

Overview

Population statistics underpin discussion of a wide range of issues including immigration, cultural and language diversity, ageing, and population sustainability. The changing size and distribution of Victoria's population has implications for service provision and delivery in areas such as health, education, housing and the labour market.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes two types of data on resident population in Australia: counts from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and intercensal estimates of population. Estimated resident population (ERP) is the official estimate of resident population for a given area. It adjusts the census count (by place of usual residence) for census undercount, interstate and overseas migration, births and deaths.

This chapter examines population density, components of population increase, population projections and age distribution. Also included are vital statistics on births, deaths, life expectancy, marriages and divorces, as well as data on the Indigenous population.

Population

At June 1999, the population of Victoria was 4,712,200 (table 4.1). The Victorian population comprised 24.8% of the Australian total, which was 18,966,800. The rate of population increase in Victoria between June 1998 and June 1999 was 1.2%, compared to 1.3% nationally. Victoria is the most densely populated State, averaging 20.7 persons per square kilometre, compared with the Australian average of 2.5 persons.

An estimated 3,367,005 persons lived in the Melbourne Statistical Division at June 1998, representing 72.3% of the Victorian population.

4.1 AREA, ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY

	Unit	Victoria	Australia
Area	km ²	227 420	7 692 030
Estimated resident population at June 30			
1994	'000	4 487.6	17 854.7
1998	'000	4 654.9	18 730.4
1999	'000	4 712.2	18 966.8
Increase in population from 1998 to 1999	%	1.2	1.3
Persons per square kilometre (1999)	no.	20.7	2.5
Victorian population as a proportion of Australian population (at 1998)	%	24.8	n.a.

Source: AUSLIG, 100K Coastline Database; Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Population increase

Table 4.2 presents data on the components of population increase, which are natural increase (number by which live births exceed deaths in State of usual residence) and net migration (both from interstate and overseas). In recent years, the rate of natural increase in Victoria has fallen steadily, and was 0.6% for the year ended June 1999. Annual net migration loss from Victoria was 18,497 for the year ended June 1994. Since this time, the trend has been toward an increasing net migration gain, reaching 30,989 for the year ended June 1999. This has been the result of declining net interstate migration losses, which in 1998 became a net gain for the first time since 1971.

4.2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION INCREASE

Year ended 30 June	Natural increase	Net migration			Total population increase
		Overseas(a)	Interstate	Total	
1994	32 576	10 698	-29 195	-18 497	15 183
1995	31 346	19 295	-22 020	-2 725	29 817
1996	28 497	25 692	-12 800	12 892	42 768
1997r	28 662	21 080	-4 687	16 393	45 055
1998	27 720	20 801	1 206	22 007	49 727
1999	26 247	27 014	3 975	30 989	57 236

(a) Comprises permanent and long-term migration, plus an adjustment for the net effect of category jumping.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Interstate departures from Victoria exceeded arrivals in every year between 1972 and 1997. However, the level of interstate departures from Victoria must be seen in the context of overseas migration patterns, because of Melbourne's importance as a point of entry. Outward movement from Victoria is most often to Queensland and New South Wales.

In the year to 30 June 1998, 35.8% of arrivals to Victoria were from New South Wales and 26.7% from Queensland (table 4.3). Victoria had a net migration loss to Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory.

4.3 INTERSTATE MIGRATION

	12 months ended			
	June 1997r		June 1998	
	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria
New South Wales	23 728	23 774	24 503	22 932
Queensland	18 104	23 401	18 279	21 025
South Australia	9 065	7 811	9 212	7 615
Western Australia	6 785	8 366	7 136	7 880
Tasmania	3 906	2 844	4 231	2 913
Northern Territory	2 293	2 864	2 365	2 715
Australian Capital Territory	2 628	2 136	2 716	2 156
Total	66 509	71 196	68 442	67 236

Source: Migration Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0).

Overseas migration

Table 4.4 presents data showing the number of permanent settler arrivals who intended to live in Victoria. This comprises persons who state an intention to settle permanently, as well as Australian residents who have lived overseas for more for than 12 months. Figures in tables 4.4 and 4.5 should not be confused with net overseas migration figures in table 4.2.

