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CHAPTER 6

DEMOGRAPHY

This chapter deals with the size, growth, geographic location and characteristics of the population and with components of population change, namely births, deaths, marriage, divorce and migration.

The sources of the statistics in this chapter are population censuses, population surveys, State and Territorial registers of births, deaths and marriages, records of courts dealing with divorce, and other administrative records such as passenger cards required from international travellers and records of electoral roll and family allowance transfers.

With the proclamation of the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals)* 1967 on 10 August 1967, the provision in Section 127 of the Constitution requiring the exclusion of Aboriginals in reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth was repealed. Accordingly, population and vital statistics for all dates subsequent to 10 August 1967 no longer exclude full-blood Aboriginals. Also, estimates for periods back to 30 June 1961 have been revised to include Aboriginals.

A list of publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics which contain detailed population statistics is given at the end of this chapter.

THE POPULATION

The population census

Basic enumerations of the population have been made since the early days of settlement in Australia. The early enumerations were known as 'musters'. A census conducted in New South Wales in 1828 became the first in a series of regular censuses in that colony. Periodic censuses were taken in the other Australian colonies. The first simultaneous censuses of all the Australian colonies was taken in 1881. The first national census was taken in 1911. It was followed by others in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961 and at five yearly intervals thereafter. A special article on early censuses appears in Year Book No. 15 of 1922. A special article outlining the history, purposes, legal basis, organisation and publication of results of population censuses appears in Year Book No. 53 of 1967, pp 164-170.

Every census from 1881 has inquired into age, sex, marital status, birthplace, nationality, citizenship and occupation. A wide variety of other topics has been included from time to time.

The most recent census in Australia was conducted on 30 June 1976. In addition to the basic demographic topics mentioned above, questions were asked on income (included for the first time since 1933); the effects of handicaps; child care arrangements; and mortgage repayments. This Year Book contains data based on preliminary processing of age, marital status, place of birth (Australia or overseas) only because the main processing of the census data was delayed for 12 months following government decisions on financial restraint. To effect further savings, the Government decided to process only a sample of the schedules at the main processing stage. The sample included all the schedules from the Northern Territory and from non-private dwellings (e.g. hotels, hospitals, jails), together with 60 per cent of the remaining householders' schedules.

The population census in Australia is *de facto*, i.e. persons are enumerated where they spend census night even though that may not be where they usually live. Visitors to Australia are enumerated if they are in Australia on census night, regardless of the duration of their stay. Foreign diplomatic personnel and their families resident in Australia, and Australians out of the country are excluded.

Despite elaborate arrangements aimed at obtaining complete coverage, it is not possible to ensure that a census schedule is returned for every individual. Some error inevitably remains for various reasons (e.g. inadvertent omission of very young children, missed dwellings or occupied dwellings mistakenly taken as unoccupied). Since 1966, sample surveys have been taken soon after each census to discover the approximate extent of under-enumeration and the effects on the census results of mis-statement or non-reply to specific questions. From these studies it appears that under-enumeration has increased over the most recent censuses. Under-enumeration of the population of Australia at the 1976 census is estimated to have been 2.7 per cent. Estimated under-enumeration of State populations is shown in *Population of States and Territories Adjusted for Under-Enumeration*

as shown by *Post-Enumeration Survey* (2409.0). Under-enumeration varies from location to location and for populations of different ages and other characteristics. These and similar problems are common to all population censuses and, although under-enumeration has increased in Australia since the 1971 census, it is of a similar order to that experienced by comparable countries.

Population estimates

The census enumeration, adjusted for under-enumeration, forms the basis for quarterly estimates of the population prepared by sex and State. These are calculated by updating for subsequent births and deaths and for overseas and interstate migration. Age estimates are prepared annually for each State and Territory. Small area estimates are also made annually.

From 1976, and retrospectively to June 1971, the overseas migration component is defined as the excess of arrivals over departures of permanent and long-term movements. Long-term includes visits to or absences from Australia lasting one year or longer. Previously, all overseas movement was included. Since 1961, interstate movement which enters the calculation of population estimates for the States and Territories has excluded holiday, business or other short term movements. Thus, quarterly changes due to short term overseas movement are reflected in Australian and State population figures prior to 1971 but not thereafter, and quarterly movements due to interstate travel are reflected in population figures prior to 1961 but not thereafter.

Estimates of the population as at 30 June 1971 and 30 June 1976 are based on the population as counted at the time of those censuses with an adjustment for under-enumeration. The estimate of the population as at 30 June 1971 is 12,937.2 thousand compared with the counted population of 12,755.6 thousand. The population as at 30 June 1977 is estimated at 14,074.1 thousand. While adjustments have been made to the estimates of the age and sex of the population of each State and of the population of each local government area, it is not possible to adjust all the statistical material derived from the census.

The quarterly estimates from June 1971 to June 1976 have also been revised to take into account the 1976 census and to allow for under-enumeration at that and the preceding census.

Mean populations, by sex, are calculated for calendar and financial years to the formula—

$$\text{Mean population} = \frac{a + 4b + 2c + 4d + e}{12}$$

where *a* is the population at the end of the quarter immediately preceding the twelve month period, and *b*, *c*, *d* and *e* are the populations at the end of each of the four succeeding quarters. Mean populations are used in the calculation of crude rates.

Size and growth of Australia's population

When Europeans first settled in Australia, the Aboriginal population is believed to have been at least 300,000. The Aboriginal population suffered a drastic decline in numbers over the next 145 years so that by 1933 it is estimated to have totalled about 67,000. It has since risen (to about 116,000 in 1971), and the current rate of growth exceeds 2 per cent a year.

The population of Australia reached 1 million in 1858, 5 million in 1918 and 14 million early in 1977.

From 1861 natural increase has been the major element in population growth, and immigration the most variable. In the years 1861 to 1890, total growth on average exceeded 3 per cent a year and natural increase 2 per cent. The rate of natural increase declined during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, and this, together with a near cessation of immigration during that period, reduced the rate of growth from 3.70 per cent in 1861-70 to 1.63 per cent in 1901-10.

The 1914-18 war was the dominating influence in the decade 1911-1920: during the war and immediate post-war years the birth rate rose and immigration was resumed. In the economic depression of the 1930s, however, natural increase fell to its lowest level ever and immigration ceased; indeed, in some years, overseas departures exceeded arrivals.

With the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, Australia entered a new phase. The immediate effect of the war was to increase the number of marriages and births. The increasing births more than offset the rise in deaths due to war casualties and higher civilian death rates. Migration in these years was negligible.

The period 1947 to 1961 was marked by a continued high natural increase and a resumption of immigration, the latter resulting in very high net gains in each of the four years 1949 to 1952.

Between 1961 and 1970, net migration continued at about the same level as in the previous decade, but there were declines in the crude birth rate and the rate of natural increase. The years since 1971 have been characterised by a reduced rate of natural increase due to a decline in the birth rate and lower levels of net migration; together, these have resulted in the lowest rate of population growth for 30 years. In 1977, the rate of growth was 1.23 per cent, of which 0.84 per cent was due to natural increase and 0.39 per cent to net migration. A preliminary estimate of the total population of Australia at 30 June 1978 is 14,248,500. The estimates in the following table relate to the end of December. Estimates for the end of June are given in other tables.

POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

Period	Population at end of period ('000) (a)	Average annual rate of growth (b) (per cent)		
		Natural increase	Net migration (c)	Total
1851-1860	1,145.6			
1861-1870	1,647.8	2.47	1.23	3.70
1871-1880	2,231.5	2.07	1.01	3.08
1881-1890	3,151.4	2.05	1.46	3.51
1891-1900	3,765.3	1.73	0.07	1.80
1901-1910	4,425.1	1.53	0.10	1.63
1911-1920	5,411.3	1.60	0.43	2.03
1921-1930	6,500.8	1.32	0.53	1.85
1931-1940	7,077.6	0.79	0.05	0.85
1941-1950	8,307.5	1.13	0.47	1.61
1951-1955	9,311.8	1.38	0.95	2.31
1956-1960	10,391.9	1.40	0.83	2.22
1961-1965	11,505.4	1.27	0.74	1.98
1966-1970	12,663.5	1.11	0.91	1.94
1971-1975	(d) 13,849.3	1.08	0.49	1.59
1971	(d) 13,070.0	1.29	0.81	2.11
1972	(d) 13,283.9	1.19	0.43	1.64
1973	(d) 13,490.6	1.03	0.51	1.56
1974	(d) 13,709.5	0.96	0.65	1.62
1975	(d) 13,849.3	0.90	0.10	1.02
1976	(d) 13,991.2	0.83	0.18	1.02
1977	(d) 14,163.5	0.84	0.39	1.23

(a) Excludes full-blood Aboriginals prior to 1961. (b) The average annual rates of population growth for periods greater than one year are calculated on the compound interest principle. The rates refer to the population at the beginning of the period. Discrepancies between the sum of the rate of growth due to natural increase and net migration and the rate of total growth are due to intercensal adjustment. (c) From 30 June 1971, net migration is defined as the excess of overseas arrivals over overseas departures classified as permanent and long term movement. (Long term includes visits to and absences from Australia lasting one year or longer.) From 30 June 1933 to 30 June 1971, net migration represents the excess of all arrivals over all departures. Prior to 30 June 1933, net migration includes discrepancies disclosed by the various censuses, which were corrected by adjusting recorded overseas departures. (d) These population estimates and rates of growth incorporate revisions resulting from an examination of evidence of under-enumeration in the 1976 and 1971 censuses. The estimated population at 31 December 1970 used to compute rates of growth thereafter was 12,799,600.

Projections of the population

Projections of Australia's population are made using the component method in which a base population is brought forward year by year by applying assumptions about future trends of fertility, mortality and the characteristics of overseas migration.

The projections given here cover the years to 2011 and are based on provisional estimates of the population for 1978. The assumptions used in the projections are as follows:

Fertility. Rates were chosen on the assumptions that first births will stabilise by about 1981 at a level somewhat lower than that experienced by recent generations of women; that the proportion of women with one child who will have a second child will remain more or less the same; and that the falling off in fertility rates among women who have 3 or more children will continue until 1984. The overall effect will be a further small decline of fertility followed by a rise to replacement level in 1984. Constant rates are assumed thereafter.

Mortality. It is assumed that the 1975-76 age specific mortality rates will apply for the duration of the projections except that infant mortality is assumed to continue to decline. It was assumed that the annual rate of improvement would decline by about one per cent per annum bringing the infant mortality rate to 7.7 for males and 6.0 for females in 2011.

Migration Net immigration has been projected at an illustrative level of 50,000 persons per year. The age-sex composition is based on the pattern of permanent arrivals and departures in the 5 years 1972 to 1977.

According to these projections, the population will number 17.4 million in 2011 without further immigration and 19.6 million with net immigration at 50,000 persons a year, immigration having contributed 2.2 million to the growth of the population.

PROJECTED POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA: 1978 TO 2011

<i>30 June—</i>	<i>Excluding migration after 30 June 1978</i>	<i>Resulting from net immigration at the illustrative level of 50,000 persons a year after 30 June 1978</i>	<i>Including net immigration at the illustrative level of 50,000 persons a year after 30 June 1978</i>
	'000	'000	'000
1978p	14,259.0	..	14,259.0
1979	14,359.0	50.6	14,410.5
1980	14,460.8	102.4	14,563.1
1981	14,564.9	155.4	14,720.3
1986	15,154.7	440.9	15,595.6
1991	15,734.6	753.2	16,487.8
1996	16,262.4	1,085.0	17,347.4
2001	16,705.2	1,436.0	18,141.3
2006	17,058.1	1,809.2	18,867.3
2011	17,375.4	2,205.3	19,580.7

The average annual rate of growth will rise from 0.7 per cent to 0.8 per cent and will then decline to 0.4 per cent, if there is no further immigration. The birthrate on the assumptions used will rise from 16 per thousand to 17 per thousand and will then decline to 14 per thousand. The crude death rate will rise from 8 per thousand to 11 per thousand.

