

1 Introduction

Background

In 1990, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to develop national health labour force statistics about the major registrable health professions. Data collections based on a national minimum data set were developed addressing the labour force planning needs of the health professions, government, service providers and educational institutions. In addition to nursing, published data from the collection are available for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, podiatry and physiotherapy.

Scope and coverage

The scope of the data is all nurses registered or enrolled with the nurses board or nursing council in each State and Territory as eligible to practise nursing.

The coverage may exclude nurses who registered for the first time during the current year. These nurses may not be required to renew their registration if the initial registration in that State or Territory has occurred within a short time before the standard renewal date.

Method

The main data in this publication were obtained from a nurse labour force survey conducted by each State and Territory nurses board on behalf of the Institute. Each State and Territory nurses board conducts an annual renewal of registrations and a survey questionnaire was sent to all nurses as part of the registration renewal process. Each State and Territory health authority forwarded a computer file of the survey data to the Institute for aggregation into a national dataset.

Nurse labour force survey response rate

Based on the total of the registrations in each State and Territory, the response rate to the survey was 81.5% in 1993 and 79.8% in 1994. The response rate for each year and State is shown in the table below. The overall response rate can only be estimated, and not determined with complete accuracy, because it is known that at least some nurses who were registered in more than one State or Territory completed a questionnaire in just one State or Territory and not in the others in which they were registered. The incidence of this occurrence cannot be ascertained because matching survey records among States and Territories is not possible.

Table 1: Nurse labour force survey response rate: States and Territories, 1993 and 1994

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Per cent									
1993	85.9	82.9	79.1	75.2	n.a.	61.1	59.9(a)	28.9(a)	80.8
1994	84.7	80.0	79.2	60.1	90.9	63.0	63.6	73.8	79.8

(a) Mail survey undertaken independent of the renewal of registration process.

Labour force estimates

Nurses may register in more than one State or Territory. Therefore, in estimating the nursing labour force, it is important to reduce as much as possible the duplication in statistics which arises from multiple registrations.

The estimation of the number and characteristics of currently employed nurses in each State and Territory was based on the responses of those nurses employed solely or mainly in the State or Territory of registration. Nurses who were on leave for three months or more were employed but they were excluded from most tables of employed nurses because the data presented were not collected from nurses on leave.

Estimation of State and Territory numbers of nurses looking for work in nursing was based on the number of persons with usual residence in the State or Territory of registration who were not employed in nursing and looking for work in nursing.

For all estimates, the assumption was made that non-respondents to the survey had the same labour force characteristics as respondents, and the survey data were scaled up to the registrations in each State and Territory by distributing the non-response numbers on the basis of this assumption. This process may overestimate the number of nurses in the labour force if non-respondents were more likely to be those with multiple registrations not in their home State or Territory or not in the nursing labour force.

For those States and Territories for which initial registration data were available for non-respondents to the survey, the age distribution of non-respondents was very similar to that of respondents with only two exceptions: there was a higher non-response for nurses aged under 25 years and 65 years and over.

Collection timing

The labour force survey is conducted by the nurses registration board in each State and Territory in conjunction with the annual renewal of practice licences. Therefore, the timing of the survey depends on the licence renewal procedure which operates in each State and Territory. Nurses registering for the first time are not included in the survey at initial registration because they would generally have no previous nursing job for which details could be provided.

In New South Wales renewal of registration is due on the anniversary of initial registration; thus, the survey is conducted throughout the year. The New South Wales data consist of all responses received during the calendar year.

South Australia has four renewal periods each year with about one-quarter of nurses registered in each period. The survey returns from each quarterly renewal period are accumulated for a calendar year.

In Tasmania, licence renewal was staggered with monthly dispatches throughout the year. The Tasmanian data are all responses in the fiscal year of July to June. In 1995, a uniform licence expiry date of 31 August was introduced.

The remaining States and Territories have annual renewals due by a fixed date. In Victoria, registration renewal notices and the survey are dispatched around the end of October for return by 31 December. In 1994, the registration period was in June to coincide with the implementation of the *Nurses Act 1993*.

In Queensland, the renewal and survey period was from 1 July to 30 September in 1993. The annual licence period changed in 1994 to the period from 1 April to 30 June.

Western Australia has an annual renewal of licences in November–December with licence renewal due by 31 December.

In the Australian Capital Territory, annual renewals and the survey are in the period November to January. The 1993 survey was conducted in February 1994, independently of

the registration renewal process, whereas the 1994 survey was conducted with the registration renewal process at the end of 1994.

The Northern Territory conducts licence renewal and the survey during May–June in each year.

The collection period in each State and Territory is shown schematically below.

Table 2: Nurse labour force survey: data collection period, States and Territories, 1993 and 1994

State	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
	o	e	a	e	a	p	a	u	u	u	e	c	o	e	a	e	a	p	a	u
	v	c	n	b	r	r	y	n	l	g	p	t	v	c	n	b	r	r	y	n
New South Wales																				
Victoria																				
Queensland																				
Western Australia																				
South Australia																				
Tasmania																				
Australian Capital Territory																				
Northern Territory																				

Identification of registered and enrolled nurses

The 1993 and 1994 survey questionnaires did not have a question which identified whether a nurse was on the register or the roll in each State and Territory because it was assumed that this would be readily available from the registering authority.

In both years, a means of positively identifying whether a respondent to the survey was on the register or the roll was provided for New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania. This enabled accurate data for these States to be compiled by nurse type for nurses who were on leave, overseas and not employed in nursing. For all other States and Territories, nurses were identified as registered or enrolled by their job classification. Not all employed nurses answered this question, and nurses on leave, overseas, unemployed or not in the labour force were not required to answer this question.

Additional data sources

Additional data were obtained as follows:

- data for students enrolled in and completing higher education courses from the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs;
- international migration data from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs;
- data for overseas nurses applying to practise in Australia from the Australian Nursing Council;
- data for employed nurses as collected via the five-yearly national population census conducted between 1971 and 1991, and quarterly in the monthly labour force survey conducted between 1989 and 1996 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and
- data on the number of certified nurses in other countries from the OECD Health Data File, 1996.

2 Overview

Overall numbers

- In 1994 there were 227,966 nurses employed in Australia—an increase of 4.0% on the number employed in 1993. Registered nurses made up 76.5% of these, compared with 75.7% in 1993. The other 23.5% were enrolled nurses.
- In the nursing labour force in 1994, 14,259 nurses (5.9%) were not employed in nursing and were looking for work in nursing.
- Overseas employment was popular for nurses registered in Australia in 1994; 4,218 were working in other countries.
- Also out of the Australian labour force in 1994 were 22,527 registered and enrolled nurses who were not employed in nursing and not looking for work in nursing.
- Of those employed in nursing in 1994, excluding those on extended leave, 91.0% were working as clinicians, 3.8% as administrators, 2.1% as teachers or educators, 0.3% as researchers and the remaining 2.9% in other nursing occupations including public health and union organising.
- There were 1,262.1 employed nurses per 100,000 population in 1994: 966.8 registered nurses and 295.3 enrolled nurses per 100,000 population.

Age

- Female nurses, on average, were slightly older than males. For registered nurses, females were an average of 39.7 years compared with 37.9 years for males in 1994, and for enrolled nurses, females were 37.4 years compared with 36.5 years for males.

Hours worked

- Male registered nurses worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in 1994 while females averaged 31.9 hours. For enrolled nurses, males worked an average of 36.8 hours per week and females 30.5 hours. This difference was a result of the higher proportion of females who worked part-time hours—49.1% of female registered nurses and 58.2% of female enrolled nurses compared with only 13.4% and 27.1% respectively for males.

Classification

- A larger proportion (63.8%) of female registered nurses were level 1 registered nurses, the lowest classification, compared with males (55.3%) in 1994, while a smaller proportion were classified as assistant directors or directors of nursing (5.2% of females compared with 8.6% of males).

Main areas of practice

- One-third of registered nurses employed as clinicians in 1994 were employed in the areas of medical and surgical practice, followed by 14.6% in gerontology or geriatric nursing. Enrolled nurses employed as clinicians were more likely to be employed in gerontology or geriatric nursing (38.1%) while 33.2% were employed in the areas of medical and surgical practice.

Sector of employment

- The main job of 70.4% of registered nurses in 1994 was in the public sector. Registered nurses employed in this sector were comprised of 70.4% in acute and psychiatric hospitals, 8.1% in nursing homes and 7.2% in community health centres. In the private sector, 45.7% worked in acute and psychiatric hospitals, 24.7% worked in nursing homes and 9.8% worked in private medical rooms.
- The main job of 69.3% of enrolled nurses was in the public sector in 1994. Just over half (51.4%) of enrolled nurses employed in the public sector worked in acute and psychiatric hospitals and a further 28.8% worked in nursing homes. In the private sector, 45.4% worked in nursing homes, 26.1% worked in acute and psychiatric hospitals and 8.3% worked in private medical rooms.

Rural employment

- The geographic distribution of employed nurses is very similar to that of the general population. This contrasts with other health professions where the numbers per 100,000 population are much lower in rural and remote areas than in metropolitan centres.
- Enrolled nurses were more likely to work in rural and remote areas than were registered nurses. Some 39.2% of enrolled nurses were working in rural and remote areas in 1994 while the remaining 60.8% were working in metropolitan areas. In comparison, 25.0% of registered nurses were working in rural areas and 75.0% in metropolitan areas.
- Female registered and enrolled nurses were more likely to be employed in rural and remote areas than their male counterparts. In 1994, 25.0% of female registered nurses and 39.7% of female enrolled nurses were working in rural and remote areas compared with 21.4% and 30.2% respectively of males.

Tertiary education

- In 1994, 11,581 students completed nursing courses at universities in Australia—7,279 (62.9%) completed basic nursing and 4,302 (37.1%) completed post-basic nursing courses. Females accounted for 89.4% of all completions. After growing by an average of 24.4% per year between 1989 and 1993 (during the changeover from hospital-based to university training), the number of completions increased by only 3.1% between 1993 and 1994.

Trends

- The nursing work force is now older and more highly trained than in the 1980s—a result of the change from hospital-based to university training and of declining numbers of enrolled nurses in the work force. In 1981, 33.3% of employed nurses were aged 15–24 years; by 1991 this had fallen to 14.6%. In 1989, 24.0% of nurses were enrolled; by 1996 this had fallen to 18.1%.
- From 1989 to 1996, declining employment of enrolled nurses and increasing employment of registered nurses resulted in a total nursing work force in Australia which was relatively stable in absolute numbers but reducing in numbers per 100,000 population and reducing in full-time equivalent numbers as a rising proportion of nurses worked part-time. In 1989, 39.2% of employed nurses were working part-time; by 1996 this had increased to 43.7%.
- From 1993 to 1996, there was a decline in registrations of registered nurses from 212,630 to 204,676, and of enrolled nurses from 68,825 to 56,616. However, there were significant State and Territory differences with a significant increase in registrations in New South Wales contrasting with a sharp decline in Victoria.

