



Measures of Australia's Progress: At a Glance 2005

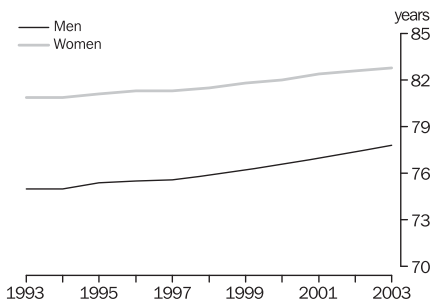
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|-----------|---|
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| 2,649.71 | 3 |
| 807.90 | x |
| 10,744.54 | |
| 1,367.40 | |



INDIVIDUALS

Health

Life expectancy at birth

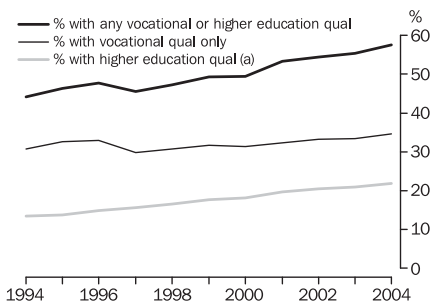


Source: Deaths, Australia, 2003, cat. no. 3302.0.

- Between 1993 and 2003, Australian life expectancy at birth increased by 3 years for boys and 2 years for girls.
- A boy born in 2003 could expect to live to be nearly 78, while a girl could expect to reach nearly 83.

Education and training

People aged 25–64 with a vocational or higher education qualification



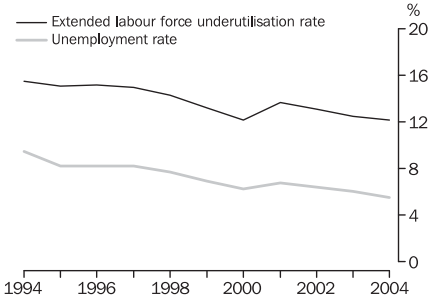
(a) As the data are based on people's level of highest non-school qualification, some of these people may also have a vocational qualification.

Source: Survey of Education and Work, Australia, 2004, cat. no. 6227.0.

- The proportion of 25–64 year olds with a vocational or higher education qualification increased from 44% in 1994 to 58% in 2004.
- The proportion of people who obtained a higher education qualification increased from 13% to 22%, while the proportion of people whose highest qualification was a vocational qualification increased from 31% to 35%.

Work

Unemployment and extended labour force underutilisation rates



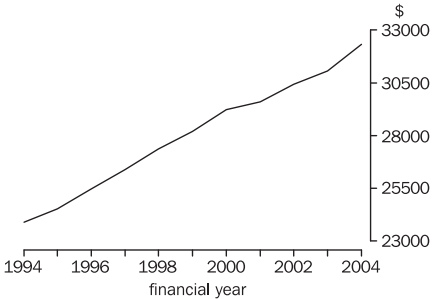
Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, April 2005, cat. no. 6105.0.

- Australia's annual average unemployment rate decreased from 9.5% in 1994 to 5.5% in 2004.
- The extended labour force underutilisation rate fell from 15.5% to 12.2% over the same decade.

THE ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

National income

Real net national disposable income per capita

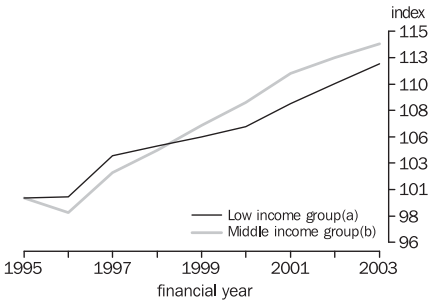


Source: Australian System of National Accounts 2003-2004, cat. no. 5204.0.

- Australia experienced significant real income growth between 1993-94 and 2003-04. Real net national disposable income per capita grew by an average annual rate of 3.1% a year, which was appreciably faster than during the preceding 20 year period.

