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Chapter Six  
**Demography**

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text notes that without clear records, it becomes difficult to track expenses, revenues, and other critical data points.

2. The second section focuses on the role of technology in modern record-keeping. It highlights how digital tools and software solutions can significantly improve the efficiency and accuracy of data management. The author suggests that organizations should invest in reliable systems to ensure that their records are secure, accessible, and easy to update.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data security and privacy. It discusses the risks of data breaches and the importance of implementing robust security protocols. The text advises organizations to regularly update their security measures and to provide training to employees on best practices for handling sensitive information.

4. The fourth section explores the legal and regulatory requirements that govern record-keeping. It notes that different industries and jurisdictions have specific rules regarding the retention and disposal of records. Organizations must stay informed about these regulations to avoid potential legal consequences and ensure full compliance.

5. The final part of the document provides practical advice on how to implement a comprehensive record-keeping strategy. It suggests starting with a clear policy, defining roles and responsibilities, and conducting regular audits to ensure the system is working effectively. The author concludes by emphasizing that a well-maintained record-keeping system is a valuable asset for any organization.

The principal source of demographic data is the Census, which in recent times (since 1961) has been conducted at five-yearly intervals. The most recent was in 1991. Results of the 1991 Census, however, were not available for inclusion in this issue of the Year Book. Compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages also provides valuable information between Censuses, as do the details supplied by incoming and outgoing overseas travellers. In addition, various surveys are conducted from time to time on specific topics. Divorce data are compiled from court records; administrative records provide data on other aspects such as refugees and interstate migration.

Two important pieces of government legislation in the recent past which have had bearing on demographic matters were the repeal in 1967 of the provision in section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aboriginals in reckoning the numbers of people in the population, and the passing of the *Family Law Act 1975* which provided for a single ground for divorce — irretrievable breakdown of marriage — and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

## THE POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA

### Size and growth

For an historic perspective of Australia's demographic characteristics see *Year Book Australia 1988*.

The estimated resident population at 30 June 1991 was 17.3 million, an increase of 1.5 per cent over the previous year. The total increase of 250,600 comprised 141,400 from natural increase and 109,200 from overseas migration. The natural increase component was the highest recorded since the early 1970s but overseas migration was down for the second consecutive year from the record levels of 1987–88 and 1988–89 (149,100 and 163,600 respectively).

The 1980s were characterised by a declining rate of natural increase due to the falling birth rate. This was a continuation of the trend prevailing in the 1970s. Figures for 1990 indicate a slight increase in birth rates.

### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Year ended 30 June	Population ('000)	Annual rate of growth (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration	Total
1972	13,303.7	1.24	0.58	1.81
1973	13,504.5	1.09	0.43	1.51
1974	13,722.6	0.99	0.61	1.61
1975	13,893.0	0.91	0.33	1.24
1976	14,033.1	0.87	0.15	1.01
1977	14,192.2	0.82	0.41	(a)1.13
1978	14,359.3	0.83	0.44	(a)1.18
1979	14,515.7	0.80	0.38	(a)1.09
1980	14,695.4	0.81	0.52	(a)1.24
1981	14,923.3	0.83	0.81	(a)1.55
1982	15,184.2	0.84	0.86	(a)1.75
1983	15,393.5	0.85	0.48	(a)1.38
1984	15,579.4	0.84	0.32	(a)1.21
1985	15,788.3	0.82	0.47	(a)1.34
1986	16,018.4	0.78	0.64	(a)1.46
1987	16,263.3	0.79	0.74	1.53
1988	16,538.2	0.77	0.92	1.69
1989	16,833.1	0.79	0.99	1.78
1990	17,085.4	0.79	0.71	1.50
1991	17,335.9	0.83	0.64	1.47

(a) The difference between the total and the sum of the component rates is due to distribution of the intercensal discrepancy.

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)*.

Net overseas migration gain, moderate for most of the seventies, increased sharply at the end of the decade following changes in migration intake targets and Australia's acceptance of a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees as settlers. Very high intakes were recorded in 1980-81 and 1981-82, after which they fell back to previous levels. In the latter half of the 1980s there was a resurgence of overseas migration gains to the record levels mentioned above.

Throughout the last two decades overseas migration gains have been more volatile than natural increase and, because of their size, have set the pattern for trends in total population growth. As both natural increase and overseas migration declined, the total population growth rate dropped from 1.8 per cent at the beginning of the seventies, to 1.1 per cent by 1978-79. Then as overseas migration gains recovered, the growth rate rose. By 1981-82 it was back to 1.8 per cent. The subsequent slump in migration intake, however, resulted in lower total growth rates until the recent resurgence which has led to population growth rates of 1.7, 1.8, 1.5 and 1.5 per cent in years ended June 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively.

### Population distribution

Most of the Australian population is concentrated in two widely separated coastal regions. By far the largest of these, in terms of area and population, lies in the south-east, stretching in an unbroken crescent from South Australia through Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales to Queensland. The smaller of the two regions is in the south-west of Western Australia. Neither region ever extends inland by more than two or three hundred kilometres. They are separated by two to three thousand kilometres of sparsely populated country which makes up about three-quarters of the total land area. It comprises the whole of the Northern Territory and parts of all five mainland States.

In both coastal regions the population is further concentrated into capital cities, other major cities and towns. In June 1990, 71.2 per cent of the Australian population

lived in the combined State and Territory capitals (including the national capital) and six other major cities of 100,000 persons or more (capital city statistical divisions and statistical districts). The very low population density figures for Australia as a whole (two persons per square kilometre) mask this pattern of population distribution.

With the continuing development of urban industrialisation in the 20th century, capital cities have been the consistent choice for settlement of the majority of overseas immigrants, as well as receiving centres in the general internal movement of population from rural to urban areas which persisted until recent times. This trend towards increasing urbanisation continued until the mid-1970s, after which a slight decline has been recorded. At the 1986 Census 85.4 per cent of the population lived in urban areas. Between the 1976 and 1986 Censuses, the proportion of the population living in rural areas actually increased from 13.9 per cent to 14.5 per cent, while the proportion of State populations living in the capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane declined slightly. Parallel with this has been an emerging trend since the 1970s towards selective rapid growth of smaller coastal towns in Queensland and New South Wales which have favoured the development of retirement, recreation and tourist amenities.

Australia's two dominant population centres — Sydney (3.7 million) and Melbourne (3.1 million) — both in the south-east, accounted for 39.4 per cent of the total population in June 1990. The next largest city is Brisbane (1.3 million). Sydney and Melbourne have traditionally been the favoured ports of entry for overseas arrivals and are the capitals of the two most populous States — New South Wales and Victoria respectively. In these and every other State and Territory the capital city is the largest population centre. Most capitals are many times the size of the next largest town. All capitals, with the exception of the national capital (Canberra) are located on the coast. The capital city of the Northern Territory, Darwin, is the only capital outside the south-eastern and south-western coastal regions.

**URBAN-RURAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AT SELECTED CENSUS DATES(a)  
(per cent(b))**

<i>Census year</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>URBAN</b>									
1921	67.8	62.3	52.1	60.0	59.3	50.5	36.2	—	62.1
1947	71.9	71.0	59.7	69.4	64.6	58.9	23.4	89.7	68.7
1954	82.6	81.3	73.0	74.5	71.0	65.9	65.9	93.3	78.7
1961	85.1	84.8	75.9	78.8	73.2	70.4	39.6	96.0	81.7
1966	86.4	85.5	76.4	82.4	75.7	70.3	53.4	96.1	82.9
1971	88.6	87.7	79.4	84.6	81.5	74.2	64.1	97.8	85.6
1976	88.7	87.9	80.2	84.9	83.5	74.9	66.4	98.4	86.0
1981	88.2	87.8	79.1	84.9	84.6	75.1	74.2	99.0	85.7
1986	87.9	88.1	78.9	84.6	84.7	74.5	72.0	99.1	85.4
<b>RURAL</b>									
1921	31.6	37.3	47.5	39.4	39.1	49.2	62.1	99.7	37.4
1947	27.9	28.9	40.1	30.3	34.9	40.9	75.4	10.4	31.1
1954	17.2	18.4	26.8	25.2	28.7	33.9	32.7	6.7	21.0
1961	14.6	15.0	24.0	20.8	26.4	29.4	59.9	4.0	18.1
1966	13.4	14.4	23.5	17.5	23.9	29.6	46.1	3.9	16.9
1971	11.3	12.2	20.4	15.3	18.2	25.7	35.4	2.2	14.3
1976	11.1	12.1	19.7	15.0	16.3	24.9	33.0	1.6	13.9
1981	11.8	12.1	20.8	15.1	15.3	24.8	25.3	1.0	14.2
1986	12.0	11.9	21.0	15.3	15.0	25.4	27.8	0.9	14.5

(a) Census counts by State of enumeration. Excludes full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1961. (b) Urban and rural proportions do not add up to 100 per cent as the proportion of migratory population is not included.

Source: *Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, New South Wales (2479.0); Victoria (2480.0); Queensland (2481.0); Western Australia (2482.0); South Australia (2483.0); Tasmania (2484.0); Northern Territory (2485.0); Australian Capital Territory (2486.0); Australia (2487.0).*

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF CAPITAL CITIES**

	<i>1971</i>	<i>1976</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>
<b>POPULATION (PERSONS)</b>						
Sydney	2,935,937	3,143,750	3,279,500	3,472,700	3,633,600	3,656,500
Melbourne	2,503,022	2,723,700	2,806,300	2,931,900	3,043,500	3,080,900
Brisbane	869,579	1,000,850	1,096,200	1,196,000	1,273,500	1,301,700
Adelaide	842,693	924,060	954,300	1,003,800	1,037,700	1,049,800
Perth	703,199	832,760	922,040	1,050,400	1,161,200	1,193,100
Hobart	153,216	164,400	171,110	179,000	181,200	183,500
Darwin	38,885	44,232	56,478	74,800	72,900	73,300
Canberra(a)	159,003	226,450	246,500	281,000	303,200	310,100
(b)	142,925	206,550	226,450	257,850	277,700	284,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,205,534</b>	<b>9,060,202</b>	<b>9,532,428</b>	<b>10,189,600</b>	<b>10,706,700</b>	<b>10,848,900</b>
<b>PROPORTION OF STATE POPULATION (PER CENT)</b>						
Sydney	63.8	63.4	62.7	62.8	63.0	62.8
Melbourne	71.5	71.5	71.1	70.1	70.4	70.3
Brisbane	47.6	47.8	46.7	45.6	44.9	44.8
Adelaide	71.8	72.5	72.3	72.6	72.8	73.0
Perth	68.2	70.7	70.9	72.0	72.8	73.0
Hobart	39.2	39.9	40.1	40.1	40.2	40.2
Darwin	45.0	45.0	46.1	48.4	46.6	46.6
Canberra(b)	99.2	99.4	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>63.3</b>

(a) Canberra Statistical District. (b) Excluding Queanbeyan.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas, New South Wales, Preliminary (3210.1); Estimated Residential Population in Statistical Local Areas, Victoria, Preliminary (3203.2); Estimated Resident Population and Area, Queensland (3202.3); Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, South Australia, Preliminary (3201.4); Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, Western Australia, Preliminary (3204.5); Population Statistics, Tasmania (3204.6); Estimated Resident Population of Selected Areas, Northern Territory, Preliminary (3201.7); Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, Australian Capital Territory (3205.8).*

After New South Wales and Victoria, which had populations of 5.9 million and 4.4 million respectively at 30 June 1991, the State populations were, in order of size, Queensland (3.0 million), Western Australia (1.7 million),

South Australia (1.5 million), Tasmania (0.5 million), the Australian Capital Territory (0.3 million) and the Northern Territory (0.2 million).

#### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA

30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1971	4,725,503	3,601,352	1,851,485	1,200,114	1,053,834	398,073	85,735	151,169	13,067,265
1976	4,959,588	3,810,426	2,092,375	1,274,070	1,178,342	412,314	98,228	207,740	14,033,083
1981	5,234,889	3,946,917	2,345,208	1,318,769	1,300,056	427,224	122,616	227,581	14,923,260
1986	5,531,526	4,160,856	2,624,595	1,382,550	1,459,019	446,473	154,421	258,910	16,018,350
1987	5,612,244	4,208,946	2,676,765	1,394,154	1,500,507	447,941	156,674	266,088	16,263,319
1988	5,701,525	4,261,945	2,743,765	1,408,255	1,544,806	448,457	155,866	273,534	16,538,153
1989	5,771,946	4,321,484	2,834,097	1,424,647	1,594,745	451,138	156,323	278,705	16,833,085
1990	5,826,850	4,379,822	2,906,778	1,439,121	1,633,825	456,633	157,277	285,077	17,085,383
1991	5,901,126	4,427,371	2,972,004	1,456,712	1,665,945	460,465	158,779	293,531	17,335,933

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0); Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0).

Demographic factors currently acting on the relative size of the States are above-average rates of natural increase in Western Australia and the two Territories, above-average per capita overseas migration gains in New South Wales and Western Australia and high per capita interstate migration gains in Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. State population growth rates in the year ended June 1991 were, in order of size, Australian Capital Territory (2.97%), Queensland (2.24%), Western Australia (1.97%), New South Wales (1.27%), South Australia (1.22%), Victoria (1.09%), Northern Territory (0.96%) and Tasmania (0.84%). The growth rate for Australia as a whole was 1.50 per cent.

#### Age/sex profile

The sex ratio of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio declines with age: it is about 105 at birth, but, leaving aside inward or outward migration, higher male mortality gradually erodes the difference so that the numbers of males and females would tend to be about the same soon after age 50. From then on, due to continuing mortality differentials in favour of females, the female population begins to exceed males and this excess increases towards old age. The overall sex ratio of the population has been declining since the 1950s as the overseas migration intake has become less male dominated (see Migration section

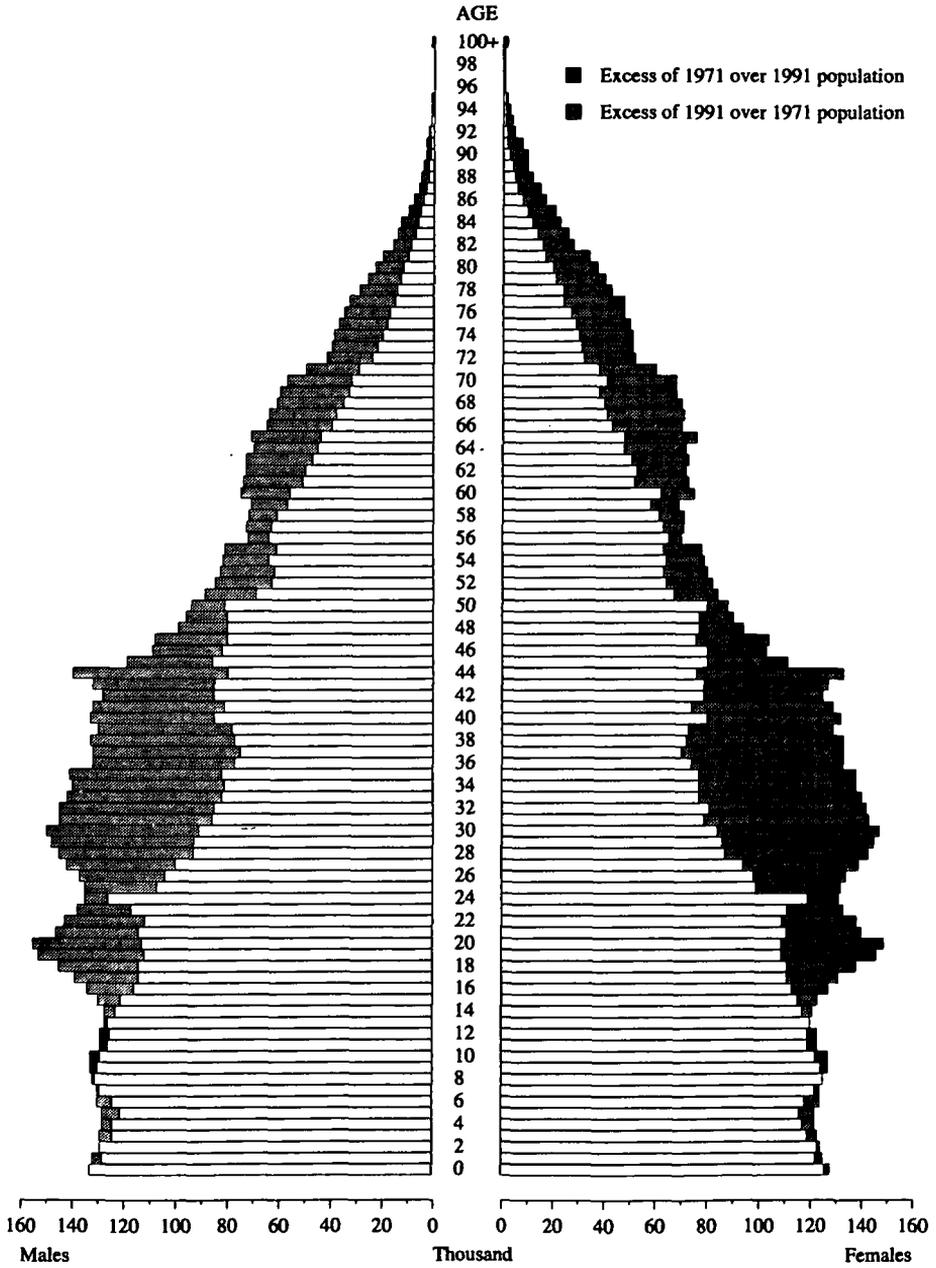
below). In 1991 the Australian population had 99.7 males for every 100 females.

The age distribution of the population is shown in the form of an age-sex pyramid, comparing the years 1971 and 1991 (see next page). The low birth rates of the depression years of the 1930s, the deaths of defence personnel during World War II, the prolonged 'baby boom' from the end of World War II to the early 1960s, the declining birth rate of the 1970s and 1980s are all reflected in the profile. Tapering of the pyramid from ages 0 to 40, which was still evident in 1971, has now completely disappeared.

The median age of the population at 30 June 1991 was 32.5 years. It has been rising consistently since the beginning of the 1970s as a result of lower birthrates as well as lower mortality rates at most ages. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has risen from 8.3 per cent in 1971 to 11.4 per cent in 1991.

As a consequence of changes in the age distribution, the aged-dependency ratio (population aged 65 and over per 100 population of working ages 15-64) has increased from 13.2 in 1971 to 17.0 in 1991, while the child-dependency ratio (population aged 0-14 per 100 population of working ages) has declined sharply from 45.5 to 32.6 during the same period. The combined effect is that the total dependency ratio has declined from 58.8 in 1971 to 49.6 in 1991.

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA,  
30 JUNE 1971 AND 1991**



Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)*.

**SEX RATIOS, PERCENTAGE AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MEDIAN AGES  
OF THE POPULATION**

30 June	Sex ratios(a)				
	Ages 15-24	Ages 15-44	All ages	Aust. born	O'seas born
1971	103.7	105.6	101.1	98.0	114.3
1976	103.2	104.3	100.4	97.8	109.5
1981	103.3	103.4	99.6	97.4	107.5
1986	104.1	103.1	99.8	98.1	106.2
1987	104.1	102.9	99.7	98.1	105.8
1988	104.1	102.8	99.7	98.1	105.5
1989	104.3	102.8	99.7	98.2	105.3
1990	104.4	102.8	99.7	98.2	105.1
1991	104.5	102.6	99.7	98.2	104.7

30 June	Per cent of population aged				
	0-14	15-44	45-64	65+	Median ages(b)
1971	28.7	43.0	20.0	8.3	27.5
1976	27.0	44.1	20.0	8.9	28.4
1981	25.0	46.1	19.2	9.7	29.6
1986	23.1	47.3	19.1	10.5	31.1
1987	22.6	47.6	19.0	10.7	31.3
1988	22.3	47.8	19.0	10.9	31.6
1989	22.1	47.9	19.0	11.0	31.9
1990	21.9	47.8	19.1	11.2	32.2
1991	21.8	47.6	19.2	11.4	32.5

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) The median age is the age at which half of the population is older and half is younger.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)*; *Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth, Age and Sex, Australia (3221.0)*.

**DEPENDENCY RATIOS(a): SELECTED YEARS 1971 TO 91**

Age group	1971	1976	1981	1986	1989	1990	1991
0-14 years	45.53	42.11	38.24	34.78	32.98	32.71	32.56
65 years and over	13.25	13.93	14.93	15.81	16.49	16.66	16.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.78</b>	<b>56.04</b>	<b>53.17</b>	<b>50.59</b>	<b>49.47</b>	<b>49.37</b>	<b>49.55</b>

(a) A dependency ratio is the ratio of the dependant population (aged 0-14 and 65 and over) per 100 population of working ages (15-64 years).

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)*.

### Marital status

Between 1976 and 1991 total population aged 15 and over increased by 32.4 per cent. Of these, numbers of persons never married, married, widowed and divorced increased by 57.2, 17.7, 18.9 and 216.5 per cent respectively.

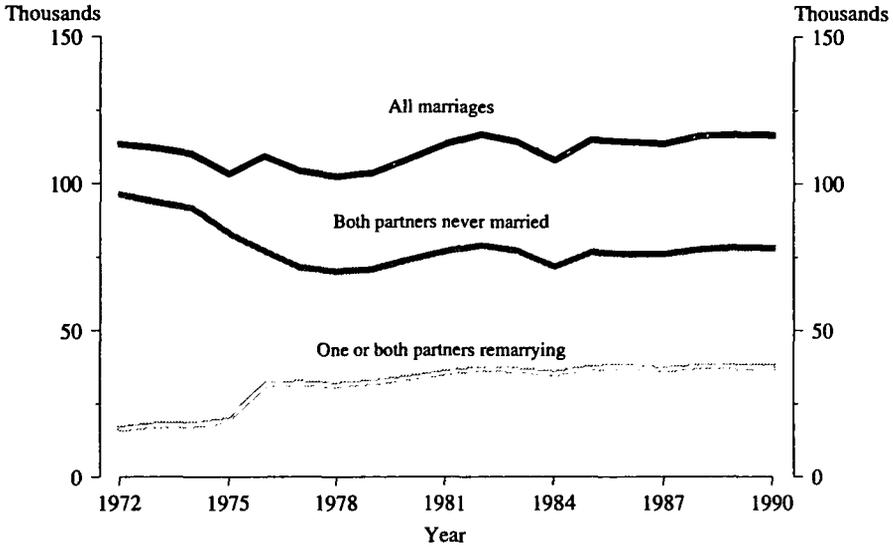
The disproportionate increase in the population of divorced persons is a reflection of the increase in divorce following introduction of the Family Law Act in 1975. However, since the beginning of the 1980s there has been a

steady decline in the rate of growth of the divorced population.

Females exceed males in all categories excepting the never married. This arises principally from mortality differences in the higher age groups. The effect is particularly noticeable in the widowed category where females far out-number males.

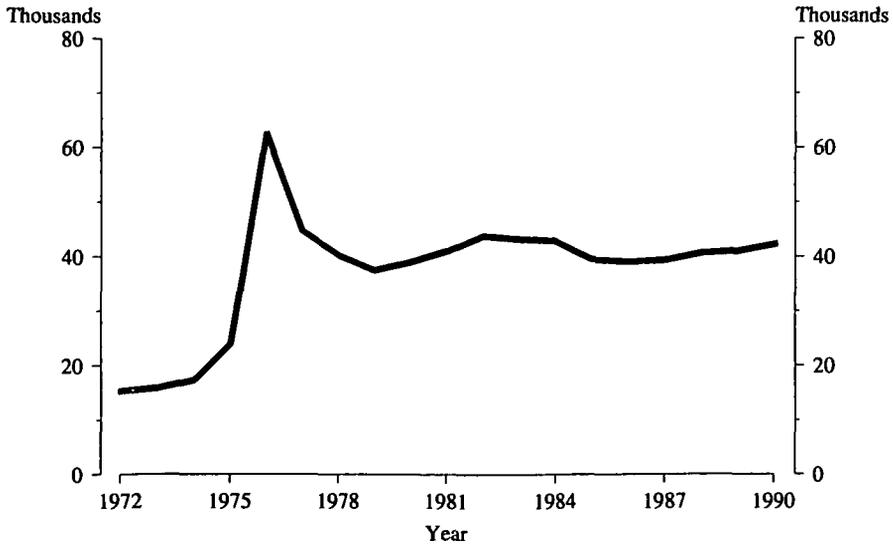
In the 'never married' category males exceed females because of higher sex ratios of the population at younger ages and also because of the customary difference in age between bride and groom at first marriage.

