

**ECONOMIC
INDICATORS**

NEW SOUTH WALES

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 15 JUN 1998

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NOTES

GENERAL

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATION

Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from a series so that the effects of other variations on that series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present. This means that movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of the underlying trend by reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. This smoothing technique does result in revisions to the most recent estimates as additional observations become available. For an explanation of seasonal adjustment derivation, refer to the publication *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (Cat. no. 1308.0).

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

One measure of the variability which occurs as a result of surveying only samples of the total business population is the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all businesses had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that it is within two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the relative standard error (RSE).

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (Cat. no. 1101.0). A *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These publications are available from any ABS office.

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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

kWh	kilowatt hour
teraJ	terajoule
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
n.y.a	not yet available
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero
—	break in continuity of series (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)

Gregory W. Bray
Regional Director
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NSW OVERVIEW

EMPLOYMENT

The number of employed persons in NSW increased by 0.7% in April 1998 to a seasonally adjusted figure of 2,850,400, while the last 12 months has seen a 1.0% rise. Nationally, employment increased by 0.7% in April and by 2.0% in the past year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in NSW decreased by 4.4% in April 1998 and by 10.2% over the previous 12 months. The unemployment rate in NSW fell from 7.5% in March 1998 to 7.2% in April and the national rate fell from 8.2% to 7.9% in this period.

BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved for NSW in March 1998 increased by 14.3% from the previous month to 4,481.

RETAIL

Total retail sales for NSW in March 1998 was a seasonally adjusted figure of \$3,969.6 million (\$3,973.9 million in February 1998).

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for NSW in March 1998 fell by 4.8% from the previous month to 20,725.

FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in March 1998 was \$1,932.9 million. This represented a 10.3% increase from February 1998 and a 10.9% increase from March 1997.

MAIN FEATURES

LABOUR

In April 1998, 75.9% of employed persons in NSW were working full-time and 24.1% part-time (based on original data). This was unchanged from a year earlier. However, there was a significant gender difference in the distribution of full and part-time work. At April 1998, 88.8% of employed males were working full-time compared to 58.7% of employed females.

Over the year to April 1998, full-time male employment rose by a little over 1% while part-time male employment fell by 4.0%. The reverse happened for females — full-time employment fell by a little over 1% but part-time employment rose by 5.2%.

Of the total of 219,000 people who were unemployed in NSW in April 1998 (based on original figures), 76.6% were looking for full-time work and 23.4% were looking for part-time work. The gender split showed that 85.2% of unemployed males and 65.7% of unemployed females were looking for full-time work.

The original (unadjusted) unemployment rate in NSW in April 1998 was 7.0% for males and 7.3% for females. The corresponding participation rates were 71.3% and 52.2% respectively.

RETAIL TRADE

In seasonally adjusted terms, total retail sales for NSW in March 1998 was \$3,969.6 million. Apart from Household good retailing and Department stores, which achieved sales increases of 4.1% and 3.3% respectively, most other industry groups experienced decreases from February 1998. Nationally, total retail sales in March 1998 was \$11,310.0 million, showing little movement from the previous month's figure of \$11,235.2 million.

Compared with March 1997, seasonally adjusted total retail sales for NSW increased by 3.0%. Most industry groups increased over the period, with Other retailing showing the largest rise (4.3%). At the national level, total retail sales rose by 4.1%. Most industry groups experienced increases, except Household good retailing, where the sales level remained virtually unchanged. The industry Other retailing showed the most substantial rise over the period.

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ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, NSW

Period	Estimated resident population at end of period			Increase during period			Mean estimated resident population for year ended	
	Males '000	Females '000	Persons '000	Natural increase(a) '000	Net estimated migration '000	Total increase(b) '000	30 June '000	31 December '000
1994	3 026.8	3 063.5	6 090.3	42.8	13.2	57.5	6 034.9	6 064.0
1995	3 064.0	3 104.8	6 168.8	42.0	33.7	78.6	6 093.2	6 128.0
1996	3 098.2	3 142.6	6 240.9	40.6	29.3	72.1	6 167.2	6 204.2
1996								
June qtr	3 081.0	3 123.7	6 204.7	9.8	7.5	18.3	..	..
September qtr	3 089.1	3 132.3	6 221.4	8.8	7.9	16.6	..	..
December qtr	3 098.2	3 142.6	6 240.9	11.1	8.4	19.5	..	..
1997								
March qtr	3 108.6	3 152.6	6 261.3	11.4	9.0	20.4	..	..
June qtr	3 115.3	3 159.0	6 274.4	11.0	2.1	13.1	..	..
September qtr	3 124.9	3 168.1	6 293.0	7.6	11.0	18.6	..	..

^a Excess of live births over deaths.

