



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics

about Australia's regions

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about the BTRE

Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics (BTRE)

The BTRE, operating within the Department of Transport and Regional Services, contributes to the development of Government transport and regional policy by undertaking applied economic and social research on current and emerging issues. As much of its work is published, the BTRE also improves public understanding of the factors influencing transport and regional services in Australia.

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about this booklet

Environmental and competitive pressures, new technology, changing demographics and social values have resulted in fundamental social and economic change in Australia's regions. There is a widely recognised need for improved access to factual information about conditions in Australia's regions.

This booklet provides an accessible introduction to social, economic and environmental statistics for Australia's regions. Information is presented under the broad themes of: **population; social pressures; regional economies; transport and communications; education and health; and environmental issues.**

BTRE first published this booklet in 2003 and updates it annually. The 2005 update presents the most recent available data for each topic. Of the 38 tables and charts 23 have been updated in 2005 and some charts have been redesigned. The booklet is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of social and economic conditions in Australia's regions. The data sources used have a range of limitations, and readers should rely on their own skill and judgement in applying any information to particular issues or circumstances. For further information on a specific topic, please refer to the original data source or to the list of Useful Contacts (page 41).

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Australia's regions

Regions do not always have commonly accepted boundaries. Regions can be defined by formal boundaries (as in the case of state or local governments), by a sense of economic and social interdependence, by natural environments and landscapes, or by other connections that distinguish them from neighbouring areas.

In this booklet, the main spatial concept used to summarise information about Australia's regions is the ABS Remoteness Structure. This classification groups Census Collection Districts into five broad classes of remoteness, which share common characteristics in terms of physical distance from services and opportunities for social interaction. These classes are: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; and Very Remote Australia. Remoteness classes cut across State and local government boundaries, enabling understanding of the patterns of socio-economic experience across Australia's regions.

The concept of remoteness used to design the ABS Remoteness Structure is based upon road distance from any point to the nearest ABS Urban Centre in each of five population size classes. For example, any location within a short distance of an urban centre of more than 250 000 persons belongs to the 'Major Cities' class. The population size of the urban centre is used as a proxy for the availability of a range of services.

All data in this booklet is presented on the ABS's 2001 version of the geography of remoteness classes. The next ABS Census will update the Remoteness Structure and the data reported in this booklet will be restructured accordingly.

MAP 1 REMOTENESS CLASSES IN AUSTRALIA, 2001



Examples of localities in each remoteness class

Major Cities of Australia:
Melbourne CBD, Newcastle CBD, Fremantle, Surfers Paradise

Inner Regional Australia:
Hobart, Noosa, Wodonga, Bunbury, Tamworth

Outer Regional Australia:
Darwin, Whyalla, Cairns, Swan Hill, Gunnedah

Remote Australia:
Alice Springs, Mount Isa, Port Lincoln, Esperance

Very Remote Australia:
Longreach, Coober Pedy, Tennant Creek, Kununurra

Source: ABS ASGC Remoteness Structure, 2001
Note: Christmas Island & Cocos (Keeling) Islands are part of Very Remote Australia. Other external territories are excluded from the classification.

population

TABLE 1 SELECTED POPULATION INDICATORS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2004

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australian total
Pop. ('000 persons)	13 323	4 227	2 054	323	184	20 111
Share of total pop.	66.2%	21.0%	10.2%	1.6%	0.9%	100.0%
Pop. growth, 1999 to 2004	6.5%	7.8%	3.1%	-0.2%	1.9%	6.3%
Area ('000 sq km)	14	220	803	1 021	5 646	7 704
Pop. Density (persons/sq km)	928.4	19.2	2.6	0.3	0.0	2.6
Pop. share living in the same State/ Territory as 5 years ago (2001)	96%	96%	96%	94%	91%	95%

Sources: ABS **Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 2003-04** (Cat. 3218.0); ABS ASGC 2001 geographical area data; ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing**, internal migration (place of usual residence) data. Estimates of population in remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.

Note: Population estimates for 2004 are preliminary.

TABLE 2 POPULATION GROWTH BY STATE/TERRITORY AND REMOTENESS CLASS, 1999 TO 2004 (a)

State/ Territory	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australian Total
NSW	5%	5%	1%	-3%	-2%	5%
VIC	6%	7%	1%	-5%	nr	6%
QLD	12%	12%	7%	2%	3%	11%
SA	2%	8%	-2%	2%	-6%	2%
WA	7%	16%	2%	-1%	2%	7%
TAS	nr (b)	3%	1%	-2%	-7%	2%
NT	nr (b)	nr (b)	7%	-2%	3%	4%
ACT	4%	-1%	nr (b)	nr (b)	nr (b)	4%
Total	6%	8%	3%	0%	2%	6%

Source: ABS **Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 2003-04** (Cat. 3218.0). Estimates of population in remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.

Notes: (a) Population growth rates relate to the total growth between 1999 and 2004. Population estimates for 2004 are preliminary.

(b) For the purposes of the ABS Remoteness Structure, there are no regions in this category for this State or Territory.

TABLE 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGA) WITH FASTEST POPULATION (a) INCREASES/DECREASES, 1999 TO 2004

<i>Fastest increases</i>				<i>Fastest decreases</i>			
LGA	State	Remoteness class	Average annual growth rate (%)	LGA	State	Remoteness class	Average annual growth rate (%)
Melton	VIC	Major Cities	9.8	Dundas	WA	Remote	-4.0
Perth	WA	Major Cities	9.4	Yilgarn	WA	Remote	-3.9
Melbourne	VIC	Major Cities	6.6	Coolgardie	WA	Outer Regional	-3.8
Capel	WA	Inner Regional	6.4	Leonora	WA	Very Remote	-3.8
Wyndham	VIC	Major Cities	5.6	Gnowangerup	WA	Remote	-3.2
Wanneroo	WA	Major Cities	5.6	Quairading	WA	Outer Regional	-3.1
Mandurah	WA	Inner Regional	5.4	Dalwallinu	WA	Remote	-3.0
Casey	VIC	Major Cities	4.8	Morowa	WA	Remote	-2.9
Chittering	WA	Inner Regional	4.8	Cooper Pedy	SA	Very Remote	-2.7
Camden	NSW	Major Cities	4.5	Jabiru	NT	Outer Regional	-2.7

Source: ABS **Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 2003–04** (Cat. 3218.0). LGAs were coded to remoteness classes by BTRE. The majority of the LGA's population fits within the stated Remoteness Class.

Notes: (a) Table excludes LGAs with population of less than 1000 in 1999. Population estimates for 2004 are preliminary.

TABLE 4 ETHNIC DIVERSITY & INDIGENOUS PERSONS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Language spoken at home ('000 persons)						
English only	9 233.7	3 538.1	1 728.9	271.8	101.6	15 014.0
Australian Indigenous	1.9	0.8	3.3	4.5	39.4	51.0
Other language	2 567.1	127.3	78.5	8.7	9.5	2 802.9
Overseas born						
Persons ('000)	3 414.9	425.2	196.2	30.0	13.3	4 105.6
Pop. share	27.6%	11.1%	10.3%	9.9%	8.0%	21.9%
Share of overseas born who speak:						
Language other than English at home	52.7%	20.1%	25.6%	19.3%	22.4%	47.5%
English 'not well or not at all'	11.8%	2.7%	4.4%	2.6%	4.3%	10.4%
Indigenous persons						
Males ('000)	59.8	40.5	44.9	16.8	35.4	202.0
Females ('000)	63.2	41.4	47.1	17.1	35.6	208.0
Pop. share	1.0%	2.1%	4.8%	11.1%	42.8%	2.2%

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data). Derivations by BTRE.

