



BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

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- For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Jacki Grau on Canberra (02) 6207 0446 or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
November	23 November 1998
December	21 December 1998
January	25 January 1999
February	22 February 1999
March	22 March 1999
April	19 April 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 September 1998 issue are: population, labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes, housing and construction, housing finance, retail turnover, motor vehicle registrations, tourist accommodation and business expectations. The feature article on pages 6–9 is on Research and Experimental Development in the ACT.

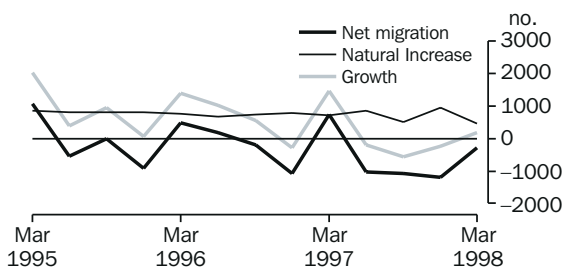
NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- Population** The estimated resident population of the ACT for March quarter 1998 was 309,181, an increase of 191(0.1%) persons since the December quarter 1997 and a decrease of 808 persons since the March quarter 1997. The population for the 12 months to March 1998 for the ACT showed a decrease of 0.3%, while Australia's total population grew by 1.2%. For the March quarter 1998, net migration showed a loss of 282 residents, although there was positive net overseas migration to the ACT there was a greater negative net interstate migration from the ACT. Net interstate migration was negative for the fourth consecutive quarter.
- Labour force** In September 1998, for the fourth consecutive month, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 6.8% which is the lowest rate since June 1991. Trend employment decreased 0.3%, to 157,700 persons, in September 1998 and the participation rate dropped 0.2 percentage points to 72.0% from the previous period. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.2% from the previous period and the trend unemployment rate remained the same at 8.2%.
- Job vacancies** There were 1,800 job vacancies in the ACT for the August quarter 1998, a 28.6% increase from the previous quarter, and an 80% increase from the August quarter 1997. Nationally, job vacancies for the August quarter 1998 fell by 0.4% from the May quarter and increased 5.3% from the August quarter 1997.
- Industrial disputes** For the 12 months ended June 1998 there were 31 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 82 days nationally. In comparison with the previous year for the ACT and Australia respectively, there was a decrease of 67.4% and 8.9% in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
- Housing and construction** The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 6.5% to 214 dwelling units in August 1998. Nationally the trend number of dwelling units approved decreased by 1.4% in August 1998, to 13197.
- The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$29.5 million in August 1998, an increase of \$1.9 million (6.9%) from the previous month and \$11.2 million (61.2%) higher than August 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 63.7% from the previous month and was 5.4% higher than July 1997.

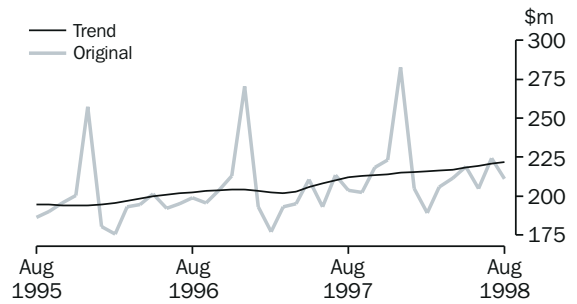
Housing finance	The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during August 1998 increased to 690 dwellings, a rise of 1.8% on the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$77 million, an increase of \$1 million on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 19% of the total value of dwelling units financed in August 1998 which is a decrease of 3 percentage points on the previous month (22%). Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during August 1998 was 39,094 which was a decrease of 1.4% on the previous month while the trend estimate for the value of commitments remained the same.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for August 1998 was \$221.7 million, up 0.5% on the previous month's figure and up 4.6% on twelve months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.5% on the previous month and was up 4.5% on a year ago.
Motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in August 1998 was 1,443, down 0.7% on the previous month, but up 14.7% on August 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in August 1998 recorded a 0.5% increase and showed continuous growth for the past seventeen months.
Tourist accommodation	<p>The room occupancy rate for ACT hotels, motels and guest houses in the June quarter 1998 was 59.1%, down 0.7 percentage points on the last quarter but up 3.9 percentage points on twelve months ago. Nationally the room occupancy rate decreased 3.4 points from the previous quarter and 1.1 points from the corresponding quarter of the previous year.</p> <p>Takings from accommodation were \$22.3 million for the June quarter 1998 in the ACT, up 2.3% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Nationally, takings from accommodation increased 3.1% from the previous year to \$881.1 million.</p>
Business expectations	Business expectations in the ACT indicate a 3.5% increase in income from the sales of goods and services in the short term for the December quarter 1998. Nationally, there is an expected short term increase of 1.5% in the December quarter 1998. In the medium term (September quarter 1998—September quarter 1999), growth of 7.5% in sales is expected for the ACT, which is well above that of the national expectation of 2.8%.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

