intact family).

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ALL PERSONS, Sex by relationship in household by family type

<i>Relationship in household</i>	<i>Couple family without children</i>	<i>Couple family with dependent children</i>	<i>Couple family with non-dependent children only</i>	<i>Total in couple families</i>	<i>One parent family with dependent children</i>	<i>One parent family with non-dependent children only</i>	<i>Total in one parent families</i>
MALES ('000)							
Family members							
Husband, wife or partner	2 087.6	2 068.8	477.3	4 633.7	..	..	..
Lone parent	..	..	..	..	78.8	55.4	134.2
Child under 15 years	..	1 613.6	..	1 613.6	381.1	..	381.1
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	422.7	..	422.7	89.1	..	89.1
Non-dependent child	..	207.1	404.8	612.0	38.9	190.8	229.7
Other related individual	25.1	27.1	*4.6	56.8	11.7	*3.0	14.7
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>2 112.7</i>	<i>4 339.2</i>	<i>886.8</i>	<i>7 338.7</i>	<i>599.7</i>	<i>249.2</i>	<i>848.9</i>
Non-family members							
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in lone person households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in group households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Total non-family members</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total	2 112.7	4 339.2	886.8	7 338.7	599.7	249.2	848.9
FEMALES ('000)							
Family members							
Husband, wife or partner	2 087.6	2 068.8	477.3	4 633.7	..	..	..
Lone parent	..	..	..	..	481.9	183.6	665.5
Child under 15 years	..	1 524.3	..	1 524.3	370.5	..	370.5
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	426.1	..	426.1	99.2	..	99.2
Non-dependent child	..	124.9	239.8	364.7	20.3	91.3	111.7
Other related individual	34.8	44.0	10.2	89.0	21.7	8.6	30.3
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>2 122.4</i>	<i>4 188.1</i>	<i>727.3</i>	<i>7 037.8</i>	<i>993.7</i>	<i>283.6</i>	<i>1 277.2</i>
Non-family members							
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in lone person households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in group households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Total non-family members</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total	2 122.4	4 188.1	727.3	7 037.8	993.7	283.6	1 277.2
PERSONS ('000)							
Family members							
Husband, wife or partner	4 175.2	4 137.5	954.6	9 267.4	..	..	..
Lone parent	..	..	..	..	560.8	239.0	799.8
Child under 15 years	..	3 137.9	..	3 137.9	751.7	..	751.7
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	848.8	..	848.8	188.3	..	188.3
Non-dependent child	..	332.0	644.6	976.6	59.3	282.1	341.4
Other related individual	59.9	71.1	14.8	145.8	33.4	11.6	45.0
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>4 235.0</i>	<i>8 527.3</i>	<i>1 614.1</i>	<i>14 376.5</i>	<i>1 593.4</i>	<i>532.7</i>	<i>2 126.1</i>
Non-family members							
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in lone person households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Persons in group households	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Total non-family members</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total	4 235.0	8 527.3	1 614.1	14 376.5	1 593.4	532.7	2 126.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution .. not applicable

<i>Relationship in household</i>	<i>Other family(a)</i>	<i>Non-family member</i>	<i>Total</i>
.....			
MALES ('000)			
Family members			
Husband, wife or partner	..	..	4 633.7
Lone parent	..	..	134.2
Child under 15 years	..	..	1 994.7
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	..	511.8
Non-dependent child	..	..	841.7
Other related individual	114.7	..	186.1
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>114.7</i>	..	<i>8 302.2</i>
Non-family members			
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	64.5	64.5
Persons in lone person households	..	920.3	920.3
Persons in group households	..	404.0	404.0
<i>Total non-family members</i>	..	<i>1 388.8</i>	<i>1 388.8</i>
Total	114.7	1 388.8	9 691.1
.....			
FEMALES ('000)			
Family members			
Husband, wife or partner	..	..	4 633.7
Lone parent	..	..	665.5
Child under 15 years	..	..	1 894.9
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	..	525.3
Non-dependent child	..	..	476.4
Other related individual	97.5	..	216.9
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>97.5</i>	..	<i>8 412.6</i>
Non-family members			
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	36.4	36.4
Persons in lone person households	..	1 003.5	1 003.5
Persons in group households	..	280.2	280.2
<i>Total non-family members</i>	..	<i>1 320.1</i>	<i>1 320.1</i>
Total	97.5	1 320.1	9 732.7
.....			
PERSONS ('000)			
Family members			
Husband, wife or partner	..	..	9 267.4
Lone parent	..	..	799.8
Child under 15 years	..	..	3 889.5
Dependent student 15–24 years	..	..	1 037.1
Non-dependent child	..	..	1 318.0
Other related individual	212.2	..	403.0
<i>Total family members</i>	<i>212.2</i>	..	<i>16 714.8</i>
Non-family members			
Unrelated individuals living in family households	..	100.9	100.9
Persons in lone person households	..	1 923.8	1 923.8
Persons in group households	..	684.3	684.3
<i>Total non-family members</i>	..	<i>2 708.9</i>	<i>2 708.9</i>
Total	212.2	2 708.9	19 423.8

.. not applicable

(a) Refers to families where there are no partners or children (e.g. adult siblings living together without a parent).

ALL PERSONS, Relationship in household by age, 1992, 1997, 2003

Relationship in household	AGE (YEARS)									Total
	0-14	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
1992 ('000)										
Family members										
Husband, wife or partner	..	*5.3	445.8	1 979.4	2 138.4	1 610.6	1 134.1	800.9	270.2	8 384.8
Lone parent	..	**0.5	61.6	137.9	192.4	108.0	60.5	34.8	39.8	635.5
Child under 15	3 804.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 804.9
Dependent student	..	617.9	295.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	913.1
Non-dependent child	..	105.5	759.5	261.3	72.1	28.1	17.1	*3.0	—	1 246.5
Other related individual	..	*3.3	53.7	48.5	15.4	21.1	25.7	47.1	48.6	263.4
Total family members	3 804.9	732.4	1 615.8	2 427.1	2 418.3	1 767.8	1 237.4	885.8	358.6	15 248.1
Non-family members										
Unrelated individual in family household	..	*6.9	42.1	23.5	*8.8	*3.4	*3.1	**0.2	**1.4	89.3
Persons in lone person households	..	*4.0	98.6	191.7	176.0	164.3	193.3	285.3	273.7	1 386.9
Persons in group households	..	10.9	237.5	187.1	47.9	29.1	20.5	14.3	11.5	558.9
Total non-family members	..	21.8	378.2	402.3	232.7	196.9	216.9	299.7	286.6	2 035.2
Total persons	3 804.9	754.2	1 994.0	2 829.5	2 651.0	1 964.6	1 454.3	1 185.5	645.2	17 283.3
1997 ('000)										
Family members										
Husband, wife or partner	..	*2.6	297.1	1 718.7	2 149.3	1 828.7	1 174.1	845.6	329.3	8 345.4
Lone parent	..	*1.5	52.3	154.5	233.1	148.2	65.6	46.0	38.8	739.9
Child under 15	3 904.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 904.5
Dependent student	..	611.9	284.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	896.7
Non-dependent child	..	98.9	641.7	306.4	80.7	37.9	13.5	*1.4	**0.3	1 180.8
Other related individual	..	17.7	99.3	69.3	21.7	24.5	28.1	38.0	55.9	354.4
Total family members	3 904.5	732.7	1 375.1	2 248.9	2 484.8	2 039.2	1 281.2	931.1	424.3	15 421.7
Non-family members										
Unrelated individual in family household	..	7.0	40.7	32.0	14.2	8.8	*4.7	*1.4	**1.2	110.0
Persons in lone person households	..	*2.4	86.9	237.2	237.3	247.4	233.5	318.1	366.6	1 730.2
Persons in group households	..	14.2	342.4	326.9	90.6	52.1	31.5	18.8	10.9	887.5
Total non-family members	..	23.7	470.1	596.1	342.1	308.4	269.7	338.3	378.6	2 727.7
Total persons	3 904.5	756.3	1 845.2	2 845.0	2 826.9	2 347.6	1 551.0	1 269.3	803.0	18 149.4
2003 ('000)										
Family members										
Husband, wife or partner	..	*4.3	370.5	1 760.4	2 215.2	2 064.0	1 523.0	868.0	462.0	9 267.4
Lone parent	..	**1.4	43.5	169.6	228.0	179.9	82.3	45.6	49.3	799.8
Child under 15	3 889.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 889.5
Dependent student	..	663.6	373.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 037.1
Non-dependent child	..	88.9	690.7	363.8	101.6	51.7	18.4	*2.2	**0.7	1 318.0
Other related individual	..	*7.0	105.4	81.1	28.9	36.0	37.4	42.6	64.6	403.0
Total family members	3 889.5	765.2	1 583.7	2 374.9	2 573.7	2 331.5	1 661.2	958.4	576.6	16 714.8
Non-family members										
Unrelated individual in family household	..	*4.5	45.3	25.0	12.2	*7.0	*3.3	*2.1	*1.6	100.9
Persons in lone person households	..	*2.0	80.0	299.6	267.2	289.2	285.7	314.6	385.5	1 923.8
Persons in group households	..	*6.3	241.7	238.3	87.0	52.3	28.3	19.7	10.7	684.3
Total non-family members	..	12.8	367.0	562.8	366.4	348.5	317.3	336.4	397.8	2 708.9
Total persons	3 889.5	778.0	1 950.7	2 937.8	2 940.1	2 680.1	1 978.5	1 294.8	974.4	19 423.8
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution				..	not applicable					
** 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)					

Family type	AGE OF PARTNER OR LONE PARENT (YEARS)						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
1992 ('000) (a)							
Couple families without children							
Wife/female partner	179.3	276.2	111.7	275.1	386.4	417.0	1 645.8
Husband/male partner	110.2	325.5	123.4	204.0	383.6	529.9	1 676.6
Total persons in couple families without children	289.6	601.7	235.1	479.2	770.0	946.9	3 322.4
Couple families with children							
Wife/female partner	104.8	774.1	934.7	484.5	142.0	42.3	2 482.5
Husband/male partner	56.8	603.6	968.5	646.9	222.1	81.9	2 579.8
Total persons in couple families with children	161.5	1 377.8	1 903.3	1 131.5	364.1	124.2	5 062.3
One parent families							
Lone mother	55.2	123.1	165.7	82.9	46.9	62.1	535.9
Lone father	*6.8	14.8	26.8	25.1	13.6	12.5	99.5
Total persons in one parent families	62.0	137.9	192.4	108.0	60.5	74.6	635.5
Total persons who are partners or lone parents	513.1	2 117.3	2 330.8	1 718.6	1 194.6	1 145.7	9 020.2
1997 ('000)							
Couple families without children							
Wife/female partner	124.3	287.8	137.9	340.7	417.0	461.5	1 769.1
Husband/male partner	59.7	298.9	147.0	270.8	394.2	598.5	1 769.1
Total persons in couple families without children	183.9	586.7	284.9	611.5	811.2	1 060.0	3 538.3
Couple families with children							
Wife/female partner	75.4	650.2	952.8	545.1	140.6	39.4	2 403.6
Husband/male partner	40.4	481.7	911.5	672.0	222.3	75.6	2 403.6
Total persons in couple families with children	115.8	1 132.0	1 864.3	1 217.2	362.9	115.0	4 807.2
One parent families							
Lone mother	53.3	142.0	193.5	114.8	49.5	69.4	622.5
Lone father	**0.4	12.5	39.6	33.4	16.0	15.4	117.4
Total persons in one parent families	53.8	154.5	233.1	148.2	65.6	84.9	739.9
Total persons who are partners or lone parents	353.5	1 873.2	2 382.3	1 976.8	1 239.7	1 259.8	9 085.4
2003 ('000)							
Couple families without children							
Wife/female partner	177.6	368.6	156.1	355.5	511.7	518.2	2 087.6
Husband/male partner	100.2	376.0	178.7	280.5	500.8	651.4	2 087.6
Total persons in couple families without children	277.9	744.6	334.7	636.0	1 012.5	1 169.5	4 175.2
Couple families with children							
Wife/female partner	63.5	588.1	974.2	668.4	199.1	52.8	2 546.1
Husband/male partner	33.5	427.8	906.3	759.5	311.4	107.6	2 546.1
Total persons in couple families with children	97.0	1 015.8	1 880.5	1 428.0	510.5	160.4	5 092.2
One parent families							
Lone mother	44.3	155.3	194.1	136.8	59.6	75.5	665.5
Lone father	**0.6	14.4	33.9	43.2	22.7	19.5	134.2
Total persons in one parent families	44.9	169.6	228.0	179.9	82.3	95.0	799.8
Total persons who are partners or lone parents	419.7	1 930.0	2 443.2	2 243.9	1 605.4	1 424.9	10 067.1

* 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) In 1992 the Total included persons with age 'not stated'.