^b For dates prior to June 1996, differences between the total increase shown and the sum of the natural increase and net estimated migration arise from retrospective adjustments to population estimates (which are made after each Census) to compensate for any intercensal discrepancy. A description of intercensal discrepancy is contained in the ABS information paper Demographic Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0)

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LABOUR, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia			
			Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Employed persons (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 98	2 850.4	0.7	1.0	8 572.1	0.7	2.0
Unemployed persons (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 98	220.5	-4.4	-10.2	737.2	-3.1	-7.9
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 98	3 070.9	0.3	0.1	9 309.3	0.4	1.1
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 98	61.6	0.2	-1.3	63.2	0.3	0.3
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 98	7.2	-4.0	-10.0	7.9	-3.7	-9.2
Industrial disputes—working days lost	'000	Feb 98	9.3	181.8	190.6	39.4	358.1	120.1
Job vacancies	'000	Feb 98	23.5	2.9	2.3	75.5	10.9	20.7
Average weekly employee earnings—full-time adult ordinary time earnings (seasonally adjusted)	\$	Feb 98	744.1	0.7	3.4	721.2	1.4	4.1

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0)*, *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0)*, *Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0)*, *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (Cat. no. 6302.0)*

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LABOUR, NSW

Period	Seasonally adjusted						
	Employed persons '000	Unemployed persons '000	Labour force '000	Participation rate %	Unemployment rate %	Industrial disputes (working days lost) '000	Job vacancies '000
1997							
February	2 798.9	256.4	3 055.3	62.2	8.4	3.2	22.9
March	2 815.4	241.3	3 056.8	62.2	7.9	16.3	..
April	2 822.9	245.5	3 068.3	62.4	8.0	2.6	..
May	2 803.3	250.6	3 054.0	62.0	8.2	13.2	19.6
June	2 790.4	232.6	3 023.0	61.3	7.7	10.8	..
July	2 805.7	255.4	3 061.1	62.0	8.3	18.5	..
August	2 774.4	242.2	3 016.6	61.0	8.0	22.1	19.3
September	2 815.2	240.2	3 055.5	61.7	7.9	23.0	..
October	2 787.7	244.1	3 031.7	61.2	8.1	28.0	..
November	2 831.9	238.7	3 070.6	61.9	7.8	8.1	22.8
December	2 836.6	228.0	3 064.7	61.7	7.4	4.8	..
1998							
January	2 843.3	227.1	3 070.4	61.8	7.4	3.3	..
February	2 805.4	234.5	3 039.9	61.1	7.7	9.3	23.5
March	2 830.3	230.7	3 061.0	61.5	7.5	n.y.a.	..
April	2 850.4	220.5	3 070.9	61.6	7.2	n.y.a.	..

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0)*, *Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0)*

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LABOUR FORCE STATUS, NSW—ORIGINAL

Month	Employed		Unemployed		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate(a)	Participation rate(b)
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Total					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES									
April									
1994	1 348.4	1 506.8	164.9	175.5	1 682.3	642.6	2 324.9	10.4	72.4
1995	1 401.2	1 575.0	122.2	133.9	1 708.9	643.0	2 351.9	7.8	72.7
1996	1 407.4	1 581.5	126.6	145.7	1 727.2	655.9	2 383.1	8.4	72.5
1997									
February	1 419.3	1 588.4	142.7	161.6	1 750.0	661.1	2 411.1	9.2	72.6
March	1 434.1	1 603.9	126.3	147.2	1 751.1	661.9	2 413.0	8.4	72.6
April	1 421.2	1 610.1	120.9	139.1	1 749.3	666.3	2 415.6	8.0	72.4
May	1 408.0	1 597.3	127.6	143.3	1 740.7	677.4	2 418.1	8.2	72.0
June	1 416.4	1 598.9	116.8	129.1	1 728.1	692.7	2 420.7	7.5	71.4
July	1 422.3	1 600.4	130.3	145.4	1 745.8	677.8	2 423.6	8.3	72.0
August	1 390.3	1 567.6	120.3	135.2	1 702.8	723.7	2 426.5	7.9	70.2
September	1 434.3	1 613.3	126.1	147.6	1 760.9	668.5	2 429.3	8.4	72.5
October	1 428.1	1 595.3	121.3	138.9	1 734.2	698.1	2 432.3	8.0	71.3
November	1 431.3	1 615.2	119.0	138.1	1 753.3	681.9	2 435.2	7.9	72.0
December	1 456.8	1 637.6	116.8	135.1	1 772.7	665.4	2 438.1	7.6	72.7
1998									
January	1 441.8	1 616.3	127.1	141.7	1 758.0	682.3	2 440.3	8.1	72.0
February	1 431.8	1 599.2	129.3	150.7	1 749.9	692.5	2 442.4	8.6	71.6
March	1 432.2	1 613.1	123.5	140.6	1 753.7	690.9	2 444.6	8.0	71.7
April	1 441.4	1 622.7	104.7	122.9	1 745.6	701.8	2 447.3	7.0	71.3
FEMALES									
April									
1994	683.7	1 123.7	83.1	115.0	1 238.7	1 170.0	2 408.7	9.3	51.4
1995	699.4	1 168.1	58.0	92.0	1 260.0	1 175.5	2 435.5	7.3	51.7
1996	721.2	1 187.5	68.1	100.3	1 287.8	1 179.6	2 467.3	7.8	52.2
1997									
February	725.7	1 194.1	80.0	125.6	1 319.8	1 180.6	2 500.3	9.5	52.8
March	722.6	1 212.4	73.1	110.0	1 322.4	1 180.2	2 502.5	8.3	52.8
April	730.2	1 211.6	68.9	104.5	1 316.1	1 189.1	2 505.3	7.9	52.5
May	720.4	1 206.6	67.2	101.9	1 308.5	1 199.5	2 508.0	7.8	52.2
June	704.3	1 192.4	64.1	92.3	1 284.7	1 226.0	2 510.7	7.2	51.2
July	729.6	1 213.2	61.7	92.7	1 305.9	1 207.7	2 513.6	7.1	52.0
August	703.9	1 182.9	65.3	92.7	1 275.6	1 240.8	2 516.5	7.3	50.7
September	722.2	1 226.8	63.4	96.1	1 322.9	1 196.5	2 519.4	7.3	52.5
October	721.0	1 194.1	68.1	97.3	1 291.5	1 230.6	2 522.1	7.5	51.2
November	725.5	1 228.3	62.1	87.8	1 316.1	1 208.6	2 524.7	6.7	52.1
December	730.8	1 234.9	66.3	95.7	1 330.6	1 196.8	2 527.4	7.2	52.6
1998									
January	721.4	1 185.5	71.4	102.6	1 288.1	1 241.2	2 529.3	8.0	50.9
February	707.1	1 189.9	72.1	111.7	1 301.7	1 229.5	2 531.1	8.6	51.4
March	715.8	1 217.8	73.7	105.3	1 323.1	1 209.9	2 533.0	8.0	52.2
April	720.0	1 226.2	63.2	96.2	1 322.4	1 212.9	2 535.3	7.3	52.2

