

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING 6 AUGUST 1991

AUSTRALIA IN PROFILE

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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PREFACE

Australia's twelfth national Census of Population and Housing was taken on 6 August 1991. The population census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Its objective is to measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on census night. It provides detailed information about the population for small geographic areas and for small population groups as well as for the States and Territories and for Australia as a whole. This information is intended to support the planning, administration and policy development activities of governments, business and other users.

The purpose of this report is to provide a portrait of contemporary Australian society as painted by the census. It summarises the main findings in the areas of population, cultural diversity, living arrangements, education, work, income and housing. Where appropriate, it also highlights how the census can be used to provide information about small geographic areas and for small population groups.

Census data is not without limitations. Despite the application of detailed field collection procedures, some people are missed. Furthermore not all people provide answers to every question. A sample survey conducted following the census estimated an undercount of 1.8%. Only the population figures presented in the first chapter include an adjustment for this underenumeration. Other figures in that chapter and in the rest of the publication are purely the aggregation of the data collected on census night. For these and other reasons data presented in this report may differ from that derived from major ABS household surveys covering social and labour force topics.

The census is about the people of Australia. We encourage its use and welcome comments and suggestions from users on its dissemination.

Ian Castles

Australian Statistician

November 1993

SYMBOLS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following symbols, where shown in tables, mean:

- .. not applicable
- nil or rounded to zero
- nei not elsewhere included

Other usages

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

Unless otherwise indicated, not stated categories are not separately shown, and are excluded from the calculation of percentages. However, where total numbers are shown, they include the number not stated.

Definitions

For information on definitions used, consult the *1991 Census Dictionary* (2901.0), for information on classifications used, consult the *1991 Census Directory of Classifications* (2904.0), for information on geographic areas within Australia used consult *1991 Census Geographic Areas* (2905.0).

Data sources

Unless otherwise stated, tables with source CSC or unpublished data exclude overseas visitors and all other sources include them. However, as family coding is only implemented on usual residents, all tables referring to families exclude overseas visitors.

Data sourced from the Basic Community Profile or Expanded Community Profile series have been randomised. See the appendix for more information on data sources.

Inquiries about these statistics

General inquiries about the content and interpretation of statistics in this publication should be addressed to the Director, Social Analysis and Reporting Section, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616, phone (06) 252 7187.

Other publications in this series

There are two other publications in the *1991 - Census Thematic series*; *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (2740.0) *Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* (2822.0)

ABS publications and services

A complete list of ABS publications produced in Canberra and each of the State offices is contained in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS office.

In many cases, the ABS can also provide information which is not published or which is historical or compiled from a variety of published and unpublished sources. Information of this kind may be obtained through the Information Consultancy Service. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: consultancy reports, microfiche, floppy disk, magnetic tape, computer print out or photocopy. Charges are generally made for such information. Inquiries may be made by contacting Information Services in your nearest ABS office.

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AUSTRALIA'S PEOPLE

Increasing numbers

Since the first national census in 1911, the population has nearly quadrupled, from 4.5 million to 17.3 million. This increase was due to two factors: natural increase, which is the difference between births and deaths, and net overseas migration. These factors are not directly measurable using census data, but some indication of their impact on population size can be gained by examining the growth rates of the Australian born and the overseas born populations separately.

Table 1.1 Population and growth rates

Year	Population(a) at 30 June	Percentage born overseas	Average annual intercensal growth rate		
			Australian born	Overseas born	Total
	No.	%	%	%	%
1911	4 489 545	17.2	..	..	..
1921	5 455 136	15.6	2.2	1.0	2.0
1933	6 629 839	13.6	1.9	0.5	1.7
1947	7 579 358	9.8	1.3	-1.4	1.0
1954	8 986 530	14.3	1.7	8.1	2.5
1961	10 548 267	16.9	1.8	4.7	2.3
1966	11 599 498	18.4	1.5	3.7	1.9
1971	13 067 265	20.2	1.5	3.9	1.9
1976	14 033 083	20.1	1.4	1.4	1.4
1981	14 923 260	20.9	1.1	1.9	1.2
1986	16 018 350	20.8	1.3	1.8	1.4
1991	17 284 036	22.8	1.2	2.8	1.5

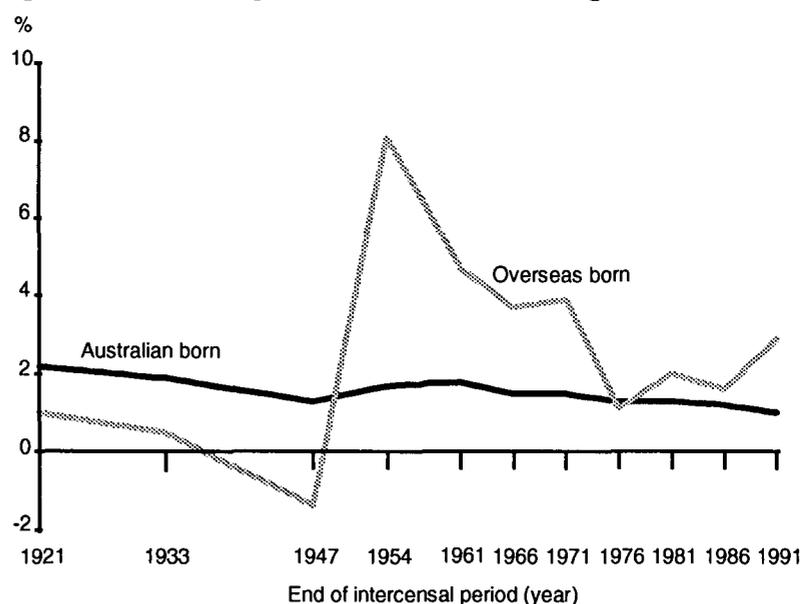
(a) Excludes full-blood Aboriginal people before 1961. Estimated resident population 1971-91.

Source: Statistician's Report (1911-61), Demography Bulletin No. 86 (1911-66), ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1966), ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 (1971-91), ABS Cat. No. 3221.0 (1976-91)

Varying growth rates

Before 1947 the Australian born population grew at a faster rate than the overseas born population. Consequently, the proportion of the population born overseas fell, from 17% in 1911 to 10% in 1947. After World War II this pattern was reversed and the proportion of the population born overseas has increased steadily since. The average annual growth rate of the overseas born population has fluctuated from a high of 8% in the early post war period to a low of 1.4% in the early 1970s. At an average of almost 3% a year, growth in the late 1980s, was the highest for 20 years. By 1991 overseas born people accounted for 23% of the population.

After 1954 the overall average annual growth rate declined to a low of 1.2% in the late 1970s and, since then, has stabilised at around 1.5%.

Figure 1.1 Average annual intercensal growth rates

Source: Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 30 June 1961, Statistician's Report, Vol VIII (1911-61), Demography Bulletin No. 86 (1911-66). ABS Cat 2443.0 (1966), ABS Cat 3101.0 (1971-91), ABS Cat 3221.0 (1976-91)

State distribution

In 1991, the majority of Australia's people still lived in New South Wales (34%) and Victoria (26%) despite the steady decline in their shares of population over the past 30 years. The next most populous State, Queensland, had 17% of the total population, an increase from the 14% share it had held in 1971.

Western Australia overtook South Australia as the fourth most populous State between 1981 and 1986. By 1991 Western Australia accounted for almost 10% of the national population with 1,636,100 people, 189,800 more than in South Australia. Tasmania's population share continued to decline.

Table 1.2 Population share: States and Territories

State	Year				1991 population '000
	1961	1971	1981	1991	
	%	%	%	%	
NSW	37.3	36.2	35.1	34.1	5 898.7
Vic	27.9	27.6	26.4	25.6	4 420.4
Qld	14.5	14.2	15.7	17.1	2 961.0
SA	9.2	9.2	8.8	8.4	1 446.3
WA	7.0	8.1	8.7	9.5	1 636.1
Tas	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.7	466.8
NT	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.0	165.5
ACT	0.6	1.2	1.5	1.7	289.3
Australia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..
	'000	'000	'000	'000	
Australia	10 548.3	13 067.3	14 923.3	17 284.0	..

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1966, Vol II, Part 1 (1961), ABS Cat 3101.0 (1971-91)

In the 30 years to 1991, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and Queensland grew faster than the national average. In the two Territories and Western Australia the fastest growth occurred in the period 1961-71. The fastest growth in Queensland occurred in the period 1981-91.

Table 1.3 Average annual growth rates

	Average annual population growth rate			
	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1961-91
	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.4
Victoria	2.1	0.9	1.1	1.4
Queensland	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.3
South Australia	2.2	0.9	0.9	1.3
Western Australia	3.6	2.1	2.3	2.7
Tasmania	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.0
Northern Territory	12.2	3.6	3.0	6.2
Australian Capital Territory	9.9	4.2	2.4	5.5
Australia	2.2	1.3	1.5	1.7

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1966, Vol II, Part 1 (1961), ABS Cat 3101.0 (1971-1991)

Estimated resident population

The census enumerates people according to where they spent census night. Census counts are recoded to each person's usual residence, adjusted for underenumeration, overseas visitors and Australian residents temporarily overseas to form the estimated resident population (ERP). The ERP is the official population measure and has been used where ever possible in this chapter. However, not all census statistics are available on an estimated resident basis, and in these cases, original census counts are used.

There were 78 700 overseas visitors in Australia on the night of the 1991 Census, and 223 900 Australian residents overseas. 46% of interstate and overseas visitors were in Queensland and the Northern Territory. These figures reflect the greater popularity of northern areas as holiday destinations in the winter months.

Table 1.4 Estimated resident population

	Census counts 6 August 1991	LESS Interstate and overseas visitors	PLUS Usual residents interstate or overseas	PLUS Adjustment for under enumeration	LESS Population growth 1 July - 6 August	EQUALS Estimated resident population 30 June
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
NSW	5 732.0	74.2	139.5	109.2	7.9	5 898.7
Vic	4 244.2	33.7	135.2	78.8	4.2	4 420.4
Qld	2 977.8	113.3	51.2	52.1	6.9	2 961.0
SA	1 400.6	15.0	39.5	22.3	1.1	1 446.3
WA	1 586.8	23.0	41.7	33.2	2.6	1 636.1
Tas	452.8	4.7	11.3	7.7	0.4	466.8
NT	175.9	19.3	4.6	4.8	0.5	165.5
ACT	280.1	7.9	13.4	4.1	0.4	289.3
Aust	16 850.3	78.7	223.9	312.3	24.1	17 284.0

Source: ABS Cat 3101.0

Urban population

Australia's people are concentrated in a small number of large cities, situated mainly along the coast. Of the 13 cities with over 100 000 people, only Canberra-Queanbeyan is inland. During the decade, 1981-91, the two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne had lower growth rates than the national average.

Table 1.5 Cities over 100 000

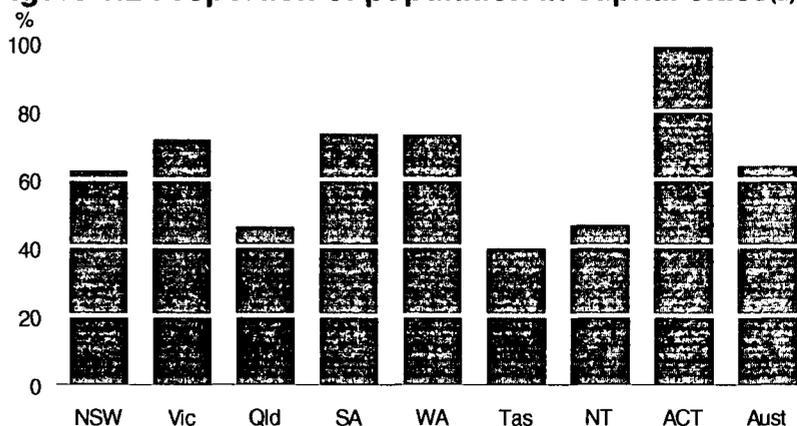
	Population at 30 June		Proportion of Australian population		1981-91 Average annual growth
	1981	1991	1981	1991	
	'000	'000	%	%	%
Cities(a) over 100 000					
Sydney	3 279.5	3 672.9	22.0	21.2	1.1
Melbourne	2 806.3	3 156.7	18.8	18.3	1.2
Brisbane	1 096.2	1 358.0	7.3	7.9	2.2
Perth	922.0	1 188.8	6.2	6.9	2.6
Adelaide	953.7	1 057.2	6.4	6.1	1.0
Newcastle	403.6	444.9	2.7	2.6	1.0
Canberra-Queanbeyan	246.5	313.4	1.7	1.8	2.4
Gold Coast-Tweed	162.7	279.6	1.1	1.6	5.6
Wollongong	231.4	244.9	1.6	1.4	0.6
Hobart	171.1	186.9	1.1	1.1	0.9
Geelong	142.0	151.6	1.0	0.9	0.7
Sunshine Coast	65.3	119.3	0.4	0.7	6.2
Townsville	96.3	116.2	0.6	0.7	1.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>10 576.6</i>	<i>12 290.4</i>	<i>70.8</i>	<i>71.1</i>	<i>1.5</i>
<i>Rest of Australia</i>	<i>4 346.7</i>	<i>4 993.7</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Total	14 923.3	17 284.0	100.0	100.0	1.5

(a) Statistical districts and capital city statistical divisions.

Source: ERP of SLAs

64% of all Australians lived in State and Territory capital cities, compared to less than half the population in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where there were proportionately larger rural (and other urban) populations than in other States.

Figure 1.2 Proportion of population in capital cities(a)



(a) Statistical division.

Source: ERP of SLAs

Growth of country towns

Between 1981 and 1991 the proportion of the population in urban centres remained relatively stable at about 86%. However, the distribution between these urban centres changed. In particular there was a shift away from the large cities to smaller cities and towns.

Table 1.6 Urban centres: census counts by size

Size	Number of centres		People		Proportion of people	
	1981	1991	1981	1991(a)	1981	1991(a)
	No.	No.	'000	'000	%	%
1 000 - 2 499	271	352	430.8	546.5	3.0	3.3
2 500 - 9 999	203	240	1 033.2	1 126.2	7.1	6.7
10 000 - 24 999	50	72	855.0	1 154.8	5.9	6.9
25 000 - 49 999	12	14	398.1	456.4	2.7	2.7
50 000 - 99 999	9	8	561.3	512.0	3.9	3.1
100 000 - 249 999	5	5	855.6	761.1	5.9	4.5
250 000 - 499 999	1	3	259.0	810.2	1.8	4.8
500 000 & over	5	5	8 089.7	8 939.8	55.5	53.3
Rural(b)	..	..	2 091.8	2 456.2	14.4	14.6
Migratory	..	..	13.0	8.5	0.1	0.1
Total	555	701	14 576.2	16 771.7	100.0	100.0

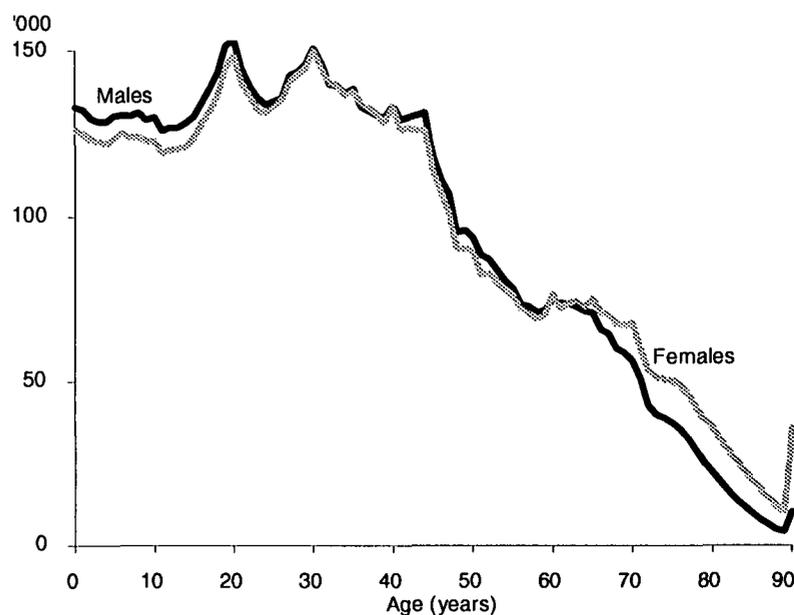
(a) Excludes overseas visitors. (b) Includes rural localities and rural balance.

Source: ABS Cat 2401.0-2408.0 (1981), ABS Cat 2822.0 (1991)

Age and sex composition

The age structure of a population is a function of many things, particularly fluctuations in fertility. Low birth rates in the 1930s and early 1940s resulted in relatively few people aged 45-60 years in 1991. The 'baby boom' from the late 1940s to the early 1960s resulted in the large number of people aged 30-45 years. The large numbers of people around 20 is due to fluctuations in the decline in the fertility rate between 1961 and 1976 and the 'baby boom echo' where large numbers of the women born in the 1940s and 50s entered their child bearing years.

Figure 1.3 Population: age by sex



Source: ABS Cat 3201.0

Overall there were more women than men in Australia in 1991, but this difference is not evenly spread across age groups. Women have lower mortality than men throughout their lives. As a consequence, the sex ratio (the number of men per 100 women) decreases with age. Males outnumber females from birth to age 65, especially up to the age of 25, and in the 40-59 age group where the sex ratio reflects the higher proportion of males migrating to Australia in the early post war period. For every 100 women aged 85 and over there are only 40 men.

Table 1.7 Age by sex

<i>Age</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males per 100 females</i>
	'000	'000	'000	ratio
0-4	652.3	619.4	1 271.7	105.3
5-14	1 290.7	1 223.1	2 513.8	105.5
15-24	1 405.9	1 354.9	2 760.8	103.8
25-34	1 416.5	1 408.9	2 825.4	100.5
35-44	1 319.4	1 303.3	2 622.7	101.2
45-54	960.3	915.8	1 876.1	104.9
55-64	734.1	728.7	1 462.8	100.7
65-74	548.6	633.5	1 182.1	86.6
76-84	243.4	370.9	614.3	65.6
85 & over	44.2	110.0	154.2	40.2
Total	8 615.4	8 668.6	17 284.0	99.4

Source: ABS Cat 3201.0

An ageing population

People are living longer and women are having fewer babies than ever before. Australia therefore has an ageing population. The proportion of children is decreasing and the proportion of older people is increasing. Over the last 20 years the median age has increased 5 years to 32.4 years.

These changes in the structure of the population have resulted in a decrease in the proportion of the population of non-working age. In 1971 for every 100 people of working age, there were 58.7 who were not; 45.5 aged under 15, and 13.2 aged 65 or over. By 1991 this ratio (the total dependency ratio) had decreased to 49.7, due to the relative decline in the number of people aged under 15, and despite the relative increase in the number of people aged 65 and over.

Table 1.8 Age and sex distribution

	<i>Census year</i>			
	<i>1911</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>
	ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio
Dependency ratio(a)				
0-14 years	49.4	45.5	38.2	32.8
65 years & over	6.7	13.2	14.9	16.9
85 years & over	0.2	0.5	1.1	1.3
Sex ratio(b)				
0-14 years	102.7	104.9	104.6	105.5
15-64 years	110.5	103.7	102.5	102.2
65 years & over	111.2	72.8	72.6	75.0
85 years & over	96.2	45.9	37.1	40.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>108.0</i>	<i>101.1</i>	<i>99.5</i>	<i>99.3</i>
	years	years	years	years
Median age	24.0	27.5	29.6	32.4

(a) Ratio to population aged 15-64 expressed as a percentage. (b) Males per 100 females.

Source: Statistician's Report (1911 & 1961), ABS Cat 3201.0 (1981 & 1991)

Trends in marital status

A person's registered marital status, does not necessarily reflect their living arrangements and family status. Information on these characteristics is contained in Chapter 3.

From 1947 the proportion of both men and women aged over 15 who were married rose steadily, peaking in 1971. Over the last 20 years, there has been a fall in the proportion of people married, reflecting increasing prevalence of de facto relationships and trends towards later age at marriage, as well as increasing divorce and separation.

Table 1.9 Registered marital status by sex

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Census year</i>					
	<i>1947</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Never married	33.0	29.8	29.8	29.3	30.9	33.1
Married	(a)62.2	63.9	64.2	64.6	60.9	56.9
Separated	-	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.7
Divorced	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.4	3.3	4.8
Widowed	4.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women						
Never married	26.4	21.5	21.1	20.7	22.9	25.8
Married	(a)61.8	64.3	64.3	64.2	59.2	55.3
Separated	-	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.0
Divorced	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.6	4.1	5.8
Widowed	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.1	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes permanently separated.

