

HOUSING CHOICES

**NEW
SOUTH
WALES**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 1 APR 2005

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Michael Clarke on Sydney (02) 9268 4660.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication summarises results from the New South Wales (NSW) component of the survey of Housing Choices, conducted during October 2004 throughout NSW and Queensland. It presents information on household composition, dwelling and tenure type, and whether modifications have been made to the dwelling for older people or people with a disability. For households that have moved in the last three years, reasons for moving from their previous dwelling are reported. Also included are whether or not households intend to move together in the next 12 months, and corresponding reasons. See the Glossary for definitions of terms as used in this survey. Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items noted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See paragraph 12 of the Technical Note for further details.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The survey was conducted as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS). Please refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication for further details about this survey.

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding, and therefore some discrepancy may occur between these percentages and those that may be calculated from the rounded figures.



ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
MPS Monthly Population Survey
MSR major statistical region
NSW New South Wales
RSE relative standard error
SE standard error

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CURRENT DWELLING

Dwelling type

In October 2004, 71% of all occupied private dwellings in New South Wales (NSW) were separate houses, while 19% were flats or apartments. The predominance was greater in the Balance of NSW where 86% were separate houses compared to 62% for Sydney. The Sydney Major Statistical Region (MSR) accounted for 62% of all households.

Tenure type

Over two-thirds (68%) of all households owned their current dwelling, either with or without a mortgage. In Sydney 30% of occupied private dwellings were owned without a mortgage, compared with 40% for the Balance of NSW.

Length of time at current address

The majority (64%) of households had lived at their current address for three years or longer, while 19% had lived at their current address for less than one year.

Modifications

Modifications to the dwelling are a way of making existing accommodation more suitable for older people or people with a disability. Dwellings which were owned without a mortgage were more likely to be modified (12%), compared with owned dwellings with a mortgage and rented dwellings (both 4%). The most common modifications were the installation of handgrab rails (74%), followed by toilet/bath/laundry modifications (39%), and ramps (23%).

MOVERS

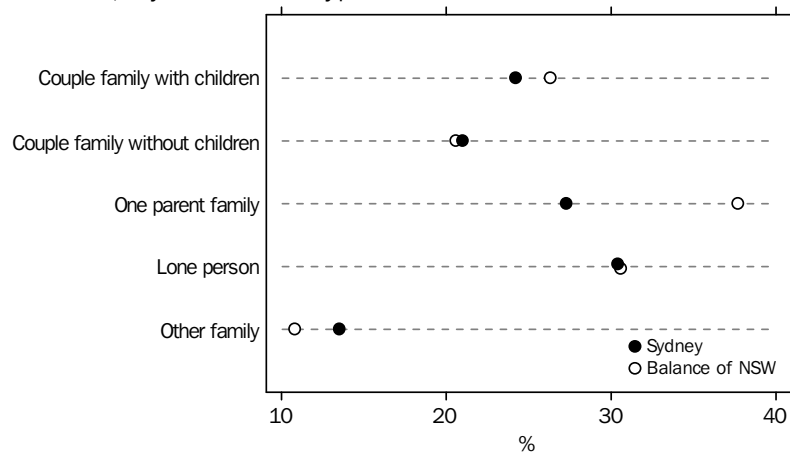
Selected characteristics

In October 2004, of the 2,576,600 households in NSW, 25% (635,100) had moved in the previous three years. Almost one-fifth (18%) had moved once and 7% had moved twice or more.

Household type

In NSW, the households most likely to have moved in the last three years were one parent families (32%) and lone persons (31%). In contrast, 25% of couples with children had moved during the same period. In Sydney, 27% of one parent families had moved, compared with 38% in the Balance of NSW.

MOVERS, By household type—October 2004



Dwelling type

Households that lived in a separate house were least likely to have moved, with 20% (369,300) having moved in the last three years. In contrast, 38% (183,300) of households that lived in a flat or apartment had moved.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

<i>Tenure type</i>	In the last three years, 9% (81,600) of households that owned their dwelling without a mortgage had moved, compared to 44% (341,700) of renters and 23% (201,100) of home owners with a mortgage.
<i>Reasons for moving</i>	Households that moved in the last three years stated the main reasons for moving were 'To live in a better area' (21%) and that the previous 'Dwelling was not suitable' (19%).
<i>Future movers</i>	Approximately 20% of movers indicated they were likely to move again in the next twelve months. In contrast, 8% of non-movers intended to move within the next twelve months.
<i>Modifications</i>	Households that did not move in the last three years were more likely to have modified their home for older people or people with a disability (8%), compared with 2% of movers.
LIKELY TO MOVE IN NEXT TWELVE MONTHS	In October 2004, 11% (275,200) of households indicated they were likely to move from their current dwelling within the next 12 months. One parent families were more likely to move (14%) than couple families with children (9%).
<i>Selected characteristics</i>	
<i>Reasons likely to move</i>	Of those households likely to move in the next twelve months, 24% indicated the main reason for moving would be 'To build or buy a new dwelling' and 17% intended to move 'To live in a better area'.