TABLE 5 AGE BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 1998 AND 2003

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Median age, 2003	35.6	38.1	37.4	34.4	29.8	36.2
Share of pop. in each age group (in years) 2003						
<14	19.2%	21.2%	21.9%	24.0%	26.7%	20.0%
15-24	14.3%	12.7%	12.1%	11.6%	15.0%	13.7%
25-44	30.7%	26.5%	27.8%	31.6%	32.8%	29.6%
45-64	23.3%	25.1%	25.2%	23.6%	19.5%	23.9%
65+	12.5%	14.5%	13.0%	9.2%	6.0%	12.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Share of population in selected age groups, 1998						
15-24	14.6%	12.8%	12.4%	12.4%	15.3%	14.0%
65+	12.1%	13.5%	12.1%	8.1%	5.3%	12.2%

Source: Prepared by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre ABS Adelaide Based on ABS **Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 1998-99 and 2003-04** Unpublished ABS data

Did you know? In 2003, New Mapoon (Qld) and Binjari (NT) Local Government Areas had the lowest median age each at 19.4 years. Victor Harbor (SA) Local Government Area had the highest median age at 52.1 years.

TABLE 6 OVERVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S TERRITORIES, 2003-04

Territory	Population	Land area (km²)	Governance
Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Uninhabited	2	Commonwealth
Australian Antarctic Territory	Transient	5 896 500	Commonwealth
Australian Capital Territory	324 021	2 358	Self governing
Christmas Island	1 516	135	Commonwealth
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	598	14	Commonwealth
Coral Sea Islands*	4	81	Commonwealth
Heard and McDonald Islands	Uninhabited	367	Commonwealth
Jervis Bay	556	73	Commonwealth
Norfolk Island*	1 359	35	Self governing
Northern Territory	199 913	1 349 129	Self governing
All Territories	527 967	7 248 694	

Sources: ABS **Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 2003-04** (Cat. 3218.0); National Mapping Division, Geoscience Australia; **Norfolk Island Census 2001**.

Note: * Population data relates to 2001, rather than 2003-04.

social pressures

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence affects the social, emotional, physical and financial wellbeing of many Australians. The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) provides transitional accommodation and related support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including women and children escaping domestic violence. In 2003–04, SAAP provided 52 450 periods of domestic violence related support, more than 50% of them outside Major Cities. Reported domestic violence rates were highest in Very Remote Australia (17.0 SAAP periods per 1000 population), followed by Remote Australia (11.8), Outer Regional (3.7), Inner Regional (2.6) and Major Cities (2.0). Domestic violence often goes unreported, and so these statistics are only indicative. (Source: AIHW unpublished data).

Suicide

Suicide is a prominent public health problem, with significant human and economic costs. In 2003, 2213 Australians committed suicide. The male suicide rate (17.7 deaths per 100 000 population) is much higher than the female rate (4.7 deaths per 100 000 population). Suicide rates tend to be lower in the capital cities (10.5 deaths per 100 000 population) than in the rest of Australia (12.3 deaths per 100 000 population). Between 1993 and 2003, suicide rates in Queensland and Northern Territory were consistently above the national average. (Source: ABS **Information Paper: Suicides, Recent Trends, Australia, 1993–2003** (Cat. 3309.0.55.001) and related unpublished data.)

Crime Rates

Crime rates tend to be higher on average in capital cities than in other parts of Australia. However, very high rates of crime are observed in some small rural localities. In 2003, NSW had the highest rate for robbery offences with 162 victims per 100 000 people, compared with a national average of 99. Property crimes were highest in WA with a rate of 8112 per 100 000, compared with the national average of 5489. Murder, assault and sexual assault were most prevalent in the NT, while crime rates in Victoria and Tasmania tended to be below national rates for most offence categories. (Source: ABS **Recorded Crime, Australia, 2003** (Cat 4510.0)).

Carers

In 2003, 2.6 million Australians were carers, meaning they provided ongoing informal assistance to the elderly or persons with disabilities/long-term conditions. Females are more likely than males to be carers. In the Major Cities, 13% of people had caring responsibilities, while the carers' rate was 15% in Inner Regional Australia and 13% in Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote Australia. Inner Regional South Australia had the lowest carer rate (10%), while Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote Western Australia had the highest rate (18%). (Source: ABS **Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2003** (Cat. 4430.0))

Volunteers

There were 4.4 million volunteers aged 18 and over in 2000, an increase from 3.2 million in 1995. The volunteer rate was 28% for capital cities, compared to 38% outside capital cities. Sydney had the lowest volunteer rate (25%), and WA (outside Perth) had the highest rate of 45%. (Source: ABS **Voluntary Work, Australia, 2001** (Cat. 4441.0))

TABLE 7 HOUSING TENURE AND COSTS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
<i>Dwelling tenure type</i>						
Fully owned	39%	42%	42%	37%	29%	40%
Being purchased	27%	27%	23%	17%	9%	26%
Being rented	27%	24%	26%	31%	39%	26%
Other/not stated	7%	7%	9%	15%	24%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Dwellings being purchased</i>						
Median weekly repayments	\$218	\$175	\$163	\$167	\$119	\$201
Repayments as share of gross household income	18%	17%	17%	16%	12%	17%
<i>Dwellings being rented</i>						
Median weekly rental	\$169	\$129	\$116	\$98	\$61	\$154
Rental as share of gross household income	23%	21%	18%	13%	9%	22%

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing**. Income share derivations and estimation of tenure data for remoteness classes by BTRE.

Note: Dwellings being purchased includes those purchased under rent-buy schemes. Dwellings being rented includes public housing rental.

TABLE 8 RECIPIENTS OF SELECTED GOVERNMENT BENEFITS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001-02

	<i>Income support recipients as a share of population (%)</i>				
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote & Very Remote	Australia
<i>Payment type (a)</i>					
Age pension	9.2	10.9	9.8	5.7	9.5
Disability support pension	3.1	4.1	4.0	3.0	3.4
Parenting payment	3.4	4.4	4.5	4.7	3.7
New Start (b)	4.8	5.4	6.1	7.8	5.2
Youth Allowance	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.2	2.9
<i>Income support as a share of regional income (%)</i>					
<i>Payment type</i>					
Age pension	3.8	5.8	5.3	3.2	4.3
Disability support pension	1.5	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.7
Parenting payment	2.3	4.0	4.0	4.4	2.8
New Start	1.2	1.8	1.9	2.3	1.4
Youth Allowance	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6

Source: ABS **Experimental Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Taxation and Income Support Data** (Cat. 6524.0.55.001)

Notes: (a) Explanations of the different payment types can be found under the Regional Statistics theme at <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/>

(b) The estimate of the share of New Start recipients in this publication (2005 update) are based on a count of people on this benefit for the whole of 2001/02 financial year.

TABLE 9 SELF-REPORTED FINANCIAL PRESSURE BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2003–04(a)

Share of persons aged 15+ in remoteness class (%)

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote & Very Remote (b)	Total
<i>Given your current needs & financial responsibilities, you and your family are:</i>					
Prosperous/very comfortable	18	15	14	17	17
Reasonably comfortable	52	53	50	54	52
Just getting along	27	29	31	27	28
Poor/very poor	3	3	5	2	4
<i>Due to a shortage of money you recently:</i>					
Asked for financial help from friends/family	13	13	14	8	13
Asked for help from welfare/ community organisation	3	3	5	5	4
Went without meals	4	4	3	2	3
Could not pay mortgage/rent on time	6	6	7	3	6

Source: Unit record data from **Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA)** sample survey, wave 3 (2003–04). Data provided by Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne. (<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda>)

Notes: (a) Wave 3 data was collected over an eight-month period commencing in mid-August 2003. Estimates reported in the 2004 edition of this publication were based on wave 2 data.

