

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, SEPTEMBER 1994

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The September 1994 issue of *ACT Business Indicators* sees the introduction of a new table with percentage changes to accompany the ACT in relation to the rest of Australia data. Also new in the September issue is the introduction of average retail price data for a selection of commodities for each of the State capitals. The introduction of these changes will provide a better overview of movements within the economy on a State by State basis.

Series updated since the August 1994 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes, housing finance, building approvals, price indexes of house building materials, average weekly earnings, tourist accommodation, new motor vehicle registrations and interstate road freight.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Trend labour force participation rates in the ACT increased by 0.3 per cent in August 1994 to reach 72.7 per cent, the highest level since February 1994. Nationally the participation rate remained steady at 62.9 per cent in August 1994.
- The ACT reported no industrial disputes involving the loss of working days in May 1994. Nationally the number of working days lost was at its lowest (23.4) since January 1994 (5.4).
- Trend estimates for the value of housing commitments in the ACT and Australia showed similar movements with declines of 0.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively in June 1994. The value of housing commitments in the ACT increased by 16.0 per cent from July 1993, this compares with the national increase of 25.8 per cent for the same period.
- The ACT was the only State or Territory to show growth in the value of building approvals in July 1994. The \$42.9 million increase was due mainly to a large increase in non-residential building activity in the period, however residential alterations and additions also showed reasonable growth with an increase of 10.6 per cent in July 1994. In the twelve months to July 1994, the value of total building approvals increased for all States except South Australia and Tasmania. The ACT recorded the second highest level of growth with 15.6 per cent, after Western Australia which recorded an increase of 24.8 per cent since July 1993.
- The price index of house building materials showed no change in the ACT in June 1994 with the index remaining at 151.6. The weighted average of the six capital cities increased by 0.3 per cent in the same period.
- The ACT showed the greatest increase in trend full time adult average weekly earnings in the May quarter 1994 with an increase of 1.7 per cent. Victoria and New South Wales showed similar increases with 1.2 and 1.1 per cent respectively. South Australia was the only State to show a decline in average weekly earnings with a fall of 0.1 per cent. This compares with the national increase of 0.9 per cent.
- Trend series room nights occupied in hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities showed only a slight change in the ACT in the June quarter 1994, with a decline of 0.1 per cent. In the year from June 1993, however, trend series room nights occupied showed strong growth with June quarter 1994 12.4 per cent higher than June 1993 in the ACT.
- Trend estimates of new motor vehicle registrations fell in the ACT in July 1994 by 2.3 per cent, the only State or Territory to show a decline in this period. Nationally trend series new motor vehicle registrations continues to increase with the July 1994 being the eleventh consecutive month of growth.

### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Leonie Peadon on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

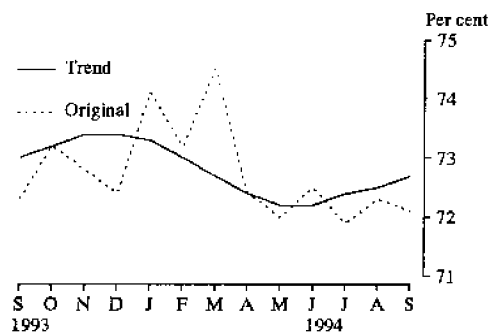
- Following the fall in local petrol (leaded) prices of 6.6 per cent between the December and March quarters, the ACT joined Hobart and Adelaide in showing the smallest increases in petrol prices in the June quarter 1994. The price of unleaded fuel increased by 2.3 per cent and leaded by 2.9 per cent in the period. Other capital city

increases were Hobart (1.6% and 2.3%), Adelaide (2.1% and 2.6%), Darwin (3.9% and 4.4%), Sydney (4.3% and 4.9%), Brisbane (4.5% and 5.1%) and Melbourne (6.3% and 6.7%) for unleaded and leaded petrol respectively.

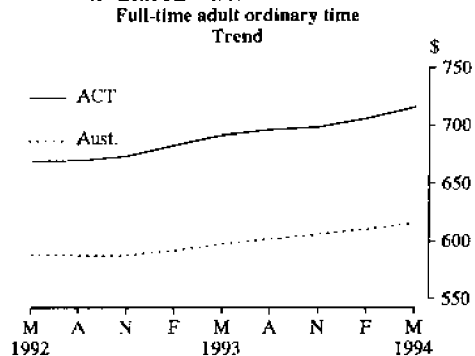
**DALMA JACOBS**  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