HOUSEHOLDS, Dwelling structure by tenure type

	Sydney	Balance of NSW	Total	Sydney	Balance of NSW	Total
<i>Dwelling structure by tenure type</i>	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Separate house						
Owner without a mortgage	375.7	362.1	737.8	23.6	36.8	28.6
Owner with a mortgage	429.0	308.6	737.7	27.0	31.3	28.6
Renter	171.3	160.2	331.5	10.8	16.3	12.9
<i>Total(a)</i>	989.3	847.7	1 837.0	62.2	86.0	71.3
Semi detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.						
Owner without a mortgage	37.2	14.7	51.9	2.3	1.5	2.0
Owner with a mortgage	60.3	*5.8	66.1	3.8	*0.6	2.6
Renter	75.9	27.3	103.2	4.8	2.8	4.0
<i>Total(a)</i>	177.6	48.4	226.0	11.2	4.9	8.8
Flat or apartment						
Owner without a mortgage	54.4	10.8	65.2	3.4	1.1	2.5
Owner with a mortgage	73.7	*5.6	79.3	4.6	*0.6	3.1
Renter	267.4	60.6	328.0	16.8	6.2	12.7
<i>Total(a)</i>	399.6	78.8	478.4	25.1	8.0	18.6
Other dwelling(b)						
Owner without a mortgage	7.4	*6.4	13.8	0.5	*0.7	0.5
Owner with a mortgage	*4.6	**1.4	*6.0	*0.3	**0.1	*0.2
Renter	12.8	*2.1	14.8	0.8	*0.2	0.6
<i>Total(a)</i>	24.8	10.3	35.2	1.6	1.1	1.4
Total						
Owner without a mortgage	474.7	394.0	868.7	29.8	40.0	33.7
Owner with a mortgage	567.7	321.4	889.1	35.7	32.6	34.5
Renter	527.4	250.2	777.6	33.1	25.4	30.2
Total(a)	1 591.4	985.2	2 576.6	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes: Rent-free, rent (by life tenant), rent/buy; Other; Don't know.

(b) Includes Don't know.

HOUSEHOLDS, Movers and non-movers by dwelling structure by tenure type

	Movers	Non-movers	Total	Movers
<i>Dwelling structure by tenure type</i>	'000	'000	'000	%
Separate house				
Owner without a mortgage	66.6	671.2	737.8	9.0
Owner with a mortgage	152.7	584.9	737.7	20.7
Renter	142.9	188.6	331.5	43.1
<i>Total(a)</i>	369.3	1 467.7	1 837.0	20.1
Semi detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.				
Owner without a mortgage	*4.5	47.3	51.9	*8.8
Owner with a mortgage	17.3	48.8	66.1	26.2
Renter	46.1	57.1	103.2	44.7
<i>Total(a)</i>	70.2	155.9	226.0	31.0
Flat or apartment				
Owner without a mortgage	8.7	56.6	65.2	13.3
Owner with a mortgage	28.8	50.5	79.3	36.3
Renter	144.4	183.6	328.0	44.0
<i>Total(a)</i>	183.3	295.1	478.4	38.3
Other dwelling(b)				
Owner without a mortgage	*1.8	12.0	13.8	*12.8
Owner with a mortgage	*2.3	*3.7	*6.0	*37.8
Renter	8.3	*6.5	14.8	56.1
<i>Total(a)</i>	12.4	22.8	35.2	35.2
Total				
Owner without a mortgage	81.6	787.1	868.7	9.4
Owner with a mortgage	201.1	687.9	889.1	22.6
Renter	341.7	435.8	777.6	43.9
Total(a)	635.1	1 941.4	2 576.6	24.7

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes: Rent-free, rent (by life tenant), rent/buy; Other; Don't know.

(b) Includes Don't know.