Source: 2443.0 (1947-1981), CVC 1063 (1991)

Marital status and age

The highest proportion of married men is among men aged 45-64, while for women it is between the ages of 35 and 54. This difference reflects the tendency for women to marry earlier than men, together with their longer life expectancy.

In every age group the proportion of men never married is higher than for women. In 1991, 33% of all men aged 15 and over had never married, compared with 26 % of women. Conversely, in every age group, the proportion of women who are widowed is higher than for men. The highest proportion of people who are separated is among 35-44 year olds for both men and women. The highest proportion of people who are divorced is among 45-54 year olds for both men and women.

Table 1.10 Registered marital status by age by sex

Age (years)	Marital Status					Total
	Never married	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
15-24	92.1	6.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	100.0
25-34	40.0	53.0	3.2	3.5	0.4	100.0
35-44	13.0	74.7	4.3	7.5	0.5	100.0
45-54	7.8	78.9	3.7	8.4	1.2	100.0
55-64	7.6	79.7	2.7	6.8	3.2	100.0
65 & over	7.0	73.4	1.9	4.0	13.6	100.0
Total	33.1	56.9	2.7	4.8	2.5	100.0
Women						
15-24	84.8	13.4	0.9	0.5	0.3	100.0
25-34	25.9	63.7	4.5	5.2	0.7	100.0
35-44	8.1	75.8	4.9	9.7	1.4	100.0
45-54	4.8	77.0	3.7	10.2	4.3	100.0
55-64	4.4	71.5	2.5	7.4	14.1	100.0
65 & over	6.2	43.1	1.3	3.7	45.8	100.0
Total	25.8	55.3	3.0	5.8	10.1	100.0

Source: B 06

Moving

Over 43% of the population moved to a new address between 1986 and 1991, including 5% of the population who settled in Australia in this period from overseas. Some groups are more mobile than others. People aged 25-34 are more mobile than other age groups, 65.7% having moved house at least once between 1986 and 1991. It is during these ages that family and household formation and career progress have their greatest impact. In comparison only 22.3% of people aged 65 or over moved in the same period. People who are separated or divorced are more likely to have moved than people who are married or never married, because a separation/divorce usually involves at least one partner moving out.

Table 1.11 Mobility between 1986 and 1991

	<i>Address in 1991</i>		<i>Total</i> '000
	<i>Same</i>	<i>Different</i>	
	<i>as 1986</i>	<i>from 1986</i>	
	%	%	
Age (years)			
5-14	55.0	45.0	2 494.5
15-24	49.4	50.6	2 640.1
25-34	34.3	65.7	2 710.2
35-44	55.6	44.4	2 544.6
45-54	69.1	30.9	1 813.7
55-64	74.4	25.6	1 411.5
65 & over	77.7	22.3	1 897.6
Marital status(a)			
Never married	50.8	49.2	3 817.2
Married	60.7	39.3	7 312.9
Separated but not divorced	36.5	63.5	374.0
Divorced	46.3	53.7	688.7
Widowed	72.3	27.7	825.0
Total	56.7	43.3	16 771.7

(a) Excludes people aged 0-14.

Source: Unpublished data

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Although Aboriginal people have been counted in each census since 1911, it was not until the 1971 Census (the first census to be conducted after the repeal, in 1967, of section 127 of the Constitution which excluded Aboriginal people from the population counts) that they were officially included in the Australian population. Since 1971 there has been a large increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people counted.

Table 1.12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	<i>Census year</i>		
	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>
Aboriginal people	106 290	144 665	238 575
Torres Strait Islander people	9 663	15 232	26 884
Total	115 953	159 897	265 459

Source: 2219.0 (1971), 2443.0 (1981), CVC 1075 (1991)

...better counting procedures

This apparent large increase in numbers has not been solely due to natural increase. Other factors include a greater inclination to identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin and general improvements in census counting procedures. In 1991, an awareness campaign on the importance of the census was directed towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Special field enumeration procedures were also used in Aboriginal communities. Although similar measures were taken in previous censuses this accounts for some of the increase.

...geographic distribution

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people account for only 1.6% of Australia's people in total, their representation varies across States and, in 1991, was highest in the Northern Territory (23% of the population) followed by Western Australia (2.6%) and Queensland (2.4%). The greatest numbers were in Queensland and New South Wales. Over half of all Torres Strait Islander people were counted in Queensland.

Table 1.13 State distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	<i>Aboriginal people</i>	<i>Torres Strait Islander people</i>	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</i>	<i>Proportion of State</i>	<i>Increase since 1986</i>
	No.	No.	No.	%	%
NSW	65 133	4 886	70 019	1.2	18.7
Vic	13 739	2 996	16 735	0.4	32.7
Qld	55 475	14 649	70 124	2.4	14.5
SA	14 639	1 593	16 232	1.2	13.6
WA	41 002	777	41 779	2.6	10.6
Tas	7 620	1 265	8 885	2.0	32.3
NT	39 287	623	39 910	22.7	14.9
ACT	1 680	95	1 775	0.6	45.5
Australia	238 575	26 884	265 459	1.6	16.6

Source: CSD 003 (1986), CVC 1075 (1991)

Only 27% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in towns or cities of more than 100 000 people, compared with 63% of all Australians. About 32% lived in rural areas, compared to less than 15% of all Australians.

Table 1.14 Urbanisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people		All people(a)	
	No.	%	'000	%
Major urban(b)	70 745	26.7	10 511.1	62.7
Other urban(c)	108 563	40.9	3 795.9	22.6
Rural(d)	85 993	32.4	2 456.2	14.6
Total(e)	265 459	100.0	16 771.7	100.0

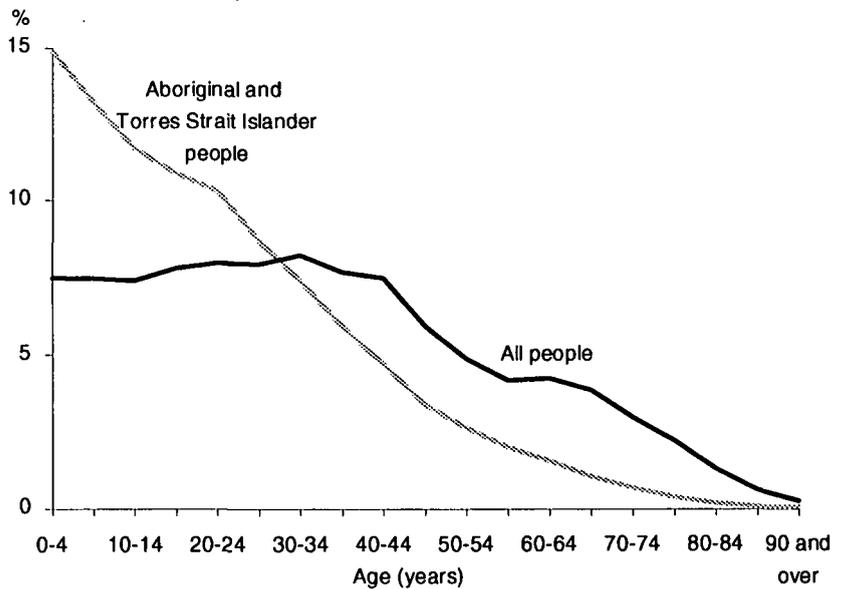
(a) Excludes overseas visitors. (b) Urban centre with over 100 000 people. (c) Urban centre with 1 000 to 99 999 people. (d) Includes rural localities and rural balance. (e) Includes migratory and off shore.

Source: B 04, ABS Cat 2822.0

...a young population

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has a much younger profile than the total Australian population, with a median age of 19.7, compared to 32.4 years for the total Australian population. This is due to higher birth and death rates than those experienced by the rest of the population.

Figure 1.4 Age structure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Source: CVC 1116



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Range of cultures

Australia has a rich cultural diversity and while culture cannot be directly measured from census data, the range of language, religion and birthplace data give a valuable insight into multicultural Australia. The census counted 3.8 million overseas born people who were classified to 224 countries. A further 3.3 million had one or both parents born overseas. There were 2.5 million people who spoke one of 68 languages other than English at home. The census classified the religions which Australians reported into 81 categories.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Of the 265,500 people who identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, 17% spoke an Aboriginal language at home, and 1.6% reported an Aboriginal religion. There were considerable variations across the country, with 65% of Northern Territory Aboriginal people speaking an Aboriginal language.

Queensland and New South Wales both had just over 70,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Queensland had over nine times as many people speaking Aboriginal languages, but fewer people reporting an Aboriginal religion.

Table 2.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and religions

State	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Persons speaking Aboriginal languages(a)		Persons reporting Aboriginal religions(b)	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
NSW	70 019	710	1.0	133	0.2
Vic	16 735	211	1.3	67	0.4
Qld	70 124	6 576	9.4	100	0.1
SA	16 232	3 354	20.7	127	0.8
WA	41 779	8 158	19.5	974	2.3
Tas	8 885	26	0.3	8	0.1
NT	39 910	26 141	65.5	2 907	7.3
ACT	1 775	32	1.8	14	0.8
Aust	265 459	45 208	17.0	4 330	1.6

(a) Includes Torres Strait Islander languages. (b) Includes Torres Strait Islander religions.

Source: CVC 1075, CVC 1076, CVC 1077

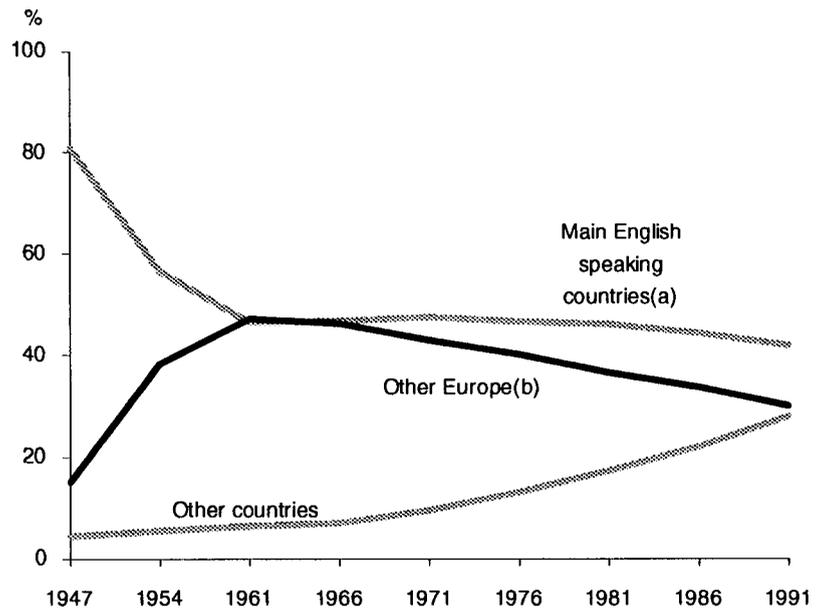
**Birthplace
...changing ethnic mix**

Between 1947 and 1991, the proportion of the population born overseas increased from 10% to 23%, with the largest increase in the early post-war period. Accompanying this increase there have been significant changes in the mix of source countries.

In the period 1947 to 1961, there was more than a seven fold increase in the number of people from continental Europe, while the number from the UK and Ireland increased by less than half. Consequently the proportion of overseas born from main English speaking countries fell from 81% to 46%, while the proportion of the overseas born from continental Europe rose from 15% to 48%.

More recently there has been an increase in immigration from other countries, especially New Zealand, Viet Nam, China and the Philippines.

Figure 2.1 Proportion of overseas born people



(a) UK, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and USA. (b) All Europe and the USSR excluding UK and Ireland.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966 Vol 1 Pt 3, Table 1 (1947-1966), ABS Cat. No. 2249.0 (1971), ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1976 and 1981), Table CX 0003 (1986), CVC 1070 (1991)

...countries of birth

Between 1947 and 1991 the Australian population doubled, while the overseas born population increased five fold. Despite this growth, there has been a fall in absolute numbers of people living in Australia, born in Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Malta and the USSR in recent years.

Table 2.2 People's birthplaces

Birthplace	Year					
	1947(a)	1954(a)	1961(a)	1971(a)	1981	1991
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
United Kingdom	502.0	626.0	718.3	1 046.4	1 086.8	1 122.4
New Zealand	43.6	43.4	47.0	80.5	176.7	276.1
Italy	33.6	119.9	228.3	289.5	275.9	254.8
Yugoslavia(b)	5.9	22.9	49.8	129.8	149.3	161.1
Greece	12.3	25.9	77.3	160.2	146.6	136.3
Viet Nam	—	—	—	(c)0.7	41.1	122.3
Germany	14.6	65.4	109.3	110.8	110.8	114.9
Netherlands	2.2	52.0	102.1	99.3	96.0	95.8
China(d)	6.4	10.3	14.5	17.6	25.9	78.8
Philippines	0.1	0.2	0.4	2.6	15.4	73.7
Malaysia	(e)1.8	2.3	5.8	14.9	31.6	72.6
Lebanon	(f)1.9	3.9	7.3	24.2	49.6	69.0
Poland	6.6	56.6	60.0	59.7	59.4	68.9
India	(g)8.2	12.0	14.2	29.2	41.7	61.6
Hong Kong	0.8	1.6	3.5	5.6	15.7	59.0
Malta	3.2	20.0	39.3	53.7	57.0	53.8
Ireland	39.3	38.2	37.1	41.9	45.8	52.4
USA	6.2	8.3	10.8	30.0	32.6	50.6
South Africa	5.9	6.0	7.9	12.7	27.0	49.4
USSR(b)(h)	6.8	60.1	59.7	54.5	50.8	44.2
Other countries	42.9	111.8	186.1	315.7	468.0	738.7
<i>Total overseas born</i>	<i>744.2</i>	<i>1 286.5</i>	<i>1 778.8</i>	<i>2 579.3</i>	<i>3 182.5</i>	<i>4 125.2</i>
Australian born	6 835.2	7 700.1	8 729.4	10 176.3	11 393.9	12 725.2
Total population	7 579.4	8 986.5	10 508.2	12 755.6	14 576.3	16 850.3

(a) Birthplace not stated has been distributed pro rata across all countries. (b) The data in this table refers to the period before the breakup of the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia. The names of the countries used are therefore correct for the period referred to. (c) Includes Cambodia and Laos in 1971. (d) Excludes Taiwan Province. (e) Includes Singapore in 1947. (f) Includes Syria in 1947. (g) Includes Sri Lanka in 1947. (h) Includes the Baltic States.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966 Vol 1 Pt 3, Table 1 (1947-1961), ABS Cat. No. 2249.0 (1971), ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), CVC 1070 (1991)

In the decade from 1981 to 1991, the fastest growing birthplace groups were from South East and North East Asia and Oceania.

The census counts on which these tables are based include overseas visitors in Australia on census night. This has most effect on the number of Japanese people. The growth in tourism accounted for around 30% of the increase from 1981 to 1991 in Japanese born people counted in the census.

Table 2.3 Birthplace groups with greatest increase

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Largest numeric increase</i>		<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Largest percentage increase</i>	
	<i>Increase 1981- 91</i>			<i>Increase 1981- 91</i>	
	'000	%		'000	%
New Zealand	99.3	56	Taiwan	12.1	1 387
Viet Nam	81.2	198	Western Samoa	5.0	634
Philippines	58.2	377	Cambodia	14.0	392
China(a)	53.0	205	Philippines	58.2	377
Hong Kong	43.2	275	Republic of Korea	16.4	363
Malaysia	41.0	130	Thailand	10.7	319
United Kingdom	31.6	3	Hong Kong	43.2	275
South Africa	22.4	83	Cook Islands	1.7	261
Fiji	21.2	226	Iran	9.2	252
Sri Lanka	20.4	120	Fiji	21.2	226
India	19.9	48	Japan	17.9	222
Lebanon	19.4	39	China(a)	53.0	205

(a) Excludes Taiwan Province.

Source: Table 107 (1981), CVC 1070 (1991)

As noted earlier, during the 1980s the size of some European born groups fell considerably. These people came to Australia in their greatest numbers in the 1950s. The decreases are due to the departure of some people to their country of birth especially upon retirement, to the ageing and the associated deaths among these populations, as well as low current migration levels.

Table 2.4 Birthplace groups with greatest decrease

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Largest numeric decrease</i>		<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Largest percentage decrease</i>	
	<i>Decrease 1981- 91</i>			<i>Decrease 1981- 91</i>	
	No.	%		No.	%
Italy	21 104	7.6	Albania	374	27.4
Greece	10 298	7.0	USSR(a)	6 602	13.0
USSR(a)	6 602	13.0	Italy	21 104	7.6
Malta	3 164	5.6	Norway	221	7.5
Cyprus	1 119	4.8	Greece	10 298	7.0

(a) The data in this table refers to the period before the breakup of the former USSR. The names of the countries used are therefore correct for the period referred to. Includes the Baltic States.

Source: Table 107 (1981), CVC 1070 (1991)

...geographic distribution

The 1991 Census revealed that the birthplace composition of Australia's population varied considerably between the States and Territories. Overseas born people made up 11% of Tasmania's population, less than half the national average, and most of these were from main English speaking countries (Ireland, South Africa, UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand). Western Australia had the highest concentration of overseas born people, but the proportion of people from non-English speaking countries was lower than the national average.

Table 2.5 Concentration of overseas born people

	<i>Proportion of population born in</i>			
	<i>MESC(a)</i>	<i>Other Europe(b)</i>	<i>Other countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%
NSW	8.1	6.6	8.7	23.4
Vic	7.6	10.0	7.0	24.6
Qld	10.3	3.6	3.5	17.4
SA	11.8	7.7	3.2	22.7
WA	17.4	5.9	6.2	29.5
Tas	6.7	2.7	1.4	10.8
NT	9.7	4.1	5.5	19.2
ACT	9.7	7.3	6.9	23.9
Aust	9.6	6.8	6.4	22.8

(a) Main English speaking countries (Ireland, South Africa, UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand). (b) Excluding UK and Ireland.

Source: CVC 1070

Some birthplace groups tend to cluster in certain areas. The degree of clustering varies for different groups. For example Lebanese born people represent 0.4% of the Australian population, 0.9% of the New South Wales population but over 5% of the population in some Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in Sydney.

Some birthplace groups are mainly concentrated in one State, especially New Zealanders in Queensland, Lebanese and Chinese in New South Wales and Malaysians in Western Australia. Others have relatively high concentrations in particular local areas in several States, for example people born in Viet Nam, Greece, Italy, Poland and the UK.

Table 2.6 Concentrations of birthplace groups

<i>Country of birth/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>	<i>Country of birth/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>
		%			%
New Zealand			Lebanon		
Arundel	QLD	10.7	Canterbury (M)	NSW	7.5
Surfers Paradise	QLD	10.1	Auburn (M)	NSW	5.6
Parkwood	QLD	10.1	Bankstown (C)	NSW	5.0
Broadbeach	QLD	10.0	Parramatta (C)	NSW	4.2
Robina(a)	QLD	9.5	Holroyd (C)	NSW	3.5
Australian total		1.6	Australian total		0.4

For footnotes see end of table

Table 2.6 Concentrations of birthplace groups
—*continued*

<i>Country of birth/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>	<i>Country of birth/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>
		%			%
United Kingdom			Malaysia		
Rockingham (C)	WA	26.5	Acton	ACT	4.3
Kwinana (T)	WA	24.6	Canning (C)	WA	3.6
Elizabeth (C)	SA	24.6	Melville (C)	WA	3.0
Armadale (C)	WA	23.1	Perth (C) - Outer	WA	2.8
Munno Para (C)	SA	20.9	Nedlands (C)	WA	2.7
Australian total		6.6	Australian total		0.4
China(c)			Poland		
Sydney (C) - Remainder	NSW	7.5	Surfers Paradise	QLD	4.1
Ashfield (M)	NSW	7.2	Caulfield (C)	Vic	3.7
Burwood (M)	NSW	5.4	St Kilda (C)	Vic	3.5
Auburn (M)	NSW	4.0	Darra-Sumner	QLD	3.1
Strathfield (M)	NSW	4.0	Enfield (C) - Pt B	SA	2.8
Australian total		0.5	Australian total		0.4
Greece			Viet Nam		
Thebarton (M)	SA	11.6	Darra-Sumner	QLD	25.9
Northcote (C)	Vic	8.4	Durack	QLD	14.9
Oakleigh (C)	Vic	7.5	Enfield (C) - Pt B	SA	11.8
Port Melbourne (C)	Vic	7.1	Fairfield (C)	NSW	11.1
West End	QLD	7.1	Footscray (C)	Vic	10.6
Australian total		0.8	Australian total		0.7
Italy			Yugoslavia(b)		
Payneham (C)	SA	12.1	Cooper Pedy (DC)	SA	7.6
Campbelltown (C)	SA	11.8	Whittlesea (C)	Vic	7.4
Coburg (C)	Vic	11.3	O'Malley	ACT	7.2
Preston (C)	Vic	10.4	Corio (S) - Pt A	Vic	7.0
Drummoyne (M)	NSW	10.1	Footscray (C)	Vic	6.9
Australian total		1.5	Australian total		1.0

(a) Includes Clear Island Waters (b) The data in this table refers to the period before the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The names of the countries used are therefore correct for the period referred to. (c) Excludes Taiwan Province.

