Australian Bureau of Statistics

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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CONTENTS

INQUIRIES

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100 years of STATISTICS

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	*RELEASE DATE*
March 2005	20 April 2005
June 2005	13 July 2005

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The Social Trends section does not appear in this issue. Table 5, Wage Cost Index, has been renamed Wage Price Index. Changes have been made to table 7 to present price indexes of materials used in house building. A new table (17) on dwelling units approved by sector, has been included. Tourism tables on overseas arrivals and departures have been combined into table 33; and tables on short-term visitor arrivals and resident departures have been combined into table 34.

FEATURE ARTICLES

All previously published feature articles are available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <http://www.abs.gov.au/Themes/Western Australia/Articles of interest on Western Australia>.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
LGA	Local Government Area
na	not available
nec	not elsewhere classified
nes	not elsewhere specified
np	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
nya	not yet available
p	preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
SD	Statistical Division
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SLA	Statistical Local Area
—	nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
. .	not applicable
^	estimate has a relative standard error of between 10% and 25% and should be used with caution
*	estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
**	estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 21 December 2004. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in *Western Australian Statistical Indicators.* Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

ALAN HUBBARD

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

State Final Demand in the Western Australia economy rose by 1.2% to $21,176 million in the September Quarter 2004 — the sixteenth consecutive quarterly increase in trend chain volume terms. Growth in the September quarter was driven by strong increases in consumer spending and business investment. In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, Household expenditure rose by $206 million (1.8%), mainly on Purchase of vehicles and Furnishings and household equipment; while Business investment increased by $151 million (4.0%), almost entirely on Machinery and equipment. Expenditure on these predominantly imported items were supported by a strong $A, which averaged 71 US cents in the September Quarter 2004, as well as low interest rates (unchanged at 5.25%).

Western Australia's exports recorded the largest rise in value since the December Quarter 2000, increasing by $1,215.5 million (15.4%) in the September Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003. The main drivers of growth were iron ore, wheat and petroleum exports. During 2003–04, the prices of iron ore and oil increased by 11.8% and 40.4% respectively, reflecting rising world demand (particularly from Asia). Western Australia's agricultural exports, especially wheat, continued to improve following the effects of the 2002 drought. High commodity prices arising from a recovery in the global economy, particularly among Western Australia's key trading partners, coupled with the expansion of production and exploration in the state's resources sector, provide a positive outlook for the state's export growth.

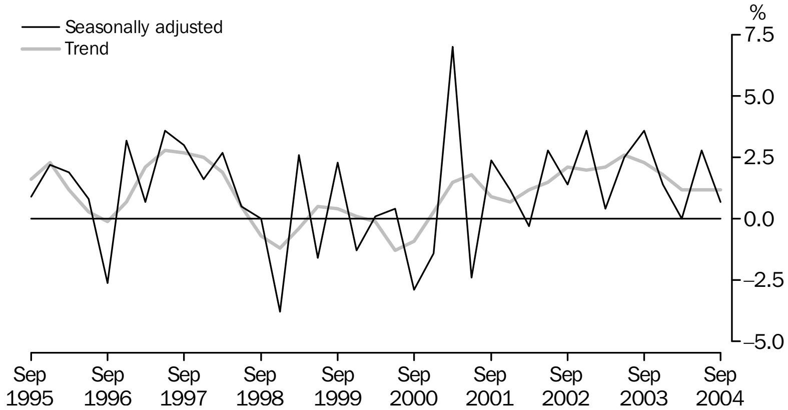
Western Australia's labour market continued to strengthen in the three months to November 2004, despite some businesses reporting difficulties in filling vacancies for skilled positions. The total number of employed persons in Western Australia reached one million for the first time in November 2004. In the three months to November 2004, full-time employment rose by 1.0% (7,034 persons), well above the national increase (0.6%), while labour force participation increased to 65.6%. The number of unemployed persons in Western Australia fell by 6.1% (3,100) during the period, double the decline recorded nationally (3.0%). Consequently, the unemployment rate in Western Australia fell to a record low of 4.5% in November 2004, compared to 5.3% nationally.

STATE ACCOUNTS

State Final Demand

In the September Quarter 2004, State Final Demand in Western Australia (trend chain volume terms) increased by 1.2% ($257 million) to $21,176 million, the sixteenth consecutive quarterly increase. However, since mid-2003, the rate of growth in State Final Demand has slowed from a high of 2.6% in the June Quarter 2003 to 1.2% in the March Quarter 2004 — where it has since remained. By comparison, growth in Australian Domestic Final Demand, fell from 1.3% in the March Quarter 2004 to 0.8% in the September Quarter 2004.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures—Change from previous quarter



State Final Demand *continued*

In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, State Final Demand increased by 0.7% ($142 million) to $21,185 million in the September Quarter 2004. The key drivers of growth in the quarter were:

- Household consumption — up $206 million (1.8%), mainly on Purchase of vehicles and Furnishings and household equipment, both supported by a strong $A.
- Business investment — up $151 million (4.0%), predominantly on Machinery and equipment, the result of the rebound in the state's agricultural sector and the fit out required for recently completed construction projects in the resources industry.

The main detractor from growth in State Final Demand, in the September quarter, was investment by State and local public corporations, down $322 million (53.0%). This followed a high level of investment in the state's water and gas utilities in the June quarter.

PRICES

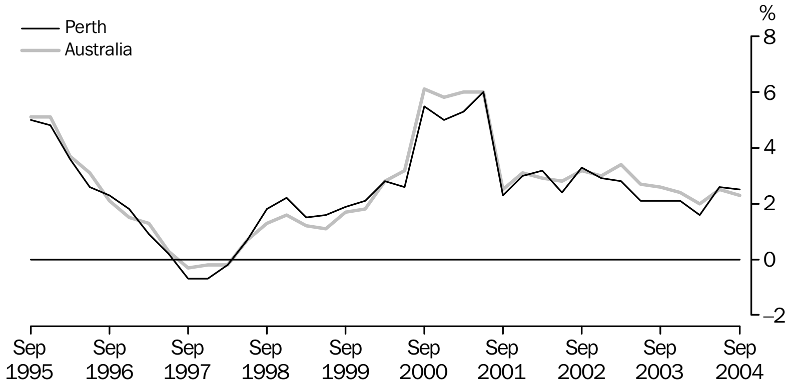
Consumer Price Index

Growth in Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased to 0.7% in the September Quarter 2004, following an increase of 1.0% in the previous quarter. Despite this decline, prices growth in Perth remained above the national increase of 0.4%.

The main contributor to Perth's CPI growth in the September Quarter 2004 was Housing, which increased by 1.8%. The rise in housing prices was driven by increases in construction costs and property rates and charges, resulting from the annual review of charges by state and local government authorities. Other notable contributions were: Miscellaneous items (up 2.6%), mainly due to an increase in the cost of child care; Alcohol and tobacco (up 1.1%), largely the result of an adjustment in Federal excise and customs duties from 1 August 2004; and Transportation (up 0.5%), reflecting the increased cost of automotive fuel.

Detracting from prices growth in Perth in the September Quarter 2004 were: Clothing and footwear (down 0.6%), predominantly the result of prices falling for clothing accessories and jewellery; Household furnishings, supplies and services (down 0.3%), mostly from a decline in the cost of furniture and household supplies; and Health (down 0.5%), due to the cyclical effect of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net on pharmaceutical prices.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from corresponding quarter of previous year

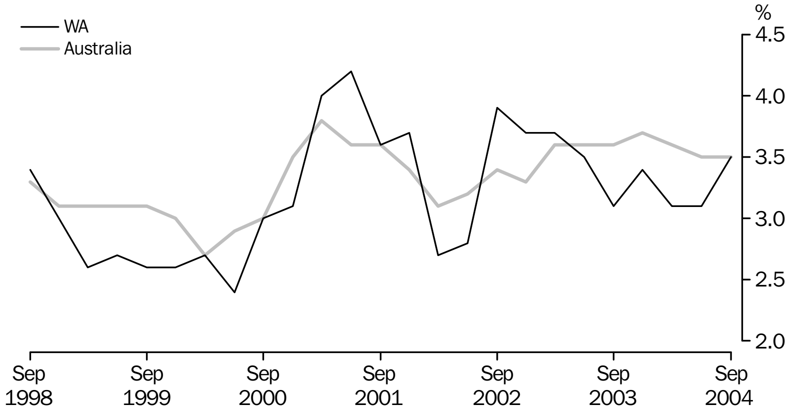


Perth's CPI rose by 2.5% in the September Quarter 2004, compared to the September Quarter 2003. Nationally, the CPI rose by 2.3% over the same period — within the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range of 2.0%–3.0%. The RBA expects inflation to remain within the target band in the near term, with leading indicators for the housing sector showing an easing in activity. However, high oil prices, the renewed pick-up in global economic conditions and rising manufacturing prices could pose a threat to the inflationary outlook in the longer term.

Wage Price Index

Western Australia recorded strong wages growth in the September Quarter 2004, with the state's quarterly index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) increasing by 1.7%. This was the largest quarterly increase since the March Quarter 2001, and was above the national increase of 1.3% for the same period. Of the selected industries for Western Australia, wages growth was highest in Personal and other services (2.5%) and Manufacturing (2.1%). The occupations to record the largest wages growth over the period were Elementary clerical, sales and service workers (2.6%) and Labourers and related workers (2.4%). These increases partly reflect salary increases taking effect for the new financial year, as well as the Safety Net Review decision to raise full-time minimum award wages by $19 per week.

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from corresponding quarter of previous year



In the 12 months to September 2004, Western Australia recorded wages growth of 3.5%, equal to growth at the national level. The selected industries to record the highest wages growth in the year to September were Manufacturing (5.1%) and Personal and other services (4.1%). Labourers and related workers recorded the highest annual wages growth among the selected occupations (4.1%).

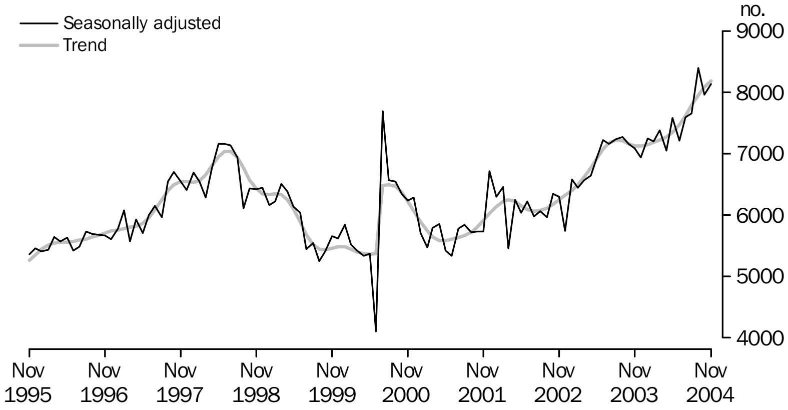
Annual growth in the Australian level Wage Price Index remains within the Reserve Bank of Australia's target range of 3.5%–4.5%. However, economic commentators have cautioned that shortages in the availability of skilled labour are becoming a constraint on further economic expansion within the state, and that this may translate into wages growth in the longer term.

CONSUMPTION

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Sales of new motor vehicles in Western Australia (trend) increased for the eleventh consecutive month in November 2004, rising by 1.1% to 8,183 vehicles — the highest level of sales since the series commenced in January 1994. The recent strength in new motor vehicle sales has been supported by a strong $A, lowering the price of imported vehicles, and high levels of consumer confidence. Sales of new motor vehicles in the state have increased at an average monthly rate of 1.8% (143 vehicles) since July 2004, double the rate of the previous five month period, and well above the national average of 0.1%.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

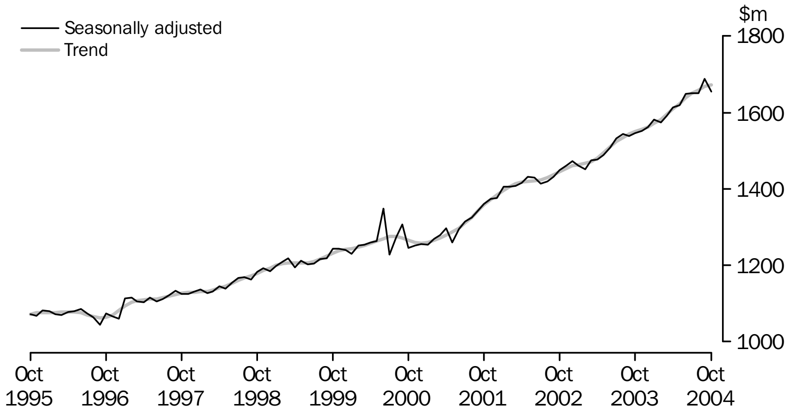


Recent growth in Western Australia's new motor vehicle sales (trend) has been driven by sales of Passenger vehicles, increasing by an average of 2.1% (96 vehicles) per month over the three months to November 2004. Sales of Passenger vehicles accounted for almost three quarters (71.2%) of the increase in new motor vehicles sold during the period, with Sports utility vehicles and Other vehicles accounting for 21.2% and 7.6% respectively.

Retail Trade

Retail turnover in Western Australia (trend) continued to grow strongly in the three months to October 2004, increasing by 1.8% over the previous three month period — compared to 0.7% growth nationally. Retail spending in the state continued to be supported by strong consumer confidence, brought about by sustained low levels of unemployment and inflation and low interest rates. Recent tax cuts, increases in the Family Tax Benefit, and rising wealth from higher property prices have also helped sustain retail turnover during the period. However, the effect of these factors may be declining given a slowing in the monthly rate of growth in retail spending, which dropped from 0.9% in June 2004 to 0.3% in October 2004.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



The main contributors to growth in retail turnover, over the three months to October 2004, were spending on Other retailing (including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, antiques, garden supplies and jewellery), up $23.8 million (5.0%); Household good retailing, up $21.6 million (2.7%); and Food retailing, up $18.2 million (0.9%). Spending on Hospitality and service industries was the only detractor from growth, down $9.7 million (1.6%).

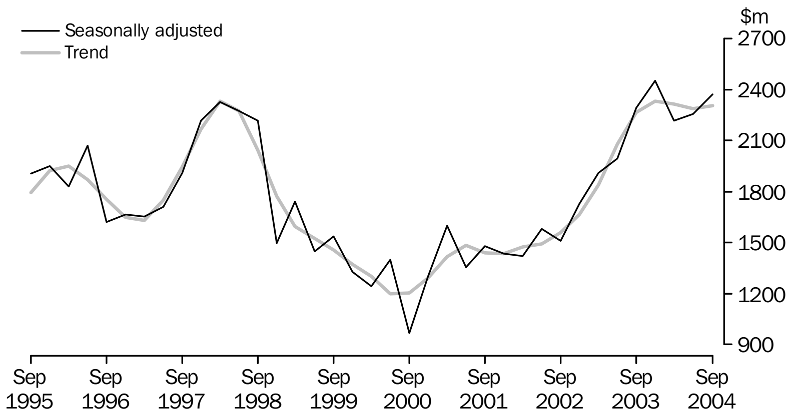
In trend chain volume terms, Western Australia's retail turnover for the September Quarter 2004 increased by 2.1% to $4,976.5 million — the largest increase of all the states and territories, and well above the 1.1% growth recorded nationally.

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private New Capital Expenditure

In trend chain volume terms, business investment in Western Australia rose by 0.7% ($16 million) in the September Quarter 2004, following two quarterly decreases in March (0.8%) and June (1.1%). The state's capital expenditure in the September quarter amounted to $2,305 million, only $29 million below the record high of the December Quarter 2003 ($2,334 million). Driving growth in capital expenditure was a 4.5% increase in investment on Buildings and structures (up $43 million to $1,005 million). However, offsetting growth was a third successive quarterly decrease in investment on Equipment, plant and machinery (down 2.3% or $31 million to $1,296 million).

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



Private New Capital Expenditure *continued*

In original current price terms, business investment in Western Australia was 3.2% ($71 million) higher in the September Quarter 2004, than in the same quarter of 2003. Investment growth during the period was largely driven by a 16.6% ($101 million) increase in expenditure in Other selected industries, comprising Retail trade, Construction and Property and business services. Investment in the state's Mining industry also increased during the period, although by a more modest 1.3% ($17 million).

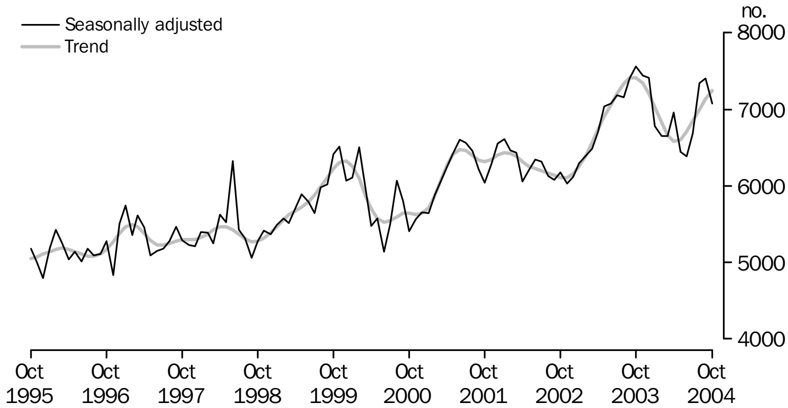
According to the Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance, business investment in Western Australia is expected to remain near current levels over the medium term, supported by favourable business conditions and a number of resource projects still to be completed.

Housing Finance Commitments

The number of housing finance commitments (trend) in Western Australia rose by 1.6% to 7,246 in October 2004. During the three months to October, the number of housing finance commitments increased at an average monthly rate of 1.9% (133) — up from 1.3% (88) in the previous three month period — possibly in response to stamp duty concessions introduced in July 2004.

Recent growth in the number of houses financed coincided with the seventh consecutive monthly increase in the value of housing finance commitments in Western Australia, dating back to April 2004. The value of housing finance commitments in the three months to October 2004 was 10.2% ($330.2 million) higher than in the previous three month period.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



In original terms, there were 2.3% fewer housing finance commitments in Western Australia in the three months to October 2004, compared to the three months to October 2003. Over the period, the number of housing finance commitments rose 25.6% for first home buyers, but fell 7.3% for non-first home buyers.

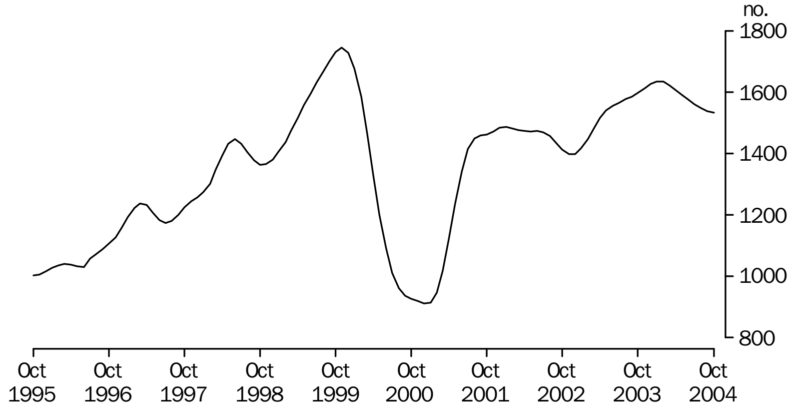
Average borrowing sizes increased for both first home buyers (up 14.3% to $166,233) and non-first home buyers (up 10.5% to $164,900) in the three months to October 2004, compared to the same period of 2003. This was only the tenth time since the monthly series began in July 1991 that the average borrowing size for first home buyers was higher than that for non-first home buyers. The average borrowing size for first home buyers was greater than the average borrowing size for non-first home buyers in each of the three months to October 2004, with the difference increasing from $800 in August 2004 to $2,600 in October 2004.

CONSTRUCTION

Building Approvals

The number of houses approved in Western Australia (trend) fell by 2.2% in the three months to October 2004, compared to the previous three month period. This was, however, less than half the size of the decline recorded nationally (5.1%). Despite the fall, house approvals in Western Australia remain near historically high levels, with approvals in October 2004 (1,535) only marginally below the peak in January 2004 (1,636). Following the introduction of stamp duty relief on 1 July 2004, the monthly rate of decline in house approvals has eased from 1.0% in July 2004 to 0.3% in October 2004.

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS APPROVED, Houses: **Trend**



Despite decreasing numbers, the total value of new houses approved in Western Australia (current prices) increased slightly in the three months to October 2004 — up by 0.4% ($3.2 million) from the previous three month period to reach $806.9 million. Nationally, the total value of new houses approved fell by 4.0%. Over the same period, the value of non-residential building approvals in Western Australia decreased by 20.7% ($95.2 million), mainly due to falls in the value of approvals of Health and Other business premises.

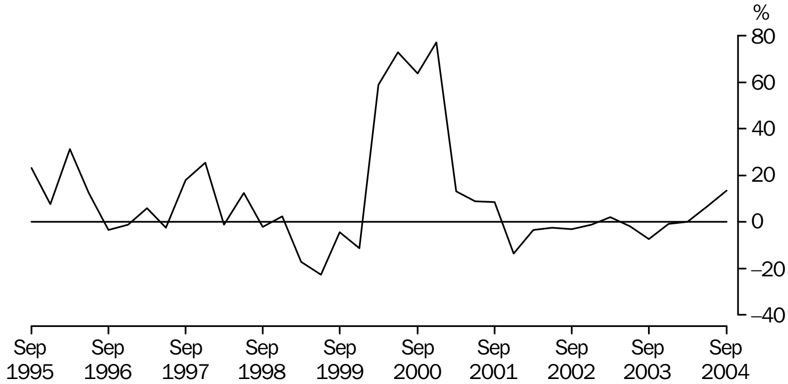
TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus increased by $685.2 million (13.5%) to $5,756.1 million in the September Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003. Over the period, growth in the value of the state's exports (up $1,215.5 million) was more than double the rise in the value of imports (up $530.3 million). Western Australia's export growth was the highest recorded since the December Quarter 2000, fuelled by strong international demand, which also served to keep commodity prices high in both $US and $A terms.

The September quarter also saw an increase in the state's capacity to meet demand for resource commodities, particularly iron ore, with a number of projects coming on-line, including Hamersley's Eastern Range mine, the completion of the first stage of expansion work at Yandicoogina, Robe River's West Angelas, Mt Gibson's Tallering Peak and BHP Billiton's Mining Area C. Imports continued to be supported by the strong $A and increased investment expenditure on imported capital goods during the September Quarter 2004.

TRADE *continued*

VALUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE SURPLUS,
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year



Between the September Quarters of 2003 and 2004, Western Australia's trade position improved with several major trading partners. Most significantly, the state's trade surplus with Japan increased by $248.5 million to $1,704.9 million, largely due to an increase in the value of iron ore exports; and the trade position with New Zealand moved from a deficit of $4.4 million to a surplus of $213.9 million, largely due to a rise in the value of petroleum exports. Conversely, the state's trade position with the United States of America moved from a surplus of $268.1 million to a deficit of $121.7 million over the period, driven by a decrease in the value of petroleum exports and an increase in the value of imports of non-monetary gold.

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 15.4% to $9,083.7 million in the September Quarter 2004, compared to the September Quarter 2003. Exports of Metalliferous ores and metal scrap increased by $473.5 million (32.4%) over the period, comprised almost entirely of iron ore exports. During 2003–04, the price of iron ore increased by 11.8%, reflecting rising world demand, particularly from Asia. Agricultural exports also continued to improve following the effects of the 2002 drought, with exports of Cereals and cereal preparations increasing by $243.1 million (73.0%), wheat being the main contributor.

Offsetting the state's export growth, during the period, was a decrease in the value of exports of Iron and steel — down $69.8 million (86.8%). The decline in iron and steel exports was mainly due to the closure of one of the state's Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) plants following an accident in May 2004. The value of exports of Medicinal and pharmaceutical products also declined over the period, down $61.3 million (57.7%).

