Australian Bureau of Statistics

2009

3301.0

BIRTHS

AUSTRALIA

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CONTENTS

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Claire Wyatt on Canberra (02) 6252 6735.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This publication brings together statistics for live births and fertility in Australia. Data refer to births registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated.

Populations used in the calculation of fertility rates for 2006 and earlier years are the final estimated resident population by age and sex based on results of the *2006 Census of Population and Housing* (2006 Census) and earlier censuses. Fertility rates for 2008 are calculated using revised 30 June 2008 estimated resident population, while rates for 2009 are calculated using preliminary 30 June 2009 estimated resident population.

State or territory relates to the state or territory of usual residence, unless otherwise stated.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Fertility rates for 2008 have been revised using revised 30 June 2008 estimated resident population.

The release of sub-state data in Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 of the data cubes, available on the ABS website, has been deferred until 9th December 2010.

ROUNDING

Calculations as shown in the commentary sections of this publication are based on unrounded figures. Calculations using rounded figures may differ from those published.

It is recommended that when using information presented in this publication, the relevant statistics be rounded. All data are affected by errors in reporting and processing. Birth registration data are also affected by delays in registration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The efforts of Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages to improve the data quality, coverage and timeliness of birth registration information, processes and systems are noted and valued by the ABS.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where necessary, tables have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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BIRTHS, AUSTRALIA (cat. no. 3301.0) DATA CUBES AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS WEBSITE

RELATED DATA CUBES AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS WEBSITE

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL POPULATION STATISTICS
(cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASFR	age-specific fertility rate
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
Aust.	Australia
cat. no.	Catalogue number
ERP	estimated resident population
LGA	local government area
no.	number
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NPDC	National Perinatal Data Collection
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
Tas.	Tasmania
TFR	total fertility rate
UN	United Nations
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

CHAPTER 1 MAIN FEATURES

FERTILITY RATES

- In 2009, Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.90 babies per woman, a small decrease from 1.96 babies per woman in 2008.
- Fertility rates decreased slightly for most age groups between 2008 and 2009.
- Fertility rates increased from 2008 for women aged 40–44 years and remained the same for women aged 45–49 years.
- Fertility rates were highest for women aged 30–34 years, recording 124 babies per 1,000 women.
- At the national level, the teenage fertility rate was 17 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years in 2009.

BIRTHS

- There were 295,700 births registered in Australia in 2009, approximately 900 (0.3%) fewer than the number registered in 2008 (296,600).
- The median age of all mothers for births registered in 2009 was 30.6 years, while the median age of fathers was 33.0 years, both slightly younger than in recent years.
- In 2009, 65% of births were to parents in a registered marriage.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

- Total fertility rates (TFRs) for all states and territories decreased in 2009, except for Queensland (see *Chapter 4: Effect of delayed birth registrations in Australia*).
- In 2009, Tasmania recorded the highest TFR (2.18 babies per woman) and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the lowest (1.74 babies per woman).
- Fertility rates were highest for women aged 30–34 years in all states and territories in 2009, with the exception of Tasmania, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest fertility rate.
- The number of births in 2009 decreased slightly for most states and territories, with Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory recording increases of 5% and 1% respectively.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS AND FERTILITY RATES

- There were 15,800 births registered in Australia during 2009 (5% of all births) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration statement.
- In 2009, the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women increased to 2.57 babies per woman, up from 2.52 babies per woman in 2008.

CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

During 2009, there were 295,700 births registered in Australia, born to 291,200 mothers. This was 900 (0.3%) births fewer than in 2008 (296,600 births). In 2009, all states and territories recorded decreases in the number of births registered, except for Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory which recorded increases of 5% and 1% respectively.

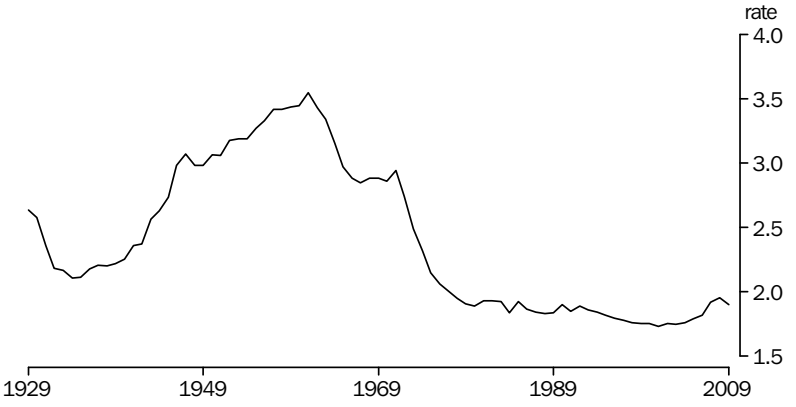
TRENDS IN NATIONAL FERTILITY RATES

The total fertility rate (TFR) represents the average number of babies that a woman could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime, assuming current age-specific fertility rates were experienced. The TFR measures the average number of children per woman, including these who have no children, rather than the average number of children per mother. The TFR does not measure completed fertility (the average number of live births experienced by a cohort of women over their reproductive life).

In 2009, Australia's TFR was 1.90 babies per woman, down slightly from the 2008 TFR of 1.96 babies per woman which was the highest recorded since 1977. Trends in the TFR over the past 80 years are shown in graph 2.1.

After reaching a TFR of 3.1 during the early 1920s, Australian fertility rates were relatively low during the Great Depression of the 1930s, falling to 2.1 babies per woman in 1934. In 1961, at the height of the 'baby boom', the TFR peaked at 3.5 babies per woman. Fertility rates then fell sharply during the early 1960s as the oral contraceptive pill became available.

2.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Australia—1929 to 2009



(a) Births per woman.

TRENDS IN NATIONAL FERTILITY RATES *continued*

Between 1966 and 1971, the TFR remained around 2.9 babies per woman. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in late 1971 had a substantial impact on women's ability to control their fertility (Carmichael, 1998). Subsequently, a fall in births to young women contributed to a further decrease in the TFR and an increase in the median age of mothers (graph 2.6).

In 1976, the TFR fell to replacement level (2.1), and continued to fall as increasing numbers of women chose to delay or forego having children. The TFR then stabilised somewhat during the 1980s, before resuming a more gradual decline during the 1990s. The TFR reached a low of 1.73 babies per woman in 2001 before increasing to a thirty-year high of 1.96 babies per woman in 2008. In 2009, the TFR declined slightly to 1.90 babies per woman.

Tempo effects

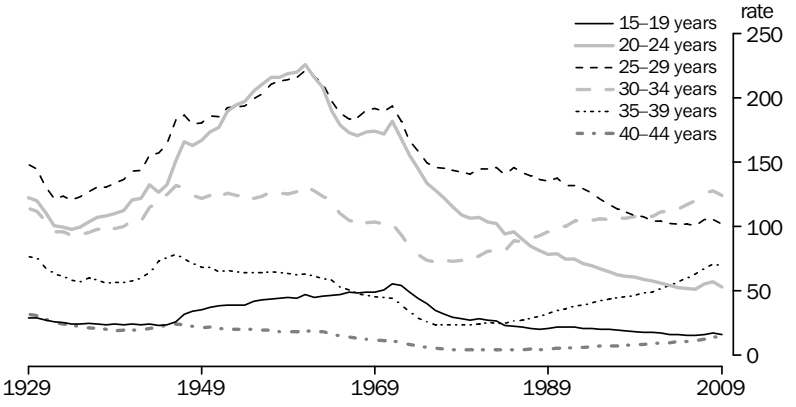
Care should be exercised in interpreting trends over time using the 'period' TFR as presented in this publication. While the TFR is widely used as a summary measure of a population's current and historical fertility trends, it does not reflect tempo changes in fertility. Tempo changes are the effect of successive cohorts of women who delay or forego having children only to catch up in subsequent years. Analysis of age-specific fertility rates and parity may assist in understanding tempo effects in fertility over time.

AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES

The slight decrease in Australia's TFR between 2008 and 2009 was the result of the decline in the age-specific fertility rates for all age groups, except for women aged 40–44 years for whom the fertility rate increased, and women aged 45–49 years for whom the fertility rate remained the same.

Over the past few decades, the decline in Australia's TFR has been associated with the tendency for women to have their babies at older ages. The median age of all women who registered a birth in 1999 was 29.7 years; by 2006 this had increased to 30.8 years and has since declined to 30.6 years in 2009.

2.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Selected age groups, Australia—1929 to 2009



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES *continued*

Until the late 1970s, the distribution of fertility rates across age groups was relatively stable, with each age group peaking and troughing together, although peaks were more pronounced for some age groups than others (graph 2.2). Women aged 25–29 years have had the highest fertility rates over the past 80 years, followed by women aged 20–24 years. Over the past two to three decades, fertility rates amongst younger women have been declining.

The transition to an older age-specific fertility pattern is illustrated by the shift in peak fertility rates, from women aged 25–29 years in 1999 to women aged 30–34 years in 2000. Since then, women aged 30–34 years have continued to record the highest fertility rate of all age groups, with 124 babies per 1,000 women in 2009. Further, since 2003 the fertility rate for women aged 35–39 years has exceeded that of women aged 20–24 years.

REPLACEMENT FERTILITY

Since 1976, the total fertility rate for Australia has been below replacement level. That is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life (measured by the TFR) has been insufficient to replace herself and her partner. The TFR required for replacement is currently considered to be around 2.1 babies per woman. However, as the level of fertility required to achieve replacement is dependent on the number of women who survive to reproductive ages, replacement fertility has declined with decreases in female mortality. Even if female mortality declined to zero for women until the end of their reproductive lives, the replacement level would still be 2.05 (1.05 male and 1.0 female babies) – higher than the 2009 TFR of 1.90 babies per woman.

COMPLETED FERTILITY

Completed fertility refers to the number of live births that a woman born in a particular year has had by the end of her reproductive life. One limitation of this measure of fertility is that it cannot be observed until a woman's reproductive life is complete. To overcome this limitation, a measure of completed fertility based on both observed and assumed age-specific fertility rates is used in table 2.3.

Completed fertility rates for women born in the early 1930s are the highest recorded in Australia (3.1 children). These women were the mothers of the 'baby boom' generation. Since then, completed fertility has declined, while the median age of mothers has increased. The 2006 to 2101 issue of *Population Projections, Australia* (cat. no. 3222.0, Series B) assumes completed fertility of women born in 2009 to be 1.8 births per woman.

For more information on completed fertility derived from the 2006 Census, see Chapter 5: How Many Children Do Australian Women Have? in the 2006 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0) .

COMPLETED FERTILITY *continued*

2.3 COMPLETED FERTILITY(a)(b), Year of birth

Year of birth	*Average no. of children*	*Proportion based on projected births*(c)	*Median age*
	no.	%	years
1924	2.8	—	27.7
1934	3.1	—	26.1
1944	2.5	—	25.6
1954	2.3	—	26.7
1964	2.1	0.1	28.6
1974	2.0	16.5	30.4
1984	2.0	78.0	31.0
1994	1.8	99.8	31.5
2004	1.8	100.0	31.6
2009	1.8	100.0	31.7

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Based on age-specific fertility rates. Women who have not yet completed their reproductive years are assumed to experience fertility rates used in Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) based on a total fertility rate of 1.8 babies per woman.

(b) Fertility is assumed to be completed at age 50.

(c) Proportion of the average number of children derived from assumed fertility rates.

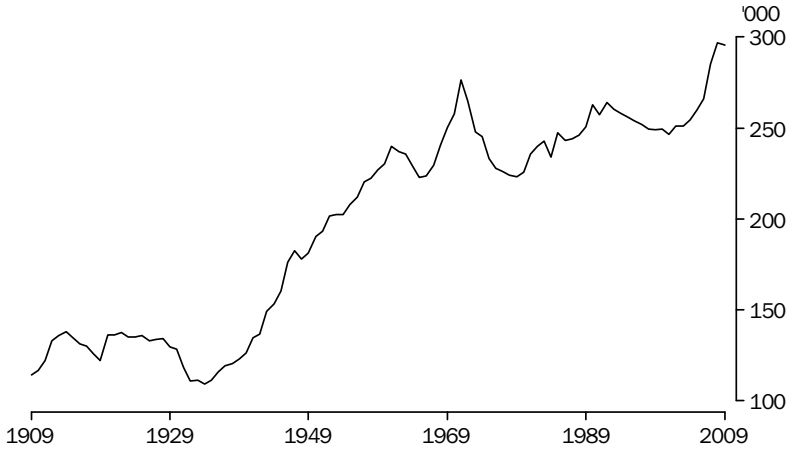
BIRTHS

In 2009, there were 295,700 births registered in Australia, resulting from 291,200 confinements. During the early 1900s, the number of births registered in Australia each year remained under 140,000, with a decline occurring in the early 1930s during the Great Depression. The number of births then increased rapidly, reaching a peak of 276,400 in 1971, falling sharply during the remainder of the 1970s, then increasing from the early 1980s to reach another peak in 1992 of 264,200 births.

Following 1992, the annual number of birth registrations decreased, falling to 246,400 in 2001. The number of births then increased to a new record of 296,600 in 2008, the highest number of births registered within a calendar year in Australia. In 2009, the number of births registered declined slightly to 295,700 births.

BIRTHS *continued*

2.4 BIRTHS REGISTERED—1909 to 2009



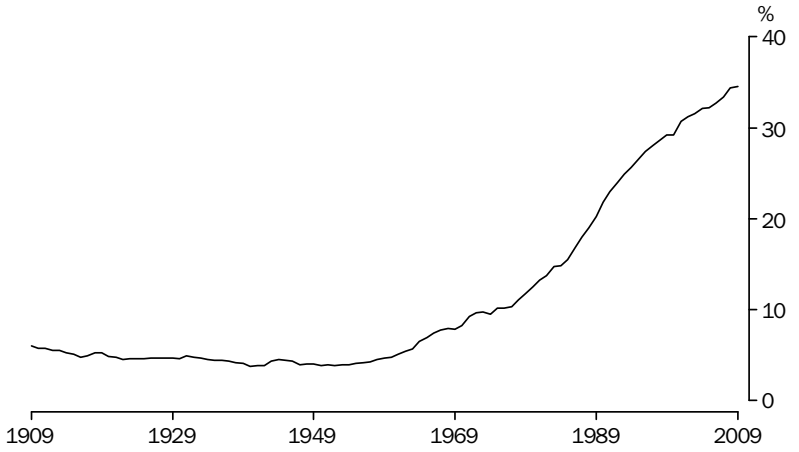
Sex ratio

Just over half (51%) of all births registered in 2009 were male babies, resulting in a sex ratio at birth of 105.8 male births per 100 female births. The sex ratio for all births registered in Australia generally fluctuates at around 105.5 male births per 100 female births.

NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

In 2009, 65% of births were nuptial births; that is, births to parents who were married at the time of the birth (marriage in this publication refers to a registered marriage unless otherwise indicated). Ex-nuptial births accounted for the remaining 35% of births, although many of these births may have been to mothers in de facto relationships. The proportion of ex-nuptial births has been increasing since the 1950s, and has risen strongly over the past three decades.

2.5 EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, Proportion of all births, Australia—1909 to 2009



Acknowledgment of paternity

When a birth is ex-nuptial, there is a possibility that the father may not acknowledge the birth (that is, the father has not signed the birth registration statement). While the number of ex-nuptial births has increased greatly over the past twenty years, the proportion of births for which paternity was not acknowledged has decreased. In 1989, paternity was not acknowledged for around 24% of all ex-nuptial births, however by 2009 this proportion had decreased to 10%. Births where paternity is not acknowledged have decreased from 5% of all births in 1989 to 3% in 2009.