ALL FAMILIES, Family type, 1992, 1997, 2003

	1992	1997	2003
<i>Family type</i>	'000	'000	'000
Couple families without children(a)	1 654.1	1 769.1	2 087.6
Couple families with children(a)			
with children under 15 years and non-dependent children	92.4	75.1	73.5
with children under 15 years without non-dependent children	1 324.9	1 326.6	1 353.6
with dependent students 15–24 years and non-dependent children	131.1	116.6	135.2
with dependent students 15–24 years without non-dependent children	179.2	167.6	195.4
with children under 15 years and dependent students and non-dependent children	45.2	47.5	54.7
with children under 15 years and dependent students without non-dependent children	258.7	254.7	256.3
with non-dependent children	412.2	415.5	477.3
<i>Total couple families with children</i>	2 443.6	2 403.6	2 546.1
One parent families(a)			
with children under 15 years and non-dependent children	21.8	21.2	22.6
with children under 15 years without non-dependent children	274.9	360.2	381.7
with dependent students 15–24 years and non-dependent children	26.8	20.8	21.9
with dependent students 15–24 years without non-dependent children	66.4	63.0	72.5
with children under 15 years and dependent students and non-dependent children	*4.9	10.6	7.0
with children under 15 years and dependent students without non-dependent children	38.9	41.0	55.2
with non-dependent children	185.7	223.2	239.0
<i>Total one parent families</i>	619.4	739.9	799.8
Other families	58.1	97.0	98.9
Total families	4 775.1	5 009.6	5 532.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) These families may also include 'other related individuals' as defined in the Glossary.

ALL FAMILIES, Family life stage type, 1992, 1997, 2003

	1992	1997	2003
<i>Family life stage type</i>	'000	'000	'000
.....			
Couple families without children(a)			
Age of female partner (years)			
15-24	183.0	124.3	177.6
25-34	281.7	287.8	368.6
35-44	114.9	137.9	156.1
45-54	274.8	340.7	355.5
55-64	384.8	417.0	511.7
65 and over	414.8	461.5	518.2
<i>Total couple families without children</i>	<i>1 654.1</i>	<i>1 769.1</i>	<i>2 087.6</i>
Couple families with children(a)			
Age of youngest child (years)			
0-2	608.2	575.8	558.8
3-4	242.5	244.1	230.1
5-11	624.4	637.2	687.1
12-14	246.0	246.8	262.1
Dependent student 15-24	310.3	284.2	330.7
Non-dependent child 15-24	268.3	260.3	261.6
25 and over	143.9	155.2	215.7
<i>Total couple families with children</i>	<i>2 443.6</i>	<i>2 403.6</i>	<i>2 546.1</i>
One parent families(a)			
Age of youngest child (years)			
0-2	86.3	104.3	97.8
3-4	51.7	63.2	69.0
5-11	139.4	194.2	212.9
12-14	63.1	71.4	86.7
Dependent student 15-24	93.2	83.8	94.1
Non-dependent child 15-24	73.7	80.9	87.2
25 and over	112.0	142.3	152.0
<i>Total one parent families</i>	<i>619.4</i>	<i>739.9</i>	<i>799.8</i>
Lone mother families(a)			
Age of youngest child (years)			
0-2	82.6	101.3	94.9
3-4	49.9	59.1	58.6
5-11	117.5	165.9	185.5
12-14	53.6	54.3	69.8
Dependent student 15-24	65.2	67.7	73.0
Non-dependent child 15-24	55.4	57.4	60.5
25 and over	97.3	116.8	123.3
<i>Total lone mother families</i>	<i>521.5</i>	<i>622.5</i>	<i>665.5</i>
Lone father families(a)			
Age of youngest child (years)			
0-14	37.0	52.4	57.7
Dependent student 15-24	28.0	16.1	21.1
Non-dependent child 15-24	18.3	23.5	26.7
25 and over	14.6	25.5	28.7
<i>Total lone father families</i>	<i>97.9</i>	<i>117.4</i>	<i>134.2</i>
Other families	58.1	97.0	98.9
All families	4 775.1	5 009.6	5 532.4

(a) These families may also include 'other related individuals' as defined in the Glossary.

ALL CHILDREN(a), Family type by age of child, 1992, 1997, 2003

	1992	1997	2003
<i>Family type</i>	'000	'000	'000
.....			
Children in couple families			
Age of child (years)			
0-2	1 233.7	655.8	632.4
3-4	562.9	432.2	410.8
5-11	1 483.3	1 479.7	1 470.1
12-14	526.3	629.9	624.6
Dependent student 15-24	563.9	737.2	848.8
Non-dependent child 15-24	422.0	588.3	627.7
25 and over	169.5	259.9	348.9
<i>Total children in couple families</i>	<i>4 961.6</i>	<i>4 783.0</i>	<i>4 963.3</i>
Children in one parent families			
Age of child (years)			
0-2	143.0	112.8	106.9
3-4	104.1	90.7	92.0
5-11	273.3	353.4	376.0
12-14	110.2	150.0	176.8
Dependent student 15-24	144.7	159.5	188.3
Non-dependent child 15-24	100.0	152.4	152.0
25 and over	127.0	180.3	189.5
<i>Total children in one parent families</i>	<i>1 002.4</i>	<i>1 199.0</i>	<i>1 281.4</i>
Children in lone mother families			
Age of child (years)			
0-2	137.0	109.8	103.5
3-4	101.9	86.1	79.1
5-11	226.7	313.3	334.8
12-14	95.6	119.7	145.8
Dependent student 15-24	97.1	133.9	153.6
Non-dependent child 15-24	75.0	118.7	114.6
25 and over	111.2	148.4	149.3
<i>Total children in lone mother families</i>	<i>844.5</i>	<i>1 029.8</i>	<i>1 080.6</i>
Children in lone father families			
Age of child (years)			
0-2	*6.0	*3.0	*3.4
3-4	*2.3	*4.5	12.9
5-11	46.6	40.1	41.2
12-14	14.5	30.3	31.1
Dependent student 15-24	31.0	25.6	34.7
Non-dependent child 15-24	25.0	33.7	37.3
25 and over	15.8	31.9	40.2
<i>Total children in lone father families</i>	<i>141.2</i>	<i>169.2</i>	<i>200.8</i>
All children	5 964.1	5 982.0	6 244.7

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) For the definition of child, refer to the Glossary.

AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (YEARS)

<i>Employment status of parents</i>	AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (YEARS)								<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-2</i>	<i>3-4</i>	<i>5-11</i>	<i>12-14</i>	<i>Dependent student aged 15-24</i>	<i>All dependent children</i>	<i>Non-dependent children aged 15-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Couple families with children									
At least one parent employed(a)	521.8	219.5	650.1	242.2	304.8	1 938.5	227.4	118.4	2 284.3
Both parents employed	248.7	130.5	452.6	186.0	222.0	1 239.7	166.3	66.1	1 472.1
Mother only employed	12.4	8.4	24.5	12.1	22.7	80.1	14.5	13.6	108.2
Father only employed	260.7	80.7	173.1	44.1	60.2	618.7	46.6	38.7	704.0
Neither parent employed	37.0	10.6	36.9	19.9	25.9	130.3	34.2	97.3	261.8
Other person in household employed	*2.1	**0.5	5.6	*5.0	13.3	26.6	29.4	73.8	129.8
No persons in household employed	34.9	10.0	31.3	14.9	12.6	103.6	*4.8	23.5	131.9
<i>Total couple families with children</i>	<i>558.8</i>	<i>230.1</i>	<i>687.1</i>	<i>262.1</i>	<i>330.7</i>	<i>2 068.8</i>	<i>261.6</i>	<i>215.7</i>	<i>2 546.1</i>
One parent families									
Lone mother families	94.9	58.6	185.5	69.8	73.0	481.7	60.5	123.3	665.5
Mother employed(a)	26.4	24.1	98.9	36.5	55.4	241.4	40.6	22.5	304.5
Mother not employed	68.5	34.4	86.7	33.2	17.6	240.4	19.9	100.8	361.1
Other person in household employed	10.7	5.5	11.8	*3.8	6.5	38.2	14.5	64.7	117.4
No persons in household employed	57.9	29.0	74.9	29.4	11.1	202.2	*5.4	36.1	243.7
Lone father families	*2.9	10.5	27.4	16.9	21.1	78.8	26.7	28.7	134.2
Father employed(a)	*1.2	5.5	16.8	9.6	15.7	48.7	20.7	9.9	79.3
Father not employed	*1.8	*5.0	10.7	7.3	5.5	30.2	6.0	18.8	55.0
Other person in household employed	—	**0.8	**0.9	**0.8	*2.7	*5.2	*4.7	11.3	21.3
No persons in household employed	*1.8	*4.2	9.8	6.5	*2.7	24.9	*1.2	7.5	33.7
<i>Total one parent families</i>	<i>97.8</i>	<i>69.0</i>	<i>212.9</i>	<i>86.7</i>	<i>94.1</i>	<i>560.6</i>	<i>87.2</i>	<i>152.0</i>	<i>799.8</i>
Total families with children	656.6	299.1	900.0	348.8	424.8	2 629.3	348.8	367.7	3 345.8

* 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) May include households where other persons in household are employed.

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)

<i>Employment status of parents</i>	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-2</i>	<i>3-4</i>	<i>5-11</i>	<i>12-14</i>	<i>Dependent student aged 15-24</i>	<i>All dependent children</i>	<i>Non-dependent children aged 15-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Children in couple families(b)									
At least one parent employed	589.4	385.4	1 375.7	580.0	784.7	3 715.3	564.8	219.0	4 499.0
Both parents employed	269.6	207.9	876.0	415.7	565.6	2 334.7	411.3	120.1	2 866.1
Mother only employed	13.0	12.2	42.8	25.8	45.1	138.9	31.5	24.4	194.8
Father only employed	306.8	165.3	457.0	138.5	174.0	1 241.6	122.0	74.5	1 438.2
Neither parent employed	43.0	25.4	94.4	44.6	64.1	271.4	62.9	130.0	464.3
Other person in household employed	*2.7	*1.7	*6.8	7.4	31.4	50.1	53.2	103.0	206.3
No persons in household employed	40.3	23.7	87.5	37.1	32.7	221.4	9.7	27.0	258.0
<i>Total children in couple families</i>	<i>632.4</i>	<i>410.8</i>	<i>1 470.1</i>	<i>624.6</i>	<i>848.8</i>	<i>3 986.7</i>	<i>627.7</i>	<i>348.9</i>	<i>4 963.3</i>
Children in one parent families									
Lone mother families	103.5	79.1	334.8	145.8	153.6	816.7	114.6	149.3	1 080.6
Mother employed(b)	26.5	26.8	151.3	75.8	102.7	383.1	73.2	28.8	485.1
Mother not employed	77.0	52.3	183.5	70.0	50.9	433.6	41.4	120.4	595.5
Other person in household employed	11.6	*6.6	21.4	9.7	20.1	69.4	28.2	80.5	178.1
No persons in household employed	65.4	45.8	162.1	60.3	30.7	364.2	13.3	39.9	417.4
Lone father families	*3.4	12.9	41.2	31.1	34.7	123.2	37.3	40.2	200.8
Father employed(b)	**1.2	*5.9	23.8	18.6	25.2	74.7	28.4	14.7	117.8
Father not employed	*2.2	*7.0	17.4	12.5	9.5	48.5	8.9	25.5	82.9
Other person in household employed	—	**0.8	**0.9	**1.0	*4.7	7.4	*7.0	15.3	29.7
No persons in household employed	*2.2	*6.2	16.5	11.5	*4.7	41.1	*1.9	10.2	53.2
<i>Total children in one parent families</i>	<i>106.9</i>	<i>92.0</i>	<i>376.0</i>	<i>176.8</i>	<i>188.3</i>	<i>939.9</i>	<i>152.0</i>	<i>189.5</i>	<i>1 281.4</i>
Children in families with no parent employed	122.2	84.7	295.3	127.0	124.4	753.6	113.3	275.9	1 142.7
Children in households where no-one is employed	107.9	75.7	266.2	108.9	68.1	626.7	24.9	77.1	728.7
Total children	739.3	502.8	1 846.1	801.4	1 037.1	4 926.6	779.7	538.4	6 244.7

* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For a definition of child, refer to the Glossary.

(b) May include households where other persons in household are employed.

AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (YEARS)

Employment status of parents	AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (YEARS)				Dependent student aged 15-24	Non-dependent children aged 15-24	25 and over	Total
	0-2	3-4	5-11	12-14				
FAMILIES ('000)								
Father employed full time								
Mother employed full time	68.5	38.5	154.7	86.6	106.6	85.6	30.2	570.8
Mother employed part time	163.8	85.5	267.2	88.2	97.8	68.7	28.1	799.2
Mother not employed	245.4	73.8	155.9	39.1	54.2	37.2	31.4	637.0
Father employed part time								
Mother employed full time	8.8	*3.2	13.6	5.9	9.2	*4.8	*2.8	48.5
Mother employed part time	7.5	*3.4	17.0	*5.2	8.4	7.1	*5.0	53.7
Mother not employed	15.3	6.9	17.2	*5.0	5.9	9.4	7.3	67.1
Father not employed								
Mother employed full time	7.0	*3.8	11.3	5.9	12.9	5.5	*4.9	51.4
Mother employed part time	*5.4	*4.5	13.2	6.2	9.8	9.0	8.7	56.7
Mother not employed	37.0	10.6	36.9	19.9	25.9	34.2	97.3	261.8
Total couple families with children	558.8	230.1	687.1	262.1	330.7	261.6	215.7	2 546.1
CHILDREN ('000)								
Father employed full time								
Mother employed full time	71.5	56.2	265.2	157.0	255.7	198.3	57.8	1 061.8
Mother employed part time	180.5	139.8	552.9	231.9	270.3	181.9	49.9	1 607.1
Mother not employed	289.4	151.3	410.8	121.3	156.9	103.8	61.2	1 294.7
Father employed part time								
Mother employed full time	9.7	*6.3	27.5	12.0	18.2	12.1	*4.1	89.8
Mother employed part time	7.8	*5.6	30.4	14.9	21.3	19.1	8.3	107.4
Mother not employed	17.4	14.0	46.2	17.2	17.1	18.2	13.3	143.5
Father not employed								
Mother employed full time	*7.0	*5.4	21.2	11.7	23.4	13.7	9.2	91.5
Mother employed part time	*6.0	*6.7	21.6	14.1	21.8	17.9	15.1	103.2
Mother not employed	43.0	25.4	94.4	44.6	64.1	62.9	130.0	464.3
Total children in couple families	632.4	410.8	1 470.1	624.6	848.8	627.7	348.9	4 963.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) For a definition of child, refer to the Glossary.