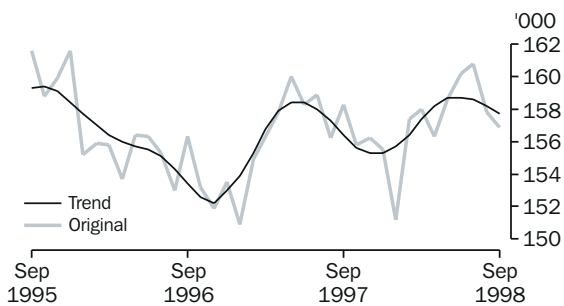
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH,
Years ending March



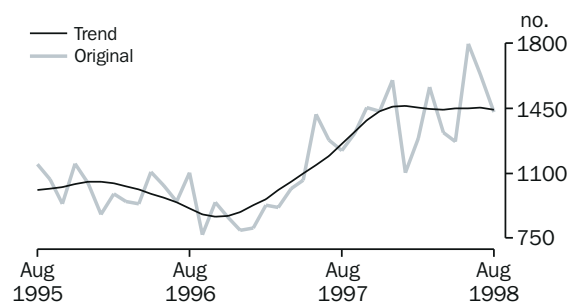
RETAIL TURNOVER



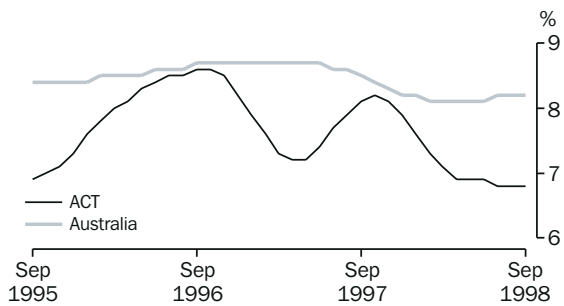
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



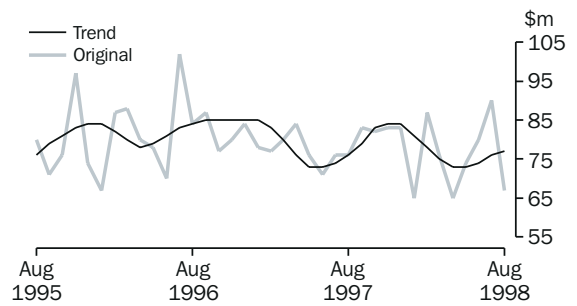
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



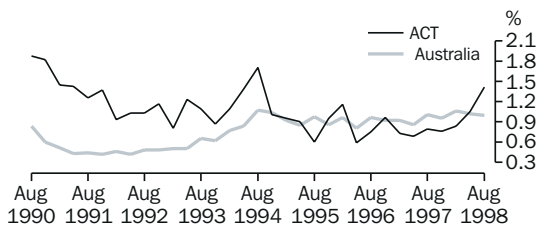
LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



HOUSING FINANCE

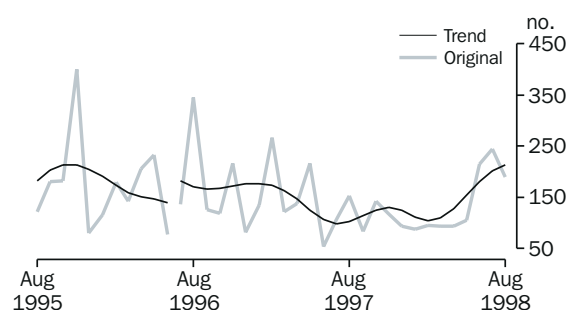


JOB VACANCY RATES, ACT and Australia



Notes: Job vacancy rate is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

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.