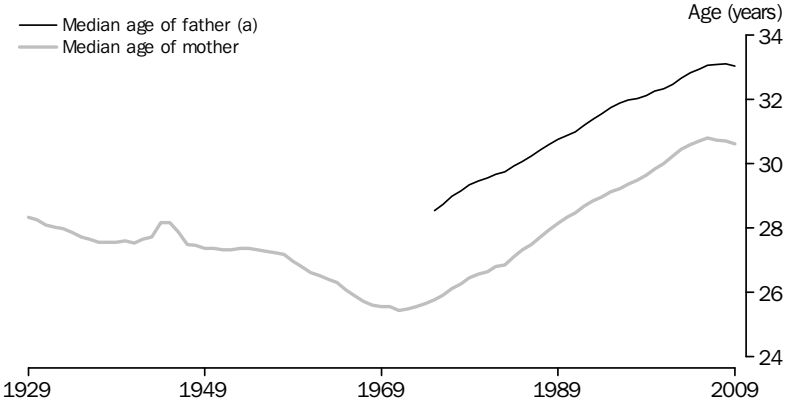
MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

The median age of mothers for all births registered in 2009 was 30.6 years. The median age of women who gave birth in a nuptial relationship was 31.7 years, almost five years older than those who gave birth in an ex-nuptial relationship (27.1 years). Of those who gave birth in an ex-nuptial relationship, the median age of women where paternity was not acknowledged (25.2 years) was lower than where paternity was acknowledged (27.3 years).

Until the 1930s, the median age of mothers giving birth was decreasing. During the 1930s, the median age stabilised, then rose briefly at the end of the Second World War, with an equally sharp decline immediately following the war. The median age of mothers fell substantially over the following three decades, reaching a low of 25.4 years in 1971. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in 1971 was associated with a substantial fall in births to young women and an increase in the median age of mothers. From 1972, the median age of mothers consistently increased, reaching 30.8 years in 2006, the highest on record.

However, data quality investigations during processing of 2007 birth registrations data indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age, may have been slightly overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years (see paragraph 49 of the Explanatory Notes for more information). Despite the uncertainty associated with information on age of mother, the increases in median age of mother apparent since the early 1970s appear to have halted. In 2007 and 2008, the median age remained at 30.7 years, and in 2009 the median age decreased to 30.6 years, the lowest median age recorded since 2004.

2.6 MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS, Australia—1929 to 2009



(a) Data for median age of father are only included from 1975.

MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS *continued*

The median age of fathers has also followed an upward trend since the 1970s. In 2009, the median age of fathers was 33.0 years. The median age of fathers excludes information from births where paternity is not acknowledged (10,000 births in 2009). Data quality investigations during 2007 processing indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age of fathers, may have been slightly overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years (see paragraph 49 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

Between 1989 and 2009, the median age of fathers of nuptial births increased by almost three years, from 31.2 to 34.0 years, while the median age of fathers of ex-nuptial births, who acknowledged the birth of their child, also increased, from 27.2 years to 29.9 years.

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER

Changes in ABS processing of data collected by state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers.

Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the *current* relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007, data on previous births for *all* relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland (see paragraphs 45 to 48 of the Explanatory Notes for more information). Data for 2009 are presented in table 2.7.

Of the states and territories that collect data on all children born to a mother, Western Australia recorded the highest proportion (46%) of first births to the mother (that is, no previous children), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (45%) and New South Wales and South Australia (both 43%).

For mothers who registered a birth in 2009, the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion (35%) of mothers who had had one child previously, while the Northern Territory recorded the highest proportion (29%) of mothers with two or more previous children.

2.7 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother, State and territories—2009

	PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER(a)							
State or territory of registration	*None*	*One*	*Two*	*Three*	*Four*	*Five or more*	*Not stated*	*Total confinements*
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
New South Wales	39 063	30 193	13 193	4 745	1 803	914	—	89 911
Victoria	32 043	24 064	9 973	3 107	973	660	—	70 820
Queensland	33 272	20 033	7 710	2 429	769	611	5	64 829
South Australia	8 397	6 504	2 917	923	400	309	np	19 452
Western Australia	14 098	9 750	4 119	1 449	518	443	—	30 377
Tasmania(b)	1 165	2 032	982	403	138	111	1 700	6 531
Northern Territory	1 487	1 154	565	274	126	109	—	3 715
Australian Capital Territory	2 524	1 974	746	237	76	48	—	5 605

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes all children born to a mother, for all states and territories excluding Victoria and Queensland. For Victoria and Queensland, includes previous children of the current relationship only. For further information see paragraph 46 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Due to the high proportion of confinements in Tasmania for which no information on previous children of the mother was available, data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution.

Age of Mother

During 2009, 44% of confinements were to women who recorded having no previous children on the birth registration statement, excluding births registered in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. In general, younger mothers are more likely to be giving birth to their first child, while older mothers are likely to already have at least one child.

Over one-third (35%) of mothers aged 45–49 years who registered a birth in 2009 recorded no previous children. This was a higher proportion of first births than mothers aged 35–39 years (28%) and 40–44 years (27%).

2.8 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother by age of mother, Australia(a)—2009

	PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER						
	None	*One*	*Two*	*Three*	*Four*	*Five or more*	*Total confinements*(b)
Age of Mother	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
15–19 years(c)	85.8	12.8	1.1	0.2	0.1	—	100.0
20–24 years	59.2	29.3	8.8	2.0	0.5	0.1	100.0
25–29 years	50.3	31.3	12.1	4.3	1.5	0.6	100.0
30–34 years	38.2	36.9	16.0	5.7	2.0	1.2	100.0
35–39 years	28.1	37.4	21.1	7.8	3.3	2.4	100.0
40–44 years	26.7	33.0	20.2	9.3	5.8	5.0	100.0
45–49 years(d)	35.1	20.9	17.6	11.1	6.1	9.1	100.0
Total(e)	***44.0***	***33.3***	***14.5***	***5.1***	***2.0***	***1.2***	***100.0***

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. For further information see paragraph 46 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes births where previous children of the mother is not stated.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and older.

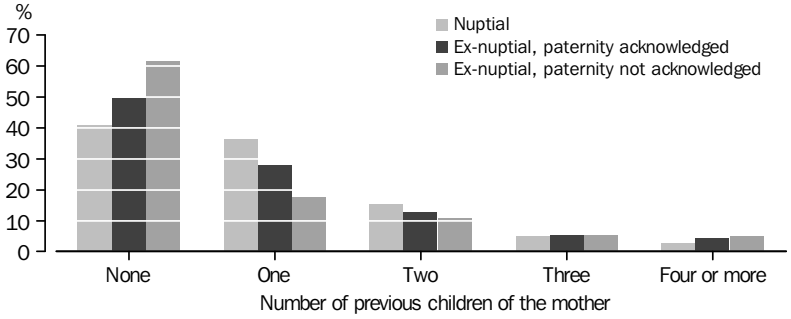
(e) Includes births to mothers where age is not stated.

Nuptiality

In 2009 (excluding births registered in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania), 41% of nuptial confinements, 50% of ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged confinements, and 62% of ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with no previous children.

This pattern is reversed for mothers having their second or third child. In 2009, 36% of nuptial confinements, 28% of ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged confinements, and 18% of ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with one previous child.

2.9 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother(a), Nuptiality, Australia(b)—2009



(a) Excludes confinements for which the number of previous children of the mother was not stated.
(b) Includes all children of the mother. Excludes births registered in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. For further information see paragraph 46 of the Explanatory Notes.

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

The number of confinements resulting in a multiple birth has increased consistently since the 1970s. In 2009, there were 4,400 confinements resulting in a multiple birth; of these, 82 were triplets and 4 were quads or higher order. This was 27% higher than the number recorded in 1989 (3,200 confinements), but 3% lower than the number recorded in 2008 (4,600 confinements).

2.10 MULTIPLE BIRTHS, States and territories—2009

State or territory of usual residence	*Single*	*Twins*	*Triplets and higher order*	*Total multiple births*	*Total confinements*
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
New South Wales	90 086	1 310	28	1 338	91 424
Victoria	68 591	1 133	21	1 154	69 745
Queensland	64 028	1 014	19	1 033	65 061
South Australia	19 158	283	4	287	19 445
Western Australia	29 999	435	8	443	30 442
Tasmania	6 488	59	3	62	6 550
Northern Territory	3 712	np	np	53	3 765
Australian Capital Territory	4 711	np	np	74	4 785
Australia(a)	***286 796***	***4 358***	***86***	***4 444***	***291 240***

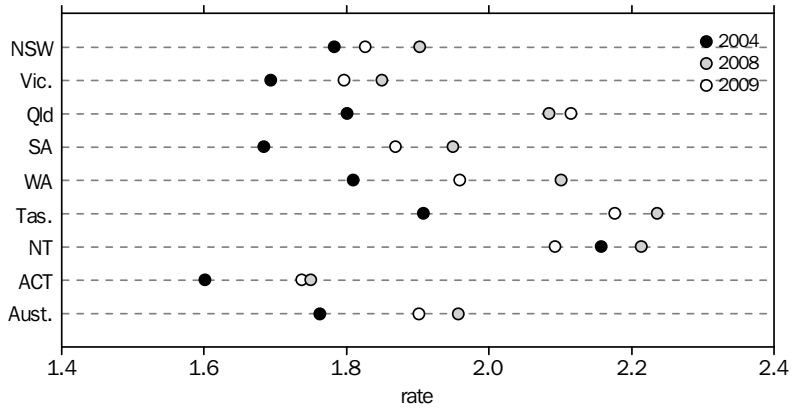
np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
(a) Includes Other Territories.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

Total fertility rate

Total fertility rates varied substantially between the states and territories in 2009, ranging from 1.74 babies per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.18 babies per woman in Tasmania. In 2009, all states and territories recorded a decrease in TFR from 2008, with the exception of Queensland which recorded a slight increase in TFR. However, all states and territories, except the Northern Territory, have recorded an overall increase in the TFR since 2004.

2.11 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), States and territories



(a) Births per woman.

Queensland's TFR increased from 1.80 babies per woman in 2004 to 2.08 babies per woman in 2008 before further increasing to 2.12 babies per woman in 2009. However, caution should be exercised when interpreting recent increases in Queensland's TFR (see paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Explanatory Notes and *Chapter 4: Effect of delayed birth registrations in Australia* for more information).

Age-specific fertility rates

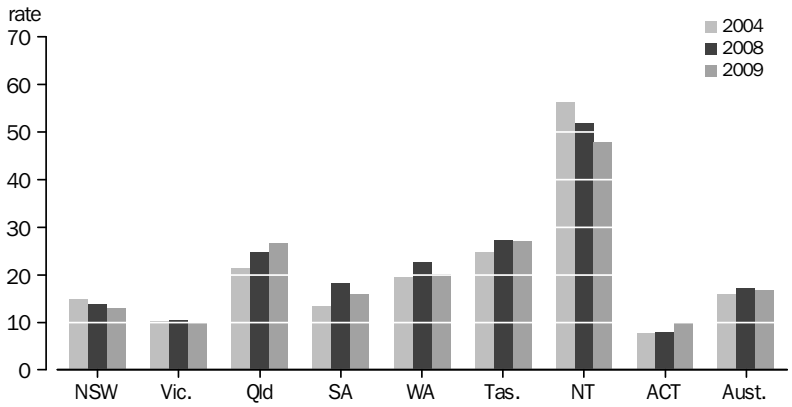
In 2009, fertility rates were highest for women aged 30–34 years in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest fertility rate. Between 2008 and 2009, most states recorded decreases in fertility rates for women aged 30–34 years, while Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all recorded small increases. South Australia recorded the largest decrease, with women aged 30–34 years having 120 babies per 1,000 women in 2009 (down from 127 babies per 1,000 women in 2008), followed by Western Australia (125 babies per 1,000 women in 2009, down from 131 babies per 1,000 women in 2008).

Teenage fertility rates

At the national level, the teenage fertility rate in 2009 was 17 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, however, the rate differs amongst the states and territories. In 2009, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria recorded the lowest teenage fertility rates in Australia (both 10 babies per 1,000 women), while the Northern Territory recorded the highest (48 babies per 1,000 women).

Teenage fertility rates continued

2.12 TEENAGE FERTILITY RATES(a), States and territories



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

The majority of births to teenage mothers in Australia in 2009 were to women aged 18 and 19 years (27% and 42% respectively), which is reflected in the fertility rates for women at these ages. In 2009, the fertility rates for women aged 18 and 19 years were 22.5 babies per 1,000 women and 33.6 babies per 1,000 women respectively. In comparison, only 4% of births to teenage mothers were to women aged 15 years or younger, resulting in a fertility rate of 3.4 babies per 1,000 women aged 15 years.

Births

The three most populous states accounted for over three-quarters (77%) of births registered in Australia in 2009: 92,800 in New South Wales (31%), 70,900 in Victoria (24%) and 66,100 in Queensland (22%). These proportions reflect the proportions of the Australian female population in reproductive ages living in these states.

Between 2008 and 2009, all states and territories recorded decreases in registered births (table 2.13), except for Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Caution should be exercised when comparing year-to-year changes in state and territory data as changes in Registry processing systems may impact on these data (see paragraphs 10 to 12 and 26 to 30 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

2.13 BIRTHS REGISTERED, States and territories—2008 and 2009

			CHANGE	
	2008	*2009*	*2008–2009*	*2008–2009*
	no.	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	94 684	92 783	–1 901	–2.0
Victoria	71 175	70 920	–255	–0.4
Queensland	63 132	66 097	2 965	4.7
South Australia	20 229	19 734	–495	–2.4
Western Australia	31 850	30 878	–972	–3.1
Tasmania	6 775	6 626	–149	–2.2
Northern Territory	3 942	3 819	–123	–3.1
Australian Capital Territory	4 804	4 858	54	1.1
Australia(a)	***296 621***	***295 738***	***–883***	***–0.3***

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Median age of parents at confinement

Of the states and territories, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the oldest median ages of mother (31.5 years and 31.4 years respectively). The Northern Territory had the youngest mothers, with a median age of 28.3 years, followed by Tasmania (29.1 years). The median age of all mothers who registered a birth in Australia in 2009 was 30.6 years.

The Northern Territory and Tasmania also had the youngest fathers in 2009, with median ages of 31.5 and 31.7 years respectively. Victoria had the oldest fathers, with a median age of 33.7 years, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (33.6 years). For Australia, the median age of all fathers in 2009 (where age is known) was 33.0 years.

Nuptiality

In 2009, Victoria recorded the highest proportion of births to parents in a registered marriage (72%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71%) and New South Wales (70%).

The highest proportions of ex-nuptial births were recorded in the Northern Territory (63%) and Tasmania (51%), however the number of ex-nuptial births in Tasmania may be understated (see paragraphs 31 to 33 of the Explanatory Notes for more information). The Northern Territory also recorded the highest proportion of births where paternity was not acknowledged (17%), followed by Queensland (5%).

INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

ABS birth statistics are sourced from birth registration systems administered by the state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, based on data provided on a registration form completed by the parent(s) of the child. Registration of births is compulsory in Australia under relevant state/territory legislation. Amendments to the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, which took effect from 1 July 2007, require the registration of, or application for, registration of the birth of a child, as a condition for applying for the Baby Bonus.

