



2007

3301.0

BIRTHS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 28 OCT 2008

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Anna Spierewka on Canberra (02) 6252 5995.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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 rates prior to 2006 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 2007 use preliminary 30 June 2007 estimated resident population figures.

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

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The content of this publication has been reviewed, with the aim of reducing duplication of data. Tables previously presented in the printed publication (in Adobe PDF format) have been removed and are now available in data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) from the ABS website. For more information on available data cubes, see paragraph 52 of the Explanatory Notes.

Fertility rates from 2002 to 2006 have been revised using final estimated resident population data based on results of the 2006 Census.

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. See paragraphs 41 to 44 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

DATA NOTE

As indicated above, the data presented in this publication refer to births registered during the calendar year. In 2007, changes in processing of birth registrations in some states, particularly Queensland (see paragraph 29 of the Explanatory Notes), and amendments to the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* requiring the registration of, or application for registration of, the birth of a child as a condition for applying for the Baby Bonus will have affected the data.

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.

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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RELATED DATA CUBES AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS WEBSITE

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(cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

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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
Bal	Balance
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

INCREASE IN FERTILITY

- Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2007 was 1.93 babies per woman, the highest since 1981 (1.94).
- The increase in the TFR between 2006 and 2007 was largely due to births to women aged 25 to 34 years.
- Fertility rates increased for all age groups of women between 2006 and 2007.
- Women aged 30–34 years experienced the highest fertility of all age groups in 2007, with 126.6 babies per 1,000 women. This was the highest rate recorded for women aged 30–34 years since 1962.
- Women aged 25–29 years continued to record the second highest fertility of all age groups, with 106.5 babies per 1,000 women in 2007.
- Fertility of women aged 35–39 years increased to 68.1 babies per 1,000 women. This was the highest rate for women aged 35–39 years since 1950.
- Fertility of women aged 20–24 years increased to 55.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2007. This was the first increase for women aged 20–24 years since 1990.
- At the national level, teenage fertility was 16.0 babies per 1,000 women in 2007, slightly higher than in 2006 (15.3 babies per 1,000 women).

HIGHEST NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED

- In 2007 there were 285,200 births registered in Australia, 19,300 (7.2%) more than in 2006. This was the highest number of births ever registered in Australia.

MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

- The median age of all mothers of births registered in 2007 was 30.7 years, while the median age of all fathers was 33.1 years.

NUPTIALITY

- In 2007, 67% of births were to parents in a registered marriage, compared to 82% in 1987.
- The proportion of births to parents outside registered marriages has increased steadily since 1975. In 2007, 33% of all births registered were to parents who were not in a registered marriage.
- The proportion of births where the father has not acknowledged the birth (by not signing the birth registration form) has decreased from 5% in 1987 to 3% in 2007.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

- Total fertility rates for all states and territories increased in 2007.
- The Northern Territory (2.27 babies per woman) recorded the highest TFR in 2007, followed by Tasmania (2.19) and Queensland (2.09).
- Tasmania's TFR of 2.19 babies per woman was the highest since 1975.
- Queensland's TFR of 2.09 babies per woman was the highest since 1977.
- Victoria's TFR of 1.87 babies per woman was the highest since 1978.
- Women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility of all age groups in all states and territories in 2007, with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest levels of fertility.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

continued

- The number of births registered in 2007 was higher than in 2006 for all states and territories, with Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales recording the largest increases.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS AND FERTILITY

- There were 14,200 births registered in Australia during 2007 (5% of all births) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement.
- In 2007 the TFR for Indigenous women increased to 2.4 babies per woman, from 2.1 babies per woman in 2006.
- Higher fertility at younger ages contributes to the relatively high fertility of Indigenous women. In 2007, women under 30 years of age accounted for 70% of the total fertility rate for Indigenous women, compared to 46% of the total fertility rate for all women in Australia.

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER

- 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.
- Of the states and territories that collect data on all children born to a mother, the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion (45%) of first births of the mother (that is, no previous children), followed by Western Australia (44%).
- For mothers who registered a birth in 2007, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia recorded the highest proportions (both 34%) of mothers who had one child previously.
- Around one-third (30%) of mothers who registered a birth in the Northern Territory in 2007 had two or more previous children.

INTRODUCTION

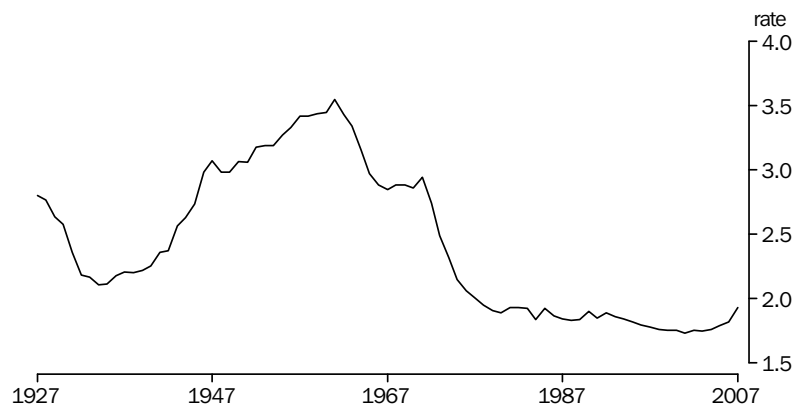
During 2007 there were 285,200 births registered in Australia, born to 280,800 mothers. This was 19,300 (7.2%) more births than the number registered during 2006 and the highest ever recorded, exceeding the 276,400 births registered in 1971. All states and territories recorded an increase in the number of births registered in 2007, with Queensland recording the largest increase (see Data Note on page 2 and paragraph 29 of the Explanatory Notes).

TRENDS IN NATIONAL FERTILITY

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 apply. In 2007 Australia's TFR was 1.93 babies per woman, the highest since 1981 (1.94).

Having reached a TFR of 3.1 during the early 1920s, Australian fertility was 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', it peaked at 3.5 babies per woman. Since then fertility has declined, falling sharply during the early 1960s as the oral contraceptive pill became available, before levelling at around 2.9 babies per woman in the years 1966–1971. 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. The TFR fell to replacement level (2.1) in 1976, 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 and has increased since then, to 1.93 babies per woman in 2007.

2.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Australia



(a) Births per woman.

Age-specific fertility rates

Consistent with the overall increase in Australia's TFR, age-specific fertility rates for all age groups of mother increased between 2006 and 2007.

Over the past few decades, the decline in Australia's TFR has been closely associated with the tendency for women to have their babies at older ages. The median age of all women who gave birth in 1997 was 29.4 years; by 2007 this had increased to 30.7 years.

The transition to an older age-specific fertility pattern is illustrated by the shift in peak fertility of women aged 25–29 years in 1999 to 30–34 years in 2000. Since then, 30–34 years has remained the peak fertility age group, with 126.6 babies per 1,000 women in 2007 (up from 120.4 in 2006).

Women aged 25–29 years experienced the second highest fertility in 2007, with a rate of 106.5 babies per 1,000 women (up from 101.0 in 2006). Women aged 35–39 years and 20–24 years experienced fertility rates of 68.1 and 55.8 babies per 1,000 women respectively (up from 63.4 and 51.4 respectively).

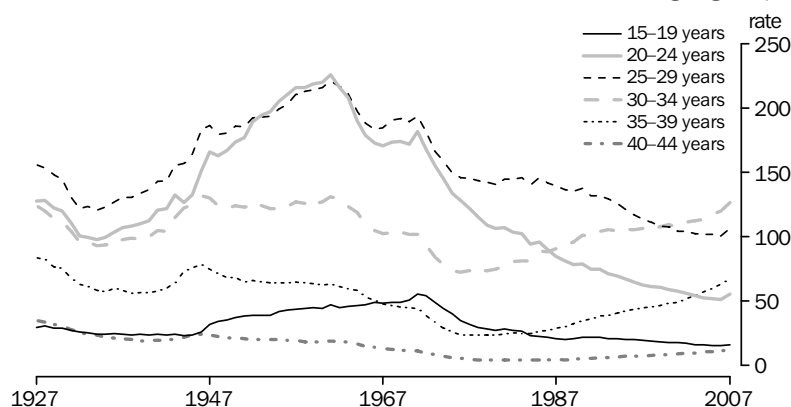
Until the late 1970s the distribution of fertility across age groups was relatively stable, with each age group peaking and troughing together, although some peaks were more pronounced for some age groups than others. Women aged 25–29 years had the highest fertility for most of this period, followed by women aged 20–24 years. Increasing fertility since the mid 1970s amongst women aged 30–34 years resulted in fertility for this age group exceeding that of women aged 20–24 years in 1987 and that of women aged 25–29 years in 2000. In 2003 fertility of women aged 35–39 years exceeded that of women aged 20–24 years for the first time, with this trend continuing since then.

Declines in fertility rates have occurred amongst younger women over the period 1980 to 2007. Women aged 20–24 years experienced the greatest decrease, with fertility almost halving over the period (from 107.0 babies per 1,000 women in 1980 to 55.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2007). The fertility of women aged 25–29 years decreased by 25% over the same period (from 141.0 babies per 1,000 women to 106.5 babies per 1,000 women), while teenage fertility (women aged 15–19 years) decreased by 42% (from 27.6 babies per 1,000 women to 16.0 babies per 1,000 women).

Fertility rates for the older age groups increased between 1980 and 2007. The fertility rate for women aged 30–34 years increased by 69% (from 75.1 babies per 1,000 women in 1980 to 126.6 babies per 1,000 women in 2007) while the rate for women aged 35–39 years nearly tripled (from 23.7 babies per 1,000 women to 68.1 babies per 1,000 women). The fertility of women aged 40–44 years also almost tripled over this period, from 4.4 babies per 1,000 women to 12.6 babies per 1,000 women, as the trend towards older motherhood continued.