For footnotes see end of table.

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LABOUR FORCE STATUS, NSW—ORIGINAL *continued*

Month	Employed		Unemployed		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate(a)	Participation rate(b)
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Total					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
PERSONS									
April									
1994	2 032.1	2 630.5	248.1	290.5	2 921.0	1 812.6	4 733.6	9.9	61.7
1995	2 100.6	2 743.1	180.2	225.9	2 968.9	1 818.5	4 787.4	7.6	62.0
1996	2 128.6	2 769.0	194.7	246.0	3 015.0	1 835.5	4 850.5	8.2	62.2
1997									
February	2 145.0	2 782.5	222.7	287.2	3 069.7	1 841.7	4 911.4	9.4	62.5
March	2 156.7	2 816.3	199.4	257.1	3 073.4	1 842.1	4 915.5	8.4	62.5
April	2 151.5	2 821.7	189.8	243.6	3 065.4	1 855.5	4 920.8	7.9	62.3
May	2 128.4	2 804.0	194.9	245.3	3 049.2	1 876.9	4 926.1	8.0	61.9
June	2 120.8	2 791.3	181.0	221.4	3 012.8	1 918.7	4 931.4	7.3	61.1
July	2 151.9	2 813.6	192.1	238.1	3 051.7	1 885.5	4 937.2	7.8	61.8
August	2 094.3	2 750.5	185.6	228.0	2 978.4	1 964.5	4 942.9	7.7	60.3
September	2 156.5	2 840.0	189.5	243.7	3 083.8	1 865.0	4 948.7	7.9	62.3
October	2 149.1	2 789.4	189.3	236.2	3 025.7	1 928.7	4 954.3	7.8	61.1
November	2 156.7	2 843.5	181.1	225.9	3 069.4	1 890.5	4 959.9	7.4	61.9
December	2 187.6	2 872.6	183.1	230.8	3 103.3	1 862.2	4 965.6	7.4	62.5
1998									
January	2 163.2	2 801.8	198.5	244.3	3 046.1	1 923.5	4 969.5	8.0	61.3
February	2 138.9	2 789.1	201.4	262.4	3 051.5	1 922.0	4 973.5	8.6	61.4
March	2 148.0	2 830.9	197.1	245.8	3 076.8	1 900.8	4 977.5	8.0	61.8
April	2 161.5	2 848.9	167.9	219.1	3 068.0	1 914.7	4 982.7	7.1	61.6

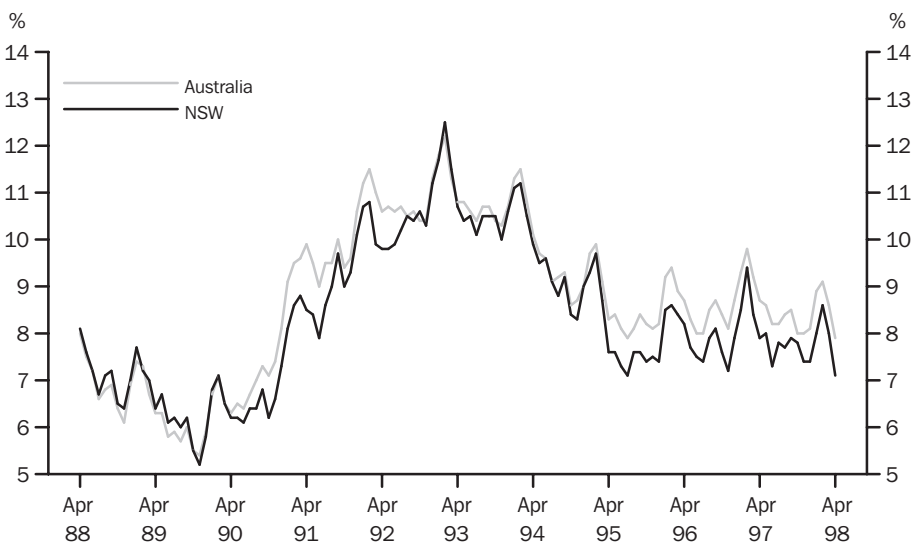
^a The number of unemployed in each group expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

^b The labour force in each group expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0)

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE—ORIGINAL



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0).

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COAL, ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRODUCTION, NSW AND AUSTRALIA—ORIGINAL

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from	Change from	Latest figure	Change from	Change from	
				prior period	same period		prior period	prior period	same period
%	%	%	%						
Raw coal won—									
Underground	'000 tonnes	Feb 98	4 560	-15.3	19.1	5 672	-11.0	20.5	
Open cut	'000 tonnes	Feb 98	5 718	-9.5	2.4	13 965	-5.2	9.7	
Total	'000 tonnes	Feb 98	10 278	-12.2	9.2	19 637	-7.0	12.6	
Electricity	mill. kWh	Mar qtr 98	14 390	-5.5	-4.9	42 669	-1.2	4.0	
Gas(a)	teraJ	Mar qtr 98	22 521	-11.5	-1.0	141 059	-6.8	4.2	

^a Available for issue through mains. Includes ACT.

