



May 1997

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Population Survey Monitor

Statistics ■

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES	<i>SURVEY</i> August 1997 November 1997	<i>RELEASE DATE</i> 21 October 1997 2 February 1998
ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION	This publication presents summary results of the Population Survey Monitor (PSM).	
ABOUT THIS SURVEY	The PSM is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. Each survey includes a core set of socio-demographic questions and a variable set of topics requested by various Commonwealth and State Government clients.	
SAMPLING ERROR	The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey of households throughout Australia and are subject to sampling variability because data is not collected from all households. Relative standard errors give a measure of this variability and indicate the degree of confidence that can be attached to the data. See Technical Notes on pages 14 and 15 for more information. The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution when interpreting the figures. These data cells are marked with * to indicate that they should be viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.	
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes * relative standard error greater than 25% ** relative standard error greater than 50%	
INQUIRIES	For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Theo Neumann on (Adelaide) 08 8237 7303. For information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication. W. McLennan Australian Statistician	

CONTENTS

	Page
Notes	2
Main features	4
TABLES	
1 First home owners and buyers year of purchase by household type, May 1997	5
2 Tenure of current residence by household type, May 1997	5
3 Tenure of previous residence if moved in the last 12 months by age, May 1997	6
4 Satisfaction with services provided by police by age and sex, 1996-1997	7
5 Household's intention to purchase selected items in September quarter 1997, May 1997	8
6 Household's intention to purchase selected items by household income quintile, May 1997	8
7 Individual donation of money in the last 12 months by age and sex, May 1997	9
8 Children's participation in club and school organised sport by age and sex, May 1997	10
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Explanatory notes	11
Technical notes	14
Glossary	16

MAIN FEATURES

HOUSING	Over 4.6 million households (68.5%) own or are purchasing the residence in which they live (refer to table 2).
POLICE	Of all persons aged 18 years and over, 16.1% were very satisfied and 52.4% were satisfied with the services provided by police (refer to table 4).
CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS	Over 2.9 million households (43.0%) indicated in May 1997 that they intend to purchase a major item in the September quarter 1997. Over 1.4 million households (21.1%) indicated that they intend to buy a household item worth more than \$200 in the September quarter 1997, and more than 1 million households (15.9%) intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 (refer to table 5).
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	In the last 12 months, 70.3% of males and 74.2% of females aged 18 years and over have donated money (refer to table 7).
CHILDREN'S SPORT	In the last 12 months, 52.3% of children aged 5-14 years played sport which was organised by a club or association (refer to table 8).

1

FIRST HOME OWNERS AND BUYERS YEAR OF PURCHASE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, MAY 1997

Household type	Year of purchase					Total	'000
	Pre 1970	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1997	Don't know		
Person living alone	33.3	*13.9	19.5	25.1	*8.2	100.0	359.4
Married couple only	30.8	13.0	18.3	33.1	*4.8	100.0	582.8
Parents(a) with children(b) aged 15+	25.5	34.3	16.5	19.1	**	100.0	319.1
Parents(a) with children aged 0-14	**	**	39.6	54.3	**	100.0	533.9
Parents(a) with children(b) aged 15+ and 0-14	**	*32.4	*42.7	*23.8	**	100.0	128.9
All other households	**	**	*30.1	*41.2	**	100.0	134.5
Total	19.4	15.1	26.1	35.0	4.5	100.0	2 058.6
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	399.1	310.6	536.5	720.1	92.3	..	2 058.6

(a) Includes married and single parents.
(b) All children aged 15+ are unmarried

2

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, MAY 1997

Household type	Tenure				Total	'000
	Owner/purchaser	Public renter	Private renter	Other		
Person living alone	58.6	8.1	27.0	6.3	100.0	1 547.5
Married couple only	78.6	3.6	14.7	*3.1	100.0	1 724.6
Married couple with children	81.0	3.4	14.3	*1.3	100.0	2 210.3
Single parent with children	51.8	18.7	26.8	**	100.0	628.7
All other households	41.3	*3.8	52.2	**	100.0	699.5
Total	68.5	6.0	22.3	3.2	100.0	6 810.6
	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	4 667.6	406.5	1 521.9	214.6	..	6 810.6