There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow-up activity to obtain missing information on the form, or resource limitations). For more information see paragraphs 10 to 12 and 27 to 28 of the Explanatory Notes.

The following analysis considers whether improvements in the timeliness of registration of births have occurred since 1 July 2007.

Births registered in the year of occurrence

Of the 295,700 births registered in 2009, 88% (260,600) occurred in 2009. The remaining 12% (35,100) occurred in 2008 or earlier years. Prior to 2005, the proportion of births registered in the year they occurred was generally declining. Of all births registered in 1989, 90% occurred in 1989 with the remainder occurring in earlier years. By 2002, this proportion had declined to 86%. In 2005 the proportion increased to 89%, largely as a result of changes to follow-up procedures introduced by the New South Wales registry. In 2006 and 2007, the proportion of births registered in the year of occurrence declined, due largely to a project undertaken by the Queensland Registry to follow-up and register previously unregistered births (see paragraphs 27 to 30 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

Births registered in the year of occurrence continued

2.14 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE YEAR OF OCCURRENCE, Australia—1989 to 2009

Average interval between occurrence and registration of births

In order to analyse changes in the interval between the occurrence and registration of births, monthly intervals between the occurrence and registration of births were averaged over six month periods. The average interval between the occurrence and registration of births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2006 to 2009 is shown in table 2.15.

For Australia, the average intervals for each six-month period beginning 1 July 2007 were similar to earlier periods, indicating no improvement in the timeliness of registration of births.

Among the states and territories, average intervals varied widely for each six-month period since 1 July 2007, from 0.9 months for births registered in the Northern Territory for January to June 2008, to 5.0 months for births registered in Queensland for July to December 2008 and 2009. A comparison of average intervals over time shows some year-to-year volatility, however there is no indication that average intervals since 1 July 2007 have decreased compared with earlier periods.

It should be noted however that changes in timeliness of registration of births occurring after 1 July 2007 may be masked by other factors such as changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by state and territory registries. Accordingly, it is unclear whether the amendments to the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, referred to above, have improved the timeliness of the registration of births.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of births continued

2.15 BIRTHS, Average interval between occurrence and registration(a)

State or territory of registration	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	First half	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.5
Victoria	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0
Queensland	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.6	5.0	4.7	5.0
South Australia	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
Western Australia	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4
Tasmania	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.7
Northern Territory	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4
Australia	***2.3***	***2.2***	***2.2***	***2.3***	***2.5***	***2.4***	***2.5***	***2.5***

(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as an interval of 72 months.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of Indigenous births

In general, average intervals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births are significantly larger than intervals for all births. The average interval between the occurrence and registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2006 to 2009 is shown in table 2.16. As with all births, the average interval varies widely among the states and territories.

In contrast to total births, the average intervals for each six-month period beginning 1 January 2008 are higher than earlier periods, indicating no improvement in the timeliness of registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births. Rather it appears that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births that have occurred in earlier periods and have not been registered were being registered in 2008 and 2009 leading to higher average intervals in several states and territories.

2.16 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS, Average interval between occurrence and registration(a)

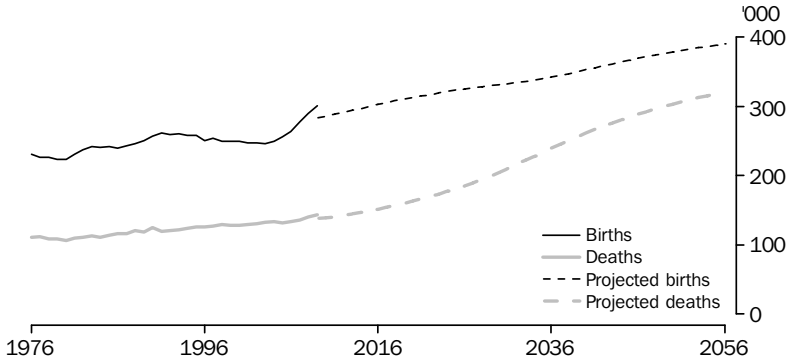
State or territory of registration	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	First half	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*	*First half*	*Second half*
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	3.3	3.8	3.2	2.4	3.4	2.4	2.6	2.7
Victoria	6.2	4.7	6.2	6.6	4.9	6.3	9.4	9.9
Queensland	9.7	9.8	12.0	8.0	12.9	16.0	14.6	17.1
South Australia	8.4	9.4	9.4	5.5	7.9	9.1	8.8	9.7
Western Australia	10.8	10.0	9.8	9.9	10.9	10.8	11.2	11.5
Tasmania	2.4	2.5	6.3	4.7	4.0	6.7	1.9	2.8
Northern Territory	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.3	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	2.8	2.6	3.9	3.3	5.8	2.5	7.1	6.4
Australia	***6.5***	***6.4***	***7.4***	***5.7***	***7.7***	***8.4***	***8.7***	***9.8***

(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as an interval of 72 months.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION CHANGE

Births are an important component of population change. In 2009, there were roughly twice as many births as deaths. Although the number of births per woman is low, there are enough women currently in childbearing ages to retain a relatively high total number of births. Conversely, there are relatively few people at older ages, resulting in a relatively low number of deaths per year. As the population ages, the difference between numbers of births and deaths will decrease. Based on Series B of the most recent ABS population projections (*Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101*, cat. no. 3222.0), the number of births is projected to remain higher than the number of deaths throughout the projection period.

2.17 ACTUAL AND PROJECTED BIRTHS AND DEATHS—Year ended 30 June, 1976 to 2056



Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
Australian Demographic Statistics, March Quarter 2010 (cat. no. 3101.0)
Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) (Series B)

2.18 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a), Australia—2004 to 2009

	Births(b)	Deaths(b)	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Population at end of period	Population increase(c)	
	'000	*'000*	*'000*	*'000*	*'000*	*'000*	*%*
2004	248.6	132.4	116.2	106.4	20 252.1	240.3	1.2
2005	263.4	131.4	132.0	137.0	20 544.1	291.9	1.4
2006	268.5	134.5	134.0	182.2	20 873.7	329.6	1.6
2007	r285.3	r139.8	r145.5	r244.1	r21 263.3	r389.6	r1.9
2008	r294.1	r142.5	r151.6	r315.7	r21 730.6	r467.3	r2.2
2009	p297.9	p140.7	p157.2	p277.7	p22 165.5	p434.9	p2.0

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r revised
(a) Calendar year.
(b) For 2008 and earlier years, births and deaths in this table are based on year of occurrence, for population estimation purposes. For 2009, a combination of data based on quarter of occurrence (for the March and June quarters) and quarter of registration (for the September and December quarters) is used. Numbers of births in this table will therefore differ from data elsewhere in this publication.
(c) Population increase will not necessarily equal the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration due to intercensal discrepancy. See Glossary for more information.

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

INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY RATES

According to the United Nations, the projected world average TFR for 2005–2010 is 2.6 babies per woman, declining from the relatively constant 5 births per woman that existed until the 1960s. However, TFRs for individual countries vary considerably. There are many factors that can influence a country's fertility rate, such as differences in social and economic development and contraceptive prevalence. In general, less developed countries have higher fertility rates than more developed countries.

Australia's TFR, according to the United Nations, for 2005–2010 of 1.8 babies per woman is well below the world average (2.6), although it is above the average TFR for developed countries (1.6). According to United Nations projections, a number of European and developed Asian countries will have low fertility rates in 2005–2010. Hong Kong's projected TFR of 1.0 is one of the lowest in the world. Middle Eastern and African countries have the highest fertility rates, with Niger (7.2), Afghanistan (6.6) and Uganda (6.4) some of the highest.

Projected fertility rates for the United States of America and New Zealand (2.1 and 2.0 respectively) are higher than Australia, while the rate for Canada is lower (1.6).

2.19 INTERNATIONAL TOTAL FERTILITY RATES—1965–1970 to 2005–2010

	1965–1970	*1970–1975*	*1975–1980*	*1980–1985*	*1985–1990*	*1990–1995*	*1995–2000*	*2000–2005*	*2005–2010*
Afghanistan	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.4	6.6
Australia	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Canada	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6
China	5.9	4.8	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8
France	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Germany	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Greece	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Hong Kong	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
India	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.8
Indonesia	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2
Italy	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Japan	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Korea, Republic of	4.7	4.3	2.9	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2
Malaysia	5.9	5.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6
New Zealand	3.4	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Niger	7.5	7.7	8.0	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.2
Papua New Guinea	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.1
Singapore	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Somalia	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4
Spain	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Sweden	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.9
Timor-Leste	6.2	6.2	4.3	5.4	5.2	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.5
Uganda	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4
United Kingdom	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
United States of America	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Viet Nam	7.3	6.7	5.9	4.5	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Yemen	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.4	7.7	6.7	5.9	5.3
World	***4.8***	***4.3***	***3.8***	***3.6***	***3.4***	***3.1***	***2.8***	***2.7***	***2.6***

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Medium variant <http://esa.un.org/unpp>.

2.20 BIRTHS, Australia—Selected years

	1989	*1994*	*1999*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*(a)	*2009*(b)
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(c)									
15–19 years(d)	20.6	20.7	18.5	16.0	15.7	15.3	16.0	17.2	16.7
20–24 years	78.4	69.7	60.8	52.7	51.8	51.4	55.5	56.5	53.8
25–29 years	135.4	125.8	108.6	101.8	102.0	101.0	105.6	104.9	102.2
30–34 years	96.1	105.0	108.0	114.0	117.0	120.4	125.9	127.1	123.9
35–39 years	32.6	41.1	46.8	57.2	60.3	63.4	67.8	70.6	68.7
40–44 years	5.0	6.7	8.5	10.5	10.8	11.3	12.6	14.1	14.2
45–49 years(e)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total fertility rate(f)	1.838	1.842	1.755	1.763	1.791	1.817	1.920	1.956	1.901
Crude birth rate(g)	14.9	14.5	13.1	12.6	12.7	12.8	13.5	13.8	13.5
Net reproduction rate(h)	0.882	0.884	0.846	0.848	0.858	0.870	0.921	0.939	0.907
BIRTHS									
Total births(i)	***250 853***	***258 051***	***248 870***	***254 246***	***259 791***	***265 949***	***285 213***	***296 621***	***295 738***
Males	128 510	132 625	127 357	130 600	133 428	136 692	146 456	152 287	152 019
Females	122 343	125 426	121 513	123 646	126 363	129 257	138 757	144 334	143 719
Sex ratio	105.0	105.7	104.8	105.6	105.6	105.8	105.5	105.5	105.8
Indigenous births(j)	2 234	6 310	10 580	12 006	12 078	12 496	14 192	15 011	15 825
Age of mother									
15–19 years(d)	14 259	12 853	11 751	10 857	10 744	10 552	11 204	12 326	12 120
20–24 years	51 647	49 386	38 943	36 146	36 482	37 151	40 907	42 678	42 067
25–29 years	95 649	85 372	79 553	68 846	69 420	70 224	75 998	79 012	80 863
30–34 years	65 090	77 071	76 774	87 395	89 158	89 883	93 072	94 124	93 027
35–39 years	21 038	28 640	35 462	42 139	44 873	48 505	53 561	56 976	55 937
40–44 years	3 004	4 400	6 060	8 183	8 376	8 679	9 642	10 771	10 905
45–49 years(e)	93	152	228	379	358	438	506	512	565
Age of father									
15–19 years(k)	3 099	3 326	3 787	3 425	3 558	3 469	3 910	4 391	4 337
20–24 years	26 461	26 908	22 064	20 652	21 110	21 345	23 537	24 550	24 129
25–29 years	75 756	64 949	60 367	51 538	51 616	52 456	56 589	59 254	60 324
30–34 years	77 012	83 276	76 525	83 064	85 212	85 548	89 233	89 871	88 546
35–39 years	38 069	45 469	51 445	54 780	56 814	60 659	66 157	69 784	68 721
40–44 years	12 868	15 643	18 432	22 613	23 168	23 802	25 556	27 202	26 970
45–49 years	3 518	4 674	5 276	6 482	6 718	7 010	8 109	8 566	8 877
50 years and over	1 728	1 948	2 353	2 769	3 050	3 135	3 340	3 507	3 586
Nuptial births	200 065	191 959	176 179	172 481	176 078	179 019	189 896	194 704	193 560
Ex-nuptial births	50 788	66 092	72 691	81 765	83 713	86 930	95 053	101 767	102 011
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	38 572	54 333	64 144	72 915	75 353	78 550	86 640	92 512	92 056
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	12 216	11 759	8 547	8 850	8 360	8 380	8 413	9 255	9 955

(a) Fertility rates for 2008 have been calculated using revised 30 June 2008 estimated resident population.
(b) Fertility rates for 2009 have been calculated using preliminary 30 June 2009 estimated resident population.
(c) Births per 1,000 women.
(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.
(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.
(f) Births per woman.
(g) Births per 1,000 estimated resident pooulation.
(h) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.
(i) Includes unknown nuptiality.
(j) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.
(k) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.20 BIRTHS, Australia—Selected years *continued*

	1989	*1994*	*1999*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*(a)	*2009*(b)
					CONFINEMENTS				
All confinements(c)	247 623	254 547	245 108	250 045	255 481	261 550	280 781	291 974	291 240
Nuptial	197 302	189 160	173 263	169 312	172 894	175 827	186 694	191 385	190 426
Ex-nuptial	50 321	65 387	71 845	80 733	82 587	85 723	93 825	100 440	100 647
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	38 204	53 742	63 402	72 002	74 340	77 471	85 517	91 323	90 849
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	12 117	11 645	8 443	8 731	8 247	8 252	8 308	9 117	9 798
Median age of mother (years)(d)									
All confinements(c)	28.2	29.0	29.7	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.7	30.7	30.6
Nuptial	28.8	29.9	30.6	31.6	31.7	31.8	31.8	31.9	31.7
Ex-nuptial	23.9	24.6	25.9	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.1	27.0	27.1
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	24.5	24.9	26.1	27.1	27.2	27.4	27.2	27.1	27.3
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	22.4	23.2	24.2	25.0	25.1	25.3	25.4	25.5	25.2
Median age of father (years)(d)									
All fathers (where age is known)	30.8	31.6	32.1	32.8	32.9	33.1	33.1	33.1	33.0
Nuptial	31.2	32.3	33.0	33.6	33.7	33.9	34.0	34.1	34.0
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	27.2	27.6	28.5	29.7	29.8	30.0	29.9	29.8	29.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0

(a) Fertility rates for 2008 have been calculated using revised 30 June 2008 estimated resident population.

(b) Fertility rates for 2009 have been calculated using preliminary 30 June 2009 estimated resident population.

(c) Includes unknown nuptiality.

(d) Prior to 2007, median age of parents may be overstated. For more information, see paragraph 49 of the Explanatory Notes.