Source: Joint Coal Board, Manufacturing Production, Australia (Cat. no. 8301.0)

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COAL, ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRODUCTION, NSW—ORIGINAL

Period	Raw coal won			Electricity	Gas(a)
	Underground	Open cut	Total		
	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes		
1994-95	48 702	59 079	107 781	60 016	104 881
1995-96	54 314	58 775	113 089	62 047	104 141
1996-97	54 642	69 037	123 679	62 788	109 284
1997					
January	3 972	5 797	9 769	} 15 127	} 22 738
February	3 830	5 583	9 413		
March	4 088	5 663	9 751		
April	4 803	6 626	11 429	} 15 973	} 29 907
May	5 183	6 626	11 809		
June	4 717	5 785	10 502		
July	6 503	7 086	13 589	} 16 632	} 34 086
August	5 112	6 112	11 224		
September	4 910	6 644	11 554		
October	4 496	6 716	11 212	} 15 220	} 25 445
November	4 269	6 083	10 352		
December	3 977	5 805	9 782		
1998					
January	5 384	6 319	11 703	} 14 390	} 22 521
February	4 560	5 718	10 278		
March	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.		

^a Available for issue through mains. Includes ACT.

Source: Joint Coal Board, Manufacturing Production, Australia (Cat. no. 8301.0)

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BUILDING APPROVALS, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Number of dwelling units(a) (seasonally adjusted)—								
New houses	No.	Mar 98	2 514	3.5	37.8	9 419	4.2	11.4
Total	No.	Mar 98	4 481	14.3	12.2	13 739	9.8	12.7
Value of new residential building (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 98	484.5	10.9	28.9	1 449.1	10.8	19.8
Value of alterations and additions to residential building(b) (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 98	115.5	-5.6	19.3	246.0	-8.0	11.8
Value of non-residential building(c) (original)	\$m	Mar 98	386.4	-16.3	90.9	960.1	-17.7	34.4
Value of all building (original)	\$m	Mar 98	988.9	4.8	52.4	2 667.7	3.2	33.2

^a Includes dwelling units approved as part of the construction of non-residential building and alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units).

^b Valued at \$10,000 or more. Includes conversions of existing buildings into residential buildings.

^c Valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0)

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BUILDING APPROVALS, NSW

Period	Number of dwelling units(a), seasonally adjusted				Value of building approvals			
	New houses		Total		Seasonally adjusted		Original	
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential building(b)	Non-residential building(c)	All building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1994-95	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 733.4	10 211.0
1995-96	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 650.2	9 168.6
1996-97	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 169.1	11 357.5
1997								
February	2 045	2 089	4 072	4 308	479.4	93.0	241.5	734.7
March	1 805	1 825	3 849	3 995	375.9	96.8	202.4	648.7
April	2 445	2 470	4 203	4 326	505.6	91.2	307.3	847.3
May	2 961	2 980	4 390	4 442	527.9	91.9	260.5	971.3
June	2 112	2 119	4 219	4 389	436.9	125.7	353.0	903.0
July	2 095	2 109	3 687	3 744	355.3	92.7	584.9	1 156.7
August	2 236	2 241	4 695	4 862	633.6	101.5	710.5	1 405.9
September	2 143	2 147	3 454	3 567	401.2	92.3	396.4	958.0
October	2 411	2 420	4 081	4 111	511.7	102.3	520.3	1 123.1
November	2 390	2 400	4 466	4 507	505.2	108.0	380.6	1 028.0
December	2 778	2 795	4 644	4 822	562.3	122.2	286.0	885.8
1998								
January	2 607	2 642	4 235	4 350	436.4	149.9	477.0	984.0
February	2 391	2 429	3 781	3 920	436.8	122.4	461.8	943.8
March	2 493	2 514	4 335	4 481	484.5	115.5	386.4	988.9

^a Includes dwelling units approved as part of the construction of non-residential building and alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units).

^b Valued at \$10,000 or more. Includes conversions of existing buildings into residential buildings.

^c Valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0)

10

TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a), NSW AND AUSTRALIA—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change	Change	Latest figure	Change	Change	
				from prior period	from same period prior year		from prior period	from same period prior year	
%	%	%	%	%					
Food retailing	\$m	Mar 98	1 550.9	-0.6	4.2	4 629.6	0.3	4.7	
Department stores	\$m	Mar 98	336.5	3.3	2.1	988.0	1.1	0.1	
Clothing and soft good retailing	\$m	Mar 98	259.6	-2.1	-2.9	727.2	-0.7	5.6	
Household good retailing	\$m	Mar 98	452.7	4.1	1.7	1 288.3	1.5	0.0	
Recreational good retailing	\$m	Mar 98	220.0	-1.8	2.4	630.4	0.2	5.3	
Other retailing	\$m	Mar 98	394.1	-2.7	4.3	1 175.4	1.4	8.6	
Hospitality and services	\$m	Mar 98	755.7	-0.4	3.1	1 871.1	1.1	3.8	
Total value of retail sales	\$m	Mar 98	3 969.6	-0.1	3.0	11 310.0	0.7	4.1	

^a The figures shown are derived from a monthly survey of retail establishments. Excludes motor vehicle, boat and caravan dealers, service stations, smash repairers, tyre and battery retailers, bread and milk vendors, footwear repairers and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. Retail establishments which do not have employees are excluded from the survey. Turnover includes retail sales, wholesale sales, takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods; and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets etc.)