Age-specific fertility rates
continued

2.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Selected age groups



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Replacement fertility

Since 1976 Australia has experienced total fertility rates below replacement level. That is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life (the TFR) has been insufficient to replace herself and her partner. Although the TFR required for replacement is currently around 2.1 babies per woman, this number is not constant. Because the level of fertility required for replacement is dependent on the number of women who survive to reproductive ages, replacement fertility has declined in parallel with falls in female mortality. In 1921, when mortality rates were high, replacement fertility was 2.4 babies per woman. By 1954, it had decreased to 2.1, and by 1996 replacement fertility was 2.08. Even if female mortality declined to zero for women up to 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 2007 TFR of 1.93 babies per woman.

Completed fertility

Completed fertility refers to the number of children that a woman born in a particular year has had by the end of her reproductive life. A 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 observed and assumed age-specific fertility rates is used in Table 2.3.

Completed fertility rates of women born in the early 1930s are the highest on record (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) assumed completed fertility of women born in 2007 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? of the 2006 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0).

Completed fertility
continued

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

Year of birth	Average no. of children	Proportion based on projected births(b)	Median age
	no.	%	years
1912	2.3	—	28.8
1922	2.7	—	27.9
1932	3.1	—	26.5
1942	2.7	—	25.6
1952	2.3	—	26.3
1962	2.1	0.1	28.2
1972	2.0	15.9	30.0
1982	2.0	77.7	30.9
1992	1.9	99.8	31.4
2002	1.8	100.0	31.6
2007	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) Proportion of the estimated average derived from assumed fertility.

INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

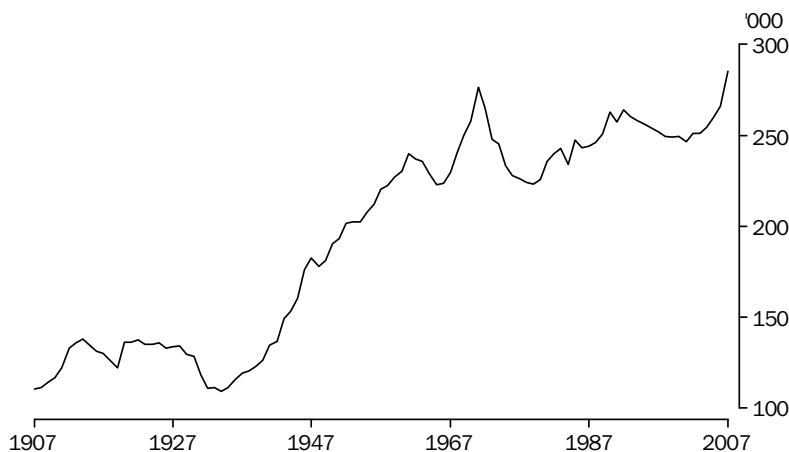
In 2007 the TFR for Indigenous women was 2.40 babies per woman, compared to 1.93 for all women. The TFR for Indigenous women was derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers in 2007 and 30 June 2006 experimental estimates of 14–48 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, aged by one year and adjusted by the number of registered deaths of Indigenous females at each age for the year ending 30 June 2007.

For further information on Indigenous fertility see Chapter 3.

BIRTHS

For most of the first half of the last century the number of births registered in Australia each year remained under 140,000, with a trough occurring in the early 1930s during the Great Depression. The number of births then increased rapidly, reaching a peak of 276,400 in 1971, fell sharply during the remainder of the 1970s, then increased from the early 1980s to reach another peak in 1992 of 264,200 births. Following 1992 numbers of births decreased, reaching 246,400 in 2001. Since then the number of births has increased, reaching 285,200 in 2007, the highest number of births registered in Australia.

2.4 REGISTERED BIRTHS



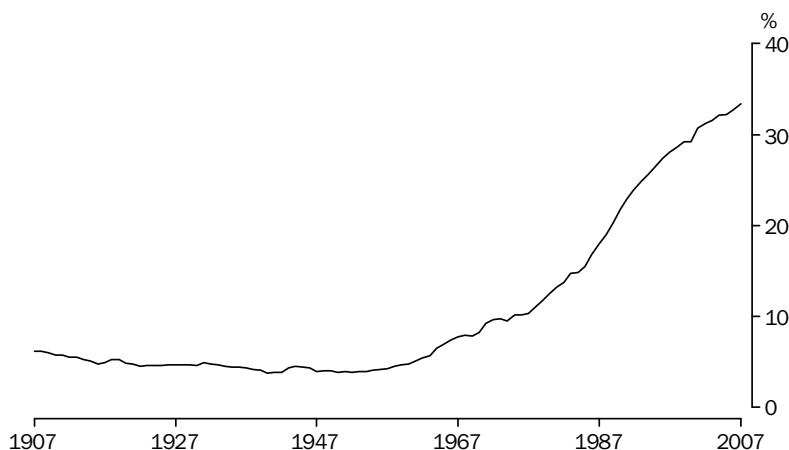
Sex ratio

Just over half (51%) of all births registered in 2007 were male babies, with the sex ratio at birth being 105.5 male babies for every 100 female babies.

Nuptial and exnuptial births

In 2007, 67% of births were nuptial births, or births to mothers who were married (marriage in this publication refers to a registered marriage unless otherwise indicated). Exnuptial births accounted for the remaining 33% of births, although many of these births may have been to mothers in de facto relationships. The proportion of exnuptial births has been increasing since the 1950s, and has risen sharply over the last two decades.

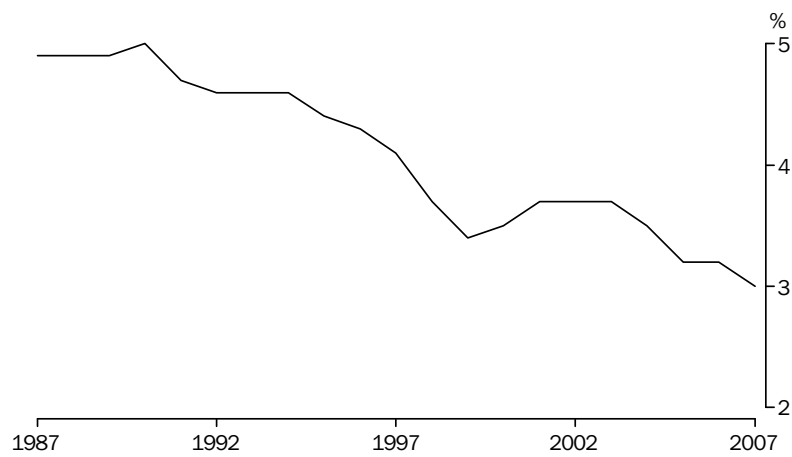
2.5 EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS, Proportion of all births



Acknowledgment of paternity

With exnuptial births comes the possibility that the father may not acknowledge the birth (that is, the father has not signed the birth registration statement). While the number of exnuptial births has increased greatly over the past twenty years, the proportion of these births in which paternity was not acknowledged has decreased. In 1987 around 27% of all exnuptial births were paternity not acknowledged, but by 2007 this proportion had decreased to 9%. In terms of all births, paternity not acknowledged births have decreased from 5% of all births in 1987 to 3% in 2007.

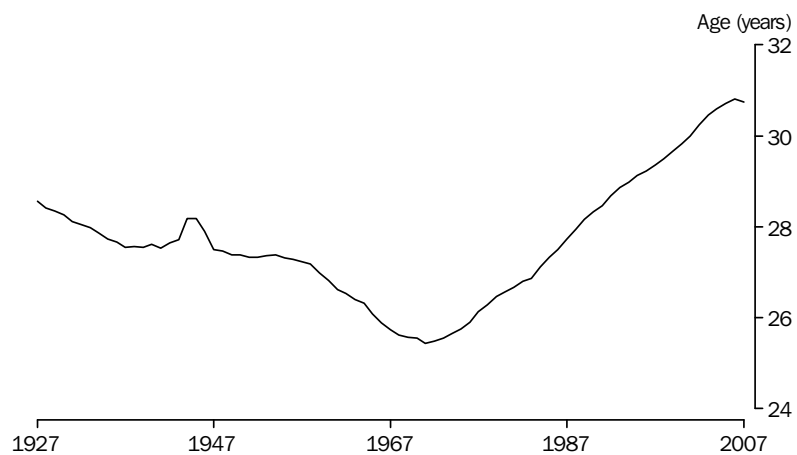
2.6 PATERNITY NOT ACKNOWLEDGED BIRTHS, Proportion of all births



Age of parents at confinement

The median age of all mothers of births registered in 2007 was 30.7 years. Women who registered an exnuptial birth in 2007 had a median age of 27.1 years, almost five years younger than women who registered a nuptial birth (31.8 years). The median age of women who registered an exnuptial birth where paternity was not acknowledged (25.4 years) was lower than the median age of women who registered an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged (27.2 years).

2.7 MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER



*Age of parents at
confinement continued*

Prior to the 1930s the median age of mothers giving birth had been in decline. 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 mother. From 1972 onwards, the median age of mothers consistently increased until 2006, reaching 30.8 years, the highest on record. However, data quality investigations during 2007 processing indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age, may have been overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years. See paragraph 45 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

As age-specific fertility rates indicate, the median age of mothers is affected by current trends towards delayed childbearing, and repartnering and subsequent family formation following separation or divorce.

The median age of all fathers over the past two decades has followed an upward trend. In 2007 the median age of all fathers was 33.1 years, with no change from 2006. However, data quality investigations during 2007 processing indicated that age of parents, and therefore median age, may have been overstated for some birth registrations in 2006 and previous years. See paragraph 45 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

Between 1987 and 2007 the median age of married fathers increased by almost three years, from 30.8 to 34.0 years, while the median age of unmarried fathers who acknowledged the birth of their child also increased, from 26.8 years to 29.9 years.

