



BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 17 AUG 1998

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
Selected business indicators	5
FEATURE ARTICLE	
ACT investors in rental dwellings	6
TABLES	
1 Business expectations: Sales, September quarter 1998/ June quarter 1999, expected aggregate change	9
2 Business indicators, August 1998	10
3 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia	13
4 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia—percentage changes	14

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Will Blythe on Canberra 02 6205 0032 or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
September	21 September 1998
October	19 October 1998
November	23 November 1998
December	22 December 1998
January	25 January 1999

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the June 1998 issue are: labour force; industrial disputes, wage and salary earners, housing and construction; housing finance; engineering construction, retail turnover; motor vehicle registrations, selected retail prices, and the Consumer price index. The feature article on pages 6–8 is on ACT investors in rental dwellings.

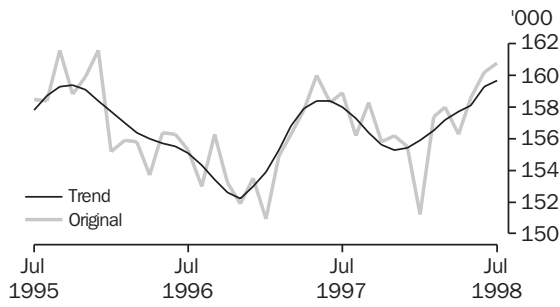
NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- Labour force** For the third consecutive month, the July 1998 trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 6.9%, which is the lowest rate since June 1991. Trend employment increased 0.3% (400 persons) to reach a record 159,700 persons in July 1998 and the participation rate rose 0.2% to 72.9% from the previous period. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.1% from the previous period and the trend unemployment rate remained the same at 8.2%.
- Industrial disputes** For the 12 months ended April 1998 there were 15 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 74 days nationally. There was a decrease of 11.8% for the ACT and a decrease of 2.6% for Australia for the year ending March 1998. In comparison with the previous year for the ACT and Australia respectively, there was a decrease of 88.5% and 36.8% in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
- Wage and salary earners** The trend number of wage and salary earners reported by Government agencies and businesses located in the ACT fell 0.2% (or 300 persons) to 137,700 in the period November 1997 to February 1998. This compares to a national decline of 0.3% (or 21,400 persons). The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT sits just under 50%. These figures exclude self-employed persons in jobs located in the private sector.
- Housing and construction** The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 19.2% to 180 dwelling units in June 1998, ending six consecutive monthly decreases. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 1.1% in June 1998.
- The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$16.3 million in June 1998, a decrease of \$2.2 million (down 11.9%) from the previous month and \$3.3 million (25.4%) higher than June 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 17.8% from the previous month and was 14.7% higher than June 1997.

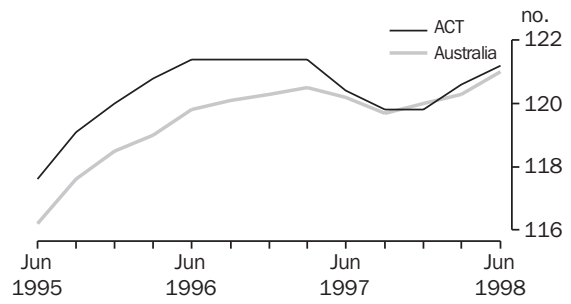
Housing finance	<p>The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during June 1998 decreased to 632 dwellings, a drop of 0.8% on the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$71 million, the same as the previous month.</p> <p>Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 15% of the total value of dwelling units financed in June 1998 which is a decrease of 2.6% from the previous month (17.6%). Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during June 1998 was 41,279 which was an increase of 1.0% on the previous month while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased 1.1%.</p>
Engineering construction	<p>The value of construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the March quarter 1998 increased by 26.9% or \$4.9 million from the previous quarter and increased \$6.7 million or 40.9% on the March quarter 1997. Nationally, the value of public sector work done increased 7.9% from the previous quarter and increased 17.2% on the March quarter 1997.</p> <p>The value of engineering construction work done by the private sector in the ACT during the March quarter 1998 increased by 8.9% to \$20.9 million from the previous quarter and increased 57.1% or \$7.6 million on the March quarter 1997. Nationally, the value of private sector engineering construction work done was up 4.0% from the previous quarter and was up 42.0% on the March quarter 1997.</p>
Retail turnover	<p>The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for May 1998 was \$216.1 million, up 0.1% on the previous month's figure and up 3.9% on twelve months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.1% on the previous month and was up 3.6% on a year ago.</p>
Motor vehicle registrations	<p>The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in June 1998 was 1,448, up 0.5% on the previous month, and up 26.7% on June 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in June 1998 recorded a 2.3% increase and showed continuous growth for the past fifteen months.</p>
Consumer price index	<p>The ACT experienced a 0.5% increase in the All Groups CPI for the June quarter 1998. This was close to the national figure of 0.6%. The ACT annual CPI rate to June quarter 1998 recorded an increase of 0.7%, the same as the annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.</p>

