



VICTORIAN YEAR BOOK

1990



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VICTORIAN YEAR BOOK 1990

Number 103

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**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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PREFACE

I have much pleasure in introducing the 103rd edition of the *Victorian Year Book*.

As we enter a new decade it is perhaps opportune to reflect briefly on the 1980's and to speculate on the possible challenges to be faced in the coming ten years.

The 1980's saw a period of considerable change for the ABS, particularly with regard to information technology, which had a significant impact on the operations of the ABS. The dissemination mediums in particular were revolutionised with the advent of *Viatel*, *Ausstats* and products such as *CDATA86*, a C-D ROM based application used to disseminate population census statistics. These products, combined with a far stronger desire and need to know and understand more clearly our customer requirements has led to the recent advent of an information consultancy service, where users can obtain quality statistical advice for a nominal fee. A significant impact of this consultancy service, it is hoped, will be a further raising of the awareness of decision makers about the existence of statistical information and the ways and means of utilising it. The consultancy service is being supported by new products such as *4-SITE*, a package which enables speedy access to a number of the latest data bases and provides a statistical report tailored to the customers specific needs.

The new decade, I am sure, will see more change in how the ABS goes about assisting and encouraging informed decision-making, research, and discussion within government and the community. Changes in the structure of the economy and in our society will result in new demands and the need to modify our statistical base.

While all these changes are taking place, there is still a large demand for traditional hard copy general reference publications. *The Victorian Year Book* contains the more important economic and social statistics on the State and as such provides an authoritative and permanent record of the period under review.

R.A. CROCKETT
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
March 1990

GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following symbols mean:

- cr. credit
 - dr. debit
 - n.a. not available
 - n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
 - n.e.i. not elsewhere included
 - n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
 - n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals where applicable
 - n.y.a. not yet available
 - p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
 - r figure or series revised since previous issue
 - .. not applicable
 - nil or rounded down to zero
 - break in continuity of series (where a line drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
 - * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
- M, males; F, females; T, total

Other forms of usage

The following abbreviations are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and Australia: NSW (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), SA (South Australia), WA (Western Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), NT (Northern Territory), ACT (Australian Capital Territory), and Aust. (Australia).

Yearly periods shown as, e.g. 1988 refer to the year ended 31 December 1988. Those shown as, e.g. 1987-88 refer to the year ended 30 June 1988. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated.

Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

All data are presented in metric terms.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Availability of ABS publications

The Victorian Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) maintains an Information Referral Service, which provides advice on what products are available to best meet users needs, as well as a library in which all publications of the ABS are available for reference. Businesspeople, government officers, students, and members of the public are invited to make use of these services.

Information regarding the availability of ABS publications can be obtained from the Information Services Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Box 2796Y, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001, phone (03) 615 7000.

All publications issued by the ABS are contained in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office.