

HOUSEHOLD USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AUSTRALIA

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I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Siddhartha De on Canberra (02) 6252 6519.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents results from the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) that was conducted by the ABS as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) each month from August 2004 to June 2005. The statistics included in this publication present information about access to computers and the Internet by people aged 18 years or over in these households.

ABOUT HOUSEHOLD USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HUIT) DATA

Data on Household Use of Information Technology (HUIT) was previously collected by the ABS in the Population Survey Monitor (1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000), Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001), General Social Survey (2002), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (2002), Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (2003) and the Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (2000 and 2003).

ABOUT THE 2004-05 MPHS

The 2004-05 MPHS included a HUIT module. The survey collected information from 15,524 randomly selected private dwelling households across Australia. In the survey, one randomly selected person per household was asked about their household's access to, and their own use of, computers and the Internet.

HISTORICAL COMPARISONS

Due to the difference in the scope of previous surveys, previous person level data on household use of information technology which is comparable with the 2004-05 survey is only available up until 2002. The HUIT data for 2003 was obtained from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), and person level data from this survey only relates to persons with a disability aged 15 years or over, and is thus not comparable with results from MPHS 2004-05. SDAC data are comparable at the household level.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

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

MORE INFORMATION ON ABS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) STATISTICS

Information about ABS activities in the field of IT statistics is available free from the ABS website. Details of other ABS publications relating to the production and use of IT in Australia can be found in paragraph 31 of the Explanatory Notes.

COMMENTS

The ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users regarding future surveys of IT use by households and individuals. These comments should be addressed to the Director, Innovation and Technology National Statistics Centre, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked bag 10 Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

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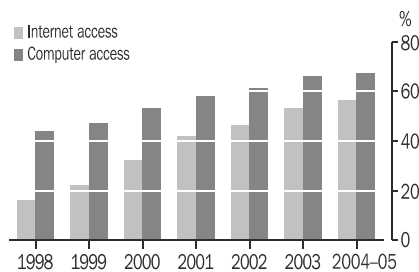
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INTRODUCTION

In 2004-05, 67% of Australian households had access to a computer at home and 56% had home Internet access. The growth in household access to computers over recent years (from 61% to 67% between 2002 and 2004-05) has been significantly lower than the growth in household home Internet access (from 46% to 56% between 2002 and 2004-05).

HOUSEHOLD HOME INTERNET OR COMPUTER ACCESS-1998 to 2004-05



Overall, 60% of Australian adults used a computer at home and 52% accessed the Internet at home during 2004-05. Personal or private purposes was stated as the most popular purpose of computer or Internet use at home, followed by work or business related purposes. In 2004-05, home was reported to be the most popular site of Internet use.

Of the 4.4 million households with home Internet access in 2004-05, 28% had broadband Internet access and 69% had dial-up access. Of the households with broadband access, the most commonly reported type of technology used was Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), reported by 76% of households with broadband access.

Australians are increasing their use of information technology, in particular making more use of the Internet to purchase or order goods or services. In 2004-05, of all Australian adults aged 18 years or over, an estimated 31% purchased or ordered goods or services via the Internet for private use. Travel, accommodation or tickets of any kind were identified as the most popular product purchased or ordered over the Internet. Of the people that did not purchase or order over the Internet, "had no need to" was the principal reason given, followed by concerns over security.

CHAPTER 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH COMPUTERS OR INTERNET ACCESS

ABOUT THE DATA

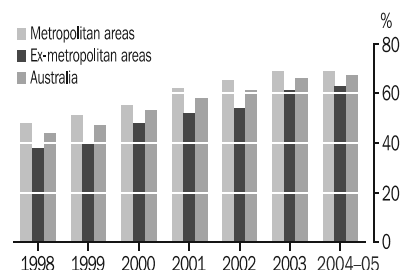
Data presented in this chapter were collected in the Population Survey Monitors (1998, 1999 and 2000), the Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001), the General Social Survey (2002), the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (2003) and the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) 2004-05.

CHANGES IN HOME COMPUTER ACCESS

The percentage of Australian households with access to a computer at home has increased from 44% in 1998 to 67% in 2004-05. However, from 2003 to 2004-05, the increase was only 1 percentage point.

During 2004-05, the percentage of households with home computer access was significantly higher for households with children under 15 years of age, households in the Australian Capital Territory and households in the highest income quintile. Households in metropolitan areas continued to have higher computer access, but the gap between metropolitan areas and ex-metropolitan areas has narrowed since 1998 to 6 percentage points in 2004-05.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO A COMPUTER AT HOME, by region—1998 to 2004-05



CHANGES IN HOME INTERNET ACCESS

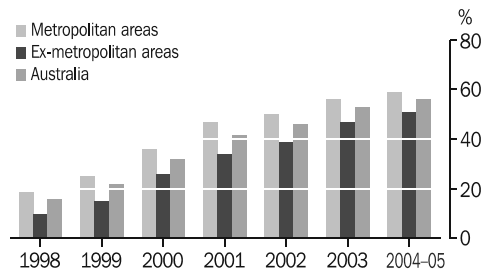
The percentage of Australian households with access to the Internet at home has increased significantly over the past 7 years, rising from 16% in 1998 to 56% in 2004-05. From 2003 to 2004-05, there has been an increase of 3 percentage points.

As with home computer access, the percentage of households with Internet access was higher for households with children under 15 years of age, households in the Australian Capital Territory, households in the highest income quintile and households in metropolitan areas.

CHANGES IN HOME
INTERNET ACCESS

continued

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AT HOME, by region—1998 to 2004–05



COMPARISON OF HOME
COMPUTER AND INTERNET
ACCESS

Since 1998, the number of households with access to a computer had risen from 3.1 million to 5.3 million, a rise of 71%. In the same period, the number of household with access to the Internet has quadrupled from 1.1 million to 4.4 million households.

2.1

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO A HOME COMPUTER, selected characteristics by period—1998 to 2004-05

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)							
Households							
Without children under 15	1 730	1 932	2 255	2 636	2 842	3 179	3 388
With children under 15	1 354	1 404	1 548	1 675	1 714	1 860	1 878
State or territory							
New South Wales	1 023	1 079	1 244	1 435	1 528	1 653	1 723
Victoria	791	867	987	1 108	1 144	1 278	1 306
Queensland	562	585	680	776	822	957	1 026
South Australia	246	272	299	346	355	390	409
Western Australia	300	352	397	427	479	512	545
Tasmania	66	75	84	96	98	111	119
Northern Territory(a)	20	27	28	28	34	np	38
Australian Capital Territory	75	79	84	94	96	99	99
Region							
Metropolitan areas	2 126	2 302	2 543	2 928	3 091	3 349	3 455
Ex-metropolitan areas	958	1 035	1 260	1 383	1 465	1 689	1 810
Total	3 083	3 337	3 803	4 311	4 556	5 038	5 266

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05
PROPORTION OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS (%)							
Households							
Without children under 15	36	39	44	51	53	58	60
With children under 15	63	65	71	77	79	85	84
State or territory							
New South Wales	44	45	52	59	61	65	67
Victoria	46	50	56	61	62	68	68
Queensland	43	44	50	55	57	65	67
South Australia	41	45	49	56	58	62	64
Western Australia	44	50	55	58	63	67	69
Tasmania	36	40	45	50	51	57	61
Northern Territory(a)	42	55	54	52	62	np	71
Australian Capital Territory	64	66	70	77	78	80	79
Region							
Metropolitan areas	48	51	55	62	65	69	69
Ex-metropolitan areas	38	40	48	52	54	61	63
Total	44	47	53	58	61	66	67

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

(a) Northern Territory estimates for 2003 are included in the totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO A HOME COMPUTER, by selected characteristics—2004-05

	<i>Total no. of all households</i>	<i>Households with access to home computer</i>
	'000	%
Households		
Without children under 15	5 611	60
With children under 15	2 236	84
Equivalised household income^(a)		
\$0-\$39,999 ^(b)	3 947	57
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 714	80
\$80,000-\$120,000	319	88
\$120,000 or over	134	89
Could not be determined	1 734	71
Household income		
\$0-\$39,999 ^(b)	2 634	45
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 853	75
\$80,000-\$119,999	978	88
\$120,000 or over	648	92
Could not be determined	1 734	71
State or territory		
New South Wales	2 590	67
Victoria	1 916	68
Queensland	1 532	67
South Australia	643	64
Western Australia	789	69
Tasmania	196	61
Northern Territory	55	71
Australian Capital Territory	125	79
Region		
Metropolitan areas	4 993	69
Ex-metropolitan areas	2 854	63
Total	7 847	67