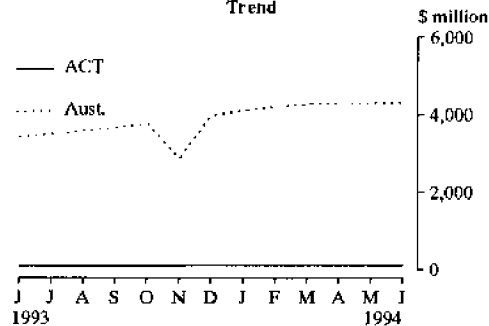
**LABOUR FORCE - PARTICIPATION RATES**



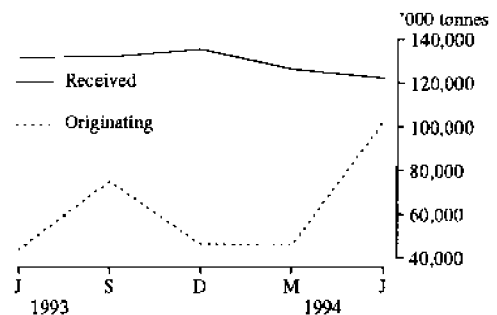
**AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS**



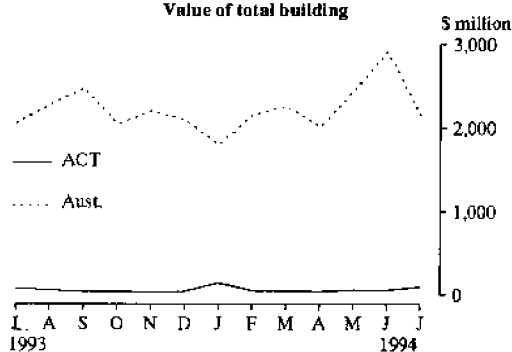
**HOUSING FINANCE**  
Total new commitments  
Trend



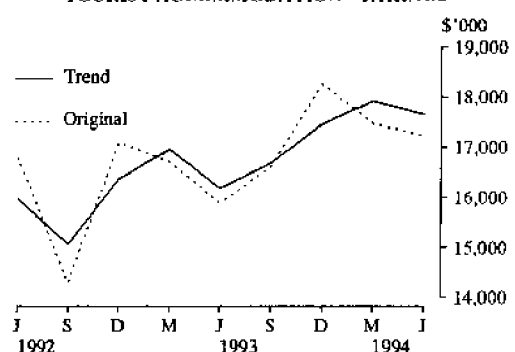
**INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT**



**BUILDING APPROVALS**  
Value of total building



**TOURIST ACCOMMODATION - TAKINGS**



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1993/JUNE QUARTER 1995  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE  
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<b>Short-term</b>		
December 1993	1.1	3.6
March 1994	0.1	- 1.4
June 1994	1.6	1.9
September 1994	1.3	1.9
<b>Medium-term</b>		
September 1994	1.5	2.9
December 1994	2.7	3.1
March 1995	3.8	3.9
June 1995	6.2	3.3

**TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, SEPTEMBER 1994**

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 93	'000	299.4	0.1	1.2	17 746.6	0.2	1.0
Natural increase	no.	775	- 2.5	- 12.1	32 918	2.6	-
Net migration	no.	- 523	- 623.0	- 5.3	4 123	- 76.3	42.6
Total increase	no.	252	- 71.8	- 23.6	37 041	- 25.1	3.4
<b>LABOUR FORCE, Aug. 94 p</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	154.1	- 0.3	- 2.0	7 885.7	- 1.2	3.5
Unemployed	'000	10.6	1.0	- 6.2	797.9	- 0.7	- 12.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.4	1.6	- 7.2	9.2	1.1	- 14.0
Participation rate(a)	%	72.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	62.2	- 1.3	0.5
Long-term unemployed (July 94)	'000	2.2	- 24.1	—	290.2	- 4.6	- 12.3
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (July 94)	%	21.3	- 23.1	10.9	36.1	- 0.3	- 2.7
Trend series							
Employed	'000	154.7	0.4	2.2	7 941.9	0.3	3.3
Unemployed	'000	11.4	0.9	- 8.1	834.9	- 1.1	- 11.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.9	1.5	- 9.2	9.5	- 1.0	- 13.6
Participation rate(a)	%	72.7	0.3	- 0.4	62.9	—	0.5
JOB VACANCIES, May qtr 94	'000	1.9	26.7	18.8	49.4	7.6	63.6
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, May 94</b>							
Working days lost	'000	—	200.0	—	23.4	- 8.6	- 42.8
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended May 94)	no.	80	- 3.6	1 500.0	94	- 3.1	- 46.0
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, June 94</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	9.8	- 26.9	- 8.4	807.2	- 5.1	32.6
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	19.3	- 19.2	0.5	221.1	- 3.6	25.8
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	75.6	7.2	12.5	3 442.5	- 2.0	19.6
Total housing commitments	\$m	120.6	- 0.4	13.2	4 470.8	- 2.7	23.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	111.3	2.6	17.0	4 106.2	- 5.5	23.4
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	109.0	- 0.3	16.0	4 298.0	- 0.4	25.8
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, July 94</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	297	- 0.7	- 24.6	15 312	- 12.4	- 3.2
Value of new residential	\$m	28.2	- 3.1	- 24.0	1 372.1	- 11.7	3.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.2	10.6	10.6	186.1	- 4.3	4.4
Value of non-residential	\$m	64.3	207.7	50.6	593.6	- 49.0	5.8
Value of total building	\$m	97.7	78.3	15.6	2 151.8	- 26.1	4.2
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, March qtr 94</b>							
New houses	no.	374	- 10.3	- 19.0	28 759	- 9.1	7.1
Value of houses commenced	\$m	40.8	- 19.5	- 17.4	2 635.9	- 8.0	10.3
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	159.8	359.2	136.0	2 433.6	6.8	4.0
Value of total commencements	\$m	277.0	121.6	78.0	6 520.9	- 3.3	9.2
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index (March qtr 94) (1989- 90=100.0)		134.9	- 0.3	- 1.4	109.6	1.1	2.8
Price index of house building materials (June 94)	(b)	151.6	—	3.6	154.3	0.3	3.7