Age of youngest child (years)	Parent employed full time	Parent employed part time	Parent not employed	Total	Parent employed full time	Parent employed part time	Parent not employed	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
FAMILIES								
One parent families								
with dependent children	150.4	139.6	270.6	560.6	26.8	24.9	48.3	100.0
0-2	7.3	20.2	70.3	97.8	7.5	20.7	71.8	100.0
3-4	12.2	17.4	39.4	69.0	17.7	25.2	57.1	100.0
5-11	51.4	64.2	97.3	212.9	24.1	30.2	45.7	100.0
12-14	27.3	18.8	40.5	86.7	31.5	21.7	46.7	100.0
dependent student 15-24	52.2	18.9	23.0	94.1	55.4	20.1	24.5	100.0
with non-dependent children	69.3	24.4	145.5	239.2	29.0	10.2	60.8	100.0
non-dependent child 15-24	47.4	13.9	25.9	87.2	54.4	15.9	29.7	100.0
25 and over	21.9	10.5	119.6	152.0	14.4	6.9	78.7	100.0
Total one parent families	219.7	164.1	416.1	799.8	27.5	20.5	52.0	100.0
Lone mother families								
with dependent children	110.8	130.5	240.4	481.7	23.0	27.1	49.9	100.0
0-2	6.5	19.8	68.5	94.9	6.9	20.9	72.2	100.0
3-4	8.5	15.6	34.4	58.6	14.6	26.7	58.8	100.0
5-11	37.7	61.1	86.7	185.5	20.3	32.9	46.7	100.0
12-14	19.0	17.5	33.2	69.8	27.3	25.1	47.6	100.0
dependent student 15-24	39.0	16.4	17.6	73.0	53.4	22.5	24.1	100.0
with non-dependent children	41.0	22.1	120.7	183.8	22.3	12.0	65.7	100.0
non-dependent child 15-24	27.7	12.9	19.9	60.5	45.8	21.3	32.9	100.0
25 and over	13.3	9.2	100.8	123.3	10.8	7.5	81.7	100.0
<i>Total lone mother families</i>	<i>151.9</i>	<i>152.6</i>	<i>361.1</i>	<i>665.5</i>	<i>22.8</i>	<i>22.9</i>	<i>54.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
CHILDREN								
Children in one parent families								
dependent children	221.4	236.3	482.2	939.9	23.6	25.1	51.3	100.0
0-2	7.3	20.4	79.2	106.9	6.8	19.1	74.1	100.0
3-4	12.8	19.9	59.3	92.0	13.9	21.6	64.4	100.0
5-11	72.0	103.1	200.9	376.0	19.1	27.4	53.4	100.0
12-14	48.8	45.6	82.4	176.8	27.6	25.8	46.6	100.0
dependent student 15-24	80.5	47.4	60.3	188.3	42.8	25.2	32.0	100.0
non-dependent children	106.4	38.7	196.3	341.4	31.2	11.3	57.5	100.0
non-dependent child 15-24	75.7	25.9	50.4	152.0	49.8	17.0	33.2	100.0
25 and over	30.7	12.9	145.9	189.5	16.2	6.8	77.0	100.0
Total children in one parent families	327.9	275.1	678.4	1 281.4	25.6	21.5	52.9	100.0
Children in lone mother families								
dependent children	164.5	218.6	433.6	816.7	20.1	26.8	53.1	100.0
0-2	*6.5	20.0	77.0	103.5	*6.3	19.3	74.4	100.0
3-4	9.2	17.6	52.3	79.1	11.6	22.3	66.1	100.0
5-11	54.2	97.0	183.5	334.8	16.2	29.0	54.8	100.0
12-14	34.2	41.6	70.0	145.8	23.4	28.6	48.0	100.0
dependent student 15-24	60.4	42.3	50.9	153.6	39.4	27.5	33.1	100.0
non-dependent children	66.4	35.6	161.9	263.9	25.2	13.5	61.3	100.0
non-dependent child 15-24	49.0	24.2	41.4	114.6	42.8	21.1	36.1	100.0
25 and over	17.4	11.5	120.4	149.3	11.6	7.7	80.7	100.0
<i>Total children in lone mother families</i>	<i>230.9</i>	<i>254.2</i>	<i>595.5</i>	<i>1 080.6</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Family structure	1992			1997			2003		
	Families	Persons	Children	Families	Persons	Children	Families	Persons	Children
'000									
Couple families									
Intact	1 815.2	7 781.5	3 529.3	1 741.1	7 227.2	3 397.3	1 775.5	7 322.3	3 333.8
Step	84.3	324.7	125.1	88.9	338.6	145.2	98.6	375.9	158.4
Blended	68.1	352.4	200.3	75.3	375.4	218.6	78.1	388.3	224.4
Total in couple families(a)	1 974.7	8 484.9	3 863.1	1 911.3	7 964.3	3 769.6	1 967.1	8 141.2	3 738.2
One parent families									
Lone mother	349.6	1 027.5	582.0	437.7	1 262.9	745.3	466.4	1 337.7	786.4
Lone father	53.4	153.1	83.2	65.2	175.6	100.4	76.1	209.5	117.5
Total in one parent families	403.0	1 180.7	665.2	502.9	1 438.5	845.7	542.6	1 547.2	903.9
Total in all families with children aged 0–17 years	2 377.8	9 665.6	4 528.3	2 414.3	9 402.9	4 615.3	2 509.6	9 688.4	4 642.1

Family structure	1992			1997			2003		
	Families	Persons	Children	Families	Persons	Children	Families	Persons	Children
%									
Couple families									
Intact	76.3	80.5	77.9	72.1	76.9	73.6	70.7	75.6	71.8
Step	(b)3.5	(b)3.4	(b)2.8	(c)(b)3.7	(b)3.6	(c)(b)3.1	(c)3.9	3.9	(c)3.4
Blended	(b)2.9	3.6	(b)4.4	(c)(b)3.1	(c)4.0	(c)(b)4.7	(c)3.1	(c)4.0	(c)4.8
Total in couple families(a)	83.0	87.8	85.3	(c)79.2	84.7	81.7	(c)78.4	84.0	80.5
One parent families									
Lone mother	14.7	10.6	12.9	(c)18.1	(c)13.4	16.1	(c)18.6	(c)13.8	16.9
Lone father	(b)2.2	1.6	(b)1.8	(c)(b)2.7	1.9	(c)(b)2.2	(c)3.0	2.2	(c)2.5
Total in one parent families	16.9	12.2	14.7	(c)20.8	15.3	18.3	(c)21.6	16.0	19.5
Total in all families with children aged 0–17 years	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

(b) Difference between the 1992 and 1997 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(c) Difference between the 1997 and 2003 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)

0–2 3–4 5–11 12–14 15–17 Total

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)

Children aged 0–17 years in couple families						
In intact families						
natural child of both parents	584.2	370.9	1 296.9	548.6	526.5	3 327.1
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in intact families(a)</i>	585.1	371.5	1 300.5	548.8	527.9	3 333.8
In step families						
natural child of mother only	*1.9	7.7	58.2	35.0	30.2	133.0
natural child of father only	**0.2	**1.3	7.9	*5.1	9.5	24.0
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in step families(a)</i>	*2.1	8.9	67.2	40.2	40.0	158.4
In blended families						
natural child of both parents	42.7	24.9	46.4	*2.0	**0.2	116.2
natural child of mother only	**0.4	*4.8	43.8	23.7	21.3	94.0
natural child of father only	—	**0.3	*4.4	*3.6	*4.8	13.2
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in blended families(a)</i>	43.1	30.0	94.7	29.8	26.9	224.4
In other couple families						
natural child of neither parent	*2.2	**0.3	7.7	*5.8	*5.5	21.5
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in couple families</i>	632.4	410.8	1 470.1	624.6	600.3	3 738.2
Children aged 0–17 years in one parent families						
In lone mother families	103.5	79.1	334.8	145.8	123.3	786.4
In lone father families	*3.4	12.9	41.2	31.1	28.9	117.5
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in one parent families</i>	106.9	92.0	376.0	176.8	152.2	903.9
Total children aged 0–17 years	739.3	502.8	1 846.1	801.4	752.6	4 642.1

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Children aged 0–17 years in couple families						
In intact families						
natural child of both parents	79.0	73.8	70.3	68.5	70.0	71.7
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in intact families(a)</i>	79.1	73.9	70.4	68.5	70.2	71.8
In step families						
natural child of mother only	*0.3	1.5	3.2	4.4	4.0	2.9
natural child of father only	—	**0.3	0.4	*0.6	1.3	0.5
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in step families(a)</i>	*0.3	1.8	3.6	5.0	5.3	3.4
In blended families						
natural child of both parents	5.8	4.9	2.5	*0.3	—	2.5
natural child of mother only	**0.1	*0.9	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.0
natural child of father only	—	**0.1	*0.2	*0.5	*0.6	0.3
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in blended families(a)</i>	5.8	6.0	5.1	3.7	3.6	4.8
In other couple families						
natural child of neither parent	*0.3	**0.1	0.4	*0.7	*0.7	0.5
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in couple families</i>	85.5	81.7	79.6	77.9	79.8	80.5
Children aged 0–17 years in one parent families						
in lone father families	*0.5	2.6	2.2	3.9	3.8	2.5
in lone mother families	14.0	15.7	18.1	18.2	16.4	16.9
<i>Total children aged 0–17 years in one parent families</i>	14.5	18.3	20.4	22.1	20.2	19.5
Total children aged 0–17 years	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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 a small number of children without a natural parent living in the household (e.g. foster children or other related children).

Family structure	AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (YEARS)					Total
	0–2	3–4	5–11	12–14	15–17	
.....						
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)						
Couple families						
Intact	516.4	205.9	611.2	234.6	207.3	1 775.5
Step	*2.1	7.7	47.2	21.9	19.5	98.6
Blended	38.7	16.1	22.7	**0.5	—	78.1
Total(a)	558.8	230.1	687.1	262.1	229.0	1 967.1
One parent families						
Lone mother	94.9	58.6	185.5	69.8	57.7	466.4
Lone father	*2.9	10.5	27.4	16.9	18.4	76.1
Total	97.8	69.0	212.9	86.7	76.1	542.6
Total families with children aged 0–17 years	656.6	299.1	900.0	348.8	305.1	2 509.6
.....						
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)						
Couple families						
Intact	29.1	11.6	34.4	13.2	11.7	100.0
Step	*2.1	7.9	47.9	22.3	19.8	100.0
Blended	49.6	20.7	29.1	**0.7	—	100.0
Total(a)	28.4	11.7	34.9	13.3	11.6	100.0
One parent families						
Lone mother	20.3	12.6	39.8	15.0	12.4	100.0
Lone father	*3.8	13.7	36.0	22.2	24.2	100.0
Total	18.0	12.7	39.2	16.0	14.0	100.0
Total families with children aged 0–17 years	26.2	11.9	35.9	13.9	12.2	100.0
.....						
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)					
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(a) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.					

	CHILDREN WITH A NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE			CHILDREN WITH NO NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE			Total children aged 0–17
	Father living elsewhere	Mother living elsewhere	Total(a)	Living with one natural parent	Living with both natural parents	Total(a)	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Age of child (years)							
0–2	96.3	*3.6	103.1	8.1	626.8	636.1	739.3
3–4	85.1	12.8	99.4	*6.8	395.8	403.4	502.8
5–11	400.2	45.5	461.8	36.5	1 343.3	1 384.2	1 846.1
12–14	179.0	34.7	223.7	24.7	550.6	577.7	801.4
15–17	150.9	34.3	193.7	28.2	526.7	558.8	752.6
Family structure							
Children in couple families							
In intact families(b)	..	..	*1.6	..	3 327.1	3 332.2	3 333.8
In step families(b)	120.8	21.2	143.4	15.1	..	15.1	158.4
In blended families(b)	85.4	12.0	98.4	9.9	116.2	126.0	224.4
Total children in couple families(c)	206.1	33.2	258.1	25.0	3 443.2	3 480.1	3 738.2
Children in one parent families							
In lone mother families	705.4	..	722.6	62.9	..	63.9	786.4
In lone father families	..	97.7	101.0	16.5	..	16.5	117.5
Total children in one parent families	705.4	97.7	823.6	79.4	..	80.3	903.9
Total children aged 0–17 years	911.5	130.9	1 081.7	104.3	3 443.2	3 560.4	4 642.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) Includes children with no natural parent living in the household.