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0).

11

TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a), NSW—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Period	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1997								
January	1 450.0	334.7	285.5	439.8	220.1	371.2	735.1	3 836.4
February	1 458.0	342.2	277.9	474.6	219.2	374.2	739.9	3 885.9
March	1 487.8	329.5	267.4	445.2	214.8	378.0	732.7	3 855.4
April	1 455.1	314.7	271.6	440.6	219.6	378.3	727.8	3 807.8
May	1 481.5	327.9	283.2	452.9	221.2	384.7	741.0	3 892.4
June	1 464.5	314.2	274.8	455.6	223.7	389.0	765.4	3 887.2
July	1 512.0	364.5	279.8	446.9	214.0	400.5	748.2	3 965.9
August	1 505.2	328.1	276.4	438.9	211.6	385.2	764.2	3 909.6
September	1 537.5	358.4	275.1	427.1	229.9	374.6	765.4	3 967.9
October	1 517.4	336.8	272.8	415.0	225.2	398.1	760.6	3 926.0
November	1 526.7	347.2	280.8	399.3	216.2	410.3	767.4	3 947.9
December	1 539.2	337.0	284.4	413.7	232.8	406.2	770.8	3 984.2
1998								
January	1 568.6	366.8	267.6	444.7	238.7	396.2	761.0	4 043.4
February	1 560.5	325.7	265.1	434.7	224.0	405.0	758.9	3 973.9
March	1 550.9	336.5	259.6	452.7	220.0	394.1	755.7	3 969.6

^a The figures shown are derived from a monthly survey of retail establishments. Excludes motor vehicle, boat and caravan dealers, service stations, smash repairers, tyre and battery retailers, bread and milk vendors, footwear repairers and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. Retail establishments which do not have employees are excluded from the survey. Turnover includes retail sales, wholesale sales, takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods; and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets etc.)

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0).

12

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS(a), NSW AND AUSTRALIA—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Latest figure	Australia	
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %		Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Passenger vehicles	no.	Mar 98	17 747	-4.1	5.9	53 351	1.0	11.8
Other vehicles (excluding motor cycles)	no.	Mar 98	2 978	-8.6	5.0	9 617	-8.3	4.7
Total registrations (excluding motor cycles)	no.	Mar 98	20 725	-4.8	5.8	62 968	-0.5	10.6

^a Includes vehicles (other than those of the defence forces) owned by Government departments and authorities. Excludes mobile plant and equipment, tractors, trailers and non-motorised caravans.

Source: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 9301.0)*.

13

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS(a), NSW—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Period	Passenger vehicles no.	Other vehicles (excluding motor cycles) no.	Total (excluding motor cycles) no.
1997			
January	17 239	2 656	19 895
February	16 927	2 894	19 820
March	16 761	2 837	19 598
April	17 194	2 637	19 831
May	16 924	2 770	19 694
June	17 978	2 728	20 706
July	17 377	2 763	20 141
August	16 977	2 732	19 709
September	18 454	2 711	21 165
October	18 920	2 729	21 650
November	18 995	2 513	21 507
December	18 315	3 020	21 335
1998			
January	19 116	2 967	22 083
February	18 501	3 259	21 760
March	17 747	2 978	20 725

^a Includes vehicles (other than those of the defence forces) owned by Government departments and authorities. Excludes mobile plant and equipment, tractors, trailers and non-motorised caravans.

Source: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 9301.0)*.

14

LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., NSW AND AUSTRALIA—ORIGINAL

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period		Latest figure	Change from prior period		
				%	%		%	%	
Room nights	'000	Dec Qtr	3 220.2	3.4	0.0	9 640.8	1.3	0.9	
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec Qtr	59.0	2.6	-3.1	58.2	0.3	-2.9	
Takings	\$'000	Dec Qtr	345 737	6.3	3.7	979 184	3.1	3.5	

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (Cat. no. 8635.0)

15

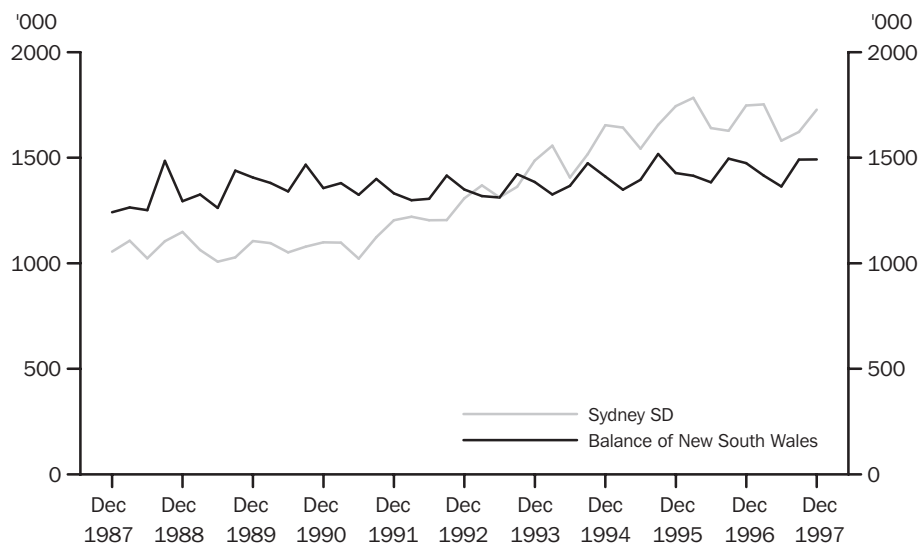
LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., SYDNEY AND NSW—ORIGINAL