Imports

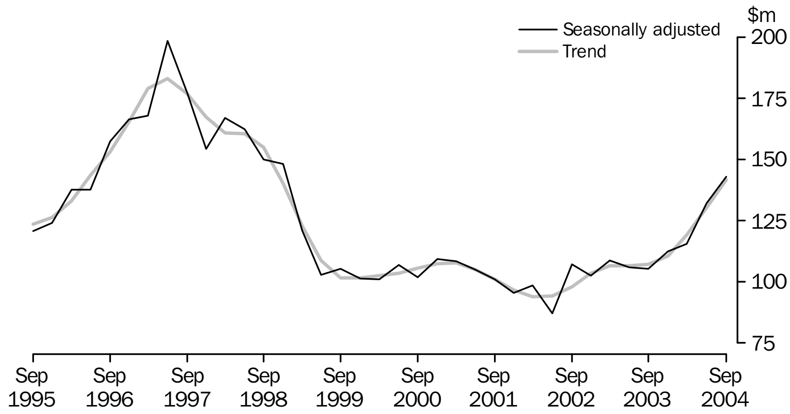
The value of imports to Western Australia, in the September Quarter 2004, was $3,327.7 million, 19.0% higher than in the same quarter of 2003. The rise was mainly driven by increases in the value of imports of General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s. (up $119.9 million or 90.7%); and Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (up $119.0 million or 31.1%). The growth in value of petroleum imports was largely a consequence of rising oil prices, with the actual volume of petroleum imports to Western Australia declining marginally over the period (down 3.9%).

MINING

Mineral And Petroleum Exploration Expenditure

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) continues to grow strongly in Western Australia, rising by 8.7% ($11.3 million) to $141.7 million in the September Quarter 2004 — the highest level of expenditure since the September Quarter 1998 ($155.0 million). Quarterly growth in the state's mineral exploration expenditure has averaged 8.6% since the March Quarter 2004.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



In original terms, Western Australia's mineral exploration expenditure totalled $147.9 million in the September Quarter 2004 — $39.4 million (36.3%) higher than in the September Quarter 2003. The main driver of growth over the period was a $15.8 million (122.5%) increase in expenditure on Nickel and cobalt exploration, supported by high nickel prices fuelled by strong demand from stainless steel producers in South Korea, China and Europe. Expenditure on Gold exploration also grew over the period, up $5.9 million (8.7%).

Petroleum exploration expenditure (original) totalled $182.1 million in the September Quarter 2004 — $4.2 million (2.4%) higher than in the corresponding period of 2003. Increased expenditure on petroleum exploration in the state continues to be driven by rising global demand for oil, particularly from China.

Mineral Production

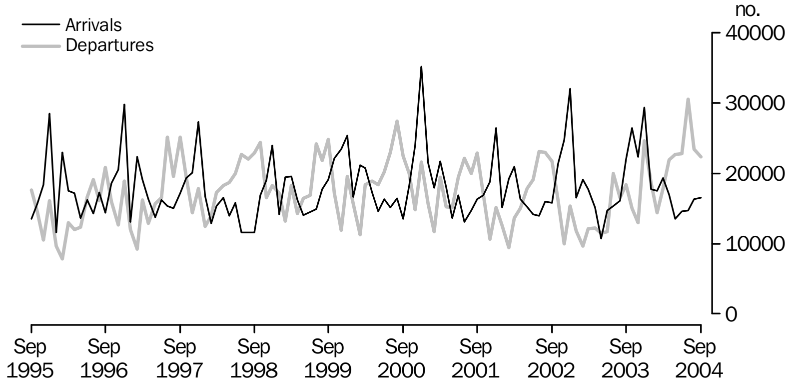
Minerals to record increases in production in the September Quarter 2004, compared to the September Quarter 2003, were Salt (up 16.6%); and Iron ore (up 13.2%), in response to growing demand from China and Japan. Decreases were recorded in the production of Zinc (down 74.0%), due to the cessation of output from the Lennard Shelf project in late 2003; Diamonds (down 45.1%); and Tin (down 44.9%).

TOURISM

Short-Term Arrivals On Holiday

International travel to Western Australia declined to 47,639 visitors (by air on holiday) in the three months to September 2004 — 5,919 (11.1%) fewer than in the three months to September 2003. The decline, however, comes off a peak in visitor arrivals in late 2003, caused by the 2003 Rugby World Cup and the recovery in international travel following a period of sustained global uncertainty. Contributing to the decline in the three months to September 2004 were falls in visitor arrivals from Malaysia (down 3,027 or 35.1%), Singapore (down 2,011 or 24.6%) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (down 739 or 7.9%). Partially offsetting these falls were increases in the number of visitors from Japan (up 1,433 or 19.0%) and New Zealand (up 1,117 or 52.0%).

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS AND RESIDENT DEPARTURES OVERSEAS, By air on holiday



Short-Term Departures On Holiday

A total of 76,407 Western Australian residents departed overseas by air on holiday in the three months to September 2004 — 21,514 (39.2%) more than in the three months to September 2003. Increases were recorded in resident departures to most destinations, with the largest being a rise in departures to Indonesia (up 9,676 or 60.9%). Departures to Indonesia have risen steadily since February 2003, averaging monthly growth of 11.3%, reflecting the declining impact of the Bali bombings in late 2002. Large increases in departures, during the three months to September 2004, were also recorded to Thailand (up 3,276 or 68.2%) and Malaysia (up 2,149 or 109.4%).

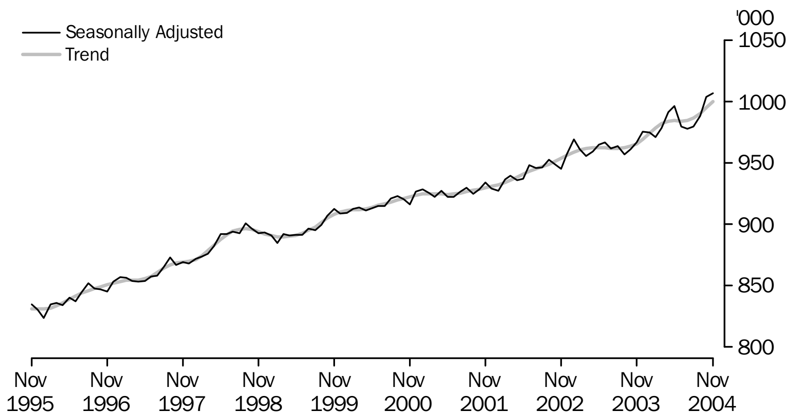
LABOUR MARKET

Employment

The Western Australian labour market continued to perform strongly over the three months to November 2004, with the trend estimate of employed persons increasing by 1.4% (13,456) — well above the national increase of 0.8%. The number of persons employed full-time increased by 1.0% (7,034) over the period, compared to a 0.6% increase nationally.

Recent employment growth saw the total number of employed persons in Western Australia reach one million for the first time in November 2004. However, according to the Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance, labour market conditions in the state are tightening, with businesses experiencing some difficulty filling skilled vacancies.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



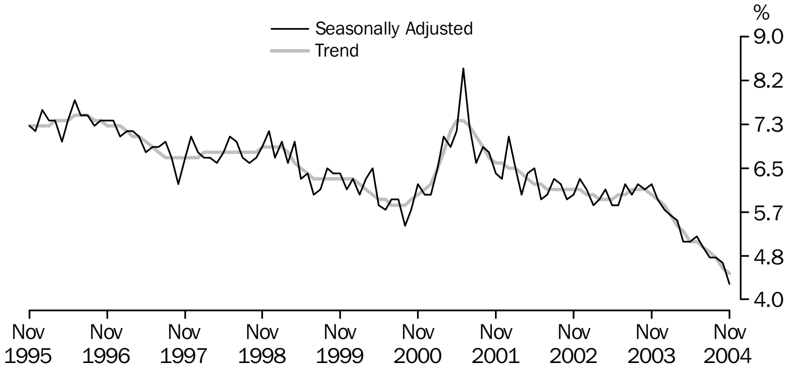
Industry Employment

The Personal and other services industry in Western Australia recorded the largest increase in employment in November 2004, compared to the corresponding period of 2003. During this period, the number of employed persons (original) in Personal and other services rose by 15,582 (44.3%), mainly due to large increases in employment in Other personal services and Public order and safety. Other industries to record strong growth over the period were Manufacturing (up 12,296 or 14.0%) and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (up 7,935 or 21.2%). The largest decrease in the number of employed persons was recorded by Property and business services (down 8,670 or 7.1%), mainly attributable to falls in employment in Marketing and business management services and Legal and accounting services.

Unemployment

The trend estimate of unemployed persons in Western Australia fell by 2.1% (1,006) in November 2004 — the fourteenth consecutive monthly decrease. Over the three months to November 2004, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 6.1% (3,103), driven by falls in both the number of unemployed females (down 6.9% or 1,672) and unemployed males (down 5.5% or 1,432). The state's unemployment rate declined over the period, from 4.9% in August 2004 to 4.5% in November 2004. Western Australia's unemployment rate in November 2004 was the second lowest of all states and territories (behind the Australian Capital Territory's rate of 4.2%), and was well below the national unemployment rate of 5.3%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (a), Persons



(a) Break in series, April 2001.

The number of West Australians who were unemployed for 52 weeks or more since their last employment fell by 40.5% (4,089) in November 2004, compared to the corresponding period of 2003. The continued decline in the state's long-term unemployed is attributable to the strong performance of the labour market throughout 2004.

F E A T U R E A R T I C L E — The Impact Of Rising House Prices On The WA Economy

INTRODUCTION

Access to affordable housing is important to most Western Australians. In 2001, 70.5% of Western Australian households owned their homes outright or were paying them off. For many families, the home is the greatest financial commitment they make in their life times, accounting for 60.0% of household assets. As well as providing shelter, the home is also valued as an investment and, increasingly, as a store of wealth for retirement.

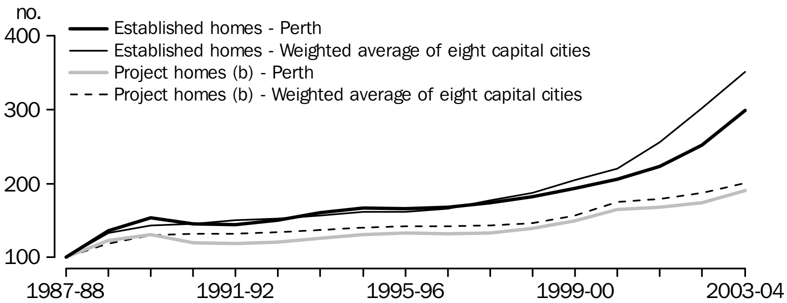
In recent years, the residential property market in Perth, like most capital cities, has been characterised by strong growth in prices of new and established housing. The resulting increase in building activity and the wealth effects of higher property values on domestic demand, have helped to maintain economic growth, during a period of relatively subdued demand in major export markets.

Some commentators have suggested that the recent surge in Perth's house prices has been driven by increased demand for housing, rather than by constraints on housing and land supply. The Productivity Commission (2004), in its recent inquiry into first home ownership, examined the demand and supply factors operating in the national housing market. This article draws on the work of the Commission to examine the factors operating in Perth's housing market. It also explores the impact of rising house prices on the Western Australian economy and how this has differed from the situation in other states and territories.

THE RISE IN HOUSE PRICES

After a decade of modest gains, the price of established homes in Perth began to accelerate in 1999–2000. During the 1990s, the price of established homes in Perth increased at an average annual rate of 2.4%, slightly above the rise in the general level of prices (2.1%). In contrast, the average annual increase between 1999–2000 and 2003–04 was 10.5%, well above the 3.1% increase in the general price level. However, growth in established house prices in the latter period was below the national annual average of 13.5%, which was largely driven by dramatic price increases in Sydney and Melbourne. The price of new (project) homes, which excludes the cost of land, also increased considerably during this period, although at a more modest average of 6.5% per year, equivalent to the national increase.

1 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES(a)



(a) Annual average prices indexed to 1987–88.
(b) Excludes the price of land occupied by dwelling.
Source: House Price Indexes, Australia, cat. no. 6416.0.

MEASURING HOUSE PRICES

The ABS established house price index used in this analysis attempts to measure the 'pure' price change of established houses between different periods. Price change may reflect some variation in the physical quality and geographical location of houses sold. In order to minimise these effects, the ABS stratifies the sales by geographic region and assigns a weight to each region, to reflect the total value of dwellings and land in the base period. The timeliness of the data can be affected by the lag between the agreement of a contract for sale and the price recorded at settlement.

FACTORS AFFECTING RISING HOUSE PRICES

Demand Factors

The Productivity Commission's (2004) inquiry into first home ownership identified low interest rates, greater access to finance, government initiatives and taxation as the major factors affecting the demand for housing and rising house prices in Australia. Also highlighted as aiding growth in Australia's property market were underlying factors related to population and strong labour market conditions. These factors are discussed below.

Population growth, immigration and household size

Population growth is fundamental to housing demand as it impacts directly on the number of households requiring accommodation. Population growth comprises natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and net migration (arrivals less departures). For the states, net migration is further broken down into overseas and interstate components. In the five years to March 2004, the estimated resident population of Western Australia rose by 131,573 persons or 7.1%, the second highest rate of increase of any state or territory in Australia. The growth in Western Australia's population over this period was driven by overseas migration, which resulted in a net gain of 78,126 persons, and natural increase of 67,068 persons. Net interstate migration recorded a net loss of 12,012 persons.

According to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (2004), in 2001–02, 58.7% of Western Australia's migrants were in the skilled category, much higher than the Australian average of 40.5%. Skilled migrants have less difficulty in finding employment and are more likely to enter the property market as buyers than unskilled migrants.

The continuing decline in the size of households in Western Australia also affected housing demand during this period. Lone person households increased from 24.9% of all households in June 1999 to 26.8% in June 2004. In comparison, in the 1991 Census, 19.6% of Western Australian households consisted of only one person. Between 1999 and 2004, the total number of households in the state increased from 707,574 to 772,062, with declining household size accounting for 15,109 households or 23.4% of the increase.

Rise in full-time employment and real incomes

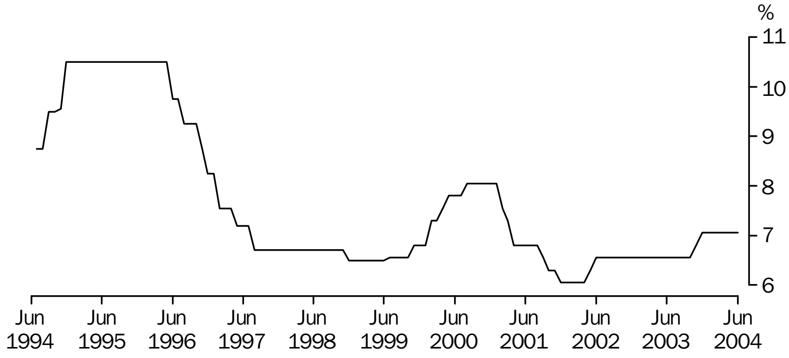
Also providing a foundation for increasing demand for residential property in Western Australia has been a relatively long period of economic growth. Between 1994–95 and 2003–04, Gross State Product increased by an average annual rate of 4.4% in real terms, generating strong employment growth and higher real incomes (ie. nominal incomes less inflation). Over this period, the number of persons in full-time employment increased steadily by an annual average of 1.7%. Employment growth has accelerated recently, rising by 3.2% or 21,500 persons in 2003–04. In the ten years to 2003–04, real wages grew at an annual average rate of 2.0%. The strength of the state's job market and rising levels of disposable income have fuelled expectations of future prosperity, and helped sustain the capacity and willingness of consumers to purchase a home or invest in property.

Cheaper and more easily available finance

The cost and availability of credit has been a major factor influencing the demand for housing in Western Australia, as most housing purchases are largely debt financed. Since the mid-1990s, Australian interest rates have been in decline, mainly due to low levels of inflation, but also because of increased competition among credit providers. The deregulation of Australia's financial system over the past decade has seen the number of loan providers increase from 92 in 1996 to 136 in 2003 (Australian Bankers Association, 2003). There has also been a doubling of the number of products provided by lenders, leading to greater and cheaper access to credit for prospective home buyers.

Cheaper and more easily available finance continued

2 STANDARD VARIABLE BANK INTEREST RATE FOR HOUSING LOANS



Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

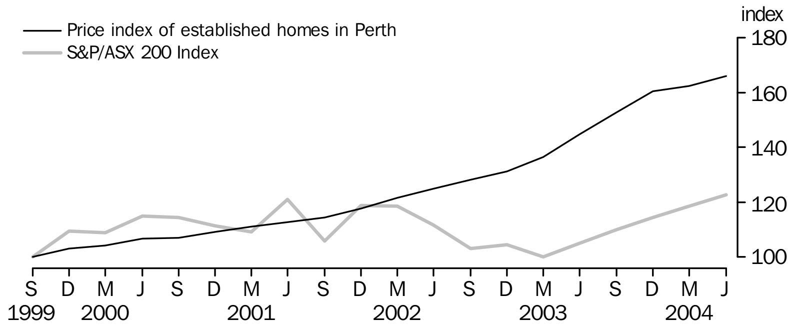
The standard bank variable mortgage rate has fallen from a high of 10.5% in the mid-1990s to 7.05% in June 2004. Lower interest rates, particularly over the last three years (2001–02 to 2003–04), have increased the amount that a home buyer can borrow at a given level of income, allowing more buyers to enter the property market or upgrade to better housing. Lower interest rates have also increased the net returns on rental property for investors, enhancing the attractiveness of, and demand for, housing as an investment.

Returns on residential property investment

The relative attractiveness of property as an investment has been another major factor contributing to the strength of housing demand in Western Australia. In recent years, investments in residential property have generally provided higher capital growth than those in the more volatile share market. The transfer of funds from equities into the property market has had a pronounced impact on the price of housing in all major capital cities of Australia, including Perth.

The recent strong performance of Perth's residential property market is highlighted by a broad comparison between returns on investment from property and equity markets (as shown in diagram 3). Between the September Quarter 1999 and June Quarter 2004, shares (as measured by the ASX 200 index) have appreciated by 22.6%, whilst Perth residential property (as measured by the price index of established homes) has appreciated by 65.9%. The increased injection of investment funds into the property market over this period, has contributed to the increase in the price of housing in Perth. For owner occupiers, the potential return on housing, relative to equities, has been further enhanced by the tax exemption on capital gains from the sale of a taxpayer's principal residence.

3 PERTH ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE INDEX & THE S&P/ASX 200 INDEX(a)



(a) Quarterly average prices indexed in the September Quarter 1999.
Source: House Price Indexes, Australia, cat. no. 6416.0; S&P/ASX 200 Index.

Effect of taxation

The Australian taxation system has played a significant part in increasing the demand for housing in Western Australia, by providing favourable conditions for those choosing to invest in housing. Australia's progressive income tax system, and the ability to offset losses incurred in running a rental property against income from other activities (negative gearing), have made this form of investment increasingly popular, particularly among higher income earners.

Investment in housing has also been encouraged by amendments to Capital Gains Tax (CGT) legislation. Since 1999, tax has been calculated on half of the nominal gain from the sale of a property by an individual or trust. For owner occupiers, the CGT exemption on a taxpayer's principal residence may also encourage investment in housing over alternative investments.

Government initiatives

In July 2000, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in Australia. The Australian Government responded to concerns about the impact of the GST on the housing market by introducing offsetting measures. Financial assistance was provided to help prospective first home buyers bridge the deposit gap and enter the property market, which helped support the overall demand for housing in Australia.

The First Home Owners Grant was introduced along with the GST in 2000. The grant of $7,000 was paid to eligible persons purchasing their first home as their principal residence, and was not means tested or taxed. An additional grant of $7,000 was introduced in March 2001, for first home buyers building their home or buying a previously unoccupied home. The additional grant was decreased to $3,000 in January 2002 before being withdrawn in June 2002.

The Western Australian Government also provided assistance to prospective home buyers through its Keystart program. Introduced in 1998, this program provided low deposit housing loans to home buyers who found it difficult to meet the deposit requirements of standard commercial loan providers. Keystart proved to be popular among first home buyers, accounting for more than one in every three loans approved for first time buyers in its first year (Government of Western Australia, 2003).

Supply Factors

There are a number of supply-side factors which may impact on housing prices. The housing market is highly diverse, with wide variations in the size, quality and location of homes on offer. Shortages in some locations can result in large price increases, which affect the overall movement of prices in a city. In periods of high building activity, shortages of land, labour and materials may cause cost increases which are passed onto the consumer. As potential buyers are priced out of the new homes market, demand can spill over to lower priced established homes and prices rise.

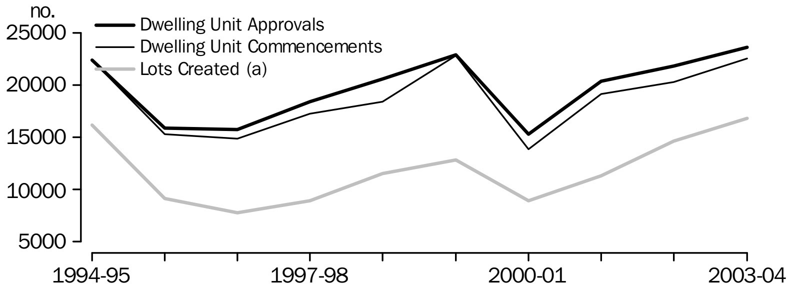
Supply of land for development

House prices can also be affected by restrictions on the availability of land for residential property development. Large surges in demand cannot be met quickly by increasing the land supply, as it takes time to develop land and infrastructure. Government planning regulations and restrictions can further constrain the supply response.

In Western Australia, new land supply takes the form of subdivision approvals and lot creations. Subdivision approvals are planned lots conditionally approved by various government authorities. The approval is valid for three years, during which the developer may (or may not) create housing lots, based on an assessment of market conditions. In 2003–04, for example, 32,000 lots were granted subdivision approval by the Western Australia Planning Commission and 16,800 lots were created (HIFG, 2004). Over the past ten years, lot creations have closely followed the pattern of dwelling approvals and commencements.

Supply of land for development continued

4 DWELLING APPROVALS, COMMENCEMENTS AND LOT CREATIONS, Western Australia



(a) Lots receiving final approval from the WA Planning Commission.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0; Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, cat. no. 8750.0; WA Planning Commission.

The Productivity Commission (2004) found that, with the possible exception of Sydney, the restricted supply of land at the urban fringe was not a major cause of rising house prices in Australian capital cities. The overall increase in house prices has mainly resulted from a surge in established housing demand, particularly from existing home owners upgrading to a larger or better quality home. In more desirable established suburbs of Perth, and other capitals, the demand for residential property far exceeds supply. Although there has been some increase in housing density, the supply of residential lots cannot be substantially increased in most established suburbs. In the year to June 2004, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (2004), the median house price rose by 13.7% in the inner Perth metropolitan area, compared to 12.1% in the middle suburbs and 10.8% in the urban fringe.

Infrastructure costs

Over the last two decades, according to the Productivity Commission (2004), local and state authorities have increasingly charged the cost of infrastructure provision in new housing developments to the developers. The Urban Development Institute of Australia (2003) estimates that these costs account for 42.0% of the total cost of land development in Perth, which is usually passed onto the home buyer. This may, however, also have allowed for more land to be made available for housing than would have been possible under the traditional way of financing infrastructure, through government debt. If so, the larger supply of land would have exerted a moderating influence on new house prices in Perth.

