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btre

about Australia's regions

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about this booklet

Environmental and competitive pressures, new technology and changing demographics and social values have resulted in fundamental social and economic change in Australia's regions. These circumstances have created 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 communication; education and health; and environmental issues.

BTRE first published this booklet in 2003 and has updated it annually since then. The 2006 update presents the most recent available data for each topic. Of the 34 tables and charts, 19 have been updated in 2006. In addition, material on social capital and internal migration has been included for the first time.

This 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 43).

ABS data has been used with permission from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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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 a better 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 measuring 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.

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

population

table 1 overview: selected population indicators by remoteness class, 2005

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Pop. ('000 persons)	13 454	4 302	2 069	323	180	20 329
Share of total pop.	66.2%	21.2%	10.2%	1.6%	0.9%	100.0%
Pop. growth, 2000 to 2005	6.4%	9.1%	3.1%	-3.4%	3.7%	6.4%
Area (km ²)	14	220	803	1 021	5 646	7 704
Pop. density (persons/km ²)	937.5	19.6	2.6	0.3	0.0	2.6
Pop. share in same State/Territory as 5 years ago (2001)	96%	96%	96%	94%	91%	95%

Sources: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2004-05* (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 2005 are preliminary.

table 2 population growth by state/territory and remoteness class, 2000–2005^(a)

State/Territory	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote (%)	Very Remote (%)	Australia (%)
NSW	5	5	0	-3	-1	4
VIC	7	8	1	-4	nr ^(b)	7
QLD	12	15	8	2	2	12
SA	2	9	-3	2	-9	2
WA	7	19	1	-4	-2	7
TAS	nr ^(b)	4	1	1	-7	3
NT	nr ^(b)	nr ^(b)	8	-18	19	4
ACT	3	-2	nr ^(b)	nr ^(b)	nr ^(b)	3
Australia	6	9	3	-3	4	6

Source: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2004–05* (Cat. 3218.0); ABS *Estimated Resident Population* data 2000. Remoteness classes for 2000 data derived by BTRE.

Notes: (a) Population growth rates relate to the total growth between 2000 and 2005. Population estimates for 2005 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 (LGAs) with fastest population increases/decreases, 2000–2005^(a)

Fastest increases				Fastest decreases			
LGA	State	Remoteness class ^(b)	Average annual growth rate (%)	LGA	State	Remoteness class ^(b)	Average annual growth rate (%)
Perth	WA	Major Cities	10.5	Dundas	WA	Remote	-5.0
Melton	VIC	Major Cities	9.3	Yilgarn	WA	Remote	-4.4
Capel	WA	Inner Regional	7.4	Dalwallinu	WA	Remote	-4.3
Wyndham	VIC	Major Cities	6.3	Leonora	WA	Very Remote	-3.5
Melbourne	VIC	Major Cities	6.1	Coober Pedy	SA	Very Remote	-3.4
Wanneroo	WA	Major Cities	5.9	Coolgardie	WA	Outer Regional	-3.3
Mandurah	WA	Inner Regional	5.6	Gnowangerup	WA	Remote	-3.2
Casey	VIC	Major Cities	4.6	Morawa	WA	Remote	-3.1
Cardinia	VIC	Major Cities	4.5	Quairading	WA	Outer Regional	-2.9
Chittering	WA	Inner Regional	4.5	Cunderdin	WA	Outer Regional	-2.8

Source: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2004–05* (Cat 3218.0). LGAs were coded to remoteness classes by BTRE.

Notes: (a) Table excludes LGAs with population of less than 1000 in 2000. Population estimates for 2005 are preliminary.

