

Australia comprises a land area of 7,692,030 square kilometres. The land lies between latitudes 10° 41' South (Cape York, Queensland) and 43° 39' South (South East Cape, Tasmania) and between longitudes 113° 09' East (Steep Point, Western Australia) and 153° 39' East (Cape Byron, New South Wales).

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 '000 km²</i>	<i>Estimated resident population June '97 '000</i>	<i>Capital City</i>	<i>Estimated resident population of city June '97 '000(a)</i>
NSW	801	6 274	Sydney	3 935
Vic.	227	4 605	Melbourne	3 322
Qld	1 731	3 401	Brisbane	1 548
SA	983	1 480	Adelaide	1 083
WA	2 530	1 798	Perth	1 319
Tas.	68	474	Hobart	196
NT	1 349	187	Darwin	84
ACT	2	310	Canberra	310
Australia	7 692	18 532		

(a) Capital City Statistical Division.

AGRICULTURE

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Gross value of agriculture	\$m	23 750	27 452	28 090
Crops	\$m	11 132	15 397	16 138
Livestock slaughtering etc.	\$m	6 616	6 193	6 190
Livestock products	\$m	5 994	5 851	5 754
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Wheat production	'000 t	16 504	22 924	19 417
Meat production (excluding poultry)	'000 t	2 653	2 721	2 916
Wool production	'000 t	726	703	728

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Balance on current account	\$m	-21 802	-17 052	-23 941
Net goods	\$m	-1 583	1 496	-3 654
Net services	\$m	-286	309	-764
Net income	\$m	-19 907	-18 983	-19 567
Net current transfers	\$m	-26	126	44
Balance on capital account	\$m	1 074	1 318	1 121
Balance on financial account	\$m	20 840	17 249	21 132

BUILDING

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
New houses completed	'000	94	83	94
Value of new houses completed	\$m	9 381	9 266	11 176
New other residential building completed	'000	41	36	37
Value of new other residential building completed	\$m	3 726	3 731	4 510
Value of new residential building completed	\$m	13 107	12 997	15 686
Value of non-residential building completed (a)	\$m	11 339	12 755	13 259

(a) Valued at \$50,000 or more.

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	1668	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

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
CPI weighted av. of 8 capital cities, all groups	1989-90=100.0	118.7	120.3	120.3
Export	1989-90=100.0	96.1	92.4	98.9
Import	1989-90=100.0	115.0	108.6	115.4
Building materials-house	1989-90=100.0	115.7	116.1	118.2
Building materials-other	1989-90=100.0	112.7	113.2	114.2
Manufacturing				
Materials used	1989-90=100.0	110.1	106.0	107.0
Articles produced	1988-89=100.0	121.1	121.8	123.4

DEMOGRAPHY

		1995	1996	1997
Population at 30 June	'000	18 072	18 311	18 532
Births	'000	256	254	254
Deaths	'000	125	129	129
Marriages	'000	109	106	107
Divorces	'000	50	52	51
Overseas movement of persons		1987	1992	1997
Five years ended 30 June				
Permanent and long-term				
Arrivals	'000	872	1 195	1 173
Departures	'000	479	626	746

EDUCATION

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Expenditure				
Government expenditure	\$m	22 105	22 967	24 480
Private expenditure	\$m	6 734	7 336	7 923
School students		1995	1996	1997
Government	'000	2 207.9	2 221.6	2 230.1
Non-government	'000	901.5	921.5	941.6
Higher education students(a)	'000	604.2	634.1	658.8

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

EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS

		1996	1997	1998
Average weekly total earnings, full time adult employees (May)	\$	715.2	736.8	767.8
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Average weekly hours worked by full-time workers	hours	40.5	42.4	42.5
Males	hours	42.0	43.9	44.1
Females	hours	37.4	39.4	39.4

FINANCE

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Government finance				
Revenue (all governments)	\$m	151 804	167 288	180 925
Commonwealth income tax, persons	\$m	54 635	60 602	66 278
Total outlay (all governments)	\$m	178 244	188 266	193 023
Final consumption expenditure	\$m	71 546	75 732	79 196
Personal benefit payments	\$m	52 051	55 942	58 695
Expenditure on new fixed assets	\$m	22 615	22 658	23 573
Private finance		1996	1997	1998
Assets of selected financial institutions (June balances)				
Banks(a)	\$m	413 380	468 203	510 996
Non bank deposit-taking institutions(a)(b)	\$m	149 157	159 327	177 214
Life offices and superannuation funds	\$m	270 035	325 276	372 557
Australian life insurers	\$m	118 521	127 300	157 994
Superannuation funds	\$m	161 666	199 341	229 957
Other financial institutions	\$m	123 924	148 894	n.y.a.
Consumer finance commitments		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Housing finance	\$m	434 677	49 979	54 576
Personal finance	\$m	32 282	35 568	42 908

(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.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS 1996-97

Country	Balance on merchandise trade \$US million	Consumer price index (all items) 1990=100.0	Producer price index 1990 =100.0
Australia	-1 940	116.6	n.y.a
Canada	12 560	115.9	118.7
France	29 180	115.7	98.5
Germany	73 480	123.6	108.1.
Italy	27 500	136.4	126.7
Japan	100 230	109.6	94.7
New Zealand	-540	115.6	108.7
OECD Major 7	n.a.	121.7	108.5
United Kingdom	-32 440	127.2	126.5
United States of America	-235 460	123.8	109.9

	Wages index 1990=100.0	Employment index 1990=100.0	Unemployment rate (a) %
Australia	n.y.a.	108.2	8.3
Canada	120.1	107.4	8.7
France	123.0	100.5	12.2
Germany	n.y.a.	97.9	10.1
Italy	136.6	94.5	12.1
Japan	118.3	104.7	3.7
New Zealand	n.a.	116.9	7.1
OECD Major 7	126.3	104.9	6.5
United Kingdom	147.5	99.3	6.5
United States of America	123.2	110.8	4.7

(a) As at 30 June.

