

## Australian Capital Territory

CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 21 JULY 1995

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JULY 1995

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the June 1995 issue are: business expectation; labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials; retail turnover; hotels, motels and guest house accommodation; new motor vehicle registrations; and State accounts.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Businesses in the ACT expect a short-term growth of 0.8 per cent in the sales of goods and services for the September quarter 1995. This follows on from an anticipated strong growth of 5.2 per cent in the previous quarter. The expected national growth, during the September quarter 1995, was 1.3 per cent. In the medium term (June quarter 1995–June quarter 1996), a negative growth of 0.8 per cent is expected for the ACT, which is also below that of the national expectation of 2.3 per cent.
- In May 1995, long-term unemployment in the ACT increased significantly, up 17.0 per cent from 2,586 to 3,026. This compares to a national increase in long-term employment of only 0.8 per cent for the same period. The proportion of long-term unemployed in the ACT was 24.9 per cent, up 2.8 percentage points on the previous month. The national proportion of long-term unemployment was 32.7 per cent.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments financed in the ACT continued to decline. The value of ACT financed housing commitments for April 1995 was \$62.3 million; a decrease of 7.0 per cent from the previous month. Seasonally adjusted, the value of commitments decreased by 15.1 per cent to \$58.7 million. The national trend recorded a 1.9 per cent decrease for the same period.
- The trend for the total number of ACT dwelling units approved in May 1995 was 171; a decrease of 3.4 per cent from the previous month. It represents the lowest monthly fall since November 1994 (2.7%), after 4 consecutive months of significant falls (between 8.6% to 9.8% from January to April 1995). The original estimates for the value of approvals for new residential buildings and residential alterations and additions rose to \$22.0 million (32.5%) and \$4.6 million (4.5%), respectively, while the value of non-residential buildings decreased to \$16.7 million (42.8%).
- In May 1995, ACT retail turnover trend estimates increased 0.5 per cent to \$183.8 million. This increase was the second lowest recorded growth across all States/Territories. Hospitality and services industry contributed 1.0 per cent to the overall turnover for the ACT. Food retailing and Clothing and soft good retailing industries (not published in *ACT Business Indicators*) both followed with a 0.8 per cent contribution to ACT turnover.
- The trend in room nights occupied in hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities decreased by 1.5 per cent in the December quarter 1994, to reach 205,800 room nights occupied in the ACT. This was an increase of 0.7 per cent from December quarter 1993. Takings from accommodation at current prices fell marginally by 1.1 per cent in trend terms, while takings from accommodation at average 1989–90 prices fell by 4.4 per cent from the previous quarter. The equivalent national trend estimates showed a 4.0 per cent rise, at current prices, and 0.4 per cent rise, at average 1989–90 prices for the December quarter 1994. The number of room nights occupied nationally increased by 2.2 per cent to reach 8,840,500 nights.
- In trend terms, 1,090 new motor vehicles were registered in May 1995 for the ACT; reaching a peak in the number of new motor vehicles registered since September 1989 (1,094). In May 1995, a rise of 1.6 per cent was recorded from the previous month. However, this falls below the national increase of 1.9 per cent.
- Trend gross State product at average 1989–90 prices for the ACT increased by 0.8 per cent in the March quarter 1995 to \$2,106 million. The ACT reached a growth level of 3.9 per cent from March quarter 1994, which exceeded the growth in the State final demand of 0.8 per cent over the corresponding four quarters. Of all the States and Territories, the ACT had the smallest growth in State final demand. The private final consumption expenditure at average 1989–90 prices (not published in *ACT Business Indicators*) was the major contributor to this growth for the ACT, increasing by 0.7 per cent.