(b) The majority of the LGA's population fits within the stated Remoteness class.

table 4 reasons for leaving previous location by region of origin
(towards all destinations), 2005

Reason	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote & Very Remote (%) ^(f)	Australia (%)
To be nearer family or friends	9	12	12	11	10
Lifestyle/environment/climate	15	15	13	9	15
Change in family structure ^(a)	11	10	11	9	11
Economic consideration ^(b)	17	17	21	31	18
Change of housing type ^(c)	16	14	12	8	15
Rental/public housing ^(d)	13	12	11	16	12
Other ^(e)	19	20	20	16	19
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Unit record data from GISCA *National Migration Survey*, August 2005.

- Notes:
- (a) Aggregation of changes in family structure including separation/divorce, marriage, increase in family size etc.
 - (b) Aggregation of economic reasons including partner's employment, promotion, increased income etc.
 - (c) Aggregation of changes in housing type such as upgrade to larger house, move to newly constructed home etc.
 - (d) Aggregation of changes in rental including expiry of lease, from rental to own home, public housing became available etc.
 - (e) Aggregation of other responses including retirement, health reasons, move out of parents' house etc.
 - (f) Data relating to Remote and Very remote classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes.

table 5 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%

table 6 age by remoteness class, 1999 and 2004

		Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Median age, 2004		35.8	38.5	37.8	34.9	30.3	36.4
Share of population in each age group, 2004	<14	19.0%	20.9%	21.5%	23.6%	26.2%	19.8%
	15–24	14.4%	12.8%	12.1%	11.7%	14.8%	13.8%
	25–44	30.5%	26.1%	27.4%	31.1%	32.7%	29.3%
	45–64	23.6%	25.6%	25.6%	24.1%	20.0%	24.2%
	65+	12.6%	14.6%	13.3%	9.5%	6.3%	13.0%
TOTAL		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Share of population in selected age groups, 1999	15–24	14.4%	12.7%	12.3%	12.2%	15.2%	13.8%
	65+	12.2%	13.7%	12.2%	8.3%	5.4%	12.3%

Source: Prepared by the ABS Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre. Based on ABS *Population by Age and Sex, Australia, June 1999 and June 2004* (Cat. 3235.0.55.001) and unpublished data.

Fact: In 2004, Jilkminggan Community Government Council (NT) had the lowest median age, at 20.0 years, of all local government areas in Australia. Victor Harbor (SA) Local Government Area had the highest median age at 52.7 years.

table 7 overview of Australia's territories, 2004–05

Territory	Population	Land area (km ²)	Governance
Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Uninhabited	2	Commonwealth
Australian Antarctic Territory	Transient	5 896 500	Commonwealth
Australian Capital Territory	325 161	2 358	Self governing
Christmas Island	1 523	135	Commonwealth
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	598	14	Commonwealth
Coral Sea Islands*	4	81	Commonwealth
Heard and McDonald Islands	Uninhabited	367	Commonwealth
Jervis Bay	562	73	Commonwealth
Norfolk Island*	1 359	35	Self governing
Northern Territory	202 793	1 349 129	Self governing
All Territories	532 000	7 248 694	

Sources: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2004–05* (Cat. 3218.0); National Mapping Division, Geoscience Australia; Norfolk Island Census 2001.

Note: * Population data relates to 2001, rather than 2004–05.

society

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 2004–05, SAAP provided 52 250 periods of domestic violence related support, about 52% of them in Major Cities. Reported domestic violence rates were highest in Very Remote Australia (16.7 SAAP periods per 1000 population), followed by Remote Australia (12.8), Outer Regional (3.4), Inner Regional (2.6) and Major Cities (2.0).

Source: AIHW unpublished data.

suicide

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 per 100 000 population) than in the rest of Australia (12.3 per 100 000 population). Between 1993 and 2003, suicide rates in Queensland and Northern Territory were consistently above the national average.

Source: ABS *Suicides, Recent Trends, Australia, 1993–2003* (Cat. 3309.0.55.001) and related unpublished data.

social capital

Social capital is a resource inherent in community relationships and networks. Potentially, it can be used by individuals and communities to achieve social and economic outcomes. While there is no universally accepted definition of what constitutes social capital, the BTRE adopts the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) definition:

‘Networks, together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate cooperation within or among groups’.