(C) City. (M) Municipality. (S) Shire. (T) Town. (DC) District Council.

Source: B 08

...Australian citizens

People who have lived in Australia longer are more likely to have become citizens. However, there are differences between birthplace groups. Among people who have been in Australia for at least 10 years, people from Greece, Lebanon, Poland, Viet Nam and the Philippines had the highest rates of naturalisation (over 95%). People born in UK, Ireland, USA and New Zealand had the lowest. Recent arrivals of Chinese and Malaysians include overseas students who are not permanent residents. This contributes to the low rate of citizenship among these groups.

Table 2.7 Proportion of overseas born people with Australian citizenship

Country of birth	Year of arrival				Total people '000
	Before 1981	1981-85	1986-91	Total	
	%	%	%	%	
Greece	95.7	79.1	47.9	94.2	135.7
Yugoslavia	94.4	80.5	41.9	89.4	160.5
Lebanon	97.4	92.3	59.2	88.0	68.9
Poland	96.0	90.9	35.4	86.1	68.6
Italy	78.4	38.0	19.6	77.2	253.3
Netherlands	80.6	34.3	17.1	76.1	94.8
Germany	81.7	42.9	15.3	74.9	112.0
South Africa	89.5	84.9	45.9	73.9	48.7
Viet Nam	97.5	91.7	33.0	71.8	121.8
Philippines	95.8	91.6	49.2	67.6	73.1
India	88.7	70.1	24.7	67.6	61.1
Sri Lanka	93.5	80.4	34.2	65.1	37.0
Malta	61.6	34.6	22.1	59.7	53.7
Hong Kong	93.4	85.7	35.3	58.6	57.5
UK	54.7	50.1	19.2	50.7	1 107.3
China	94.6	86.1	17.9	49.5	78.0
Ireland	54.6	50.2	19.0	45.3	51.2
Malaysia	81.4	52.8	13.9	44.9	71.6
USA	40.4	33.0	14.1	30.2	43.7
New Zealand	38.5	22.5	8.4	24.7	264.4
Other	85.2	71.4	27.6	66.1	726.9
Total	71.5	63.5	25.5	61.2	3 689.6

Source: CSC 6013

...year of arrival

A third of overseas born people counted in the census arrived in Australia between 1981 and 1991.

While the UK is still the most significant migrant source country its relative importance is declining. In the 1991 Census 195,300 people born in the UK stated that they had arrived in Australia since 1981. However between 1981 and 1991 the UK born component of the Australian population increased by only 35,600. This difference is due to emigration and relatively high death rates associated with the ageing of the population.

Table 2.8 Year of arrival of overseas born

<i>Year of arrival/ Country of birth</i>	<i>Proportion of migrants</i>	<i>Year of arrival/ Country of birth</i>	<i>Proportion of migrants</i>
Pre 1976	%	1981-85	%
UK	38.3	UK	20.9
Italy	11.1	New Zealand	11.7
Yugoslavia(a)	6.0	Viet Nam	10.4
Greece	5.7	Philippines	4.0
Germany	4.3	Poland	3.4
Netherlands	3.8	Malaysia	3.1
New Zealand	3.1	South Africa	2.6
Malta	2.2	Hong Kong	2.5
Poland	1.9	China(c)	2.5
USSR(a)(b)	1.6	Cambodia	2.2
Other	22.0	Other	36.7
	'000		'000
Total	2 139.9		404.9
1976-80	%	1986-91	%
UK	21.8	UK	14.8
New Zealand	15.9	New Zealand	12.6
Viet Nam	9.6	Viet Nam	5.9
Lebanon	4.3	China(c)	5.9
Malaysia	2.9	Philippines	5.6
South Africa	2.9	Malaysia	4.4
Philippines	2.6	Hong Kong	4.4
Yugoslavia(a)	2.1	India	2.4
China(c)	2.0	Fiji	2.2
Hong Kong	1.9	Sri Lanka	2.2
Other	33.0	Other	39.6
	'000		'000
Total	314.1		747.2

(a) The data in this table refers to the period before the breakup of the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia. The names of the countries used are therefore correct for the period referred to. (b) Includes the Baltic States.
(c) Excludes Taiwan Province.

Source: CSC 6013

Languages spoken at home

After English, the languages most widely spoken at home were Italian, Greek, Cantonese and Arabic. The majority of people who speak these languages were born overseas. However, 47% of people who speak Greek and 43% of people who speak Italian were Australian born.

There are a number of factors which influence whether the children of overseas born people (first generation Australians) speak their parents' language(s). These include the time spent in Australia, cultural similarities to the Australian born population, and social structures within their culture. When a particular group has not been in Australia very long (e.g. Vietnamese) there are relatively few Australian born children who might be expected to speak their parents language.

Table 2.9 Languages spoken at home

	Males	Females	Total	Proportion born in Australia
	'000	'000	'000	%
Italian	212.1	206.7	418.8	42.7
Greek	144.6	141.1	285.7	46.7
Cantonese	79.8	83.1	162.9	13.7
Arabic	84.4	78.5	162.9	39.1
German	55.4	58.0	113.3	20.3
Vietnamese	58.2	52.0	110.1	13.7
Spanish	44.5	45.7	90.3	18.2
Polish	32.0	35.0	67.0	17.3
Macedonian	32.9	31.5	64.4	36.2
Croatian	32.5	30.6	63.1	36.6
Filipino languages	22.5	36.5	59.0	6.0
Mandarin	29.2	25.3	54.5	8.6
Maltese	27.0	26.0	53.0	29.6
Dutch	22.0	25.0	47.0	13.1
French	21.9	23.5	45.4	23.1
Aboriginal languages	22.5	22.7	45.2	99.2
Turkish	21.6	20.3	41.9	31.5
Indonesian Malay	15.2	14.6	29.8	15.1
Hungarian	14.4	15.2	29.5	17.9
Portuguese	12.9	12.6	25.5	19.2
Serbian	12.6	11.8	24.3	28.4
Russian	11.0	13.2	24.3	19.7
Hindi	11.3	11.3	22.7	9.0
Japanese	9.7	11.3	21.1	20.8
Korean	10.1	9.8	19.8	9.4
Other	191.8	184.8	376.7	25.7
<i>Total non-English</i>	1 232.0	1 226.2	2 458.2	30.0
English	6 883.3	7 019.2	13 902.5	85.4
Total	8 326.1	8 444.9	16 771.0	75.8

Source: CSC 6016

...language of first generation Australians

The census does not record parents' language. However, birthplace of parents can be used as an indicator. 67% of Australian born people with both parents born in Italy speak Italian. In comparison, only 38% of Australian born people with both parents born in Poland reported speaking Polish at home. First generation Australians are more likely to speak their parents' language if both parents are from the same country. Otherwise they are generally more likely to speak their mother's language, than their father's.

Table 2.10 Proportion of first generation Australians who speak the language of a parent's birthplace

Birthplace of parent(s)	Parent(s) born in specified country		
	Mother	Father	Both parents
	%	%	%
Greece	49.4	41.4	86.8
Italy	24.7	18.8	66.8
Chinese countries(a)	24.7	17.7	67.4
Philippines	4.5	2.7	39.4
Germany and Austria	6.0	3.1	23.0
Malta	5.5	4.7	34.4
Poland	10.8	4.9	38.0
Viet Nam	21.9	14.8	65.4

(a) China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

Source: CSC 6017

Proficiency in English

Overall, 15% of the population spoke a language other than English at home. 18% of these people, or 3% of the Australian population could not speak English well or at all. Of people born in non-English speaking countries, 22% spoke only English at home, and 19% were not proficient in English. Younger people were more proficient in English than older people.

Table 2.11 Proficiency in English

	Speaks only English at home	Speaks other language at home - speaks English			Total
		Very well or well	Not well	Not at all	
	%	%	%	%	'000
Born in Australia	94.2	5.1	0.4	0.3	12 717.8
Born in MESC(a)	97.4	2.5	0.1	—	1 537.9
Born in NESC(b)	21.9	58.5	16.3	3.3	2 515.3
Males	23.1	59.9	14.8	2.1	1 278.9
Females	20.5	57.1	17.9	4.5	1 236.4
Aged 5-14	20.6	67.3	10.2	1.9	191.3
Aged 15-64	22.3	60.0	15.7	2.0	1 926.8
Aged 65 & over	19.2	47.0	23.0	10.8	323.1
Total	84.7	11.9	2.5	0.7	..
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	13 902.5	1 947.8	405.3	111.8	16 771.0

(a) Main English speaking countries (UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and USA). (b) Non-English speaking countries (All countries except UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, USA and Australia).

Source: CSC 6010

People who had arrived recently were generally less proficient than those who had been in Australia longer. This was more pronounced among older people; almost half of overseas born people aged 65 and over at the 1991 Census who arrived since 1987 were unable to speak English at all. However, this group accounts for only 7,500 people. About 7,000 Australian born people reported that they were unable to speak English. Aboriginal language speakers account for about half of them.

Table 2.12 Proficiency in English by age

Proficiency in English(a)	Age				Total
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	
Overseas born: arrived 1986-91					
Speaks English	%	%	%	%	%
Well or very well	77.2	68.7	45.5	26.5	68.1
Not well	20.0	27.4	33.2	25.2	25.0
Not at all	2.8	3.9	21.3	48.3	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	<i>168.6</i>	<i>208.2</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>436.9</i>
Overseas born: arrived before 1986					
Speaks English	%	%	%	%	%
Well or very well	97.3	85.2	74.2	61.3	78.5
Not well	2.4	13.9	23.5	28.3	18.7
Not at all	0.3	0.9	2.2	10.4	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	<i>131.9</i>	<i>428.9</i>	<i>469.0</i>	<i>199.1</i>	<i>1 229.0</i>
Australian born					
Speaks English	%	%	%	%	%
Well or very well	95.0	95.1	87.4	82.3	94.4
Not well	4.1	3.9	9.9	11.5	4.5
Not at all	0.8	1.0	2.7	6.1	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	<i>426.4</i>	<i>181.5</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>656.8</i>

(a) Persons over 5 years who speak a language other than English at home.

Source: CSC 6016

Proficiency in English varied considerably according to which non-English language was spoken at home. People with a higher proficiency in English tend to have lived in Australia longer, or have greater cultural similarities to the Australian born population and often come from countries where English is commonly learnt.

People who speak languages such as Maori or Tamil, which are spoken in Commonwealth countries, where English is widely spoken, tend to be more proficient in English than those who speak languages from non-Commonwealth countries, where English is not as widely spoken.

Table 2.13 Proficiency in English by language

<i>Languages with speakers reporting highest proficiency in English</i>			<i>Languages with speakers reporting lowest proficiency in English</i>		
<i>Language</i>	<i>Proportion who spoke English</i>		<i>Language</i>	<i>Proportion who spoke English</i>	
	<i>Well or very well</i>	<i>Not at all</i>		<i>Well or very well</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Dutch	97.0	0.3	Khmer	51.6	12.4
German	95.5	0.7	Vietnamese	52.7	11.9
Maori	94.8	0.5	Korean	57.8	7.3
Fijian	94.3	1.1	Lao	59.9	8.1
Filipino languages	93.7	0.8	Japanese	65.7	6.5
Tamil	93.6	1.6	Mandarin	66.5	5.4
French	93.4	1.0	Aboriginal languages	67.6	7.9
Yiddish	93.1	1.0	Turkish	67.9	7.0
Hindi	92.8	1.7	Tetum	68.5	7.5
Estonian	91.4	0.7	Cantonese	69.3	8.6
Latvian	91.4	0.6	Portugese	72.0	5.3
Urdu	90.5	2.0	Russian	73.4	5.9
Czech	90.1	1.2	Spanish	75.7	5.4
Maltese	89.2	1.0	Macedonian	75.9	4.4
Hungarian	85.8	1.7	Arabic	78.9	6.1
Indonesian Malay	85.1	1.9	Greek	79.9	2.6

Source: CSC 6016

Religion

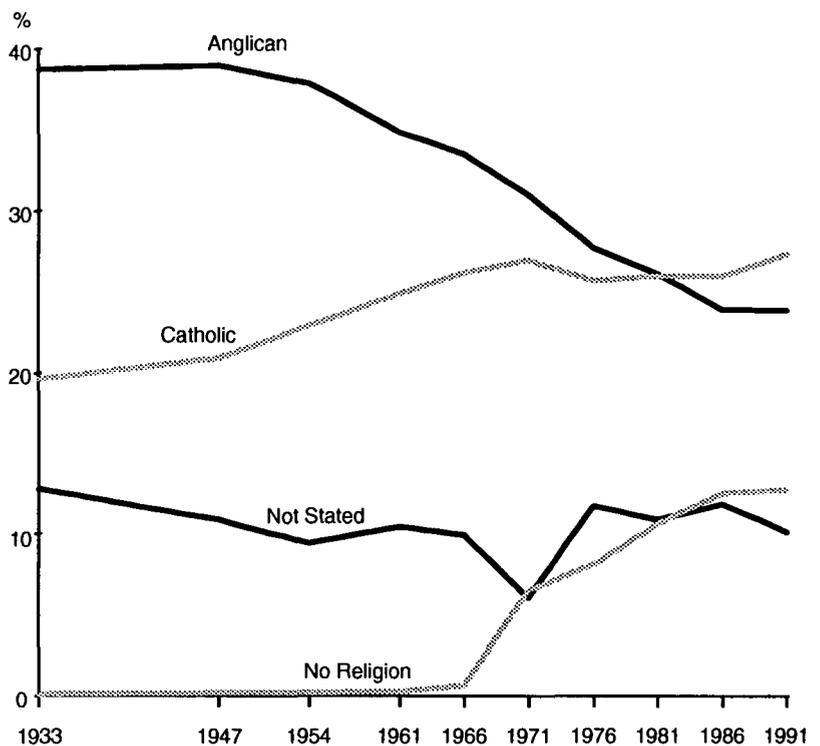
The question on religion included in the census is a voluntary one. While the religion with which people identify is recorded, the census does not measure the extent of involvement or commitment.

The proportion of the population stating a Christian religion was around 90% until 1966. Since 1971, when the instruction, 'If no religion write none' was first included on the census form, there has been an increase in the proportion of the population specifying no religion, and an accompanying decline in those stating a Christian religion. In the 1991 Census, 74% of the population identified with a Christian religion.

Since 1933, there has been an increase in the proportion of the population identifying as Catholics, due primarily to migration. Over this period the proportion of the population identifying as Anglicans fell from 39% in 1933, to 24% in 1991 due in part to the declining proportion of migrants from the UK. It is also likely that there has been a reduced tendency for people with no religious affiliation to label themselves Anglican. The proportion identifying with other Christian religions has also fallen from 28% to 23% over this period. The number of people reporting non-Christian religions has increased rapidly, although from a small base, accounting for less than 1% percent of the population until 1981 but 2.6% by 1991.

It is not compulsory to answer the religion question, and since 1933 around 10% of the population have not stated a religion. In 1971, after the change in the instruction, only 6% did not answer this question, indicating some correlation between not answering and reporting no religion. However, these are different concepts. Since 1971, the proportion of people not answering the question has reverted to around 10%.

Figure 2.2 Trends in religion 1933-91



Source: ABS Cat. No. 2510.0 (1933-1986), CVC 1076 (1991)

Between 1981 and 1991 the number of people counted in the census increased by 2.3 million, and the number of people identifying with a religion increased by 1.6 million. Catholics accounted for more than half of this increase and Anglicans for a further 14%.

The number of people reporting a non-Christian religion, more than doubled between 1981 and 1991 reflecting recent immigration patterns. Non-Christian religions account for 16% of the growth in the number of people identifying with a religion.

The fastest growing religious groups in the 10 years to 1991 were Buddhism, Pentecostal and Islam.

Table 2.14 Religion

	1981		1991		Growth 1981-91
	'000	%	'000	%	%
<i>Christian</i>	11 133.3	76.4	12 466.4	74.0	12.0
Anglican	3 801.5	26.1	4 018.8	23.8	5.5
Baptist	190.3	1.3	279.8	1.7	47.1
Catholic	3 786.5	26.0	4 606.6	27.3	21.7
Churches of Christ	89.4	0.6	78.3	0.5	-12.5
Jehovah's Witness	51.8	0.4	74.8	0.4	44.4
Lutheran	199.8	1.4	250.9	1.5	25.6
Orthodox	421.3	2.9	474.8	2.8	12.7
Pentecostal	72.1	0.5	150.6	0.9	108.8
Presbyterian	637.8	4.4	732.0	4.3	14.8
Salvation Army	71.6	0.5	72.4	0.4	1.1
Uniting Church	1 203.4	8.2	1 387.7	8.2	15.3
Other Christian	607.8	4.1	339.6	2.0	-43.3
<i>Non-Christian</i>	197.6	1.4	445.1	2.6	125.3
Buddhist	35.1	0.2	139.8	0.8	298.6
Islam	76.8	0.5	147.5	0.9	92.1
Judaism	62.1	0.4	74.3	0.4	19.5
Other non-Christian	23.6	0.2	83.6	0.5	254.4
Inadequately described	73.6	0.5	49.9	0.3	-32.2
No religion	1 576.7	10.8	2 176.6	12.9	38.0
Not stated	1 595.2	10.9	1 712.3	10.2	7.3
Total	14 576.3	100.0	16 850.3	100.0	15.6

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981) CVC 1076 (1991)

...people with no religion

In the 1991 Census, 13% of people indicated that they had no religion. The proportion of people with no religion is relatively constant to the age of 45, after which it falls away considerably.

Between 1981 and 1991 there was an increase in the proportion of the population who indicated no religion. The change was strongest among younger age groups. The proportion of people under 15 with no religion increased by 33% in ten years. Among 15-24 year olds the increase was 23%. However, for people aged 65 and over there was no significant change.

Males were more likely than females to report no religion and the difference increased with age.

Table 2.15 Proportion of people with no religion

Age	1981			1991		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
0-14	12.4	11.8	12.1	16.3	15.7	16.0
15-24	13.0	11.2	12.1	15.8	14.0	14.9
25-44	15.6	10.9	13.3	17.5	13.1	15.3
45-64	8.7	5.8	7.3	9.9	6.5	8.2
65 & over	6.9	3.6	5.0	6.8	3.7	5.0
Total	12.3	9.4	10.8	14.4	11.4	12.9

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2452.0 (1981)

...religion and birthplace

As noted before, culture is reflected by a variety of factors, such as birthplace, religion and language which are themselves inter-related. The increase in Buddhism in Australia is primarily due to the increase in the Vietnamese (38% Buddhist) and Malaysian (18% Buddhist) born populations.

People born in North East Asian countries, especially China, Hong Kong and Japan, were more likely to report having no religion, possibly because their belief systems are perceived to be philosophies rather than religions.

Just over half of the Lebanese born people in Australia in 1991 were Christian. However they also accounted for 27% of Australia's overseas born Muslims. A further 22% of Muslims were from Turkey, and 10% were from other countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Table 2.16 Birthplace by religion

	Christianity	Buddhism	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	No Religion	Total (a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Oceania</i>	76.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	13.0	100.0
Australia	76.9	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	12.8	100.0
NZ	64.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	23.5	100.0
<i>Europe</i>	79.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.1	11.0	100.0
UK	73.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	15.2	100.0
Ireland	86.4	0.1	—	—	0.2	6.2	100.0
Greece	96.3	—	—	0.3	—	0.9	100.0
Italy	95.4	—	—	—	0.1	1.4	100.0
Malta	95.1	—	—	—	—	1.5	100.0
Yugoslavia	89.3	—	—	3.2	0.1	3.6	100.0
Germany	73.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.8	14.1	100.0
Netherlands	62.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	24.7	100.0
Poland	82.0	—	—	—	8.4	4.1	100.0
USSR	70.9	—	—	0.2	13.2	9.6	100.0
<i>Middle East(b)</i>	52.7	—	0.1	33.0	2.8	3.0	100.0
Lebanon	55.0	—	—	37.0	—	1.4	100.0
<i>South East Asia</i>	47.1	24.3	0.8	2.3	0.1	17.3	100.0
Malaysia	43.1	17.6	2.7	2.9	0.1	21.8	100.0
Philippines	95.2	0.2	—	0.1	—	1.3	100.0
Viet Nam	26.4	38.3	—	0.1	—	26.6	100.0
<i>North East Asia</i>	31.2	8.1	—	0.2	0.2	51.7	100.0
China	22.5	7.8	—	0.3	0.4	59.3	100.0
<i>Southern Asia</i>	57.8	5.6	15.6	8.3	0.4	3.2	100.0
India	62.2	0.2	18.6	1.9	0.6	3.8	100.0
<i>North America</i>	61.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	2.1	22.1	100.0
<i>South America(c)</i>	83.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	9.5	100.0
<i>Africa(d)</i>	71.4	0.1	2.3	3.1	6.6	9.3	100.0
Total	74.0	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.4	12.9	100.0

(a) includes other religions and not stated. (b) Includes North Africa. (c) Includes Central America and the Caribbean. (d) Excludes North Africa.

