

How Australia Compares

Second Edition

How Australia Compares is a fascinating reference that compares Australia with 17 developed countries across a wide range of social, economic and political dimensions. It gives not only snapshot comparisons from the present, but charts trends over recent decades or even longer.

Encyclopaedic in scope, this book provides statistics for a huge range of human activity, from taxation to traffic accidents, homicide rates to health expenditure, interest rates to internet usage.

Countries compared are:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

This new edition is fully revised and updated, and includes new or expanded sections on the impact of the Howard years, advertising, broadband internet access, childcare, income inequality and crime rates.

Rodney Tiffen is Professor, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney.

Ross Gittins is Economics Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-71245-3 - How Australia Compares, Second Edition
Rodney Tiffen and Ross Gittins
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

How Australia Compares

Second Edition

Rodney Tiffen
and Ross Gittins



Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-71245-3 - How Australia Compares, Second Edition
 Rodney Tiffen and Ross Gittins
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521712453

© Rodney Tiffen and Ross Gittins 2009

First published 2004
 Reprinted 2004
 Second edition 2009

Designed by Rob Cowpe Design
 Typeset by Aptara Corp.
 Printed in China by APOL

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication data

Tiffen, Rodney.
 How Australia compares / Rodney Tiffen, Ross Gittins.
 2nd ed.
 9780521712453 (pbk.)
 Bibliography
 Australia—Politics and government—2001–
 Australia—Economic conditions—2001–
 Australia—Social life and customs—2001–
 Gittins, Ross.
 994

ISBN 978-0-521-71245-3 paperback

Reproduction and Communication for educational purposes

The Australian *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this publication, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

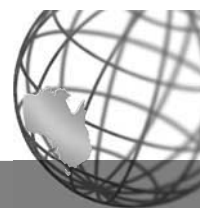
For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:

Copyright Agency Limited
 Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street
 Sydney NSW 2000
 Telephone: (02) 9394 7600
 Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601
 E-mail: info@copyright.com.au

Reproduction and Communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act (for example a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review) no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All inquiries should be made to the publisher at the address above.

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables and other factual information given in this work are correct at the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.



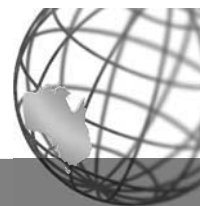
CONTENTS

List of tables and figures	<i>page</i> ix
Preface to the second edition	xxiii
Acknowledgements	xxiv
Reading the tables	xxv
Abbreviations	xxvi
Introduction	??
1 People	4
1.1 Global population	5
1.2 Population growth	7
1.3 Life expectancy	9
1.4 Birth rates and the ageing society	11
1.5 Immigration flows	13
1.6 Settlement of immigrants	15
1.7 Refugees – a global perspective	17
1.8 Asylum seekers	19
1.9 Urbanisation	21
1.10 Religious tradition	23
2 Government and politics	24
2.1 Constitutional history	25
2.2 Heads of state and heads of government	27
2.3 Federalism	29
2.4 Parliamentary structures	31
2.5 Governments, ministers and parliaments	33
2.6 Electoral systems	35
2.7 Party systems and electoral choice	37
2.8 Types and duration of governments	39
2.9 Partisan colour of governments	41
2.10 Women in public life	43
2.11 Political participation	45
3 Economics	46
3.1 National prosperity	47
3.2 Long-term economic growth	49
3.3 Contemporary economic performance	51
3.4 Inflation and interest rates	53
3.5 International trade and investment	55
3.6 Exchange rates	57
3.7 Agriculture	59