3 All registered and enrolled nurses

Total registrations

There were 261,292 registrations of registered and enrolled nurses in Australia in 1996—a three year decline of 7.2% since 1993.

This decrease was experienced in all States and Territories except New South Wales and the Northern Territory where the numbers increased by 3.2% and 12.4% respectively over the same period. The largest decline occurred in Victoria with a reduction of 16.0%.

Of the registrations in 1996, 204,676 (78.3%) were registered nurses and 56,616 (21.7%) were enrolled nurses in 1996. The proportion of registered nurses increased from 75.5% in 1993 to 78.3% in 1996.

Nursing labour force

- There were 278,673 registrations of registered and enrolled nurses in 1994. Excluding the estimated 9,703 multiple registrations, 242,225 (90.1%) were in the nursing labour force and 26,745 (9.9%) were not in the nursing labour force.
- Of those in the nursing labour force, 227,966 (94.1%) were employed, including 2,856 nurses who were on leave for 3 months or more, and 14,259 (5.9%) were looking for work in nursing.
- Of those employed in nursing, excluding those on extended leave, 91.0% were employed as clinicians, 3.8% as administrators, 2.1% as teachers or educators, 0.3% as researchers and the remaining 2.9% in other nursing occupations.
- In 1994 there were 1,262.1 employed nurses per 100,000 population, comprising 966.8 registered nurses and 295.3 enrolled nurses. Victoria had the highest number of nurses per 100,000 population (1,500.2) while the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest (1,017.9). Overall, the number of employed nurses per 100,000 population increased by 2.8% between 1993 and 1994.

Not in the nursing labour force

- Those not in the nursing labour force in 1994 consisted of 4,218 (15.8%) nurses working overseas and 22,527 (84.2%) nurses not looking for work in nursing (including 9,831 employed in an occupation other than nursing and 12,696 nurses who were not employed).
- The proportion of registered and enrolled nurses not in the nursing labour force decreased from 14.1% in 1993 to 9.9% in 1994 mainly as a result of a decline in the number of nurses not looking for work in nursing, suggesting a fall in the numbers willing to pay to maintain registration or enrolment when not seeking employment as a nurse.

Main areas of practice

- Of the 204,748 registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in 1994, 33.2% were employed in the areas of medical and surgical practice, followed by 20.2% in gerontology or geriatric nursing. The distribution across specific areas of clinical nursing was relatively similar across all States and differed in the Territories where the younger age structures of the population resulted in a lower proportion of clinicians employed in gerontology and geriatric nursing and a higher proportion employed in obstetrics, gynaecology and midwifery (11.0% in the Australian Capital Territory and 10.6% in the Northern Territory compared with the national proportion of 7.2%). Also

in the Northern Territory, 12.5% of nurse clinicians were employed in community health compared with the national proportion of 3.0%.

Country of birth and initial qualification

- 77.3% of employed nurses in 1994 were born in Australia. This proportion differed slightly for registered (76.2%) and enrolled (80.6%) nurses. Almost half (46.3%) of those nurses who were not born in Australia were born in the United Kingdom or Ireland and 19.8% were born in Asian countries.
- 90.1% of employed registered and enrolled nurses in 1994 gained their initial qualification in Australia. Of those nurses who gained an initial qualification overseas, 59.0% qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 17.6% in New Zealand and 9.7% in Asia.

Citizenship

- In 1994, 92.1% of employed nurses were Australian citizens. This proportion was similar for registered (91.8%) and enrolled (92.9%) nurses. Nurses employed in the Australian Capital Territory were most likely to be Australian citizens (95.2%) while those employed in Western Australia were least likely to be Australian citizens (88.2%).

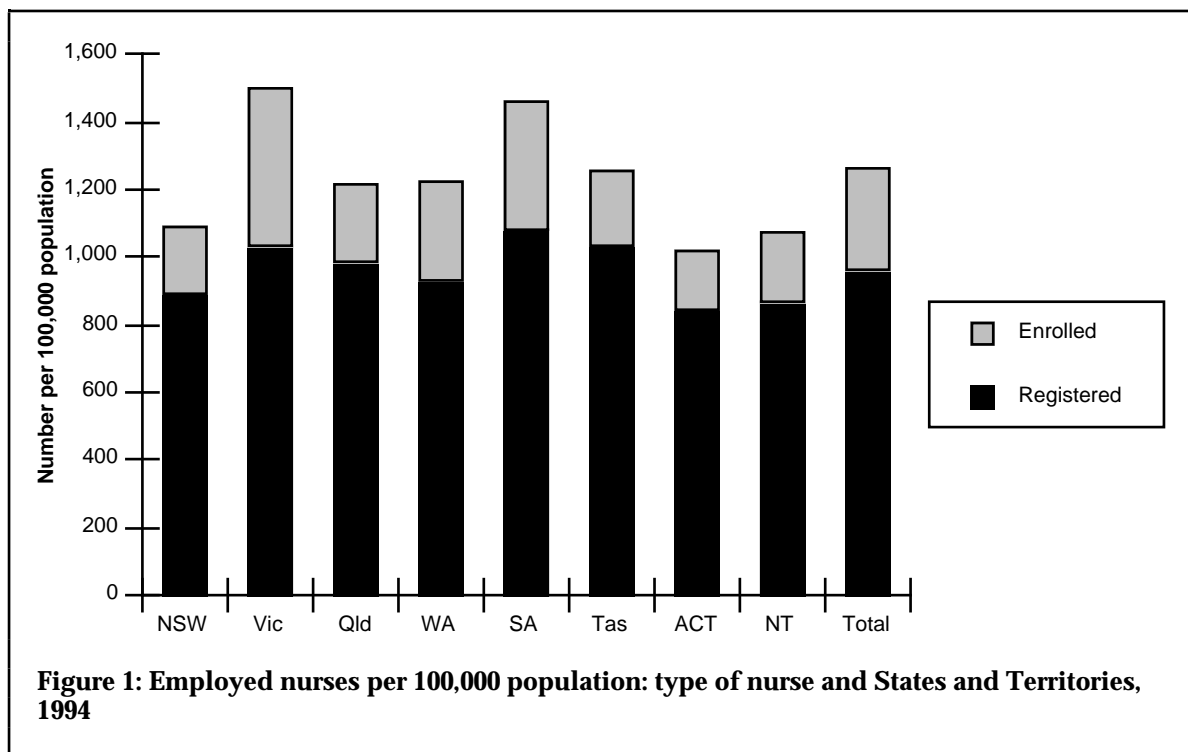


Table 3: Registrations of registered and enrolled nurses, 1993–96

Type of nurse	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Registered nurses									
1993	71,361	54,246	37,515	18,643	17,969	6,440	3,906	2,550	212,630
1994	71,960	55,163	38,221	18,430	17,613	6,103	3,817	2,261	213,568
1995	73,178	52,699	34,073	18,359	17,283	6,083	3,930	2,305	207,910
1996	74,131	49,716	34,924	17,824	15,773	5,640	3,905	2,763	204,676
Enrolled nurses									
1993	16,569	26,285	10,952	6,054	6,369	1,390	822	384	68,825
1994	16,521	24,796	9,145	5,855	6,090	1,390	787	523	65,107
1995	16,565	20,323	8,188	6,146	5,770	1,387	780	466	59,625
1996	16,578	17,965	8,039	6,262	5,250	1,267	719	536	56,616
Total nurses									
1993	87,930	80,533	48,467	24,695	24,338	7,829	4,726	2,934	281,452
1994	88,481	79,957	47,366	24,286	23,703	7,493	4,604	2,784	278,674
1995	89,743	73,022	42,261	24,505	23,053	7,470	4,710	2,771	267,535
1996	90,709	67,681	42,963	24,086	21,023	6,907	4,624	3,299	261,292
(percentage change from previous year)									
Registered nurses									
1994	0.8	1.7	1.9	-1.1	-2.0	-5.2	-2.3	-11.3	0.4
1995	1.7	-4.5	-10.9	-0.4	-1.9	-0.3	3.0	1.9	-2.6
1996	1.3	-5.7	2.5	-2.9	-8.7	-7.3	-0.6	19.9	-1.6
Enrolled nurses									
1994	-0.3	-5.7	-16.5	-3.3	-4.4	0.0	-4.3	36.2	-5.4
1995	0.3	-18.0	-10.5	5.0	-5.3	-0.2	-0.9	-10.9	-8.4
1996	0.1	-11.6	-1.8	1.9	-9.0	-8.7	-7.8	15.0	-5.0
Total nurses									
1994	0.6	-0.7	-2.3	-1.7	-2.6	-4.3	-2.6	-5.1	-1.0
1995	1.4	-8.7	-10.8	0.9	-2.7	-0.3	2.3	-0.5	-4.0
1996	1.1	-7.3	1.7	-1.7	-8.8	-7.5	-1.8	19.1	-2.3

Table 4: Registered and enrolled nurses: professional employment status, occupation and States and Territories, 1993