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, SEPTEMBER 1994 — 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, June qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		111.4	-0.4	2.6	109.5	-0.3	1.4
Housing		99.3	0.5	-1.1	94.4	0.7	-0.8
Transportation		117.8	2.1	2.6	115.2	1.8	2.8
All groups		112.0	0.5	1.5	111.2	0.7	1.7
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	714.0	0.2	5.9	625.1	-0.1	2.1
Females	\$	496.0	1.1	2.7	422.8	1.4	4.1
Total persons	\$	602.5	0.2	4.0	531.8	0.5	2.8
Trend series							
Males	\$	720.5	2.1	7.7	625.4	0.5	1.8
Females	\$	492.5	1.4	3.4	420.8	1.4	3.1
Total persons	\$	605.1	1.7	5.7	530.7	0.9	2.3
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, June 94</b>							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	52.0	-1.5	9.5	2 514.1	2.1	6.3
Department and general stores	\$m	23.4	-0.4	-4.5	905.7	0.9	3.1
Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs	\$m	11.9	-4.8	8.2	1 018.0	-0.4	10.2
All other stores	\$m	75.3	-1.8	1.3	3 954.6	0.3	7.7
Total	\$m	162.6	-1.8	3.4	8 392.4	0.8	7.1
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	53.9	—	7.4	2 547.1	0.3	3.7
Department and general stores	\$m	24.2	—	4.3	926.3	0.5	4.8
Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs	\$m	12.9	0.8	5.7	1 089.1	0.7	8.9
All other stores	\$m	76.2	-2.3	-1.9	4 065.5	...	6.5
Total	\$m	167.2	-1.0	2.4	8 628.0	0.2	5.8
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	no.	199.2	-2.6	6.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.2	-1.7	8.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	no.	207.0	-2.8	14.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.3	18.3	15.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Trend series							
Room nights	no.	209.5	-0.1	12.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	176.5	-1.6	9.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, July 94</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	905	-24.8	-11.7	51 928	-10.4	14.3
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	887	-21.5	-12.0	52 028	-0.2	18.2
Trend motor vehicles	no.	955	-2.3	-3.0	52 018	1.0	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, March qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 226	-9.4	6.3	104 131	-8.6	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 847	-6.3	5.4	92 402	-7.7	4.2
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 266	9.9	3.7	64 396	-7.9	5.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	241	-16.9	-0.8	14 914	-10.6	9.3
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 358	1.1	6.3	108 350	1.5	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 989	0.6	2.5	97 162	1.3	3.2
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 345	1.4	5.8	67 189	1.6	5.4
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	273	-1.4	-8.4	15 669	1.2	4.7