Financial hardship

Average real equivalised weekly disposable income



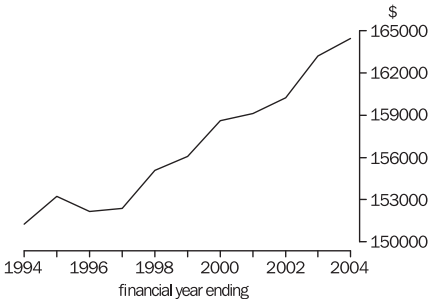
(a) The low income group comprises households in the 2nd and 3rd income deciles from the bottom of the distribution. (b) The middle income group comprises people in the middle income quintile (5th and 6th deciles).

Source: *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2002-03*, cat. no. 6523.0.

- People in financial hardship are more likely to have low income and low wealth. This can impact on their ability to access a minimum standard of goods and services.
- Between 1994-95 to 2002-03 the real income of low income Australians increased by 12%.

National wealth

Real national net worth per capita



Source: *Australian System of National Accounts 2003-2004*, cat. no. 5204.0.

- 'Real national net worth per capita' shows the amount by which Australia's assets exceed its liabilities to the rest of the world, adjusted to remove the effects of price change.
- Australia's real net worth per capita rose at an average annual rate of 0.8% between June 1994 and June 2004.

Housing

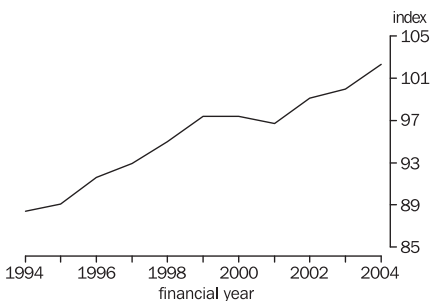
No headline indicator

- Housing in Australia is generally good, and while Australians are continuing to invest significantly in the homes that they own, there is no single indicator that succinctly captures whether people's many needs and desires for suitable housing are being met.
- Taking just one aspect as an example - in 2001, 4% of private dwellings across Australia required an extra bedroom to accommodate the residents of those dwellings, but 75% of private dwellings had one or more bedrooms spare.

(Source: Australia in Profile, 2001, cat. no. 2032.0.)

Productivity

Multifactor productivity

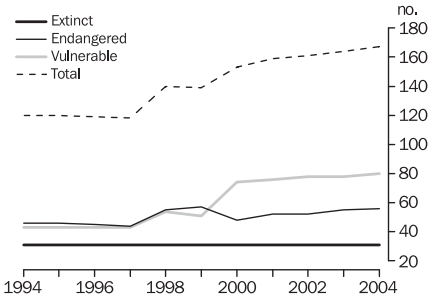


Source: Australian System of National Accounts 2002-2003, cat. no. 5204.0.

- 'Multifactor productivity' represents productivity growth (improvement), which occurs when increases in goods and services (outputs) exceed what can be accounted for by increases in labour, capital or other inputs.
- During the decade 1993-94 to 2003-04, multifactor productivity rose 1.5% per year on average.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The natural landscape: Four headline indicators Biodiversity: Extinct, endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals (a)

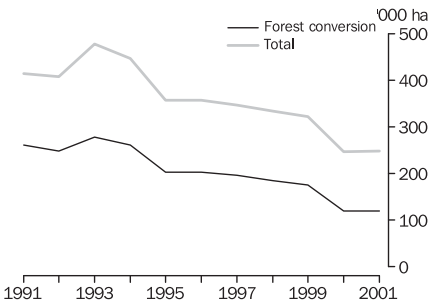


(a) Excludes seabirds, marine mammals and animals living on islands far offshore.

Source: National List of Threatened Fauna, The Department of the Environment and Heritage, 2004.

- Although the numbers of extinct, endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals are only a small part of the overall biological diversity in Australia, a decline in these groups threatens ecological processes and can point to a wider decline in biodiversity.
- This indicator suggested regression between 1994 and 2004 as the number of terrestrial bird and mammal species assessed as extinct, endangered or vulnerable rose from 120 to 167, an increase of 39%.

