

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, SEPTEMBER 1995

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the August 1995 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of established houses; average weekly earnings; retail turnover and average retail prices; and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

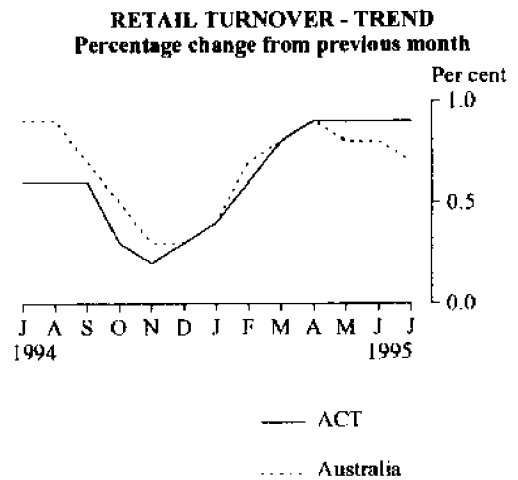
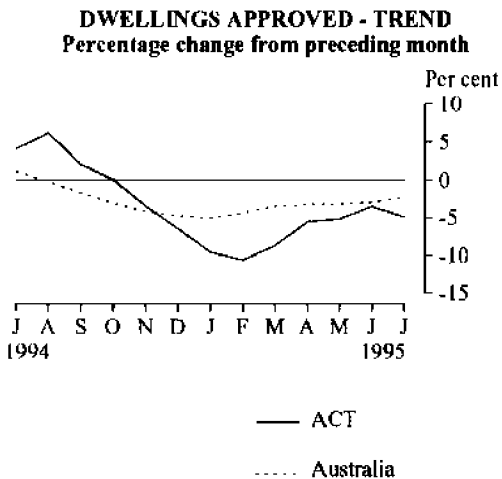
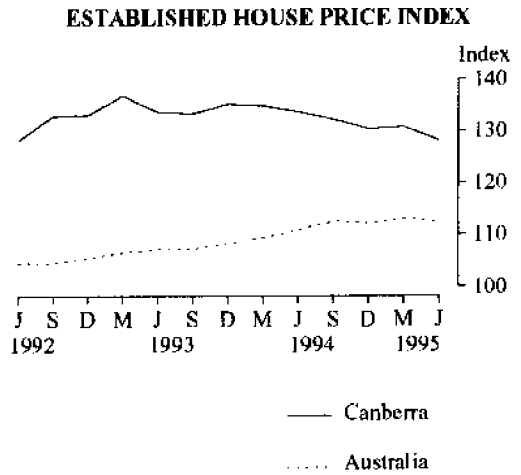
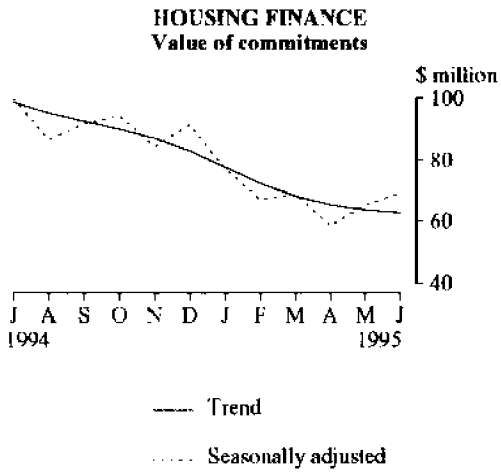
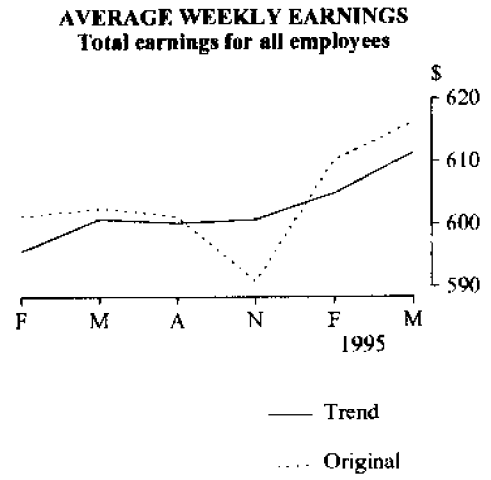
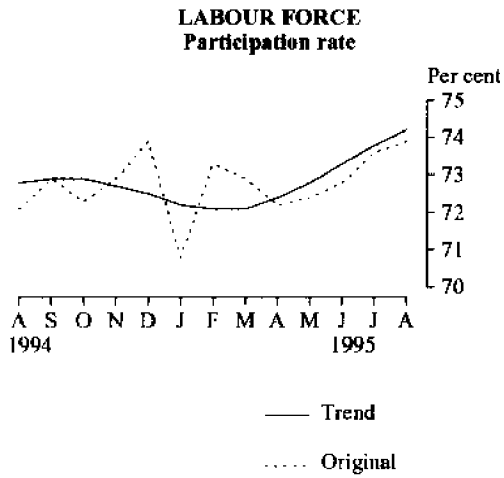
- The trend estimate for the number employed in the ACT has climbed steadily over the last six months (3.0% or 4,900 people). In August 1995, 158,500 people were employed in the ACT; up 0.6 per cent or 1,000 persons from the previous month. This increase was affected by the trend growth of 1.5 per cent or 600 persons in part-time employment. The trend number of unemployed in the ACT rose by 1.6 per cent (or 200 persons) to 12,800, which was entirely due to the rise in male unemployment. However, the participation rate for the ACT also rose by 0.4 percentage points (an additional 900 people to the labour force) to reach 74.2 per cent. The trend unemployment rate for the ACT was on par with that for NSW at 7.5 per cent, and below the national level of 8.2 per cent.