3

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, MAY 1997

Characteristic	Moved in the last 12 months		Didn't move in the last 12 months		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Age group						
18-24 years	776.2	42.3	1 058.4	57.7	1 834.6	100.0
25-34 years	665.3	23.9	2 117.8	76.1	2 783.1	100.0
35-44 years	435.7	15.7	2 341.1	84.3	2 776.7	100.0
45-54 years	222.2	9.5	2 117.5	90.5	2 339.7	100.0
55-64 years	78.8	5.2	1 444.8	94.8	1 523.6	100.0
65 and over	94.9	4.8	1 872.6	95.2	1 967.5	100.0
Sex						
Males	1 064.2	16.3	5 452.9	83.7	6 517.1	100.0
Females	1 209.0	18.0	5 499.3	82.0	6 708.3	100.0
Labour Force Status						
Employed full time	1 117.8	19.7	4 548.9	80.3	5 666.7	100.0
Employed part time	354.2	15.6	1 918.1	84.4	2 272.3	100.0
Unemployed	245.9	32.9	500.7	67.1	746.6	100.0
Not in the labour force	555.2	12.2	3 984.6	87.8	4 539.8	100.0
Highest educational qualification attained						
Still attending	**	**	78.5	94.5	83.1	100.0
High school certificate or less	1 107.3	16.0	5 802.1	84.0	6 909.3	100.0
Trade certificate/apprenticeship	206.8	13.3	1 344.6	86.7	1 551.4	100.0
Certificate	425.2	20.1	1 686.5	79.9	2 111.6	100.0
Associate or undergraduate diploma	174.8	22.1	617.5	77.9	792.3	100.0
Bachelor's degree	335.1	20.3	1 312.9	79.7	1 648.0	100.0
Other	**	**	110.3	85.1	129.7	100.0
Total	2 273.1	17.2	10 952.2	82.8	13 225.4	100.0

4

SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY POLICE BY AGE AND SEX, 1996-1997

Level of satisfaction	Age (years)						Total	'000
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
MALES								
Very satisfied	7.9	10.9	12.2	19.2	19.7	21.7	14.7	957.0
Satisfied	48.1	53.0	50.7	50.6	54.4	56.9	52.1	3 381.0
Neither	29.7	23.2	20.6	16.4	15.0	9.9	19.6	1 271.3
Dissatisfied	8.5	8.1	10.3	10.1	7.1	6.7	8.7	561.7
Very dissatisfied	5.0	3.5	3.6	2.4	2.0	*1.9	3.1	203.6
Don't know	*0.7	*1.4	2.7	*1.3	*1.9	2.9	1.8	117.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 492.4
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	929.4	1 377.4	1 361.5	1 164.8	763.4	895.8	..	6 492.3
FEMALES								
Very satisfied	9.0	13.6	15.4	16.6	22.6	28.8	17.4	1 163.0
Satisfied	56.3	50.4	54.7	53.1	51.8	51.0	52.8	3 534.3
Neither	22.6	24.4	19.5	17.2	14.6	9.2	18.3	1 226.5
Dissatisfied	7.7	6.0	5.2	7.3	5.9	5.6	6.2	416.5
Very dissatisfied	*1.1	1.6	1.8	*1.3	*1.3	*0.6	1.3	87.3
Don't know	3.3	4.0	3.6	4.4	3.8	4.8	4.0	267.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 695.1
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	904.5	1 401.2	1 394.2	1 144.0	749.4	1 101.8	..	6 695.1
PERSONS								
Very satisfied	8.4	12.2	13.8	17.9	21.1	25.6	16.1	2 120.0
Satisfied	52.2	51.7	52.7	51.8	53.1	53.6	52.4	6 915.3
Neither	26.2	23.8	20.0	16.8	14.8	9.5	18.9	2 497.8
Dissatisfied	8.1	7.0	7.7	8.8	6.5	6.1	7.4	978.2
Very dissatisfied	3.1	2.6	2.7	1.8	1.7	1.1	2.2	290.9
Don't know	2.0	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.8	4.0	2.9	385.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 187.4
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 833.9	2 778.6	2 755.7	2 308.8	1 512.8	1 997.6	..	13 187.4

5

HOUSEHOLD'S INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997, MAY 1997

<i>Item</i>	'000	%(a)
A new car	152.6	2.2
A second-hand car	442.7	6.5
A personal computer	240.9	3.5
Household item worth more than \$200	1 434.5	21.1
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	680.5	10.0
Landscaping worth more than \$500	274.9	4.0
A holiday worth more than \$500	1 080.4	15.9
Any other item worth more than \$500	204.7	3.0
Total(b)	2 929.8	43.0

(a) Percentage of all households.