With immigration at 50,000 persons a year, the average annual rate of growth will fall from 1.1 per cent to 0.7 per cent. The crude birthrate will rise from 16 per thousand to 17 per thousand and will then fall to 15 per thousand. The death rate will rise from 8 per thousand to 10 per thousand.

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH (a), AUSTRALIA 1978 TO 2011
(per cent)

	<i>Excluding migration after 30 June 1978</i>			<i>Including net immigration at the illustrative level of 50,000 persons a year after 30 June 1978</i>				
	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate of growth</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Net immigration</i>	<i>Rate of growth</i>
1978-81	1.55	0.84	0.71	1.56	0.84	0.72	0.35	1.07
1981-86	1.68	0.88	0.80	1.70	0.87	0.83	0.33	1.16
1986-91	1.67	0.92	0.75	1.70	0.90	0.80	0.31	1.12
1991-96	1.62	0.96	0.66	1.65	0.92	0.72	0.30	1.02
1996-2001	1.53	0.99	0.54	1.56	0.95	0.61	0.28	0.90
2001-06	1.44	1.02	0.42	1.49	0.97	0.51	0.27	0.79
2006-11	1.42	1.06	0.37	1.48	1.00	0.48	0.26	0.74

(a) Calculated using the compound interest principle. The rates are split between the components of natural increase and net migration according to the relative size of each component.

The proportion of juveniles aged under 15 will fall from 26 per cent to 21 per cent without immigration or 22 per cent with immigration. The proportion of elderly aged 65 and over will rise from 9 per cent to 12 per cent without immigration or 11 per cent with immigration. The proportion of the population aged 15 to 64 will increase from 65 per cent to 67 per cent whether or not there is any further immigration.

PROJECTED AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MEDIAN AGE

30 June	<i>Excluding migration after 30 June 1978</i>				<i>Including net immigration at illustrative level of 50,000 persons a year</i>			
	<i>Age distribution (per cent)</i>			<i>Median age (years)</i>	<i>Age distribution (per cent)</i>			<i>Median age (years)</i>
	<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-64</i>	<i>65 & over</i>		<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-64</i>	<i>65 & over</i>	
1978	26.2	64.6	9.2	28.9	26.2	64.6	9.2	28.9
1981	25.0	65.4	9.7	29.8	25.0	65.4	9.6	29.7
1986	23.6	66.3	10.2	30.9	23.9	66.2	10.0	30.6
1991	22.9	66.3	10.8	32.0	23.4	66.2	10.5	31.6
1996	23.2	65.7	11.1	33.1	23.7	65.7	10.6	32.6
2001	22.7	66.3	11.0	34.1	23.2	66.4	10.4	33.3
2006	21.8	67.0	11.2	35.1	22.4	67.1	10.5	34.3
2011	21.1	67.1	11.9	36.0	21.8	67.3	11.0	34.8

Location of the population

For historical, climatic and economic reasons the population of Australia is concentrated in capital cities and other major towns, mainly on the south and east coast of the continent. In June 1977, 69.84 per cent of the population lived in the six State capital cities and five other major towns of 100,000 or more persons (metropolitan statistical divisions and statistical districts). Of these, only Canberra is located inland. The percentage of the population living in rural areas has declined over the years as the major cities and towns have attracted most of the population growth; there have been periods when the rural population has actually declined in numbers. This trend, however, appears to have slowed considerably since 1971. The percentage of the population living in capital cities and major towns of over 100,000 is highest in New South Wales (75.6 per cent), followed by Victoria (74.9 per cent), South Australia (72.3 per cent), Western Australia (70.5 per cent), Queensland (52.0 per cent) and Tasmania (40.1 per cent).

POPULATION IN CAPITAL CITIES AND OTHER MAJOR TOWNS OF 100,000 PERSONS OR MORE (a)
(^{'000 persons})

	30 June 1976	30 June 1977
Sydney	3,094.8	3,121.8
Melbourne	2,672.0	2,694.1
Brisbane	985.9	995.1
Adelaide	912.1	922.8
Perth	820.1	843.8
Newcastle	370.5	372.3
Wollongong	218.9	220.3
Canberra	221.8	227.0
Hobart	162.7	164.5
Geelong	135.6	137.9
Gold Coast (b)	125.6	129.7
Total	9,720.0	9,829.3
Percentage of total population	69.85	69.84

(a) Metropolitan statistical divisions and statistical districts of 100,000 persons or more. (b) Includes all of Albert Shire outside Brisbane statistical division.

While there has been a continuous growth in all States this century, there has been a noticeably higher rate of growth in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Tasmania has had the least growth.

POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES
(^{'000 persons})

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.(a)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
3 April 1881	749.8	861.6	213.5	276.4	29.7	115.7	3.5	..	2,250.2
5 April 1891	1,127.1	1,140.1	393.7	315.5	49.8	146.7	4.9	..	3,177.8
31 March 1901	1,354.8	1,201.1	498.1	358.3	184.1	172.5	4.8	..	3,773.8
3 April 1911	1,646.7	1,315.6	605.8	408.6	282.1	191.2	3.3	1.7	4,455.0
4 April 1921	2,100.4	1,531.3	756.0	495.2	332.7	213.8	3.9	2.6	5,435.7
30 June 1933	2,600.8	1,820.3	947.5	580.9	438.9	227.6	4.9	8.9	6,629.8
30 June 1947	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
30 June 1954	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
30 June 1961(b)	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
30 June 1966	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
30 June—									
1971	4,679.4	3,520.4	1,881.4	1,185.3	1,043.1	390.2	91.9	145.6	12,937.2
1972	4,746.9	3,577.4	1,932.5	1,202.4	1,070.9	392.2	96.6	158.0	13,177.0
1973	4,793.4	3,628.4	1,987.3	1,217.9	1,089.8	395.7	99.7	168.2	13,380.4
1974	4,839.4	3,676.8	2,046.1	1,236.2	1,117.4	399.3	104.4	179.6	13,599.1
1975	4,884.5	3,719.1	2,084.0	1,252.1	1,146.7	404.7	89.4	190.9	13,771.4
1976	4,914.3	3,746.0	2,111.7	1,261.6	1,169.8	407.4	101.4	203.3	13,915.5
1977	4,956.7	3,782.3	2,136.8	1,276.8	1,197.1	410.6	105.5	208.2	14,074.1
1978(c)	5,011.6	3,818.7	2,166.7	1,287.6	1,222.1	413.7	112.3	215.9	14,248.5
Percentage of total population in 1978	35.17	26.80	15.20	9.04	8.58	2.90	0.79	1.51	100.00

(a) Part of New South Wales before 1911. (b) Figures before 1961 exclude Aborigines, later figures do not. The estimates from June 1971 for each State and Territory are made from the 1971 census results, with augmented adjustments for under-enumeration to make the total balance with the estimates for Australia made retrospectively from 1976. (c) Provisional figures.

General characteristics of the population

The age composition of the population is presented in Plate 22 in the form of a pyramid. The increase in the birth rate in the 1940s and 1950s can be readily seen in the broadening at ages 15 to 29. The stabilisation of the number of births in the 1960s and 1970s is reflected in a more even structure at younger ages. Postwar immigration, which at least in the earlier years was characterised by a preponderance of men in the working ages, appears as a corresponding 'bulge' from about 45 upwards.

ESTIMATED AGE DISTRIBUTION: 30 JUNE 1977 (a)
(^{'000})

<i>Age Group (years)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
0-4	611.0	581.2	1,192.2
5-9	669.7	638.2	1,307.9
10-14	639.5	603.5	1,243.0
15-19	653.2	622.2	1,275.4
20-24	594.5	582.8	1,177.2
25-29	585.2	573.7	1,158.9
30-34	536.5	506.0	1,042.5
35-39	439.4	416.0	855.4
40-44	390.3	368.6	758.9
45-49	399.4	373.0	772.3
50-54	392.8	377.7	770.6
55-59	329.5	334.8	664.3
60-64	279.8	302.4	582.2
65-69	221.5	253.8	475.3
70-74	153.4	192.7	346.2
75+	159.7	292.1	451.8
All ages	7,055.2	7,018.8	14,074.1

(a) Preliminary.

Although the numbers of men and women aged 15 and over are nearly equal, there are more single men than single women and there are more widows than widowers. The first phenomenon is attributable to women generally marrying about 2 years younger than men, and the second to their greater longevity. In 1976, 29 per cent of the male population aged 15 and over was single, 64 per cent married (excluding 2.2 per cent married but recorded as permanently separated), 2.7 per cent widowed and 2 per cent divorced. For females the figures were 21 per cent single, 62.5 per cent married (excluding 2.7 per cent married but permanently separated), 11 per cent widowed and 2.5 per cent divorced.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION 1954 TO 1976

(Per cent distribution)

Census	Never married		Married	Married but permanently separated	Widowed	Divorced	Total
	Under 15	15 and over					
MALES							
1954	28.9	21.2	45.4	1.3	2.5	0.7	100.0
1961	30.6	20.7	44.5	1.3	2.2	0.7	100.0
1966	29.9	21.4	44.5	1.3	2.1	0.7	100.0
1971	29.3	20.7	45.6	1.3	2.0	1.0	100.0
1976	28.0	21.0	46.1	1.6	1.9	1.4	100.0
FEMALES							
1954	28.3	15.4	46.1	1.5	7.9	0.8	100.0
1961	29.8	14.8	45.1	1.5	7.9	0.8	100.0
1966	28.9	15.7	44.9	1.5	8.1	0.9	100.0
1971	28.2	14.9	46.1	1.5	8.2	1.1	100.0
1976	26.6	15.6	45.9	2.0	8.1	1.8	100.0

In 1976, people born overseas made up 20 per cent of the population, about the same as 1971 but an increase on earlier censuses. The proportion of males who were overseas-born has been higher than for females: In 1976, 21 per cent as compared with 19 per cent for females.

AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS-BORN POPULATION

(per cent of total population)

Census	Australian born			Overseas born		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1954	83.9	85.6	85.7	16.1	14.4	14.3
1961	81.4	84.8	83.1	18.6	15.2	16.9
1966	80.2	82.9	81.6	19.8	17.0	18.4
1971	78.5	81.0	79.8	21.5	19.0	20.2
1976	78.9	80.8	79.8	21.1	19.2	20.2

The proportion of the population of working age (taken as 15 to 64) increased between 1971 and 1977, particularly among those aged 15-44 who, as a proportion of the total population, increased from 42.9 per cent to 44.5 per cent.

Although there was also a rise in the number of persons in the population aged under 15, these young dependents made up a reduced percentage of the total population: 26.6 per cent in 1977 as compared with 28.8 per cent in 1971. The numbers aged 65 and over, i.e. the aged dependent group, increased from 8.3 per cent to 9.0 per cent.

The masculinity of the population is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This ratio is influenced by the age structure: masculinity at birth is about 105.5, but higher male mortality gradually erodes the difference so that by about age 50 the numbers of males and females tend to be equal, and the ratio progressively declines thereafter. Immigration, with its large proportion of young adult males, also affects the masculinity of the population. The overall masculinity of the population has been declining and in 1977 was 100.52.

MASCULINITY IN EACH AGE GROUP (males per hundred females)(a)

30 June	Age in years				Total
	0-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
1954	104.47	106.20	100.97	81.63	102.38
1961	104.86	106.73	102.46	75.31	102.24
1966	105.00	105.96	101.73	72.02	101.45
1971 r	104.85	105.87	100.40	72.17	101.17
1976 r	105.38	104.37	100.92	72.24	100.62
1977 p	105.34	104.22	100.98	72.38	100.52

(a) Based on census results adjusted for mis-statement of age, and for 1971 and 1976, for under-enumeration.