In 1998–99, 17,290 persons fell into this category, a 10.4% increase on the 1997–98 figure of 16,230. Overall, 20.5% of permanent settler arrivals to Australia in 1998–99 intended to live in Victoria. The main source countries of permanent settler arrivals in 1998–99 were New Zealand (3,800 persons), China (1,340 persons) and the United Kingdom (1,040 persons). On a regional basis, 35% of permanent settler arrivals were previously residents of Asian countries.

4.4 PERMANENT SETTLER ARRIVALS, State of intended residence Victoria(a)

Country and region of origin	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1998–99
	no.	no.	no.	Australia no.
Oceania and Antarctica				
New Zealand	2 470	2 840	3 800	24 310
Other	328	297	263	1 905
<i>Total</i>	2 800	3 140	4 070	26 240
Europe and the Former USSR				
United Kingdom	1 340	1 220	1 040	7 210
Germany	240	290	550	1 760
Former Yugoslav Republic of Serbia and Montenegro(a)	560	630	480	1 640
Other	2 679	2 101	1 775	6 353
<i>Total</i>	4 830	4 240	3 850	16 990
Middle East and North Africa	1 710	1 460	1 600	5 060
Southeast Asia				
Philippines	590	520	510	3 060
Indonesia	270	340	500	2 530
Malaysia	410	260	450	1 550
Singapore	310	220	410	1 690
Other	1 080	1 045	1 300	3 330
<i>Total</i>	2 880	2 380	2 960	11 950
Northeast Asia				
China	1 630	900	1 340	4 970
Hong Kong	900	640	420	2 520
Other	345	351	340	2 565
<i>Total</i>	2 880	1 910	2 080	10 040
Southern Asia				
India	620	730	520	1 770
Other	760	720	580	2 010
<i>Total</i>	1 380	1 440	1 100	3 770
Total Americas	790	620	540	2 730
Africa (excl North Africa)				
South Africa	470	480	430	5 070
Other	486	553	459	1 449
<i>Total</i>	950	1 040	910	6 550
Other and not stated	40	3	170	820
Total(b)(c)	18 270	16 230	17 290	84 150

(a) All cells in this table have been made confidential by graduated random rounding. (b) Components may not equal totals due to rounding. (c) Includes other and not stated.

Source: *Unpublished data, Overseas Arrivals and Departures.*

The number of permanent departures has increased in the last few years. In 1998–99, 6,880 persons previously resident in Victoria left Australia on a permanent basis (table 4.5). This represented a 9.7% increase on the 1997–98 figure of 6,270, and a 17.2% increase on the 1996–97 figure of 5,870. In 1998–99, former Victorian residents comprised 19.6% of Australians departing the country permanently, and the main countries of destination were New Zealand (1,260 persons), United Kingdom (1,230) and United States of America (980).

4.5 PERMANENT DEPARTURES, Previous State of residence Victoria(a)

Country and region of destination	1998–99			
	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	Australia
	no.	no.	no.	no.
Oceania and Antarctica				
New Zealand	1 410	1 430	1 260	7 460
Other	111	74	123	1 145
Total	1 520	1 500	1 390	8 620
Europe and the Former USSR				
United Kingdom	990	1 130	1 230	6 790
Other	1 030	1 084	1 016	3 995
Total	2 030	2 230	2 230	10 780
Middle East and North Africa	360	340	350	1 280
Southeast Asia				
Singapore	150	160	290	1 260
Other	345	450	450	2 160
Total	480	600	730	3 430
Northeast Asia				
China	150	200	200	1 080
Hong Kong	380	420	520	2 840
Other	62	82	149	1 245
Total	570	700	860	5 180
Southern Asia	45	40	45	160
Americas				
Canada	160	140	180	850
United States of America	580	610	980	4 250
Other	73	50	73	350
Total	810	810	1 230	5 430
Africa (excluding North Africa)	50	45	35	300
Total(b)(c)	5 870	6 270	6 880	35 180

(a) All cells in this table have been made confidential by graduated random rounding. (b) Sum of components may not equal total due to rounding. (c) Includes other and not stated.

Source: Unpublished data, Overseas Arrivals and Departures.