Social capital is a multi-faceted concept which can be measured using a mix of subjective and objective indicators. The range of indicators that can be used includes measures of trust, social participation, the volunteering rate and community support. The multi-faceted nature of social capital means that it will rarely be uniformly high or low in a region. Rather, most regions will display both strengths and weaknesses with respect to the social capital indicators.

A person's place of residence exerts a significant influence on the level of social capital resources which may be drawn upon. This result continues to hold when the demographic, social and economic characteristics of individuals are controlled for. Typically, individuals who live in rural areas and small towns display very high levels of community involvement (i.e. volunteering, active membership and the extent to which neighbours help each other out). At the other extreme, the five major metropolitan centres display relatively low levels of community involvement.

table 8 social capital indicators by remoteness class, 2004–05

Proportion of people who report that they:	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote & Very Remote (%)	Australia (%)
Have neighbours who commonly help each other out	55.3	66.6	70.2	71.0	60.2
Get together with friends/relatives once a week or more	64.2	59.8	62.9	67.1	63.0
Volunteer in a typical week	19.1	23.4	26.0	27.0	21.2
Are currently an active member of a sporting, hobby or community-based club or association	38.8	41.4	42.8	47.1	40.1
Could easily raise \$2000 in one week in an emergency	59.3	55.0	54.2	68.1	57.8
Attend religious services once a month or more	19.7	18.0	15.5	14.2	19.0

Sources: Unit record data from the *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA)* sample survey wave 4 (2004–05). Data provided by Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research; BTRE 2005, *Focus on Regions No. 4: Social Capital*.

Note: Data relating to Remote and Very Remote classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes.

table 9 housing tenure and costs by remoteness class, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Dwelling tenure type						
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%
Dwellings being purchased						
Median weekly repayments	\$218	\$175	\$163	\$167	\$119	\$201
Repayments as share of gross household income	18%	17%	17%	16%	12%	17%
Dwellings being rented						
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 were done by BTRE.

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

table 10 recipients of selected government benefits by remoteness class, 2001–02

Payment type	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote & Very Remote (%)	Australia (%)
<i>Income support recipients as a share of population</i>					
Payment type ^(a)					
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>					
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 <www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats>

(b) The estimate of the share of New Start recipients is based on a count of people on this benefit for the whole of the 2001–02 financial year.

table 11 self-reported indicators of financial pressure by remoteness class, 2004–05

Share of persons aged 15+ in remoteness class	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote & Very Remote (%) ^(b)	Australia (%)
Given your current needs & financial responsibilities, you and your family are:					
Prosperous/very comfortable	16	14	13	22	15
Reasonably comfortable	52	53	51	51	52
Just getting along	28	30	31	24	29
Poor/very poor	4	3	4	3	4
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100
Due to a shortage of money you recently:					
Asked for financial help from friends/family	14	13	13	1	14
Asked for help from welfare/community organisation	3	3	4	4	3
Went without meals	4	3	5	4	4
Could not pay mortgage/rent on time	7	7	6	5	7

Source: Unit record data from Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) sample survey wave 4 (2004–5). Data provided by Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne. (<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/>).

Note: Data relating to Remote and Very Remote classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes.

regional economies

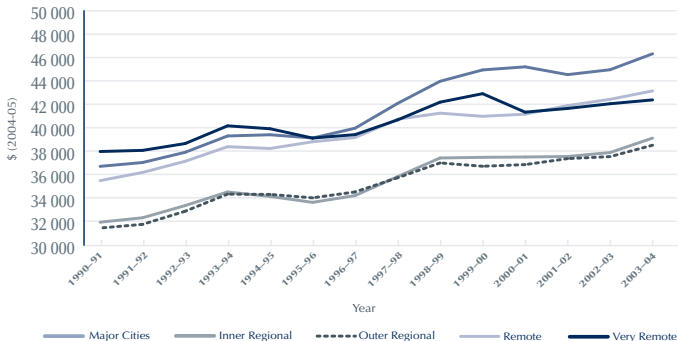
table 12 selected state/territory economic indicators, 2004–2005