(b) For the total number of households intending to purchase, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households intend to purchase more than one item.

6

HOUSEHOLD'S INTENTION TO PURCHASE SELECTED ITEMS(a) BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILE, MAY 1997

<i>Income quintile</i>	<i>Intend to purchase</i>		<i>Do not intend to purchase</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
First quintile (lowest 20%)	223.7	20.8	850.5	79.2	1 074.2	100.0
Second quintile	342.6	28.9	844.3	71.1	1 186.9	100.0
Third quintile	610.4	46.4	705.8	53.6	1 316.3	100.0
Fourth quintile	604.2	54.2	511.4	45.8	1 115.6	100.0
Fifth quintile (highest 20%)	733.3	66.1	375.8	33.9	1 109.2	100.0
Don't know(b)	415.4	41.2	592.9	58.8	1 008.4	100.0
Total	2 929.8	43.0	3 880.8	57.0	6 810.6	100.0

(a) Intention to purchase in the September quarter 1997.

(b) Household income not reported.

INDIVIDUAL DONATION OF MONEY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE AND SEX, MAY 1997

Donation	Age (years)						Total	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
MALES								
Donation made	68.4	59.0	71.6	75.7	72.0	78.7	70.3	4 579.3
No donation made	31.6	41.0	28.4	24.3	28.0	21.3	29.7	1 937.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 517.1
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	926.9	1 376.7	1 376.9	1 183.9	764.6	888.1	..	6 517.1
FEMALES								
Donation made	68.7	71.2	84.5	73.0	73.5	71.1	74.2	4 978.4
No donation made	31.3	28.8	15.5	27.0	26.5	28.9	25.8	1 729.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6 708.3
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	907.7	1 406.5	1 399.8	1 155.8	759.1	1 079.4	..	6 708.3
PERSONS								
Donation made	68.5	65.2	78.1	74.4	72.8	74.5	72.3	9 557.7
No donation made	31.5	34.8	21.9	25.6	27.2	25.5	27.7	3 667.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	13 225.4
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000
Total	1 834.6	2 783.2	2 776.7	2 339.7	1 523.7	1 967.5	..	13 225.4

PARTICIPATION IN CLUB(a) AND SCHOOL ORGANISED CHILDREN'S SPORT BY AGE AND SEX, MAY 1997

<i>Played sport</i>	<i>Age (years)</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>'000</i>
MALES				
Played sport organised by club or association	46.6	64.1	55.3	737.0
Played sport organised by school outside school hours	15.5	31.3	23.4	311.5
Played no organised sport	44.8	25.9	35.4	470.9
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 331.9
	'000	'000		'000
Total(b)	665.7	666.2	..	1 331.9
FEMALES				
Played sport organised by club or association	44.2	54.1	49.2	622.9
Played sport organised by school outside school hours	13.8	28.8	21.3	269.8
Played no organised sport	49.8	33.2	41.5	525.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 266.1
	'000	'000		'000
Total(b)	632.5	633.6	..	1 266.1
PERSONS				
Played sport organised by club or association	45.4	59.2	52.3	1 359.8
Played sport organised by school outside school hours	14.7	30.0	22.4	581.2
Played no organised sport	47.3	29.4	38.3	996.2
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	2 598.0
	'000	'000		'000
Total(b)	1 298.2	1 299.8	..	2 598.0