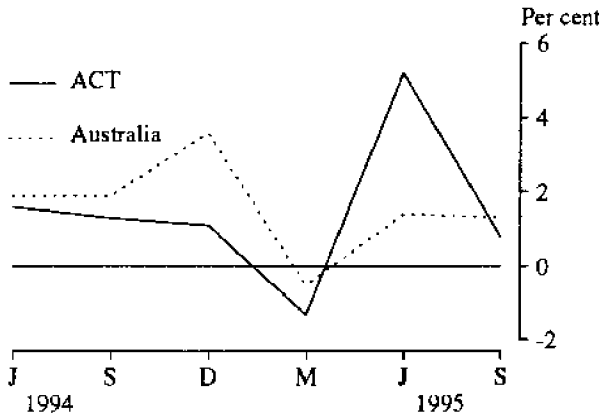
**Dalma Jacobs**  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

#### INQUIRIES

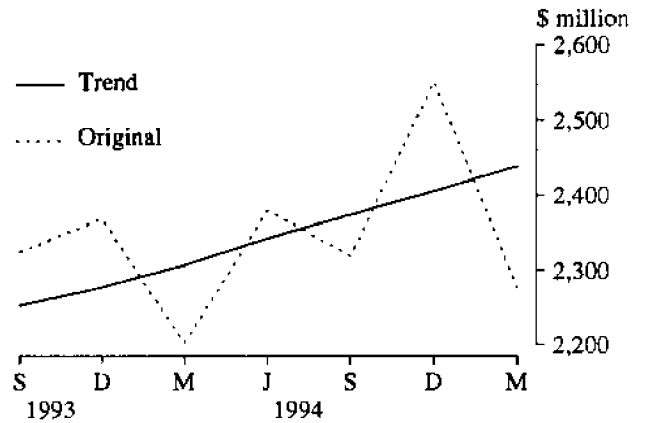
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nives Marelic on Canberra (06) 207 0315 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06)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

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

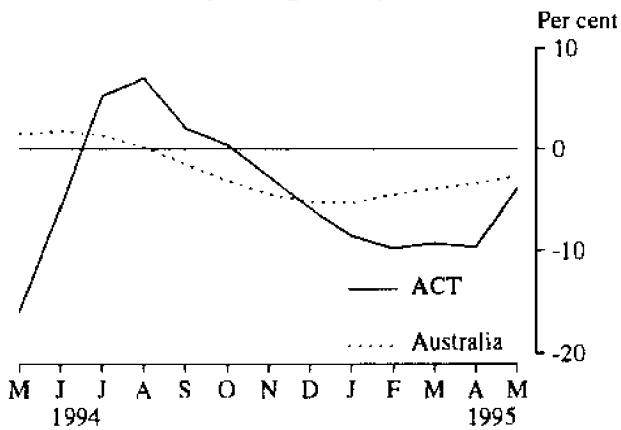
**EXPECTED SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES**  
Expected change from previous quarter



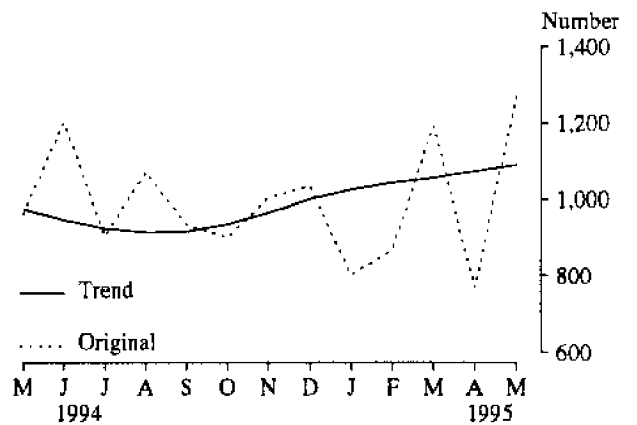
**GROSS STATE PRODUCT**



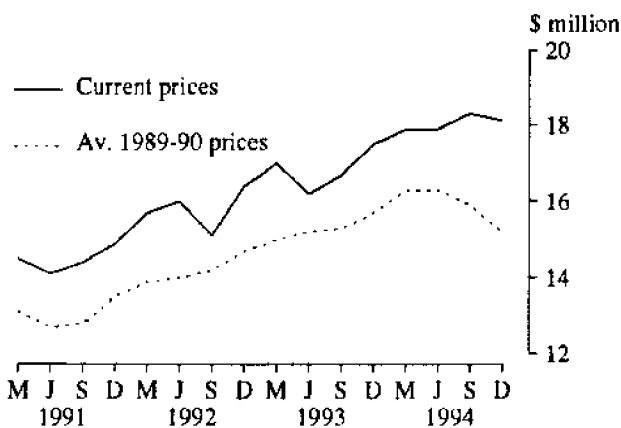
**DWELLING UNITS APPROVED - TREND**  
Percentage change from previous month



**NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS**



**TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION - TREND**



**RETAIL TURNOVER - TREND**  
Percentage change from previous month

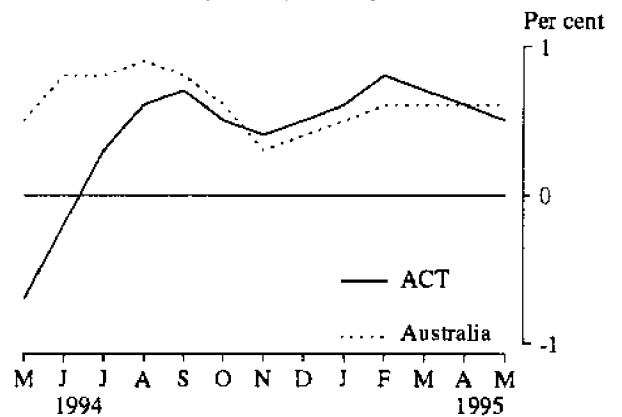


TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, SEPTEMBER  
QUARTER 1995/JUNE QUARTER 1996  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE  
(per cent)

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Short-term		
June qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1994	1.1	3.6
Dec. qtr 1994–Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Mar. qtr 1995–June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4
June qtr 1995–Sept. qtr 1995	0.8	1.3
Medium-term		
June qtr 1994–June qtr 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1995	1.5	2.9
Dec. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3
Mar. qtr 1995–Mar. qtr 1996	3.0	3.0
June qtr 1995–June qtr 1996	-0.8	2.3

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JULY 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, December qtr 94	'000	301.7	0.1	0.8	17 938.5	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	813	13.9	4.9	33 042	16.3	0.4
Net migration	no.	-615	439.5	17.6	8 798	-64.8	113.4
Total increase	no.	198	-67.0	-21.4	41 840	-21.7	13.0
<b>LABOUR FORCE, June 95p</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	157.0	1.7	2.3	8 273.6	0.5	4.8
Unemployed	'000	10.8	-11.5	3.8	724.8	-3.8	-13.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.4	-0.9	0.1	8.1	-0.3	-1.5
Participation rate(a)	%	72.8	0.4	0.9	63.7	—	1.0
Long-term unemployed (May. 95)	no.	3 026	17.0	-13.1	246 387	0.8	-20.7
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (May)(a)	%	24.9	2.8	-7.0	32.7	-0.2	-3.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	155.1	0.3	0.9	8 255.5	0.3	4.5
Unemployed	'000	12.1	0.8	6.1	751.4	-0.8	-12.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	—	0.3	8.3	-0.1	-1.5
Participation rate(a)	%	72.6	0.2	0.2	63.8	0.1	0.9
JOB VACANCIES, May 95	'000	1.3	—	-31.6	53.7	-6.1	8.7
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, March 95</b>							
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	—	41.5	-18.9	-32.3
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Mar. 95)	no.	6	—	-92.4	74	-3.9	-14.0
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, April 95</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	5.9	-22.4	-52.0	447.3	-28.6	-38.5
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	7.0	-47.8	-58.3	151.3	-20.5	-24.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	36.2	-24.6	-47.3	2 249.4	-24.6	-28.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	59.4	-26.2	-44.8	2 848.0	-25.1	-29.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	58.7	-15.1	-43.2	3 134.2	-5.3	-29.0
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	62.3	-7.0	-42.8	3 214.5	-1.9	-26.1
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, May 95</b>							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	228	39.9	-36.5	13 887	31.4	-28.2
Value of new residential	\$m	22.0	32.5	-29.3	1 342.6	37.5	-15.3
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.6	4.5	-20.7	214.3	15.1	-14.4
Value of non-residential	\$m	16.7	-42.8	-28.9	954.7	-16.6	55.9
Value of total building	\$m	43.4	-13.5	-28.3	2 511.6	8.9	2.6
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	171	-3.4	-35.2	11 931	-2.6	-26.7
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, December qtr 94</b>							
New houses	no.	357	-29.7	-14.4	31 835	-5.7	0.6
Value of houses commenced	\$m	41.0	-23.2	-19.1	3 041.8	-5.5	5.4
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	72.9	-28.8	109.5	2 087.2	10.0	-8.4
Value of total commencements	\$m	172.9	-15.7	38.3	7 097.8	-0.4	5.2

