

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JANUARY 1995

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the December 1994 issue are: population, labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials, engineering construction; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; and State accounts.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Trend gross State product for the ACT increased by 1.1 per cent in the September quarter to \$2,363 million; recording the second lowest rate of growth of all States and Territories. Growth over the year to September increased for the ACT by 5.2 per cent. This was below the national rate of 7.7 per cent. In original terms, the ACT's gross State product declined by 2.4 per cent from the previous quarter and 0.1 per cent from the September quarter 1993. This compares with national increases of 2.5 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively.
- The estimated resident population of ACT at 30 June 1994 was 300,900; an increase of 0.2 per cent from the previous quarter. The same level of growth was also reported for Australia. Natural increase in the ACT rose from the previous quarter by 6.8 per cent, while net migration fell in the corresponding quarter. In annual terms (not published in *Business Indicators*), the ACT experienced its first net migration loss in 13 years (-504).
- Trend unemployment rate for the ACT remained steady at 7.5 per cent for the last two consecutive months from November 1994. In contrast, the national trend unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 9.0 per cent in December 1994; the lowest rate since February 1994.
- Long-term unemployment in the ACT fell from 2,245 in October 1994 to 2,199 in November 1994; representing a decrease of 2.0 per cent. The proportion of total unemployment in the ACT, 22.2 per cent recorded an increase of 4.4 per cent in November 1994, compared to a decrease of 0.2 per cent nationally. However, from November 1993 the ACT reported a decrease of 4.1 per cent, above the national figure of 1.9 per cent.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments in the ACT fell by 2.0 per cent in October 1994. This was less than the 3.2 per cent fall recorded nationally. The original estimates for the finance of construction of dwellings and purchase of established dwellings both fell, 34.4 and 12.0 per cent respectively, with the purchase of new dwellings remaining steady.
- Trend for total dwelling units approved continued to rise in the ACT, showing an increase of 1.9 per cent in November 1994. The ACT and Victoria are the only two State/Territories to show increases in the number of dwelling units approved, with the ACT having the highest increase during this period.
- The price index of house building materials for the ACT in October 1994 remained below that of the weighted average of the six capital cities, at the index point of 152.2 compared to 155.8. Both the ACT and Australia increased by 0.3 per cent from September 1994.
- The value of engineering construction work done during the September quarter 1994 increased by 28.0 per cent to reach \$53.9 million. This represented the highest increase across all States/Territories.
- Trend estimates of total retail turnover in the ACT increased for the fifth consecutive month to \$177.2 million in November 1994. The main contributors to this increase were clothing and soft good retailing, and household goods retailing (not published in *Business Indicators*) with both showing a 1.6 per cent growth from October 1994. Department stores, and hospitality and services declined by 0.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively, in the same period, contrary to the national trend.

### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nives Marelic on Canberra (06) 207 0315 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

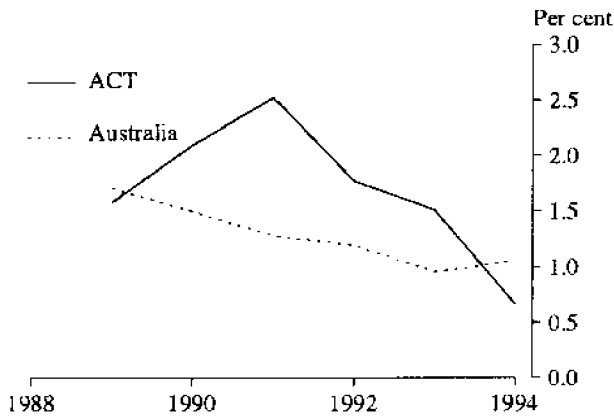
- In trend terms, the number of new motor vehicles registered for the ACT decreased by 1.6 per cent from the previous period, to 883 vehicles in November 1994. The ACT had the highest fall

compared to other States/Territories, with South Australia the only other State to show a decrease (0.5%). In the same period there was a national increase of 0.9 per cent.

