



BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 21 SEPT 1998

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- 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>
October	19 October 1998
November	23 November 1998
December	22 December 1998
January	25 January 1999
February	22 February 1999
March	22 March 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 August 1998 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes, average weekly earnings, housing and construction, housing finance, house price indexes, retail turnover and motor vehicle registrations. The feature articles on pages 7–9 are on Labour Mobility and Income Distribution in the ACT.

The ABS no longer compiles quarterly State Account estimates. However, some of the information previously included in *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0) is now provided in a new Standard Data Service entitled *Australian National Accounts: Quarterly State Details* (Cat. no. 5206.0.40.001). This information will be available quarterly, usually within one week of the release of the quarterly Australian National Accounts.

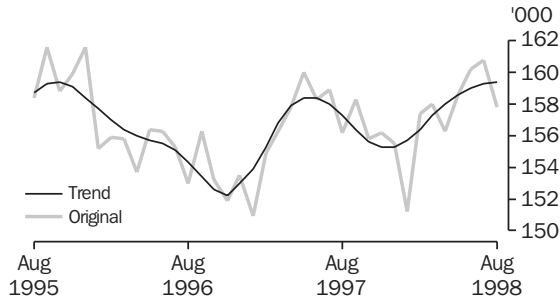
NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- Labour force For the third consecutive month, the August 1998 trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 6.8%, which is the lowest rate since June 1991. Trend employment increased 0.1% (1,000 persons) to reach a record 159,400 persons in August 1998 and the participation rate rose 0.1% to 72.7% 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 May 1998 there were 18 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 76 days nationally. In comparison with the previous year for the ACT and Australia respectively, there was a decrease of 85.2% and 27.6% in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
- Average weekly earnings Full-time adult ordinary time earnings in the ACT were \$847 in May 1998, an increase of \$51 (6.4%) since May 1997. Comparable national earnings were \$726 in May 1998, up \$27 (3.9%) since May 1997.
- Housing and construction The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 19.5% to 227 dwelling units in July 1998. Nationally the trend number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.2% in July 1998, to 13786.
- The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$27.6 million in July 1998, an increase of \$11.3 million (up 69.3%) from the previous month and \$0.1 million (0.4%) higher than July 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 27.4% from the previous month and was 46.4% lower than July 1997.

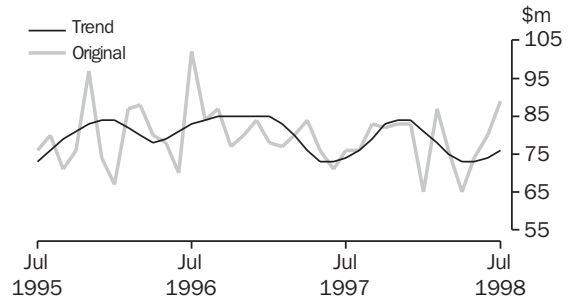
Housing finance	<p>The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during July 1998 increased to 682 dwellings, a rise of 2.4% on the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$76 million, an increase of 2.7% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 22% of the total value of dwelling units financed in July 1998 which is an increase of 7 percentage points on the previous month (15%). Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during July 1998 was 40,607 which was a decrease of 0.1% on the previous month while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased 0.8%.</p>
House price index	<p>The established house price annual index for the ACT has continued to decline over the last four years. The decline for the ACT in 1997-98 was only 0.2 percentage points while nationally the index increased by 7.7 percentage points in 1997-98.</p>
Retail turnover	<p>The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for July 1998 was \$221.8 million, up 0.8% on the previous month's figure and up 5.5% on 12 months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.5% on the previous month and was up 3.5% on a year ago.</p>
Motor vehicle registrations	<p>The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in July 1998 was 1,499, up 1.9% on the previous month, and up 25.5% on July 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in July 1998 recorded a 2.5% increase and showed continuous growth for the past 16 months.</p>

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

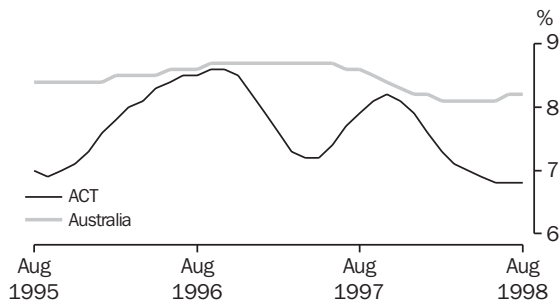
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