**MARRIAGES**



Source: *Marriages, Australia (3306.0)*.

**DIVORCES(a)**



(a) The sharp increase in divorces between 1975 and 1976 is due to the introduction of the Family Law Act in 1976.

Source: *Divorces, Australia (3307.0)*.

**ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER  
BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married(a)</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>1976</b>					
Males	1,508.2	3,344.2	134.3	104.7	5,091.5
Females	1,094.8	3,354.9	576.1	128.8	5,154.5
Persons	2,602.9	6,699.3	710.4	233.4	10,246.0
<b>1981</b>					
Males	1,739.0	3,477.7	139.1	187.9	5,543.7
Females	1,310.8	3,487.6	622.2	233.5	5,654.0
Persons	3,049.8	6,965.3	761.3	421.3	11,197.7
<b>1986</b>					
Males	2,005.8	3,692.5	144.1	261.7	6,104.1
Females	1,534.2	3,704.3	654.3	322.0	6,214.7
Persons	3,540.0	7,396.7	798.4	583.7	12,318.8
<b>1991p</b>					
Males	2,297.9	3,936.9	154.5	330.0	6,719.3
Females	1,794.5	3,948.9	689.8	408.8	6,842.1
Persons	4,092.4	7,885.8	844.3	738.8	13,561.4

(a) Includes 'married but permanently separated'.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex, Australia (3220.0)*.

## Birthplace

At the 1947 Census the proportion of the population (excluding Aborigines) born in Australia had risen to its highest level (90.2%) since the beginning of European settlement and 97.9 per cent of the Australian population were either born in Australia or the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand. In that Census the largest non-British overseas-born group, the Italians, comprised only 0.4 per cent of the population (33,600), while the number of overseas-born Chinese had fallen to 6,400.

Since 1947, not only has the decline of the overseas-born population been reversed, but significant changes have taken place in the composition of that group. The progressive removal of immigration restrictions based on country of origin, race or colour between 1949 and 1973, together with the extension of assisted migration schemes to some non-British groups and refugees, have ensured a greater diversity of ethnic origin among the Australian population (*see also* section on Overseas Migration). Overseas-born groups from the United Kingdom, Eire and New Zealand combined, increased only slightly as a proportion of the total population between 1947 and 1991, from 7.7 per cent to

8.7 per cent. However, overseas-born persons from other countries increased from 2.1 per cent to 14.0 per cent during the same period. Overseas countries of birth contributing 0.1 per cent or more of the total population — apart from the United Kingdom, Eire and New Zealand — increased in number from 4 in 1947 to over 36 in 1991.

The largest overseas-born group at the present time remains those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, having risen to 1,222,000 or 7.0 per cent of the population in 1991. By comparison, the second largest overseas-born group, New Zealanders, comprised only 1.7 per cent of the Australian population in 1991 (287,500). Six of the first ten largest overseas-born groups are European, the exceptions being New Zealand, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines (Hong Kong ranks eleventh). Although Europe remains the region of origin of the majority of the overseas-born population, the number of European-born persons has declined as a proportion of the total Australian population from 16.7 per cent in 1976 to 13.9 per cent in 1991, while persons born in other regions have increased their share. Between 1976 and 1991, the European-born population increased by only 72,100 compared with an increase of 537,000 in the Asian-born group.

The proportion of the Australian population born in Asia has increased continually from 0.3 per cent in 1947 to 4.1 per cent in 1991. As recently as 1966, however, only two Asian birthplace groups had populations amounting to more than 0.1 per cent of the Australian population, namely China and India. By 1991 this number had increased to 12. Sources of the largest Asian-born populations in 1991 were Vietnam (133,440), Malaysia (84,090), Philippines (74,330), Hong Kong (73,210), China (68,510) and India (65,430), comprising 0.8, 0.5, 0.4, 0.4, 0.4 and 0.4 per cent of the Australian population respectively.

In June 1991 the median age of the overseas-born population was 42.3 years, 10 years older than the median (32.5 years) for the population as a whole. The median

age of the Australian-born population was 28.9 years. Overseas-born population groups from recent source countries e.g. Lebanon, South-East Asia, South America and South Africa are noticeably younger than those from traditional sources — the United Kingdom and Europe.

At the 1986 Census, 77.6 per cent of the population was born in Australia. Of these, 74.9 per cent reported Australia as the birthplace of both their parents. This implies that 58.1 per cent of the total population of Australia are at least second generation Australians. A further 13.7 per cent of the Australian-born population (10.6% of the total population) had one parent born in Australia. Conversely, 41.9 per cent of the total population were either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas.

#### BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS OF AUSTRALIAN-BORN PERSONS, CENSUS 1986

<i>Birthplace of parents</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Both parents born in Australia	9,070,739	74.9
One parent born in Australia, one born overseas or not stated	1,657,548	13.7
Other	1,382,169	11.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,110,456</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0).*

#### Citizenship

The granting of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. Prior to 26 January 1949, aliens who were naturalised became British subjects but with the introduction of the Act, all such persons automatically became Australian citizens.

Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia provided that at the time of birth one of the parents is an Australian citizen or legal resident of Australia, by birth abroad to an Australian parent, or by grant of citizenship to a person resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act. All persons

are now eligible for Australian citizenship provided that they have resided in Australia for at least two years, are of good character, have an adequate knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

At the 1981 Census, 88.7 per cent of the population were Australian citizens, with 11.9 per cent of these being born overseas. At the 1986 Census the proportion of the population with Australian citizenship was identical to the 1981 level, but the share of those born overseas increased to 12.3 per cent.

## COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP, 1981 AND 1986

Country	Persons		Percentage	
	1981	1986	1981	1986
Australia				
Born in Australia	11,393,861	11,917,624	78.2	76.4
Born overseas	1,537,212	1,919,474	10.5	12.3
Other	1,413,654	1,331,335	9.7	8.5
Not stated	231,603	433,723	1.6	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,576,330</b>	<b>15,602,156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0).

## Religion

Details on religious affiliation have been collected in all Australian censuses. However, since the 1933 Census, it has been clearly stated on the census form that answering the question on religion is not obligatory. By 1986, 25.0 per cent of the population

described themselves as either having 'no religion' or did not answer the question.

Census data show that the Australian population is predominantly Christian with the majority associating themselves with the two major groups, the Catholic Church and the Church of England (26.1% and 23.9% respectively at the 1986 Census).

## MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS, SELECTED CENSUS DATES (per cent)

Year	Church of England	Catholic	Other Christian	Total Christian	Non- Christian	Not stated or no religion	Total
1971	31.0	27.0	28.2	86.2	0.8	13.1	100.0
1976	27.7	25.7	25.2	78.6	0.9	20.5	100.0
1981	26.1	26.0	24.3	76.4	1.4	22.3	100.0
1986	23.9	26.1	23.0	73.0	2.0	25.0	100.0

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971 — Bulletin 1: Summary of Population, Australia (2.83.9); Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1976 — Population and Dwellings Summary Tables, Australia (2417.0); Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0) (1981, 1986).

The remainder of the Christian population, amounting to 23 per cent of the total population at the 1986 Census, is dispersed between several other groups, with only three denominations comprising more than 2.0 per cent of the population: the Uniting Church (7.6%), Presbyterian (3.6%) and Orthodox (2.7%).

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of persons of non-Christian religions since 1981, from 1.4 per cent to 2.0 per cent in 1986. At the 1986 Census, Muslims comprised 35.0 per cent of the non-Christian response, Buddhists 25.0 per cent and Hebrews 20.0 per cent.

## Households

The incidence of household formation in Australia has been exceeding population growth rates, with the average number of persons per household declining from 3.3 in 1971 to 2.9 in 1986. Much of the decline in the number of persons per household can be attributed to reductions in completed family size together with the growing tendency for children to leave home earlier; at the same time there have been changing social attitudes to divorce, people living alone, de facto marriages and households formed by groups of unrelated young people. There has been continuing growth in one and two-person households, rising from 47.2 per cent of all households in 1981 to 49.5 per cent at the 1986 Census.

Only a small proportion of households include more than one family, some three per cent at the 1981 Census, which declined further to 2.4 per cent at the 1986 Census. The 1986 Census indicated that 47.6 per cent of total families had no dependent children and 52.4 per cent did have dependent children. Among families with dependent children,

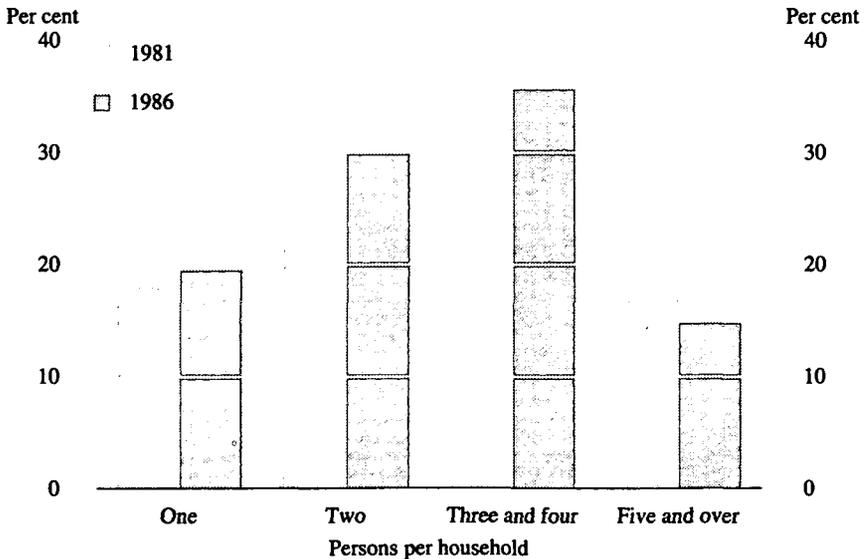
35.9 per cent had one child and 64.1 per cent had two or more dependent children. Single parent families comprised 7.9 per cent of total families and were mostly composed of parent and dependent children (76.3%); the balance included an additional adult family member (23.7%).

#### POPULATION IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

Year	Persons in private households	Private households	Persons per private household
1971	12,155,386	3,670,554	3.31
1976	12,942,708	4,140,521	3.12
1981	13,918,445	4,668,909	2.98
1986	14,920,230	5,187,422	2.88

Source: Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0).

#### PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE



Source: Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0).

## FAMILY TYPE AND COMPOSITION, 1986

<i>Family Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<b>Families without dependent children</b>		
Couple	1,271,872	30.6
Couple and adult family member	449,208	10.8
Related adults	258,768	6.2
<b>Families with dependent children</b>		
Couple and 1 dependent child	403,298	9.7
Couple and 2 or more dependent children	1,072,968	25.8
Couple and 1 dependent child and adult family member	206,496	5.0
Couple and 2 or more dependent children and adult family member	171,230	4.1
Single parent and 1 dependent child	124,166	3.0
Single parent and 2 or more dependent children	123,016	3.0
Single parent and 1 dependent child and adult family member	48,054	1.2
Single parent and 2 or more dependent children and adult family member	28,935	0.7
<b>Total families</b>	<b>4,158,011</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Census 86 — Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia (2487.0).

## VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e., births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these registrations is available for each year since the 1860s and more detailed information since the 1910s. The number of divorces has been published since 1891, but detailed data on aspects of divorces and divorcing couples have been published on a consistent basis only since the 1950s.