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HOUSEHOLDS, Movers and non-movers by household type

<i>Household type</i>	<i>Movers</i> '000	<i>Non-movers</i> '000	<i>Total</i> '000	<i>Movers</i> %
Sydney				
Couple family with children	133.7	420.0	553.7	24.2
Couple family without children	65.3	245.7	311.0	21.0
One parent family	37.6	100.0	137.6	27.3
Lone person	119.1	272.2	391.3	30.4
Other family	26.6	171.2	197.8	13.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>382.3</i>	<i>1 209.1</i>	<i>1 591.4</i>	<i>24.0</i>
Balance of NSW				
Couple family with children	74.2	207.6	281.8	26.3
Couple family without children	55.2	212.6	267.8	20.6
One parent family	37.5	62.1	99.6	37.7
Lone person	76.7	173.9	250.5	30.6
Other family	9.3	76.2	85.5	10.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>252.9</i>	<i>732.3</i>	<i>985.2</i>	<i>25.7</i>
Total				
Couple family with children	207.9	627.6	835.5	24.9
Couple family without children	120.4	458.4	578.8	20.8
One parent family	75.1	162.1	237.2	31.7
Lone person	195.8	446.0	641.8	30.5
Other family	35.9	247.4	283.3	12.7
Total	635.1	1 941.4	2 576.6	24.7

HOUSEHOLDS, Whether likely to move in the next 12 months by movers and non-movers by household type

WHETHER LIKELY TO MOVE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Household type	Whether likely to move in the next 12 months				Whether likely to move in the next 12 months			
	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Movers								
Couple family with children	35.8	153.5	18.6	207.9	17.2	73.8	9.0	100.0
Couple family without children	20.2	93.2	*7.0	120.4	16.8	77.4	*5.8	100.0
One parent family	16.7	45.2	13.2	75.1	22.2	60.1	17.6	100.0
Lone person	48.3	121.2	26.2	195.8	24.7	61.9	13.4	100.0
Other family	*6.8	25.7	*3.4	35.9	*18.9	71.8	*9.4	100.0
Total	127.7	438.9	68.5	635.1	20.1	69.1	10.8	100.0
Non-movers								
Couple family with children	41.2	558.6	27.8	627.6	6.6	89.0	4.4	100.0
Couple family without children	38.5	399.1	20.8	458.4	8.4	87.1	4.5	100.0
One parent family	16.6	131.1	14.4	162.1	10.2	80.9	8.9	100.0
Lone person	33.4	386.4	26.2	446.0	7.5	86.6	5.9	100.0
Other family	17.9	206.6	23.0	247.4	7.2	83.5	9.3	100.0
Total	147.4	1 681.8	112.2	1 941.4	7.6	86.6	5.8	100.0
Total								
Couple family with children	76.9	712.1	46.4	835.5	9.2	85.2	5.6	100.0
Couple family without children	58.6	492.3	27.8	578.8	10.1	85.1	4.8	100.0
One parent family	33.3	176.2	27.7	237.2	14.0	74.3	11.7	100.0
Lone person	81.7	507.7	52.5	641.8	12.7	79.1	8.2	100.0
Other family	24.6	232.3	26.3	283.3	8.7	82.0	9.3	100.0
Total	275.2	2 120.7	180.7	2 576.6	10.7	82.3	7.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

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MOVERS, Reasons for moving from previous dwelling

<i>Reasons for moving from previous dwelling</i>	<u>All reasons(a) (b)</u>		<u>Main reason(b)</u>	
	'000	%	'000	%
To live in a better area	224.4	35.3	135.8	21.4
Dwelling was not suitable	207.2	32.6	123.2	19.4
Change in family circumstances	63.1	9.9	56.1	8.8
Loss of job or to improve employment prospects	85.9	13.5	55.9	8.8
Mortgage/rent was too high	77.6	12.2	52.3	8.2
Purchased another dwelling	47.3	7.5	45.9	7.2
Eviction/landlord ends lease	38.4	6.1	38.4	6.1
Previous housing was temporary	22.4	3.5	18.7	2.9
Change in employment or workplace relocation	17.9	2.8	16.1	2.5
Frailty, disability or ill health	27.2	4.3	12.8	2.0
Personal safety at risk	40.0	6.3	12.8	2.0
Other reasons(c)	74.7	11.8	67.1	10.6
Total movers	..	..	635.1	100.0

.. not applicable

(a) Figures in these columns do not sum to the total for all households that moved in the last three years, as a household could nominate more than one reason.