Population projections

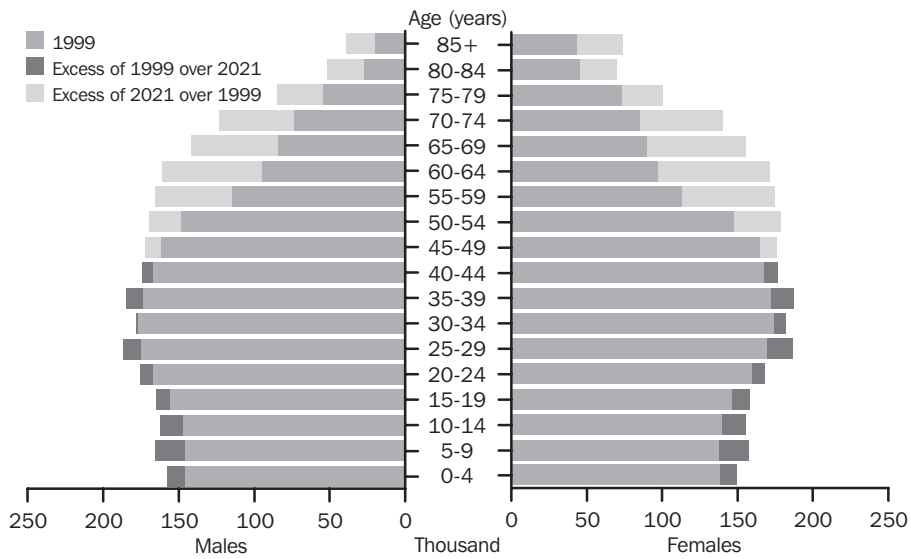
The following projections are based on a model that assumes a fertility rate only slightly lower than the current rate, a lower overseas migration gain and medium interstate migration losses. Using these assumptions, the Victorian population is expected to reach 5.0 million by 2011, and grow to 5.2 million by 2021, at which time the population of the Melbourne Statistical Division is expected to reach 3.9 million. By comparison, Australia's population is expected to be 21.3 million in 2011, and reach 23.1 million in 2021.

Age distribution

In 1999, 20.1% of Victorians were aged under 15 years, and 12.7% were 65 years or over (graph 4.6 and table 4.7). Using the assumptions mentioned above, in 2021 these proportions are expected to be 16.4% and 18.8% respectively. In numerical terms, the growth in the population aged 65 years and over is substantial—in 1999, there were 598,531 persons in this age group, but by 2021 they are expected to number around 978,000.

By 2051, the ageing of the population is expected to be more pronounced under the assumptions used here. The proportion of the population aged under 15 years is expected to be 14.8%, compared to 25.7% for those aged 65 years and over.

4.6 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1999 AND PROJECTED POPULATION 2021



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat no. 3101.0) and Population Projections (Cat. no. 3222.0).

4.7 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, By Age—30 June 1999p

Age group (years)	Males		Females		Persons	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
0–4	158 036	6.8	149 313	6.3	307 349	6.5
5–9	165 941	7.1	157 744	6.6	323 685	6.9
10–14	162 118	7.0	155 219	6.5	317 337	6.7
15–19	165 087	7.1	158 295	6.6	323 382	6.9
20–24	175 524	7.5	168 210	7.1	343 734	7.3
25–29	187 003	8.0	186 692	7.8	373 695	7.9
30–34	178 010	7.6	181 766	7.6	359 776	7.6
35–39	184 853	7.9	187 411	7.9	372 264	7.9
40–44	174 171	7.5	176 657	7.4	350 828	7.4
45–49	161 472	6.9	164 662	6.9	326 134	6.9
50–54	148 423	6.4	147 747	6.2	296 170	6.3
55–59	114 723	4.9	113 070	4.7	227 793	4.8
60–64	94 698	4.1	96 797	4.1	191 495	4.1
65–69	84 785	3.6	89 940	3.8	174 725	3.7
70–74	73 869	3.2	85 577	3.6	159 446	3.4
75–79	54 131	2.3	73 485	3.1	127 616	2.7
80–84	27 636	1.2	45 461	1.9	73 097	1.6
85 and over	19 629	0.8	44 018	1.8	63 647	1.4
Total	2 330 109	100.0	2 382 064	100.0	4 712 173	100.0