(a) Club includes sport organised by an association in the last 12 months.
(b) The sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of children play sport organised by a club or association and sport organised by the school before or after school hours.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION	The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3,000 households conducted throughout Australia. The PSM is designed to meet the needs of government agencies for family household data. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to include the topic of their choice. Each survey asks a set of core questions of each usual resident aged 15 years and over within the selected household. Questions for each client's topic can be asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over or of a particular person within the selected household.
LIST OF TOPICS	This publication presents summary results of the PSM conducted in May 1997. The topics included in this survey were as follows:
Housing	Includes data on tenure of the previous residence of recent movers, first home ownership and year of purchase for first home owners and buyers.
Satisfaction with police services	Contains data on community attitudes to police services.
Consumer expectations	Contains data on the anticipated purchases by households of major items in the September quarter 1997.
Individual donations	Contains data on donations given to organisations such as universities, hospitals and research and welfare organisations.
Children's sport	Contains data on the sporting and physical activities undertaken in the last 12 months by children aged 5-14 years.
SCOPE AND COVERAGE	The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia, except sparsely settled areas. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded. All usual residents in private households are included in the PSM.
SAMPLE SIZE	For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 4,000 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is generally sufficient to provide quarterly data for Australia and annual data for the States and Territories at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability after allowing for sample loss through factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope, etc.

EXPECTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below:

New South Wales	482
Victoria	416
Queensland	375
South Australia	375
Western Australia	375
Tasmania	375
Northern Territory	250
Australian Capital Territory	375
Total	3 023

DATA COLLECTION

Information is obtained in the PSM by personal interviews with adult members of selected households. Interviewers for the PSM are obtained from a panel of trained interviewers who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys.

The willing cooperation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage cooperation and maximise response include:

- advice to selected households by letter, accompanied by an information brochure, explaining that their dwelling has been selected for the survey, the purposes of the survey, its official nature and the confidentiality of the information collected.
- through call-backs and follow-up at selected dwellings every effort is made to contact the occupants of each selected dwelling and to conduct the survey in those dwellings.

ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

Estimates obtained from the survey are derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure that ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the total population by age, sex and area (rather than to the age-sex-area distribution within the sample itself). The estimation procedure is designed to adjust estimates in such a way as to reduce any non-response bias by adjusting the weights of persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into each person's record to enable the data provided by these persons to be expanded to provide estimates relating to the whole population within the scope of the survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The two types of error possible in an estimate based on a sample survey are:

- Non-sampling error which arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. The most significant of these errors are: misreporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; non-response; and processing errors. Every effort is made to minimise these errors by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient data processing procedures.
- Sampling error which occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all persons in the survey is given by the standard error, see Technical Notes pages 14 and 15.

TECHNICAL NOTES

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability, that is, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which estimates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will vary by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage of errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

From table 5 an estimated 240,900 households intend to purchase a computer in the September quarter. Referring to the table of standard errors (table A on page 15), an estimate of 240,900 has a standard error of approximately 18,800. There are two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey is between 222,100 and 259,700 (i.e. 240,900 plus or minus 18,800). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the number lies between 203,300 and 278,500 (i.e. 240,900 plus or minus 37,600).

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

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

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics of sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

As tables A and B show, the size of the standard error increases with the size of the estimate. However, the smaller the estimate the higher the RSE. Thus, large estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates. Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) and their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less and percentages based on such estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with standard errors of greater than 25% have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *2.8) to indicate that they should be treated with caution and viewed as being merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

A STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

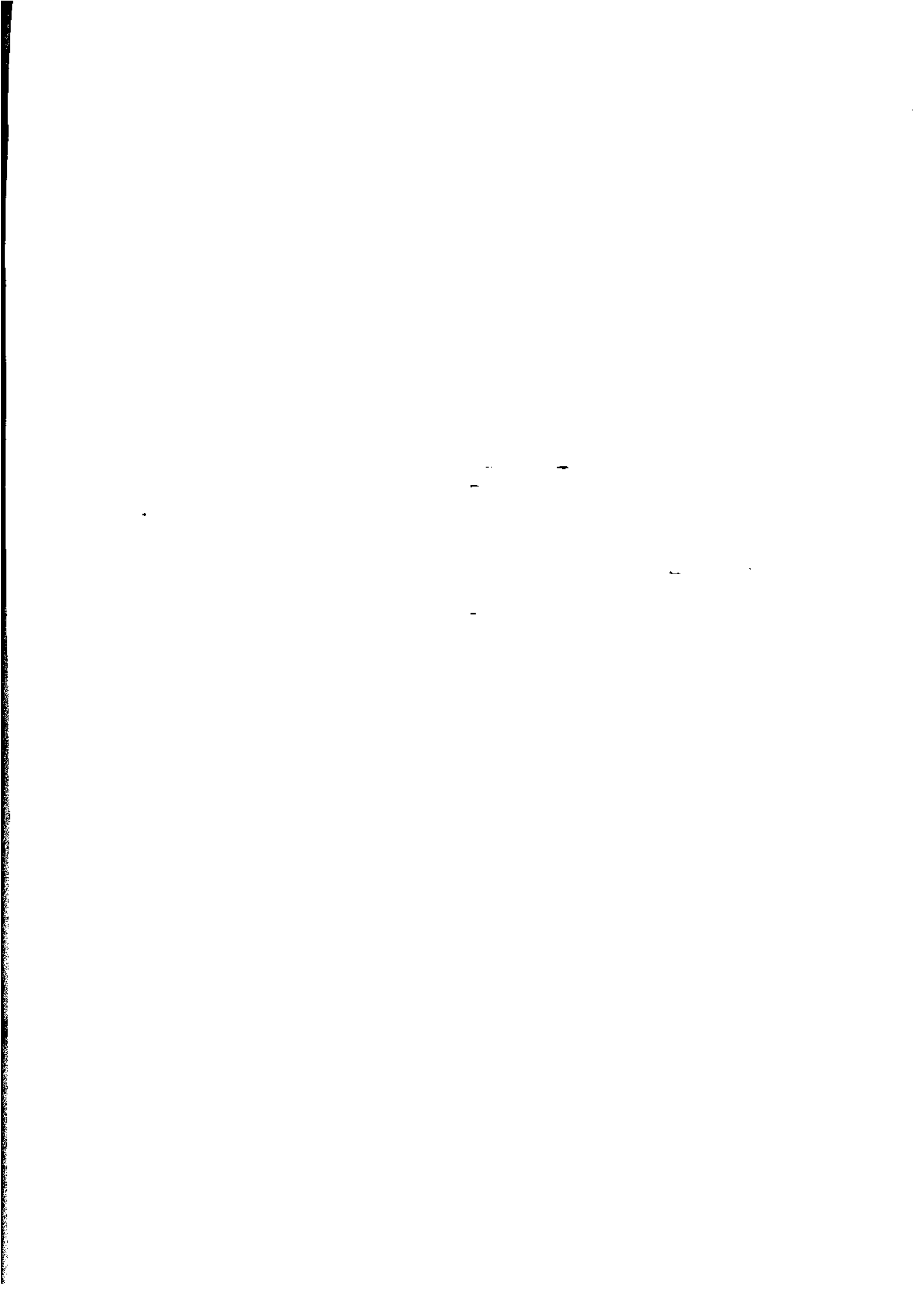
Size of estimate	Persons 18+ years		Persons 5-14 years	Households
	May 1997	1996-1997	May 1997	May 1997
'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
10	6.6	3.5	7.3	—
20	9.4	4.9	9.1	6.7
50	14.5	7.6	12.8	9.9
100	19.7	10.4	16.4	13.3
200	26.5	13.9	21.9	17.8
500	38.5	20.2	32.9	25.2
800	46.1	24.2	40.2	29.5
1 000	50.4	26.5	42.0	32.3
1 500	57.1	30.0	47.5	37.1
2 000	65.0	34.1	52.9	41.8