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

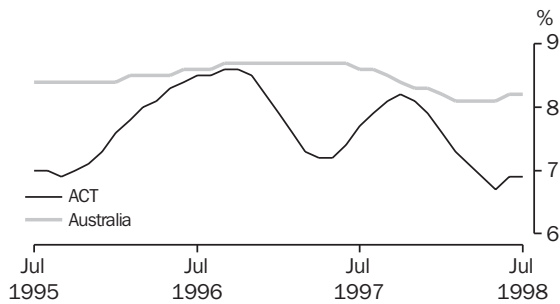
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



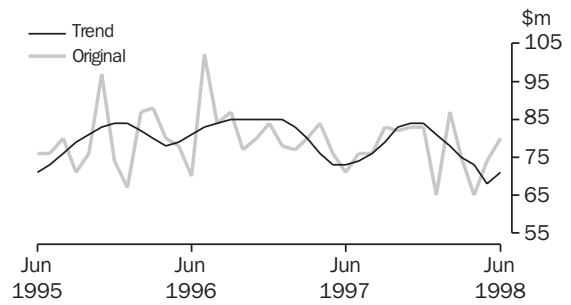
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



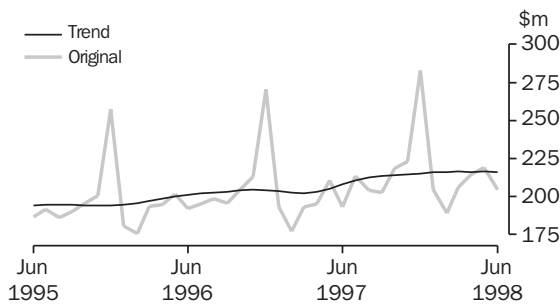
LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



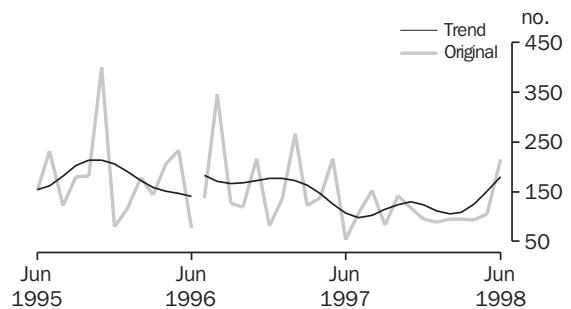
HOUSING FINANCE



RETAIL TURNOVER

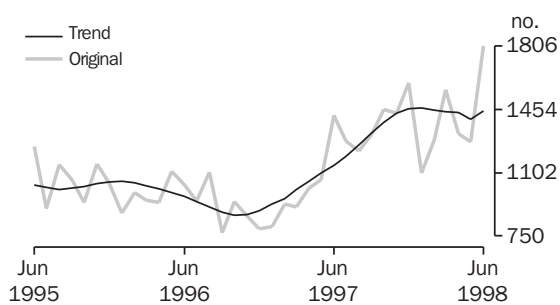


BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



Note: For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996 and a trend break has been included in the graph.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