- (a) For information on equivalised household income refer to paragraph 19 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.
- (b) Includes those households with income less than zero. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

2.3

HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOME INTERNET ACCESS, selected characteristics by period—1998 to 2004-05

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)							
Households							
Without children under 15	657	905	1 408	1 936	2 153	2 537	2 772
With children under 15	441	633	932	1 178	1 292	1 502	1 621
State or territory							
New South Wales	414	514	776	1 088	1 196	1 365	1 455
Victoria	255	394	603	780	852	1 019	1 085
Queensland	194	269	416	563	602	757	861
South Australia	75	117	177	229	261	300	323
Western Australia	101	155	245	300	366	406	456
Tasmania	19	34	48	59	67	78	94
Northern Territory(a)	8	14	18	21	26	np	34
Australian Capital Territory	32	41	56	73	74	82	84
Region							
Metropolitan areas	834	1 151	1 665	2 206	2 398	2 737	2 940
Ex-metropolitan areas	264	387	676	908	1 047	1 303	1 452
Total	1 098	1 538	2 340	3 114	3 445	4 039	4 393

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05
PROPORTION OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS (%)							
Households							
Without children under 15	14	18	28	37	40	47	49
With children under 15	20	29	43	54	59	68	72
State or territory							
New South Wales	18	22	32	45	48	54	56
Victoria	15	23	34	43	46	54	57
Queensland	15	20	31	40	42	52	56
South Australia	12	19	29	37	43	48	50
Western Australia	15	22	34	41	48	53	58
Tasmania	10	18	25	31	35	41	48
Northern Territory(a)	16	30	35	38	48	np	61
Australian Capital Territory	27	34	46	60	60	66	67
Region							
Metropolitan areas	19	25	36	47	50	56	59
Ex-metropolitan areas	10	15	26	34	39	47	51
Total	16	22	32	42	46	53	56

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

(a) Northern Territory estimates for 2003 are included in the total and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.4 HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOME INTERNET ACCESS, by selected characteristics—2004-05

	<i>Total no. of all households</i>	<i>Households with access to the Internet at home</i>
	'000	%
Households		
Without children under 15	5 611	49
With children under 15	2 236	72
Equivalised household income (a)		
\$0-\$39,999(b)	3 947	45
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 714	71
\$80,000-\$119,999	319	81
\$120,000 or over	134	82
Could not be determined	1 734	61
Household income		
\$0-\$39,999(b)	2 634	32
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 853	63
\$80,000-\$119,999	978	78
\$120,000 or over	648	88
Could not be determined	1 734	61
State or territory		
New South Wales	2 590	56
Victoria	1 916	57
Queensland	1 532	56
South Australia	643	50
Western Australia	789	58
Tasmania	196	48
Northern Territory	55	61
Australian Capital Territory	125	67
Region		
Metropolitan areas	4 993	59
Ex-metropolitan areas	2 854	51
Total	7 847	56

(a) For more information in equivalised household income refer to paragraph 19 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes those households with income less than zero.

2.5 HOUSEHOLDS ACCESS TO HOME COMPUTER OR INTERNET, by equivalised household income quintile(a)(b)—2004-05

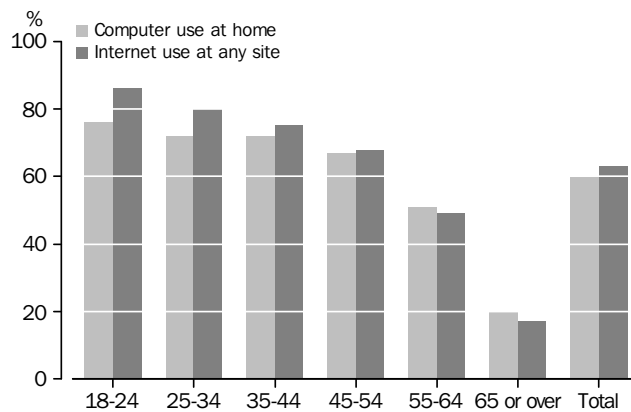
	<i>No. of households</i>	<i>Households with access to a home computer</i>	<i>Households with access to the Internet at home</i>
	'000	%	%
Quintiles			
Lowest quintile	1 224	41	28
Second quintile	1 222	54	41
Third quintile	1 222	74	60
Fourth quintile	1 224	77	66
Highest quintile	1 222	86	78
Total	6 113	66	55

- (a) Excludes those households where income could not be determined.
- (b) For more information on equivalised household income quintiles refer to paragraph 19 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

In 2004-05, 60% of people aged 18 years or over reported having used computer at home in the previous 12 months. For the same period, 63% had accessed the Internet from any site. During 2004-05, the proportion of people using a computer at home or the Internet at any site was relatively higher for the age group of 18-24 years, people living in the Australian Capital Territory, metropolitan areas, the employed, and non-indigenous people. The likelihood that a person had used a computer at home or used the Internet at any site decreased with age.

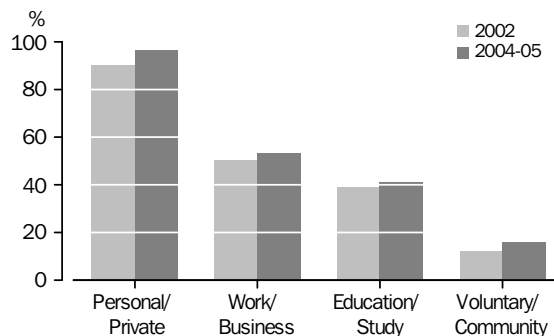
USE OF COMPUTERS AT HOME OR INTERNET AT ANY SITE—2004-05



PURPOSE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

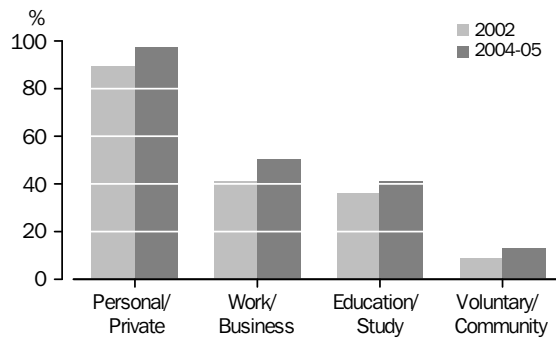
In 2004-05, the most common purpose of computer or Internet use at home was personal or private purposes (96% of those using a computer at home and 97% of those using the Internet at home). Work or business related purposes was the next most common response (representing 53% of those using a computer at home and 50% of those using the Internet at home), followed by educational or study purposes and voluntary or community purposes.

USE OF COMPUTERS AT HOME, by purpose—2002 and 2004-05



PURPOSE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE
continued

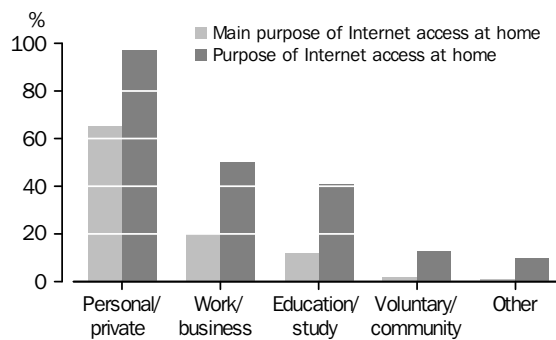
INTERNET USE AT HOME, by purpose—2002 and 2004-05



MAIN PURPOSE OF INTERNET USE AT HOME

Of all persons accessing the Internet at home, 65% reported personal or private purposes to be the main purpose of Internet access. Work or business related purpose was the next highest response (20%) for main purpose of Internet access at home.