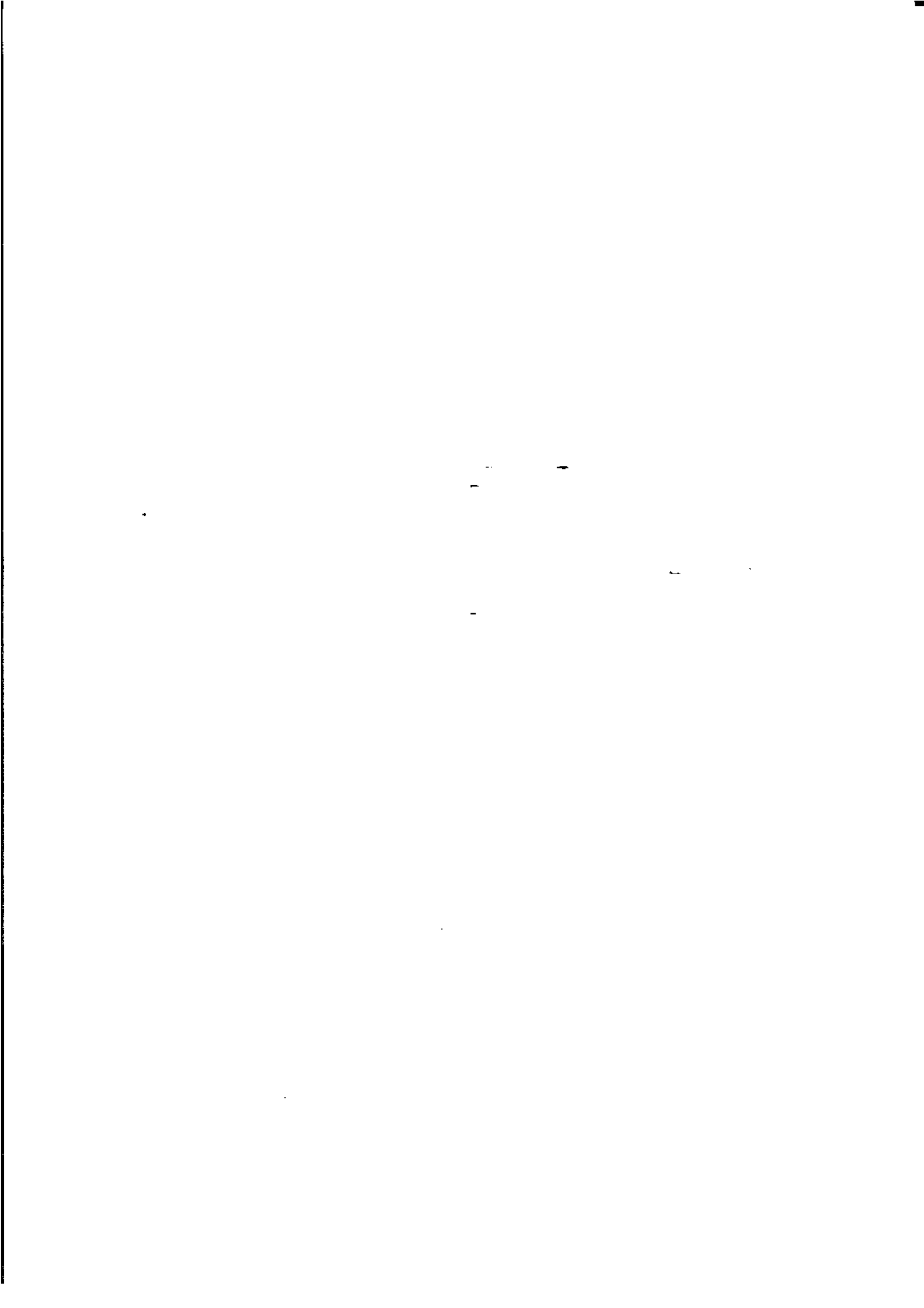
B RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