Period	Sydney			New South Wales		
	Room nights	Room occupancy rate	Takings	Room nights	Room occupancy rate	Takings
	'000	%	\$'000	'000	%	\$'000
1996						
June qtr	1 640.4	69.5	205 884	3 024.3	57.4	296 797
September qtr	1 627.4	69.4	205 409	3 123.4	59.1	314 270
December qtr	1 747.3	74.7	232 355	3 221.7	60.9	333 494
1997						
March qtr	1 753.1	76.2	236 756	3 168.7	60.9	337 189
June qtr	1 581.0	67.9	214 116	2 945.2	56.0	305 726
September qtr	1 622.8	67.2	214 412	3 113.8	57.5	325 246
December qtr	1 728.1	70.6	240 678	3 220.2	59.0	345 737

Source: Tourist Accommodation, NSW (Cat. no. 8635.1)

16

LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., QUARTERLY ROOM NIGHTS OCCUPIED—ORIGINAL



Source: Tourist Accommodation, NSW (Cat. no. 8635.1)

17

CONSUMER AND PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia(a)		
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Consumer Price Index (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	120.7	0.5	0.1	120.3	0.3	-0.2
Price index of materials used in house building (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	120.8	1.2	4.1	118.7	0.7	2.2
Price index of materials used in building other than house building (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	114.4	0.2	1.1	114.1	0.1	0.6

^a For the Consumer Price Index this is the weighted average of eight capital cities and for the other two indexes, the weighted average of the six State capital cities.

Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6407.0), Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6408.0)

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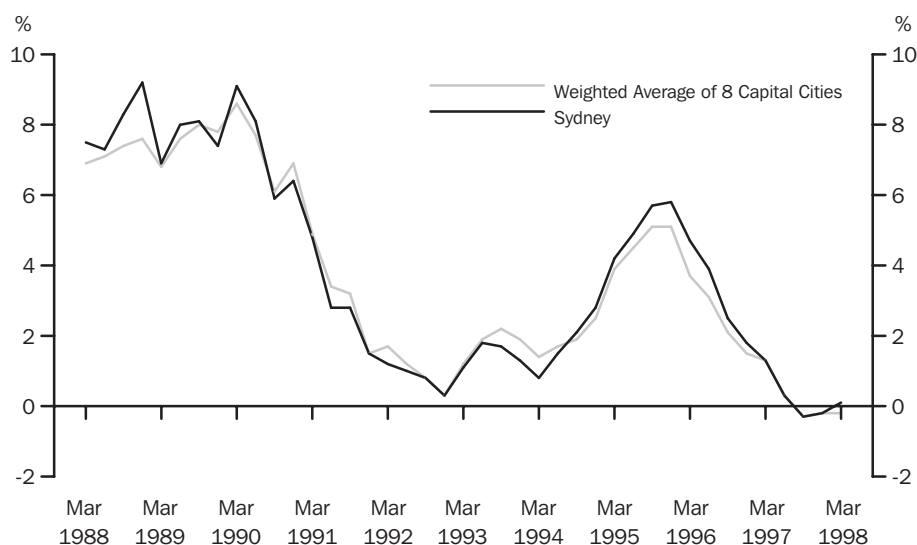
CONSUMER AND PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES, NSW

Period	Consumer Price Index, all groups	Price Index of materials used in house building, all groups	Price Index of materials used in building other than house building, all groups
	1989-90 = 100.0	1989-90 = 100.0	1989-90 = 100.0
1996			
September qtr	120.2	115.9	112.5
December qtr	120.4	115.8	112.6
1997			
March qtr	120.6	116.0	113.2
June qtr	120.2	117.3	113.9
September qtr	119.8	117.8	114.2
December qtr	120.1	119.4	114.2
1998			
March qtr	120.7	120.8	114.4

Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Price index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6407.0), Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6408.0).

19

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE



Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0)

Indicator	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
			Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Lending commitments for the construction or purchase of dwellings—							
Construction of dwellings	Mar 98	240.3	10.7	28.2	735.8	7.0	30.1
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Mar 98	112.1	12.6	5.5	254.6	12.1	13.1
Purchase of established dwellings(a)	Mar 98	1 283.2	12.9	14.4	3 746.1	6.3	8.9
Refinancing of existing dwellings	Mar 98	297.2	-0.5	-9.5	766.3	-0.4	-9.7
Lending commitments for alterations and additions	Mar 98	106.4	0.9	2.5	252.3	3.7	4.4
Total lending commitments to individuals for housing(b)	Mar 98	1 932.9	10.3	10.9	4 736.5	6.7	11.9
Total lending commitments to individuals for housing (seasonally adjusted)(b)	Mar 98	1 709.0	-4.7	-0.4	4 293.6	-5.3	2.3

^a Excludes refinancing.

^b Excludes alterations and additions.