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Vital statistics

4.8 SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1998

Particulars	Victoria	Australia
Live births		
Males	31 303	128 016
Females	29 189	121 600
Persons		
Number	60 492	249 616
Rate(a)	13.0	13.3
Deaths		
Males	16 407	67 073
Females	15 600	60 129
Persons		
Number	32 007	127 202
Rate(a)	6.9	6.8
Infant deaths	283	1 252
Perinatal deaths(b)		
Number	470	2 090
Rate(c)	7.7	8.3
Marriages		
Number	26 372	110 598
Rate(a)	5.7	5.9
Divorces		
Number	12 307	51 370
Rate(a)	2.6	2.7

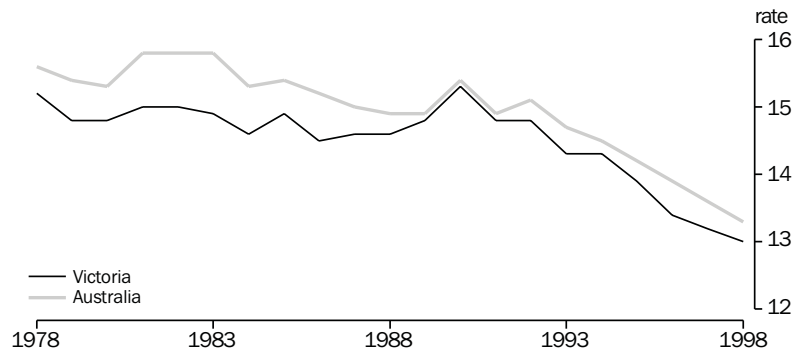
(a) Number per 1,000 of the 30 June 1998 estimated resident population. (b) Perinatal deaths comprise neonatal and fetal deaths. (c) The number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 live and still births.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2); Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0); Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0).

Births

There were 60,492 live births registered to women resident in Victoria during 1998, a slight decrease on 1997 registrations (graph 4.9 and table 4.10). This represented 24% of total Australian births.

4.9 CRUDE BIRTH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

The upward trend of ex-nuptial births continued in 1998, with 23.3% of births classified as ex-nuptial, compared to 22.3% recorded in 1997 (table 4.10). The median age of mothers giving birth (all confinements) was 30.2 years, with a median marriage duration of 2.7 years before first-born births.

4.10 SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS

Particulars	Unit	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Live births							
Males	no.	32 793	32 904	32 108	31 587	31 248	31 303
Females	no.	31 256	31 070	30 483	29 556	29 484	29 189
Persons	no.	64 049	63 974	62 591	61 143	60 732	60 492
Sex ratio(a)	ratio	104.9	105.9	105.3	106.9	106.0	107.2
Birth rate(b)	rate	14.3	14.3	13.9	13.5	13.2	13.0
Nuptial births	no.	51 420	50 860	48 962	47 933	47 191	46 391
Ex-nuptial births	no.	12 629	13 114	13 629	13 210	13 541	14 101
Ex-nuptial births as proportion of total live births	%	19.7	20.5	21.8	21.6	22.3	23.3
Confinements	no.	63 172	63 085	61 685	60 294	59 804	59 531
Median age of mother for all confinements	years	29.3	29.5	29.7	29.9	30.0	30.2
Median duration of marriage for nuptial first confinements	years	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7

(a) Number of male live births per 100 female live births. (b) Number of live births registered during calendar year per 1,000 of the 30 June 1998 mean estimated resident population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Deaths

There were 32,007 deaths of Victorian residents registered in 1998, of which 16,407 were male and 15,600 were female. This represented a decrease of 3.8% over 1997 (table 4.11 and graph 4.12). The 1998 crude death rate was 6.9 deaths per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a significant decrease over the rate for the years 1994 to 1997. The median age at death was 75.0 years for males and 81.7 years for females. The infant mortality rate was 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, marginally lower than the rate of 4.9 recorded in 1997.