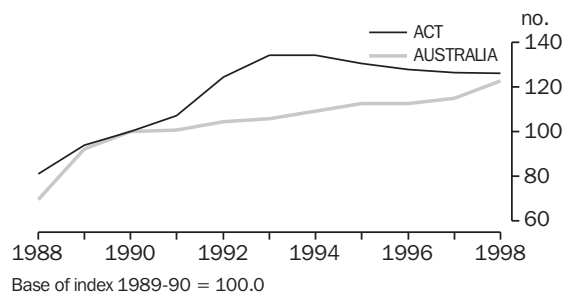
HOUSING FINANCE



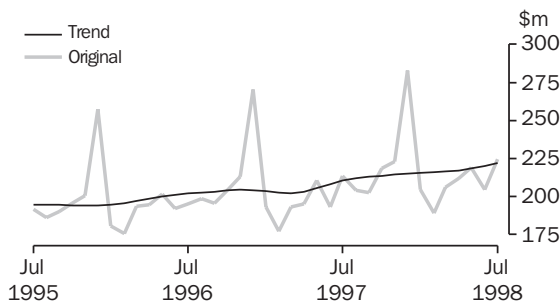
LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



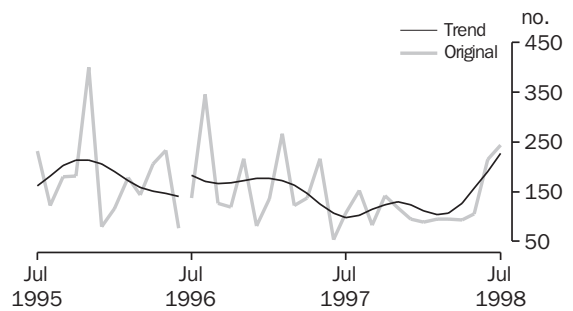
ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE ANNUAL INDEX



RETAIL TURNOVER

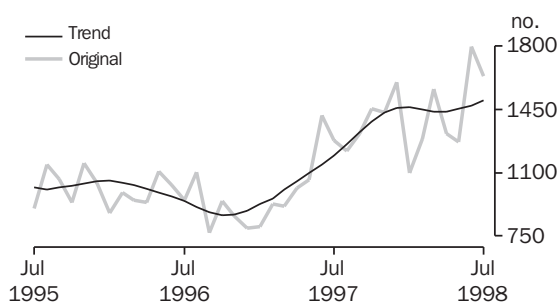


BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



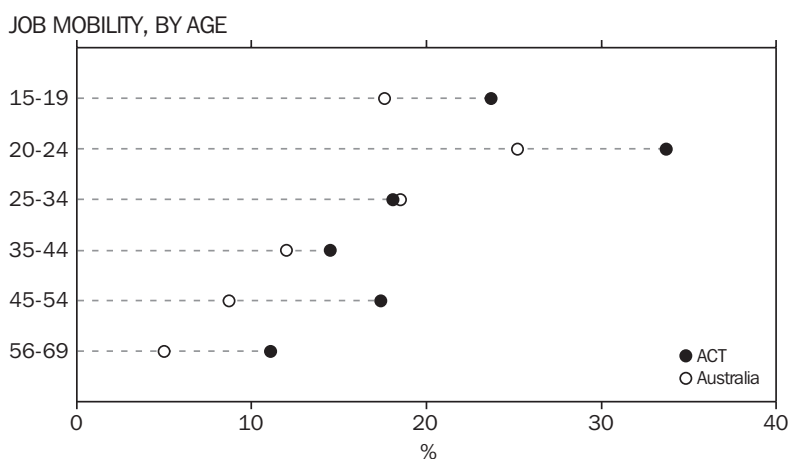
Note: For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996 and a trend break has been included in the graph.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



JOB MOBILITY IN THE ACT

The Labour Mobility Survey found that, of the 171,676 people aged 15–69 years who had worked at some time during the year ending February 1998, 19.2% (32,923) were job mobile, that is, they changed their employer/business and/or their location within the previous year. The proportion of people who were job mobile decreased 0.4 percentage points from the level of job mobility during the year ending February 1996.



In all age groups except that for persons aged 25–34 years, the ACT had a higher level of job mobility than for Australia. Males tended to be more job mobile than females in the ACT and this was the case nationally as well.

	ACT	Australia
Males	19.8%	14.5%
Females	18.5%	14.0%
Total	19.2%	14.0%

Although in the ACT the percentage of people who were job mobile during the year ending February 1998 and who changed their employer or business one or more times was lower than the national figure (74% and 76% respectively), the percent of people who changed locality one or more times while still working for the same employer or business was higher (26% and 20% respectively). This might be explained by the extent of public sector transfers.