(b) Includes a small number of children without a natural parent living in the household (e.g. foster children or other related children).

(c) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

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COUPLE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–17 YEARS, Marital status of partners

FAMILY STRUCTURE

<i>Marital status of partner</i>	<i>Intact</i>		<i>Step</i>		<i>Blended</i>		<i>Total(a)</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Registered married couples	1 631.6	91.9	43.1	43.7	48.0	61.5	1 736.6	88.3
De facto married couples								
Both partners never married	110.7	6.2	11.3	11.5	13.3	17.0	135.7	6.9
One partner never married, one partner previously married(b)	25.3	1.4	17.8	18.0	12.4	15.8	55.5	2.8
Both partners previously married(b)	7.9	0.4	26.4	26.8	*4.4	*5.7	39.3	2.0
<i>Total de facto married couples</i>	143.9	8.1	55.5	56.3	30.1	38.5	230.4	11.7
Total couple families with children aged 0–17 years	1 775.5	100.0	98.6	100.0	78.1	100.0	1 967.1	100.0

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

(b) Previously married includes persons who reported that they were still in a registered marriage with their previous partner.

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LONE PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–17 YEARS, Registered marital status

FAMILY STRUCTURE

<i>Registered marital status</i>	<i>Lone mothers</i>		<i>Lone fathers</i>		<i>Total lone parents</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Never married	179.3	38.4	11.6	15.3	190.9	35.2
Widowed	20.0	4.3	8.0	10.6	28.0	5.2
Divorced	148.7	31.9	31.9	41.9	180.6	33.3
Separated	111.3	23.9	23.7	31.1	135.0	24.9
Married(a)	*7.1	*1.5	**0.9	**1.1	8.0	1.5
Total lone parents with children aged 0–17 years	466.4	100.0	76.1	100.0	542.6	100.0

* 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) Where lone parents reported their marital status as married, these responses were not recorded.

<i>Child's relationship to parent(s) (a)</i>	<i>Children aged 0–17 years</i> '000	<i>Families with children aged 0–17 years(b)</i> '000
Natural child of at least one parent	4 590.0	2 482.0
Not natural child of either parent(c)		
Step child	*4.2	*3.1
Foster child	*5.8	*3.9
Grandchild	31.1	22.5
Otherwise related child	10.6	8.9
Total(d)	52.1	38.8
Total children aged 0–17 years	4 642.1	2 509.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes relationship to parents in couple families, or lone parent in one parent families.

(b) Number of families containing children with the specified relationship to their parents. Components do not add to total as some families contain children who are not all related to their parents in the same way.

(c) For children who had different relationships to their male and female parents (and were not the natural child of either), the closest relationship is used.

(d) Includes children who are not related to either parent in the ways specified above.

	1997(a)		2003	
	'000	%	'000	%
Frequency of face to face contact				
Daily	47.3	(b)4.8	62.7	(b)5.8
Once a week	227.4	23.2	297.8	27.5
Once a fortnight	153.1	(b)15.7	183.0	(b)16.9
Once a month	72.6	7.4	64.3	5.9
Once every 3 months	82.9	(b)8.5	83.8	(b)7.7
Once every 6 months	50.4	(b)5.1	51.1	(b)4.7
Once a year	51.2	(b)5.2	55.9	(b)5.2
Less than once a year/never				
Has indirect contact(c)	63.5	(b)6.5	64.3	(b)5.9
Has no indirect contact	208.4	21.3	208.6	19.3
Total children who have face to face contact less than once a year/never(d)	291.1	29.8	283.0	26.2
Proportion of nights with natural parent living elsewhere(e)				
Never stays overnight	532.2	54.4	537.3	49.7
1–9%(f)	227.7	23.3	223.1	20.6
10–19%	149.5	15.3	193.0	17.8
20–29%	43.7	4.5	63.8	5.9
30–49%	23.5	2.4	44.0	4.1
50%(g)	1.8	0.2	20.5	1.9
Total children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere	978.4	100.0	1 081.7	100.0

- (a) Data published here for 1997 differ from those published in *Family Characteristics, Australia, April 1997* (cat. no. 4442.0), which were limited to those children who were living in a 'sole care' arrangement. The data presented here include all children with a natural parent living elsewhere.
- (b) Difference between the 1997 and 2003 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (c) Includes contact via phone, email, and letter.
- (d) Includes children under 2 years old (for whom indirect contact information was not asked).
- (e) For the details on how this was derived, refer to the Glossary.
- (f) Includes children who stayed overnight at least 1 night per year with the natural parent living elsewhere. In some cases, the proportion of nights was less than 1% for these children.
- (g) Includes children whose resident parent reported greater than 50% of nights spent with the natural parent living elsewhere.

	IN ONE PARENT FAMILIES				Total
	In couple families	In lone mother families	In lone father families	Total in one parent families	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)					
Frequency of face to face contact					
Daily	*5.0	51.1	*6.6	57.8	62.7
Once a week	45.2	212.2	40.4	252.6	297.8
Once a fortnight	46.4	118.8	17.7	136.5	183.0
Once a month	14.1	43.6	*6.6	50.2	64.3
Once every 3 months	32.7	43.8	7.3	51.1	83.8
Once every 6 months	17.9	27.9	*5.4	33.3	51.1
Once a year	15.4	37.8	*2.7	40.6	55.9
Less than once a year/never					
Has indirect contact(a)	22.5	37.8	*3.9	41.8	64.3
Does not have indirect contact	58.8	139.6	10.2	149.8	208.6
<i>Total children who have face to face contact less than once a year/never(b)</i>	81.6	187.3	14.2	201.5	283.0
Proportion of nights with natural parent living elsewhere(c)					
Never stays overnight	118.6	381.6	37.1	418.7	537.3
1–9%(d)	60.5	143.6	18.9	162.6	223.1
10–19%	47.1	128.8	17.1	145.9	193.0
20–29%	14.3	38.7	10.8	49.5	63.8
30–49%	11.0	22.3	10.7	33.0	44.0
50%(e)	*6.6	7.6	*6.3	13.9	20.5
Total children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere	258.1	722.6	101.0	823.6	1 081.7
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)					
Frequency of face to face contact					
Daily	*1.9	7.1	*6.6	7.0	5.8
Once a week	17.5	29.4	40.0	30.7	27.5
Once a fortnight	18.0	16.4	17.6	16.6	16.9
Once a month	5.4	6.0	*6.5	6.1	5.9
Once every 3 months	12.7	6.1	7.3	6.2	7.7
Once every 6 months	6.9	3.9	*5.4	4.0	4.7
Once a year	6.0	5.2	*2.7	4.9	5.2
Less than once a year/never					
Has indirect contact(a)	8.7	5.2	*3.9	5.1	5.9
Does not have indirect contact	22.8	19.3	10.1	18.2	19.3
<i>Total children who have face to face contact less than once a year/never(b)</i>	31.6	25.9	14.0	24.5	26.2
Proportion of nights with natural parent living elsewhere(c)					
Never stays overnight	46.0	52.8	36.8	50.8	49.7
1–9%(d)	23.4	19.9	18.8	19.7	20.6
10–19%	18.2	17.8	16.9	17.7	17.8
20–29%	5.5	5.4	10.7	6.0	5.9
30–49%	4.3	3.1	10.6	4.0	4.1
50%(e)	*2.6	1.0	*6.3	1.7	1.9
Total children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes contact via phone, email, and letter.

(b) Includes children under 2 years old (for whom indirect contact information was not asked).

(c) For details on how this was derived, refer to the Glossary.

(d) Includes children who stayed overnight at least 1 night per year with the parent living elsewhere. In some cases, the proportion of nights was less than 1% for these children.

(e) Includes children whose resident parent reported greater than 50% of nights spent with the natural parent living elsewhere.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)					Total
	0–2	3–4	5–11	12–14	15–17	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)						
Frequency of face to face contact						
Daily	14.3	8.6	24.8	7.5	7.6	62.7
Once a week	39.9	35.8	126.4	52.5	43.2	297.8
Once a fortnight	13.5	16.1	87.3	42.7	23.5	183.0
Once a month	*6.1	*3.5	26.4	11.7	16.5	64.3
Once every 3 months	*3.8	*5.5	31.7	23.0	19.9	83.8
Once every 6 months	*1.5	*4.5	22.3	9.8	13.0	51.1
Once a year	*2.5	*2.7	24.1	15.6	11.1	55.9
Less than once a year/never						
Has indirect contact(a)	**0.7	*3.8	27.4	13.9	18.5	64.3
Does not have indirect contact	10.8	18.9	91.6	47.0	40.4	208.6
Total children who have face to face contact less than once a year/never(b)	21.6	22.7	119.0	60.9	58.9	283.0
Proportion of nights with natural parent living elsewhere						
Never stays overnight	68.8	51.6	204.2	102.2	110.6	537.3
1–9%(c)	12.2	12.2	100.1	50.7	47.9	223.1
10–19%	13.5	21.6	97.2	39.5	21.2	193.0
20–29%	*5.2	7.7	29.8	15.0	*6.1	63.8
30–49%	*3.4	*5.7	19.3	10.6	*5.0	44.0
50%(d)	—	**0.6	11.2	*5.7	*3.0	20.5
Total children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere	103.1	99.4	461.8	223.7	193.7	1 081.7

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)						
Frequency of face to face contact						
Daily	13.9	8.6	5.4	3.3	3.9	5.8
Once a week	38.7	36.0	27.4	23.5	22.3	27.5
Once a fortnight	13.1	16.2	18.9	19.1	12.1	16.9
Once a month	*5.9	*3.6	5.7	5.2	8.5	5.9
Once every 3 months	*3.6	*5.6	6.9	10.3	10.3	7.7
Once every 6 months	*1.5	*4.5	4.8	4.4	6.7	4.7
Once a year	*2.4	*2.7	5.2	7.0	5.7	5.2
Less than once a year/never						
Has indirect contact(a)	**0.7	*3.8	5.9	6.2	9.5	5.9
Does not have indirect contact	10.4	19.0	19.8	21.0	20.8	19.3
Total children who have face to face contact less than once a year/never(b)	20.9	22.9	25.8	27.2	30.4	26.2
Proportion of nights with natural parent living elsewhere						
Never stays overnight	66.7	51.9	44.2	45.7	57.1	49.7
1–9%(c)	11.9	12.3	21.7	22.7	24.7	20.6
10–19%	13.1	21.7	21.0	17.6	11.0	17.8
20–29%	*5.1	7.8	6.4	6.7	*3.1	5.9
30–49%	*3.3	*5.7	4.2	4.7	*2.6	4.1
50%(d)	—	**0.6	2.4	*2.6	*1.5	1.9
Total children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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 contact via phone, email, and letter.

(b) Includes some children under 2 years old (for whom indirect contact information was not asked).

(c) Includes children who stayed overnight at least 1 night per year with the parent living elsewhere. In some cases, the proportion of nights was less than 1% for these children.

(d) Includes children whose resident parent reported greater than 50% of nights spent with the natural parent living elsewhere.

	GROSS WEEKLY PARENTAL INCOME							Total(a)	Median weekly parental income
	Less than \$400	\$400 –\$499	\$500 –\$599	\$600 –\$799	\$800 –\$999	\$1,000 –\$1,499	\$1,500 and over		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000			'000	$
Age of youngest child (years)									
0–2	23.3	16.4	27.0	67.4	89.9	151.1	118.5	558.8	1 053
3–4	9.4	*5.4	11.2	30.6	31.0	62.2	55.5	230.1	1 109
5–11	26.9	18.1	27.1	68.1	70.6	181.4	198.3	687.1	1 230
12–14	14.5	10.1	11.1	17.9	24.9	66.3	80.7	262.1	1 275
15–17	18.2	9.1	6.2	13.9	20.8	56.8	71.2	229.0	1 292
Family structure									
Intact	79.2	50.0	72.7	174.6	215.1	466.6	483.7	1 775.5	1 186
Step	7.7	*4.5	*3.4	9.4	6.7	27.7	27.2	98.6	1 169
Blended	*3.5	*2.0	5.5	11.3	13.6	22.1	11.0	78.1	985
Main source of parental income(b)									
Wages or salary	14.6	19.7	42.8	154.8	198.7	454.9	463.5	1 419.6	1 254
Business or rental property or other regular source	9.8	9.4	14.0	26.5	36.1	62.0	60.8	229.4	1 100
Government pension, benefit or allowance	57.5	29.9	25.8	16.6	*2.5	**0.9	—	161.5	426
Total couple families with children aged 0–17 years(c)	92.3	59.0	82.6	197.9	237.2	517.8	524.3	1 967.1	1 167

* 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 families for whom the income of one or both parents was not known or not stated.

(b) The categories shown here exclude families where income was nil, not stated or there was no regular source, but these families are included in the total.

