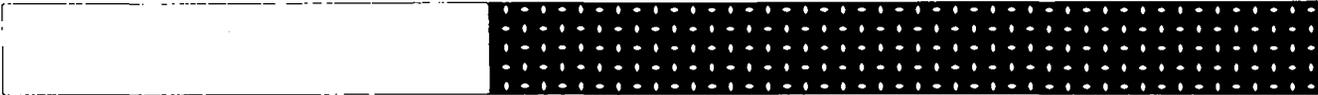




POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN AUSTRALIA

Catalogue No. 2504.0



CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 30 JUNE 1986

**CENSUS 86 — POPULATION GROWTH AND
DISTRIBUTION IN AUSTRALIA**

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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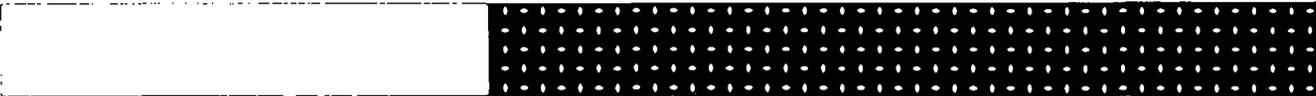
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FOREWORD

Australia's eleventh national Census of Population and Housing was taken on 30 June 1986. Results focusing on the growth, location and mobility of the population are presented in this report, the third of the series to be published. Previous titles and future ones planned are listed in Appendix A.

This report was originally prepared as two separate titles, *Population Growth and Distribution in Australia (2504.0)* and *Internal Migration in Australia (2515.0)* but, because of the close interrelation between the two concepts, I decided to present both topics in one report.

Because this report deals with the growth and distribution of population in Australia, wherever possible the data are presented on an estimated resident population basis rather than an actual location (where people were counted) basis. The report also contains data from administrative systems (births, deaths, and overseas arrivals and departures) as these inclusions serve to provide a fuller picture of the dynamics of population growth and change in Australia in recent years.

The report was prepared by staff of the Demography, and Welfare and Social Analysis Sections.

Ian Castles

Australian Statistician

July 1990

POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

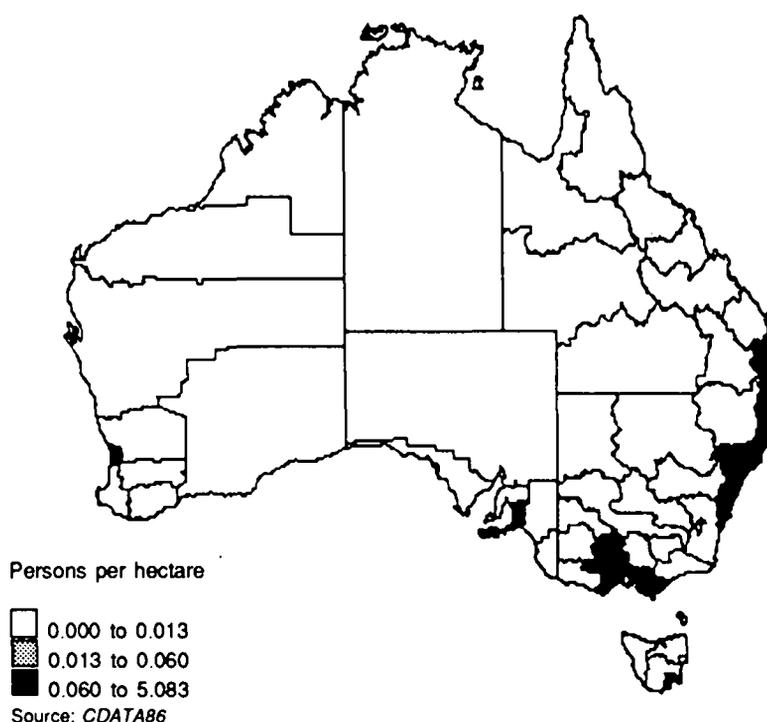
How many Australians?

On Census night 1986, some 15.6 million people were counted in Australia, including 59,600 overseas visitors. Following the census, two studies were undertaken to provide data from which to estimate the resident population of Australia. The first was an investigation using results of a sample survey of households conducted in July 1986 and a demographic study to determine the extent of undercounting in the census (estimated at 1.8 per cent), and the second was an analysis of overseas arrivals and departures data to determine the number of usual residents of Australia who were temporarily out of the country on census night, and who were therefore not counted (estimated at 189,200). After adjusting the census counts for these two factors, and after excluding visitors, the estimated resident population of Australia on 30 June 1986 was 16.0 million. This represented an increase of 1.1 million since the previous census on 30 June 1981. Sixty per cent of this growth was due to natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and 40 per cent was due to net overseas migration. The average annual growth rate for the 5 years 1981-86 was 1.4 per cent.

Where they live

Australia's population is concentrated in two widely separated coastal regions. By far the larger, both in area and population, lies in the south-east, stretching in an unbroken crescent from South Australia through Victoria and New South Wales, to Queensland, including Tasmania. The smaller region is in the south-west of the continent and is concentrated on the Perth metropolitan area. Neither region ever extends more than 300 kilometres inland. The regions are separated by up to 3,000 kilometres of sparsely populated land which makes up about three-quarters of Australia's land area.

FIGURE 1.1 POPULATION DENSITY, 1986



**Population growth rate
... recent increase**

The 1.4 per cent average annual growth rate recorded for the 1981-86 period was an increase on the average annual growth rate of 1.2 per cent recorded for 1976-81. Apart from a slight upturn in the 1960s, this was the first time since World War II that an increase had occurred in the average annual growth rate. Both the rates of natural increase and of net overseas migration were higher in 1981-86 than in 1976-81. However, the total rate of growth was still small compared to the growth in the years immediately following World War II when the average annual growth rate was 2.5 per cent and the annual rates of natural increase and of net overseas migration were 1.4 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

TABLE 1.1 POPULATION GROWTH, 1947-86

Intercensal periods	Average annual growth	Average annual rate of growth(a)		
		Total	Natural increase	Net overseas migration
	'000	— per cent —		
1947-54(b)(c)	201.0	2.46	1.42	(d)1.16
1954-61(b)(c)	217.4	2.26	1.44	(d)0.91
1961-66(b)(c)	208.5	1.91	1.24	(d)0.74
1966-71(b)	231.2	1.92	1.16	(d)0.85
1971-76	193.2	1.44	1.02	0.42
1976-81	178.0	1.24	0.82	0.51
1981-86	219.0	1.42	0.84	0.56

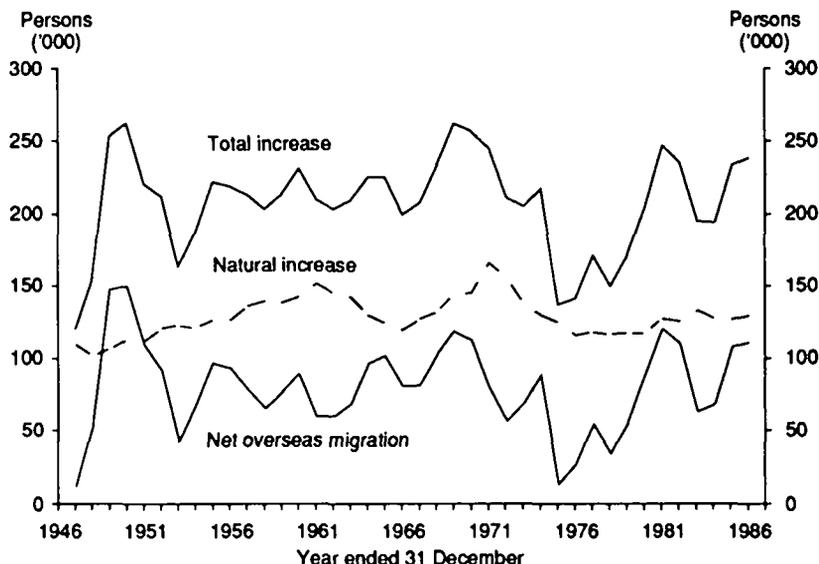
(a) Differences between the rates of total growth and the sums of rates of natural increase and overseas migration are due to discrepancies between growth calculated as the difference between two successive census figures and growth calculated by aggregating the components of natural increase and net overseas migration over the intercensal period. (b) Census counts on an actual location basis. From 1971 the estimated resident population series (census counts on a usual residence basis adjusted for underenumeration and residents temporarily overseas) has been adopted as the official population statistics series. (c) Although Aboriginal people have been counted in every population census, they were excluded from official population figures under Section 127 of the Constitution, until its repeal in 1967. (d) Includes short-term movement.