## Births

Recent fertility levels in Australia have been lower than at any time since records began. In 1990 the crude birth rate was 15.4 per 1,000 population and the total fertility rate was 1.91 per woman, showing a change from the long-term decline in fertility up to 1989. Australia's current fertility rates, however, remain higher than in several other similarly 'more developed' countries in Europe, North America and Japan.

CRUDE BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES  
SELECTED LOW FERTILITY COUNTRIES

<i>Country</i>	<i>Crude birth rate</i>		<i>Total fertility rate(a)</i>	
	<i>1970</i>	<i>Latest year</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>Latest year</i>
Australia	20.6	15.4 (1990)	2.86	1.91 (1990)
Canada	17.4	15.0 (1989)	2.26	1.66 (1987)
France	16.7	13.5 (1990)	2.47	1.80 (1990)
Germany(b)	13.3	11.5 (1990)	2.01	1.48 (1990)
Germany(c)	13.9	10.5 (1990)	n.a.	1.41 (1990)
Italy	16.8	9.8 (1990)	2.37	1.27 (1990)
Japan	18.8	10.0 (1990)	2.07	1.57 (1989)
New Zealand	22.1	17.5 (1989)	3.16	2.10 (1989)
Spain	19.6	10.2 (1990)	2.87	1.33 (1990)
United Kingdom	16.2	13.9 (1990)	2.38	1.85 (1990)
United States of America	18.2	16.7 (1990)	2.46	2.09 (1990)

(a) The total fertility rate is the sum of the age-specific birth rates. It represents the number of children that would be born to a female who experienced, throughout her child-bearing life, the age specific rates for the years shown. (b) Formerly West Germany. (c) Formerly East Germany.

Source: Population No. 4, 1991, Review of L'Institut National D'Etudes Demographique, Paris.

Despite an overall fertility decline, the number of births has shown an increasing trend during the 1980s because of increasing numbers of women of reproductive age. The number of births in 1990 (262.6 thousand) was the highest since 1972, though not as great as the record number of 276.4 thousand in 1971.

Women now prefer to commence child-bearing later and complete their families earlier than previous generations. The proportion of first nuptial confinements occurring in the first two years of marriage is continuing to decline. For women married in 1971 the proportion was 46.5 per cent, but for women married in 1988 it had fallen to 33.3 per cent. This postponement of child-bearing in marriage is having a cumulative effect in the context of the rising median age at marriage (21.4 years in 1971 and 25.7 years in 1988).

In the 1970s, fertility declines became obvious across all age-groups, falling rapidly between

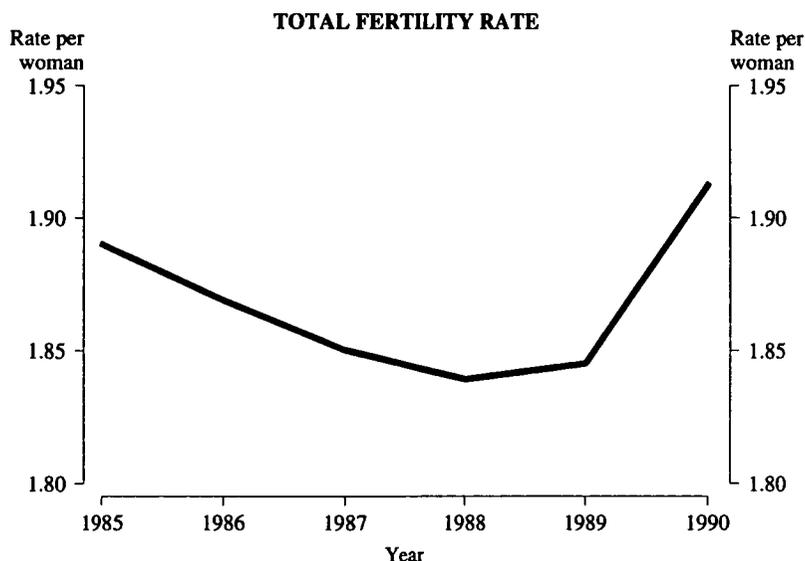
1971 and 1980, and marginally since then. This decline has been attributed to demographic, social, economic and attitudinal changes of the 1970s, which individually or collectively influenced fertility behaviour during this period. Between 1971 and 1990, the total fertility rate declined by 35 per cent. The largest declines in age-specific fertility rates occurred to younger women aged 15–29 years, in particular the 20–24 age group. Women were deferring their first birth to the middle range of their reproductive years and reducing child-bearing at older ages. In 1971, 46.6 per cent of births occurred to women aged 15–24. By 1990, the corresponding figure was 26.0 per cent. The proportion of births occurring to women aged 25–34 in 1971 was 45.9 per cent, whereas in 1990 it was 64.0 per cent. Women in the 25–29 age group maintained the highest fertility rates.

#### AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility (per woman)
	15–19(a)	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49(b)	
<i>per '000 women</i>								
Average annual								
1976–80	30.7	116.4	143.9	73.8	23.8	4.8	0.3	1.968
1981–85(c)	25.7	100.8	144.5	82.0	25.4	4.4	0.3	1.915
1986–90	21.0	83.0	138.8	94.1	30.8	4.8	0.2	1.864
Annual								
1985	22.5	94.1	143.4	87.2	25.4	4.4	0.2	1.891
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1.870
1987	20.6	85.2	139.8	90.6	28.9	4.8	0.3	1.851
1988	20.2	81.8	137.2	93.4	30.5	4.6	0.2	1.840
1989	20.6	78.6	136.2	96.0	32.5	5.0	0.2	1.846
1990	22.0	79.6	139.0	101.6	34.7	5.5	0.2	1.913

(a) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15. (b) Includes births to mothers aged 50 and over. (c) Rates are adjusted for late registrations of births in New South Wales in 1984.

Source: *Births, Australia (3301.0)*.



Source: *Births, Australia (3301.0)*.

**MARRIED FEMALES UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE  
YEAR MARRIED AND TIMING OF FIRST NUPTIAL CONFINEMENT**

Year of marriage	Premaritally pregnant(b)	Having the first nuptial confinement before the end of given year of marriage duration(a) — cumulative per cent						Number of brides aged under 45 years
		1	2	3	4	5	10	
1971	19.8	28.1	46.5	60.6	70.6	77.0	87.0	112,817
1972	18.0	25.5	43.7	57.9	68.0	74.9	86.2	109,007
1973	15.6	22.8	41.0	54.7	64.8	72.0	84.5	107,563
1974	13.4	20.6	38.0	51.5	61.7	69.0	82.4	105,759
1975	12.2	19.3	36.9	50.5	60.8	68.5	82.6	98,951
1976	10.9	18.0	35.0	47.5	57.2	64.5	76.2	103,108
1977	11.1	17.6	34.1	46.9	57.0	64.5	77.4	98,551
1978	11.3	17.7	34.6	47.8	57.8	65.1	77.7	96,859
1979	11.3	17.7	35.4	48.8	58.7	65.7	78.2	98,286
1980	11.5	17.9	35.7	48.9	58.6	65.5	77.6	103,019
1981	11.3	17.9	33.5	48.3	57.8	64.6	—	107,855
1982	10.4	16.8	33.7	46.0	55.3	61.8	—	111,295
1983	9.9	16.0	33.0	45.8	55.0	61.6	—	108,931
1984	10.1	16.6	34.8	48.1	57.8	64.9	—	102,785
1985	9.2	15.4	32.3	44.5	53.5	60.2	—	109,377
1986	8.9	15.0	31.6	43.8	53.0	—	—	108,442
1987	9.0	15.4	32.1	44.7	—	—	—	107,668
1988	9.2	15.8	32.8	—	—	—	—	110,163
1989	9.3	16.3	—	—	—	—	—	110,245

(a) Includes premarital pregnancies. (b) Premaritally pregnant comprises wives who delivered their first child within marriage duration of 0-7 completed months.

Source: *Births, Australia (3301.0)*.

**TOTAL CONFINEMENTS BY NUPTIALITY AND PREVIOUS ISSUE TO THE CURRENT MARRIAGE OF MOTHER (NUPTIAL BIRTHS)**

Period	Ex-nuptial confinements	Married mothers with number of previous issue to the current marriage of						Total	
		0	1	2	3	4	5 or more		Not stated
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGES</b>									
1976-1980	24,851	77,877	69,291	34,288	11,119	3,332	2,451	15	223,224
1981-1985	34,248	82,279	70,089	34,399	11,354	3,093	1,918	103	237,483
1986-1990	47,492	81,246	68,588	33,584	10,887	2,919	1,723	5	246,444
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>									
1985(a)	37,933	82,860	73,114	34,774	11,246	2,867	1,877	—	244,671
1986	40,580	80,563	70,017	33,937	10,955	2,904	1,723	20	240,699
1987	43,418	80,241	68,730	33,472	10,793	2,873	1,742	—	241,269
1988	46,293	79,841	68,432	33,419	10,650	2,856	1,699	3	243,193
1989	50,321	81,355	67,459	33,066	10,856	2,874	1,688	3	247,622
1990	56,850	84,228	68,301	34,026	11,179	3,089	1,761	—	259,435

(a) These figures have been affected by late registration in New South Wales.

Source: *Births, Australia (3301.0)*.

Concurrent with the downward movement that has occurred in the levels of fertility, the family formation patterns of couples have changed. An increasing proportion of total births has now been occurring outside marriage, and for those occurring within marriage, concentration has been on the first and second order births.

Confinements resulting in ex-nuptial births have increased continually as a proportion of total confinements over the past two decades, rising from 9.3 per cent in 1971 to 21.9 per cent in 1990. The median age of ex-nuptial mothers has been lower than that at first nuptial confinement throughout the period and it seems likely that ex-nuptial births are predominantly first order births, though birth

order data are not available for ex-nuptial births.

The proportion of females having three or more children in their marriage is continuing to decline. The proportion of nuptial confinements that produced a fourth or higher order birth has declined from 22.5 per cent in 1971 to 7.9 per cent in 1990. In the same year (1990) 75.3 per cent of nuptial confinements resulted in first or second children.

### Deaths

In comparison with other countries, Australia ranks amongst those with the lowest mortality levels and the highest expectations of life.

**INFANT MORTALITY AND EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT BIRTH RATES IN SELECTED LOW MORTALITY COUNTRIES, RECENT YEARS**

Country	Infant mortality		Life expectancy at birth		
	Rate	Year	Males	Females	Year
Australia	8.2	1990	73.9	80.0	1990
Canada	7.2	1988	73.3	80.2	1987
France	7.2	1990	72.4	80.6	1989
Germany(a)	7.5	1989	72.6	79.0	1989
Germany(b)	7.6	1989	70.1	76.4	1989
Italy	8.6	1990	73.2	79.7	1988
Japan	4.6	1989	75.9	81.8	1989
New Zealand	10.2	1989	71.6	77.6	1988
Spain	7.6	1990	73.2	79.8	1987
United Kingdom	7.9	1990	72.2	77.9	1988
United States	9.1	1990	71.4	78.3	1988

(a) Formerly West Germany. (b) Formerly East Germany.

Source: *Population No.4 1991, Review of L'Institut National D'Etudes Demographique, Paris.*

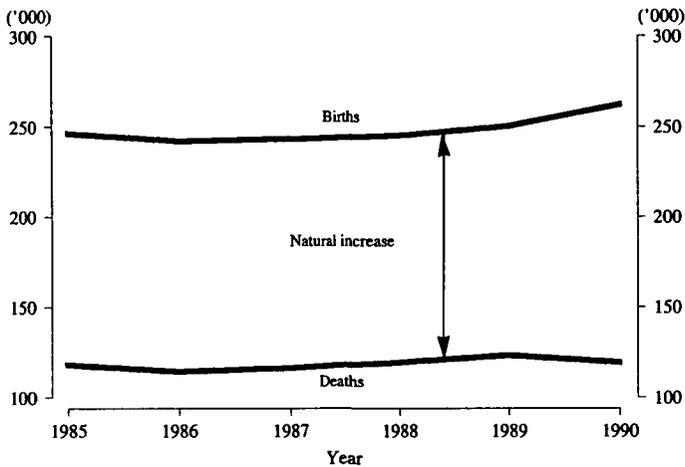
The number of deaths in 1990 was 120,062, a decline of 3.4 per cent from the previous year which, in the context of the crude death rate, resulted in a slight decrease from 7.38 to 7.00 per thousand population. Generally, the current trend is towards a levelling of the crude death rate following two decades of consistent falls.