Source: OECD.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Net foreign liabilities at 30 June	\$m 276 491	305 145	331 239
Foreign investment in Australia	\$m 458 951	510 305	562 252
Australian investment abroad	\$m -171 031	-198 663	-237 951
Net foreign debt at 30 June	\$m 194 731	213 479	222 017
Net foreign equity, ratios to GDP	% 18.9	19.0	18.8
Net foreign debt, ratios to GDP	% 39.5	41.3	40.8

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Total exports	\$m 76 005	78 932	87 766
Total imports	\$m 77 792	78 988	90 680
Major export commodities			
Machinery and transport equipment	\$m 9 720	10 666	11 071
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	\$m 8 666	9 051	10 043
Coal, coke and briquettes	\$m 7 840	8 005	9 588
Gold, non-monetary	\$m 5 545	4 717	6 263
Non-ferrous metals	\$m 5 043	4 434	5 375
Meat	\$m 3 296	2 958	3 730
Wheat	\$m 3 363	4 300	3 627
Wool	\$m 2 736	2 930	3 066
Major import commodities customs value			
Machinery	\$m 25 991	25 760	28 689
Transport equipment	\$m 10 467	11 022	13 237
Chemicals and related products	\$m 8 901	9 028	10 277

For inquiries . . .

DIAL-A-STATISTIC For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074. For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index, call 1900 986 400. These calls cost 75c per minute.

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Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7100	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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Recommended retail price: \$1.10

LABOUR FORCE

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Annual averages				
Employed persons	'000	8 287.2	8 362.9	8 466.7
Unemployed persons	'000	766.7	796.5	768.1
Unemployment rate	%	8.5	8.7	8.3
		1996	1997	1998
Job vacancies, May 1998	'000	53.6	58.1	73.3
		1995	1996	1997
Trade union membership, August	%	33.0	31.0	30.0
Industrial disputes, work days lost, year ended 30 June	'000	547.6	928.5	534.2

MANUFACTURING

	Unit of quantity	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Electricity	mill.kW.h	167 544	168 415	179 239
Tobacco and cigarettes	t	20 390	22 193	21 275
Automotive gasoline	mill.L	18 358	18 084	18 589
Ready mixed concrete	'000 m ³	14 556	15 544	17 412
Automotive diesel oil	mill.L	12 202	12 968	13 183
Blooms and slabs of iron or steel	'000 t	7 951	7 775	8 356
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	'000 t	7 553	7 346	7 928
Portland cement	'000 t	6 397	6 701	7 236
Hardwood woodchips	'000 t	4 828	4 779	5 665
Aviation turbine fuel	mill.L	4 882	5 284	5 423
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Employment at end of June(a)	'000	924.3	923.1	968.8
Wages and salaries(b)	\$m	29 653	29 902	33 327
Turnover	\$m	191 427	197 963	209 911

(a) Including working proprietors. (b) Excludes the drawings of working proprietors.

MINING

		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Iron ore	'000 t	123 631	137 525	137 267
Black coal	'000 t	177 874	191 903	194 492
Brown coal	'000 t	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	'000 t	5 732	6 888	7 346

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Gross domestic product (GDP(I))	\$m	460 291	492 113	516 306
GDP(A) at 1989-90 prices	\$m	419 745	436 822	448 688
Gross fixed capital expenditure				
Private	\$m	77 017	79 991	86 304
Public	\$m	20 909	20 295	19 230
Final consumption expenditure				
Private	\$m	286 830	306 369	318 480
Government	\$m	79 341	83 437	86 419

RETAIL TURNOVER

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Food	\$m	40 647	40 902	42 353
Clothing and softgood retailing	\$m	8 003	7 864	8 081
Recreational good retailing	\$m	5 879	5 687	5 888
Hospitality and selected other services	\$m	17 894	16 981	17 381
Total retail turnover	\$m	107 760	107 841	111 395

TOURISM

		1995	1996	1997
Inbound visitors	'000	3 726	4 165	4 318
Australians travelling abroad	'000	2 519	2 732	2 933
Major destinations of Australian travellers				
New Zealand	'000	371.4	414.9	406.9
United States of America	'000	314.0	331.1	352.0
United Kingdom	'000	265.4	289.1	322.3
Indonesia	'000	222.2	259.8	310.7
Total all travellers	'000	2 518.6	2 732.0	2 932.8

TRANSPORT

		1995	1996	1997
Motor vehicles on register				
Passenger vehicles	'000	8 661	9 021	9 240
Light commercial vehicles, trucks, non-freight carrying trucks, buses	'000	1 990	2 076	2 112
Motor cycles	'000	297	304	313

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Annual periods shown as, for example, 1996 refers to the year ended 31 December 1996; those shown as, for example 1996–97 refer to the year ended June 1997. 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	L	— litres
\$m	— dollar millions	MJ	— megajoules
GL	— gigalitres	kW.h	— kilowatt hours
kms	— kilometres	n.y.a.	— not yet available
mill.	— millions	p	— preliminary data
ML	— megalitres	'000	— thousands
mm	— millimetres	t	— tonnes
n.a.	— not available		

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