(c) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

GROSS WEEKLY PARENTAL INCOME

	GROSS WEEKLY PARENTAL INCOME						Total(a)	Median weekly parental income
	Less than \$200	\$200–\$399	\$400–\$499	\$500–\$599	\$600–\$799	\$800 and over		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	\$
Age of youngest child (years)								
0–2	*5.3	44.3	23.2	8.2	7.9	*3.7	97.8	390
3–4	*1.6	26.7	14.8	7.1	6.9	6.5	69.0	400
5–11	10.0	73.9	34.1	24.0	27.5	30.1	212.9	439
12–14	*3.5	35.7	11.2	6.2	9.5	13.9	86.7	400
15–17	6.2	19.1	*5.3	6.6	12.6	19.1	76.1	575
Sex of lone parent with children aged 0–17 years								
Lone mother families	22.4	179.6	79.7	47.8	55.6	49.9	466.4	400
Lone father families	*4.3	20.1	8.9	*4.3	8.9	23.4	76.1	550
Main source of parental income(b)								
Wages or salary	*2.7	12.9	21.3	24.4	49.6	61.5	186.9	661
Business or rental property or other regular source	*2.1	*5.0	*3.0	*2.8	*5.2	10.8	33.6	650
Government pension, benefit or allowance	16.5	181.9	64.3	25.0	9.7	**0.9	316.7	350
Total one parent families with children aged 0–17 years	26.7	199.7	88.6	52.1	64.5	73.3	542.6	412

* 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 families where income was not known or not stated.

(b) The categories shown here exclude families where the main source of income was a business or rental property, or another regular or irregular source, but these families are included in the total.

<i>Selected characteristics of family</i>	<i>Grandparent families</i>		<i>Children in grandparent families(b)</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%
Age of younger partner or lone grandparent (years)				
Less than 55	8.7	38.7	13.1	42.1
55-64	10.1	45.1	12.9	41.3
65 and over	*3.7	*16.3	*5.1	*16.5
Age of youngest child (years)				
0-4	*3.3	*14.8	*6.8	*21.9
5-11	8.4	37.4	11.5	36.8
12-14	8.0	35.8	9.8	31.5
15-17	*2.7	*12.1	*3.0	*9.7
State/territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	6.8	30.0	9.7	31.2
Victoria	*3.5	*15.6	*4.8	*15.4
Queensland	5.7	25.5	7.6	24.3
South Australia	*1.9	*8.5	*2.4	*7.7
Western Australia	*3.4	*15.3	*4.8	*15.5
Other states and territories	*1.1	*5.0	*1.8	*5.9
Labour force status				
One or both grandparents employed	7.6	33.8	10.1	32.5
No grandparent employed	14.9	66.2	21.0	67.5
Main source of income(c)				
Government pension, benefit or allowance	13.9	61.6	20.7	66.4
Other	8.1	36.2	9.7	31.0
Whether any children in family visit natural parent(s) living elsewhere				
Children in family visit natural parent(s) living elsewhere	15.1	67.1	22.0	70.6
No children in family visit natural parent(s) living elsewhere	7.4	32.9	9.2	29.4
Total	22.5	100.0	31.1	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Families in which grandparent(s) is/are the guardians of children aged 0-17 years.

(b) Number of children aged 0-17 years living in families with the specified characteristics.

(c) The categories shown here exclude families where the main source of income could not be determined, but these families are included in the total.

	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Household type						
In family households	241.5	59.9	77.1	85.9	318.6	64.6
In lone person households	130.8	32.4	8.7	9.7	139.5	28.3
In group households	31.1	7.7	*4.0	*4.5	35.1	7.1
Family type						
In couple families with children	126.2	31.3	30.0	33.4	156.2	31.7
In couple families without children	58.2	14.4	15.6	17.3	73.8	15.0
In one parent families	40.4	10.0	30.1	33.5	70.5	14.3
In other families (a)	8.6	2.1	**1.0	**1.1	9.6	1.9
<i>Total family members</i>	233.4	57.9	76.7	85.3	310.0	62.9
Relationship in household						
Family members						
Husband, wife or partner	162.0	40.2	42.9	47.7	204.9	41.5
Lone parent	25.8	6.4	29.5	32.9	55.3	11.2
Dependent student and non-dependent child	31.4	7.8	*1.6	*1.7	33.0	6.7
Other family member	14.1	3.5	*2.7	*3.0	16.8	3.4
<i>Total family members</i>	233.4	57.9	76.7	85.3	310.0	62.9
Non-family members						
Unrelated individual in family household	8.1	2.0	**0.5	**0.5	8.6	1.7
Person in lone person household	130.8	32.4	8.7	9.7	139.5	28.3
Person in group household	31.1	7.7	*4.0	*4.5	35.1	7.1
<i>Total non-family members</i>	170.0	42.1	13.2	14.7	183.2	37.1
Age (years)						
15–24	17.3	4.3	*3.8	*4.2	21.0	4.3
25–44	269.7	66.9	68.2	75.9	337.8	68.5
45 and over	116.4	**28.9	17.9	*19.9	134.3	*27.2
Labour force status						
Employed						
Full-time	288.6	71.6	26.6	29.7	315.3	63.9
Part-time	35.6	8.8	20.2	22.5	55.8	11.3
Unemployed						
Not in the labour force	46.8	11.6	37.9	42.2	84.8	17.2
Total non-resident parents of children aged 0–17 years	403.4	100.0	89.8	100.0	493.2	100.0

* 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) Refers to families where there are no partners or children (e.g. adult siblings living together without a parent).

	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Family structure						
In couple families with children						
In intact families	52.0	43.0	13.8	25.6	65.7	37.6
In step families	34.3	28.3	8.3	15.4	42.6	24.4
In blended families	13.8	11.4	*4.1	*7.6	17.9	10.2
<i>Total in couple families with children (a)</i>	100.6	83.2	26.3	48.8	126.9	72.6
In one parent families	20.3	16.8	27.6	51.2	47.9	27.4
Main source of income (b)						
Wages or salary	82.6	68.3	18.2	33.8	100.8	57.7
Business or rental property or other regular source of income	17.0	14.1	*2.5	*4.6	19.5	11.2
Government benefit or allowance	18.9	15.6	31.3	58.2	50.2	28.7
Total non-resident parents in families with children aged 0–17 years	120.9	100.0	53.8	100.0	174.8	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes 'other' couple families which are not classified as intact, step or blended, for example, grandparent couple families or families with only foster children present.

(b) The categories shown here exclude families where income was nil, not stated or there was no regular source, but these families are included in the total.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) conducted throughout Australia in June 2003, as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample design, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

3 From April 2001, the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definition changes. These changes also affect the supplementary surveys. For further details, see *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (cat. no. 6295.0) and *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0).

SCOPE

4 The scope of the survey included all usual residents in private dwellings, except:

- households where at least one person was a member in the Australian permanent defence forces
- diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, and their dependants, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, and their dependants.

5 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where persons living in very remote areas account for approximately 20% of the total number of persons in the population.

COVERAGE

6 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in June 2003. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

DATA COLLECTION

7 Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during June 2003.

8 For each family in a selected household, (any) one of the responsible adult (ARA) members was asked to respond on behalf of all the family members. Where possible interviewers arranged to speak with ARA household members who were either the parents of children in the household, or the partner of a parent with children in the household for the child-related questions. About 80% of the interviews were conducted by telephone with the remainder being face-to-face interviews.

9 The survey collected detailed information for up to three children aged 0–17 years in a family. In families with four or more children aged 0–17 years, only limited information (age, sex, and relationship to parents) was collected about the fourth and subsequent children, up to a maximum of nine children. The remaining details for these children were imputed from information already collected for the first three children.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DATA COLLECTION *continued*

10 Information collected in the survey has been used to estimate the number of parent-child relationships beyond the home (usual residence of child) from the child's perspective. The survey collected information from parents about each of their resident children aged 0–17 years who were living apart from their other natural parent.

11 In addition, the 2003 survey also identified whether respondents (persons aged 15 years and over) had natural children aged 0–17 years living elsewhere with the child's other natural parent. Basic labour force and demographic data are available for these non-resident parents, and where they are parents or guardians of children in their current households, information can be obtained on the characteristics of their current family.

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS ABS SURVEYS

12 Family Surveys were conducted by the ABS in 1982 and 1992, and a previous Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) was conducted in 1997. The Family Surveys, and to a lesser extent the 1997 FCS, differed from the 2003 FCS in some areas. Nevertheless, these differences do not preclude useful comparisons between them for certain data items. Some data from the 1992 and 1997 surveys have been used in the commentary and selected tables to show changes between these periods.

13 Several changes were made to the survey's content between 1997 and 2003:

- Information was collected in 2003, for children who did not live with either natural parent (e.g. grandchildren, otherwise related and unrelated children), about whether they had a natural parent living elsewhere. Previously this information was only collected for children living with one natural parent (e.g. step children in couple families and natural children of lone parents).
- The definition of step children was expanded in 2003, to include children who were the natural child of one parent, and otherwise related or unrelated to the other parent, instead of only including children who were reported as step children, as done in 1997.
- Child support data collected in 2003 have not been included in this publication. (For more detail, see paragraphs 19–23).

FAMILY CODING PRACTICES

14 Data items such as 'family type' in household surveys are based on initial information gathered about the members of the household and their relationships to each other. Family coding is the process of allocating household members to families, where appropriate, based on their spousal, parent-child, and other familial relationships to other members of the household. All children aged 0–14 years are assigned a parent or nominal parent, for example a grandchild living with only his/her grandparents will have the grandparents allocated as nominal parents.

15 The Family Characteristics Survey is designed to capture more accurate information about the composition of families than that collected in other ABS surveys. In 2003, a number of populations and data items have been modified to more accurately classify persons and families where there was a parent/guardian and child/ward relationship. Previously, children aged 15–17 years whose relationship fell outside the standard parent-child classifications (e.g. grandchildren living with grandparents, children living with other related or unrelated adults in a guardian-ward relationship) were classified as 'other related individuals' or 'unrelated individuals'.

16 For example, in the 1997 FCS a 15–17 year old child living with his or her grandparents would have resulted in the grandparents being coded to 'couple family without children' and the child would be an 'other related individual'. In 2003, the family classification now allows for inclusion of people with this relationship in the same family. For the example outlined above, the family would be classified as a 'couple family with children'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

FAMILY CODING PRACTICES

continued

17 Other ABS surveys which do not collect information on guardian relationships use standard family coding practices as per the 1997 FCS. For further information on how family coding practices were applied for guardian relationships in the 2003 FCS, please contact the Family Characteristics Survey Team on (02) 6252 6682.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

18 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have resulted if all households had been included in the survey. For further information on sampling error, refer to the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.

CHILD SUPPORT DATA

19 The 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) collected a number of items, relating to child support arrangements and payments, for families with children aged 0–17 years who had a natural parent living elsewhere. The information collected included:

- whether a formal child support arrangement existed: if so how many children were covered by formal arrangements; the total amount to be paid; and whether the payment was made through the Child Support Agency (CSA) or through other arrangements.
- whether an informal child support agreement existed: if so how many children were covered by informal arrangements; and the total amount to be paid.
- whether child support payments had been received in the last 12 months (regardless of the type of arrangement in place); if so, for how many children child support payments were received; the amount usually received each month; any other forms of child support or maintenance received; and whether mediation/counselling or lawyers/solicitors were involved in arranging child support arrangements.

20 Results from the 2003 FCS in relation to child support arrangements are not presented in this publication due to concerns about the quality of the above data, in particular:

- The estimate from the 2003 FCS on the number of families with a formal child support arrangement in place (376,900) was well below the number of clients that had actually been formally assessed by the CSA as being eligible to receive child support (626,739 assessed payment recipients as at June 2003, refer to CSA paper *Child Support Facts and Figures 2002-03*, Table 4.2); and
- The estimate from the 2003 FCS on the number of families receiving a child support payment (373,200) was well below the number that should be receiving such payments. The CSA data show that 520,534 payee parents, as at June 2003 (*Unpublished CSA data provided to the ABS in September 2004*), who were entitled to child support, received some or all of that child support. It was expected that the estimates produced from the FCS 2003 should be closer to the numbers reported by the CSA, given that the survey estimates also notionally included those families receiving child support payments on an informal basis, i.e. through arrangements not registered with the CSA.

21 ABS investigations into the issues noted above suggest a number of possible explanations:

- the question used in the FCS to determine if respondents had a formal agreement in place regarding child support (i.e. based on the receipt of a letter from the CSA in the previous 12 months) might not have been clearly understood by respondents. Despite no issues being identified during testing for the survey, some respondents in the survey may have incorrectly answered 'no' to the question.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CHILD SUPPORT DATA *continued*

- respondents to the survey may not have remembered receiving a letter about their child support entitlements from the CSA (especially if the letter had been received many months prior to the survey interview) and, as a result, answered 'no' to the question.
- respondents may also have said 'no' to the question if, after the amount of child support payment had been determined by the CSA, they had then made arrangements for the actual payment of child support to be made independently of the CSA.
- for some of the interviews, the responsible adult answering the survey (refer to paragraph 8) may not have actually known whether their partner had been assessed as being eligible to receive, or had in fact received, child support payments.
- some people may have been reluctant to report that they received child support or maintenance.
- respondents who received very low amounts of child support, thinking that the small amount received was not worth reporting, may have reported that they had not received child support payments.

22 While each of the reasons noted above may have contributed to the differences between FCS and CSA counts in some part, their relative contribution to the differences are not known and no one reason on its own appears to be sufficient to account for the difference.