3.8 Industry and manufacturing	61
3.9 Services	63
3.10 Trade and current account balances	65
3.11 Saving and borrowing	67
3.12 Productivity	69
3.13 Global perspectives on income and growth	71
4 Work and labour	72
4.1 Labour force participation	73
4.2 Males and females in the labour force	75
4.3 Unemployment	77
4.4 Youth, education and unemployment	79
4.5 Part-time work	81
4.6 Working hours	83
4.7 Women, work and gender equity	85
4.8 Trade unions	87
5 Government taxes and spending	88
5.1 Government spending and taxation	89
5.2 Tax methods	91
5.3 Government debt and budget balances	93
6 Health	94
6.1 Total health spending	95
6.2 Public and private health spending	97
6.3 Doctors, nurses and drugs	99
6.4 Hospitals	101
6.5 Medical technology	103
6.6 Improved life expectancy	105
6.7 Deaths from external causes	107
6.8 Deaths from circulatory diseases	109
6.9 Deaths from cancer	111
6.10 HIV and AIDS	113
6.11 Obesity	115
6.12 Tobacco	117
6.13 Global perspectives on life expectancy	119
7 Education	120
7.1 Educational attainment	121
7.2 Expenditure on education	123
7.3 Public and private spending on education	125

7.4	Universities	127
7.5	Students' reading literacy	129
7.6	Students' mathematical and scientific literacy	131
7.7	Excellence and equity	133
7.8	Schools and learning environments	135
8	Inequality and social welfare	136
8.1	Income inequality	137
8.2	Rich and poor	139
8.3	Poverty	141
8.4	Social expenditure and redistribution	143
8.5	Old age poverty and pensions	145
8.6	Child poverty and single parents	147
9	International relations	148
9.1	Military spending	149
9.2	Foreign aid	151
10	Environment	152
10.1	Biodiversity	153
10.2	Global warming	155
10.3	Greenhouse gas emissions	157
10.4	Energy	159
10.5	Waste, recycling and pollution control	161
10.6	Ecological footprint	163
11	Science and technology	164
11.1	Investment in knowledge	165
11.2	Business research and development	167
11.3	Outputs – patents, publications, products	169
12	Telecommunications and computing	170
12.1	Personal computers, mobile phones and internet	171
12.2	The telecommunications market	173
12.3	Mobile telephony	175
12.4	The internet	177
12.5	Broadband – access, speed, costs	179
13	Media	180
13.1	Newspapers	181
13.2	Advertising	183

13.3 Television	185
13.4 Public broadcasting	187
13.5 New media	189
13.6 Cinema	191
14 Family	192
14.1 Marriage	193
14.2 Children	195
14.3 Families and households	197
14.4 Mothers and employment	199
14.5 Child care and early education	201
14.6 Family policies and maternity leave	203
15 Lifestyles and consumption	204
15.1 Housing	205
15.2 Food	207
15.3 Alcohol	209
15.4 National transport patterns	211
15.5 Urban mobility and transport	213
16 Crime and social problems	214
16.1 Crime rates	215
16.2 Homicide and violent crime	217
16.3 Policing	219
16.4 Victim support and public fears	221
16.5 Imprisonment and execution	223
16.6 Suicide	225
16.7 Car accidents	227
16.8 Corruption	229
17 The search for scoreboards	230
17.1 Human Development Index	231
17.2 Gender development and empowerment	233
17.3 Global competitiveness and economic freedom	235
17.4 Most liveable cities	237
17.5 Globalisation	239
18 The Howard impact	240
Sources and references	254