MAIN PURPOSE OF INTERNET USE AT HOME—2004-05



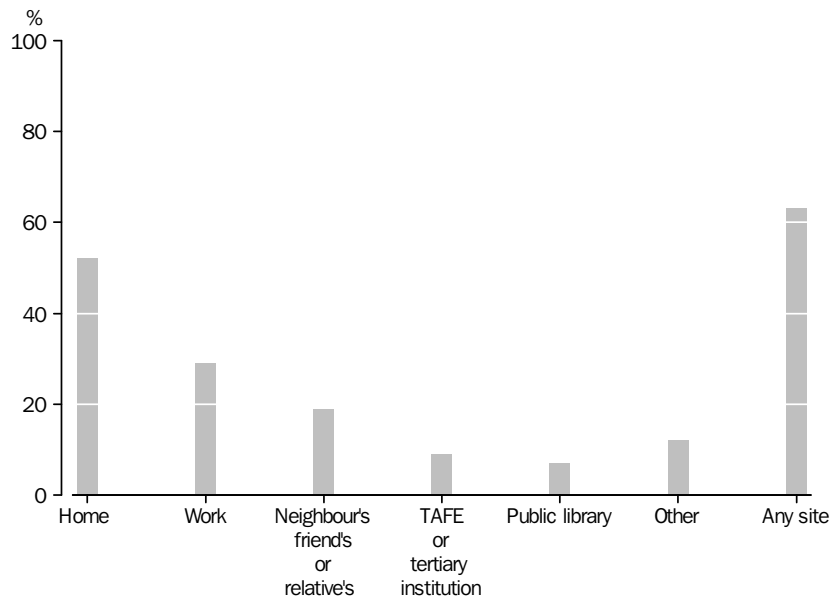
LOCATION OF INTERNET USE

In 2004-05, 63% of Australian persons aged 18 years or over accessed the Internet at any site, representing an increase of 5 percentage points from 2002. Overall, during 2004-05, home was reported to be the most likely site at which adults used the Internet.

Aside from home or work, the next most popular site of Internet use in 2004-05 was a neighbour's, friend's or relative's home, with 19% of adults using such a site. Internet use from all sites other than home or work generally decreased with age, with the age group 18-24 years being the highest users of the Internet from these sites.

LOCATION OF INTERNET USE *continued*

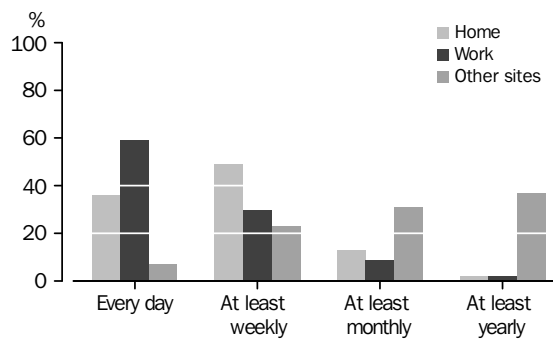
INTERNET USE, by site–2004-05



FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE

The frequency with which adults accessed the Internet during 2004-05 varied by site. Of the 7.8 million adults accessing the Internet at home, 36% used it every day, while 49% used it at least on a weekly basis and only 13% used the Internet at least once a month. Of those adults accessing the Internet at work, 59% reported accessing the Internet every day. Access at sites other than home or work occurred much less frequently.

FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE, by site–2004-05



3.1 USE OF COMPUTERS BY PERSONS, selected characteristics—2004-05

	<i>No. of persons aged 18 years or over</i>	<i>Home use of computer</i>
	'000	%
Age group (years)		
18-24	1 938	76
25-34	2 814	72
35-44	2 963	72
45-54	2 753	67
55-64	2 147	51
65 or over	2 465	20
Sex		
Male	7 413	61
Female	7 667	59
Personal income		
\$0-\$39,999(a)	8 831	54
\$40,000-\$79,999	3 070	74
\$80,000-\$119,999	546	86
\$120,000 or over	298	90
Could not be determined	2 334	55
Labour force status(b)		
Employed	9 719	72
Not employed	5 361	38
Indigenous status		
Non indigenous	14 952	60
Indigenous	^ 127	^ 49
State or territory		
New South Wales	5 057	59
Victoria	3 779	60
Queensland	2 891	61
South Australia	1 166	59
Western Australia	1 486	62
Tasmania	361	55
Northern Territory	102	62
Australian Capital Territory	237	75
Region		
Metropolitan areas	9 756	62
Ex-metropolitan areas	5 323	57
Total	15 079	60

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(b) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

3.2 USE OF COMPUTERS BY PERSONS, selected characteristics by purpose(a)—2004-05

	No. of persons aged 18 years or over who used a computer at home	Personal or private purposes	Work or business related purposes	Education or study purposes	Voluntary or community purposes	Other purposes
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)						
18-24	1 471	96	36	61	^ 9	10
25-34	2 014	96	57	41	12	^ 10
35-44	2 132	96	60	42	17	11
45-54	1 844	95	65	39	20	10
55-64	1 091	95	50	26	18	^ 9
65 or over	503	97	^ 19	^ 18	29	^ 8
Sex						
Male	4 539	96	58	40	15	10
Female	4 515	96	48	41	16	9
Personal income						
\$0-\$39,999(b)	4 735	97	38	41	15	10
\$40,000-\$79,999	2 286	96	70	43	16	10
\$80,000-\$119,999	472	94	85	44	^ 20	^ 10
\$120,000 or over	268	96	87	^ 40	^ 20	^ 13
Could not be determined	1 294	94	57	37	16	^ 10
Labour force status(c)						
Employed	7 010	95	64	43	15	10
Not employed	2 044	98	16	34	17	^ 10
Indigenous status						
Non indigenous	8 992	96	53	41	16	10
Indigenous	^ 62	^ 98	*33	*35	**4	*16
State or territory						
New South Wales	2 964	97	51	41	14	10
Victoria	2 276	96	54	42	17	9
Queensland	1 761	97	53	38	16	^ 9
South Australia	691	94	53	41	18	^ 10
Western Australia	923	95	54	39	15	11
Tasmania	199	95	49	41	^ 16	^ 10
Northern Territory	63	95	^ 59	^ 41	^ 20	*11
Australian Capital Territory	177	96	59	46	^ 22	^ 12
Region						
Metropolitan areas	6 038	96	54	43	15	9
Ex-metropolitan areas	3 016	96	50	37	18	11
Total	9 054	96	53	41	16	10

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(b) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(c) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

3.3 USE OF THE INTERNET, selected characteristics, by site(a)—2004-05

	No. of persons aged 18 years or over	Home	Work	Neighbour's or friend's or relative's house	Public library	TAFE or tertiary institution	Other	Any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)								
18-24	1 938	65	25	44	16	33	19	86
25-34	2 814	62	44	32	10	10	19	80
35-44	2 963	64	38	18	7	6	12	75
45-54	2 753	59	37	13	6	5	13	68
55-64	2 147	42	23	8	4	3	8	49
65 or over	2 465	15	^ 3	^ 3	^ 2	*1	^ 2	17
Sex								
Male	7 413	53	31	20	7	8	13	64
Female	7 667	50	28	18	8	9	10	62
Personal income								
\$0-\$39,999(b)	8 831	45	17	18	8	10	9	55
\$40,000-\$79,999	3 070	66	54	24	7	7	17	81
\$80,000-\$119,999	546	78	69	22	^ 9	^ 7	25	91
120,000 or over	298	87	72	^ 28	*6	*4	^ 31	92
Could not be determined	2 334	48	26	13	6	^ 5	10	57
Labour force status(c)								
Employed	9 719	64	43	23	8	10	15	77
Not employed	5 361	30	5	11	7	7	6	37
Indigenous status								
Non indigenous	14 952	52	29	19	7	9	12	63
Indigenous	^ 127	^ 29	^ 25	*24	*9	*10	*10	^ 57
State or territory								
New South Wales	5 057	51	29	18	7	9	11	62
Victoria	3 779	52	30	19	8	10	12	63
Queensland	2 891	52	28	20	8	8	12	64
South Australia	1 166	48	28	18	9	8	12	60
Western Australia	1 486	53	31	20	^ 6	8	13	65
Tasmania	361	46	22	18	^ 6	^ 9	11	57
Northern Territory	102	54	43	^ 14	*6	*9	^ 18	70
Australian Capital Territory	237	65	49	31	^ 12	^ 13	22	79
Region								
Metropolitan areas	9 756	55	32	20	8	10	13	66
Ex-metropolitan areas	5 323	46	23	17	6	7	10	58
Total	15 079	52	29	19	7	9	12	63

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(c) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