Source: CSC 6015

Although over 60 Christian denominations are listed in census statistics, the three largest, Catholic, Anglican and Uniting, accounted for over 80% of all Christians.

Over 90% of Italian and Maltese born Australians were Catholic, while 44% of British born are Anglican and 94% of Greek born were Orthodox.

Catholics represented a high proportion of Christians from many non-English speaking countries. 84% of Christians from Viet Nam, and 88% from the Philippines were Catholic. Even in countries with a strong British colonial history, Catholics represented a sizeable proportion of Christians; 67% from India, and 42% from Malaysia.

Table 2.17 Birthplace by Christian denomination

	Anglican	Baptist	Catholic	Luth- eran	Presby- terian	Uniting Church	Ortho- dox	Total (a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Oceania</i>	26.2	1.7	26.7	1.3	4.7	9.8	1.7	76.6
Australia	26.3	1.7	27.0	1.4	4.6	9.9	1.7	76.9
NZ	22.5	1.7	15.9	0.3	10.6	4.1	0.3	64.0
<i>Europe</i>	22.3	1.1	32.7	2.9	3.8	2.9	10.0	79.2
UK	43.9	1.7	12.1	0.2	6.7	5.0	0.2	73.8
Ireland	5.8	0.5	73.9	0.1	2.4	1.6	—	86.4
Greece	0.2	0.2	0.5	—	—	0.1	94.0	96.3
Italy	0.2	0.1	93.2	—	—	0.1	0.1	95.4
Malta	0.9	0.1	92.8	—	0.1	0.2	—	95.1
Yugoslavia	0.4	0.3	45.0	0.8	0.2	0.2	40.3	89.3
Germany	4.7	0.7	29.6	30.6	1.0	1.3	1.4	73.6
Netherlands	3.8	1.5	35.3	1.2	7.3	5.4	0.2	62.8
Poland	0.4	0.3	75.7	1.2	0.1	0.1	1.7	82.0
USSR	1.4	1.0	24.0	23.1	0.2	0.5	17.8	70.9
<i>Middle East(b)</i>	1.1	0.4	28.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	11.8	52.7
Lebanon	0.3	0.3	40.2	—	0.1	0.1	10.9	55.0
<i>South East Asia</i>	3.0	2.6	33.4	0.3	1.2	2.4	0.1	47.1
Malaysia	7.0	3.1	18.0	0.4	1.7	5.7	0.1	43.1
Philippines	0.8	2.0	84.3	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.1	95.2
Viet Nam	0.4	2.2	22.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	—	26.4
<i>North East Asia</i>	3.1	3.7	12.0	0.3	2.9	3.4	2.6	31.2
China	2.2	3.1	5.7	0.2	1.1	1.5	6.2	22.5
<i>Southern Asia</i>	12.5	1.0	36.8	0.1	1.1	2.6	0.1	57.8
India	13.4	1.0	41.7	0.1	0.6	1.5	0.2	62.2
North America	12.3	4.2	20.9	3.2	4.4	7.7	0.7	61.4
Sth America(c)	2.6	2.3	68.6	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.3	83.9
Africa(d)	18.9	2.0	33.7	0.6	3.2	5.5	0.6	71.4
Total	23.8	1.7	27.3	1.5	4.3	8.2	2.8	74.0

(a) Includes other Christian denominations. (b) Includes North Africa. (c) Includes Central America and the Caribbean. (d) Excludes North Africa

Source: CSC 6015

...concentration of religions

Because of the correlation between birthplace and religion, the concentration of particular religions shows a similar pattern to the concentration of associated birthplace groups. SLAs with a high proportion of Jewish people also tend to have high proportions of Polish and Russian born people. However, the mixture of these birthplaces varies between areas. St Kilda has a high proportion of Russian Jews, whereas the Jewish community in Surfers Paradise is predominately Polish born. In comparison, Caulfield has a relatively even mixture of Russian and Polish Jews.

SLAs with a high proportion of Buddhists also have high concentrations of Vietnamese people. About 45% of the Vietnamese born population in Dara-Sumner and Fairfield are Buddhist, compared with a national average of 38%. Clustering of ethnic communities reflects the interaction between birthplace and religious adherence and varies for different groupings.

The concentrations of particular christian religions in some Aboriginal communities reflects missionary activity in these areas.

Table 2.18 Concentrations of selected religions

<i>Religion/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>	<i>Religion/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>
Anglican			Orthodox		
Green Ponds (M)	Tas	58.7	Thebarton (M)	SA	23.1
Torres (S)	Qld	58.5	Whittlesea (C)	Vic	20.0
Campbell Town (M)	Tas	57.3	Rockdale (M)	NSW	18.3
Bothwell (M)	Tas	56.6	Northcote (C)	Vic	17.5
Spring Bay (M)	Tas	55.9	West End	Qld	17.0
<i>Australian total</i>		<i>23.8</i>	<i>Australian total</i>		<i>2.8</i>
Catholic			Presbyterian		
Bathurst-Melville	NT	88.6	Hampden (S)	Vic	16.9
Daly	NT	64.6	Walcha (S)	NSW	15.9
Bungaree (S) - Pt B	Vic	57.6	Gilgandra (S)	NSW	15.3
Mullewa (S)	WA	57.2	Penola (DC)	SA	14.8
Belfast (S)	Vic	50.7	Monto (S)	Qld	14.8
<i>Australian total</i>		<i>27.3</i>	<i>Australian total</i>		<i>4.3</i>
Lutheran			Uniting Church		
Tanunda (DC)	SA	53.0	Aurukun (S)	Qld	59.3
Robertstown (DC)	SA	49.9	Bute (DC)	SA	56.3
Eudunda (DC)	SA	48.1	Mornington (S)	Qld	54.6
Tanami	NT	45.0	Pinnaroo (DC)	SA	46.9
Angaston (DC)	SA	43.1	East Arnhem - Bal	NT	46.5
<i>Australian total</i>		<i>1.5</i>	<i>Australian total</i>		<i>8.2</i>

For footnotes see end of table.

Table 2.18 Concentrations of Selected Religions
—Continued

<i>Religion/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>	<i>Religion/ SLA</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Proportion of SLA</i>
		<i>%</i>			<i>%</i>
Buddhist			Judaism		
Darra-Sumner	Qld	13.9	Caulfield (C)	Vic	18.4
Fairfield (C)	NSW	11.4	Waverley (M)	NSW	14.8
Enfield (C) - Pt B	SA	8.2	Woollahra (M)	NSW	11.8
Richmond (C)	Vic	8.0	St Kilda (C)	Vic	8.3
West End	Qld	7.3	Surfers Paradise	Qld	6.4
<i>Australian total</i>		<i>0.8</i>	<i>Australian total</i>		<i>0.4</i>
Islam			Aboriginal traditional		
Auburn (M)	NSW	15.9	Cox-Finiss	NT	27.3
Broadmeadows (C)	Vic	9.1	West Arnhem	NT	25.2
Canterbury (M)	NSW	7.7	Wiluna (S)	WA	19.0
Katanning (S)	WA	6.4	Gulf	NT	15.9
Coburg (C)	Vic	6.0	South Alligator	NT	10.7
<i>Australian total</i>		<i>0.9</i>	<i>Australian total</i>		<i>0.5</i>

(C) City, (S) Shire, (DC) District Council, (M) Municipality.

Source: B 13

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Households and families

People are classified into different types of households and families on the basis of their usual living arrangements and their relationships to other household members. Households comprise a person living alone or two or more people who share a dwelling. A family consists of two or more related people within a household. Households can be either family or non-family households, and family households can have more than one family. Households composed of one person or unrelated people are termed non-family households.

At the 1991 Census, 5.8 million households were identified of which 73% were family households, accounting for 82% of the population. 99% of family households contained one family only. One person households accounted for 22% of households and group households for 5%.

Decreasing household size

Between 1981 and 1991 the number of people counted in the census increased by 16%, while the number of households increased by 21%. This difference is reflected in a fall in average household size from 3.0 persons per household in 1981, to 2.7 in 1991. It is also associated with an increase in the proportion of one and two person households and a decrease in the proportion of households with four or more people. The ageing of the population is partly responsible for the increasing numbers of one person households. The decline in fertility leading to a fall in family size is reflected in the decreased proportion of households with four or more people. Smaller families combined with an increase in the age at which women have their first child mean that couples will spend more time on their own both before having children and after their children have left home.

Table 3.1 Household size

Number of persons in household (a)	Households		Increase(b) 1981-1991	1991	
	1981	1991		Persons	Households
	%	%	%	%	'000
1	18.0	21.6	44.9	7.9	1 216.3
2	29.2	31.3	29.6	22.9	1 765.2
3	16.9	17.1	22.4	18.8	965.9
4	19.1	17.6	11.5	25.8	993.4
5	10.5	8.5	-1.9	15.5	478.7
6	4.1	3.0	-12.5	6.5	167.5
7	1.4	0.6	-47.5	1.6	34.5
8 or more	0.9	0.4	-51.6	1.1	20.8
Total	100.0	100.0	20.8	100.0	5 642.3

(a) Includes only private classifiable dwellings. Excludes visitors. (b) Increase in the number of households

Source: ABS Cat No. 2443.0 (1981), CVC 2049 (1991)

Families

In the 1991 Census, 13.6 million people (81% of the population) were classified as family members, comprising in total 4.3 million families. Two parents with dependent children were the predominant family type accounting for 44% of all families. Couple only families made up 32% of families.

Couple families

While most couples in the 3.7 million couple families were married, there were 300,700 couples who were in de facto relationships. This was an increase from 6% of couples in 1986 to 8% in 1991. De facto relationships are often a transition both to first or subsequent marriage, rather than an alternative to marriage. They are more prevalent among young people. 38% of partners aged 20-24 years were in de facto relationships compared with 18% of 25-29 year olds and 10% of 30-34 year olds. About 40% of de facto couple families had dependent children, compared with 52% of married couple families.

Children living with a couple may include the children of previous relationships. 6% of married couple families with dependent children contain step children and 40% of de facto families with dependent children contain step children.

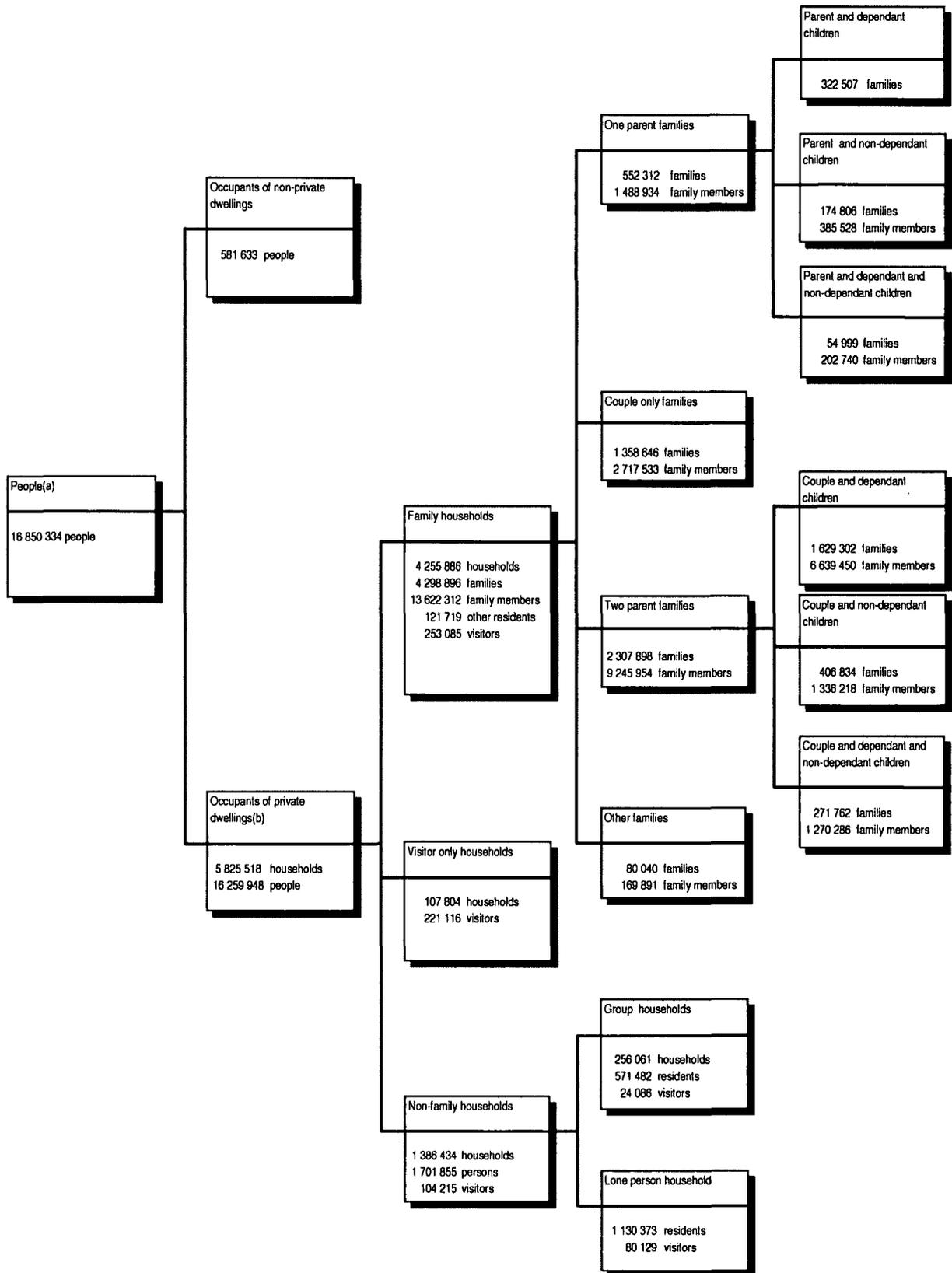
Table 3.2 Mix of children in families

Mix of children(a)	One parent families	Two parent families		Total
		Married couples	De facto couples	
	%	%	%	%
Natural children only (b)	89.7	91.4	56.0	89.2
Step children only	0.2	3.1	28.9	4.0
Natural and step children	0.1	3.0	10.7	3.0
Other (c)	10.0	2.5	4.3	3.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	359.0	1 745.9	121.0	2 225.9

(a) Includes only primary families with dependent children. (b) Includes adopted children. (c) Includes families with foster children.

Source: Unpublished data

Figure 3.1 Living arrangements



(a) There are 8 753 people who were off shore or in transit on census night. These are included in the total.

(b) There are 75 394 private dwellings, containing 235 646 people, for which household type could not be classified.

Family size

Between 1981 and 1991 the number of one parent families increased by 19%, while the number of two parent families increased by only 10%. On average one parent families have fewer children than couple families. In the 10 years to 1991, the average number of dependent children declined in both one parent families (1.75 to 1.70) and two parent families (2.05 to 2.00).

Table 3.3 Families with dependent children

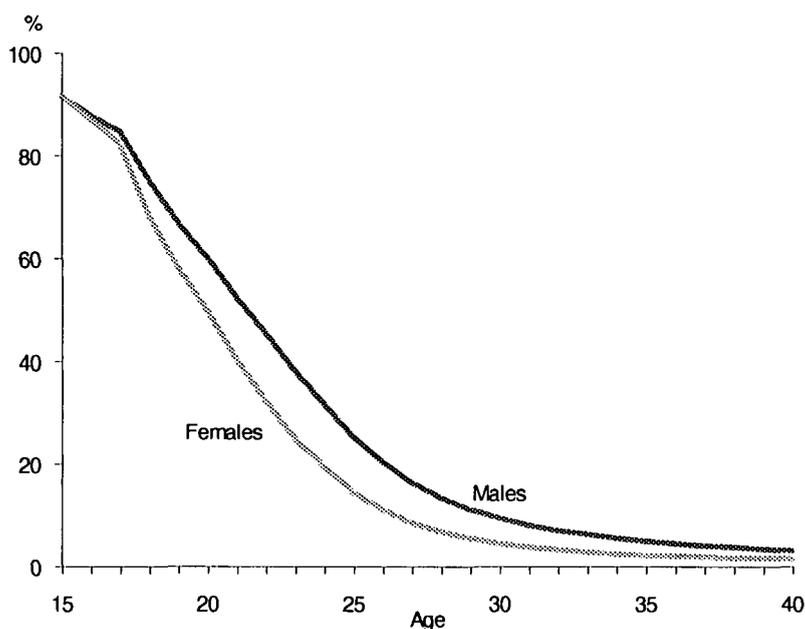
Number of dependent children	1981			1991		
	One parent families	Two parent families	All families	One parent families	Two parent families	All families
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	49.7	31.9	34.7	51.8	33.6	36.6
2	32.5	41.0	39.7	32.5	41.2	39.7
3	12.5	19.4	18.3	11.5	18.6	17.4
4	3.8	5.8	5.5	3.2	5.3	5.0
5 or more	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.3	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of children	No. 1.75	No. 2.05	No. 2.00	No. 1.70	No. 2.00	No. 1.95
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	317.2	1 725.5	2 042.7	377.5	1 901.1	2 278.6

Source: CVC 3031

People living with parents

Young women tend to leave home earlier than young men. In the 1991 Census, 25% of men aged 25 years lived with their parents, compared with only 14% of women. By the age of 30, this had fallen to 9% of men and 4% of women. The difference between men and women is primarily due to women marrying at younger ages than men. In 1991, the median age at first marriage for women was 24.5 compared with 26.7 for men.

Figure 3.2 Proportion of people living with parents



Source: Unpublished data

Young adults are leaving home at later ages. Between 1981 and 1991, the proportion of 20-24 year olds living with their parents increased from 34% to 40% and the proportion of 25-29 year olds increased from 9% to 13%. The increase has been greater for women than for men although women still tend to leave home at younger ages than men. Among 25-29 year olds there was a 60% increase in the proportion of women living with their parents compared with a 31% increase for men.

Table 3.4 Proportion of people living with parents

Age	1981			1991		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
15-19	82.6	76.9	79.8	80.8	76.8	78.9
20-24	42.5	25.6	34.1	46.0	33.9	40.0
25-29	13.1	5.7	9.4	17.1	9.1	13.1
30-34	5.3	2.3	3.8	7.3	3.4	5.3
35-39	3.4	1.6	2.6	4.1	1.9	3.0

Source: Table 140 (1981), Unpublished data (1991)

Multiple family households

In the 1991 Census, 245,000 people, or 1.5% of the population lived in 42,000 multiple family households. There were about 20,000 multiple family households with three generations. In 50% of these the youngest child was under 3 years old.

Multiple family households tend to include a couple, often in their 50s or early 60's, with children. Their children, often in their early 20's, live with a spouse and/or children and are classified as living in a separate family to their parents.

Multiple family households were more common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 8% of two family households, and 48% of three family households contained Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Non-family households

Non-family households tend to be smaller than family households. In the 1991 Census, 81% of non-family households had only one person. 74% of group households had only two people. Smaller household size is reflected in the proportion of non-family households in flats, apartments and semi-detached dwellings rather than separate houses.

A large proportion of people living alone are widows aged 60 and over. In comparison, many group households are formed by young adults after they leave their parents' home and before partnering and having children. To some extent these households reflect transitional stages in family formation and dissolution. There were a higher proportion of men than women in group households, reflecting the tendency of men to marry at a later age.

Table 3.5 Persons in non-family households

	<i>Group Households(a)</i>	<i>Lone person households(a)</i>	<i>All persons aged 15 +</i>
Age	%	%	%
15-29 years	59.5	15.2	30.5
60 years & over	7.5	47.0	20.0
Sex			
Male	56.1	43.8	49.2
Female	43.9	56.2	50.8
Attending educational institution			
Full time	12.8	2.5	8.6
Part time	8.7	4.1	4.9
Total	21.5	6.5	13.4
Structure of dwelling			
Separate dwelling	56.8	55.5	78.6
Semi-detached	15.0	14.0	6.1
Flat/ apartment	25.1	25.9	8.5
	'000	'000	'000
Total	595.6	1 210.5	13 082.8

(a) Includes visitors.