The Aboriginal population

A brief account was given of the Australian Aboriginal population, its origin and its numbers as estimated from time to time in Year Book No. 17, pages 951-61. A special article by A. R. Radcliffe Brown dealing with the estimated number and distribution of the Aboriginal population at the date of the first settlement of European people in the continent appeared in Year Book No. 23, pages 687-696. That article arrived at an estimated minimum Aboriginal population of 251,000, based on the evidence available at the time; however estimates of upwards of 300,000 persons have since been assessed.

The task of collecting data on the Aboriginal population is difficult, raising problems of coverage, definition and reporting. For this reason, statistics, even of the total Aboriginal population, should be treated with caution. This applies particularly to comparison of the changes in numbers from one census to another which can be affected by social attitudes and by changes made in the nature of the question in an attempt to improve coverage and reporting. For the censuses of 1971 and 1976 the question was designed to distinguish those persons who identify themselves as Aboriginals or Torres Strait Islanders.

ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (a)
(persons)

State	30 June 1971	30 June 1976
New South Wales	23,873	40,450
Victoria	6,371	14,760
Queensland	31,922	41,345
South Australia	7,299	10,714
Western Australia	22,181	26,126
Tasmania	671	2,942
Northern Territory	23,381	23,751
Australian Capital Territory	255	827
Total Australia	115,953	160,915

(a) Definition of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders based on the race to which each person considers himself to belong and is not comparable with previous data.

Compared with the rest of the Australian population, Aboriginal women have very high rates of fertility and Aboriginal people at all ages suffer high rates of mortality. At the time of the 1971 census, the average issue of married Aboriginal women was 4.1 children (excluding still-born children). Acknowledging the probability of high reporting error among this group, this represents a total fertility rate of perhaps twice the rate of the population as a whole. The expectation of life at birth for Aboriginal Australians may be as low as 50 years, compared with 72 years for the rest of the population.

Internal migration

The 5-yearly censuses and occasional internal migration surveys (conducted in conjunction with the population survey) are important sources of information for internal migration. Estimates of interstate migration are also made from address changes notified to the Electoral Office and the Department of Social Security.

The 1971 census set out to measure internal migration by asking respondents where they usually lived and where they had lived 5 years before. An additional question was added to the 1976 census which asked where the respondents had lived one year before.

Internal migration surveys were conducted in respect of each of the twelve-month periods ending 30 April between 1970 and 1974 and for the twelve-month periods ended 31 December between 1974 and 31 January 1977. In these surveys, the usual place of residence of respondents at the beginning and end of the reference period was ascertained. Estimates were made of the number and characteristics of those who changed their residence. (Because the estimates are based on information from occupants of a small sample of dwellings, the imprecision due to sampling variability should be kept in mind. Standard errors of estimates are published in the detailed bulletins providing the survey results. These bulletins are listed at the end of this chapter).

The internal migration surveys show that about 15 to 17 per cent of all persons aged 15 and over change their residence within a twelve-month period. Of those who change their residence, slightly over 50 per cent remain within the same capital city, slightly over 10 per cent are interstate movements and about 4 per cent are movements between State capital cities.

The New South Wales net internal migration loss reached a peak in 1973-74 when there was a net loss of 20,600 persons aged 15 and over; the State capital, Sydney, lost an estimated 26,600 persons in this age group. Smaller losses have been recorded since then. In contrast, Queensland and its capital, Brisbane, experienced net gains from internal migration until the most recent twelve months ended January 1977, when Brisbane had a net loss.

While the pattern of net migration gain or loss has varied over the years, the age and sex composition of those who changed residence has been rather consistent: the masculinity ratio remains around 50 to 51 per cent, and movers show a concentration in the ages 20 to 34 (59 per cent of all movers in the twelve-month period ended January 1977).

INTERNAL MIGRATION (a)
(*000 persons)

Year ended	Within State capitals	Into State capitals	Out of State capitals	Net capital city gain	Moved to another State or Territory	Total movers	Did not move	Total
30 April—								
1971	661.8	119.0	112.8	6.3	167.0	1,371.2	7,563.0	8,934.2
1972	714.5	116.0	103.3	12.7	157.2	1,393.1	7,561.5	8,954.6
1973	815.3	118.8	128.8	-10.0	170.3	1,584.2	7,479.4	9,063.6
1974	810.3	118.0	128.3	-10.3	170.4	1,592.6	7,645.3	9,237.9
31 December—								
1974	682.5	97.3	105.9	-8.6	151.3	1,342.9	8,044.6	9,387.5
31 January—								
1977	816.3	113.1	101.6	11.5	161.9	1,581.1	8,161.6	9,742.7

(a) Includes non-institutionalised civilians aged 15 years and over at the time of the survey who were resident in Australia at the beginning and end of the survey year. Changes of residence away from and back to the same address during the survey year are not counted.

INTERSTATE MIGRATION(a)

Year ended		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
NET GAIN (+) OR LOSS (-) ('000 PERSONS)									
30 April	1971	- 8.7	-10.2	+ 8.1	- 3.3	+9.4	- 1.5	(c)	+4.9
	1972	-16.2	(c)	+ 9.4	- 2.7	+3.5	(c)	+1.8	+3.2
	1973	-17.5	+ 6.9	+10.4	- 2.9	- 1.3	+1.1	(c)	+3.5
	1974	-20.6	- 3.2	+ 9.1	- 1.2	+7.3	+2.7	- 2.8	+8.8
31 December	1974	-16.3	- 3.7	+ 5.7	- 1.3	+ 8.2	+1.6	(c)	+6.4
31 January	1977	-13.5	+ 5.3	+ 2.7	+2.9	+5.5	- 2.0	- 2.5	+1.6
NET GAIN OR LOSS PER TEN THOUSAND OF POPULATION (b)									
30 April	1971	- 9.74	-11.42	+ 9.07	- 3.69	+10.52	- 1.68	(c)	+5.48
	1972	-18.09	(c)	+10.50	- 3.02	+ 3.91	(c)	+2.01	+3.57
	1973	-19.31	+ 7.61	+11.47	- 3.20	- 1.43	+1.21	(c)	+3.86
	1974	-22.30	- 3.46	+ 9.85	- 1.30	+ 7.90	+2.92	- 3.03	+9.53
31 December	1974	-17.36	- 3.94	+ 6.07	- 1.38	+ 8.74	+1.70	(c)	+6.82
31 January	1977	-13.86	+ 5.44	+ 2.77	+2.98	+ 5.65	- 2.05	- 2.57	+1.64

(a) Non-institutionalised civilians aged 15 years and over at the time of the survey whose usual residence at the end of the survey year was in another State or Territory than at the beginning of the year and who were resident in Australia on both dates. (b) Necessarily, but contrary to normal practice, the population (non-institutionalised civilians aged 15 years and over) is that at the end of the period. (c) Very small estimate subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

VITAL STATISTICS

Registration of vital events, i.e. births, deaths and marriages, has been compulsory throughout Australia since 1856. The total number of these occurrences 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 other details have been published on a consistent basis only since the 1950s.

Crude rates are the number of vital events per thousand of the mean population of a particular year. Natural increase is the excess of births over deaths. In 1977, births numbered 226,291, deaths 108,799 and the natural increase was 117,493. The rate of natural increase for that year was 8.35 per thousand of the mean population made up of crude birth rate 16.08 and crude death rate 7.73. This represented a considerable decline since 1951-55 when the birth rate was 22.86, the death rate 9.25 and natural increase 13.61.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NATURAL INCREASE

Period	Number			Crude rates per 1000 of mean population		
	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Births	Deaths	Natural increase
Annual averages—						
1956-60	222,459	86,488	135,971	22.59	8.78	13.81
1961-65	232,952	95,465	137,487	21.34	8.75	12.60
1966-70	240,325	107,263	133,062	19.95	8.90	11.05
1971-75	253,438	111,216	142,222	18.99	8.32	10.67
Annual totals—						
1972	264,969	109,760	155,209	20.11	8.33	11.78
1973	247,670	110,822	136,848	18.51	8.28	10.23
1974	245,177	115,833	129,344	18.03	8.52	9.51
1975	233,012	109,021	123,991	16.92	7.91	9.00
1976	227,810	112,662	115,148	16.37	8.10	8.27
1977 p	226,291	108,799	117,492	16.08	7.73	8.35

There were 104,918 marriages in 1977, a crude rate of 7.45. Divorces numbered 45,175 bringing the crude divorce rate to 3.21.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Period	Number		Crude rates per 1,000 of mean population	
	Marriages	Divorces	Marriage	Divorce
Annual averages—				
1956-60	73,854	6,788	7.50	0.69
1961-65	83,250	7,611	7.63	0.70
1966-70	106,188	10,738	8.81	0.89
1971-75	111,802	17,405	8.36	1.30
Annual totals—				
1972	114,029	15,707	8.65	1.19
1973	112,700	16,266	8.42	1.22
1974	110,673	17,744	8.14	1.30
1975	103,973	24,307	7.55	1.77
1976	109,973	63,267	7.90	4.54
1977	104,918	(p)45,175	7.45	(p)3.21

Births and fertility

Special interest attaches to fertility as an element of population change. Fertility has had considerable impact on the population structure. Extensive studies have revealed patterns of fertility which justify attempts to predict the numbers of future births. In 1971 there was a record 276,362 births but the number of births has declined progressively in each year since. In 1977 there were 226,291 births.

Live births

Extensive statistics of live births are available since the 1910s. These include information about sex of children, the incidence of multiple births, marital status of the parents, the number of previous issue to the mother's existing marriage, the duration of marriage, the age of parents and their country of birth.

With rare exceptions, statistics indicate an excess of male over female births. In 1977 there were 116,551 male births and 109,740 female births, a masculinity ratio of 106.21.

The proportion of children born to parents not married to each other at the time of birth has been increasing. In 1951-55, 3.97 per cent of births were ex-nuptial. In 1972 ex-nuptial births numbered 25,659 (the highest number on record), 9.68 per cent of all births. In 1977, there were 23,316 ex-nuptial births, 10.30 per cent of the total.

LIVE BIRTHS: SEX AND NUPTIALITY

Period	Live births			Ex-nuptial live births			Per-centage of total	Per 1000 of mean population
	Males	Females	Persons	Mascu- linity	Persons	Mascu- linity		
Annual averages—								
1956-60	114,288	108,171	222,459	105.65	10,027	104.49	4.51	1.02
1961-65	119,777	113,175	232,952	105.83	13,798	106.88	5.92	1.26
1966-70	123,326	116,999	240,325	105.41	18,937	105.11	7.88	1.57
1971-75	130,047	123,391	253,438	105.39	24,520	106.71	9.69	1.88
Annual totals—								
1972	136,009	128,960	264,969	105.47	25,659	106.38	9.68	r1.95
1973	126,969	120,701	247,670	105.19	24,198	104.69	9.77	r1.81
1974	126,295	118,882	245,177	106.24	23,408	108.79	9.55	r1.72
1975	119,850	113,162	233,012	105.91	23,705	107.83	10.17	r1.72
1976	116,838	110,972	227,810	105.29	23,064	108.20	9.19	1.66
1977	116,551	109,740	226,291	106.21	23,316	106.03	10.30	1.66

About 1 per cent of confinements result in twin births and about one in 10,000 in triplets. Quadruplets occur about once in 250,000 confinements. The likelihood of multiple confinement is about 0.9 per cent for the first nuptial confinement, rising to about 1 per cent at the second confinement and to as much as 1.5 per cent at the fourth and subsequent confinements. The incidence of multiple births also rises with age of mother. In 1976 there were 223,264 single confinements, 2,281 twin confinements, 19 cases of triplets, and 1 of quadruplets.