(b) Data relating to Remote and Very Remote classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes.

regional economies

TABLE 10 SELECTED STATE/TERRITORY ECONOMIC INDICATORS, 2003-04 (a)

State/ Territory	Gross State Product (GSP)		Av. Annual growth, 1998-99 to 2003-04 (b)		Exports of goods & services (c)	Investment per capita	
	Total (\$m)	Per capita	Total GSP	GSP per capita	Per capita	Private	Public
NSW	270 292	\$40 242	2.8%	1.7%	\$5 773	\$7 552	\$1 566
VIC	201 133	\$40 650	3.3%	2.2%	\$5 722	\$8 704	\$1 260
QLD	135 226	\$35 210	4.8%	2.8%	\$7 274	\$8 722	\$1 527
SA	52 400	\$34 217	3.0%	2.5%	\$6 297	\$7 364	\$1 053
WA	89 155	\$45 277	3.8%	2.5%	\$19 964	\$10 854	\$1 710
TAS	13 479	\$28 082	1.4%	1.0%	\$5 183	\$5 321	\$1 477
NT	9 210	\$46 356	1.5%	0.7%	\$13 263	\$14 531	\$1 757
ACT	15 245	\$47 255	2.2%	1.2%	\$2 381	\$6 853	\$3 121
AUSTRALIA	786 754	\$39 324	3.3%	2.1%	\$7 491	\$8 377	\$1 483

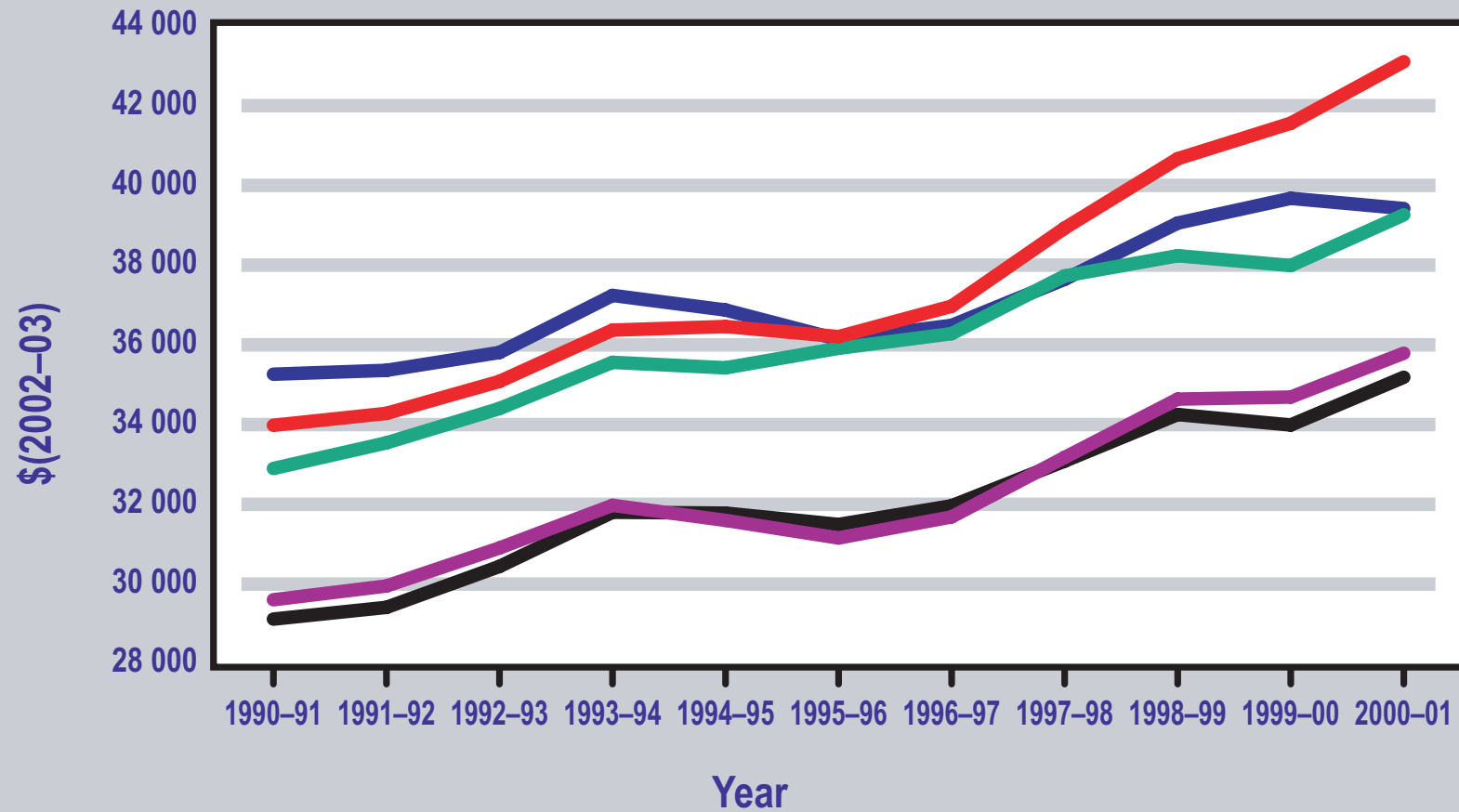
Source: ABS *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2003-04* (Cat. 5220.0)

Notes: (a) Chain volume measures are used throughout this table. Investment refers to gross fixed capital formation.

(b) These growth rates are based on the most recent ABS data and reflect the revised estimates for 2000-01 to 2002-03.

(c) Exports per capita are lower than those reported in the 2004 update of this publication because population has been growing faster than exports over the period.

FIGURE 1 REAL INCOME PER TAXPAYER BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 1990-91 TO 2000-01



— Major Cities
 — Inner Regional
 — Outer Regional
 — Remote
 — Very Remote

Source: BTRE (2005) *Focus on Regions 3: Taxable income database* at www.btre.gov.au

TABLE 11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGA) WITH HIGHEST AND LOWEST REAL INCOME PER TAXPAYER, 2000-01

<i>Highest incomes</i>			<i>Lowest incomes</i>		
LGA	Real income per taxpayer	Increase since 1990-91 (%)	LGA	Real income per taxpayer	Increase since 1990-91 (%)
Mosman, NSW *	\$103 734	78.2	Jerramungup, WA ∞	\$28 096	5.3
Woollahra, NSW *	\$95 760	64.3	Kolan, QLD ^	\$28 126	11.6
Hunter's Hill, NSW *	\$86 461	69.2	Perry, QLD ^	\$28 130	10.0
Ku-ring-gai, NSW *	\$78 531	46.1	Kent, WA ∞	\$28 199	14.5
North Sydney, NSW *	\$75 552	58.2	Monto, QLD ^	\$28 490	10.1
Nedlands, WA *	\$72 264	40.8	Streaky Bay, SA ∞	\$28 541	14.6
Stonnington, VIC *	\$71 986	50.3	Wickepin, WA ^	\$28 584	13.3
Peppermint Grove, WA *	\$71 528	52.7	Cuballing, WA ^	\$28 590	17.2
Cottesloe, WA *	\$71 394	52.7	Tasman, TAS ^	\$28 729	14.5
Mosman Park, WA*	\$70 925	66.2	Clifton, QLD #	\$28 769	20.2

Source: BTRE (2005) **Focus on Regions 3: Taxable income database** at www.btre.gov.au

Notes: Incomes expressed in terms of 2002-2003 dollars. The symbol after the LGA name denotes the remoteness class accounting for the majority of the LGA's population (Major Cities=*; Inner Regional = #; Outer Regional = ^; Remote= ∞).