3.4 USE OF THE INTERNET, selected characteristics, by purpose(a)—2004-05

	<i>No. of persons aged 18 years or over who used the Internet at home</i>					
	<i>'000</i>	<i>Personal or private purposes</i>	<i>Work or business related purposes</i>	<i>Education or study purposes</i>	<i>Voluntary or community purposes</i>	<i>Other purposes</i>
		<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Age group (years)						
18-24	1 266	98	31	59	^ 7	^ 10
25-34	1 745	97	53	41	9	10
35-44	1 894	96	58	41	14	9
45-54	1 624	96	61	39	18	10
55-64	898	96	48	29	^ 16	^ 10
65 or over	365	98	^ 21	^ 20	^ 23	^ 8
Sex						
Male	3 944	96	56	41	13	10
Female	3 848	98	45	41	13	9
Personal income						
\$0-\$39,999(b)	3 933	98	36	41	13	9
\$40,000-\$79,999	2 040	96	65	43	14	10
\$80,000-\$119,999	429	97	80	45	^ 19	^ 11
\$120,000 or over	258	93	83	^ 42	^ 14	^ 11
Could not be determined	1 132	95	55	37	^ 13	^ 9
Labour force status(c)						
Employed	6 174	96	59	43	13	10
Not employed	1 618	98	16	35	15	10
Indigenous status						
Non indigenous	7 756	97	50	41	13	10
Indigenous	^ 37	^ 98	*36	*23	**2	**4
State or territory						
New South Wales	2 576	97	50	42	13	10
Victoria	1 981	97	51	43	14	^ 10
Queensland	1 511	97	49	37	12	^ 9
South Australia	563	96	50	44	^ 15	^ 10
Western Australia	788	96	51	39	14	^ 8
Tasmania	165	97	46	41	^ 13	^ 13
Northern Territory	55	^ 94	^ 61	^ 39	^ 14	*10
Australian Capital Territory	154	98	54	48	^ 20	^ 11
Region						
Metropolitan areas	5 331	97	52	43	13	9
Ex-metropolitan areas	2 462	96	47	37	14	10
Total	7 793	97	50	41	13	10

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(b) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(c) Labour force status in week before the survey.

3.5

USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME, selected characteristics, by main purpose—2004-05

	No. of persons aged 18 years or over who used the Internet at home	Personal or private purposes	Work or business related purposes	Education or study purposes	Voluntary or community purposes	Other purposes
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)						
18-24	1 266	63	^ 5	30	—	*1
25-34	1 745	68	19	^ 11	*1	^ 1
35-44	1 894	62	27	8	^ 2	^ 1
45-54	1 624	61	28	^ 6	^ 3	*1
55-64	898	67	21	^ 6	^ 3	*2
65 or over	365	82	^ 10	*2	*5	*1
Sex						
Male	3 944	62	24	10	^ 2	^ 1
Female	3 848	67	16	13	^ 2	^ 1
Personal income						
\$0-\$39,999(a)	3 933	70	12	15	^ 2	^ 1
\$40,000-\$79,999	2 040	63	27	8	^ 2	*1
\$80,000-\$119,999	429	48	^ 41	^ 7	*2	*1
120,000 or over	258	^ 46	^ 45	*6	**1	**2
Could not be determined	1 132	63	25	^ 8	*3	*1
Labour force status(b)						
Employed	6 174	62	25	11	^ 2	^ 1
Not employed	1 618	77	^ 4	15	^ 3	^ 2
Indigenous status						
Non indigenous	7 756	65	20	12	^ 2	^ 1
Indigenous	^ 37	*67	**20	**12	—	**1
State or territory						
New South Wales	2 576	64	21	^ 11	^ 2	*1
Victoria	1 981	64	19	13	^ 2	^ 1
Queensland	1 511	66	21	^ 11	*2	*1
South Australia	563	64	19	^ 12	^ 3	*1
Western Australia	788	68	20	^ 10	*1	*1
Tasmania	165	69	^ 17	^ 11	**1	**2
Northern Territory	55	^ 69	^ 20	*7	*3	**1
Australian Capital Territory	154	64	^ 19	^ 13	*3	—
Region						
Metropolitan areas	5 331	64	20	12	^ 2	^ 1
Ex-metropolitan areas	2 462	67	20	^ 10	^ 2	^ 1
Total	7 793	65	20	12	^ 2	^ 1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(b) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

3.6 FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE BY PERSONS, by site—2004-05

	<i>Accessed the Internet at home</i>	<i>Accessed the Internet at work</i>	<i>Accessed the Internet at other site</i>
	%	%	%
Everyday	36	59	7
At least weekly	49	30	23
At least monthly	13	9	31
At least yearly	2	[^] 2	37
Don't know	—	—	[^] 2
Total	100	100	100

[^] estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

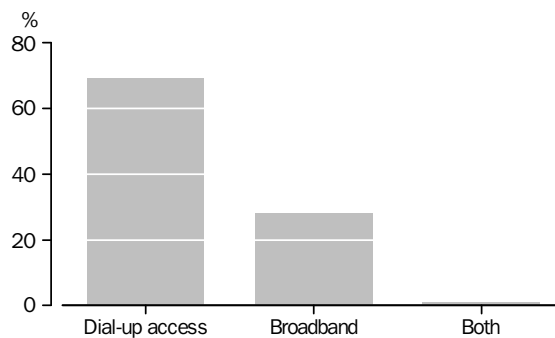
CHAPTER **4**

TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION AND TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY USED FOR BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD INTERNET CONNECTION

During 2004-05, dial-up access was reported to be the most popular method of Internet connection for households. Of the 4.4 million households accessing the Internet at home, 69% had a dial-up connection and 28% (1.2 million) reported a broadband Internet connection.

TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD INTERNET CONNECTION—2004-05

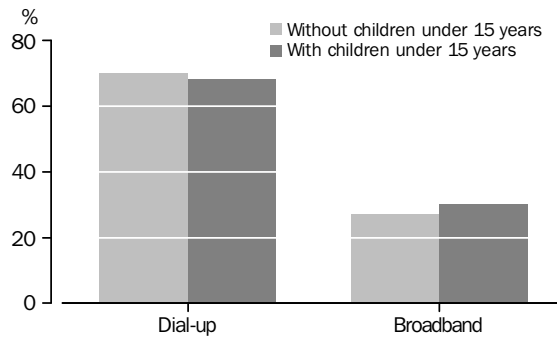


CHARACTERISTIC OF BROADBAND OR DIAL-UP INTERNET CONNECTION USERS

The uptake of dial-up and broadband access varied according to household and socio-demographic characteristics. The proportion of households accessing the Internet at home with children under 15 years old with a broadband connection was 30%, and for households without children under 15 years old was 27%. A higher proportion of males (34%) with Internet access at home used broadband connection than females (29%). Of those persons with a broadband Internet connection at home, there was some variation by age groups. The proportion of persons aged 18-24 years and 45-54 years with a broadband connection was 37%, while for persons aged 65 years or over it was 26%. The proportion of people accessing the Internet at home using a dial-up connection did not vary significantly across age groups. The proportion of households with broadband access increased with higher annual household income, equivalised gross household income and personal income.

CHARACTERISTIC OF BROADBAND OR DIAL-UP INTERNET CONNECTION USERS *continued*

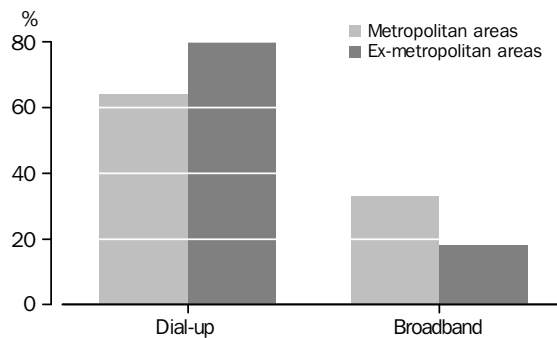
DIAL-UP OR BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTION, by household characteristics—2004-05



STATE AND REGIONAL

Among states and territories, Tasmania had the highest proportion of households with dial-up access, representing 83% of the households with Internet access in that state. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of households with a broadband Internet connection with 33% of the households with Internet access using this form of Internet connection. In terms of region, both household and personal access to broadband was more prevalent in metropolitan areas than in ex-metropolitan areas. The proportion of households with a broadband home Internet connection in metropolitan areas was 33%, whilst in ex-metropolitan areas it was almost half this proportion, at 18%.

DIAL-UP OR BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS, by region—2004-05

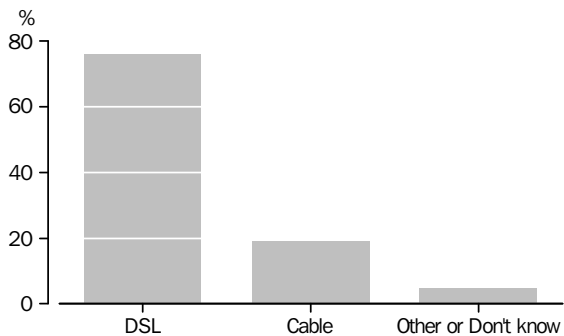


TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY USED FOR HOUSEHOLD BROADBAND CONNECTION

In 2004-05, the principal type of technology that households used for broadband connection to the Internet was Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) with 76% of households with broadband access reporting a DSL connection. The second most frequent type of technology used by households for broadband connection was cable, representing 19% of households with broadband. Among all states and territories, Victoria had the highest proportion of cable connections, while the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of DSL connections.

TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY
USED FOR HOUSEHOLD
BROADBAND CONNECTION
continued

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS, by type of technology—2004-05



4.1 HOUSEHOLD INTERNET CONNECTION, selected characteristics, by type of access—2004-05

	No. of households accessing the Internet at home	Dial-up access	Broadband	Both	Don't know
	'000	%	%	%	%
Households					
Without children under 15	2 772	70	27	^ 1	^ 2
With children under 15	1 621	68	30	^ 1	^ 1
Equivalised household income(a)					
\$0-\$39,999(b)	1 759	73	25	^ 1	^ 1
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 213	70	28	* 1	^ 1
\$80,000-\$119,999	260	60	38	** 2	—
\$120,000 or over	110	51	^ 46	** 2	** 2
Could not be determined	1 051	65	30	* 1	^ 4
Household income					
\$0-\$39,999(b)	839	76	22	—	^ 2
\$40,000-\$79,999	1 170	74	24	* 1	^ 1
\$80,000-\$119,999	763	70	29	* 1	* 1
\$120,000 or over	571	55	^ 42	* 1	* 1
Could not be determined	1 051	65	30	* 1	^ 4
State or territory					
New South Wales	1 455	66	31	^ 1	^ 2
Victoria	1 085	67	31	* 1	^ 2
Queensland	861	71	27	^ 1	* 1
South Australia	323	78	19	* 1	^ 2
Western Australia	457	72	26	—	^ 2
Tasmania	94	83	^ 16	** 1	** 1
Northern Territory	34	74	^ 23	—	** 3
Australian Capital Territory	84	66	33	** 1	** 1
Region					
Metropolitan areas	2 940	64	33	^ 1	^ 2
Ex-metropolitan areas	1 452	80	18	—	^ 1
Total	4 393	69	28	** 1	* 2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For information on equivalised household income refer to paragraph 19 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes those households with income less than zero.

4.2 PERSONAL USE OF THE INTERNET, selected characteristics, by type of access—2004-05

	No. of persons aged 18 years or over accessing the Internet at home	Dial-up	Broadband	Both	Don't know
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
18-24	1 266	61	37	*1	—
25-34	1 745	71	27	*1	*1
35-44	1 894	69	30	*1	—
45-54	1 624	61	37	*1	*1
55-64	898	71	27	*1	*1
65 or over	365	71	^ 26	**2	*1
Sex					
Male	3 944	64	34	^ 1	^ 1
Female	3 848	70	29	^ 1	^ 1
Personal income					
\$0-\$39,999(a)	3 933	69	30	^ 1	^ 1
\$40,000-\$79,999	2 040	67	31	*1	—
\$80,000-\$119,999	429	61	^ 37	*2	—
\$120,000 or over	258	^ 44	^ 55	**1	—
Could not be determined	1 132	67	30	*1	*2
Labour force status(b)					
Employed	6 174	66	32	^ 1	^ 1
Not employed	1 618	69	29	*1	*1
Indigenous status					
Non indigenous	7 756	67	31	^ 1	^ 1
Indigenous	^ 37	^ 48	*52	—	—
State or territory					
New South Wales	2 576	63	34	^ 1	^ 1
Victoria	1 981	65	33	*1	*1
Queensland	1 511	68	30	*1	—
South Australia	563	75	23	*1	*1
Western Australia	788	71	28	—	—
Tasmania	165	82	^ 17	—	—
Northern Territory	55	^ 78	^ 22	—	—
Australian Capital Territory	154	61	37	**1	—
Region					
Metropolitan areas	5 331	62	36	^ 1	^ 1
Ex-metropolitan areas	2 462	78	21	—	*1
Total	7 793	67	31	^ 1	^ 1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(b) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

4.3 HOUSEHOLD INTERNET ACCESS, selected characteristics, by type of broadband access—2004-05

	No. of households with broadband access	Digital Subscriber Line	Cable	Other or don't know(a)
	'000	%	%	%
Households				
Without children under 15	761	75	18	^ 6
With children under 15	483	77	20	^ 3
Equivalised household income(b)				
\$0-\$39,999(c)	436	77	18	^ 5
\$40,000-\$79,999	344	77	20	* 3
\$80,000-\$119,999	99	79	^ 19	** 2
\$120,000 or over	^ 51	79	* 19	** 2
Could not be determined	315	73	^ 18	^ 9
Household income				
\$0-\$39,999(c)	186	77	^ 16	^ 7
\$40,000-\$79,999	282	75	^ 21	^ 4
\$80,000-\$119,999	219	81	^ 16	* 3
\$120,000 or over	242	76	^ 22	* 2
Could not be determined	315	73	^ 18	^ 9
State or territory				
New South Wales	449	76	^ 19	^ 5
Victoria	332	71	^ 24	^ 5
Queensland	232	77	^ 19	* 3
South Australia	63	79	^ 13	* 8
Western Australia	118	83	^ 9	* 8
Tasmania	^ 15	^ 84	* 8	* 8
Northern Territory	^ 8	^ 94	** 6	—
Australian Capital Territory	28	^ 83	^ 14	* 3
Region				
Metropolitan areas	978	73	22	^ 5
Ex-metropolitan areas	266	87	^ 7	^ 6
Total	1 244	76	19	^ 5

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes satellite and microwave.

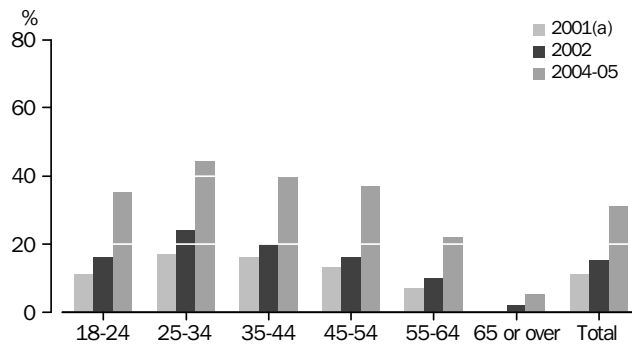
(b) For more information on equivalised household income refer to paragraph 19 to 24 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Includes those households with income less than zero.

PURCHASING OR ORDERING VIA THE INTERNET

Each year more Australian adults are using the Internet to purchase or order goods or services. In 2004-05, 4.7 million or 31% of Australian adults aged 18 years or over purchased or ordered goods or services via the Internet for private use. As with past data, during 2004-05, adults within the age group of 25 to 34 years old were most likely to purchase or order goods or services via the Internet. The 2004-05 survey indicated that adults over 65 years or more were least likely to purchase or order goods or services via the Internet. During 2004-05, the proportion of persons purchasing or ordering goods or services via the Internet increased with personal income. Among states and territories, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of persons purchasing or ordering goods or services via the Internet for private use.

PURCHASING OR ORDERING VIA THE INTERNET FOR PRIVATE USE, by age group—2001-2004-05



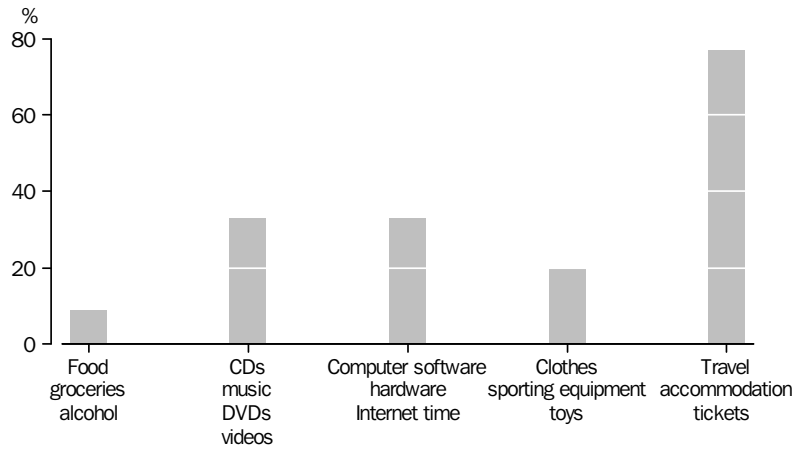
(a) Persons aged 65 years or over not in scope in 2001. Imputed data for this age category included in totals.

TYPE OF INTERNET PURCHASES OR ORDERS

During 2004-05, travel, accommodation or tickets of any kind was the most common product group purchased or ordered via the Internet with 77% of persons who ordered goods or services via the Internet purchasing or ordering these products.