TABLES AND FIGURES

1 People

1.1 Global population

Table 1.1 World population milestones 4

Table 1.2 Global population sizes 4

1.2 Population growth

Table 1.3 20th century populations 6

Table 1.4 Area and population density 6

Table 1.5 Population growth rates 6

1.3 Life expectancy

Table 1.6 Life expectancy 1900–2000 8

Figure 1.1 Male life expectancy 8

Figure 1.2 Female life expectancy 8

1.4 Birth rates and the ageing society

Table 1.7 Fertility rates 10

Table 1.8 Distribution of age groups 1960 10

Table 1.9 Distribution of age groups 2005 10

1.5 Immigration flows

Table 1.10 Scale of immigration 12

Table 1.11 Net migration rate 12

Table 1.12 Components of population growth 12

Table 1.13 Categories of immigration intake 12

1.6 Settlement of immigrants

Table 1.14 Unemployment rates among native and foreign born 14

Table 1.15 Over-qualification rates of native and foreign born populations 14

Table 1.16 Native born and immigrant students' reading literacy 14

Table 1.17 Educational attainment of native born and immigrants 14

1.7 Refugees – a global perspective

Table 1.18 World totals of refugees 16

Table 1.19 Countries receiving refugees 16

Table 1.20 National origins of refugees 16

Table 1.21 Internally displaced persons 16

1.8 Asylum seekers

Table 1.22 Asylum seekers since the 1980s 18

Table 1.23 Asylum seekers in 2005 18

Table 1.24 Acceptance of asylum seekers 18

1.9 Urbanisation

Table 1.25 Urbanisation 20

Table 1.26 Biggest city 20

1.10 Religious tradition	
Table 1.27 Religious tradition	22
2 Government and politics	
2.1 Constitutional history	
Table 2.1 Constitutional history	24
Table 2.2 Male suffrage	24
Table 2.3 Female suffrage	24
2.2 Heads of state and heads of government	
Table 2.4 Heads of state and heads of government	26
2.3 Federalism	
Table 2.5 Federal and unitary state structures	28
Table 2.6 Taxation by level of government	28
2.4 Parliamentary structures	
Table 2.7 Parliamentary structures	30
2.5 Governments, ministers and parliaments	
Table 2.8 Governments, ministers and parliaments	32
2.6 Electoral systems	
Table 2.9 Electoral systems	34
Table 2.10 Number of national elections	34
2.7 Party systems and electoral choice	
Table 2.11 Party systems	36
Table 2.12 Electoral choice and government formation	36
2.8 Types and duration of governments	
Table 2.13 Types of governments	38
Table 2.14 Duration of governments	38
Table 2.15 Early Cabinet terminations	38
Table 2.16 Outcomes of elections	38
2.9 Partisan colour of governments	
Table 2.17 Partisan colour of governments 1950–2000	40
2.10 Women in public life	
Table 2.18 Women in parliament	42
Table 2.19 Female Cabinet ministers	42
Table 2.20 Female heads of government	42
2.11 Political participation	
Table 2.21 Electoral participation	44
Table 2.22 Membership of political parties	44

3 Economics

3.1 National prosperity	
Table 3.1 Income per capita	46
Table 3.2 Income per capita 1870–1998	46
3.2 Long-term economic growth	
Table 3.3 Economic growth 1820–1998	48
Table 3.4 Economic growth 1889–1939	48
3.3 Contemporary economic performance	
Table 3.5 Contemporary economic growth	50
3.4 Inflation and interest rates	
Table 3.6 Inflation	52
Table 3.7 Long-term interest rates	52
3.5 International trade and investment	
Table 3.8 Exports	54
Table 3.9 Imports	54
Table 3.10 Inward foreign direct investment	54
Table 3.11 Outward foreign direct investment	54
3.6 Exchange rates	
Table 3.12 Exchange rates	56
Table 3.13 Big Mac Index	56
3.7 Agriculture	
Table 3.14 Employment in agriculture	58
Table 3.15 Agriculture's share of the economy	58
Table 3.16 Trade in agriculture	58
Table 3.17 Support for agriculture	58
3.8 Industry and manufacturing	
Table 3.18 Employment in industry	60
Table 3.19 Exports of high-technology manufacturing	60
Table 3.20 Industry and manufacturing's share of the economy	60
3.9 Services	
Table 3.21 Employment in services	62
Table 3.22 Services' share of the economy	62
Table 3.23 Employment within the services sector	62
3.10 Trade and current account balances	
Table 3.24 External trade balance	64
Table 3.25 Current account balance	64