TABLE 12 LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW, BY STATE/ TERRITORY, 2001 AND 2004 (a)

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
2004 (b)						
Employment ('000)	6 948.9	1 991.6	1 035.9	267.6	(c)	10 244.0
Unemployment ('000)	368.7	123.2	60.3	14.6	(c)	566.9
2001 (b)						
Employment						
Persons ('000)	5 652.9	1 562.4	807.8	141.3	67.5	8 298.6
Part time employed as share of total employed	31.8%	35.3%	32.1%	27.9%	33.3%	32.4%
Self employed as share of total employed	14.9%	20.4%	24.0%	25.1%	16.4%	17.0%
Unemployment (b)						
Persons ('000)	424.5	143.5	69.2	8.8	3.5	660.7
Unemployment rate	Male 7.5%	9.1%	8.6%	6.4%	5.0%	8.0%
	Female 6.3%	7.6%	7.0%	5.2%	4.6%	6.6%
Labour force participation rate (b)						
Males	72%	68%	71%	77%	72%	71%
Females	56%	52%	54%	61%	56%	55%

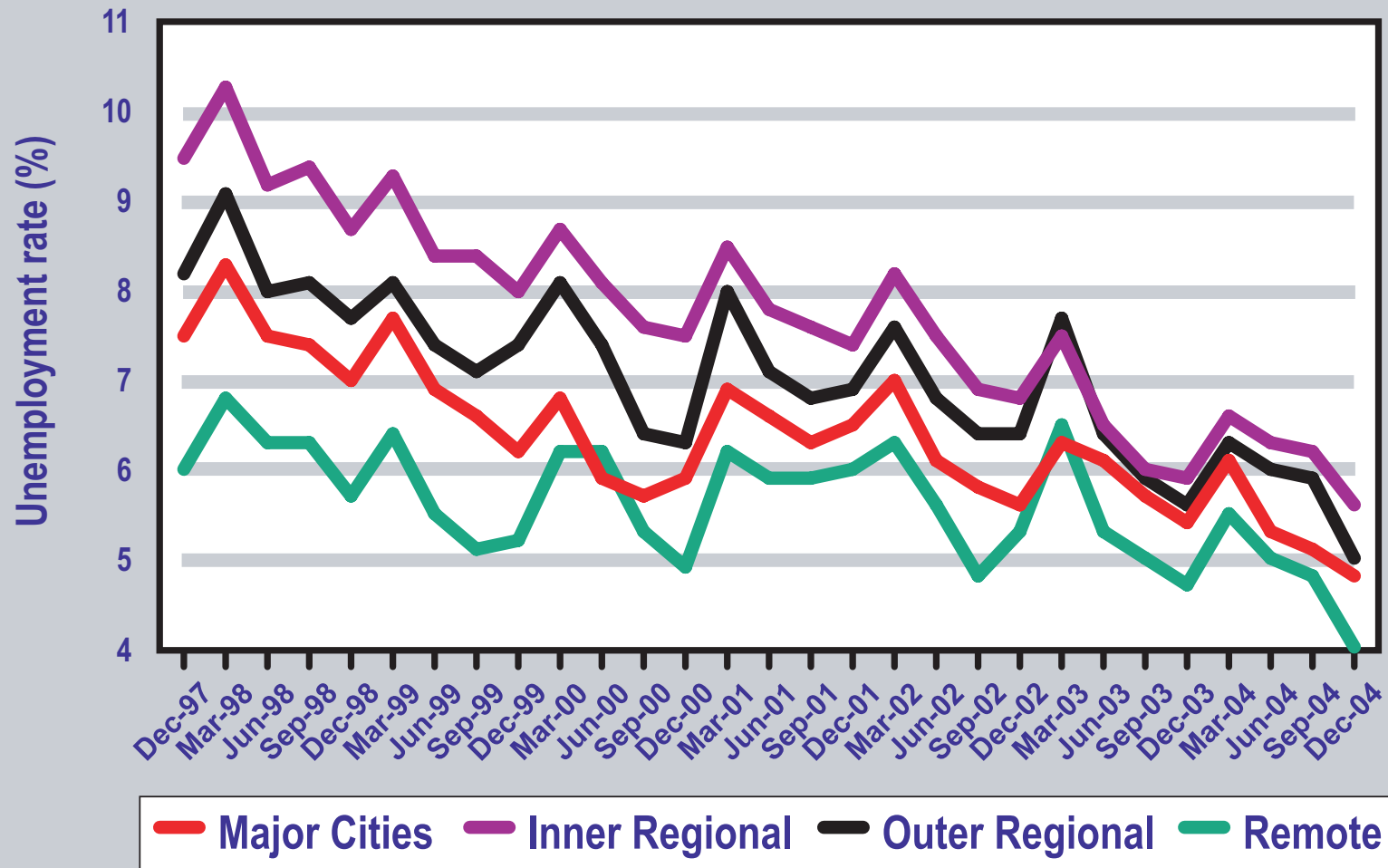
18 Sources: Data for 2004 is from Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. Data for 2001 is from ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data). Those who worked 34 hours or less are part time employed. Self employed persons refer to own account workers and employers.

9 Notes: (a) The table relates only to persons aged 15 and over.

9 (b) Estimates for remoteness classes were derived by BTRE

9 (c) Estimates for the Very Remote class are included in the figures for the Remote class.

FIGURE 2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 1997-2004



Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) **Small Area Labour Markets database**. Estimates for remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.

Note: Due to BTRE concerns about the impact of definitional changes on the time-series data for Very Remote Australia, the category has been excluded.

TABLE 13 EMPLOYMENT FOR INDUSTRY SECTORS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

Sectoral share of employed persons in remoteness class (%)	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Agriculture/Mining	1	8	19	31	27	5
Manufacturing	13	12	9	5	3	12
Infrastructure	14	14	13	12	10	14
Govt & defence	4	4	5	5	20	5
Health/Education	17	19	16	14	14	17
Private services	50	43	38	32	26	47
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data). Estimation for remoteness classes by BTRE.

Notes: Infrastructure sector includes Construction, Communications, Transport, Electricity, gas & water. Private services sector includes Wholesale, Retail, Accommodation cafes & restaurants, Property & business, Finance & insurance, Cultural & recreational, Personal & other services.

Did you know? The Shire of Kent in WA is the most agriculture dependent LGA in Australia (71% of employment is in agriculture). The Shire of Yalgoo in WA is the most mining dependent (50% of employment is in mining). The City of Greater Dandenong in Victoria is the most dependent on manufacturing (31% of employment is in manufacturing).

TABLE 14 NUMBER OF AND TOTAL INCOME FOR EMPLOYING AND NON-EMPLOYING SMALL BUSINESSES BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2000-01

	Employing	Non-employing	Share of total no. of businesses outside of capital city	Share of business income earned outside of capital city
<i>No. of small businesses in Australia</i>	647 540	909 256	39.3%	33.1%
<i>Share of small businesses located in a State or Territory</i>				
NSW	35.4%	32.7%	37.2%	29.6%
VIC	25.5%	24.8%	30.1%	24.3%
QLD	18.3%	19.1%	60.5%	55.8%
SA	6.8%	7.7%	36.8%	32.9%
WA	9.9%	11.3%	29.2%	27.7%
TAS	2.0%	2.1%	62.8%	60.0%
NT	0.7%	0.8%	30.2%	32.6%
ACT	1.3%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
OTHER	0.2%	0.3%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	39.3%	33.1%

Source: ABS *Experimental Estimates, Regional Small Business Statistics, Australia 1995-96 to 2000-01 – companion data.* (Cat. 5675.0)

Note: Small businesses are those whose total income or expenses are between \$10 000 and \$5 million in the financial year.

Did you know? Small businesses (with less than 20 employees) employ around half of Australia's workforce. Businesses with no paid employees account for the majority of businesses in Australia.