Professional employment status/occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Employed in nursing, only or mainly in State/Territory									
Clinician	59,541	53,976	32,260	19,063	20,449	5,831	2,980	1,637	195,737
Administrator	3,355	1,930	1,432	707	691	224	83	115	8,538
Teacher/educator	1,192	1,412	769	551	456	116	56	70	4,623
Researcher	137	172	140	86	77	20	5	0	637
Other	1,523	3,580	1,656	15	303	18	42	23	7,161
Total	65,749	61,070	36,257	20,422	21,977	6,210	3,166	1,845	216,69€
On extended leave (a)	n.a.	1,571	n.a.	343	362	114	82	63	2,535
Looking for work in nursing									
Employed elsewhere	1,712	1,471	473	223	202	80	92	53	4,306
Not employed	2,792	3,008	1,483	914	483	223	100	63	9,066
Total	4,504	4,479	1,956	1,137	685	303	192	116	13,372
<i>Nursing labour force</i>	<i>70,253</i>	<i>67,120</i>	<i>38,213</i>	<i>21,902</i>	<i>23,024</i>	<i>6,627</i>	<i>3,440</i>	<i>2,024</i>	<i>232,603</i>
Overseas	1,581	845	843	528	146	117	36	46	4,142
Not looking for work in nursing									
Employed elsewhere	5,287	3,916	2,391	482	282	388	482	182	13,410
Not employed	7,464	6,041	4,377	1,323	539	388	278	155	20,565
<i>Not in nursing labour force</i>	<i>14,332</i>	<i>10,802</i>	<i>7,611</i>	<i>2,333</i>	<i>967</i>	<i>893</i>	<i>796</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>38,117</i>
<i>Total registered and enrolled nurses</i>	<i>84,585</i>	<i>77,922</i>	<i>45,824</i>	<i>24,235</i>	<i>23,991</i>	<i>7,520</i>	<i>4,236</i>	<i>2,407</i>	<i>270,720</i>
Multiple registrations	3,345	2,611	2,643	460	348	309	490	527	10,733
Total registrations	87,930	80,533	48,467	24,695	24,339	7,829	4,726	2,934	281,453
(per cent of employed nurses)									
Employed in nursing (b)									
Clinician	90.6	88.4	89.0	93.3	93.0	93.9	94.1	88.7	90.3
Administrator	5.1	3.2	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.6	2.6	6.2	3.9
Teacher/educator	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.8	3.8	2.1
Researcher	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3
Other	2.3	5.9	4.6	0.1	1.4	0.3	1.3	1.2	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(per cent of total registered and enrolled nurses)									
Employed in nursing (b)	77.7	78.4	79.1	84.3	91.6	82.6	74.7	76.7	80.0
On extended leave (a)	n.a.	2.0	n.a.	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.6	0.9
Looking for work in nursing	5.3	5.7	4.3	4.7	2.9	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.9
<i>Nursing labour force</i>	<i>83.1</i>	<i>86.1</i>	<i>83.4</i>	<i>90.4</i>	<i>96.0</i>	<i>88.1</i>	<i>81.2</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>85.9</i>
Overseas	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.2	0.6	1.6	0.8	1.9	1.5
Not looking for work in nursing	15.1	12.8	14.8	7.4	3.4	10.3	17.9	14.0	12.5
<i>Not in nursing labour force</i>	<i>16.9</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>14.1</i>
Total registered and enrolled nurses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Leave for three months or more. This was not included as an option in the New South Wales or Queensland surveys.

(b) Excluding nurses 'on extended leave'.

Table 5: Registered and enrolled nurses: professional employment status, occupation and States and Territories, 1994

Professional employment status/occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Employed in nursing, only or mainly in State/Territory									
Clinician	59,626	59,388	36,155	19,594	19,908	5,575	2,825	1,677	204,748
Administrator	3,484	2,164	1,293	536	677	213	100	67	8,534
Teacher/educator	1,256	1,562	778	459	447	112	52	51	4,717
Researcher	153	194	112	63	76	20	6	4	627
Other	1,593	3,834	473	159	295	18	80	33	6,484
Total	66,111	67,142	38,811	20,810	21,403	5,938	3,063	1,832	225,110
On extended leave (a)	n.a.	1,851	n.a.	393	352	108	82	70	2,856
Looking for work in nursing									
Employed elsewhere	2,171	1,018	459	195	197	77	117	46	4,280
Not employed	2,571	2,099	3,746	710	470	213	112	58	9,979
Total	4,742	3,117	4,205	905	667	290	229	104	14,259
<i>Nursing labour force</i>	<i>70,853</i>	<i>72,110</i>	<i>43,016</i>	<i>22,108</i>	<i>22,422</i>	<i>6,336</i>	<i>3,374</i>	<i>2,006</i>	<i>242,225</i>
Overseas	1,718	909	811	416	142	112	58	52	4,218
Not looking for work in nursing									
Employed elsewhere	4,968	1,703	1,508	438	275	372	433	134	9,831
Not employed	7,634	2,657	236	883	525	375	276	110	12,696
<i>Not in nursing labour force</i>	<i>14,320</i>	<i>5,269</i>	<i>2,555</i>	<i>1,737</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>859</i>	<i>767</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>26,745</i>
<i>Total registered and enrolled nurses</i>	<i>85,173</i>	<i>77,379</i>	<i>45,571</i>	<i>23,845</i>	<i>23,364</i>	<i>7,195</i>	<i>4,141</i>	<i>2,302</i>	<i>268,970</i>
Multiple registrations	3,308	2,578	1,794	441	339	298	463	482	9,703
Total registrations	88,481	79,957	47,365	24,286	23,703	7,493	4,604	2,784	278,673
(per cent of employed nurses)									
Employed in nursing (b)									
Clinician	90.2	88.5	93.2	94.2	93.0	93.9	92.2	91.5	91.0
Administrator	5.3	3.2	3.3	2.6	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.8
Teacher/educator	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.8	2.1
Researcher	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Other	2.4	5.7	1.2	0.8	1.4	0.3	2.6	1.8	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(per cent of total registered and enrolled nurses)									
Employed in nursing (b)	77.6	86.8	85.2	87.3	91.6	82.5	74.0	79.6	83.7
On extended leave (a)	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	3.0	1.1
Looking for work in nursing	5.6	4.0	9.2	3.8	2.9	4.0	5.5	4.5	5.3
<i>Nursing labour force</i>	<i>83.2</i>	<i>93.2</i>	<i>94.4</i>	<i>92.7</i>	<i>96.0</i>	<i>88.1</i>	<i>81.5</i>	<i>87.1</i>	<i>90.1</i>
Overseas	2.0	1.2	1.8	1.7	0.6	1.6	1.4	2.3	1.6
Not looking for work in nursing	14.8	5.6	3.8	5.5	3.4	10.4	17.1	10.6	8.4
<i>Not in nursing labour force</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>12.9</i>	<i>9.9</i>
Total registered and enrolled nurses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Leave for three months or more. This was not included as an option in the New South Wales or Queensland surveys.

(b) Excluding nurses 'on extended leave'.

Table 6: Employed nurses and full-time equivalent nurses per 100,000 population: States and Territories, 1993 and 1994

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number of nurses per 100,000 population, 1993									
All nurses	1,096.3	1,368.0	1,163.6	1,218.3	1,502.3	1,317.4	1,059.2	1,089.8	1,227.3
FTE nurses (a)	876.0	1,034.3	927.8	953.2	1,148.9	997.8	855.1	934.2	957.9
FTE nurses (b)	993.6	1,144.8	1,046.8	1,082.9	1,252.1	1,103.1	978.3	1,090.7	1,073.6
Population ('000) (c)	5,997.4	4,464.2	3,116.0	1,676.3	1,462.9	471.4	298.9	169.3	17,656.4
Number of nurses per 100,000 population, 1994									
All nurses	1,092.9	1,500.2	1,214.3	1,223.3	1,456.6	1,256.7	1,017.9	1,070.7	1,262.1
FTE nurses (a)	880.7	1,161.6	983.6	959.6	1,113.9	952.1	834.5	918.2	997.9
FTE nurses (b)	998.9	1,281.9	1,114.9	1,082.7	1,214.1	1,052.6	978.6	1,060.6	1,117.8
Population ('000) (d)	6,049.2	4,475.5	3,196.1	1,701.1	1,469.4	472.5	300.9	171.1	17,835.8
(percentage change between 1993 and 1994)									
All nurses	-0.3	9.7	4.4	0.4	-3.0	-4.6	-3.9	-1.7	2.8
FTE nurses (a)	0.5	12.3	6.0	0.7	-3.0	-4.6	-2.4	-1.7	4.2
FTE nurses (b)	0.5	12.0	6.5	0.0	-3.0	-4.6	0.0	-2.8	4.1
Population	0.9	0.3	2.6	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.7	1.1	1.0

(a) Calculated on the basis that all nurses working 35 or more hours per week are counted as one full-time equivalent (FTE) and all working less than 35 hours per week are a portion of a FTE.

(b) Calculated on the basis that hours worked are divided by 35 for all nurses, i.e. a nurse working 70 hours per week equals 2 FTEs, one working 21 hours equals 0.6 FTEs.

(c) Estimated resident population as at 30 June 1993.

(d) Estimated resident population as at 30 June 1994.

Source: ABS: Cat. No. 3101.0.

Table 7: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians: area of clinical nursing and States and Territories, 1993

Area of clinical nursing	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Mixed medical and surgical	5,598	7,323	5,604	4,404	4,977	726	363	168	29,163
Medical	12,028	1,701	1,974	1,655	1,184	571	218	65	19,396
Surgical	6,017	2,322	2,183	1,386	1,378	493	241	60	14,081
Operating theatre	3,901	2,511	2,228	1,102	1,319	391	215	99	11,766
Intensive care	2,891	2,151	1,566	676	762	184	179	54	8,463
Paediatric	n.a.	867	1,179	637	560	153	144	130	3,670
Obstetrics and gynaecology/ midwifery	4,571	3,241	2,337	1,367	1,190	466	370	217	13,759
Psychiatric/mental health	3,519	3,190	1,822	826	1,344	231	126	75	11,134
Developmental disability	1,773	632	180	143	267	78	5	4	3,081
Gerontology/geriatric	12,118	15,958	5,412	3,214	3,336	1,152	372	124	41,686
Accident and emergency	1,755	1,589	888	523	398	122	110	108	5,493
Community	1,913	1,041	738	628	748	426	158	234	5,886
Child health	801	929	437	172	292	145	42	33	2,849
School medical	161	190	94	143	30	38	10	42	708
District/domiciliary	n.a.	1,362	1,011	350	403	84	22	13	3,246
Occupational health	319	328	169	183	173	33	16	25	1,246
Private medical practice/ independent practice	n.a.	1,590	1,113	465	561	198	85	21	4,033
No one principal area	1,466	2,383	982	540	611	150	67	25	6,224
Other	714	4,668	2,343	647	917	188	236	142	9,855
Total	59,541	53,976	32,260	19,063	20,449	5,831	2,980	1,637	195,737
	(per cent)								
Mixed medical and surgical	9.4	13.6	17.4	23.1	24.3	12.5	12.2	10.3	14.9
Medical	20.2	3.2	6.1	8.7	5.8	9.8	7.3	4.0	9.9
Surgical	10.1	4.3	6.8	7.3	6.7	8.5	8.1	3.7	7.2
Operating theatre	6.6	4.7	6.9	5.8	6.5	6.7	7.2	6.0	6.0
Intensive care	4.9	4.0	4.9	3.5	3.7	3.2	6.0	3.3	4.3
Paediatric	n.a.	1.6	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.6	4.8	8.0	1.9
Obstetrics and gynaecology/ midwifery	7.7	6.0	7.2	7.2	5.8	8.0	12.4	13.3	7.0
Psychiatric/mental health	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.3	6.6	4.0	4.2	4.6	5.7
Developmental disability	3.0	1.2	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.2	1.6
Gerontology/geriatric	20.4	29.6	16.8	16.9	16.3	19.8	12.5	7.6	21.3
Accident and emergency	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	1.9	2.1	3.7	6.6	2.8
Community	3.2	1.9	2.3	3.3	3.7	7.3	5.3	14.3	3.0
Child health	1.3	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.4	2.5	1.4	2.0	1.5
School medical	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.3	2.6	0.4
District/domiciliary	n.a.	2.5	3.1	1.8	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.7
Occupational health	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.5	0.6
Private medical practice/ independent practice	n.a.	2.9	3.5	2.4	2.7	3.4	2.9	1.3	2.1
No one principal area	2.5	4.4	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.5	3.2
Other	1.2	8.6	7.3	3.4	4.5	3.2	7.9	8.7	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 8: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians: area of clinical nursing and States and Territories, 1994