23 For further information regarding the availability and use of child support data collected in the FCS 2003, please contact the Family Characteristics Survey Team on (02) 6252 6682.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

24 ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

NEXT SURVEY

25 The ABS plans to conduct a survey on Family Transitions and History (including Family Characteristics) from July 2006 to June 2007. The information from this survey will provide data on family formation and dissolution, such as registered marriages and divorces, and information of family type and structure.

RELATED PRODUCTS

26 Other ABS products which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Social Trends, 2004*, cat. no. 4102.0
- *Australia's Families - Selected Findings from the Survey of Families in Australia, March to May 1992*, cat. no. 4418.0
- *Census of Population and Housing, 2001, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics*, cat. no. 2015.0
- *Child Care, Australia, June 2002*, cat. no. 4402.0
- *Family Characteristics, Australia, April 1997*, cat. no. 4442.0
- *Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2001 to 2026*, cat. no. 3236.0
- *How Australians Use Their Time, 1997*, cat. no. 4153.0
- *Income Distribution, Australia, 2000-01*, cat. no. 6523.0
- *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0, issued monthly
- *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Annual, June 2004*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, (Family Data cubes FA1-FA5)
- *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 3310.0
- *Standards for Statistics on the Family*, cat. no. 1286.0
- *Working Arrangements, Australia, November 2003*, cat. no. 6342.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PRODUCTS *continued*

27 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Family Characteristics Survey. This appendix lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data relates.

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact the Family Characteristics Survey Team on (02) 6252 6682, or by facsimile (02) 6252 7784, or contact ABS Client Services by email to <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

Populations for households

1: All households

Populations for families

2: All families

3: Families with any children aged 0–17 years who live at home

4: Couple families with children aged 0–17 years who live at home

5: One parent families with children aged 0–17 years who live at home

6: Families with any children aged 0–17 years who live at home and have a natural parent living elsewhere

7: Families with children of any age

8: Couple families with children of any age

9: One parent families with children of any age

10: Grandparent families with children aged 0–17 years

Populations for persons

11: All persons

12: Persons aged 15 years and over

13: Persons aged 15 years and over who are parents of children aged 0–17 years in the household

14: Non-resident parents

15: Non-resident parents in families with children aged 0–17 years

16: Children aged 0–17 years

17: Children aged 0–17 years who have a natural parent living elsewhere

18: All children of any age

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	
1 State or territory of usual residence New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory	All
2 Area of usual residence^(a) Capital city Balance of state/territory	All
3 Australian Standard Geographic Classification remoteness structure Major cities of Australia Inner regional Australia Outer regional Australia Other	All
4 Region of usual residence^(b) Standard labour force dissemination regions	All
5 Number of families in household One Two or more	All
6 Number of persons in household One Two Three Four Five Six Seven Eight or more	All
7 Household type Family households Family households with only family members present One family household Two or more family household Family households with non-family members present One family household with non-family members present Two or more family household with non-family members present Non-family households Lone person household Lone women Lone men Group household	All
8 Life stage of household Lone person household Lone person aged 15–24 years Lone person aged 25–44 years Lone person aged 45–64 years Lone person aged 65 years and over Group household At least one member aged 15–24 years Other group households Family household	All

(a) Not available for the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory. For further information, refer to capital city in the Glossary.

(b) For further information, refer to the note on regional estimates in *Labour Force, Selected Tables, Australia* (cat. no. 6291.0.40.001).

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS

POPULATIONS

FAMILY ITEMS

9 Family type

2-18

- Couple family with children
 - Couple family with children under 15
 - Couple family with children under 15 and non-dependent children and with relatives
 - Couple family with children under 15 and non-dependent children and without relatives
 - Couple family with children under 15 without non-dependent children and with relatives
 - Couple family with children under 15 without non-dependent children and without relatives
- Couple family with dependent students
 - Couple family with dependent students and non-dependent children and with relatives
 - Couple family with dependent students and non-dependent children and without relatives
 - Couple family with dependent students without non-dependent children and with relatives
 - Couple family with dependent students without non-dependent children and without relatives
- Couple family with children under 15 and dependent students
 - with non-dependent children and with relatives
 - with non-dependent children and without relatives
 - without non-dependent children and with relatives
 - without non-dependent children and without relatives
- Couple family with non-dependent children only
 - Couple family with non-dependent children only and relatives
 - Couple family with non-dependent children only without relatives
- Couple family without children
 - Couple family without children and with relatives
 - Couple family without children and without relatives
- One parent family
 - One parent family with children under 15
 - One parent family with children under 15 and non-dependent children and with relatives
 - One parent family with children under 15 and non-dependent children and without relatives
 - One parent family with children under 15 without non-dependent children and with relatives
 - One parent family with children under 15 without non-dependent children and without relatives
- One parent family with dependent students
 - One parent family with dependent students and non-dependent children and with relatives
 - One parent family with dependent students and non-dependent children and without relatives
 - One parent family with dependent students without non-dependent children and with relatives
 - One parent family with dependent students without non-dependent children and without relatives
- One parent family with children under 15 and dependent students
 - and non-dependent children and with relatives
 - and non-dependent children and without relatives
 - without non-dependent students and with relatives
 - without non-dependent students and without relatives
- One parent family with non-dependent children only
 - One parent family with non-dependent children only and relatives
 - One parent family with non-dependent children only without relatives

Other family

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
10 Family life stage type	3-10,13,15-18
Couple family without children	
Age of female partner (years)	
15-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65 and over	
Couple family with children	
Age of youngest child (years)	
0-2	
3-4	
5-11	
12-14	
Dependent student 15-24	
Non-dependent child 15-24	
25 and over	
One parent family	
Age of youngest child (years)	
0-2	
3-4	
5-11	
12-14	
Dependent student 15-24	
Non-dependent child 15-24	
25 and over	
11 Family structure	3-6,10,13,15-17
Couple families	
Intact	
Natural child(ren) of both parents only	
Step	
Natural child(ren) of mother only	
Natural child(ren) of father only	
Natural child(ren) of father and natural child(ren) of mother	
Blended	
Natural child(ren) of both and natural child(ren) of mother only	
Natural child(ren) of both and natural child(ren) of father only	
Natural child(ren) of both and natural child(ren) of father and natural child(ren) of mother	
Other	
Not natural parents	
Lone parent	
Lone father	
Natural father	
Not natural father	
Lone mother	
Natural mother	
Not natural mother	
12 Number of people in the family	2-13,15-18
None	
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	
Six	
Seven	
Eight or more	

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
13 Number of children aged 0–17 years in family None One Two Three Four Five Six or more	2–13,15–18
14 Number of dependent students aged 15–24 years in family None One Two Three Four Five Six or more	2–13,15–18
15 Number of children aged under 15 years and dependent students aged 15–24 years in family None One Two Three Four Five Six or more	2–13,15–18
16 Age of oldest child in family (years) 0–2 3–4 5–11 12–14 15–17 18 and over	3–10,13,15–18
17 Age of youngest child in family (years) 0–2 3–4 5–11 12–14 15–17	3–10,13,15–18
18 Number of children aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere None One Two Three Four Five Six or more	3–6,10,13,15–17
19 Age of oldest child aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere (years) 0–2 3–4 5–11 12–14 15–17	6,17
20 Age of youngest child aged 0–17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere (years) 0–2 3–4 5–11 12–14 15–17	6,17

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
21 Number of children aged 0–17 years who stay overnight with a natural parent living elsewhere None One Two Three Four Five Six or more	6,17
22 Couple and lone parent family type Couple family Lone mother family Lone father family	3–10,13–18
23 Age of male partner/lone father (years) 15–19 20–24 25–29 30–34 35–39 40–44 45–49 50–54 55–59 60–64 65 and over	4,8
24 Age of female partner/lone mother (years) 15–19 20–24 25–29 30–34 35–39 40–44 45–49 50–54 55–59 60–64 65 and over	4,8
25 Age of youngest partner 15–19 20–24 25–29 30–34 35–39 40–44 45–49 50–54 55–59 60–64 65 and over	3–10,13,15–18
26 Registered marital status of parents/guardians with children aged 0–17 years Couple families Both registered married One registered married, one separated/divorced One registered married, one never married Both separated/divorced One separated/divorced, one never married Both never married One parent families Registered married Separated/divorced Never married	13,15

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
27 Marital status of parents in couple families with children aged 0–17 years	4
Male partner registered married	
Female partner registered married	
Married to each other	
Married to former partners	
Female partner separated, widowed or divorced	
Female partner never married	
Male partner separated, widowed or divorced	
Female partner registered married	
Female partner separated, widowed or divorced	
Female partner never married	
Male partner never married	
Female partner registered married	
Female partner separated, widowed or divorced	
Female partner never married	
28 Labour force status of parents	3–10,13,15–18
Couple family with children	
Both parents employed	
Father employed/mother employed	
One parent employed	
Father employed, mother unemployed	
Father employed, mother not in the labour force	
Mother employed, father unemployed	
Mother employed, father not in the labour force	
Neither parent employed	
Father unemployed, mother unemployed	
Father unemployed, mother not in the labour force	
Father not in the labour force, mother unemployed	
Father not in the labour force, mother not in the labour force	
One parent family	
Parent employed	
Father employed	
Mother employed	
Parent not employed	
Father unemployed	
Father not in the labour force	
Mother unemployed	
Mother not in the labour force	
29 Employment status of parents	3–10,13,15–18
Couple families with children	
At least one parent employed	
Both parents employed	
Father only employed	
Mother only employed	
Neither parent employed	
Other person in household employed	
No persons in household employed	
One parent families	
Lone mother families	
Mother employed	
Mother not employed	
Other persons in the household employed	
No persons in the household employed	
Lone father families	
Father employed	
Father not employed	
Other persons in the household employed	
No persons in the household employed	

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
30 Full-time/part-time employment status of parents Couple families Father employed full-time Mother employed full-time Mother employed part-time Mother not employed Father employed part-time Mother employed full-time Mother employed part-time Mother not employed Father not employed Mother employed full-time Mother employed part-time Mother not employed One parent families Lone father families Lone father employed full-time Lone father employed part-time Lone father not employed Lone mother families Lone mother employed full-time Lone mother employed part-time Lone mother not employed	3-10,13,15-18
31 Usual hours worked by partners and lone parents 0 1-15 16-29 30-34 35-39 40 41-44 45-48 49 and over	3-10,13,15-18
32 Usual hours worked by male partner/lone father 0 1-15 16-29 30-34 35-39 40 41-44 45-48 49 and over	4,8
33 Usual hours worked by female partner/lone mother 0 1-15 16-29 30-34 35-39 40 41-44 45-48 49 and over	4,8

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
FAMILY ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
34 Total cash income of parents	3-6,10,13,15-17
Negative income	
\$1-\$99	
\$100-\$199	
\$200-\$299	
\$300-\$399	
\$400-\$499	
\$500-\$599	
\$600-\$699	
\$700-\$799	
\$800-\$899	
\$900-\$999	
\$1000-\$1099	
\$1100-\$1199	
\$1200-\$1299	
\$1300-\$1399	
\$1400-\$1499	
\$1500-\$1599	
\$1600-\$1699	
\$1700-\$1799	
\$1800-\$1899	
\$1900-\$1999	
\$2000 or more	
Nil income	
35 All sources of cash income of parents	3-6,10,13,15-17
Wages or salary	
Profit or loss from a business or rental property	
Any government pension, benefit or allowance	
Any other regular source (including child support)	
None of the above	
36 Main source of cash income of parents	3-6,10,13,15-17
Wages or salary	
Profit or loss from a business or rental property	
Any government pension, benefit or allowance	
Any other regular source (including child support)	
None of the above	
PERSON ITEMS	
37 Sex	11-18
Male	
Female	
38 Age	11-18
Collected in single years	
39 Birthplace	12-15
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania and Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern and Eastern Europe	
North Africa and the Middle East	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern and Central Asia	
Americas	
Sub-Saharan Africa	
Other	
40 Year of arrival	12-15
Arrived before 1971	
Arrived 1971-1980	
Arrived 1981-1990	
Arrived 1991-2000	
Arrived 2001 to survey date	

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
41 Whether full-time student Studying at a TAFE college, university or other educational institution Not studying full time at a TAFE college, university or other educational institution	12-15
42 Whether attending school Attending school Not attending school Not asked(a)	16,17
43 Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)(b) Postgraduate degree Graduate diploma / Graduate certificate Bachelor degree Advanced diploma / Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate not further defined Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 or below Level not determined	12-15
44 Main field of highest educational attainment (ASCED)(b) Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programs Field not determined	12-15
45 Labour force status Labour Force Employed Unemployed Not in the Labour Force	11-18
46 Full-time or part-time employment status Employed full time Employed part time	11-18
47 Status in employment Employee Employer Own account worker Contributing family worker	11-18
48 Usual weekly hours worked in all jobs 0 1-15 16-29 30-34 35-39 40 41-44 45-48 49 and over	11-18

(a) Consists of children aged between 5/6 and 15 years (depending on their state of usual residence), as they were not specifically asked about their school attendance.

(b) These data were collected in May 2003, and may by subject to change. Also, these data were not collected of all persons aged 15 years and over in FCS.

