

RECASTING FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the ABS improved the estimate of Census undercount, with a major change in the methodology, through the introduction of Automated Data Linking (ADL). This enabled us to better match people between the Census and the Census Post Enumeration Survey. Consequently we had a more accurate, but lower, estimate of how many people we needed to add to the 2011 Census counts when deriving our population estimates. A result of this improved method was that preliminary rebasing of the intercensal ERP (2007-2011) produced growth rates which were not comparable to the unrebased growth rates for the 2011-12 growth rates.

Had we used the previous methodology, we would have added around 250,000 additional people who were not actually in the population. Significantly, our analysis has also determined that too many people were added to Census counts for earlier Census 'base' years (i.e. 1996, 2001 and 2006), because the previous methodology overestimated the undercount.

Therefore, the ERP figures for earlier years are higher than they would have been using the new methodology. Consequently, we resolved to revise historical population data from September 1991 to June 2011 to deliver reliable population levels and to ensure population growth in recent years reflects what we know from births, deaths and migration information.

TERMINOLOGY

The extraordinary, one-off historical data revision process is referred to as 'recasting' the data. This has been intentionally used to differentiate it from the regular 'revisions' as final population components become available, and 'backcasting', given the methodology has been more sophisticated than a simple backcasting process.

RECAST DATA

The recasting process has resulted in credible historical population levels and credible historical growth rates that are (similar to what they were before preliminary rebasing).

Relativities within the data have changed but remain reasonably similar to what they were prior to recasting (e.g. proportionality of age groups, sexes and states and territories).

For further information, see **Feature Article: 20 Years Recasting of ERP** in *Australian Demographic Statistics - Dec 2012* (cat. no. 3101.0).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What data will be released, and when?

Data Type	Publication	Release date
Final rebased ERP for 30 June 2011 and revised historical ERP series recast back to 30 Sep 1991	<i>Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec qtr. 2012</i> (cat. no. 3101.0)	20/06/2013
Preliminary births data for 2012 and revised fertility measures for 2001 to 2011	<i>Births, Australia, 2012</i> (cat. no. 3301.0)	24/10/2013
Preliminary deaths data for 2012 and revised mortality measures for 2002 to 2011	<i>Deaths, Australia, 2012</i> (cat. no. 3302.0)	07/11/2013
Sub-state estimates	See Upcoming revisions to population estimates in <i>Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011-12</i> (cat. no. 3218.0).	

Further information about upcoming releases (including Projections and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates) can be found in the **Upcoming and Recent Releases** table in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

Will Census data be revised through this process?

No. An alternative undercount adjustment, from the 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey, will be derived through this process and used to revise the estimated resident population series (as published in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0)). Alternative undercount adjustments for the base years of 1996, 2001 and 2006 have been derived and can be seen as the difference between the previously published estimates and the new recast series.

Will this affect other ABS data?

Yes. All demographic data which reference ERP for the period Sep 1991 to June 2011 will be affected.

Two feature articles in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) provide further information on this:

- **The 2006-2011 Intercensal Period and Revisions to Historical ERP** (released 18 December 2012)
- **Advice on the transition to rebased population estimates for national agreement reporting** (released 20 June 2013)

What is the size of change to ERP for each Census year?

An indicative estimate of the size of this change is:

- 247,000 fewer people at 2006;
- 138,500 fewer at 2001; and
- 86,000 fewer at 1996.

Is the recasting process expected to be part of rebasing in the future Censuses?

No. Recasting should be considered a one-off process. We do not expect to recast ERP in the future.

Will data for my region change through this process?

Yes. Historical population estimates for all regions will be recasted through this process. Information on the impact of this recasting will be included when data are released in June 2013 and August 2013. For more information on this refer to the feature article **Upcoming revisions to population estimates** in *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011-12* (cat. no. 3218.0).

FURTHER INFORMATION

A number of useful feature articles published in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) are available:

- **Recasting 20 Years of ERP** (released 20 June 2013);
- **Advice on the Transition to Rebased Population Estimates for National Agreement Reporting** (released 20 June 2013);
- **Basic guide to revisions to historical population estimates in 2013** (released 18 December 2012);
- **The 2006-2011 Intercensal Period and Revisions to Historical ERP** (released 18 December 2012); and
- **Proposed ABS Treatment of Intercensal Error for 2006-2011** (released 27 September 2012).