

Original survey information, *Australia 1985*

<b>Generic information</b>	
Name of survey	1986 Income Distribution Survey (IDS).
Responsible institution	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">http://www.abs.gov.au</a>
Main objective	The principal objective is to facilitate the analysis and monitoring of information on incomes, working arrangements, housing costs and housing amenities.
Structure of data source	Cross-sectional household survey data
Frequency	Every two years
Survey year / Wave	1985-1986 survey
Coverage	Individuals and families resident in private dwellings throughout Australia, excluding 1) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated populations, 2) overseas residents in Australia, 3) members of non-Australian defence forces. The following groups were asked a limited range of questions : 4) residents of institutions such as hospitals and sanatoria, and inmates of gaols, reformatories, boarding schools etc. , 5) people migrating to Australia after 30 June 1986.
<b>Sampling</b>	
Sampling procedure	The survey was conducted throughout Australia on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covered about one sixth of one per cent of the population of Australia. Sampling probabilities were based on population estimates from the census and other data sources. The sampling fraction varied across the different states and territories of Australia to permit useful estimates for the smaller states.
Sample size	7,563 households
<b>Collection</b>	
Collection period	Primarily from 15 September to 5 December 1986. A second phase of fieldwork (so-called call-backs) was conducted in February and March 1987 to collect further information from self-employed people.
Collection mode	Personal interview.
Description of instruments	There is one personal questionnaire for all persons aged 15 and over, and which collects data on income and housing. Information about personal and household characteristics, including part of the labour force information, is collected as part of the LFS, and then later combined with the income, housing and other info from the IDS interview.
<b>Definitions</b>	
Household	A household is defined as a group of related or unrelated people who usually live in the same dwelling and make common provision for food and other essentials of living; or a lone person who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person. Lodgers who receive accommodation only (not meals) are treated as a separate household. Boarders who receive accommodation and meals, are treated as part of the household.
Household head	The reference person for each household is chosen by applying, to all household members aged 15 and over, the selection criteria below, in the order listed, until a single appropriate reference person is identified: (1) the person with the highest tenure when ranked as follows: owner without a mortgage, owner with a mortgage, renter, other tenure; (2) one of the partners in a registered or de facto marriage, with dependent children; (3) one of the partners in a registered or de facto marriage, without dependent children; (4) a lone parent with dependent children; (5) the person with the highest income; (6) the eldest person.
<b>Data quality aspects</b>	
Non-response error	The survey was conducted under the Census and Statistics Act, which mandates participation. The response rate was 94.1%
Item non-response / imputation	Data were imputed for missing values.
Weighting	Final weights are calculated through an iterative procedure in which initial weights (inverse of the probability of selection) are adjusted by a calibration process to ensure that survey estimates conform to independently estimated benchmarks (numbers of individuals who were at least 15 years old, numbers of children who were under 15 year old, numbers of households, and the value of government benefit cash transfers). Weights inflate to the total population.
<b>Labour market information</b>	
Eligibility	All persons aged 15 years and over
Employment	Persons are considered employed if, during the week before the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they worked one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (includes employees, employers and own account workers)</li> <li>- they worked one hour or more, without pay, in a family business or on a family farm</li> <li>- had a job, business or farm but was not at work because of holidays, sickness or other reason.</li> </ul>
<b>Income</b>	
Reference period	Income was collected for two reference periods, the financial year preceding the date of interview (In Australia the financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year) and a much shorter one centered around interview time (current income).
Unit of time	Income was collected using a number of different reporting periods, such as the last financial year for own business and property income, and the usual payment for a period close to time of interview for wages and salaries. All amounts disseminated in the survey were recalculated into weekly amounts and provided in this form to LIS.
Unit of collection	Individual level income information was collected for all individuals who are at least 15 years old.
Taxes and contributions	The gross income was collected. Personal income tax liability for the 1985-86 year was imputed.
Restrictions	The full set of income variables were perturbed by the data provider.
<b>Additional remarks</b>	
Additional remarks	Some variables have had values ranged, collapsed or top coded. <i>LIS note:</i> LIS was provided a restricted version of basic CURF (Confidentialized Unit Record Files).

Source: [1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1986 Income Distribution Survey Australia, Preliminary - Results Catalogue No. 6545.0