State/ Territory	Gross State Product (GSP)		Av. annual growth, 1999–00 to 2004–05		Exports of goods & services	Investment per capita	
	Total (\$m)	Per capita	Total GSP	GSP per capita	Per capita	Private	Public
NSW	293 978	\$43 556	1.9%	1.0%	\$5 792	\$8 579	\$1 649
VIC	217 047	\$43 447	3.2%	2.0%	\$5 440	\$9 602	\$1 336
QLD	150 559	\$38 349	4.5%	2.3%	\$7 293	\$9 833	\$1 841
SA	58 186	\$37 845	3.0%	2.5%	\$5 761	\$8 115	\$1 097
WA	94 827	\$47 539	4.1%	2.7%	\$19 107	\$11 924	\$1 972
TAS	15 389	\$31 801	2.7%	2.2%	\$5 276	\$6 425	\$1 525
NT	9 718	\$48 333	2.0%	1.3%	\$12 126	\$13 916	\$2 661
ACT	17 829	\$54 924	2.0%	1.3%	\$2 273	\$8 133	\$3 524
Australia	857 765	\$42 437	3.0%	1.8%	\$7 302	\$9 365	\$1 636

Source: ABS Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05 (Cat. 5220.0).

Note: Chain volume measures are used throughout this table. 'Investment' refers to gross fixed capital formation.

figure 1 real income per taxpayer by remoteness class, 1990–91 to 2003–04



Source: BTRE (2006) *Focus on Regions: Growth in Australia's Regions 2003-04*, forthcoming at <www.btre.gov.au>

table 13 local government areas (LGAs) with highest and lowest real income per taxpayer 2003–04

Highest incomes			Lowest incomes		
LGA	Real income per taxpayer	Increase since 1990–91 (%)	LGA	Real income per taxpayer	Increase since 1990–91 (%)
Mosman NSW*	\$ 111 813	83.2%	Kolan QLD*	\$ 30 829	16.6%
Woollahra NSW*	\$ 101 265	65.7%	Perry QLD*	\$ 30 829	15.0%
Hunter's Hill NSW*	\$ 94 370	76.2%	Monto QLD*	\$ 31 175	14.9%
Peppermint Grove WA*	\$ 87 152	77.4%	Aramac QLD*	\$ 31 250	6.8%
Cottesloe WA*	\$ 86 844	77.2%	Stanthorpe QLD*	\$ 31 595	20.3%
Ku-ring-gai NSW*	\$ 80 730	43.3%	Perenjori WA*	\$ 31 630	14.1%
Nedlands WA*	\$ 78 722	46.3%	Karoonda East Murray SA*	\$ 31 971	40.6%
North Sydney NSW*	\$ 76 261	52.3%	Peterborough SA*	\$ 32 128	9.5%
Stonnington VIC*	\$ 74 657	48.7%	Tambo QLD*	\$ 32 196	20.4%
Claremont WA*	\$ 74 392	62.5%	Isisford QLD*	\$ 32 311	15.3%

Source: BTRE (2006) *Focus on Regions: Growth in Australia's Regions 2003–04*, forthcoming at <www.btre.gov.au>

Note: Incomes expressed in terms of 2004–05 dollars. The symbol after the LGA name denotes the remoteness class accounting for the majority of the LGA's population (Major Cities=*; Outer Regional =^; Very Remote = ∞).

table 14 labour market overview by state/territory, 2001 and 2005^(a)