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
49 Hours worked last week	11-18
0	
1-15	
16-29	
30-34	
35-39	
40	
41-44	
45-48	
49 and over	
50 Occupation of main job (a)	11-18
Managers and administrators	
Professionals	
Associate professionals	
Tradespersons and related workers	
Advanced clerical and service workers	
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	
Intermediate production and transport workers	
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	
Labourers and related workers	
Not determined	
51 Industry of main job (a)	11-18
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
Mining	
Manufacturing	
Electricity, gas and water supply	
Construction	
Wholesale trade	
Retail trade	
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	
Transport and storage	
Communication services	
Finance and insurance	
Property and business services	
Government administration and defence	
Education	
Health and community services	
Cultural and recreational services	
Personal and other services	
Not determined	
52 Duration of unemployment	11-18
Under 2 weeks	
2 weeks and under 4 weeks	
4 weeks and under 8 weeks	
8 weeks and under 13 weeks	
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	
52 weeks and under 104 weeks	
104 weeks and over	
53 Time since last job	11-18
Under 2 weeks	
2 weeks and under 4 weeks	
4 weeks and under 8 weeks	
8 weeks and under 13 weeks	
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	
52 weeks and under 104 weeks	
104 weeks and over	

(a) These data were collected in May 2003, and may be subject to change. Also, these data were not collected of all persons aged 15 years and over in FCS.

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
54 Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job Worked for 2 weeks or more in the previous 2 years Full-time last job Part-time last job, and has worked full-time Part-time last job, and has never worked full-time Worked for 2 weeks or more over 2 years ago Full-time last job Part-time last job and has worked full-time Part-time last job, and has never worked full-time Never worked	11-18
55 Total cash income Negative income \$1-\$199 \$200-\$399 \$400-\$599 \$600-\$799 \$800-\$999 \$1,000-\$1,199 \$1,200-\$1,399 \$1,400-\$1,599 \$1,600-\$1,799 \$1,800-\$1,999 \$2,000 or more Nil income	13,15
56 All sources of income Wages or salary Profit or loss from a business or rental property Any government pension, benefit or allowance Any other regular source (including child support) None of the above	13,15
57 Main source of income Wages or salary Profit or loss from a business or rental property Any government pension, benefit or allowance Any other regular source (including child support) None of the above	13,15
58 Whether parent receives income from wages or salary Receives income from wages or salary Does not receive income from wages or salary	13,15
59 Whether parent receives cash income from a business or rental property Receives income from a business or rental property Does not receive income from a business or rental property	13,15
60 Whether parent receives income from a government pension or benefit Receives income from a government pension, benefit or allowance Does not receive income from a government pension, benefit or allowance	13,15
61 Whether parent receives income from other regular source (eg. child support) Receives income from any other regular source Does not receive income from any other regular source	13,15
62 Relationship in household Husband, wife or partner Husband, wife or partner Lone parent Lone parent	11-18

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
62 Relationship in household <i>cont.</i>	11–18
Child aged under 15 years	
Natural child	
Adopted child	
Step child	
Foster child	
Grandchild	
Otherwise related child	
Unrelated child	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other related individual	
Non-family member	
Unrelated individual living in a family household	
Group household member	
Lone person	
63 Marital status	11–18
Married	
Not married	
64 Registered marital status of parent of children aged 0–17 years	13,15
Never married	
Widowed	
Divorced	
Separated	
Married	
65 Social marital status of parent of children aged 0–17 years	13,15
In a registered marriage	
In a de-facto marriage	
Not married	
66 Whether has any children aged 0–17 years living with other natural parent	1,2,13,15
Has children aged 0–17 living with other natural parent	
No children aged 0–17 living with other natural parent	
67 Whether has any natural children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has natural children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No natural children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
68 Whether has any step children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has step children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No step children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
69 Whether has any adopted children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has adopted children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No adopted children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
70 Whether grandparent guardian of children aged 0–17 years	13,15
Grandparent guardian of children aged 0–17 years	
Not grandparent guardian of children aged 0–17 years	
71 Whether has any foster children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has foster children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No foster children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
72 Whether has any otherwise related children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has otherwise related children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No otherwise related children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
73 Whether has any unrelated children aged 0–17 years living in the household	13,15
Has unrelated children aged 0–17 years living in the household	
No unrelated children aged 0–17 years living in the household	

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
74 Relationship of parent to children aged 0–17 years in the household Natural parent Adoptive parent Step parent Foster parent Grandparent Otherwise related parent Unrelated parent	13,15
75 Relationship of child to male usual resident parent Natural child Adopted child Step child Foster child Grandchild Otherwise related child Unrelated child	16,17
76 Relationship of child to female usual resident parent Natural child Adopted child Step child Foster child Grandchild Otherwise related child Unrelated child	16,17
77 Child's relationship to parents Natural child of either parent Natural child of neither parent Step child Foster child Grandchild Otherwise related child Unrelated child	16,17
78 Child's place in family structure Children in couple families Children in intact families Natural child of both parents Children in step families Natural child of mother Natural child of father Children in blended families Natural child of both parents Natural child of mother Natural child of father Children in other couple families Child living with no natural parent Children in lone parent families Children in lone father families Natural child of father Not natural child of father Children in lone mother families Natural child of mother Not natural child of mother	16,17
79 Whether child has natural parent living elsewhere Children who have a natural parent living elsewhere Children who do not have a natural parent living elsewhere Don't know	16,17
80 Whether parent of children aged 0–17 years who have a natural parent living elsewhere Parents of children 0–17 who have a natural parent living elsewhere Parents of children 0–17 none of whom have a natural parent living elsewhere Don't know	

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
PERSON ITEMS <i>cont.</i>	
81 Sex of natural parent living elsewhere Male Female	17
82 Usual frequency of visits with natural parent living elsewhere Daily At least once a week, but less than daily At least once a fortnight, but less than once a week At least once a month, but less than once a fortnight At least once every 3 months, but less than once a month At least once every 6 months, but less than once every 3 months At least once a year, but less than once every 6 months Less than once a year Never	17
83 Frequency of overnight stays with natural parent living elsewhere At least once a week At least once a fortnight, but less than once a week At least once a month, but less than once a fortnight At least once every 3 months, but less than once a month At least once every 6 months, but less than once every 3 months At least once a year, but less than once every 6 months Less than once a year Never	17
84 Number of nights each stay child stays with natural parent living elsewhere Output in single nights.	17
85 Number of nights each year child stays with natural parent living elsewhere Output in single nights.	17
86 Proportion of nights child aged 0–17 years stays with natural parent living elsewhere 1–9%(a) 10–19% 20–29% 30–49% 50%	17
87 Contact with natural parent living elsewhere by telephone, letters or email Has contact with natural parent living elsewhere by telephone, letters or email Does not have contact with natural parent living elsewhere by telephone, letters or email	17

(a) Includes children who stayed overnight at least 1 night per year with parent living elsewhere. In some cases, the proportion of nights was less than 1% for these children.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates of numbers of persons, families and households with particular characteristics are derived from the survey by a complex estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by State, part-of-State, age and sex, and to household benchmarks by State, part-of-State and household composition (number of adults and children usually resident in the household). These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

2 Since 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, they 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 (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about 2 chances in 3 (67%) that a sample estimate will vary by less than one SE 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 SEs. Another measure of the sampling variability is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

3 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to present the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, tables of SEs are provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see tables T1 and T2). Each SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using the data collected in this survey. It should be noted that the SE models only give an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation among SEs for different estimates of the same size.

4 It is important to use the correct standard error table for the estimate. For person and child estimates, T1 must be used to calculate the SEs and for household and family estimates, T2 must be used. Some tables have, for example, both family and person estimates and the correct SE table must be used for the different estimates.

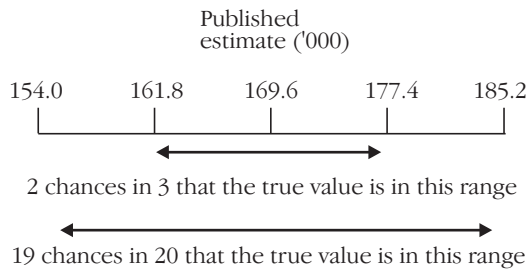
CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

5 An example of the calculation and use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows: From table 4, consider the estimate for Australia of 169,600 for lone parents aged 25–34 years in 2003. Since this estimate is between 150,000 (lower estimate) and 200,000 (upper estimate) in the SE table for person estimates (T1), the SE for Australia will lie between 7,450 and 8,300 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & SE \text{ of estimate} \\ &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\ &= 7,450 + \left(\left(\frac{169,600 - 150,000}{200,000 - 150,000} \right) \times (8,300 - 7,450) \right) \\ &= 7,783 \\ &= 7,800 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

6 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have resulted if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 161,800 and 177,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 154,000 and 185,200. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD
ERROR *continued*



7 An example of the calculation and use of SEs in relation to estimates of families is as follows: From table 6, consider the estimate for Australia of 477,300 for couple families with non-dependent children only in 2003. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000 in the SE table for family estimates (T2), the SE for Australia will lie between 6,800 and 7,750 and can be approximated by interpolation using the same general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,800 + \left(\left(\frac{477,300 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (7,750 - 6,800) \right) \\
 &= 7,642 \\
 &= 7,600 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

8 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 469,700 and 484,900 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 462,100 and 492,500.

9 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases, but at a slower rate. Therefore, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with an RSE of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with an RSE of 25% or less.

MEAN AND MEDIAN

10 The mean and median are both measures of central tendency among a distribution. The mean, or average, is calculated as the (weighted) sum of the estimate divided by the number of observations contributing to the sum. The median is the middle value of a set of values when the values are sorted in order. This publication contains median income values (in tables 23 and 24). While means (averages) are not presented in the publication tables, they can be derived from components of some tables. Two averages of interest that can be calculated are the average number of persons per household (from table 1) and the average number of children aged 0–17 years per family (from table 13). To derive these averages the estimate of the number of persons/children is divided by the estimate of the number of households/families.

11 The RSEs of estimates of the median weekly parental income are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the median (see T1 or T2) and then multiplying the resulting number by a factor in T3.

MEAN AND MEDIAN *continued*

12 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 23 shows that the number of couple families with children aged 0–17 years and with the youngest child aged 0–2 years was 558,800 with a median weekly parental income of \$1,054. The SE of 558,800 can be calculated from T2 (by interpolation) as 7,900 (rounded to the nearest 100). To convert this to an RSE, the SE is expressed as a percentage of the estimate, or $7,900/558,800 \times 100 = 1.4\%$.

13 The RSE of the estimate of the median weekly parental income is calculated by multiplying this RSE (1.4%) by the appropriate factor shown in T3 (in this case 0.98): $1.4 \times 0.98 = 1.4\%$. The SE of this estimate of the median weekly parental income is therefore 1.4% of \$1,054, i.e. about \$15. Therefore, there are 2 chances in 3 that the median weekly parental income that would have been obtained if all families had been included in the survey would have been in the range \$1,039 to \$1,069, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range \$1,024 to \$1,084.

14 The cut-offs in T4 show parental income below which the estimate of the median will have the specified RSE. For example, the 25% RSE cut-off for median income in lone parent families in Australia is 2,351. This means that estimates of the average income of lone parents in Australia based on fewer than 2,351 families will have an RSE of 25% or more.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

15 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion or percentage is given below.

16 This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

17 Considering the example in paragraph 5, the 169,600 persons aged 25–34 years who were lone parents represent 21.2% of the 799,800 persons who were lone parents. The SE of 799,800 is calculated by interpolation as 13,300 (rounded to the nearest 100). To convert this to a RSE, the SE is expressed as a percentage of the estimate, or $13,300/799,800 \times 100 = 1.7\%$. The SE for 169,600 was calculated previously as 7,800 which converted to a RSE is $7,800/169,600 \times 100 = 4.6\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(4.6)^2 - (1.7)^2} = 4.3\%$$

18 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of persons aged 25–34 years who were lone parents is 0.9 percentage points (or $(21.2/100) \times 4.3$). Therefore there are about 2 chances in 3 that the proportion of persons aged 25–34 years who were lone parents is between 20.3% and 22.1%, and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 19.4% and 23.0%.

DIFFERENCES

19 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is also subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x - y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

20 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

21 Statistical significance testing has been undertaken for the comparison of proportions in this publication in the following tables:

- 1 – for proportion of persons, families and households between 1992 and 1997, and 1997 and 2003
- 13 – for proportion of families, persons and children between 1992 and 1997, and 1997 and 2003
- 20 – for proportion of children between 1997 and 2003

22 The statistical significance test for these comparisons was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics, rather than the result of sampling variability in the data. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 19. This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

23 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there are 19 chances in 20 that there is a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

24 The SE of an estimated percentage or rate computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the RSE of the estimated percentage or rate will generally be lower than the RSE of the estimate of the numerator. This means that differences on proportions may be significant while differences on estimates are not.