Source: *Demography Nos. 65-87 (1947-71)*, *Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. No. 3101.0)*

... annual fluctuations

Average annual growth rates for intercensal periods mask annual fluctuations in the growth of the population. In particular, net overseas migration gain varied from less than 40,000 (0.2 per cent growth or less) in 1947, 1975 and 1976 to more than 140,000 (1.9 per cent growth) in 1949 and 1950. Other major peaks occurred in 1968-70, 1980-82 and 1986. The rate of natural increase fluctuated much less, falling steadily from above 1.4 per cent in the late 1940s and the 1950s to around 0.8 per cent in the late 1970s before a small increase in 1981-86.

FIGURE 1.2 ANNUAL INCREASE IN POPULATION BY COMPONENTS OF GROWTH, 1947-86

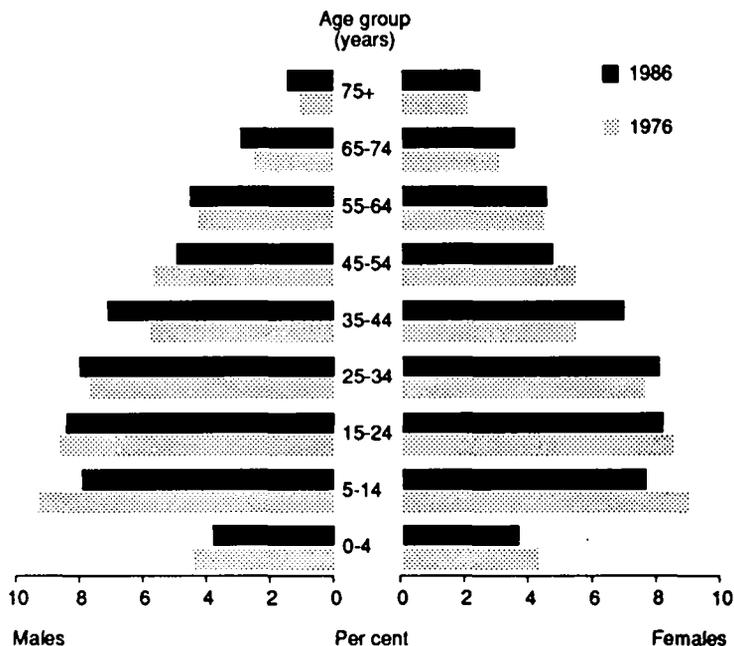


Source: *Demography Nos. 65-87 (1947-71), Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. No. 3101.0)*

An ageing population

The low rate of growth arising from natural increase is the outcome of a declining birth rate counter-balanced in part by increasing longevity. These trends have had an ageing effect on the population even though the median age of the net gain from overseas migration has generally been lower than that of the population as a whole. The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 27 per cent in 1976 to 23 per cent in 1986, while the proportion aged 65 years and over increased from 9 per cent to 11 per cent. The median age rose from 28.4 years to 31.1 years in the same period.

FIGURE 1.3 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF POPULATION, 1976 AND 1986



Source: *Population and Dwellings: Summary Tables, (Cat. No. 2417.0), (1976), Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, (Cat. No. 2487.0), (1986)*

Different States, different rates ... New South Wales and Victoria

New South Wales and Victoria continued to be the most populous States in 1986, accounting for over 60 per cent of Australia's people. However, despite receiving the bulk of overseas migrants since World War II, the proportion of the population living in these two States has steadily declined, from 66 per cent in 1947. This decline was much more marked in New South Wales (from 39 per cent to 35 per cent) than in Victoria (from 27 per cent to 26 per cent). In both States however, the decline was due to lower than average rates of natural increase and to large losses through interstate migration which offset in part the net gain from overseas migration. In the ten years between 1976 and 1986, for example, New South Wales gained 328,000 people from overseas but lost 106,300 in interstate migration, while Victoria gained 214,000 people from overseas but lost 100,300 in interstate migration. Both States' populations have aged since 1976 in line with national trends. The median age at 30 June 1986 was 31.7 years in New South Wales and 31.3 years in Victoria, both slightly above the national average of 31.1 years.

TABLE 1.2 POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1947-86

30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
— '000 —									
1947(a)(b)	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
1954(a)(b)	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
1961(b)	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
1966(b)	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
1971	4,725.5	3,601.4	1,851.5	1,200.1	1,053.8	398.1	85.7	151.2	13,067.3
1976	4,959.6	3,810.4	2,092.4	1,274.1	1,178.3	412.3	98.2	207.7	14,033.1
1981	5,234.9	3,946.9	2,345.2	1,318.8	1,300.1	427.2	122.6	227.6	14,923.3
1986	5,531.5	4,160.9	2,624.6	1,382.6	1,459.0	446.5	154.4	258.9	16,018.4
— per cent —									
1947(a)(b)	39.4	27.1	14.6	8.5	6.6	3.4	0.1	0.2	100.0
1954(a)(b)	38.1	27.3	14.7	8.9	7.1	3.4	0.2	0.3	100.0
1961(b)	37.3	27.9	14.5	9.2	7.0	3.3	0.3	0.6	100.0
1966(b)	36.5	27.8	14.4	9.4	7.3	3.2	0.5	0.8	100.0
1971	36.2	27.6	14.2	9.2	8.1	3.0	0.7	1.2	100.0
1976	35.3	27.2	14.9	9.1	8.4	2.9	0.7	1.5	100.0
1981	35.1	26.5	15.7	8.8	8.7	2.9	0.8	1.5	100.0
1986	34.5	26.0	16.4	8.6	9.1	2.8	1.0	1.6	100.0

(a) Although Aboriginal people have been counted in every population census, they were excluded from official population figures under Section 127 of the Constitution, until its repeal in 1967. (b) Census counts on an actual location basis. From 1971 the estimated resident population series (census counts on a usual residence basis adjusted for underenumeration and residents temporarily overseas) has been adopted as the official population statistics series.

Source: *Demography Nos. 65-87 (1947-71), Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. No. 3101.0)*

... growth in Queensland

Queensland, with a population of 2.6 million in 1986, was the third most populous State. Its population growth rate has been consistently higher than the national average due to a high rate of natural increase and to large net gains from interstate and overseas migration. The combined population increase between 1976 and 1986 from interstate and overseas migration (183,700 and 93,500 respectively) was greater than for any other State or Territory over that period. Queensland's share of the national population declined slightly between 1947 and 1971 but has since increased to over 16 per cent. This increase has been accompanied by an ageing population profile, although the median age of 30.3 years in 1986 was still below the national median.

TABLE 1.3 GROWTH OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1976-81 AND 1981-86

	Average annual growth	Average annual rate of growth(a)			
		Total	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Net interstate migration
	'000	— per cent —			
1976-81					
NSW	55.1	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.1
Vic.	27.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	-0.3
Qld	50.6	2.3	0.9	0.4	+0.8
SA	8.9	0.7	0.7	0.2	-0.2
WA	24.3	2.0	1.0	0.6	+0.2
Tas.	3.0	0.7	0.8	0.1	-0.2
NT	4.9	4.6	2.0	0.7	+0.9
ACT	4.0	1.8	1.6	0.1	+0.1
1981-86					
NSW	59.3	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.3
Vic.	42.8	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.2
Qld	55.9	2.3	1.0	0.4	+0.8
SA	12.8	1.0	0.7	0.4	-0.1
WA	31.8	2.3	1.1	0.8	+0.3
Tas.	3.8	0.9	0.8	0.2	-0.1
NT	6.4	4.7	2.0	0.8	+0.6
ACT	6.3	2.6	1.4	0.4	+0.4

(a) Differences between the rates of total growth and the sums of rates of natural increase and overseas migration are due to discrepancies between growth calculated as the difference between two successive census figures and growth calculated by aggregating the components of natural increase and net migration over the intercensal period.