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JULY 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>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION — <i>continued</i></b>							
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index, Mar. qtr 95	(1989-90=100.0)	130.8	0.2	-3.0	113.2	1.0	3.3
Price index of house building materials, May 95	(b)	154.8	0.4	2.1	158.6	0.4	3.1
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, December qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)</b>							
Food		113.6	1.2	2.0	110.9	0.5	1.3
Housing		102.8	3.1	3.6	97.5	2.7	4.2
Transportation		118.9	-0.6	1.2	116.8	-0.2	2.9
All groups		113.8	1.1	2.2	112.8	0.8	2.5
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, February 95</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	708.00	1.3	-0.6	650.10	1.1	3.9
Females	\$	512.80	4.4	4.6	430.60	1.3	3.3
Total persons	\$	610.30	3.3	1.5	548.20	1.2	3.6
Trend series							
Males	\$	703.00	-0.3	-0.4	647.20	0.8	4.0
Females	\$	503.00	0.3	3.3	425.90	—	2.6
Total persons	\$	601.60	0.2	1.0	544.40	0.4	3.4
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, May 95</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	73.1	3.2	14.2	3 738.9	0.9	12.6
Department stores	\$m	22.7	-4.6	-4.2	927.4	2.4	2.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.0	1.0	2.7	1 649.2	-0.8	12.4
All other retailing	\$m	54.1	-0.2	2.3	3 133.3	7.3	7.4
Total	\$m	179.9	0.8	5.9	9 448.8	2.8	9.7
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	73.4	0.8	13.1	3 785.7	0.7	10.2
Department stores	\$m	23.7	—	—	948.3	0.5	3.5
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.9	1.0	3.7	1 706.6	0.8	10.7
All other retailing	\$m	54.8	—	2.0	3 140.8	0.5	4.7
Total	\$m	182.8	0.5	6.2	9 581.4	0.6	7.7
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, December qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	215.8	0.9	0.1	9 051.2	1.4	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.4	-2.1	0.5	796.9	4.9	12.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.5	-15.2	-12.7	624.3	-3.6	5.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	204.1	-3.6	1.0	8 878.1	2.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-6.8	1.7	770.5	4.3	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.0	-18.6	-11.4	612.3	-1.7	5.8
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	205.8	-1.5	0.7	8 840.5	2.2	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.1	-1.1	3.4	767.2	4.0	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.2	-4.4	-3.2	619.6	0.4	7.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, May 95</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 273	65.8	32.3	64 123	34.4	20.5
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 193	24.3	22.6	57 951	0.1	14.2
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 090	1.6	11.8	56 359	1.9	12.1
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS, March qtr 95</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	1 970	-11.3	2.7	99 887	-9.1	4.2
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 277	-10.7	3.4	109 448	-8.2	5.9
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 721	-7.7	0.6	97 154	-9.4	5.5
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 254	-8.9	4.8	68 115	-7.6	7.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	243	-16.2	1.3	17 253	-15.8	8.3
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 106	0.8	3.9	104 187	0.5	4.0
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 439	1.4	5.7	114 225	1.2	5.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 900	0.3	0.8	103 224	0.9	5.8
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 333	1.6	4.5	71 130	1.8	7.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	279	-0.4	-6.1	19 212	0.7	13.0