Source: Unpublished data

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households

There were 82,300 households with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander residents. 52% of these also had non-Aboriginal people present. There were 73,000 people who did not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, who lived with people who did. In these households, there was an average 3.7 people per household, of which an average of 2 people were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people tend to live in larger households than the rest of the population. Nearly 60% of people in households with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders lived in households of five or more residents, compared with 25% of all people.

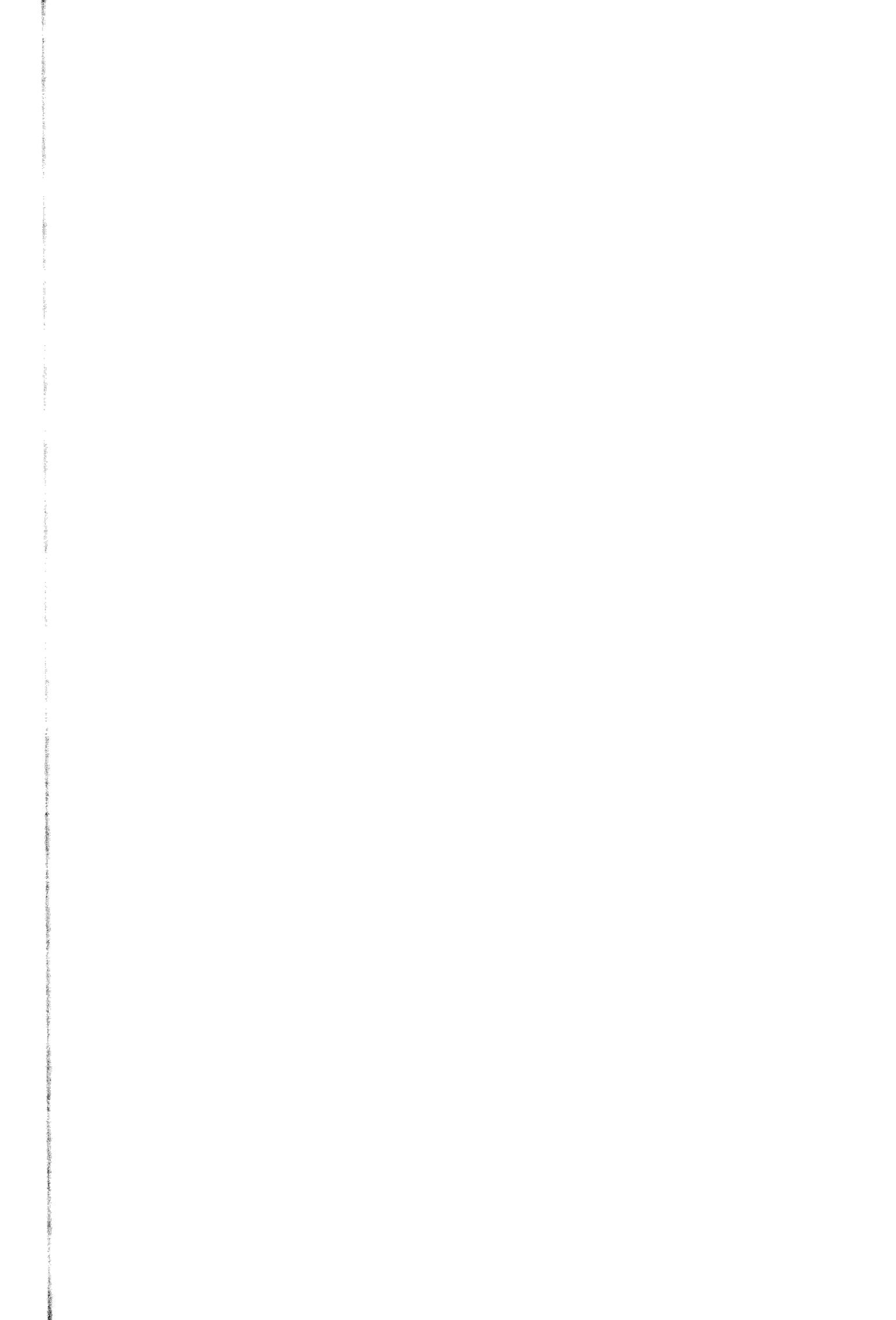
8,000, or 3% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, live alone. This represents 10% of all households containing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and 20% of all households containing only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Table 3.6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Households

Number of people in household(a)	Households with only Aboriginal people(b)		Households with Aboriginal people(b)		All households	
	Households	People	Households	People	Households	People
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	20.0	5.4	9.7	2.6	21.6	7.9
2	17.3	9.4	20.6	11.1	31.3	22.9
3	15.5	12.6	20.0	16.1	17.1	18.8
4	13.7	14.8	19.1	20.5	17.6	25.8
5 or more	33.5	57.8	30.7	49.8	12.4	24.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Average household size		No. 3.7		No. 3.7		No. 2.7
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	39.8	147.0	82.3	306.6	5 642.3	15 445.9

(a) Includes only private classifiable dwellings. Excludes visitors. (b) Includes Torres Strait Islanders.

Source: Unpublished data



EDUCATION

People in education

In 1991, over 270 000 children attended pre-schools, 1.6 million attended primary schools, and 1.2 million attended secondary schools. There were over one million students in tertiary education.

There were more males than females in primary, secondary and tertiary education, reflecting the sex ratios in the relevant age groups. Within the tertiary sector, however, women outnumbered men in higher education by 13% while men outnumbered women in TAFE by 24%.

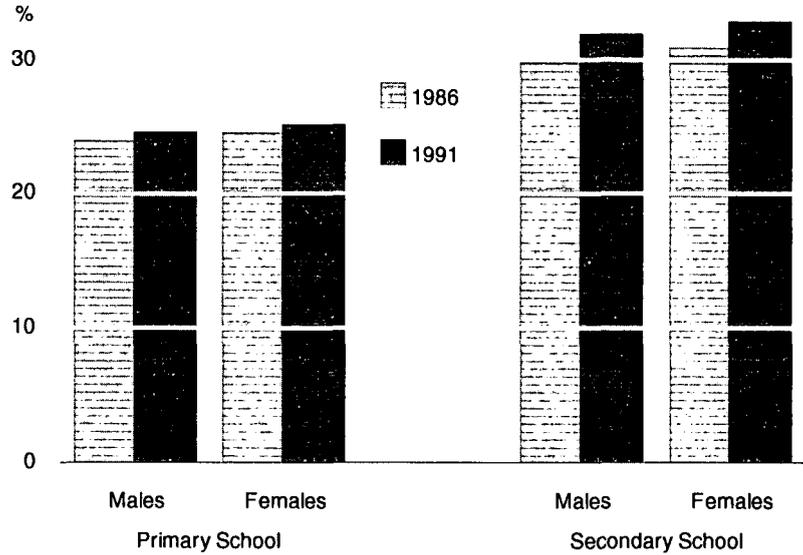
Table 4.1 Educational attendance

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000
<i>Pre-primary</i>	140.4	131.5	272.0
Primary			
Government	628.0	591.2	1 219.2
Non-government	204.2	197.9	402.1
<i>Total</i>	832.2	789.1	1 621.3
Secondary			
Government	402.6	392.8	795.4
Non-government	188.9	192.2	381.0
<i>Total</i>	591.5	585.0	1 176.4
Tertiary			
TAFE College	237.0	191.9	428.9
Higher Education	255.5	288.4	543.9
Other	59.5	67.0	126.5
<i>Total</i>	552.1	547.3	1 099.3
Total	2 537.0	2 489.3	5 026.3

Source: CVC 1079

Between 1986 and 1991 the trend towards non-government schools continued in both primary and secondary schools. In 1991 non-government schools accounted for 25% of primary school children, a small increase over the 1986 level. There was also an increase in the proportion of secondary school students in non-government schools, from 30% in 1986 to 32% in 1991.

...more students in non-government schools

Figure 4.1 Proportion of students in non-government schools

Source: CX 0110 (1986), CVC 1079 (1991)

...tertiary education

The number of students in tertiary education increased by 49% to over one million between 1986 and 1991. Demographic changes in the population structure account for about 20% of this increase. However 80% of the increase is due to the increased emphasis placed on post secondary education as training prior to entering the full-time labour force. In 1986 the TAFE sector was marginally larger than the higher education sector. By 1991 the higher education sector had grown to be 27% larger, with the greatest increase observed among women.

Table 4.2 Tertiary students: type of institution

	1986	1991	Increase 1986-91	Ratio to population aged 17-24 years	
				1986	1991
Males	'000	'000	%	%	%
Higher education	165.4	255.5	54.5	15.9	23.4
TAFE	189.4	237.0	25.2	18.2	21.7
Other	42.1	59.5	41.5	4.0	5.4
Total	396.8	552.1	39.1	38.2	50.6
Females					
Higher education	160.5	288.4	79.7	15.9	27.0
TAFE	138.0	191.9	39.0	13.7	18.0
Other	44.1	67.0	52.1	4.4	6.3
Total	342.6	547.3	59.8	34.0	51.3
Total					
Higher education	325.9	543.9	66.9	15.9	25.2
TAFE	327.4	428.9	31.0	16.0	19.9
Other	86.1	126.5	46.9	4.2	5.9
Total	739.4	1 099.3	48.7	36.1	50.9

Source: CX 0110 (1986), CVC 1079 (1991)

...full-time and part-time study

Students in higher education are more likely than those in TAFE to study full-time, reflecting the strong vocational orientation of many TAFE courses, particularly those involving apprenticeships. Overall, women are more likely to study full-time than men. This difference is most pronounced among TAFE students.

Table 4.3 Tertiary students: type of attendance

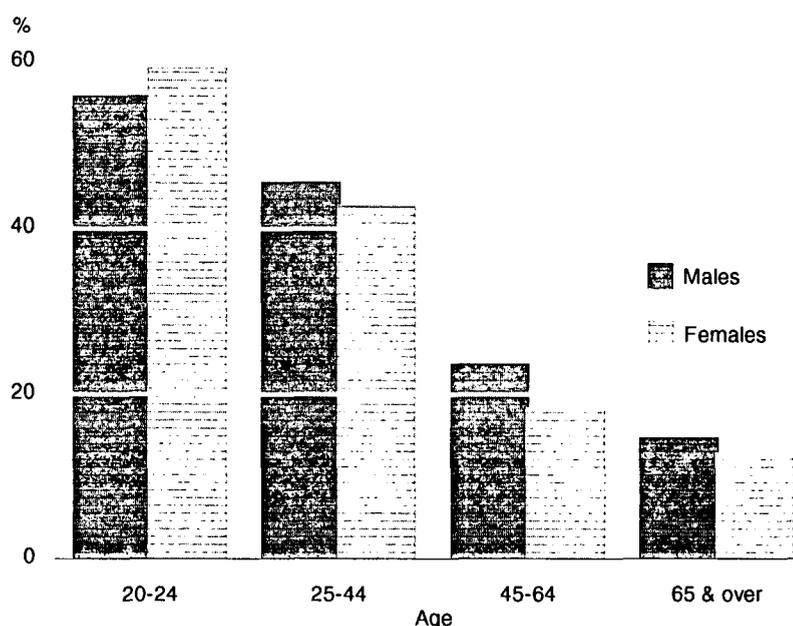
	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Proportion full-time</i>
Higher Education	'000	'000	'000	%
Males	154.9	99.3	255.5	60.9
Females	177.2	109.9	288.4	61.7
Total	332.1	209.2	543.9	61.3
TAFE				
Males	43.2	191.2	237.0	18.4
Females	47.3	142.7	191.9	24.9
Total	90.4	333.9	428.9	21.3
Other				
Males	24.7	33.1	59.5	42.8
Females	26.3	39.1	67.0	40.2
Total	51.0	72.2	126.5	41.4
Total				
Males	222.8	323.6	552.1	40.8
Females	250.7	291.7	547.3	46.2
Total	473.6	615.3	1 099.3	43.5

Source: B 14

People who finished school

Although the census cannot directly measure school retention rates, the proportion of people who left school aged 17 or over gives a good indication of the increased proportion of people who finish secondary school. Among people 65 years and over, 13% of women and 15% of men had stayed at school till they were at least 17. In comparison, 59% of 20-24 year old women and 56% of men in this age group left school when they were aged 17 or over. Historically men have had higher retention rates than women although this pattern was reversed in the late 1970s and is reflected in the younger age groups.

Figure 4.2 Persons not at school: proportion who left school aged 17 or over



Source: CSC 6037

Qualifications

Over 5 million people held post-school qualifications in 1991. Men are much more likely than women to have skilled vocational qualifications, primarily trade certificates.

The shift away from skilled vocational qualifications towards university qualifications among recent migrants is due to changes in Australia's immigration policy and the younger age profile of recent migrants.

Table 4.4 Proportion of people with qualifications

	Highest post-school qualification				
	Degree or higher	Under-graduate diploma	Associate diploma	Skilled vocational	Basic vocational
	%	%	%	%	%
Males	9.5	2.6	1.7	21.1	2.8
Females	7.8	6.4	1.2	2.5	4.7
15-24	3.6	1.7	0.8	6.4	2.9
25-34	13.3	5.5	1.8	15.4	5.4
35-44	13.7	6.6	2.0	14.0	4.9
45-54	9.3	5.5	2.0	14.0	3.7
55-64	5.3	4.2	1.3	12.3	2.6
65 & over	3.5	3.1	0.8	8.2	1.5
Australian born	8.1	4.5	1.5	11.6	3.8
Overseas born:					
Arrived before 1986	9.0	4.2	1.4	12.9	3.7
Arrived in or since 1986	16.8	5.9	1.4	9.1	4.0
Total	8.6	4.5	1.5	11.8	3.8

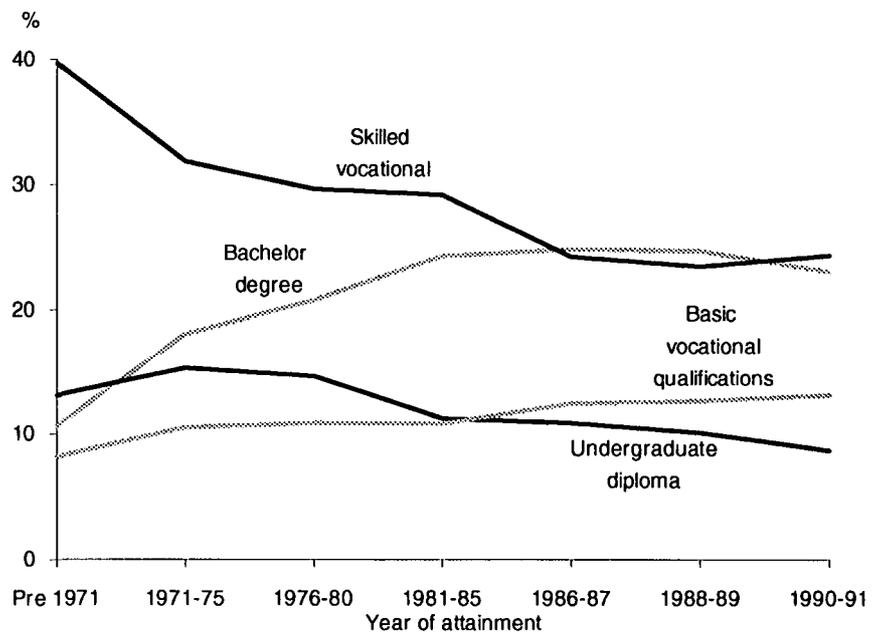
Source: CVC 1079, CVC 1062

...changing level of qualifications

In 1971, only 20% of the population aged 15 and over had post-school qualifications. By 1981 this had increased to 32%. Ten years later 39% of the population aged 15 and over had post-school qualifications.

Associated with the increased proportion of people with post-school qualifications, there has been a trend towards a higher level of qualifications. These trends reflect structural changes in the economy leading to growth in the more highly skilled occupations as well as a requirement for higher levels of training than in the past for certain occupations (e.g. nursing and teaching).

Figure 4.3 Level of qualification by year of attainment



Source: CSHED

There was considerable disparity in the representation of men and women across the various fields of qualifications. Women comprised about 0.5% of the ten most male dominated fields of study, while men were better represented even in the most female dominated fields.

...sex segregation in field of qualification

Table 4.5 Qualifications with greatest segregation

Field of study	Women as a proportion of field of study	Field of study	Men as a proportion of field of study
	%		%
Powerline installation & maintenance	0.3	Mothercraft nursing	0.4
Panel beating	0.4	Dental assisting	0.9
Sheetmetal working	0.4	Beauty therapy	1.0
Vehicle building	0.4	Midwifery	1.0
Vehicle mechanics	0.5	Early childhood teaching	1.4
Carpentry and joinery	0.5	Keyboarding and shorthand	1.5
Plumbing	0.5	Veterinary assisting	2.8
Plastering	0.5	Speech pathology	3.3
Toolmaking	0.5	Child care	3.4
Marine construction	0.5	Office management	3.5

Source: CVC 1080

In total, 41% of people with qualifications were qualified in fields such as plumbing, panel beating and vehicle building where women represented less than 20% of those qualified. A further 26% held qualifications in fields where women were predominant. Men had a greater tendency to have qualifications in segregated fields than women. Sex segregation in qualifications was much more pronounced than segregation in occupations, which is discussed in chapter 5.

Table 4.6 Segregation in qualifications

	Field of qualification: proportion of women					Total
	0-19%	20-39%	40-59%	60-79%	80-100%	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	66.5	19.4	4.4	6.3	3.5	100.0
Women	3.4	12.9	7.0	18.1	58.6	100.0
Total	40.9	16.8	5.4	11.1	25.8	100.0
Total	1 624.7	665.3	215.9	440.2	1 024.4	(a) 5088.8

(a) Includes field of study inadequately described, not stated and miscellaneous fields of study.

Source: CVC 1080

...geographic distribution

In the ACT, 47% of all people aged 15 years and over had post-school qualifications, significantly above the national average of 39%. A very high proportion of the ACT population had bachelor degree or higher, reflecting the industry and occupation mix in the ACT. Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania had a relatively low proportion of their population with bachelor degree or higher qualifications.

Table 4.7 Proportion of people with qualifications

Highest level of attainment	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Higher degree	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.2	3.7	1.1
Graduate diploma	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.2	2.2	1.1
Bachelor degree	6.9	7.2	5.5	5.5	6.4	5.2	6.5	14.5	6.6
Undergraduate diploma	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	5.5	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.6
Associate diploma	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.5
Skilled vocational	12.6	11.2	12.4	11.5	12.8	10.9	12.8	8.6	12.0
Basic vocational	4.6	3.3	3.0	3.8	4.1	3.5	3.8	4.9	3.8
Total(a)	41.2	38.1	36.4	36.0	39.1	35.6	40.8	47.0	38.9

Source: B 06

LABOUR FORCE

Growth in the labour force

The labour force is defined as those persons who are either employed or unemployed and is measured in terms of each person's activity status. The labour force measure thus represents the total supply of people available to work in the labour market at a given time.

The 1991 Census counted 8 million people in the labour force, an increase of 12% in five years, and 20% in 10 years. The growth since 1986 reflected increasing participation rates among women. The strong growth of the 1970s was a function of both increasing female participation rates and the 'baby boom' children reaching working age.

Unemployment rates have increased over the last 20 years. This reflects a change in the structure of the Australian economy coupled with adverse economic circumstances. The high unemployment rates of recent years are not dissimilar to those experienced in many other developed countries.

Table 5.1 Selected characteristics of the labour force

<i>Census Year</i>	<i>People in the labour force</i>	<i>Increase from previous census</i>	<i>Labour force participation rate</i>	<i>Proportion of women</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%
1966	4 856.5	14.9	59.2	29.5	1.6
1971	5 330.5	9.8	58.7	31.7	1.7
1976	6 055.0	13.6	61.4	36.0	4.4
1981	6 690.5	10.5	61.3	37.6	5.9
1986(a)	7 176.7	7.3	61.3	39.5	9.2
1991(a)	8 041.0	12.0	62.9	42.1	11.6

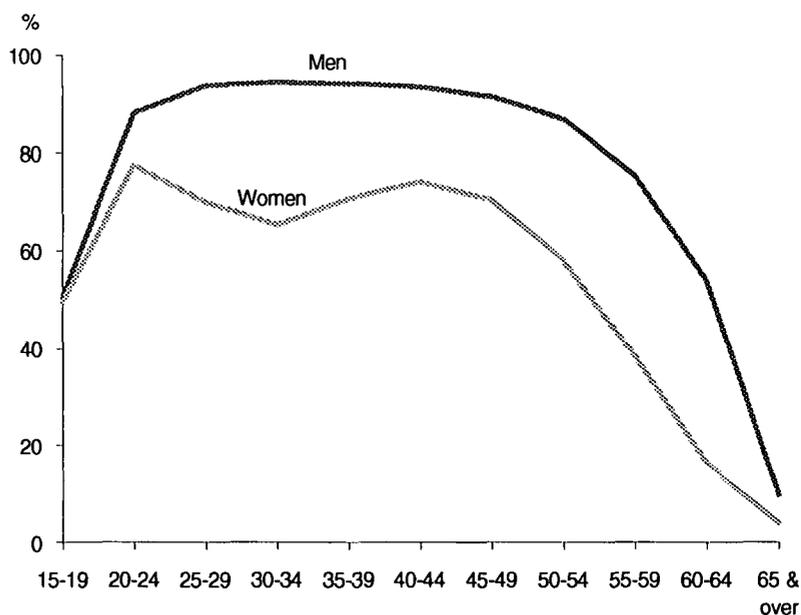
(a) Only people for whom labour force status could be derived were included in calculations. In previous censuses a labour force status was imputed.