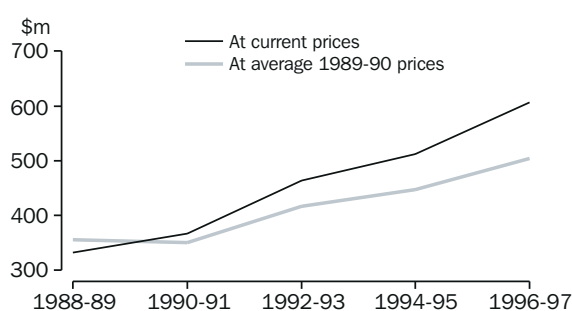
Gross Expenditure on Research and Experimental Development (GERD) in the ACT in 1996–97 was \$607.1 million (in current prices) which was 7% of the total Australian expenditure on R&D. In line with the national trend, GERD in the ACT has increased steadily in both current prices (7.8% average annual growth rate) and average 1989–90 prices (4.4%). However, the contribution of GERD by sector is substantially different in the ACT when compared to that for Australia. In the ACT, the Commonwealth Government sector (46.2% of ACT GERD) and the Higher education sector (48.2%) dominate ACT GERD expenditures, whereas nationally it is the Business sector (47.4% of Australia GERD), the Higher education sector (26.5%) and the Commonwealth Government sector (14.6%) that make the greatest contribution to GERD expenditures.

GROSS EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (AT CURRENT PRICES)

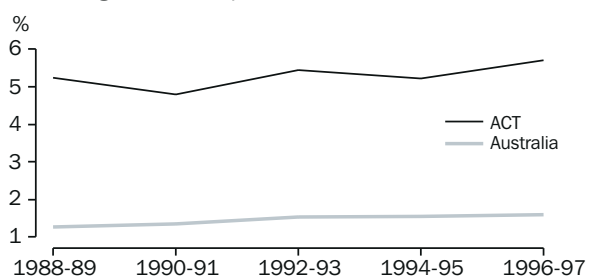
	1988–89	1990–91	1992–93	1994–95	1996–97	Percent of total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY						
Business	28.0	19.2	21.8	26.8	27.1	4.5
Commonwealth Government	141.3	161.0	210.4	211.2	280.5	46.2
ACT Government	0.1	0.7	0.4	3.7	3.0	0.5
Higher Education	161.1	185.4	230.5	268.8	294.5	48.5
Private non-profit	1.8	0.9	0.6	1.4	1.9	0.3
<i>Total</i>	332.3	367.2	463.6	512.0	607.1	100.0
Total expenditure at average 1989–90 prices	356.1	351.1	417.5	447.2	503.8	—
AUSTRALIA						
Business	1 798.3	2 099.8	2 861.9	3 498.7	4 123.9	47.4
Commonwealth Government	869.6	1 034.0	1 155.4	1 196.7	1 265.6	14.6
State Government	482.7	670.0	668.5	785.9	824.6	9.5
Higher Education	1 076.8	1 332.8	1 695.2	1 829.6	2 307.6	26.5
Private non-profit	53.3	85.4	101.9	155.7	171.4	2.0
<i>Total</i>	4 280.7	5 222.0	6 482.9	7 466.6	8 693.0	100.0
Total expenditure at average 1989–90 prices	4 587.3	4 992.6	5 837.6	6 521.1	7 214.4	—

It should be noted that Research and Experimental Development (R&D) is defined in accordance with the OECD standard as comprising creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society. R&D activity extends to modifications to existing products and or processes. Intramural R&D is carried out by an organisation on its own behalf or on behalf of other organisations, institutions or individuals.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON R&D



GROSS R&D EXPENDITURE AS A PERCENT OF GDP/GSP, At average 1989-90 prices



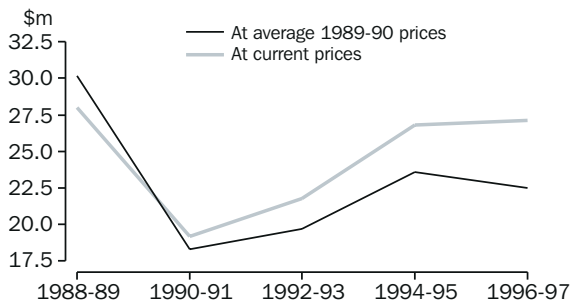
Nationally, GERD as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (both at average 1989–90 prices) increased from 1.27% in 1989–90 to 1.60% in 1996–97. In comparison, ACT GERD as a percentage of ACT Gross State Product, rose from 5.24% to 5.72% over the same period. (see graph above, right)

