



MAY 2000

1303.8

BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 22 MAY 2000

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Zoe Rivers on Canberra 02 6207 0286, Will Blythe on Canberra 02 6207 0311, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 2000	23 June 2000
July 2000	28 July 2000
August 2000	25 August 2000
September 2000	22 September 2000
October 2000	27 October 2000
November 2000	24 November 2000

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
no.	number
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, Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the April 2000 issue are: labour force, housing finance, industrial disputes, building approvals, building commencements, new motor vehicle registrations, retail turnover, wage and salary earners, wage cost index, consumer price index, and average retail prices. The feature article this month on page 7 is Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership.

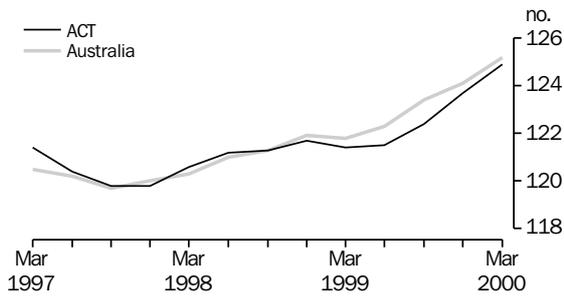
- Labour force In April 2000, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT remained steady at 5.2% and decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to April 1999. The number of persons unemployed declined by 1.1% to 9,100 compared to the previous month, and decreased 9% compared to April 1999. Compared with last month, ACT trend employment rose by 0.1% to 166,000 persons and increased 5.4% on April 1999. The trend participation rate in the ACT decreased 0.1 percentage points to 72.8%, while the national rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 63.6%. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.2% (to 8,990,500 persons) from last, while the trend unemployment decreased by 0.1% (to 654,100 persons) for April 2000. The national trend unemployment rate remained steady at 6.8%.
- Housing finance The trend number of dwelling units financed (including re-financing) in the ACT in February 2000 was 991, which was a decrease of 1% from the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT in February 2000 remained steady at \$130 million compared with the previous month. Re-financing of existing dwellings comprised 11% of the total value of dwelling units financed in February 2000, compared with 10% recorded in January 2000. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including re-financing) during February 2000 was 47,999, down 0.7% compared with the previous month, while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased to \$6,792 million (up 0.1%) from previous month.
- Industrial disputes For the 12 months ended January 2000 there were 30 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to 89 days nationally. In comparison with the 12 months ended January 1999, there was a decrease of 14.3% for the ACT and an increase of 23.6% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.

Building commencements	The value of new houses commenced in the ACT in the December quarter 1999 was \$52.7 million, up 36.9% from the previous quarter and up 50.6% from the December quarter 1998. Nationally, the value of new houses commenced in the December quarter 1999 recorded a 3.5% increase from the previous quarter and a 24.4% increase on a year ago.
Building approvals	<p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 5% to 229 dwelling units in March 2000. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units approved decreased by 1% to 15,136 dwelling units in March 2000.</p> <p>The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$4.9 million in March 2000, an decrease of \$26.3 million from the previous month and in comparison with March 1999 there was a decrease of \$23.8 million (down 83%). Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals for March 2000 was \$909.0 million, an increase of 10% from the previous month, and down 17% from March 1999.</p>
Wage and salary earners	The trend number of wage and salary earners from the public and private sectors in the ACT was 148,200 persons in the November 1999 quarter a decrease of 1000 persons (down 0.7%) from the August 1999 quarter. This compares to a national decrease of 40,000 persons (down 0.6%) in the same period. The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT sits at around 53%. These figures exclude self-employed persons in jobs located in the private sector.
Motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in March 2000 was 1,142, up 0.1% from the previous month, and recorded a 4.0% decline compared to March 1999. Nationally, the trend for total new motor vehicle registrations in March 2000 remained steady at 63,719, and was down 3.7% compared to March 1999.
Consumer price index	The ACT experienced an increase of 1.0% in the All Groups Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the March quarter 2000. This was close to the national rise of 0.9%. The ACT annual CPI rate to March quarter 2000 recorded an increase of 2.9%, while the annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities recorded an increase of 2.8% for the same period.
Wage cost index	The public sector wage cost index in the ACT for the December quarter 1999 increased 0.4% from the previous quarter, and was up 2.2% from the December quarter 1998. The wage cost index for the private sector increased 0.3% between the September quarter 1999 and the December quarter 1999, and was up 3.3% compared to December quarter 1998. The overall wage cost index increased 0.4% from the previous quarter, and increased 2.6% from the December quarter 1998. Nationally, in December quarter 1999, the overall wage cost index increased 0.6% from the previous quarter and was up 3.0% compared to the December quarter 1998.