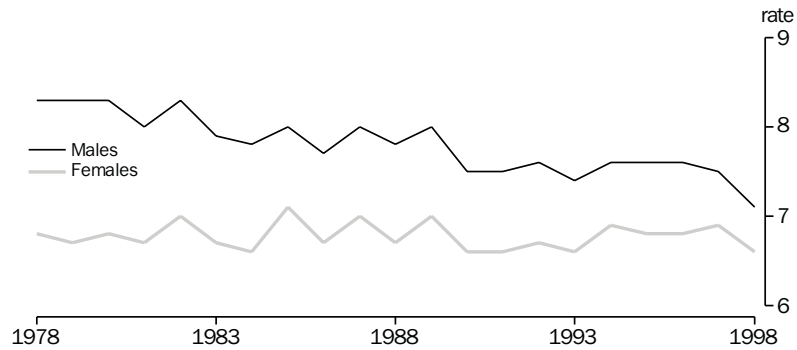
4.11 SUMMARY OF DEATHS

Particulars	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Deaths						
Males	16 389	16 765	16 960	17 009	17 122	16 407
Females	14 808	15 588	15 465	15 717	16 139	15 600
Persons	31 197	32 353	32 425	32 726	33 261	32 007
Sex ratio(a)	110.7	107.6	109.7	108.2	106.1	105.2
Standardised death rate(b)						
Males	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.4
Females	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.6
Persons	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.2	5.8
Crude death rate(c)						
Males	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.1
Females	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.6
Persons	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.9
Infant deaths						
Males	200	189	161	179	158	152
Females	147	138	147	129	142	131
Persons	347	327	308	308	300	283
Infant mortality rate(d)	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7
Perinatal deaths(e)						
Males	307	361	331	312	287	244
Females	242	240	251	230	235	226
Persons	549	601	582	542	522	470
Perinatal death rate(f)	8.5	9.3	9.2	8.8	8.6	7.7
Median age at death (years)						
Males	73.5	74.0	73.9	74.7	74.7	75.0
Females	80.1	80.6	80.9	81.3	81.4	81.7

(a) Number of male deaths per 100 female deaths. (b) The overall death rate that would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced at each age the death rates of the population under study. The current standard population is all persons in the 1991 Australian population. (c) Number of deaths registered per 1,000 of the 30 June 1998 estimated resident population. (d) Deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. (e) Prior to 1997, perinatal deaths data have been based upon the World Health Organisation definition. This definition included all fetuses and infants delivered weighing at least 500 grams or of gestational age 22 weeks. From 1997, the ABS has increased the coverage of perinatal deaths by including fetal and neonatal deaths with a birthweight of at least 400 grams or having a gestational age of 20 weeks. Perinatal deaths data prior to 1998 have been revised according to this new definition. (f) Still births (fetal) and neonatal deaths (within 28 days of birth) per 1,000 live births plus still births combined.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

4.12 CRUDE DEATH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Life expectancy

Life expectancy refers to the average number of additional years a person of given age and sex might expect to live, if the age-specific death rates of the given year continued throughout his or her lifetime. A child born during 1996–98 to a mother resident in Victoria has a life expectancy of 81.7 years if female and 76.3 years if male (table 4.13). A woman aged 40 in 1996–98 has a life expectancy of a further 42.8 years, and a man of the same age 38.3 years.

4.13 LIFE EXPECTANCY—1996–98(a)

Age (years)	Males	Females
	years	years
0	76.3	81.7
5	71.8	77.1
10	66.8	72.2
15	61.9	67.2
20	57.1	62.3
25	52.4	57.4
30	47.7	52.5
35	43.0	47.7
40	38.3	42.8
45	33.6	38.0
50	28.9	33.3
55	24.5	28.7
60	20.3	24.3
65	16.4	20.0
70	12.9	16.0
75	9.9	12.3
80	7.4	9.1
85	5.4	6.5
90	4.1	4.6
95	3.4	3.4

(a) Life tables are based on three years worth of data in order to reduce the impact of year-to-year statistical variations.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Marriages

In 1998, there were 26,372 marriages registered in Victoria, a 4% increase on 1997 (table 4.14). This represents the first increase in the number of marriages registered per year since 1988 when it reached a peak of 30,687. This increase in numbers is also reflected in the crude marriage rate which has increased from 5.5 marriages per 1,000 population in 1997 to 5.7 in 1998. Of total marriages, 69% were first marriages for both partners, 17% a first for one partner, and 14% a remarriage for both partners.