Source: ABS Cat 2502.0 (1966-86), CVC 1086 (1991)

Participation rates

Labour force participation varies with age and between men and women. Only half of people aged 15-19 are in the labour force, reflecting their high level of participation in education. The rate increases in the early 20s. For men, it continues to climb, to over 90% throughout the prime working ages of 25-49.

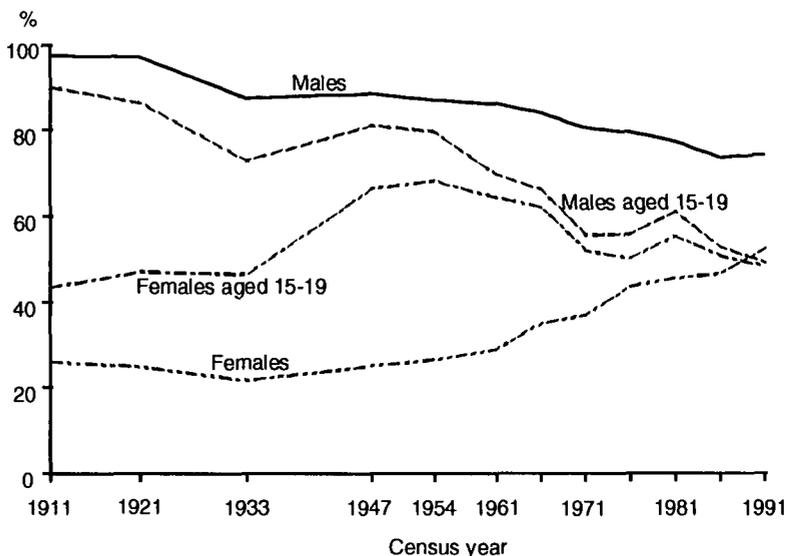
However women's labour force participation falls during the prime child bearing ages of 25-39. Even though some increase occurs in their late 30s and early 40s, women's participation rates remain significantly below men's. Women tend to retire earlier than men, with the sharpest decrease in their participation rates being in their 50s, while for men it is in their early 60s.

Figure 5.1 Participation rates by age

Source: CSC 6035

Historic trends

There has been a gradual decline in the participation rate of men, from 96% in 1911 to 73% in 1991. This reflects increased educational participation as well as earlier retirement and increased life expectancy. Trends in women's labour force participation contrast with men's. Historically women have had low participation in the labour force with rates between 20% and 25% up until 1947. By 1991 this had increased to 51% reflecting changing attitudes to the role and status of women, trends towards smaller family size and emergence of part time work.

Figure 5.2 Participation rates 1911-1991

Source: Census of the Commonwealth of Australia Vol 3 Pt 12 (1911), Statistician's Reports (1921, 1933), Detailed Tables Pt 19, (1947), Census of the Commonwealth of Australia Vol 8 Pt 1 (1954), Census of Population and Housing Vol 8 pt 1 (1961), Census of Population and Housing Vol 9 Pt 7 (1966), ABS Cat. No. 2259.0 (1971), ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1976 and 1981), ABS Cat. No. 2498.0 (1986), CSC 6035 (1991)

At the 1991 Census, over 7.1 million people were employed. 82% of these were wage and salary earners, 11% were self employed, 7% were employers and 1% were unpaid helpers. 68% of self employed and employers were men, while 68% of unpaid helpers were women.

Industry

In the ten years to 1991 the census recorded a net increase of 816,700 workers. This was accompanied by a significant change in the structure of the labour force. The number of people employed in recreation, personal and other services increased by 50% due, at least in part, to the growth in tourism. Finance, property and business services and community services also experienced high growth rates. The largest numeric increases were in community services, with an increase of 322,200 workers and finance, property and business services, with an increase of 257,200 workers.

In comparison, there were 181,700 fewer workers in manufacturing in 1991 than in 1981. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also experienced a decline in employment, with 58,700 fewer workers. The electricity, gas and water industry experienced the greatest proportionate decrease, with a decline of 27%.

In 1991 the largest industries in terms of total employment were wholesale and retail trade with 1,336,900 workers and community services which employed 1,261,500 people.

Table 5.2 Change in employment by industry

Industry	Number Employed	Change in Employment 1981-1991	
	'000	%	'000
High growth industries			
Recreation, personal and other services	495.8	50.7	166.7
Finance, property & business services	788.6	48.4	257.2
Community services	1 261.5	34.3	322.2
Medium growth industries			
Wholesale & retail trade	1 336.9	22.2	243.0
Public administration and defence	402.2	13.8	48.7
Construction	421.3	5.8	23.1
Negative growth industries			
Transport and storage	325.7	-1.2	-4.0
Mining	86.5	-2.8	-2.5
Communication	117.4	-6.5	-8.1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	320.7	-15.5	-58.7
Manufacturing	933.0	-16.3	-181.7
Electricity, gas and water	91.3	-27.3	-34.3
Total	7 109.3	13.0	816.7

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), CVC 1090 (1991)

The greatest decline in manufacturing between 1981 and 1991 was in New South Wales, where 23% of all manufacturing jobs were lost. Only Queensland, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory had increases in the number of people employed in the manufacturing industries.

During the 1980s there was strong employment growth in the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. These States and Territories also experienced the largest population growth rates.

Table 5.3 Employment change: Industry by State

	<i>Negative growth industries</i>			<i>Growth industries</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting</i>	<i>Manu- facturing</i>	<i>Electricity, gas and water</i>	<i>Finance, property and business services</i>	<i>Recreation, personal and other services</i>	
Number of employed persons in 1991						
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
NSW	94.3	315.6	34.2	306.1	174.6	2 407.0
Vic	70.6	296.8	25.7	199.0	111.8	1 810.0
Qld	72.5	134.7	11.2	121.9	94.3	1 228.9
SA	32.4	87.4	7.3	57.8	39.5	604.1
WA	36.3	66.8	8.8	69.8	46.3	666.4
Tas	11.3	23.2	3.0	13.4	13.2	178.4
NT	2.8	3.6	0.7	5.5	6.8	74.6
ACT	0.6	4.9	0.5	15.1	9.4	140.0
Aust	320.7	933.0	91.3	788.6	495.8	7 109.3
Change in number of employed persons 1981-1991						
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
NSW	-15.9	-96.5	-12.3	91.5	50.7	173.9
Vic	-19.6	-75.9	-11.9	64.3	36.1	132.9
Qld	-4.8	10.5	-4.2	46.9	41.6	276.0
SA	-9.7	-16.6	-2.9	19.3	11.8	56.2
WA	-7.4	-2.5	-0.8	22.6	16.7	112.4
Tas	-1.7	-2.9	-1.7	2.7	3.0	8.0
NT	0.5	1.0	-0.3	2.4	3.5	18.7
ACT	-0.1	1.2	-0.3	7.4	3.4	38.5
Aust	-58.7	-181.7	-34.3	257.2	166.7	816.7
Change in number of employed persons 1981-1991						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NSW	-14.4	-23.4	-26.5	42.6	40.9	7.8
Vic	-21.7	-20.4	-31.7	47.7	47.6	7.9
Qld	-6.2	8.4	-27.3	62.7	79.1	29.0
SA	-23.1	-16.0	-28.1	50.3	42.7	10.2
WA	-17.0	-3.5	-8.0	47.8	56.3	20.3
Tas	-12.9	-11.2	-35.8	24.9	29.0	4.7
NT	24.6	37.4	-29.0	79.2	106.1	33.5
ACT	-18.3	33.4	-35.7	97.0	56.9	37.9
Aust	-15.5	-16.3	-27.3	48.4	50.7	13.0

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), CVC 1090 (1991)

Public/private employment

During the 1980s there was a decline in employment in the Commonwealth Government. Overall, there was a 2.7% increase in State government employment during the decade. Due to the creation of self government, the ACT had an increase of 14,800 people classified as State government workers, some of whom were previously classified as Commonwealth government workers. Queensland and the NT also had large increases (18% and 16% respectively). Tasmania (10%) and NSW (8%) experienced decreases.

Table 5.4 Sector of employment

	Employment share 1981	Employment share 1991	Increase 1981-1991	Total employed
	%	%	%	'000
Government				
Commonwealth	7.8	6.7	-3.3	445.3
State	16.4	14.8	2.7	991.6
Local	1.8	2.2	36.8	147.4
<i>Total government</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>23.7</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>1 584.3</i>
Private	74.0	76.3	17.1	5 110.8
Total	100.0	100.0	13.0	7 109.3

Source: SAS 20 (1981), CVC 1089 (1991)

Occupation

Since 1986 there have been significant changes in the occupation structure of the labour force. The number of sales and personal service workers has increased by 21.6%, associated with an increase in part time work. There were fewer plant and machine operators and drivers, labourers and related workers, clerks and tradespersons than in 1986.

Different groups in the population are more likely to work in certain occupations than others. Women are over represented among clerks, sales and personal service workers but under represented among tradespersons, plant and machine operators, and managers and administrators. While people from non-English speaking countries have a higher representation amongst plant and machine operators and labourers, they are generally well represented across other occupation groups. In comparison, women and young people tend to concentrate in a narrower range of occupations.

Table 5.5 Characteristics of occupation

Occupation	Increase since 1986	Males	Born in NESCS(a)	Aged 15-24	Total
	%	%	%	%	'000
Managers and administrators	13.1	72.2	11.0	5.5	861.5
Professionals	15.7	55.8	12.4	10.5	890.8
Para-Professionals	13.9	54.3	10.1	13.6	480.2
Tradespersons	-3.8	88.9	15.6	26.0	959.1
Clerks	-3.9	22.7	10.4	21.5	1 069.2
Sales and personal service workers	21.6	36.7	10.5	34.5	983.5
Plant & machine operators & drivers	-6.3	84.7	20.1	12.1	501.3
Labourers & related workers	-6.0	61.5	19.9	23.0	879.7
Total employed	9.1	57.4	13.8	19.5	7 109.3

(a) Non-English speaking countries (all countries except Australia, UK, Ireland, South Africa, USA, Canada, NZ).

Source: CVC 1091, CSC 6022, CSC 6030, B 22

Occupational segregation

Men are better represented in traditional female occupations, than women are in traditional male occupations. However considerably more differentiation exists in males dominated occupations than in female dominated occupations. The 10 most male dominated occupations account for 76,700 workers, while the 10 most female dominated account for 394,900 workers, including 180,000 office secretaries and stenographers.

Table 5.6 Occupations with greatest segregation

Occupation	Women as a proportion of Occupation	Occupation	Men as a proportion of Occupation
	%		%
Electrical powerline tradespersons	0.5	Dental Nurses	1.2
Locomotive drivers	0.6	Office secretaries & stenographers	1.9
Crane operators	0.6	Typists & typist clerks	2.0
Paving & surfacing plant operators	0.7	Word processing operators	2.1
Structural steel & related labourers	0.7	Preprimary school teachers	2.2
Power generation plant operators	0.7	Speech pathologists	2.8
Panel beaters	0.8	Receptionists & information clerks	5.6
Fire fighters	0.8	Occupational therapists	6.2
Marine engineers & surveyors	0.8	Home companions & aides	6.6
Refrigeration & air conditioning mechanics	0.8	Child care co-ordinators	6.9

Source: CVC 1091

Australia has a segregated labour force. In aggregate terms 28% of employed persons work in male dominated occupations such as electrical powerline tradespersons, locomotive drivers and crane operators where women represent less than 20% of those working. A further 15% of employed persons work in female dominated occupations such as dental nursing, typing and word processing. While 47% of men work in male dominated occupations, only 31% of women work in female dominated occupations.

Table 5.7 Occupational segregation

	Occupation: Proportion women					Total
	0-19%	20-39%	40-59%	60-79%	80-100%	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	46.7	29.8	9.2	12.0	2.2	100.0
Women	4.0	15.9	11.6	37.2	31.3	100.0
Total	28.5	23.9	10.2	22.8	14.6	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	1 891.2	1 584.3	676.1	1 508.0	967.8	(a)7 109.3

(a) Total includes occupation not stated and inadequately described.

Source: CVC 1091

Patterns of segregation vary within certain occupations streams. For example males accounted for 2% of preprimary teachers, 20% of primary teachers, and 46% of secondary teachers. In tertiary education, 55% of TAFE teachers were men, and 65% of higher education teachers were men.

Part time work

While in 1991, only 13% of employed men worked part time (less than 35 hours in the week preceding the census), 42% of employed women worked part time. Since 1986 there has been a significant increase in part time work, especially for men (up from 9%).

Table 5.8 Employed persons: hours worked

Hours worked	1986			1991		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1-24 hours	5.6	26.6	13.8	8.1	30.4	17.5
25-34	3.6	10.3	6.3	4.5	11.3	7.4
35-39	27.3	26.0	26.8	24.6	24.2	24.4
40 & over	63.5	37.1	53.2	62.9	34.2	50.7
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total people	3 951.9	2 561.6	6 513.5	4 082.0	3 027.3	7 109.3

Source: C 33 (1986), CVC 1087 (1991)

How people travel to work

Most Australians drive to work, and the proportion increased between 1981 and 1991. During this period there was a decrease in the numbers travelling to work by all other methods, except cycling.

Women were more likely than men to use public transport or to be driven to work, and much less likely to ride motor bikes or bicycles. Men and women were equally likely to walk to work.

Table 5.9 Method of travel to work

Method of travel(a)	Number of people	Proportion of people	Change 1981-1991	
	'000	%	%	Women(b)
Train	372.1	6.3	-4.7	45.7
Bus	310.5	5.3	-16.9	52.7
Ferry / Tram	50.3	0.9	-32.5	52.1
Taxi	28.9	0.5	-20.8	44.4
Car, as driver	3 827.4	65.3	16.1	37.8
Car, as passenger	573.6	9.8	-6.7	53.3
Motor bike	63.0	1.1	-33.9	6.0
Bicycle	92.5	1.6	13.9	19.4
Walked only	336.1	5.7	-0.2	43.8
Other	86.6	1.5	..	13.9
Worked at home	376.4	6.4	-14.3	53.9
Total	6 168.9	100.0	4.5	43.0

(a) A person can have used more than one mode of transport, so numbers do not add to totals. Includes only employed people who worked on the day before the census and who spent census night in their usual residence. (b) As a percent of people using method of travel.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981) B 26 (1991)

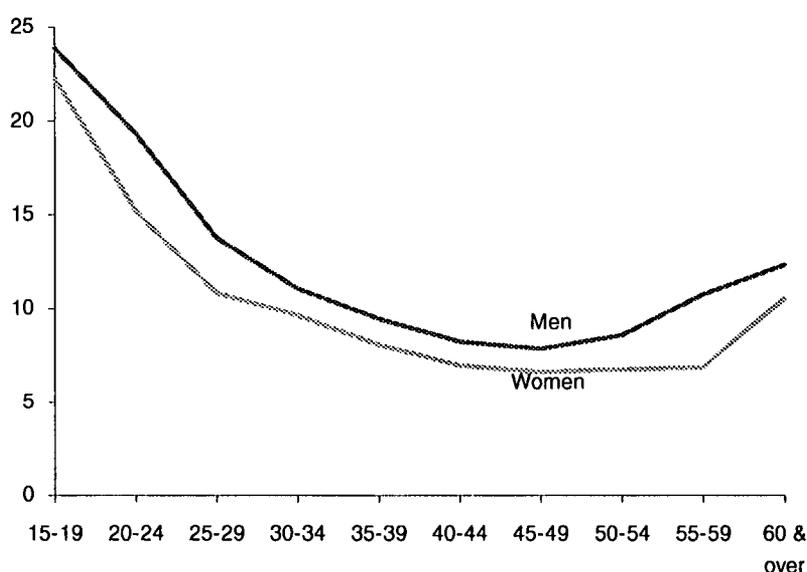
Unemployment

Some 932,000 people were classified as unemployed in the census. Overall, the unemployment rate was higher for men than for women and decreased with age up until pre-retirement years.

The unemployment rates for 15-19 year olds (23%) and 20-24 year olds (17%) were considerably higher than for other age groups. These age groups accounted for 40% of all unemployed women, and 33% of unemployed men.

In 1991, men had a higher unemployment rate than women at all ages. The lowest unemployment rates for men were experienced by 40-54 year olds, while for women rates were lowest between 40 and 59 years.

Figure 5.3 Unemployment rates by age



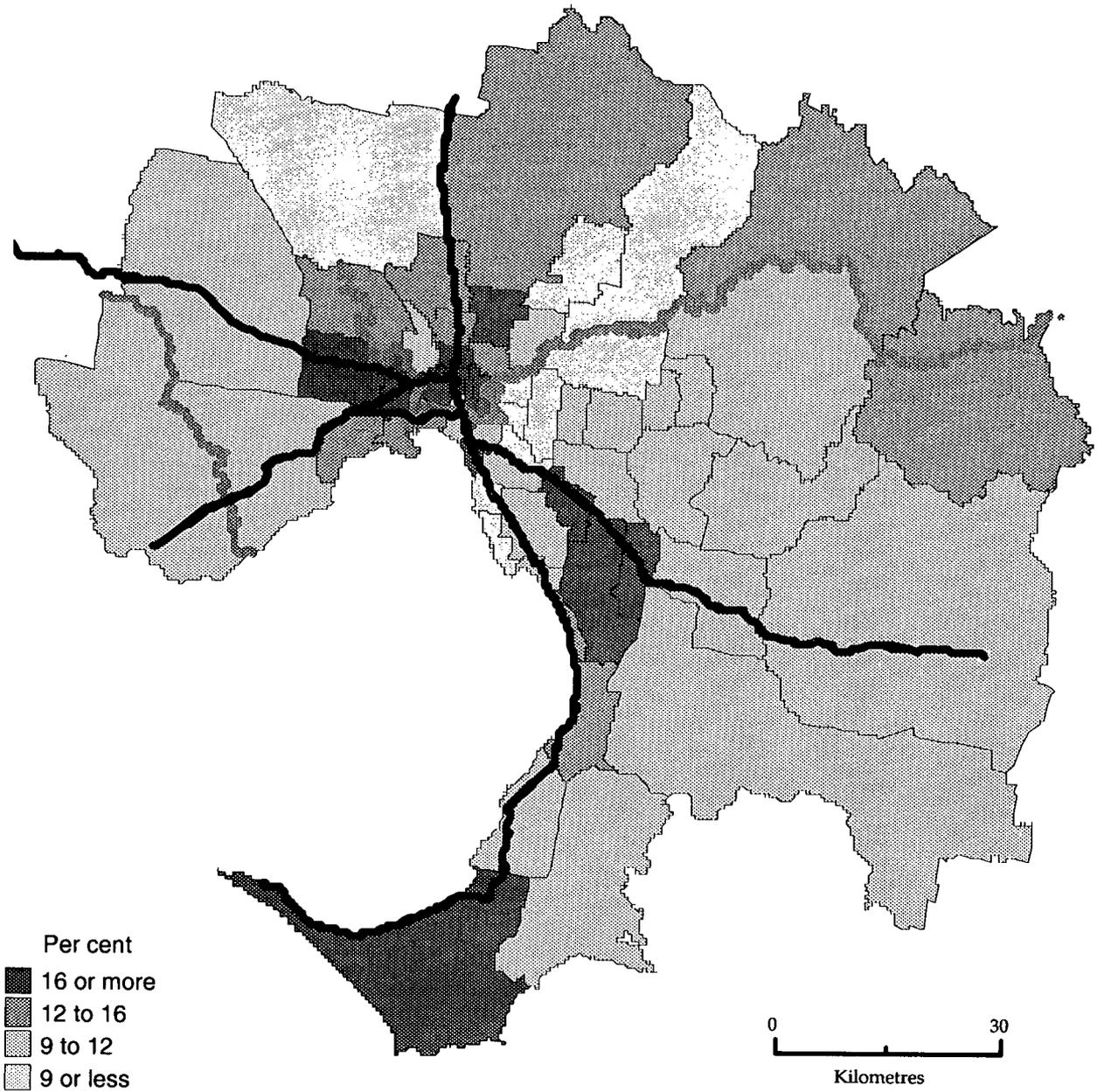
Source: CSC 6035

Regional unemployment

Within urban areas the unemployment rate varies considerably. Melbourne's highest unemployment rates were in the inner suburbs, especially in the inner west. The highest rates were in Footscray (22%), Sunshine (20%), Fitzroy and Richmond (both 19%). Other areas with relatively high unemployment rates include the industrial areas of the south east suburbs of Dandenong (18%), Springvale (17%) and Oakleigh (16%), and Flinders (16.7%).