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. No. 3101.0)*

... more people now in Western Australia than in South Australia

Between 1981 and 1986, Western Australia became the fourth most populous State taking over that position from South Australia which had held it since the earliest days. In 1986, Western Australia's population was 1.5 million compared to South Australia's 1.4 million. Like Queensland, Western Australia has maintained a higher than average natural increase, and has attracted considerable gains from overseas migration throughout most of the post-war period, and from interstate migration since 1961. The median age of its population has increased, from 27.1 years in 1976 to 30.1 years in 1986, but has remained the youngest of the States.

South Australia, with the lowest fertility of all States and Territories, had the lowest rate of natural increase. In addition, loss due to interstate migration in the period 1976-86 offset, to some extent, gains from overseas migration. The overall annual average rate of population growth has been less than 1 per cent since 1976. In 1986 South Australia was the State with the oldest age profile (median age 32.0 years), the smallest proportion of children (22 per cent under 15 years of age), and the largest proportion of elderly people (12 per cent aged 65 years and over).

TABLE 1.4 POPULATION AGE PROFILE OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1976 AND 1986

	Age (years)					
	0-14		65 and over		Median age	
	1976	1986	1976	1986	1976	1986
	— per cent —				— years —	
NSW	26.0	22.8	9.3	11.0	29.3	31.7
Vic.	27.0	22.5	9.2	10.7	28.5	31.3
Qld	28.1	24.1	9.1	10.3	27.7	30.3
SA	26.2	21.7	9.2	11.7	28.7	32.0
WA	28.2	24.0	8.0	9.2	27.1	30.1
Tas.	28.3	24.1	8.8	10.9	27.4	30.5
NT	34.0	29.2	2.0	2.5	24.0	25.7
ACT	31.0	25.8	3.0	5.1	25.1	28.1
Australia	27.0	23.1	8.9	10.5	28.4	31.1

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, Australia, States and Territories (Cat. No. 3201.0)*

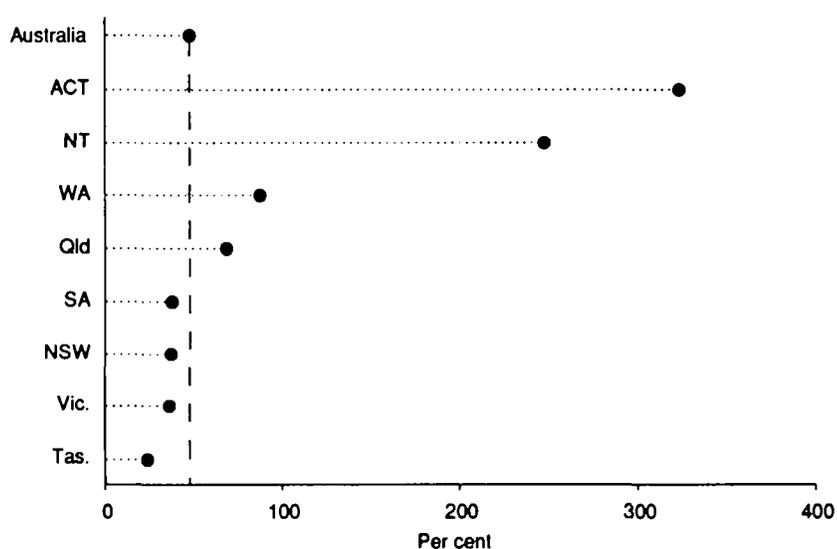
... Tasmania

Tasmania, the smallest State, both in area and in population, has recorded either no change or a decline in its share of the national population at every census since World War II. It has consistently lost population through interstate migration and this, together with the negligible gains from overseas migration, has given Tasmania a very low rate of total population growth; at less than 1 per cent a year, the lowest of any State/Territory for the period 1976-86.

... the Territories

The populations of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, although still small in comparison with State populations, have been increasing rapidly. The population of the Australian Capital Territory increased by more than three times and that of the Northern Territory by more than twice in the 25 years between 1961 and 1986. The Territories have the youngest age profiles in Australia with median ages in 1986 of 25.7 years in the Northern Territory and 28.1 years in the Australian Capital Territory.

FIGURE 1.4 GROWTH OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1961-86



Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1986, Vol. II, Part 1(1986), Table CSD001(1986)*

A highly urbanised people

Australia has long been recognised as one of the most urbanised countries in the world. In 1966 almost 83 per cent of the people lived in urban areas, and this increased to 86 per cent in 1976. Since then, however, there has been a slight decline to 85 per cent (13.3 million people) in 1986.

Other than the Australian Capital Territory which has virtually no rural population, the highest levels of urbanisation occurred in New South Wales and Victoria, 88 per cent and 87 per cent respectively. Both of these proportions were slightly lower than in 1976. The lowest levels of urbanisation occurred in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, 75 per cent and 72 per cent respectively.

The age profile of people living in urban areas was older than in rural areas. On average, people in major urban areas (containing 100,000 people or more) had a median age of 31.7 years and people in smaller urban areas, 30.3 years. The median age of the rural population was 29.8 years.

TABLE 1.5 URBAN-RURAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION(a)(b), 1966-86

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	— per cent —								
<i>Urban</i>									
1966	86.4	85.5	76.4	82.4	75.7	70.3	53.4	96.1	82.9
1976	88.7	87.9	80.2	84.9	83.5	74.9	66.4	98.4	86.0
1986	87.9	87.4	78.9	84.6	84.8	74.5	71.7	99.1	85.4
<i>Rural</i>									
1966	13.4	14.4	23.5	17.5	23.9	29.6	46.1	3.9	16.9
1976	11.1	12.1	19.7	15.0	16.3	24.9	33.0	1.6	13.9
1986	12.0	12.5	21.0	15.3	15.0	25.4	27.7	0.9	14.4

(a) Census counts on an actual location basis. 'Urban' is defined as all settlements with a population of 1,000 and over or holiday resorts with at least 250 dwellings. Estimated resident population figures are not available for the urban/rural area classification. (b) Excludes migratory population i.e. people enumerated on census night on off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms and the like, on board vessels in and between Australian ports, or on board long-distance trains, buses or aircraft.

Source: Vol.2, Pt.1 *Growth and Distribution (1966), Population and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres (Prelim.) (Cat.Nos 2401.0-2408.0) (1976), Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings (Cat.Nos 2479.0-2487.0) (1986)*

People in urban centres

The 13.3 million urban Australians in 1986 were to be found in 651 different urban centres, up from 547 in 1976. At both censuses, small urban centres (up to 10,000 people) accounted for 85 per cent of all urban centres and together contained 10 per cent of the total population. The number of urban centres with 10,000 to 25,000 people increased from 47 (9 per cent of urban centres) in 1976 to 65 (10 per cent) in 1986 with a corresponding population increase from 727,400 (5 per cent of the total population) to more than 1 million (7 per cent). The proportion of the national population living in medium sized urban centres (population 25,000 to 100,000) was about 6 per cent at both dates while the number of major urban centres (population 100,000 or more) increased by 1 with the formation of the Central Coast (NSW) agglomeration in 1986. The proportion of population living in major urban centres declined slightly, from 65 per cent in 1976 to 63 per cent in 1986.