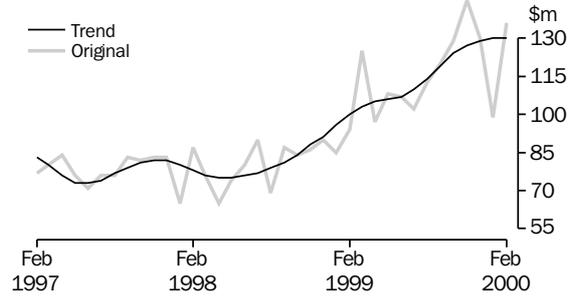
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for March 2000 was \$236.5 million, an increase of 0.8% from the previous month and was up 8.1% compared to March 1999. The national trend retail turnover recorded a decrease of 0.2% from the previous month and was up 2.7% compared to the March quarter 1999.
Average retail prices	For March quarter 2000, in the ACT, super grade petrol rose by 7.0% and 7.1% for unleaded. Coffee also increased in average retail price by 11.6% and potatoes declined by 6.4%.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

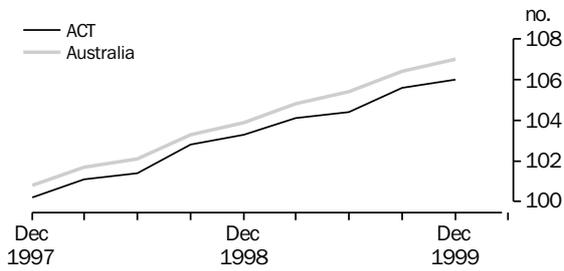
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



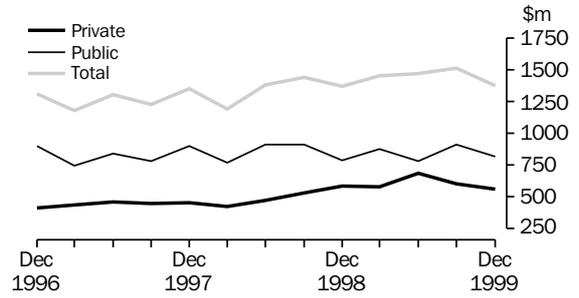
HOUSING FINANCE



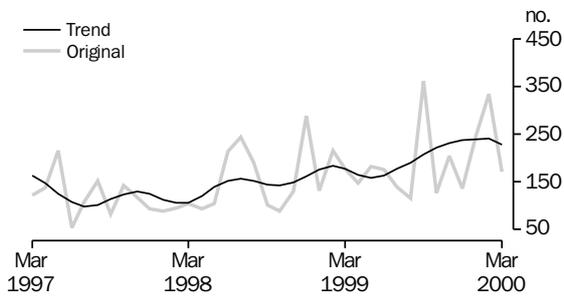
WAGE COST INDEX,
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses



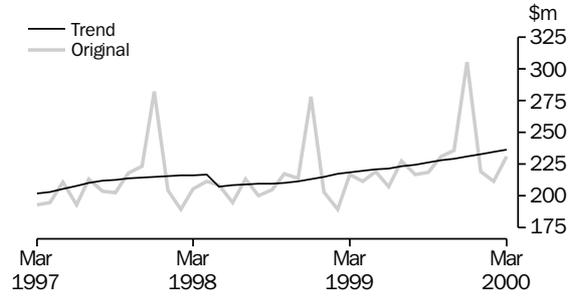
GROSS EARNINGS, By Sector—Original



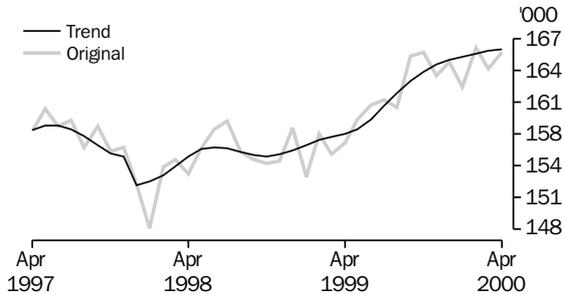
BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