- There were 100 working days lost due to industrial disputes in May 1995 for the ACT. Nationally, there were 63 disputes involving a loss of 87,500 working days in May, representing a substantial increase in the number of working days lost over the previous month (28,600 working days). This was the highest number of working days lost in a month for Australia since November 1994. For the ACT, the number of days lost per thousand employees for the year ending May 1995 was 6, compared to the national figure of 83 days.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments financed in the ACT fell to \$62.8 million for June 1995, a decrease of 1.6 per cent from the previous month. This is the fifteenth continuous monthly decline in the value of housing commitment financed in the ACT. Nationally the trend series increased slightly by 0.9 per cent in June. The trend for the number of dwellings financed during June 1995 decreased by 1.3 per cent to 616 dwellings in the ACT; recording the lowest estimate since February 1991 (612) and the fifteenth continuous monthly decline (from a peak of 1,097).
- The trend for the total number of ACT dwelling units approved declined for the ninth consecutive month, with 157 dwelling units being approved in June 1995.
- The price index of established houses for Canberra fell by 2.1 per cent in the June quarter 1995 and 4.0 per cent over the year to June quarter 1995. Nationally, the index decreased by 0.7 per cent in the June quarter 1995, but increased by 1.4 per cent over the year.
- The ACT average weekly total earnings for all employees in May 1995 was \$611.30; an increase of 1.1 per cent from February 1995 and 1.7 per cent over the past twelve months. The national level of average earnings now stands at \$548.50, which is an 0.6 per cent increase from February 1995 and 3.0 per cent over the preceding twelve months.
- The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for July 1995 was \$186.8 million, an increase of \$1.7 million (0.9%) over the previous month's turnover. This percentage increase was the highest reported growth of all States/Territories. The major contributor to the increase in ACT retail turnover was recreational goods retailing, up \$0.6 million or 4.8 per cent (not published in *ACT Business Indicators*). The national trend retail turnover has increased by 0.8 per cent over the last 12 months, compared to 7.8 per cent for the ACT.
- The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registration for the ACT in July 1995 was 1,059, a slight decrease of 0.5 per cent from June 1995, but 14.6 per cent higher than the previous year. The national movements were a 0.4 per cent decrease from June 1995 and an increase of 7.9 per cent over the year.