3.11 Saving and borrowing	
Table 3.26 Household saving	66
Table 3.27 Household debt	66
Table 3.28 Gross national saving	66
3.12 Productivity	
Table 3.29 Labour productivity	68
Table 3.30 Multi-factor productivity	68
3.13 Global perspectives on income and growth	
Table 3.31 Global income per capita	70
Table 3.32 Global economic growth	70
4 Work and labour	
4.1 Labour force participation	
Table 4.1 Labour force participation	72
Table 4.2 Aged dependency ratio	72
Table 4.3 Life expectancy at retirement	72
4.2 Males and females in the labour force	
Table 4.4 Male labour force participation	74
Table 4.5 Female labour force participation	74
Table 4.6 Labour force participation among males aged 55–64	74
Table 4.7 Labour force participation among females aged 55–64	74
4.3 Unemployment	
Table 4.8 Unemployment	76
Table 4.9 Long-term unemployment	76
4.4 Youth, education and unemployment	
Table 4.10 Youth unemployment	78
Table 4.11 Youths not in education or employment	78
Table 4.12 Education and unemployment	78
4.5 Part-time work	
Table 4.13 Part-time employment	80
Table 4.14 Female share of part-time employment	80
Table 4.15 Involuntary part-time work	80
4.6 Working hours	
Table 4.16 Annual hours worked	82
Table 4.17 Weekly working hours	82
Table 4.18 Weekly hours of full-time workers	82
Table 4.19 Weeks worked per year	82

4.7 Women, work and gender equity	
Table 4.20 Gender wage gap	84
Table 4.21 Gender and hourly pay	84
Table 4.22 Women doctors	84
Table 4.23 Division of housework	84
4.8 Trade unions	
Table 4.24 Trade union membership	86
Table 4.25 Industrial disputes	86
5 Government taxes and spending	
5.1 Government spending and taxation	
Table 5.1 Government spending	88
Table 5.2 Tax revenues	88
5.2 Tax methods	
Table 5.3 Components of taxation	90
Table 5.4 Broad components of taxation	90
5.3 Government debt and budget balances	
Table 5.5 Government deficits and surpluses	92
Table 5.6 Government debt	92
6 Health	
6.1 Total health spending	
Table 6.1 Health spending	94
Table 6.2 Increases in health expenditure	94
Figure 6.1 Per capita funding of health	94
6.2 Public and private health spending	
Table 6.3 Public expenditure on health	96
Table 6.4 Private share of health funding	96
Table 6.5 Out-of-pocket payments for health	96
6.3 Doctors, nurses and drugs	
Table 6.6 Doctors	98
Table 6.7 Public consultations with doctors	98
Table 6.8 Expenditure on pharmaceuticals	98
Table 6.9 Nurses	98
6.4 Hospitals	
Table 6.10 Acute care hospital beds	100
Table 6.11 Average length of stay in hospital	100
Table 6.12 Hospital bed days	100
Table 6.13 All hospital beds	100

6.5 Medical technology	
Table 6.14 Magnetic resonance imaging units	102
Table 6.15 Dialysis	102
Table 6.16 Kidney transplants	102
Table 6.17 Births by caesarean section	102
6.6 Improved life expectancy	
Table 6.18 Infant mortality	104
Table 6.19 Maternal mortality	104
Table 6.20 Life expectancy at 60	104
Table 6.21 Healthy life expectancy	104
6.7 Deaths from external causes	
Table 6.22 Deaths from external causes	106
Figure 6.2 Potential Years of Life Lost – external causes males	106
Figure 6.3 Potential Years of Life Lost – external causes females	106
6.8 Deaths from circulatory diseases	
Table 6.23 Deaths from circulatory diseases	108
Figure 6.4 Potential Years of Life Lost – circulatory diseases males	108
Figure 6.5 Potential Years of Life Lost – circulatory diseases females	108
6.9 Deaths from cancer	
Table 6.24 Deaths from cancer	110
Figure 6.6 Potential Years of Life Lost – cancer males	110
Figure 6.7 Potential Years of Life Lost – cancer females	110
6.10 HIV and AIDS	
Table 6.25 Deaths from HIV/AIDS	112
Table 6.26 Incidence of AIDS	112
Table 6.27 Global deaths from HIV/AIDS	112
6.11 Obesity	
Table 6.28 Obese males	114
Table 6.29 Obese females	114
Table 6.30 Overweight males	114
Table 6.31 Overweight females	114
6.12 Tobacco	
Table 6.32 Male daily smokers	116
Table 6.33 Female daily smokers	116
Table 6.34 Tobacco consumption	116
6.13 Global perspectives on life expectancy	
Table 6.35 Global life expectancy	118
Table 6.36 Global infant mortality	118