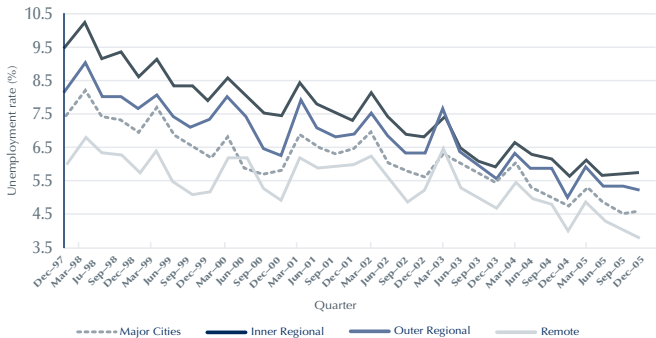
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
2005						
Unemployment ('000)	345.5	119.6	58.1	13.4	(b)	550.1
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.8%	5.5%	4.9%	(b)	5.1%
2001						
Employment						
Persons ('000)	5 652.9	1 562.4	807.8	141.3	67.5	8 298.6
Part time employed as share of total 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						
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						
Males	72%	68%	71%	77%	72%	71%
Females	56%	52%	54%	61%	56%	55%

Sources: Data for 2005 is from Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, *Small Area Labour Markets database*. Data for 2001 is from ABS 2001 *Census of Population and Housing* (place of usual residence data). Estimates for remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.

Notes: (a) The table relates only to persons aged 15 and over. Those who worked 34 hours or less in the week prior to census night are part time employed. Self employed persons refer to own account workers and employers.

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

figure 2 unemployment by remoteness class, 1997–2005



Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) *Small Area Labour Markets* database. Estimates for remoteness classes were derived by BTRE.
 Notes: 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 15 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	1
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). Estimates for remoteness classes were derived 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.

Fact: The Shire of Kent in WA is the most agriculture dependent LGA in Australia (71% of employment is in agriculture). WA's Shire of Yalgoo 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 16 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 business outside of capital city	Share of businesses income earned outside of capital city
Number of small businesses in Australia	647 540	909 256	39.3%	33.1%
Share of small businesses located in a State or Territory				
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.

Fact: Small businesses (those 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 17 gross value of agricultural production by state/territory, 2003–04

State/ Territory	Livestock	Livestock products	Horti- culture	Grain	Other crops	Total agriculture	
						Share	Value (\$m)
NSW	24%	24%	18%	27%	22%	23%	8 548
VIC	22%	41%	26%	14%	21%	24%	8 712
QLD	33%	7%	24%	7%	29%	21%	7 664
SA	7%	10%	19%	15%	11%	12%	4 560
WA	10%	13%	9%	37%	15%	17%	6 274
TAS	2%	4%	4%	0%	2%	2%	857
NT	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	294
ACT	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19
TOTAL %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	nr
\$m	10 896	5 541	7 029	8 488	4 974	nr	36 927

Source: ABS *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2003–04* (Cat. 7503.0).

Note: 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.

Fact: In terms of production value, Australia's most important agricultural commodities in 2003–04 were cattle and calves (\$6.7 billion), wheat (\$5.6 billion), milk (\$2.8 billion) and wool (\$2.4 billion).

table 18 visitor expenditure for states/territories, 2004

State/ Territory	Visitor expenditure (\$m) ^(a)				Region with highest total exp. (outside capital city) ^(b)	
	Domestic visitors ^(c)	Overseas visitors	All visitors	Share of exp. in capital city	Domestic overnight visitors	Overseas visitors
NSW	15 018	4 534	19 552	49%	North Coast	Inland NSW ^(d)
VIC	9 902	2 649	12 551	59%	Western ^(e)	Western VIC ^(e)
QLD	13 800	3 071	16 871	26%	Gold Coast	Tropical North Qld
SA	3 531	461	3 992	55%	Limestone Coast	na
WA	4 937	1 127	6 063	53%	South West	South West
TAS	1 815	183	1 998	44%	Greater Launceston	na
NT	1 138	394	1 532	48%	Alice Springs	Petermann ^(f)
ACT	945	163	1 108	100%	nr	nr
Australia	51 097	12 582	63 679	52%	Gold Coast	Tropical North Qld

Source: Tourism Research Australia, *Travel Expenditure by Domestic and International Visitors in Australia's Regions, 2004*.

