

Australia comprises a land area of about 7,692,030 square kilometres (see table below). 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, 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 the 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 Kosciuszko, 2,230 metres, which is situated in NSW.

<i>State/ Territory</i>	<i>Area '000 km²</i>	<i>Estimated resident population June '99 '000</i>	<i>Capital City</i>	<i>Estimated resident population of city June '99 '000(a)</i>
NSW	801	6 412	Sydney	4 041
Vic.	227	4 712	Melbourne	3 417
Qld	1 731	3 512	Brisbane	1 601
SA	983	1 493	Adelaide	1 093
WA	2 530	1 861	Perth	1 364
Tas.	68	470	Hobart	194
NT	1 349	193	Darwin	88
ACT	2	310	Canberra	310
Aust.	7 692	18 967		

(a) Capital City Statistical Division.

AGRICULTURE

		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Gross value of agriculture	\$m	28 090	28 347	28 990
Crops	\$m	15 685	15 329	16 171
Livestock slaughtering etc.	\$m	6 212	7 060	7 401
Livestock products	\$m	5 759	5 958	5 418
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Wheat production	'000 t	22 925	19 227	21 465
Meat production (excluding poultry)	'000 t	2 712	2 930	2 944
Wool production	'000 t	731	690	688

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Balance on current account	\$m	-22 818	-33 716	-33 677
Net goods	\$m	-3 546	-12 740	-13 331
Net services	\$m	-1 192	-1 870	-1 849
Net income	\$m	-18 005	-18 328	-18 591
Net current transfers	\$m	-75	-778	94
Balance on capital account	\$m	1 127	1 167	1 119
Balance on financial account	\$m	22 620	32 205	33 099

BUILDING

		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
New houses completed	'000	83	94	100
Value of new houses completed	\$m	9 266	10 996	11 605
New other residential building completed	'000	36	37	40
Value of new other residential building completed	\$m	3 911	4 540	5 200
Value of new residential building completed	\$m	13 229	15 728	17 080
Value of non-residential building completed(a)	\$m	13 281	13 329	14 016

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

CLIMATE

	Mean annual rainfall mm	Mean daily hours of sun-shine	Mean temperature			
			January		July	
			Max. °C	Min. °C	Max. °C	Min. °C
Canberra	633	7.4	28.5	13.6	11.5	0.0
Sydney	1 222	6.8	25.8	18.6	16.1	8.0
Melbourne	657	5.6	25.8	14.1	13.4	5.9
Brisbane	1 146	7.5	29.4	20.7	20.4	9.5
Adelaide	530	6.9	28.5	16.6	14.9	7.5
Perth	869	8.1	29.7	17.9	17.4	9.0
Hobart	509	6.3	22.3	11.9	12.3	4.0
Darwin	1 535	8.5	32.4	25.2	30.7	19.7

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

Coldest day ever recorded: 18.6.1994, -23.0°C, Charlotte Pass, NSW.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

CONSUMER PRICE AND OTHER PRICE INDEXES

		1998-99	1999-00
CPI weighted av. of 8 capital cities, all groups	1989-90=100.0	121.8	124.7
Export	1989-90=100.0	96.7	98.0
Import	1989-90=100.0	119.9	120.2
Building materials-house	1989-90=100.0	119.5	122.8
Building materials-other	1989-90=100.0	115.2	116.1
Manufacturing			
Materials used	1989-90=100.0	105.9	105.8
Articles produced	1988-89=100.0	115.6	120.6

DEMOGRAPHY

		1997	1998	1999
Population at 30 June	'000	18 524	18 751	19 000
Births	'000	254	249	248
Deaths	'000	127	129	129
Marriages	'000	107	111	114
Divorces	'000	51	51	53
Overseas movement of persons		1993	1998	1999
Five years ended 30 June				
Permanent and long-term				
Arrivals	'000	1 156	1 235	1 300
Departures	'000	668	791	827