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

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0 and 9303.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (original)	'000	Aug. 94 p	2 634.4	1 960.6	1 433.7	642.1	793.7	190.7	76.3	154.1	7 885.7
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Aug. 94 p	274.0	232.7	142.4	76.5	71.0	22.3	5.9	11.4	834.9
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	July 94	4 431	2 732	4 490	955	2 116	309	72	297	15 312
Value of non-residential building approved	\$	July 94	206.1	80.6	138.7	33.4	55.0	7.1	8.5	64.3	593.6
Value of all buildings approved	\$	July 94	714.3	375.7	565.8	155.5	235.5	31.2	16.0	97.7	2 151.8
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 94	1 053.4	609.8	583.3	179.2	443.8	55.4	41.5	40	3 006.4
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 94	632.7	613.5	582.1	598.0	612.0	592.6	634.2	716.0	616.0
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	June 94	3 017.5	2 095.8	1 527.5	644.4	873.3	215.2	n.p.	167.2	8 628
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	no.	Mar. qtr 94	2 900.6	1 329.2	2 324.0	471.0	761.7	256.6	277.9	210.7	8 531.7
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	July 94	18 053	11 602	10 761	3 514	5 367	1 177	590	955	52 018
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b> (1989-90 = 100.0)											
Food		June qtr 94	109.4	107.9	110.2	113.0	109.9	112.2	113.1	111.4	109.5
Housing		June qtr 94	95.9	92.4	100.7	91.9	87.8	94.2	104.5	99.3	94.4
Transportation		June qtr 94	112.7	117.5	113.8	118.5	116.0	112.8	113.9	117.8	115.2
All Groups		June qtr 94	110.0	112.0	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112.0	111.2
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	June qtr 94	102.0	104.0	105.0	97.0	104.0	110.0	94.0	105.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	June qtr 94	166.0	153.0	146.0	126.0	124.0	154.0	168.0	167.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	June qtr 94	1 283	1 102	1 148	1 164	1 049	1 097	1 246	1 072	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	June qtr 94	295.0	323.0	305.0	329.0	321.0	344.0	358.0	279.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	June qtr 94	74.0	70.0	73.0	63.0	99.0	77.0	81.0	63.0	n.a.
Tea	250 g	June qtr 94	186.0	182.0	179.0	164.0	180.0	199.0	200.0	185.0	n.a.
Scotch, nip, public bar	30 ml	June qtr 94	292.0	254.0	237.0	313.0	365.0	209.0	280.0	266.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	June qtr 94	68.7	70.2	61.8	70.7	69.3	75.2	73.7	71.9	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	June qtr 94	67.7	69.2	60.8	69.6	68.3	74.4	72.8	70.9	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 (original)	'000	Aug. 94 p	-1.2	-2.2	-0.1	-1.1	-1.0	-2.7	-0.3	-0.3	-1.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Aug. 94 p	-1.5	-0.8	-0.8	0.1	-0.4	-3.0	—	0.9	-1.1
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	July 94	-15.0	1.0	-12.3	-19.0	-20.3	1.0	-35.1	-0.7	-12.4
Value of non-residential building approved	\$	July 94	-21.5	-86.8	-13.9	6.7	-13.7	-38.8	77.1	207.7	-49.0
Value of all buildings approved	\$	July 94	-17.1	-58.5	-9.5	-8.8	-17.2	-17.9	-8.0	78.3	-26.1
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 94	7.6	20.0	-18.6	-4.6	-4.9	-7.4	-32.8	-4.5	-0.5
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 94	1.1	1.2	0.4	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.4	0.9
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	June 94	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.2	—	—	n.p.	-1.0	0.2
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	no.	Mar. qtr 94	2.9	3.8	3.3	-0.6	1.9	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.9
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	July 94	0.8	0.3	1.5	2.1	1.3	2.9	1.9	-2.3	1.0
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>											
(1989 90 = 100.0)			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
Food		June qtr 94	-0.7	0.1	-0.9	0.9	-0.3	-0.4	0.4	-0.4	-0.3
Housing		June qtr 94	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.7
Transportation		June qtr 94	1.7	2.3	1.6	0.8	1.8	0.8	2.3	2.1	1.8
All Groups		June qtr 94	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	June qtr 94	1.0	1.0	—	—	—	0.9	—	1.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	June qtr 94	-0.6	-1.3	0.7	4.1	2.5	0.7	—	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	June qtr 94	1.0	0.9	0.8	5.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	-4.5	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	June qtr 94	8.9	7.7	6.3	3.8	4.2	-4.2	-3.0	-0.7	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	June qtr 94	—	-17.6	-2.7	6.8	-2.0	-10.5	-6.9	—	n.a.
Tea	250 g	June qtr 94	4.5	1.1	2.3	-1.2	1.1	4.7	3.1	4.5	n.a.
Scotch, nip, public bar	30 ml	June qtr 94	3.5	0.4	4.4	0.6	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded 1 litre		June qtr 94	4.9	6.7	5.1	2.6	4.8	2.3	4.4	2.9	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	June qtr 94	4.3	6.3	4.5	2.1	4.4	1.6	3.9	2.3	n.a.

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.