TABLE 1.6 URBAN CENTRES BY SIZE(a): NUMBER AND AGGREGATE POPULATION(b), 1976 AND 1986

Size of urban centre	Number of centres		Population		Australian population	
	1976	1986	1976	1986	1976	1986
			— '000 —		— per cent —	
1,000,000 and over	2	3	5,244.3	6,672.4	38.7	42.8
500,000-999,999	3	2	2,481.5	1,812.7	18.3	11.6
250,000-499,999	1	2	251.1	524.8	1.9	3.4
100,000-249,999	5	5	769.6	808.0	5.7	5.2
50,000-99,999	7	9	421.9	591.9	3.1	3.8
25,000-49,999	13	10	423.8	326.0	3.1	2.1
10,000-24,999	47	65	727.4	1,054.4	5.4	6.8
2,500-9,999	188	209	920.2	1,020.2	6.8	6.5
1,000-2,499	281	346	411.0	521.3	3.0	3.3
Total	547	651	11,650.0	13,331.7	86.0	85.4
Rural	..	..	1,882.3	2,252.1	13.9	14.4
Total(c)	..	..	13,548.5	15,602.2	100.0	100.0

(a) Census counts on an actual location basis. Estimated resident population figures are not available for the urban/rural area classification. (b) The numbers in this table differ from those presented in Table 1.4 of *Australia in Profile* (Cat. No. 2502.0) because (i) urban centres which straddled State/Territory borders are counted only once here but were considered as two communities in *Australia in Profile* (ii) holiday centres with a population of less than 1,000 but with 250 or more dwellings, of which 100 or more were occupied, are included with urban centres of 1,000-2,499 people here but were included with communities of less than 1,000 people in *Australia in Profile* (iii) localities with less than 200 people are excluded here but were included in *Australia in Profile*. (c) Includes migratory category.

Source: *Persons and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres, Table 4* (Cat. Nos. 2401.0-2408.0) (1976), CDMF(1986)

People in rural areas

The proportion of population counted in rural areas increased slightly between 1976 and 1986. Although small, the increase was common to most States; only in Western Australia and the two Territories was there a decrease. The largest increase was in Queensland where the population in rural areas rose by 33 per cent from 401,000 in 1976 to 533,400 in 1986. This growth was mainly concentrated in the coastal areas, particularly adjacent to the Gold Coast and to the Sunshine Coast as well as to Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. Growth in the rural population of New South Wales was also high in areas adjacent to popular growth centres on the coast. Analysis of changes in the aged population, the nature of industry growth and the employment status of residents continued to support the premise that "retirement migration (and resort development) have played a significant role in population growth in these areas".¹

**The capital cities
... growth since 1976**

The dominant urban centres in Australia have always been the State capital cities. In 1986, over 10 million people, or 64 per cent of Australia's population, lived in the six State and two Territory capital cities, compared to 9 million or 65 per cent in 1976. In Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, the State capital city comprised over 70 per cent of the State's population in both 1976 and 1986, and each had a population more than ten times greater than that of the next largest city in the State. In 1986, Sydney (3.5 million) had 22 per cent of the national population and Melbourne (2.9 million) had 18 per cent, in both cases a slight decline from 1976. These two largest cities, together with Adelaide and Hobart, grew at rates significantly lower than the national average.

TABLE 1.7 POPULATION OF CAPITAL CITIES, 1976 AND 1986

Capital city (a)	Estimated resident population ('000)		10 year growth (per cent)	Per cent of State population		Per cent of National population	
	1976	1986		1976	1986	1976	1986
Sydney	3,143.8	3,472.7	10.5	63.4	62.8	22.4	21.7
Melbourne	2,723.7	2,931.9	7.6	71.5	70.5	19.4	18.3
Brisbane	1,000.9	1,196.0	19.5	47.8	45.6	7.1	7.5
Adelaide	924.1	1,003.8	8.6	72.5	72.6	6.6	6.3
Perth	832.8	1,050.4	26.1	70.7	72.0	5.9	6.6
Hobart	164.4	179.0	8.9	39.9	40.1	1.2	1.1
Darwin	44.2	74.8	69.2	45.0	48.5	0.3	0.5
Canberra(b)	226.5	281.0	24.1	..	..	1.6	1.8
All capital cities	9,060.2	10,189.6	12.5	..	..	64.6	63.6

(a) Statistical Division or District. The boundaries of Capital City Statistical Divisions are generally wider than those of the corresponding urban centres. This and the definitional difference between estimated resident population and census count explain the difference in the number of cities over 1 million population in Tables 1.6 and 1.7. (b) Canberra Statistical District comprising Canberra and the adjacent New South Wales City of Queanbeyan.

Source: *Estimated resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices)*

The slow growth of Sydney and Melbourne, despite the considerable gain from overseas migration to these cities, reflects significant internal migration losses to other areas. For Melbourne, the slowest growing capital, net loss due to internal migration almost entirely counterbalanced net gain from overseas migration. In contrast the high growth cities of Brisbane, Perth and Darwin attracted both overseas and internal migrants, and over half of their growth in this period was due to net migration gain. Canberra, the nation's capital and major inland city also grew rapidly, experiencing high net gains from internal migration as well as above average rates of natural increase.

**TABLE 1.8 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN CAPITAL CITIES,
1976-86**

<i>Capital city(a)</i>	<i>Total growth</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Overseas-born increase</i>	<i>Other (b)</i>
— '000 —				
Sydney	328.9	237.2	183.5	-91.8
Melbourne	208.2	205.0	91.3	-88.1
Brisbane	195.2	87.9	56.1	51.2
Adelaide	79.7	58.7	10.2	10.8
Perth	217.6	91.0	67.7	58.9
Hobart	14.6	13.3	1.0	0.4
Darwin	30.6	10.4	5.9	14.3
Canberra(c)	54.6	36.5	7.6	10.5
All capital cities	1129.4	740.0	423.4	-33.8
— per cent —				
Sydney	100.0	72.1	55.8	-27.9
Melbourne	100.0	98.5	43.9	-42.3
Brisbane	100.0	45.0	28.7	26.2
Adelaide	100.0	73.6	12.8	13.6
Perth	100.0	41.8	31.1	27.1
Hobart	100.0	90.8	6.6	2.6
Darwin	100.0	34.1	19.4	46.6
Canberra(c)	100.0	66.9	13.9	19.3
All capital cities	100.0	65.5	37.5	-3.0

(a) Statistical Division or District. (b) Residual component largely comprises net internal migration. (c) Canberra Statistical District comprising Canberra and the adjacent New South Wales City of Queanbeyan.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices), Characteristics of the Population, Local Government Areas (Cat. No. 2204.0) (1976), Table USG006(1986)*

... growth through overseas migration

Of the 3.2 million overseas-born people counted in Australia at 30 June 1986, 2.6 million or approximately 80 per cent were resident in the capital cities. This proportion was even higher among those who had recently arrived in Australia; 355,600 or 86 per cent of people who had arrived in the last five years were living in the capital cities at 30 June 1986. In contrast, 59 per cent of the Australian-born population were living in the capital cities. This predominance of the overseas-born in the capitals was evident in every State and has been an important contribution to the population growth of those cities.

Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth each had more than 80 per cent of their State's overseas-born people, while their proportion of the Australian-born people was 57 per cent in Sydney and in the range of 66-69 per cent in the other three cities. In Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin, each of which contained less than 50 per cent of their State's people, the proportions were lower but showed a similar pattern with 50-60 per cent of the State's overseas-born people and about 40 per cent of the State's Australian-born people living in the capital cities.

TABLE 1.9 BIRTHPLACE OF RESIDENTS IN CAPITAL CITIES ('000)

Capital city(a)	Overseas-born				Australian-born	
	Resident 0-4 years		Total		('000)	per cent of State
	('000)	per cent of State	('000)	per cent of State		
Sydney	139.7	89.4	900.0	81.2	2,398.1	57.2
Melbourne	96.5	92.0	785.5	86.3	2,003.5	65.6
Brisbane	33.9	62.5	211.1	56.9	929.3	43.5
Adelaide	23.5	89.7	254.7	85.4	712.5	69.0
Perth	48.3	86.7	318.5	83.5	675.2	67.6
Hobart	2.0	52.6	21.3	48.6	151.7	38.9
Darwin	3.2	63.1	16.6	64.9	49.8	44.3
Canberra(b)	8.4	99.7	57.6	99.8	189.0	99.5
All capital cities	355.6	85.7	2,565.3	80.3	7,108.9	58.7

(a) Statistical Division or District. (b) Canberra Statistical District comprising Canberra and the adjacent New South Wales City of Queanbeyan.