TYPE OF INTERNET PURCHASES OR ORDERS
continued

PRODUCTS PURCHASED VIA THE INTERNET, by broad product groups—2004-05



EXPENDITURE ON INTERNET PURCHASES OR ORDERS

Of the 4.7 million persons purchasing or ordering goods or services via the Internet in 2004-05, 94% spent less than \$5,000 and 42% spent less than \$500. Younger adults within the age group of 18 to 24 years reported the highest proportion for expenditure on Internet purchases or orders in the \$1 to \$499 category. A higher proportion of persons aged 45 years or over spent \$1,000 or more on Internet purchases or orders.

MAIN REASON FOR NOT PURCHASING OR ORDERING VIA THE INTERNET

During 2004-05, of the 9.5 million persons accessing the Internet from any site, 4.9 million did not purchase or order via the Internet. The main reason for not shopping via the Internet reported by these persons was "have no need" (35%). Security concerns was the next most prevalent reason for not purchasing over the Internet (27%). Compared to other age groups, adults aged 18-24 years were less likely to report security concerns as a reason for not purchasing or ordering via the Internet.

5.1
**PERSONS PURCHASING OR ORDERING GOODS OR SERVICES VIA THE INTERNET
 FOR PRIVATE USE, by age group—1999 to 2004-05**

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2004-05	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
18-24	87	5	155	8	199	11	298	16	670	35
25-34	247	9	278	10	501	17	692	24	1 238	44
35-44	154	5	254	9	464	16	581	20	1 173	40
45-54	128	5	203	8	330	13	411	16	1 010	37
55-64	31	2	70	4	120	7	182	10	480	22
65 or over(a)	13	1	21	1	—	—	39	2	132	5
Total	660	5	981	7	1 640	11	2 204	15	4 704	31

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Persons aged 65 years or over were not in scope in 2001. Imputed data for this age category is included in totals.

5.2 PERSONS PURCHASING OR ORDERING GOODS OR SERVICES VIA THE INTERNET FOR PRIVATE USE, selected characteristics—2004-05

	<i>No. of persons aged 18 years or over</i>	<i>Accessed the Internet at any site</i>	<i>Purchased or ordered goods or services via the Internet for private use(a)</i>
	'000	%	%
Age group (years)			
18-24	1 938	86	35
25-34	2 814	80	44
35-44	2 963	75	40
45-54	2 753	68	37
55-64	2 147	49	22
65 or over	2 465	17	5
Sex			
Male	7 413	64	33
Female	7 667	62	30
Personal income			
\$0-\$39,999(b)	8 831	55	23
\$40,000-\$79,999	3 070	81	48
\$80,000-\$119,999	546	91	69
\$120,000 or more	298	92	73
Could not be determined	2 334	57	25
Labour force status(c)			
Employed	9 719	77	41
Not employed	5 361	37	13
Indigenous status			
Non indigenous	14 952	63	31
Indigenous	^ 127	^ 57	*12
State or territory			
New South Wales	5 057	62	31
Victoria	3 779	63	31
Queensland	2 891	64	32
South Australia	1 166	60	29
Western Australia	1 486	65	29
Tasmania	361	57	35
Northern Territory	102	70	^ 38
Australian Capital Territory	237	79	54
Region			
Metropolitan areas	9 756	66	33
Ex-metropolitan areas	5 323	58	28
Total	15 079	63	31

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Percentages are of all persons aged 18 years and over in each category.

(b) Includes those persons with income less than zero.

(c) Labour force status in the week before the survey.

5.3 GOODS OR SERVICES PURCHASED OR ORDERED BY PERSONS VIA THE INTERNET, broad product groups, by age—2004-05

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)(a)						Total
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Food, groceries or alcohol	*5	^ 11	12	^ 9	^ 7	*6	9
CDs, music, DVDs, videos, books or magazines	^ 41	38	32	30	^ 24	^ 18	33
Computer software, hardware or Internet time	^ 25	31	38	36	^ 35	^ 39	33
Clothes, sporting equipment or toys	^ 22	26	23	^ 14	^ 8	*6	20
Travel, accommodation or tickets of any kind	69	77	78	80	79	^ 76	77
Other	^ 12	15	17	16	^ 14	*14	15

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Percentages are of all persons making purchases or orders via the Internet for private use in each age range.

5.4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY PERSONS ON INTERNET PURCHASES AND ORDERS, by age—2004-05

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)(a)						Total
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
\$1-\$499	58	41	40	37	39	^ 39	42
\$500-\$999	23	27	24	25	23	^ 21	25
\$1,000-\$4,999	^ 16	26	29	30	31	^ 31	27
\$5,000-\$9,999	*2	^ 3	^ 5	^ 5	*4	*7	4
10,000 or more	—	*1	*2	*2	*2	—	^ 1
Don't know	—	*1	*1	*1	**1	**1	^ 1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Percentages are of all persons making purchases or orders via the Internet for private use in each age range.

5.5 MAIN REASON FOR NOT PURCHASING VIA THE INTERNET, by age—2004-05

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)(a)						Total
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Have no need	39	37	32	33	31	^39	35
Prefer to shop in person/like to see the product	^20	17	20	^19	^22	^21	19
Security concerns/concerned about providing credit card details on-line	^17	26	33	31	30	^27	27
Privacy concerns/concerned about providing personal details on-line	*1	^2	^3	^4	^4	*5	^3
Trust concerns/concerned about receiving or returning goods	*2	*2	*1	*2	*3	*3	^2
Other	^20	^16	12	^11	^10	^6	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Percentages are of all persons who accessed the Internet but did not order or purchase goods or services for private use in each age range.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents results which were compiled from data collected in the inaugural Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) that was conducted throughout Australia as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) each month from August 2004 to June 2005. In future years, the survey will be conducted over the full financial year.

2 The MPHS was designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self-contained topics. These include both labour topics and other social and economic topics. The topics collected in 2004-05 were:

- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation
- Retirement and Retirement Intentions
- Household Use of Information Technology (HUIT)

3 Data on household use of information technology has been previously collected by the ABS in the Population Survey Monitor (1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000), Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001), General Social Survey (2002), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (2002), Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (2003), and the Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (2000 and 2003). The MPHS will provide the vehicle for collection of HUIT data in the future.

HISTORICAL COMPARISONS

4 Due to the difference in the scope of previous surveys, previous person level data on household use of information technology which is comparable with the 2004-05 survey is only available up until 2002. The HUIT data for 2003 was obtained from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), and person level data from this survey only relates to persons with a disability aged 15 years or over, and is thus not comparable with results from MPHS 2004-05. SDAC data are comparable at the household level.

5 In addition, the 2002 HUIT data were obtained from the GSS using a face-to-face randomly selected person methodology. MPHS questions were asked using a telephone interview. The ABS has taken reasonable steps during the survey development process to ensure that this change in collection methodology does not affect the quality of the data, but a small impact for the more complex questions cannot be ruled out.

DATA COLLECTION-MPHS

6 The Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) is conducted as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. One third of the dwellings in the outgoing rotation group (one eighth of the sample is rotated out each month) are selected for the MPHS. In these dwellings, after LFS has been fully completed for each person in scope and coverage, a person (usual resident) aged 18 and over is selected at random (based on a computer algorithm) and asked the additional MPHS questions in a personal interview. Data are collected using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), whereby responses are recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer during a telephone interview.

7 The sample was accumulated over an eleven month period (August 2004 to June 2005). It was not enumerated in July 2004 due to a delay in full implementation of CAI for the LFS.

DATA COLLECTION-MPHS

continued

8 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE OF LFS AND MPHS

9 The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following persons:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

10 For the MPHS in 2004-2005 the following people are also excluded:

- people under the age of 18 years
- people living in private dwellings in very remote parts of Australia
- people living in special dwellings such as hotels, university residences etc
- Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities), and inmates of prisons
- visitors to private dwellings
- people living in very remote indigenous communities.

11 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia. The exclusion of these people is unlikely to impact on the estimates included in this publication.

COVERAGE

12 In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE FOR MPHS

13 The initial sample for the MPHS 2004-2005 consisted of 18,148 private dwelling households. Of the 15,524 private dwelling households that remained in the survey after sample loss and fully responding to the LFS (for example, households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 13,422 or 86% were fully responding to the MPHS.

WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING AND ESTIMATION

14 Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total in scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit, which, for the MPHS, can be either a person or a household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit. The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself.