*Number of previous
children of the mother*

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. These data are presented in Table 2.8. Data for Tasmania for 2007 are currently not available for publication due to data quality investigations. For more information see paragraphs 41 to 44 of the Explanatory Notes.

Of the states and territories that collect data on all children born to a mother, the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion (45%) of first births of the mother (that is, no previous children), followed by Western Australia (44%).

For mothers who registered a birth in 2007, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia recorded the highest proportions (both 34%) of mothers who had one child previously, while the Northern Territory recorded the highest proportion (30%) of mothers who had two or more previous children.

2.8 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother—2007

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	37 583	28 853	13 255	4 443	1 659	878	—	86 671
Victoria	35 546	22 664	8 583	2 286	628	444	—	70 151
Queensland	29 754	18 991	7 609	2 309	795	563	—	60 021
South Australia	8 368	6 519	2 886	956	392	283	—	19 404
Western Australia	11 244	8 512	3 780	1 300	494	430	2 956	28 716
Tasmania	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	6 540
Northern Territory	1 514	1 122	591	331	135	98	—	3 791
Australian Capital Territory	2 462	1 889	761	251	75	49	—	5 487

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

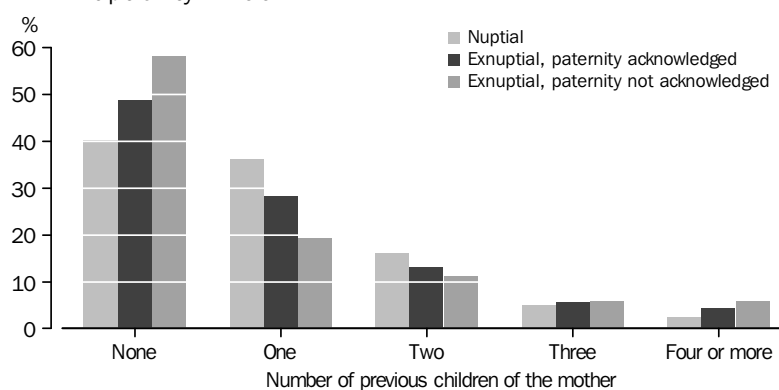
(a) Includes all children born to a mother, for all states and territories excluding Victoria and Queensland. For Victoria and Queensland, includes previous children of the current relationship only. Data for Tasmania are currently not available due to data quality investigations.

Number of previous children of the mother continued

Graph 2.9 presents aggregate data for all states and territories excluding Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. In 2007, 40% of nuptial confinements were to mothers with no previous children, 49% of exnuptial paternity acknowledged confinements were to mothers with no previous children, and 58% of exnuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with no previous children.

This pattern is reversed for mothers having their second or third child. In 2007, 36% of nuptial confinements were to mothers with one previous child, 28% of exnuptial paternity acknowledged confinements were to mothers with one previous child, and 19% of exnuptial paternity not acknowledged confinements were to mothers with one previous child.

2.9 CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the mother(a), Nuptiality—2007



(a) Includes all children of the mother. Excludes births registered in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

Confinements resulting in a multiple birth

The number of confinements resulting in a multiple birth has increased consistently since the 1970s. In 2007, the number was 4,400, 64% more than the number recorded in 1987 (2,700 confinements) and 1% more than the number recorded in 2006 (4,300 confinements).

STATE AND TERRITORY

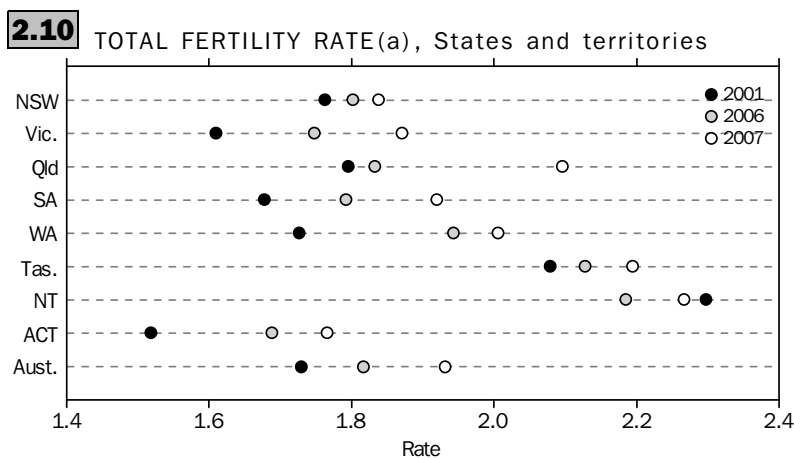
Total fertility rate

Total fertility rates for the states and territories varied substantially in 2007, from 1.77 babies per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.27 babies per woman in the Northern Territory. In recent years the TFR has trended upwards for all jurisdictions, following a long period of stability or gradual decline.

Tasmania's TFR has increased from 1.81 babies per woman in 2000 to 2.19 babies per woman in 2007, the highest rate recorded for Tasmania since 1975 (2.23 babies). The TFR for Western Australia has increased consistently over the past five years, from a low of 1.70 babies per woman in 2002 to 2.01 babies per woman in 2007, the highest rate for this state since 1978.

Queensland's TFR has increased from 1.77 babies per woman in 2003 to 2.09 babies per woman in 2007, the highest rate recorded for Queensland since 1977 (2.11 babies). Caution should be exercised when interpreting changes in Queensland's TFR between 2005, 2006 and 2007 due to changes in the timeliness of registration of births in Queensland in the past two years. The proportion of births registered in Queensland in 2007 that occurred in the year before (16.2%) is higher than in previous years, indicating that the total number of births registered in Queensland in 2007 is to some extent due to changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, as well as increases in the absolute number of registrations processed in 2007.

Moderate increases in the TFR have been recorded for Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia over the past five to six years, while the TFR for New South Wales has increased slightly. The Northern Territory's TFR has fluctuated at around 2.2 to 2.3 babies per woman over the past decade.



(a) Births per woman.

Age-specific fertility

In 2007 women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility of all age groups in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest level of fertility. Between 2006 and 2007, all states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory, recorded increases in fertility of women aged 30–34 years. Queensland recorded the largest increase, with the age-specific fertility rate of women aged 30–34 years increasing to 126.7 babies per 1,000 women in 2007 from 112.5 in 2006.

Younger mothers

At the national level, teenage fertility increased to 16.0 babies per 1,000 teenage women in 2007 (from 15.3 babies in 2006). However, amongst the states and territories different patterns of teenage fertility exist. The Northern Territory recorded a decrease in teenage births in 2007 (to 58.6 from 63.5 in 2006), while Queensland recorded an increase (to 23.0 from 19.7 in 2006). New South Wales has continued to record decreases in teenage fertility while the remaining states and territories recorded small increases.

Victoria (10.1 babies per 1,000 teenage women) and the Australian Capital Territory (10.3) recorded the lowest teenage fertility rates in 2007, while Northern Territory (58.6) recorded the highest.

2.11 BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS—2006 and 2007

	BIRTHS			TEENAGE FERTILITY RATES (a)		
	2006	2007	% change	2006	2007	% change
	no.	no.	%	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	2 949	2 788	-5.5	13.2	12.3	-6.6
Victoria	1 652	1 731	4.8	9.7	10.1	3.4
Queensland	2 723	3 289	20.8	19.7	23.0	17.1
South Australia	848	902	6.4	16.7	17.5	5.1
Western Australia	1 392	1 485	6.7	19.6	20.6	4.7
Tasmania	405	437	7.9	26.5	27.5	3.4
Northern Territory	471	449	-4.7	63.5	58.6	-7.8
Australian Capital Territory	108	123	13.9	9.1	10.3	13.0
Australia (b)	10 552	11 204	6.2	15.3	16.0	4.3

(a) Births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years. Includes births to women aged less than 15 years.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Births

The three most populous states accounted for over three-quarters (78%) of births registered in Australia in 2007: 89,500 in New South Wales (31%), 70,300 in Victoria (25%) and 61,200 in Queensland (21%). These proportions reflect the proportions of the Australian female population in reproductive ages living in these states.

Between 2006 and 2007 all states and territories recorded increases in registered births. Queensland and Victoria recorded the largest increases (up 8,600 and 5,100 births respectively), followed by New South Wales (up 2,200).

As a result of changes in the timeliness of registration of births in Queensland in the past two years, care should be taken when interpreting changes in Queensland births between 2005, 2006 and 2007. The proportion of births registered in Queensland in 2007

Births continued

that occurred in the year before (16.2%) is higher than in previous years, indicating that the total number of births registered in Queensland in 2007 is to some extent due to changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, as well as increases in the absolute number of registrations processed in 2007.

2.12 BIRTHS REGISTERED, States and territories—2006 and 2007

			CHANGE	
	2006	2007	2006-2007	2006-2007
	no.	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	87 336	89 495	2 159	2.5
Victoria	65 236	70 313	5 077	7.8
Queensland	52 665	61 249	8 584	16.3
South Australia	18 260	19 662	1 402	7.7
Western Australia	27 776	29 164	1 388	5.0
Tasmania	6 475	6 662	187	2.9
Northern Territory	3 696	3 894	198	5.4
Australian Capital Territory	4 479	4 753	274	6.1
Australia(a)	265 949	285 213	19 264	7.2

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Median age of parents at confinement

Of the states and territories, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had the oldest mothers of births registered in 2007, with median ages of 31.6 years and 31.3 years respectively. The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the youngest mothers, with median ages of 27.9 years and 29.2 years respectively. The median age of all mothers who gave birth in Australia in 2007 was 30.7 years.

The Northern Territory and Tasmania also had the youngest fathers in 2007, with median ages of 31.3 and 32.0 years respectively, while Victoria had the oldest fathers, with a median age of 33.7 years, followed by New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, both with median ages of 33.4 years.