TABLE 15 GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY STATE/TERRITORY, 2002-03

State/ Territory	Livestock	Livestock products	Horticulture	Grain	Other crops	Total agriculture	
						Share	Value (\$m)
NSW	25%	28%	18%	25%	27%	25%	8 023
VIC	20%	37%	27%	11%	15%	23%	7 461
QLD	31%	7%	23%	10%	34%	22%	7 262
SA	8%	10%	18%	22%	9%	13%	4 079
WA	11%	13%	9%	33%	12%	14%	4 550
TAS	2%	4%	4%	0%	3%	3%	878
NT	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	291
ACT	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19
Total	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	nr
	\$m	10 676	6 412	6 500	4 610	4 365	nr

Source: ABS *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2002-03* (Cat. 7503.0)

Notes: Livestock products include wool, milk, eggs & honey. Horticulture includes fruit, nuts, grapes, nursery production & vegetables. Grain includes wheat, barley, sorghum, rice & oats. Other crops include cotton, sugar cane, legumes & oilseeds.

Did you know? In terms of production value, Australia's most important agricultural commodities in 2002-03 were cattle and calves (\$6.4 billion), wool (\$3.3 billion), milk (\$2.8 billion) and wheat (\$2.7 billion).

TABLE 16 VISITOR EXPENDITURE FOR STATES/TERRITORIES, 2003

State/ Territory	Visitor expenditure (\$m) (a)				Region with highest total exp. (outside capital city)	
	Domestic visitors	Overseas visitors	All visitors	Share of exp. in capital city	Domestic visitors (b)	Overseas visitors (b)
NSW	15 835	4 425	20 260	49%	North Coast	Hunter
VIC	10 807	2 343	13 150	59%	Western Vic (c)	Western Vic (c)
QLD	12 731	2 836	15 567	22%	Gold Coast	Tropical North Qld
SA	3 570	375	3 945	52%	Fleurieu Peninsula	Kangaroo Island
WA	4 785	1 157	5 942	57%	South West	South West
TAS	1 633	118	1 751	40%	Greater Launceston	Greater Launceston
NT	999	416	1 415	42%	Alice Springs	Petermann (d)
ACT	967	132	1 099	100%	nr	nr
Australia	51 327	11 803	63 129	46%	Gold Coast	Tropical North Qld

Source: Tourism Research Australia, **Tourism Expenditure by Domestic Visitors in Australia's Regions, 1999–2003 & Tourism Expenditure by International Visitors in Australia's Regions, 1999–2003.**

Notes: (a) Domestic visitor expenditure relates to both day and overnight visitors. It excludes expenditure on motor vehicles, capital items and international airfares. It refers to visitors aged 15 and over.

(b) The data relates to 90 tourism regions defined by Tourism Research Australia.

(c) Western Vic includes Great Ocean Road

(d) Petermann includes Uluru

nr – not relevant

transport and communications

TABLE 17 TRANSPORT MODE USAGE FOR DOMESTIC INTER-REGIONAL, NON-COMMUTER, PASSENGER TRIPS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2003

Main transport mode	Passenger's home region (%)					Australian total
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	
Car	83%	90%	91%	90%	87%	86%
Coach	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Rail	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	3%
Air	9%	4%	5%	6%	9%	7%
Other/not stated	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Tourism Research Australia, **National Visitor Survey 2003**. Estimates for remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.

Notes: Relates to domestic travel only. Includes daytrips (roundtrip distance of at least 50km) and overnight trips (destination must be at least 40km from home). Excludes persons under 15 and routine trips (e.g. commuting, weekly shopping trip). Other transport mode includes ferries.

TABLE 18 METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

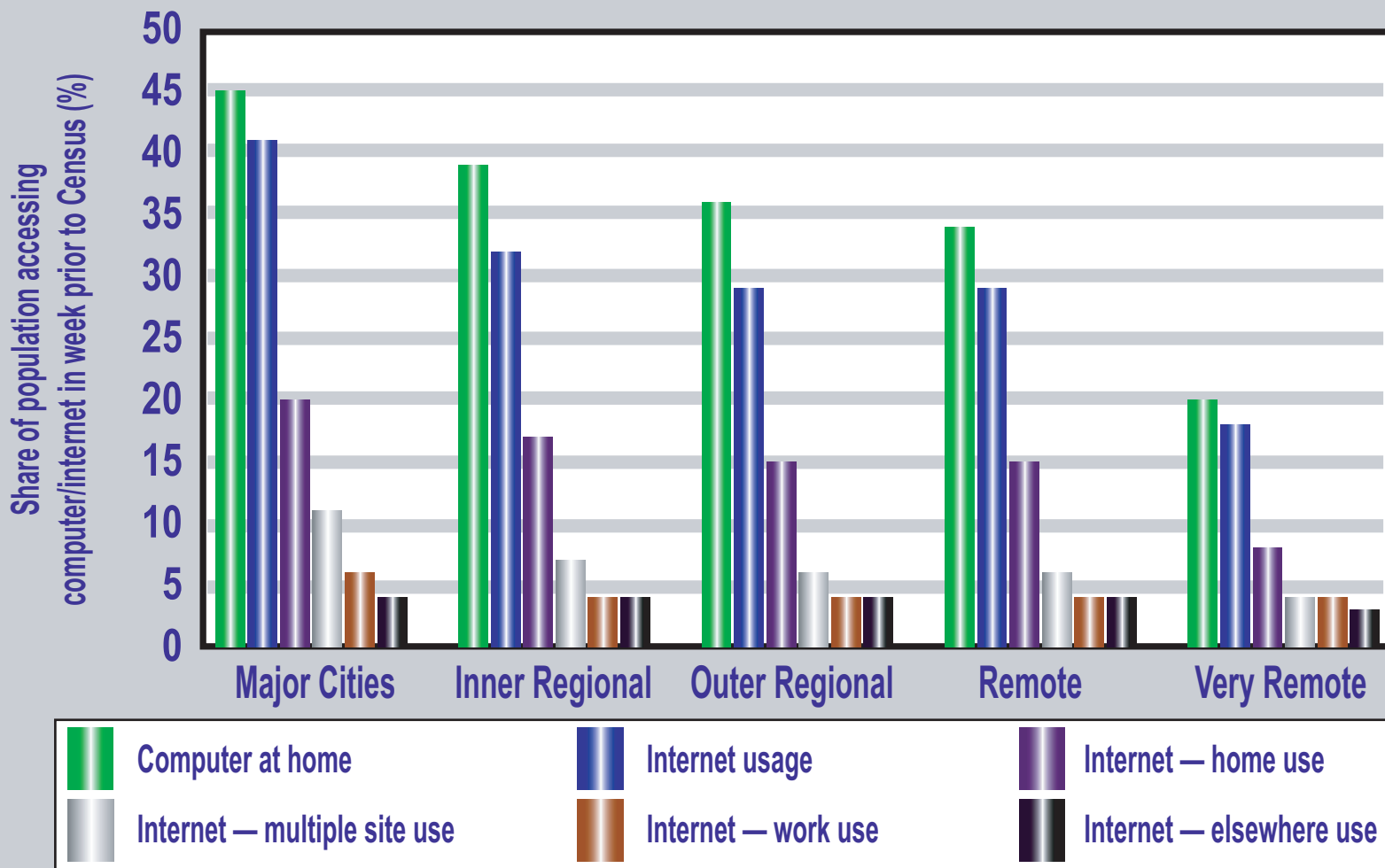
Method	Respondent's home region (%)					
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Car—driver	70.1%	76.7%	72.2%	63.2%	39.4%	71.0%
Car—passenger	7.0%	8.6%	9.1%	9.7%	10.3%	7.6%
Truck	1.6%	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%	2.5%	2.0%
Motorbike/scooter	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	0.7%
Bicycle	1.0%	1.3%	1.9%	2.3%	2.3%	1.2%
Walked only	3.4%	5.5%	8.0%	13.7%	34.8%	4.7%
Bus	3.9%	0.9%	1.2%	2.1%	4.1%	3.1%
Train/tram	6.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	4.4%
Other response/ multiple travel methods	6.3%	3.0%	3.3%	4.9%	5.3%	5.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data).

