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COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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PREFACE

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, 'to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to . . . Census and statistics.' In the exercise of the power so conferred, a Census and Statistics Act was passed in 1905, and in the year following the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the fifty-ninth Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Australian Government.

In the various chapters of the Year Book, and in the special index which precedes the general index, there are references to special articles, background material and items of historic interest which have appeared in previous issues.

Among new or revised material included in this issue, the following items may be especially mentioned.

Chapter 2. Physical Geography and Climate. The statistics in this chapter with the exception of area and distance have been converted to metric units.

Chapter 3. General Government. A list of all Australian Government Departments and their functions, page 76. The detailed results of the Constitution Alteration Referendums of 8 December 1973 are shown in the Appendix.

Chapter 5. Repatriation. Results of a survey of ex-service personnel, their widows and children, conducted in November 1971, page 112.

Chapter 7. Population. Final results from the 1971 Census of Population and Housing, including selected characteristics of the population.

Chapter 9. Housing and Building. Final figures from the 1971 Census of Population and Housing, page 191.

Chapter 10. Labour, Wages and Prices. Details of a new wholesale price index relating to metallic materials used in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, page 241.

Chapter 12. Transport, Communication and Travel. Preliminary results of a survey of motor vehicle usage, page 356. An article on the development of telecommunications in Australia, page 378.

Chapter 13. Welfare Services. Results of three surveys conducted in 1971 and 1972 by the Department of Social Services, page 419: (i) morbidity of new invalid pensioners in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, (ii) social service pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria receiving Repatriation war pension and, (iii) characteristics of unemployment benefit recipients.

Chapter 14. Public Health. A brief description of the benefits available to patients in approved nursing homes, page 431.

Chapter 16. National Accounts. This issue revises the structure of the accounts which is now based on the international standard described in the United Nations' *A System of National Accounts* (1968).

Chapter 20. Employment and Unemployment. Two new tables have been included on Labour Force, the first showing employment status by birth place and year of arrival in Australia, page 710 and the second showing unemployed persons according to age and whether Australian-born, page 715.

Chapter 24. Forestry. An article on softwood plantations.

Chapter 26. Mineral Industry. Brief details of the changes in the control of the export of certain metals, petroleum, petroleum products and all raw and semi-processed minerals, page 919.

Chapter 29. Final results from the 1968-69 Censuses of Wholesale Trade, and Retail Trade and Selected Services.

Most of the statistics contained in this volume relate to the years ended June or December 1972. More detailed statistics on subjects dealt with in the Year Book are available in the various annual reports published by this Bureau, and more recent statistics are contained in the *Digest of Current Economic Statistics* (monthly), the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*, and in other publications issued monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly. The last pages of this volume contain a list of current and recent printed publications available for purchase, showing issue numbers, dates, and prices.

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Australian Bureau of Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600. January 1974

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CORRIGENDA

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34	Second last paragraph, sixth line <i>for</i> 3 February 1983 <i>read</i> 3 February 1893
87	Table PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF DEFENCE FORCES, AIR FORCE, 1972; Emergency Reserves — <i>for</i> 685 <i>read</i> 621. <i>Total</i> — <i>for</i> 24,183 <i>read</i> 24,119.
95	Personnel, reserve, women's services , fourth line— <i>for</i> 1011 <i>read</i> 1035; <i>for</i> 893 <i>read</i> 922.
326	Table BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BY REGIONS: AUSTRALIA —
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	Other countries(c) <i>for</i> 195 361 343
	<i>read</i> 258 471 444
	Total non-monetary sector transactions—
	Other countries and international institutions(c) <i>for</i> 173 234 228
	<i>read</i> 248 339 353
	<i>Total non-monetary sector transactions</i> .. <i>for</i> 709 1,316
	<i>read</i> 695 1,256
594	Table LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES —
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	Other(i) <i>for</i> 4
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SYMBOLS AND OTHER FORMS OF USAGE IN THIS YEAR BOOK

The following *symbols*, where shown in tables, mean:

n.a. —not available

. . —nil or less than half the final digit shown, or not applicable

p —preliminary—figure or series subject to revision

r —figure or series revised since previous issue

n.e.i.—not elsewhere included

n.e.c.—not elsewhere classified

n.s. —not stated

m.—males; f.—females; p.—persons

— Break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures).

