

POPULATION SURVEY MONITOR

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30am, 10 JULY 1995

The Population Survey Monitor is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia. Results are available to clients within six weeks of the completion of interviewing. This publication only contains a small portion of the available information.

THIS QUARTER'S TOPICS

- **Sport and Recreation**
This dataset contains information on the sporting and recreation activities of Australians. Activities include organised and social sport, and selected physical activities. Data on gambling activities, attendance and watching/listening to sporting events were also collected as was sporting activities of children 5-14 years.
- **Consumer Expectations**
This dataset contains data on the anticipated consumption by households of major items in the September quarter.
- **Adult Education and Training**
This dataset contains information about the amount and type of training people aged 18 years and over have undertaken since leaving school. It includes training organised by an employer as well as training organised by further education institutions.
- **Health issues**
This dataset contains information about a number of health issues, including the incidence of smoking, exercising, alcohol consumption and other health issues for persons aged 18 years and over. The dataset contains more detailed information on wine consumption such as the drinking of bottled or cask wine.
- **Australian Army**
This dataset contains information about people's opinions and knowledge of the Australian Army.
- **Botanical Gardens Usage**
This dataset contains information on the usage of botanical gardens around Australia, the number of persons attending, reasons for visit(s) and the amount of money spent.
- **Housing**
This dataset contains information about various housing topics such as attitudes to medium density housing, number of people intending to move house in the next 12 months as well as the number of people who moved in the last 12 months.
- **Domestic Energy Usage (NSW only)**
This dataset contains data on the intended use and cost of firewood, fossil fuels and oils by households in New South Wales.
- **Employment Conditions, Environmental Issues and Smoke Detectors (Vic only)**
This dataset was collected for Victoria only and contains information on access to paid leave, attitudes to environmental issues and the number of smoke detectors installed in households.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these statistics, contact Theo Neumann on (08) 237 7303

THIS QUARTER'S KEY POINTS

- Sport and recreation**
- 12.1% of females aged 18 years and over participated in either aerobics or callisthenics in the 2 weeks prior to survey and 8.6% of males aged 18 years and over went fishing.
 - 78.1% of children aged 5-14 years regularly take part in sporting activities during school hours and 41.9% took part in a school sporting activity after school hours in the last two weeks.
- Consumer expectations**
- 39.6% of households indicated that they intend to purchase a major item in the Sept. quarter.
 - 8.5% of households indicated that they intend to go on a holiday worth more than \$500 in the next quarter, and 5.8% intend to pay for home alterations or additions worth more than \$500.
- Adult education and training**
- 60.3% of males and 51.7% of females aged between 18 and 65 have taken part in further education or training courses since leaving school.
- Health issues**
- 29.4% of males and 19.2% of females aged 18 years and over currently smoke. The highest percentage of male smokers was in the 18-24 age group (37.2%) and for females was in the 25-34 age group (29.5%).
 - 63.4% of males and 46.0% of females consumed an alcoholic drink in the last week.
 - 25.4% of persons aged 18 years and over consumed some sort of wine in the last week. Of these 71.7% indicated that they drank wine mainly with a meal.
- Australian Army**
- 81.6% of persons 18 years and over indicated that believed the Australian Army was capable or very capable of providing disaster aid to the community.
- Botanical Gardens usage**
- 39.1% of persons aged 18 and over have visited at least one botanical garden in the last 12 months.
 - The highest attendance rates for both males and females was in the 25-34 year age group. In this age group 41.6% of males visited at least one botanical garden while for females 51.1% visited.
- Housing**
- 52.1% of males and 57.1% of females aged 18 and over who live in the metropolitan area believe that medium density housing is acceptable or very acceptable in the area they live.
- Domestic Energy Usage (NSW)**
- 18.8% of households in New South Wales use firewood for heating or cooking. Of these 97.9% used the firewood for room heating.
- Environmental issues (Vic)**
- The environmental issues seen as most important to Victorians aged 18 and over were: pollution of beaches and the ocean (67.8%), followed by industrial emissions and waste (46.0%), and the littering and the dumping of rubbish (44.7%).

Estimates of standard errors for the tables contained in this publication are given on page 6.

Peter Gardner
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
South Australia

TABLE 1: PERSONS AGED 18 AND OVER: PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SPORTING, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BY AGE AND SEX, MAY 1995.