Source: Tables SUSG006 and USG007

... age profiles

Each of the State capitals had an age profile slightly older than that of the State as a whole. Generally the most rapidly growing capital cities had younger profiles than those with lower growth rates. Hobart, however, which was one of the slowest growing capitals had a median age of only 30.9 years, similar to the high growth capitals of Brisbane and Perth. This reflects the high fertility rate of Tasmania compared to the mainland States. Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide had the oldest age distributions, with median ages of 31.9, 31.4 and 32.4 years respectively. Brisbane and Perth had relatively young populations, with median ages of 30.4 and 30.8 years respectively. The youngest capital cities were Canberra (28.1 years) and Darwin (26.5 years). In line with national trends these median ages rose steadily over the ten years 1976-86.

Other major cities and growth areas

In 1986 there were 34 non-capital cities with populations of 20,000 or more. Twelve were in New South Wales, six in Victoria, eleven in Queensland, one each in South Australia and Western Australia, two in Tasmania and one in the Northern Territory. In total, these 34 cities had an estimated resident population of 2.4 million, or 15 per cent of the national population. This was an increase from 2.0 million (14 per cent of the national total) in 1976, a growth of 12 per cent in the 10-year period, compared to 14 per cent for the national population.

... New South Wales

Between 1976 and 1986, the two main non-capital cities in New South Wales, Newcastle and Wollongong, experienced lower population growth rates than either Sydney or the whole State. They also experienced lower growth rates in 1981-86 than in 1976-81, as did all of the other non-capital cities with populations of 20,000 or more, except Queanbeyan (adjacent to Canberra). Nevertheless, several non-capital cities continued to grow at rates above the average for the State as a whole. Tweed Heads, though still small, had the highest growth rate in New South Wales and almost doubled its population over the 10-year period 1976-86. Its average annual growth rate for the period was 6 per cent. Other cities with high growth rates were Dubbo (3 per cent), Lismore (2 per cent), Albury (2 per cent) and Queanbeyan (2 per cent). Two cities, Broken Hill and Goulburn, lost population over the 10-year period.

TABLE 1.10 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES,
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1976-86

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1976	1981	1986	1976-81	1981-86	1976-86
	— '000 —			— per cent —		
Newcastle(a)	380.0	403.6	416.1	1.2	0.6	0.9
Wollongong(a)	222.3	231.4	232.5	0.8	0.1	0.4
Bathurst-Orange(a)	58.1	61.6	64.7	1.2	1.0	1.1
Wagga Wagga(b)	44.2	48.7	50.4	2.0	0.7	1.3
Albury-Wodonga(a)						
(NSW part)	38.1	42.3	44.9	2.1	1.2	1.6
Lismore(b)	30.5	34.6	37.5	2.6	1.6	2.1
Tamworth(b)	30.4	32.4	33.7	1.3	0.8	1.0
Dubbo(b)	24.0	28.9	31.1	3.8	1.5	2.6
Broken Hill(b)	28.8	27.9	25.2	-0.7	-2.0	-1.3
Gold Coast-Tweed						
Heads(a) (NSW part)	13.4	19.7	24.8	8.0	4.8	6.3
Queanbeyan(b)	19.9	20.1	23.2	0.1	3.0	1.5
Goulburn(b)	22.4	22.1	21.8	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Total	911.8	973.0	1,005.6	1.3	0.7	1.0

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre count and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1986.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices)*

In the ten years to 1986 there was rapid population growth in beachside towns on the New South Wales coast. These areas appeal to people of all ages as holiday resorts and to people of older ages as places for retirement. By means of ribbon development the towns began to link up with each other, and with Sydney (including Gosford-Wyong), Newcastle and Wollongong, with development extending to the far south coast. In 1986, the greatest population concentrations were on the mid-north coast (Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie) and in the Illawarra (Nowra, Ulladulla). Average annual growth rates double those for the State as a whole were common and, for the period 1976-86, exceeded 5 per cent in Ballina, Byron, Coffs Harbour, Hastings (Port Macquarie) and Eurobodalla Shires. Like the major non-capital cities, however, growth rates were lower in the latter half of the period. The proportion of the population aged 50 and over in these high-growth coastal towns was consistently above the average for the State as a whole (25 per cent) rising to 39 per cent in the Port Stephens area (Great Lakes), 36 per cent on the south coast (Eurobodalla) and 35 per cent in the Port Macquarie (Hastings) area. The New South Wales holiday and retirement belt extends northwards into Queensland where the proportion aged 50 and over was 32 per cent in Gold Coast and 31 per cent in Sunshine Coast.

TABLE 1.11 HIGH GROWTH AREAS (OUTSIDE MAJOR CITIES) ON NEW SOUTH WALES COAST, 1976-1986

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth			Proportion of population aged 50 and over		
	1976	1981	1986	76-81	81-86	76-86	1976	1981	1986
	— '000 —			— per cent —					
<i>Richmond-Tweed SD</i>									
Tweed	4.51	7.5	19.7	3.8	2.4	3.1	26.6	25.2	25.1
Ballina	13.9	19.4	24.1	7.0	4.4	5.7	35.2	30.4	32.0
Byron	11.1	14.9	18.2	6.0	4.1	5.0	32.6	29.2	28.0
<i>Mid-North Coast SD</i>									
Coffs Harbour	24.5	34.0	42.2	6.8	4.4	5.6	26.4	25.6	26.1
Hastings	25.2	34.3	41.1	6.4	3.7	5.0	29.8	32.3	34.6
Greater Taree	27.4	32.0	36.3	3.2	2.6	2.8	n.a.	28.2	29.5
Kempsey	17.4	19.6	22.9	2.4	3.2	2.8	27.2	27.4	27.3
<i>Hunter SD</i>									
Great Lakes	12.8	16.9	20.3	5.7	3.7	4.7	n.a.	36.0	38.7
<i>Illawarra SD</i>									
Shoalhaven	39.0	48.6	57.7	4.5	3.5	4.0	26.1	30.2	31.7
<i>South Eastern SD</i>									
Bega Valley	17.4	20.1	23.3	3.0	2.9	3.0	n.a.	26.6	28.3
Eurobodalla	11.7	16.0	21.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	33.6	36.0	35.8

SD Statistical Division

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices)*

... Queensland

Queensland, like New South Wales, experienced rapid population increase along the coast in the 1976-86 period. To the south of Brisbane, the Gold Coast grew by 89 per cent (or nearly 7 per cent a year), a continuation of the rapid growth experienced in previous intercensal periods. The Gold Coast/Tweed Heads Statistical District, including both the Queensland and New South Wales parts, was an area of 209,100 people in 1986. To the north of Brisbane, Maroochydore/Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast doubled its population between 1976 and 1986. Its average annual growth rate of 8 per cent was the State's highest. Gladstone and Cairns also grew very rapidly at rates considerably above the State average while Townsville and Mackay consistently exceeded the national average growth rate. The population of Mt Isa, the largest town west of the Great Dividing Range, consistently declined.

TABLE 1.12 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES, QUEENSLAND, 1976-86

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1976	1981	1986	1976-81	1981-86	1976-86
	— '000 —			— per cent —		
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads(a) (Qld part)	97.5	143.1	184.3	8.0	5.2	6.5
Townsville(a)	90.5	96.3	106.3	1.2	2.0	1.6
Sunshine Coast(a)	41.8	65.3	86.8	9.3	5.9	7.6
Toowoomba(b)	69.4	73.0	78.1	1.0	1.4	1.2
Cairns(a)	49.6	58.3	70.6	3.3	3.9	3.6
Rockhampton(a)	53.7	55.6	59.8	0.7	1.5	1.1
Mackay(a)	40.8	45.9	49.5	2.4	1.5	2.0
Bundaberg(a)	38.5	40.8	42.8	1.2	1.0	1.1
Gladstone(a)	19.8	23.9	30.5	3.8	5.0	4.4
Mount Isa(b)	27.6	25.6	24.4	-1.5	-1.0	-1.2
Maryborough(b)	22.4	22.3	22.8	-0.1	0.4	0.2
Total	551.5	650.0	755.7	3.3	3.1	3.2

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre count and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1986.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices)*

... rest of Australia

Like New South Wales and Queensland, Victoria experienced higher growth rates in non-capital cities than in the capital. Unlike those States, however, these growth centres were all inland. The largest and most rapidly growing city was Albury-Wodonga on the New South Wales border. Wodonga, the Victorian component, grew by an average annual rate of 3 per cent over the period 1976-86. Also in the north of the State, Shepparton-Mooroopna and Bendigo had growth rates above the national average. The largest (coastal) city, Geelong, grew less rapidly than the State as a whole.