Table 6.37 Access to improved drinking water	118
Table 6.38 Doctors – a global perspective	118
7 Education	
7.1 Educational attainment	
Table 7.1 Educational attainment of adult population	120
Table 7.2 Labour market entrants with tertiary qualifications	120
Figure 7.1 Male and female adults with upper secondary education	120
Figure 7.2 Male and female adults with tertiary education	120
7.2 Expenditure on education	
Table 7.3 Total education spending	122
Table 7.4 Changes in real expenditure per student	122
Table 7.5 Student-staff ratios	122
Table 7.6 Teachers' salaries	122
7.3 Public and private spending on education	
Table 7.7 Public expenditure on education	124
Table 7.8 Public and private shares of education expenditure	124
Table 7.9 Public share of tertiary education expenditure	124
Table 7.10 Public expenditure on public and private education institutions	124
7.4 Universities	
Table 7.11 Total spending on tertiary education	126
Table 7.12 Public expenditure on tertiary education	126
Table 7.13 Education levels and earnings inequality	126
Table 7.14 International students in tertiary institutions	126
7.5 Students' reading literacy	
Table 7.15 Students' reading literacy	128
Figure 7.3 Reading proficiency levels	128
7.6 Students' mathematical and scientific literacy	
Table 7.16 Students' maths literacy	130
Table 7.17 Students' science literacy	130
Figure 7.4 Science proficiency levels	130
7.7 Excellence and equity	
Table 7.18 Range of literacy performance	132
Table 7.19 Gender differences	132
Table 7.20 Socio-cultural inequalities and literacy standards	132
7.8 Schools and learning environments	
Table 7.21 Student time studying subjects at school	134
Table 7.22 Student time studying lessons outside school	134

Table 7.23 Student time spent studying subjects by self	134
Table 7.24 Variance in performance	134
8 Inequality and social welfare	
8.1 Income inequality	
Table 8.1 Income inequality	136
Table 8.2 Trends in real household income	136
8.2 Rich and poor	
Table 8.3 Income levels and structure	138
Table 8.4 Income shares	138
Table 8.5 The richest 1%	138
8.3 Poverty	
Table 8.6 Poverty	140
Table 8.7 Persistent poverty	140
Table 8.8 Poverty and material deprivation	140
8.4 Social expenditure and redistribution	
Table 8.9 Social expenditure	142
Table 8.10 Net social expenditure	142
Table 8.11 Level of unemployment benefits	142
Table 8.12 Redistributive effect of public policies	142
8.5 Old age poverty and pensions	
Table 8.13 Old age poverty	144
Table 8.14 Cost of old age pensions	144
Table 8.15 Level of old age pensions	144
8.6 Child poverty and single parents	
Table 8.16 Child poverty	146
Table 8.17 Households, employment and child poverty	146
Table 8.18 Poverty risk of jobless single parents	146
9 International relations	
9.1 Military spending	
Table 9.1 Military spending	148
Table 9.2 Size of armed forces	148
Table 9.3 Global arms spending and trade	148
9.2 Foreign aid	
Table 9.4 Foreign aid	150
Table 9.5 Targeting of foreign aid	150
Table 9.6 Commitment to development aid	150
Table 9.7 Comparative spending on arms and aid	150

10 Environment	
10.1 Biodiversity	
Table 10.1 Mammals	152
Table 10.2 Birds	152
Table 10.3 Reptiles	152
Table 10.4 Protected areas	152
10.2 Global warming	
Table 10.5 Global greenhouse gas emissions	154
10.3 Greenhouse gas emissions	
Table 10.6 Changes in total greenhouse gas emissions	156
Table 10.7 Greenhouse gas emissions	156
10.4 Energy	
Table 10.8 Energy usage per person	158
Table 10.9 Means of electricity generation	158
10.5 Waste, recycling and pollution control	
Table 10.10 Spending on pollution control	160
Table 10.11 Generation of waste	160
Table 10.12 Glass recycling	160
Table 10.13 Paper recycling	160
10.6 Ecological footprint	
Table 10.14 Ecological footprint	162
11 Science and technology	
11.1 Investment in knowledge	
Table 11.1 Investment in knowledge	164
Table 11.2 Research and development	164
Table 11.3 Researchers	164
11.2 Business research and development	
Table 11.4 Business investment in R&D	166
Table 11.5 Researchers in business	166
Table 11.6 Sectors of business R&D	166
Table 11.7 Big and small business R&D	166
11.3 Outputs – patents, publications, products	
Table 11.8 Patents	168
Table 11.9 Scientific articles	168
Table 11.10 Product innovations	168
12 Telecommunications and computing	
12.1 Personal computers, mobile phones and internet	
Table 12.1 Personal computers	170