Source: *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0)*

Period	Lending commitments for the construction or purchase of dwellings				Lending commitments for alterations and additions	Total lending commitments to individuals for housing(b)	
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Purchase of established dwellings(a)	Refinancing of existing dwellings		Original	Seasonally adjusted
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	2 151.4	838.5	10 911.6	2 337.2	1 078.2	16 238.7	..
1994-95	2 162.6	819.8	9 952.4	2 381.9	1 242.0	15 316.7	..
1995-96	1 894.7	897.9	10 145.3	2 929.8	1 261.8	15 867.7	..
1997							
January	147.8	93.8	948.0	304.9	83.9	1 494.5	1 940.2
February	175.6	100.1	981.9	297.5	92.9	1 555.1	1 591.4
March	187.5	106.3	1 121.1	328.4	103.8	1 743.3	1 715.8
April	212.2	116.6	1 231.9	371.7	108.5	1 932.3	1 792.4
May	221.3	121.3	1 282.3	316.2	99.7	1 941.1	1 778.7
June	193.0	120.8	1 122.6	327.5	89.9	1 764.0	1 735.7
July	220.8	116.8	1 218.6	321.5	93.1	1 877.8	1 707.7
August	213.6	114.8	1 154.9	310.7	90.3	1 794.1	1 824.0
September	236.2	116.0	1 210.2	322.4	102.7	1 884.7	1 856.1
October	224.0	110.9	1 253.3	302.3	110.1	1 890.5	1 884.3
November	201.1	110.0	1 198.4	261.8	97.9	1 771.4	1 804.5
December	203.8	111.7	1 137.4	246.8	90.6	1 699.7	1 789.0
1998							
January	169.1	74.2	922.2	238.4	80.8	1 403.9	1 935.7
February	217.1	99.6	1 136.5	298.6	105.5	1 751.7	1 792.5
March	240.3	112.1	1 283.2	297.2	106.4	1 932.9	1 709.0

^a Excludes refinancing.

^b Excludes alterations and additions.

Source: *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0)*

Item	Actual 1995-96 \$m	Actual 1996-97 \$m	Estimates 1997-98 \$m	July-March	
				1996-97 \$m	1997-98 \$m
RECEIPTS					
Current receipts					
Taxes, fees and fines					
Stamp duties	2 630	3 193	3 373	2 298	2 755
Payroll tax	2 876	3 161	3 338	2 366	2 660
Land tax	575	641	786	218	360
Motor vehicle tax	937	903	930	651	691
Gaming and betting	1 179	1 209	1 392	920	1 036
Licences	1 729	1 850	1 979	1 290	142
Commonwealth Safety Net Taxes	—	—	—	—	1 142
Other	943	1 000	1 114	739	620
Land transactions and royalties	246	243	238	177	184
Income from Non Budget Sector Enterprises	1 290	1 436	1 341	1 101	1 201
Commonwealth General Purpose Recurrent Grants	4 517	4 673	4 900	3 514	3 637
less—State Fiscal Contribution	—	210	216	157	163
Commonwealth Specific Purpose Recurrent Grants	2 757	2 944	2 962	2 010	2 152
Other	729	599	626	407	339
<i>Total current receipts</i>	<i>20 408</i>	<i>21 642</i>	<i>22 763</i>	<i>15 534</i>	<i>16 756</i>
Capital receipts					
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grants	—	—	—	—	—
Commonwealth Specific Purpose Capital Grants	867	854	854	523	558
Other	11	17	228	9	226
<i>Total capital receipts</i>	<i>877</i>	<i>872</i>	<i>1 081</i>	<i>531</i>	<i>784</i>
Total current and capital receipts	21 285	22 514	23 844	16 065	17 540
EXPENDITURE					
Current expenditure					
Departmental payments					
Services					
Health	5 116	5 381	5 585	3 986	4 384
Education(a)	4 641	4 928	5 174	3 691	3 876
Law and order(b)	1 247	1 679	1 711	1 185	1 277
Community Services	989	1 113	1 155	780	846
Other	3 944	4 057	4 192	2 708	2 963
Redundancies	17	22	38	14	36
Subsidies to Non Budget agencies					
Services	726	1 073	866	835	755
Redundancies	66	33	63	21	53
Interest payments	1 683	1 399	1 527	1 005	1 012
Superannuation	1 077	1 402	1 451	946	1 105
Treasurer's advance(c)	—	—	100	—	—
less—User charges	1 286	1 349	1 347	973	927
<i>Total current expenditure</i>	<i>18 220</i>	<i>19 739</i>	<i>20 516</i>	<i>14 198</i>	<i>15 379</i>
Capital expenditure					
Capital works	1 940	2 315	2 665	1 282	1 559
Capital grants	1 483	1 109	1 240	796	740
Advances made	65	69	15	64	—
less—Advances repaid	1 877	657	215	130	78
less—Asset sales	160	247	322	98	126
<i>Total capital expenditure</i>	<i>1 449</i>	<i>2 589</i>	<i>3 383</i>	<i>1 913</i>	<i>2 096</i>
Total current and capital expenditure	19 669	22 328	23 899	16 111	17 475
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT (-)					
Current account	2 188	1 903	2 246	1 336	1 377
Capital account	-572	-1 717	-2 302	-1 382	-1 313
<i>Total result surplus/deficit</i>	<i>1 617</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>-56</i>	<i>-46</i>	<i>64</i>

^a Includes Department of Training and Education Co-ordination, Department of School Education, Office of the Board of Studies and TAFE.

^b Includes Attorney Generals Department, Department of Corrective Services and Police Services.

^c Expenditure from the Treasurer's Advance is included in the relevant current payments figures.

Source: Financial Statement released by NSW Treasury. Figures may differ from data published in annual ABS publications.