(b) Percentages (%) are calculated as a proportion of total households that moved in the last three years.

(c) Includes Don't know.

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LIKELY MOVERS, Reasons likely to move

<i>Reasons likely to move</i>	<u>All reasons(a) (b)</u>		<u>Main reason(b)</u>	
	'000	%	'000	%
To build or buy a new dwelling	107.8	39.2	66.4	24.1
To live in a better area	55.8	20.3	46.2	16.8
Want a bigger or smaller home	34.7	12.6	27.1	9.9
To live closer to work or to improve employment prospects	27.5	10.0	22.3	8.1
To live near family and friends	25.1	9.1	20.3	7.4
To reduce rental/mortgage costs	17.8	6.5	14.5	5.3
To live near a school or educational institution	36.3	13.2	12.7	4.6
Frailty, disability or ill health	19.0	6.9	9.9	3.6
Change in family circumstances	12.2	4.4	9.8	3.5
To travel overseas or around Australia	18.0	6.5	9.4	3.4
To live closer to public transport	33.7	12.3	*5.2	*1.9
To live closer to health and community support services	27.2	9.9	*5.1	*1.9
Other reasons(c)	30.6	11.1	26.3	9.6
Total likely movers	..	..	275.2	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) Figures in these columns do not sum to the total for all households that are likely to move in the next 12 months, as a household could nominate more than one reason.

(b) Percentages (%) are calculated as a proportion of total households that are likely to move in the next 12 months.

(c) Includes Don't know.

HOUSEHOLDS, Household type by selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	HOUSEHOLD TYPE					Total
	Couple family with children	Couple family without children	One parent family	Lone person	Other family	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)						
Length of time at current address						
Less than 1 year	119.2	86.2	59.1	105.7	119.1	489.3
1 to less than 2 years	84.1	60.8	29.1	56.2	46.1	276.3
2 to less than 3 years	58.0	33.0	18.9	39.6	20.9	170.3
3 years or more	574.2	398.9	130.1	440.3	97.2	1 640.7
Length of time living together continuously						
Less than 1 year	27.2	28.8	15.8	..	91.1	162.9
1 to less than 2 years	16.9	19.9	8.8	..	41.2	86.7
2 to less than 3 years	13.5	27.2	7.7	..	22.1	70.5
3 years or more	777.9	503.0	193.4	..	128.9	1 603.2
Not applicable(a)	..	..	11.5	641.8	..	653.3
Number of times moved in the last three years						
None	627.6	458.4	162.1	446.0	247.4	1 941.4
Once	158.6	94.2	48.8	126.2	29.5	457.3
Twice or more	49.3	26.2	26.4	69.6	*6.3	177.8
Dwelling structure						
Separate house	723.1	449.7	164.2	316.1	183.9	1 837.0
Semi detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	54.7	42.5	28.1	71.5	29.2	226.0
Flat or apartment	55.9	81.6	42.5	232.0	66.4	478.4
Other dwelling(b)	*1.9	*5.0	*2.4	22.2	*3.7	35.2
Major Statistical Region						
Sydney	553.7	311.0	137.6	391.3	197.8	1 591.4
Balance of NSW	281.8	267.8	99.6	250.5	85.5	985.2
Total households	835.5	578.8	237.2	641.8	283.3	2 576.6

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS (%)						
Length of time at current address						
Less than 1 year	14.3	14.9	24.9	16.5	42.1	19.0
1 to less than 2 years	10.1	10.5	12.3	8.8	16.3	10.7
2 to less than 3 years	6.9	5.7	8.0	6.2	7.4	6.6
3 years or more	68.7	68.9	54.8	68.6	34.3	63.7
Length of time living together continuously						
Less than 1 year	3.3	5.0	6.7	..	32.2	6.3
1 to less than 2 years	2.0	3.4	3.7	..	14.5	3.4
2 to less than 3 years	1.6	4.7	3.3	..	7.8	2.7
3 years or more	93.1	86.9	81.5	..	45.5	62.2
Not applicable(a)	..	..	4.8	100.0	..	25.4
Number of times moved in the last three years						
None	75.1	79.2	68.3	69.5	87.3	75.3
Once	19.0	16.3	20.6	19.7	10.4	17.7
Twice or more	5.9	4.5	11.1	10.8	*2.2	6.9
Dwelling structure						
Separate house	86.5	77.7	69.2	49.2	64.9	71.3
Semi detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	6.5	7.3	11.8	11.1	10.3	8.8
Flat or apartment	6.7	14.1	17.9	36.2	23.4	18.6
Other dwelling(b)	*0.2	*0.9	*1.0	3.5	*1.3	1.4
Major Statistical Region						
Sydney	66.3	53.7	58.0	61.0	69.8	61.8
Balance of NSW	33.7	46.3	42.0	39.0	30.2	38.2
Total households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
 .. not applicable

(a) Questions not asked of: lone person households; one parent families where all children aged under three years old.