In the ACT, family members were less job mobile than non-family members (17% compared to 28% respectively). Married persons were less job mobile than those who were not married (17% compared to 23% respectively), while in married couple families, 17% of husbands and 16% of wives were job mobile.

For non-family members, job mobility was higher amongst persons not living alone (28% of females and 35% of males) than amongst those living alone (21% of females and 25% of males). These figures were similar at the national level.

JOB MOBILITY IN THE ACT

continued

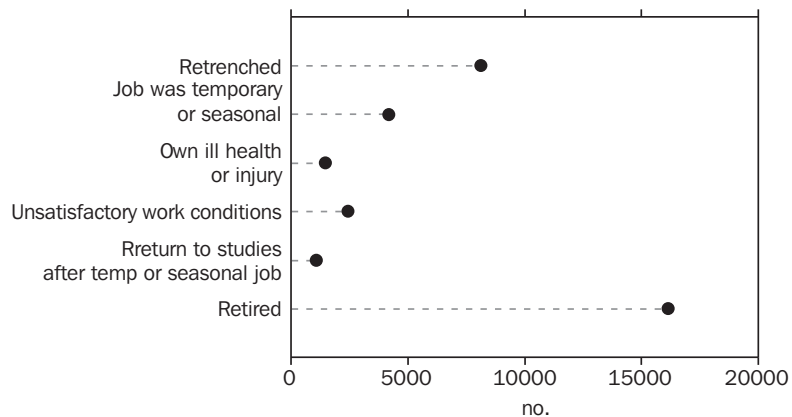
Of the 157,838 people in the ACT who were working in February 1998, 74% had been in the same job for the entire year, 18% had changed jobs during the year and 7% started their current job during the year but had no previous job during the year. Of the 29,190 people who had changed jobs during the year, 38% had changed industry from previous to current job and 36% had changed occupation from previous to current job.

Industry There were 145,465 persons in the ACT working in both February 1997 and February 1998. Of these, 81% (117,173) had been in their current job for at least one year, 12% (17,103) had changed to another job in the same industry and another 8% (11,189) had changed to a job in a different industry. The Construction industry had the highest proportion of persons staying in their current job for one year or more (92% of workers in the Construction industry), while the Finance and Insurance industry had the lowest proportion (66% of workers in the Finance and Insurance industry).

Occupation Of the 145,465 persons who were working in both February 1997 and February 1998, 81% (117,173) had remained in their current job for one year or more, 13% (18,722) had changed their job but not their occupation major group, and 7% (9,570) had changed both their job and their occupation major group. Trades-persons and related workers were the most likely to have stayed in their job for at least one year (85% of all Trades-persons), while Labourers and related workers were the least likely (73% of all Labourers and related workers).

Reasons for mobility Of the 43,028 people who ceased a job during the year ending February 1998, 68% voluntarily left their jobs while 19% were retrenched and a further 13% ceased their jobs for other reasons. Only 10% ceased their job because it was temporary or seasonal and did not return to studies.

REASONS FOR CEASING LAST JOB



FEATURE ARTICLE

INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN THE ACT

Gross weekly income From 1994–95 to 1996–97, the mean (average) gross weekly income for all income units in private dwellings in the ACT increased by 18.7% from \$695 to \$825. During this period, the ACT has consistently had the highest mean gross weekly income of all States and Territories in the nation. Over the same period, the mean gross weekly income for all income units in private dwellings in Australia rose by only 5%, from \$596 to \$625.

Compared to the mean gross weekly income for all income units in the ACT of \$825 in 1996–97, the median (i.e. the mid point when all units are ranked in ascending order of income) was considerably lower at \$637. The same was true for Australia, the median gross weekly income was \$477, which was lower than the mean gross weekly income of \$625. This difference reflects the typically asymmetric distribution of income where a large number of income units receive relatively low incomes and a smaller number of income units receive relatively very high incomes.

Income inequality The degree of inequality in the income distribution of all income units remained almost unchanged over the period 1994–95 to 1996–97. Income inequality can be measured by comparing the share of total income received by each quintile group. Income quintile groups are formed by ranking the population in ascending order according to the income of each income unit, and dividing the population into five equally sized groups. The share of total income received by each quintile group is similar for the ACT and Australia. This similarity is evident from the value of the gini-coefficient (a summary measure used to examine income inequality), which is the same for both the ACT and Australia (0.44). The gini-coefficient ranges between a value of zero, when income is equally shared, and a value of one, when all income is received by a single income unit.