4.14 SUMMARY OF MARRIAGES

Particulars	Unit	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
First marriage both partners	no.	19 195	19 078	18 752	18 026	17 666	18 221
First marriage one partner	no.	4 737	4 443	4 458	4 546	4 485	4 573
Remarriage both partners	no.	3 486	3 453	3 397	3 502	3 305	3 578
<i>Total marriages</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>27 418</i>	<i>26 974</i>	<i>26 607</i>	<i>26 074</i>	<i>25 456</i>	<i>26 372</i>
Crude marriage(a)	rate	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.7
Performed by ministers of religion							
Marriages	no.	16 613	16 153	n.a.	14 415	14 004	13 803
Proportion of all marriages	%	60.6	59.9	n.a.	55.3	55.0	52.3

(a) Number of marriages per 1,000 of the 30 June 1998 estimated resident population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Divorces

There were 12,307 divorces granted in Victoria during 1998, a decrease of 1.3% on the number granted in 1997 (table 4.15). There were 2.6 divorces per 1,000 population, with a median interval of 7.8 years between marriage and separation. The median duration of marriages was 10.9 years. Divorces involving children decreased by 5.7% from 1997 to 1998, and represented 51% of total divorces granted in 1998.

4.15 SUMMARY OF DIVORCES

Particulars	Unit	1993	1994	1995(a)	1996	1997	1998
Divorces granted	no.	11 050	11 320	11 838	12 491	12 463	12 307
Crude divorce(b)	rate	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.6
Median duration of marriage	years	10.6	10.9	10.9	10.8	11.0	10.9
Median interval between marriage and separation	years	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8
Divorces of persons involving children							
Divorces	no.	5 905	6 075	n.a.	6 482	6 661	6 280
Total divorces	%	53.4	53.7	n.a.	51.9	53.4	51.0
Average children	no.	1.9	1.8	n.a.	1.9	1.9	1.9

(a) A number of data items, including details of children aged under 18 years, were not processed in 1995. (b) Number of divorces per 1,000 of the 30 June 1998 estimated resident population.

Source: *Demography, Victoria* (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Indigenous population

Indigenous population data have been collected in every census since Federation, but prior to the 1967 repeal of section 127 of the Constitution, only those deemed to be of less than half Aboriginal origin were included in official population figures for States and Territories. Since then, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has made considerable efforts to collect data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, through the Census of Population and Housing, and a range of surveys.

As at 30 June 1996, the estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Victoria was 22,598 (table 4.16). Indigenous people comprised 0.5% of Victoria's total population, the lowest proportion of any State or Territory.

4.16 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)—30 June 1996

	Indigenous population		Total population	
	no.	%	no.	%
0–14 years	8 735	38.7	947 358	20.8
15–24 years	4 129	18.3	662 381	14.5
25–44 years	6 513	28.8	1 418 984	31.1
45–64 years	2 502	11.1	961 966	21.1
65 years and over	719	3.2	569 466	12.5
Total	22 598	100.0	4 560 155	100.0

(a) Experimental estimates.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Victoria* (Cat. no. 2034.2).

The age structure of the Indigenous population differs markedly from that of the total population. At 30 June 1996, 38.7% of Victoria's Indigenous population were aged under 15 years and 3.2% were aged over 65 years. This compared with 20.8% and 12.5% respectively for the total Victorian population. These figures reflect the relatively high fertility and, to a lesser extent, the high mortality of the Indigenous population.

The median age of the Indigenous population was 21.3 years which was much younger than that of the total population of 34.3 years.

References

Data sources

Statistics in this chapter are derived from various sources, including ERP, which is compiled according to place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the conceptual basis of this estimate is given in *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates and Projections—Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1995* (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Data on overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from information supplied by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. For further information, please see *Overseas Arrivals and Departures* (Cat. no. 3401.0).

Interstate migration data are currently estimated on the basis of changes to Medicare registration information. Further details are provided in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Births, deaths, and marriages statistics are compiled from data supplied by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, while divorce statistics are compiled from statistical reports completed by the Family Court of Australia.

ABS sources

Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Victoria (Cat. no. 2034.2)

Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0)

Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories
(Cat. no. 3201.0)

Population Projections (Cat. no. 3222.0)

Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0)

Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0)

Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2)

Overseas Arrivals and Departures (Cat. no. 3401.0)

Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0)

Non-ABS sources

AUSLIG. *100K Coastline Database, 1993*