

Australia comprises a land area of 7,682,300 square kilometres. The land lies between latitudes 10° 41' South (Cape York) and 43° 39' South (South East Cape, Tasmania) and between longitudes 113° 09' East (Steep Point) and 153° 39' East (Cape Byron).

The area of Australia is almost as great as that of the United States of America (excluding Alaska), about 50% greater than Europe (excluding former USSR) and 32 times greater than the United Kingdom.

Australia is composed of six States: New South Wales (NSW), Victoria (Vic.), Queensland (Qld), South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA), Tasmania (Tas.) and two Territories: the Northern Territory (NT) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The longest river in Australia is the Murray River (2,520 kilometres), which forms a natural border between NSW and Vic. The highest mountain in Australia is Mount Kosciuszko, 2,230 metres, which is situated in NSW.

<i>State/ Territory</i>	<i>Area '000km²</i>	<i>Estimated resident population June '96 '000</i>	<i>Capital City</i>	<i>Estimated resident population of city June '96 '000(a)</i>
NSW	802	6 204	Sydney	3 879
Vic.	228	4 561	Melbourne	3 283
Qld	1 727	3 339	Brisbane	1 521
SA	984	1 474	Adelaide	1 079
WA	2 526	1 766	Perth	1 295
Tas.	68	475	Hobart	196
NT	1 346	182	Darwin	82
ACT	2	308	Canberra	308
Australia	7 682	18 311		

(a) Capital City Statistical Division.

AGRICULTURE

		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Gross value of agriculture	\$m	23 547	23 750	27 452
Crops	\$m	11 516	11 132	15 397
Livestock slaughtering etc.	\$m	6 853	6 616	6 193
Livestock products	\$m	5 167	5 994	5 851
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Wheat production	'000 t	8 972	16 504	23 702
Meat production (excluding poultry)	'000 t	2 776	2 653	2 721
Wool production	'000 t	731	726	730
		(a)679	(a)641	(a)684

(a) Taxable wool received by brokers and dealers from wool producers.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Balance on current account	\$m	-27 425	-21 283	-17 525
Net goods	\$m	-8 218	-1 749	1 392
Net services	\$m	-1 704	-292	141
Net income	\$m	-17 151	-19 236	-19 149
Net current transfers	\$m	-352	-6	91
Balance on capital account	\$m	540	1 049	1 114
Balance on financial account	\$m	22 853	22 483	15 393

BUILDING

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
New houses completed	'000	122	95	84
Value of new houses completed	\$m	11 711	9 882	9 050
New other residential building completed	'000	48	41	36
Value of new other residential building completed	\$m	3 884	3 916	3 594
Value of new residential building completed	\$m	15 595	13 798	12 645
Value of non-residential building completed	\$m	9 183	11 250	11 265

CLIMATE

	Average annual rainfall mm	Average daily hours of sunshine	Average temperature			
			January		July	
			Max. °C	Min. °C	Max. °C	Min. °C
Canberra	630	7.6	27.7	12.9	11.1	-0.2
Sydney	1 226	6.7	25.8	18.5	16.1	7.9
Melbourne	660	5.7	25.8	14.0	13.3	5.8
Brisbane	1 152	7.5	29.3	20.6	20.4	9.5
Adelaide	450	6.9	27.9	15.5	14.8	6.8
Perth	800	7.9	31.1	16.7	17.6	8.0
Hobart	626	5.8	21.9	12.0	11.8	4.5
Darwin	1 668	8.4	31.9	24.8	30.4	19.3

Hottest day ever recorded: 16.1.1889, 53.1°C, Cloncurry, Qld.

Coldest day ever recorded: 28.6.1994, -23.0°C, Charlotte Pass, NSW.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

CONSUMER PRICE AND OTHER PRICE INDEXES

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
CPI weighted av. of 8 capital cities, all groups	1989-90=100.0	113.9	118.7	120.3
Export	1968-69=100.0	501.0	508.0	488.0
Import	1968-69=100.0	837.0	838.0	791.0
Building materials-house	1989-90=100.0	115.4	115.7	116.1
Building materials-other	1989-90=100.0	110.4	112.7	113.2
Manufacturing				
Materials used	1989-90=100.0	107.6	110.0	106.0
Articles produced	1988-89=100.0	118.1	121.1	121.7