Activity	Males		Females		Total	
	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent	('000's)	Per cent
Aerobics/calisthenics	240	3.8	789	12.1	1029	8.0
Basketball	129	2.0	113	1.7	242	1.9
Cycling, BMX, Mountain Bike	433	6.9	153	2.3	586	4.6
Golf	465	7.4	161	2.5	626	4.9
Lawn bowls	155	2.5	89	1.4	244	1.9
Horse riding	128	2.0	93	1.4	221	1.7
Tennis	184	2.9	218	3.3	402	3.1
Fishing	542	8.6	94	1.4	636	4.9
Netball (indoor/outdoor)	*	*	280	4.3	n.a	n.a

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes / n.a not available

TABLE 2: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: WHETHER VISITED A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE AND SEX, MAY 1995.

Botanic gardens visited	AGE (years)						Total ('000's)
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
	MALES (Per cent)						
Yes	35.6	41.6	35.3	39.4	35.0	30.8	2323
No	64.4	58.4	64.7	60.6	65.0	69.2	3996
	FEMALES (Per cent)						
Yes	42.1	51.1	42.3	41.7	35.1	31.4	2708
No	57.9	48.9	57.7	58.3	64.9	68.6	3825
	PERSONS (Per cent)						
Yes	38.8	46.4	38.8	40.5	35.0	31.1	5031
No	61.2	53.6	61.2	59.5	65.0	68.9	7658

TABLE 3: HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO PURCHASE IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER: ITEM TO BE PURCHASED, MAY 1995.

Item	('000's)	Per cent
A brand new car	112	1.1
A secondhand car	376	3.7
Household item worth more than \$200	1160	11.3
Home alterations or additions worth more than \$500	598	5.8
Landscaping worth more than \$500	252	2.5
A holiday worth more than \$500	872	8.5
A personal computer	220	2.2
Any other item worth more than \$500	156	1.5
Total households intending to purchase	2525	100.0
Total (Households)*	6378	

* The sum of the components is larger than the total number of households as a number of households intend to purchase more than one item.

TABLE 4: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER: HEALTH ISSUES BY AGE AND SEX, MAY 1995.

	AGE (years)						Total (<i>'000's</i>)	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
MALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	68.7	68.9	60.4	71.0	70.7	63.7	66.9	4230
Currently smoke	37.2	34.2	34.8	31.9	17.0	12.0	29.4	1856
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	55.5	66.7	64.2	72.2	61.8	55.4	63.4	4003
<i>Total ('000's)</i>	<i>948</i>	<i>1354</i>	<i>1324</i>	<i>1101</i>	<i>729</i>	<i>863</i>	<i>6319</i>	<i>6319</i>
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Exercised in the last 2 weeks	68.6	70.8	70.8	70.4	69.1	60.1	68.5	4474
Currently smoke	18.9	29.5	21.5	13.4	18.1	9.5	19.2	1251
Consumed an alcoholic drink last week	44.7	54.3	47.3	50.6	43.2	32.1	46.0	3006
<i>Total ('000's)</i>	<i>932</i>	<i>1389</i>	<i>1350</i>	<i>1070</i>	<i>723</i>	<i>1069</i>	<i>6533</i>	<i>6533</i>

TABLE 5: PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER LIVING IN THE METROPLITAN AREA:
ACCEPTABILITY OF MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING IN LOCAL AREA, MAY 1995.