Table 12.2 Mobile telephones	170
Table 12.3 Internet users	170
12.2 The telecommunications market	
Table 12.4 Telecommunications revenue	172
Table 12.5 Telecommunications revenue per person	172
Table 12.6 Employment in ICT	172
Figure 12.1 Telephone charges	172
12.3 Mobile telephony	
Table 12.7 Share of mobile phones in telecommunications revenue	174
Table 12.8 Cellular mobile phone revenue per subscriber	174
Table 12.9 Share of pre-paids in mobile phone subscriptions	174
Table 12.10 Competitive structure of mobile telephony	174
12.4 The internet	
Table 12.11 Internet hosts	176
Table 12.12 Secure servers	176
Table 12.13 Business use of the internet	176
Table 12.14 Dial-up and broadband internet	176
12.5 Broadband – access, speed, costs	
Table 12.15 Broadband penetration	178
Table 12.16 Broadband speed	178
Table 12.17 Data caps on broadband subscribers	178
Table 12.18 Broadband costs	178
13 Media	
13.1 Newspapers	
Table 13.1 Newspaper circulation	180
Table 13.2 Number of newspapers	180
Table 13.3 Newspaper revenue	180
13.2 Advertising	
Table 13.4 Advertising	182
Table 13.5 Advertising expenditure shares	182
13.3 Television	
Table 13.6 Television’s institutional basis	184
Table 13.7 Number of channels available	184
Table 13.8 Average television viewing hours	184
13.4 Public broadcasting	
Table 13.9 Audience share of public service television	186
Table 13.10 Public broadcasters’ funding	186

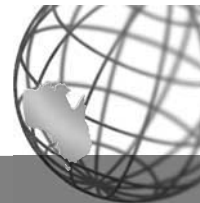
13.5 New media	
Table 13.11 Distribution platforms of television	188
Table 13.12 Digital terrestrial television transition	188
13.6 Cinema	
Table 13.13 Cinema attendance	190
Table 13.14 National origin of films	190
14 Family	
14.1 Marriage	
Table 14.1 Age at first marriage	192
Table 14.2 Divorce	192
Table 14.3 Duration of marriage at divorce	192
14.2 Children	
Table 14.4 Mother's age at birth of first child	194
Table 14.5 Births outside marriage	194
Table 14.6 Births to adolescent women	194
Table 14.7 Abortions	194
14.3 Families and households	
Table 14.8 Household size	196
Table 14.9 Households and relationships	196
Table 14.10 Child households and sole-parent families	196
14.4 Mothers and employment	
Table 14.11 Income of different family types	198
Table 14.12 Women's employment and motherhood	198
Table 14.13 Mothers and part-time work	198
14.5 Child care and early education	
Table 14.14 Children in child care and pre-school	200
Table 14.15 Public expenditure on child care and pre-school	200
Table 14.16 Child care fees	200
Table 14.17 Net costs of attending child care	200
14.6 Family policies and maternity leave	
Table 14.18 Public spending on family benefits	202
Table 14.19 Maternity leave	202
Table 14.20 Spending on maternity and parental leave payments	202
15 Lifestyles and consumption	
15.1 Housing	
Table 15.1 Home ownership	204