LIVE BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS: PLURALITY

Period	Confinement				Total
	Single	Twin	Triplet	Other multiple	
Annual averages—					
1956-60	217,397	2,542	26	-	219,965
1961-65	227,948	2,509	26	-	230,483
1966-70	235,132	2,481	25	2	237,640
1971-75	248,459	2,488	25	1	250,973
Annual totals—					
1972	259,719	2,622	24	1	262,366
1973	242,776	2,448	28	-	245,252
1974	240,437	2,367	23	2	242,829
1975	228,525	2,223	28	1	230,777
1976	223,264	2,281	19	1	225,565

Since the 1950s, there has been a decline in the proportion, and since 1971 in the number, of women having three or more children to their marriage. During the 1950s the median age of mother at first nuptial birth declined, but in recent years it has risen slightly. In 1976, median age at first birth was 24.16 years.

NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: BIRTH ORDER

Period	Birth order						7 and over	Total nuptial (a)	Ex-nuptial	Confinements
	1	2	3	4	5	6				

NUMBER OF CONFINEMENTS

Annual averages—										
1956-60	65,695	57,532	40,920	22,968	11,299	5,558	6,075	210,047	9,918	219,965
1961-65	69,281	57,971	40,818	23,612	12,125	6,160	6,862	216,829	13,655	230,483
1966-70	80,999	62,930	37,446	18,899	8,961	4,489	5,213	218,937	18,707	237,644
1971-75	88,120	74,641	36,914	15,216	6,006	2,805	2,959	226,674	24,299	250,973
Annual totals—										
1971	95,418	74,752	41,938	19,444	8,365	4,015	4,306	248,238	25,404	273,642
1972	91,683	74,996	39,092	17,177	7,122	3,302	3,583	236,955	25,411	262,366
1973	85,707	74,004	35,694	14,444	5,779	2,642	2,996	221,282	23,970	245,252
1974	86,248	75,996	34,810	13,362	4,784	2,195	2,213	219,629	23,200	242,829
1975	81,543	73,456	33,036	11,653	3,979	1,873	1,699	207,267	23,510	230,777
1976	78,086	73,338	33,505	11,130	3,584	1,497	1,534	202,692	22,873	225,565

MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHER

Annual averages—										
1956-60	23.54	26.43	28.86	30.99	32.66	33.95	35.03	27.18	24.23	27.11
1961-65	23.12	25.72	28.35	30.64	32.51	33.88	35.02	26.54	22.54	26.38
1966-70	23.14	25.63	28.21	30.54	32.53	34.06	35.42	25.92	21.37	25.67
1971-75	23.60	25.96	28.21	30.55	32.53	34.09	36.84	25.87	21.12	25.58
Annual totals—										
1971	23.25	25.69	28.12	30.58	32.50	33.94	36.62	25.73	21.18	25.43
1972	23.43	25.83	28.23	30.56	32.32	34.02	36.79	25.76	21.01	25.49
1973	23.60	25.92	28.17	30.52	32.50	34.05	36.89	25.84	21.00	25.55
1974	23.77	26.09	28.23	30.52	32.67	34.12	36.94	25.96	21.10	25.66
1975	23.95	26.25	28.32	30.57	32.67	34.30	36.96	26.07	21.29	25.76
1976	24.16	26.37	28.31	30.48	32.41	34.23	37.20	26.35	21.90	26.03

(a) Includes those for whom birth order was not stated; in 1976 there were 18 such cases.

Since 1971, there has been a decline in the number and proportion of confinements occurring in the first year of marriage and to marriages of 10 years duration and longer.

NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Period	Duration of marriage, completed years								15 and over	Not stated	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14				
Annual averages—											
1956-60	27,590	24,161	23,475	20,987	18,605	60,449	24,531	10,249	n.a.	210,047	
1961-65	31,046	24,775	24,885	22,237	18,843	58,855	25,149	11,038	n.a.	216,829	
1966-70	31,920	25,903	27,566	25,253	20,831	57,457	20,415	9,100	491	218,937	
1971-75	27,249	25,841	30,072	29,674	25,544	64,690	16,676	6,373	556	226,674	
Annual totals—											
1971	33,986	29,279	32,669	29,756	25,109	67,584	20,765	8,607	483	248,238	
1972	30,696	27,537	31,655	30,337	25,021	65,072	18,553	7,468	616	236,955	
1973	26,433	24,721	29,853	30,054	25,376	61,951	15,999	6,221	674	221,282	
1974	24,328	24,339	29,524	30,133	26,487	64,543	14,546	5,257	562	219,629	
1975	20,890	23,327	26,327	28,089	25,725	64,302	13,519	4,312	446	207,267	
1976	18,774	21,231	25,706	26,555	25,359	67,668	13,136	3,822	441	202,692	

Fertility

General fertility rates, which are the number of births to women of any age per thousand females aged 15-44, are the simplest measure of fertility. These have been calculated for the three years' births around each census from 1881 and provide a consistent series for nuptial and ex-nuptial fertility as well as for total fertility.

The rates show a substantial decline in fertility over the total period with a low point in 1932-34 and a minor recovery peaking in 1960-62. The general rate of 78 births per thousand females aged 15-44 was only 46 per cent of the rate in 1880-82. The decline has been greater among married women, the rate for 1975-77 of 107 per thousand being only 33 per cent of the 1880-82 rate. Ex-nuptial fertility in 1975-77 was 23 per thousand, 64 per cent above 1880-82.

FERTILITY RATES: AUSTRALIA

Period	Births per 1000 women, aged 15-44 years			Index numbers (base year 1880-82 = 100)		
	Nuptial births per 1000 married women, aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1000 single, widowed or divorced women, aged 15-44 years	per 1000	Births per 1000 women, aged 15-44 years	Nuptial births per 1000 married women, aged 15-44 years	Ex-nuptial births per 1000 single, widowed or divorced women
1880-82	170	321	14	100	100	100
1890-92	159	332	16	94	103	114
1900-02	117	235	13	69	73	93
1910-12	117	236	13	69	74	93
1920-22	107	197	11	63	61	79
1932-34	71	131	7	42	41	50
1946-48	104	160	11	61	50	79
1953-55	109	149	14	64	46	100
1960-62	112	154	18	66	48	129
1965-67	95	132	21	56	41	150
1970-72	100	134	29	59	42	207
1975-77	78	107	23	46	33	164

Age specific birth rates provide a measure of changing patterns of fertility within the fertile ages. The sum of these rates, the total fertility rate, is a more useful measure of change than the general fertility rate since it takes into account the changing age structure of the population within the fertile ages. The total fertility rate represents the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown. Fertility at older ages has declined since the 1950s and for all age groups except 15-19 from the 1960s. Since 1971, fertility at 15-19 has also fallen. The total fertility rate, which rose in the 1950s, has since declined and in 1976 was 2.077.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)

Period	Age group (years)							Total fertility(b)
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1951-55	39.54	192.81	192.97	123.51	65.05	20.50	1.53	3.180
1956-60	44.20	216.42	211.47	126.06	63.91	18.96	1.45	3.412
1961-65	46.50	203.95	207.15	122.38	59.18	17.54	1.19	3.289
1966-70	49.39	172.59	187.64	103.03	46.84	12.89	1.00	2.866
1971-75	48.02	154.84	170.63	85.69	34.25	8.65	0.59	2.513
1971	54.21	177.87	195.13	99.54	44.07	11.29	0.78	2.914
1972	53.19	164.55	180.94	92.01	38.41	10.03	0.74	2.699
1973	47.93	151.28	164.85	82.70	32.88	8.45	0.60	2.443
1974	44.42	146.07	161.27	79.25	29.51	7.30	0.46	2.342
1975	40.37	134.44	150.95	74.96	26.40	6.17	0.37	2.168
1976	35.55	129.22	147.34	73.06	24.28	5.57	0.41	2.077

(a) Number of births per 1,000 women in each age group. Excludes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals before 1966. (b) The sum of the age specific rates multiplied by 5 and divided by 1,000. This is the number of children a woman would bear in her lifetime if she experienced the rates of the year shown.

The gross reproduction rate is derived from total fertility and the ratio of female to total births. It indicates the number of female children who would be born on average to women supposing the rates from which it was calculated were to apply throughout the reproductive period. It is an indication of the extent to which the population is reproducing itself except that it does not allow for females who failed to survive to the end of the childbearing period. The net reproduction rate allows for such mortality. It is obtained by multiplying the age-specific rates by the survivor proportions in the corresponding age group of the stationary or life table population. Mortality in childhood and young adulthood is now so low that there is little difference between current gross and net reproduction rates. In 1976 the gross and net reproduction rates were at their lowest level since the 1930s.

GROSS AND NET REPRODUCTION RATES

Period	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate	Life tables used
1954	1.559	1.499	1953-55
1961	1.728	1.672	
1966	1.400	1.357	
1971	1.427	1.386	1965-67
1972	1.314	1.277	
1973	1.191	1.157	
1974	1.135	1.102	
1975	1.053	1.023	
1976	1.012	0.983	

Fertility of Australian Marriages. This series is designed to show the pattern of fertility within marriage. Births in each year and at each duration of marriage to parents who were married in Australia are related (per thousand) to the Australian marriages a relevant number of years earlier.

The sum of these rates for all duration is the *index of current marriage fertility* and indicates the number of children marriages would produce according to the recorded fertility of that year.

Fertility in the first two to three years of marriage has fallen very substantially. For instance, fertility in the first year of marriage fell from 369 births per thousand marriages in 1956-60 to 172 in 1976. There has also been a substantial decline for marriages of ten years duration or longer from 292 per thousand at durations 10-14 years in 1956-60 to 126 per thousand in 1976. At longer durations the fall is proportionally greater still. There has been no rise at medium duration to compensate for the decline early and late in marriage. The index of current marriage fertility declined from the equivalent of 2.7 children per marriage in 1956-60 to 1.7 in 1976.

The annual rates accumulated according to year of marriage show the experience of successive marriage cohorts. These marriage cohort tables demonstrate an increasing delay by couples in having their first child. The marriages of 1955-56 had 1,262 children per thousand marriages by the end of the fourth year of marriage, compared with 1,314 for those married in 1960-61, and 874 for those married in 1972-73.

FERTILITY OF AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGES: ANNUAL RATES

Births occurring in—	Duration of marriage (years)										
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	Total under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20 and over	Total
Annual averages—											
1956-60	369	317	309	277	243	1,515	751	292	101	26	2,685
1961-65	377	304	311	281	239	1,512	741	293	100	22	2,668
1966-70	302	248	278	265	227	1,320	663	234	79	17	2,313
1971-75	232	211	248	249	219	1,159	606	178	54	14	2,011
Annual rates—											
1971	282	240	279	270	235	1,306	694	231	75	15	2,321
1972	257	220	260	258	225	1,220	638	203	64	15	2,140
1973	228	201	240	246	214	1,129	581	170	54	12	1,946
1974	206	202	240	242	215	1,105	572	152	45	9	1,883
1975	185	192	222	228	205	1,032	544	135	37	9	1,757
1976	172	185	214	222	206	999	555	126	32	7	1,719

FERTILITY OF AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGES(a)

Marriages of year—	Completed duration of marriage (years)						
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15
1955-56	352	674	983	1,262	1,511	2,262	2,497
1960-61	403	721	1,039	1,314	1,536	2,194	2,379
1965-66	324	575	855	1,125	1,356	1,961	..
1970-71	282	502	742	984	1,189	..	..
1971-72	257	458	698	926	1,131	..	..
1972-73	228	430	652	874	..	..	..
1973-74	206	398	512	..	..	..	..
1974-75	185	370	..	..	..	..	..
1975-76	172	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Cumulated number of births per thousand marriages.