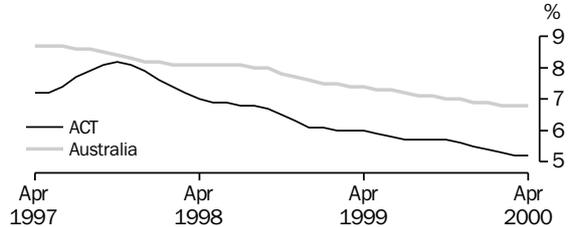
RETAIL TURNOVER



LABOUR FORCE, Employment



LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Note: Trend estimates for March 1999 to August 1999 have been revised.

FEATURE ARTICLE

EMPLOYEE EARNINGS, BENEFITS AND TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

Mean weekly earnings of employees in all jobs

In August 1999, there were 143,100 wage and salary earners aged 15 years and over in the ACT, earning an average of \$710 per week in all jobs. Median earnings were \$670 per week. Mean earnings for the main job were \$703 per week and \$156 in a second job (for the 7,448 employees with a second job).

Mean weekly earnings of employees in the ACT has steadily increased from \$479 in all jobs in August 1989 to \$710 in August 1999, compared with \$423 to \$624 nationally. Between August 1998 and 1999, mean weekly earnings in the ACT increased for males by 7% to \$822 and for females by 7% to \$595. Nationally, mean weekly earnings increased for males by 5% to \$737 and for females by 4% to \$491.

In August 1999 there were relatively more females in lower earnings ranges and more males in higher earnings ranges in the ACT. Some 12% of females and 8% of males earned less than \$200 per week in August 1999, whereas 1% of females and 8% of males earned \$1,500 or more per week. Nationally, 17% of females and 7% of males earned less than \$200 per week in August 1999, whereas 1% of females and 6% of males earned \$1,500 or more per week.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of employees in the ACT were full-time workers. Mean weekly earnings in all jobs increased by 5% to \$847 for full-time workers and by 5% to \$295 for part-time workers between August 1998 and 1999. This translated to a \$40 increase for full-time workers and a \$13 increase for part-time workers.

MEAN WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WORKERS IN ALL JOBS—1989–99(a)



(a) This information was not collected in 1996.

Permanent and casual employees in their main job Some 23% of employees in the ACT were casually employed in their main job in August 1999. Other findings on casual employment in August 1999 include;

- a higher proportion of part-time employees were casual (66%) than full-time employees (7%);
- a slightly higher proportion of females than males were casual employees (24% and 22% respectively), compared with 32% and 22% nationally; and
- casual employees also had lower mean weekly earnings in their main job than permanent employees in both full-time work (\$829 compared to \$853) and part-time work (\$233 compared to \$450).

Employee benefits In August 1999, the most commonly reported employee benefits in the ACT were superannuation (92% of employees), sick leave (76%), holiday leave (75%), and long service leave (67%).

Information on additional employment benefits (excluding those listed above) was also collected in August 1999. Some of the least reported benefits were entertainment allowance (2%) and club fees (2%). The more commonly received non-standard benefits were goods and services (16%), transport (10%) and telephone (9%).

Trade union membership In August 1999, 26% of employees in ACT, aged 15 years and over were trade union members in their main job. This continues the steady decline in trade union membership from 36% in 1993.