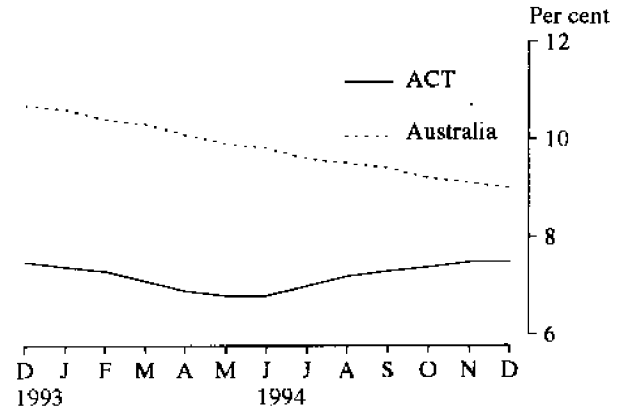
**Dalma Jacobs**  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

### SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

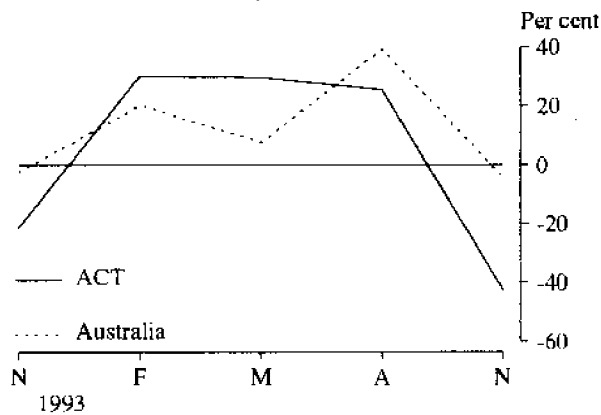
**POPULATION**  
Growth rate



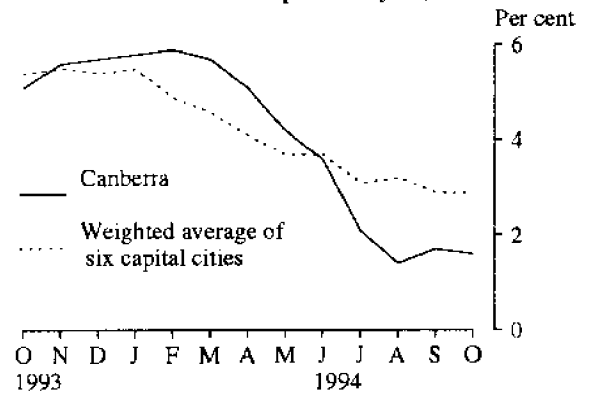
**LABOUR FORCE**  
Unemployment rate - trend



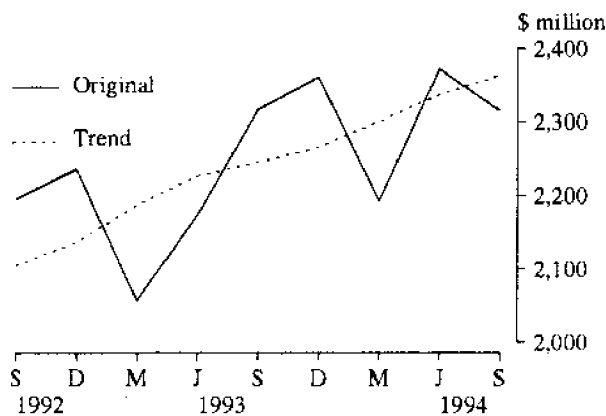
**JOB VACANCIES**  
Percentage change (quarterly)



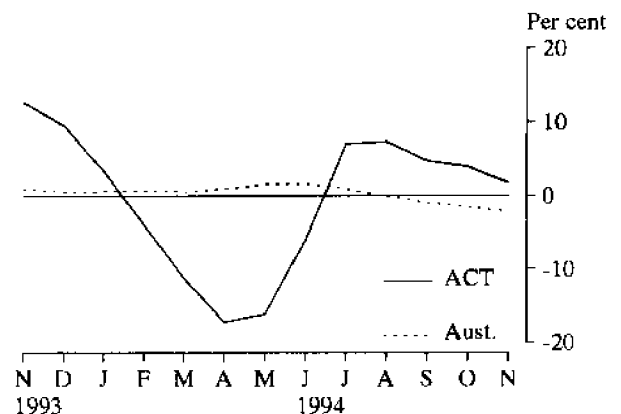
**HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS PRICE INDEX**  
Percentage change (from corresponding month of previous year)



**GROSS STATE PRODUCT**



**DWELLING UNITS APPROVED - TREND**  
Percentage change (from preceding month)



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1994/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1995  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE  
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<b>Short-term</b>		
Sept. 1993–Dec. 1993	1.1	3.6
Dec. 1993–Mar. 1994	0.1	–1.4
Mar. 1994–June 1994	1.6	1.9
June 1994–Sept. 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. 1994–Dec. 1994	3.8	2.3
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Sept. 1993–Sept. 1994	1.5	2.9
Dec. 1993–Dec. 1994	2.7	3.1
Mar. 1994–Mar. 1995	3.8	3.9
June 1994–June 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. 1994–Sept. 1995	2.3	4.1

**TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JANUARY 1995**

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION, June qtr 94	'000	300.9	0.2	0.7	17 843.3	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	876	6.8	5.8	35 358	1.2	3.2
Net migration	no.	-135	-350.0	-65.8	5 576	75.2	189.4
Total increase	no.	741	-15.2	71.1	40 934	-28.8	46.1
<b>LABOUR FORCE, December 94p</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	157.2	0.1	1.0	8 156.2	1.6	3.6
Unemployed	'000	12.2	23.2	1.7	807.6	5.7	-14.2
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	1.3	..	9.0	0.3	-1.7
Participation rate(a)	%	73.9	1.0	-0.2	63.9	1.1	0.2
Long-term unemployed (Nov. 94)	no.	2 199	-2.0	-21.2	281 562	0.9	-18.6
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Nov. 94)(a)	%	22.2	4.4	-4.1	36.8	-0.2	-1.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	155.1	1.0	1.2	8 053.8	0.2	3.5
Unemployed	'000	12.7	1.6	1.6	799.9	-1.0	-14.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.5	—	—	9.0	-0.1	-1.7
Participation rate(a)	%	73.2	—	-0.1	63.2	—	0.2
JOB VACANCIES, November qtr 94	'000	1.4	-41.7	27.3	66.0	-3.9	72.8
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, September 94</b>							
Working days lost	'000	—	—	-100.0	28.2	-24.6	-65.3
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Sept. 94)	no.	71	-10.1	373.3	75	-10.7	-61.9
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, October 94</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	8.2	-34.4	-14.6	598.3	-16.8	0.9
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	20.7	—	30.2	202.5	-6.1	22.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	47.0	-12.0	1.1	2 493.8	-10.4	-11.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	83.7	-11.3	-0.6	3 294.7	-11.4	-7.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	94.0	2.0	1.1	3 523.7	-8.6	-7.8
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	91.6	-2.0	-6.0	3 595.9	-3.2	-4.1
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, November 94</b>							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	178	-57.7	-24.6	15 909	2.0	-3.6
Value of new residential	\$m	16.5	-61.7	-28.6	1 450.1	7.6	8.4
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.4	-22.9	-15.6	222.3	-10.4	12.1
Value of non-residential	\$m	38.4	233.9	836.6	730.6	-17.5	8.6
Value of total building	\$m	60.3	2.1	80.0	2 403.0	-3.2	8.8
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	315	1.9	-19.6	15 957	-2.1	2.7
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94</b>							
New houses	no.	360	-3.0	-37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	-33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	-68.3	-22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	-42.7	-21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index, Se	(00.0)	132.3	1.1	-0.8	112.6	1.5	4.8

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JANUARY 1995 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, September qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		112.3	0.8	2.3	110.4	0.8	1.5
Housing		99.7	0.4	-0.6	94.9	0.5	—
Transportation		119.6	1.5	2.3	117.0	1.6	3.4
All groups		112.6	0.5	1.4	111.9	0.6	1.9
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, August qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	706.80	1.0	5.5	631.80	1.1	2.2
Females	\$	500.70	0.9	6.0	421.40	-0.3	2.9
Total persons	\$	601.20	-0.2	5.4	536.20	0.8	3.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	713.60	0.2	5.3	633.80	1.0	2.5
Females	\$	506.00	2.2	5.5	426.30	1.4	4.0
Total persons	\$	606.60	0.8	4.8	539.90	1.4	3.4
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, November 94</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	69.0	-1.7	4.7	3 614.8	-0.4	8.0
Department stores	\$m	24.0	3.4	-0.8	1 000.8	7.1	3.2
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.3	7.8	9.0	1 676.8	0.4	11.4
All other retailing	\$m	59.1	-0.5	4.0	3 257.7	5.4	5.7
Total	\$m	182.4	0.8	4.4	9 550.1	2.4	7.2
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	68.4	1.0	5.4	3 617.0	0.5	7.8
Department stores	\$m	23.3	-0.4	2.2	933.8	-0.1	4.8
Hospitality and services	\$m	272	-1.1	—	1 636.4	0.7	12.3
All other retailing	\$m	58.3	1.0	3.0	3 100.8	0.1	6.1
Total	\$m	177.2	0.5	3.3	9 288.0	0.4	7.7
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	199.2	-2.6	6.5	8 196.9	-1.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.2	-1.7	8.2	674.5	-4.2	10.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.7	—	9.0	580.7	-0.6	8.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	207.0	-2.8	14.7	8 558.5	0.5	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.3	-5.5	8.8	714.2	-0.1	10.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.8	-3.7	9.7	611.9	2.9	8.5
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	209.5	-0.1	12.6	8 597.3	1.0	7.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-1.1	9.3	720.1	1.2	11.5
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.1	—	5.9	609.3	2.6	8.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, November 94</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 006	11.8	-0.9	55 442	2.0	10.6
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	867	-8.4	-7.5	51 948	-6.1	7.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	883	-1.6	-13.3	52 618	0.9	13.3
<b>INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94</b>							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS, September qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 315	2.4	-0.1	111 038	2.5	7.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 035	-1.8	6.6	101 834	1.3	8.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 343	3.2	2.8	69 191	4.1	7.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	339	5.9	31.9	18 709	2.3	18.8
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 363	1.1	5.2	112 075	2.2	7.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 997	-0.3	2.8	101 426	1.6	7.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	0.1	1.7	68 718	1.5	6.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	326	7.9	16.8	18 758	5.2	19.4