The lowest unemployment rates were in Melbourne's Central Business District (6%), Brighton, Camberwell and Eltham (7%).

Figure 5.4 Unemployment rates in Melbourne



Unemployment within the population

Some groups of people experienced levels of unemployment higher than the average. Higher rates of unemployment were observed amongst people with poor English skills, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and lone parents.

People with post-school qualifications, especially higher education qualifications, had lower unemployment rates than the general population.

Table 5.10 Unemployment rates: Selected groups

Group(a)	Unemployment rate			Unemployed '000
	Men %	Women %	Total %	
Australian born	11.5	9.6	10.7	632.9
<i>Overseas born</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>296.1</i>
Arrived before 1981	12.4	9.4	11.2	162.1
Arrived 1981-1985	16.6	15.8	16.2	38.7
Arrived 1986-1991	22.1	26.1	23.8	89.5
Speaks only English at home	11.3	9.3	10.5	712.8
<i>Speaks a language other than English at home</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>213.8</i>
Proficient in English	15.9	14.5	15.4	156.0
Poor English	28.6	32.3	30.1	48.0
No English	46.3	60.0	53.2	8.5
No post school qualifications	16.0	12.5	14.4	646.2
<i>With post school qualifications</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>197.9</i>
Higher degree	3.9	5.7	4.3	4.7
Post-graduate diploma	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.6
Bachelor degree	5.0	5.4	5.2	32.5
Undergraduate diploma	5.9	4.2	4.8	18.4
Associate diploma	5.4	6.2	5.7	8.0
Skilled vocational	9.0	9.3	9.0	99.9
Basic vocational	9.7	8.9	9.2	30.8
Lone parents with dependants	14.9	17.9	17.2	48.6
Married parents with dependants(b)	9.0	7.6	8.4	241.4
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	32.2	28.6	30.8	25.3
Total	12.3	10.6	11.6	929.0

(a) Excludes overseas visitors. (b) Includes registered and de facto marriages.

Source: CSC 6026, E 05, E 33, Population Census Sample File

Labour force status of couple families

In couple families with dependent children 73% of fathers worked full time, compared with 24% of mothers. For those families where only one parent worked, in 90% of the cases it was the father and in 90% of these, he worked full time. There were 300,000 two parent families, containing 390,000 dependent children, in which neither parent was employed.

In 40% of couple only families neither member worked. The vast majority of these tend to be older couples where both partners are retired.

Table 5.11 Labour force status of couple families

Labour force status of female partner	Labour force status of male partner				Total
	Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	
<i>Couple family with dependent children</i>					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed full time	446.6	30.1	15.8	17.8	528.3
Employed part time	515.5	77.5	19.2	17.8	656.6
Unemployed	41.9	5.8	40.7	4.4	98.3
Not in labour force	500.0	59.8	86.1	170.4	877.3
Total	1 570.0	182.1	170.2	217.8	2 307.3
<i>Couple only family</i>					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed full time	318.8	25.2	13.4	15.2	385.8
Employed part time	113.8	40.2	6.6	14.4	181.8
Unemployed	16.4	2.7	18.6	2.3	42.3
Not in labour force	113.9	30.4	24.9	493.7	685.6
Total	585.2	102.7	66.3	537.3	1 358.5

Source: B 37, B 38

INCOME

Income distribution of individuals

The census collects information on income for all people aged 15 years and over including students, pensioners and housewives, as well as people in paid employment. In 1991 the median annual income of all people aged 15 years and over was \$14,000. That is, one half of the population received more than \$14,000 and one half received less (including those who received no income). The highest quintile (the 20% of the population with the highest incomes) had annual incomes of more than \$28,000 and, together, they received 48% of total income. The lowest quintile had incomes below \$5,700 and, together, received less than 3% of total income.

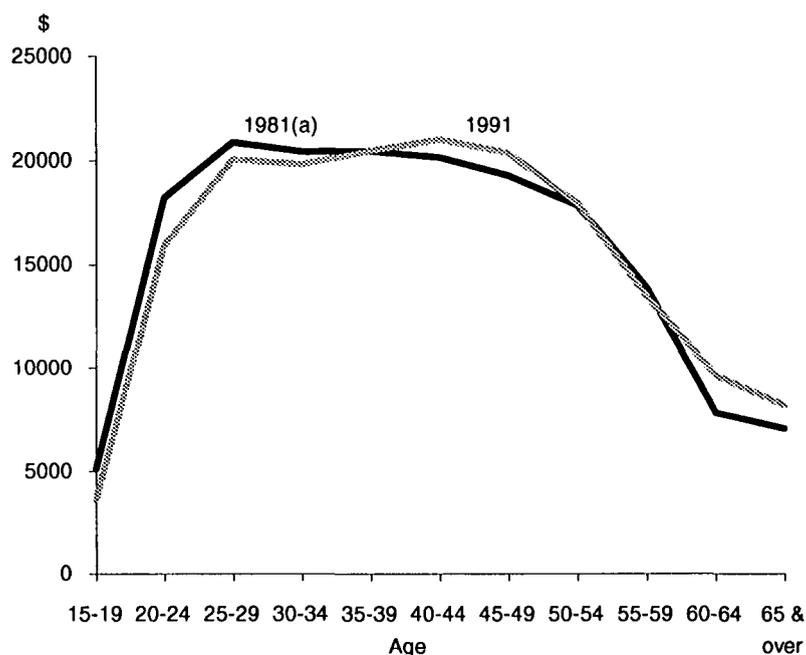
Table 6.1 Income distribution

Quintile	Upper boundary	Median income	Income share
	\$	\$	%
Lowest	5 700	2 500	2.7
2nd	10 200	7 500	8.8
3rd	18 200	14 000	15.5
4th	28 000	22 700	25.3
Highest	..	36 500	47.8
Total	..	14 000	100.0

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2901.0, B 27

Between 1981 and 1991 median income increased by 214% while the consumer price index (CPI) increased by 205%. For people under 35 years of age, 1991 incomes were slightly lower than 1981 incomes adjusted by the CPI; among 40-50 and over 60 year olds, incomes were slightly higher in 1991.

Figure 6.1 Median income: 1981 and 1991



(a) Adjusted by a factor of 205%, allowing for changes in CPI from September quarter 1981 to September quarter 1991.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2452.0 (1981), CVC 1122 (1991)

Factors affecting income

Labour force status and employment related factors such as occupation, hours worked, duration and continuity of employment are key determinants of individual income levels. The age/sex patterns observed for income generally reflect life cycle related changes in labour force participation and employment status for men and women. Educational qualifications, English language proficiency and geographic location are important factors which affect an individual's chances of finding employment and the type of employment obtained, and hence, level of income.

Table 6.2 Income distribution: selected characteristics

	<i>Proportion of population in quintile</i>					<i>Median</i>
	<i>Lowest</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Highest</i>	
	%	%	%	%	%	\$
Age group						
15-19	63.8	15.8	16.2	3.7	0.6	3 600
40-44	12.8	11.0	19.0	23.8	33.4	21 000
65 & over	15.6	49.0	23.8	6.5	5.1	8 200
Sex						
Males	13.2	16.0	17.8	23.7	29.4	19 500
Females	26.7	24.1	22.3	16.3	10.5	10 000
Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders						
	25.6	30.1	24.8	13.7	5.8	8 900
Employed						
Part-time	20.8	21.4	30.9	16.7	10.1	11 900
Full-time	2.2	4.0	17.8	35.6	40.3	25 000
Total	7.2	8.5	21.1	30.8	32.3	22 100
Unemployed						
	37.1	35.2	19.3	6.3	2.1	6 700
Not in the labour force						
	37.6	36.3	18.4	4.8	2.9	6 800
Total	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	14 000

Source: B 27, A 17, CSC 6030, Unpublished data

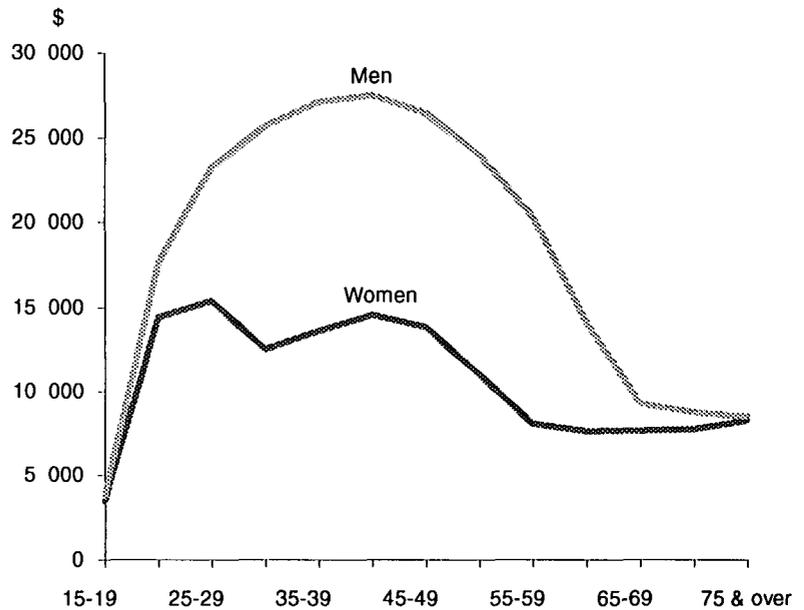
...age

In 1991 income increased with age to peak at about 30 years of age for women and about 40 years of age for men, then declined in older age groups. 64% of 15-19 year olds were in the lowest quintile, with incomes below \$5,700 or no income at all. Their median income of \$3,600 was 26% of the median for the whole population. 57% of 40-44 year olds were concentrated in the two highest income quintiles with a median income of \$21,000, or 50% higher than the overall median. 49% of people aged 65 years and over received incomes in the second quintile, reflecting the high proportion whose main source of income was the age pension. Their median income was \$8,200.

...sex

The median income for women was \$10,000 compared with \$19,500 for men. 51% of women received incomes in the two lowest quintiles while 53% of men received incomes in the two highest quintiles. In the 15-24 age group, men and women had similar median incomes. However, between 25 and 44 there is a substantial gap reflecting the lower levels of labour force participation and greater incidence of part-time workers among women in the prime childbearing ages (See chapter 5). This gap decreased in older age groups and in the post retirement years men's and women's median incomes converge.

Figure 6.2 Median income by age and sex



Source: Unpublished data

Family income

Differences in personal income levels do not necessarily reflect different living standards as income and other economic resources are generally shared in families and households.

In 1991 the median family income was \$35,000. Income levels varied greatly with family type, largely a reflection of the number of income earners present. The median income of one parent families with dependent children only was only 43% as much as for all families. 62% of these families received incomes in the lowest 20% of all family incomes, a reflection of the relatively low labour force participation rates of lone mothers (87% of lone parents with dependent children are women) and of generally lower earnings of women relative to men.

For two parent families with dependent children only, the median income was \$38,800, 11% more than the median income for all families and more than twice as much as their one parent counterparts. Higher labour force participation rates (and higher earnings) of men relative to lone mothers and the 46% of two parent families in which both partners had paid employment account for much of the difference.

For both one and two parent families, incomes were higher in families with non-dependent children and other related adults whose incomes also contribute to family income.

Couple only families were spread broadly across the income distribution with 30% (mainly aged pensioner couples) in the lowest quintile and 15% (mainly working couples) in the highest quintile.

Table 6.3 Family income distribution by family type

Family type	Proportion of families in income quintile					Median \$
	Lowest	2nd	3rd	4th	Highest	
	%	%	%	%	%	
One parent family with dependent children only	61.5	23.5	10.7	3.0	1.3	14 900
One parent family with related adults(a)	18.0	29.9	24.9	16.8	10.5	29 300
Two parent family with dependent children only	8.9	20.5	25.7	23.8	21.1	38 800
Two parent family with related adults(a)	2.5	11.0	18.9	25.0	42.5	52 200
Couple only	30.5	20.2	15.6	18.3	15.4	28 000
All families	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	35 000

(a) Family which includes related adults in addition to the parent(s) e.g. non-dependent offspring or other adult relatives. May also include dependent children.

Source: CVC 3029

Household income

In 1991 the median household income was \$29,200, 17% less than the median for families. This reflects the relatively low incomes of one person households (20% of all households) which are not included in the family classification.

Incomes were generally higher in the capital cities than in other urban or rural areas. This difference was most marked in the two largest States. In Sydney, the median household income was 45% higher than in the rest of New South Wales, while in Melbourne the median was 35% higher than in the rest of Victoria.

Canberra and Darwin had the highest median household incomes, \$44,100 and \$38,500 respectively. This can be partly explained by the relatively young populations in these cities and, hence, higher proportions of two or more earner households and lower proportions of single person and aged households. Also, average earnings were higher in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, a reflection of their different occupation and industry mix relative to the States as well as high levels of educational attainment, particularly in the ACT.

Table 6.4 Median household income

State	Capital cities	Rest of State	Total
	\$	\$	\$
New South Wales	35 600	24 500	30 300
Victoria	33 100	24 600	30 000
Queensland	30 100	25 500	27 500
South Australia	27 800	22 400	26 300
Western Australia	29 500	27 400	29 000
Tasmania	27 400	23 600	25 100
Northern Territory	38 500	35 200	36 800
Australian Capital Territory	44 100	—	44 000
Australia	32 600	25 000	29 200

Source: B 29

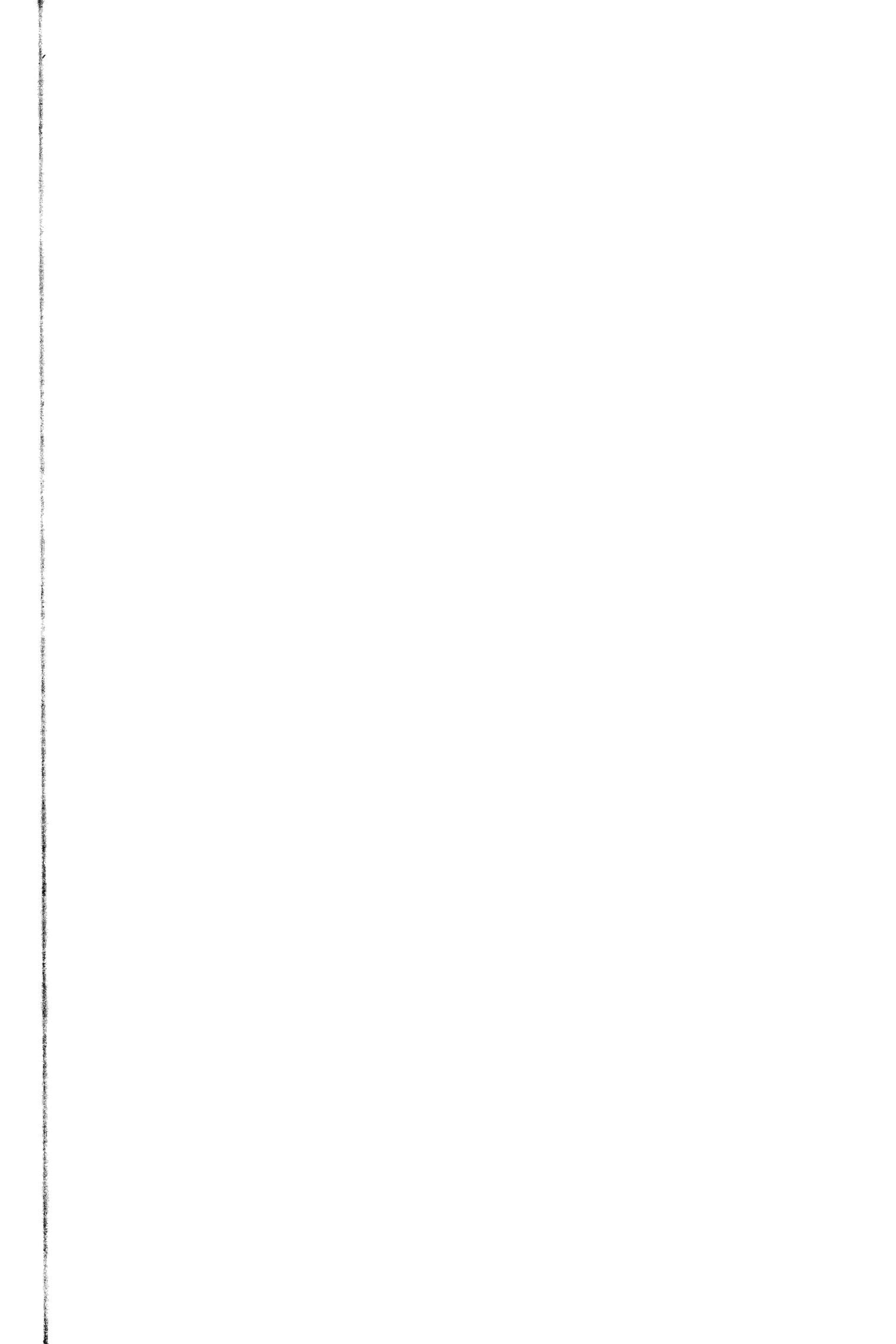
...high income households

1.7% of all Australian households received incomes over \$120,000. The proportion varied greatly within and between States/Territories. With the exception of Tasmania, these high income households were generally concentrated in capital city Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).

The highest concentrations were in Sydney where, in four SLAs, more than 10% of households had incomes over \$120,000. The NSW average was 2.3%, second to the ACT where 2.9% of households had incomes over \$120,000. In Tasmania high income households comprised 0.9% of all households and were more evenly spread throughout the State, with the highest concentration of only 3% in Evandale, an SLA in Launceston.

Table 6.5 SLAs with highest proportion of households with incomes over \$120 000

State/SLA	Proportion of households with incomes over \$120 000	State/SLA	Proportion of households with incomes over \$120 000
	%		%
New South Wales		Western Australia	
Ku-ring-gai (M)	15.0	Nedlands (C)	10.1
Mosman (M)	11.7	Claremont (T)	6.2
Woollahra (M)	11.1	Perth (C) - Wembley-Coastal	5.9
Hunter's Hill (M)	10.4	Cottesloe (T)	5.5
Snowy River (S)	8.6	Leonora (S)	5.3
<i>State average</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>State average</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Victoria		Tasmania	
Kew (C)	7.6	Evandale (M) - Pt A	3.0
Brighton (C)	7.5	Hobart (C) - Remainder	2.3
Malvern (C)	6.5	King Island (M)	2.2
Camberwell (C)	6.2	Zeehan (M)	1.4
Hawthorn (C)	6.0	Lyell (M)	1.3
<i>State average</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>State average</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Queensland		Northern Territory	
Fig Tree Pocket	9.0	Nhulunbuy	7.5
Chapel Hill	8.2	Fannie Bay	5.3
Ascot	7.1	Larrakeyah	4.6
Chelmer	7.1	Victoria	3.3
Westlake	7.0	Nakara	3.2
<i>State average</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>Territory average</i>	<i>1.7</i>
South Australia		Australian Capital Territory	
Walkerville (M)	6.7	Chapman	13.5
Burnside (C)	5.9	Weetangera	10.9
East Torrens (DC)	4.4	Red Hill	9.4
Adelaide (C)	4.3	Deakin	8.5
Unley (C)	3.4	Aranda	7.9
<i>State average</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>Territory average</i>	<i>2.9</i>
			Australian average
			1.7



HOUSING

Dwellings

There were 6.5 million dwellings counted at the 1991 Census, of which about 600,000 were unoccupied. The latter included holiday homes, temporarily vacant dwellings, newly built dwellings and dwellings for sale or lease.

Separate houses were by far the most common dwelling type accounting for 77% of all occupied dwellings and 84% of the population. Separate houses accommodated an average of 3.0 people while flats, town houses etc averaged 2.0 people per dwelling and improvised dwellings averaged 2.8 persons. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander improvised dwellings housed an average of 6.1 people and accounted for 15% of all improvised dwellings.