Nuptiality

In 2007, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of births to parents in a registered marriage (both 72%), followed by Victoria (71%).

The highest proportions of births to women who were not in a registered marriage were recorded in the Northern Territory (64%) and Tasmania (50%), with these regions also recording the highest proportions of births where paternity was not acknowledged (20% and 6% respectively). Note that the number of exnuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated. See paragraphs 37 to 39 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

INTERVALS BETWEEN
OCCURRENCE AND
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

ABS births statistics are sourced from birth registrations systems administered by the various state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, based on data provided on an information 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.

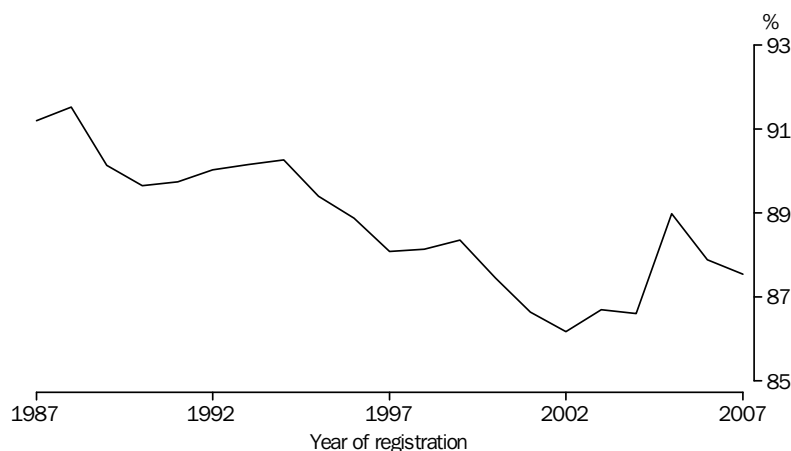
There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity to obtain missing information on the form, or resource limitations). In addition, the registration date, essentially the processing date, that each state and territory Registrar assigns to a birth registration, differs. 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 285,200 births registered in 2007, 87.5% (249,700) occurred in 2007. The remaining 12.5% (35,500) occurred in 2006 or earlier years. Prior to 2005, the proportion of births registered in the year they occurred was declining. In 1997, 88.1% of births registered in 1997 occurred in that year. By 2002 this proportion had declined to 86.2%. In 2005 the proportion had increased to 89.0%, 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 that occurred in the same year declined, due largely to decreases in Queensland. See paragraphs 27 to 29 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

2.13 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE YEAR OF OCCURRENCE



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. Table 2.14 shows the average interval between the occurrence and registration of births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2004 to 2007.

For Australia overall, the average interval for the second half of 2007 (2.3 months) was similar to earlier periods, indicating no change in the timeliness of registration of births in the second half of 2007.

Among the states and territories, average intervals varied widely for the second half of 2007, from 1 month for births registered in the Northern Territory to 3.7 months for births registered in Queensland. A comparison of average intervals over time shows year to year volatility, but no indication that average intervals for the second half of 2007 are lower than earlier periods.

More data is needed to determine whether the timeliness of registration of births occurring after 1 July 2007 has improved relative to earlier periods. Changes may be being masked by other factors such as year to year volatility and changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by state and territory registries.

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

State or territory of registration	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	3.6	4.1	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.4
Victoria	2.1	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.6
Queensland	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7
South Australia	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.7
Western Australia	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4
Tasmania	2.0	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.0
Northern Territory	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.3
Australia	2.9	3.1	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3

(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 intervals of 72 months.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of Indigenous births

Table 2.15 shows the average interval between the occurrence and registration of births for each state and territory for the first and second halves of the years 2004 to 2007, for births where one or both parents identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration statement (Indigenous births). In general, average intervals for Indigenous births are significantly larger than intervals for all births.

Similar to all births, a comparison of average intervals for Indigenous births over time shows year to year volatility among the states and territories, but little indication that average intervals for the second half of 2007 are lower than earlier periods.

Average interval between occurrence and registration of Indigenous births continued

For New South Wales, the average interval for the second half of 2007 was 2.4 months, the lowest for the period 2004 to 2007. This may reflect long-term decreases in intervals for all births registered in New South Wales, rather than a change in registration pattern for Indigenous births occurring after 1 July 2007.

For South Australia, the average interval for the second half of 2007 was 5.5 months, considerably lower than earlier periods. More data are needed to determine whether this is a consistent trend, and to determine whether intervals have decreased for other states and territories.

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

State or territory of registration	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2	Half 1	Half 2
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	9.5	10.7	4.7	2.5	3.3	3.8	3.2	2.4
Victoria	6.6	6.2	6.1	5.8	6.2	4.7	6.2	6.6
Queensland	9.4	8.1	9.6	7.8	9.7	9.8	12.0	8.0
South Australia	9.2	7.7	9.0	9.8	8.4	9.4	9.4	5.5
Western Australia	11.5	10.9	8.6	11.8	10.8	10.0	9.8	9.9
Tasmania	2.7	6.1	5.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	6.3	4.7
Northern Territory	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	2.1	1.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.9	3.3
Australia	8.1	8.3	6.8	5.9	6.5	6.4	7.4	5.7

(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 intervals of 72 months.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION GROWTH

Births form an important component of population growth. In 2007 there were 285,300 births in Australia. This is roughly twice the number of deaths (137,800), resulting in natural increase of around 150,000 people. Since 1976 Australian fertility has been below replacement level of 2.1 babies per woman; that is, below the number of births required to replace a woman and her partner. On current fertility rates, each woman can expect, on average, to have 1.93 babies over her lifetime. Despite this, natural increase is still positive because of the relatively young age structure of Australia's population. Although the number of births per woman is low, there are enough women currently in childbearing ages to keep the total number of births relatively high. 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 until 2101.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION GROWTH
continued

2.16 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE (a)

	Births(b)	Deaths(b)	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Population at end of period	Population increase (c)	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
1987	244.0	117.3	126.6	136.1	16 394.6	255.9	1.6
1988	246.2	119.9	126.3	172.8	16 687.1	292.4	1.8
1989	250.9	124.2	126.6	129.5	16 936.7	249.6	1.5
1990	262.6	120.1	142.6	97.1	17 169.8	233.0	1.4
1991	259.1	119.7	139.4	81.7	17 387.0	217.3	1.3
1992	262.1	122.9	139.2	51.4	17 581.3	194.3	1.1
1993	258.6	120.8	137.8	34.8	17 760.0	178.7	1.0
1994	258.4	127.0	131.4	55.5	17 951.5	191.5	1.1
1995	254.9	125.1	129.8	106.9	18 196.1	244.6	1.4
1996	252.9	128.2	124.7	97.4	18 420.3	224.3	1.2
1997	251.1	128.8	122.3	72.4	18 609.1	188.8	1.0
1998	248.3	127.4	120.8	88.8	18 814.3	205.2	1.1
1999	250.2	128.2	122.0	104.2	19 038.3	224.1	1.2
2000	249.2	128.8	120.4	111.4	19 272.6	234.3	1.2
2001	246.6	128.8	117.8	136.1	19 534.0	261.3	1.4
2002	247.7	133.0	114.7	110.5	19 771.0	237.0	1.2
2003	248.0	131.8	116.2	110.1	20 011.9	240.9	1.2
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	p266.8	p134.4	p132.4	p158.8	p20 848.8	p304.7	p1.5
2007	p285.3	p137.8	p147.4	p184.4	p21 180.6	p331.9	p1.6

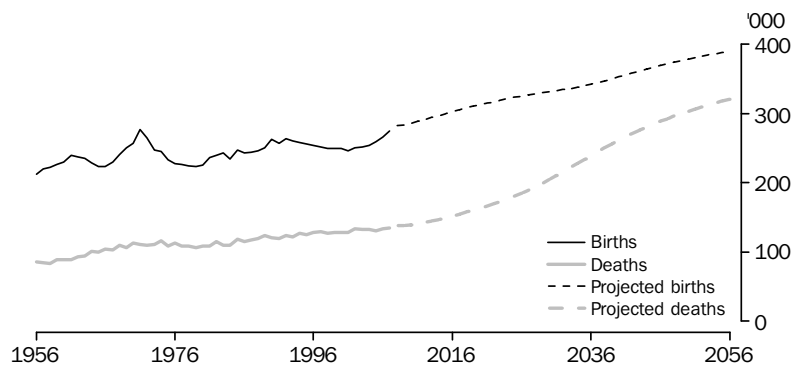
p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Calendar year.

(b) For 2005 and earlier years, births and deaths in this table are based on year of occurrence, for population estimation purposes. For 2006, 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. Data for 2007 are based on year of registration. 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.

2.17 ACTUAL AND PROJECTED BIRTHS AND DEATHS—Year ended 30 June



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

INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY

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, developing countries have higher fertility rates while developed countries have lower rates.

Australia's TFR for 2007 of 1.93 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 in 2005–2010. Hong Kong's projected TFR of 1.0 is one of the lowest in the world, while Japan and Singapore are both projected to have a TFR of 1.3. In Europe, low TFRs are projected for Greece (1.3) and Spain, Italy and Germany (each 1.4). Middle Eastern and African countries have the highest fertility rates, with Niger (7.2), Afghanistan (7.1) and Uganda (6.5) some of the highest. East Timor also has a high total fertility rate, of 6.5 babies per woman.

Projected fertility rates for the United States of America and New Zealand (2.1 and 2.0 respectively) are higher than Australia and the rate for Canada is lower (1.5).

2.18 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	7.5	7.1
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	1.5
China	6.1	4.9	3.3	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
East Timor	6.2	6.2	4.3	5.4	5.2	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.5
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	1.4
Greece	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Hong Kong	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	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	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.4	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	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Niger	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.2
Papua New Guinea	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.8
Singapore	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Somalia	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.0
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	1.8
Uganda	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.5
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	6.0	5.5
World	4.9	4.5	3.9	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 2006 Revision, Medium variant* <<http://esa.un.org/unpp>>.