**TABLE 1.13 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES
(EXCLUDING NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND), 1976-86**

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1976	1981	1986	1976-81	1981-86	1976-86
<i>Victoria</i>						
Geelong(a)	138.3	142.0	145.9	0.5	0.5	0.5
Ballarat(a)	71.5	73.8	78.3	0.6	1.2	0.9
Bendigo(a)	57.2	60.4	65.0	1.1	1.5	1.3
Shepparton-Mooroopna(a)	32.5	36.1	38.4	2.1	1.3	1.7
Albury-Wodonga(a) (Vic part)	27.3	31.5	36.4	2.9	2.9	2.9
Warrnambool(b)	21.5	22.1	23.6	0.5	1.3	0.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>348.3</i>	<i>365.7</i>	<i>387.5</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.1</i>
<i>South Australia</i>						
Whyalla(b)	34.0	31.8	28.2	-1.3	-2.4	-1.9
<i>Western Australia</i>						
Bunbury(b)	20.4	22.4	24.7	2.0	2.0	2.0
<i>Tasmania</i>						
Launceston(a)	84.1	86.8	91.0	0.6	0.9	0.8
Burnie-Devonport(a)(c)	..	72.9	76.6	..	1.0	..
<i>Total</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>159.7</i>	<i>167.5</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>..</i>
<i>Northern Territory</i>						
Alice Springs	14.0	17.9	22.2	5.0	4.4	4.7

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre census count and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1986. (c) Area not delineated prior to 30 June 1981.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS State offices)*

The population of South Australia's largest non-capital city, Whyalla, declined over the period 1976-86 from a peak of 34,000 in 1976 to 28,000 in 1986. Mount Barker, in the Adelaide Hills, was South Australia's main growth centre but had a population of less than 16,000 in 1986. Mount Gambier, with a population of nearly 20,000 grew less rapidly. Western Australia's population was similarly centralised in the capital, with only one major non-capital city, Bunbury to the south of Perth. This city grew rapidly and maintained an annual rate of growth over the ten years to 1986 of 2 per cent, well above the national average but somewhat below Perth's rate of growth. Between Bunbury and Perth the beachside town of Mandurah was the State's second most important growth centre with a population of 19,000 in 1986. Geraldton, of a similar size to Mandurah, also grew. Tasmania has two of Australia's largest non-capital cities, Launceston and Burnie/Devonport. Like the State as a whole they experienced slow but steady growth in the ten years to 1986.

In the Northern Territory the major centre outside Darwin is Alice Springs which grew at an average annual rate of nearly 5 per cent in the period 1976-86. This was one of Australia's fastest growing inland towns; its population at 30 June 1986 was 22,000.

INTERNAL MIGRATION

Movement between States

The number of people who move between States (interstate migration), where they come from and where they go to, can have a large impact on a State's population growth and distribution. For example, over the ten years 1976-86, net interstate migration (the number of people who moved to a State less the number who moved out of it) contributed 35 per cent of Queensland's population growth. In the Northern Territory the proportion was nearly 15 per cent and in Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory it was 10 per cent. Balancing these net gains from interstate migration were net losses in New South Wales (whose population growth was reduced by 14 per cent as a consequence), South Australia (18 per cent), Victoria (22 per cent) and Tasmania (25 per cent).

... patterns of movement

At 30 June 1986, 711,200 people were living in a different State from that in which they had been living at 30 June 1981. Their pattern of movement resulted in net gains for Queensland (87,500), Western Australia (15,600), the Northern Territory (3,300) and the Australian Capital Territory (4,800), and in net losses for New South Wales (61,300), Victoria (39,000), South Australia (8,700) and Tasmania (2,200).

TABLE 2.1 INTERSTATE MOVERS^(a) BY STATE OF ARRIVAL AND STATE OF DEPARTURE^(b), 1981-86 ('000)

State of usual residence at 30 June 1981	State of usual residence at 30 June 1986								Total
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
NSW	..	46.5	102.4	16.8	21.7	6.5	6.3	26.8	227.0
Vic.	52.8	..	51.3	16.1	17.8	7.3	4.7	7.7	157.7
Qld	51.8	26.2	..	7.9	10.8	4.0	6.7	5.9	113.3
SA	15.3	17.1	13.5	..	7.9	2.2	7.3	2.5	65.8
WA	13.4	12.7	10.8	6.1	..	2.1	4.5	2.2	51.8
Tas.	5.2	7.5	6.4	2.2	2.7	..	0.7	1.0	25.7
NT	4.6	3.5	8.1	5.9	4.1	0.6	..	0.9	27.7
ACT	22.6	5.2	8.3	2.1	2.4	0.8	0.8	..	42.2
Total	165.7	118.7	200.8	57.1	67.4	23.5	31.0	47.0	711.2
Net gain/loss	-61.3	-39.0	87.5	-8.7	15.6	-2.2	3.3	4.8	..

(a) At 30 June 1986, those living in a different State from that which they had been living at 30 June 1981. (b) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged 0-4 years at 30 June 1986.

Source: Table USG005

In general, between 1981 and 1986, net interstate movement was northwards (on the east coast) and westwards (to the west coast). Queensland recorded net gains from all States and Territories, except Western Australia from where net movement was zero, Western Australia recorded net gains from all States (except Queensland) and from the Australian Capital Territory, and the Northern Territory recorded net gains from all States except Queensland. The largest one-way interstate flow was 102,400 people (14 per cent of all interstate movers) who moved from New South Wales to Queensland during the intercensal period. The next largest one-way flows were from Queensland to New South Wales and from Victoria to New South Wales and Queensland, each of over 50,000 people, and 46,500 people who moved from New South Wales to Victoria. Altogether, these five one-way interstate flows accounted for 43 per cent (304,800 people) of total interstate movers.

... age of movers

The effect of interstate migration on the age structures of the populations of the States and Territories varies with the difference in the numbers and in the age structure of arrivals and departures. It is generally one of ageing where there is a net loss and one of rejuvenation where there is a net gain because the age structure of movers is usually younger than that of non-movers. An obvious exception to this however is the ageing effect of incoming retirement flows on the population of local areas. However, only sustained accumulations of gains or losses over a long period can make significant changes to an area's age structure because of the small net numbers relative to total population size.

The median age of interstate movers was 28.4 years. However, the median age refers to the age of the movers at the time of the census and not at the time of movement which was prior to the census. Because of this, and because census data on 5 year interstate migration do not include children aged 0-4 at the census, the median ages shown are probably 2-3 years higher than the median ages at the time of movement. Indications are, however, that interstate movers were considerably younger than the population as a whole. Only in the Northern Territory and among people leaving the Australian Capital Territory, was the median age of interstate movers greater than the median age of the population. Indications of labour force and retirement patterns may be obtained by considering the difference between the median ages of interstate arrivals and departures. In Queensland and Tasmania, arrivals were older than departures indicating retirement or pre-retirement moves to these areas, while in Victoria and the Territories arrivals were younger than departures indicating work related moves in and retirement moves out.

TABLE 2.2 INTERSTATE MOVERS(a), 1981-86: MEDIAN AGE, 1986
(years)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Men									
Arrivals	28.7	28.3	29.6	28.4	28.2	29.6	27.6	26.9	28.6
Departures	28.6	29.1	28.2	28.2	28.4	26.7	29.9	29.0	28.6
Women									
Arrivals	28.2	27.7	29.4	27.8	27.8	29.0	26.6	26.4	28.1
Departures	28.2	29.2	27.4	27.7	27.8	26.6	28.2	28.6	28.1
Total									
Arrivals	28.5	28.0	29.5	28.1	28.0	29.3	27.1	26.6	28.4
Departures	28.4	29.1	27.8	28.0	28.1	26.7	29.1	28.8	28.4

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged 0-4 years at 30 June 1986.