ALL INCOME UNITS: MEAN AND MEDIAN INCOME BY INCOME SHARE, 1996–97

	ACT	Aust.
<i>Income share of</i>	%	%
Lowest quintile	3.5	3.8
Second quintile	9.8	9.4
Third quintile	15.6	15.2
Fourth quintile	23.1	24.0
Highest quintile	48.0	47.5
All income units	100.0	100.0
Gini-coefficient	0.4	0.4

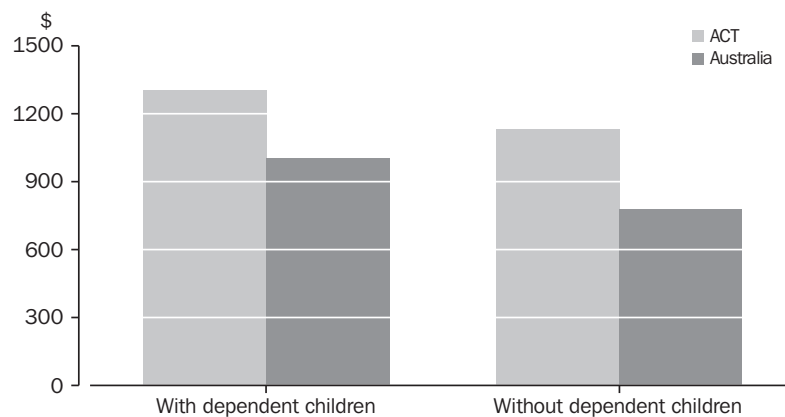
Income unit types Income units cover a wide variety of individuals and family types and include varying numbers of people. These range from young single people just out of school, to couples with dependent children, through to elderly retired couples or single people. As units consist of individuals at various stages of their life cycle and working career, it is not surprising that income is distributed unevenly across all types of income units. In 1996–97 income units in the lowest quintile received a mean gross weekly income of \$147 while those in the highest income quintile received \$1,983.

Single young people In 1996–97, there were 26,900 one-person income units under the age of 25 years in the ACT. The mean gross weekly income of these units was \$349, which was slightly higher than the Australian mean of \$334. In Australia, income was more evenly distributed within this group, as the mean was closer to the median than in the ACT. The median for the ACT, with more part-time employees, was \$291, while for Australia it was higher at \$330.

Couples In the ACT, couples with dependent children represented one quarter (24.9%) of all income units, and couples without dependent children represented about one fifth (20.9%). Couples have higher mean gross weekly incomes than both single parents and single person income units, due to the high percentage of units with two income earners (66.5%). The largest group of income units, couples with dependent children, also had the highest mean gross weekly income, at \$1,304. In Australia, this group was the second largest (representing 22.3% of income units), but had the highest mean gross weekly income of \$1,006. The median for the ACT was \$1,157, while nationally it was \$882.

Income units of couples without dependents tend to be comprised of fewer income earners, and experience a greater dependence on government pensions and allowances. In Australia this group is the largest, representing 24.2% of income units. The ACT mean gross weekly income for couples without dependent children was \$1,131, again higher than the national figure of \$782. The median for the ACT was \$829, compared to \$591 for Australia. These medians again show that income for this group is more evenly distributed in Australia than in the ACT.

MEAN GROSS WEEKLY INCOME, COUPLES



One parent income units Due to the financial and physical difficulty of raising a child alone, about 65% of one parent income units in Australia depended on government pensions and allowances as their principal source of income. In the ACT as in Australia, this income group represented a very small proportion of income groups (*5.7% and 5.2% respectively). In the ACT, the mean gross weekly income for lone parents was *\$489, compared to \$432 for Australia. The median for the ACT was *\$378, while it was \$354 for Australia.