Birth Expectations

An Australia-wide survey of birth expectations of married women was conducted in November 1976 as a supplement to the regular quarterly population survey of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Preliminary results were published in December 1977. Questions were directed to every married woman under the age of 40. Information was obtained about the birth date and sex of each child and the number of children still living. Women married at the time of the survey were asked how many children they expected to have, altogether and in the next 5 years, and when they expected the next child to be born.

The survey results indicate a preference for the 2-child family. For instance, of the women covered by the survey (married and aged 15-39) who had not had any children, 48.2 per cent expected to have two children, compared with only 6.1 per cent who expected to have one child, 21.0 per cent three or more, and 19.7 per cent did not expect to have any children. Similarly, 48.5 per cent of those with one child expected to have one more, as against 26.6 per cent expected to stop with one, and 22.7 per cent expecting two or more additional children. Of those with two children, 84.2 per cent expected to have no more children.

MARRIED WOMEN AGED 15-39(a): LIVE-BORN AND EXPECTED CHILDREN, NOVEMBER 1976
(per cent)

Additional children expected	Women whose live-born children numbered			
	None	One	Two	Three or more
None	19.7	26.6	84.2	94.0
One	6.1	48.5	11.2	4.9
Two	48.2	17.3	3.5	0.7
Three or more	21.0	5.4	0.6	(b)
Uncertain of number	5.0	2.2	0.5	(b)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes women in institutions and the Australian defence forces, and also women who did not know whether they expect to have any (more) children. (b) Small estimates subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

If the birth expectations of these women are realised, the families of younger women will be smaller on average than those now approaching the end of their reproductive life. Thus, the expected average family size (live-born plus expected children) of married women under 25 is 2.3 compared with an average family size of 2.9 for married women aged 35-39 at the time of the survey.

MARRIED WOMEN AGED 15-39(a): AVERAGE ISSUE, EXPECTED CHILDREN AND TOTAL EXPECTED FAMILY SIZE, NOVEMBER 1976

	<i>Number of women ('000)</i>	<i>Average number of live-born children</i>	<i>Average number of additional children expected</i>	<i>Average number of live-born and expected children</i>
BY AGE				
Age group (years)—				
15-19	40.0	0.5	1.8	2.3
20-24	307.8	0.8	1.5	2.3
25-29	429.7	1.7	0.7	2.4
30-34	394.4	2.4	0.2	2.6
35-39	348.3	2.9	(b)	2.9
Total	1,520.2	1.9	0.6	2.5
BY DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE				
Duration (years)—				
Less than 2	161.4	0.4	1.9	2.3
2 and under 5	301.6	1.0	1.3	2.2
5 and under 10	459.1	1.9	0.4	2.4
10 years or longer	598.0	2.8	0.1	2.9
Total	1,520.2	1.9	0.6	2.5

(a) Excludes women in institutions and the Australian defence forces, and also women who did not know whether they expected to have any (more) children. (b) Small estimate subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

Mortality

The number of deaths per year is now in excess of 100,000 a year. The increase from previous decades arises from the overall growth of the population, and from the advanced age of an increasing proportion of the population. The crude death rate, which fell from over 12 per 1,000 at the beginning of the century to 7.73 per 1,000 in 1977, can be expected to rise slowly as a result of further aging of the population, unless there is a more than off-setting drop in age specific death rates.

General Mortality

Between 1953-55 and 1960-62, mortality declined at most ages. Since then there has been little further change, except for infant mortality which has continued to fall. Indeed at some ages there have been small rises in age specific mortality. For instance, for males aged 15-19 the rate rose from 1.23 per 1,000 in 1960-62 to 1.50 in 1970-72, and for ages 20-24, it rose from 1.62 to 1.75.

Mortality is greater for males than for females at every age. It is relatively high in the first year of life (15.15 per 1,000 males and 12.44 per 1,000 females in 1976), very low in childhood and young adulthood, and then rises in middle and old age.

DEMOGRAPHY
AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES(a)

Age group (years)	1953-55 (b)	1960-62 (b)	1965-67 (b)	1970-72 (b)	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
MALES										
Under 1(c)	25.18	22.36	20.85	18.85	19.02	18.95	18.56	18.39	16.29	15.15
1-4 . . .	1.69	1.15	1.08	0.99	0.93	0.97	0.96	0.93	0.84	0.76
5-9 . . .	0.67	0.52	0.45	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.36	0.37
10-14 . . .	0.63	0.48	0.46	0.42	0.46	0.41	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.40
15-19 . . .	1.51	1.23	1.33	1.50	1.56	1.46	1.51	1.61	1.55	1.50
20-24 . . .	1.82	1.62	1.67	1.75	1.83	1.68	1.73	1.73	1.69	1.68
25-29 . . .	1.68	1.49	1.48	1.38	1.46	1.23	1.30	1.36	1.31	1.21
30-34 . . .	1.79	1.69	1.64	1.49	1.55	1.42	1.43	1.48	1.45	1.39
35-39 . . .	2.40	2.26	2.45	2.31	2.34	2.15	2.07	2.12	2.07	1.97
40-44 . . .	3.64	3.67	3.82	3.46	3.35	3.46	3.53	3.39	3.33	3.35
45-49 . . .	6.01	5.96	6.14	6.06	6.04	6.01	6.07	6.13	5.86	5.58
50-54 . . .	10.44	10.01	10.45	9.92	9.85	9.58	9.64	9.92	9.65	9.17
55-59 . . .	17.03	16.57	16.96	16.58	16.54	16.04	15.55	16.24	15.38	14.97
60-64 . . .	26.58	26.44	27.59	26.59	25.86	26.26	25.71	26.14	24.15	24.31
65-69 . . .	41.28	41.68	43.66	42.04	41.22	39.98	40.08	39.96	37.54	38.19
70-74 . . .	64.53	63.04	66.84	63.45	62.35	62.54	62.28	63.21	59.15	58.82
75-79 . . .	98.77	94.43	99.77	99.99	97.71	97.10	94.81	96.59	86.57	93.79
80-84 . . .	145.88	141.83	146.95	143.43	142.24	140.61	143.31	147.44	133.25	140.40
85 and over	248.14	243.69	241.98	230.70	231.35	226.99	221.43	245.60	225.46	238.79
FEMALES										
Under 1(c)	19.88	17.57	16.35	14.37	15.48	14.37	14.32	13.74	12.13	12.44
1-4 . . .	1.35	1.08	1.14	0.78	0.79	0.76	0.72	0.71	0.66	0.54
5-9 . . .	0.50	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.26	0.27
10-14 . . .	0.37	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.22	0.26	0.25	0.28	0.23	0.24
15-19 . . .	0.58	0.50	0.54	0.59	0.66	0.53	0.57	0.51	0.53	0.47
20-24 . . .	0.67	0.60	0.63	0.58	0.64	0.57	0.53	0.51	0.49	0.50
25-29 . . .	0.83	0.71	0.72	0.67	0.67	0.61	0.56	0.59	0.52	0.52
30-34 . . .	1.11	0.95	0.98	0.89	0.92	0.85	0.79	0.75	0.77	0.75
35-39 . . .	1.74	1.47	1.54	1.44	1.38	1.27	1.27	1.28	1.31	1.19
40-44 . . .	2.55	2.26	2.31	2.23	2.26	2.16	2.05	2.12	2.02	1.94
45-49 . . .	4.19	3.65	3.86	3.63	3.76	3.53	3.59	3.58	3.27	3.13
50-54 . . .	6.43	5.55	5.87	5.56	5.50	5.43	5.12	5.47	4.95	4.93
55-59 . . .	9.25	8.14	8.67	8.30	8.22	8.17	7.99	8.28	7.70	7.43
60-64 . . .	14.75	13.31	13.56	13.01	12.87	12.37	12.15	12.53	11.83	11.61
65-69 . . .	23.89	21.99	21.94	20.70	20.15	19.79	19.09	20.31	18.93	18.66
70-74 . . .	40.93	37.14	37.47	35.79	35.61	33.78	33.69	33.29	31.36	30.19
75-79 . . .	69.72	63.18	62.37	60.24	60.54	57.55	56.11	56.32	51.70	53.91
80-84 . . .	117.36	105.10	107.93	100.96	99.79	97.96	97.82	99.98	89.71	91.54
85 and over	213.69	210.20	197.73	187.15	189.89	180.77	185.92	195.12	176.78	192.55

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 of population of the same age group and sex. The populations used in the calculation of these rates are based on census populations at 30 June 1954, 1961, 1966, 1971 and 1976; and estimates at 30 June for intercensal years. (b) Average annual rate per 1,000 of census population, based on deaths in the three year period, i.e. census year and the years preceding and following it. (c) Infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

AGE AT DEATH, 1976

Age at death (years)	Number			Per cent		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Under 1	1,770	1,380	3,150	2.83	2.75	2.80
1-4	393	267	660	0.63	0.53	0.59
5-9	239	170	409	0.38	0.34	0.36
10-14	257	148	405	0.41	0.30	0.36
15-19	955	290	1,245	1.53	0.58	1.11
20-24	990	288	1,278	1.58	0.57	1.13
25-29	720	302	1,022	1.15	0.60	0.91
30-34	693	354	1,047	1.11	0.71	0.93
35-39	848	482	1,330	1.36	0.96	1.18
40-44	1,279	698	1,977	2.05	1.39	1.75
45-49	2,275	1,187	3,462	3.64	2.37	3.07
50-54	3,571	1,862	5,433	5.71	3.71	4.82
55-59	4,780	2,410	7,190	7.64	4.81	6.38
60-64	6,772	3,492	10,264	10.83	6.97	9.11
65-69	8,224	4,572	12,796	13.15	9.12	11.36
70-74	8,702	5,675	14,377	13.92	11.32	12.76
75-79	8,223	7,516	15,739	13.15	14.99	13.97
80-84	6,121	8,085	14,206	9.79	16.13	12.61
85-89	4,007	6,781	10,788	6.41	13.53	9.58
90-94	1,404	3,197	4,601	2.25	6.38	4.08
95-99	268	892	1,160	0.43	1.78	1.03
100 and over	25	85	110	0.04	0.17	0.10
Not stated	11	2	13	0.02	-	0.01
Total	62,527	50,135	112,662	100.00	100.00	100.00

Perinatal Mortality

Perinatal deaths comprise foetal deaths (stillbirths) and neonatal deaths (deaths within 28 days after birth). From 1972, statistics of stillbirths have been compiled on the basis of amended legislation in all States which provides for all foetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams weight to be registered. Previously, the statistics were based on a minimum of 28 weeks gestation. Neonatal deaths account for about 70 per cent of all deaths occurring within the first year of life.

In 1976 there were 4,654 perinatal deaths registered in Australia, which continued the decline in numbers and rates since 1972, the first year in which perinatal deaths were tabulated uniformly throughout Australia. Of these 4,654 deaths, 2,403 were foetal deaths and 2,251 were neonatal deaths.

The neonatal death rate continued its long historical decline, falling from 16.45 per 1,000 live births in 1951-55 to 9.88 per 1,000 in 1976. In the same period the total infant mortality rate fell from 23.34 to 13.83.