(b) Includes Don't know.

Selected characteristics	WHETHER MODIFICATIONS CARRIED OUT (a)				TYPE OF MODIFICATIONS (a) (b)		
	Yes	No(c)	Total	Yes	Handgrab rails	Toilet, bath or laundry modification	Ramp
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%	%
Household type							
Couple family with children	22.0	813.5	835.5	2.6	52.5	35.3	39.4
Couple family without children	51.3	527.5	578.8	8.9	78.5	35.7	20.6
One parent family	10.4	226.7	237.2	4.4	76.2	*60.6	*25.9
Lone person	66.8	575.1	641.8	10.4	77.3	40.4	18.4
Other family	18.3	264.9	283.3	6.5	71.4	*37.7	*24.1
Dwelling structure							
Separate house	136.1	1 700.9	1 837.0	7.4	72.9	41.1	23.8
Semi detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	10.2	215.8	226.0	4.5	81.5	*36.2	*31.7
Flat or apartment	19.9	458.5	478.4	4.2	72.0	*31.1	*15.0
Other dwelling(c)	*2.7	32.5	35.2	*7.6	*100.0	np	np
Tenure type							
Owner without a mortgage	104.5	764.3	868.7	12.0	77.3	38.6	21.0
Owner with a mortgage	32.3	856.8	889.1	3.6	52.4	42.0	27.2
Renter	27.9	749.7	777.6	3.6	82.8	36.0	*22.9
Other(d)	*4.3	36.9	41.2	*10.4	*89.7	*56.6	**36.3
Major Statistical Region							
Sydney	83.5	1 507.9	1 591.4	5.2	75.1	35.4	19.5
Balance of NSW	85.4	899.8	985.2	8.7	72.3	43.1	26.2
Movers and non-movers							
Movers	11.7	623.4	635.1	1.8	67.5	*35.6	*26.7
Non-movers	157.1	1 784.3	1 941.4	8.1	74.2	39.5	22.6
Total households	168.9	2 407.7	2 576.6	6.6	73.7	39.3	22.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Only includes modifications carried out to the dwelling for older people or people with a disability.

(b) Percentages (%) are calculated as a proportion of total households that had modifications carried out. Households could nominate more than one type of modification.

(c) Includes Don't know.

(d) Includes: Rent-free, rent (by life tenant), rent/buy; Other; Don't know.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication summarises results from the New South Wales (NSW) component of the 2004 State Supplementary Survey, Housing Choices. The survey was conducted throughout NSW and Queensland during the two weeks commencing Monday 11 October 2004.

2 The survey was conducted as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS is a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and non-private dwellings (such as hotels, motels, caravan parks, etc.). Information was obtained from the occupants of the selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers.

3 For details of the design, scope and coverage of the MPS, readers should refer to *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, 2002* (cat. no. 6269.0), and any recent edition of the ABS publication, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6203.0).

4 Unless specified otherwise, results are presented for the current dwelling.

SCOPE

5 Information was collected by either face-to-face or telephone interview from one responsible adult per household, who answered questions on behalf of the household. This survey was conducted using seven-eighths of the full sample of private dwellings in NSW that were included in the MPS and excluded:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia;
- private dwellings containing visitors only;
- visitors to the household; and
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and prisons.