2.21 BIRTHS, States and territories—2009

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*(a)	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*(b)
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(c)									
15–19 years(d)	13.0	9.9	26.7	15.9	20.1	27.1	48.0	9.7	16.7
20–24 years	47.7	39.0	74.3	54.3	61.4	84.7	98.0	34.6	53.8
25–29 years	96.7	92.8	118.4	108.2	107.1	130.4	95.6	85.0	102.2
30–34 years	122.3	126.3	124.8	120.1	124.8	122.1	105.7	130.8	123.9
35–39 years	70.1	74.4	65.2	61.5	64.9	57.7	56.9	70.7	68.7
40–44 years	14.8	15.9	12.7	12.2	12.8	11.0	13.9	15.5	14.2
45–49 years(e)	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.3	0.7
Total fertility rate(f)	1.826	1.796	2.115	1.869	1.959	2.176	2.092	1.737	1.901
Crude birth rate(g)	13.0	13.0	14.9	12.1	13.7	13.2	16.9	13.8	13.5
Net reproduction rate(h)	0.873	0.861	1.006	0.885	0.938	1.046	0.977	0.806	0.907
BIRTHS									
Total births(i)	***92 783***	***70 920***	***66 097***	***19 734***	***30 878***	***6 626***	***3 819***	***4 858***	***295 738***
Males	47 588	36 281	34 059	10 233	15 896	3 391	1 990	2 573	152 019
Females	45 195	34 639	32 038	9 501	14 982	3 235	1 829	2 285	143 719
Sex ratio	105	105	106	108	106	105	109	113	106
Indigenous births(j)	4 128	1 129	5 205	889	2 416	397	1 523	135	15 825
Age of mother									
15–19 years(d)	3 037	1 762	4 022	836	1 514	443	391	115	12 120
20–24 years	11 920	7 777	11 786	3 018	4 945	1 265	846	507	42 067
25–29 years	25 146	18 648	18 740	5 717	8 477	1 839	975	1 311	80 863
30–34 years	30 348	24 079	18 690	5 974	9 502	1 728	968	1 734	93 027
35–39 years	18 500	15 393	10 775	3 441	5 359	965	520	980	55 937
40–44 years	3 630	3 101	1 973	686	1 023	183	112	195	10 905
45–49 years(e)	199	150	91	48	46	11	4	16	565
Age of father									
15–19 years(k)	1 102	655	1 385	296	574	179	110	36	4 337
20–24 years	6 541	4 284	7 213	1 671	2 896	814	431	277	24 129
25–29 years	18 169	13 116	14 962	4 314	6 492	1 525	787	952	60 324
30–34 years	28 697	22 719	18 277	5 881	8 905	1 685	797	1 579	88 546
35–39 years	22 712	18 491	13 229	4 364	6 910	1 200	597	1 215	68 721
40–44 years	8 921	7 271	5 051	1 725	2 711	531	289	467	26 970
45–49 years	3 058	2 285	1 698	564	833	193	92	153	8 877
50 years and over	1 194	887	702	246	365	81	55	56	3 586
Nuptial births	65 564	50 983	37 659	12 295	19 040	3 139	1 417	3 449	193 560
Ex-nuptial births	27 219	19 937	28 438	7 439	11 838	3 320	2 402	1 409	102 011
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	24 831	18 728	24 867	6 774	10 677	3 131	1 752	1 287	92 056
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 388	1 209	3 571	665	1 161	189	650	122	9 955

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notifications. For further information, see paragraphs 31 to 33 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Includes Other Territories.
(c) Births per 1,000 women.
(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.
(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.
(f) Births per woman.
(g) Births per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(h) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.
(i) Includes unknown nuptiality.
(j) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.
(k) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.21 BIRTHS, States and territories—2009 *continued*

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.* (a)	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.* (b)
	CONFINEMENTS								
All confinements(c)	91 424	69 745	65 061	19 445	30 442	6 550	3 765	4 785	291 240
Nuptial	64 578	50 099	36 982	12 115	18 750	3 096	1 391	3 401	190 426
Ex-nuptial	26 846	19 646	28 079	7 330	11 692	3 287	2 374	1 384	100 647
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	24 497	18 458	24 565	6 682	10 540	3 100	1 733	1 265	90 849
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 349	1 188	3 514	648	1 152	187	641	119	9 798
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements(c)	31.0	31.5	29.6	30.2	30.2	29.1	28.3	31.4	30.6
Nuptial	31.8	32.1	31.3	31.5	31.7	31.3	31.4	32.1	31.7
Ex-nuptial	27.6	28.7	26.0	26.8	26.5	26.1	25.6	28.6	27.1
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	27.7	28.8	26.3	26.9	26.7	26.1	26.2	28.8	27.3
Ex-nuptial paternity not acknowledged	26.5	28.3	24.4	24.8	24.3	23.8	24.0	24.3	25.2
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers (where age is known)	33.4	33.7	32.0	32.8	32.7	31.7	31.5	33.6	33.0
Nuptial	34.1	34.3	33.5	33.8	34.0	33.6	33.9	34.0	34.0
Ex-nuptial paternity acknowledged	30.3	31.3	28.8	29.8	29.2	29.0	29.1	31.1	29.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.5	4.0	4.0
Previous children of the mother(d)									
0	39 063	32 043	33 272	8 397	14 098	1 165	1 487	2 524	na
1	30 193	24 064	20 033	6 504	9 750	2 032	1 154	1 974	na
2	13 193	9 973	7 710	2 917	4 119	982	565	746	na
3	4 745	3 107	2 429	923	1 449	403	274	237	na
4	1 803	973	769	400	518	138	126	76	na
5 or more	914	660	611	309	443	111	109	48	na
Average number of previous children of the mother(d)	1.92	1.86	1.76	1.95	1.89	2.33	2.14	1.85	na

na not available

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notifications. For further information, see paragraphs 31 to 33 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) Includes unknown nuptiality.

(d) By state of registration. Includes all children born to a mother, for all states and territories excluding Victoria and Queensland. For Victoria and Queensland, includes previous children of the current relationship only. Due to the high proportion of confinements in Tasmania for which no information on previous children of mother was available, data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution. See paragraph 45 to 48 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

CHAPTER 3 BIRTHS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS

INTRODUCTION

Birth registrations classify a birth as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Indigenous) where at least one parent identifies themselves as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both origins on the birth registration statement. Fertility rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women refer to births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers. Due to data quality concerns and the small number of Torres Strait Islander births, data in this publication are presented by aggregated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

This chapter reports on the characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births and fertility rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in each state and territory, except for the Australian Capital Territory, due to small numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births in the Australian Capital Territory are reported in table 3.1.

Some births of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are not identified as such when they are registered. Data presented in this chapter may therefore underestimate the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births and fertility in Australia. Lags in registrations may also affect reliability of measures of fertility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Caution should be exercised when interpreting data presented in this chapter, especially with regard to year-to-year changes.

Further care should be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians data for Queensland for 2009, as this data may have been affected by the 'Retrospective Births Project' undertaken by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (see paragraph 38 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

There were 15,800 births registered in Australia in 2009 where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration statement. This was 5% higher than in 2008 (15,000 births), and accounted for 5% of all births registered in 2009 (295,700).

Queensland and New South Wales, the states with the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, recorded the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births (5,200 and 4,100 births respectively), followed by Western Australia (2,400) and the Northern Territory (1,500).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS *continued*

3.1 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS(a), States and territories(b)—1991 to 2009

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*(c)
1991	50	508	9	593	33	190	1 257	58	2 698
1992	42	503	4	561	1 215	218	1 354	14	3 911
1993	1 278	493	31	519	1 535	264	1 359	43	5 523
1994	2 011	520	25	531	1 578	247	1 338	59	6 310
1995	2 345	542	29	554	1 492	267	1 354	52	6 640
1996	2 444	474	2 534	557	1 538	244	1 343	66	9 204
1997	2 813	457	3 038	591	1 474	310	1 259	53	9 999
1998	3 014	590	3 085	661	1 468	300	1 284	42	10 445
1999	3 052	521	2 974	640	1 558	339	1 419	75	10 580
2000	2 991	452	3 172	632	1 721	336	1 530	57	10 895
2001	3 112	522	3 337	612	1 597	468	1 688	67	11 405
2002	3 339	601	3 349	679	1 481	431	1 539	66	11 488
2003	3 254	722	3 408	578	1 687	376	1 630	85	11 740
2004	3 533	719	3 424	653	1 719	357	1 509	91	12 006
2005	3 139	802	3 657	718	1 763	415	1 485	98	12 078
2006	3 516	782	3 463	733	1 910	413	1 565	109	12 496
2007	3 720	1 025	4 486	808	2 121	308	1 595	129	14 192
2008	4 003	1 096	4 402	976	2 473	364	1 560	134	15 011
2009	4 128	1 129	5 205	889	2 416	397	1 523	135	15 825

(a) Due to changes in identification of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in number of births.
(b) State or territory of usual residence.
(c) Includes Other Territories.

Indigenous mothers

In 2009, 4% of all mothers who gave birth in Australia identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers ranged from 1% in Victoria, to 36% in the Northern Territory. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers was highest in Queensland (4,000), followed by New South Wales (2,600), Western Australia (1,900) and the Northern Territory (1,400).

3.2 INDIGENOUS MOTHERS, States and territories—2009

State or territory of usual residence	INDIGENOUS MOTHERS(a) *no.*	PROPORTION OF ALL MOTHERS *%*
New South Wales	2 561	2.8
Victoria	672	1.0
Queensland	3 967	6.1
South Australia	644	3.3
Western Australia	1 887	6.2
Tasmania	216	3.3
Northern Territory	1 372	36.4
Australian Capital Territory	88	1.8
Australia(b)	***11 410***	***3.9***

(a) Total confinements to Indigenous mothers.
(b) Includes Other Territories.

TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES

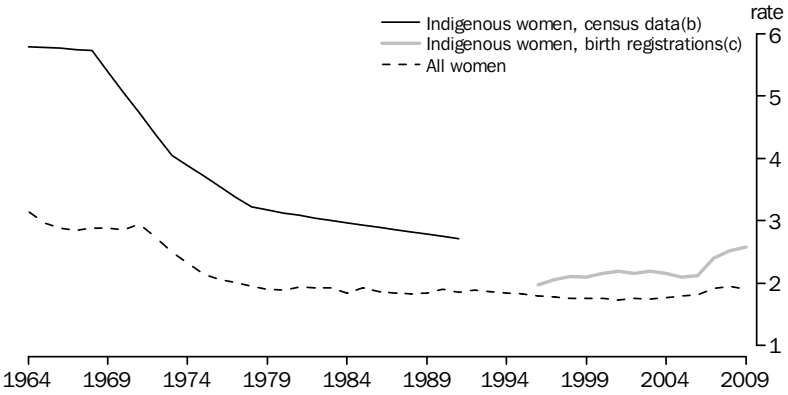
Total fertility rate

Total fertility rates (TFRs) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and all women for the period 1964 to 2009 are presented in graph 3.3. Due to the poor quality of historical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians birth registrations data, fertility rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women up to 1991 were derived using data collected in the Australian censuses (Gray, 1997). With improvements in coverage, birth registrations data have been used for 1996 onwards. Due to the uncertainty in numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates used as denominators in the calculation of fertility rates, data should be interpreted with caution. For more information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates, see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0).

In the early 1960s, the TFR of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 5.8 babies per woman, compared with 3.2 babies for all women in Australia. Since then, fertility rates of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and all women have declined substantially, with the largest decreases recorded during the 1970s.

In 1996 the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 1.97 babies per woman, the lowest on record. Over the following decade, the TFR remained at around 2.1 to 2.2 babies per woman. In 2007, the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women increased to 2.40 babies per woman and has continued to increase reaching 2.57 babies per woman in 2009 (compared with 1.90 for all women in Australia).

3.3 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous and all women—1964 to 2009



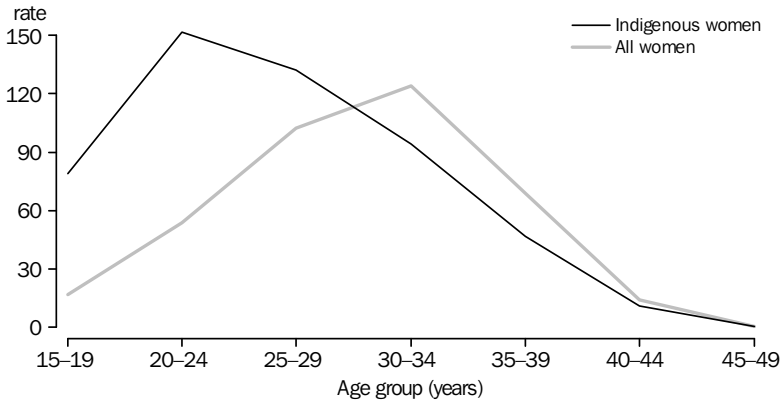
(a) Births per woman.
(b) Five-year TFRs (from 1961–66 to 1981–86) and ten-year TFR (1986–96) plotted against the middle year of the period.
(c) TFRs for 1996 to 2009 are calculated using Indigenous population estimates and projections based on the 2006 Census.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
Gray (1997)
Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0)

Age-specific fertility rates

High fertility rates at younger ages contribute to the relatively high overall fertility rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women compared with all women. Births to women aged under 30 years contributed to over three-quarters (76%) of the total fertility rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in 2009, compared with less than half of the total fertility rate for all women (46%).

3.4 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous and all women—2009



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the peak age group for births in 2009 was 20–24 years (152 babies per 1,000 women), followed by women aged 25–29 years (132 babies per 1,000 women). The fertility rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 20–24 years was close to three times the fertility rate of all women in this age group (54 babies per 1,000 women). In contrast, the peak age group for all women in 2009 was 30–34 years (124 babies per 1,000 women), with higher fertility rates for all women aged 30 years and over than those for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Teenage fertility rates

In 2009, births to teenage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (2,400 births) accounted for 21% of all births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (11,500 births). In comparison, births to all teenage women accounted for only 4% of all births. Overall, the teenage fertility rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (79 babies per 1,000 women) was almost five times the teenage fertility rate of all women (17 babies per 1,000 women).

CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS

Indigenous status

Around one-third (31%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births registered in 2009 were births for which both parents identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration statement, while for 42% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births only the mother identified herself as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (including births where paternity was not acknowledged and those where the father's Indigenous status was unknown). The remaining 27% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births were to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander father and a non-Indigenous mother (including births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated).

3.5 INDIGENOUS STATUS OF PARENTS, Australia—1999 to 2009

Median age

Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have children at younger ages than all women. The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who registered a birth in 2009 was 24.5 years, six years lower than the median age of all mothers (30.6 years). Of the states and territories, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers living in the Northern Territory had the lowest median age (24.1 years), followed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers in Western Australia (24.2 years).

For Australia, where the age of the father was known, fathers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births in 2009 were younger than all fathers, with a median age of 27.8 years compared with 33.0 years for all fathers. Western Australia recorded the lowest median age of fathers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births (27.1 years), followed by Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory (all 27.6 years).

Nuptiality

In 2009, 85% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births were ex-nuptial (that is, births to women who were not in a registered marriage at the time of birth) compared with 35% of all births. Ex-nuptial births where the father did not sign the birth registration statement (that is, births where paternity was not acknowledged) accounted for 15% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, compared with 3% of all births.