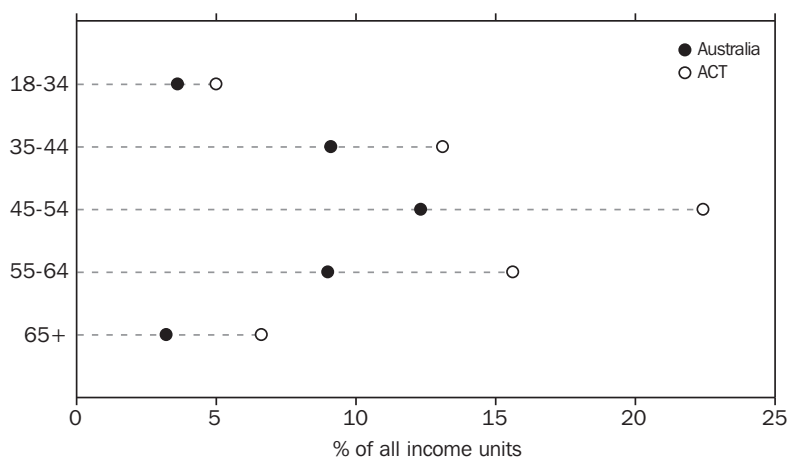


In June 1997, the household survey collected data on the demographic and financial characteristics of Australian residential rental property investors. Details were collected on reasons for investing in the rental housing market and information about the properties owned. For this survey investors were grouped into income units, that is, one person, or a group of related persons within a household whose command over income is assumed to be shared.

In the ACT approximately 15,700 income units owned or partly owned a residential property. These rental investors represented 11% of all income units living in private dwellings in the ACT. In comparison, rental investors only represented 6.5% of all income units living in private dwellings in Australia. Most rental investors were small investors as 69.5% of ACT and 76.4% of Australian investors owned or partly owned one property only.

Age profile of investors

Ownership of investment property in the ACT followed the same pattern as in Australia, that is, investment property ownership increased through the prime working years of life. In the ACT, 5% of income units with the reference person aged 18–34 years were investors, increasing to 13.1% of those where the person was aged 35–44, and 22.4% of those where the person was aged 45–54. The incidence of ownership of rental property declined in the pre-retirement years and was 6.6% for those with a reference person aged 65 years and over.



Type of investor income unit and principal source of income

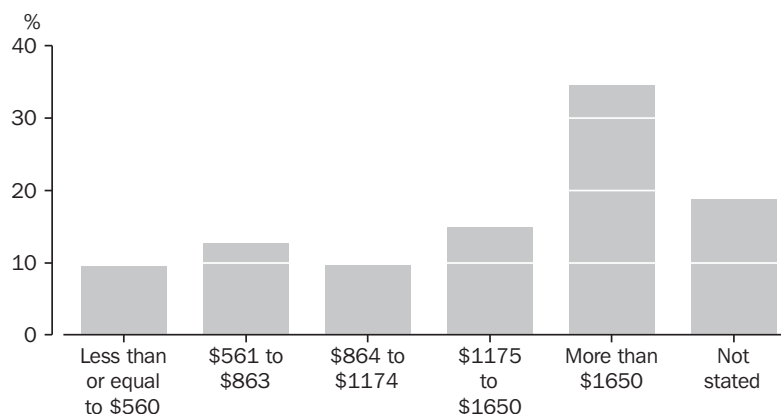
As investor income units tended to have reference persons concentrated in the 35–64 years age group, they were also likely to be couple income units, many with children still at home. In the ACT in June 1997, 74.4% of investor income units were couple investor income units, compared to 75.5% nationally. Couples with dependent children formed the largest group of income unit investors, accounting for 42.6% of investor income units in the ACT.

Type of investor income unit and principal source of income *continued*

In the ACT, 78.5% of investors drew their principal source of income from wages and salaries, compared to 64.9% nationally. Income from own business or partnership income was the second greatest principal source of income in Australia at 17.8%, but ranked third in the ACT, at 6.5%. Other private income was the second most important principal source of income in the ACT at 12.3%, compared to being the third most important source in Australia at 11.7%. In couple investor income units, the principal source of income of the person with the higher income is used.

ACT income units investing in private dwellings tended to have a gross weekly income in the highest quintile (34.6% of investors earned more than \$1,650). The high number of investors in the second lowest income group, disrupts the pattern of an increase in the number of investors with higher gross weekly income, as can be seen in the graph below.

GROSS WEEKLY INCOME OF INCOME UNITS WITH RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY



Motivation for investment

Despite the diverse demographic profile of investors, they shared some common reasons for investing. Investors were asked to report all factors considered for investing, therefore proportions added together will not total 100%. In the ACT, purchasing a property because it provided a secure long-term investment was the most common reason for investing at 75.3%, while nationally this reason was less common at only 66%. In both the ACT and Australia, negative gearing was the second most important reason for investing in a rental property at 18.5% and 15.7% respectively. Although capital gain was the third most important reason in the ACT, it was only ranked fifth nationally.