Benchmarking

15 The survey was benchmarked to the estimated civilian population aged 18 years and over living in private dwellings in each state and territory in non-sparsely settled areas. The process of weighting ensures that the survey estimates conform to person benchmarks by state, part of state, age and sex and to household benchmarks by state, part of state and household composition. These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

- Estimation*
- 16** Survey estimates of counts of persons or households are obtained by summing the weights of persons or households with the characteristic of interest.
- IMPUTATION FOR NON
RESPONSE
- 17** Certain data items such as estimates of income had significant non-response for 2004-2005. The ABS has not applied any imputation methodology for estimation of values for non-responses.
- INCOME LESS THAN ZERO
- 18** Some households reported negative income in the survey. This is possible if they incur losses in their unincorporated businesses or have negative returns from their investments. Studies of income and expenditure from the 1998-99 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) have shown that such households in the bottom income decile and with negative gross incomes tend to have expenditure levels that are comparable to those of households with higher income levels (and slightly above the average expenditures recorded for the fifth decile), indicating that these households have access to economic resources, such as wealth or that the instance of low or negative income is temporary, perhaps reflecting business or investment start up.
- EQUIVALISED GROSS
HOUSEHOLD INCOME
QUINTILES
- 19** These are groupings of 20% of the total population when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 18 years. As the scope of this publication is restricted to only those persons aged 18 years and over, the distribution of this smaller population across the quintiles is not necessarily the same as it is for persons of all ages, i.e. the percentage of persons aged 18 years and over in each of these quintiles may be larger or smaller than 20%.
- 20** Equivalence scales are used to adjust the actual incomes of households in a way that enables the analysis of the relative wellbeing of people living in households of different size and composition. For example, it would be expected that a household comprising two people would normally need more income than a lone person household if all the people in the two households are to enjoy the same material standards of living. Adopting a per capita analysis would address one aspect of household size difference, but would address neither compositional difference (i.e. the number of adults compared with the number of children) nor the economies derived from living together.
- 21** When household income is adjusted according to an equivalence scale, the equivalised income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to a standardised household. For a lone person household, it is equal to income received. For a household comprising more than one person, equivalised income is an indicator of the household income that would be required by a lone person household in order to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question.
- 22** The equivalence scale used in this publication was developed for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and is referred to as the "modified OECD" equivalence scale. It is widely accepted among Australian analysts of income distribution.
- 23** The scale allocates 1.0 point for the first adult (aged 15 years or older) in a household; 0.5 for each additional adult; and 0.3 for each child. Equivalised household income is derived by dividing total household income by the sum of the equivalence points allocated to household members. For example, if a household received combined gross income of \$2,100 per week and comprised two adults and two children (combined household equivalence points of 2.1), the equivalised gross household income for each household member would be calculated as \$1,000 per week.
- 24** For more information on the use of equivalence scales, see *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2003-04* (cat. no. 6523.0)

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

25 The estimates provided in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

26 Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included. For more information refer to the technical note.

Non-sampling error

27 Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sample error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers, and errors in coding and processing data.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

28 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of the MPHS and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

FUTURE SURVEYS

29 The ABS will conduct the MPHS again during the 2005-06 financial year. The topics included in the 2005-06 MPHS are:

- Work related injuries
- Household use of information technology
- Participation in sport and physical activity
- Attendance at selected culture and leisure venues and events

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

30 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, 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 PUBLICATIONS

31 Other ABS publications on the production and use of information and communication technologies and telecommunication goods and services in Australia are:

- *Business Use of Information Technology, 2003-04* (Cat. no. 8129.0)
- *Government Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2002-03* (Cat. no. 8119.0)
- *Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2002 and 2003* (Cat. no. 8146.0)
- *Information and Communication Technology, Australia, 2002-03* (Cat. no. 8126.0)
- *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, 2003-04* (Cat. no. 8150.0)
- *Internet Activity, Australia, March 2005* (Cat. no. 8153.0)

32 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily release advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

33 As well as statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to Siddhartha De, Canberra, (02) 6252 6519 or the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- CD Collection District
- HUIT Household Use of Information Technology
- IT information technology
- LFS Labour Force Survey
- MPHS Multi-Purpose Household Survey

RSE relative standard error
SE standard error
TAFE Technical and Further Education

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

1 As the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of households and persons, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all households and persons in Australia had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of households and persons was included. There are about 2 chances in 3 that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all households and persons had been included in the survey and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

3 In the tables in this publication, only estimates (numbers and percentages) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are annotated to indicate they are subject to higher SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of 10% to less than 25% are preceded by a (^), and estimates with RSEs of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (*) to indicate that they should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (**) to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use.

4 To assist readers of this publication to ascertain the approximate levels of reliability of estimates throughout this publication, tables of SEs and RSEs for certain estimates of population counts for the data appear at the end of this Technical Note. These values do not give a precise measure of the SEs or RSEs for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of their magnitude.

USING STANDARD ERRORS FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES

5 An example of the use of SEs in relation to estimates is as follows.

6 From table 3.4, it is estimated that 7,793,000 households accessed the Internet from home in 2004-05. Since this estimate is between 5,000,000 and 10,000,000, the SE for Australia will lie between 41,850 and 52,200 and can be approximated by interpolation to be 48,000. This estimate has a SE of around 48,000. This means there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been obtained from a complete census is within the range 7,745,000 to 7,841,000 households and about 19 chances in 20 that the true value is in the range 7,697,000 to 7,889,000 households.

USING STANDARD ERRORS
FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES
continued

7 Particular care should be taken when comparing figures over time. It is not correct to assume that an apparent difference between figures is actually significant. Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ($x-y$) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

8 The estimated increase in the number of adults who purchased or ordered goods or services over the Internet in 2004-05 was 2,500,000 people (from 2,204,000 persons in 2002 to 4,704,000 in 2004-05). The SE on this movement has been calculated to be around 69,000. There are 2 chances in 3 that the true value is within the range 2,431,000 to 2,569,000 persons and 19 chances in 20 that the true value is in the range 2,362,000 to 2,638,000 persons.

TABLES OF STANDARD
ERRORS AND RELATIVE
STANDARD ERRORS

STANDARD ERRORS OF PERSON ESTIMATES—2004-05

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR								AUSTRALIA	
	NSW	VIC	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	200	510	200	240	270	190	160	220	180	180
200	340	710	330	360	400	290	250	330	290	145
300	450	860	450	460	500	360	320	410	390	130
500	650	1 090	640	620	670	480	440	540	560	112
700	820	1 280	810	750	800	580	540	650	700	100
1,000	1 050	1 510	1 020	910	970	690	670	780	890	89
1,500	1 370	1 810	1 320	1 130	1 200	860	840	950	1 160	77
2,000	1 640	2 070	1 580	1 310	1 390	990	990	1 080	1 390	70
2,500	1 900	2 300	1 800	1 500	1 550	1 100	1 100	1 200	1 600	64
3,000	2 100	2 500	2 000	1 600	1 700	1 200	1 250	1 300	1 800	60
3,500	2 350	2 650	2 200	1 750	1 850	1 300	1 350	1 400	2 000	57
4,000	2 550	2 850	2 400	1 900	1 950	1 400	1 450	1 500	2 150	54
5,000	2 900	3 150	2 700	2 100	2 200	1 550	1 600	1 650	2 450	49
7,000	3 550	3 650	3 300	2 450	2 550	1 800	1 950	1 900	3 000	43
10,000	4 350	4 300	3 950	2 950	3 050	2 150	2 300	2 150	3 700	37
15,000	5 400	5 150	4 900	3 550	3 650	2 550	2 800	2 550	4 650	31
20,000	6 350	5 850	5 650	4 050	4 150	2 900	3 250	2 850	5 450	27
30,000	7 850	7 000	6 850	4 850	5 000	3 450	3 900	3 250	6 750	23
40,000	9 100	7 950	7 850	5 500	5 650	3 850	4 450	3 600	7 850	20
50,000	10 150	8 800	8 650	6 000	6 200	4 250	4 900	3 900	8 800	18
100,000	14 150	11 900	11 600	8 000	8 300	5 550	6 600	4 800	12 450	13
150,000	17 050	14 200	13 600	9 400	9 750	6 500	7 800	5 400	15 100	10
200,000	19 350	16 100	15 150	10 500	10 900	7 200	8 750	5 850	17 250	9
300,000	23 000	19 200	17 450	12 200	12 750	8 350	—	6 500	20 700	7
500,000	28 300	23 950	20 650	14 650	15 400	9 950	—	—	25 800	5
1,000,000	36 800	32 200	25 350	18 500	19 700	—	—	—	34 200	3
2,000,000	46 900	43 150	30 350	23 000	24 850	—	—	—	44 600	2
5,000,000	62 500	63 400	36 950	—	—	—	—	—	61 500	1
10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76 800	1
15,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	86 700	1
20,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	94 100	1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