(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, 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.
POPULATION	'000	Dec. qtr 94	6 081.2	4 487.0	3 233.9	1 471.9	1 715.3	472.6	172.7	301.7	17 938.5
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	June 95p	2 749.8	2 071.3	1 517.6	654.1	834.8	201.0	80.8	155.1	8 255.5
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	June 95p	7.6	8.5	8.9	10.1	7.3	9.8	7.3	7.2	8.3
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	35 324	27 332	17 151	7 230	11 746	2 127	1 182	2 106	104 187
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	38 906	29 859	18 674	8 310	12 240	2 422	1 237	2 439	114 225
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	May 95	5 049	2 672	3 141	589	1 794	251	163	228	13 887
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	May 95	4 284	2 201	2 925	574	1 444	247	148	171	11 931
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	May 95	313.2	231.0	256.8	35.4	63.3	14.3	23.9	16.7	954.7
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	May 95	913.5	587.9	564.1	91.0	227.2	37.4	47.1	43.4	2 511.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 94	1 119.7	537.2	783.9	169.3	358.4	40.4	77.8	51.8	3 138.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb. qtr 94	661.80	631.30	593.50	612.60	636.60	600.90	657.40	721.30	636.00
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	May 95	3 349.4	2 219.2	1 774.6	747.6	960.0	236.5	111.5	182.8	9 581.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Dec. qtr 94	3 025.4	1 409.4	2 338.5	503.3	787.9	263.0	307.2	205.8	8 840.5
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	May 95	20 025	13 041	10 952	3 797	5 511	1 232	710	1 090	56 359
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		Dec. qtr 94	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
Housing		Dec. qtr 94	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
Transportation		Dec. qtr 94	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
All Groups		Dec. qtr 94	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	107.0	111.0	111.0	104.0	108.0	117.0	99.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Mar. qtr 95	177.0	154.0	168.0	138.0	155.0	157.0	185.0	176.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	1 267.0	1 068.0	1 130.0	1 139.0	1 142.0	1 155.0	1 226.0	1 152.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	303.0	317.0	293.0	328.0	337.0	350.0	344.0	282.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	107.0	136.0	109.0	100.0	124.0	76.0	122.0	109.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Mar. qtr 95	583.0	581.0	574.0	572.0	556.0	636.0	514.0	593.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Mar. qtr 95	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	68.9	70.5	62.6	71.3	72.9	72.5	74.5	72.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	66.9	68.5	60.6	69.1	70.9	70.5	72.5	70.8	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.
POPULATION	Dec. qtr 94	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3	—	0.5	0.1	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	June 95p	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.9	0.3	0.3
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	June 95p	-0.2	-0.1	—	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	—	—	-0.1
STATE ACCOUNTS										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Mar. qtr 95	0.5	0.9	0.3	-0.1	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.5
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Mar. qtr 95	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.3	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	May 95	34.7	41.9	12.0	22.5	52.0	25.5	49.5	39.9	31.4
Dwelling units approved (trend)	May 95	0.5	-1.7	-3.9	-11.1	-5.5	0.8	5.0	-3.4	-2.6
Value of non-residential building approved	May 95	-56.8	94.8	226.3	-60.4	-26.2	-8.9	724.1	-42.8	-16.6
Value of all buildings approved	May 95	-21.5	75.0	52.0	-31.2	17.2	5.6	92.2	-13.5	8.9
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec. qtr 94	14.4	-5.7	0.4	7.9	5.0	13.5	21.6	-4.4	5.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb. qtr 95	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	May 95	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.6
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Dec. qtr 94	3.0	3.0	0.8	4.3	-0.8	-2.4	12.2	-1.5	2.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	May 95	1.3	1.7	3.6	1.6	1.5	3.8	3.2	1.6	1.9
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	Dec. qtr 94	1.1	0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	—	1.2	0.5
Housing	Dec. qtr 94	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2.3	3.1	2.7
Transportation	Dec. qtr 94	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.6	1.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2
All Groups	Dec. qtr 94	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 95	1.9	2.8	3.7	2.0	1.9	1.7	—	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 95	4.1	-1.3	9.8	7.8	3.3	1.9	3.9	3.5	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Mar. qtr 95	2.5	-1.6	-0.8	1.3	6.0	-1.2	-6.2	0.6	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Mar. qtr 95	9.4	1.0	1.7	-0.9	8.0	5.1	-4.4	3.7	n.a.
Potatoes	Mar. qtr 95	-1.8	13.3	2.8	5.3	1.6	7.0	8.9	—	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Mar. qtr 95	10.8	8.6	7.5	9.8	6.7	5.8	-8.5	10.2	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Mar. qtr 95	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.3	2.3	1.4	2.1	—	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Mar. qtr 95	1.6	1.6	3.8	0.7	5.3	-4.4	1.5	1.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Mar. qtr 95	1.7	1.6	3.9	0.6	5.5	-4.5	1.5	1.9	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.