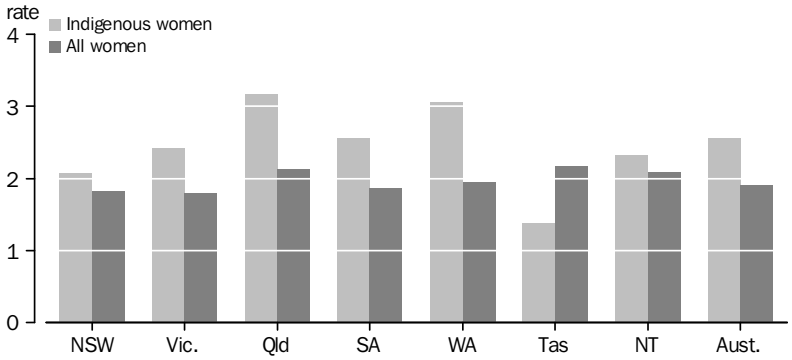
STATES AND TERRITORIES

Total fertility rate

TFRs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women vary among the states and territories. In 2009, all states and territories recorded decreases in the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from the previous year, except for Victoria and Queensland. Of all the states and territories, Queensland recorded the highest TFR (3.17 babies per woman), followed by Western Australia (3.06 babies per woman), although care should be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians data for Queensland due to the 'Retrospective Births Project' undertaken by the Queensland Registry (see paragraph 38 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

In 2009, the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was higher than the TFR for all women in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania.

3.6 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous and all women, States and territories(b)—2009



(a) Births per woman.
(b) ACT not included due to small numbers of Indigenous births. See paragraph 40 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

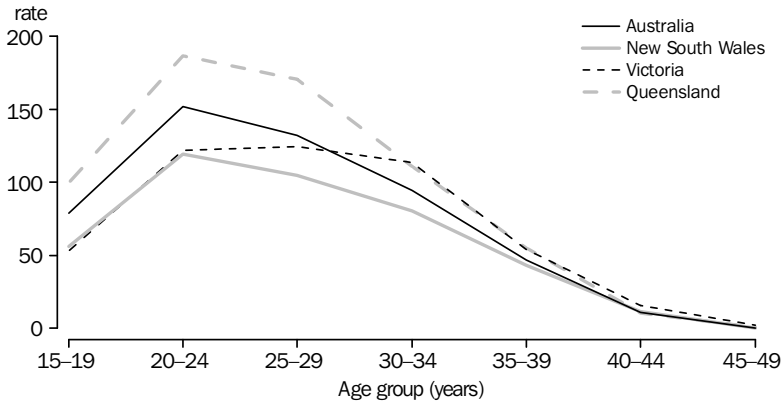
Age-specific fertility rates

In 2009, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 20–24 years recorded the highest fertility rate of all age groups in all states and territories, excluding Victoria. The highest fertility rates recorded for this age group were in Queensland and Western Australia (both 187 babies per 1,000 women).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest fertility rate in Victoria and the second highest fertility rate in all other states and territories.

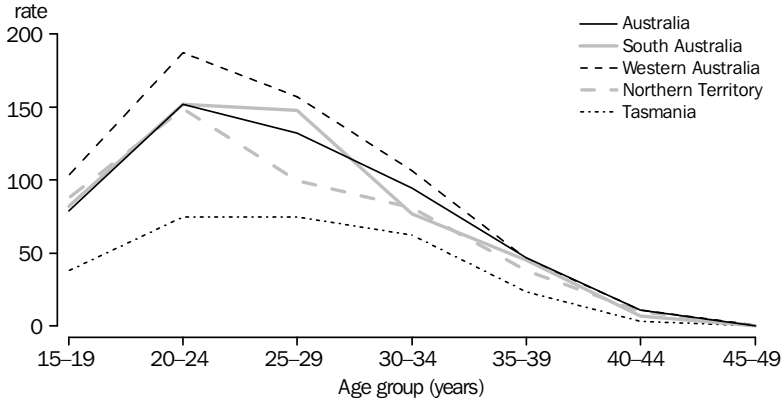
Age-specific fertility rates continued

3.7 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous women, Selected states and territories—2009



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

3.8 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous women, Selected states and territories—2009



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Indigenous teenage fertility rates

Of the 12,100 births registered to teenage women in Australia in 2009, 21% (2,400 births) were to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Of the 390 births registered to teenage women in the Northern Territory in 2009, 79% (310 births) were to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

The teenage fertility rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in Western Australia was 103 babies per 1,000 women, more than six times the rate of all teenage women in Australia (17 babies per 1,000 women). Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenagers experienced the second highest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenage fertility rate of the states and territories (100 babies per 1,000 women), followed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenagers in Northern Territory (88 babies per 1,000 women).

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In 2009 the TFR for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (2.57 babies per woman) was lower than that for New Zealand Maori women (2.80) (Statistics New Zealand, 2009). In 2007, the latest year for which American Indian fertility rates are available, the TFR for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 0.6 babies per woman higher than that of American Indian women (1.83) (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2007).

These differences are reflected in age-specific fertility rates for the different populations. Higher fertility rates were experienced by Maori women in most age groups.

3.9 INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES, Selected countries

	AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN	NEW ZEALAND MAORI WOMEN	AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN	
	2007(a)	*2009*	*2007*	*2009*
Age-specific fertility rates(b)				
15–19 years(c)	60.2	71.6	70.0	78.8
20–24 years	116.8	155.9	142.5	151.8
25–29 years	96.4	143.8	125.5	132.3
30–34 years	64.0	108.9	89.7	94.3
35–39 years	29.5	62.1	43.1	46.6
40–44 years	6.1	16.8	8.2	10.8
45–49 years(d)	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.4
Total fertility rate	1.829	2.800	2.399	2.575

(a) Final data for 2007.
(b) Births per 1,000 women.
(c) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.
(d) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Health Statistics, <http://www.cdc.gov> for American Indian data. Statistics New Zealand <http://www.stats.govt.nz> for New Zealand Maori data.

CHAPTER 4 EFFECT OF DELAYED BIRTH REGISTRATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

ABS birth statistics are sourced from birth registration systems administered by the state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. These data are based on information provided on a registration form completed by the parent(s) of the child. The registration of a birth is compulsory under relevant state/territory legislation, and there is a nationally consistent legislative requirement that all births be registered within 60 days.

There is often an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth (referred to as a registration 'lag'), which may be longer than the 60 days specified in the legislation. This may be due to either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a complete form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth. The point at which the registration date is assigned differs between state and territory Registrars, and should be considered when analysing birth statistics (see paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

The effect of delays in the registration of births have been analysed in previous issues of *Births, Australia*, and highlighted in *Chapter 5: Delayed birth registrations in Australia* (*Births, Australia, 2005*) and *Chapter 4: Delayed Indigenous birth registrations in Australia* (*Births, Australia, 2006*). Findings from previous analysis of registration lags included:

- wide variation in average registration lag among states and territories;
- improvements to registration timeliness resulting from the clearance of an accumulation of registrations and changes to follow-up procedures introduced by the New South Wales Registry in 2005;
- general increases in the length of delay in registration between 1995 and 2005;
- age differences in mothers' propensity to delay a birth registration (such that in general, younger mothers are more likely to delay a birth registration than older mothers); and
- the higher proportion of delayed registrations of Indigenous births, compared with non-Indigenous births.

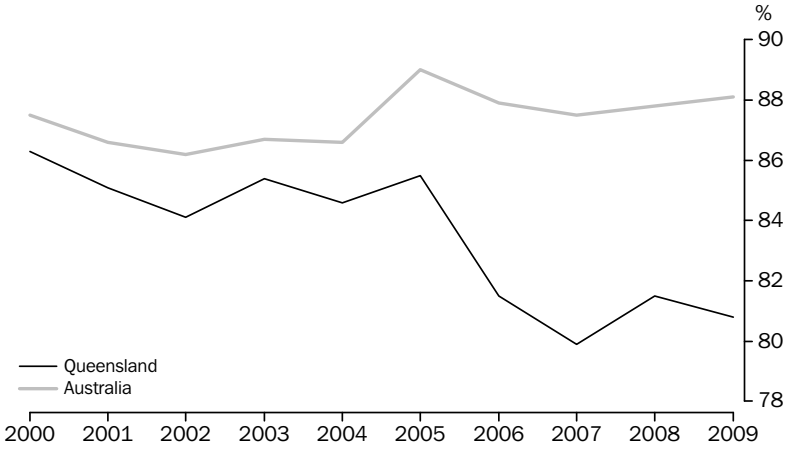
Delays in the registration of births may affect the quality of fertility rates, which may be underestimated during periods where the registration of births is delayed, and overestimated when these births are subsequently registered. In order to examine the effect of registration lags on fertility rates, particularly the total fertility rate (TFR), a comparison of TFRs derived from year of occurrence and year of registration is included below (graph 4.5).

INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION

Of the 295,700 births registered in Australia during 2009, 88% occurred in 2009. A further 9% occurred in 2008, and the remainder (3%) occurred in 2007 or earlier. It is expected that some births, particularly those that occur in November and December, may not be registered until the following year, however as the total number of births has remained relatively stable over recent years, it is likely that the net effect will be small.

For Australia, and for most states and territories, this pattern has remained largely unchanged over the past decade. However, Queensland is an exception, where the proportion of births registered in the year of birth has declined to approximately 80% over recent years. This may be due to the Queensland Registry embarking on various projects to improve the timeliness and completeness of the data provided to the ABS (see paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Explanatory Notes for further information). These projects have improved the completeness of occurrence data, however finalisation of previously incomplete forms may have also affected statistics based on year of registration, as published in this publication.

4.1 PROPORTION OF REGISTERED BIRTHS THAT OCCURRED IN THE YEAR OF REGISTRATION, Australia—2000 to 2009

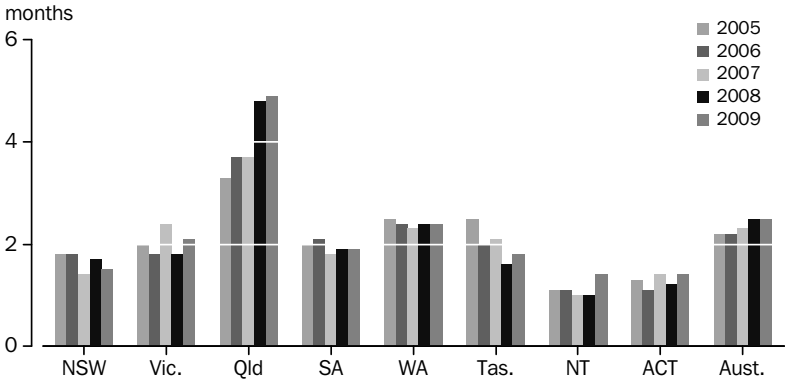


Of the 65,900 births registered in Queensland during 2009, 81% occurred during 2009, 13% during 2008 and 7% in earlier years. The high proportion of registered births that occurred in previous years is attributable to recent changes to the timeliness of registration of births at the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the undertaking of a 'Retrospective Births Project', which resulted in the completion and registration of a large number of previously unregistered births (see paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Explanatory Notes for further information).

The length of time between the occurrence and registration of a birth can be derived by comparing the date of birth to the date of registration. Between 2005 and 2009, the average registration lag in Australia increased from 2.2 months to 2.5 months. This increase was largely driven by the increased registration lag in Queensland, which increased from 3.3 months in 2005 to 4.9 months in 2009. Following improvements in Queensland Registry business processes and systems introduced during 2009, and the conclusion of the 'Retrospective Births Project', registration lags in Queensland may decline in the future.

INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION *continued*

4.2 AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS (a), States and territories—2005 to 2009

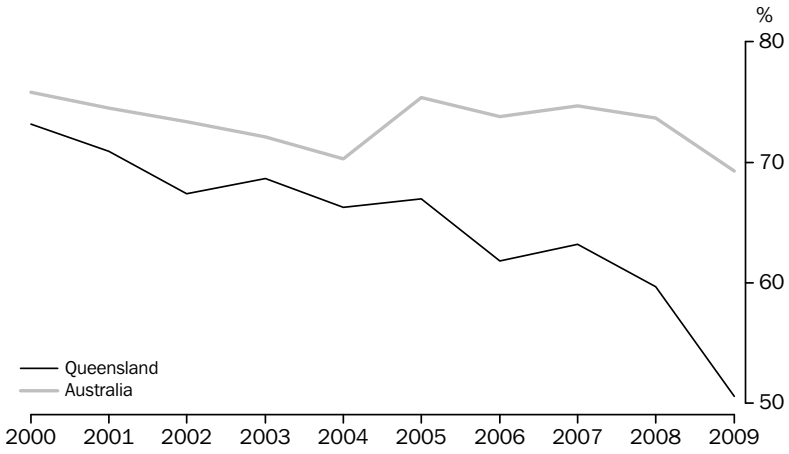


(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as an interval of 72 months.

Births to Indigenous women

In general, the lag between the occurrence and registration of a birth is greater for births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women than for all births. Of the 11,500 births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women registered during 2009, 69% occurred in 2009, with the remainder occurring in 2008 or earlier years. As with total births, the registration lag for births registered in Queensland to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women has been influenced by both the 'Retrospective Births Project' and other administrative changes. In 2009, half of the 4,000 births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women registered in Queensland occurred in 2008 or earlier (see paragraph 38 of the Explanatory Notes for further information).

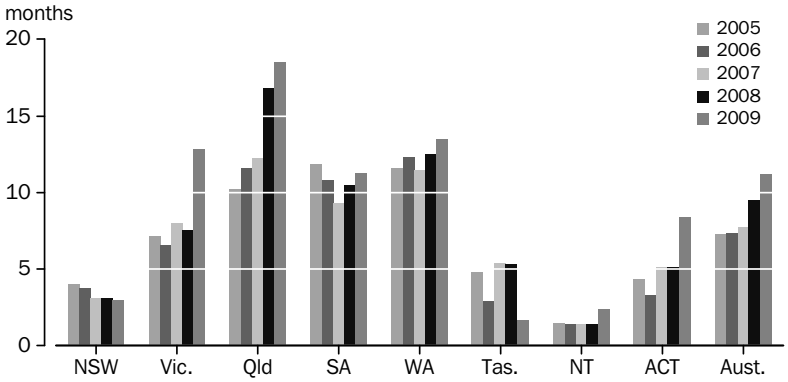
4.3 PROPORTION OF REGISTERED BIRTHS TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN THAT OCCURRED IN THE YEAR OF REGISTRATION, Australia—2000 to 2009



For Australia, the average interval between the occurrence and registration of births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for 2009 was 11.2 months, up from 7.3 months in 2005. In 2009, Queensland recorded the longest registration lag (18.5 months), while Tasmania and the Northern Territory recorded the smallest (1.7 and 2.4 months respectively).

Births to Indigenous women continued

4.4 AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN(a), States and territories—2005 to 2009



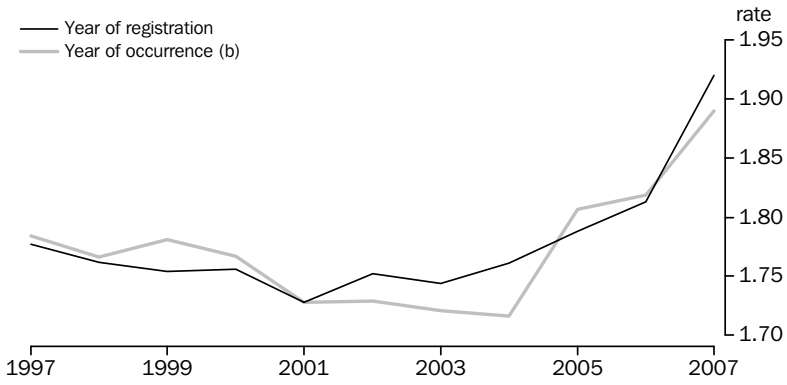
(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration, intervals of more than 72 months (6 years) have been counted as an interval of 72 months.