INFANT DEATHS

Period	Number			Per 1,000 live births		
	Less than 1 month	1-11 months	Total	Less than 1 month	1-11 months	Total
Annual averages—						
1956-60	3,353	1,330	4,683	15.07	5.98	21.05
1961-65	3,260	1,264	4,525	13.99	5.43	19.42
1966-70	3,141	1,208	4,349	13.07	5.03	18.10
1971-75	2,930	1,185	4,115	11.52	4.66	16.18
Annual totals—						
1971	3,364	1,413	4,777	12.17	5.11	17.29
1972	3,175	1,255	4,430	11.98	4.74	16.72
1973	2,927	1,158	4,085	11.82	4.68	16.49
1974	2,854	1,104	3,958	11.64	4.50	16.14
1975	2,330	995	3,325	10.00	4.27	14.27
1976	2,251	899	3,150	9.88	3.95	13.83
males	1,255	515	1,770	10.74	4.41	15.15
females	996	384	1,380	8.98	3.46	12.44

DEMOGRAPHY

STILL BIRTHS

Period	Number	Per 1,000 of all births (still and alive)
Annual average—		
1956-60	3,293	14.6
1961-65	2,946	12.5
1966-70	2,563	10.6
1971-75	2,772	10.8
Annual totals—		
1971	2,519	9.0
1972(a)	3,089	11.5
1973	2,924	11.7
1974	2,914	11.8
1975	2,414	10.3
1976	2,403	10.4

(a) Prior to 1972 based on foetal deaths of minimum 28 weeks of gestation. Since 1972 includes foetal deaths of at least 20 weeks of gestation or 400 grammes weight.

Life expectancy

Life tables are measures of life expectancy compiled from the death rates prevailing over a period. They form the basis for the *stationary population* which is the population that would result from a constant number of births each year which had been subject at each age to the life table mortality rates.

Since 1921, official life tables have been calculated from the separate male and female populations as enumerated at the census, and the deaths of the three years around the census. Earlier life tables were compiled for decennial periods 1881-90, 1891-1900 and 1901-10. Life tables have also been prepared in recent years using annual age estimates and the deaths of a particular year.

A key value in life tables is the expectation of life remaining at each age. Expectation of life—particularly at birth—improved at every age in the first half of this century. Since 1953-55 changes have been small. In the period 1901-10 to 1970-72, expectation of life at birth rose from 55.20 years to 67.90 for males and from 58.84 to 74.60 for females.

COMPLETE EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT SELECTED AGES

Age	Males					Females				
	1901-10	1953-55	1960-62	1965-67 (a)	1970-72 (a)	1901-10	1953-55	1960-62	1965-67 (a)	1970-72 (a)
0	55.20	67.14	67.92	67.63	67.90	58.84	72.75	74.18	74.15	74.60
10	53.53	59.53	59.93	59.50	59.66	56.38	64.78	65.92	65.75	66.08
20	44.74	50.10	50.40	49.98	50.19	47.52	55.06	56.16	56.00	56.35
30	36.52	40.90	41.12	40.72	40.94	39.33	45.43	46.49	46.34	46.67
40	28.56	31.65	31.84	31.44	31.61	31.47	35.09	35.99	36.85	37.16
50	21.16	22.92	23.13	22.76	22.87	23.69	27.03	27.92	27.83	28.10
60	14.35	15.47	15.60	15.27	15.35	16.20	18.78	19.51	19.52	19.74
70	8.67	9.59	9.77	9.52	9.51	9.96	11.62	12.19	12.23	12.39
80	4.96	5.47	5.57	5.51	5.52	5.73	6.30	6.68	6.72	6.88

(a) Includes particulars of full-blood Aboriginals.

The inverse of the expectation of life at birth is sometimes called the *true death rate*. This rate is a measure of mortality unaffected by the current age structure of the population, and is therefore a better measure of change than crude death rates. Since 1953-55 there has been little change in the true death rate, indicating that most of the variation in crude rates has been due to changes in the population age structure.

TRUE DEATH RATES

Period	True death rate(a)	
	Males	Females
1953-55	14.89	13.75
1960-62	14.72	13.48
1965-67	14.79	13.49
1970-72	14.73	13.40
1971	14.66	13.37
1972	14.60	13.28
1973	14.59	13.25
1974	14.63	13.27
1975	14.45	13.13
1976	14.43	13.11

(a) Number of deaths per 1,000 in stationary population.

Marriages

The *Australian Marriage Act* 1961-1973 came into operation on 1 September 1963, placing the marriage laws throughout Australia on a uniform basis. Marriages may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, or by a district registrar or other person authorised by the Attorney-General. The minimum marriageable age is 18 years for males and 16 years for females. A judge or magistrate may, in exceptional circumstances, make an order authorising a male who has attained 16 years or a female who has attained 14 years to marry a person of marriageable age.

In 1977, 77 per cent of grooms and 78 per cent of brides were marrying for the first time; 3 per cent were widowers and 4 per cent widows; and 19 per cent of grooms and 18 per cent of brides had been divorced. The proportion of divorced persons re-marrying was an increase on previous years, and is probably associated with the larger numbers of divorces granted since the introduction of the *Family Law Act* 1975.

Median age at first marriage declined during the 1950s and 1960s but has changed little recently. In 1977 it was 23.76 years for males and 21.35 for females. In 1977, 5.0 per cent of grooms and 23.7 per cent of brides married under the age of 20.

Marriage rates of the marriageable population provide a more exact measure of changing marriage patterns than the crude marriage rate. Marriage rates have been calculated for the three years around the census per thousand single, widowed and divorced males, females and persons.

The rates for 1975-77 were 64.86 for males, 61.92 for females, and 63.36 for persons.

The proportion of all marriages celebrated by civil officers rose to 32.4 per cent of all marriages registered in 1977. This proportion has nearly doubled since 1973.

MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE

Period	Grooms			Total bride- grooms	Brides			Total brides
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced		Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	
NUMBER								
Annual averages--								
1956-60	66,364	3,086	4,404	73,854	65,579	3,305	4,970	73,854
1961-65	75,384	3,063	4,803	83,250	74,962	3,218	5,070	83,250
1966-70	96,438	3,320	6,430	106,188	96,341	3,568	6,279	106,188
1971-75	99,203	3,473	9,126	111,802	99,287	3,810	8,705	111,802
Annual totals--								
1972	102,240	3,472	8,317	114,029	102,106	3,868	8,055	114,029
1973	99,741	3,614	9,345	112,700	99,950	3,906	8,844	112,700
1974	97,872	3,367	9,434	110,673	98,031	3,764	8,878	110,673
1975	89,912	3,308	10,753	103,973	90,010	3,681	10,282	103,973
1976	86,792	3,777	19,404	109,973	87,434	4,378	18,161	109,973
1977	81,172	3,385	20,361	104,918	81,694	3,999	19,225	104,918

MARITAL STATUS AT MARRIAGE—*continued*

Period	Grooms			Brides				Total brides	
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total bride-grooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced		
MEDIAN AGES									
Annual averages—									
1956-60	24.73	56.50	39.25	25.37	21.57	47.61	35.44	21.99	
1961-65	24.16	56.60	40.41	24.69	21.32	49.25	36.63	21.67	
1966-70	23.54	56.69	39.75	23.94	21.19	50.05	36.08	21.50	
1971-75	23.33	57.78	37.25	23.86	20.99	51.13	33.04	21.43	
Annual totals—									
1972	23.33	57.80	38.07	23.80	21.02	51.14	33.90	21.41	
1973	23.31	58.06	36.97	23.85	20.97	51.31	31.18	21.41	
1974	23.28	58.13	36.75	23.83	20.92	51.21	33.02	21.37	
1975	23.37	57.99	36.40	24.06	20.97	51.35	32.82	21.55	
1976	23.62	57.86	36.56	24.89	21.23	51.19	32.58	22.24	
1977	23.76	58.43	35.92	25.17	21.35	50.88	32.24	22.48	
AGE AT MARRIAGE									
Period	Age							Total	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49		50 and over
GROOM									
Annual averages—									
1956-60	3,320	31,620	19,721	8,245	3,630	2,139	1,606	3,573	73,854
1961-65	5,278	38,845	20,344	7,495	3,799	2,154	1,498	3,837	83,250
1966-70	7,917	55,824	23,398	7,008	3,544	2,473	1,763	4,258	106,185
1971-75	8,427	59,058	24,374	7,408	3,425	2,376	1,970	4,765	111,802
Annual totals—									
1972	8,746	60,934	24,860	7,190	3,257	2,317	1,986	4,739	114,029
1973	8,383	59,413	24,800	7,428	3,375	2,373	2,030	4,898	112,700
1974	8,472	58,059	24,415	7,408	3,356	2,268	1,943	4,752	110,673
1975	7,399	52,512	23,510	7,674	3,685	2,352	1,998	4,843	103,973
1976	6,302	49,614	25,659	9,776	5,198	3,450	3,057	6,917	109,973
1977	5,242	46,059	24,908	10,750	5,216	3,399	2,915	6,429	104,918
BRIDE									
Annual averages—									
1956-60	18,568	33,626	9,209	4,325	2,647	1,753	1,373	2,353	73,854
1961-65	23,454	39,370	8,760	3,553	2,416	1,715	1,367	2,616	83,250
1966-70	30,475	53,356	10,334	3,521	2,143	1,764	1,545	3,047	106,185
1971-75	34,319	51,846	12,363	4,280	2,279	1,733	1,621	3,362	111,802
Annual totals—									
1972	34,848	54,057	12,262	3,953	2,222	1,665	1,640	3,382	114,029
1973	34,679	51,794	12,716	4,393	2,238	1,743	1,653	3,484	112,700
1974	34,753	50,162	12,530	4,397	2,252	1,665	1,582	3,332	110,673
1975	31,483	45,872	12,581	4,742	2,521	1,752	1,642	3,380	103,973
1976	28,063	45,891	15,755	6,866	3,892	2,641	2,356	4,509	109,973
1977	24,827	44,208	15,692	7,360	3,945	2,519	2,229	4,138	104,918

MARRIAGE RATES OF MARRIAGEABLE POPULATION

Censal period	Per thousand single, widowed and divorced, aged 15 and over			Per thousand persons	
	Males rate	Females rate	Persons rate	Rate	Index
1880-82	39.38	63.56	48.63	7.62	100
1890-92	36.50	35.50	44.04	7.28	96
1900-02	37.32	48.39	42.14	7.27	95
1910-12	45.80	55.33	50.12	8.74	115
1920-22	54.00	58.08	55.97	8.75	115
1932-34	41.70	44.13	42.88	7.12	93
1946-48	71.89	70.60	71.24	10.15	133
1953-55	64.20	66.46	65.32	7.92	104
1960-62	61.50	63.07	62.27	7.34	96
1965-67	68.06	68.04	68.05	8.32	109
1970-72	70.34	67.11	68.69	9.09	119
1975-77	64.86	61.92	63.36	7.84	103

Divorce

The *Matrimonial Causes Act* of 1959-66 provided for dissolution of marriage on one or more of 14 grounds. It also provided for nullity of marriage and for judicial separation. This Act, which came into operation in 1961, replaced separate State and Territory legislation. The *Family Law Act 1975*, which came into operation on 5 January 1976, provides for a single ground for divorce—irretrievable breakdown of marriage—and for nullity of marriage on the ground that the marriage is void.

Statistics prior to 1976 in the following tables relate to divorces granted under the *Matrimonial Causes Act* or under previous State or Territory legislation. Statistics for 1976 relate to divorces granted under both *Matrimonial Causes* and *Family Law* legislation. Preliminary totals for divorces granted in 1977 relate to *Family Law* legislation only.

When comparing the number and rate of decrees granted from year to year it should be borne in mind that the availability of judges to hear petitions lodged can affect the number of decrees granted. A rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier year.

In 1976, 63,267 petitions were granted for divorce, an increase of 160 per cent on the number in 1975. Of these 24.9 per cent were granted under *Matrimonial Causes*. The provisional total for 1977 is 45,175.

DIVORCE: DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

Period	Petitions filed	Petitions granted
Annual averages—		
1956-60	8,310	6,788
1961-65	9,955	7,611
1966-70	13,089	10,738
1971-75	22,704	17,405
Annual totals—		
1972	19,088	15,707
1973	21,308	16,266
1974	26,855	17,744
1975	28,383	24,307
1976	n.a.	63,267
Matrimonial Causes	n.a.	15,743
Family Law	n.a.	47,524
1977	n.a.	p45,175

Duration of Marriage, Age at Marriage and Age at Divorce

Marriages which were dissolved in 1976 lasted on average 10.97 years. Of the 63,230 marriages which were dissolved, 45.7 per cent had lasted less than ten years, 30.6 per cent between ten and twenty years and 23.7 per cent more than twenty years.