2.19 SUMMARY, Australia—Selected years

	1987	1992	1997	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(a)									
15–19 years(b)	20.6	22.0	19.8	17.2	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.3	16.0
20–24 years	85.0	74.9	62.8	56.4	54.2	52.7	51.8	51.4	55.8
25–29 years	139.6	132.3	113.7	104.5	102.5	101.8	102.0	101.0	106.5
30–34 years	90.6	104.6	106.5	111.2	112.3	114.0	117.0	120.4	126.6
35–39 years	28.9	38.3	44.8	52.1	54.2	57.2	60.3	63.4	68.1
40–44 years	4.8	6.1	7.5	9.7	10.0	10.5	10.8	11.3	12.6
45–49 years(c)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7
Total fertility rate(d)	1.845	1.888	1.778	1.756	1.748	1.763	1.791	1.817	1.931
Crude birth rate(e)	15.0	15.1	13.6	12.8	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.8	13.6
Net reproduction rate(f)	0.883	0.906	0.855	0.846	0.839	0.848	0.858	0.870	0.926
BIRTHS									
Total births	243 959	264 151	251 842	250 988	251 161	254 246	259 791	265 949	285 213
Males	125 265	135 601	129 179	128 623	129 193	130 600	133 428	136 692	146 456
Females	118 694	128 550	122 663	122 365	121 968	123 646	126 363	129 257	138 757
Sex ratio	105.5	105.5	105.3	105.1	105.9	105.6	105.6	105.8	105.5
Indigenous births registered(g)	1 728	3 911	9 999	11 488	11 740	12 006	12 078	12 496	14 192
Age of mother									
15–19 years(b)	13 984	14 154	12 309	11 505	10 811	10 857	10 744	10 552	11 204
20–24 years	55 443	52 834	42 052	36 782	36 302	36 146	36 482	37 151	40 907
25–29 years	95 216	91 177	82 511	71 820	69 604	68 846	69 420	70 224	75 998
30–34 years	58 519	75 760	76 205	84 052	86 077	87 395	89 158	89 883	93 072
35–39 years	18 004	25 947	33 293	38 621	39 876	42 139	44 873	48 505	53 561
40–44 years	2 577	3 943	5 181	7 362	7 706	8 183	8 376	8 679	9 642
45–49 years(c)	121	176	174	305	330	379	358	438	506
Age of father									
15–19 years(h)	2 858	3 597	3 601	3 708	3 405	3 425	3 558	3 469	3 910
20–24 years	28 135	28 433	23 445	21 026	20 271	20 652	21 110	21 345	23 537
25–29 years	77 280	71 328	61 879	53 825	52 195	51 538	51 616	52 456	56 589
30–34 years	73 046	84 369	79 092	81 019	82 525	83 064	85 212	85 548	89 233
35–39 years	34 673	43 113	49 116	52 339	52 765	54 780	56 814	60 659	66 157
40–44 years	11 159	14 854	17 107	20 947	21 746	22 613	23 168	23 802	25 556
45–49 years	3 255	4 390	5 043	5 880	6 004	6 482	6 718	7 010	8 109
50 years and over	1 589	1 924	2 183	2 627	2 648	2 769	3 050	3 135	3 340
Nuptial births	200 153	200 783	181 104	172 550	171 853	172 481	176 078	179 019	189 896
Exnuptial births	43 806	63 368	70 738	78 438	79 308	81 765	83 713	86 930	95 317
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	31 972	51 349	60 452	69 048	69 952	72 915	75 353	78 550	86 640
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	11 834	12 019	10 286	9 390	9 356	8 850	8 360	8 380	8 677

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

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

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman.

(e) Births per 1,000 estimated resident population.

(f) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(g) Due to changes in coverage of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.

(h) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.19 SUMMARY, Australia—Selected years *continued*

	1987	1992	1997	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CONFINEMENTS									
All confinements	241 271	260 669	248 246	246 821	247 089	250 045	255 481	261 550	280 781
Nuptial	197 853	198 002	178 279	169 385	168 777	169 312	172 894	175 827	186 694
Exnuptial	43 418	62 667	69 967	77 436	78 312	80 733	82 587	85 723	94 087
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	31 689	50 774	59 793	68 179	69 055	72 002	74 340	77 471	85 517
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	11 729	11 893	10 174	9 257	9 257	8 731	8 247	8 252	8 570
Median age of mother (years)(a)									
All confinements	27.7	28.7	29.4	30.2	30.5	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.7
Nuptial	28.3	29.5	30.4	31.2	31.4	31.6	31.7	31.8	31.8
Exnuptial	23.6	24.3	25.4	26.5	26.7	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.1
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.1	24.6	25.6	26.7	26.9	27.1	27.2	27.4	27.2
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	22.2	22.9	23.9	24.8	24.8	25.0	25.1	25.3	25.4
Median age of father (years)(a)									
All fathers where age is known	30.4	31.2	32.0	32.5	32.6	32.8	32.9	33.1	33.1
Nuptial	30.8	31.8	32.8	33.3	33.5	33.6	33.7	33.9	34.0
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	26.8	27.4	28.1	29.3	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.0	29.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1

(a) Prior to 2007, median age of parents may be overstated. For more information, see paragraph 45 of the Explanatory Notes.

2.20 SUMMARY, States and territories—2007

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas. (a)	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(c)									
15–19 years(d)	12.3	10.1	23.0	17.5	20.6	27.5	58.6	10.3	16.0
20–24 years	50.1	42.6	72.3	57.3	64.3	87.8	107.4	34.8	55.8
25–29 years	101.2	97.9	121.0	111.4	111.5	127.2	113.1	92.8	106.5
30–34 years	122.9	133.4	126.7	125.5	125.8	124.2	98.8	128.6	126.6
35–39 years	67.9	75.6	63.8	59.8	66.2	58.4	62.4	71.8	68.1
40–44 years	13.0	14.3	11.1	10.9	11.8	11.3	11.4	13.8	12.6
45–49 years(e)	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7
Total fertility rate(f)	1.838	1.871	2.095	1.920	2.005	2.194	2.266	1.766	1.931
Crude birth rate(g)	13.0	13.5	14.6	12.4	13.8	13.5	18.1	14.0	13.6
Net reproduction rate(h)	0.883	0.898	0.995	0.942	0.961	1.063	1.062	0.854	0.926
BIRTHS									
Total births	89 495	70 313	61 249	19 662	29 164	6 662	3 894	4 753	285 213
Males	45 918	36 115	31 656	9 897	15 021	3 393	2 018	2 428	146 456
Females	43 577	34 198	29 593	9 765	14 143	3 269	1 876	2 325	138 757
Sex ratio	105.4	105.6	107.0	101.4	106.2	103.8	107.6	104.4	105.5
Indigenous births registered(i)	3 720	1 025	4 486	808	2 121	308	1 595	129	14 192
Age of mother									
15–19 years(d)	2 788	1 731	3 289	902	1 485	437	449	123	11 204
20–24 years	11 779	7 859	10 729	3 093	4 743	1 302	896	503	40 907
25–29 years	23 993	17 758	16 986	5 407	7 765	1 725	1 033	1 322	75 998
30–34 years	30 224	24 842	18 436	6 248	9 006	1 763	871	1 677	93 072
35–39 years	17 317	15 229	9 999	3 354	5 199	966	549	946	53 561
40–44 years	3 228	2 725	1 699	623	915	189	89	172	9 642
45–49 years(e)	161	153	105	31	31	10	5	10	506
Age of father									
15–19 years(j)	942	603	1 231	290	513	178	113	40	3 910
20–24 years	6 201	4 408	6 676	1 816	2 827	828	488	291	23 537
25–29 years	17 239	12 696	13 581	4 114	5 931	1 406	725	890	56 589
30–34 years	28 729	23 463	18 209	6 026	8 625	1 738	837	1 601	89 233
35–39 years	21 312	18 169	12 638	4 350	6 556	1 320	603	1 205	66 157
40–44 years	8 650	6 885	4 756	1 657	2 468	480	221	437	25 556
45–49 years	2 784	2 151	1 487	536	773	168	85	124	8 109
50 years and over	1 128	837	633	242	325	73	54	48	3 340
Nuptial births	64 171	50 188	36 867	12 457	18 031	3 358	1 400	3 405	189 896
Exnuptial births	25 324	20 125	24 382	7 205	11 133	3 304	2 494	1 348	95 317
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	22 816	19 024	22 344	6 580	10 012	2 900	1 731	1 231	86 640
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 508	1 101	2 038	625	1 121	404	763	117	8 677

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. For further information see paragraphs 37 to 39 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) Due to changes in coverage of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting changes in the number of Indigenous births over time.

(j) Includes births to fathers aged less than 15 years.