DEMOGRAPHY

		1994	1995	1996
Population at 30 June	'000	17 847.4	18 063.3	18 311.5
Births	'000	258	256	254
Deaths	'000	127	125	129
Marriages	'000	111	109	106
Divorces	'000	48	50	52
Overseas movement of persons		1986	1991	1996
Five years ended 30 June				
Permanent and long-term				
Arrivals	'000	878	1 165	1 147
Departures	'000	471	577	724

EDUCATION

Expenditure(a)		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Government expenditure	\$m	22 130	22 665	23 778
Private expenditure	\$m	5 949	6 134	6 498
School Students		1994	1995	1996
Government	'000	2 214.9	2 207.9	2 221.6
Non-government	'000	884.4	901.5	921.5
Higher education students(b)	'000	585.4	604.2	634.1

(a) Source: *Expenditure on Education Australia* (5510.0).

(b) Source: Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

FINANCE

Government Finance		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Revenue (all governments)	\$m	139 683	151 510	166 945
Commonwealth income tax, persons	\$m	50 571	54 635	60 602
Total outlay (all governments)	\$m	165 134	176 610	174 574
Final consumption expenditure	\$m	69 444	71 911	76 027
Personal benefit payments	\$m	49 902	51 966	55 871
Expenditure on new fixed assets	\$m	20 683	21 980	21 753
Private Finance		1995	1996	1997
Assets of selected financial institutions (June balances)				
Banks(a)	\$m	368 312	413 343	470 643
Non bank deposit-taking institutions(a)(b)	\$m	136 613	148 734	158 633
Life offices and superannuation funds	\$m	238 080	268 245	317 295
Statutory funds of Australian life insurers	\$m	118 520	127 298	145 421
Superannuation funds	\$m	134 450	154 933	185 792
Other financial institutions	\$m	120 351	131 640	n.y.a.
Consumer finance commitments		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Housing finance	\$m	42 306	43 679	49 979
Personal finance	\$m	28 514	32 282	35 568

(a) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

(b) Includes corporations registered as categories A-G under the Financial Corporations Act, such as building societies, credit unions and money market corporations.

HEALTH

		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Governments health expenditure(a)	\$m	36 495	38 479	41 742
Major causes of death				
		1993	1994	1995
Heart disease	no.	37 252	38 253	37 006
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	no.	32 691	33 658	33 805

(a) Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Health and Family Services.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS 1996-97

Country	Balance on merchandise trade \$US mill.	Consumer price index (all items) 1990=100.0	Producer price index 1990 = 100.0
Australia	-15	116.6	111.1
Canada	26 114	114.5	118.3
France	24 093	114.5	98.2
Germany	71 447	121.8	n.y.a.
Italy	39 770	134.1	125.1
Japan	67 684	107.0	95.7
New Zealand	-178	114.2	109.0
OECD Major 7	n.a.	119.5	108.8
United Kingdom	-21 378	122.7	124.8
United States of America	-177 574	121.6	110.8

	Wages index 1990=100.0	Employment index 1990=100.0	Unemployment rate (a) %
Australia	113.7	106.8	8.5
Canada	119.1	104.6	9.1
France	120.2	99.0	12.6
Germany	135.5	n.y.a.	9.7
Italy	132.6	94.3	12.1
Japan	115.0	104.5	3.5
New Zealand	111.5	114.3	6.7
OECD Major 7	123.5	103.5	6.7
United Kingdom	140.7	97.0	7.3
United States of America	119.8	108.8	5.0

(a) As at 30 June

Source: OECD.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Net foreign liabilities at 30 June	\$m	252 783	262 470	288 176
Foreign investment in Australia	\$m	402 596	438 091	481 957
Australian investment abroad	\$m	-139 528	-150 080	-172 575
Net foreign debt at 30 June	\$m	186 280	129 081	203 732
Net foreign equity, ratios to GDP	%	16.8	19.7	20.7
Net foreign debt, ratios to GDP	%	40.7	39.4	40.0

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Total exports	\$m	67 052	76 004	78 885
Total imports	\$m	74 619	77 792	78 977
Major export commodities				
Machinery and transport equipment	\$m	8 137	9 720	10 635
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	\$m	7 604	8 666	9 025
Coal, coke and briquettes	\$m	6 938	7 840	8 006
Gold, non-monetary	\$m	4 699	5 545	4 717
Meat	\$m	3 661	3 296	2 952
Non-ferrous metals	\$m	4 518	5 043	4 433
Wool	\$m	3 417	2 736	2 930
Wheat	\$m	1 618	3 363	4 300
Major import commodities customs value				
Machinery	\$m	24 432	25 992	25 764
Transport Equipment	\$m	10 728	10 467	11 020
Chemicals and related products	\$m	8 009	8 901	9 029