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#### 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**



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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<b>Short-term</b>		
June qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1994	3.1	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
<b>Medium-term</b>		
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, SEPTEMBER 1995**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>		<i>Australia</i>			
		<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>Change from previous period (%)</i>	<i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i>	<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>Change from previous period (%)</i>	<i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i>
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
<b>POPULATION, December qtr 94</b>							
Natural increase	'000	301.7	0.1	0.8	17 938.5	0.2	1.1
Net migration	no.	813	13.9	4.9	33 042	16.3	0.4
Total increase	no.	615	439.5	17.6	8 798	64.8	113.4
	no.	198	–67.0	–21.4	41 840	–21.7	13.0
<b>LABOUR FORCE, August 95p</b>							
<b>Original series</b>							
Employed	'000	158.4	0.1	2.8	8 217.7	0.9	4.2
Unemployed	'000	12.1	9.0	14.2	721.9	1.7	–9.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.1	0.6	0.7	8.1	0.2	–1.1
Participation rate(a)	%	73.9	0.3	1.8	63.1	–0.6	0.9
Long-term unemployed (July 95)	no.	2 692	–0.5	20.6	231 783	–4.6	–20.1
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (July 95)(a)	%	24.3	0.8	3.0	32.7	–0.8	–3.4
<b>Trend series</b>							
Employed	'000	158.5	0.6	2.6	8 282.9	0.1	4.1
Unemployed	'000	12.8	1.6	7.6	744.6	–0.3	–10.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.5	0.1	0.3	8.2	–0.1	–1.3
Participation rate(a)	%	74.2	0.4	1.4	63.8	—	0.8
<b>JOB VACANCIES, May 95</b>	'000	1.3		31.6	53.7	–6.1	8.7
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, May 95</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	100.0	—	87.5	205.9	272.3
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended May 95)	no.	6	20.0	–92.4	83	12.2	–2.4
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, June 95</b>							
<b>Secured commitments to individuals for</b>							
<b>Original series</b>							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	10.1	60.3	—	556.4	–2.9	–29.5
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	10.3	–23.7	–38.7	188.3	–2.5	–14.7
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	40.5	–11.6	29.8	2 988.3	3.2	–14.7
Total housing commitments	\$m	75.9	–1.4	37.3	3 733.0	1.9	17.3
<b>Seasonally adjusted series</b>							
Total housing commitments	\$m	69.3	6.0	34.9	3 832.0	24.8	–7.5
<b>Trend series</b>							
Total housing commitments	\$m	62.8	1.6	–38.9	3 344.4	0.9	–19.7
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, July 95</b>							
<b>Original series</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	232	51.6	21.9	11 253	–7.8	27.1
Value of new residential	\$m	28.2	78.5	—	1 048.3	–4.3	–23.6
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.7	46.9	9.6	187.8	1.7	0.9
Value of non-residential	\$m	12.3	0.8	–80.9	772.9	–26.4	30.2
Value of total building	\$m	45.2	45.3	–53.7	2 009.0	13.8	–6.6
<b>Trend series</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	157	–4.8	40.3	11 339	–2.2	–32.3
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, March qtr 95</b>							
New houses	no.	316	15.3	–14.8	24 259	–23.9	–15.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	37.5	–11.6	–7.4	2 369.1	–22.1	–9.9
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	55.5	–24.3	–65.3	2 093.0	–4.9	–7.3
Value of total commencements	\$m	128.9	–26.1	–53.4	6 059.2	–16.4	–4.6

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, SEPTEMBER 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, June qtr 95	(1989-90=100.0)	128.1	-2.1	-4.3	112.4	0.7	1.4
Price index of house building materials, June 95	(b)	154.9	0.1	2.2	158.0	-0.4	2.4
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 95 (1989-90=100.0)</b>							
Food		116.7	0.3	4.8	113.7	0.4	3.8
Housing		110.7	1.8	11.5	104.7	1.8	10.9
Transportation		122.1	2.0	3.7	118.8	1.3	3.1
All-groups		117.6	1.1	5.0	116.2	1.3	4.5
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May 95</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	718.50	1.5	0.6	652.70	0.4	4.4
Females	\$	516.50	0.7	4.1	429.90	0.2	1.7
Total persons	\$	616.20	1.0	2.3	548.10	—	3.1
Trend series							
Males	\$	711.40	0.6	—	653.80	0.9	4.1
Females	\$	511.30	1.1	3.4	430.30	0.7	2.3
Total persons	\$	611.30	1.1	1.7	548.50	0.6	3.0
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, July 95</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	71.8	0.6	13.1	3 787.5	2.3	9.3
Department stores	\$m	25.0	10.1	17.4	880.7	-2.9	12.5
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.7	10.8	5.1	1 695.3	4.6	8.0
All other retailing	\$m	54.9	2.4	5.4	3 110.5	0.6	6.3
Total	\$m	182.4	4.0	9.8	9 474.0	1.6	8.3
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	74.4	0.5	13.4	3 855.3	0.7	10.3
Department stores	\$m	24.5	1.7	4.3	967.2	1.1	5.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.4	0.7	5.2	1 719.5	0.2	8.9