EDUCATION

		1997	1998	1999
School students				
Government	'000	2 230.0	2 239.4	2 247.7
Non-government	'000	941.6	959.3	979.0
Higher education students(a)	'000	658.8	671.9	686.3
VET Clients	'000	1 458.6	1 535.2	1 647.2
Participation (15–19 year old)	%	77.4	76.9	77.8
Post-school qualifications	%	40.4	41.9	43.7

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

EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS

		1998	1999	2000
Average weekly total earnings, full-time adult employees (May)	\$	767.80	790.60	821.50
		1997–98	1998–99	1999–00
Average weekly hours worked by full-time workers	hours	42.5	41.1	41.4
Males	hours	44.1	42.7	43.0
Females	hours	39.4	37.9	38.3

FINANCE

		1996–97	1997–98	1998–99
Government finance				
Revenue (all governments)	\$m	177 327	185 643	181 282
Commonwealth income tax, persons	\$m	66 280	70 785	139 797
Total outlay (all governments)	\$m	192 155	196 412	224 649
Final consumption expenditure	\$m	86 217	103 045	107 945
Private finance		1998	1999	2000
Assets of selected financial institutions (June balances)				
Banks(a)	\$m	581 542	647 569	731 345
Other depository corporations(a)	\$m	180 296	184 470	189 900
Life offices and superannuation funds	\$m	157 539	172 152	184 075
Pension funds	\$m	297 267	344 626	405 417
Financial intermediaries	\$m	165 294	158 249	199 030
Consumer finance commitments		1997–98	1998–99	1999–00
Housing finance	\$m	54 661	61 501	74 930
Personal finance	\$m	42 921	45 905	51 887

(a) Source: Australian Financial Institutions Commission; Reserve Bank of Australia.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS 1998–99

Country	Balance on merchandise trade \$US billion	Consumer price index (all items) 1995=100.0	Producer price index 1995 =100.0
Australia	-7.3	105.3	103.5
Canada	18.4	106.1	103.1
France	21.0	104.6	94.5
Germany	70.1	104.9	100.3
Italy	22.2	110.0	103.0
Japan	109.5	102.2	96.1
New Zealand	-0.9	104.7	99.6
OECD Major 7	n.a.	107.5	101.4
United Kingdom	-50.1	111.0	105.4
United States of America	-300.4	109.3	104.0

	Wages index 1995=100.0	Employment index 1995=100.0	Unemployment rate(a) %
Australia	107.9	106.7	7.2
Canada	106.1	108.8	7.6
France	108.7	104.5	11.3
Germany	108.3	101.0	8.8
Italy	111.2	103.3	11.3
Japan	105.4	100.1	4.7
New Zealand	n.a.	105.0	6.8
OECD Major 7	109.1	104.3	6.2
United Kingdom	115.7	105.1	6.1
United States of America	110.4	106.9	4.2

(a) As at 30 June.

Source: OECD.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION

	1998	1999	2000
Net foreign liabilities at 30 June	\$m 342 834	349 935	394 055
Foreign investment in Australia	\$m 571 755	613 264	691 172
Australian investment abroad	\$m -246 998	-256 140	-287 397
Net foreign debt at 30 June	\$m 231 633	232 059	268 115
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Net foreign equity, ratios to GDP	% 16.5	21.0	21.5
Net foreign debt, ratios to GDP	% 41.0	39.0	42.4

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Total exports	\$m 87 769	85 991	97 225
Total imports	\$m 90 684	97 661	110 083
Major export commodities			
Machinery and transport equipment	\$m 11 111	10 324	11 606
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	\$m 10 422	10 665	11 308
Coal, coke and briquettes	\$m 9 587	9 302	8 347
Gold, non-monetary	\$m 6 263	6 335	5 090
Non-ferrous metals	\$m 5 319	5 399	7 398
Meat	\$m 3 731	4 000	4 459
Wheat	\$m 3 627	3 396	3 412
Wool	\$m 3 066	1 993	2 338
Major import commodities customs value			
Machinery	\$m 28 672	45 418	51 349
Transport equipment	\$m 13 236	2 848	5 276
Chemicals and related products	\$m 10 276	11 435	12 498