Financial arrangements

In the ACT, 77% of investors had a mortgage or loan held against their investment properties with the median mortgage value being \$115,000. The amount of interest payable on these mortgages, along with other costs, had a major effect on the net current returns from the investments. In June 1997, 21.7% of investors stated that they made a profit on their property investments in 1995-96, while 11.1% broke even and 46.1% made a loss. Of the remaining investors, 11.3% did not state whether they made a profit or loss and 9.8% had bought the property after the end of the financial year and therefore were not asked the question. The ACT had more investors making a loss on their investment, in comparison to Australia.

PROFIT OR LOSS ON INVESTMENT

<i>Net annual return</i>	<i>Investors</i>	
	<i>Total ACT</i>	<i>Total Australia</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Loss	46.1	35.9
Break even	11.1	11.0
Profit	21.7	29.4
Not stated	11.3	9.5
Not applicable	9.8	14.1
All investor units	100.0	100.0

In June 1997, the 15,700 investor income units reported details for 15,900 rental properties. These properties provided a wide variety of housing in terms of their structures, values and the rents charged. Only 46.8% of the rental properties owned by ACT investor income units were separate houses, compared to 62% nationally. Most of the remaining rental stock in the ACT was owned as semi-detached or terrace houses (26.8%) and single flats or apartments (23.8%).

The median value of rental properties owned by ACT investor income units was estimated at \$137,000, higher than the national figure of \$125,000. The proportion of properties valued at less than \$100,000 was the lowest in the nation at 9.6%. In Australia, the proportion of properties valued at less than \$100,000 was three times higher than for the ACT at 29.2%. Only 13.2% of rental properties owned by ACT investment income units were valued at \$200,000 or more, compared to 17.1% nationally.

In June 1997, the median weekly rent in the ACT was \$173, while nationally it was \$154. In the ACT, approximately 67% of properties were let for between \$100 to \$200 per week.

- Property management ACT investors in residential rental properties differed from national investors in their choice of property manager. In the ACT, 43.8% of properties were managed by the investor income unit itself, while nationally the proportion was lower at 35.8%. In Australia, 59.7% of properties were managed by real estate agents, compared to 46.4% in the ACT.
- Location of property Household investors in rental dwellings, resident in the ACT, are likely to own a property within the ACT. In June 1997, almost 73% of the properties owned by ACT income investor units were located within the ACT. Of these, 38% were located within the same statistical subdivision as the investor income units.

1BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1998/
JUNE QUARTER 1999, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Mar qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.6	3.0
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	-1.1	-0.3
Mar qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1998	-0.1	1.7
Jun qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1998	2.7	1.1
Medium-term		
Mar qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	5.5	2.9
Jun qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Sep qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.9	3.0
Mar qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	2.6	2.6
Jun qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1999	6.9	2.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from
				Same period previous year			Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, Dec qtr 97	'000	309.0	-0.1	0.2	18 631.1	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	951	87.9	21.8	31 861	22.3	2.5
Net migration	no.	-1 189	10.9	11.3	10 618	-65.0	-57.2
Total increase	no.	-238	-58.0	-17.1	42 479	-24.7	-24.0
LABOUR FORCE, July 98							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	160.8	0.4	1.2	8 636.8	0.3	2.2
Unemployed	'000	11.8	18.0	6.3	727.8	-1.1	-3.1
Unemployment rate	%	6.9	1.0	0.3	7.8	-0.1	-0.4
Participation rate	%	73.3	1.0	0.9	63.4	0.1	0.3
Long-term unemployed, June 98	no.	2 942	-1.8	-7.1	224 368	-3.1	-6.2
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed	—	29.4	3.0	3.7	30.5	-0.8	-1.4
Trend series							
Employed	'000	159.7	0.3	1.1	8 594.4	0.1	2.3
Unemployed	'000	11.9	0.8	-9.2	766.7	0.7	-3.6
Unemployment rate	%	6.9	—	-0.8	8.2	—	-0.4
Participation rate	%	72.9	0.2	—	63.4	0.1	0.3
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Feb 98							
Trend series							
Public Sector	'000	69.5	-0.7	2.4	1 456.6	-0.9	-1.5
Private Sector	'000	68.2	0.3	-5.1	5 343.7	-0.2	0.5
Total	'000	137.7	-0.2	-1.6	6 800.4	-0.3	0.1
JOB VACANCIES, May 98	'000	1.4	40.0	40.0	73.3	-2.9	26.2
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Apr 98							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	—	-100.0	22.1	-56.0	-41.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Apr 98)	no.	15.0	-11.8	-88.5	74.0	-2.6	-36.8
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, June 98							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.0	20.0	50.0	832.0	16.5	37.3
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	3.0	—	-25.0	255.0	13.3	1.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	55.0	10.0	25.0	4 047.0	10.9	15.5
Re-financing	\$m	12.0	-7.7	-14.3	889.0	17.3	0.9
Total housing commitments	\$m	80.0	8.1	12.7	5 133.0	11.9	17.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	78.0	8.3	9.9	4 977.0	12.8	14.2
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	632	-0.8	-7.2	41 279	1.0	2.6
Total housing commitments	\$m	71.0	—	-2.7	4 679.0	1.1	7.1
BUILDING APPROVALS, June 98							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	215	104.8	298.1	14 655	5.0	26.6
Value of new residential	\$m	23.5	74.1	267.2	1 524.1	0.3	31.3
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.8	9.1	50.0	282.9	-3.2	9.3
Value of non-residential	\$m	16.3	-11.9	25.4	1 214.7	-17.8	14.7
Value of total building	\$m	44.7	22.8	97.8	3 021.8	-8.1	21.9
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	180	19.2	68.2	13 951	1.1	17.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
					Latest figure	Previous period	
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION <i>continued</i>							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Mar qtr 98							
New houses	no.	245	-18.9	-11.2	23 659	-11.3	21.1
Value of houses commenced	\$m	29.1	-23.8	-4.3	2 644.7	-12.6	23.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	110.1	67.8	-2.1	2 977.7	-15.2	5.1
Value of total commencements	\$m	154.4	21.4	-8.1	7 428.1	-13.4	14.7
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 97	—	127.1	0.7	2.3	124.2	2.5	7.7
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Mar Qtr 98)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	24.9	60.6	192.9	2 703.3	-2.2	38.7
Value of work done	\$m	20.9	8.9	57.1	2 848.3	4.0	42.0
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	9.8	42.0	-65.1	6 592.6	0.6	19.2
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	23.1	26.9	40.9	1 538.1	7.9	17.2
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Jun qtr 98							
Food	(a)	126.9	1.3	3.6	123.1	0.8	1.9
Housing	(a)	93.4	0.1	-5.4	94.5	1.2	-2.5
Transportation	(a)	129.1	0.1	-1.2	122.8	-0.1	-0.9
All groups	(a)	121.2	0.5	0.7	121.0	0.6	0.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Feb 98							
Original series							
Males	\$	822.8	4.3	5.9	715.6	0.9	3.9
Females	\$	611.1	3.6	6.0	470.1	0.9	2.7
Persons	\$	719.0	3.9	5.8	597.4	0.8	2.7
Trend series							
Males	\$	811.7	2.2	5.3	714.3	1.2	4.4
Females	\$	605.9	2.4	7.0	469.0	0.7	3.4
Persons	\$	711.3	2.5	6.4	595.9	0.9	3.5
RETAIL TURNOVER, June 98							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	77.3	-5.2	6.3	4 393.5	-4.4	6.1
Department stores	\$m	20.3	-17.1	1.5	860.4	-12.4	3.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	35.4	-4.3	18.4	1 817.4	-4.6	3.7
All other retailing	\$m	71.8	-5.4	2.1	3 646.2	-2.1	4.3
Total	\$m	204.8	-6.4	6.2	10 717.5	-4.4	4.9
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	81.0	0.1	5.1	4 638.6	0.1	5.2
Department stores	\$m	22.9	-1.7	-1.7	969.4	-1.1	0.3
Hospitality and services	\$m	36.8	1.9	15.7	1 929.2	1.0	4.3
All other retailing	\$m	75.4	-0.3	-0.5	3 814.8	—	2.3
Total	\$m	216.1	0.1	3.9	11 352.0	0.1	3.6