All other retailing	\$m	57.3	1.2	4.0	3 225.5	0.7	5.7
Total	\$m	186.6	0.9	7.8	9 767.5	0.7	8.0
<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, July 95</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	902	-27.7	-0.3	52 915	-11.5	1.9
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	926	-19.7	4.2	52 938	-2.6	2.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 059	-0.5	14.6	55 042	-0.4	7.9
<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, 40.001, 8762.0, 40.001, 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	Aug. 95p	2 766.5	2 069.6	1 515.4	660.2	832.8	200.0	79.1	158.5	8 282.9
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Aug. 95p	7.5	8.6	8.9	9.7	7.1	9.5	8.1	7.5	8.2
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.	July 95	4 201	2 052	2 657	576	1 203	213	119	232	11 253
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	July 95	4 045	2 218	2 813	510	1 341	224	173	157	11 339
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	July 95	373.2	131.4	147.9	36.3	55.1	9.5	7.1	12.3	772.9
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	July 95	881.3	361.8	408.1	90.6	171.9	29.3	20.7	45.2	2 009.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	1 085.6	604.9	664.4	156.8	372.8	50.5	50.1	34.3	3 019.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 95	671.60	644.20	605.70	616.70	643.80	605.90	659.20	735.10	646.10
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	July 95	3 413.2	2 249.6	1 822.5	764.2	978.7	239.3	113.6	186.6	9 767.5
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.	July 95	19 197	12 516	11 360	3 524	5 517	1 188	680	1 059	55 042
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
Food		June qtr 95	114.0	111.7	114.5	115.7	115.7	116.1	115.5	116.7	113.7
Housing		June qtr 95	106.6	102.0	110.7	102.2	99.0	104.5	115.5	110.7	104.7
Transportation		June qtr 95	116.8	119.9	117.4	121.4	121.4	117.2	116.4	122.1	118.8
All Groups		June qtr 95	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	108.0	113.0	111.0	110.0	112.0	120.0	100.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Aug. qtr 95	179.0	160.0	171.0	139.0	163.0	156.0	185.0	185.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	1 260.0	1 120.0	1 138.0	1 121.0	1 120.0	1 148.0	1 258.0	1 186.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	295.0	321.0	294.0	323.0	324.0	346.0	359.0	302.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	98.0	137.0	106.0	87.0	121.0	71.0	123.0	110.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Aug. qtr 95	573.0	561.0	602.0	546.0	583.0	653.0	520.0	568.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Aug. qtr 95	306.0	260.0	242.0	316.0	357.0	211.0	296.0	274.0	n.a.
Private motoring --- petrol, leaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	70.6	71.1	63.8	72.0	75.4	75.4	76.4	75.0	n.a.
Private motoring --- petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	68.6	69.1	61.8	69.1	73.4	73.4	74.4	73.0	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)	Aug. 95p	0.3	—	—	0.3	—	-0.1	0.9	0.6	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Aug. 95p	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.1	-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	July 95	15.1	-11.8	-18.8	-10.8	-33.0	1.9	-24.2	51.6	-7.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	July 95	-0.6	-0.9	-2.4	-7.1	3.8	2.6	6.1	-4.8	-2.3
Value of non-residential building approved	July 95	22.8	-27.6	-62.9	24.2	32.5	-36.7	-85.9	0.8	-26.4
Value of all buildings approved	July 95	18.9	-18.7	42.2	-15.5	-12.8	-13.3	-70.1	45.3	-13.8
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar. qtr 95	-11.7	9.0	-16.4	-8.4	-1.6	25.3	41.9	32.5	-8.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May. qtr 95	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.3
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	July 95	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.7
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	July 95	-1.0	-1.5	3.0	-2.2	-0.4	1.5	-2.2	-0.5	-0.4
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	June qtr 95	0.5	0.4	0.4	—	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4
Housing	June qtr 95	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.8
Transportation	June qtr 95	1.2	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.3
All Groups	June qtr 95	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	0.9	1.8	—	5.8	3.7	2.6	1.0	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	1.1	3.9	1.8	0.7	5.2	0.6	—	5.1	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Aug. qtr 95	0.6	4.9	0.7	-1.6	-1.9	-0.6	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Aug. qtr 95	-2.6	1.3	0.3	-1.5	-3.9	-1.1	4.4	7.1	n.a.
Potatoes	Aug. qtr 95	-8.4	0.7	2.8	13.0	-2.4	-6.6	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Aug. qtr 95	-1.7	-3.4	4.9	-4.5	4.9	2.7	1.2	-4.2	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Aug. qtr 95	1.3	1.6	1.3	0.3	-1.7	-0.5	1.0	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	1.9	1.0	3.4	4.0	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	2.0	—	3.5	4.1	2.6	3.1	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.