Mortality trends, as measured by the crude death rate, are distorted by changes in the age structure of the population over time. Australian crude death rates standardised for age show a considerably greater decline in mortality levels since the early 1970s and

instead of a current levelling off, a continuation of this decline. Using the age structure of the estimated resident population of persons as at 30 June 1986 as the standard, the adjusted death rate fell from 12.9 per thousand in 1971 to 8.7 per thousand in 1990 for males and from 8.0 to 5.1 per thousand for females during the same period.

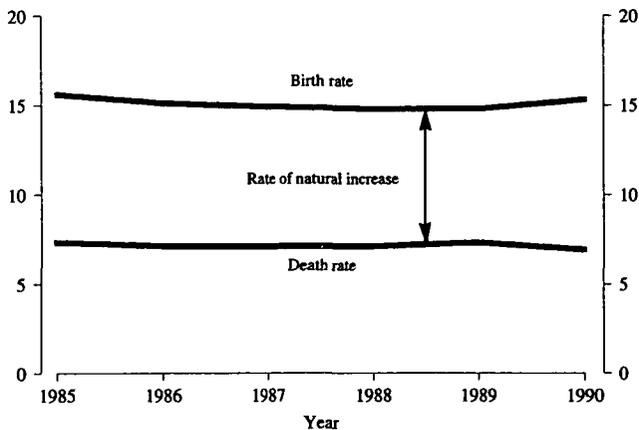
The decline in death rates is a result of continuing improvements to community health care, public awareness of health issues and advances in medical science and technology.

**BIRTHS AND DEATHS**



Source: Births, Australia (3301.0) and Deaths, Australia (3302.0).

**RATES OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS**  
(Per thousand mean population)



Source: Births, Australia (3301.0) and Deaths, Australia (3302.0).

In Australia, as in most other countries, females have lower death rates than males. Age-specific rates show this discrepancy occurring across all age groups. In 1990, e.g., the female death rate in many age groups was about half that of males. The relative difference between death rates for males and females was greatest in the age range 15 to 24 years where in 1990 the female rate was about one-third that of males. The overall effect of these differences in death rates has been to increase the proportion of females in the older age groups of the population.

Concurrent with the decline in death rates over the last two decades there has been a rise in

life expectancy at birth, increasing for males from 67.9 years to 73.9 years between the periods 1970-1972 and 1990, and correspondingly for females from 74.6 years to 80.0 years. Female life expectancy at birth has exceeded that of males throughout the period, with the difference varying from six to seven years. Contributing to the increase in life expectancy at birth is the reduction in infant mortality rates, falling from 19.5 per thousand and 15.0 per thousand for males and females respectively in 1970-72 to 9.1 and 7.2 respectively in 1990.

## AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES(a)

Period	Age group (years)																		
	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 and over
<b>MALES</b>																			
Average annual																			
1976-80	13.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.9	3.0	5.2	8.6	13.8	22.2	35.3	54.2	87.7	127.9	210.7
1981-85(b)	11.0	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.4	4.1	7.2	12.2	19.2	31.1	49.4	78.0	119.1	205.6
1986-90	9.6	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.1	3.3	5.9	10.2	19.2	27.3	44.5	70.7	110.0	188.6
Annual																			
1985(b)	11.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.2	3.7	6.6	11.4	18.5	29.5	47.1	74.7	119.4	205.1
1986	10.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.3	3.5	6.3	10.7	18.0	28.3	45.4	72.1	110.7	187.2
1987	10.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.0	3.5	6.1	10.9	17.2	27.9	45.3	71.2	111.2	190.9
1988	9.8	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.2	3.4	6.0	10.0	17.3	27.2	45.0	71.9	110.7	186.6
1989	8.9	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	3.2	5.8	9.9	16.7	27.2	45.3	71.7	113.8	196.8
1990	9.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.9	2.1	3.1	5.3	9.6	16.1	26.1	41.5	66.8	103.7	181.4
<b>FEMALES</b>																			
Average annual																			
1976-80	10.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.8	2.8	4.5	6.8	10.8	16.9	27.9	48.4	84.0	168.4
1981-85(b)	8.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.4	3.9	6.0	9.6	15.3	25.3	43.3	76.4	160.5
1986-90	7.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.1	3.4	5.4	8.6	14.0	23.9	40.3	70.8	150.2
Annual																			
1985(b)	8.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.3	3.8	5.9	9.0	14.6	25.5	42.9	76.4	157.9
1986	7.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.4	2.2	3.5	5.7	8.8	15.1	24.8	41.1	71.2	148.3
1987	7.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.1	3.5	5.5	8.6	13.9	23.9	40.8	72.1	151.3
1988	7.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	2.1	3.4	5.5	8.7	13.8	23.5	40.7	71.4	147.7
1989	7.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.0	3.3	5.3	8.7	13.7	24.3	40.1	72.8	156.9
1990	7.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.9	3.3	5.0	8.2	13.3	22.9	38.6	66.3	146.6

(a) Deaths per 1,000 mid-year population. (b) Adjusted for late registrations in New South Wales.

Source: *Deaths, Australia (3302.0)*.

Changes in levels of mortality and age-specific death rates reflect trends in the incidence of specific causes of death. The three most prevalent causes of death at the present time are ischaemic heart disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease or stroke which in 1990 collectively accounted for 61.4 per cent

of deaths registered. The incidence of deaths from both cerebrovascular disease and ischaemic heart disease are currently declining. Amongst males however, cerebrovascular disease is now exceeded by deaths from respiratory causes, which are becoming more prevalent for both sexes.

Cause of death is age and sex-related, with different causes assuming greater or lesser significance for males and females of different age groups. The most common causes of death during the first year of life are the

culmination of conditions originating in the perinatal period. These include prematurity, birth injury and respiratory conditions present from birth.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY AT VARIOUS AGES (years)

Period	At age									
	0		1		25		45		65	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1970-72(a)	67.9	74.6	68.3	74.7	45.8	51.5	27.1	32.6	12.2	15.9
1975-77(a)	69.6	75.6	69.6	76.5	46.9	53.1	28.3	34.0	13.1	17.1
1980-82(a)	71.2	78.3	71.1	78.0	48.2	54.5	29.5	35.3	13.8	18.0
1981(b)	71.4	78.4	71.2	78.1	48.3	54.7	29.6	35.4	13.9	18.1
1982(b)	71.2	78.2	71.1	77.9	48.2	54.5	29.5	35.2	13.9	17.9
1983(b)	72.1	78.7	71.9	78.4	48.9	54.9	30.1	35.6	14.2	18.3
1984(b)(c)	72.6	79.1	72.4	78.7	49.3	55.2	30.5	35.9	14.5	18.5
1985(b)(c)	72.3	78.8	72.1	78.5	49.2	55.0	30.4	35.7	14.3	18.2
1986(b)	72.9	79.2	72.6	78.8	49.6	55.3	30.9	36.0	14.7	18.5
1987(b)	73.0	79.5	72.8	79.1	49.7	55.5	31.0	36.2	14.7	18.6
1988(b)	73.1	79.5	72.8	79.1	49.8	55.6	31.1	36.3	14.8	18.7
1989(b)	73.3	79.6	73.0	79.1	50.0	55.6	31.2	36.3	14.7	18.7
1990(b)	73.9	80.0	73.5	79.6	50.5	56.1	31.7	36.7	15.2	19.0

(a) Source: Australian Life Tables, Office of the Australian Government Actuary. (b) Source: Deaths, Australia (3302.0). (c) Adjusted for late registrations in New South Wales.

In addition to the following information on causes of death, more details are contained in the chapter on Health.

### STANDARDISED DEATH RATES(a), CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of death	1971	1976	1981	1986	1989	1990
MALES						
Neoplasms	198	205	215	214	216	212
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	20	17	16	17	19	21
Cardiovascular diseases	458	419	349	292	272	250
Cerebrovascular diseases	143	123	98	73	67	61
Other circulatory diseases	62	53	40	31	29	28
Respiratory diseases	106	109	83	73	84	69
Diseases of the digestive system	29	32	32	28	29	26
Diseases of infancy	25	20	14	12	11	11
External causes(b)—accidents	80	70	58	48	46	43
—violence, suicide	21	19	20	21	22	23
Other	58	53	49	52	57	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>799</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

STANDARDISED DEATH RATES(a), CAUSES OF DEATH — *continued*

<i>Cause of death</i>	1971	1976	1981	1986	1989	1990
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Neoplasms	125	125	122	130	128	127
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	19	16	13	13	13	12
Cardiovascular diseases	246	212	175	159	150	139
Cerebrovascular diseases	136	113	86	66	59	55
Other circulatory diseases	46	37	27	20	19	18
Respiratory diseases	37	40	28	27	36	30
Diseases of the digestive system	17	18	17	17	16	16
Diseases of infancy	21	17	11	10	9	9
External causes(b)—accidents	32	28	22	20	19	18
—violence, suicide	11	7	7	7	6	6
Other	45	37	35	38	42	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>470</b>

(a) Per 100,000 persons, standardised to age distribution for persons, 1981. (b) Includes poisoning.

Source: *Unpublished ABS data.*

In 1990, external causes (accidents, violence and suicide) were the leading causes of death for each age group in the range 1–39 years, and particularly at ages 15 to 24 years where they accounted for 72.9 per cent of all deaths.

When male and female deaths were compared for particular age groups there were marked differences for certain main causes of death. For example, the male death rates for heart disease and external causes were over three times the equivalent rates for females aged 35 to 59 and 25 to 54 respectively.

The main cause of death for people in the 45–64 year age range was malignant neoplasms, accounting for 41.4 per cent of deaths. Deaths due to malignant neoplasms as a proportion of all deaths have risen slightly over the period 1980 to 1990. However, there has been little change in the distribution of cancer deaths by the primary site of growth. Malignant neoplasms of the digestive organs and peritoneum accounted for approximately 30 per cent of both male and female cancer deaths. The pattern of cancer deaths across other sites varied between the sexes. Whereas for 28.3 per cent of male deaths due to malignant neoplasms the primary site of growth was located in the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, this site accounted for only 12.7 per cent of female cancer deaths. However, malignant neoplasms of the breast accounted for 2,449 female deaths in 1990, representing 18.6 per cent of all female cancer deaths.

For people aged 65 and over the main cause of death was heart disease, accounting for 36.2 per cent of all deaths in this age group in 1990, while over all age groups 31.8 per cent of all deaths registered in Australia were attributed to heart disease. While this proportion was similar for males and females overall, the distribution of deaths by age group differed between the sexes. Heart disease was a more significant cause of death at younger ages for males than for females.

### Marriages

The number of marriages occurring in Australia reached a peak of 117,600 in 1971 which, despite a growing population, has not yet been surpassed. The 1971 peak was followed by a rapid decline in numbers which coincided with growing public acceptance of de facto relationships. Although this decline levelled off in the latter half of the 1970s and numbers have recovered since then (there were 116,959 marriages in 1990) the crude marriage rate has continued to drop. In 1990 it was 6.8 per thousand mean population.

The passing of the Family Law Act in 1976 (which provided easy and faster access to divorce) had a significant effect on the composition of marriages. Prior to the Act approximately 80–85 per cent of marriages were first marriages for both partners, but after 1976 this proportion fell to 65–70 per cent. In 1990 the figure was 67.4 per cent.

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED: RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS AND CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE**

Period	Both partners never married		One or both partners previously married		All marriages	Crude marriage rate
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		
<b>Annual averages</b>						
1976-1980	73,401	69.1	32,896	30.9	106,297	7.4
1981-1985	77,003	67.5	37,035	32.5	114,038	7.4
1986-1990	77,877	67.1	38,118	32.9	115,995	7.0
1986	76,647	66.7	38,266	33.3	114,913	7.2
1987	76,706	67.2	37,407	32.8	114,113	7.0
1988	78,400	67.1	38,416	32.9	116,816	7.1
1989	78,850	67.3	38,326	32.7	117,176	7.0
1990	78,782	67.4	38,177	32.6	116,959	6.8

Source: Marriages, Australia (3306.0).