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BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: TRADING PERFORMANCE, OPERATING INCOME(a)

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	%	%
Short-term		
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	1.6
Dec qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	-2.7	-0.9
Mar qtr 1999–Jun qtr 1999	0.4	1.8
Jun qtr 1999–Sep qtr 1999	1.4	1.8
Sep qtr 1999–Dec qtr 1999	1.9	2.4
Dec qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	-5.4	-0.7
Mar qtr 2000–Jun qtr 2000	1.5	1.6
Medium-term		
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	2.9
Dec qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1999	2.6	2.7
Mar qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	1.7	2.3
Jun qtr 1999–Jun qtr 2000	5.7	3.3
Sep qtr 1999–Sep qtr 2000	2.8	2.7
Dec qtr 1999–Dec qtr 2000	0.1	1.8
Mar qtr 2000–Mar qtr 2001	1.6	2.5

(a) This data are all expectations and have not been revised for previous quarters.

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, Sep qtr 99	'000	310.8	0.2	0.8	19 021.4	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	648	-26.9	-11.8	26 180	-13.8	-3.9
Net migration	no.	-61	-152.1	-87.5	28 473	57.8	-18.1
Total increase	no.	587	-41.5	136.7	54 653	12.9	-11.9
LABOUR FORCE, Apr 00							
Original series							
Employed	'000	165.7	1.0	5.8	9 004.8	0.6	3.3
Unemployed	'000	9.1	-11.7	-7.1	659.3	-5.8	-6.5
Unemployment rate	%	5.2	-0.7	-0.7	6.8	-0.5	-0.7
Participation rate	%	72.6	—	2.2	63.7	—	0.7
Long-term unemployed, Mar 00	no.	1 817	-7.8	-37.3	189 137	-3.6	-14.5
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		17.7	-1.3	-7.2	27.0	-0.3	-3.0
Trend series							
Employed	'000	166.0	0.1	5.4	8 990.5	0.2	3.1
Unemployed	'000	9.1	-1.1	-9.0	654.1	0.1	-5.8
Unemployment rate	%	5.2	—	-0.8	6.8	—	-0.6
Participation rate	%	72.8	-0.1	1.9	63.6	0.1	0.6
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS							
Number employed—Trend series, Nov qtr 99							
Public sector	'000	69.0	2.1	3.6	1 450.6	—	0.6
Private sector	'000	79.2	-2.9	6.3	5 710.8	-0.7	1.1
Total	'000	148.2	-0.7	5.0	7 161.4	-0.6	1.0
Gross earnings—Original series, Dec qtr 99							
Public sector	\$m	816.7	-10.4	3.8	15 280.6	-2.8	1.6
Private sector	\$m	562.4	-6.7	-4.2	48 726.8	1.9	3.9
Total	\$m	1 379.0	-8.9	0.4	64 007.9	0.8	3.3
JOB VACANCIES, Feb qtr 00	'000	3.9	2.6	56.0	112.7	9.2	36.1
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Jan 00							
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	—	25.6	-37.7	208.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Jan 00)	no.	30.0	—	-14.3	89.0	2.3	23.6
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Feb 00							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	17.0	70.0	142.9	965.0	34.4	35.2
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	3.0	50.0	50.0	187.0	35.5	29.9
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	96.0	31.5	50.0	3 949.0	25.8	38.9
Re-financing	\$m	15.0	50.0	-6.3	1 063.0	33.0	34.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	136.0	37.4	44.7	6 665.0	28.8	35.6
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	138.0	19.0	42.3	6 796.0	4.1	32.7
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	991	-1.0	25.3	47 999	-0.7	16.2
Total housing commitments	\$m	130.0	—	30.0	6 792.0	0.1	27.6
BUILDING APPROVALS, Mar 00							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	171	-48.8	-3.9	14 652.0	-4.5	5.7
Value of new residential	\$m	21.6	-45.6	-9.2	1 830.1	-3.3	17.3
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.9	-16.9	36.1	302.5	-1.2	15.4
Value of non-residential	\$m	4.9	-84.3	-82.9	909.0	10.4	-17.4
Value of total building	\$m	31.4	-63.0	-44.1	3 041.6	0.6	4.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	229	-5.0	29.4	15 136	-0.9	15.6