Area of clinical nursing	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Mixed medical and surgical	5,480	10,529	5,902	4,429	4,837	687	406	252	32,522
Medical	12,174	2,785	2,275	1,651	1,150	550	197	72	20,852
Surgical	5,816	2,757	2,489	1,433	1,344	476	232	70	14,616
Operating theatre	3,986	3,265	2,417	1,207	1,284	367	212	100	12,837
Intensive care	2,950	2,555	1,679	680	746	177	168	75	9,030
Paediatric	n.a.	1,071	1,230	557	545	148	120	131	3,802
Obstetrics and gynaecology/ midwifery	4,528	4,102	2,765	1,316	1,165	443	310	178	14,806
Psychiatric/mental health	3,516	3,201	2,019	873	1,312	222	121	88	11,352
Developmental disability	1,745	689	201	136	260	76	15	2	3,125
Gerontology/geriatric	12,041	15,588	5,619	3,292	3,236	1,110	323	126	41,334
Accident and emergency	1,780	1,147	1,000	541	388	115	87	94	5,153
Community	2,084	1,038	881	687	730	409	166	209	6,205
Child health	899	833	479	218	285	138	43	21	2,917
School medical	175	211	119	152	30	35	9	20	750
District/domiciliary	n.a.	1,640	945	401	393	82	13	5	3,479
Occupational health	281	417	215	173	170	30	11	13	1,311
Private medical practice/ independent practice	n.a.	1,627	1,349	524	546	183	85	30	4,344
No one principal area	1,464	742	2,206	494	593	147	56	50	5,753
Other	708	5,191	2,364	830	895	182	253	139	10,563
Total	59,626	59,388	36,155	19,594	19,908	5,575	2,825	1,677	204,748

	(per cent)								
Mixed medical and surgical	9.2	17.7	16.3	22.6	24.3	12.3	14.4	15.0	15.9
Medical	20.4	4.7	6.3	8.4	5.8	9.9	7.0	4.3	10.2
Surgical	9.8	4.6	6.9	7.3	6.7	8.5	8.2	4.1	7.1
Operating theatre	6.7	5.5	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.6	7.5	5.9	6.3
Intensive care	4.9	4.3	4.6	3.5	3.7	3.2	5.9	4.5	4.4
Paediatric	n.a.	1.8	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.7	4.3	7.8	1.9
Obstetrics and gynaecology/ midwifery	7.6	6.9	7.6	6.7	5.8	7.9	11.0	10.6	7.2
Psychiatric/mental health	5.9	5.4	5.6	4.5	6.6	4.0	4.3	5.2	5.5
Developmental disability	2.9	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.1	1.5
Gerontology/geriatric	20.2	26.2	15.5	16.8	16.3	19.9	11.4	7.5	20.2
Accident and emergency	3.0	1.9	2.8	2.8	2.0	2.1	3.1	5.6	2.5
Community	3.5	1.7	2.4	3.5	3.7	7.3	5.9	12.5	3.0
Child health	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.4	2.5	1.5	1.3	1.4
School medical	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.4
District/domiciliary	n.a.	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.3	1.7
Occupational health	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6
Private medical practice/ independent practice	n.a.	2.7	3.7	2.7	2.7	3.3	3.0	1.8	2.1
No one principal area	2.5	1.2	6.1	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.0	3.0	2.8
Other	1.2	8.7	6.5	4.2	4.5	3.3	9.0	8.3	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9: Employed nurses: type of nurse, country of birth and States and Territories, 1994

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Registered nurses									
Australia	n.a.	35,818	25,264	9,787	n.a.	4,177	1,998	1,074	78,117
New Zealand	n.a.	759	1,159	570	n.a.	65	43	64	2,660
Other Oceania	n.a.	168	282	38	n.a.	13	8	11	520
UK/Ireland	n.a.	4,173	2,833	3,334	n.a.	458	256	185	11,238
Other Europe	n.a.	1,417	620	397	n.a.	67	83	62	2,646
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	96	29	40	n.a.	5	6	4	179
Other Africa	n.a.	404	258	251	n.a.	31	19	14	977
Asia	n.a.	3,260	702	1,182	n.a.	60	89	48	5,340
North America	n.a.	209	259	153	n.a.	24	26	25	696
Other America	n.a.	105	40	40	n.a.	3	10	4	201
Not stated	53,936	0	0	0	15,923	0	0	0	69,859
<i>Total</i>	<i>53,936</i>	<i>46,408</i>	<i>31,444</i>	<i>15,792</i>	<i>15,923</i>	<i>4,903</i>	<i>2,538</i>	<i>1,490</i>	<i>172,434</i>
Enrolled nurses									
Australia	n.a.	17,071	5,979	3,552	n.a.	955	406	275	28,238
New Zealand	n.a.	304	363	158	n.a.	10	13	17	866
Other Oceania	n.a.	61	53	16	n.a.	2	0	0	132
UK/Ireland	n.a.	1,597	626	881	n.a.	43	59	34	3,240
Other Europe	n.a.	925	172	158	n.a.	23	25	8	1,310
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	46	1	5	n.a.	0	0	0	52
Other Africa	n.a.	87	26	44	n.a.	0	0	2	160
Asia	n.a.	526	111	183	n.a.	3	15	4	843
North America	n.a.	41	21	11	n.a.	0	0	0	73
Other America	n.a.	75	15	9	n.a.	0	7	2	107
Not stated	12,175	0	0	0	5,480	0	0	0	17,655
<i>Total</i>	<i>12,175</i>	<i>20,734</i>	<i>7,367</i>	<i>5,018</i>	<i>5,480</i>	<i>1,035</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>52,676</i>
All nurses									
Australia	n.a.	52,889	31,243	13,339	n.a.	5,132	2,403	1,349	106,358
New Zealand	n.a.	1,064	1,523	728	n.a.	75	57	81	3,527
Other Oceania	n.a.	229	335	54	n.a.	15	8	11	652
UK/Ireland	n.a.	5,770	3,458	4,215	n.a.	500	315	219	14,478
Other Europe	n.a.	2,342	792	555	n.a.	90	108	70	3,955
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	141	30	45	n.a.	5	6	4	232
Other Africa	n.a.	491	284	295	n.a.	31	19	16	1,137
Asia	n.a.	3,786	813	1,365	n.a.	63	105	51	6,183
North America	n.a.	250	280	164	n.a.	24	26	25	769
Other America	n.a.	180	54	49	n.a.	3	16	6	308
Not stated	66,111	0	0	0	21,403	0	0	0	87,514
Total	66,111	67,142	38,811	20,810	21,403	5,938	3,063	1,832	225,110

Table 10: Employed nurses: type of nurse, country of initial qualification and States and Territories, 1994

Country of initial qualification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Registered nurses									
Australia	n.a.	41,662	28,017	11,751	15,619	n.a.	2,282	n.a.	99,332
New Zealand	n.a.	477	951	504	40	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,972
Other Oceania	n.a.	29	19	2	3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	52
UK/Ireland	n.a.	2,793	1,857	2,785	180	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7,615
Other Europe	n.a.	359	153	138	20	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	670
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	44	5	9	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	62
Other Africa	n.a.	162	140	163	8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	473
Asia	n.a.	773	139	327	29	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,267
North America	n.a.	92	153	109	14	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	368
Other America	n.a.	17	10	5	7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	39
Not stated	53,936	0	0	0	0	4,903	256	1,490	60,585
<i>Total</i>	<i>53,936</i>	<i>46,408</i>	<i>31,444</i>	<i>15,792</i>	<i>15,923</i>	<i>4,903</i>	<i>2,538</i>	<i>1,490</i>	<i>172,434</i>
Enrolled nurses									
Australia	n.a.	19,709	6,808	4,469	5,425	n.a.	484	n.a.	36,895
New Zealand	n.a.	174	285	141	11	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	611
Other Oceania	n.a.	19	19	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	37
UK/Ireland	n.a.	463	205	355	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,060
Other Europe	n.a.	151	29	22	7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	209
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	12	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12
Other Africa	n.a.	18	3	5	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26
Asia	n.a.	126	11	22	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	159
North America	n.a.	8	3	2	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	13
Other America	n.a.	54	5	2	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	61
Not stated	12,175	0	0	0	0	1,035	41	342	13,593
<i>Total</i>	<i>12,175</i>	<i>20,734</i>	<i>7,367</i>	<i>5,018</i>	<i>5,480</i>	<i>1,035</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>52,676</i>
All nurses									
Australia	n.a.	61,372	34,825	16,220	21,044	n.a.	2,766	n.a.	136,227
New Zealand	n.a.	651	1,236	645	51	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,583
Other Oceania	n.a.	47	38	2	3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	89
UK/Ireland	n.a.	3,256	2,062	3,140	216	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,675
Other Europe	n.a.	510	182	160	28	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	879
Middle East/North Africa	n.a.	55	5	9	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	73
Other Africa	n.a.	180	143	168	8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	499
Asia	n.a.	899	150	348	29	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,426
North America	n.a.	100	155	111	14	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	380
Other America	n.a.	71	15	7	7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100
Not stated	66,111	0	0	0	0	5,938	297	1,832	74,178
Total	66,111	67,142	38,811	20,810	21,403	5,938	3,063	1,832	225,110

Table 11: Employed nurses: type of nurse, citizenship and States and Territories, 1994