EXPENDITURE ON R&D BY SECTOR

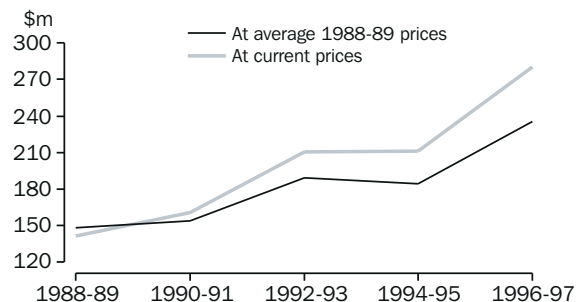
Business Enterprise Sector

Business GERD in the ACT has fluctuated over the years 1988–89 to 1996–97 (see graph below, left) and only makes a minor contribution to total GERD in the ACT. Business GERD in 1996–97 was \$27.1 million (current prices) and this made up only 4.5% of total ACT GERD. Both nationally and in the ACT, Economic development was the predominant socio-economic objective of Business Enterprise GERD. In the ACT, \$14.98 million (55% of ACT Business Enterprise GERD) was spent on Economic development and \$9.9 million (37%) was spent on Defence. The predominant field of research for Business Enterprise GERD was Natural sciences, technologies and engineering. Information, computers and communication technology accounted for \$21.4 million and \$2.6 million was spent on Applied sciences and technology.

BUSINESS EXPENDITURE



COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE



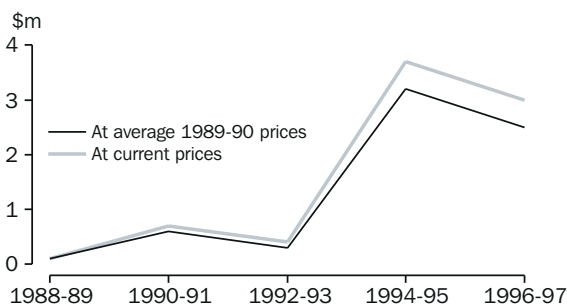
Commonwealth Government Sector

Commonwealth Government GERD in the ACT has increased every year over the period 1988–89 to 1996–97 (see graph above, right). This is in line with the national trend and was \$280.5 million (current prices) in 1996–97, which represented 46.2% of total ACT GERD. The major socio-economic objective of Commonwealth Government GERD from 1988–89 to 1996–97 has consistently been Economic development. In 1996–97, \$167.4 million (59.6% of Commonwealth Government GERD in the ACT) was spent on Economic development and \$80.5m (28.7%) was on the Environment. The predominant field of research was Natural sciences, technologies and engineering which received \$247.6 million (88%) of Commonwealth Government GERD in the ACT. In 1996–97, Commonwealth Government GERD in the ACT on Social sciences and humanities fell (for the first year since 1988–89) by \$1.8 million to \$32.9 million, but still accounted for 26% of ACT GERD on Social sciences and humanities.

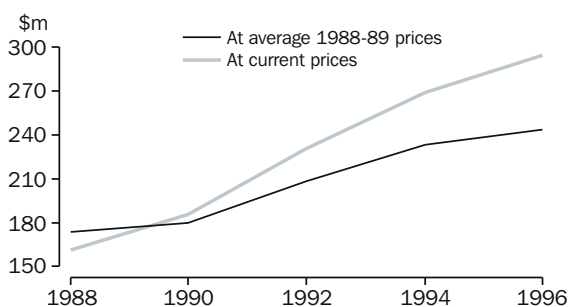
ACT Government Sector

In 1996–97, the ACT Government GERD was approximately \$3 million (current prices) which was similar to the level in 1994–95 (see graph below, left). ACT Government GERD at 0.5% represents only a very small proportion of total ACT GERD, whereas State government GERD contributions nationally made up 9.5% of total Australian GERD. The major socio-economic objective of ACT Government GERD in 1996–97 was Society with \$1.9 million (64% of total ACT Government GERD) and Environment with \$0.5 million (17%). As with Commonwealth Government expenditure, Natural sciences, technologies and engineering have been the major field of research for ACT Government GERD, accounting for \$2.7 million (90% of ACT Government GERD).