...continued

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Dec qtr 99							
New houses	no.	392	50.2	43.6	28 906	1.5	14.7
Value of houses commenced	\$m	52.7	36.9	50.6	3 751.8	3.5	24.4
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	34.2	4.0	4.9	2 816.2	-5.2	-11.6
Value of total commencements	\$m	144.3	14.7	44.4	8 741.3	-6.6	8.5
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 99		136.1	4.9	6.5	141.3	3.3	9.5
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Sep qtr 99)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	11.0	-28.1	-37.9	2 697.9	-2.3	-6.4
Value of work done	\$m	17.2	-31.2	13.9	2 972.1	-0.8	0.2
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	19.8	-23.3	29.4	5 112.2	-3.0	-13.4
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	23.9	-17.9	12.2	1 855.2	17.6	10.2
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Mar qtr 00							
Food(a)		130.6	-0.2	1.2	129.1	0.2	1.3
Housing(a)		99.0	1.9	5.0	100.7	1.1	4.7
Transportation(a)		135.3	3.0	7.0	130.1	2.9	7.3
All groups(a)		124.9	1.0	2.9	125.2	0.9	2.8
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov qtr 99							
Original series							
Males	\$	953.1	6.0	6.9	810.4	1.8	2.8
Females	\$	827.5	5.6	6.8	683.4	1.1	3.3
Persons	\$	897.6	5.4	6.4	763.2	1.5	3.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	940.0	3.3	4.6	808.7	0.9	2.7
Females	\$	816.1	2.6	5.3	682.6	0.9	3.3
Persons	\$	887.5	3.0	4.6	762.0	0.9	2.8
WAGE COST INDEX, Dec qtr 99							
Public sector(b)		105.8	0.4	2.2	107.9	0.7	3.5
Private sector(b)		106.2	0.3	3.3	106.7	0.5	2.8
Total(b)		106.0	0.4	2.6	107.0	0.6	3.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, Mar 00							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	87.1	5.4	3.8	4 875.5	7.2	1.3
Department stores	\$m	21.8	13.5	2.3	902.1	13.0	-0.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.7	11.6	-0.3	2 107.5	7.6	6.8
All other retailing	\$m	87.3	11.1	13.5	3 845.8	7.8	3.8
Total	\$m	230.9	9.2	6.5	11 730.9	7.9	3.0
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	85.6	0.4	5.7	4 775.3	-0.3	1.1
Department stores	\$m	25.4	-0.4	4.5	1 054.5	-0.6	1.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.5	0.6	—	2 088.8	0.4	5.8
All other retailing	\$m	91.0	1.6	15.2	3 990.7	-0.3	3.4
Total	\$m	236.5	0.8	8.1	11 909.3	-0.2	2.7

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

(b) Base of each index: September quarter 1997 = 100.0.

...continued

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 99							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	260.1	-8.7	7.1	10 413.6	0.2	5.1
Takings at current prices	\$m	28.2	11.0	25.3	1 077.8	13.9	8.0
Guest arrivals	'000	201.6	-11.2	3.4	8 312.7	0.1	4.4
Guest nights	'000	424.7	-11.9	1.3	18 490.1	-0.7	5.3
Room occupancy rate	%	60.1	-6.3	1.2	59.7	-1.1	0.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Mar 00							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 151	-2.4	-11.5	67 746	8.9	-11.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 013	-20.5	-14.3	61 869	-2.8	-8.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 142	-0.1	-4.0	63 719	—	-3.7
STATE ACCOUNTS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Dec qtr 99(a)							
Trend series (chain volume measure) (b)							
Household final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 629	0.7	3.0	89 911	1.1	4.3
General government final consumption expenditure	\$m	2 833	2.6	9.9	27 739	1.2	5.7
Private gross fixed capital formation	\$m	361	5.9	22.4	29 145	-0.6	2.0
Public gross fixed capital formation	\$m	110	-1.8	-7.6	7 670	4.9	19.0
State final demand	\$m	4 923	1.9	7.6	153 452	1.0	4.2
GROSS STATE PRODUCT (trend, chain volume measures) 1998-99	\$m	11 822	2.6	n.a.	591 546	4.5	n.a.
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Dec qtr 99							
Original series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	\$m	23	35.3	-20.7	2 989	-4.7	-27.1
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	71	26.8	-15.5	7 962	5.9	1.5
Total	\$m	94	30.6	-16.8	10 950	2.7	-8.4
Trend series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	\$m	20	5.3	-16.7	2 809	-4.3	-24.0
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	68	19.3	-5.6	7 546	-0.7	-4.0
Total	\$m	88	15.8	-8.3	10 355	-1.7	-10.4