LABOUR FORCE

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Annual averages				
Employed persons	'000	8 461.4	8 638.4	8 886.5
Unemployed persons	'000	764.2	718.2	661.4
Unemployment rate	%	8.3	7.6	6.8
		1998	1999	2000
Job vacancies, May 1999	'000	92.5	88.9	106.8
		1997	1998	1999
Trade union membership, August	%	30.0	28.1	25.7
Industrial disputes, work days lost, year ended 30 June	'000	534.2	526.3	650.4

MANUFACTURING

	Unit of quantity	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Electricity	mill.kW.h	168 415	176 212	179 630
Tobacco and cigarettes	t	22 193	21 257	21 045
Automotive gasoline	mill.L	18 084	18 592	18 705
Ready mixed concrete	'000 m ³	15 544	17 412	18 601
Alumina	'000 t	13 253	13 538	14 208
Automotive diesel oil	mill.L	12 968	13 183	12 968
Blooms and slabs of iron or steel	'000 t	7 775	8 356	7 698
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	'000 t	7 346	7 928	7 453
Portland cement	'000 t	6 701	7 236	7 704
Hardwood woodchips	'000 t	4 779	5 665	4 865
Aviation turbine fuel	mill.L	5 284	5 423	5 219
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Employment at end of June(a)	'000	946.3	965.0	937.4
Wages and salaries(b)	\$m	32 634	34 135	35 099
Turnover	\$m	208 348	214 355	220 555

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

MINING

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Iron ore	'000 t	137 267	162 480	169 568
Black coal	'000 t	194 492	206 169	225 181
Brown coal	'000 t	54 281	58 886	68 638
Crude oil (incl. condensate)	ML	30 763	29 556	32 310
Natural gas	GL	19 169	n.a.	n.a.
Liquefied natural gas	'000 t	7 346	n.a.	n.a.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Gross domestic product chain volume measure	\$m	540 379	565 881	591 546
Gross fixed capital formation				
Private	\$m	98 730	112 391	116 429
Public	\$m	22 614	20 824	24 697
Final consumption expenditure				
Households	\$m	313 575	333 407	352 650
General government	\$m	97 481	103 045	107 945

RETAIL TURNOVER

		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Food	\$m	51 948	53 769	54 674
Clothing and softgood retailing	\$m	8 525	8 589	9 636
Recreational good retailing	\$m	6 647	6 775	6 867
Hospitality and selected other services	\$m	20 807	21 126	22 887
Total retail turnover	\$m	127 103	131 153	136 164

TOURISM

		1997	1998	1999
Inbound visitors	'000	4 318	4 167	4 460
Australians travelling abroad	'000	2 933	3 161	3 201
Major destinations of Australian travellers				
New Zealand	'000	406.9	470.1	488.9
United States of America	'000	352.0	322.7	347.0
United Kingdom	'000	322.3	343.3	337.4
Indonesia	'000	310.7	349.6	280.6
Total all travellers	'000	2 932.8	3 161.1	3 210.0

TRANSPORT

		1997	1998	1999
Motor vehicles on register				
Passenger vehicles	'000	9 240	9 561	9 720
Light commercial vehicles, trucks, non-freight carrying trucks, buses	'000	2 112	2 177	2 215
Motor cycles	'000	313	329	334

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Annual periods shown as, for example, 1999 refer to the year ended 31 December 1999; those shown as, for example 1998–99 refer to the year ended June 1999. 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.c.	— not collected
\$m	— million dollars	MJ	— megajoules
GL	— gigalitres	MkWh	— mega kilowatt hours
kms	— kilometres	n.y.a.	— not yet available
mill.	— million	p	— preliminary data
ML	— megalitres	'000	— thousand
mm	— millimetres	t	— tonnes
n.a.	— not available		

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Cover: Old Parliament House, closed as an Australian Parliament in May 1988, is now an exhibition centre and museum of Australian political history. The central flagpole appears as though it is part of this building. In fact, the flag, flying 81 metres high, is part of New Parliament House, unseen in the background. Both buildings, in Australia's national capital of Canberra, are powerful symbols of our nation which in 2001 celebrates its Centenary of Federation.

Photograph: Courtesy of AUSPIC

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