A blank space in a column of figures means that the figure concerned is not yet available.

The following *abbreviations* are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and the Commonwealth of Australia: N.S.W. (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), S.A. (South Australia), W.A. (Western Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), N.T. (Northern Territory), A.C.T. (Australian Capital Territory), Aust. (Australia), Cwlth (Commonwealth).

In general, the *statistics in this volume relate to the States and Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia*, i.e. they exclude particulars of the External Territories of Australia, which, however, are specifically dealt with in Chapter 28, The Territories of Australia. A few series elsewhere include particulars of Papua New Guinea because of the nature of the subject-matter—these series are indicated.

Yearly periods shown as e.g. 1972 refer to the year ended 31 December 1972; those shown as e.g. 1971–72 refer to the year ended 30 June 1972. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated. The range of years shown in table headings, e.g. 1901 to 1971–72, indicates the period covered, but does not necessarily imply that each intervening year is included.

Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

Reference numbers. In the introductory paragraphs to most chapters a list of relevant publications is shown. In each case the reference number is shown in brackets and this should be quoted when ordering Bureau publications.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

Unless otherwise indicated, the *British system of weights and measures* is used in this issue. In the 1974 issue of the Year Book statistics will be shown in metric units. Metric conversion factors are shown on page 1047. The weights and measures used in recording production, etc. of different commodities are as follows:

Bushel (bus)	.	.	=	approximately 2,218 cubic inches
Gallon (gal)	.	.	=	Imperial gallon of approximately 277 cubic inches
Pound (lb)	.	.	=	pound avoirdupois
Cental	.	.	=	100 pounds
Hundredweight (cwt)	.	.	=	112 pounds
Ton	.	.	=	Long ton of 2,240 pounds
Short ton	.	.	=	2,000 pounds
Bale (of wool)	.	.	=	approximately 300 pounds
Barrel (crude oil)	.	.	=	approximately 35 imperial gallons

Cereals, fruit and certain other products are generally recorded in bushels. While the weight of a bushel varies according to the nature of the product, it is also subject to considerable variation for individual products on account of such things as variety and method of packing. However, average bushel equivalent weights, as set out below, may be used for the conversion of each of these products to pounds weight avoirdupois.

BUSHEL WEIGHTS

(lb per bushel)

<i>Product</i>	<i>lb per bushel</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>lb per bushel</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>lb per bushel</i>
Apples	42	Maize	56	Pineapples	42
Apricots	48	Mandarins	48	Plums and prunes	58
Bananas	56	Mangoes	40	Pollard	20
Barley	50	Millet	60	Potatoes	60
Beans (dry)	60	Mustard seed	50	Quinces	42
Beans, French (green)	20	Nectarines	50	Rape	56
Bran	20	Nuts, other than peanuts	40	Raspberries	30
Canary seed	56	Oats	40	Rice	42
Cherries	48	Onions	56	Rye	60
Clover seed	60	Oranges	48	Safflower	40
Custard apples	35	Panicum	60	Setaria	60
Figs	44	Papaws	24	Sorghum	60
Flax seed (pure seed)	56	Passion fruit	34	Soya beans	60
Flour	56	Peaches	45	Strawberries	30
Grapefruit	42	Peanuts	22	Sunflower seed	33
Grass seed (most varieties)	20	Pears	45	Tares	60
Lemons	48	Peas, field (dry)	60	Tomatoes	48
Loquats	45	Peas in pod (green)	28	Wheat	60
Lucerne seed	60	Persimmons	44		