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Dec. 94p	2 697.4	1 991.4	1 467.2	645.9	812.2	194.9	84.9	155.1	8 053.8
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Dec. 94p	8.7	9.9	8.7	10.2	7.5	11.1	7.2	7.5	9.0
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Nov. 94	4 589	3 101	4 421	1 055	2 149	285	131	178	15 909
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Nov. 94	4 789	2 932	4 232	971	2 090	284	167	315	15 957
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Nov. 94	239.1	173.8	148.7	30.2	68.0	18.1	14.3	38.4	730.6
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Nov. 94	786.3	512.4	543.3	118.3	253.6	42.7	34.0	60.3	2 350.8
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	993.2	540.4	777.4	156.1	330.2	35.3	63.1	53.9	2 949.6
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Aug. qtr 94	644.20	619.90	585.60	603.60	619.90	591.80	637.00	720.20	623.20
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Nov. 94	3 256.8	2 141.9	1 722.1	698.8	956.5	228.7	105.8	177.2	9 288.0
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	June qtr 94	2 891.8	1 356.3	2 342.9	472.0	791.0	267.9	266.0	209.5	8 597.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Nov. 94	19 166	12 181	9 789	3 343	5 438	1 251	567	883	52 618
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>											
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
Food		Sept. qtr 94	110.2	108.6	110.7	114.5	111.6	113.9	112.8	112.3	110.4
Housing		Sept. qtr 94	96.8	92.7	101.1	92.4	88.5	94.8	105.3	99.7	94.9
Transportation		Sept. qtr 94	115.3	118.4	115.8	119.6	117.9	113.9	114.9	119.6	117.0
All Groups		Sept. qtr 94	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sept. qtr 94	163.0	154.0	145.0	125.0	139.0	160.0	170.0	165.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	1 257.0	1 111.0	1 147.0	1 180.0	1 057.0	1 075.0	1 287.0	1 105.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	68.4	68.3	60.5	69.7	69.8	74.7	73.3	71.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Dec. 94p	0.3	—	0.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Dec. 94p	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2	—	-0.1
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Nov. 94	-0.4	-2.8	5.5	31.2	14.4	-13.6	-24.7	-57.7	2.0
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Nov. 94	-4.1	0.3	-3.3	-1.0	-1.4	-3.4	—	1.9	-2.1
Value of non-residential building approved	Nov. 94	14.2	-50.0	-30.4	13.1	13.0	94.6	88.2	233.9	-17.5
Value of all buildings approved	Nov. 94	6.1	-27.1	-8.4	24.7	15.2	9.5	17.2	-2.1	-5.3
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 94	-20.1	-24.2	2.5	21.8	-29.8	-50.2	9.5	28.0	-17.0
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Aug. qtr 94	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.1
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Nov. 94	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	-0.5	1.9	0.5	0.4
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	June qtr 94	0.4	1.8	0.8	-0.1	3.6	3.0	-2.9	-0.1	1.0
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Nov. 94	0.7	1.1	1.6	-0.5	1.1	0.6	1.6	1.6	0.9
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>										
Food	Sept. qtr 94	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	-0.3	0.8	0.8
Housing	Sept. qtr 94	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5
Transportation	Sept. qtr 94	2.3	0.8	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.6
All Groups	Sept. qtr 94	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	1.9	1.9	4.1	1.0	4.5	—	3.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	-1.8	0.7	0.7	-0.8	12.1	3.9	1.2	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sept. qtr 94	-2.0	0.8	-0.1	1.4	0.8	-2.0	3.3	3.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sept. qtr 94	-6.8	3.7	-11.1	-1.2	-1.6	-1.5	—	-9.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	-8.1	—	4.1	-4.8	16.2	-9.1	4.9	15.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3	16.7	2.5	18.6	1.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. qtr 94	1.7	—	—	0.6	-2.5	-1.0	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	-0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Sept. qtr 94	1.0	1.3	-0.5	0.1	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