EFFECTS ON FERTILITY RATES

Total fertility rates (TFRs) represent the average number of babies that a woman could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime, assuming current age-specific fertility rates were experienced. As the delay of birth registrations may be greater than a year, year of occurrence data for recent years are likely to be affected by lags in registration, particularly for births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, therefore TFRs are presented up to and including 2007 only. In addition, TFRs have been calculated on a state of usual residence basis, as there is no available denominator to calculate rates based on a state of registration.

In Australia, TFRs calculated using registration and occurrence data have followed similar trends in the past decade. The divergence between 2002 and 2004 was largely due to registration lags in New South Wales. These delays were reduced through the implementation of improved follow-up procedures in 2005. See table 4.13 for state and territory TFRs calculated using registration and occurrence data.

4.5 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Year of registration and year of occurrence, Australia—1997 to 2007



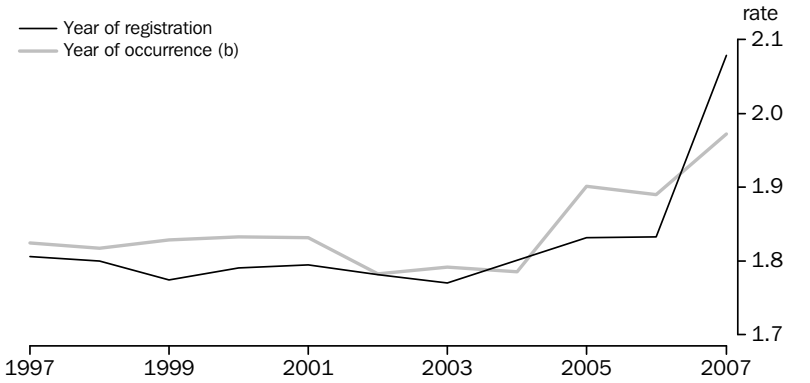
(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

EFFECTS ON FERTILITY RATES *continued*

In Queensland, TFRs based on the year of registration compared with those based on the year of birth (occurrence) show the effect that delayed birth registrations may have. In particular, for 2005 and 2006, TFRs based on year of registration (as published in this publication) were lower than those based on the year of occurrence of the birth, indicating that fertility rates may have been underestimated over this period.

Conversely, in 2007, the TFR for Queensland based on year of registration was higher than that based on the year of occurrence. This indicates a possible overestimation of fertility rates due to the registration of births that occurred in earlier years.

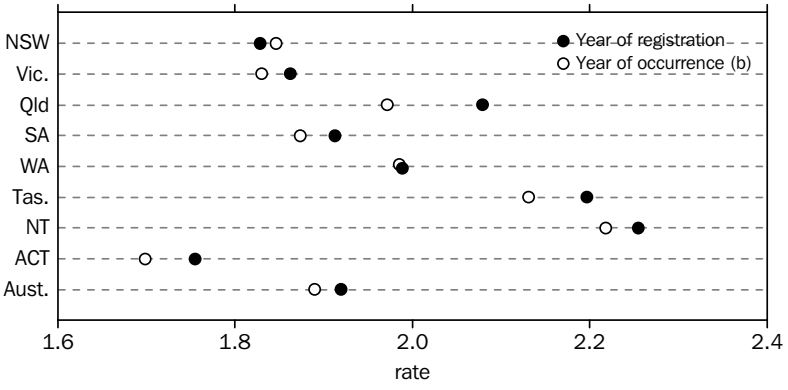
4.6 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Year of registration and year of occurrence, Queensland—1997 to 2007



(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

For 2007, all states and territories, except for New South Wales, recorded higher TFRs based on year of registration than those based on year of birth, with Queensland recording the largest difference.

4.7 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—2007



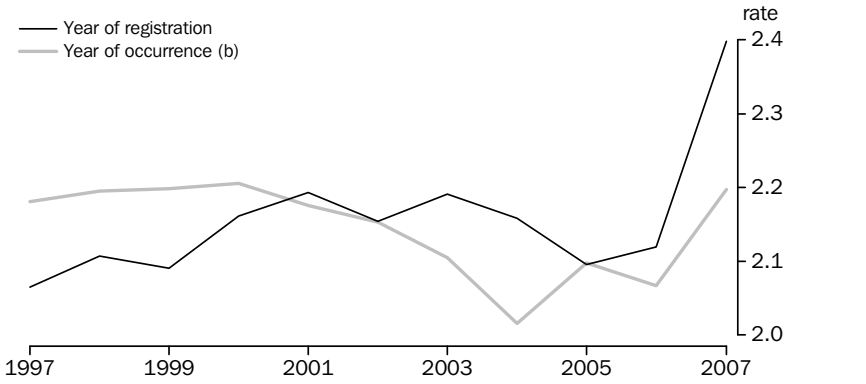
(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

Fertility rates of Indigenous women

Due to delays in the registration of births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, TFRs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were higher using year of occurrence data compared with year of registration data. This is true for all states and territories, except the Northern Territory where TFRs on both bases follow a similar trend. This reflects the short registration lag (1.4 months in 2007) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births registered in the Northern Territory.

In the late 1990s, TFRs for Australia based on year of registration may have been underestimated as more births occurred than were registered in these years. Conversely, since 2002, TFRs based on year of registration may have overestimated the fertility rate as the Registrars register previously unregistered births that occurred in earlier years.

4.8 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Indigenous women, Year of registration and year of occurrence, Australia—1997 to 2007

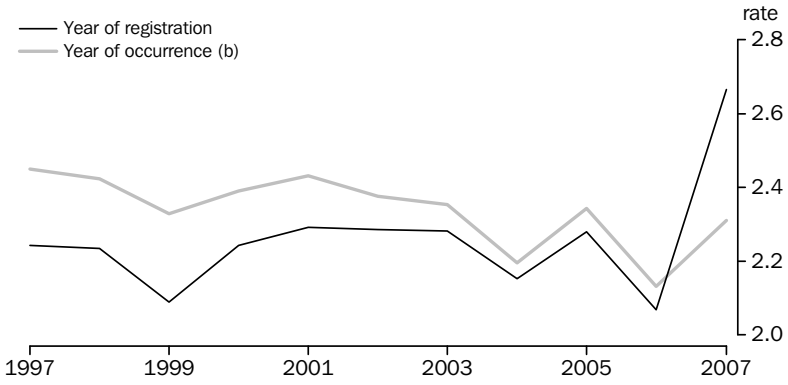


(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

Prior to 2007, the TFR for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Queensland was higher when based on year of occurrence data than when based on year of registration, indicating that delays in the registration of births may have led to an underestimation of fertility rates (as reported in this publication). For 2007, there was an increase in the TFR based on registered births relative to the TFR based on births by year of occurrence.

Fertility rates of Indigenous women continued

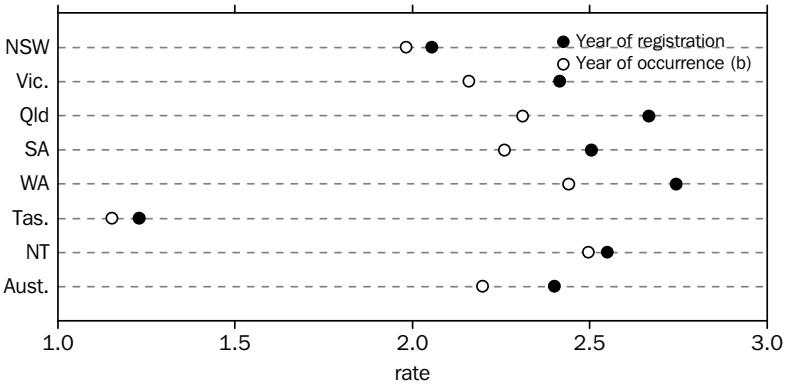
4.9 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Indigenous women, Year of registration and year of occurrence, Queensland—1997 to 2007



(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

For 2007, all states and territories recorded higher TFRs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women based on year of registration than those based on year of birth. Queensland recorded the largest difference and the Northern Territory recorded the smallest difference, reflecting the difference in the length of registration lag. The differences are larger than those for all women due to the longer delays in registrations for births registered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Therefore, TFRs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women based on year of registration should be interpreted with caution as data may not accurately reflect the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility for any particular year.

4.10 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Indigenous women, Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—2007



(a) Births per woman.
(b) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

CONCLUSION

In general, fertility rates based on the year of registration of a birth are relatively similar to those based on the births experienced within a particular year. However, this may not be true where there are significant lags between the occurrence and registration of births. Although there is a legislative requirement to register a birth within 60 days, the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth often exceeds this period.

CONCLUSION *continued*

The delayed registration of large numbers of births may result in the underestimation of fertility rates during the years in which their registration is delayed, and the overestimation of fertility rates during the years in which these births are subsequently registered.

Where there are significant delays in the registration of a relatively large number of births, fertility rates based on year of registration data may not accurately reflect the level of fertility in any given year and should be interpreted with caution. When delays in birth registrations occur in large jurisdictions the fertility rate for Australia may also be affected.

SUMMARY TABLES

4.11 BIRTHS TO ALL WOMEN, Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—1999 to 2009

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
					YEAR OF REGISTRATION				
1999	86 784	58 875	46 503	17 958	24 849	6 032	3 576	4 253	248 870
2000	86 752	59 171	47 278	17 859	25 093	5 692	3 685	4 065	249 636
2001	84 578	58 626	47 678	17 281	24 002	6 430	3 822	3 938	246 394
2002	86 583	61 478	47 771	17 665	23 601	6 003	3 724	4 112	250 988
2003	86 344	61 058	48 342	17 443	24 273	5 752	3 790	4 128	251 161
2004	85 894	62 417	49 940	17 140	25 295	5 809	3 551	4 174	254 246
2005	86 589	63 287	51 661	17 800	26 253	6 308	3 659	4 206	259 791
2006	87 336	65 236	52 665	18 260	27 776	6 475	3 696	4 479	265 949
2007	89 495	70 313	61 249	19 662	29 164	6 662	3 894	4 753	285 213
2008	94 684	71 175	63 132	20 229	31 850	6 775	3 942	4 804	296 621
2009	92 783	70 920	66 097	19 734	30 878	6 626	3 819	4 858	295 738
					YEAR OF OCCURRENCE(a)				
1999	86 248	60 957	47 937	18 172	25 259	6 090	3 628	4 130	252 456
2000	86 462	60 159	48 388	17 571	24 687	5 946	3 670	4 212	251 135
2001	83 436	59 267	48 632	17 325	24 317	5 644	3 789	3 879	246 329
2002	83 722	60 764	47 795	17 369	24 002	5 804	3 761	4 075	247 319
2003	83 431	60 518	48 956	17 432	23 624	5 610	3 722	4 139	247 461
2004	81 947	61 357	49 535	16 746	24 831	5 580	3 517	4 135	247 674
2005	87 067	63 427	53 624	17 748	26 200	6 110	3 658	4 250	262 115
2006	85 268	66 291	54 308	18 134	27 627	6 445	3 698	4 541	266 334
2007	90 389	69 151	58 100	19 249	29 100	6 466	3 833	4 600	280 912
2008	93 474	69 538	59 859	19 515	29 823	6 570	3 847	4 717	287 369
2009	83 344	63 299	53 395	18 161	28 074	6 318	3 580	4 490	260 683
					RATIO(b)				
1999	0.99	1.04	1.03	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.01	0.97	1.01
2000	1.00	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.98	1.04	1.00	1.04	1.01
2001	0.99	1.01	1.02	1.00	1.01	0.88	0.99	0.99	1.00
2002	0.97	0.99	1.00	0.98	1.02	0.97	1.01	0.99	0.99
2003	0.97	0.99	1.01	1.00	0.97	0.98	0.98	1.00	0.99
2004	0.95	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.99	0.97
2005	1.01	1.00	1.04	1.00	1.00	0.97	1.00	1.01	1.01
2006	0.98	1.02	1.03	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.00
2007	1.01	0.98	0.95	0.98	1.00	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98
2008	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.97
2009	0.90	0.89	0.81	0.92	0.91	0.95	0.94	0.92	0.88

(a) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

(b) Proportion of registered births that occurred in the reference year to births that were registered in the reference year.

SUMMARY TABLES

continued

4.12 BIRTHS TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN, Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—1999 to 2009

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
YEAR OF REGISTRATION									
1999	2 060	298	2 156	453	1 232	193	1 306	35	7 735
2000	1 994	273	2 340	463	1 388	197	1 430	29	8 118
2001	2 009	302	2 427	430	1 267	266	1 593	38	8 334
2002	2 149	344	2 438	490	1 138	237	1 456	38	8 292
2003	2 076	435	2 480	433	1 355	217	1 520	51	8 567
2004	2 290	429	2 376	461	1 371	200	1 415	56	8 599
2005	1 956	484	2 575	499	1 378	243	1 366	54	8 555
2006	2 226	459	2 383	549	1 460	229	1 459	65	8 835
2007	2 392	638	3 156	599	1 646	181	1 502	71	10 185
2008	2 596	648	3 319	719	1 932	232	1 431	70	10 950
2009	2 591	679	4 004	653	1 908	218	1 390	90	11 536
YEAR OF OCCURRENCE (a)									
1999	1 987	348	2 410	458	1 351	204	1 343	36	8 137
2000	2 018	301	2 487	458	1 356	211	1 408	25	8 266
2001	1 890	308	2 574	393	1 247	222	1 591	44	8 272
2002	1 881	375	2 535	448	1 284	237	1 471	45	8 277
2003	1 894	410	2 550	439	1 187	202	1 481	58	8 221
2004	1 912	438	2 432	421	1 194	188	1 385	53	8 025
2005	2 020	467	2 641	446	1 297	223	1 385	62	8 544
2006	2 090	487	2 450	482	1 356	234	1 453	62	8 616
2007	2 311	573	2 739	536	1 444	168	1 471	65	9 307
2008	2 483	581	2 656	588	1 502	210	1 388	68	9 479
2009	2 166	461	2 028	506	1 294	209	1 264	66	7 996
RATIO (b)									
1999	0.96	1.17	1.12	1.01	1.10	1.06	1.03	1.03	1.05
2000	1.01	1.10	1.06	0.99	0.98	1.07	0.98	0.86	1.02
2001	0.94	1.02	1.06	0.91	0.98	0.83	1.00	1.16	0.99
2002	0.88	1.09	1.04	0.91	1.13	1.00	1.01	1.18	1.00
2003	0.91	0.94	1.03	1.01	0.88	0.93	0.97	1.14	0.96
2004	0.83	1.02	1.02	0.91	0.87	0.94	0.98	0.95	0.93
2005	1.03	0.96	1.03	0.89	0.94	0.92	1.01	1.15	1.00
2006	0.94	1.06	1.03	0.88	0.93	1.02	1.00	0.95	0.98
2007	0.97	0.90	0.87	0.89	0.88	0.93	0.98	0.92	0.91
2008	0.96	0.90	0.80	0.82	0.78	0.91	0.97	0.97	0.87
2009	0.84	0.68	0.51	0.77	0.68	0.96	0.91	0.73	0.69

(a) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

(b) Proportion of registered births that occurred in the reference year to births that were registered in the reference year.