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, YEARS MARRIED

Period	Years married						Total	Median duration of marriage
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 and over (a)		
Annual averages—								
1956-60	486	2,157	1,726	1,075	624	644	6,712	11.74
1961-65	501	1,999	1,747	1,329	926	1,040	7,542	13.56
1966-70	903	2,937	2,146	1,685	1,429	1,581	10,681	13.41
1971-75	1,693	5,478	3,432	2,398	1,930	2,417	17,349	11.92
Annual totals—								
1971	1,200	3,880	2,594	1,854	1,605	1,814	12,947	12.46
1972	1,568	4,828	3,002	2,222	1,831	2,204	15,655	12.14
1973	1,624	5,209	3,121	2,181	1,793	2,268	16,196	12.03
1974	1,672	5,612	3,571	2,382	1,941	2,510	17,688	11.80
1975	2,401	7,861	4,873	3,353	2,481	3,288	24,257	11.40
1976	9,791	19,108	11,421	7,917	6,200	8,793	63,230	10.97

(a) Includes 2 not stated 1974, 1 not stated 1975, 3 not stated 1976.

In 1976, the median age at marriage of divorcing husbands was 23.35 years and of wives 20.99 years. Of husbands, 11.28 per cent had been aged under 20 at marriage and 53.83 per cent aged 20-24; of wives 38.96 per cent had been aged under age 20 and 43.26 per cent between 20-24.

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, AGE AT MARRIAGE

Period	Age at marriage (years)										Total marriages	Median age	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over			Not stated
HUSBAND													
Annual averages—													
1961-65	491	3,521	1,983	753	363	187	101	56	29	26	32	7,542	24.64
1966-70	946	5,271	2,567	932	448	238	129	73	37	37	3	10,681	24.17
1971-75	1,856	9,354	3,686	1,210	552	292	174	94	51	46	34	17,349	23.46
Annual totals—													
1971	1,308	6,733	2,903	997	471	238	141	80	36	37	3	12,947	23.67
1972	1,591	8,415	3,428	1,144	472	276	143	99	49	37	1	15,655	23.53
1973	1,667	8,717	3,416	1,132	538	275	156	92	48	49	106	16,196	23.44
1974	1,899	9,581	3,758	1,248	555	274	167	81	42	39	44	17,688	23.88
1975	2,816	13,326	4,924	1,528	724	396	262	119	79	66	17	24,257	23.28
1976	7,130	34,036	12,872	4,257	2,038	1,195	678	391	263	235	135	63,230	23.35
WIFE													
Annual averages—													
1961-65	2,347	3,265	1,026	430	218	112	56	29	15	10	34	7,542	22.15
1966-70	3,781	4,614	1,231	477	263	149	80	42	23	18	3	10,681	21.69
1971-75	6,662	7,710	1,630	592	317	185	108	58	27	24	35	17,349	20.89
Annual totals—													
1971	4,926	5,617	1,324	490	268	133	98	54	21	14	2	12,947	20.98
1972	5,968	6,959	1,522	551	307	151	99	50	19	24	5	15,655	20.90
1973	6,111	7,253	1,493	552	302	180	102	51	26	23	103	16,196	20.91
1974	6,734	8,025	1,614	574	322	196	81	49	33	17	43	17,688	20.88
1975	9,569	10,698	2,199	792	388	265	162	85	36	42	21	24,257	20.77
1976	24,632	27,354	5,906	2,148	1,210	728	504	279	166	124	179	63,230	20.99

At time of divorce, the median age of husbands was 36.33 years and of wives 33.30 years. A total of 27.0 per cent of husbands and 38.1 per cent of wives were aged under 30 years when the marriage was dissolved.

Children of the Marriage

For the years to which the Matrimonial Causes Act applied, children of the marriage were defined as living children under the age of 21 at the time of the petition. Under previous legislation

there were differences between States. The Family Law Act defines them as children of the marriage if they were under the age of 18 at the time of application. In 1976, of the dissolutions granted under the Family Law Act, no children were involved in 40 per cent of the dissolutions, while 23 per cent of the dissolutions involved 1 child, 22 per cent 2 children and 14 per cent 3 or more children. Comparable figures for dissolutions granted under the Matrimonial Causes Act were 28 per cent, 23 per cent, 26 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Period	Number of children to the marriage						Total marriages	Total children	Average number of children
	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over			
Annual averages—									
1956-60	2,318	1,810	1,466	657	278	190	6,720	8,946	1.33
1961-65	2,834	1,950	1,611	753	279	143	7,568	9,347	1.24
1966-70	3,628	2,656	2,428	1,212	497	261	10,681	14,588	1.37
1971-75	5,628	4,062	4,200	2,147	874	438	17,349	24,840	1.43
Annual totals—									
1971	4,212	3,180	2,973	1,601	619	362	12,947	18,451	1.43
1972	5,198	3,690	3,669	1,885	817	396	15,655	22,172	1.42
1973	5,245	3,834	3,894	2,025	818	380	16,196	23,078	1.42
1974	5,615	4,138	4,431	2,194	863	447	17,688	25,505	1.44
1975	7,870	5,467	6,031	3,029	1,254	606	24,257	34,992	1.44
1976	23,606	14,751	14,422	6,761	2,542	1,148	63,230	73,645	1.86

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Statistics of overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from incoming and outgoing passenger cards which are collected from all travellers under the *Migration Act* 1958-1973. Earlier statistics were obtained from passenger lists required under various Acts.

Since 1924, overseas travellers have been classified into two principal categories which distinguish movements for short terms from movements for longer periods (including permanent movements). Revised questions for travellers were introduced in 1958 and again in 1974. The 1958 revision enabled the separation, after 1959, of permanent from other long-term movements and also the identification of former settlers departing. The 1974 revisions improved the classification without change of principle. The principal categories of overseas movement are:

Permanent—consists of persons arriving with the stated intention of settling permanently in Australia (settlers), and Australian residents (including former settlers) departing with the stated intention of residing permanently abroad. Before 1974, former settlers were not so classified unless they had spent at least 12 months in Australia.

Long-term—consists of overseas visitors arriving and Australian residents departing with the stated intention of staying in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more; and visitors departing and residents returning who have stayed in Australia or abroad respectively for 12 months or more. Until 1974, Australian residents returning were classified as long-term only if their time spent abroad included a period of 12 months in any one country. Their classification is now governed solely by their total absence from Australia.

Short-term—consists of overseas visitors arriving and Australian residents departing whose intended or actual period of stay in Australia or abroad respectively is less than twelve months.

The classification of overseas movements is based on statements made by the traveller on arrival in or departure from Australia. The statistics represent the travellers' intentions at the time of arrival or departure; travellers may subsequently change their intentions, and this must be borne in mind in interpreting statistics.

A comparison of overseas arrivals and departures in 1977 with those in 1950 indicates a present predominance of tourists, thereby also accounting for the great increase in the volume of travel, now mostly by air. In 1950 there were 250,404 arrivals and 97,899 departures, compared with 1,697,771 arrivals and 1,618,230 departures in 1977. Total arrivals remained at the 1950 levels until the early 1960s and total departures increased only slowly. In 1950, short-term movement accounted for 30.3 per cent of arrivals and 78.7 per cent of departures. The percentages had increased to 90.5 per cent and 93.4 per cent respectively in 1977. An upsurge of international tourism, particularly by Australian residents, occurred in the 1970s. The volume of sea travel has changed little over the period (the figures exclude pleasure cruises in the south west Pacific beginning and ending in Australia), so that in 1977 only 2.2 per cent of arrivals and departures had travelled by ship. Net gain, i.e. the

excess of total arrivals over total departures, until recently provided a satisfactory measure of the population gain from international migration. In recent years, however, distortions arising from seasonality of short-term arrivals and departures have become very large. For the purpose of estimating the population of Australia and the States and Territories, therefore, the migration components of population growth has been measured since 1 July 1971 by reference to permanent and long-term movements only.

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: AUSTRALIA 1956-1977(a)

ARRIVALS

Period	Permanent and long-term movement				Short-term movement				
	Per- manent Settlers arriving	Long-term Australian residents returning	Overseas visitors arriving	Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Overseas visitors arriving				
					Australian residents returning	In transit	Other	Total	Total arrivals
Annual averages—									
1956-60	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	123,153	61,922	16,841	50,903	67,744	252,819
1961-65	115,198	22,258	14,770	152,226	117,041	28,685	102,776	131,461	400,727
1966-70	160,813	36,148	24,481	221,442	259,700	41,476	255,800	297,275	778,417
1971-75	109,687	57,751	26,254	193,692	631,446	74,356	401,569	475,925	1,301,063
Annual totals—									
1972	112,468	54,278	26,559	193,305	490,962	77,592	348,811	426,403	1,110,670
1973	105,003	65,021	27,370	197,394	620,842	73,074	399,050	472,124	1,290,360
1974	121,324	63,320	26,984	211,628	752,218	78,166	454,517	532,683	1,496,529
1975	54,117	58,352	19,858	132,327	880,609	78,222	437,801	516,023	1,528,959
1976	58,317	59,875	23,312	141,504	968,265	66,462	465,406	531,868	1,641,636
1977	75,640	57,700	27,472	160,813	973,677	53,032	510,249	563,281	1,697,771

DEPARTURES

Period	Permanent and long-term movement				Short-term movement				
	Permanent		Total permanent departures	Long-term Australian residents departing	Overseas visitors departing	Total permanent and long-term departures	Australian residents departing	Overseas visitors departing	Total departures
	Former settlers departing	Other residents departing							
Annual averages—									
1956-60	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	42,161	61,224	68,430	171,815
1961-65	9,698	6,798	16,496	37,905	12,719	67,120	118,624	135,006	320,749
1966-70	23,191	8,752	31,942	56,219	14,349	102,511	258,824	308,321	669,656
1971-75	26,622	12,032	38,654	66,430	22,984	128,067	647,608	479,015	1,254,690
Annual totals—									
1972	33,172	12,709	45,881	66,853	24,251	136,985	504,519	441,320	1,082,824
1973	30,325	13,105	43,430	64,964	21,506	129,900	638,141	481,901	1,249,942
1974	21,849	11,902	33,751	66,228	24,401	124,380	769,650	515,378	1,409,408
1975	18,315	10,769	29,084	66,405	23,327	118,816	911,815	506,454	1,537,084
1976	16,815	9,918	26,733	68,526	20,631	115,890	973,799	512,468	1,602,156
1977	14,171	8,591	22,762	64,091	19,182	106,035	971,253	540,943	1,618,230

EXCESS OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES

Period	Permanent and long-term movement						Short-term movement (a)			
	Permanent		Long-term Aus- tralian residents	Over- seas visitors	Total long- term	Total per- manent and long-term	Short-term			Total
	Settlers	Others					Aus- tralian residents	Over- seas visitors	Total short- term	
Annual averages—										
1956-60	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	80,992	699	-686	12	81,004
1961-65	105,500	-6,798	98,702	-15,648	2,051	-13,597	85,106	-1,583	-3,544	-5,127
1966-70	137,622	-8,752	128,870	-20,071	10,132	-9,939	118,931	876	-11,046	-10,169
1971-75	83,065	-12,032	71,034	-8,679	3,271	-5,408	65,625	-16,163	-3,090	-19,253
Annual totals—										
1972	79,296	-12,709	66,587	-12,575	2,308	-10,267	56,320	-13,557	-14,917	-28,474
1973	74,678	-13,105	61,573	57	5,864	5,921	67,494	-17,299	-9,777	-27,076
1974	99,475	-11,902	87,573	-2,908	2,583	-325	87,248	-17,432	17,305	-127
1975	35,802	-10,769	25,033	-8,053	-3,468	-11,521	13,512	-31,207	9,568	-21,639
1976	41,502	-9,918	31,584	-8,653	2,681	-5,972	25,611	-5,534	19,400	13,864
1977	61,469	-8,591	52,878	-6,391	8,291	1,900	54,778	2,424	22,338	24,762

(a) Statistics of short-term movements since 1974 are estimates based on sampling.