Table 15.2 Housing tenure	204
Table 15.3 Changes in real house prices	204
Table 15.4 Housing affordability	204
15.2 Food	
Table 15.5 Food	206
Table 15.6 Fat	206
Table 15.7 Proteins	206
Table 15.8 Fruit and vegetables	206
15.3 Alcohol	
Table 15.9 Alcohol consumption	208
Table 15.10 Types of alcoholic beverages consumed	208
15.4 National transport patterns	
Table 15.11 Cars	210
Table 15.12 Price of petrol	210
Table 15.13 Travel by train	210
Table 15.14 Travel by car	210
15.5 Urban mobility and transport	
Table 15.15 City size and density	212
Table 15.16 Modes of daily transport	212
Table 15.17 Car travel in cities	212
Table 15.18 Public transport availability	212
16 Crime and social problems	
16.1 Crime rates	
Table 16.1 Victims of crime	214
Table 16.2 Total official crime rate	214
16.2 Homicide and violent crime	
Table 16.3 Homicides	216
Table 16.4 Gun ownership	216
Table 16.5 Robbery with weapons	216
Table 16.6 Assaults	216
16.3 Policing	
Table 16.7 Number of police	218
Table 16.8 Reporting crime to the police	218
Table 16.9 Satisfaction with police response	218
Table 16.10 Perceptions of police performance	218
16.4 Victim support and public fears	
Table 16.11 Public fear of burglary	220
Table 16.12 Public feeling of safety	220

Table 16.13 Support for victims	220
16.5 Imprisonment and execution	
Table 16.14 Imprisonment rates	222
Table 16.15 Capital punishment	222
16.6 Suicide	
Table 16.16 Suicide	224
Figure 16.1 Male suicide rates	224
Figure 16.2 Female suicide rates	224
Figure 16.3 Suicides and age groups	224
16.7 Car accidents	
Table 16.17 Motor vehicle deaths	226
Table 16.18 Injuries from road traffic accidents	226
16.8 Corruption	
Table 16.19 Corruption Perceptions Index	228
Table 16.20 Bribery Payers' Index	228
17 The search for scoreboards	
17.1 Human Development Index	
Table 17.1 Human Development Index (HDI)	230
Table 17.2 Globally lowest ranking countries on HDI	230
Table 17.3 Greatest improvement in HDI	230
Table 17.4 Worst deterioration in HDI	230
17.2 Gender development and empowerment	
Table 17.5 Gender Development Index (GDI)	232
Table 17.6 Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)	232
Table 17.7 Difference in GDI and HDI ranks	232
Table 17.8 Global lowest scores on gender empowerment	232
17.3 Global competitiveness and economic freedom	
Table 17.9 Global Competitiveness Index	234
Table 17.10 Economic freedom	234
17.4 Most liveable cities	
Table 17.11 Most liveable city (1)	236
Table 17.12 Most liveable city (2)	236
17.5 Globalisation	
Table 17.13 Globalisation (1)	238
Table 17.14 Globalisation (2)	238
Table 17.15 Globalisation (3)	238

18 The Howard impact

Table 18.1 Economic growth, 1950–1973	241
Table 18.2 The <i>Economist's</i> house-price indicators	249
Table 18.3 Public expenditure on tertiary education	251
Figure 18.1 Economic growth	241
Figure 18.2 Unemployment	241
Figure 18.3 Inflation	243
Figure 18.4 Long-term interest rates	243
Figure 18.5 Taxation	243
Figure 18.6 Government spending	245
Figure 18.7 Budget surpluses and deficits	245
Figure 18.8 Government debt	245
Figure 18.9 Multi-factor productivity increases	247
Figure 18.10 Current account balance	247
Figure 18.11 Household debt	249
Figure 18.12 Public share of education expenditure	251
Figure 18.13 Public share of tertiary education expenditure	251
Figure 18.14 Investment in knowledge	251



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The aims and strategy of this second edition are essentially the same as the first. However, several changes have been made, a few due to necessity because of the unavailability of recent data, but mainly through our efforts to improve the book and its usefulness. Not only have we tried to update all chapters, but we have often extended and restructured our efforts to try to bring more enlightening information and such analysis.

We have added two new chapters. The first, The search for scoreboards, concentrates on some of the ambitious attempts to produce more encompassing composite indicators. The last chapter, The Howard impact, brings together data and analysis on the comparative performance of the Howard Government.