SUMMARY TABLES

continued

4.13 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE OF ALL WOMEN, Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—1997 to 2007

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
YEAR OF REGISTRATION									
1997	1.833	1.690	1.806	1.705	1.796	1.797	2.172	1.613	1.778
1998	1.801	1.680	1.800	1.705	1.781	1.820	2.198	1.544	1.762
1999	1.823	1.628	1.774	1.699	1.788	1.882	2.158	1.653	1.755
2000	1.815	1.631	1.791	1.708	1.807	1.808	2.214	1.576	1.756
2001	1.762	1.610	1.795	1.677	1.726	2.079	2.297	1.519	1.729
2002	1.798	1.680	1.782	1.723	1.699	1.972	2.256	1.580	1.756
2003	1.790	1.662	1.770	1.708	1.743	1.887	2.316	1.580	1.748
2004	1.783	1.693	1.801	1.684	1.809	1.908	2.157	1.601	1.763
2005	1.793	1.710	1.832	1.758	1.862	2.072	2.183	1.600	1.791
2006	1.802	1.748	1.833	1.792	1.943	2.127	2.185	1.688	1.817
2007	1.828	1.862	2.079	1.913	1.989	2.197	2.255	1.755	1.920
YEAR OF OCCURRENCE(a)									
1997	1.835	1.694	1.825	1.708	1.802	1.828	2.153	1.591	1.784
1998	1.800	1.657	1.817	1.718	1.819	1.884	2.149	1.615	1.766
1999	1.811	1.687	1.829	1.719	1.818	1.901	2.187	1.606	1.781
2000	1.808	1.659	1.833	1.680	1.778	1.886	2.202	1.633	1.767
2001	1.736	1.627	1.832	1.680	1.748	1.825	2.278	1.496	1.728
2002	1.736	1.660	1.783	1.694	1.728	1.905	2.280	1.565	1.729
2003	1.728	1.646	1.792	1.705	1.695	1.839	2.274	1.584	1.721
2004	1.699	1.663	1.786	1.645	1.776	1.832	2.137	1.586	1.716
2005	1.803	1.713	1.901	1.753	1.858	2.006	2.183	1.616	1.807
2006	1.759	1.777	1.890	1.779	1.932	2.116	2.186	1.712	1.819
2007	1.846	1.830	1.972	1.874	1.985	2.133	2.218	1.699	1.890

(a) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

SUMMARY TABLES

continued

4.14 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, Year of registration and year of occurrence, States and territories—1997 to 2007

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*Aust.*
YEAR OF REGISTRATION								
1997	1.864	1.384	2.243	2.244	2.358	1.421	2.281	2.065
1998	1.969	1.695	2.234	2.334	2.291	1.480	2.290	2.107
1999	1.984	1.309	2.090	2.227	2.388	1.578	2.498	2.091
2000	1.900	1.177	2.243	2.256	2.638	1.578	2.673	2.161
2001	1.900	1.275	2.293	2.070	2.389	2.097	2.942	2.193
2002	1.998	1.450	2.285	2.315	2.108	1.846	2.657	2.154
2003	1.909	1.771	2.283	1.998	2.477	1.607	2.756	2.191
2004	2.059	1.694	2.152	2.076	2.447	1.497	2.532	2.158
2005	1.728	1.886	2.279	2.140	2.399	1.760	2.376	2.096
2006	1.919	1.742	2.069	2.345	2.506	1.571	2.514	2.120
2007	2.054	2.415	2.666	2.504	2.743	1.229	2.549	2.399
YEAR OF OCCURRENCE(a)								
1997	2.003	1.491	2.450	2.245	2.524	1.550	2.181	2.181
1998	1.979	1.721	2.424	2.235	2.490	1.616	2.302	2.195
1999	1.913	1.518	2.330	2.257	2.621	1.668	2.567	2.198
2000	1.927	1.293	2.390	2.240	2.590	1.691	2.636	2.206
2001	1.786	1.303	2.432	1.891	2.350	1.761	2.937	2.176
2002	1.750	1.579	2.376	2.110	2.391	1.839	2.686	2.152
2003	1.742	1.666	2.354	2.022	2.169	1.499	2.683	2.105
2004	1.716	1.739	2.197	1.904	2.144	1.414	2.483	2.016
2005	1.785	1.830	2.344	1.928	2.269	1.601	2.405	2.098
2006	1.804	1.862	2.133	2.058	2.309	1.605	2.502	2.067
2007	1.982	2.160	2.310	2.260	2.440	1.153	2.496	2.197

(a) Registered in 2009 or earlier years.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains statistics for births and fertility in Australia. Detailed information can be obtained from data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) available for download from the ABS website (see paragraph 57).

2 A glossary is provided detailing definitions of terminology used. A list of abbreviations is also available.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

3 Statistics in this publication relate to the number of births registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated. Statistics relating to births by year of occurrence can be obtained from

Scope of birth statistics

4 The ABS Birth Registrations collection includes all births that occurred and were registered in Australia, including births to mothers whose place of usual residence was overseas.

5 The scope of the statistics include:

- all births that were live born and were not previously registered;
- births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island);
- births that occurred within Australian Territorial waters;
- births that occurred in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories (excluding Norfolk Island);
- births that occurred in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the state or territory of "next port of call";
- births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (i.e. children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families); and
- births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations).

6 The scope of the statistics exclude:

- still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in *Perinatal Deaths, Australia*, cat. no. 3304.0, and previously, *Causes of Death, Australia*, cat. no. 3303.0);
- adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections;
- births to foreign diplomatic staff; and
- births occurring on Norfolk Island.

7 The scope for each reference year of the Birth Registrations collection include:

- births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the reference year;
- births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the first quarter of the subsequent year; and
- births registered in the years prior to the reference year but not received by ABS until the reference year or the first quarter of the subsequent year, provided that these records have not been included in any statistics from earlier periods.

8 Birth records received by ABS during the March quarter 2010 which were initially registered in 2009 (but not fully completed until 2010) were assigned to the 2009 reference year. Any registrations relating to 2009 which were received by ABS from April 2010 were assigned to the 2010 reference year.

Scope of birth statistics continued

9 Prior to 2007, the scope for the reference year of the Birth Registrations collection included:

- births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the reference year;
- births registered in the reference year and received by ABS in the first quarter of the subsequent year; and
- births registered during the two years prior to the reference year but not received by ABS until the reference year.

Coverage of birth statistics

10 Ideally, for compiling annual time series, the number of events (births) should be recorded as all those occurring within a given reference period such as a calendar year. Due to lags in registration of births and the provision of that information to the ABS from state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, data in this publication are presented on a year of registration basis.

11 In effect there are three dates attributable to each birth registration:

- the date of occurrence (of the birth);
- the date of registration or inclusion on the state/territory register; and
- the month and year in which the registered event is provided to the ABS.

12 Data in this publication are presented according to date of registration, unless otherwise stated. The registration date differs between states and territories, and should be taken into account when analysing birth statistics:

- for births registered in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the birth registration date is the date at which the record is entered into the registration processing system;
- for births registered in South Australia, preliminary and final registration dates are allocated. Where a record requires further information a preliminary date is assigned. Once all data are finalised, a final registration date is assigned to the birth record which is provided to the ABS as the registration date;
- for births registered in Queensland, the registration date is the date at which all data on the birth record are finalised. This may be before the birth is entered into the registration system;
- for births registered in the Northern Territory, the registration date is the date at which the record is entered into the registration system. For birth records not received by the Registrar within 60 days of the birth, the Registrar will register the child as 'unnamed' and not finalised; and
- for births registered in Tasmania, a date is allocated when the birth record is entered into the registration system. The ABS receives an 'insertion' date which is the date when any information relating to the birth is entered into the registration system.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Nuptiality

13 Nuptiality relates to the registered marital status of the parent(s) of the child at the time of birth. Confinements and births are classified as:

- nuptial where the father registered was married to the mother at the time of the child's birth, or where the husband died during the mother's pregnancy. Confinements and births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers considered to be tribally married to the father of the child are classified as nuptial; and
- ex-nuptial where the parents were not in a registered marriage at the time of the child's birth, irrespective of whether the parents were living together at the time of the birth.

14 Ex-nuptial births and confinements are further classified as paternity acknowledged (where the father signed the birth registration form) or paternity not acknowledged (where the father did not sign the birth registration form).

Australian Standard Geographical Classification

15 The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical classification system consisting of six interrelated classification structures. The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography and thereby enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

16 For further information refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Standard Australian Classification of Countries

17 The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Second Edition) groups neighbouring countries into progressively broader geographical areas on the basis of their similarity in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

18 For further information refer to *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0).

DATA SOURCES

19 Registration of births is the responsibility of state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is based on data provided on an information form completed by the parent(s) of the child. This form is the basis of data provided to the ABS by the Registrars, for compilation into aggregate statistics in this publication. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at the national level are available for most characteristics. Some states collect additional information.

20 Hospitals and birth clinics notify state and territory registries of recent births on a regular basis, except in Western Australia. For births where a notification has been received by a registry, but has not been registered within the prescribed time period, a reminder letter is sent to the parent(s) of the child.

State and territory data

21 As a result of an amendment made in 1992 to section 17(a) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901–1973 (Cwlth)*, the Indian Ocean territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been included as part of geographic Australia, hence another category of the state and territory classification has been created. This category is known as 'Other Territories' and includes Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory.

22 Prior to 1993, births to mothers usually resident in Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included with Off-Shore Areas and Migratory in Western Australia, while births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory were included with the Australian Capital Territory. In 2009, there were 23 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

23 Birth statistics for states and territories have been compiled and presented according to the state or territory of usual residence of the mother regardless of where in Australia the birth occurred and was registered, except where otherwise stated. In the following table, data are presented on a state or territory of registration basis. Births which took place outside Australia are excluded from the statistics. Births to mothers who were usual residents of Australia's Other Territories (Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory) are registered in other Australian states.

BIRTHS, State or territory of usual residence of mother and state or territory of registration—2009

	STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION								
State or territory of usual residence	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
New South Wales	89 928	1 141	703	32	31	np	np	944	92 783
Victoria	85	70 703	39	64	14	8	3	4	70 920
Queensland	967	57	65 023	np	31	7	np	—	66 097
South Australia	24	24	11	19 612	20	np	37	np	19 734
Western Australia	74	41	46	8	30 673	np	31	np	30 878
Tasmania	11	24	10	—	np	6 577	—	np	6 626
Northern Territory	26	16	49	23	18	3	3 681	3	3 819
Australian Capital Territory	76	7	6	np	np	—	—	4 764	4 858
Other Territories	4	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	23
Australia	***91 195***	***72 013***	***65 887***	***19 747***	***30 812***	***6 605***	***3 760***	***5 719***	***295 738***

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

State and territory data continued

24 In 2009, there were 323 births registered in Australia to women who usually lived overseas. These have been included in this publication with state or territory of usual residence classified according to the state or territory in which the birth was registered.

BIRTHS, Mothers usually resident overseas

State or territory of registration	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
New South Wales	398	380	281	308	324	341	252
Victoria	24	20	23	21	17	20	23
Queensland	92	61	38	41	86	42	27
South Australia	5	9	—	—	3	3	np
Western Australia	24	18	8	13	21	18	13
Tasmania	5	—	3	—	—	—	—
Northern Territory	5	3	5	4	np	np	np
Australian Capital Territory	4	—	7	3	np	np	—
Australia	***557***	***491***	***364***	***391***	***456***	***429***	***323***

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

Sub-state/territory fertility rates

25 Age-specific and total fertility rates for sub-state/territory regions (for example, Statistical Divisions) presented in data cubes released with this publication are average rates for three years ending in the reference year. Rates for Australia and the states and territories in all other tables are based on single years of birth registration data.

DATA QUALITY

26 In compiling birth statistics, the ABS employs a variety of measures to improve the quality of the birth registrations collection. While every opportunity is taken to ensure that the highest quality of statistics are provided, the following are known issues associated with the statistics included in this publication.

Interval between occurrence and registration of births

27 For the most part, statistics in this publication refer to births registered during the calendar year shown. There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth (referred to as a registration 'lag'), and as a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth. Births which occur in November and December are also likely to be registered in the following year.

Interval between occurrence and registration of births continued

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2009, Year of occurrence—Selected years

State or territory of registration	2003 and earlier %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %	2009 %
New South Wales	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	9.3	90.0
Victoria	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	8.9	89.2
Queensland	2.4	0.6	1.1	1.3	1.3	12.8	80.5
South Australia	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	5.8	92.1
Western Australia	1.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	6.0	90.9
Tasmania	2.2	—	—	0.1	—	2.5	95.2
Northern Territory	0.6	—	0.1	—	—	5.2	94.1
Australian Capital Territory	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	6.6	92.2
Australia	***1.0***	***0.2***	***0.4***	***0.5***	***0.6***	***9.1***	***88.1***

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

28 Of the 295,700 births registered in 2009, 88.1% occurred in 2009, while 9.1% occurred in 2008 and the remainder (2.7%) occurred in 2007 or earlier years.

Recent registration lags in Queensland

29 As a result of recent changes in the timeliness of registration of births in Queensland, care should be taken when interpreting changes in Queensland births between 2005 and 2009. In Queensland, 12.8% of the 65,900 births registered in 2009 occurred in 2008. A further 6.7% occurred in 2007 or earlier years. This lag is also evident in data for earlier years.

30 The December quarter 2009 also saw the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages devote significant time and resources to follow-up and finalise birth registrations where there was previously incomplete information. As part of the 'Retrospective Births Project' 1,780 births were registered, with approximately 40% registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (see paragraph 38 for more information). This project is now complete.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN QUEENSLAND, Year of registration by year of occurrence

	YEAR OF REGISTRATION					
Year of occurrence	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %	2009 %
2001 and earlier	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.5
2002	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.2
2003	11.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
2004	84.7	10.7	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.6
2005	—	85.4	14.8	1.1	0.6	1.1
2006	—	—	81.3	16.2	1.1	1.3
2007	—	—	—	79.7	13.2	1.3
2008	—	—	—	—	81.3	12.8
2009	—	—	—	—	—	80.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Tasmanian birth registrations

31 The Tasmanian *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999* requires hospitals, doctors, midwives or other responsible persons to provide the Tasmanian Registrar with a list of babies born containing basic information such as date of birth and sex of the baby. In the case of a live birth, the birth notification must be provided within 21 days of the birth. These notifications have been provided to the ABS since 2002 and are also used in producing quarterly population estimates.

Tasmanian birth registrations continued

32 Under the Act, the birth of a child must also be registered by lodging a birth registration statement with the Registrar within 60 days after the date of birth of the child. Once the parent(s) submits the birth registration statement, the record is updated and the Registrar provides ABS with a complete registration record. Where a match between a birth notification and birth registration statement is identified, the record is quality assured to ensure completeness of the record.

33 Prior to 2007, records for which a birth registration form was not received were coded as 'ex-nuptial, paternity not acknowledged'. As a result, the number of ex-nuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated for 2002 to 2006. From 2007, these records have been excluded from all nuptiality statistics. In 2009, the number of unmatched birth registration forms was 167.

Indigenous births and fertility rates

34 The ABS Birth Registrations collection identifies a birth as being as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) origin where at least one parent identifies themselves as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both origins on the birth registration form. Therefore, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births may be attributed to either:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, including births where both the mother and father are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians; or
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers and non-Indigenous mothers.

35 There are several data collection forms on which people are asked to state whether they are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Due to a number of factors, the results are not always consistent. The likelihood that a person will identify, or be identified, as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian on a specific form is known as their propensity to identify. Propensity to identify can be thought of as the proportion of the total, unknown, number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify as such on a specific form.

36 Propensity to identify as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian is determined by a range of factors, including how the information is collected; who completes the form; the perception of how the information will be used; education programs about identifying as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian; and cultural issues associated with identifying as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian.