Migration to Australia

Migration to Australia is regulated by the *Migration Act* 1958-1973 which came into force on 1 June 1959. Any person entering Australia after the commencement of the Act without having been granted an entry permit or who is not within an exempted class is a prohibited immigrant. Exempted persons include diplomatic, consular and trade representatives of other countries, and seamen who enter with leave while their ships are in Australian ports.

Prior to January 1975, citizens of the United Kingdom and Ireland were able to travel to Australia without obtaining any authority to do so; but, with the introduction of a non-discriminatory policy, they are now required to meet the same requirements as all other prospective migrants. Because of reciprocal arrangements on travel between the Australian and New Zealand governments, New Zealanders may come to Australia and Australian citizens may enter New Zealand as they wish.

Immigration has contributed substantially to Australia's post war population growth. In the post-war years, some 3.47 million migrants have arrived, of which an estimated 80 per cent settled. They and those of their children born in Australia have been responsible for about half of Australia's post war population growth.

In 1977 settler arrival was 75,640 having risen from a post-war lowest level of 54,117 in 1975. The highest annual post-war level was 185,324 in 1970. The composition of the settler intake (in terms of source countries) has also altered markedly, as the table following shows.

SETTLERS ARRIVING BY COUNTRY OF LAST RESIDENCE

	Number		Per cent	
	1970	1977	1970	1977
South Africa	1,751	2,704	0.9	3.6
Other Africa	3,799	994	2.1	1.3
<i>Total Africa</i>	5,550	3,698	3.0	4.9
Canada	2,080	918	1.1	1.2
U.S.A.	4,909	1,358	2.7	1.8
Other America	4,262	3,716	2.3	4.9
<i>Total America</i>	11,251	5,992	6.1	7.9
India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka	4,119	1,101	2.2	1.5
Lebanon	3,974	8,192	2.1	10.8
Malaysia and Singapore	1,501	3,458	0.8	4.6
Turkey	4,399	1,264	2.4	1.7
Other Asia	4,014	10,390	2.2	13.7
<i>Total Asia</i>	18,007	24,405	9.7	32.3
U.K. and Ireland	77,522	21,384	41.8	28.3
Austria	12,790	348	6.9	0.4
Germany	5,106	985	2.8	1.3
Greece	10,098	1,605	5.4	2.1
Italy	8,843	1,969	4.8	2.6
Yugoslavia	15,717	1,662	8.5	2.2
Other Europe	14,102	3,760	7.6	5.0
<i>Total Europe</i>	144,178	31,713	77.8	41.9
New Zealand	5,532	7,995	3.0	10.6
Other Oceania	807	1,694	0.4	2.2
<i>Total Oceania</i>	6,339	9,689	3.4	12.8
Not Stated . . . . .	..	143		0.2
Total	185,325	75,640	100.0	100.0

Each year Australia loses a proportion of its previous migrant intakes. Additionally, partly as a result of the high international mobility of professional and skilled workers, substantial numbers of Australians take up job opportunities overseas.

Because of the high level of unemployment in Australia, entry for permanent settlement is at present restricted to the spouses, dependent children and parents of Australian residents and those who possess skills in an occupation for which there is a substantial unfilled demand. However, fiancées and fiancés may be considered, as well as other categories where compelling compassionate or humanitarian considerations exist, e.g. refugees.

The granting of assisted passages is restricted to the spouses and minor dependent children of Australian residents, and to those possessing occupational skills that are in short supply.

DEMOGRAPHY
SETTLER ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Unassisted</i>	<i>Total</i>
Annual averages—			
1961-65	67,426	47,772	115,198
1966-70	107,496	53,317	160,813
1971-75	58,176	51,511	109,687
Annual totals—			
1972	63,710	48,758	112,468
1973	49,822	55,181	105,003
1974	52,194	69,130	121,324
1975	21,345	32,772	54,117
1976	15,840	42,477	58,317
1977	17,532	58,108	75,640

SETTLER ARRIVALS BY AGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Age in years</i>						<i>All ages</i>
	<i>0-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	
MALES							
Annual averages—							
1961-65	6,831	10,532	15,379	21,776	4,535	919	59,972
1966-70	10,542	15,434	21,184	32,272	5,809	1,243	86,484
1971-75	7,411	10,009	12,878	20,326	3,921	1,247	55,792
Annual totals—							
1972	7,274	9,843	14,268	20,754	4,314	1,370	57,823
1973	7,455	9,227	12,350	19,169	3,859	1,207	53,267
1974	8,149	11,048	13,397	23,452	4,317	1,402	61,765
1975	4,124	4,968	4,011	8,673	1,735	1,063	24,575
1976	3,996	5,543	5,339	9,556	2,105	1,183	27,722
1977	5,205	7,221	8,009	12,410	3,461	1,344	37,650
FEMALES							
Annual averages—							
1961-65	6,333	9,772	14,248	18,262	5,135	1,476	55,226
1966-70	9,909	14,435	17,751	24,132	6,240	1,861	74,328
1971-75	6,952	9,301	13,685	17,445	4,787	1,725	53,895
Annual totals—							
1972	6,736	9,278	14,394	17,295	5,114	1,828	54,645
1973	6,983	8,729	13,123	16,449	4,728	1,724	51,736
1974	7,527	9,988	14,940	20,053	5,250	1,801	59,559
1975	3,908	4,671	6,990	9,676	2,807	1,491	29,544
1976	4,100	5,314	6,537	9,830	3,280	1,538	30,599
1977	4,821	6,597	8,070	12,104	4,595	1,803	37,990
PERSONS							
Annual averages—							
1961-65	13,164	20,305	29,627	40,038	9,670	2,395	115,198
1966-70	20,451	29,869	38,935	56,405	12,049	3,104	160,813
1971-75	14,363	19,311	26,563	37,771	8,708	2,972	109,687
Annual totals—							
1972	14,010	19,121	28,662	38,049	9,428	3,198	112,468
1973	14,438	17,956	25,473	35,618	8,587	2,931	105,003
1974	15,676	21,036	28,337	43,505	9,567	3,203	121,324
1975	8,032	9,639	11,001	18,350	4,542	2,554	54,117
1976	8,096	10,857	11,876	19,386	5,385	2,721	58,321
1977	10,026	13,818	16,075	24,518	8,056	3,147	75,640

SETTLER ARRIVALS BY MARITAL STATUS

Period	<i>Never married</i>		Married	Widowed and divorced	Total
	<i>Under 15 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>			
MALES					
Annual averages—					
1961-65	17,364	20,190	21,800	618	59,972
1966-70	25,976	25,742	33,668	1,098	86,484
1971-75	17,420	14,750	22,595	1,027	55,792
Annual totals—					
1972	17,117	16,278	23,263	1,165	57,823
1973	16,682	14,067	21,374	1,144	53,267
1974	19,197	15,508	25,829	1,231	61,765
1975	9,092	4,664	10,377	442	24,575
1976	9,541	6,710	10,888	581	27,720
1977	12,426	9,631	14,826	767	37,650
FEMALES					
Annual averages—					
1961-65	16,105	13,245	23,377	2,500	55,226
1966-70	24,344	12,530	34,125	3,330	74,328
1971-75	16,246	9,752	25,055	2,842	53,895
Annual totals—					
1972	16,014	10,286	25,337	3,008	54,645
1973	15,712	8,916	23,970	3,138	51,736
1974	17,498	10,863	28,183	3,015	59,559
1975	8,559	5,521	13,614	1,849	29,544
1976	9,361	5,473	13,886	1,877	30,597
1977	11,378	6,319	17,874	2,419	37,990
PERSONS					
Annual averages—					
1961-65	33,468	33,435	45,177	3,118	115,198
1966-70	50,320	38,272	67,793	4,427	160,813
1971-75	33,666	24,502	47,651	3,869	109,687
Annual totals—					
1972	33,131	26,564	48,600	4,173	112,468
1973	32,394	22,983	45,344	4,282	105,003
1974	36,695	26,371	54,012	4,246	121,324
1975	17,651	10,185	23,991	2,290	54,117
1976	18,902	12,182	24,779	2,458	58,321
1977	23,804	15,950	32,700	3,186	75,640

Refugees

Australia has opened its door to many refugees. Of almost 1 million people settled by the International Refugee Organisation between 1947 and 1952, Australia accepted 170,700, a total exceeded only by the United States of America. Since the early 1950s, crises have occurred which have increased the complexity of the world refugee problem, including the Hungarian uprising of 1956, its counterpart in Czechoslovakia in 1968, the continuing flow of refugees from Yugoslavia up to the late 1960s and early 1970s, the expulsion of Asians from Uganda in 1972, the events following the change of government in Chile in 1973, the fighting in Cyprus and the Lebanon, and the end of the war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in 1975. Australia's total intake was 9,474 in 1977, 2,202 assisted and 7,272 other.

DEMOGRAPHY
REFUGEE ARRIVALS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Assisted</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Annual average—			
1956-60	5,904	n.a.	n.a.
1961-65	1,799	n.a.	n.a.
1966-70	7,446	n.a.	n.a.
1971-75	2,773	7,776	10,549
Annual totals—			
1972	2,324	7,478	9,802
1973	1,473	7,241	8,714
1974	1,686	7,013	8,699
1975	853	3,302	4,155
1976	865	3,231	4,096
1977	2,202	7,272	9,474

Citizenship

The grant of citizenship is controlled by the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. Citizenship may be acquired by birth in Australia, by birth abroad to Australian parents, or by grant of citizenship to persons resident in Australia under conditions prescribed in the Act.

An amendment to the legislation in 1973 meant that all persons are now eligible for the grant of Australian citizenship provided that they have lived in Australia for at least three years, are of good character, have an adequate knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, and declare that their intention is to reside permanently in Australia.

PERSONS GRANTED AUSTRALIAN
CITIZENSHIP

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>
Annual averages—	
1956-60	44,412
1961-65	43,823
1966-70	40,934
1971-75	61,182
Annual totals—	
1972	38,402
1973	57,102
1974	87,549
1975	84,059
1976	118,189
1977	70,706

Sources

Comprehensive statistics on aspects of demography are in the following publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

1976 Census publications including: *Population of States and Territories Adjusted for Under-Enumeration as Shown by Post-Enumeration Survey* (2212.0); *Summary of Population and Dwelling Characteristics: States, Territories and Australia* (2409.0 to 2417.0); *Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings: States, Territories and Australia* (2418.0 to 2426.0); *Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings in Local Government Areas* (2427.0 to 2434.0); *Aboriginal Population: Characteristics of the Population and Dwellings* (2219.0).

Australia Life Tables (3305.0).

Birth Expectations of Married Women (3213.0).

Births (3301.0).

Deaths (3302.0).

Demography (3101.0).

Divorces (3307.0).

Estimated Age Distribution of the Population (3201.0).

Internal Migration (3408.0).

Marriages (3306.0).

Overseas Arrivals and Departures (3401.0, 3402.0, 3404.0).

Perinatal Deaths (3304.0).

Population and Vital Statistics (3212.0).

Population: Principal Cities and Towns (3202.0).

Projections of the Population of Australia (3204.0).

Internal Migration in Australia, D. T. Rowlands, Census Monograph, Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Demography, Australian National University, 1979 (3409.0).