Citizenship	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Registered nurses									
Australian citizen	49,589	42,553	29,368	13,835	14,622	4,559	2,416	1,365	158,307
Non-Australian citizen	4,347	3,855	2,076	1,957	1,301	344	122	125	14,127
<i>Total</i>	<i>53,936</i>	<i>46,408</i>	<i>31,444</i>	<i>15,792</i>	<i>15,923</i>	<i>4,903</i>	<i>2,538</i>	<i>1,490</i>	<i>172,434</i>
Enrolled nurses									
Australian citizen	11,290	19,397	6,860	4,512	5,101	989	498	315	48,962
Non-Australian citizen	885	1,337	507	506	379	46	27	27	3,714
<i>Total</i>	<i>12,175</i>	<i>20,734</i>	<i>7,367</i>	<i>5,018</i>	<i>5,480</i>	<i>1,035</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>52,676</i>
All nurses									
Australian citizen	60,879	61,949	36,228	18,347	19,724	5,548	2,915	1,680	207,265
Non-Australian citizen	5,232	5,193	2,583	2,463	1,679	390	148	152	17,841
Total	66,111	67,142	38,811	20,810	21,403	5,938	3,063	1,832	225,110
(per cent of registered nurses)									
Australian citizen	91.9	91.7	93.4	87.6	91.8	93.0	95.2	91.6	91.8
Non-Australian citizen	8.1	8.3	6.6	12.4	8.2	7.0	4.8	8.4	8.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
(per cent of enrolled nurses)									
Australian citizen	92.7	93.6	93.1	89.9	93.1	95.5	94.9	92.1	92.9
Non-Australian citizen	7.3	6.4	6.9	10.1	6.9	4.5	5.1	7.9	7.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
(per cent of all nurses)									
Australian citizen	92.1	92.3	93.3	88.2	92.2	93.4	95.2	91.7	92.1
Non-Australian citizen	7.9	7.7	6.7	11.8	7.8	6.6	4.8	8.3	7.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4 Trends in nursing employment and features of the nursing labour force at the 1991 census

This section presents data on registered, enrolled and dental nurses, collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the census of population and housing conducted every five years. It also presents data from 1989 to 1996 on registered and enrolled nurses collected every quarter by the ABS in the monthly labour force survey.

4.1 ABS population census statistics, 1971–91

Population census counts for employed health professionals are lower than estimates from labour force surveys because of differences in methodology. The census count is not adjusted to allow for non-response to the occupation question and some employed health professionals are enumerated in other occupations including administration, research and education. Nevertheless, census counts provide very useful five-yearly trend and intersectoral and interstate comparison statistics.

- At the 1991 census, 188,630 persons were employed in nursing—an increase of 3.5% since the 1986 census and 110.8% since the 1971 census. Of these, 174,610 (92.6%) were female. This proportion had declined slightly each census from 94.4% in 1971.
- There were 1,119.0 employed nurses per 100,000 population in 1991—an increase of 59.5% since 1971. The highest number of nurses per 100,000 population in 1991 was in Tasmania (1,404.0) and the lowest number was in the Australian Capital Territory (982.0). The number of employed nurses per 100,000 population increased from 701.7 at the 1971 census to 1,168.0 at the 1986 census before declining to 1,119.0 in 1991.
- 14.6% of employed nurses were aged less than 25 years in 1991, 85.1% were aged between 25 and 64 years and the remaining 0.3% were aged 65 years and over. This age distribution represented a significant change from the 1981 census when one-third of employed nurses were aged less than 25 years, 66.3% were aged 25 to 64 years and 0.4% were aged 65 years and over.
- 53.0% nurses were employed in hospitals (excluding psychiatric hospitals) at the 1991 census, 15.9% were employed in nursing homes, 19.9% in other health services and the remaining 11.2% in industries other than health.
- 55.8% nurses were employed in the public sector in 1991, a decline from 60.5% in 1981.
- Of employed nurses, 75.9% were born in Australia in 1991—a decrease of 2.2 percentage points from the 1981 census figure of 78.1% as a result of increased overseas nurse recruitment in the mid-1980s to address a nurse shortage.
- Of the 188,630 nurses employed at the 1991 census, 139,380 (73.9%) were registered, 39,670 (21.0%) were enrolled and 9,600 (5.1%) were dental nurses. This distribution varied across States and Territories. In South Australia, 70.0% of employed nurses were registered, 25.0% were enrolled and 5.1% were dental nurses, while the proportions in the Australian Capital Territory were 79.3%, 13.5% and 6.9% respectively.
- The number of registered nurses in 1991 had increased by 0.8% from 1986 while the number of enrolled nurses had increased 12.6% and dental nurses had increased 9.1%. These increases varied across the States and Territories. For registered nurses, the largest increase was recorded by the Northern Territory (17.2%) while decreases were recorded in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. For enrolled nurses, the largest increases were recorded by the Northern Territory (81.5%) and Queensland (38.3%) while the Australian Capital Territory recorded a decrease of 5.1%.

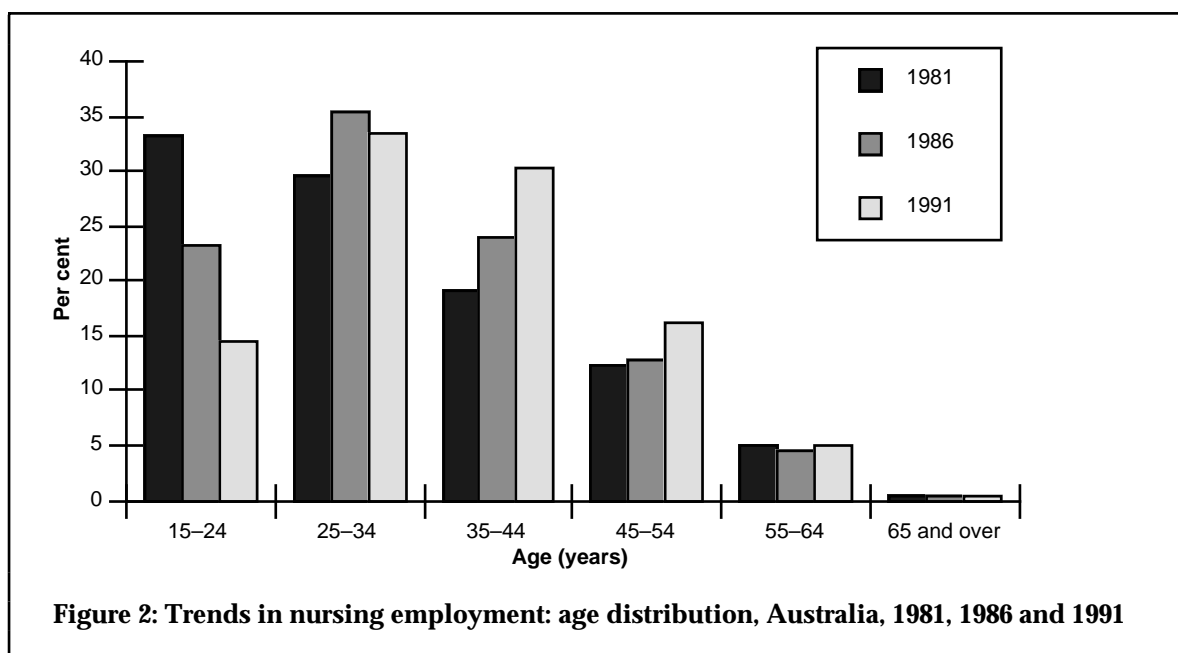


Table 12: Trends in nursing employment: sex and employed nurses per 100,000 population, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses

	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	Increase 1971-91	Per cent increase 1971-91
Sex							
Males	5,029	7,061	9,607	13,010	14,030	9,001	179.0
Females	84,473	110,500	129,826	169,230	174,610	90,137	106.7
All nurses	89,502	117,561	139,433	182,240	188,630	99,128	110.8
Per cent females	94.4	94.0	93.1	92.9	92.6	-1.8	..
Employed nurses per 100,000 population							
New South Wales	706.4	862.6	902.7	1,010.9	976.8	270.4	38.3
Victoria	662.4	836.1	968.3	1,250.5	1,185.4	523.0	79.0
Queensland	649.5	726.8	874.6	1,070.3	1,039.2	389.7	60.0
Western Australia	699.0	850.9	933.0	1,114.5	1,070.2	371.2	53.1
South Australia	845.6	1,172.8	1,242.5	1,406.8	1,330.3	484.7	57.3
Tasmania	831.9	1,068.6	1,179.1	1,413.2	1,364.6	532.7	64.0
Australian Capital Territory	650.4	831.9	935.8	1,012.0	947.1	296.7	45.6
Northern Territory	713.0	787.9	904.1	1,016.8	1,208.5	495.5	69.5
Total	701.7	867.7	956.6	1,137.7	1,091.4	389.7	55.5

Note: Employed nurses include trainees but exclude nursing aides in 1971, 1976 and 1981.

Sources: ABS: Cat. No. 4346.0, 1981, 1986 and 1991; ABS: Cat. No. 3101.0.

Table 13: Trends in nursing employment: characteristics of employed nurses, 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses

Characteristics of employed nurses	1981	1986	1991	1981	1986	1991	Per cent increase 1981-91
	(number)			(per cent)			
State or Territory							
New South Wales	46,275	55,910	57,630	33.2	30.7	30.6	24.5
Victoria	37,111	52,030	52,400	26.6	28.6	27.8	41.2
Queensland	20,072	28,090	30,770	14.4	15.4	16.3	53.3
Western Australia	11,883	16,260	17,500	8.5	8.9	9.3	47.3
South Australia	15,967	19,450	19,230	11.5	10.7	10.2	20.4
Tasmania	4,940	6,310	6,360	3.5	3.5	3.4	28.7
Australian Capital Territory	2,076	2,620	2,750	1.5	1.4	1.5	32.5
Northern Territory	1,115	1,570	1,990	0.8	0.9	1.1	78.5
Age (years)							
15-24	46,482	42,530	27,610	33.3	23.3	14.6	-40.6
25-34	41,292	64,260	63,150	29.6	35.3	33.5	52.9
35-44	26,830	43,550	57,140	19.2	23.9	30.3	113.0
45-54	17,354	23,180	30,540	12.4	12.7	16.2	76.0
55-64	6,881	8,080	9,570	4.9	4.4	5.1	39.1
65 and over	594	640	620	0.4	0.4	0.3	4.4
Industry							
Hospitals (exc. psychiatric)	85,620	104,070	99,940	61.4	57.1	53.0	16.7
Psychiatric hospitals	8,328	7,880	6,010	6.0	4.3	3.2	-27.8
Nursing homes (a)	17,478	29,810	29,990	12.5	16.4	15.9	71.6
Medicine	5,064	6,710	6,680	3.6	3.7	3.5	31.9
Dentistry and optometry	5,068	7,940	8,760	3.6	4.4	4.6	72.8
Community health centres	2,561	4,850	5,380	1.8	2.7	2.9	110.1
Other health services	4,496	4,560	10,740	3.2	2.5	5.7	138.9
Industries other than health	10,818	16,410	21,130	7.8	9.0	11.2	95.3
Sector							
Public	81,888	101,390	103,660	58.7	55.6	55.0	26.6
Private	53,411	75,250	81,970	38.3	41.3	43.5	53.5
Not stated	4,134	5,590	3,000	3.0	3.1	1.6	-27.4
Country of birth							
Born in Australia	108,773	141,540	142,790	78.0	77.7	75.7	31.3
Born overseas	30,462	39,950	45,460	21.8	21.9	24.1	49.2
Not stated	197	750	380	0.1	0.4	0.2	92.9
Total	139,433	182,240	188,630	100.0	100.0	100.0	35.3

(a) In 1981, includes hospitals and nursing homes undefined.