Increased construction and labour costs

The implementation of the GST and recent shortages of building materials and labour have contributed to rising house prices. In the five years to June 2004, prices of materials used in house construction have increased by 11.0% in Western Australia. Labour costs for the state's construction industry have also increased over this period, due to a limited supply of skilled workers. Wages for Tradespersons and related workers rose by 15.5% between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, slightly above the average increase across all occupations in the state (14.4%). Shortages of materials and labour have been exacerbated by growth in the size of new houses over the period, with average floor space increasing by an annual average of 3.3%. Also impacting on construction costs for Western Australian housing has been the difficulty for builders in obtaining building indemnity insurance after the collapse of the major insurance provider HIH Insurance Limited. Not only has this caused delays in the building industry, but it increased the premiums paid by builders, which flowed through into new house prices.

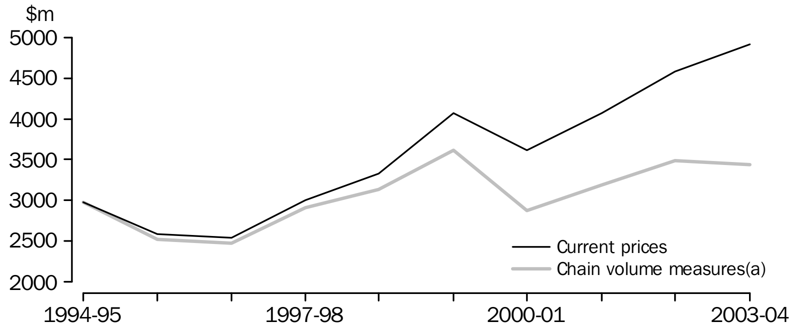
THE IMPACT OF RISING HOUSE PRICES ON THE WA ECONOMY

Rising house prices can affect the level of production and income in the economy. As funds are channelled into the housing market, the production and earnings of related industries such as Finance, Construction and Property services rise. Rising house prices also tend to cause a redistribution of wealth in the economy. Investors in housing benefit from the capital gains in the property market, while potential first home buyers may be priced out of the market and forced into rental accommodation. This section will explore how the recent escalation in Perth's house prices has impacted on the Western Australian economy.

Increased Dwelling Investment

Over recent years, rising house prices have had a direct impact on the level of dwelling investment in the Western Australian economy. Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, the value of investment in dwellings rose by 20.7% from $4,073 million to $4,916 million. Accounting for more than two thirds of the increase was investment in new and used dwellings (up by 24.7% or $603 million), with the remainder coming from alterations and additions (up by 14.8% or $242 million). The strength of the price component of increases in the property sector is evident when comparing these nominal gains to real growth in dwelling investment. The nominal (monetary) change in the value of an economic aggregate, such as the value of dwelling investment, between two points in time is driven by changes in both prices and quantities. When the effect of price movements is eliminated (e.g. through chain volume measures), the real (quantity) growth can be determined. Investment in dwellings, which had been growing since 1996–97, declined by 20.7% in real terms in 2000–01 following the introduction of the GST. Despite a real increase of 20.0% since 2001–02, dwelling investment in 2003–04 was 4.8% below its 1999–2000 level. In contrast, real national dwelling investment increased by 17.4% between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, due to the higher level of investment activity in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

5 VALUE OF DWELLING INVESTMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1994–95.
Source: National Accounts, cat. no. 5206.0.

Increased Residential Building And Construction of Infrastructure

The increased demand for housing in Western Australia has flowed through into the value of construction activity. The value of new residential building commencements in Western Australia rose from $2,719 million in 1999–2000 to $3,443 million in 2003–04, an increase of 26.6%. However, over the same period, the number of dwelling commencements fell by 0.7%. The effect of the introduction of the GST is evident in the peak in commencements in 1999–2000, as builders and their customers sought to complete projects before the tax took effect on 1 July 2000. In that year, the number of commencements increased by 22.9%, only to fall by 40.4% in 2000–01. The recovery, from March 2001, coincided with the introduction of an additional $7,000 grant for first home buyers purchasing, or building, new homes. Between 2000–01 and 2003–04, dwelling unit commencements in Western Australia increased by 66.5% in number and by 95.1% in value, compared to the national increases of 51.7% and 91.6% respectively.

Increased Residential Building And Construction Of Infrastructure *continued*

6 VALUE OF NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

Rising house prices have drawn investors into the property market, including the market for new housing. Prospective owner occupiers have also been drawn to the new house market, as established homes in sought after areas have become increasingly more expensive. First home buyers and low income earners, in particular, have bought in locations of affordable new housing on Perth's urban fringe. In Western Australia, the value of new house commencements rose by 29.8% from $2,208 million in 1999–2000 to $2,867 million in 2003–04, below the national increase of 36.7%. Despite the growth in value of new house construction, the number of commencements in Western Australia declined by 0.5% between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. In the period 2000–01 to 2003–04, however, the number increased by 70.8%.

Increased demand for more affordable housing has also contributed to a rise in higher density housing development. The value of new other residential dwelling commencements (ie. flats, units, apartments and townhouses) in Western Australia increased by 12.7%, from $512 million in 1999–2000 to $577 million in 2003–04. In contrast, the national increase for this type of housing was 57.4%, highlighting the strength of the higher density housing market in Queensland (up 139.2%) and New South Wales (up 52.5%). Between 2000–01 and 2003–04 the number of new other residential dwelling unit commencements in Western Australia increased by 48.3% to 3,835 units, 2.1% below the level recorded in 1999–2000.

The third component of residential building activity, alterations and additions, also increased, by 17.4%, in the period between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. As house prices rise, the costs associated with upgrading to a new home rise accordingly, and renovating or extending the current home becomes more financially attractive. Home renovation has also recently gained popularity as a lifestyle activity. However, the increase in alterations and additions is lower than that of new house construction.

There has also been an added requirement in Western Australia for the construction of infrastructure to facilitate the growing number of new residential developments. The value of work done on roads, highways and subdivisions in the state has increased by 33.5% over the five years to 2003–04, from $752 million to $1,005 million. In real terms the increase was 19.9%. Other notable real increases in infrastructure construction over this period were in: Electricity generation, transmission, etc.; Bridges, railways and harbours; and Recreation and other.

Growth In Industry Income, Wages And Salaries And Employment

Western Australia's Construction and Property and business services industries have benefited from the recent activity in the property market. Higher levels of residential building activity and the increased number of houses traded on the property market have, to varying degrees, enhanced company profits, wages and salaries and employment in these industries.

A measure of industry earnings is provided in the National Accounts by Total Factor Income, which has two components. The first, Gross operating surplus and mixed income, broadly refers to the net earnings of businesses before depreciation. The second component, Compensation of employees, refers to wages, salaries and other payments made to, or on behalf of, employees. For brevity, the two components are referred to below as profits and wages.

Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, total earnings in the Western Australian construction industry, as measured by Total Factor Income, increased by 34.8%. Earnings in Construction had increased by the same percentage in the previous five-year period. In both periods the increase in earnings exceeded the national average of 31.8% from 1999–2000 to 2003–04 and 28.6% from 1994–95 to 1998–99.

In the five years to 2003–04, profits in the construction industry increased by 35.8%, slightly more than the average increase of 34.3% across all industries in Western Australia. Wages in Construction rose by 33.4%, compared to the 27.0% increase for all industries.

Total earnings in the Property and business services group of industries in Western Australia increased by 37.0% between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. The national increase over the same period was 29.0%. Western Australia's Property and business services industries also saw profits rise, increasing by 41.5% in the five years to 2003–04, while wages rose by 35.1%.

Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, full-time employment grew by 7.9% in the state's construction industry, compared to growth of 5.3% across all industries. Full-time employment also increased in Property and business services industries, rising by 9.8% over the period. In particular, full-time employment increased in the industries of Property services (up 11.7%), Property operators and developers (up 8.6%) and Real Estate (up 8.4%). Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, total employment in Real estate rose by 22.9%, with much of that growth being part-time employment (up 82.9%).

Higher Housing Debt

As most purchases of housing are debt financed, higher house prices have meant higher borrowing requirements for Western Australians. In the five years to 2003–04, the average housing loan in Western Australia increased by 26.7%, from $119,500 to $151,500.

7 AVERAGE LOAN SIZE FOR ALL DWELLINGS FINANCED, Western Australia

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

Higher Housing Debt *continued*

The increased level of housing debt is reflected in the level of interest paid on housing loans, which has increased from 4.8% of gross household disposable income in 1999–2000 to 6.5% in 2003–04. Low interest rates during the period may also have led consumers to borrow more for housing, given their increased ability to service larger amounts of debt. Rising interest payments on home loans may, however, partially reflect the increase in new banking products, allowing home owners to borrow against the increased value of their homes to finance other expenditure, resulting in the masking of some consumer debt as housing debt.

Investors Versus Owner Occupiers

The increasing attractiveness of residential property investment in Western Australia over the last five years has seen a change in the proportion of investors and owner occupiers in the housing market. Investment property, as shown by total dwelling finance for rent or resale, accounted for 30.1% of total dwelling finance in Western Australia in 2003–04, up from 21.9% in 1999–2000. However, the proportion of investment finance in the state remained well below those of markets in New South Wales (41.9%) and Victoria (35.3%) in 2003–04, where the RBA has raised concerns about the high level of property investment and exposure to a downturn in the market.

The value of finance for housing investment in Western Australia increased by 128.6%, from $2,400 million in 1999–2000 to $5,486 million in 2003–04. Individual investors purchasing established homes accounted for 91.5% of the increase in total dwelling investment finance in the state, underlining the popularity of this form of investment. The latest available Australian Taxation Office data indicate that 11.3% of individual taxpayers in Western Australia operated rental properties in 2001–02, returning a total net rental loss of almost $125 million. The tax deductibility of these losses means investors can potentially afford to borrow more for housing than owner occupiers, making housing relatively less expensive for investors.

Decreased Savings

The upturn in housing debt has had a negative effect on household savings across Australia. Nationally, the net savings of households have declined from a peak of 5.6% of disposable income in 1995–96 to –2.5% in 2003–04, suggesting that Australians are now spending more than they are earning. Higher house prices and increased competition in the lending industry appear to have led consumers to increasingly finance household consumption through debt and equity withdrawals. Net savings estimates are not available at state level but, in Western Australia, the ratio of gross household savings to gross disposable income declined to 13.9% in 2003–04, from a peak of 15.3% in 1999–2000.

Increased Spending On Rents And Household Goods

As house prices have risen, investors have been drawn to the property market by the prospect of capital appreciation, resulting in an increase in the stock of rental accommodation. With rents rising less than the price of houses, the demand for rental accommodation has increased. In Western Australia, this is evident in household consumption expenditure on rents and other dwelling services, which rose by 27.0% (or $1,565 million) between 1999–2000 and 2003–04.

With more Western Australians moving between homes, the demand for household goods also increases, as people furnish their new home to reflect their individual requirements and style. The general increase in consumption spending funded by housing equity withdrawals has also helped fuel household goods demand. Over the five years to 2003–04, household consumption expenditure on furnishings and household equipment increased by 21.3%, from $2,428 million to $2,945 million. From a business perspective, the turnover of the state's household goods retailers rose by 21.7% ($542 million) to $3,037 million over the same period.

Effect On Inflation

In recent years, the cost of housing has been a major contributor to inflation in Perth. Consumer Price Index (CPI) data showed that housing costs, which include rents, utilities, and other housing costs such as house purchase, property rates and charges and repairs and maintenance, have risen by 18.6% between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. This increase, however, was lower than the national increase of 20.3% over the same period. In Perth, the most notable rises over the last five years have been the cost of House purchase, up 24.4%, and Property rates and charges, which increased by 27.7%.

Over the last three years the contribution of housing costs to the overall increase in Perth's CPI has risen rapidly. In 2001–02, the cost of housing accounted for 14.4% of the rise in the level of Perth's prices. This share increased to 19.9% in 2002–03. In 2003–04, more than half (54.0%) of the prices growth in Perth was attributable to the cost of housing, 16.4 percentage points higher than the contribution housing costs made to national inflation (37.6%).

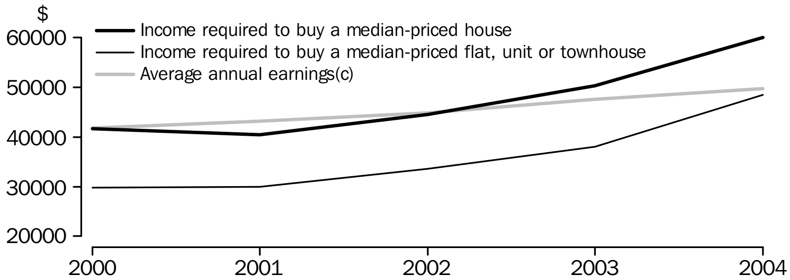
Decline In Housing Affordability

Rising property prices have an impact on housing affordability, particularly for first home buyers, by increasing both the initial cost of housing (loan deposit) and the ongoing cost of servicing the debt incurred in financing the purchase (mortgage repayments). These costs are reflected in the two tests that banks apply when approving housing loans. The first is an equity test, in which the prospective borrower must satisfy the bank that he or she has a sufficient deposit, traditionally 20.0% of the purchase price (although, a lesser deposit has often been accepted in recent years). The second is an income test, in which the bank assesses a prospective borrower's ability to repay the loan from his or her income. The general rule is that loan repayments should not exceed 30.0% of the borrower's gross income.

Based on these criteria, and assuming a 20-year loan, the annual income required to purchase a median-priced house in Western Australia rose by 43.8%, from $41,680 in June 2000 to $59,920 in June 2004. Over the same period, average annual earnings for an adult full-time employee increased by 18.9%, from $41,756 to $49,660. In other words, a shortfall of $10,260, or 20.7% of average annual earnings, had emerged by June 2004, as growth in earnings did not keep pace with growth in median house prices. In comparison, in June 2004, the shortfalls in other capital cities ranged from $13,862 (27.9% of earnings) in Darwin to $77,936 (151.1%) in Sydney.

Higher density housing, on the other hand, has remained relatively more affordable over the last five years. Flats, units and townhouses have become more attractive, particularly for first home buyers, as the annual income required to purchase a median-priced flat, unit or townhouse remains below average earnings ($49,660), rising from $29,830 in June 2000 to $48,400 in June 2004.

8 QUALIFYING INCOME(a) TO SECURE A TYPICAL HOME LOAN(b) IN PERTH



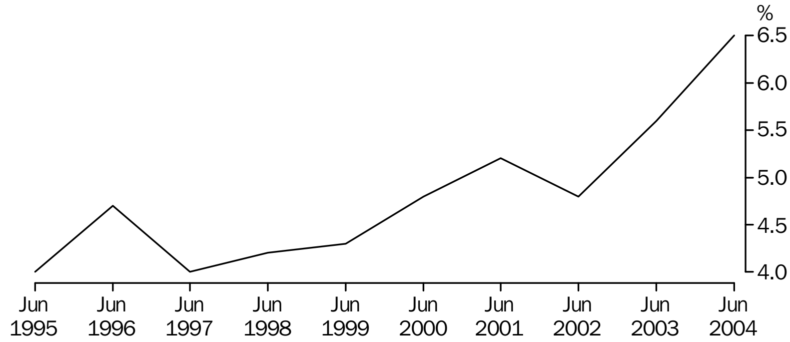
(a) The level of gross annual income at which the yearly loan repayment is equal to 30%.
(b) Based on a 20-year loan, with a 20% deposit, for a median-priced dwelling in Perth.
(c) Average annual full-time adult ordinary time earnings of employees in Western Australia.

Source: Real Estate Institute of Australia; Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, cat. no. 6302.0.

Decline In Housing Affordability *continued*

An alternative measure of housing affordability is the debt servicing ratio, which shows the proportion of household income required to pay the interest on housing loans. In Western Australia, dwelling interest, an estimate of the interest paid on the total value of housing loan balances, increased from 4.8% of household gross disposable income in 1999–2000 to 6.5% in 2003–04. Dwelling interest itself rose by 71.9% over this period, reflecting the increased size of housing loans in the state rather than higher rates of interest. Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04, the debt servicing ratio for Australia rose from 4.7% to 6.3%, and only New South Wales recorded higher ratios than Western Australia over this period. This reflects the high proportion of the state's residents who have a mortgage. In the 2001 Census, among the states, Western Australia had the highest percentage of residents purchasing their homes (27.7%), and the lowest percentage (32.2%) who fully owned their homes.

9 DEBT SERVICING RATIO FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Dwelling interest to household gross disposable income



Source: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

First Home Buyers

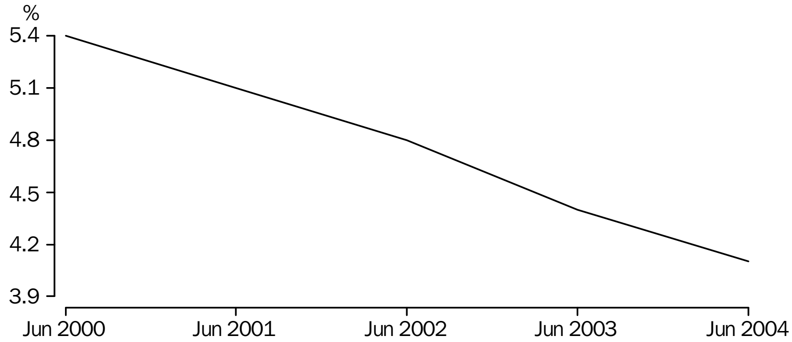
In the last five years, among owner occupiers, first home buyers in Western Australia's property market declined from 21.4% of buyers in 1999–2000 to 14.6% in 2003–04. The number of first home buyers in Western Australia decreased by 19.1%, from 15,323 in 1999–2000 to 12,402 in 2003–04, whilst the number of non-first home buyers increased by 28.7%, from 56,318 to 72,479.

The decline in the number of first home buyers, over this period, may partly reflect the pull forward effect of the First Home Owners Grant. Dwellings financed for first home buyers peaked at 17,704 in 2001–02, the year in which an additional grant was available. However, rising house prices have since made it more difficult for first home buyers to enter the housing market. At the same time, changeover buyers, have seen the equity in their existing home increase, and therefore, have had to borrow relatively less. This is reflected in the change in average home loans approved for each type of buyer between 1999-2000 and 2003–04. The average loan size for non-first home buyers increased by 25.7%, from $121,000 in 1999–2000 to $152,000 in 2003–04, while loans for first home buyers increased by 29.6%, from $114,300 to $148,100.

Effect On Rental Market

Growth in property investment in Western Australia has also flowed through to the rental market, where the increased supply of rental properties has exerted a moderating influence on rental earnings. Rents, as measured by the rental component of the Consumer Price Index, rose by 7.8% in Perth from 1999–2000 to 2003–04, but the price of established houses increased by a far greater rate (54.9%) over the same period. As a result, rental yields for three bedroom houses have declined from 5.4% in June 2000 to 4.1% in June 2004, but still remain higher than most major Australian capital cities. Falling rental yields are, however, often tolerated by property investors whilst increasing property prices provide the opportunity for capital gain.

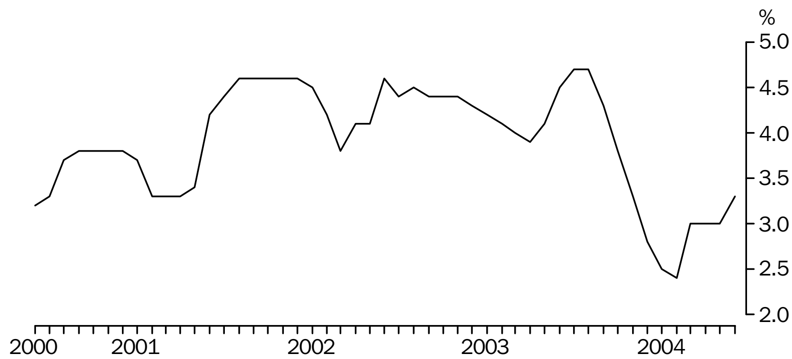
10 RENTAL YIELDS FOR THREE BEDROOM HOUSES IN PERTH, Ratio of median annual rent to median price



Source: Real Estate Institute of Western Australia.

Another indicator of supply conditions in the rental market is the change in vacancy rates of rental accommodation. Between June 2000 and August 2003, vacancy rates increased from 3.2% to 4.7%. Since then, there has been a decrease in the vacancy rate to 3.3% in June 2004, due mainly to an increase in net migration to Western Australia. This indicates that recent demand has been adequate in the property market to meet the increased supply of rental accommodation from investors. This is consistent with declining rental yields, in that, rental accommodation has become more affordable relative to owner occupation.

11 VACANCY RATE FOR ALL RENTED DWELLINGS IN PERTH



Source: Real Estate Institute of Western Australia.

Increased Income From Dwelling Ownership

Income from the ownership of dwellings in Western Australia increased by 20.5% ($872 million) between 1999–00 and 2003–04. Income from the ownership of dwellings includes the gross rent (less operating expenses) earned by operators of rental accommodation, plus the estimated rental value of owner occupied dwellings.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND LOOKING FORWARD

In November and December 2003, the Reserve Bank of Australia increased interest rates, citing the high level of activity in the housing market as an area of concern. As a result, the standard bank variable interest rate on housing loans increased from 6.55% in October 2003 to 7.05% in December 2003. There have been signs of a subsequent slowdown in the larger eastern states markets, with established house prices decreasing by 2.1% in Sydney and 0.3% in Melbourne in the first half of 2004. Nationally, prices increased by 2.9% in the same period compared to 8.4% in the six months to June 2003. In Perth, established house prices rose by 3.3% in the first six months of 2004 compared to 10.9% in the second half of 2003 and 10.2% in the six months to June 2003.

The increases in interest rates appear to have reined in the demand for housing credit. In trend terms, between October 2003 and June 2004, the number of housing finance commitments declined by 13.8% in Western Australia and 22.7% nationally. However, in the first two months of 2004–05, Western Australia recorded increases in housing finance commitments (1.7% and 8.3% respectively) as stamp duty relief measures drew first home buyers back into the market. In July 2004, 1,151 dwellings were financed for first home buyers, the highest number since October 2003 (1,183). In the following month, 1,481 first home buyers received finance approval for their homes. Among owner occupiers, first home buyers accounted for 18.4% of home loans in July and August 2004, compared to an average of 14.6% in the previous twelve months.

The short-term outlook for the residential construction industry remains positive. The number of building approvals in July 2004 (2,227 dwelling units), was the highest since October 2003 (2,396 units). In the previous six months, approvals had continued at a monthly average of 1,928 units, slightly less than the 2003 monthly average (1,935). In June 2004 trend data for dwelling unit commencements rose for the eighth successive quarter, increasing by 11.3% in the 2003–04 financial year compared to the national increase of 0.6%. The Housing Industry Forecasting Group (2004) projections for 2004–05 show dwelling commencements easing to 21,000 units from 22,393 recorded in 2003–04.

Dwelling unit completions have been declining in trend terms since the March Quarter 2003, suggesting that labour and materials shortages may be causing delays in the industry. At the end of the June Quarter 2004, the estimated value of outstanding work on residential building projects that had already commenced was $1,436 million, an increase of 44.7% since June 2003. Including work approved but not yet commenced, the state's residential building industry had an estimated $1,893 million of work in the pipeline at the end of June 2004.

Some other factors indicate a slight strengthening of the underlying demand for housing in 2004–05. The annual rate of population increase has risen to 1.7%, second only to Queensland's rate of 2.1%. Net interstate migration has turned positive and continued to grow in response to increased employment opportunities in Western Australia. By September 2004 the number of full-time jobs had increased by 1.8% on September 2003, and the unemployment rate had fallen to 4.9%, compared to 5.5% nationally.