**MEDIAN AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS**

Period	Median age of bridegrooms				Median age of brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
<b>Annual averages</b>								
1976-80	23.9	58.4	36.1	25.4	21.6	51.6	32.5	22.7
1981-85	24.9	59.8	36.6	26.4	22.7	52.2	33.5	23.9
1986-90	26.1	60.9	38.9	27.8	24.0	52.4	35.4	25.4
1986	25.6	60.5	38.3	27.3	23.5	52.6	34.8	24.9
1987	25.9	60.6	38.6	27.6	23.8	52.4	35.1	25.2
1988	26.1	60.9	38.9	27.8	24.0	52.4	35.3	25.4
1989	26.3	61.0	39.3	28.0	24.2	52.5	35.6	25.7
1990	26.4	61.3	39.5	28.1	24.3	52.3	36.0	25.8

Source: Marriages, Australia (3306.0).

**FIRST MARRIAGE RATIOS(a)**

Period	Cumulative ratios of age-groups(b)						Index of total first marriages (c)
	To 19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
<b>BRIDEGROOMS</b>							
<b>Annual average</b>							
1976-80	37.6	368.2	184.4	55.2	20.8	28.5	694.7
1981-85(d)	18.7	310.4	221.1	71.2	23.3	25.1	669.8
1986-90	8.9	240.5	245.9	94.4	30.0	24.0	643.7
<b>Annual</b>							
1985(d)	11.2	279.6	235.0	82.5	25.4	23.6	657.3
1987	9.0	247.2	241.5	90.4	27.4	24.3	639.8
1988	9.8	239.9	248.3	96.3	30.8	23.1	648.1
1989	8.4	233.3	248.8	100.0	32.0	24.9	647.2
1990	7.6	219.3	253.7	100.5	33.3	24.2	638.5

For footnotes see end of table.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATIOS(a) — *continued*

Period	Cumulative ratios of age-groups(b)						Index of total first marriages (c)
	To 19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
BRIDES							
Annual average							
1976-80	182.9	362.7	95.5	28.0	11.4	14.7	695.0
1981-85(d)	111.9	377.0	134.9	36.1	11.8	11.2	682.8
1986-90	62.5	344.0	182.1	54.9	16.5	11.5	671.5
Annual							
1985(d)	87.5	373.2	155.5	42.8	13.3	11.3	683.3
1986(d)	76.3	360.7	165.8	46.5	14.0	11.2	674.6
1987	67.3	350.0	173.5	50.8	15.8	11.5	668.9
1988	63.1	346.9	184.5	55.2	16.3	11.2	677.2
1989	56.5	336.8	190.6	59.9	18.3	12.1	674.2
1990	49.2	325.7	196.1	62.0	18.1	11.7	662.6

(a) Per 1,000 mid-year population of males and females of each age. (b) Ratios for each age-group are calculated by summing the ratios for single years. (c) The sum of all single year ratios. (d) These ratios have been affected by late registrations of births, deaths and marriages in New South Wales.

Source: *Marriages, Australia (3306.0)*.

Since 1971 there has been a reversal in the post-war trend towards younger marriages. The median age at first marriage for both males and females is now rising, having increased from 23.3 years in 1971 to 26.4 years in 1990 for males and from 21.0 to 24.3 years for females. The median age for second and subsequent marriages is also rising. There is also a trend towards a narrower gap between the age of the bride and groom at the time of first marriage, having fallen from 2.3 years in 1971 to 2.1 years in 1990.

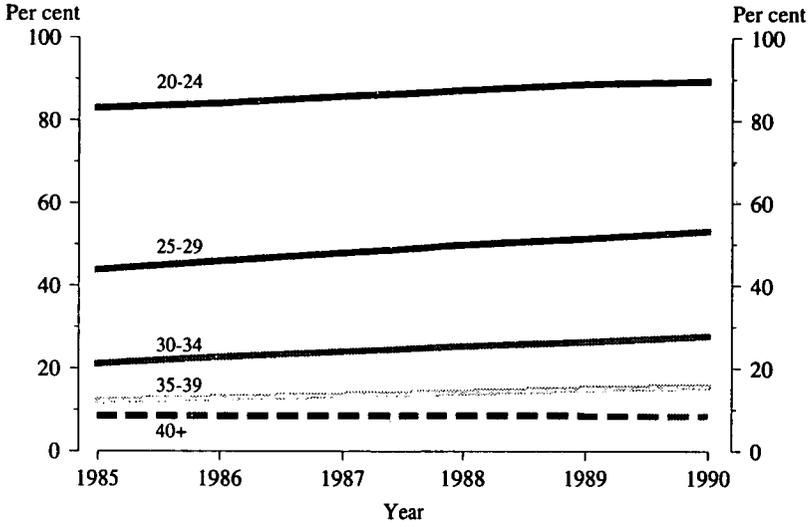
The increasing median age at first marriage is reflected in first marriage ratios which show declines for both brides and grooms under the age of 25 and increases in the age range 25-34. The discrepancy between ages at first marriage of brides and grooms is also reflected in the lower ratios for grooms under the age of 25. The Index of total first marriages, which is the cumulative total of first marriage ratios at each age, has been declining throughout the last two decades. It shows that the falling crude marriage rate cannot be attributed to changes in the age

structure of the population, i.e., that there has been a real reduction in the propensity to marry in the Australian community.

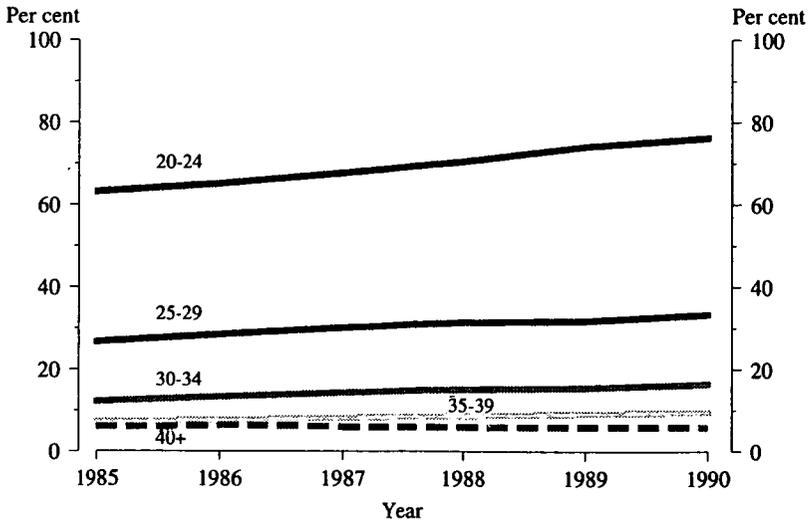
The decline in first marriage ratios under the age of 25 and the increase in the median age at first marriage over the last decade may reflect to some extent the tendency of some couples to live together before getting married. It seems reasonable to postulate that amongst de facto couples a certain proportion will eventually marry, even though at a later age, whereas others will prefer to remain unmarried. Analysis of current trends in marriage is qualified by the absence of any time series data on the formation of de facto relationships. However there is evidence (from the Family Formation Surveys in 1982 and 1986, the 1986 Census and, indirectly, Censuses in 1971, 1976 and 1981) that the number of de facto relationships is growing. At 30 June 1986 there were 204,900 de facto 'couple families' compared with 3,370,100 married couple families.

**PROPORTION OF PERSONS NEVER MARRIED BY AGE GROUP,  
AT 30 JUNE**

**Males**



**Females**



Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex, Australia (3220.0).*

## Divorces

Divorce in Australia comes under the jurisdiction of the *Family Law Act 1975*. This Act, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce, namely irretrievable breakdown of marriage, which is established by a minimum one-year separation of the husband and wife. Passing of the Act provided easier and faster access to divorce for either party by its removal of the need to prove fault, together with a reduction of the separation period from five years to one year. After the introduction of the Family Law Act, the number of divorces rose from annual averages of 17,350 to 45,220 between 1971-75 and 1976-80 respectively, while the median duration of marriage of divorcing couples decreased from 12.5 years in 1971 to 10.2 years in 1981, increased slightly to 10.6 in the years to 1986 and then declined again to 10.1 years in 1990.

There is currently a tendency for divorce to occur in the early years of marriage and at an early age. The proportion of divorces taking place within the first five years of marriage was 20.9 per cent in 1990 and within the first 10 years it was 49.4 per cent. The highest divorce rates for both males and females occurred in the 25-29 year age group, with 19.7 per thousand married men and 20.3 per thousand married women completing divorce proceedings. The incidence of divorce in 1990 was 10.8 per thousand married men and 10.9 per thousand married women. After a period between 1982 and 1987 in which a significant decline occurred (from 12.5 to 10.6 per thousand married population) the rate seems to be achieving some stability.

### DIVORCES

<i>Period</i>	<i>Divorces</i>
<i>Annual averages</i>	
1976-80	45,220
1981-85	42,396
1986-90	40,833
<i>Annual totals</i>	
1985	39,830
1986	39,417
1987	39,725
1988	41,007
1989	41,383
1990	42,635

Source: *Divorces, Australia (3307.0)*.

## DIVORCES: DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Year	Duration of marriage (years)					Total Per cent	Median duration of marriage (years)
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20 and over		
<b>AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE</b>							
Annual averages							
1976-80	18.6	28.9	18.6	12.3	21.6	100.0	10.6
1981-85	21.0	27.2	19.7	13.2	18.9	100.0	10.4
1986-90	21.4	27.6	17.4	14.0	19.6	100.0	10.2
Annual totals							
1985	21.2	26.4	18.7	14.1	19.5	100.0	10.6
1986	21.7	26.2	17.8	14.3	20.0	100.0	10.6
1987	22.1	26.9	17.3	14.4	19.3	100.0	10.2
1988	21.4	28.1	17.3	14.2	19.1	100.0	10.1
1989	20.9	28.3	17.1	13.9	19.8	100.0	10.2
1990	20.9	28.5	17.3	13.1	20.2	100.0	10.1
<b>AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION</b>							
Annual averages							
1976-80	37.1	24.1	14.8	10.7	13.3	100.0	7.3
1981-85	36.6	23.5	16.5	10.9	12.5	100.0	7.6
1986-90	38.1	22.0	15.2	11.8	12.9	100.0	7.4
Annual totals							
1985	36.6	22.3	16.7	11.6	12.9	100.0	7.7
1986	37.6	21.5	16.0	11.7	13.2	100.0	7.6
1987	38.3	21.7	15.4	11.8	12.8	100.0	7.3
1988	38.5	22.1	15.1	11.8	12.6	100.0	7.3
1989	37.9	22.3	14.9	12.0	12.7	100.0	7.3
1990	38.2	22.4	14.4	11.7	13.0	100.0	7.3

Source: Divorces, Australia (3307.0).

The current low median duration between marriage and final separation combined with increasing average interval between marriage and first birth (see Births section above) is having the beneficial effect of reducing the proportion of divorcing couples with children.

The proportion of divorces in which children were involved declined from 61.6 per cent in 1983 to 55.3 per cent in 1989 and rose slightly to 55.6 per cent in 1990. The average number of children per divorce has remained steady at 1.9.

## AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES PER 1,000 MARRIED POPULATION

Year	Age group (years)									Total	
	Under 25		25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59		60 and over
	HUSBAND										
Census years											
1976		17.9	31.6	28.8	23.9	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.1	
1981		13.8	22.4	18.9	16.2	13.5	10.9	8.3	5.2	2.3	
Annual totals											
1985		12.2	18.6	17.8	15.8	13.4	10.7	7.7	5.6	2.1	
1986		12.1	18.6	17.1	14.8	13.3	11.1	8.3	5.4	2.1	
1987		12.3	18.7	17.8	15.0	13.0	10.8	7.8	5.1	2.1	
1988		12.2	19.3	18.3	15.6	13.3	11.0	8.0	5.2	2.0	
1989		12.9	19.1	17.9	15.3	13.4	11.1	8.1	5.5	2.1	
1990		12.9	19.7	18.2	15.7	13.6	11.5	8.5	5.6	2.0	
WIFE											
Census years											
1976		22.7	31.5	26.9	22.0	19.2	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.1	
1981		18.0	22.0	16.9	14.7	11.8	8.9	6.2	4.1	1.8	
Annual totals											
1985		15.3	19.0	16.5	14.4	12.1	9.0	5.7	3.8	1.6	
1986		15.9	18.5	15.8	13.7	12.0	9.5	6.0	3.7	1.5	
1987		16.6	18.9	16.0	13.8	11.8	9.2	5.7	3.5	1.5	
1988		16.8	19.6	16.6	14.1	12.0	9.4	5.7	3.6	1.4	
1989		16.9	19.5	16.3	14.1	12.3	9.2	6.1	3.6	1.4	
1990		18.3	20.3	16.5	14.3	12.5	9.6	6.3	3.6	1.3	

Source: Divorces, Australia (3307.0).

## DIVORCES: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE

Period	Number of children						Total divorces	Total children	Average number of children(a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more			
	—per cent—								
1976-80	37.6	22.5	24.3	10.5	3.6	1.5	226,100	276,088	2.0
1981-85	38.8	21.5	26.1	10.1	2.7	0.8	211,979	252,198	1.9
1986-90	42.7	21.1	24.6	8.9	2.3	0.6	204,165	221,906	1.9
1985	39.4	21.1	26.2	10.0	2.6	0.7	39,830	46,800	1.9
1986	40.3	21.2	25.8	9.5	2.5	0.7	39,417	45,231	1.9
1987	41.4	21.7	25.1	9.0	2.2	0.6	39,723	44,050	1.9
1988	42.5	21.5	24.7	8.7	2.2	0.5	41,007	44,395	1.9
1989	44.7	20.4	23.7	8.7	2.1	0.5	41,383	43,317	1.9
1990	44.4	20.5	23.8	8.6	2.3	0.5	42,635	44,913	1.9

(a) Divorces involving one or more children.

Source: Divorces, Australia (3307.0).

## Remarriages

In the decade to 1990 the number of remarriages (i.e., marriages involving one or more previously married parties) remained steady but on a higher plateau than in the 1970s. The 1990 total of 38,177 remarriages, which represented 32.6 per cent of all marriages, was typical of the current level. The average number of remarriages in the second half of the 1970s, 1976-80, was 32,900 or 30.9 per cent of all marriages. This was also a period in which numbers remained remarkably steady.

The reason for the sudden rise in remarriages at the beginning of the 1980s was brought about entirely by growth in the numbers of marriages in which one or both parties were

divorced at the time of marriage and was an after-effect of the *Family Law Act 1976* (see Divorces section above).

Set against rising population numbers, the current plateau in the number of remarriages is resulting in declining remarriage rates. The remarriage rate for males was 59.7 per thousand widowed and divorced male population in 1990, down from 84.2 in 1981. The female rate has fallen from 30.5 in 1981 to 24.9 in 1990. Again (see Marriages section above) the absence of data on de facto unions of people previously married qualifies analysis of current trends. The discrepancy between male and female remarriage rates is caused by longer female survival and therefore greater numbers of females being available for remarriage at older ages.

### MARRIAGES IN WHICH ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

Period	Both partners divorced		One partner divorced		Other(a)		Total (No.)
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	
Annual averages							
1976-80	9,961	30.3	19,924	60.6	3,011	9.2	32,896
1981-85(b)	12,125	32.7	22,399	60.5	2,511	6.8	37,035
1986-90(b)	12,658	33.2	23,111	60.6	2,353	6.2	38,122
Annual totals							
1985(b)	12,698	33.3	22,973	60.4	2,383	6.3	38,054
1986(b)	12,870	33.5	22,868	59.9	2,528	6.5	38,266
1987	12,438	33.2	22,594	60.4	2,396	6.4	37,428
1988	12,709	33.1	23,359	60.8	2,348	6.1	38,416
1989	12,471	32.5	23,496	61.3	2,359	6.2	38,326
1990	12,802	33.5	23,239	60.9	2,136	5.6	38,177

(a) Includes 'not stated' previous marital status. (b) The statistics for 1984, 1985 and 1986 were affected by late registrations in New South Wales.

Source: *Marriages, Australia (3306.0)*.

## REMARRIAGES, DIVORCED AND WIDOWED PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER

Year	Total marriages	Remarriages of persons previously			Remarriage rates		
		Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
MALES							
Census years					(a)	(b)	(c)
1976	109,973	3,777	19,404	23,181	29.6	201.2	103.5
1981	113,905	3,152	23,293	26,445	23.1	131.1	84.2
Annual totals							
1985	115,493	2,843	25,129	27,972	19.8	100.7	71.2
1986	114,913	2,952	25,285	28,237	20.9	101.8	72.5
1987	114,113	2,920	24,602	27,522	19.9	89.3	65.2
1988	116,816	2,845	25,281	28,126	19.1	87.5	64.2
1989	117,176	2,855	25,124	27,979	18.9	83.4	61.8
1990	116,959	2,729	25,221	27,950	17.9	80.0	59.7
FEMALES							
Census years					(d)	(e)	(f)
1976	109,973	4,378	18,161	22,539	7.9	146.3	33.3
1981	113,905	3,727	21,870	25,597	6.1	96.9	30.5
Annual totals							
1985	115,493	3,414	23,240	26,654	5.3	75.7	27.9
1986	114,913	3,564	23,279	26,843	5.6	74.8	28.2
1987	114,113	3,393	22,783	26,176	5.1	67.1	26.1
1988	116,816	3,324	23,496	26,820	5.0	65.8	26.1
1989	117,176	3,357	23,313	26,670	4.9	62.5	25.4
1990	116,959	3,185	23,622	26,807	4.6	60.5	24.9

(a) Per thousand widowed males. (b) Per thousand divorced males. (c) Per thousand widowed and divorced males. (d) Per thousand widowed females. (e) Per thousand divorced females. (f) Per thousand widowed and divorced females.

Source: *Marriages, Australia (3306.0)*.

## MIGRATION

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from passenger cards which are collected from all incoming and outgoing travellers under the *Migration Act 1958*. Earlier statistics were obtained from Shipping and Plane manifests required under various Acts.

### Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is presently regulated by the *Migration Act 1958* which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the introduction of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited non-citizen. Exempted persons include New Zealand citizens, diplomatic and consular representatives of other countries, and seamen and air crew who enter Australian ports while on leave.

Until recently, total net gains (i.e., the excess of total arrivals over total departures) provided

a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, because of the large increase in short-term movements (8.7 million in 1990), distortions arising from seasonality of these movements have become very large. For the purpose of estimating the population of Australia and the States and Territories, therefore, the migration component of population growth has been measured since 1 July 1971 by reference to permanent and long-term movements only. Net permanent and long-term migration is estimated to have directly contributed 42.5 per cent of the total population increase between 1971 and 1990.

Throughout the last two decades, British migrants have remained the most numerous group of settlers, although they have declined in absolute numbers and as a proportion of total settler arrivals. In the first half of the 1970s they comprised 41.2 per cent of settler arrivals but for the second half of the 1980s, this proportion had fallen to 19.5 per cent. At the same time the number of settlers from other European sources, such as Italy, Greece,

Yugoslavia, Germany and the Netherlands, have also declined. Indirectly, though, the fall in British and European immigration has been

somewhat offset by substantial increases in settlers arriving from New Zealand, although these have declined over the last two years.

#### BIRTHPLACE OF SETTLER ARRIVALS(a)

Birthplace	'000				Per cent			
	1971-75	1976-80	1981-85	1986-90	1971-75	1976-80	1981-85	1986-90
United Kingdom and Ireland	226.0	94.8	115.9	123.7	41.2	25.7	25.2	19.5
New Zealand	17.5	46.5	48.6	80.7	3.2	12.6	10.6	12.7
Italy	18.4	6.6	4.3	2.3	3.4	1.8	0.9	0.4
Yugoslavia	40.3	7.9	7.3	12.7	7.3	2.2	1.6	2.0
Greece	21.1	5.6	3.9	3.5	3.8	1.5	0.8	0.6
Vietnam	(b)	36.4	47.2	43.1	(b)	9.8	10.3	6.8
Germany	10.3	5.1	11.6	6.3	1.9	1.4	2.5	1.0
United States of America	19.5	6.1	8.4	9.6	3.6	1.7	1.8	1.5
Lebanon	12.8	18.1	7.0	15.1	2.3	4.9	1.5	2.4
Netherlands	5.6	4.7	6.4	2.6	1.0	1.3	1.4	0.4
India	12.1	4.5	8.3	15.0	2.2	1.2	1.8	2.4
South Africa	6.3	11.2	12.2	16.9	1.1	3.0	2.7	2.7
Poland	2.2	3.6	14.8	8.4	0.4	1.0	3.2	1.3
Turkey	11.6	5.0	3.7	5.8	2.1	1.4	0.8	0.9
Philippines	3.1	8.4	15.4	37.4	0.6	2.3	3.4	5.9
Malaysia	4.8	8.7	10.4	28.7	0.9	2.4	2.3	4.5
Hong Kong	(b)	5.4	9.9	32.4	(b)	1.5	2.2	5.1
Kampuchea	(b)	2.4	10.3	5.0	(b)	0.7	2.2	0.8
Other	136.8	88.1	113.8	186.6	24.9	23.9	24.8	29.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>548.4</b>	<b>369.1</b>	<b>459.4</b>	<b>635.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Permanent arrivals only. (b) The statistics for this country are not separately available but are included in the category 'Other'.

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3404.0)*.

Since the first large intakes of Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s increasing numbers of settlers have been arriving from Asian countries. Growth is currently strongest in the numbers arriving from Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Hong Kong, which combined, have accounted for 22.3 per cent of the settler arrivals between 1986 and 1990.

Since 1978-79, family immigration has increased in importance, with migration of family members now amounting to over 40 per cent of settler arrivals. Another recent trend has been the increase in non-visaed migrants to Australia. These are primarily New Zealand citizens migrating under the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement under which Australian and New Zealand citizens may enter each country without the need to obtain visas or entry permits. Other non-visaed migrants include children born to Australian citizens overseas, persons who have acquired Australian citizenship overseas and residents of

the External Australian Territories of Norfolk Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island. New Zealand migrants increased from 17,500 to 80,700 between 1971-75 and 1986-90 and as a proportion of total migrants from 3.2 per cent to 12.7 per cent between those periods. In 1990, New Zealanders comprised 7.4 per cent of total settler arrivals for the year.

The age composition of settlers has been younger than that of Australia's population for some time and reflects the predominance of young families arriving in Australia. Persons aged 65 years and over represented 3.6 per cent of migrants arriving between 1971 and 1985, which contrasts with the share of these people in Australia's population of 10.5 per cent in 1986. In 1990, 2.9 per cent of settlers were aged 65 years and over, whereas the share in the total population has risen to 11.2 per cent.