Notes: (a) Expenditure includes domestic airfares, long distance transport costs and package expenditure. It excludes international airfares and major purchases including motor vehicles. It refers to visitors aged 15 and over.

(b) Relates to tourism regions defined by Tourism Research Australia.

(c) Relates to both day and overnight domestic visitors.

(d) 'Inland NSW' comprises seven tourism regions including the Snowy Mountains, Outback NSW and New England North West.

(e) 'Western' includes the Great Ocean Road and is one of the 10 tourism regions comprising 'Western VIC'.

(f) Petermann includes Uluru.

transport and communications

table 19 transport mode usage for domestic interregional, non-commuter passenger trips by remoteness class, 2004

Main transport mode	Passenger's home region					Australia
	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote (%)	Very Remote (%)	
Car	83	90	91	90	87	86
Bus	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 2004*. 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 20 method of travel to work by remoteness class, 2001

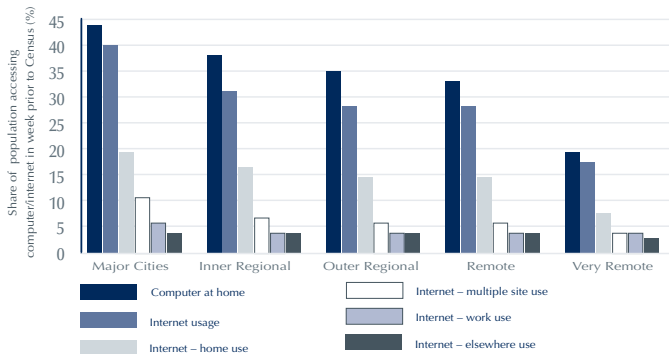
Method	Respondent's home region					Australia
	Major Cities (%)	Inner Regional (%)	Outer Regional (%)	Remote (%)	Very Remote (%)	
Car (driver)	70.1	76.7	72.2	63.2	39.4	71.0
Car (passenger)	7.0	8.6	9.1	9.7	10.3	7.6
Truck	1.6	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.0
Motorbike/scooter	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.7
Bicycle	1.0	1.3	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.

Fact: 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 usage and access

- At June 2005, the communications sector contributed 2.8% to the GDP of Australia. The sector includes telecommunications services, and post and courier services.
- At the end of March 2005, total Internet subscribers in Australia numbered 5.98 million. While this was an increase of 239 000 (4%) from the end of September 2004, growth had slowed following a 10% increase recorded for the six months to the end of September 2004.
- Using the definition currently adopted by the ABS to define broadband (an 'always on' Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256kbps), there were almost 1.8 million broadband subscribers at the end of March 2005, an increase of 39% from the end of September 2004.
- The number of dial-up subscribers recorded at the end of March 2005 fell by almost 6% to 4.2 million.
- Regional variations in Internet access are influenced by the fact that older age groups and Indigenous people have a lower propensity for home internet use, while higher income earners and families with children have a higher propensity for home internet use.
- In 2003–04 the average price paid by residential consumers for national long-distance calls increased by 0.8%. However, since 1997–98, the average price paid by residential consumers for national long-distance calls has fallen by 25.8%.
- In 2003, terrestrial mobile coverage extends to 13.7% of Australia's geographic landmass, and covers 96% of the population.

Sources: Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, *Statistical Highlights, February 2006*; Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, *Changes in the Prices Paid for Telecommunications Services in Australia 1997–98 to 2003–04, March 2005*; Australian Communications Authority <www.acma.gov.au>; ABS *Internet Activity, Australia, March 2005*; NOIE *Information Economy Index, 2003*; *Regional Telecommunications Inquiry Report, 2002*; *Telecommunications Service Inquiry, 2000*.

education and health

table 21 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.