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

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

Source: ABS publications: Australia Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0), Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0), Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0), Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0), Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0), House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6416.0), Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0), Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0), Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0), Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0), New Motor Vehicle Registration, Australia (Cat. no. 9301.0), Price Index of Materials Used in Housing Building (Cat. no. 6408.0), Private New Capital Expenditure, State Estimates (Cat. no. 5646.0), Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0), Tourism Indicators, Australia (Cat. no. 8634.0), Tourism Accommodation, ACT (Cat. no. 8635.8).

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Sep qtr 99	6 428.7	4 726.6	3 525.6	1 494.8	1 868.2	470.1	193.4	310.8	19 021.4
LABOUR FORCE (trend)											
Employed persons	'000	Apr 00	3 024.0	2 233.7	1 671.2	677.1	928.1	198.2	92.0	166.0	8 990.5
Unemployment rate	%	Apr 00	5.8	6.8	8.1	8.2	6.6	9.0	4.6	5.2	6.8
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)											
Public sector	'000	Nov qtr 99	465.1	300.2	291.9	112.7	148.9	40.8	21.8	69.0	1 450.6
Private sector	'000	Nov qtr 99	1 931.0	1 517.8	1 011.4	416.0	584.7	118.5	52.1	79.2	5 710.8
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Nov qtr 99	2 396.2	1 818.0	1 303.3	528.7	733.5	159.3	73.9	148.2	7 161.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross state product (chain volume measures)(b)(c)	\$m	1998-99	209 937	151 213	96 000	40 493	63 198	11 059	6 460	11 822	89 911
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)	\$m	Dec qtr 99	3 426	2 782	1 762	542	1 436	109	261	88	10 355
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved(original)	no.	Mar 00	3 770	4 718	2 998	974	1 768	165	88	171	14 652
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Mar 00	4 090	4 580	3 036	1 002	1 864	179	142	229	15 136
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	\$m	Mar 00	440.7	192.2	113.4	59.0	74.0	9.3	15.5	4.9	909.0
Value of all buildings approved (original)	\$m	Mar 00	1 051.5	923.3	495.2	174.5	306.7	30.5	28.6	31.4	3 041.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec qtr 99	1 481.6	784.0	1 380.2	294.2	717.7	53.1	75.3	41.1	4 827.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)											
Full-time adult ordinary time	\$	Nov qtr 99	800.8	750.5	706.1	707.3	775.3	714.5	780.7	887.5	762.0
RETAIL TRADE (trend)											
Retail turnover	\$m	Mar 00	4 124.4	2 835.8	2 233.2	878.0	1 207.6	268.1	130.5	236.5	11 909.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Dec qtr 99	3 423.1	1 672.7	2 882.5	562.2	984.1	284.3	344.6	260.1	10 413.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec qtr 99	60.9	58.1	60.7	58.4	57.6	56.0	60.2	60.1	59.7
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)	no.	Mar 00	22 210	17 159	11 783	3 868	5 728	1 230	599	1 142	63 719
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food(d)		Mar qtr 00	129.6	128.3	127.5	131.2	130.4	127.8	127.4	130.6	129.1
Housing(d)		Mar qtr 00	108.6	91.7	105.1	97.9	95.1	98.8	117.5	99.0	100.7
Transportation(d)		Mar qtr 00	131.1	129.2	128.5	130.4	130.4	126.6	126.2	135.3	130.1
All Groups(d)		Mar qtr 00	125.8	124.7	125.5	126.8	123.1	125.3	124.4	124.9	125.2
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Mar qtr 00	131	146	135	142	146	134	144	120	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Mar qtr 00	234	241	212	215	224	243	225	232	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Mar qtr 00	1 293	1 114	1 131	1 238	1 206	1 051	1 190	1 275	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Mar qtr 00	370	349	318	377	353	371	391	364	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Mar qtr 00	112	140	101	73	150	109	132	132	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Mar qtr 00	614	622	614	555	644	661	612	636	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Mar qtr 00	340	334	281	369	393	266	333	280	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Mar qtr 00	85.4	82.4	75.0	83.6	85.1	90.1	92.2	88.9	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Mar qtr 00	82.6	79.9	72.3	81.0	82.5	88.1	89.8	86.2	n.a.