Note: Other response includes ferries and taxis. Data relates to persons who worked away from home on the day of the census.

Did you know? Between 1996 and 2001, for Australia as a whole, travelling by train to work increased by 12%, car (as driver) by 9% and cycling by 5%, while car (as passenger) declined by 4% and taxi usage by 15%.

FIGURE 3 COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001



Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence data).

communications access

- At the end of September 2004, total Internet subscribers in Australia numbered over 5.7 million. Using the definition currently adopted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to define broadband (“an always on Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256 kilobits per second (kbps)”), there were 1 290 000 broadband subscribers at the end of September 2004, an increase of 55% from the end of March 2004. Just over 4.4 million were dial-up subscribers.
- Regional variations in Internet access reflect older age groups and Indigenous people having a lower propensity for home Internet use, while higher income earners and families with children have a higher propensity for home Internet use.
- National long-distance weighted average prices of phone calls decreased in real terms by between 6.2% and 9.7% each year from 1997–98 to 2000–01.
- By 30 June 2004, there were 16.5 million mobile phones and 11.7 million fixed telephone lines in operation in Australia. About 97% of households had a fixed phone.
- In 2003, terrestrial mobile coverage extended to 13.7% of Australia’s geographic land mass, and covered 96% of the population.
- In 2003, the payphone market consisted of about 72 000 payphones. Of these, about half were operated by independent businesses, such as hotels and clubs, 46 per cent belonged to Telstra and the remainder belonged to other specialist payphone firms.

Sources: ABS **Internet Activity September 2004** (Cat 8153.0); Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts **Statistics booklet, Third Quarter 2004**; NOIE **Information Economy Index, 2003**; **Regional Telecommunications Inquiry Report, 2002**; **Telecommunications Service Inquiry, 2000**.

education and health

TABLE 19 ATTENDANCE AT GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Primary school attendance						
Government	69%	75%	77%	81%	88%	71%
Catholic	21%	17%	18%	15%	9%	19%
Other non-government	10%	9%	5%	3%	3%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Secondary school attendance						
Government	58%	67%	77%	83%	88%	63%
Catholic	23%	19%	16%	12%	5%	21%
Other non-government	18%	14%	7%	5%	7%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
16 year olds still at school (or in further education)*						
Males	82%	81%	78%	66%	37%	81%
Females	85%	85%	83%	74%	42%	84%

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data). Derivations by BTRE.

* As share of all 16 year olds, including those with unknown educational status.

TABLE 20 FURTHER EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
% Share of persons aged 15+ with a highest qualification of:						
Postgraduate degree	2.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	1.8%
Graduate diploma/ certificate	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	1.4%
Bachelor degree	11.4%	6.7%	5.9%	5.9%	4.6%	9.7%
Diploma/ Adv. diploma	6.5%	5.3%	4.6%	4.4%	3.3%	6.0%
Certificate	15.2%	17.5%	16.4%	16.4%	11.7%	15.8%
Bachelor degree or higher level qualification						
Males—2001 ('000)	736	114	44	6	3	910
Females—2001 ('000)	774	147	65	11	4	1 009
All persons—2001 ('000)	1 510	262	109	17	7	1 919
All persons—1996 ('000)	1 145	194	86	14	6	1 451

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data). 1996 estimation for remoteness classes by BTRE.

Did you know? North Sydney is the LGA with the highest share of persons aged 15+ who have a bachelor degree or higher level qualification at 38.9%. The Shire of Mount Morgan in Queensland has the lowest share at 2.6%.

TABLE 21 SELECTED INDICATORS OF HEALTH STATUS BY STATE/TERRITORY, 2003

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
Life expectancy at birth (years)									
Male	77.7	78.2	77.6	77.7	78.1	76.6	72.0	79.2	77.8
Female	82.9	83.1	82.8	82.7	83.0	81.4	77.3	83.8	82.8
Infant mortality rate – deaths (per 1000 live births)	4.6	5.1	4.8	3.7	4.1	7.0	8.4	5.8	4.8
Selected causes of death – standardised rates per 100 000 population									
Cancer	179	187	183	186	182	201	198	165	183
Ischaemic heart disease	123	116	133	131	109	138	122	99	123
Stroke	65	53	62	58	52	51	55	51	60
Diabetes	14	20	15	16	16	29	37	15	17
Motor vehicle traffic accidents	8	8	10	12	11	12	28	4	9
Respiratory disease	58	54	56	69	55	63	97	46	58

Sources: ABS **Deaths, Australia, 2003** (Cat. 3302.0); ABS **Causes of Death, Australia, 2003** (Cat. 3303.0) & related unpublished data.

Did you know? Of all ABS Statistical Divisions, Canberra has the highest male and female life expectancy of 79 and 84 respectively. NT has the highest rate of infant mortality.

TABLE 22 SELECTED SELF-REPORTED HEALTH RISK FACTORS BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

<i>Share (%) of males/ females over 18 years of age in remoteness class who reported:</i>		Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional, Remote, Very Remote	Australia
Current smoker	Male	27.5	25.8	31.3	27.6
	Female	20.2	22.1	25.2	21.1
Risky/high alcohol risk	Male	12.0	15.5	16.7	13.3
	Female	8.3	8.8	9.0	8.5
Sedentary / low exercise level	Male	64.4	65.0	66.6	64.8
	Female	73.3	73.9	76.1	73.7
Overweight/obese Body Mass Index	Male	53.3	55.8	59.1	54.5
	Female	36.6	41.7	41.3	38.2
Low/no usual daily intake of fruit	Male	53.1	54.4	55.4	53.7
	Female	42.0	39.1	44.7	41.7

Source: ABS **National Health Survey 2001**.

Note: Low daily intake of fruit equals one serve or less.

TABLE 23 HEALTH LABOUR FORCE BY REMOTENESS CLASS, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
<i>Share of health professionals (%) (a)</i>						
General medical practitioners	10.8	7.9	8.3	9.0	9.4	10.0
Medical practitioners in training	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.9
Specialist medical practitioners	6.4	3.4	2.7	1.8	0.6	5.4
Registered nurses	46.1	54.0	57.2	59.3	66.1	48.8
Registered midwives	3.7	4.4	5.3	6.1	6.5	4.0
Retail pharmacists	4.4	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.8	4.1
Other health (b)	27.6	26.2	22.2	19.6	13.8	26.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>All health professionals</i>						
Share of total employed persons (%)	3.7%	3.6%	2.8%	2.1%	1.8%	3.5%
Per 100 000 pop. (c)	1 597	1 389	1 136	910	655	1 497

Source: ABS 2001 **Census of Population and Housing** (place of usual residence data).

Notes: (a) The number of health professionals (for example medical practitioners) as a percentage of all health professionals in a region.

(b) Includes dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, naturopaths & veterinarians.

(c) Estimates by BTRE.