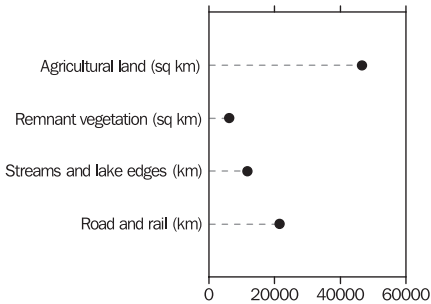
Biodiversity: Annual area of land cleared



Source: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Australian Greenhouse Office 2003.

- Land clearing destroys plants and local ecosystems and removes the food and habitat on which other native species rely, as well as diminishes the cultural, aesthetic and recreational aspects of native bushland that many Australians consider important.
- Between 1991 and 2001, the rate of land clearing declined. The 248,000 ha of land cleared in 2001 was about 40% less than that cleared in 1991.

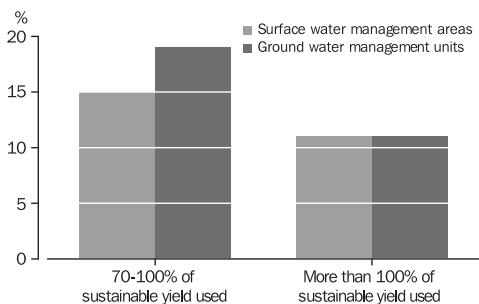
Land: Assets affected by, or at risk from, salinity - 2000



Source: Australian Dryland Salinity Assessment 2000, National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001.

- Salinity occurs when the water table rises, bringing natural salts to the surface which, in sufficient quantity, are toxic to most plants. Salinity can also impact adversely on structures.
- In 2000, about 46,500 sq kms of agricultural land, as well as 1,600 kms of rail and 19,900 kms of roads, were assessed as having a high salinity hazard or as being in an area at high risk from shallow water tables.

Inland waters: Highly developed and overdeveloped water sources – 2000 (a)



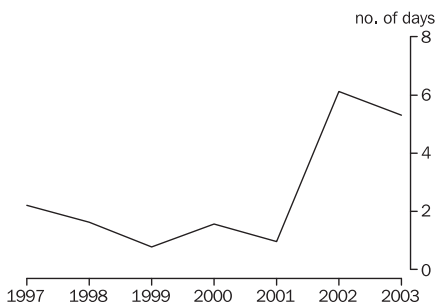
(a) A highly developed water source is one where 70%–100% of the sustainable yield of water is used. An overdeveloped water source is one where more than 100% of the sustainable yield is used.

Source: *Australian Water Resources Assessment 2000, National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001.*

- Much of our economy (agriculture in particular) relies on water, so the condition of freshwater ecosystems has a critical impact on the wider environment.
- In 2000, about 11% of Australia's water management areas and units were classed as overdeveloped, while 18% were highly developed.

The human environment

Urban air quality, days fine particle health standards were exceeded



Source: *State environmental protection agencies, 2004.*

- The headline indicator measures the number of days when fine particle (PM10) concentrations in the air exceeded the National Environment Protection Measures goal.

- The sharp increase after 2001 was mainly due to forest fires and dust storms around the Sydney and Melbourne areas, which masked the longer term decline in emissions from car exhausts.

Oceans and estuaries

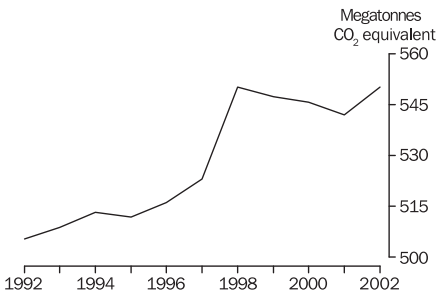
No headline indicator

- The marine environment is important to Australian society and the economy and although this dimension has no headline indicator, it has important aspects which different organisations have attempted to measure.
- One such attempt in 2002, The Estuarine Condition Index developed by the National Land and Water Resources Audit, assessed that half of the estuaries it audited were in near-pristine condition. Less than one tenth of the estuaries audited were assessed as extensively modified.