Note: Employed nurses include trainees but exclude nursing aides in 1981.

Source: ABS: Cat. No. 4346.0, 1981, 1986 and 1991.

Table 14: Trends in nursing employment: type of nurse and States and Territories, 1986 and 1991 censuses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Registered nurses									
1986	44,480	37,990	21,810	11,900	14,070	4,700	2,060	1,220	138,220
1991	45,060	37,160	22,460	12,990	13,460	4,640	2,180	1,430	139,370
% increase 1986–91	1.3	-2.2	3.0	9.2	-4.3	-1.3	5.8	17.2	0.8
Enrolled nurses									
1986	8,640	11,710	4,810	3,490	4,480	1,430	390	270	35,220
1991	9,460	12,830	6,650	3,520	4,800	1,550	370	490	39,670
% increase 1986–91	9.5	9.6	38.3	0.9	7.1	8.4	-5.1	81.5	12.6
Dental nurses									
1986	2,800	2,330	1,470	870	900	180	170	80	8,800
1991	3,100	2,410	1,660	1,000	980	180	190	80	9,590
% increase 1986–91	10.7	3.4	12.9	14.9	8.9	0.0	11.8	0.0	9.0
All nurses									
1986	55,910	52,030	28,090	16,260	19,450	6,310	2,620	1,570	182,240
1991	57,630	52,400	30,770	17,500	19,230	6,360	2,750	1,990	188,630
% increase 1986–91	3.1	0.7	9.5	7.6	-1.1	0.8	5.0	26.8	3.5
(per cent)									
Registered nurses									
1986	79.6	73.0	77.6	73.2	72.3	74.5	78.6	77.7	75.8
1991	78.2	70.9	73.0	74.2	70.0	73.0	79.3	71.9	73.9
Enrolled nurses									
1986	15.5	22.5	17.1	21.5	23.0	22.7	14.9	17.2	19.3
1991	16.4	24.5	21.6	20.1	25.0	24.4	13.5	24.6	21.0
Dental nurses									
1986	5.0	4.5	5.2	5.4	4.6	2.9	6.5	5.1	4.8
1991	5.4	4.6	5.4	5.7	5.1	2.8	6.9	4.0	5.1
All nurses									
1986	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS: Cat. No. 4346.0, 1986 and 1991.

Table 15: Number of employed nurses per 100,000 population: type of nurse and States and Territories, 1986 and 1991 censuses

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Population as at 30 June ('000)									
1986	5,531.5	4,160.9	2,624.6	1,459.0	1,382.6	446.5	258.9	154.4	16,018.4
1991	5,898.7	4,420.4	2,961.0	1,636.1	1,446.3	466.8	289.3	165.5	17,284.0
Registered nurses									
1986	804.1	913.0	831.0	815.6	1,017.6	1,052.6	795.7	790.2	862.9
1991	763.9	840.6	758.5	794.0	930.7	994.0	753.5	864.0	806.4
Increase 1986-91	-40.2	-72.4	-72.5	-21.7	-87.0	-58.6	-42.1	73.9	-56.5
Enrolled nurses									
1986	156.2	281.4	183.3	239.2	324.0	320.3	150.6	174.9	219.9
1991	160.4	290.2	224.6	215.1	331.9	332.0	127.9	296.1	229.5
Increase 1986-91	4.2	8.8	41.3	-24.1	7.9	11.8	-22.7	121.2	9.6
Registered and enrolled nurses									
1986	960.3	1,194.5	1,014.2	1,054.8	1,341.7	1,372.9	946.3	965.0	1,082.8
1991	924.3	1,130.9	983.1	1,009.1	1,262.5	1,326.0	881.4	1,160.1	1,035.9
Increase 1986-91	-36.0	-63.6	-31.1	-45.7	-79.1	-46.9	-64.9	195.1	-46.9
Dental nurses									
1986	50.6	56.0	56.0	59.6	65.1	40.3	65.7	51.8	54.9
1991	52.6	54.5	56.1	61.1	67.8	38.6	65.7	48.3	55.5
Increase 1986-91	1.9	-1.5	0.1	1.5	2.7	-1.8	0.0	-3.5	0.5
All nurses									
1986	1,010.9	1,250.5	1,070.3	1,114.5	1,406.8	1,413.2	1,012.0	1,016.8	1,137.7
1991	976.8	1,185.4	1,039.2	1,070.2	1,330.3	1,364.6	947.1	1,208.5	1,091.4
Increase 1986-91	-34.1	-65.0	-31.1	-44.2	-76.5	-48.6	-64.9	191.6	-46.3

Sources: ABS: Cat. No. 4346.0, 1986 and 1991; ABS: Cat. No. 3101.0.

4.2 ABS labour force survey statistics, 1989–96

ABS labour force survey estimates of employment by occupation are collected quarterly. Annual averages of these quarterly estimates for nurses are provided in Table 16. Associated with these estimates are standard errors which are higher for the smaller States and Territories and particularly high for State and Territory estimates of enrolled nurses. Thus, care should be taken in interpreting annual figures for States and Territories because volatility in the sampling error causes most of the estimates to be unreliable. However, the national estimate has a much lower standard error and, therefore, provides a reliable picture of nursing trends in Australia.

From 1989 to 1996, the total nursing work force in Australia remained relatively stable in absolute numbers. Trends evident in the time series estimates include:

- Employment of enrolled nurses is declining while employment of registered nurses is increasing. Enrolled nurses, as a proportion of the total nursing work force, declined from 24.0% in 1989 to 18.1% in 1996. This overall decline was experienced by all States and Territories.
- The proportion of nurses working part-time is increasing. In 1996, 42.3% of registered nurses worked part-time and 50.3% of enrolled nurses worked part-time. These proportions had increased from 37.8% and 43.6% respectively since 1989.

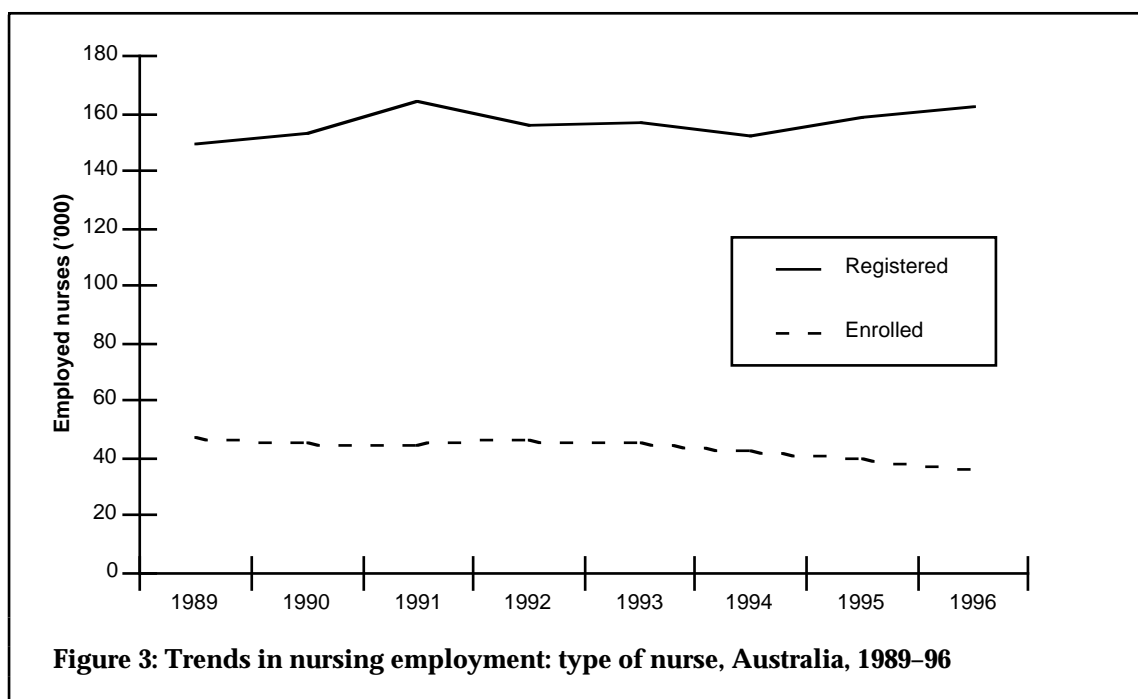


Table 16: Trends in nursing employment: type of nurse and States and Territories, 1989–96