LABOUR FORCE

Annual averages		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Employed persons	'000	8 057.9	8 287.2	8 362.9
Unemployed persons	'000	794.6	766.7	796.5
Unemployment rate	%	8.9	8.5	8.1
		1995	1996	1997
Job vacancies, May	'000	53.7	53.6	58.1
		1994	1995	1996
Trade union membership, June	'000	2 890.2	2 756.3	2 800.5
Industrial disputes, work days lost, year ended 30 June	'000	501.6	547.6	928.5

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MANUFACTURING

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Basic iron	'000t	7 449	7 553	7 345
Claybricks for structural purposes	mill.	1 860	1 458	1 468
Cement (portland)	'000t	7 124	7 397	6 702
Beer	mill.L	1 788	1 742	1 735
Assembled motor vehicles	'000	328	328	331
Electricity	mill. kWh	165 063	167 543	168 370
Gas	TJ	629 406	620 889	637 174
Electric motors	'000	3 099	2 850	2 669
Yarn — cotton	t	37 643	36 955	39 853
Yarn — wool	t	23 096	20 063	18 284
Census		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Employment at end of June(a)	'000	911.1	924.3	923.1
Wages and salaries(b)	\$m	28 095	29 653	29 902
Turnover	\$m	183 686	191 427	197 963

(a) Includes working proprietors.

(b) Excludes the drawings of working proprietors.

MINING

		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Iron ore	'000t	123 631	137 525	137 267
Black coal	'000t	177 874	191 903	194 492
Brown coal	'000t	49 684	50 679	54 281
Crude oil (incl. condensate)	ML	29 583	31 301	30 763
Natural gas	GL	15 959	17 486	19 169
Liquefied natural gas	'000t	5 732	6 888	7 346

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Gross domestic product (GDP(I))	\$m	457 294	487 625	509 772
GDP(A) at 1989-90 prices	\$m	417 964	433 688	444 641
Gross fixed capital expenditure				
Private	\$m	77 048	78 622	84 745
Public	\$m	20 422	19 509	18 642
Final consumption expenditure				
Private	\$m	283 655	302 644	314 289
Government	\$m	79 819	83 941	86 599

RETAIL TURNOVER

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Food	\$m	38 811	40 647	40 902
Clothing and softgood retailing	\$m	7 873	8 003	7 864
Recreational good retailing	\$m	5 479	5 879	5 687
Hospitality and selected other services	\$m	17 543	17 894	16 981
Total retail turnover	\$m	103 739	107 744	107 794

TOURISM

		1994	1995	1996
Inbound visitors	'000	3 362	3 726	4 165
Australians travelling abroad	'000	2 354	2 519	2 732
Major destinations of Australian travellers				
New Zealand	'000	353.3	371.4	414.9
United States of America	'000	288.3	314.0	331.1
United Kingdom	'000	254.4	265.4	289.1
Indonesia	'000	214.2	222.2	259.8
Total all travellers	'000	2 345.3	2 518.6	2 732.0

TRANSPORT

		1991	1993	1995
Motor Vehicles on register				
Passenger vehicles	'000	7 861	8 279	8 629
Light commercial vehicles, trucks, non-freight carrying trucks, buses	'000	1 953	1 936	2 022
Motor cycles	'000	284	289	297

WAGES, EARNINGS and HOURS

		1995	1996	1997
Weekly award rates of pay indexes, full-time adult employees 1985=100.0 (June)				
Males		143.6	145.8	147.5
Females		147.1	150.1	153.0
Average weekly total earnings, full time adult employees (May)	\$	687.80	715.20	736.80
		1994	1995	1996
Hours	no.	39.9	39.9	39.8

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Annual periods shown as, for example, 1995 refers to the year ended 31 December 1995; those shown as, for example 1995-96 refer to the year ended June 1996. Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) unless another currency is specified. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

°C	— degrees Celsius	n.a.	— not available
\$m	— million dollars	n.c.	— not collected
GL	— gigalitre	MJ	— megajoule
km ²	— square kilometres	MkWh	— mega kilowatt hours
mill.	— million	n.y.a.	— not yet available
ML	— megalitre	p	— preliminary data
mm	— millimetre	'000	— thousand
		t	— tonne

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