TABLE 24 HEALTH SERVICES BY REMOTENESS, 2002-03

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Acute & psychiatric hospital beds						
Public (a)	32 218	10 634	6 772	1 691	855	52 200
Private (b)	19 112	4 303	1 039 (d)	(d)	0	24 454
Residential aged care places (c)	100 501	34 379	14 262	1 424	615	151 181

Sources (a) AIHW **Australian Hospital Statistics, 2002-03** (Cat. HSE-32)

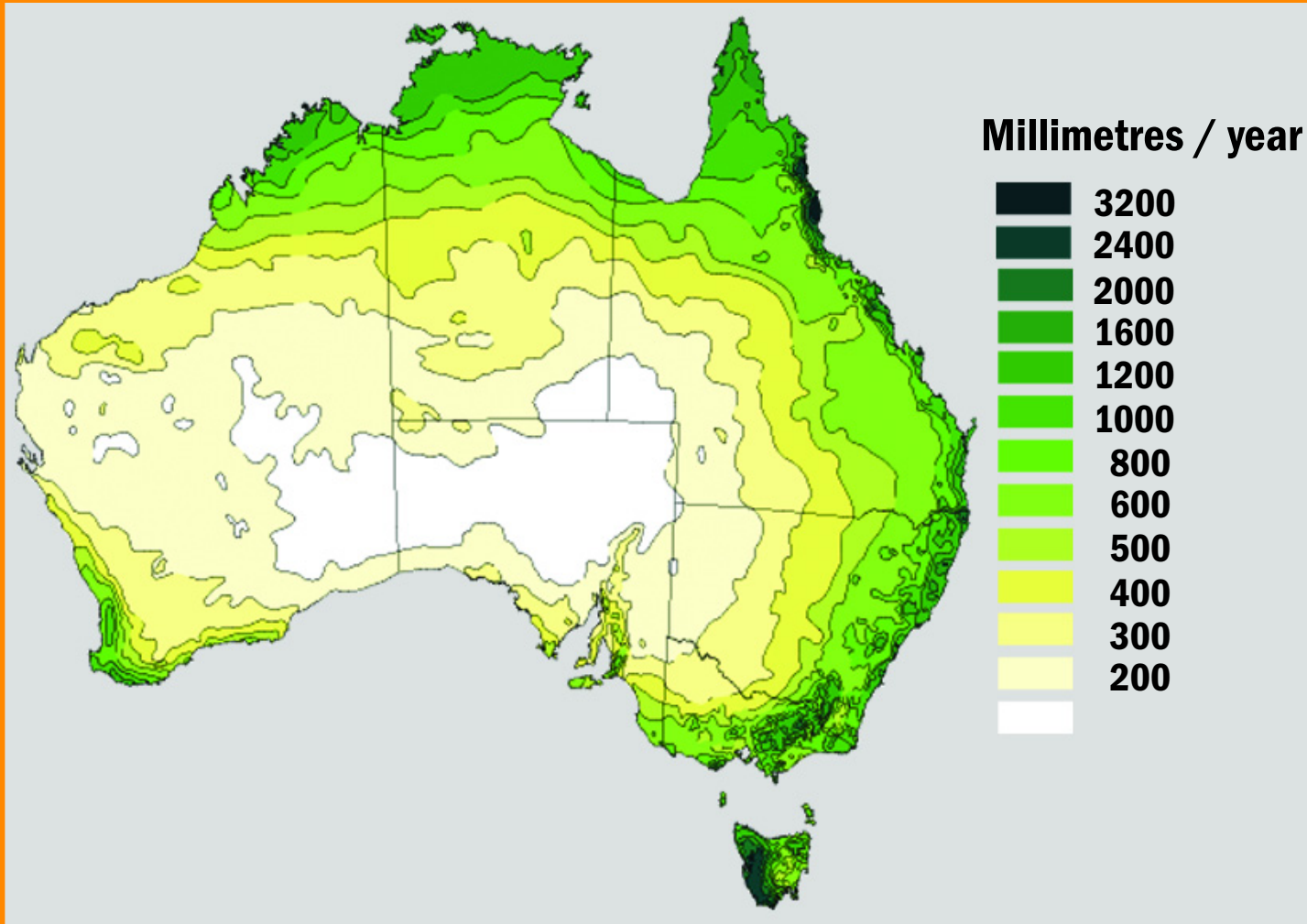
(b) ABS **Private Hospitals** unpublished data;

(c) AIHW **Residential Aged Care in Australia, 2002-03** (Cat. AGE 38)

(d) Outer Regional and Remote private hospital data is combined.

environmental issues

MAP 2 AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL BASED ON 30-YEAR CLIMATOLOGY, 1961-1990



Australia is one of the driest inhabited continents. Water is a valuable resource, essential to support an increasing human population, and to sustain economic development, and ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Australia's river basins and groundwater supplies experience variable flows and climactic conditions, which impacts on resource availability.

TABLE 25 WATER CONSUMPTION (a) BY STATE/TERRITORY, 2000–01

	NSW & ACT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	Australia
	Gigalitres (b)							
Livestock, pastures, grains & other agriculture	2 991	3 120	1 067	793	241	161	30	8 403
Sugar, cotton & rice	3 847	27	2 170	-	126	-	-	6 170
Horticulture	484	578	217	509	199	61	40	2 087
Domestic	679	472	501	181	245	59	45	2 181
Domestic per capita av. daily use (litres) (c)	299	279	375	337	362	356	581	315
Sewerage & drainage	676	745	216	24	114	10	9	1 794
Electricity & gas	59	1 536	71	2	19	0	1	1 687
Other (d)	688	661	469	138	466	127	36	2 585
Total (e)	9 425	7 140	4 711	1 647	1 409	417	160	24 909

Source: *BTRE analysis of ABS **Water Account for Australia 2000–01** (Cat. 4610.0).*

Notes: (a) *Water consumption = (mains water use + self-extracted water use) – water supplied to other users – in-stream use. Since the last (1996–97) water account ABS changed the scope and methods for calculating some of the components in the water consumption identity. These changes are reflected in the 2000–01 water account.*

(b) *1 gigalitre = 1 000 000 000 litres.*

(c) *Per capita estimate uses data from ABS Census of Population and Housing: Selected social and housing characteristics, Australia, 2001 Cat. No 2015.0.*