Type of nurse/year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	Number employed part-time	Per cent employed part-time
('000)											
Employed registered nurses											
1989	50.9	40.1	21.6	12.0	14.6	6.5	2.6	1.6	149.8	56.7	37.8
1990	52.7	43.6	22.8	11.7	12.9	6.5	2.2	1.2	153.5	60.8	39.6
1991	59.3	41.2	27.1	13.5	13.7	6.8	1.9	1.4	164.5	65.4	39.7
1992	51.4	39.7	27.0	14.1	13.2	6.8	2.0	1.7	155.8	61.5	39.5
1993	53.9	39.9	24.7	15.0	15.1	5.2	2.0	1.6	157.4	63.7	40.5
1994	58.1	33.6	25.5	13.7	12.7	5.2	2.5	1.4	152.6	63.1	41.4
1995	56.4	41.0	23.9	14.4	13.7	5.6	2.7	1.2	158.7	68.2	42.9
1996	57.1	42.4	26.6	13.8	14.2	5.0	2.3	1.7	163.0	68.9	42.3
Employed enrolled nurses											
1989	13.2	14.2	7.7	4.4	5.2	1.8	0.5	0.5	47.3	20.6	43.6
1990	8.7	16.5	6.8	4.6	6.7	1.2	0.2	0.5	45.0	21.1	46.8
1991	9.9	14.9	7.2	4.7	5.4	1.6	0.4	0.5	44.5	22.7	51.0
1992	11.8	17.2	7.1	3.4	5.2	1.3	0.4	0.2	46.6	24.2	51.8
1993	11.4	15.3	6.4	5.0	4.3	1.9	0.5	0.2	44.9	23.6	52.6
1994	9.7	16.0	7.6	3.0	4.2	1.5	0.3	0.1	42.2	22.6	53.6
1995	10.0	12.3	6.8	4.6	3.7	1.8	0.4	0.2	39.6	19.7	49.7
1996	7.3	12.0	6.3	3.8	5.0	1.1	0.2	0.3	36.1	18.2	50.3
Employed registered and enrolled nurses											
1989	64.1	54.3	29.3	16.4	19.8	8.3	3.0	2.1	197.1	77.3	39.2
1990	61.3	60.1	29.6	16.3	19.6	7.7	2.4	1.6	198.5	81.8	41.2
1991	69.2	56.1	34.3	18.2	19.1	8.4	2.3	1.8	209.0	88.0	42.1
1992	63.2	56.8	34.2	17.5	18.4	8.0	2.4	1.9	202.4	85.6	42.3
1993	65.3	55.1	31.1	20.0	19.4	7.1	2.5	1.8	202.2	87.3	43.2
1994	67.8	49.6	33.1	16.7	16.8	6.6	2.8	1.5	194.8	85.7	44.0
1995	66.3	53.3	30.7	19.0	17.4	7.3	3.0	1.3	198.4	87.8	44.3
1996	64.4	54.4	32.9	17.6	19.2	6.1	2.5	2.0	199.1	87.1	43.7
(enrolled nurses as per cent of workforce)											
1989	20.6	26.2	26.2	26.9	26.3	21.8	15.7	22.0	24.0	26.6	
1990	14.1	27.5	23.0	28.0	34.1	15.6	8.4	29.2	22.7	25.7	
1991	14.2	26.6	21.1	25.6	28.2	19.1	18.3	24.7	21.3	25.8	
1992	18.6	30.2	20.9	19.5	28.2	15.6	17.9	12.0	23.0	28.2	
1993	17.5	27.7	20.6	25.1	22.0	26.2	20.4	11.0	22.2	27.0	
1994	14.3	32.3	22.9	17.7	24.7	21.9	10.9	5.1	21.6	26.3	
1995	15.0	23.1	22.2	24.0	21.2	24.2	12.4	13.2	20.0	22.4	
1996	11.3	22.1	19.1	21.6	26.0	18.0	8.0	15.0	18.1	20.9	

Notes

1. Quarterly estimates have been averaged to produce annual estimates.
2. The sampling fraction for the monthly labour force survey was 1 in 230 dwellings for New South Wales and Victoria, 1 in 160 for Queensland, 1 in 70 for Tasmania and 1 in 115 for other States and Territories prior to September 1992.
3. The sampling fraction for the monthly labour force survey was 1 in 277 dwellings for New South Wales, 1 in 242 for Victoria, 1 in 195 for Queensland, 1 in 139 for South Australia, 1 in 146 for Western Australia and 1 in 75 for Tasmania and the Territories from September 1992.
4. ABS, *Labour Force, Australia*, Cat. No. 6203.0 provides the standard errors for labour force survey estimates.

Source: Quarterly estimates from the ABS monthly labour force survey.

4.3 Main features of the nursing labour force at the 1991 census

- Just over half (50.7%) of employed nurses were classified in the 1991 census as registered general nurses while a further 20.1% were identified as enrolled nurses and 4.9% as dental nurses. This breakdown varied among males and females: 41.1% of males were registered general nurses, 20.7% were enrolled nurses and 15.2% were registered psychiatric nurses; while only 1.7% of females were registered psychiatric nurses and 4.3% were registered midwives.
- There were significantly more employed registered and enrolled nurses per 100,000 population in capital city areas than in other areas in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. For the remaining States and the Northern Territory there were more nurses per 100,000 population in other areas than in the capital cities.
- Of those persons employed as registered and enrolled nurses at the 1991 census, 71.2% possessed a basic nursing qualification (72.4% of females and 57.9% of males) and 7.8% had a qualification in midwifery (8.4% of females and 1.3% of males). Males were more likely to have a qualification in psychiatric nursing (9.9% of males compared with 1.1% of females).
- Most (75.2%) employed registered and enrolled nurses were born in Australia. Of those born overseas, almost half (45.8%) were from the United Kingdom and Ireland, 19.9% were from Asia and 10.5% were from New Zealand.
- At the 1991 census, 334,151 persons reported that their highest qualification was in nursing (314,351 females and 19,800 males). Of these, 47.6% were employed as nurses while 21.3% were employed in an occupation other than nursing, 2.6% were unemployed (looking for work) and 28.0% were not in the labour force (not employed and not looking for work).
- Males whose highest qualification was in nursing were more likely to be employed than females (81.9% of males compared with 68.1% of females) and also more likely to be unemployed (4.0% compared with 2.6%) while females were more likely not to participate in the labour force (28.9% of females compared with 13.9% of males).

Table 17: Employed nurses: category of nursing, sex and States and Territories, 1991 census

Occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Males									
Director of nursing	526	190	54	64	69	27	6	10	946
Nurse educator	38	63	27	9	45	6	3	0	191
Nursing supervisor	50	284	112	18	21	3	0	3	491
Registered nurse, general	2,458	1,350	919	550	764	230	92	56	6,419
Registered nurse, community health	89	43	24	32	69	13	9	6	285
Registered midwife	51	34	21	7	11	8	3	3	138
Registered nurse, mental retardation	48	122	0	6	27	0	0	0	203
Registered nurse, psychiatric	530	858	259	307	243	66	15	19	2,297
Student registered nurse	0	6	10	6	12	0	0	0	34
Registered nurse n.e.c.	299	224	101	67	69	50	0	0	810
Enrolled nurse	758	980	572	224	385	130	14	65	3,129
Student enrolled nurse	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Dental nurse	41	21	24	10	3	0	6	0	105
Total	4,888	4,206	2,123	1,300	1,718	533	148	162	15,078
Females									
Director of nursing	2,687	977	516	309	275	86	29	28	4,907
Nurse educator	461	445	222	142	156	56	20	7	1,509
Nursing supervisor	618	3,805	792	163	232	101	37	21	5,769
Registered nurse, general	31,406	22,617	15,322	9,146	8,892	3,058	1,554	847	92,842
Registered nurse, community health	1,959	1,008	584	576	560	268	158	129	5,242
Registered midwife	2,083	2,253	1,228	759	868	267	143	98	7,699
Registered nurse, mental retardation	162	226	25	24	40	12	9	0	498
Registered nurse, psychiatric	796	1,063	387	353	388	86	37	11	3,121
Student registered nurse	27	68	66	6	53	10	0	0	230
Registered nurse n.e.c.	4,393	3,499	2,098	922	1,276	479	170	54	12,891
Enrolled nurse	8,693	11,774	5,980	3,284	4,433	1,413	333	382	36,292
Student enrolled nurse	0	148	0	0	3	0	0	0	151
Dental nurse	3,063	2,396	1,611	981	976	181	185	75	9,469
Total	56,348	50,279	28,831	16,665	18,152	6,017	2,675	1,652	180,619
All nurses									
Director of nursing	3,213	1,167	570	373	344	113	35	38	5,853
Nurse educator	499	508	249	151	201	62	23	7	1,700
Nursing supervisor	668	4,089	904	181	253	104	37	24	6,260
Registered nurse, general	33,864	23,967	16,241	9,696	9,656	3,288	1,646	903	99,261
Registered nurse, community health	2,048	1,051	608	608	629	281	167	135	5,527
Registered midwife	2,134	2,287	1,249	766	879	275	146	101	7,837
Registered nurse, mental retardation	210	348	25	30	67	12	9	0	701
Registered nurse, psychiatric	1,326	1,921	646	660	631	152	52	30	5,419
Student registered nurse	27	74	76	12	65	10	0	0	264
Registered nurse n.e.c.	4,692	3,723	2,199	989	1,345	529	170	54	13,701
Enrolled nurse	9,451	12,754	6,552	3,508	4,818	1,543	347	447	39,420
Student enrolled nurse	0	179	0	0	3	0	0	0	182
Dental nurse	3,104	2,417	1,635	991	979	181	191	75	9,572
Total	61,236	54,485	30,954	17,965	19,870	6,550	2,823	1,814	195,693

(continued)

Table 17 (continued): Employed nurses: category of nursing, sex and States and Territories, 1991 census

Occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	(per cent—males)								
Director of nursing	10.8	4.5	2.5	4.9	4.0	5.1	4.1	6.2	6.3
Nurse educator	0.8	1.5	1.3	0.7	2.6	1.1	2.0	0.0	1.3
Nursing supervisor	1.0	6.8	5.3	1.4	1.2	0.6	0.0	1.9	3.3
Registered nurse, general	50.3	32.1	43.9	42.9	44.6	43.2	64.2	34.6	41.1
Registered nurse, community health	1.8	1.0	1.1	2.5	4.0	2.4	6.1	3.7	1.9
Registered midwife	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.5	2.0	1.9	0.9
Registered nurse, mental retardation	1.0	2.9	0.0	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Registered nurse, psychiatric	10.8	20.5	12.2	23.6	14.1	12.4	11.1	11.7	15.2
Student registered nurse	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Registered nurse n.e.c.	6.1	5.3	4.8	5.2	4.0	9.4	0.0	0.0	5.4
Enrolled nurse	15.5	23.3	26.9	17.2	22.4	24.4	10.4	40.1	20.7
Student enrolled nurse	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Dental nurse	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	(per cent—females)								
Director of nursing	4.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.7	2.7
Nurse educator	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.8
Nursing supervisor	1.1	7.6	2.7	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.3	3.2
Registered nurse, general	55.7	45.0	53.1	54.9	49.0	50.8	58.1	51.3	51.4
Registered nurse, community health	3.5	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.1	4.5	5.9	7.8	2.9
Registered midwife	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.4	5.3	5.9	4.3
Registered nurse, mental retardation	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3
Registered nurse, psychiatric	1.4	2.1	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.4	0.7	1.7
Student registered nurse	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Registered nurse n.e.c.	7.8	7.0	7.3	5.5	7.0	8.0	6.4	3.3	7.1
Enrolled nurse	15.4	23.4	20.7	19.7	24.4	23.5	12.4	23.1	20.1
Student enrolled nurse	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Dental nurse	5.4	4.8	5.6	5.9	5.4	3.0	6.9	4.5	5.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	(per cent—all nurses)								
Director of nursing	5.2	2.1	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.2	2.1	3.0
Nurse educator	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.9
Nursing supervisor	1.1	7.5	2.9	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.3	3.2
Registered nurse, general	55.3	44.0	52.5	54.0	48.6	50.2	58.3	49.8	50.7
Registered nurse, community health	3.3	1.9	2.0	3.4	3.2	4.3	5.9	7.4	2.8
Registered midwife	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.2	5.2	5.6	4.0
Registered nurse, mental retardation	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4
Registered nurse, psychiatric	2.2	3.5	2.1	3.7	3.2	2.3	1.8	1.7	2.8
Student registered nurse	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Registered nurse n.e.c.	7.7	6.8	7.1	5.5	6.8	8.1	6.0	3.0	7.0
Enrolled nurse	15.4	23.4	21.2	19.5	24.2	23.6	12.3	24.6	20.1
Student enrolled nurse	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Dental nurse	5.1	4.4	5.3	5.5	4.9	2.8	6.8	4.1	4.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.