CONCLUSION

Between 1999–2000 and 2003–04 the housing market in Perth experienced rapid increases in the prices of new and established homes. This has largely been the result of an increase in demand, driven by low interest rates and the attractiveness of housing as an investment, and of inherent constraints in the supply side of the housing market. The rise in house prices has had a number of impacts on the Western Australian economy. Investment in dwellings and associated infrastructure has increased incomes in property and construction industries and contributed to economic growth in the state. Household debt has increased and savings declined as consumers have borrowed to purchase homes or drawn on increased equity in their homes to fund household consumption. As housing affordability has declined, first home buyers have found it increasingly difficult to enter the housing market and governments have responded with incentives. The high level of investment activity in the market has seen decreasing rental yields and increased vacancy rates for most of the period. Both the rise in prices and its impacts on the Western Australian economy have been more moderate than those in the major eastern states property markets. It is therefore likely that the Western Australian property market and construction industries will experience a relatively softer landing as demand moderates in response to recent and anticipated increases in interest rates.

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FEATURE ARTICLE — State Accounts: A Snapshot Of WA's Economy In 2003–04

GROWTH IN GROSS STATE PRODUCT

State accounts provide a systematic statistical framework for summarising and analysing economic events, the wealth of an economy and its components. The economic performance and behaviour of an economy as a whole can be monitored using information recorded in the state accounts. The broadest measure of economic activity contained within the accounts is Gross State Product (GSP).

GSP in current prices are produced by summing factor incomes (i.e. compensation of employees and gross operating surplus and gross mixed income) plus taxes, less subsidies on production and imports. Chain volume measures of GSP are derived by revaluing current price, income-based estimates of GSP, using deflators which are calculated from the expenditure components.

Recently released GSP figures for 2003–04 showed that the Western Australian economy recorded its strongest rate of growth on record. In 2003–04, Western Australia's chain volume (or real) GSP increased by 7.5% ($6,240 million) to $89,155 million, the fastest rate of growth of all states and territories. Western Australia, along with Queensland (5.1%) and South Australia (4.3%), were the only states to experience growth rates stronger than that in Australia's Gross Domestic Product (3.8%).

GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Chain volume measures(a)(b)

	LEVELS ($m)			*PER CAPITA ($)*		
	2002–03	2003–04	% change	2002–03	2003–04	% change
New South Wales	264 983	270 292	2.0	39 783	40 242	1.2
Victoria	194 002	201 133	3.7	39 696	40 650	2.4
Queensland	128 711	135 226	5.1	34 294	35 210	2.7
South Australia	50 249	52 400	4.3	32 996	34 217	3.7
Western Australia	82 915	89 155	7.5	42 789	45 277	5.8
Tasmania	13 091	13 479	3.0	27 585	28 082	1.8
Northern Territory	9 173	9 210	0.4	46 299	46 356	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	15 023	15 245	1.5	46 624	47 255	1.4
Australia (GDP)	**758 147**	**786 754**	**3.8**	**38 374**	**39 324**	**2.5**

(a) Users are cautioned that 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 may not equal the estimates for Australia. It is emphasised that, at times, there may be movements that cannot be fully explained in the chain volume estimates of GSP through the use of a proxy deflator (see paragraphs 30 to 34 of the Explanatory Notes of the source publication).

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2003–04 (reissue), cat. no. 5220.0.

GSP PER CAPITA

Western Australia also recorded a faster rate of growth in GSP volume per capita than any other state or territory in 2003–04. Chain volume (or real) GSP per capita provides a picture of how much better off each member of the community has become over a period of time. In 2003–04, real GSP per capita increased by 5.8% in Western Australia, followed by 3.7% in South Australia and 2.7% in Queensland, and compared with growth of 2.5% nationally. Each person's share of real GSP in Western Australia rose by $2,488 to $45,277 in 2003–04. This share of real GSP was the highest of all states in 2003–04, ahead of Victoria ($40,650) and New South Wales ($40,242), but below the shares recorded in the Australian Capital Territory ($47,255) and Northern Territory ($46,356).

EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF GSP

Growth in the Western Australia economy in 2003–04 was driven by strong domestic demand, with only modest gains coming from the state's net trade result (up 0.9% or $210 million). State Final Demand (chain volumes) in Western Australia increased by 8.0% ($6,048 million) in 2003–04, primarily due to large increases in consumer spending and business investment.

Final Consumption Expenditure

Household final consumption expenditure made the largest contribution to GSP growth in Western Australia in 2003–04, increasing by 6.8% ($2,789 million). This increase was the third highest among all states and territories, behind Queensland (8.8%) and Tasmania (8.1%). Western Australian households increased their expenditure on Recreation and culture by $749 million (16.0%), Furnishings and other household equipment by $480 million (19.1%) and Transport by $393 million (8.0%). Government final consumption expenditure also rose in Western Australia by $382 million (3.0%) in 2003–04.

EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF GSP, Western Australia—Chain volume measures(a)

	2002–03 $m	*2003–04* $m	*Change* $m	*Change* %
Final consumption expenditure				
General government	12 595	12 977	382	3.0
Households	41 309	44 098	2 789	6.8
Gross fixed capital formation				
Private				
Machinery and equipment	6 429	8 469	2 040	31.7
Non-dwelling construction	5 026	5 068	42	0.8
Livestock	111	163	52	46.8
Intangible fixed assets	1 570	1 694	124	7.9
Dwellings	4 567	4 536	–31	–0.7
Ownership transfer costs	1 402	1 444	42	3.0
Public	2 760	3 368	608	22.0
State final demand	75 769	81 817	6 048	8.0
Exports of goods and services	37 605	39 312	1 707	4.5
less Imports of goods and services	14 809	16 306	1 497	10.1
Balancing item	–15 650	–15 667	–17	0.1
Gross State Product	**82 915**	**89 155**	**6 240**	**7.5**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2003–04 (reissue), cat. no. 5220.0.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

In 2003–04, Western Australia experienced strong volume growth in Private gross fixed capital formation, rising by 11.9% ($2,269 million), the second largest increase of all states and territories behind Tasmania (16.7%). Nearly all of this increase was attributable to business investment on Machinery and equipment (up $2,040 million or 31.7%), supported by a strong $A and the expansion of the state's resources industry. Business investment was also strong in Intangible fixed assets (comprising exploration expenditure and computer software) (up $124 million or 7.9%) and Livestock (up $52 million or 46.8%). Detracting from private sector growth in 2003–04 was Dwelling investment, down marginally ($31 million or 0.7%) from high levels in 2002–03. Public sector gross fixed capital formation in Western Australia rose by 22.0% ($608 million) in 2003–04, ranked second behind the Australian Capital Territory (up 26.0%).

INDUSTRY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL FACTOR INCOME

Total Factor Income (TFI) in current price terms is that part of the cost of producing GSP which consists of gross payments to the factors of production (labour and capital). It represents the value added by these factors in the process of production and is equivalent to GSP less taxes, plus subsidies on production and imports. In 2003–04, TFI grew by 6.8% ($5,060 million) in Western Australia. Total Factor Incomes grew in all Western Australian industries in 2003–04, except Mining (down 3.0% or $443 million).

The main industry contributing to 2003–04 TFI growth in Western Australia was Agriculture, forestry and fishing (up 62.5% or $1,423 million), which rebounded strongly from the 2002–03 drought. Other contributors were Property and business services (up 9.7% or $718 million), Construction (up 8.3% or $499 million) and Manufacturing (up 5.9% or $402 million). Growth in property services and construction were largely attributable to the high level of activity in the state's property market in 2003–04. The manufacturing industry, which includes downstream mineral processing, has benefited from the expansion of processing activities within the state's resources sector.

TOTAL FACTOR INCOME BY INDUSTRY AND PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS, Western Australia—Current prices

	2002–03	*2003–04*	*Change*	*Change*
	$m	$m	$m	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2 275	3 698	1 423	62.5
Mining	14 830	14 387	–443	–3.0
Manufacturing	6 812	7 214	402	5.9
Electricity, gas and water supply	2 057	2 266	209	10.2
Construction	6 046	6 545	499	8.3
Wholesale trade	3 443	3 678	235	6.8
Retail trade	3 891	4 181	290	7.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	1 202	1 282	80	6.7
Transport and storage	3 750	4 079	329	8.8
Communication services	1 762	1 900	138	7.8
Finance and insurance	3 543	3 798	255	7.2
Property and business services	7 428	8 146	718	9.7
Government administration and defence	1 728	1 841	113	6.5
Education	2 725	2 912	187	6.9
Health and community services	4 293	4 572	279	6.5
Cultural and recreational services	1 063	1 108	45	4.2
Personal and other services	1 922	1 943	21	1.1
Ownership of dwellings	4 908	5 128	220	4.5
General government	1 271	1 331	60	4.7
All industries	**74 949**	**80 009**	**5 060**	**6.8**

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2003–04 (reissue), cat. no. 5220.0.

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1 SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Selected states and Australian comparison

Indicator	Reference period	Unit	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Current figure	WESTERN AUSTRALIA % change from same period previous year	NEW SOUTH WALES Current figure	NEW SOUTH WALES % change from same period previous year	VICTORIA Current figure	VICTORIA % change from same period previous year
State final demand								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	21 176	5.6	69 123	3.0	52 148	4.5
Consumer price index								
All groups	September Quarter 2004	index	142.0	2.5	146.2	2.7	144.2	1.7
Wage cost index	September Quarter 2004	index						
Quarterly retail turnover								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	4 976.5	8.9	16 599.4	3.9	11 948.5	6.7
Private new capital expenditure								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	2 373	3.5	4 132	11.9	3 146	–5.3
Finance commitments								
Commercial	October 2004	$m	1 385.4	–25.3	13 658.0	–5.7	5 012.8	–30.8
Personal	October 2004	$m	673.6	–5.7	2 008.6	–14.2	1 607.8	–5.9
New residential building approved								
Original, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	917.3	16.8	1 759.7	–20.8	1 848.5	–6.5
New residential building activity commenced								
Original, Chain volume	June Quarter 2004	$m	737.8	15.2	1 992.2	11.2	2 106.2	12.0
Merchandise trade								
Exports	September Quarter 2004	$m	9 084	15.4	5 607	24.6	4 825	11.9
Imports	September Quarter 2004	$m	3 328	19.0	15 477	12.7	11 592	13.8
Mineral exploration								
Gold	September Quarter 2004	$m	73.9	8.7	7.6	72.7	11.1	19.4
All other minerals (excluding Gold)	September Quarter 2004	$m	74.0	82.7	9.6	60.0	3.4	–5.6
Petroleum	September Quarter 2004	$m	182.1	2.4	9.1	np	12.9	84.3
Unemployment rate								
Trend	November 2004	%	4.5	. .	5.2	. .	6.0	. .
Estimated resident population	June Quarter 2004	'000	1 982.2	1.7	6 731.3	0.7	4 972.8	1.2

Indicator	Reference period	Unit	QUEENSLAND Current figure	QUEENSLAND % change from same period previous year	SOUTH AUSTRALIA Current figure	SOUTH AUSTRALIA % change from same period previous year	AUSTRALIA Current figure	AUSTRALIA % change from same period previous year
State final demand								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	39 444	8.5	14 942	4.4	209 885	4.9
Consumer price index								
All groups	September Quarter 2004	index	146.8	2.4	149.0	2.5	145.4	2.3
Wage cost index	September Quarter 2004	index						
Quarterly retail turnover								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	9 936.0	9.3	3 628.3	4.9	49 572.0	6.3
Private new capital expenditure								
Trend, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	2 782	22.8	1 013	–7.5	14 220	4.8
Finance commitments								
Commercial	October 2004	$m	3 025.0	–29.8	1 022.5	–2.0	24 480.5	–16.7
Personal	October 2004	$m	1 421.5	–7.9	428.7	–2.3	6 380.9	–8.8
New residential building approved								
Original, Chain volume	September Quarter 2004	$m	1 713.1	–12.8	363.6	–6.1	6 834.8	–10.6
New residential building activity commenced								
Original, Chain volume	June Quarter 2004	$m	1 783.4	7.2	379.9	5.1	7 332.4	11.6
Merchandise trade								
Exports	September Quarter 2004	$m	6 400	29.0	2 016	7.7	30 970	16.3
Imports	September Quarter 2004	$m	5 375	18.1	1 425	9.0	37 768	14.8
Mineral exploration								
Gold	September Quarter 2004	$m	8.7	50.0	np	np	109.9	13.7
All other minerals (excluding Gold)	September Quarter 2004	$m	32.2	59.4	np	np	141.2	71.4
Petroleum	September Quarter 2004	$m	22.0	4.3	23.7	115.5	263.2	14.1
Unemployment rate								
Trend	November 2004	%	4.8	. .	5.5	. .	5.3	. .
Estimated resident population	June Quarter 2004	'000	3 882.0	2.1	1 534.3	0.5	20 111.3	1.2

2 STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a)

	2003			2004			September Quarter 2003 to September Quarter 2004
	June	September	December	March	June	September	
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	% change
ORIGINAL							
Final consumption expenditure							
General Government	r3 200	r3 216	r3 255	r3 247	r3 364	3 276	1.9
Households	r10 366	r10 685	r11 708	r10 723	r11 194	11 449	7.2
Gross fixed capital expenditure							
Private							
Dwellings	r1 171	1 152	1 066	r1 157	r1 155	1 198	4.0
Non-dwelling construction	r1 488	r1 386	r1 360	r1 176	r1 259	1 318	–4.9
Machinery and equipment	r1 846	2 091	r2 406	r1 846	r2 092	2 017	–3.5
Livestock	28	r41	r41	r41	r41	42	2.4
Intangible fixed assets	397	r423	r454	r343	r471	463	9.5
Ownership transfer costs	r408	r385	r378	320	r361	356	–7.5
Total private	*r5 308*	*r5 477*	*r5 706*	*r4 881*	*r5 380*	*5 394*	*–1.5*
Public	r696	r602	r840	r742	r1 176	807	34.1
State final demand	**r19 572**	**r19 980**	**r21 509**	**r19 594**	**r21 114**	**20 925**	**4.7**
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED							
Final consumption expenditure							
General Government	3 163	3 229	3 258	3 277	3 318	3 289	1.9
Households	10 491	10 773	11 012	11 187	11 339	11 545	7.2
Gross fixed capital expenditure							
Private							
Dwellings	1 171	1 143	1 047	1 186	1 155	1 188	3.9
Non-dwelling construction	1 469	1 325	1 298	1 310	1 248	1 271	–4.1
Machinery and equipment	1 747	2 194	2 221	2 044	1 976	2 118	–3.5
Livestock	28	41	41	41	41	42	2.4
Intangible fixed assets	417	437	423	337	495	479	9.6
Ownership transfer costs	381	397	375	340	333	364	–8.3
Total private	*5 183*	*5 536*	*5 404*	*5 257*	*5 248*	*5 462*	*–1.3*
Public	659	667	804	750	1 138	890	33.4
State final demand	**19 497**	**20 206**	**20 479**	**20 470**	**21 043**	**21 185**	**4.8**
TREND ESTIMATES							
Final consumption expenditure							
General Government	3 174	3 213	3 258	3 285	3 298	3 301	2.7
Households	10 530	10 753	10 990	11 185	11 358	11 521	7.1
Gross fixed capital expenditure							
Private							
Dwellings	1 148	1 124	1 116	1 135	1 167	1 195	6.3
Non-dwelling construction	1 400	1 373	1 315	1 283	1 272	1 261	–8.2
Machinery and equipment	1 837	2 077	2 163	2 102	2 040	2 048	–1.4
Livestock	32	37	41	41	41	41	10.8
Intangible fixed assets	430	418	403	410	442	479	14.6
Ownership transfer costs	381	386	371	351	344	348	–9.8
Total private	*5 211*	*5 406*	*5 408*	*5 323*	*5 307*	*5 362*	*–0.8*
Public	684	682	760	875	957	976	43.1
State final demand	**19 600**	**20 054**	**20 415**	**20 663**	**20 919**	**21 176**	**5.6**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat no. 5206.0.

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth

Reference period	Food	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing	Household furnishings, supplies and services	Health	Transport -ation	Communi -cation	Recreation	Education	Miscellan -eous	**All groups**
					ANNUAL AVERAGE *(index)*							
2001–2002	142.6	192.3	109.2	103.4	117.2	162.8	136.8	103.5	127.1	195.5	172.2	**133.1**
2002–2003	146.7	198.0	109.5	106.2	118.2	175.7	140.7	106.8	128.8	201.5	183.5	**136.8**
2003–2004	149.9	204.1	108.7	112.3	118.1	185.8	141.6	108.3	125.6	210.2	188.6	**139.6**
					CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR, ANNUAL AVERAGE *(%)*							
2001–2002	5.8	4.2	–1.5	2.0	1.5	3.7	–0.1	0.8	4.4	2.7	4.1	**2.7**
2002–2003	3.0	2.9	0.3	2.8	0.9	8.0	2.8	3.2	1.3	3.1	6.6	**2.8**
2003–2004	2.2	3.1	–0.8	5.8	–0.1	5.8	0.7	1.4	–2.5	4.4	2.8	**2.1**
					QUARTERS *(index)*							
2003												
June	148.7	200.0	108.3	107.8	118.5	181.1	139.0	107.2	126.8	205.5	183.7	**137.4**
September	148.7	202.8	110.3	110.4	118.5	181.4	140.9	108.0	125.7	205.5	187.4	**138.6**
December	149.2	204.2	109.4	111.7	118.7	181.7	140.3	108.3	127.0	205.5	187.5	**139.2**
2004												
March	150.4	204.1	106.8	112.8	117.1	187.3	141.4	108.3	124.4	214.9	189.3	**139.6**
June	151.3	205.2	108.1	114.4	118.1	192.8	143.6	108.7	125.3	214.9	190.3	**141.0**
September	151.8	207.4	107.4	116.5	117.7	191.9	144.3	109.2	125.8	214.9	195.2	**142.0**
					CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*							
2003												
June	3.7	3.0	–2.0	3.7	1.3	5.6	0.1	2.5	–1.9	4.1	6.1	**2.1**
September	2.6	3.2	–0.2	5.1	0.4	5.5	0.9	1.6	–2.9	4.1	2.9	**2.1**
December	2.5	4.0	–1.4	5.7	—	5.8	–0.1	1.5	–2.5	4.1	2.0	**2.1**
2004												
March	1.8	2.7	–1.2	6.1	–0.3	5.3	–1.5	1.2	–3.3	4.6	2.8	**1.6**
June	1.7	2.6	–0.2	6.1	–0.3	6.5	3.3	1.4	–1.2	4.6	3.6	**2.6**
September	2.1	2.3	–2.6	5.5	–0.7	5.8	2.4	1.1	0.1	4.6	4.2	**2.5**
					CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*							
2003												
June	0.6	0.6	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.9	–3.2	0.2	–1.4	—	–0.2	**—**
September	—	1.4	1.8	2.4	—	0.2	1.4	0.7	–0.9	—	2.0	**0.9**
December	0.3	0.7	–0.8	1.2	0.2	0.2	–0.4	0.3	1.0	—	0.1	**0.4**
2004												
March	0.8	—	–2.4	1.0	–1.3	3.1	0.8	—	–2.0	4.6	1.0	**0.3**
June	0.6	0.5	1.2	1.4	0.9	2.9	1.6	0.4	0.7	—	0.5	**1.0**
September	0.3	1.1	–0.6	1.8	–0.3	–0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	—	2.6	**0.7**

(a) Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

4 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS—Perth

Item	Unit	2003 June	2003 September	2003 December	2004 March	2004 June	2004 September	September Quarter 2003 to September Quarter 2004
		cents	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents	% change
Dairy and related products								
Milk(a)	2 litres	na	na	na	na	na	263	. .
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	370	371	371	395	403	426	14.8
Butter	500 g	220	226	216	222	227	226	—
Bread and cereal products								
Bread, white loaf, sliced	650 g	258	257	233	242	238	234	–8.9
Biscuits, dry	250 g	168	166	166	170	172	173	4.2
Breakfast cereals, corn based	550 g	383	351	362	294	360	348	–0.9
Flour, self raising	2 kg	386	398	403	391	399	406	2.0
Rice, long grain	1 kg	205	210	212	207	213	214	1.9
Meat and seafoods								
Beef								
Beef roast(b)	1 kg	1 063	1 168	1 115	1 206	1 172	1 040	–11.0
Rump steak	1 kg	1 576	1 681	1 641	1 683	1 707	1 466	–12.8
T-bone steak, with fillet	1 kg	1 703	1 757	1 719	1 831	1 809	1 684	–4.2
Lamb								
Leg	1 kg	853	891	904	910	877	879	–1.3
Loin chops	1 kg	1 467	1 474	1 488	1 520	1 514	1 503	2.0
Pork								
Leg	1 kg	808	802	770	816	789	687	–14.3
Loin chops	1 kg	1 191	1 175	1 250	1 215	1 264	1 206	2.6
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	390	405	379	410	390	298	–26.4
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	382	377	390	402	320	350	–7.2
Sausages	1 kg	698	591	588	596	598	510	–13.7
Salmon, pink	210 g can	274	266	246	243	267	264	–0.8
Fresh fruit and vegetables								
Oranges	1 kg	359	266	310	310	408	271	1.9
Bananas	1 kg	259	255	226	237	262	277	8.6
Potatoes	1 kg	181	181	189	193	187	184	1.7
Tomatoes	1 kg	358	282	352	380	398	325	15.2
Carrots	1 kg	138	138	135	136	137	138	—
Onions	1 kg	160	229	250	171	149	169	–26.2
Other food								
Eggs(c)(d)	1 dozen	394	387	380	383	371	387	—
Sugar, white(d)	2 kg	244	243	244	244	246	239	–1.6
Jam, strawberry	500 g jar	271	262	257	278	266	264	0.8
Teabags	180 g pkt	349	367	371	347	360	359	–2.2
Coffee, instant	150g jar	590	601	580	546	634	608	1.2
Tomato sauce	600 ml	183	170	173	181	176	176	3.5
Margarine, polyunsaturated	500 g	222	232	229	233	233	229	–1.3
Baked beans, in tomato sauce	420 g	115	117	114	118	120	115	–1.7
Baby food	120 g can	72	76	69	73	76	76	—
Chocolate, milk, block	250 g	322	321	321	354	351	354	10.3
Household supplies and personal care								
Laundry detergent	1 kg	485	529	543	452	563	533	0.8
Dishwashing detergent	450 ml	322	339	306	324	340	340	0.3
Facial tissues	pkt 180	213	207	216	215	215	206	–0.5
Toilet paper	4 x 220 sheet rolls(e)	305	291	306	309	311	312	7.2
Pet food	400 g	101	104	99	94	110	109	4.8
Toilet soap	4 x 125 g	273	251	242	260	264	267	6.4
Private motoring(f)								
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	88.4	91.3	89.7	92.3	96.0	98.9	8.3
Alcoholic drinks								
Beer, low alcohol (24 bottles)(g)	355–375 ml ea	2 712	2 742	2 741	2 782	2 843	2 899	5.7
Beer, full strength (24 bottles)(h)	375ml ea	3 121	3 234	3 373	3 355	3 458	3 453	6.8
Draught beer, full strength, public bar(h)	285 ml glass	294	299	304	308	309	313	4.7
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	449	448	453	457	459	463	3.3

(a) Formerly 1 litre.

(b) For example silverside, topside, or blade bolar roast.

(c) Eggs in Perth have a minimum net carton weight of 700 g per dozen eggs.

(d) Represents average price of brand name and generic brand products.

(e) Formerly 4 x 250 sheet rolls.

(f) From September Quarter 2004 lead replacement petrol is no longer priced in the CPI.

(g) Includes light and mid strength beer with an alcoholic content equal to or less than 3.5%.

(h) Alcoholic content of full strength beer is greater than 3.5%.

Source: Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, cat. no. 6403.0.