2.20 SUMMARY, States and territories—2007 *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas. (a)	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
CONFINEMENTS									
All confinements	88 163	69 111	60 271	19 386	28 732	6 578	3 843	4 676	280 781
Nuptial	63 163	49 283	36 204	12 264	17 733	3 309	1 374	3 345	186 694
Exnuptial	25 000	19 828	24 067	7 122	10 999	3 269	2 469	1 331	94 087
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	22 526	18 737	22 062	6 502	9 891	2 869	1 713	1 215	85 517
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	2 474	1 091	2 005	620	1 108	400	756	116	8 570
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements	31.0	31.6	29.9	30.3	30.3	29.2	27.9	31.3	30.7
Nuptial	31.8	32.2	31.4	31.5	31.7	31.4	31.3	31.9	31.8
Exnuptial	27.5	28.7	26.2	26.5	26.3	25.5	25.2	28.5	27.1
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	27.6	28.7	26.3	26.7	26.5	25.5	25.9	28.6	27.2
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	26.6	28.2	24.4	24.5	24.4	23.9	23.6	26.0	25.4
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers where the age is known	33.4	33.7	32.2	32.7	32.8	32.0	31.3	33.4	33.1
Nuptial	34.0	34.3	33.5	33.7	34.1	33.7	34.0	33.9	34.0
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	30.3	31.2	29.0	29.6	29.2	28.4	28.3	31.2	29.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.0	4.1
Previous children of the mother(c)									
0	37 583	35 546	29 754	8 368	11 244	np	1 514	2 462	na
1	28 853	22 664	18 991	6 519	8 512	np	1 122	1 889	na
2	13 255	8 583	7 609	2 886	3 780	np	591	761	na
3	4 443	2 286	2 309	956	1 300	np	331	251	na
4	1 659	628	795	392	494	np	135	75	na
5 or more	878	444	563	283	430	np	98	49	na
Average number of previous children of the mother(c)	1.93	1.74	1.79	1.95	1.95	np	2.16	1.86	na

na not available

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

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. For further information see paragraphs 37 to 39 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) 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. Data for Tasmania are currently not available due to data quality investigations.

INTRODUCTION

Birth registrations classify a birth as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (Indigenous) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement. Indigenous fertility refers to births to Indigenous mothers. This chapter reports on the numbers and characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility in each state and territory, except for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories (comprising Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory).

Indigenous data for Tasmania have not been reported separately in this chapter due to the unexplained decrease in Indigenous births registered in 2007, but have been included in data cubes attached to this publication. Data for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories have not been reported separately because of small numbers of Indigenous births. Data for these states and territories are included in Australian totals.

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

TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

Total fertility rate

In the early 1960s, the total fertility rate (TFR) of Indigenous women was 5.8 babies per woman, compared with 3.2 babies for all women in Australia. Since then, fertility levels of both Indigenous and all women have declined substantially, with the largest decreases being recorded during the 1970s. While the fertility of all women began to decline in the 1960s, fertility levels of Indigenous women remained relatively stable during the 1960s, to be followed by a sharp decline during the 1970s. Fertility of Indigenous women declined to a low of 1.9 babies per woman in 1996, gradually increased to 2.2 in 2001, and remained at around 2.1 until 2006.

In 2007 the TFR for Indigenous women increased to 2.4 babies per woman (from 2.1 babies per woman in 2006), compared with 1.9 babies for all women. This increase in the TFR for Indigenous women has largely been driven by an increase in the number of births to Indigenous mothers registered in Queensland, which accounts for 57% of the overall increase in births to Indigenous mothers registered in Australia.

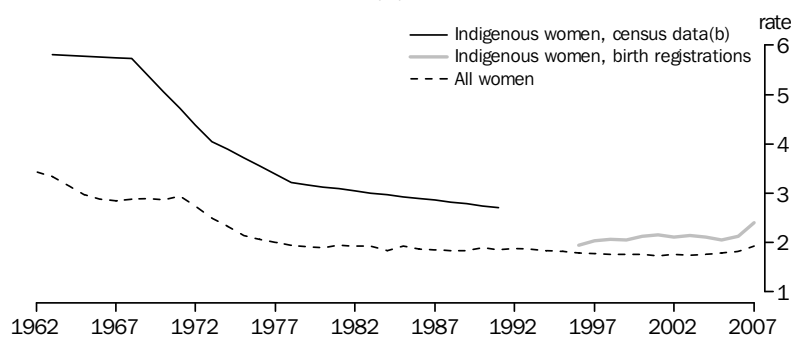
Graph 3.1 presents TFRs for Indigenous and all women for the period 1962 to 2007. Due to the poor quality of historical Indigenous birth registration data, fertility rates of Indigenous women up to 1991 were derived using data collected in the Australian censuses (Gray, 1997). With improvements in coverage, birth registration data has been used for 1996 onwards.

Total fertility rate
continued

The TFRs for Indigenous women for the period 1996 to 2007 were derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers and the female population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians from the following sources:

- 1996 to 2001: estimates based on the 2001 Census;
- 2002 to 2005: projections from the low series of *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0), based on the 2001 Census;
- 2006: final experimental estimates from *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006* (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001), based on the 2006 Census; and
- 2007: estimates were derived by ageing the 30 June 2006 experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 14–48 years by one year, and adjusting these data with the number of deaths of Indigenous females at each age that were registered in the year ending 30 June 2007.

3.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (a)



(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.

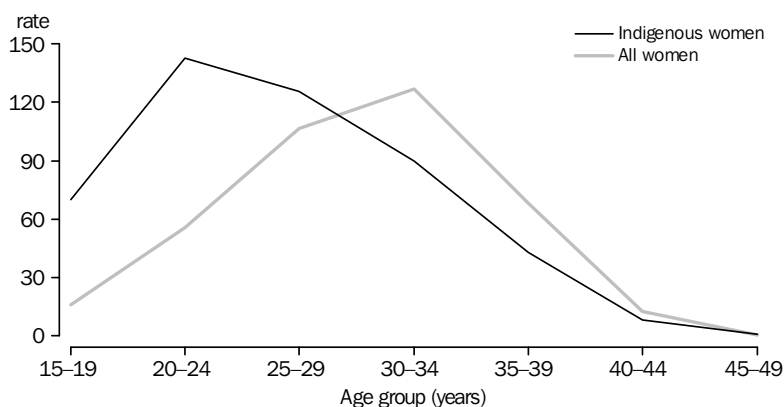
Source: Gray (1997).

Age-specific fertility rates

High fertility at younger ages contributes to the higher overall fertility experienced by Indigenous women compared with fertility for all women. Women aged under 30 years contributed more than two thirds (70%) of the total fertility of Indigenous women in 2007, compared to less than half of the fertility for all women (46%).

Age-specific fertility rates
continued

3.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a)—2007



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

For Indigenous women, the peak age group for births in 2007 was 20–24 years (143 babies per 1,000 women), followed by women aged 25–29 years (126 babies). In contrast, the peak age group for all women was 30–34 years (127 babies).

In 2007, births to teenage Indigenous women (2,000 births) accounted for 19% of all births to Indigenous women (10,200 births). In comparison, births to all teenage women accounted for only 4% of all births.

The teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women (70 babies per 1,000 women) was more than four times the teenage fertility rate of all women (16 babies), while fertility of Indigenous women aged 20–24 years (143 babies) was two and a half times the fertility of all women in this age group (56 babies). Conversely, fertility of Indigenous women aged 30 years and over was lower than that of all women for 2007.

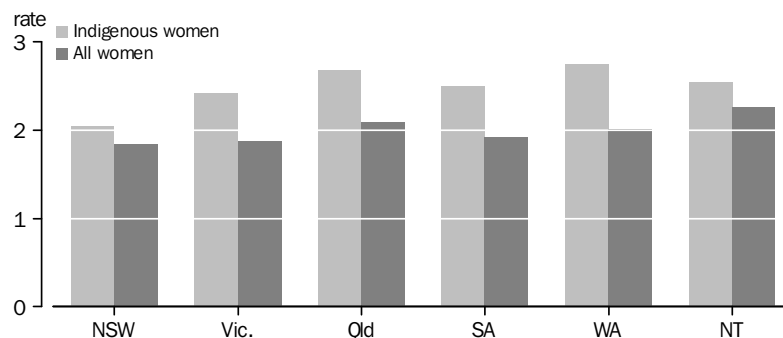
STATE VARIATIONS IN
FERTILITY

Total fertility rate

Indigenous TFRs vary between the states and territories. In 2007 Queensland and Western Australia (both 2.7 babies per woman) recorded the highest fertility, followed by South Australia and the Northern Territory (both 2.5), Victoria (2.4) and New South Wales (2.0). In 2007, Indigenous TFRs for all states and territories increased from the previous year.

Total fertility rate
continued

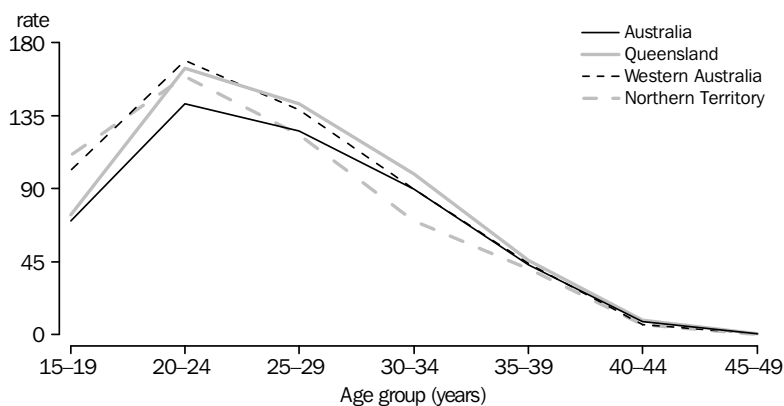
3.3 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a)(b)—2007



(a) Births per woman.
(b) Tasmania not included due to the unexplained decrease in Indigenous births registered in 2007. ACT not included due to small numbers of Indigenous births. See paragraph 32 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

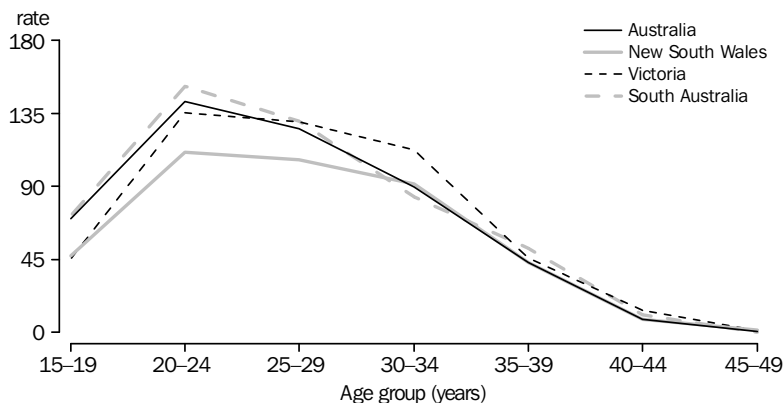
Age-specific fertility

3.4 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous women, Selected states/territories—2007



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

3.5 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a), Indigenous women, Selected states/territories—2007



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Age-specific fertility continued

In 2007, Indigenous women in Queensland and Western Australia experienced higher age-specific fertility rates in the age groups 20–39 years than Indigenous women in other states and territories.