	AGE (years)						Total (<i>'000's</i>)	
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over		
MALES (Per cent)								
Very acceptable	8.1	7.4	4.3	5.9	2.8	15.1	7.1	329
Acceptable	57.6	47.6	39.5	45.3	40.4	40.3	45.0	2080
Not very acceptable	25.5	34.8	44.7	39.2	43.0	35.9	37.5	1730
Not applicable	5.0	9.2	9.3	7.5	6.0	3.1	7.1	329
Don't know	3.8	1.0	2.1	2.1	7.8	5.6	3.3	151
<i>Total ('000's)</i>	<i>627</i>	<i>1050</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>813</i>	<i>571</i>	<i>634</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>4619</i>
FEMALES (Per cent)								
Very acceptable	12.0	6.6	1.9	8.8	8.0	10.8	7.7	394
Acceptable	56.3	53.7	55.0	38.9	43.3	44.6	49.4	2536
Not very acceptable	21.4	27.0	34.9	35.7	41.5	35.3	32.0	1642
Not applicable	6.3	7.4	6.2	12.7	4.3	5.3	7.1	365
Don't know	4.0	5.3	2.1	3.9	3.0	4.0	3.8	193
<i>Total ('000's)</i>	<i>791</i>	<i>1101</i>	<i>1044</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>860</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>5130</i>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction	The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is a quarterly household survey conducted throughout Australia of approximately 2000 households. The PSM has been introduced to meet the needs of government agencies and non profit organisations. 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 or a particular person within the selected household.																		
Scope/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	<p>For each quarterly survey, an initial sample of approximately 2,700 private dwellings is chosen. This sample is considered sufficient to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detailed information for Australia; • relatively detailed data for capital city/ urban/ rural areas for Australia; <p>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.</p>																		
Expected Sample Distribution	<p>Details of the approximate sample distribution for a quarterly PSM are set out below:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">New South Wales</td> <td style="text-align: right;">482</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victoria</td> <td style="text-align: right;">416</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Queensland</td> <td style="text-align: right;">340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Australia</td> <td style="text-align: right;">241</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Australia</td> <td style="text-align: right;">254</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tasmania</td> <td style="text-align: right;">136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Territory</td> <td style="text-align: right;">44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Australian Capital Territory</td> <td style="text-align: right;">87</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;"> 2000</td> </tr> </table>	New South Wales	482	Victoria	416	Queensland	340	South Australia	241	Western Australia	254	Tasmania	136	Northern Territory	44	Australian Capital Territory	87	 Total	 2000
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Data Collection	<p>Information is obtained in the PSM by face to face 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.</p> <p>The willing co-operation of selected households is sought. Measures taken to encourage respondent co-operation and maximise response include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 responding persons' records in each age-sex-area cell to compensate for under-enumeration in that cell.

Expansion factors or 'weights' are inserted into responding person's records 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 establishments in the survey is given by the standard error, see below.

Standard Errors

There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all in-scope units had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

The standard errors for some statistics are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution in interpreting these statistics. Users interested in obtaining further information should contact the number shown in the Inquiries box on page 1 of this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ALL PUBLICATION TABLES

Size of estimate (^{'000} 's)	Standard Error (^{'000} 's)
100	23
200	31
500	45
800	56
1000	59
2000	76
5000	105

Example using the standard error table

Table 4 on Page 4 shows that the estimated percentage of males aged between 25 and 34 who consumed an alcoholic drink last week was 66.7%. This represents about 903,000 males. The standard error table above shows that the standard error on an estimate of this size is approximately 59,000. This means that there are two chances in three that the true figure is in the range 844,000 to 962,000 and nineteen chances in twenty that the true figure is in the range 785,000 to 1,021,000.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS - CORE DATA ITEMS

Age	Age is the age of the person at their last birthday.
Birthplace	A person's birthplace is the country where the person was born.
Dependents	All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15 to 19 attending school or aged 15 to 24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time, except those classified as husbands, wives, sole parents or other family heads.
Dwelling structure	This classifies the type of structure of the private dwellings selected in the survey. The information is recorded by the interviewer. A dwelling is classified as one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate house • Semi-detached/ row or terrace house/ town house • Other flat/ unit / apartment • Other dwelling structure
Employed	Persons 15 and over who, during the reference week: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business or on a farm; or b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were on leave; or d) were employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
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, ie 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.
Income	Income is the gross annual income before tax and superannuation are deducted. This includes such things as family allowance, pensions, unemployment benefits, student allowances, wages, salary, overtime, dividends, rents received, interest received, business or farm income and workers compensation expenses.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
Marital status	Persons are classified as married if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey.
Nature of occupancy	Households are classified as renting, purchasing or owning the private dwelling in which they live.
Not in the labour force	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily out of the workforce, studying, recovering from illness or injury, caring for an aged/ill/disabled person, or doing unpaid voluntary work.
Occupation	Classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) 1986 (ABS Catalogue No. 1222.0).
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 and over who were not employed during the reference week, and had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the last four weeks up to the end of the reference period and were available to work in the reference week.

August 1995 Survey

Topics to be included Sport and recreation participation
Consumer expectations
Housing
Support for the arts
Satisfaction with police services
Vitamin and mineral usage
Mental health literacy
Domestic energy usage (NSW only)
Employment conditions (Vic only)

Key dates Closing dates for topics 10 July 1995
Interviewing commences 21 August 1995.
Standard output available 9 October 1995.

November 1995 Survey

Topics to be included Sport and recreation participation
Consumer expectations
Housing
Support for the arts
Domestic energy usage (NSW only)
Employment conditions (Vic only)

Key dates Closing dates for topics 9 October 1995
Interviewing commences 20 Nov 1995.
Standard output available 12 January 1996.

Space is still available for topics on the November 1995 survey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PSM please contact:

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