5 WAGE PRICE INDEX, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses(a)(b)

	2003			2004				
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*	*June Quarter 2004 to September Quarter 2004*	*September Quarter 2003 to September Quarter 2004*
	index	index	index	index	index	index	% change	% change
Western Australia	**97.8**	**99.0**	**99.8**	**100.3**	**100.8**	**102.5**	**1.7**	**3.5**
Sector								
Private	97.8	99.0	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.5	1.6	3.5
Public	97.8	99.1	99.8	100.3	100.8	102.4	1.6	3.3
Selected industries								
Manufacturing	97.8	98.5	99.2	101.0	101.4	103.5	2.1	5.1
Retail trade	98.5	99.1	99.8	100.4	100.7	102.6	1.9	3.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	97.4	99.4	99.9	100.0	100.7	101.9	1.2	2.5
Property and business services	98.5	99.3	100.4	100.2	100.2	101.7	1.5	2.4
Government administration and defence	97.7	98.8	99.8	100.7	100.7	102.0	1.3	3.2
Education	97.4	99.4	99.7	100.0	101.0	102.7	1.7	3.3
Health and community services	97.6	99.2	99.8	100.1	100.9	102.5	1.6	3.3
Personal and other services	98.0	98.9	100.1	100.4	100.5	103.0	2.5	4.1
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	98.5	99.2	99.9	100.2	100.8	102.0	1.2	2.8
Professionals	97.8	99.2	99.7	100.2	100.8	102.5	1.7	3.3
Associate professionals	98.5	98.9	99.8	100.4	100.8	102.4	1.6	3.5
Tradespersons and related workers	97.6	99.0	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.1	1.2	3.1
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	97.7	98.9	99.7	100.4	101.0	102.5	1.5	3.6
Intermediate production and transport workers	97.5	99.3	99.9	100.2	100.6	102.4	1.8	3.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	98.0	99.3	99.7	100.4	100.6	103.2	2.6	3.9
Labourers and related workers	97.8	98.9	100.2	100.3	100.6	103.0	2.4	4.1

(a) The Wage Cost Index series has been renamed the Wage Price Index series from September Quarter 2004, and has been re-based from September Quarter 1997 to the financial year 2003–04 = 100.0. The quarterly Wage Cost Index publication, now renamed Labour Price Index, has retained its catalogue number (6345.0), but will include annual non-wage costs, such as annual and public holiday leave, superannuation, workers' compensation and payroll tax. Further information about the new price index series is available through *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2004,* ABS cat. no. 6351.0.55.001.

(b) Base of each index: 2003–04 = 100.0.

Source: ABS data available on request*, Labour Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6345.0.

6 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES(a)

	PERTH						WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES					
	Established homes	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*	**Project homes**	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*	**Established homes**	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*	**Project homes**	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*
Reference period	index	%	%	index	%	%	index	%	%	index	%	%
2001–2002	145.5	8.7	. .	128.8	2.1	. .	178.0	16.5	. .	138.1	2.4	. .
2002–2003	164.4	13.0	. .	132.9	3.2	. .	209.9	17.9	. .	144.1	4.3	. .
2003–2004	195.0	18.6	. .	145.4	9.4	. .	r245.0	r16.7	. .	154.8	7.4	. .
2003												
June	176.0	6.0	15.8	136.6	2.6	5.4	223.8	5.0	18.1	147.9	2.2	5.7
September	185.7	5.5	19.2	140.9	3.1	8.1	231.3	3.4	17.6	151.2	2.2	7.0
December	195.2	5.1	22.2	143.8	2.1	9.3	245.1	6.0	18.9	153.7	1.7	7.9
2004												
March	197.5	1.2	19.0	146.5	1.9	10.1	251.3	2.5	17.9	155.8	1.4	7.7
June	201.7	2.1	14.6	150.2	2.5	10.0	r252.1	r0.3	r12.6	158.4	1.7	7.1
September	207.7	3.0	11.8	153.7	2.3	9.1	250.3	–0.7	8.2	160.3	1.2	6.0

(a) Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, cat. no. 6416.0.

7 PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING(a), By material—Perth

	2003			2004				
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*	*Change from previous quarter*	*Change from same quarter previous year*
Material group	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
All groups	123.9	124.6	125.2	126.1	127.4	128.7	1.0	3.3
Concrete, cement and sand	130.0	133.0	132.7	132.6	134.7	134.6	–0.1	1.2
Cement products	113.5	113.3	114.7	115.9	117.0	118.6	1.4	4.7
Ceramic products	132.9	136.0	136.5	137.6	138.2	139.3	0.8	2.4
Timber, board and joinery	116.6	117.0	118.7	120.4	121.8	121.5	–0.2	3.8
Steel products	124.9	125.0	124.8	124.3	130.2	143.5	10.2	14.8
Other metal products	120.8	120.7	121.0	120.4	121.3	122.0	0.6	1.1
Plumbing products	114.2	111.8	112.8	114.6	116.6	116.0	–0.5	3.8
Electrical equipment	109.3	105.3	105.8	107.1	107.9	108.3	0.4	2.8
Installed gas and electrical appliances	123.0	123.9	122.5	124.8	124.7	128.0	2.6	3.3
Other materials	145.1	145.2	146.0	147.0	147.3	149.1	1.2	2.7

(a) Reference base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: Producer Price Indexes, Australia, cat. no. 6427.0.

8 NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES(a)(b), By type of vehicle: **All series**

	Passenger vehicles	*Sports utility vehicles*	*Other vehicles*	*Total vehicles*	
Reference period	no.	no.	no.	no.	% change from previous period
			ORIGINAL		
2001–2002	45 808	12 849	13 289	71 946	–1.1
2002–2003	47 276	13 816	15 581	76 673	6.6
2003–2004	51 824	15 687	19 219	86 730	13.1
2003					
September	4 423	1 071	1 400	6 894	–2.2
October	4 729	1 238	1 520	7 487	8.6
November	4 153	1 285	1 487	6 925	–7.5
December	4 326	1 277	1 558	7 161	3.4
2004					
January	3 741	1 251	1 257	6 249	–12.7
February	4 187	1 320	1 606	7 113	13.8
March	4 771	1 486	1 829	8 086	13.7
April	3 816	1 202	1 511	6 529	–19.3
May	3 997	1 461	1 838	7 296	11.7
June	4 948	1 716	2 305	8 969	22.9
July	4 204	1 402	1 622	7 228	–19.4
August	4 437	1 422	1 654	7 513	3.9
September	4 928	1 524	1 725	8 177	8.8
October	4 895	1 376	1 604	7 875	–3.7
November	4 892	1 514	1 751	8 157	3.6
			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		
2003					
September	4 530	1 233	1 517	7 280	0.6
October	4 386	1 244	1 537	7 167	–1.6
November	4 250	1 295	1 543	7 088	–1.1
December	4 150	1 263	1 530	6 943	–2.0
2004					
January	4 336	1 357	1 557	7 250	4.4
February	4 238	1 319	1 642	7 199	–0.7
March	4 278	1 362	1 748	7 388	2.6
April	4 152	1 291	1 616	7 059	–4.5
May	4 372	1 450	1 759	7 581	7.4
June	4 253	1 317	1 646	7 216	–4.8
July	4 357	1 503	1 740	7 600	5.3
August	4 371	1 546	1 739	7 656	0.7
September	5 057	1 555	1 791	8 403	9.8
October	4 711	1 512	1 747	7 970	–5.2
November	4 792	1 588	1 758	8 138	2.1
			TREND ESTIMATES		
2003					
September	4 411	1 259	1 538	7 208	–0.2
October	4 371	1 264	1 534	7 169	–0.5
November	4 319	1 276	1 538	7 133	–0.5
December	4 274	1 294	1 559	7 127	–0.1
2004					
January	4 244	1 311	1 593	7 148	0.3
February	4 234	1 324	1 629	7 187	0.5
March	4 229	1 337	1 659	7 225	0.5
April	4 236	1 356	1 683	7 275	0.7
May	4 265	1 384	1 702	7 351	1.0
June	4 332	1 421	1 714	7 467	1.6
July	4 435	1 462	1 726	7 623	2.1
August	4 554	1 501	1 740	7 795	2.3
September	4 669	1 534	1 753	7 956	2.1
October	4 770	1 561	1 764	8 095	1.7
November	4 842	1 575	1 766	8 183	1.1

(a) This series replaces New Motor Vehicle Registrations from January 2002.

(b) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

9 MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, By industry group—Current prices: **All series**

Month	Food $m	Department stores $m	Clothing and soft goods $m	Household goods $m	Recreational goods $m	Other $m	Hospitality and services $m	Total $m
				ORIGINAL				
2003								
August	663.2	108.6	77.2	236.2	^78.0	130.7	193.5	1 487.3
September	644.8	114.8	77.4	231.9	^69.0	136.7	192.1	1 466.7
October	675.6	130.7	84.1	266.9	^73.9	^148.2	209.0	1 588.5
November	670.2	150.1	87.2	270.5	^78.9	^152.5	207.3	1 616.7
December	792.9	229.8	118.2	313.8	^115.5	^217.2	225.4	2 012.7
2004								
January	698.0	115.0	87.8	265.1	^84.7	142.4	205.2	1 598.3
February	643.4	96.2	69.2	222.0	^76.4	139.9	190.5	1 437.7
March	681.3	109.3	78.2	242.0	^79.6	145.8	203.3	1 539.5
April	707.9	124.5	83.1	233.6	^73.8	144.5	200.0	1 567.5
May	683.2	126.3	84.7	251.1	^74.5	148.0	192.9	1 560.8
June	667.9	131.3	85.6	268.9	^75.3	145.5	185.5	1 560.0
July	r705.4	128.4	84.3	276.5	^76.0	154.8	r202.7	r1 628.1
August	688.0	111.8	79.1	263.7	^76.0	149.3	196.5	1 564.5
September	697.8	127.9	82.6	275.5	^81.6	161.4	199.5	1 626.3
October	702.8	131.1	92.4	289.7	^80.4	181.6	203.9	1 682.0
				SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
2003								
August	672.7	129.1	83.7	242.4	78.9	139.2	198.3	1 544.2
September	677.4	128.9	82.7	243.2	73.7	138.9	193.5	1 538.2
October	664.1	132.5	83.3	251.8	76.5	141.0	197.7	1 546.9
November	666.7	129.1	83.2	249.8	78.9	142.5	201.9	1 552.0
December	682.4	122.9	82.0	250.1	80.8	148.7	194.6	1 561.6
2004								
January	674.2	129.2	87.7	259.0	82.6	149.5	198.2	1 580.5
February	675.1	130.0	86.3	242.8	80.7	155.5	202.5	1 572.9
March	677.9	130.1	88.2	256.9	82.0	153.7	201.5	1 590.4
April	702.7	130.9	83.2	260.8	78.8	155.4	201.1	1 612.9
May	699.9	130.7	81.5	264.3	79.5	156.9	205.5	1 618.3
June	711.5	134.0	86.7	271.0	80.1	159.1	205.8	1 648.2
July	705.2	136.7	86.0	279.7	77.5	163.6	202.5	1 651.2
August	711.5	136.3	86.3	274.7	79.0	160.8	201.8	1 650.5
September	719.5	143.5	90.4	279.6	86.2	166.6	202.7	1 688.4
October	701.6	132.4	92.3	272.4	85.2	175.5	194.2	1 653.6
				TREND ESTIMATES				
2003								
August	671.2	129.7	83.7	239.3	74.7	141.4	194.3	1 534.4
September	671.8	129.6	83.8	244.9	76.4	140.3	196.1	1 542.9
October	671.7	129.1	83.8	248.6	77.8	141.0	197.5	1 549.6
November	671.5	128.5	84.0	250.5	79.1	143.6	198.2	1 555.5
December	672.4	128.1	84.5	251.3	80.2	147.0	198.6	1 562.1
2004								
January	675.2	128.2	85.2	251.8	80.9	150.0	199.3	1 570.7
February	680.2	128.7	85.6	253.3	81.3	152.5	200.5	1 581.9
March	686.5	129.5	85.4	256.1	80.9	154.5	201.8	1 594.7
April	693.6	130.9	85.0	260.5	80.0	156.0	203.1	1 609.0
May	700.3	132.6	84.8	265.6	79.4	157.4	203.9	1 623.9
June	705.8	134.2	85.1	270.3	79.4	159.3	203.9	1 637.8
July	709.3	135.7	86.2	273.9	80.1	161.7	203.1	1 649.7
August	711.0	136.9	87.7	276.2	81.2	164.6	201.9	1 659.4
September	711.7	137.7	89.2	277.3	82.5	167.5	200.4	1 667.2
October	710.9	138.0	90.8	277.9	84.0	170.1	198.9	1 672.9

Source: *Retail Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 8501.0.

10 QUARTERLY RETAIL TURNOVER—Chain volume measures(a): **All series**

	ORIGINAL			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			TREND ESTIMATES		
	Retail turnover	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*	***Retail turnover***	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*	***Retail turnover***	*Change from previous period*	*Change from same period previous year*
Quarter	$m	%	%	$m	%	%	$m	%	%
2003									
June	r4 278.9	2.5	r3.3	r4 463.0	r1.9	r3.2	r4 478.5	r1.9	r4.4
September	r4 431.0	r3.6	r8.1	r4 599.8	r3.1	r7.8	r4 567.8	2.0	r5.8
December	r5 216.2	r17.7	r5.7	r4 653.1	r1.2	r6.3	r4 667.8	r2.2	r7.5
2004									
March	r4 578.2	r–12.2	r9.7	r4 759.5	r2.3	r8.7	r4 769.1	r2.2	r8.5
June	r4 673.4	2.1	r9.2	r4 886.5	2.7	r9.5	r4 876.2	r2.2	r8.9
September	4 795.8	2.6	8.2	4 985.8	2.0	8.4	4 976.5	2.1	8.9

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat no. 8501.0.

11 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By type of asset

	CURRENT PRICES			CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(a)		
	Buildings and structures	*Equipment, plant and machinery*	*Total*	*Buildings and structures*	*Equipment, plant and machinery*	*Total*
Reference period	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
			ORIGINAL			
2001–2002	1 831	4 163	5 994	r1 901	r3 978	r5 919
2002–2003	2 898	4 241	7 140	2 898	4 241	r7 140
2003–2004	r3 793	r5 124	r8 917	r3 597	r5 621	r9 218
2003						
June	874	1 199	2 073	861	r1 231	r2 091
September	853	1 374	2 227	828	r1 441	r2 269
December	1 079	1 462	2 541	1 034	r1 591	r2 625
2004						
March	786	1 087	1 873	r742	r1 221	r1 963
June	r1 075	r1 201	r2 276	r992	r1 368	r2 361
September	1 162	1 136	2 298	1 055	1 295	2 350
			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
2003						
June	851	1 149	2 000	826	1 170	1 994
September	854	1 356	2 210	841	1 452	2 292
December	984	1 382	2 366	949	1 504	2 453
2004						
March	901	1 227	2 128	851	1 365	2 216
June	1 042	1 154	2 196	956	1 301	2 257
September	1 162	1 118	2 280	1 064	1 308	2 373
			TREND ESTIMATES			
2003						
June	867	1 198	2 065	851	1 229	2 078
September	894	1 313	2 207	873	1 394	2 266
December	913	1 335	2 248	880	1 454	2 334
2004						
March	968	1 261	2 229	915	1 401	2 315
June	1 041	1 170	2 211	962	1 327	2 289
September	1 109	1 108	2 217	1 005	1 296	2 305

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

12 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By selected industry—Current prices: **Original**

	SELECTED INDUSTRIES			
	Mining	*Manufacturing*	*Other selected industries*	*All industries*
Reference period	$m	$m	$m	$m
2001–2002	3 091	760	2 143	r5 994
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	r5 010	r1 162	r2 746	r8 917
2003				
June	1 151	305	618	2 073
September	1 332	287	608	2 227
December	1 408	352	781	2 541
2004				
March	r1 050	210	613	1 873
June	r1 220	r313	r744	r2 276
September	1 349	240	709	2 298

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

13 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

	COMMERCIAL FINANCE			PERSONAL FINANCE(a)			
	Fixed loans(b)	*Revolving credit(c)*	*Total*	*Fixed loans(b)*	*Revolving credit(c)*	*Total*	*Total lease finance commitments*
Month	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2003							
August	1 137.0	421.2	1 558.2	381.9	269.3	651.2	27.1
September	1 077.2	472.2	1 549.3	364.8	255.8	620.7	25.5
October	1 161.5	692.1	1 853.7	411.7	302.8	714.5	46.5
November	1 114.5	387.5	1 502.0	368.5	281.0	649.5	27.4
December	1 831.1	654.1	2 485.3	379.4	286.3	665.7	25.0
2004							
January	842.3	359.5	1 201.8	331.7	251.8	583.5	20.0
February	993.9	564.0	1 557.9	323.4	240.2	563.6	29.2
March	1 161.7	329.7	1 491.4	391.9	314.4	706.3	58.3
April	1 376.2	390.8	1 767.0	345.0	306.1	651.1	30.5
May	1 196.4	398.5	1 594.8	389.6	320.8	710.4	27.5
June	1 313.1	660.8	1 973.9	416.1	r344.8	761.0	38.9
July	1 032.3	484.7	1 517.0	371.6	260.7	632.3	32.1
August	1 097.2	400.5	1 497.7	390.7	270.3	661.0	32.2
September	1 081.5	390.3	1 471.8	392.4	278.3	670.7	61.2
October	1 000.2	385.2	1 385.4	384.2	289.4	673.6	35.8

(a) Includes unsecured housing finance for owner occupation.

(b) Includes refinancing.

(c) New and increased limits during the period. Includes credit cards.

Source: Lending Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5671.0.

14 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a)(b), By dwellings financed: **All series**

	ORIGINAL		SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		TREND ESTIMATES	
	Total number of dwellings	*Total value of commitments*	*Total number of dwellings*	*Total value of commitments*	*Total number of dwellings*	*Total value of commitments*
Reference period	no.	$m	no.	$m	no.	$m
2001–2002	75 806	9 833.7	76 210	9 880.2	76 276	9 898.8
2002–2003	76 738	10 806.0	76 834	10 819.5	76 769	10 818.1
2003–2004	84 322	12 739.2	84 026	12 694.7	84 301	12 734.6
2003						
August	6 976	1 038.9	7 157	1 078.4	7 328	1 098.5
September	7 253	1 089.8	7 406	1 116.0	7 409	1 110.7
October	7 849	1 150.8	7 554	1 128.7	7 413	1 105.0
November	7 272	1 080.7	7 444	1 110.2	7 339	1 086.4
December	7 604	1 104.9	7 415	1 096.1	7 202	1 062.0
2004						
January	5 938	865.0	6 783	956.0	7 024	1 038.4
February	6 340	958.7	6 649	1 002.5	6 829	1 018.9
March	7 296	1 117.0	6 649	1 022.6	6 663	1 009.9
April	6 549	1 044.5	6 951	1 081.6	6 581	1 016.9
May	6 756	1 066.3	6 447	1 013.8	6 605	1 040.4
June	6 745	1 062.2	6 384	1 014.4	6 708	1 074.6
July	6 862	1 120.2	6 679	1 079.8	6 846	1 112.2
August	7 433	1 227.0	7 343	1 231.6	6 994	1 151.3
September	7 372	1 202.4	7 396	1 210.5	7 134	1 188.1
October	6 769	1 132.3	7 075	1 203.5	7 246	1 218.0

(a) Owner occupation housing.

(b) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

15 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a)(b), By type of buyer: **Original**

Month	FIRST HOME BUYERS — Number of dwellings financed (no.)	Number as a per cent of total (%)	Value of commitments ($m)	Average borrowing size ($'000)	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS — Number of dwellings financed (no.)	Number as a per cent of total (%)	Value of commitments ($m)	Average borrowing size ($'000)
2003								
August	1 086	15.6	157.6	145.1	5 890	84.4	881.1	149.6
September	1 113	r15.3	160.4	144.1	6 140	84.7	929.6	151.4
October	1 183	15.1	174.0	147.1	6 666	84.9	976.6	146.5
November	1 077	14.8	152.2	141.3	6 195	85.2	928.6	149.9
December	1 143	15.0	164.7	144.1	6 461	85.0	940.1	145.5
2004								
January	872	14.7	134.7	154.5	5 066	85.3	730.5	144.2
February	895	14.1	132.6	148.2	5 445	85.9	826.0	151.7
March	1 048	14.4	156.6	149.4	6 248	85.6	960.3	153.7
April	910	13.9	141.1	155.1	5 639	86.1	903.4	160.2
May	978	14.5	154.0	157.5	5 778	85.5	912.3	157.9
June	920	13.6	139.8	152.0	5 825	86.4	922.1	158.3
July	1 151	16.8	184.0	159.9	5 711	83.2	936.0	163.9
August	1 481	19.9	245.4	165.7	5 952	80.1	981.5	164.9
September	1 445	19.6	236.4	163.6	5 927	80.4	966.1	163.0
October	1 323	19.5	224.1	169.4	5 446	80.5	908.4	166.8

(a) Owner occupation housing.

(b) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

16 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a), By purpose: **Original**

Month	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE) — Construction of dwellings ($m)	Purchase of new dwellings ($m)	Purchase of established dwellings ($m)	Refinancing of established dwellings ($m)	Total value of commitments ($m)	INVESTMENT HOUSING — Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale ($m)	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale ($m)
2003							
August	180.0	20.3	615.6	223.1	1 038.9	412.3	101.7
September	190.1	21.1	626.1	252.6	1 089.8	413.2	32.8
October	187.7	32.3	644.2	286.6	1 150.8	429.9	35.7
November	169.9	34.1	607.2	269.4	1 080.7	384.5	37.6
December	188.4	39.8	606.1	270.6	1 104.9	387.0	39.5
2004							
January	147.1	23.3	480.3	214.3	865.0	285.0	27.6
February	160.0	30.7	528.1	239.9	958.7	351.6	27.2
March	181.7	29.9	638.8	266.6	1 117.0	416.9	37.9
April	158.9	30.6	609.1	245.9	1 044.5	368.2	22.4
May	198.2	38.5	579.7	250.0	1 066.3	411.1	28.6
June	180.0	36.5	585.5	260.2	1 062.2	436.7	43.6
July	179.0	40.8	669.2	231.2	1 120.2	382.1	36.0
August	186.0	35.1	764.0	241.9	1 227.0	394.4	30.8
September	204.2	35.5	711.4	251.3	1 202.4	391.4	31.3
October	181.5	39.5	684.2	227.0	1 132.3	347.2	31.4

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0; *Lending Finance, Australia,* cat. no. 5671.0.