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

table 22 further educational qualifications by remoteness class, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Population 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). Estimates for remoteness classes in 1996 were derived by BTRE.

Fact: 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 23 selected indicators of health status by state, 2004

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
Life expectancy at birth (years)									
Male	78.0	78.5	77.8	78.0	78.6	76.7	72.3	79.7	78.1
Female	83.3	83.3	82.9	83.1	83.3	81.8	78.0	83.9	83.0
Av. infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)									
Av. rate 2002–04	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.0	4.1	5.6	10.1	5.4	4.8
Selected causes of death—standardised rates per 100 000 population									
Cancer	181	180	184	178	176	214	167	157	181
Ischaemic heart disease	117	106	130	113	105	120	146	86	115
Stroke	61	51	61	53	49	47	41	61	56
Diabetes	14	20	16	15	19	26	44	18	17
Motor vehicle traffic accidents	7	9	9	10	10	14	17	5	8
Respiratory disease	57	51	55	61	48	57	80	45	55

Sources: ABS Deaths, Australia, 2004 (Cat. 3302.0); ABS Causes of Death, Australia, 2004 (Cat. 3303.0) & related unpublished data.

Fact: Of all ABS Statistical Divisions, Canberra has the highest male and female life expectancy of 80 and 84 respectively. NT has the highest infant mortality.

table 24 selected self-reported health risk factors by remoteness class, 2001

Share of males/females over 18 years of age who reported:		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 25 health labour force by remoteness class, 2001

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Share of health professionals^(a)						
General medical practitioner	10.8%	7.9%	8.3%	9.0%	9.4%	10.0%
Medical practitioner 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%
All health professionals						
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 26 health services by remoteness class, 2003–04

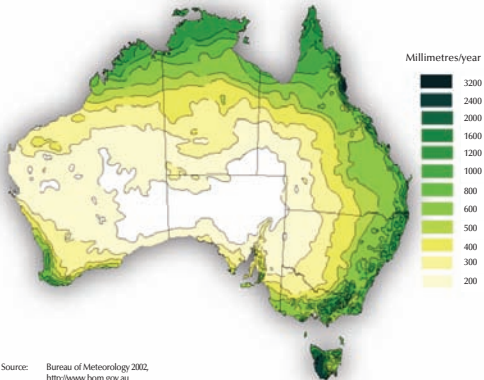
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Acute & psychiatric hospital beds						
Public	33 013	10 984	6 824	1 741	913	53 475
Private	19 278	4 338	1 026 ^(a)	^(a)	0	24 642
Residential aged care places	103 641	36 041	14 812	1 426	660	156 580

Sources: AIHW *Australian Hospital Statistics, 2003–04* (Cat. HSE-37); ABS *Private Hospitals* unpublished data; AIHW *Residential Aged Care in Australia, 2003–04* (Cat. AGE 43).

Note: (a) Outer Regional and Remote private hospital data is combined.

environmental issues

average annual rainfall based on 30-year climatology
(1961–1990)



Source: Bureau of Meteorology 2002,
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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 27 water consumption by state/territory, 2000–01^(a)

	NSW & ACT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	Australia
	Gigalitres ^(b)							
Livestock, pastures, grains & other agriculture	2 991	3 120	1 067	793	161	85	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	1 308
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.

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

(c) Per capita estimate uses data from ABS 2001 *Census of Population and Housing: Selected social and housing characteristics, Australia* (Cat. 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)

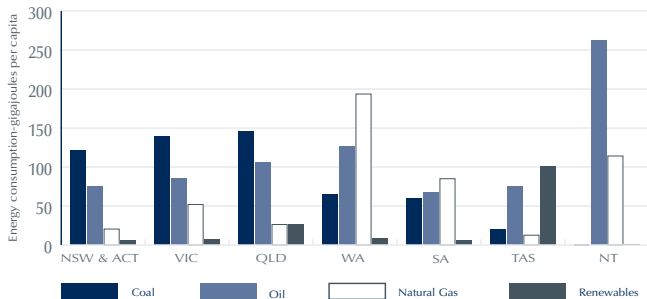
table 28 areas of high risk or hazard of dryland salinity by state/territory

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

Source: National Land and Water Resources Audit 2007, <http://www.environment.gov.au/atlas>
 Note: Information should not be interpreted as actual areas affected since the assessments are likely to overestimate areal extent particularly in dissected (hilly) landscapes. Rather the data identify areas or regions within which dryland salinity occurs or could occur.