## PERMANENT ARRIVALS BY SEX AND AGE, PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

Period	Age group						Total number
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
<b>MALES</b>							
Annual averages							
1976-80	13.4	19.4	20.9	34.4	8.1	3.8	36,830
1981-85	12.2	19.1	19.0	38.4	7.8	3.6	46,760
1986-90	10.8	18.1	16.5	42.3	9.0	3.3	63,110
1985	11.4	18.3	19.0	38.8	8.8	3.7	41,200
1986	10.4	18.2	18.3	40.0	9.1	3.9	51,000
1987	11.2	18.0	16.6	41.8	8.7	3.7	63,800
1988	11.0	18.3	15.6	43.0	8.9	3.1	75,720
1989	10.7	18.1	16.7	42.0	9.5	3.1	64,490
1990	10.7	17.7	15.5	44.9	8.6	2.6	60,570
<b>FEMALES</b>							
Annual averages							
1976-80	12.5	17.3	21.9	32.9	10.5	4.9	37,000
1981-85	11.8	17.4	19.3	37.6	9.4	4.5	45,120
1986-90	10.2	16.4	18.2	41.5	9.8	3.7	64,040
1985	10.5	16.2	19.7	38.6	10.5	4.6	40,800
1986	10.0	15.8	19.2	40.4	10.3	4.3	52,330
1987	10.7	16.3	18.0	40.8	10.0	4.2	64,490
1988	10.6	17.1	17.4	41.8	9.5	3.5	75,830
1989	9.9	16.6	18.5	41.4	9.9	3.6	66,570
1990	10.0	16.3	18.1	43.3	9.2	3.1	61,000
<b>PERSONS</b>							
Annual averages							
1976-80	13.0	18.3	21.4	33.6	9.3	4.3	73,830
1981-85	12.0	18.3	19.2	38.0	8.6	4.0	91,890
1986-90	10.5	17.2	17.4	41.9	9.4	3.5	127,160
1985	11.0	17.2	19.3	38.7	9.6	4.2	82,000
1986	10.2	17.0	18.8	40.2	9.7	4.1	103,330
1987	11.0	17.2	17.3	41.3	9.4	4.0	128,290
1988	10.8	17.7	16.5	42.4	9.2	3.3	151,550
1989	10.3	17.3	17.6	41.7	9.7	3.3	131,060
1990	10.4	17.0	16.8	44.1	8.9	2.9	121,560

Source: Unpublished ABS data.

Despite the comparative youthfulness of the settlers, their median age has been rising. In 1971 it was 23.1 years and in 1990 it was 27.1 years. This rise has been particularly marked since 1981, when the numbers of migrants under the 'family reunion' category began to increase. At the younger ages, declines have taken place since the mid-1970s in the proportion of settlers in the 15-24 year age group while there has been an increase in the proportion of settlers in the 25-44 year age group. The age structure has remained relatively stable over the last five years.

The sex ratio of settlers tends to be high in years of large intake, and falls as intake declines. There was a rise in the sex ratio in the first half of the 1980s as settler arrivals increased, but in the last five years the sex ratio has remained below 100.0 and, since traditionally male settlers have predominated, has therefore been historically low. In 1990 the sex ratio was 99.3 males per 100 females. In 1990, males predominated in the 0-14 year age group and the 25-44 year age group.

## PERMANENT ARRIVALS: SEX RATIOS(a) BY AGE

Period	Age group					Total
	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Annual averages						
1976-80	109.6	95.1	104.1	76.4	76.8	99.5
1981-85	111.3	101.7	105.7	85.1	83.2	103.6
1986-90	106.5	89.3	100.3	90.5	86.1	98.5
1985	112.4	97.4	101.6	84.6	82.5	101.0
1986	108.1	93.0	96.6	86.5	88.1	97.5
1987	106.8	91.5	101.4	86.4	85.6	98.9
1988	105.3	89.9	102.6	93.8	89.1	99.9
1989	105.1	87.2	98.1	93.1	84.4	96.9
1990	107.4	85.0	102.9	92.5	83.4	99.3

(a) The number of males per 100 females.

Source: Unpublished ABS data.

## Refugees

Since 1945, Australia has accepted more than 460,000 refugees or displaced persons, including 170,000 from Europe who were displaced by World War II and its aftermath. Australia presently accepts refugees from about 40 countries. The largest element in recent years in Australia's refugee intake has been the Indo-Chinese program which currently accounts for about 40 per cent of the number of refugee arrivals. Numbers arriving from the Middle East are the second largest component.

### REFUGEE ARRIVALS(a)

Period	Number
Annual averages	
1976-80	12,558
1981-85	17,072
1986-90	10,995
Annual totals	
1985	13,089
1986	10,196
1987	12,255
1988	10,303
1989	11,883
1990	10,339

(a) Includes arrivals under the Special Humanitarian Program instituted late in 1981.

Source: Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.

Australia is one of 97 countries which have become party to an international convention

and protocol on the status of refugees and, in so doing, have taken on certain international legal obligations to assist refugees. The final determination of a refugee's status and the decision to accept refugees for resettlement in Australia rests with the Australian Government. Australia is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Australia's response to refugee situations is twofold. Through aid programs directed principally through UNHCR, refugees are offered protection and assistance in countries of first refuge. Those refugees for whom other durable solutions are not feasible may be offered resettlement (in Australia) if they have relatives in Australia, other close ties with Australia or the potential for successful settlement in their own right. Such refugees must also be presented to Australia by the UNHCR as being registered or otherwise eligible for resettlement.

### Permanent departures

An important component constraining population growth is the level of population loss due to emigration. Between 1971 and 1990, total permanent departures numbered 535,885 persons or an average of 26,794 per year, a level which is 26.6 per cent of the total permanent arrivals over this period. The ratio of departures to arrivals in 1990 is 25.0 per cent, the highest ratio since 1984.

## PERMANENT DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Year	Permanent departures			Permanent arrivals	Ratio of departures to permanent arrivals
	Former settlers	Other residents	Total		
1976-80	69,133	49,585	118,718	369,297	0.321
1981-85	64,122	45,027	109,149	459,420	0.238
1986-90	57,610	57,140	114,750	635,790	0.180
1985	10,020	8,600	18,620	82,000	0.227
1986	9,960	8,860	18,820	103,330	0.182
1987	11,010	9,400	20,410	128,290	0.159
1988	10,480	9,840	20,320	151,550	0.134
1989	11,940	12,890	24,830	131,060	0.189
1990	14,220	16,150	30,370	121,560	0.250

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (3404.0)*.

Of the two categories of permanent departures, i.e., 'former settlers' and 'other residents', it has been under the first category that there has been the greatest outflow of persons. Between 1971 and 1990, 'former settlers' represented 60.5 per cent of all permanent departures. The departure of 'other residents' has fluctuated from a low of 8,600 to the current record high level of 16,200 persons. The number of former settlers departing has also been steadily rising over the last three years. Levels of permanent departures are now similar to those experienced in the mid-1970s.

### Internal migration

Information on internal migration (migration from one part of Australia to another) has been available from the population censuses since 1971. The Census asks people to state their place of usual residence on Census night and also on the same date one year ago and five years ago. Comparison of these addresses has provided data on interstate migration and also (for the 1986 and 1991 Census only) intrastate movement. Movers are classified by age, sex, birthplace and other selected characteristics. These census questions also provide data on where migrants, recently arrived from overseas, are now living.

Postcensal data on interstate migration are estimated, for quarterly intervals, from information on interstate changes of address advised to the Health Insurance Commission in the process of administering Medicare. (No comprehensive postcensal data are compiled on intrastate migration.) Prior to 1986 postcensal interstate migration data were based on changes of address advised to the Department of Social Security by recipients of the Family Allowance.

Interstate migration has had an important influence on the distribution of Australia's population amongst the States and Territories. Historically it has been much more important than differential fertility or mortality and in many periods more important than overseas migration. Net interstate migration tends to be volatile in nature and large gains and losses have been recorded by all States. The table below presents estimates of net interstate migration for the financial years from 1981-82 to 1990-91. There has been a trend over the past decade in most States for net interstate levels to follow a cyclical pattern. From a peak in 1981-82 they contracted towards the middle of the decade before rising to another peak in 1988-89. Levels for 1989-90 and 1990-91 are below this peak for most States.

## NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

<i>Year ended 30 June</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>
1982	-19.6	-14.4	35.5	-4.9	3.6	-2.0	2.1	-0.2
1983	-17.2	-5.1	20.8	-0.3	1.5	-1.2	0.5	1.0
1984	-10.3	-3.3	10.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9
1985	-9.3	-5.8	12.9	-2.3	2.0	0.8	0.6	1.2
1986	-12.5	-13.2	16.5	-1.4	9.4	-0.1	-0.5	1.8
1987	-10.3	-13.4	18.1	-3.2	10.4	-2.8	-1.4	2.7
1988	-14.2	-14.8	26.2	-0.3	8.4	-3.4	-4.6	2.8
1989	-39.1	-12.9	45.3	0.8	9.5	-1.3	-3.0	0.7
1990	-37.0	-8.2	36.6	0.7	7.1	1.4	-2.6	2.1
1991	-18.8	-16.2	27.4	3.1	2.5	-0.2	-2.2	4.2

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)*.

New South Wales has experienced substantial net losses, particularly to Queensland, but also to Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The loss of 39.1 thousand in the year ended June 1989 was the largest ever recorded by this or any other State or Territory over a twelve month period.

Victoria has experienced net losses throughout the period. The most popular destinations are Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Queensland has made major net gains, consistently ranking as the favourite destination for Australians moving interstate. Its net gain of 45.3 thousand in the year ended June 1989 was the highest ever recorded by it or any other State or Territory over a twelve month period.

South Australia has experienced small net gains and losses. It is frequently the State with the smallest net interstate movement per head of population.

Western Australia has made consistent net gains reaching a higher plateau in the second half of the 1980s when it ranked as the second most popular destination for Australians

moving interstate. The major sources of new arrivals are New South Wales and Victoria.

Tasmania has experienced small net gains and losses following the regular cyclical pattern mentioned above.

The Northern Territory made consistent net gains in the first half of the 1980s but has experienced small losses in more recent years. The Australian Capital Territory, with the exception of 1981-82, has made small net gains throughout the period. For both Territories the levels of net interstate movement per head of population are high.

During the fifteen years from 1971 to 1986, the flow of persons interstate increased. Census data indicate that for the three five-year periods, 1971-76, 1976-81 and 1981-86, the number of interstate movers was 569,500, 651,200 and 716,555 respectively. This increase was evident for both males and females, with the sex ratio of interstate flows remaining virtually constant at 107.

Proportional to total population, the number of interstate movers numbered 46 per thousand in the 1971-76 intercensal period, rising to 49 per thousand during 1976-81 and 50 per thousand in the 1981-86 period.

## INTERSTATE MOVERS BY AGE, MOBILITY RATES(a) AND SEX RATIOS(b)

Age group years	Number of interstate movers			Mobility rates		
	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86
1-4	..	..	..	..	..	..
5-9	69,810	75,603	69,830	56	61	60
10-14	49,979	59,096	62,803	40	46	49
15-19	49,899	53,025	59,331	41	42	45
20-24	83,239	89,139	92,223	75	72	72
25-29	99,102	100,337	110,169	88	85	85
30-34	64,271	85,729	89,571	68	72	73
35-39	42,174	55,606	73,719	52	57	60
40-44	27,380	34,104	44,539	38	42	45
45-49	22,328	21,948	27,629	29	30	34
50-54	17,993	19,155	19,134	24	25	27
55-59	12,933	16,929	18,700	21	23	26
60-64	11,008	14,769	18,214	20	25	26
65 and over	19,402	25,745	30,693	16	18	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>569,518</b>	<b>651,185</b>	<b>716,555</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Sex ratios</b>						
Interstate movers	106	107	107			
Total population	100	100	100			

(a) Interstate movers per 1,000 population of Australian residents enumerated in the Census at the end of the period. (b) The number of males per 100 females.

Source: *Interstate Migration, Australia, Census of Population and Housing (3411.0)*.

Interstate mobility rates by age have revealed a clear and consistent life cycle pattern in the propensity of persons to move interstate. Data for 1971-76, 1976-81 and 1981-86 show that there was, initially, an above-average rate for the 5-9 year age group (because of the high mobility of their parents). This was followed by a period of below average mobility in the early teenage years (important years at school).

Mobility was highest at ages 20-39 years, from whence it steadily declined with age. The highest mobility rates occurred at ages 25-29 years and the lowest at ages 65 and over. Females were generally less likely to move interstate than males, with differences being most pronounced during the child-rearing ages from 25 to 45 years.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The ABS has a far wider range of information on Australia than that contained in the *Year Book*. Information is available in the form of regular publications, electronic data services, special tables and from investigations of published and unpublished data.

For further information contact ABS Information Services at one of the addresses listed on the page facing the Introduction to the *Year Book*.

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