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	Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
					Latest figure	Previous period	
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	157.8	-1.9	-1.9	8 535.9	-1.2	2.7
Unemployed	'000	10.7	-9.3	-20.1	727.9	—	-4.8
Unemployment rate	%	6.3	-0.6	-1.6	7.9	0.1	-0.5
Participation rate	%	71.6	-1.7	-0.7	62.6	-0.8	0.4
Long-term unemployed, June 98	no.	3 646	23.9	31.2	238 903	6.5	1.2
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		30.8	1.4	5.8	32.8	2.3	1.4
Trend series							
Employed	'000	159.4	0.1	1.3	8 608.2	0.1	2.2
Unemployed	'000	11.6	—	-14.7	768.1	0.4	-3.0
Unemployment rate	%	6.8	—	-1.1	8.2	—	-0.4
Participation rate	%	72.7	0.1	-0.1	63.4	—	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, May 98							
Working days lost	'000	1.5	—	36.4	96.1	334.8	25.5
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Apr 98)	no.	18.0	20.0	-85.2	76.0	2.7	-27.6
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, July 98							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	11.0	83.3	83.3	782.0	-6.0	13.0
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	6.0	100.0	100.0	260.0	1.2	1.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	46.0	-16.4	-2.1	3 906.0	-4.1	6.6
Re-financing	\$m	20.0	66.7	42.9	881.0	-2.9	2.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	89.0	11.2	17.1	4 947.0	-4.2	7.2
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.0	7.7	18.3	4 560.0	-8.9	6.9
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	682	2.4	-1.2	40 607	-0.1	1.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	76.0	2.7	2.7	4 703.0	0.8	6.6
BUILDING APPROVALS, July 98							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	244	13.5	128.0	14 414	-1.6	13.0
Value of new residential	\$m	27.8	18.3	159.8	1 544.4	1.3	17.6
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.4	-8.3	22.2	282.5	-0.1	24.6
Value of non-residential	\$m	27.6	69.3	0.4	881.4	-27.4	-46.4
Value of total building	\$m	59.7	33.6	42.8	2 708.3	-10.4	-15.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	227	19.5	131.6	13 786	0.2	15.4

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	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, July 98							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	82.8	7.1	7.1	4 672.9	6.4	6.0
Department stores	\$m	27.2	34.0	6.3	1 053.7	22.5	8.5
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.5	-2.5	1.5	1 940.6	6.8	7.0
All other retailing	\$m	80.0	11.4	4.3	3 801.4	4.3	3.6
Total	\$m	224.5	9.6	5.1	11 468.6	7.0	5.6
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	82.2	0.4	5.5	4 670.9	0.3	5.3
Department stores	\$m	25.4	2.0	7.2	1 036.7	1.2	5.9
Hospitality and services	\$m	35.5	-0.3	9.9	1 958.0	1.1	6.1
All other retailing	\$m	78.7	1.4	3.0	3 838.7	0.1	3.9
Total	\$m	221.8	0.8	5.5	11 504.3	0.5	5.0

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

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure
		Latest figure	Previous period		Same period previous year	Previous period	
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, July 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 633	-9.1	27.7	73 959	-16.0	19.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 534	0.1	26.7	71 743	-4.6	20.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 499	1.9	25.5	71 657	2.5	20.5
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	1 482.9	1 811.1	471.8	189.2	309.0	18 631.1
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Aug 98	2 865.5	2 156.6	1 613.9	640.0	887.2	195.1	89.3	159.4	8 608.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Aug 98	7.5	8.3	8.8	10.3	7.2	11.1	4.2	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.	July 98	5 661	3 063	2 489	921	1 707	120	209	244	14 414
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	July 98	5 002	3 203	2 512	737	1 740	119	214	227	13 786
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	July 98	329.8	196.7	149.5	40.2	86.3	11.7	39.6	27.6	881.4
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	July 98	1 104.4	595.9	437.8	130.6	283.2	25.7	70.9	59.7	2 708.3
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	July 98	3 995.2	2 691.6	2 171.6	877.5	1 154.5	262.8	123.7	221.8	11 504.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Mar qtr 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	%	Mar qtr 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.	July 98	24 204	17 738	13 522	4 931	7 570	1 473	718	1 499	71 657
	<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

<i>Indicator</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	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)	Aug 98	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.2	-0.4	0.8	0.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Aug 98	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.2	-0.3	—	—
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)	July 98	9.0	-5.9	-11.3	13.7	-16.9	12.1	-2.3	13.5	-1.6
Dwelling units approved (trend)	July 98	2.6	-1.5	-6.7	4.5	1.2	-2.5	1.4	19.5	0.2
Value of non-residential building approved	July 98	-37.0	-7.7	-52.8	10.1	21.4	33.0	36.6	69.3	-27.4
Value of all buildings approved	July 98	-9.1	-9.3	-29.0	11.8	-1.2	19.5	11.1	33.6	-10.4
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)	July 98	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	—	0.2	0.8	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Mar qtr 98	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Room occupancy rate (original)	Mar qtr 98	59.8	60.1	54.3	59.2	58.5	67.3	44.1	64.8	58.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	July 98	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.6	2.0	2.4	-2.4	1.9	2.5
	<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	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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