Some readers of the first edition wanted more graphs as well as tables, while others

said they wanted comparisons with other countries as well as the 18 advanced democracies. While the basic format and approach of the book have remained the same, we have accommodated these suggestions to a limited extent. In addition to the 329 tables in the book, there are also now 31 graphs, and while the bulk of the tables still concentrate on the 18 democracies, 19 tables now present global data.

Many of the tables and sections from the first edition which are not included in this edition can be found at the website Australia Policy Online: www.apo.org.au. In addition, that website contains the detailed tabular data behind the graphs in the book, plus some other discussions of our findings. Any errata that come to light will also be noted there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For this edition, we are again pleased to be working with Cambridge University Press, and thank especially Kim Armitage, Susan Hanley and Jodie Howell.

Again we have drawn extensively on the resources of Sydney University's Fisher Library. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the professionalism and assistance of several researchers in the organisations from whose data we have drawn, especially Max Ladique, Michael di Looper and Taylor Reynolds at the OECD and of Sue Thomson at ACER.

Rod gratefully acknowledges the excellent research assistance of Erin Kelly. Erin's work on this book was made possible through a collaborative ARC grant to the website Australia Policy Online, directed by the Institute of Social Research at Swinburne University of Technology. We thank the ARC and the APO team at Swinburne, especially Peter Browne.

Our deepest acknowledgements are unrevised. Once again, we dedicate this book to our families with love and thanks – to Kathryn, Paul and Ruth and to Claudia, Sandy and Katie.

READING THE TABLES

Rankings. When tables are not presented in alphabetical order, they are ordered according to one of the data columns in the table to facilitate comprehension. Most often this is according to the final column because this represents data for the most recent year. More occasionally, it is by the first date column.

Mean. All means given in the tables are unweighted arithmetic means. That is, all 18 countries contribute equally to calculating the mean, and it takes no account of the differing sizes of countries. Because our central purpose is comparison, this is the appropriate measure.

Mean D18. The term ‘Mean D18’ is used, especially in graphs, to designate the mean of the 18 selected democracies that we are comparing. Often the Australian figure is compared with the D18 mean, and then it should be remem-

bered that Australia contributed 1/18 to the D18 value. We always simply use the expression ‘D18’ even when there is data missing for one or two countries.

Germany. All 18 countries have had fairly stable boundaries over the last half century or more except for Germany. West and East Germany formally re-united on 3 October 1990. At that time, West Germany’s population was 62 million and East Germany’s was 16 million. As is the custom in most international statistics, in this book, unless otherwise indicated, figures for Germany up until 1990 are for West Germany and figures after 1990 are for the whole of Germany.

.. Two dots in a table indicates missing data.
NA indicates that data would not be applicable for that country for that category.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	IEA	International Energy Agency
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	ILO	International Labour Organisation, Geneva
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service	IMF	International Monetary Fund
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	IT	information technology
ANU	Australian National University	LAY	latest available year
ATM	automatic teller machine	LIC	low-income country
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation	LIS	Luxembourg Income Study
BMI	Body Mass Index	LLCD	least developed countries
BPI	Bribe Payers' Index	MFP	multi-factor productivity
CAT	computer assisted technology	MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency	NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
DCI	Christian Democratic Party	ODA	Official Development Assistance
ECEC	early childhood education and care	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EFTPOS	electronic funds transfer at point of sale	OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
EIRO	European Industrial Relations Observatory	PAC	pollution abatement and control
EU	European Union	PBS	Public Broadcasting Service
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	PC	personal computer
FDI	foreign direct investment	PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	PPP	purchasing power parity
GDI	Gender Development Index	PR	proportional representation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PYLL	Potential Years of Life Lost
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure	R&D	research and development
GNI	Gross National Income	SBS	Special Broadcasting Service
GNP	Gross National Product	SIPRI	Stockholm Institute for Peace Research Incorporated
GST	goods and services tax	SME	small- and medium-sized enterprise
HDI	Human Development Index	TI	Transparency International
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office	UN	United Nations
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICVS	International Crime Victims Survey	WHO	World Health Organization
		WTO	World Trade Organization