PERSON ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% TO 50%—2004-05

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Size of estimate									
Estimate with RSEs of 25%	32 919	26 576	25 385	13 496	14 381	7 434	8 555	7 918	23 927
Estimate with RSEs of 30%	22 480	19 135	17 796	9 575	10 254	5 283	5 898	5 801	16 001
Estimate with RSEs of 35%	16 107	14 483	13 035	7 124	7 669	3 938	4 272	4 433	11 259
Estimate with RSEs of 40%	11 960	11 372	9 865	5 489	5 943	3 040	3 209	3 496	8 228
Estimate with RSEs of 45%	9 129	9 183	7 656	4 346	4 732	2 412	2 481	2 824	6 192
Estimate with RSEs of 50%	7 124	7 582	6 062	3 517	3 852	1 956	1 961	2 326	4 770

STANDARD ERRORS OF HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES—2004-05

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR								AUSTRALIA	
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	130	340	130	160	180	130	110	140	120	120
200	220	470	220	360	260	190	170	220	200	100
300	300	570	300	460	330	240	210	270	270	90
500	430	720	420	620	440	320	290	360	380	76
700	540	840	530	750	530	380	360	430	480	69
1,000	690	990	670	910	640	460	440	510	600	60
1,500	900	1 200	870	1 130	790	560	560	620	790	53
2,000	1 090	1 370	1 050	1 310	920	650	650	720	950	48
2,500	1 250	1 500	1 200	1 500	1 050	750	750	800	1 100	44
3,000	1 400	1 650	1 350	1 600	1 100	800	800	850	1 200	40
3,500	1 550	1 750	1 450	1 750	1 200	850	900	900	1 350	39
4,000	1 650	1 850	1 600	1 900	1 300	900	950	1 000	1 450	36
5,000	1 900	2 050	1 800	2 100	1 450	1 000	1 050	1 100	1 650	33
7,000	2 350	2 400	2 150	2 450	1 700	1 200	1 300	1 250	2 050	29
10,000	2 850	2 850	2 600	2 950	2 000	1 400	1 550	1 450	2 500	25
15,000	3 600	3 400	3 250	3 550	2 400	1 700	1 850	1 700	3 150	21
20,000	4 200	3 850	3 750	4 050	2 750	1 900	2 150	1 850	3 700	19
30,000	5 200	4 650	4 550	4 850	3 300	2 250	2 600	2 150	4 600	15
40,000	6 000	5 250	5 150	5 500	3 750	2 550	2 950	2 400	5 350	13
50,000	6 700	5 800	5 700	6 000	4 100	2 800	3 250	2 550	6 000	12
100,000	9 350	7 850	7 650	8 000	5 450	3 650	4 350	3 200	8 450	9
150,000	11 250	9 400	8 950	9 400	6 450	4 300	5 150	3 550	10 250	7
200,000	12 800	10 650	10 000	10 500	7 200	4 750	5 800	3 850	11 700	6
300,000	15 200	12 700	11 550	12 200	8 400	5 500	—	4 300	14 050	5
500,000	18 700	15 800	13 650	14 650	10 150	6 550	—	—	17 550	4
1,000,000	24 300	21 250	16 750	18 500	13 000	—	—	—	23 250	2
2,000,000	30 950	28 500	20 050	23 000	16 400	—	—	—	30 350	2
5,000,000	41 250	41 850	24 400	—	—	—	—	—	41 850	1
10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52 200	1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% TO 50%—2004-05

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>
Size of estimate									
Estimate with RSEs of 25%	13 519	12 552	11 065	6 108	6 597	3 380	3 609	3 854	10 041
Estimate with RSEs of 30%	8 918	9 017	7 490	4 260	4 641	2 365	2 426	2 773	6 499
Estimate with RSEs of 35%	6 185	6 812	5 306	3 120	3 430	1 737	1 717	2 085	4 434
Estimate with RSEs of 40%	4 451	5 339	3 888	2 371	2 629	1 324	1 262	1 619	3 147
Estimate with RSEs of 45%	3 296	4 305	2 924	1 853	2 073	1 038	956	1 290	2 302
Estimate with RSEs of 50%	2 497	3 550	2 244	1 481	1 672	832	741	1 048	1 725

GLOSSARY

Age	This is the reported age of a person on their last birthday.
Analog/Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)	A telecommunications network operated by a carrier to provide services to the public.
Bit	Abbreviation for binary digit and describing the smallest unit of information handled by a computer. One bit expresses a 1 or a 0 in a binary numeral, or a true or false logical condition. See also Byte.
Broadband	Defined by the ABS as an 'always on' Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256 Kilobits per second (Kbps).
Byte	Abbreviation for binary term. A unit of data, today almost always consisting of 8 bits. A byte can represent a single character, such as a letter, a digit, or a punctuation mark. See also kilobit and kilobyte.
Cable	Describes those technologies including coaxial cable, fibre optic cable and hybrid fibre coaxial cable which are capable of transmitting data at speeds of up to 2 Gigabits per second (Gbps).
Child	A person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of his/her own usually resident in the household.
Computer use	This refers to use of a computer in the 12 months prior to interview.
Dial-up connections	Connection to the Internet via modem and dial-up software utilising the public switched telecommunication network (PSTN).
Digital Subscriber Line	More properly referred to as ADSL as this covers several digital technologies (e.g. asymmetric DSL or ADSL and Symmetric DSL or SDSL) for fast two-way data connections over the PSTN.
Employed	Employed persons are those who had a job or business, or who undertook work without pay in a family business, in the week prior to the survey for a minimum of one hour per week. Includes persons who were absent from a job or business. Includes Community Development Employment Program participants.
Equivalent Gross Household Income	Gross household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to gross household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the gross household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic well-being as the household in question.
Equivalent gross household income quintiles	These are groupings of 20% of the total population when ranked in ascending order according to equivalent gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons under the age of 18 years. As the scope of this publication is restricted to only those persons aged 18 years and over, the distribution of this smaller population across the quintiles is not necessarily the same as it is for persons of all ages, i.e. the percentage of persons aged 18 years and over in each of these quintiles may be larger or smaller than 20%.
Ex-metropolitan areas	Refers to areas outside the capital city statistical divisions.
Gbps	A data transfer speed measurement for high speed networks.

Household	A household consists of a person living alone, or two or more related or unrelated persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation.
Indigenous	This refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)	A digital access technique for both voice and data. Digital alternative to an analog public switched telephone service and carries data or voltages consisting of discrete steps or levels, as opposed to continuously variable analog data. ISDN enables digital transmission over the PSTN.
Internet	A world-wide public computer network. Organisations and individuals can connect their computers to this network and exchange information across a country and/or across the world. The Internet provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files.
Internet Access	Availability of lines, points, ports, and modem to subscribers to access the Internet.
Internet use	This refers to the use of the Internet in the 12 months prior to interview. It includes access via mobile phones, set-top boxes connected to either an analogue or digital television, and games machines.
Kbps	A measure of data transfer rate . A unit of data transfer that equates to 1000 bits per second.
Kilobit (Kb)	A data unit of 1,024 bits and generally abbreviated as kb or kbit. Data speeds are generally referred to in kilobits (kbps) rather than kilobytes.
Kilobyte (KB)	A data unit of 1,024 bytes and generally abbreviated as KB or Kbyte.
Megabit (Mb)	A data unit of 1,048, 576 bits, sometimes interpreted as 1 million bits. Faster data speeds are generally referred to in megabits rather than megabytes (hence Mbps).
Megabyte (MB)	A data unit of 1,048, 576 bytes, sometimes interpreted as 1 million bytes.
Metropolitan	Metropolitan refers to capital city statistical divisions. These delimit an area which is stable for general statistical purposes. The boundary is defined to contain anticipated development of a city for a period of 20 years. The metropolitan area contains more than just the urban centre, and represents the city in the wider sense.
Non Dial-up connections	Refers to permanent and 'always on' connections to the Internet via a variety of technologies including Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), Cable, Wireless, Satellite, dedicated data service, frame relay, etc.
Satellite	A satellite stationed in geosynchronous orbit that acts as a microwave relay station, receiving signals sent from a ground based station, amplifying them, and re-transmitting them on a different frequency to another ground-based station. Satellites can be used for high-speed transmission of computer data.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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