(d) *Other includes manufacturing, mining, government, and other industry.*

(e) *Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.*

– *nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)*

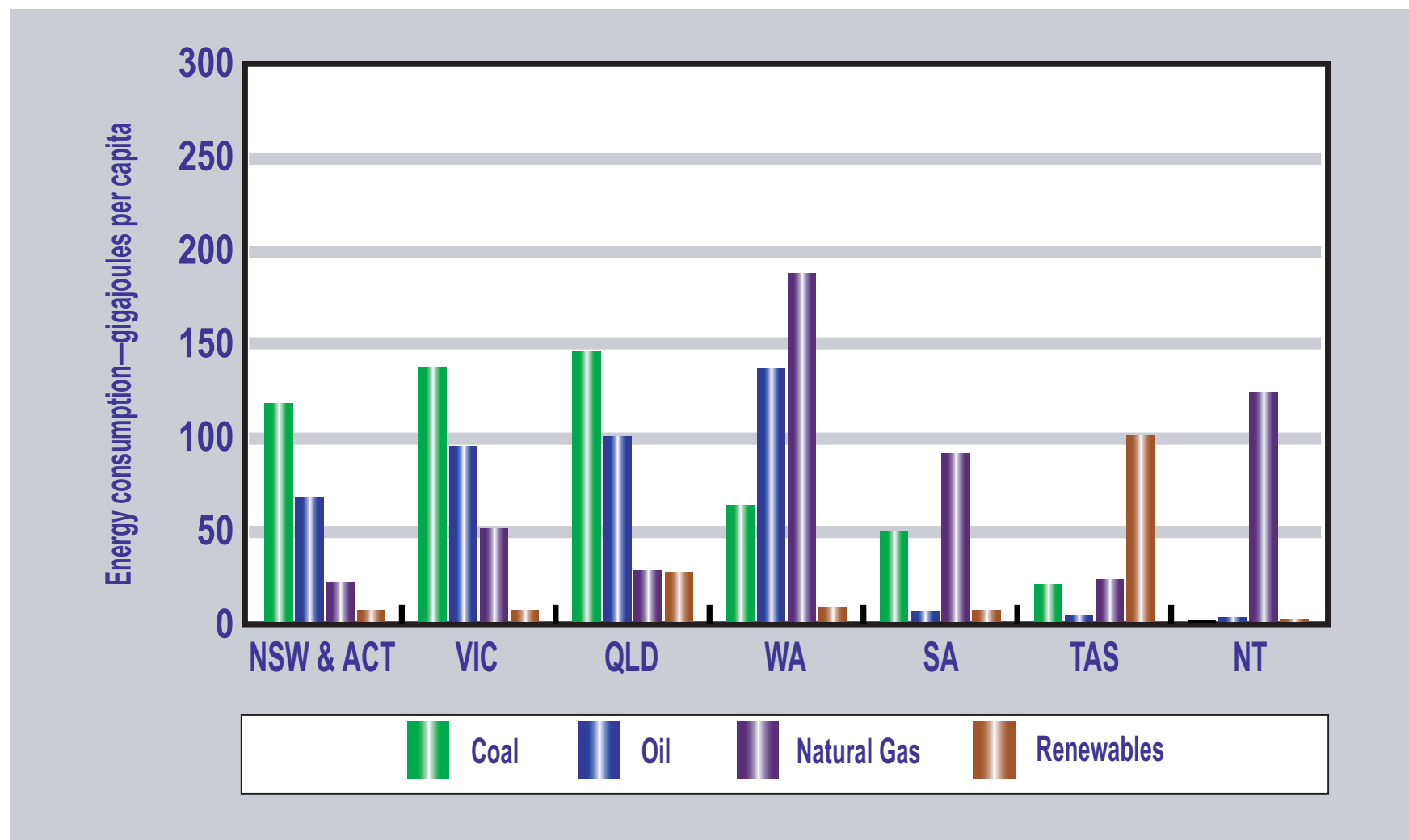
TABLE 26 AREAS OF HIGH RISK OR HAZARD OF DRYLAND SALINITY BY STATE/TERRITORY

	<i>Hectares at high risk or hazard</i>	<i>Projected hectares at high risk or hazard</i>	
	2000	2020	2050
NSW	181 000	579 000	1 300 000
VIC	670 000	1 310 000	3 110 000
QLD	na	na	3 100 000
SA	390 000	495 000	600 000
WA	4 363 000	5 230 000	8 800 000
TAS	54 000	70 000	90 000
NT/ACT	minor	unknown	unknown
Australia	5 658 000	7 684 000	16 900 000

Source: *National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001*, <http://www.environment.gov.au/atlas>

Did you know? Dryland salinity significantly decreases agricultural productivity, and threatens ecosystems and biodiversity. It also reduces the life of infrastructure resources as salt destroys the properties of bitumen and concrete structures. Some 20 000 km of major road and 1 600 km of railways occur in regions mapped to have areas of high risk. Estimates suggest these could be 52 000 km and 3 600 km respectively by the year 2050. Australian rural towns are also potentially affected. Over 200 towns could suffer damage to infrastructure and other community assets from dryland salinity by 2050.

FIGURE 4 PER CAPITA PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY FUEL TYPE, STATES / TERRITORIES, 2002-03



Source: BTRE analysis of ABARE **Energy Statistics—provisional data** (May 2005).

Note: Renewables include biomass, hydroelectricity, solar energy and wind energy.

TABLE 27 AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS BY STATE/TERRITORY, 1967–2003

State	Cost (\$A million)						Total
	Flood	Severe Storms	Cyclones	Earth quakes	Bush fires	Land slide	
NSW	168.9	215.0	0.6	144.3	23.7	1.2	553.7
VIC	39.3	23.5	0.0	0.0	33.1	0.0	96.0
QLD	121.1	45.6	98.4	0.0	0.7	0.0	265.9
SA	19.1	16.6	0.0	0.0	12.2	0.0	47.8
WA	4.7	11.3	42.9	3.0	4.6	0.0	66.4
TAS	6.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	11.4	0.0	19.4
NT	9.0	0.4	137.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	146.9
ACT	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	9.8
Total	368.9	313.8	278.9	147.7	95.2	1.2	1 205.8
Share of total (%)	30.6	26.0	23.1	12.2	7.9	0.1	100.0

Source: BTRE analysis of Emergency Management Australia (EMAtack) data at <http://www.ema.gov.au>

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding. Figures are in 2003 dollars. These costs exclude costs of death and injuries.

international comparisons ^(a)

	Australia	Italy	Philippines	United Kingdom	United States of America
People per km ² (2005)	2.6 (b)	193	293	244	30.8 (c)
Pop. Distribution (2000)					
- Urban	92%	67%	62%	89%	80%
- Rural	8%	33%	38%	11%	20%
Life expectancy at birth (2000–05)					
- Male (years)	78	77	68	76	75
- Female (years)	83	83	72	81	80
Total fertility rate (2000–05) (d)	1.8	1.3	3.2	1.7	2.0
Formal schooling (expected years) (1999–2000)	16.6	14.7	11.2	16.4	15.2
Per capita GDP (\$US) (2003) (in 1990 prices)	\$26 525	\$25 527	\$1 005	\$30 355	\$36 924
Unemployment rate (2003)	5.5% (b)	8.8%	9.8% (e)	4.7%	6.0%

Sources: Information is from <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107887.html> (by country) – accessed June 2005; United Nations Statistics Division, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/> (accessed May 2005); United Nations Statistics Division, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demography/social/> (accessed January 2003); ABS **Measuring Australia's Progress, 2004** (Cat.1370.0).

Notes: (a) The period to which the data relates is given in brackets in the first column, unless otherwise specified.
 (b) Refers to 2004.
 (c) Refers to 2000.
 (d) This is the total number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she passed through all her child-bearing years without problems.
 (e) Refers to 2001.

abbreviations and acronyms

'000	Thousands	Govt.	Government
\$A	Australian dollar	GSP	Gross state product
\$m.	Million dollars	HILDA	Household, Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia Survey
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics	ISP	Internet service provider
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	km ²	Square kilometres
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	LGA	Local Government Area
Adv.	Advanced	na	Not available
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	nr.	Not relevant
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification	No.	Number
Av.	Average	NOIE	National Office for the Information Economy
BTRE	Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics	NSW	New South Wales
Cat.	Catalogue number	NT	Northern Territory
CBD	Central business district	Pop.	Population
DOTARS. . . .	Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services	QLD/Qld . . .	Queensland
exp.	Expenditure	reg.	regional
FACS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services	SA	South Australia
GDP	Gross domestic product	SAAP	Supported accommodation assistance program
		TAS/Tas. . . .	Tasmania
		VIC/Vic	Victoria
		WA	Western Australia

useful contacts

ABARE

Web: www.abareconomics.com

E-mail: wpang@abare.gov.au

Phone: 02 6272 2110

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Web: www.abs.gov.au

E-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au

Phone: 1300 135 070

Australian Tax Office

Web: www.ato.gov.au

E-mail: taxstats@ato.gov.au

Phone: 13 28 61

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Web: www.aihw.gov.au

E-mail: info@aihw.gov.au

Phone: 02 6244 1000

Centrelink

Web: www.centrelink.gov.au

E-mail: data.shop@centrelink.gov.au

Phone: 02 6244 7270

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Web: www.workplace.gov.au

E-mail: dave.long@dewr.gov.au

Phone: 02 6121 7895

Environment Australia

Web: www.deh.gov.au

E-mail: ciu@deh.gov.au

Phone: 02 6274 1111

HILDA

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics
and Social Research

Web: www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/

E-mail: hilda-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au

Phone: 03 8344 2100

Tourism Research Australia

Web: www.tra.australia.com

E-mail: tra@tourism.australia.com

Phone: 02 6213 7124

contacting us

Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics,
Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS)
GPO Box 501, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.
Telephone: +61 2 6274 7210 Fax +61 2 6274 6816

internet: www.btre.gov.au
general email: btre@dotars.gov.au
data requests: data.team@dotars.gov.au

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