Indigenous teenage fertility

Of the 11,200 births registered to teenage women in Australia in 2007, 18% (2,000 births) were to teenage Indigenous women. Of the 450 births registered to teenage women in the Northern Territory in 2007, 360 (or 81%) were to teenage Indigenous women.

The teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women living in the Northern Territory was 111 babies per 1,000 women, seven times the rate of all teenage women in Australia (16 babies). Western Australian Indigenous teenagers experienced the second highest fertility rate of the states and territories with 101 babies, compared with 21 babies for all Western Australian teenage women.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

There were 14,200 births registered in Australia in 2007 where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement. This was 14% higher than 2006 (12,500 births), and accounted for 5% of all births registered in 2007. In comparison, the number of all births registered in 2007 was 7% higher than the previous year.

It is important to recognise that identification and lags in registration may affect the reliability of Indigenous births data. Caution should be exercised when interpreting these figures, especially with respect to year-to-year changes.

New South Wales and Queensland, the two states with the largest Indigenous populations, registered the highest number of Indigenous births (3,700 and 4,500 births respectively), followed by Western Australia (2,100) and the Northern Territory (1,600).

Indigenous status of parents

Around one-third (32%) of Indigenous births registered in 2007 were births for which both parents identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement, while for 40% of Indigenous births only the mother identified herself as being of Indigenous origin (including births where paternity was not acknowledged and those where the father's Indigenous status was unknown). The remaining 28% of Indigenous births had an Indigenous father and a non-Indigenous mother (including births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated).

Median age of parents

Overall, Indigenous women have children at younger ages than all women. The median age of Indigenous women who registered a birth in 2007 was 24.7 years, six years lower than the median age of all mothers (30.7 years). Of the states and territories, Indigenous mothers living in the Northern Territory had the lowest median age (23.7 years), followed by Indigenous mothers in Western Australia (23.9 years).

Fathers of Indigenous births in 2007 were younger than all fathers (28.0 years compared with 33.1 years respectively). The Northern Territory recorded the lowest median age of fathers of Indigenous births (26.7 years), followed by Western Australia (27.2 years).

Nuptiality

In 2007, 81% of Indigenous births were exnuptial (that is, births to women who were not in a registered marriage at the time of birth) compared to 33% of all births. Exnuptial births where the father did not sign the birth registration statement (that is, paternity not acknowledged births) accounted for 12% of all Indigenous births, compared to 3% of all births.

At the state and territory level the highest proportions of exnuptial Indigenous births were recorded in the Northern Territory, where 96% of all Indigenous births were exnuptial, and in Western Australia and South Australia (both 88%). In the Northern Territory, 41% of all Indigenous births were exnuptial births where paternity was not acknowledged.

BIRTH WEIGHT

Birth weight is a key indicator of the relative health status of babies. A comparison of the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers with all babies shows that Indigenous babies are generally smaller. According to the Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW, 2007) the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers in 2005 was 3,157 grams, 212 grams lower than the national average for all babies (3,369 grams).

Babies are defined as being of low birth weight if their birth weight is less than 2,500 grams. In 2005, 13% of babies to Indigenous mothers were of low birth weight, more than twice the rate of all babies (6%).

INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In 2007 the TFR for Australian Indigenous mothers (2.4 babies per woman) was lower than that for New Zealand Maori women (2.9) (Statistics New Zealand, 2007). In 2006, the latest year for which American Indian fertility rates are available, the TFR for Australian Indigenous women was 0.6 babies per woman higher than that of American Indian women (1.8) (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2006).

These differences are reflected in age-specific fertility rates for the different populations. Higher fertility rates were experienced by Maori women in all age groups except for those aged 45–49 years. All Indigenous populations experienced the highest age-specific fertility rate in the 20–24 year age group.

INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS FERTILITY
*continued***3.6** INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES, Selected countries

	AMERICAN	NEW	AUSTRALIAN	
	INDIAN	ZEALAND	ABORIGINAL AND	TORRES STRAIT
	WOMEN	MAORI	ISLANDER WOMEN	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Age-specific fertility rates(a)				
15–19 years(b)	54.7	77.7	69.0	70.0
20–24 years	114.9	159.4	124.2	142.5
25–29 years	97.2	151.2	110.8	125.5
30–34 years	61.5	116.1	77.9	89.7
35–39 years	28.2	64.8	34.5	43.0
40–44 years	6.1	14.9	7.1	8.3
45–49 years(c)	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.7
Total fertility rate(d)	1.820	2.929	2.120	2.399

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) For Australian Indigenous women, includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman. Includes births to women aged 10–14 years for American Indian and New Zealand Maori women.

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.

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.

2 A glossary is provided detailing definitions of terminology used. Also provided is a list of abbreviations.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

3 The statistics in this publication relate to the number of births registered during the calendar years shown, unless otherwise stated.

Scope of births 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 is overseas.

5 The scope of the statistics includes:

- all births that are live born and have not been previously registered. A live birth is delivery of a child, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as heartbeat;
- births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island);
- births occurring within Australian Territorial waters;
- births occurring in transit (births on ships or planes) if registered in the state of 'next port of call';
- births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (for example, children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families); and
- births that occurred in earlier years that have not previously been registered (late registrations).

6 The scope of the statistics exclude:

- still births/fetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in *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 Up to and including the 2006 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0), the scope for each reference year of the Birth Registrations collection included:

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

8 For example, birth records received by ABS during the March quarter 2007 which were initially registered in 2006 (but not fully completed until 2007) were assigned to the 2006 reference year. Any registrations relating to 2006 which were received by ABS after the end of the March quarter 2007 were assigned to the 2007 reference year.

*Scope of births statistics**continued*

9 Under these rules, it was possible for a birth registration to not be recorded in the collection. For 2007 onwards, the scope of the Birth Registrations collection has been reviewed and amended. The scope now includes:

- all births registered in Australia for the reference year and received by ABS in the reference year;
- 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; and
- births registered in reference year and received by ABS in the first quarter of the subsequent year.

Coverage of births 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 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 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 is 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 is 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 pregnancy. Confinements and births of Indigenous mothers considered to be tribally married are classified as nuptial; and
- exnuptial 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 Exnuptial 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 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. The SACC (Second Edition) is the revised edition of the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS) and includes concordances between the SACC (First Edition) and the SACC (Second Edition).

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 the 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. For those births known to a registry that have not been registered within a prescribed time period, a reminder letter is sent to the parent(s) of the child to follow-up the birth registration.

States and territories

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 2007 there were 21 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

23 Statistics for states and territories have been compiled and presented in respect of the state or territory of usual residence of the mother, 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—2007

State or territory of usual residence	STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION								Total
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
New South Wales	86 847	1 103	544	29	33	np	np	930	89 495
Victoria	76	70 095	49	55	23	12	np	np	70 313
Queensland	825	76	60 301	12	23	6	np	np	61 249
South Australia	np	27	np	19 541	12	7	42	—	19 662
Western Australia	43	24	34	13	29 013	np	31	np	29 164
Tasmania	23	27	14	np	np	6 584	—	—	6 662
Northern Territory	26	19	46	28	16	np	3 757	np	3 894
Australian Capital Territory	76	9	np	—	np	np	—	4 663	4 753
Other Territories	np	—	—	np	18	—	—	—	21
Australia	87 937	71 380	61 004	19 686	29 147	6 623	3 837	5 599	285 213

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells) np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

States and territories continued

24 In 2007 there were 456 births 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, Babies born in Australia to non-resident mothers

State or territory of registration	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
New South Wales	331	338	398	380	281	308	324
Victoria	19	22	24	20	23	21	17
Queensland	108	116	92	61	38	41	86
South Australia	8	4	5	9	—	—	3
Western Australia	24	16	24	18	8	13	21
Tasmania	6	4	5	—	3	—	—
Northern Territory	8	6	5	3	5	4	np
Australian Capital Territory	7	5	4	—	7	3	np
Australia	511	511	557	491	364	391	456

— 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 this publication are calculated as average rates over 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

Interval between occurrence and registration of births

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

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 even 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.

Interval between occurrence
and registration of births
continued

YEAR OF OCCURRENCE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2007

State or territory of registration	2001 and earlier	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	8.4	90.8
Victoria	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.9	9.8	88.0
Queensland	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.1	16.2	79.7
South Australia	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	7.9	90.4
Western Australia	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	8.3	89.0
Tasmania	2.5	—	—	—	—	3.9	93.5
Northern Territory	0.2	—	—	—	—	7.4	92.3
Australian Capital Territory	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	10.3	88.8
Australia	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	10.3	87.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

28 Of the 285,200 births registered in 2007, 87.5% occurred in 2007, while 10.3% occurred in 2006 and the remainder (2.1%) occurred in 2005 or earlier years.

Recent registration lags in
Queensland

29 As a result of changes in the timeliness of registration of births in Queensland in the past two years, care should be taken when interpreting changes in Queensland births between 2005, 2006 and 2007. In the table below, 16.2% of the 61,000 births registered in Queensland in 2007 occurred in 2006. This proportion is higher than in previous years, indicating that the total number of births registered in Queensland in 2007 is to some extent due to changes in procedures for processing birth registrations by the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, as well as increases in the absolute number of registrations processed in 2007.