ACT GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE



HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENDITURE

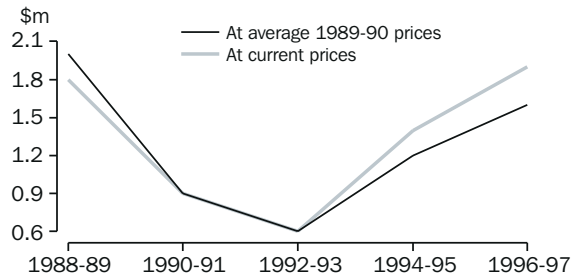


Higher Education Sector

Higher education GERD in the ACT has increased steadily since 1988 and was \$294.5 million (current prices) in 1996, which was 48.5% of total ACT GERD (see graph above, right). In both 1995 and 1996, the ACT had the fourth highest Higher education GERD of all the States and Territories. Both nationally and in the ACT, Advancement of knowledge was the predominant socio-economic objective of higher education GERD in 1996. In the ACT, \$180.1 million (61% of ACT Higher education GERD) was spent on Advancement of knowledge, \$53.5 million (18%) on Society, \$34.0 million (12%) on Economic development and \$24.2 million (8%) on Environment. From 1988 to 1996, both fields of research (Natural sciences, technologies and engineering, and Social sciences and humanities) experienced continuous increases in GERD expenditures by Higher education organisations. In 1996, Natural sciences, technologies and engineering received \$203.5 million (69% of ACT Higher education GERD) and Social sciences and humanities accounted for \$91 million (31%).

Private non-profit Sector Private non-profit GERD for the ACT in 1996–97 was \$1.9 million (current prices) and this was mainly on the socio-economic objective of Society. This sector, both nationally as well as in the ACT, had the lowest level of GERD over all years. The predominant field of research was social sciences and humanities.

PRIVATE NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION EXPENDITURE ON R&D



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

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
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
Sep qtr 1998-Dec qtr 1998	3.5	1.5
Medium-term		
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
Sep qtr 1998-Sep qtr 1999	7.5	2.8

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, Mar qtr 98	'000	309.2	0.1	-0.3	18 709.7	0.4	1.2
Natural increase	no.	473	-50.3	-35.0	30 868	-3.1	-8.8
Net migration	no.	-282	-76.3	-137.8	47 719	349.4	52.7
Total increase	no.	191	-180.3	-87.1	78 587	85.0	20.7
LABOUR FORCE, Sept 98							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	156.9	-0.6	0.4	8 733.9	2.3	2.4
Unemployed	'000	11.0	2.8	-17.9	765.6	5.2	-3.5
Unemployment rate	%	6.5	0.2	-1.4	8.1	0.2	-0.4
Participation rate	%	71.4	-0.2	-0.9	64.2	1.6	0.4
Long-term unemployed, August 98	no.	3 111	-14.7	13.0	245 296	2.7	4.2
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		29.1	-1.7	8.6	33.7	0.9	2.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.7	-0.3	0.8	8 633.2	0.2	2.3
Unemployed	'000	11.5	-0.9	-16.7	766.9	0.1	-2.4
Unemployment rate	%	6.8	—	-1.3	8.2	—	-0.3
Participation rate	%	72.0	-0.2	-0.5	63.5	—	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, August 98	'000	1.8	28.6	80.0	73.0	-0.4	5.3
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, June 98							
Working days lost	'000	2.1	40.0	600.0	71.1	-26.3	139.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Jun 98)	no.	31.0	72.2	-67.4	82.0	7.9	-8.9
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, September 98							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	7.0	-36.4	75.0	692.0	-11.2	3.1
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	2.0	-66.7	-50.0	237.0	-8.5	-4.8
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	42.0	-8.7	-10.6	3 515.0	-10.4	-0.7
Re-financing	\$m	13.0	-38.1	-18.8	752.0	-15.0	-12.6
Total housing commitments	\$m	67.0	-25.6	-11.8	4 445.0	-10.4	-0.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	72.0	-15.3	-10.0	4 515.0	-1.2	0.6
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	690	1.8	-2.5	39 094	-1.4	-2.4
Total housing commitments	\$m	77.0	1.3	1.3	4 656.0	—	4.3
BUILDING APPROVALS, August 98							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	190	-22.1	24.2	13 059	-9.2	-1.4
Value of new residential	\$m	21.6	-22.3	34.2	1 443.5	-6.4	-0.4
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.3	-2.3	7.5	225.3	-20.3	-2.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	29.5	6.9	61.2	1 442.3	63.7	5.4
Value of total building	\$m	55.4	-7.2	44.3	3 111.2	15.0	2.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	214	6.5	109.8	13 197	-1.4	8.5