17 DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, By sector: **Trend**

	HOUSES		OTHER DWELLINGS		TOTAL DWELLING UNITS	
	Private	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*
Reference period	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2001–2002	17 083	17 611	2 515	3 022	19 598	20 633
2002–2003	16 927	17 533	3 184	3 676	20 111	21 209
2003–2004	18 765	19 234	3 666	4 143	22 431	23 377
2003						
August	1 534	1 578	262	307	1 796	1 885
September	1 551	1 585	266	294	1 817	1 879
October	1 564	1 597	266	282	1 830	1 879
November	1 575	1 613	273	284	1 848	1 897
December	1 585	1 627	283	300	1 868	1 927
2004						
January	1 594	1 636	293	317	1 887	1 953
February	1 597	1 634	310	342	1 907	1 976
March	1 591	1 624	334	377	1 925	2 001
April	1 576	1 608	360	417	1 936	2 025
May	1 555	1 590	378	447	1 933	2 037
June	1 534	1 575	388	463	1 922	2 038
July	1 518	1 560	392	467	1 910	2 027
August	1 508	1 548	392	460	1 900	2 008
September	1 502	1 539	388	446	1 890	1 985
October	1 501	1 535	381	426	1 882	1 961

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

18 DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, By type of work: **Original**

	New houses	*New other residential building*	*New residential building*	*Alterations and additions to residential building(a)*	*Total non-residential building*	*Total building*
Reference period	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2001–2002	17 398	2 789	20 187	54	66	20 374
2002–2003	18 041	3 633	21 674	93	19	21 791
2003–2004	r19 553	r4 007	r23 560	72	35	r23 682
2003						
August	r1 626	257	r1 883	1	—	r1 884
September	r1 663	269	r1 932	4	—	r1 937
October	r1 987	402	r2 389	7	—	r2 396
November	r1 633	366	r1 999	2	1	r2 012
December	r1 781	140	r1 921	20	1	r1 942
2004						
January	r1 324	212	r1 536	18	—	r1 554
February	r1 467	536	r2 003	2	1	r2 006
March	r1 747	r362	r2 109	3	—	r2 112
April	r1 311	273	r1 584	—	6	r1 591
May	r1 752	r386	r2 138	8	18	r2 165
June	1 594	530	2 124	7	8	2 141
July	r1 590	r628	r2 218	2	2	r2 227
August	1 648	306	1 954	1	10	1 965
September	1 715	372	2 087	4	1	2 092
October	1 486	457	1 943	5	—	1 950

(a) Number of dwellings created as a result of alterations and additions to residential buildings.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

19 VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, By type of work—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Alterations and additions to residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
2001–2002	2 272.6	347.6	2 620.2	4.7	984.9	3 867.0
2002–2003	2 552.9	473.9	3 026.8	10.9	1 552.4	4 870.5
2003–2004	r2 995.0	r553.6	r3 548.6	7.6	r1 510.4	r5 381.6
2003						
August	r239.7	27.5	r267.2	0.1	83.7	r371.9
September	r241.1	31.9	r273.0	0.4	168.9	r463.6
October	r298.7	68.1	r366.8	0.9	r60.3	r457.5
November	r246.1	43.5	r289.6	0.1	125.5	r444.3
December	r272.3	24.5	r296.8	1.7	r219.8	r547.1
2004						
January	r201.2	31.3	r232.5	1.4	r110.0	r367.7
February	r227.5	99.9	r327.4	0.4	83.6	r435.3
March	r262.7	r52.6	r315.3	0.6	r99.6	r441.2
April	r214.2	34.7	r248.9	—	r113.3	r387.8
May	r280.8	r44.9	r325.7	1.1	r200.2	r554.7
June	255.1	59.8	314.9	0.9	r139.4	r487.7
July	r267.8	r88.7	r356.5	0.2	r121.3	r506.0
August	278.6	47.2	325.8	0.2	138.3	490.7
September	285.7	86.4	372.1	0.4	139.9	540.1
October	242.6	74.0	316.6	0.6	87.5	430.6

(a) Value of dwellings created as a result of alterations and additions to residential buildings.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

20 VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, By type of work—Chain volume measures(a): **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Alterations and additions to residential building $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
2001–2002	2 348.2	366.3	2 715.6	270.3	1 038.8	4 029.0
2002–2003	2 553.0	473.8	3 026.8	291.3	1 552.3	4 870.5
2003–2004	r2 741.5	r513.2	r3 254.7	r294.7	r1 395.4	r4 944.9
2003						
June	710.8	97.3	808.6	75.5	368.9	1 253.9
September	r695.0	90.3	r785.2	r64.9	342.2	r1 192.4
December	r755.5	128.1	r883.6	r83.3	r378.6	r1 345.5
2004						
March	r627.3	r169.1	r796.4	68.8	r268.1	r1 133.3
June	r663.7	r125.7	r789.5	r77.7	r406.5	r1 273.7
September	719.9	197.4	917.3	71.7	351.4	1 340.5

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

21 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVED, By region—Current prices: **Original**

Statistical Division & Subdivision	September Quarter 2003 no.	September Quarter 2003 $'000	December Quarter 2003 no.	December Quarter 2003 $'000	March Quarter 2004 no.	March Quarter 2004 $'000	June Quarter 2004 no.	June Quarter 2004 $'000	September Quarter 2004 no.	September Quarter 2004 $'000
NEW HOUSES										
Perth	3 542	531 667	3 900	589 387	3 382	516 678	3 244	524 523	3 514	592 928
Central Metropolitan	162	53 979	134	45 950	113	39 598	119	44 760	126	49 547
East Metropolitan	497	66 415	555	75 486	510	68 872	571	81 044	599	82 658
North Metropolitan	1 220	179 050	1 293	196 105	1 178	184 127	1 102	183 676	1 132	187 176
South West Metropolitan	930	136 370	1 031	148 505	816	120 391	899	132 594	998	164 380
South East Metropolitan	733	95 853	887	123 340	765	103 690	553	82 449	659	109 167
South West	r962	r138 766	r979	r150 809	782	117 074	898	141 063	907	151 845
Mandurah	469	70 025	430	68 282	339	53 649	394	61 807	342	57 326
Bunbury	204	24 985	235	29 715	165	21 236	r211	r28 599	250	35 948
Preston	57	8 256	69	9 785	47	6 093	r62	r8 938	93	12 289
Vasse	r209	r33 061	r223	r40 129	213	33 741	205	37 589	196	42 611
Blackwood	23	2 439	22	2 898	18	2 355	26	4 132	26	3 672
Lower Great Southern	r126	r15 718	r132	r17 313	88	13 531	r126	r18 859	111	15 694
Pallinup	14	1 773	11	1 376	2	268	r10	r1 087	15	1 980
King	r112	r13 944	r121	r15 937	86	13 263	116	17 772	96	13 714
Upper Great Southern	12	1 617	12	1 788	14	1 752	13	1 428	24	3 408
Hotham	9	1 100	10	1 360	13	1 516	11	1 056	23	3 243
Lakes	3	518	2	427	1	236	2	372	1	165
Midlands	r107	r12 407	r116	r15 138	r98	r11 594	r116	r15 594	134	19 419
Moore	53	6 871	71	10 228	r44	r5 688	r58	r8 987	68	9 912
Avon	r50	r5 072	r41	r4 411	r47	r4 801	r56	r6 276	60	8 665
Campion	4	464	r4	r499	r7	r1 106	r2	331	6	842
South Eastern	52	8 011	59	9 358	31	4 477	42	7 074	52	8 259
Kalgoorlie/Boulder City Part A	24	3 475	32	4 214	14	2 136	16	2 493	21	3 377
Lefroy	9	1 872	10	2 523	—	—	9	1 928	5	406
Johnston	19	2 664	17	2 622	17	2 341	17	2 653	26	4 477
Central	61	9 948	78	11 994	91	16 486	93	15 536	126	21 016
Geraldton	41	6 826	43	7 148	51	9 373	57	9 483	77	11 532
Gascoyne	6	1 228	6	859	4	629	7	1 369	9	1 684
Carnegie	1	25	—	—	10	1 746	—	—	10	2 584
Greenough River	13	1 868	29	3 987	26	4 738	29	4 683	30	5 217
Pilbara	42	8 609	50	7 114	19	3 436	57	11 041	43	9 736
De Grey	3	616	38	4 756	5	473	36	6 000	26	5 481
Fortescue	39	7 992	12	2 358	14	2 963	21	5 041	17	4 256
Kimberley	53	9 708	75	14 132	33	6 407	68	14 944	42	9 746
Ord	3	535	32	5 672	8	1 269	30	7 465	16	3 767
Fitzroy	50	9 173	43	8 460	25	5 138	38	7 479	26	5 979
NEW OTHER RESIDENTIAL BUILDING										
Perth	636	72 501	636	96 588	797	147 303	r876	r105 185	1 045	182 010
Central Metropolitan	145	17 728	241	39 571	162	26 393	186	28 047	299	64 675
East Metropolitan	62	6 237	89	6 789	44	3 412	r96	r10 289	68	7 238
North Metropolitan	190	18 430	89	9 485	239	28 613	177	18 157	243	33 059
South West Metropolitan	140	15 600	99	21 898	275	78 028	101	13 153	86	10 543
South East Metropolitan	99	14 505	118	18 846	77	10 858	316	35 538	349	66 495
South West	153	20 527	216	30 794	280	32 208	256	26 057	152	25 358
Lower Great Southern	2	238	—	—	6	513	r17	r1 870	30	3 510
Upper Great Southern	—	—	—	—	3	333	—	—	11	1 495
Midlands	—	—	—	—	2	210	6	693	4	487
South Eastern	—	—	8	2 000	—	—	9	1 442	29	4 053
Central	3	380	2	130	12	1 281	11	1 275	20	2 772
Pilbara	—	—	36	4 869	10	1 885	11	2 388	6	1 260
Kimberley	6	698	10	1 685	r—	r—	3	465	9	1 417

Source: ABS data available on request, *Building Approvals, Australia,* cat. no. 8731.0.

22 VALUE OF BUILDING WORK COMMENCED, By type of work: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Alterations and additions to residential buildings $m	Total non–residential building $m	Total building $m
			CURRENT PRICES(a)			
2001–2002	2 164.7	375.1	2 539.9	264.0	886.5	3 690.5
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	291.1	1 555.7	4 720.0
2003–2004	2 866.8	576.6	3 443.4	311.0	1 468.9	5 223.2
2003						
March	632.8	162.4	795.2	76.5	298.0	1 169.8
June	576.3	78.3	654.6	74.5	357.3	1 086.4
September	706.6	121.7	828.3	71.1	355.7	1 255.0
December	720.8	170.0	890.8	72.8	291.4	1 255.0
2004						
March	r740.2	r159.3	r899.5	r80.5	r408.8	r1 388.9
June	699.2	125.6	824.8	86.6	413.0	1 324.3
			CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(b)(c)			
2001–2002	r2 224.5	r394.5	r2 619.5	r272.7	r932.9	r3 831.7
2002–2003	r2 416.0	r457.0	r2 873.1	r291.1	r1 555.9	r4 719.9
2003–2004	2 637.0	539.7	3 176.5	284.0	1 371.2	4 831.8
2003						
March	r631.0	r160.6	r790.8	r76.4	r293.6	r1 163.0
June	r563.9	r76.0	r640.3	r72.5	r346.3	r1 059.6
September	r672.2	r116.3	r788.5	r67.1	r339.2	r1 194.8
December	r668.7	r160.0	r828.7	r67.3	r274.0	r1 170.1
2004						
March	r673.6	r148.0	r821.5	r73.0	r379.4	r1 273.9
June	622.5	115.4	737.8	76.6	378.6	1 193.0

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible Goods and Services Tax (GST) payable on residential buildings.

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

(c) A new base year, 2002–03, has been introduced into the chain volume measures which has resulted in revisions to growth rates in subsequent periods. In addition, the chain volume measures have been re-referenced to 2002–03, which has affected the levels of, but not the movments in, chain volume measures.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

23 VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, By type of work: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Alterations and additions to residential buildings $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
			CURRENT PRICES(a)			
2001–2002	1 964.9	395.4	2 360.3	283.7	1 042.1	3 686.1
2002–2003	2 321.3	410.4	2 731.8	304.5	1 298.8	4 335.0
2003–2004	2 546.7	493.2	3 039.9	315.0	1 431.8	4 786.8
2003						
March	554.0	116.3	670.3	74.2	323.0	1 067.5
June	589.6	99.1	688.7	81.5	300.4	1 070.6
September	618.9	122.0	740.9	77.6	394.2	1 212.7
December	600.3	109.8	710.1	75.6	366.8	1 152.5
2004						
March	r664.6	r129.2	r793.9	r78.4	r343.7	r1 216.0
June	662.9	132.2	795.0	83.4	327.1	1 205.6
			CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(b)(c)			
2001–2002	r2 019.5	r410.9	r2 429.9	r291.8	r1 076.4	r3 798.4
2002–2003	r2 321.3	r410.4	r2 731.7	r304.4	r1 298.8	r4 335.1
2003–2004	2 342.8	459.5	2 802.2	289.9	1 338.0	4 430.1
2003						
March	r552.6	r115.9	r668.3	r74.0	r321.9	r1 064.4
June	r577.3	r96.6	r673.9	r79.8	r294.0	r1 047.9
September	r589.4	r116.5	r705.8	r73.9	r377.7	r1 157.4
December	r557.5	r103.1	r660.6	r70.3	r345.0	r1 075.9
2004						
March	r605.3	r119.6	r724.9	r71.4	r318.0	r1 114.3
June	590.6	120.3	710.9	74.3	297.3	1 082.5

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings.

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

(c) A new base year, 2002–03, has been introduced into the chain volume measures which has resulted in revisions to growth rates in subsequent periods. In addition, the chain volume measures have been re-referenced to 2002–03, which has affected the levels of, but not the movments in, chain volume measures.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

24 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, By type: **Original**

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions $m	Bridges, railways and harbours $m	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines $m	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage $m	Telcomm-unications $m	Heavy industry $m	Recreation and other $m	**Total** $m
				VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED DURING PERIOD				
2001–2002	672.4	170.3	1 202.4	92.3	354.7	1 969.8	220.3	**4 682.1**
2002–2003	817.8	411.8	206.9	284.0	333.0	2 372.6	194.5	**4 620.7**
2003–2004	986.5	1 619.7	256.4	234.3	333.6	1 269.7	189.9	**4 890.0**
2003								
March	^239.4	47.8	^56.4	^87.6	65.1	203.1	*45.4	**744.8**
June	164.4	10.0	75.7	92.9	91.4	1 150.5	50.3	**1 635.2**
September	^300.4	66.5	112.9	^60.1	55.2	176.2	^48.1	**819.3**
December	^r259.9	r26.6	40.7	^r52.7	95.2	r381.3	^r40.4	**r896.9**
2004								
March	^r220.4	r1 480.1	^63.0	^r46.0	r83.4	r509.3	*r60.3	**r2 462.5**
June	^205.9	^46.4	^39.9	*75.5	99.8	202.9	^41.0	**711.2**
				VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD				
2001–2002	708.7	171.9	314.8	136.5	408.4	1 126.6	252.3	**3 119.3**
2002–2003	855.7	331.0	668.0	250.3	365.2	2 060.5	204.6	**4 735.3**
2003–2004	1 004.4	350.1	683.9	302.6	334.3	1 955.2	194.2	**4 824.8**
2003								
March	^227.3	94.5	145.9	^75.5	72.2	455.0	^40.7	**1 111.1**
June	205.1	82.8	188.3	74.4	94.6	721.3	50.3	**1 416.7**
September	^214.4	58.9	188.4	^64.2	58.2	530.9	^41.3	**1 156.4**
December	^r263.8	r57.1	185.4	^r71.1	95.7	r530.6	^r39.9	**r1 243.4**
2004								
March	^r241.7	r82.8	162.2	^r70.6	r84.6	r452.8	*r54.1	**r1 148.9**
June	284.6	151.4	^148.0	*96.7	95.8	440.9	*58.9	**1 276.1**

Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8762.0.

25 EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, By selected commodity—Value of trade

Section and Division of the SITC Revision 3	SEP QTR 2004 Exports $'000	SEP QTR 2004 Imports $'000	12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2003 Exports $'000	12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2003 Imports $'000	12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2004 Exports $'000	12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2004 Imports $'000
0 Food and live animals(a)	**890 175**	**64 866**	**2 937 873**	**239 422**	**3 536 579**	**256 699**
00 Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	88 475	22	444 594	17	355 788	107
01 Meat and meat preparations	93 202	7 121	308 029	12 163	390 315	19 330
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	20 677	5 872	77 741	14 794	81 638	22 907
03 Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	53 142	17 516	424 876	76 564	356 039	72 953
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	575 925	7 213	1 383 246	22 794	2 113 296	23 526
05 Vegetables and fruit	31 307	12 608	124 642	52 627	109 067	54 155
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	1 025	2 710	5 574	8 899	4 244	9 380
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	360	3 360	4 181	11 082	998	9 656
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excluding unmilled cereals)	23 449	1 114	147 971	10 272	113 476	9 812
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	2 613	7 330	17 019	30 210	11 717	34 873
1 Beverages and tobacco(a)	**12 122**	**8 457**	**48 755**	**34 563**	**48 452**	**31 495**
11 Beverages	12 122	8 446	48 670	34 428	48 433	31 395
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	—	11	85	135	18	101
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels(a)	**2 138 016**	**32 023**	**6 834 190**	**116 821**	**7 559 801**	**130 067**
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	9 893	4	20 429	53	25 238	4
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	40 595	303	163 422	1 267	240 333	1 544
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	6	484	56	2 371	84	2 404
24 Cork and wood	5 743	7 380	73 090	22 606	34 555	25 016
25 Pulp and waste paper	3 105	788	9 967	2 710	11 365	2 982
26 Textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	117 417	987	510 908	2 010	509 600	3 026
27 Crude fertilisers (excluding those of Division 56) and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	20 342	15 573	81 509	52 501	76 012	56 996
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	1 934 104	3 611	5 955 003	11 206	6 639 406	20 835
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	6 811	2 892	19 805	22 099	23 206	17 259
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials(a)	**2 227 105**	**501 747**	**7 895 241**	**1 749 714**	**6 855 838**	**1 798 743**
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	51	207	891	1 196	263	940
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	1 373 992	501 537	4 837 443	1 748 502	4 165 853	1 797 751
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	853 062	3	3 056 908	16	2 689 722	52
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes(a)	**5 567**	**5 819**	**17 783**	**19 946**	**26 117**	**20 398**
41 Animal oils and fats	5 475	31	17 319	174	22 978	122
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	3	5 532	64	19 345	2 765	19 220
43 Fats and oils (processed), waxes and inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	89	257	400	427	374	1 056
5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.(a)	**222 035**	**179 731**	**945 444**	**907 996**	**919 666**	**872 401**
51 Organic chemicals	633	22 972	800	140 329	1 964	167 360
52 Inorganic chemicals	44 525	14 308	216 579	50 478	220 450	54 346
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	115 580	2 516	411 541	10 613	425 071	10 438
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	44 840	56 501	270 140	245 122	224 611	173 296
55 Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	1 440	3 727	4 761	15 086	5 496	18 263
56 Fertilisers (excluding crude)	1 929	38 870	12 731	263 078	4 830	269 832
57 Plastics in primary forms	2 861	8 175	7 900	38 296	11 130	30 317
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	7 543	18 706	10 647	50 920	17 365	70 131
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	2 685	13 956	10 346	94 076	8 749	78 417
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(a)	**253 017**	**371 842**	**1 466 067**	**1 476 868**	**1 270 319**	**1 422 927**
61 Leather, leather manufactures, and dressed furskins, n.e.s.	1 795	1 800	28 031	12 581	12 822	7 907
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	4 785	62 368	11 282	245 002	13 247	235 454
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	1 717	14 300	9 382	51 084	6 674	56 775
64 Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	944	18 275	3 216	92 581	4 828	86 244
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	2 733	28 919	12 624	113 738	12 879	102 979
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	41 109	54 688	176 596	207 406	180 199	199 029
67 Iron and steel	10 627	74 841	323 291	334 386	283 168	267 142
68 Non-ferrous metals	170 451	36 466	812 288	135 872	701 255	179 363
69 Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	18 856	80 186	89 356	284 219	55 247	288 034

25 EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, By selected commodity—Value of trade *continued*

	SEP QTR 2004		12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2003		12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2004	
	Exports	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*
Section and Division of the SITC Revision 3	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
7 Machinery and transport equipment(a)	**121 827**	**1 360 530**	**664 147**	**3 863 998**	**457 082**	**4 540 671**
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	11 740	111 887	69 462	289 723	43 807	378 531
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	44 631	225 516	127 934	655 860	142 916	796 541
73 Metal working machinery	1 051	9 098	6 210	35 321	2 604	39 117
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.	25 467	252 213	83 125	607 212	100 515	701 867
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	4 117	101 834	17 115	354 265	10 935	347 514
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	6 087	44 974	23 235	154 846	26 619	153 631
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (including non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	12 113	67 358	51 177	237 620	41 004	233 329
78 Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	6 420	471 009	41 527	1 387 694	22 910	1 675 198
79 Transport equipment (excluding road vehicles)	10 200	76 641	244 361	141 455	65 771	214 943
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles(a)	**46 478**	**238 370**	**106 970**	**661 047**	**152 616**	**873 080**
81 Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	1 492	9 644	2 869	23 621	3 771	30 706
82 Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	2 951	58 132	18 765	142 128	14 795	187 588
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	26	3 807	142	10 766	208	12 711
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	585	20 869	1 691	64 300	2 052	72 427
85 Footwear	488	13 647	649	35 154	2 235	38 775
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	25 524	60 284	37 637	153 961	72 372	188 109
88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	420	4 403	6 003	13 399	1 678	14 195
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	14 991	67 584	39 214	217 718	55 505	328 568
9 Commodities and transactions n.e.c. in the SITC(a)	**3 167 392**	**564 267**	**11 354 429**	**2 909 725**	**12 676 099**	**2 269 058**
93 Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	11 076	374	33 985	2 743	43 785	1 412
95 Gold coin whether or not legal tender, and other coin being legal tender	26 308	1 126	81 001	3 030	93 723	3 414
96 Coin (excluding gold coin), not being legal tender	21	8	92	105	21	199
97 Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)	1 370 951	478 492	5 381 106	2 518 786	5 551 111	1 922 961
98 Combined confidential items excluding some of SITC 280 (exports only) and some of SITCs 510 and 520 (imports only)	1 759 036	84 267	5 858 245	385 061	6 987 460	341 073
Total Trade(a)	**9 083 734**	**3 327 652**	**32 270 898**	**11 980 100**	**33 502 569**	**12 215 539**

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

26 EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, By selected trading partner—Value of trade

	SEP QTR 2004		12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2003		12 MTHS ENDED SEP 2004	
	Exports	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*
Trading partner	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)						
Brunei Darussalam	1 683	46	6 474	35 758	6 937	74
Cambodia	354	99	8 304	111	3 498	115
Indonesia	296 768	250 119	716 685	1 665 619	1 091 577	1 108 440
Laos	4 993	2	10 612	5	14 141	8
Malaysia	108 132	141 243	261 179	383 076	369 588	595 657
Myanmar	3 056	463	5 445	3 719	9 601	2 861
Philippines	17 737	6 069	186 049	13 567	127 089	24 198
Singapore	291 253	245 839	1 654 407	660 531	1 230 274	920 916
Thailand	158 325	95 673	594 574	400 710	688 338	443 114
Viet Nam	60 274	31 612	87 007	296 639	148 667	129 865
Total(a)	*942 575*	*771 165*	*3 530 738*	*3 459 735*	*3 689 710*	*3 225 245*
European Union (EU)						
Austria	4 021	28 764	8 405	98 359	7 820	89 044
Belgium	70,268	15,924	43,481	14,323	269,603	85,055
Cyprus	192	73	1 673	211	886	210
Czech Republic	774	1 499	14 471	7 191	14 932	6 810
Denmark	2 657	10 941	8 212	35 964	7 397	38 610
Estonia	4	329	6	216	32	512
Finland	114 574	22 668	416 105	90 462	511 607	106 035
France	28 451	29 864	197 113	191 228	164 291	142 548
Germany	34 451	138 896	202 593	471 667	180 784	543 718
Greece	187	3 492	1 637	13 065	2 071	15 290
Hungary	1 159	1 104	6 304	4 605	4 691	6 217
Ireland	687	7 945	2 183	19 832	3 598	46 959
Italy	51 979	127 668	270 292	527 656	240 607	400 169
Latvia	12	51	2 210	105	728	114
Lithuania	1 112	175	5 710	593	2 841	500
Luxembourg	—	—	—	—	4	170
Malta	12	38	1 096	128	891	146
Netherlands	87 962	28 744	357 482	86 060	388 224	85 622
Poland	90	12 050	1 240	6 064	612	15 583
Portugal	2 166	947	3 705	7 592	6 719	3 613
Slovakia	—	119	—	828	—	702
Slovenia	736	817	4 336	3 301	2 818	3 136
Spain	86 223	41 152	206 369	82 675	283 757	120 864
Sweden	1 379	35 574	8 322	151 618	10 764	136 106
United Kingdom	745 580	82 188	3 258 414	335 847	1 835 292	331 474
Total(a)	*1,234,674*	*591,023*	*5,021,359*	*2,149,589*	*3,940,970*	*2,179,207*
Other Countries						
Canada	204 019	72 903	691 755	140 030	917 403	204 485
China	1 289 131	203 493	4 247 963	577 530	4 640 469	662 492
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	70 616	9 428	454 906	106 433	277 509	121 949
India	496 328	55 743	845 899	87 387	2 962 019	135 089
Iraq	63 656	—	74 985	36 578	145 554	—
Japan	2 141 891	436 945	7 732 744	1 335 385	7 268 037	1 392 016
Korea, Republic of	857 661	88 724	3 288 262	639 806	3 304 527	472 589
New Zealand	316 265	102 338	456 065	388 366	688 157	417 127
Saudi Arabia	15 483	124 025	228 141	169 992	252 863	359 124
South Africa	217 607	50 667	689 480	167 798	841 638	195 415
Switzerland	5 252	11 899	78 924	75 730	30 445	42 074
Taiwan	216 421	58 566	933 167	161 366	809 627	230 529
United Arab Emirates	206 945	79 930	416 397	333 885	520 699	198 596
United States of America	322 037	443 755	1 953 737	1 170 942	1 329 865	1 509 429
All other countries	483,172	227,049	1,626,376	979,548	1,883,078	870,174
Total(a)	*6,906,485*	*1,965,465*	*23,718,801*	*6,370,777*	*25,871,889*	*6,811,087*
Total Trade(a)	**9 083 734**	**3 327 652**	**32 270 898**	**11 980 100**	**33 502 569**	**12 215 539**