6 Information was sought from approximately 6,000 households, and of these about 5,600 (94%) responded.

COVERAGE

7 Coverage rules were applied to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

8 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

9 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

10 The ABS produces a wide range of publications containing social and demographic statistics. Other ABS publications which relate to this survey topic include:

Population Mobility, Queensland, October 2000, cat. no. 3237.3

Population Mobility, Victoria, October 1999, cat. no. 3237.2

Housing Motivations and Intentions, Queensland, October 2004,
cat. no. 8710.3.55.001 (expected release in late April 2005)

Housing Motivations and Intentions, Western Australia, October 1998,
cat. no. 8791.5

Public Transport Usage and Migration Patterns, ACT, October 1998, cat. no. 1365.8

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can produce upon request, subject to confidentiality and data quality restrictions, customised tables to meet special data requirements. Inquiries should be made to the contact person shown on the front of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

- Current dwelling
 - Dwelling type
 - Household type
 - Landlord type
 - Tenure type
 - Number of bedrooms
 - Whether modifications carried out
 - Type of modifications carried out
- For the household in the current dwelling
 - Length of time household have been living together
 - Whether household living together continuously for 3 years
 - Length of time at current address
 - Number of dwellings lived in during the last 3 years
 - Previous dwelling type
 - Previous household type
 - Previous landlord type
 - Previous tenure type
 - State/territory of previous dwelling
 - Reasons (all and main) for moving from previous dwelling
 - Reasons (all and main) for living in current dwelling
- Moving intentions of the household in the next 12 months
 - If likely to move together
 - Future dwelling type
 - Future tenure type
 - State/Territory likely to move to
 - Reasons (all and main) for likely to move
 - If not likely to move together
 - Reasons (all and main) for not likely to move
- Demographic characteristics
 - Number of dependent students in household
 - Number of persons aged 15 years or over in household
 - Number of persons aged under 15 years in household

TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates derived from this survey were obtained using a post-stratification procedure. This procedure ensured that the survey estimates conformed to an independently estimated distribution of the population, by the number of adults and children within the household, and part of state, rather than the distribution among respondents.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Non-sampling errors

2 Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

3 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. Non-sampling errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers and errors in data entry and processing.

4 It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors. The extent of these errors could vary considerably from survey to survey and from question to question. Every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors.

Sampling errors

5 Sampling errors are the errors which occur by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, rather than from the entire population.

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERRORS

6 One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the standard error (see table on page 15).

7 There are about 2 chances in 3 (67%) that a survey estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey. There are about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

8 Linear interpolation can be used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

9 The standard error (SE) can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate. This is known as the relative standard error (RSE). The relative standard error is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is—(where x is the estimate)

$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$

10 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. This size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion or percentage is—

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

11 Only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with a larger RSE have been included, preceded by * (RSE between 25% and 50%) or ** (RSE greater than 50%) to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

TECHNICAL NOTE SAMPLING VARIABILITY *continued*

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING
ERRORS *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF NSW HOUSEHOLDS—October
2004

Size of estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error
(households)	no.	%
1 000	643	64.3
1 500	802	53.5
2 000	936	46.8
2 500	1 054	42.1
3 000	1 160	38.7
3 500	1 257	35.9
4 000	1 347	33.7
5 000	1 511	30.2
8 000	1 918	24.0
10 000	2 144	21.4
20 000	3 007	15.0
30 000	3 647	12.2
50 000	4 626	9.3
100 000	6 325	6.3
200 000	8 554	4.3
300 000	10 154	3.4
500 000	12 534	2.5
1 000 000	16 522	1.7
2 000 000	21 538	1.1
3 000 000	25 023	0.8

12 Where differences between data items have been noted in the Summary of Findings, they are statistically significant unless otherwise specified. In this publication a statistically significant difference is one where there are 19 chances in 20 that the difference noted reflects a true difference between population groups of interest rather than being the result of sampling variability.

GLOSSARY

Continuing household	A household where all current members have been living together for three years or more and no additional people have come into the household in the last three years (except in the case of a child being 'born' into the household).
Dwelling	A structure, or a discrete space within a structure, intended for people to live in or where a person or group of people live. A dwelling may include one or more rooms used as an office or workshop provided the dwelling is in residential use.
Household	<p>A group of people who currently live together as a single unit within a dwelling; or a group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, who regard themselves as a household and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person.</p> <p>A person, or persons, living in the same dwelling but having separate catering arrangements constitutes a separate household. It is therefore possible for a physical dwelling to contain more than one household as defined.</p>
Likely movers	A household that is likely to move together into another dwelling in the next 12 months.
Modifications	Modifications that have been made to the current dwelling for older people or people with a disability. Modifications include handgrab rails, ramps, structural changes, etc.
Movers	Continuing households where the current household members have moved together in the last three years; or recently formed households where the household members have moved together since the household formation.
Older people	Older people in this publication refers to persons aged 65 years or over.
Recently formed household	A household where all current members have been living together for less than three years.

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- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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