23

ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW AND AUSTRALIA, TREND

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	
				%	%	Latest figure	%	%
Type of asset—								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec qtr	1 021	0.4	-7.2	3 164	-4.1	-14.2
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec qtr	2 684	6.4	14.5	8 315	3.5	15.5
Total	\$m	Dec qtr	3 705	4.7	7.6	11 479	1.3	5.3

Source: State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0)

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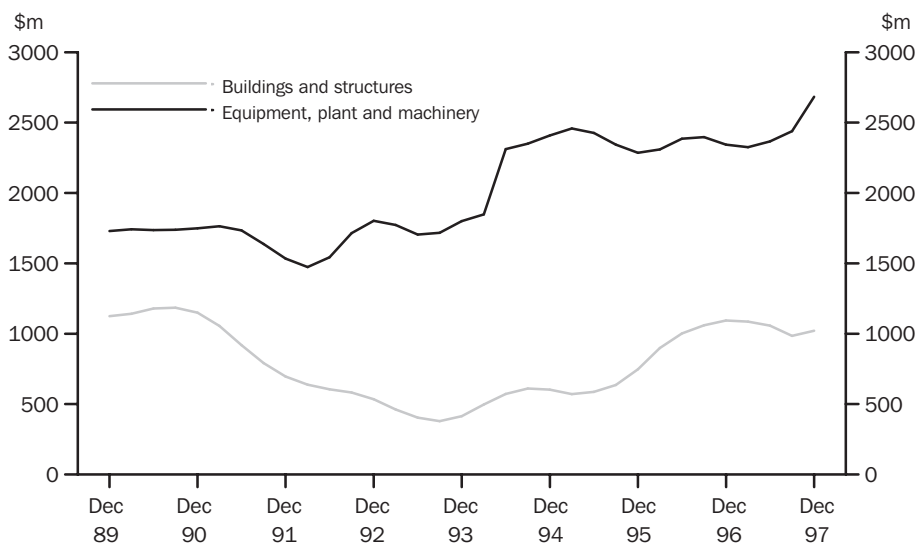
ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW, TREND

Period	Type of asset		Total
	New buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	
	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996			
September qtr	1 059	2 397	3 456
December qtr	1 100	2 344	3 444
1997			
March qtr	1 074	2 307	3 381
June qtr	1 043	2 374	3 417
September qtr	1 017	2 522	3 539
December qtr	1 021	2 684	3 705

Source: State Estimates of New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0)

25

ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW, TREND



Source: State Estimates of New Capital Expenditure (5646.0)

26

FOREIGN TRADE, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS(a), NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change	Change	Latest figure	Change	Change	
				from prior period	from same period prior year		from prior period	from same period prior year	
%	%	%	%						
Overseas imports into NSW	\$m	Mar 98	3 438	22.5	29.8	8 187	17.9	36.8	
Total overseas exports(b)	\$m	Mar 98	1 478	1.2	-3.2	6 943	8.8	10.0	
Exports of—									
Meat and meat preparations	\$m	Mar 98	80	6.9	15.2	323	7.5	25.2	
Cereals and cereal preparations	\$m	Mar 98	118	6.2	-20.7	384	-8.1	-43.9	
Wool and other animal hair	\$m	Mar 98	70	-15.1	-29.9	275	-4.5	-17.3	
Coke, coal and briquettes	\$m	Mar 98	301	-6.8	15.3	719	-6.4	15.9	
Iron and steel	\$m	Mar 98	99	13.8	23.7	189	33.7	51.4	
Aluminium	\$m	Mar 98	107	31.2	12.3	287	25.5	54.1	
Office machines and parts	\$m	Mar 98	37	-1.7	-25.0	76	11.1	-8.0	

^a Figures shown are Free On Board (FOB) values.

^b Excludes re-exported goods. State of origin is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: *International Trade, Australia: FASTTRACCS Service (Cat. no. 5466.0).*

27

FOREIGN TRADE, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS(a), NSW

Period	Overseas exports of selected commodities(b)								
	Overseas imports into NSW	Total overseas exports(b)	Meat and meat preparations	Cereals and cereal preparations	Wool and other animal hair	Coke, coal and briquettes	Iron and steel	Aluminium	Office machines and parts
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1994-95	33 280	15 201	885	458	1 035	2 801	913	1 018	829
1995-96	34 891	16 684	794	822	720	3 338	1 037	1 111	638
1996-97	34 204	17 726	784	1 540	859	3 426	968	993	535
1997									
January	2 631	1 326	54	120	64	343	87	81	35
February	2 549	r1 383	65	163	59	277	81	86	41
March	2 649	1 527	70	149	100	261	80	95	50
April	2 939	1 445	76	137	62	286	92	88	31
May	2 788	1 717	75	197	74	289	112	99	40
June	3 182	1 552	68	204	61	270	57	73	41
July	3 221	r1 760	74	145	104	335	65	97	45
August	3 002	1 763	71	185	79	318	93	116	44
September	3 217	1 668	76	157	102	350	59	73	48
October	3 387	r1 693	78	95	119	302	123	98	45
November	3 096	1 760	89	148	130	328	98	102	51
December	3 420	r1 834	88	165	116	384	89	99	58
1998									
January	2 943	r1 429	65	134	72	355	115	118	37
February	2 807	r1 461	r75	111	r83	r323	r87	82	r38
March	3 438	1 478	80	118	70	301	99	107	37

^a Figures shown are Free On Board (FOB) values.

^b Excludes re-exported goods. State of origin is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: *International Trade, Australia: FASTTRACCS Service (Cat. no. 5466.0).*

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