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
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	—	126.4	-0.6	-0.8	126.9	2.2	11.7
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, May 98							
Original series							
Males	\$	825.7	0.4	8.2	714.5	-0.2	4.0
Females	\$	598.7	-2.0	6.2	468.3	-0.4	2.4
Persons	\$	715.6	-0.5	7.7	596.2	-0.2	3.2
Trend series							
Males	\$	829.8	2.1	7.6	717.8	0.7	4.0
Females	\$	602.8	0.5	5.6	468.7	0.2	2.4
Persons	\$	720.3	1.7	7.2	597.5	0.5	3.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, August 98							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	80.0	-3.4	1.9	4 584.1	-1.9	4.0
Department stores	\$m	19.8	-27.2	3.1	881.0	-16.4	5.4
Hospitality and services	\$m	35.4	2.6	7.6	1 966.5	1.3	6.2
All other retailing	\$m	75.8	-5.2	3.1	3 670.9	-3.4	2.2
Total	\$m	211.0	-6.0	3.4	11 102.5	-3.2	3.9
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	81.1	-0.2	2.9	4 682.1	0.3	5.1
Department stores	\$m	25.2	1.6	4.6	1 034.8	0.8	4.4
Hospitality and services	\$m	35.2	-0.6	7.6	1 992.6	1.3	7.0
All other retailing	\$m	80.2	1.4	5.0	3 855.8	0.3	2.6
Total	\$m	221.7	0.5	4.6	11 565.3	0.5	4.5

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

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
					Latest figure	Previous period	
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Mar qtr 98							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	221.3	-1.8	5.6	8 724.6	-3.7	3.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	22.3	-8.2	7.2	881.1	-7.8	3.1
Guest arrivals	'000	176.9	-6.8	n.a	7 145.0	-2.1	n.a
Guest nights	'000	363.7	-12.5	n.a	15 175.0	-5.5	n.a
Room occupancy rate (Jun qtr 98)	%	59.1	-1.2	3.9	54.6	-5.9	-2.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, August 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 429	-12.5	16.9	64 337	-13.0	11.7
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 346	-12.3	13.4	64 802	-9.7	9.5
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 443	-0.7	14.7	69 997	0.5	15.3
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	—
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	10845	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.

<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	Mar qtr 98	6 329.8	4 648.4	3 450.5	1 485.4	1 821.6	471.3	190.5	309.2	18 709.7
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Sep 98	2 876.4	2 163.2	1 613.9	646.3	890.3	194.5	90.1	157.7	8 633.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Sep 98	7.5	8.2	9.0	10.2	7.2	10.8	4.1	6.8	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.	Aug 98	4 371	3 263	2 579	634	1 735	129	158	190	13 059
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Aug 98	4 842	3 182	2 448	685	1 752	124	194	214	13 197
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Aug 98	598.9	366.4	296.9	72.1	51.3	13.4	13.8	29.5	1 442.3
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Aug 98	1 216.4	806.0	572.4	141.2	256.1	27.0	36.6	55.4	3 111.2
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)	\$	May 98	748.2	719.6	694.1	682.1	731.8	689.5	746.2	847.4	725.9
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Aug 98	3 977.8	2 736.9	2 194.5	876.7	1 162.9	262.3	125.7	221.7	11 565.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Jun qtr 98	2 890.3	1 415.7	2 372.2	479.7	824.3	226.0	295.1	221.7	8 724.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Jun qtr 98	56.3	53.9	54.1	53.6	54.5	44.7	54.2	54.6	54.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	August 98	23 586	17 395	13 137	4 937	7 378	1 421	699	1 443	69 997
	<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.

(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).

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

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ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA—PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	State								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Mar qtr 98	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.7	0.1	0.4
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Sep 98	0.1	0.2	—	0.4	0.2	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	Sep 98	—	-0.1	0.1	—	—	—	-0.2	—	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Public 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)	Aug 98	-22.5	6.5	3.6	-29.6	1.6	7.5	-24.4	-22.1	-9.2
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Aug 98	0.4	-0.9	-3.7	0.3	0.4	—	-2.0	6.5	-1.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Aug 98	81.6	86.3	98.6	79.4	-40.6	14.5	-65.2	6.9	63.7
Value of all buildings approved	Aug 98	10.1	35.3	30.7	8.1	-9.6	5.1	-48.4	-7.2	15.0
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)	May 98	0.6	0.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.3	1.7	1.4	0.8
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Aug 98	—	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.5	-0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Jun qtr 98	-4.2	-7.7	3.0	-7.3	-5.5	-32.4	25.3	0.5	-3.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Jun qtr 98	-3.5	-6.2	-0.2	-5.6	-4.0	-22.6	10.1	-3.4	-3.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	August 98	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.9	—	-0.1	-2.4	-0.7	0.5
Indicator	Latest period	City								
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
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).

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