37 Data presented in this publication may therefore underestimate the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births and fertility in Australia. Lags in registrations may also affect reliability of measures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility. Caution should be exercised when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians data presented in this publication, especially with regard to year-to-year changes.

Indigenous births and fertility rates continued

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2009, Year of occurrence—Selected years

State or territory of registration	2003 and earlier %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %	2009 %
New South Wales	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.7	10.3	86.8
Victoria	7.0	1.2	1.3	3.6	2.2	12.2	72.4
Queensland	9.6	2.3	4.5	5.9	5.6	16.0	56.0
South Australia	8.7	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	5.6	80.7
Western Australia	9.7	1.0	1.9	2.6	3.1	10.1	71.6
Tasmania	2.8	—	—	0.3	—	1.5	95.4
Northern Territory	1.3	—	0.2	—	0.1	6.9	91.6
Australian Capital Territory	3.0	1.2	3.6	1.8	2.4	10.9	77.0
Australia	***6.0***	***1.2***	***2.2***	***2.9***	***2.8***	***11.5***	***73.4***

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

RECENT REGISTRATION LAGS IN QUEENSLAND

38 As described in paragraph 30, the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages undertook a 'Retrospective Births Project' during 2009 resulting in the registration of births where there was previously incomplete information. A significant proportion of these births were identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, which may affect fertility data in Queensland for 2009 (see *Chapter 4: Effect of delayed birth registrations in Australia* for further information).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS REGISTERED IN QUEENSLAND, Year of registration by year of occurrence

	YEAR OF REGISTRATION					
Year of occurrence	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %	2009 %
2001 and earlier	9.5	7.8	6.9	6.3	7.0	6.3
2002	3.7	2.1	2.0	1.8	3.7	1.0
2003	16.4	3.8	2.6	1.8	2.2	2.2
2004	70.3	15.9	3.1	1.6	4.0	2.3
2005	—	70.5	19.7	3.5	2.0	4.5
2006	—	—	65.7	18.0	3.4	5.9
2007	—	—	—	66.9	14.4	5.6
2008	—	—	—	—	63.3	16.0
2009	—	—	—	—	—	56.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

39 Since 2006, Indigenous status of the mother and father for births registered in New South Wales has not been consistent with other jurisdictions. Specifically, where one parent is Indigenous (either Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander), the other parent will be either 'Indigenous' or 'Not stated'. Further, where one parent is 'Non-Indigenous', the other parent will also be 'Non-Indigenous' or 'Not stated'. The Indigenous status of the child, where the birth is registered in New South Wales, is derived from the Indigenous status of each of the parents therefore there is a disproportionate number of records in New South Wales where the child's Indigenous status is 'Not stated'. Indigenous status of births registered in New South Wales should therefore be interpreted with caution. The ABS has been advised that this matter is being investigated as part of other processing system developments underway.

Indigenous births and fertility rates continued

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, Indigenous status of parents—2009

	INDIGENOUS STATUS OF FATHER			
Indigenous status of mother	*Indigenous father*	*Non-Indigenous father*	*Not stated*	*Total*
Indigenous mother	820	—	1 665	2 485
Non-Indigenous mother	—	85 110	2 062	87 172
Not stated	1 507	11	20	1 538
Total	2 327	85 121	3 747	91 195

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

40 Chapter 3 reports on the number and characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births and fertility rates in each state and territory, excluding the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians data for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories are not analysed separately due to small numbers, but are included in totals for Australia.

41 The populations used to calculate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility rates for 1996 to 2009 are experimental estimates and projections of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female population aged 15–49 years, based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. For more information, see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021* (cat. no. 3238.0).

42 Estimates of annual numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births in Australia are available from two collections:

- ABS Birth Registrations: this publication is based on the registration of births with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory; and
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit perinatal statistics series: these data are primarily about babies born in hospitals and their mothers (see online *Appendix: Differences Between Collections* for more information).

43 In addition to these collections, it is possible to derive indirect estimates and projections of numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, based on 2006 census-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates:

- for 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2005, estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were derived from experimental Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resident population as at 30 June 2006 using a reverse survival technique based on experimental Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life tables (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021*, cat. no. 3238.0). Indirect estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births can then be derived using the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 at 30 June of each year; and
- for 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2021, projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were derived from experimental Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resident population as at 30 June 2006 using assumptions on future levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility, mortality and migration. Numbers of projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births were derived by applying assumed fertility rates to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female population aged 15–49 years at 30 June of each year (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021*, cat. no. 3238.0).

Edits and imputations

44 During edit processes for the Birth Registrations collection, some items are corrected where they conflict with other known information. Missing data for some data items are imputed when appropriate. In 2009, there were 258 birth registrations for which place of usual residence was imputed, and 34 registrations for which sex was imputed.

Parity (previous children of mother)

45 Parity refers to the number of (live) births that a woman has had. Birth order refers to whether a birth is the first, second, third or higher-order birth of the parent. In registering births, information is collected on the number of previous children born to a mother.

46 Changes in ABS processing of birth registrations from 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers. Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the *current* relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007 onwards, data on previous births for *all* relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland. Due to the high proportion of confinements in Tasmania in 2009 for which no information on previous children of the mother was available (table 2.7), data for Tasmania should be interpreted with caution. As a result of these inconsistencies, Australian figures are not available for publication.

47 These data are collected as a result of the increasing demand for parity data for analysis and dissemination. For more information on the use of parity data, and collection methods associated with these statistics, see Corr, P. and Kippen, R. 2006, *The Case for Parity and Birth-Order Statistics*, Australia and New Zealand Journal of Statistics, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 171–200.

48 As a result of the above changes, data on previous births for 2007 onwards are not comparable with data for earlier years. However, the improved information indicates that the prevalence of first births (that is, mothers with no previous children) was overestimated prior to 2007, while numbers of mothers with two or more previous children were underestimated.

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER(a), Australia(b)—2004 to 2009

Year of registration(c)	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2004	49.4	33.0	12.9	3.1	0.9	0.6	100.0
2005	49.0	33.3	12.6	3.5	1.0	0.6	100.0
2006	48.7	33.0	12.8	3.8	1.0	0.7	100.0
2007	42.5	32.6	14.8	5.1	1.9	1.2	100.0
2008	42.9	33.1	15.0	5.4	2.0	1.4	100.0
2009	44.0	33.3	14.5	5.1	2.0	1.2	100.0

(a) Previous children refers to the number of previous births of the mother, at the time of the birth registered in the reference year.
(b) Excluding Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.
(c) Data for 2004 to 2006 are the number of previous births of the mother from the current relationship only. Data from 2007 onwards are previous births of the mother for all relationships.

Age of parent(s)

49 During birth registration processing since 2007, discrepancies have been identified between age of mother data as provided to the ABS and age of mother derived from date of birth of mother. In 2009 there were 17,133 records (6% of all confinements) for which the derived age of mother was found to be inconsistent with the reported age. For these records, the derived age of mother was used. The same process was applied to information on age of father, for which 16,466 records were affected. For years prior to 2007, median age may therefore have been overstated.

CONFIDENTIALITY

50 The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the authority for the ABS to collect statistical information, and requires that statistical output shall not be published or disseminated in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. This requirement means that the ABS must take care and make assurances that any statistical information about individual respondents cannot be derived from published data.

51 Where necessary, tables in this publication have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

ROUNDING

52 Calculations as shown in the commentary sections of this publication are based on unrounded figures. Calculations using rounded figures may differ from those published. Where figures have been rounded in tables, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

53 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, business, governments and other organisations. The efforts of Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages to improve the data quality, coverage and timeliness of birth registration information, processes and systems are noted and valued by the ABS. 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*.

RELATED PRODUCTS

54 Other ABS products which may be of interest to users include:

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0)
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (cat. no. 1216.0)
Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)
Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0)
Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001)
Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)
Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (cat. no. 3238.0)
Perinatal Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3304.0)
Population Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3222.0)
Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (cat. no. 1269.0)

55 Other publications which may be of interest to users include *Australia's Mothers and Babies, 2007*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit, AIHW website <www.aihw.gov.au>. Please note there are differences between the ABS and AIHW birth collections, these are discussed in *Appendix: Differences Between Collections* included with this publication on the ABS website.

56 ABS products and publications are available free of charge from the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au>. Click on Statistics to gain access to the full range of ABS statistical or reference information.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

57 More detailed birth and fertility statistics can be obtained from data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) available for download from the ABS website in *Births, Australia, 2009* (cat. no. 3301.0):

- Table 1: Births, Summary, States and territories—1999 to 2009
- Table 2: Births, Summary, Statistical Divisions—2004 to 2009
- Table 3: Births, Summary, Statistical Local Areas—2004 to 2009
- Table 4: Births, Summary, Local Government Areas—2004 to 2009
- Table 5: Births, Year and month of occurrence, Australia—1999 to 2009
- Table 6: Births, Nuptiality and age of parents, Australia—2009
- Table 7: Births, Country of birth of parents, Australia—2009
- Table 8: Multiple births, States and territories—2009
- Table 9: Births of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Summary, States and territories—2009
- Table 10: Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, Single year of age of mother, Australia—1975 to 2009

58 The release of sub-state data in Table 2, Table 3, and Table 4 of the data cubes has been deferred and will be added to the ABS website on 9 December 2010.

59 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

60 The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details the products to be released in the week ahead.

GLOSSARY

Age-specific fertility rates Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) are the number of live births (occurred or registered) during the calendar year, according to the age of the mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 years are included in the 15–19 years age group, and births to mothers aged 50 years and over are included in the 45–49 years age group. Pro rata adjustment is made for births for which the age of the mother is not given.

Average annual growth rate The average annual growth rate, r, is calculated as a percentage using the formula:

$$\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1\right] \times 100$$

where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_0 and P_n in years.

Baby boom Baby boom refers to the generation born between the end of World War II and the mid-1960s. Baby boomers are usually taken to be those born in the years 1946 to 1965 inclusive.

Balance of state or territory The aggregation of all Statistical Divisions (SD) within a state or territory other than its Capital City SD. See Major Statistical Region in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Birth The delivery of a child, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as a heartbeat.

Childbearing ages See Reproductive lifetime.

Completed fertility Completed fertility represents the average number of births a cohort of females have borne over their reproductive lifetimes.

Confinement A pregnancy which results in at least one live birth.

Crude birth rate The crude birth rate is the number of live births registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1992, the crude birth rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year.

Estimated resident population (ERP) The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months.

Ex-nuptial birth An ex-nuptial birth is the birth of a child whose parents are not legally married to each other at the time of the child's birth.

Indigenous Persons who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Indigenous birth The birth of a live-born child where either the mother or the father was identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration form.

Intercensal discrepancy Intercensal discrepancy is the difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous census year with intercensal components of population change which take account of information available from the latest census. It is caused by errors in the start and/or finish population estimates and/or in estimates of births, deaths or migration in the intervening period which cannot be attributed to a particular source. For further information see *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Local Government Area (LGA) LGA is a spatial unit which represents the whole geographical area of responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council, an Aboriginal or Island Council in Queensland, or a Community Government Council (CGC) in the Northern Territory. An LGA consists of one or more SLAs. LGAs aggregate directly to form the incorporated areas of states/territories. The creation and delimitation of LGAs are the responsibility of the state and territory Governments. The number of LGAs, their names and their boundaries vary over time. Further information concerning LGAs is contained in *Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Marital status Two separate concepts of marital status are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status.

Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages and divorces. 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 'never married', 'married', widowed' or 'divorced'. Statistics included in this publication are based on registered marital status.

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married' with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married'.

Median age of mother at confinement The median age of mother at confinement measures the median age of females who gave birth in a particular year. This publication reports on median age of mother at confinement.

Median value For any distribution the median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.

Mortality Death.

Multiple birth A multiple birth is a confinement which results in two or more children, at least one of which is live-born.

Natural increase Excess of births over deaths.

Net overseas migration (NOM)

Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. It is:

- based on an international traveller's duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; and
- the difference between:
  - the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who *are not* currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population (NOM arrivals); and
  - the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who *are* currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration, this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier

Net reproduction rate

The net reproduction rate represents the average number of daughters that would be born to a group of females if they are subject to the fertility and mortality rates of a given year during their future life. It indicates the extent to which the population would reproduce itself. The net reproduction rate is obtained by multiplying the age-specific birth rates (for female births only) by the proportion of survivors at corresponding ages in a life table and adding the products.

Nuptial birth

A nuptial birth is the birth of a child born of parents who are legally married at the time of the child's birth.

Nuptiality

Nuptiality relates to the registered marital status of persons and the events such as marriages, divorces and widowhood. Confinements and births are identified as being nuptial where the father registered was married to the mother at the time of birth, or where the husband died during pregnancy. Confinements and children of Indigenous mothers considered to be tribally married are classified as nuptial. Other confinements, and the children resulting from them, are classified as ex-nuptial whether or not both parents were living together at the time of birth.

Other Territories

Following the 1992 amendments to the *Acts Interpretation Act* to include the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of geographic Australia, another category at the state and territory level has been created, known as Other Territories. Other Territories include Jervis Bay Territory, previously included with the Australian Capital Territory, as well as Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Parity

Parity refers to the number of live births a woman has had previous to the most recent birth. Parity is also an attribute of any live birth, being the order of that birth (e.g. first birth, second birth, and so on) of a woman.

Paternity acknowledged birth

A paternity acknowledged birth refers to an ex-nuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged (on the birth registration form).

Paternity not acknowledged birth

A paternity not acknowledged birth refers to an ex-nuptial birth where paternity was not acknowledged (on the birth registration form).

Population growth

For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the census, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.

Previous births

Previous births refer to children born alive (who may or may not be living) to a mother prior to the registration of the current birth in the processing period. In some states, legitimised and legally adopted children may also be included.

Due to variation in data collection and processing methods across states and territories, different definitions of the concept of previous births have been applied.

Changes in ABS processing of data collected by state/territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages for 2007 have resulted in the availability of improved information on previous births to mothers. Prior to 2007, ABS published information on previous births of the mother from the *current* relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007, data on previous births for *all* relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland.

Previous children

See Previous births.

Rate of population growth

Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.

Replacement fertility

Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a female would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of females up to age 49 years, replacement fertility is estimated at around 2.1 babies per female.

Reproductive lifetime

Women's childbearing years, usually assumed as the ages from 15 to 49 years for the purpose of analysis. In this publication, births to women less than 15 years are included in the 15 years age group and those 50 years and older are included in the 49 years age group.

Sex ratio

The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females.

State or territory of registration

State or territory of registration refers to the state or territory in which the event was registered.

State or territory of usual residence

State or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory of usual residence of:

- the population (estimated resident population);
- the mother (birth collection); and
- the deceased (death collection).

Statistical Division (SD)

Statistical Divisions (SD) consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions (SSD). The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SDs is contained in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

Statistical Local Areas (SLA) are, in most cases, identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole Local Government Areas (LGA). In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases, legal LGAs overlap statistical subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs (Part A, Part B and, if necessary, Part C). Further information concerning SLAs is contained in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

In aggregate, Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SSDs is contained in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Teenage fertility rate The number of births during the calendar year to women aged 15–19 years, per 1,000 female estimated resident population aged 15–19 years at 30 June of the same year. Births to women aged under 15 years are included.

Total fertility rate The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Usual residence Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.

Year of occurrence Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the birth occurred.

Year of registration Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the birth was registered.

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