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

27 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

	METALLIC MINERALS						NON-METALLIC MINERALS					
	Base metals(a)								*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend*	*Original*
	Copper	*Silver, lead, zinc*	*Nickel, cobalt*	*Total*	*Gold*	*Other*(b)(d)	*Diamonds*	*Other*(c)(d)	*Total minerals*(e)	*Total minerals*(e)	*Total minerals*(e)	*Total petroleum*
Reference period	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2001–2002	4.4	10.5	47.1	62.1	238.1	15.9	np	1.5	381.1	382.2	386.3	479.8
2002–2003	np	np	54.1	72.5	265.6	9.0	17.7	3.9	423.6	424.4	414.8	598.3
2003–2004	np	np	70.6	80.0	276.7	11.6	17.0	5.2	465.8	465.7	467.4	670.5
2003												
June	np	np	17.7	24.0	67.2	2.0	3.8	1.0	111.6	106.1	106.5	151.3
September	0.3	2.6	12.9	15.7	68.0	3.0	4.9	0.5	108.5	105.3	107.1	177.9
December	np	np	20.0	23.3	66.4	3.9	5.8	2.0	122.0	112.6	110.5	188.2
2004												
March	0.7	0.7	14.3	15.8	59.3	1.9	2.7	1.3	96.5	115.5	119.4	106.9
June	1.2	0.6	23.4	25.2	83.0	2.8	3.5	1.4	138.8	132.3	130.4	197.5
September	np	0.7	28.7	30.0	73.9	4.2	4.6	0.6	147.9	143.1	141.7	182.1

(a) From September Quarter 2000, the 'base metals' category was split to show separate exploration for the component minerals. Prior to this, the three categories were reported as a 'total' figure.

(b) 'Other metallic minerals' may include minerals such as titanium, tantalum and niobium.

(c) 'Other non-metallic minerals' may include minerals such as phosphate, bauxite and talc.

(d) The 'other' category excludes tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram and other construction materials.

(e) Total includes minerals not listed (does not include petroleum).

Source: ABS data available on request, *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia,* cat. no. 8412.0.

28 MINERAL PRODUCTION: **Original**

	Iron ore(a)	*Bauxite*	*Gold*(b)	*Ilmenite*	*Nickel*	*Salt*(c)	*Tin*	*Zinc*(d)	*Diamonds*
Reference period	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 carats
2001–2002	179 937	36 476	186	1 721	205	8 475	686	254	30 562
2002–2003	193 251	36 567	190	1 911	183	9 607	602	246	31 901
2003–2004	216 609	38 072	r173	1 789	185	9 865	487	91	24 292
2003									
June	51 066	9 195	50	441	46	2 481	133	60	6 019
September	52 757	9 579	47	459	51	2 156	147	50	9 704
December	56 735	9 607	46	457	49	2 680	111	15	8 307
2004									
March	50 832	9 743	r41	429	45	2 346	114	17	3 612
June	56 285	9 143	r39	444	39	2 684	116	8	2 669
September	p59 718	p9 629	p43	p465	p47	p2 514	p81	p13	p5 328

(a) For use in iron and steel making.

(b) Gold content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined and unrefined bullion.

(c) Sales.

(d) Zinc content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined zinc, zinc powders, flakes and dust.

Source: ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics*.

29 ENERGY PRODUCTION: **Original**

Reference period	Coal '000 tonnes	Electricity generated million kWh	Crude oil(a) megalitres	Natural gas(b) million m^3
2001–2002	6 164	18 699	19 756	18 560
2002–2003	6 323	20 001	19 428	20 179
2003–2004	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2003				
June	1 549	4 951	4 614	5 096
September	1 494	5 102	4 749	5 418
December	1 389	5 203	4 214	4 997
2004				
March	1 546	5 583	4 098	4 861
June	1 555	5 032	4 052	r5 285
September	1 524	5 279	p4 261	p6 257

(a) Includes condensate.

(b) Commercial sales plus field and plant usage.

Source: Department of Industry and Resources; ABS data available on request, *Manufacturing Production, Australia,* cat. no. 8301.0; ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics*.

30 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND RED MEAT PRODUCED(a): **All series**

	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b)					RED MEAT PRODUCED(c)				
	Cattle(d)	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Beef*	*Veal*	*Mutton*	*Lamb*	*Pig meat*
Quarter	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
ORIGINAL										
2003										
June	94 832	1 293	290 457	514 902	176 389	22 650	77	5 797	10 296	12 058
September	102 230	1 269	274 672	501 038	170 572	24 687	80	5 619	9 935	11 465
December	125 524	1 093	514 254	628 980	162 318	32 363	60	10 456	12 439	10 691
2004										
March	121 729	1 253	604 094	598 723	167 744	31 198	63	12 086	11 592	11 252
June	113 433	1 078	452 366	663 028	173 785	28 307	55	8 932	13 246	11 781
September	121 973	1 195	479 083	577 740	170 582	30 219	63	9 617	11 183	11 533
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2003										
June	103 705	1 386	387 079	510 844	168 804	25 204	81	7 808	10 057	11 450
September	107 177	1 209	312 450	557 017	169 748	25 833	71	6 360	11 151	11 254
December	112 269	1 027	444 832	572 526	168 239	28 567	61	9 001	11 311	11 214
2004										
March	117 803	1 316	496 282	601 916	169 036	29 779	66	9 946	11 755	11 418
June	124 322	1 157	604 729	658 718	166 616	31 531	59	12 074	12 955	11 201
September	129 266	1 134	546 551	641 453	168 661	33 008	56	10 913	12 532	11 296
TREND ESTIMATES										
2003										
June	107 523	1 300	390 697	527 629	170 471	26 286	76	7 868	10 505	11 499
September	107 388	1 217	370 343	546 268	169 638	26 451	72	7 503	10 859	11 347
December	111 591	1 170	418 556	576 776	168 514	27 857	66	8 458	11 392	11 259
2004										
March	118 141	1 176	503 889	610 759	168 208	29 909	62	10 123	12 004	11 286
June	123 897	1 186	560 252	636 735	167 860	31 526	60	11 203	12 468	11 290
September	128 145	1 174	582 559	652 489	167 883	32 700	57	11 562	12 768	11 277

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.

(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.

(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.

(d) Excludes calves.

Source: Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0.

31 WOOL RECEIVALS AND LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS: **Original**

	RECEIVALS OF TAXABLE WOOL BY BROKERS AND DEALERS(a)...		EXPORTS OF LIVE SHEEP...		
	Bales	*Tonnes*	*Quantity*	*Gross value*	*Gross weight*
Reference period	'000	'000	'000	$'000	'000 tonnes
2001–2002	578 413	103.0	3 630.0	222 724	176.8
2002–2003	610 057	108.7	3 705.0	264 642	170.6
2003–2004	626 853	109.9	r2 732.2	r187 865	r129.9
2003					
June	87 436	15.5	561.1	40 433	25.3
September	152 108	27.0	659.4	48 520	30.8
December	169 849	30.1	772.0	53 958	38.5
2004					
March	188 669	33.1	796.1	52 650	37.4
June	116 227	19.7	r504.7	r32 737	r23.2
September	154 609	27.5	720.3	48 645	42.0

(a) Shows the amount of taxable wool received by brokers and purchased by dealers from wool producers. It excludes wool received by brokers on which tax has already been paid by other dealers (private buyers) or brokers.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Livestock Products, Australia,* cat. no. 7215.0; ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

32 WHEAT EXPORTS(a): **Original**

	Gross weight	*Gross value*
Reference period	'000 tonnes	$'000
2001–2002	4 976.8	1 328 069
2002–2003	5 081.5	1 415 256
2003–2004	r7 923.6	r1 784 855
2003		
June	1 341.5	343 830
September	1 349.8	314 434
December	1 878.5	419 405
2004		
March	r2 062.4	r450 973
June	2 633.0	r600 043
September	2 453.6	558 897

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

33 OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: **Original**

	LONG-TERM(a)			SHORT-TERM(b)		
	Permanent	*WA residents*	*Overseas visitors*	*WA residents*	*Overseas visitors*	*Total*
Reference period	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
			ARRIVALS			
2001–2002	10 954	9 886	17 805	393 052	451 297	882 994
2002–2003	12 279	10 900	19 436	373 829	460 534	876 977
2003–2004	15 411	10 854	19 705	428 853	483 472	958 294
2003						
July	1 347	800	2 988	36 239	35 982	77 356
August	1 435	736	1 115	34 357	32 508	70 151
September	1 351	883	1 104	36 812	41 127	81 277
October	1 090	847	1 455	41 104	48 567	93 063
November	1 302	1 050	914	31 200	44 672	79 138
December	1 339	1 802	903	25 427	59 431	88 902
2004						
January	1 421	1 003	2 749	49 680	39 680	94 533
February	1 133	795	4 182	33 653	43 006	82 769
March	1 226	813	1 210	32 090	43 065	78 404
April	1 239	754	1 257	36 148	38 387	77 785
May	1 161	639	815	33 871	27 612	64 098
June	1 367	732	1 013	38 272	29 435	70 818
July	1 171	867	3 136	50 150	35 675	90 998
August	1 405	805	1 196	44 407	32 758	80 571
September	1 370	758	1 103	45 727	35 558	84 516
			DEPARTURES			
2001–2002	4 972	9 915	6 451	388 729	450 283	860 350
2002–2003	5 430	9 253	6 730	372 625	450 453	844 492
2003–2004	6 223	8 987	8 223	454 236	455 540	933 208
2003						
July	454	760	646	36 324	30 830	69 014
August	548	794	576	35 539	32 400	69 857
September	405	539	495	35 633	33 886	70 958
October	397	507	456	32 104	37 746	71 210
November	429	585	864	30 080	42 019	73 976
December	504	790	1 298	47 994	44 034	94 619
2004						
January	862	1 284	748	36 767	51 234	90 895
February	513	748	476	31 771	35 013	68 521
March	573	788	675	38 069	42 768	82 874
April	571	860	562	41 328	42 650	85 970
May	526	736	574	44 003	30 122	75 961
June	441	596	853	44 624	32 838	79 353
July	543	762	815	50 367	28 799	81 286
August	580	838	581	42 469	35 270	79 738
September	397	548	513	43 092	29 694	74 244

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is 12 months or more.

(b) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is less than 12 months.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,* cat. no. 3401.0.

34 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF RESIDENTS(a): **Original**

Reference period	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Europe(b)	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Hong Kong(c)	Japan	United States	South Africa	Total(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS(e)												
2001–2002	7 867	43 124	24 847	8 622	22 501	40 952	6 402	6 397	26 292	3 718	5 034	207 257
2002–2003	7 617	53 002	28 207	8 899	21 822	40 301	5 110	5 097	27 338	4 015	3 451	217 963
2003–2004	8 797	56 304	29 185	8 680	30 401	36 268	6 601	5 236	28 069	4 504	4 678	231 194
2003												
July	910	3 222	2 275	752	2 176	1 941	280	225	1 419	468	186	15 360
August	491	2 510	2 318	577	2 257	2 225	773	551	2 607	537	207	16 154
September	748	3 570	2 767	905	4 189	3 998	488	303	3 536	228	379	22 044
October	1 147	8 254	3 256	462	3 072	3 230	879	505	2 720	103	1 606	26 407
November	388	5 011	2 964	1 211	3 798	4 403	359	239	2 351	398	336	22 311
December	1 207	7 519	4 321	1 083	2 843	5 593	510	736	2 628	680	616	29 328
2004												
January	336	6 247	2 613	403	1 544	1 808	234	559	2 272	268	111	17 697
February	423	6 412	2 773	553	1 261	1 489	320	254	2 645	436	155	17 509
March	591	5 530	2 158	799	2 139	2 628	769	367	2 700	370	354	19 337
April	696	4 170	1 407	556	2 335	2 138	1 097	889	2 049	344	349	16 919
May	826	1 931	1 209	481	2 495	2 618	547	216	2 042	388	159	13 557
June	1 034	1 928	1 124	898	2 292	4 197	345	392	1 100	284	220	14 571
July	483	3 113	2 381	781	1 423	1 542	319	380	2 435	259	244	14 735
August	1 339	2 134	2 171	335	2 376	2 125	535	327	3 402	385	261	16 322
September	1 444	3 316	2 402	433	1 796	2 486	351	251	3 158	93	322	16 582
RESIDENT DEPARTURES(f)												
2001–2002	15 105	17 089	13 056	63 430	13 149	21 035	21 940	4 485	1 221	4 851	2 010	195 481
2002–2003	17 611	18 322	12 903	46 601	11 924	15 180	21 561	3 163	801	6 864	2 726	178 145
2003–2004	21 171	21 134	18 510	75 729	12 503	16 150	18 945	4 025	1 572	9 885	1 900	225 882
2003												
July	2 592	2 893	2 383	5 240	884	1 848	1 343	88	82	776	173	19 945
August	1 441	1 464	1 777	5 331	563	1 670	1 336	296	73	483	110	16 584
September	1 454	2 323	2 326	5 330	517	1 089	2 123	438	5	415	307	18 364
October	927	1 010	469	5 103	1 034	820	2 407	440	22	619	80	15 080
November	1 366	471	776	4 938	911	1 324	872	184	163	388	227	12 986
December	3 125	2 259	1 528	6 565	1 763	1 774	1 792	642	381	1 418	339	24 607
2004												
January	2 195	702	656	7 282	1 100	2 013	1 292	94	387	623	240	18 653
February	1 462	935	329	5 854	1 199	855	1 527	80	85	541	—	14 340
March	2 558	1 137	574	7 064	1 201	977	1 178	162	5	831	153	17 861
April	2 377	2 174	1 423	6 636	986	1 250	2 043	869	189	1 123	179	21 981
May	1 001	3 285	2 616	7 754	1 062	1 164	1 676	383	151	1 059	92	22 652
June	673	2 481	3 653	8 632	1 283	1 366	1 356	349	29	1 609	—	22 829
July	3 231	2 807	2 534	9 880	1 735	2 406	3 101	680	199	1 261	261	30 582
August	2 343	2 391	1 717	8 541	1 319	1 567	2 299	162	143	865	10	23 421
September	1 595	1 895	1 607	7 156	1 059	1 590	2 678	431	99	566	322	22 404

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is less than 12 months.

(b) Excluding United Kingdom and Ireland.

(c) Special Administrative Region of China.

(d) Total includes countries not listed in table.

(e) Overseas visitor arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.

(f) Resident departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*, cat. no. 3401.0.

35 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION(a)(b): **Original**

Quarter	Establishments	Guest rooms	Room nights occupied	Room occupancy rate	Guest arrivals	Takings from accommodation
	no.	no.	'000	%	'000	$'000
2001–2002	320	19 081	3 753.0	53.7	2 724.5	382 238
2002–2003	345	19 989	4 038.8	56.6	2 862.0	424 340
2003–2004	341	20 219	4 324.9	58.2	3 100.3	471 710
2003						
March	333	19 797	1 008.3	59.3	749.5	106 419
June	345	19 989	987.8	54.3	682.0	104 182
September	345	20 185	1 105.1	59.7	794.8	119 710
December	343	20 491	1 114.8	59.3	787.7	123 681
2004						
March	342	20 531	1 078.8	57.8	785.9	117 613
June	341	20 219	1 026.2	55.8	731.9	110 705

(a) Includes hotels, motels, guest houses and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms.

(b) Break in time series between the March and June quarters 2003. See paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication: *Tourist Accommodation, Australia,* cat. no. 8635.0.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

36 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER), By sex: **Trend**

Month	EMPLOYED........................ Full–time '000	Total '000	Total unemployed '000	Total labour force '000	Participation rate %	Unemployment rate %
			MALES			
2003						
September	468.0	545.4	34.0	579.4	74.9	5.9
October	469.4	546.7	33.6	580.3	74.9	5.8
November	470.1	548.3	32.9	581.2	74.8	5.7
December	470.3	550.1	31.9	582.1	74.8	5.5
2004						
January	470.3	552.0	30.9	582.9	74.8	5.3
February	470.3	553.4	30.0	583.4	74.7	5.1
March	470.6	553.9	29.2	583.2	74.6	5.0
April	470.8	553.4	28.6	582.0	74.3	4.9
May	470.8	552.1	27.9	580.0	73.9	4.8
June	470.8	551.2	27.3	578.5	73.6	4.7
July	470.9	551.1	26.7	577.8	73.4	4.6
August	471.5	552.2	26.1	578.4	73.3	4.5
September	472.7	554.5	25.6	580.1	73.4	4.4
October	474.2	557.3	25.1	582.4	73.5	4.3
November	476.1	560.3	24.7	585.0	73.8	4.2
			FEMALES			
2003						
September	215.4	417.1	28.8	445.9	56.8	6.5
October	215.7	417.0	29.1	446.2	56.7	6.5
November	215.8	417.7	29.2	446.9	56.7	6.5
December	215.7	419.3	29.0	448.4	56.8	6.5
2004						
January	215.9	422.0	28.5	450.5	57.0	6.3
February	216.8	425.3	27.8	453.1	57.2	6.1
March	218.4	428.5	26.9	455.4	57.4	5.9
April	220.3	431.0	26.1	457.0	57.5	5.7
May	222.1	432.5	25.5	458.0	57.5	5.6
June	223.2	433.2	25.2	458.4	57.5	5.5
July	223.8	433.7	24.8	458.5	57.4	5.4
August	224.1	434.6	24.4	458.9	57.3	5.3
September	224.7	436.1	23.8	460.0	57.4	5.2
October	225.6	438.0	23.3	461.3	57.4	5.0
November	226.5	439.9	22.7	462.6	57.5	4.9
			PERSONS			
2003						
September	683.5	962.5	62.8	1 025.3	65.8	6.1
October	685.1	963.7	62.7	1 026.4	65.7	6.1
November	685.9	965.9	62.2	1 028.1	65.7	6.0
December	686.0	969.5	61.0	1 030.5	65.7	5.9
2004						
January	686.2	974.0	59.4	1 033.5	65.8	5.8
February	687.1	978.7	57.8	1 036.5	65.9	5.6
March	688.9	982.5	56.1	1 038.6	65.9	5.4
April	691.1	984.4	54.6	1 039.0	65.9	5.3
May	692.9	984.6	53.4	1 038.1	65.7	5.1
June	694.0	984.4	52.5	1 036.9	65.5	5.1
July	694.7	984.8	51.5	1 036.4	65.3	5.0
August	695.6	986.8	50.5	1 037.3	65.3	4.9
September	697.4	990.6	49.4	1 040.0	65.3	4.8
October	699.8	995.3	48.4	1 043.7	65.4	4.6
November	702.6	1 000.3	47.4	1 047.7	65.6	4.5

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

37 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER), By statistical region: **Original**

	2003				2004										
	Sep	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
CENTRAL METROPOLITAN															
Employed ('000)	65.0	65.0	64.1	68.8	65.0	67.3	66.0	68.2	70.1	70.7	71.2	66.8	66.1	67.3	65.5
Unemployed ('000)	3.7	5.3	3.4	3.5	4.3	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.9	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.6	0.6
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3	7.6	5.1	4.9	6.1	5.0	6.2	5.7	5.3	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.7	0.9
Participation rate (%)	65.1	66.6	64.0	68.4	65.3	66.8	66.2	68.0	69.4	68.1	68.6	64.2	63.4	65.0	61.4
EASTERN METROPOLITAN															
Employed ('000)	120.0	120.0	122.9	123.1	120.7	119.4	120.2	123.2	122.5	122.8	120.8	120.3	127.1	127.7	132.8
Unemployed ('000)	8.3	7.1	8.5	6.8	7.7	9.6	8.6	6.8	4.8	5.2	3.1	4.2	5.8	5.8	5.2
Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	5.6	6.5	5.2	6.0	7.5	6.7	5.2	3.8	4.1	2.5	3.3	4.3	4.3	3.8
Participation rate (%)	65.5	64.7	66.8	65.9	65.1	65.3	65.0	65.5	64.1	64.3	62.1	62.3	66.4	66.6	68.7
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN															
Employed ('000)	214.2	218.7	218.6	218.9	213.0	217.6	220.7	221.0	222.0	216.8	216.6	220.0	222.0	227.4	226.8
Unemployed ('000)	14.0	11.0	12.9	14.5	14.9	14.4	11.2	9.9	11.6	12.3	11.7	12.0	13.1	13.7	12.1
Unemployment rate (%)	6.1	4.8	5.6	6.2	6.5	6.2	4.8	4.3	5.0	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.1
Participation rate (%)	66.0	66.4	66.7	67.2	65.5	66.5	66.4	66.0	66.6	65.3	64.9	65.8	66.5	68.1	67.4
SOUTH WEST METROPOLITAN															
Employed ('000)	139.7	139.8	144.7	149.9	149.1	145.7	145.7	146.7	149.9	147.3	146.7	146.4	148.7	149.6	151.4
Unemployed ('000)	10.9	9.0	7.7	9.9	8.6	9.6	7.7	8.9	9.7	7.3	7.8	6.9	8.0	6.5	6.2
Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	6.0	5.0	6.2	5.4	6.2	5.0	5.7	6.1	4.7	5.0	4.5	5.1	4.2	3.9
Participation rate (%)	62.4	61.5	62.9	65.8	64.9	63.8	62.9	63.7	65.2	63.0	62.9	62.3	63.5	63.1	63.7
SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN															
Employed ('000)	162.3	163.1	163.9	173.5	168.2	171.7	167.6	172.4	170.6	167.9	166.8	164.1	169.3	169.0	169.9
Unemployed ('000)	14.1	12.0	10.8	10.3	10.8	10.6	10.5	7.7	8.6	8.4	9.1	11.6	10.2	8.6	9.3
Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	6.9	6.2	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.9	4.3	4.8	4.7	5.2	6.6	5.7	4.8	5.2
Participation rate (%)	66.1	65.5	65.2	68.5	66.6	67.7	66.1	66.7	66.3	65.1	64.8	64.6	65.8	65.1	65.6
LOWER WESTERN WA															
Employed ('000)	129.2	127.2	127.7	128.1	124.5	124.7	125.8	123.0	121.6	120.8	121.8	124.3	125.7	132.2	131.4
Unemployed ('000)	7.9	9.3	9.2	9.0	12.3	10.8	8.4	10.1	7.4	8.7	7.2	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.6
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	9.0	8.0	6.2	7.6	5.7	6.7	5.6	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.1
Participation rate (%)	63.2	62.8	62.9	62.8	62.6	61.9	61.1	60.6	58.6	58.7	58.3	58.7	59.3	61.9	61.6
REMAINDER – BALANCE WA															
Employed ('000)	127.1	129.4	128.3	130.6	124.2	127.8	131.0	133.7	133.6	133.3	130.2	129.1	130.2	132.9	133.1
Unemployed ('000)	6.5	5.5	6.4	5.7	8.0	6.8	7.4	6.1	7.4	6.7	5.3	5.7	6.4	5.1	3.1
Unemployment rate (%)	4.9	4.1	4.7	4.2	6.1	5.1	5.3	4.4	5.3	4.8	3.9	4.3	4.7	3.7	2.3
Participation rate (%)	71.5	72.1	71.8	72.5	70.3	71.4	73.3	74.0	74.5	73.8	71.3	70.8	71.5	72.2	71.1