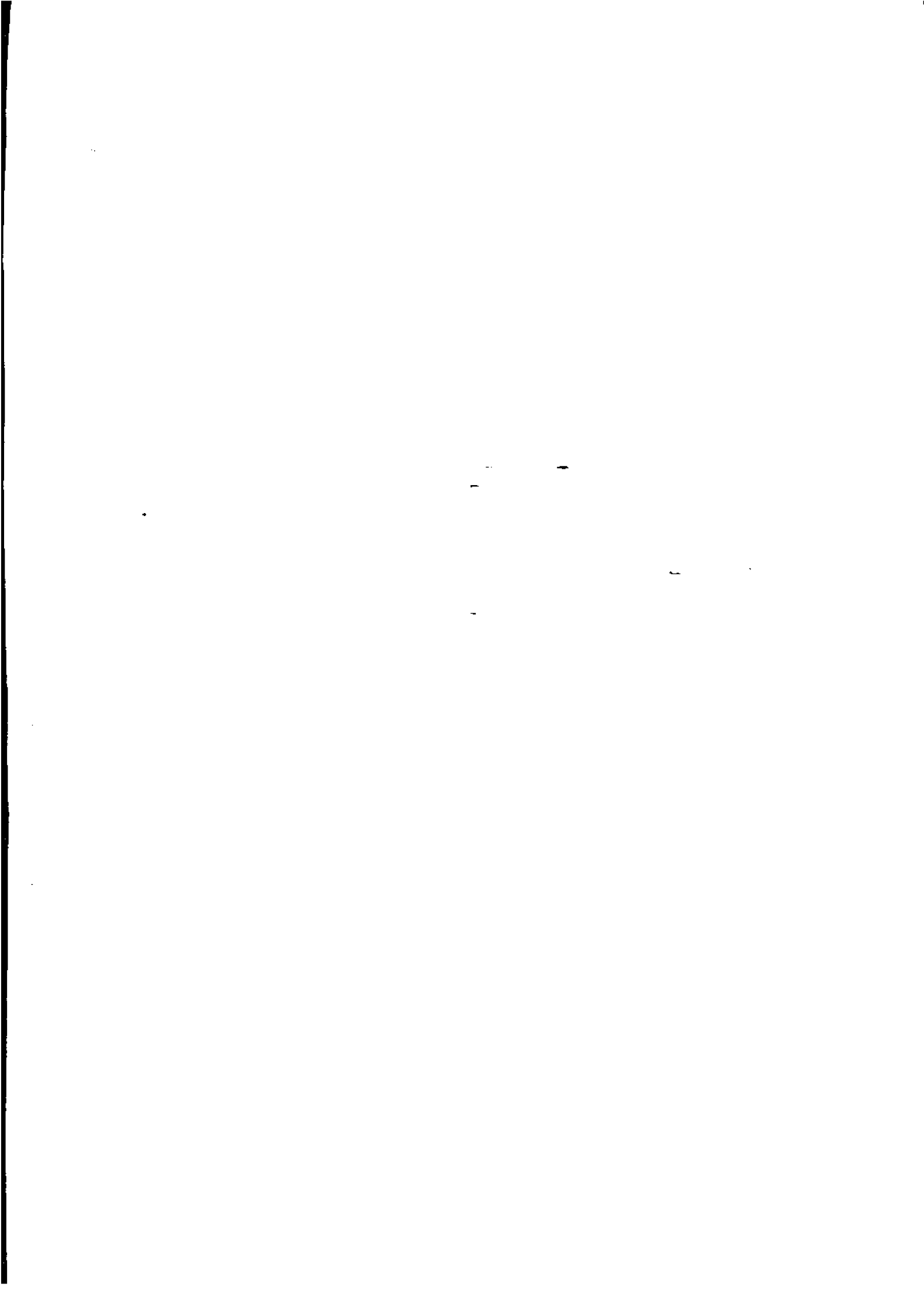
Size of estimate	Persons 18+ years		Persons 5-14 years	Households
	May 1997	1996-1997	May 1997	May 1997
'000	%	%	%	%
10	66.5	35.0	73.0	—
20	47.0	24.5	45.5	33.3
50	29.0	15.2	25.6	19.8
100	19.7	10.4	16.4	13.3
200	13.3	7.0	11.0	8.9
500	7.7	4.0	6.6	5.0
800	5.8	3.0	5.0	3.7
1 000	5.0	2.7	4.2	3.2
1 500	3.8	2.0	3.2	2.5
2 000	3.3	1.7	2.6	2.1

GLOSSARY

Age	The age of persons at their last birthday.
First home owners and buyers	Households who own or are purchasing their home and who have never previously owned a home.
Household	A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at other times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of family and non-family members.
Household income	Household income is the sum of personal income from all members of the household aged 15 years and over. Personal income is gross income from all sources and includes government pensions/benefits, workers compensation, royalties, rent, etc. It excludes money from the sale of assets, gambling, lottery wins, gifts, bequests or lump sum settlements.
Households intending to purchase	A household in which any person within the household expects to buy, pay for or make some payment towards an item with an individual worth of \$200 or more for a household item or \$500 or more for other items. Planned purchases must be for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 September 1997.
Individual donation of money	Donation of money includes money given in doorknocks, badge days, sponsorship of walkathons, etc., but excludes money given in exchange for goods or other tangible benefits. Raffle ticket expenditure is included if the main reason for purchasing the raffle ticket was to donate money to a specific organisation.
Private renter	Private renters rent their home from a private landlord or through a real estate agent.
Public renters	Public renters rent their home from a government agency whose main activity is to provide housing to the public. This does not include government departments who provide housing to their employees.







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