25 The selected tables in this publication that show the results of statistical significance testing are annotated to indicate whether or not the estimates which have been compared are statistically significantly different from each other with respect to the test statistic. In all other tables which do not show the results of significance testing, users should take account of RSE's when comparing estimates.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF PERSON ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	130	160	160	180	140	120	110	140	120	120.0
200	210	250	250	250	220	170	170	190	200	100.0
300	290	320	310	310	280	210	220	230	260	86.7
500	410	440	430	390	370	270	290	290	370	74.0
700	510	540	520	460	440	320	350	330	460	65.7
1,000	650	660	630	540	520	380	420	390	570	57.0
1,500	840	820	780	650	640	450	500	450	740	49.3
2,000	1 000	960	900	730	730	510	560	500	870	43.5
2,500	1 150	1 100	1 000	800	800	550	600	550	1 000	40.0
3,000	1 250	1 200	1 100	850	850	600	650	600	1 100	36.7
3,500	1 400	1 300	1 200	900	950	650	700	600	1 200	34.3
4,000	1 500	1 400	1 250	950	1 000	650	700	650	1 300	32.5
5,000	1 700	1 550	1 400	1 050	1 100	700	750	700	1 500	30.0
7,000	2 050	1 800	1 650	1 200	1 250	800	850	750	1 800	25.7
10,000	2 450	2 150	1 900	1 400	1 400	900	900	850	2 150	21.5
15,000	3 000	2 600	2 300	1 600	1 650	1 000	1 000	950	2 650	17.7
20,000	3 500	2 950	2 550	1 750	1 800	1 100	1 050	1 050	3 050	15.3
30,000	4 200	3 500	3 000	2 050	2 050	1 200	1 100	1 150	3 700	12.3
40,000	4 750	3 900	3 350	2 250	2 200	1 300	1 100	1 250	4 250	10.6
50,000	5 250	4 300	3 600	2 400	2 350	1 350	1 150	1 300	4 700	9.4
100,000	6 950	5 550	4 550	2 950	2 800	1 550	1 150	1 500	6 300	6.3
150,000	8 100	6 450	5 150	3 350	3 100	1 650	1 100	1 650	7 450	5.0
200,000	9 000	7 100	5 600	3 600	3 250	1 700	1 100	1 700	8 300	4.2
300,000	10 350	8 100	6 250	4 050	3 550	1 800	..	1 850	9 650	3.2
500,000	12 100	9 450	7 100	4 600	3 850	1 850	..	..	11 600	2.3
1,000,000	14 700	11 450	8 250	5 400	4 150	..	..	..	14 500	1.5
2,000,000	17 400	13 600	9 400	6 200	4 450	..	..	..	17 750	0.9
5,000,000	20 800	16 550	10 700	..	..	..	..	..	22 450	0.4
10,000,000	23 100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26 150	0.3
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 250	0.2
20,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 740	0.1

.. not applicable

STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

T2 STANDARD ERRORS OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate	STANDARD ERROR										RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust.	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	140	120	110	140	130	100	80	110	100		100.0
200	230	200	190	210	200	150	140	160	170		85.0
300	310	270	260	270	260	190	190	200	230		76.7
500	430	380	370	350	340	260	260	250	320		64.0
700	530	470	460	420	410	300	310	290	410		58.6
1,000	660	580	570	500	500	360	380	340	510		51.0
1,500	840	730	720	590	610	420	450	400	660		44.0
2,000	980	860	840	670	690	470	510	440	780		39.0
2,500	1 100	950	950	750	750	500	550	500	900		36.0
3,000	1 200	1 050	1 050	800	850	550	600	500	1 000		33.3
3,500	1 300	1 150	1 150	850	900	550	600	550	1 050		30.0
4,000	1 400	1 250	1 200	900	950	600	650	550	1 150		28.8
5,000	1 600	1 350	1 350	950	1 000	650	700	600	1 300		26.0
7,000	1 850	1 600	1 550	1 050	1 150	700	750	650	1 550		22.1
10,000	2 150	1 900	1 800	1 200	1 350	750	800	700	1 850		18.5
15,000	2 600	2 200	2 100	1 350	1 500	800	850	750	2 250		15.0
20,000	2 900	2 500	2 300	1 450	1 650	850	850	800	2 550		12.8
30,000	3 350	2 850	2 650	1 550	1 850	850	850	850	3 050		10.2
40,000	3 750	3 150	2 900	1 650	2 000	900	850	900	3 450		8.6
50,000	4 000	3 400	3 050	1 750	2 150	900	850	900	3 750		7.5
100,000	4 950	4 100	3 600	1 950	2 500	900	750	950	4 850		4.9
150,000	5 550	4 550	3 900	2 050	2 650	850	700	950	5 550		3.7
200,000	5 950	4 850	4 050	2 100	2 800	850	650	950	6 050		3.0
300,000	6 500	5 200	4 250	2 150	2 950	800	..	950	6 800		2.3
500,000	7 150	5 650	4 450	2 150	3 100	700	..	..	7 750		1.6
1,000,000	7 950	6 100	4 550	2 150	3 250	..	..	..	9 050		0.9
2,000,000	8 550	6 400	4 500	2 050	3 250	..	..	..	10 300		0.5
5,000,000	8 950	6 400	4 150	..	..	..	..	..	11 600		0.2
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 250		0.1

.. not applicable

T3 FACTORS FOR MEDIAN ESTIMATES

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Median income of parent in lone parent families with children aged 0-17	0.69	0.79	0.62	0.90	0.63	0.60	0.58	1.24	0.69
Median income of parents in couple families with children aged 0-17	0.79	0.92	0.99	0.92	0.83	1.19	0.86	0.82	0.98

STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

T4 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50% (a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
25% RSE									
Median income of parent in lone parent families with children aged 0-17	3 860	3 821	2 242	2 754	1 571	753	753	2 291	2 351
Median income of parents in couple families with children aged 0-17	4 953	5 163	5 479	2 847	2 589	2 384	1 595	1 197	5 216
50% RSE									
Median income of parent in lone parent families with children aged 0-17	816	812	391	809	367	164	73	738	347
Median income of parents in couple families with children aged 0-17	1 115	1 191	1 321	841	672	740	366	344	1 002

(a) Refers to the number of families contributing to the estimate.

GLOSSARY

Adopted child	See natural child.
Blended family	A couple family containing two or more children aged 0–17 years, of whom at least one is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the step child of either member of the couple. Blended families may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.
Capital city	For each State, capital city refers to the Capital City Statistical Division. All other regions within each state are classified as balance of state. The entire population of the ACT is classified as capital city, whilst the entire population of the Northern Territory is classified as balance of state.
Child	<p>A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household. A child is also any individual under 15, usually resident in the household, who forms a parent–child relationship with another member in the household. This includes otherwise related children aged under 15 years and unrelated children aged under 15 years.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, an individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 years and over in the household was also classified as a child.</p> <p>Some tables only identify children aged 0–17 years; where this is the case, it is clearly stated in the title or in the labels.</p>
Contact arrangement	An arrangement concerning the frequency and duration of a child's contact with a natural parent who is not usually resident in the same household.
Couple family	A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. The family may include any number of dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals. It is not necessary for a parent–child relationship to be formed, thus a couple family can consist of a couple without children present in the household.
De facto marriage	The relationship between two people who live together in a consensual union who are not registered as married to each other. A de facto marriage may exist between a couple of the opposite sex or of the same sex.
Dependent child	A dependent child is an individual who is either a child aged under 15 years or a child aged 15–24 years who is a full-time dependent student (see dependent student). To be regarded as a child the individual cannot have a partner or a child of his or her own usually resident in the household. A dependent child must be attached to a nominal parent with whom she or he usually resides. This parent must be over 15 years of age.
Dependent student	<p>A child who is 15–24 years of age and who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, an individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 and over in the household, who attended a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student, and who had no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household was also classified as a dependent student.</p>
Employed	<p>Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising 'Employees', 'Employers' and 'Own account workers') or■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers) or

GLOSSARY *continued*

Employed <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week or■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week or■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement or■ on strike or locked out or■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job or■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Employed full-time	Persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Employed part-time	Persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.
Family	Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent–child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.
Family life stage	This is a classification of families according to the particular stage of life of couple families with and without children and lone parent families. Couple families without children are classified according to the age of the female partner: this group will include couple families who are yet to have children and those whose children have grown up and left home. Couple families with children and lone parent families are classified according to the age of youngest child: these range from families with children aged 0–2 years to those with non-dependent children aged 25 years and over, who may in fact be looking after aged parents in a caring role.
Family structure	The classification of families according to whether they are either intact families, step families, blended families, other couple families, or lone parent families. In this publication family structure is only presented for families with children aged 0–17 years.
Family type	The differentiation of families based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent–child relationships, child dependency relationships or other blood relationships, in that order of preference.
Foster child	A person who lives with a person or persons who are not his or her natural, adoptive or step parent(s). The definition of foster child includes dependent and non-dependent children. If the foster child is no longer dependent, but still regards his or her relationship with appropriate members of the household as a parent–child relationship, then he or she remains a foster child.
Frequency of contact	Children were classified as seeing their other natural parent (who is not usually resident in the same household) frequently if they saw this parent at least once per fortnight and rarely if they saw this parent at most once per year.
Grandparent families	Families in which the guardians (see guardian) of children aged 0–17 years are the grandparents of the children.
Guardian	A person aged 15 years and over who is reported as being the guardian or main carer of any child(ren) aged 0–17 years, regardless of the existence of any legal arrangement. Throughout this publication, the use of the term 'parent' also refers to guardians.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Household	A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, who regard themselves as a household and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living without combining with any other person.
Intact family	A couple family containing at least one child aged 0–17 years who is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and no child aged 0–17 years who is the step child of either member of the couple. Intact families may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.
Lone parent	A person who has no spouse or partner usually resident in the household but who forms a parent–child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household.
Lone person	A person who makes provision for his or her food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. He or she may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.
Marital status	<p>A person's social marital status refers to their current living arrangements, that is whether or not they are living with another person in a couple relationship either in a registered marriage (see registered marriage) or a de facto marriage (see de facto marriage). A person's registered marital status refers to their status in relation to a legally registered marriage as either never married, currently married, separated, divorced or widowed. Some persons who are not living with their partner may still report their status as currently registered married rather than separated.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, social marital status was only collected for parents with children aged 0–17 years.</p>
Natural child	A child who is related to his or her parents by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent	A parent who is related to his or her child(ren) by either birth or adoption.
Natural parent living elsewhere	One of a child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.
Never married	A person who has never been a partner in a registered marriage.
Non-dependent child	<p>A natural, step, adopted or foster child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged 15 years and over and who is not a full-time student aged 15–24 years, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, any other individual aged 15–17 years who was identified as being under the guardianship (see guardian) of another person aged 15 years and over in the household, who was not a full-time student, and who had no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the household was also classified as a non-dependent child.</p>
Non-resident parent	Persons aged 15 years and over who have one or more natural children aged 0–17 years living elsewhere.
One parent family	<p>A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.</p> <p>Examples of one parent families include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ a 25-year-old parent with dependent children; and■ an 80-year-old parent living with a 50-year-old child.
Other family	A family of other related individuals residing in the same household. These individuals do not form a couple or parent–child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Other family <i>continued</i>	For example, if two brothers are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as an other family. However, if the two brothers share the household with the daughter of one of the brothers and her husband, then both brothers are classified as other related individuals and are attached to the couple family.
Other related individual	<p>An individual who is related to members of the household, but who does not form a couple relationship or parent–child relationship (see child). He or she can be related through blood, step and in-law relationships and include any direct ancestors or descendants. Relatives beyond first cousin are excluded.</p> <p>Other related individuals can form their own family type or can be attached to an already existing family. Those related individuals who reside in the same household and who do not form a couple or parent–child relationship with any other person in the household are classified as an other family.</p> <p>In cases where a couple family or one parent family has been formed, any persons who are related to members of these families and are usual residents of the household are other related individuals. In these circumstances they can be identified at the detailed level of the Family Type classification.</p>
Parent	<p>A natural, step, adoptive or foster mother or father of a child usually resident in the same household.</p> <p>In the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey, any other individual aged 15 years and over who was identified as being a guardian (see guardian) of a child aged 0–17 years was also classified as being a parent.</p>
Partner	A person in a couple relationship with another person usually resident in the same household. The couple relationship may be in either a registered or de facto marriage.
Proportion of nights with other parent	The proportion of nights a child stays with their non-resident parent is derived from information on how often a child stays overnight with this other parent e.g. weekly, fortnightly, etc. and the number of nights the child usually stays overnight with the other parent during that period. For example if a child stays overnight once a week with the other parent and usually stays for 2 nights, this would equal 29% of nights with the other parent.
Registered marital status	Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person. Accordingly, people are classified as either widowed, divorced, separated, married or never married. The partners in a registered marriage must be of the opposite sex as same-sex relationships cannot be registered as marriages in Australia.
Registered marriage	A marriage between two people, usually resident in the same household, that has been registered and for which they hold a marriage certificate.
Sole care	A parental care arrangement in which the resident parent cares for the child for more than 70% of the time.
Spouse	A marital or de facto partner.
Step child	In a couple family, a child who is either the natural child of one partner but not of the other, or who was reported as being the step child of both parents. As a consequence of relationship breakdown or the death of a spouse, some one parent families may also have children reported as step children.
Step family	A couple family containing one or more children aged 0–17 years, none of whom is the natural or adopted child of both members of the couple, and at least one of whom is the step child of either member of the couple. A step family may also include other children who are not the natural children of either parent.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Usual resident A person who usually lives or intends to live with the household for a total of six months or more and regards it as his or her own, or main, household; or a person who has no usual place of residence and is staying with the household during the reference period of the collection.

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2444200006031

ISBN 0 642 47912 7

RRP \$28.00