(a) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from
				Same period previous year			Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Mar qtr 98							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	242.8	n.a	7.7	9 056.0	-4.1	0.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	24.3	n.a	11.5	955.5	n.a	2.7
Guest arrivals	'000	189.9	n.a	n.a	7 299.2	n.a	n.a
Guest nights	'000	415.7	n.a	n.a	16 051.3	n.a	n.a
Room occupancy rate (Mar qtr 98)	%	64.8	n.a	5.0	58.0	-3.0	-3.8
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, June 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 806	42.0	27.3	88 065	35.4	30.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 540	14.7	26.6	75 175	16.9	26.5
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 448	0.5	26.7	69 352	2.3	18.5
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, 1996-97(a)							
Original series (at average 1989-90 prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	4 981	3.6	—	269 954	2.4	—
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 744	-2.7	—	72 844	1.5	—
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	755	2.6	—	85 505	12.1	—
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	593	24.6	—	18 685	-5.6	—
Final demand	\$m	11 972	-0.4	—	446 989	3.6	—
Gross state product	\$m	8 813	0.6	—	450 575	3.0	—
STATE ACCOUNTS, 1996-97(a2)							
Original series (at current prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 781	4.0	—	318 480	4.0	—
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	7 011	0.6	—	86 421	3.6	—
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	804	-1.6	—	86 304	7.9	—
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	440	-14.6	—	19 230	-5.2	—
Final demand	\$m	14 037	1.3	—	510 435	4.2	—
Gross state product	\$m	10 845	5.0	—	516 306	4.9	—

(a) Quarterly state final demand details are released as a special data service (product no. 5206.0.40.001).

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, 9214.0, 9301.0.

3

ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</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>
POPULATION	'000	Dec qtr 97	6 306.3	4 627.3	3 430.4	482.9 ¹	1 811.1	471.8	189.2	309.0	18 631.1
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jul 98	2 870.1	2 150.4	1 613.4	637.3	886.3	196.0	87.7	159.7	8 594.4
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jul 98	7.5	8.4	8.8	10.1	7.2	10.7	4.9	6.9	8.2
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public sector (trend)	'000	Feb 98	472.3	310.2	279.0	116.5	146.0	41.2	21.9	69.5	1 456.6
Private sector (trend)	'000	Feb 98	1 894.1	1 418.1	885.3	381.4	533.3	116.3	47.1	68.2	5 343.7
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Feb 98	2 366.3	1 728.3	1 164.2	497.9	679.2	157.5	69.0	137.7	6 800.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross state product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	Yr 1996-97	152 378	118 338	74 768	31 094	50 665	8 910	4 945	4 981	269 954
Gross state product at current prices	\$m	Yr 1996-97	181 799	133 567	83 366	36 306	54 418	10 587	5 418	5 744	72 844
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	June 98	5 194	3 255	2 806	810	2 054	107	214	215	14 655
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	June 98	4 853	3 365	2 838	662	1 767	124	212	180	13 951
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	June 98	523.1	213.0	316.9	36.5	71.1	8.8	29.0	16.3	1 214.7
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	June 98	1 214.8	657.3	616.3	116.8	286.7	21.5	63.8	44.7	3 021.8
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar qtr 98	1 333.7	755.7	919.0	302.8	937.4	51.3	42.5	44.0	4 386.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb 98	744.9	716.7	684.3	675.4	720.4	692.2	733.6	837.7	720.8
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	June 98	3 954.8	2 622.4	2 160.9	871.7	1 140.4	261.3	123.4	216.1	11 352.0
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	May 98	3 017.3	1 534.1	2 302.2	517.4	872.3	334.3	235.6	242.8	9 056.0
Room occupancy rate	%	May 98	59.8	60.1	54.3	59.2	58.5	67.3	44.1	64.8	58.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	June 98	22 917	17 228	13 301	4 670	7 547	1 446	794	1 448	69 352
	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Jun qtr 98	123.7	121.6	123.3	123.7	124.6	122.3	125.0	126.9	123.1
Housing	(b)	Jun qtr 98	101.3	86.2	100.3	90.3	88.9	95.5	112.2	93.4	94.5
Transportation	(b)	Jun qtr 98	124.1	122.0	122.8	121.8	121.2	120.5	121.2	129.1	122.8
All Groups	(b)	Jun qtr 98	121.4	120.3	122.3	122.4	118.9	122.0	121.8	121.2	121.0
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Jun qtr 98	116	135	119	127	135	125	124	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Jun qtr 98	211	189	192	162	201	184	209	201	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Jun qtr 98	1 203	1 031	1 044	1 125	1 028	1 012	1 247	1 124	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Jun qtr 98	345	336	291	357	356	332	386	352	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Jun qtr 98	103	108	115	76	127	77	117	111	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Jun qtr 98	613	621	636	586	619	686	636	649	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Jun qtr 98	339	305	260	354	379	265	326	259	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Jun qtr 98	73.5	70.9	64.4	73.1	74.5	77.5	81.5	76.1	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Jun qtr 98	71.3	68.7	62.1	70.7	72.4	75.5	79.5	73.8	n.a.