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

Year of birth	YEAR OF REGISTRATION					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2001 and earlier	15.9	3.4	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.3
2002	84.1	11.3	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.6
2003	—	85.2	11.3	1.0	0.7	0.6
2004	—	—	84.7	10.7	0.8	0.5
2005	—	—	—	85.4	14.8	1.1
2006	—	—	—	—	81.3	16.2
2007	—	—	—	—	—	79.7

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Indigenous births and fertility rates

30 The term Indigenous is used to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. In the Birth Registrations collection, the Indigenous status of a birth is derived from the Indigenous status of the parent(s).

31 There are several data collection forms on which people are asked to state whether they are of Indigenous origin. Due to a number of factors, results collated from these forms are not always consistent. The way in which a person identifies, or is identified, as Indigenous on a specific form can change over time leading to unexpected changes in Indigenous statistics. Responses to Indigenous status questions can be influenced by a range of factors, including the perception of how information will be used, education programs about identifying as Indigenous, who completes the question on behalf of others, and emotional reaction to identifying as Indigenous. The data presented may therefore underestimate the level of Indigenous births and fertility in Australia. Lags in registrations may also affect reliability of measures of Indigenous fertility. Caution should be exercised when interpreting Indigenous births and fertility data presented in this publication, especially with regard to year-to-year changes.

32 Chapter 3 reports on the number and characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility in each state and territory, excluding Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories, as the data are regarded as being of sufficient quality. Indigenous data for Tasmania have not been reported separately due to the unexplained decrease in Indigenous births registered in 2007, but are included in data cubes attached to this publication. Indigenous data for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories are not analysed separately due to small numbers but are included in totals for Australia. Numbers of Indigenous births for the Australian Capital Territory are published in data cube Table 1: Births, Summary, Australia, States and territories.

33 The populations used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 2006 are the 30 June 2006 experimental estimates 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 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006* (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001).

34 The populations used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 2007 were derived by ageing the 30 June 2006 experimental estimates of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 14–48 years by one year, and adjusting this data with the number of deaths of Indigenous females at each age that were registered in the year ending 30 June 2007.

35 The populations used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 1991 to 2005 are experimental estimates and projections of the Indigenous population based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. For more information see *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0). A new set of Indigenous population projections and estimates, for the period 1991 to 2021, based on 2006 census results are scheduled for release in September 2009.

Indigenous births and fertility rates continued

36 Currently there are four estimates of annual numbers of Indigenous births available. Each is based on a different collection, assumptions and methods:

- birth registrations: this publication is based on the registration of births with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory;
- 2001 census-based population estimates, covering the period 1991 to 2001. After deriving experimental Indigenous resident population as at 30 June 2001 from the 2001 census, estimates were survived back one year at a time to 30 June 1991 using a reverse survival technique based on experimental Indigenous life tables (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*, cat. no. 3238.0);
- 2001 census-based population projections, covering the period 2002 to 2009. There are two series of projections; a low series and a high series. In the low series, the number of births each year was estimated using the propensity to identify found in the 2001 census. The high series used an alternative assumption of an increasing propensity to identify based on the change between 1996 and 2001 in propensity to identify (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*, cat. no. 3238.0); and
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit's Perinatal statistics series: these data are primarily about babies born in hospitals and their mothers (see Appendix: Differences Between Collections for more information).

Tasmanian birth registrations

37 As required by the *Tasmanian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999*, hospitals, doctors, midwives or other responsible persons 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.

38 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) submit 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.

39 If the birth registration form is not received by the Tasmanian Registry, only the basic birth notification data is available. For these records, no information on age of mother is collected. As well, no information regarding the father is collected, therefore these births are coded as exnuptial paternity not acknowledged births. As a result, the number of exnuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated and the number of nuptial births understated for 2002 onwards. In 2007, the number of unmatched birth registration forms was 262. Measures based on age of mother/father may also be affected, however the extent is unable to be determined.

Edits and imputations

40 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 2007, there were 283 birth registrations for which place of usual residence was imputed, and 28 registrations for which sex was imputed.

SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR 2007

Parity (previous children of mother)

41 Parity refers to the number of (live) births that a woman (or man) 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.

42 Changes in the ABS processing of birth registrations 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. Data for Tasmania for 2007 are currently not available for publication due to data quality investigations.

43 The collection of these data are a result of the increasing demand for parity data for analysis and dissemination. For more information on the reasons behind the increased 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.

44 As a result of the above changes, data on previous births for 2007 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 MOTHER(a), Australia(b)

Year of registration (c)	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2002	49.5	32.6	13.1	3.3	0.9	0.6	100.0
2003	49.4	33.0	12.9	3.2	0.9	0.6	100.0
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	43.3	33.2	15.1	5.2	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 2002 to 2006 are the number of previous births of the mother, from the current relationship only. Data for 2007 are previous births of the mother, for all relationships.

Age of parent(s)

45 In processing 2007 birth registrations, discrepancies were identified between age of mother data as provided to the ABS and age of mother derived from date of birth of mother. For 15,723 records (6%), the derived age was found to be one year less than the reported age. For these records, the derived age of mother was used, resulting in more accurate data on age of mother at the time of the birth. The same process was applied to information on age of father.

CONFIDENTIALITY

46 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.

47 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

48 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

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

RELATED PRODUCTS

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

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.65.001)

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (cat. no. 1216.0)

Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)

Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0)

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods
(cat. no. 3228.0)

Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)

Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009 (cat. no. 3238.0)

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

Population Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3222.0)

Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (cat. no. 1269.0)

51 Other publications which may be of interest to users include *Australia's Mothers and Babies, 2005*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit, AIHW website <www.aihw.gov.au>

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS
AVAILABLE

52 More detailed births and fertility statistics can be obtained from data cubes (in Microsoft Excel format) available for download from the ABS website in *Births, Australia, 2007* (cat. no. 3301.0):

- Table 1: Births, Summary, Australia, states and territories—1997 to 2007
- Table 2: Births, Summary, Statistical Divisions—2003 to 2007
- Table 3: Births, Summary, Statistical Local Areas—2003 to 2007
- Table 4: Births, Summary, Local Government Areas—2003 to 2007
- Table 5: Births, Year and month of occurrence, Australia—1997 to 2007
- Table 6: Births, Nuptiality and age of parents, Australia—2007
- Table 7: Births, Summary, Country of birth of parents, Australia—2007
- Table 8: Multiple births, Australia, states and territories—2007
- Table 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, Summary, Australia, states and territories—2007
- Table 10: Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, Single year of age of mother, Australia—1975 to 2007

53 Additional demographic information is available on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>; click Themes, then under People click on Demography. Users can also access the full range of electronic ABS data from the ABS website.

54 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.

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

GLOSSARY

Age-sex pyramid	An age-sex pyramid is a bar chart graphically representing the age structure of the population, usually in five-year age groups, for males and females separately. The age structure of the population usually approximates the shape of a pyramid because mortality progressively reduces the number in each birth cohort as it ages. The age pyramid is useful to show the existence of unusually large or small cohorts, and in this way, not only conveys information about a country's past demographic history, but also a great deal about its demographic future.
Ageing of the population	Ageing of the population is the consideration of the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over, and the way this proportion is continuing to increase, mostly due to persistent low fertility rates and declining mortality rates.
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	<p>The average annual growth rate, r, is calculated as a percentage using the formula:</p> $\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$ <p>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.</p>
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 <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (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 heartbeat.
Capital city	Refers to the Capital City Statistical Divisions of states and territories as defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
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.

Exnuptial birth	An exnuptial 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 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 or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration form.
Indigenous origin	Persons who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
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.
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'. 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 at childbearing	The term refers to the age at which approximately one-half of the females in a population have their children, either for a birth of particular birth order or for all births. It measures the age at childbearing within the female population, as distinct from the median age of mother at confinement which measures the median age of the females who gave birth in a particular year.
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.
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)	<p>Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia or emigration from Australia. It is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; ■ the difference between the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and are added to the population and the number of outgoing travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more and are subtracted from the population.
Net population growth	<p>For Australia, net population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For the states and territories, net population growth also includes net interstate migration.</p>
Net reproduction rate	<p>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.</p>
Nuptial birth	<p>A nuptial birth is the birth of a child born of parents who are legally married at the time of the child's birth.</p>
Nuptial first confinement	<p>A nuptial first confinement is the first confinement in the current marriage and therefore does not necessarily represent the woman's first ever confinement resulting in a live birth.</p>
Nuptiality	<p>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 exnuptial whether or not both parents were living together at the time of birth.</p>
Parity	<p>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.</p>
Part of state	<p>Part of state is used to refer to the remainder of a state outside the Capital City Statistical Division (SD). See also Balance of state or territory.</p>
Paternity acknowledged birth	<p>A paternity acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged.</p>
Paternity not acknowledged birth	<p>A paternity not acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was not acknowledged.</p>
Population growth	<p>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.</p>

Previous births	<p>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.</p> <p>Due to variation in data collection and processing methods across states and territories, different definitions of the concept of previous births have been applied.</p> <p>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 <i>current</i> relationship only, for all states and territories. From 2007, data on previous births for <i>all</i> relationships (both current and previous, if any) of the mother are collected for all states and territories, excluding Victoria and Queensland.</p>
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.
Registered marital status	Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages for which the partners hold a marriage certificate. In this publication the distinction is between married parents (nuptial births) and unmarried parents (exnuptial births).
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.
Sex ratio	The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by appropriately selecting the numerator and denominator of the ratio.
Social marital status	Social marital status is the consensual union status of a person with reference to another person in the household. In this publication data are only available from midwives' collection. The categories are married/de facto; single; and separated/divorced/widowed.
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 and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence	<p>State or territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the population (estimated resident population) ■ the mother (birth collection) ■ 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 <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (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 <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (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 <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
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 event occurred.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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