(Source: Australian Catchment, River and Estuary Condition 2002, National Land and Water Resources Audit 2002.)

International environmental concerns

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions



Source: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Australian Greenhouse Office 2004.

- Australia's total net greenhouse emissions in 2002 were about 550 megatonnes CO₂ equivalent, 8.8% higher than in 1992.
- This indicator suggests regress over most of the period as emissions generally rose, with the sharpest rise (about 5%) between 1997 and 1998.

LIVING TOGETHER IN OUR SOCIETY

Family, community and social cohesion

No headline indicator

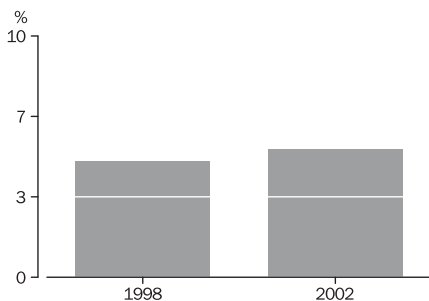
- The quality and strength of people's relationships and bonds with others contribute to social cohesion, but there is no single indicator that captures all that might be important.
- Over recent decades there have been extensive changes in the way families are structured and function. In the decade to 2003, the proportion of children under 15 living in one parent families increased from 15% to 20%.

(Source: *Australian Social Trends, 2004, cat. no. 4102.0.*)

- Between 1995 and 2002, there was an increase from 24% to 34% in the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who did some voluntary work during the previous 12 months. (Source: *Voluntary Work, Australia, 2000, cat. no. 4441.0.*)

Crime: Two headline indicators

Victims of personal crimes (a)



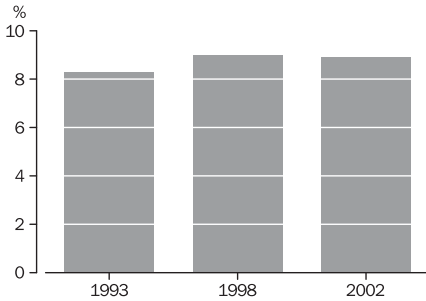
(a) Assault and robbery among people aged 15 and over. Sexual assault among people aged 18 and over.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia, 2002, cat. no. 4509.0.*

- Though small, the changes in the prevalence rates for victims of personal crimes between 1998 and 2002 showed an increase from 4.8% to 5.3%.

Crime

Victims of household crimes (a)



(a) Actual or attempted break-in, and motor vehicle theft.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4509.0.

- Between 1993 and 2002, there was little change in the proportion of households that were the victim of a household crime.

Democracy, governance and citizenship

No headline indicator

- A healthy democracy needs citizens who take part in shaping the common agenda of a society. In Australia, voting is compulsory and in 2004 the vast majority of eligible citizens were enrolled to vote. (Source: *AEC Annual Report 2003-04, Australian Electoral Commission, 2004*.)
- In 2001, almost 75% of overseas born long-term residents were citizens compared with 65% in 1991. (Source: *Migration, Australia, 2004*, cat. no. 3412.0.)

MEASURES OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS (MAP)

Measures of Australia's Progress: At a Glance 2005 provides a summary overview for the 15 headline dimensions which encapsulate major features of Australian life. More detail about these headline dimensions, and indeed a whole suite of several hundred indicators, designed to allow Australians to make their own assessment of whether life in Australia is getting better are available in *Measures of Australia's Progress, 2004* (see details below).

Other products in the MAP suite include:

- Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators 2005 (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001), a free web-based product.
- Measures of Australia's Progress 2004 (cat. no. 1370.0), 196pp, \$45.00.

These products can be accessed or purchased via the contact details below.

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