Table 7.1 Occupied private dwellings

Type of dwelling	Dwellings	People	Persons per dwelling
	'000	'000	ratio
Separate house	4 530.3	13 638.4	3.0
<i>Semi-detached, row or</i>	<i>452.5</i>	<i>948.1</i>	<i>2.1</i>
1 storey	336.8	672.5	2.0
2 or more storeys	115.7	275.6	2.4
<i>Flat or apartment</i>	<i>685.9</i>	<i>1 279.0</i>	<i>1.9</i>
1 or 2 storey block	356.1	653.9	1.8
3 storey block	182.2	345.2	1.9
4 or more storey block	126.9	244.1	1.9
Attached to house	20.7	35.8	1.7
Caravan etc. in caravan park	88.0	164.2	1.9
Caravan not in caravan park, houseboat, etc.	15.1	28.7	1.9
Improvised home, camping out	9.5	26.8	2.8
House or flat attached to shop, office etc.	28.7	74.6	2.6
Total	5 852.5	16 260.0	2.8

Source: Census Sample File

Homeless people

While the census is a dwelling based collection, census collectors did attempt to obtain data from those people who were not living in a dwelling on census night. Such people are coded as camping out. Some people who were usually homeless may also have been counted among the 6,600 people in night shelters, refuges and hostels for the homeless on census night. The inevitable difficulty of locating homeless people means that the number of homeless counted in the census is understated.

Dwelling size

Approximately half the nation's dwelling stock are three bedroom houses. There has been a trend towards larger houses during the last two decades. The proportion of households with four or more bedrooms increased from 13% in 1971 to 19% in 1991. Meanwhile the proportion of dwellings with only one bedroom declined from 10% to 7%.

Table 7.2 Dwelling size

	Proportion of Dwellings		
	1971	1981	1991
	%	%	%
1 bedroom(a)	9.7	7.2	6.6
2 bedrooms	26.7	27.3	23.9
3 bedrooms	50.3	51.5	50.2
4 bedrooms	11.0	12.0	16.4
5 or more bedrooms	2.3	2.1	3.0
	'000	'000	'000
Total dwellings	3 670.6	4 668.9	5 852.5

(a) Dwellings without a separate bedroom were assumed to have one bedroom.

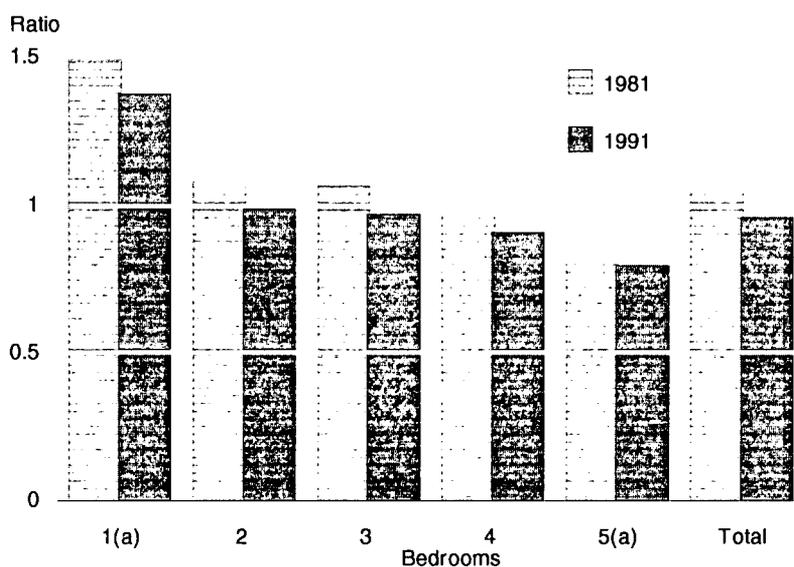
Source: ABS Cat. No. 2309.0 (1971), ABS Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), CVC 2032 (1991).

Persons per bedroom

Some indication of overcrowding in different types of dwellings, among specific groups of people or at a small area level, can be obtained using the ratio of persons to bedrooms.

The number of persons per bedroom has declined due to decreasing household size, and increasing dwelling size. In 1991, there was an average of 0.96 persons per bedroom, compared with 1.05 in 1981.

Figure 7.1 Persons per bedroom



(a) For purposes of calculation dwellings without a separate bedroom were counted as 1 bedroom, and those with more than 4 bedrooms were counted as 5 bedrooms.

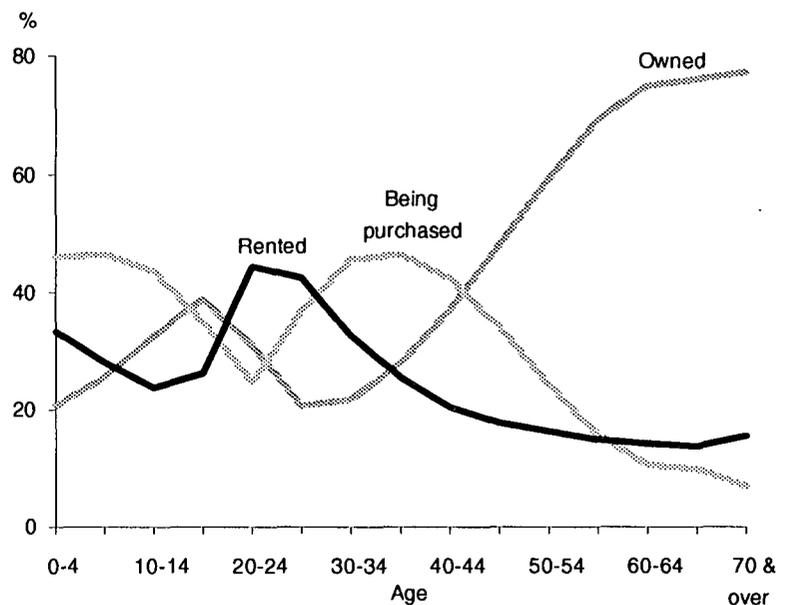
Source: ABS Cat. No. 2452.0 (1981), B 51 (1991)

Renting, owning and purchasing

Of the 16 million people counted in private dwellings, 40% were in dwellings owned by a household member, 34% were in dwellings being purchased by a household member and 26% were in rented dwellings. Whether a dwelling was owned, being purchased or rented is often related to the life cycle stage of the occupants, which can be approximated by their age.

Children are most likely to live in houses being purchased, reflecting the tendency of young Australian families to start buying their own homes. In their late teens and early 20s people tend to leave their parents' home and start renting. In their 20s and 30s people are likely to start buying their first home and in their 40s and 50s pay off their mortgages. By age 50, over half of all people live in houses owned by a member of their household, usually themselves or their spouses. After retirement, as incomes fall, so the rise in home ownership slows and there is a slight increase in the proportion who rent.

Figure 7.2 Nature of occupancy by age



Source: CSC 6178

...in the capital cities

Between 1981 and 1991, the proportion of dwellings owned outright increased from 37% to 43%. There has been a corresponding decrease in the proportion being purchased from 37% to 28%. The shift towards home ownership was greater for the capital cities particularly in Canberra and Perth.

Public rental increased from 5% of households in 1981 to 8% in 1991. Darwin had substantially higher levels of public rental than the rest of the country.

Table 7.3 Nature of occupancy in capital cities

	1981				1991			
	Being		Rented		Being		Rented	
	Owned	purchased	Public	Private	Owned	purchased	Public	Private
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sydney	33.8	37.5	5.1	23.6	41.6	28.3	7.6	22.5
Melbourne	35.3	40.5	2.8	21.4	42.5	32.3	4.6	20.5
Brisbane	35.4	39.4	3.9	21.3	41.0	30.7	6.0	22.3
Adelaide	31.9	42.6	9.3	16.2	40.5	30.9	12.3	16.3
Perth	26.7	45.6	5.8	21.9	38.7	34.3	6.5	20.4
Hobart	30.5	41.4	9.7	18.4	39.1	32.5	11.2	17.2
Canberra	13.0	56.5	13.3	17.2	26.0	39.9	13.6	20.5
Darwin	11.1	29.5	25.8	33.6	13.9	32.5	29.0	24.5
<i>All Capitals</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>21.6</i>	<i>40.7</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>20.9</i>
Non-Capitals	44	29	5.4	21.5	47.1	23.9	8.0	20.9
Australia	37	37	5.3	21.5	43.1	28.5	7.6	20.9

Source: SAS CF 30 (1981), Comparison Series (1991)

Housing costs

As might be expected, households with higher income tended to have higher housing costs. 66% of renter households with low incomes (under \$231 per week) paid less than \$78 per week in rent, compared with 12% of households with high incomes (\$1,155 per week or more). There were similar patterns for people purchasing their own homes, with 54% of purchasing households with low incomes paying less than \$69 per week in mortgage repayments, compared with only 13% of high income earners.

Some low income earners apparently pay more in housing costs than their income. These figures should be treated with caution since some household incomes may be understated due to under-reporting of individual incomes or to the absence of usual household members on census night.

Table 7.4 Mortgage and rent by income

	Weekly Income						Total
	under \$231	\$231- \$385	\$386- \$577	\$578- \$769	\$770- \$1 154	\$1 155 or more	
Weekly Rent	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$78	66.1	41.5	23.1	17.7	14.6	12.5	31.5
\$78 - \$137	25.3	40.4	48.3	42.5	34.0	18.0	36.1
\$138 - \$197	6.6	14.9	23.1	30.7	36.7	32.4	22.8
\$198 - \$267	1.2	2.2	4.0	6.6	10.7	20.9	6.3
\$268 - \$347	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.5	2.5	8.5	1.8
\$348 - \$447	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9	4.2	0.8
\$448 or more	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	3.4	0.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Households</i>	<i>262.3</i>	<i>276.7</i>	<i>266.4</i>	<i>173.3</i>	<i>226.6</i>	<i>113.5</i>	<i>1 560.6</i>
Weekly Mortgage	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$69	53.9	41.8	23.6	18.0	14.0	12.6	20.1
\$69 - \$109	17.2	25.2	27.3	22.4	17.4	12.5	19.7
\$110 - \$144	9.9	14.2	22.2	22.0	18.4	13.4	17.8
\$145 - \$178	4.9	6.9	11.3	14.5	13.6	10.4	11.7
\$179 - \$213	4.0	4.8	7.5	11.2	13.6	11.2	10.4
\$214 - \$276	3.9	3.7	5.2	8.1	14.8	16.4	10.9
\$277 or more	6.2	3.4	2.9	3.8	8.2	23.5	9.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Households</i>	<i>50.8</i>	<i>111.7</i>	<i>202.8</i>	<i>222.3</i>	<i>405.1</i>	<i>291.7</i>	<i>1 561.3</i>
Total households	735.8	902.4	820.4	647.4	986.6	693.2	5 852.5

Source: CSC 6048, CSC 6049

Low income households are more likely to rent than higher income households, reflecting the generally lower costs associated with renting as opposed to purchasing. However, the majority of low income earners own their house outright reflecting the lower incomes of retired people, who have the highest level of home ownership.

...in the capital cities

Between 1981 and 1991, housing costs increased considerably faster than the CPI, especially in the capital cities. Over this period the average increase in median rent was 18% (after adjusting for CPI increases) with Canberra experiencing the greatest increase (50%). Hobart experienced the smallest increase in median rent, marginally higher than CPI.

Median mortgage repayments increased by 34% (after CPI adjustment), with the largest increases (around 50%) recorded in Canberra, Brisbane and Hobart. Housing costs were considerably greater in the capital cities, than in the rest of the country. In 1991, Sydney had the most expensive housing of the capital cities, while Hobart had the cheapest.

Table 7.5 Housing costs in capital cities: 1981-91

	1981(a)		1991		Change	
	Median monthly rent	Median monthly mortgage	Median monthly rent	Median monthly mortgage	Median monthly rent	Median monthly mortgage
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
Sydney	537	487	654	687	21.8	41.2
Melbourne	429	435	537	604	25.0	38.7
Brisbane	416	379	514	564	23.6	48.7
Adelaide	312	334	396	491	26.7	46.8
Perth	370	416	456	543	23.4	30.6
Hobart	359	290	365	431	1.9	48.6
Darwin	387	460	482	555	24.7	20.7
Canberra	411	424	616	634	49.7	49.5
All capitals	431	429	536	595	23.4	38.8
Non-Capitals	335	377	378	495	12.8	31.3
Australia	401	418	474	561	18.3	34.1

(a) Adjusted for change in CPI in each city between 1981 and 1991. Capital cities, rest of country and national totals are based on 205% CPI increase in capital cities.

Source: SAS CF 31, SAS CF 32 (1981), B 53, B 55 (1991)

...landlord

In the census 1.6 million dwellings (27% of all dwellings) were rented, the majority of them privately. Households renting from a State housing authority had significantly lower rents than those renting from other government agencies or private owners. The median rent for households renting from a housing authority was three quarters of that of renters from other government agencies, and less than half that of private renters.

Table 7.6 Rented dwellings: landlord by rent

Weekly rent	Landlord			Total
	Housing authority	Other government	Private	
	%	%	%	%
Under \$78	71.0	54.6	18.3	31.5
\$78 - \$137	23.9	31.0	40.1	36.1
\$138 - \$197	4.4	11.3	29.0	22.8
\$198 - \$267	0.5	2.1	8.2	6.3
\$268 and over	0.2	1.0	4.4	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median rent	\$ 55	\$ 71	\$ 125	\$ 108
Total	'000 329.4	'000 71.7	'000 1 108.8	'000 1 560.6

Source: CSC 6048

Non-private dwellings

Nearly 582,000 people, or 3% of the population, spent census night in non private dwellings.

Overall there were more men than women in non-private dwellings. However, the relative proportions of men and women varies greatly depending on the type of accommodation. There were more men than women in prisons, staff quarters, and hostels for the homeless and refuges. The greater number of women than men in public and private hospitals is partly due to pregnancy and childbirth. In nursing homes, and homes for the aged, there were more women due to their greater life expectancy. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 1.6% of the population. However, they were over-represented in some non-private dwellings, particularly prisons and welfare institutions.

Table 7.7 People in non-private dwellings

<i>Nature of accommodation</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
		<i>male</i>	<i>Aboriginal(a)</i>
	'000	%	%
Hotels, motels	133.4	62.6	0.6
Staff quarters	33.1	76.5	1.7
Boarding houses, private hotels	27.1	69.4	1.8
Boarding schools	29.7	58.6	3.2
Residential colleges, halls of residence	36.8	54.0	2.2
Public hospitals	48.5	43.9	2.9
Private hospitals	14.2	37.0	0.4
Psychiatric hospitals/ institutions	9.2	56.6	1.6
Hostels for the disabled	11.8	52.4	1.7
Nursing homes	64.0	27.2	0.5
Homes for the aged	70.2	27.7	0.3
Hostels for the homeless, night shelters, refuges	6.6	71.3	11.9
Childcare institutions	0.8	55.1	12.5
Corrective institutions for children	0.8	92.4	29.2
Other welfare institutions	2.6	64.5	7.8
Prisons, corrective & detention institutions for adults	11.5	93.8	14.2
Convents, monasteries	7.5	31.6	0.2
Other & not classifiable	43.1	63.1	3.2
Not stated	30.7	56.9	1.7
Total	581.6	52.5	1.9

(a) Includes Torres Strait Islander people.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 2740.0, Unpublished data

Car ownership

On census night, 45% of households had 2 or more vehicles owned or used by members of the household and parked at or near their dwellings, compared with only 29% in 1971. There has been a 48% increase in vehicles per person since 1971 and a 26% increase in vehicles per household. In 1991 there was almost one vehicle between every two people.

Table 7.8 Motor vehicles per household

	1971	1981	1991
Motor vehicles per household	%	%	%
None	20.3	14.5	13.0
One	50.9	45.1	42.3
Two	22.2	30.0	32.9
Three	4.8	7.4	8.6
Four or more	1.7	2.9	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	ratio	ratio	ratio
Vehicles per households(a)	1.16	1.38	1.47
Vehicles per persons(a)	0.33	0.42	0.49
	'000	'000	'000
Households	3 670.6	4 668.9	5 852.5
Vehicles(a)	4 276.2	6 502.6	8 609.0

(a) For purposes of calculation, households with more than three vehicles have been assumed to have four vehicles.

Source: 2502.0 (1971), FUL 033 (1981), CVC 2040 (1991)

New South Wales and the Northern Territory have the lowest rates of car ownership in Australia, with 16% and 17% of households without a vehicle compared with the average for Australia of 13%. Furthermore, less than 40% of households have 2 or more vehicles compared with the Australian average of 45%. In Victoria, Western Australia and the ACT nearly half the households have 2 or more vehicles.

Table 7.9 Motor vehicles per household: States and capital cities

	Proportion of households with no vehicle		Proportion of households with 2 or more vehicles	
	Capital city	Total State	Capital city	Total State
	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	17.5	15.6	38.7	39.6
Victoria	12.7	11.8	48.9	49.8
Queensland	12.8	11.8	45.4	44.4
South Australia	13.7	12.5	43.4	44.9
Western Australia	10.5	10.0	49.8	49.6
Tasmania	13.9	11.9	44.1	47.4
Northern Territory	11.9	16.7	42.6	37.9
Australian Capital Territory	8.9	8.9	48.6	48.6
Australia	14.1	12.9	44.5	44.8

Source: B 52

The lowest level of car ownership was found in central Sydney, and in some Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. In these areas over half of all households had no vehicles. The highest level of car ownership was in some country areas of Queensland and Victoria.

Tables 7.10 SLAs with highest and lowest motor vehicle ownership

SLAs with highest proportion of households with no vehicles			SLAs with highest proportion of households with 2 or more vehicles		
SLA	State	Proportion of households %	SLA	State	Proportion of households %
West Arnhem	NT	64.9	Sheldon-Mt Cotton	Qld	79.9
Torres (S)	NT	62.8	Wimmera (S)	Vic	79.1
Sydney (C) - Inner	NSW	60.7	Corio (S) - Pt B	Vic	78.1
East Arnhem - Bal	NT	60.6	Dundas (S)	Vic	77.1
South Sydney (C)	NSW	51.3	Strathfieldsaye (S)-Pt B	Vic	76.4

(C) City. (S) Shire.

Source: B 52



DATA SOURCES

Abbreviations

A number of sources given for tables and figures are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviations follows.

1991

A*	Aboriginal Community Profile. 11 page format consisting of 29 summary tables.
B*	Basic Community Profile. 22 page format consisting of 44 summary tables.
Comparison Series	Frequency counts of each variable, available for capital city statistical divisions, States and Territories.
CSC	Customised data service.
CSHED	Customised data service.
CVC	Census validation table, available for internal ABS use only.
E*	Expanded Community Profile. 36 page format consisting of 44 cross classified tables.
ERP of SLAs	Estimated resident population of statistical local areas.
Census Sample File	Unit record file containing records from a 1% sample of private and non-private dwellings.
Unpublished data	Tables produced by Social Analysis and Reporting Section from the full Census Unit Record File.

1986

CSD	21 page summary format consisting of 70 tables from the 1986 Census. Available for most geographic areas.
CX	Cross classified table on microfiche

1981

FUL	22 page format consisting of 43 tables from the 1981 Census. Available for most geographic areas.
SAS	Small Area Summary File
SAS CF	Small Area Summary File, Condensed Format
Table	Cross Classified Tables (Series One) 81.501

* Available for all standard geographic areas.

Publications

A number of publications have been referred to by the ABS catalogue number only. A full list of catalogue numbers and titles follows.

Cat. No.	Title
1991	
2740.0	Census 91 - Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population
2822.0	Census 91- Population growth and distribution in Australia
2901.0	1991 Census Dictionary
3101.0	Australian Demographic Statistics
3201.0	Estimated resident population by sex and age: States and Territories of Australia
3221.0	Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth, Age and Sex, Australia
1986	
2502.0	Census 86 - Australia in Profile
2510.0	Census 86 - Religion in Australia
1981	
2443.0	Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia
2452.0	Cross Classified Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia
2401.0 - 2408.0	Census of Population and Housing, 1981, Persons and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres (Volume for each State and Territory)
1971	
2219.0	Census Bulletin 9 - The Aboriginal Population
2249.0	Census Bulletin 4 - Birthplace
2259.0	Census Bulletin 5 - The Labour Force
2309.0	Census Bulletin 2 - Summary of Dwellings

1911-66

Title

Demography Bulletin No. 86

Census of Population and Housing, 1966, Bulletin No. 9

Census of Population and Housing, 1966, Vol II, Part III

Census of Population and Housing, 1966, Vol II, Part I

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1961, Statistician's Report, Vol VIII

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1961, Statistician's Report, Vol VIII

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1961, Vol VIII, Detailed Tables, Part 1

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1954, Vol VIII, Detailed Tables, Part 1

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1947, Vol VIII, Detailed Tables, Part 19

Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1933, Statistician's Report, Vol VIII

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