Source: Unpublished data

In Victoria and Queensland, the largest net flow of interstate migration was due to movement of people aged 35-39 years while in the other States and Territories it was due to movement of 15-34 year olds. Only in Tasmania and the two Territories however, did the direction of movement vary with age. Tasmania experienced a net loss of 15-34 year olds but a net gain in the other age groups while the reverse was true for the Territories, further pointing to work and retirement related movement.

TABLE 2.3 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION(a), 1981-86, BY AGE, 1986 ('000)

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
5-14	-12.8	-6.8	18.1	-0.8	2.7	0.2	-0.5	-0.3	..
15-34	-27.5	-11.9	27.7	-5.0	7.7	-3.4	5.1	7.3	..
35-59	-17.1	-13.7	31.3	-2.1	3.4	0.6	-0.8	-1.6	..
60 and over	-4.1	-7.3	10.9	-0.6	1.8	0.3	-0.2	-0.8	..
Total	-61.5	-39.7	88.1	-8.5	15.6	-2.3	3.7	4.6	..

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis excluding children aged 0-4 years at 30 June 1986. Figures in this table differ slightly from those in Table 2.1 because not stated responses have been pro-rated.

Source: *Unpublished data*

... men more likely to move than women

On average men were more likely to move interstate than women, particularly in the 35-59 years age group. The sex ratio (the number of men per 100 women) of all interstate movers for the period 1981-86 was 106.4, whereas the sex ratio of the population as a whole at the census was 99.8. The sex ratio of movers into and out of most States did not vary much from the overall average, except in Western Australia and the Northern Territory where there were more than 110 men for every 100 women moving. Sex ratios of more than 120 were recorded for the one-way flows from Queensland to the Northern Territory, from the Northern Territory to Western Australia, and from Western Australia to Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 2.4 SEX RATIOS(a) OF INTERSTATE MOVERS(b) BY STATE OF ARRIVAL AND STATE OF DEPARTURE, 1981-86

State of usual residence at 30 June 1981	State of usual residence at 30 June 1986								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
NSW	..	104.5	104.5	106.6	108.7	101.9	117.9	99.4	104.7
Vic.	106.3	..	105.3	103.4	108.5	103.3	119.4	108.8	106.3
Qld	104.2	106.5	..	110.3	118.3	105.0	124.1	110.3	107.9
SA	107.0	101.0	107.7	..	105.6	99.9	107.5	112.8	105.4
WA	116.2	108.4	121.7	112.8	..	102.0	117.5	123.6	114.7
Tas.	103.7	97.4	108.3	103.3	112.3	..	105.4	107.2	104.0
NT	112.9	119.4	115.7	109.3	122.3	116.7	..	111.6	115.1
ACT	99.7	101.8	101.6	101.0	99.9	105.7	114.7	..	100.8
Total	105.7	104.6	106.2	106.8	110.3	103.2	116.4	104.3	106.4

(a) Men per 100 women. (b) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged 0-4 years at 30 June 1986.

Source: *Unpublished data*

... higher education, greater mobility

Of the 584,000 interstate movers aged 15 years and over, 56 per cent had no post-school qualifications, a proportion similar to that for the population as a whole. Their mobility rate of 47 per 1,000 was therefore comparable to the overall mobility rate of 52 per 1,000. Among people with qualifications however, mobility rates were much higher, varying from 56 per 1,000 people with trade certificates to 97 per 1,000 people with higher degrees. The relationship between greater mobility and higher level of education was similar whether people were employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.

**TABLE 2.5 INTERSTATE MOVERS, 1981-86, AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a):
LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND QUALIFICATIONS, 1986**

Qualification	Labour force status				Total (b)
	Employed	Unemployed	In labour force	Not in labour force	
	— '000 —				
Higher degree	4.8	0.2	5.0	0.5	5.5
Graduate diploma	4.6	0.2	4.9	0.8	5.7
Bachelor degree	32.4	1.6	34.0	4.4	38.5
Diploma	17.8	1.2	19.0	5.6	24.7
Trade certificate	47.0	6.5	53.5	9.1	63.0
Other certificate	41.0	4.1	45.1	14.2	59.7
Not classifiable	1.7	0.2	2.0	0.5	2.4
Not recognised or inadequately described	15.0	2.4	17.3	6.1	23.7
No qualifications	163.7	39.2	202.9	119.4	324.8
Not stated	16.1	3.1	19.3	15.1	36.1
Total	344.1	58.8	402.9	175.8	584.0
	— mobility rate(c) —				
Higher degree	98	189	99	82	97
Graduate diploma	72	167	74	79	75
Bachelor degree	92	160	94	86	93
Diploma	61	145	64	60	63
Trade certificate	55	125	59	45	56
Other certificate	67	138	70	64	69
Not classifiable	76	133	80	57	74
Not recognised or inadequately described	57	112	62	47	57
No qualifications	49	92	54	39	47
Not stated	43	79	47	31	38
Total	56	99	59	41	52

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes labour force status not stated. (c) Interstate movers per 1,000 population in the same category.

Source: Unpublished data

... unemployed have been more mobile

The mobility rate varied with labour force status. The mobility rate of people who were unemployed at the 1986 Census was 99 and 189 for unemployed people with higher degrees. People who were not in the labour force had a much lower rate of 41. Of the 402,900 interstate movers in the labour force at 30 June 1986, 58,800 or 15 per cent were unemployed. This compares with an unemployment rate of 9 per cent for the labour force as a whole.

... effect on States and Territories

Information on people's reasons for moving interstate was not collected in the census but it is known from other sources, such as ABS Internal Migration Survey (Cat. No. 3408.0), that employment related reasons are among the most important motivating factors. Some implications of the effects of movers on the labour force of the States and Territories can be obtained by looking at their labour force status at the time of the 1986 Census. Of course this does not necessarily reflect their labour force status at the time of their move.

TABLE 2.6 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION, 1981-86, PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS, 1986 ('000)

<i>Labour force status 1986</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Arrivals</i>									
Employed	80.4	61.3	84.7	26.9	32.9	10.1	19.3	28.5	344.1
Unemployed	13.7	7.2	20.8	5.0	6.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	58.8
In labour force	94.1	68.6	105.5	32.0	39.3	12.2	21.3	30.0	402.9
Not in labour force	42.3	27.4	56.5	14.3	15.6	6.6	4.8	8.6	175.8
Total(b)	137.6	96.9	163.4	46.6	55.4	19.0	26.3	38.9	584.0
<i>Departures</i>									
Employed	107.9	72.5	55.7	33.4	26.9	13.4	13.1	21.2	344.1
Unemployed	18.8	13.7	9.6	5.4	4.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	58.8
In labour force	126.7	86.2	65.4	38.7	31.5	15.8	15.4	23.5	402.9
Not in labour force	58.0	42.5	27.1	15.1	10.7	5.7	6.5	10.3	175.8
Total(b)	186.4	129.9	93.4	54.3	42.5	21.5	22.1	34.0	584.0
<i>Net</i>									
Employed	-27.6	-11.2	28.9	-6.4	6.0	-3.3	6.3	7.3	..
Unemployed	-5.0	-6.5	11.1	-0.3	1.8	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	..
In labour force	-32.6	-17.7	40.1	-6.8	7.8	-3.4	5.9	6.6	..
Not in labour force	-15.7	-15.1	29.4	-0.8	4.9	0.9	-1.9	-1.7	..
Total(b)	-48.8	-33.0	69.9	-7.7	12.9	-2.5	4.1	4.9	..

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes labour force status not stated.

Source: Unpublished data

Overall, 59 per cent of interstate movers aged 15 years and over were employed at the census, 10 per cent were unemployed and 30 per cent were not in the labour force. These figures compare with 56 per cent, 6 per cent and 39 per cent respectively for all people aged 15 years and over.