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(b) Experimental series. Users are cautioned these estimates are derived indirectly by calculating a deflator from the expenditure components of the state series concerned. Therefore, in general, the sum of the state estimates does not equal the estimates for Australia.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

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

<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	Sep qtr 99	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	—	0.3	0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE (trend)										
Employed persons	Apr 00	0.4	0.1	0.2	—	—	-0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Unemployment rate	Apr 00	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	-0.1	—	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)										
Pubic sector	Nov qtr 99	-0.4	—	0.9	-0.9	-0.5	—	-0.5	2.1	—
Private sector	Nov qtr 99	-2.5	0.9	-1.7	1.4	2.3	-2.8	-0.2	-2.9	-0.7
Total public and private sector	Nov qtr 99	-2.1	0.8	-1.1	0.9	1.7	-2.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.6
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross state product (chain volume measures)(b)(c)	1998-99	4.1	6.2	4.5	2.1	2.1	2.5	7.6	2.6	1.1
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)										
Total (at current prices)	Dec qtr 99	-2.0	-1.8	0.3	-3.7	-3.3	-1.8	6.5	15.8	-1.7
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Mar 00	-12.0	2.3	9.7	-9.2	-10.3	-1.8	-46.7	-48.8	-4.5
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Mar 00	-1.1	1.8	-1.1	-0.3	-4.8	—	-4.1	-5.0	-0.9
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	Mar 00	57.7	-29.2	11.3	36.3	16.0	-56.5	43.5	-84.3	10.4
Value of all buildings approved (original)	Mar 00	12.5	-2.6	9.6	0.3	-13.1	-27.7	-15.4	-63.0	0.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 99	4.0	6.4	11.7	-21.3	14.5	13.9	-0.8	-24.0	5.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)										
Full-time adult ordinary time	Nov qtr 99	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.6	1.1	1.6	3.0	0.9
RETAIL TRADE (trend)										
Retail turnover	Mar 00	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	0.1	0.5	-0.1	—	0.8	-0.2
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied	Dec qtr 99	2.3	5.2	-5.7	10.1	2.4	38.3	-22.2	-8.7	0.2
Room occupancy rate	Dec qtr 99	-0.2	2.1	-4.3	3.9	-1.2	15.3	-17.5	-6.3	-1.1
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)	Mar 00	-0.6	-1.3	4.4	-1.2	-0.9	-0.5	-4.8	-0.1	—
	<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(d)	Mar qtr 00	—	-0.2	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.2	1.2	-0.2	0.2
Housing(d)	Mar qtr 00	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	—	1.4	-0.3	1.9	1.1
Transportation(d)	Mar qtr 00	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.9
All Groups(d)	Mar qtr 00	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.9
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Mar qtr 00	1.6	2.8	3.8	0.7	—	3.1	1.4	0.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Mar qtr 00	0.9	0.8	-0.5	-1.8	1.8	1.7	2.7	0.9	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Mar qtr 00	3.5	2.5	4.1	8.6	1.3	2.6	0.1	2.3	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Mar qtr 00	1.9	-4.9	-2.8	0.5	—	—	-5.6	1.1	n.a.
Potatoes	Mar qtr 00	-11.8	-17.6	-15.1	-30.5	-1.3	17.2	-3.6	-6.4	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Mar qtr 00	5.5	3.2	1.7	-2.3	—	-4.6	-3.2	11.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Mar qtr 00	0.9	1.8	1.4	0.3	—	0.8	0.3	1.8	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Mar qtr 00	7.3	8.1	7.3	6.6	7.7	6.4	6.6	7.0	n.a.
Unleaded	Mar qtr 00	7.4	8.3	7.4	6.9	8.0	6.5	6.3	7.1	n.a.

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