Fact: 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. Estimates suggest that 52 000 km and 3 600 km of major road and railways respectively could be affected 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, 2003–04



Source: BTRE analysis of ABARE *Australian Energy Statistics—Australian Energy Consumption By Fuel-Energy Units 1960–61 to 2003–04* (June 2005).

- Notes:
- This analysis is based on finalised data released by ABARE while the analysis released in *About Australia's Regions* (August 2005) was based on provisional ABARE data.
 - Consumption levels shown are based on gross, rather than net amounts.
 - Coal includes black coal, brown coal, brown coal briquettes and coke.
 - Renewables include bagasse, hydroelectricity, solar energy and wood/woodwaste.

table 29 average annual cost of natural disasters by state/territory, 1967–2004

Cost (\$million in 2004 dollars)

State	Flood	Severe storms	Cyc- lones	Earth- quakes	Bushfires	Landslide	TOTAL
NSW	168.8	214.6	0.6	144.0	23.6	1.2	552.8
VIC	39.7	23.5	0.0	0.0	33.0	0.0	96.2
QLD	122.0	45.5	98.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	266.4
SA	19.0	16.5	0.0	0.0	12.1	0.0	47.7
WA	4.7	11.3	42.8	3.0	4.5	0.0	66.3
TAS	6.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	11.4	0.0	19.3
NT	9.0	0.4	136.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	146.6
ACT	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	9.7
Australia	369.9	313.1	278.3	147.4	95.0	1.2	1 205.0
Share of total	30.7%	26.0%	23.1%	12.2%	7.9%	0.1%	100.0%

Source: BTRE analysis of Emergency Management Australia data at <www.ema.gov.au>.

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

international comparisons

table 30 comparisons of indicators across selected countries, 2000–2005

	Australia	Italy	Philippines	United Kingdom	United States of America
People per km ² (2003)	3	191	270	245	30
Pop. distribution (2005)					
- Urban	93%	68%	63%	89%	81%
- Rural	7%	32%	37%	11%	19%
Life expectancy at birth (2000–2005)					
- Male (years)	78	77	68	76	75
- Female (years)	83	83	72	81	80
Total fertility rate (2000–2005) ^(a)	1.7	1.3	3.2	1.7	2.0
Public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP, 2001–2002	4.9	5.0	3.2	5.3	5.7
Per capita GDP (\$US) (2004)(current prices)	31 598	28 913	1 059	35 718	39 650
Unemployment rate (2003)	5.6%	8.7%	9.8% ^(b)	4.8%	6.0%

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division, <unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/> (accessed February 2006); <unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/> (accessed February 2006); UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <www.uis.unesco.org/> (accessed May 2006); ABS *Measures of Australia's Progress, 2004*, (Cat.1370.0).

Notes: (a) 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.
(b) Refers to 2001.

abbreviations and acronyms

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

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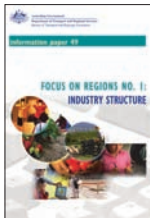
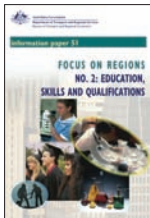
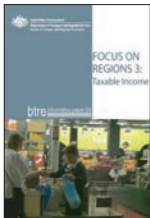


focus on regions

The BTRE Focus on Regions series of information papers and databases forms part of the BTRE's regional research program, which aims to improve understanding of the economic and social factors affecting Australia's regions.

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