

# Counting on the ABS

By Gai Mooney

Subject teachers count on teacher-librarians to direct them to appropriate resources for use in their classrooms. Teacher-librarians can count on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to provide data that is useful in many of those

classrooms. ABS publications are now available free on the web ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)) and are easier than ever to access.

Figure 1 shows some of the best ways to search the ABS website.

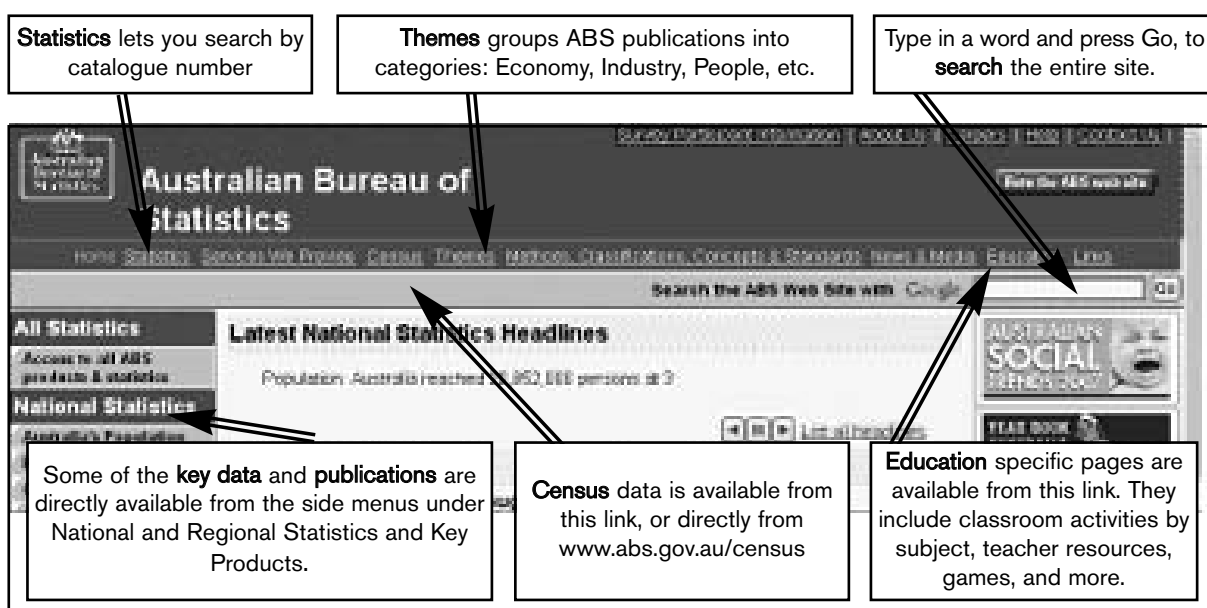


Figure 1: Accessing data from the ABS home page

When you select a publication it opens on the Summary page. You must click on the Details tab to access the data itself (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Accessing an ABS publication

Table 1 provides a summary of some ABS publications, broken down by subject, that could be useful for teachers and students.

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**Table 1: A selection of ABS information available for use in secondary schools.**

Subject	What's available	Useful ABS publications
Commerce and Economics	ABS produces the full range of economic indicators: labour market statistics, measures of inflation, the balance of payments, national accounts, international trade, finance, etc	Australian Economic Indicators ABS cat. no. 1350.0; Australian Labour Market Statistics, ABS cat. no. 6105.0 Housing Finance Australia, ABS cat. no. 5609.0
SOSE, geography, international studies, sociology	The Census of Population and Housing measures the number, distribution and key characteristics of people and dwellings in Australia. This data is now available in new, easy to use formats (QuickStats, MapStats and Census Tables) that allow you to quickly find key data by location and topic.	Go to <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/census">www.abs.gov.au/census</a>  Regional Population Growth, Australia, (cat. no. 3218.0)
Geography	Students who have access to mapping software can produce their own customised maps of selected characteristics and compare areas - a bonus for geography teachers.	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001) import into MapInfo or use Arctoolbox for Arcview 9.
Legal Studies	National statistics on crime and its consequences. These publications provide information enabling students to research and understand aspects of crime comparatively or over time, covering crime and safety, recorded crime, corrective services, criminal courts and prisoners.	Crime and Safety, Australia (cat. no. 4509.0) Recorded Crime, Victims, Australia (cat.no.4510.0) Corrective Services, Australia, (cat. no. 4512.0)
Environmental Studies	Topics include public attitudes and practices, the costs of environmental protection measures to governments, industry and households and the consumption of Australia's natural resources. There is even an online environmental terms glossary.	Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (cat. no. 4602.0) Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, (cat. no. 4613.0) Environment Expenditure Local Government, (cat. no. 4611.0)
The Arts	The ABS publishes information including public perceptions of the arts, government funding and arts infrastructure. This data can be used as source material across a wide variety of curricula.	Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, (cat. no. 4172.0)
Physical Education, Recreation and Health	The ABS provides statistics on attendance at sporting events, the characteristics of people participating in sporting and leisure activities, the most popular sports attended and the number of employees in the sport and recreation sector.	Sport and Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia (cat. no. 4156.0)

For further information or assistance please contact ABS Education Services, on Free Call 1800 623 273 or by email at [education@abs.gov.au](mailto:education@abs.gov.au).

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