Among people who moved to Queensland and Tasmania, 35 per cent were not in the labour force while movers to the two Territories had particularly high rates of labour force participation, 82 per cent for the Northern Territory and 78 per cent for the Australian Capital Territory. These figures, when considered with the age distribution of interstate movers (Tables 2.2 and 2.3) suggest that movement to these regions was connected with retirement or work opportunities.

Movement within States

People who move within the same State or Territory (intrastate migration) as well as people who move between States affect the growth of cities, towns and local regions. Of the people counted at the 1986 Census who were resident in Australia in 1981, 5.5 million had changed their place of usual residence since 1981. Of these 4.8 million had moved within the same State or Territory. Limited data from the 1986 Census for the period 1981-86 showed that the contribution that intrastate migration made to population distribution was significant. Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane experienced net losses to the non-metropolitan areas of their States of 25,300, 25,400 and 8,700 people respectively. Adelaide and Perth made net gains of 2,100 and 8,000. No data are available for Tasmania and the two Territories. Non-metropolitan regions to experience significant net gains from intrastate migration were Hunter (9,500), Richmond-Tweed (9,000) and Mid-North Coast (17,300) in New South Wales, Northern Victoria (10,900) and Eastern Victoria (12,200); and North and West Moreton (11,500) and South and East Moreton (8,500) in Queensland.

**Total movement within Australia
... State capital cities**

The only State capital city to gain population from both interstate (16,200) and intrastate (8,000) migration was Perth, and the total net gain of 24,200 for the 1981-86 period was the highest of the State capitals. Brisbane, although it lost population to the non-metropolitan area, gained 30,700 from interstate migration, resulting in a combined net gain from internal migration of 22,000. Both Sydney and Melbourne experienced net losses from interstate and intrastate migration resulting in combined net losses of 61,200 and 50,800 respectively. Adelaide's net gain from intrastate migration (2,100) was offset by a net loss through interstate migration (2,700).

... non-metropolitan regions

The combined effect of interstate and intrastate migration on non-metropolitan regions differed markedly from State to State. In New South Wales there was a strong drift of population away from the western half of the State with a combined net interstate and intrastate migration loss of 36,900. On the other hand, combined internal migration flows resulted in considerable net gains for the coastal regions of Mid-North Coast (17,800), Richmond-Tweed (10,100), Hunter (5,000) and South Eastern (4,900). The bulk of these gains arose from intrastate movement, both from Sydney and from the western half of the State.

The non-metropolitan regions of Victoria tended to gain population from intrastate migration but these gains were partly offset by net losses through interstate migration. Large combined net gains were experienced by the eastern (10,100) and northern (7,100) sections of the State as people moved from Melbourne to those regions. Slight combined net losses were experienced in the western part of the State.

Queensland was the only State in which all non-metropolitan regions made net gains from interstate migration. Intrastate migration resulted in small net losses in the western and northern regions and large net gains in Moreton. The combined result of both interstate and intrastate migration showed very large net gains in South and East Moreton (33,500) and North and West Moreton (23,100) with small net gains in most other regions. The Brisbane-Moreton region of Queensland was by far the most popular destination of Australians who changed address in the 1981-86 period.

In South Australia and Western Australia the non-metropolitan areas both lost population (7,900 and 8,500 respectively) from the combined effects of interstate and intrastate migration. In South Australia the losses were mainly to other States while in Western Australia the losses were to Perth.

TABLE 2.7 NET GAIN/LOSS FROM INTERNAL MIGRATION, SELECTED
REGIONS, 1981-86(a)
(^{'000})

<i>State/Region</i>	<i>Interstate</i>	<i>Intrastate</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>New South Wales</i>			
Sydney	-35.9	-25.3	-61.2
Hunter	-4.5	9.5	5.0
Illawarra	-6.1	4.8	-1.3
South Eastern	2.3	2.6	4.9
Richmond-Tweed	1.1	9.0	10.1
Mid-North Coast	0.5	17.3	17.8
Other	-19.0	-17.9	-36.9
<i>Victoria</i>			
Melbourne	-25.5	-25.4	-50.8
SW Victoria	-3.0	2.4	-0.6
NW Victoria	-2.8	1.7	-1.0
N Victoria	-3.7	10.9	7.1
E Victoria	-2.1	12.2	10.1
Other	-2.7	-2.0	-4.6
<i>Queensland</i>			
Brisbane	30.7	-8.7	22.0
S and E Moreton	25.0	8.5	33.5
N and W Moreton	11.7	11.5	23.1
Wide Bay Burnett	5.9	0.5	6.3
Darling Downs-South West	4.4	-4.0	0.4
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	5.6	-1.3	4.3
Other	4.9	-6.4	-1.5
<i>South Australia</i>			
Adelaide	-2.7	2.1	-0.7
Other	-5.8	-2.1	-7.9
<i>Western Australia</i>			
Perth	16.2	8.0	24.2
Other	-0.5	-8.0	-8.5

(a) Excludes persons whose SLA of usual residence in 1981 was not stated.

Source: Table UX0002

APPENDIX A

Publications in the series

Cat.No.	Title
2501.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia in Brief (Dec. 1987)</i>
2502.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia in Profile (Aug. 1988)</i>
2503.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People</i>
2504.0	<i>Census 86 — Population Growth and Distribution in Australia (including internal migration)</i>
2505.0	<i>Census 86 — Multicultural Australia</i>
2506.0	<i>Census 86 — Australian Families and Households (Sept. 1989)</i>
2507.0	<i>Census 86 — Rural Australia</i>
2508.0	<i>Census 86 — Ageing Australia</i>
2509.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia's Caravan Park Dwellers</i>
2510.0	<i>Census 86 — Religion in Australia</i>
2511.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia's One Parent Families</i>
2512.0	<i>Census 86 — Housing in Australia</i>
2513.0	<i>Census 86 — Australians at Work</i>
2514.0	<i>Census 86 — Fertility in Australia</i>

APPENDIX B

Guide to data sources

A number of sources given for tables and figures in this publication are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviated titles follows.

CDATA86	Small area data from the 1981 and 1986 Population Censuses on CD ROM (Cat. No. 2522.0)
CDMF	<i>Census 86 Collection District Master File</i> (Cat. No. 2187.0)
CSD*	Twenty one page format consisting of 70 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.
USG*	Five page format consisting of 28 tables based on census count at place of usual residence (i.e. where people usually live).
UX	Cross-classified table on microfiche.

If you require further information about the data sources used in this publication, refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) available free of charge from the nearest ABS office (see Appendix D for addresses and telephone numbers) or contact an Information Officer.

* Available for a range of geographic areas. Refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) for further information.

APPENDIX C

Data Quality

Reporting errors

Responses to census questions are influenced by the perceptions, attitudes and understanding of the respondent. Although data are edited for inconsistencies, errors in interpretation and reporting that cannot be corrected will still occur. In addition, errors may also occur in the processing and compilation of the responses.

Under-enumeration

While every effort is made to minimise under-enumeration it inevitably occurs. Some reasons for this are the inadvertent omission of very young children, treatment by the collector of an occupied dwelling as unoccupied, and failure of the census collector to find a dwelling. Refusal to complete a census schedule is not a significant cause of under-enumeration.

Introduced random error

Data in this publication may have been randomly adjusted in an unbiased manner to avoid the release of confidential information, which could identify an individual person or household.

The smaller the value the greater is the chance of randomisation, and the greater the relative adjustment. With very small cells therefore the data will be insufficiently exact to support analysis, and in any case, small numbers in the original data may be significantly affected by such things as reporting errors.

Other sources of data

The ABS conducts an on-going series of household surveys on both labour force and social topics. Results are published regularly and are also available in unpublished form. These surveys provide scope for more detailed analyses of particular topics than can be obtained from census data. Examples are:

Labour Force Survey
Household Expenditure Survey
Income Distribution Survey
Child Care Survey

The ABS also publishes data obtained as administrative by-product from other government bodies. Examples of these are school statistics and birth, death and marriage statistics.

APPENDIX D

Inquiries

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