Table 18: Employed nurses per 100,000 population: type of nurse, geographic location and States and Territories, 1991 census

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT (a)	NT	Total
Registered and enrolled nurses									
Capital city	970	1,103	1,121	1,169	1,407	1,566	920	1,005	1,100
Other	996	1,360	877	671	1,044	1,239	..	1,112	1,037
Dental nurses									
Capital city	56	58	63	67	71	43	67	53	60
Other	47	45	48	43	59	37	..	36	46
Ratio of capital city to other									
Registered/enrolled	0.97	0.81	1.28	1.74	1.35	1.26	..	0.90	1.06
Dental	1.21	1.29	1.32	1.57	1.21	1.17	..	1.48	1.30

(a) Figures are for the total ACT.

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.

Table 19: Employed registered and enrolled nurses: highest qualification and sex, Australia, 1991 census

Qualification	(number)			(per cent)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Basic nursing	8,685	123,757	132,442	57.9	72.4	71.2
Midwifery	202	14,386	14,588	1.3	8.4	7.8
Mothercraft nursing	6	1,639	1,645	0.0	1.0	0.9
Psychiatric nursing	1,489	1,881	3,370	9.9	1.1	1.8
Community nursing	12	464	476	0.1	0.3	0.3
Nurse education	61	428	489	0.4	0.3	0.3
Nursing n.e.c.	350	2,568	2,918	2.3	1.5	1.6
Nursing n.f.d.	393	2,633	3,026	2.6	1.5	1.6
Field of study not stated	150	2,080	2,230	1.0	1.2	1.2
Health n.f.d.	61	231	292	0.4	0.1	0.2
Other qualification	1,720	7,050	8,770	11.5	4.1	4.7
Inadequately described	109	412	521	0.7	0.2	0.3
Not applicable	1,755	13,455	15,212	11.7	7.9	8.2
Total	14,993	170,984	185,977	100.0	100.0	100.0

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

n.f.d. not further defined.

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.

Table 20: Employed nurses: type of nurse and country of birth, Australia, 1991 census

Country of birth	Registered and enrolled nurses	Dental nurses	Total	Registered and enrolled nurses	Dental nurses	Total
	(number)			(per cent)		
Australia	139,913	8,262	148,175	75.2	86.2	75.7
New Zealand	4,848	141	4,989	2.6	1.5	2.5
Other Oceania	1,255	30	1,285	0.7	0.3	0.7
UK and Ireland	21,195	504	21,699	11.4	5.3	11.1
Southern Europe	1,569	153	1,722	0.8	1.6	0.9
Other Europe	4,503	118	4,621	2.4	1.2	2.4
West Asia	321	28	349	0.2	0.3	0.2
South East Asia	5,923	144	6,067	3.2	1.5	3.1
North East Asia	1,669	60	1,729	0.9	0.6	0.9
Southern Asia	1,264	23	1,287	0.7	0.2	0.7
South America	480	38	518	0.3	0.4	0.3
USA and Canada	884	16	900	0.5	0.2	0.5
Other America	115	6	121	0.1	0.1	0.1
Africa	1,612	39	1,651	0.9	0.4	0.8
Not stated	589	27	616	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	186,140	9,589	195,729	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.

Table 21: Employed nurses born overseas: percentage distribution by country of birth and period of arrival, Australia, 1991 census

Country of birth	Period of arrival				Total
	Before 1981	1981–85	1986–91	Not stated	
New Zealand	8.0	18.1	14.6	6.5	10.5
Other Oceania	2.6	3.5	2.5	3.7	2.7
UK and Ireland	49.2	31.4	43.9	28.6	45.6
Southern Europe	4.9	1.6	0.9	3.6	3.6
Other Europe	12.1	8.8	3.3	6.4	9.7
West Asia	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.7
South East Asia	10.5	19.4	16.8	5.7	12.8
North East Asia	2.1	4.5	8.0	1.0	3.6
Southern Asia	2.9	3.3	1.9	1.7	2.7
South America	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1
USA and Canada	2.0	1.8	1.8	0.3	1.9
Other America	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3
Africa	3.1	4.9	4.1	1.4	3.5
Not stated	0.4	0.6	0.4	39.8	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.

Table 22: Persons whose highest qualification was in nursing: labour force status, age and sex, Australia, 1991 census

Age (years)	Labour force status					Total
	Employed in nursing	Employed, not in nursing	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Not stated	
Males						
Less than 20	20	28	12	3	0	63
20-24	1,245	333	79	102	6	1,766
25-29	1,850	670	119	133	3	2,775
30-34	2,695	1,107	171	167	12	4,152
35-39	2,302	1,109	137	173	3	3,724
40-44	1,382	699	78	161	15	2,336
45-49	749	433	42	122	0	1,346
50-54	502	254	57	122	3	708
55-59	285	199	21	200	3	708
60-64	148	117	63	420	3	751
65 and over	20	47	6	1,150	0	1,243
<i>Total</i>	<i>11,198</i>	<i>5,016</i>	<i>785</i>	<i>2,753</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>19,800</i>
Females						
Less than 20	279	152	93	71	0	595
20-24	14,744	2,366	914	1,664	56	19,744
25-29	22,824	6,312	1,237	6,482	117	36,972
30-34	28,074	11,329	1,750	11,663	295	53,111
35-39	25,792	11,968	1,423	8,785	269	48,237
40-44	21,545	11,225	969	5,797	218	39,774
45-49	15,346	8,666	667	4,654	162	29,495
50-54	10,479	6,550	491	5,432	170	23,122
55-59	5,785	4,052	309	6,963	145	17,274
60-64	2,415	2,182	76	9,906	3	14,582
65 and over	473	1,508	115	29,346	3	31,445
<i>Total</i>	<i>147,756</i>	<i>66,310</i>	<i>8,064</i>	<i>90,783</i>	<i>1,483</i>	<i>314,351</i>
All nurses						
Less than 20	299	180	105	74	0	658
20-24	15,989	2,699	993	1,766	62	21,509
25-29	24,674	6,982	1,356	6,615	120	39,747
30-34	30,769	12,436	1,921	11,830	307	57,263
35-39	28,094	13,077	1,560	8,958	272	51,961
40-44	22,927	11,924	1,067	5,958	233	42,109
45-49	16,095	9,099	709	4,776	162	30,841
50-54	10,981	6,804	548	5,554	173	24,060
55-59	6,070	4,251	330	7,163	148	17,982
60-64	2,563	2,299	139	10,326	6	15,333
65 and over	493	1,573	121	30,496	3	32,688
Total	158,954	71,326	8,849	93,536	1,486	334,151

(continued)

Table 22 (continued): Persons whose highest qualification was in nursing: labour force status, age and sex, Australia, 1991 census

Age (years)	Labour force status					Total
	Employed in nursing	Employed, not in nursing	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Not stated	
(per cent—males)						
Less than 20	31.7	44.5	19.0	4.8	0.0	100.0
20–24	70.5	18.9	4.5	5.8	0.3	100.0
25–29	66.7	24.1	4.3	4.8	0.1	100.0
30–34	64.9	26.7	4.1	4.0	0.3	100.0
35–39	61.8	29.8	3.7	4.6	0.1	100.0
40–44	59.2	29.9	3.3	6.9	0.6	100.0
45–49	55.6	32.2	3.1	9.1	0.0	100.0
50–54	53.5	27.1	6.1	13.0	0.3	100.0
55–59	40.3	28.1	3.0	28.2	0.4	100.0
60–64	19.7	15.6	8.4	55.9	0.4	100.0
65 and over	1.6	5.4	0.5	92.5	0.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>56.6</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
(per cent—females)						
Less than 20	46.9	25.5	15.6	11.9	0.0	100.0
20–24	74.7	12.0	4.6	8.4	0.3	100.0
25–29	61.7	17.1	3.3	17.5	0.3	100.0
30–34	52.9	21.3	3.3	22.0	0.6	100.0
35–39	53.5	24.8	3.0	18.2	0.6	100.0
40–44	54.2	28.2	2.5	14.6	0.5	100.0
45–49	52.0	29.4	2.3	15.8	0.5	100.0
50–54	45.3	28.3	2.1	23.5	0.7	100.0
55–59	33.5	23.4	1.8	40.4	0.8	100.0
60–64	16.6	14.4	0.5	67.9	0.0	100.0
65 and over	1.5	4.8	0.4	93.3	0.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>47.0</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
(per cent—all nurses)						
Less than 20	45.4	27.4	16.0	11.2	0.0	100.0
20–24	74.3	12.6	4.6	8.2	0.3	100.0
25–29	62.1	17.5	3.4	16.6	0.3	100.0
30–34	53.7	21.8	3.4	20.7	0.5	109.0
35–39	54.1	25.1	3.0	17.2	0.5	100.0
40–44	54.4	25.4	2.5	14.1	0.6	100.0
45–49	52.2	29.5	2.3	15.5	0.5	100.0
50–54	45.6	28.3	2.3	23.1	0.7	100.0
55–59	33.8	23.6	1.8	39.9	0.8	100.0
60–64	16.7	15.0	0.9	67.3	0.0	100.0
65 and over	1.5	4.8	0.4	93.3	0.0	100.0
Total	47.6	21.3	2.6	28.0	0.4	100.0

Source: ABS: 1991 census, unpublished data.