4

ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Dec qtr 97	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Jul 98	0.3	0.1	—	-0.3	0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Jul 98	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	-0.1	—	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Pubic sector (trend)	Feb 98	0.1	-2.1	-1.3	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	-2.7	-0.7	-0.9
Private sector (trend)	Feb 98	0.2	-0.3	-0.8	-0.7	0.2	1.3	-3.1	0.3	-0.2
Total public and private sector (trend)	Feb 98	0.2	-0.7	-0.9	-0.8	—	0.8	-3.1	-0.2	-0.3
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
State final demand at 1989–90 prices (trend)	Yr 1996–97	2.8	2.6	5.2	0.8	3.3	0.2	4.6	3.6	2.4
State final demand at current prices (trend)	Yr 1996–97	6.2	4.2	5.7	1.0	4.2	2.7	7.3	-2.7	1.5
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	June 98	11.7	-3.0	-8.5	34.6	14.5	-16.4	-16.4	104.8	5.0
Dwelling units approved (trend)	June 98	2.7	1.2	-4.6	1.4	3.4	-1.6	1.4	19.2	1.1
Value of non-residential building approved	June 98	-18.4	-27.1	-3.0	-4.5	-33.0	-39.7	-27.3	-11.9	-17.8
Value of all buildings approved	June 98	-9.0	-10.7	-5.9	13.8	-9.9	-25.9	-16.5	22.8	-8.1
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar qtr 98	6.9	13.1	-3.6	1.2	10.0	7.3	-28.7	17.3	5.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb 98	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.9	2.0	1.1
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	June 98	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.1	-0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	May 98	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Room occupancy rate (original)	May 98	59.8	60.1	54.3	59.2	58.5	67.3	44.1	64.8	58.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	June 98	1.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.4	2.3	1.0	0.5	2.3
	Latest period									
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Jun qtr 98	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.5	0.5	120.6	1.3	0.8
Housing	Jun qtr 98	1.0	2.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.1	1.2
Transportation	Jun qtr 98	-0.1	-0.1	—	0.5	—	-1.0	-0.7	0.1	-0.1
All Groups	Jun qtr 98	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.6
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Jun qtr 98	—	—	1.7	—	—	—	0.8	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Jun qtr 98	2.4	-1.0	0.5	-1.8	4.7	-0.5	0.5	0.5	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Jun qtr 98	1.4	2.3	-3.2	-6.0	-3.7	1.4	-1.0	2.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Jun qtr 98	-5.2	-3.2	-11.3	-1.4	1.4	-11.7	-12.3	3.5	n.a.
Potatoes	Jun qtr 98	-4.6	-8.5	7.5	10.1	6.7	-15.4	-6.4	-2.6	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Jun qtr 98	-5.7	-4.0	-3.0	-0.3	-7.6	-1.6	3.2	-1.2	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Jun qtr 98	0.3	0.7	0.4	-0.6	1.9	1.1	—	1.2	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Jun qtr 98	0.4	1.0	0.8	2.2	0.4	-3.1	-1.1	1.1	n.a.
Unleaded	Jun qtr 98	0.4	1.0	0.6	2.2	0.6	-3.2	-1.1	1.0	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

PHONE Call 1900 986 400 for the latest statistics on CPI, Labour Force, Earnings, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and other topics. (Call cost is 75c per minute)

INTERNET <http://www.abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

PHONE +61 1300 366 323

FAX +61 3 9615 7848

CONTACTING THE ABS

ABS provides a range of services, including: a telephone inquiry service; information consultancy tailored to your needs; survey, sample and questionnaire design; survey evaluation and methodological reviews; and statistical training.

<i>INQUIRIES</i>	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
Canberra	02 6252 6627	02 6253 1404
Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Darwin	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

POST Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au



2130380008988
ISSN 1320-808X

RRP \$15.50