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

38 EMPLOYED PERSONS, By industry and sex: **Original**

Industry	2003 August '000	2003 November '000	2004 February '000	2004 May '000	2004 August '000	2004 November '000
MALES						
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	34.8	34.9	32.3	33.5	31.2	31.9
Mining	25.2	29.1	34.6	37.6	28.8	29.4
Manufacturing	71.1	67.6	70.4	72.4	72.8	74.0
Electricity, gas and water supply	6.4	4.7	6.4	7.1	7.2	7.6
Construction	73.2	75.4	72.3	70.7	71.9	75.3
Wholesale trade	30.1	31.2	35.2	37.2	34.4	35.8
Retail trade	77.0	75.4	77.7	67.8	71.2	74.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	16.5	13.4	14.1	16.0	16.9	19.6
Transport and storage	31.2	34.7	34.0	31.4	31.4	27.7
Communication services	10.4	10.2	8.2	8.0	9.2	10.1
Finance and insurance	10.6	11.4	13.0	12.8	12.0	11.0
Property and business services	60.9	66.2	62.6	61.0	59.1	62.4
Government administration and defence	17.4	19.8	15.8	17.9	17.9	21.5
Education	23.5	23.2	20.5	23.5	20.9	21.2
Health and community services	19.6	21.0	20.5	20.2	20.8	24.6
Cultural and recreational services	9.8	11.7	12.2	11.3	10.6	9.8
Personal and other services	20.5	18.0	24.0	27.2	26.2	28.8
Total	**538.2**	**547.8**	**553.7**	**555.7**	**542.5**	**565.4**
FEMALES						
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	14.8	14.6	15.0	12.8	12.1	13.4
Mining	5.3	6.7	6.5	9.1	8.0	8.3
Manufacturing	22.6	20.3	18.2	19.7	24.2	26.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	1.3	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.6	1.6
Construction	11.5	10.1	10.3	9.9	11.7	15.5
Wholesale trade	12.9	13.6	14.8	15.4	16.6	14.0
Retail trade	70.7	77.2	73.5	82.3	80.8	80.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	26.3	24.0	25.8	24.5	20.8	25.7
Transport and storage	9.0	8.1	10.4	10.3	14.4	11.4
Communication services	5.6	4.5	4.8	4.2	3.6	6.3
Finance and insurance	14.1	14.9	13.4	16.0	16.1	15.0
Property and business services	50.4	55.6	50.7	48.4	51.8	50.7
Government administration and defence	19.7	20.2	16.9	18.7	19.9	22.4
Education	50.7	51.8	50.8	53.7	47.2	46.7
Health and community services	72.8	73.1	75.8	79.2	69.2	73.8
Cultural and recreational services	10.1	9.9	12.3	11.1	10.9	12.0
Personal and other services	19.7	17.2	20.1	18.5	20.6	22.0
Total	**417.5**	**422.4**	**420.4**	**434.5**	**428.5**	**445.6**
PERSONS						
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	49.6	49.5	47.3	46.3	43.3	45.4
Mining	30.5	35.8	41.1	46.7	36.8	37.7
Manufacturing	93.8	87.9	88.5	92.1	97.0	100.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	7.7	5.4	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.2
Construction	84.7	85.5	82.6	80.6	83.6	90.8
Wholesale trade	42.9	44.8	50.0	52.5	51.0	49.8
Retail trade	147.7	152.7	151.2	150.1	152.0	155.0
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	42.8	37.4	39.9	40.5	37.7	45.3
Transport and storage	40.3	42.8	44.4	41.7	45.8	39.2
Communication services	16.0	14.6	13.1	12.3	12.8	16.4
Finance and insurance	24.7	26.3	26.4	28.8	28.1	26.0
Property and business services	111.3	121.8	113.3	109.4	110.9	113.1
Government administration and defence	37.1	40.0	32.7	36.6	37.8	43.9
Education	74.2	75.0	71.3	77.2	68.1	67.9
Health and community services	92.3	94.1	96.3	99.3	90.1	98.4
Cultural and recreational services	19.9	21.6	24.5	22.4	21.5	21.8
Personal and other services	40.2	35.2	44.1	45.7	46.7	50.8
Total	**955.7**	**970.2**	**974.1**	**990.2**	**971.0**	**1 011.0**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

39 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYEES(a): **Original**

	FULL-TIME WORKERS			PART-TIME WORKERS		
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*
Reference period	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2001–2002	r42.8	37.7	r41.2	r15.8	r15.4	r15.5
2002–2003	43.5	38.4	41.9	15.9	15.6	15.7
2003–2004	r42.6	37.7	r41.1	r15.5	r15.6	r15.6
2003						
September	43.5	39.5	42.3	15.1	16.1	15.8
October	40.0	33.8	38.0	15.2	13.4	13.9
November	44.9	40.6	43.6	16.0	16.6	16.4
December	45.5	40.7	44.0	16.4	17.0	16.9
2004						
January	38.5	32.8	36.7	14.9	13.5	13.9
February	44.6	39.6	43.1	15.8	16.7	16.4
March	41.7	37.4	40.4	15.8	15.9	15.9
April	36.8	32.9	35.6	14.9	14.1	14.3
May	45.0	39.9	43.4	16.1	16.8	16.6
June	42.5	37.8	41.0	15.5	15.3	15.3
July	42.2	37.5	40.7	14.9	15.3	15.2
August	44.1	39.9	42.7	16.7	16.6	16.6
September	44.0	39.5	42.5	15.5	15.6	15.6
October	40.4	34.4	38.4	15.4	13.9	14.4
November	45.5	40.1	43.7	16.1	16.6	16.5

(a) Persons who worked one hour or more in the reference week.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

40 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES(a) AND HOURS WORKED, By occupation—November Quarter 2004

	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED		
				August Quarter 2004 to November Quarter 2004	*November Quarter 2003 to November Quarter 2004*
Occupation	'000	'000	no.	% change	% change
Managers and administrators	59.5	2 767.3	46.5	1.9	–1.9
Professionals	150.6	5 488.5	36.4	–2.2	–1.3
Associate professionals	107.0	4 116.0	38.5	0.6	–2.8
Tradespersons and related workers	101.6	4 117.5	40.5	2.4	–0.4
Advanced clerical and service workers	28.9	784.9	27.1	–11.6	–13.4
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	149.9	4 650.2	31.0	0.8	4.3
Intermediate production and transport workers	79.7	3 270.6	41.0	4.4	2.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	92.6	2 252.0	24.3	2.6	–4.4
Labourers and related workers	82.0	2 548.5	31.1	6.5	2.9
All occupations	**851.8**	**29 995.4**	**35.2**	**1.7**	**0.1**

(a) Persons who worked one hour or more in the reference week.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

41 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES

	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
Reference period	*Full–time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full–time adult total earnings*	*All males total earnings*	*Full–time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full–time adult total earnings*	*All females total earnings*	*Full–time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full–time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*
				ANNUAL AVERAGE *($ per week)*					
2001–2002	923.0	974.9	821.1	732.2	742.4	491.5	855.4	892.6	659.3
2002–2003	964.7	1 016.6	845.2	751.4	763.6	511.0	893.7	932.3	690.7
2003–2004	1 023.1	1 080.2	912.8	788.4	800.1	532.0	943.0	984.6	731.3
				QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL *($ per week)*					
2003									
February	994.7	1 049.9	871.8	758.1	768.6	517.5	915.3	955.5	707.2
May	1 015.0	1 067.3	892.6	777.7	788.3	529.0	933.8	971.8	720.9
August	1 015.6	1 071.7	911.2	783.9	795.4	525.3	936.7	977.7	724.8
November									
2004	1 022.4	1 083.3	917.0	797.6	809.7	539.3	946.3	990.7	739.1
February	1 039.3	1 098.5	930.4	794.4	806.8	534.2	955.0	998.1	740.2
May	1 046.8	1 109.2	937.6	802.9	815.2	544.8	964.9	1 010.5	752.8
				QUARTERLY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED *($ per week)*					
2003									
February	993.0	1 047.1	869.8	761.5	771.9	522.1	916.8	954.8	705.7
May	1 012.1	1 066.1	896.3	777.4	788.7	528.8	930.7	971.0	721.7
August	1 016.0	1 071.0	910.2	783.5	794.2	529.7	936.0	976.4	727.8
November									
2004	1 026.7	1 088.2	916.2	794.9	807.2	530.3	948.7	993.6	737.1
February	1 037.4	1 095.5	928.2	798.1	810.3	539.0	956.5	997.4	738.4
May	1 043.8	1 108.0	941.8	802.4	815.3	544.6	961.8	1 009.7	753.6
				QUARTERLY, TREND *($ per week)*					
2003									
February	989.7	1 042.3	869.6	762.0	773.1	520.6	912.7	950.9	704.8
May	1 007.8	1 062.4	892.3	774.4	785.1	526.7	928.2	968.0	718.8
August	1 019.3	1 075.7	908.7	785.5	796.7	530.0	939.4	980.7	728.9
November									
2004	1 027.1	1 085.7	918.7	792.7	804.6	533.0	947.4	990.0	735.4
February	1 035.9	1 096.7	928.9	798.4	810.8	537.9	955.6	999.6	742.4
May	1 045.0	1 108.1	939.5	803.5	816.2	543.3	963.3	1 009.4	749.8

Source: Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, cat. no. 6302.0.

42 UNEMPLOYMENT AND PARTICIPATION RATES, By age: **Original**

	15–24 YEARS		25–54 YEARS		55 YEARS AND OVER	
	Unemployment rate	*Participation rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Participation rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Participation rate*
Month	%	%	%	%	%	%
2003						
September	12.8	69.6	4.8	81.7	5.1	30.3
October	11.5	70.9	4.4	81.0	4.1	30.3
November	11.6	68.3	4.6	81.5	3.1	32.2
December	12.9	75.5	4.0	81.8	2.7	31.9
2004						
January	15.7	75.3	4.2	79.8	3.0	30.8
February	14.6	72.0	4.6	81.0	2.4	32.2
March	12.2	70.2	r4.3	81.2	2.7	31.6
April	11.0	72.7	3.9	80.8	2.7	32.2
May	10.8	71.3	3.9	81.0	2.9	32.7
June	10.3	69.7	3.7	79.9	3.2	32.5
July	9.6	69.8	3.4	79.3	3.0	31.0
August	10.4	68.4	3.5	79.4	2.3	31.0
September	9.9	71.1	3.9	80.1	2.8	32.3
October	9.1	72.8	3.4	80.9	3.2	32.4
November	7.6	71.1	3.1	81.2	3.3	32.5

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia.* cat. no. 6202.0.

43 DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT: **Original**

	NUMBER OF PERSONS UNEMPLOYED SINCE LAST FULL-TIME JOB			NUMBER OF PERSONS UNEMPLOYED SINCE LAST EMPLOYMENT		
	Under 52 weeks	*52 weeks and over*	*Total persons*	*Under 52 weeks*	*52 weeks and over*	*Total persons*
Month	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
2003						
September	51.7	13.7	65.4	52.4	13.0	65.4
October	47.0	12.3	59.2	47.4	11.9	59.2
November	47.8	11.1	58.9	48.8	10.1	58.9
December	50.5	9.3	59.8	51.3	8.5	59.8
2004						
January	53.6	13.0	66.5	53.7	12.8	66.5
February	54.4	10.9	65.3	55.8	9.5	65.3
March	48.2	9.8	58.0	48.3	9.7	58.0
April	44.5	9.2	53.8	45.2	8.6	53.8
May	44.3	9.2	53.5	44.7	8.8	53.5
June	42.1	8.3	50.4	42.6	7.8	50.4
July	38.9	7.5	46.4	39.1	7.3	46.4
August	40.2	7.9	48.1	40.5	7.6	48.1
September	42.2	9.0	51.3	42.4	8.8	51.3
October	39.6	8.0	47.6	39.6	8.0	47.6
November	35.5	6.5	42.1	36.1	6.0	42.1

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

44 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: **Original**

Reference period	Number of disputes	Number of employees involved	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	no.	'000	'000	no.
2001	73	12.0	25.0	32.0
2002	105	16.1	32.2	40.0
2003	131	53.3	79.3	96.0
2003				
June	23	3.0	4.2	5.2
September	40	16.3	28.8	36.0
December	45	29.8	41.2	50.7
2004				
March	32	5.3	r14.7	r17.7
June	r43	r12.4	r15.7	r18.5
September	31	3.9	16.6	20.6

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes, Australia,* cat. no. 6321.0.55.001.

45 JOB VACANCIES, By sector: **Original**

Reference period	Job vacancies	Public sector	Private sector
	'000	'000	'000
2003			
May	7.8	1.4	6.4
August	7.4	1.2	6.2
November	9.0	1.2	7.8
2004			
February	10.2	0.9	9.4
May	10.5	1.0	*9.5
August	12.4	1.0	11.4
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*			
2003			
May	–35.2	4.4	–40.2
August	–4.7	–11.2	–3.3
November	21.3	–3.5	26.3
2004			
February	14.1	–26.3	20.3
May	2.9	16.5	1.6
August	17.5	–3.6	19.8

Source: Job Vacancies, Australia, cat. no. 6354.0.

46 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

At end of reference period	*Males* no.	*Females* no.	*Persons* no.
2001–2002	963 418	961 135	1 924 553
2002–2003	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
2003–2004	992 452	989 752	1 982 204
2001	957 552	955 721	1 913 273
2002	968 719	966 547	1 935 266
2003	984 339	982 071	1 966 410
2003			
March	973 163	970 619	1 943 782
June	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
September	980 297	977 695	1 957 992
December	984 339	982 071	1 966 410
2004			
March	989 212	986 572	1 975 784
June	992 452	989 752	1 982 204

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Australian Demographic Statistics,* cat. no. 3101.0.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

47 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	*Natural increase* no.	*Net overseas migration(b)* no.	*Interstate arrivals* no.	*Interstate departures* no.	*Net interstate migration* no.	*Total population growth(c)* no.
2001–2002	12 809	14 970	30 245	34 419	–4 385	23 394
2002–2003	12 630	15 575	30 898	33 708	–2 810	25 395
2003–2004	13 838	17 146	32 297	31 025	1 272	32 256
2001	13 315	16 347	29 723	33 471	–3 834	25 615
2002	12 566	13 658	29 869	34 100	–4 231	21 993
2003	12 732	18 785	31 825	32 198	–373	31 144
2003						
March	3 297	5 717	8 276	8 692	–498	8 516
June	3 337	3 042	7 719	7 932	–213	6 166
September	3 114	4 709	7 353	7 132	221	8 044
December	2 984	5 317	8 830	8 713	117	8 418
2004						
March	3 881	5 013	8 123	7 643	480	9 374
June	3 859	2 107	7 991	7 537	454	6 420

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Australian Demographic Statistics,* cat. no. 3101.0.

(b) May include an adjustment for 'category jumping'. Category jumping is the term used to describe changes between intended and actual duration of stay of travellers to and from Australia, such that their classification as short-term or as long-term/permanent movers is different at arrival from that at departure.

(c) Differences between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net migration during 1996–2001 are due to intercensal discrepancy.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

48 REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS(a)

Reference period	Live births(b)(c) no.	Live births(b)(c) rate	Infant deaths(b)(d) no.	Infant deaths(b)(d) rate	Total deaths(b)(c) no.	Total deaths(b)(c) rate
2001–2002	23 967	12.5	94	3.9	11 158	5.8
2002–2003	23 791	12.2	79	3.3	11 161	5.7
2003–2004	25 230	12.7	97	3.8	11 392	5.7
2001	24 235	12.7	102	4.2	10 920	5.7
2002	23 782	12.3	90	3.8	11 216	5.8
2003	24 103	12.3	99	4.1	11 371	5.8
2003						
March	5 908	12.2	17	2.9	2 611	5.4
June	6 018	12.4	22	3.7	2 681	5.5
September	6 214	12.7	23	3.7	3 100	6.3
December	5 963	12.2	37	6.2	2 979	6.1
2004						
March	6 520	13.2	15	2.3	2 639	5.4
June	6 533	13.2	22	3.4	2 674	5.4

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Australian Demographic Statistics,* cat. no. 3101.0.

(b) With the exception of preliminary data, estimates of births and deaths are included by state or territory of usual residence and year of occurrence. For preliminary estimates, births and deaths are included by state or territory of usual residence and year of registration.

(c) For financial and calendar years the rate is per 1,000 estimated resident population at 31 December and 30 June respectively. For quarters the rate is per 1,000 of the average of the previous and current quarterly populations.

(d) For infant deaths the rate is per 1,000 live births.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

49 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b), By statistical region

Selected offences	2003 June	2003 September	2003 December	2004 March	2004 June	2004 September
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
CENTRAL METROPOLITAN						
Homicide(c)	2	2	1	1	—	—
Assault(d)	426	411	463	519	468	464
Robbery(e)	96	69	81	90	67	65
Burglary(f)	1 270	1 060	962	975	825	846
Theft	3 181	3 014	3 061	2 768	2 243	2 372
Steal motor vehicle	285	284	254	210	175	203
Property damage	904	1 018	965	850	730	815
Graffiti(g)	577	460	621	723	676	745
Drugs	388	315	260	314	445	371
Total reported offences(h)	**7 570**	**7 047**	**6 987**	**6 857**	**6 034**	**6 330**
EASTERN METROPOLITAN						
Homicide(c)	1	4	4	2	6	2
Assault(d)	388	387	512	510	450	462
Robbery(e)	63	57	79	51	42	45
Burglary(f)	1 714	1 578	1 715	1 546	1 255	1 282
Theft	2 516	2 566	2 521	2 208	1 922	1 896
Steal motor vehicle	321	310	276	253	205	193
Property damage	970	996	1 082	920	810	762
Graffiti(g)	159	190	179	182	103	152
Drugs	346	393	356	299	420	405
Total reported offences(h)	**6 798**	**6 850**	**7 152**	**6 414**	**5 580**	**5 605**
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN						
Homicide(c)	5	5	1	4	2	5
Assault(d)	607	580	706	788	706	699
Robbery(e)	121	109	110	119	81	68
Burglary(f)	2 542	2 380	2 681	2 373	1 912	1 943
Theft	4 218	4 221	4 558	3 890	3 462	3 511
Steal motor vehicle	540	577	543	374	366	333
Property damage	1 661	1 556	1 727	1 604	1 455	1 423
Graffiti(g)	902	1 520	1 317	849	1 113	541
Drugs	634	625	555	637	699	710
Total reported offences(h)	**11 765**	**12 248**	**12 823**	**11 300**	**10 436**	**9 915**
SOUTH WEST METROPOLITAN						
Homicide(c)	—	3	4	3	5	—
Assault(d)	501	492	563	723	612	552
Robbery(e)	82	63	79	79	68	59
Burglary(f)	1 985	2 133	2 192	1 886	1 710	1 504
Theft	3 449	3 286	3 411	3 374	3 237	3 164
Steal motor vehicle	390	434	454	432	370	296
Property damage	1 344	1 361	1 594	1 462	1 497	1 416
Graffiti(g)	612	481	310	97	562	963
Drugs	543	388	337	381	393	314
Total reported offences(h)	**9 364**	**9 023**	**9 428**	**8 902**	**8 873**	**8 629**
SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN						
Homicide(c)	—	8	2	9	4	6
Assault(d)	624	684	962	928	786	793
Robbery(e)	139	159	198	164	165	130
Burglary(f)	3 637	3 553	3 350	2 831	2 552	2 373
Theft	4 859	4 792	4 640	4 497	3 968	4 077
Steal motor vehicle	742	675	565	512	440	472
Property damage	2 046	2 024	2 125	2 015	1 770	1 898
Graffiti(g)	71	124	105	114	177	140
Drugs	376	421	317	352	532	432
Total reported offences(h)	**13 012**	**13 044**	**12 807**	**12 044**	**10 960**	**10 934**

49 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b), By statistical region *continued*

	2003			2004		
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*
Selected offences	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
LOWER WESTERN WA						
Homicide(c)	3	5	4	3	3	—
Assault(d)	444	483	508	614	566	518
Robbery(e)	26	25	22	16	18	20
Burglary(f)	1 374	1 304	1 314	1 180	1 177	1 063
Theft	2 285	2 245	2 549	2 380	2 102	2 051
Steal motor vehicle	187	177	157	164	141	119
Property damage	1 073	1 038	1 232	1 058	884	965
Graffiti(g)	40	46	59	62	72	60
Drugs	667	532	577	684	642	545
Total reported offences(h)	**6 439**	**6 171**	**6 743**	**6 593**	**5 971**	**5 683**
REMAINDER–BALANCE WA						
Homicide(c)	3	4	6	7	6	6
Assault(d)	991	1 206	1 399	1 420	1 129	1 210
Robbery(e)	24	44	22	30	19	20
Burglary(f)	2 046	2 020	1 893	1 856	1 511	1 384
Theft	2 701	2 841	2 565	2 294	2 038	1 988
Steal motor vehicle	241	261	248	227	197	166
Property damage	1 705	1 889	1 810	1 841	1 586	1 353
Graffiti(g)	66	80	90	56	67	58
Drugs	652	678	657	560	550	571
Total reported offences(h)	**8 898**	**9 585**	**9 278**	**8 915**	**7 551**	**7 267**
TOTAL–WA						
Homicide(c)	14	31	22	29	26	19
Assault(d)	3 981	4 243	5 113	5 502	4 717	4 698
Robbery(e)	551	526	591	549	460	407
Burglary(f)	14 568	14 028	14 107	12 647	10 942	10 395
Theft	23 209	22 965	23 305	21 411	18 972	19 059
Steal motor vehicle	2 706	2 718	2 497	2 172	1 894	1 782
Property damage	9 703	9 882	10 535	9 750	8 732	8 632
Graffiti(g)	2 427	2 901	2 681	2 083	2 770	2 659
Drugs	3 606	3 352	3 059	3 227	3 681	3 348
Total reported offences(h)	**63 846**	**63 968**	**65 218**	**61 025**	**55 405**	**54 363**

(a) Reported offences are selected offences reported to, or becoming known to, police and resulting in the submission of a report. The number of reported offences in a period may include offences that occurred during earlier periods. The data are subject to revisions as further data become available. Offence classifications may alter between periods due to changes in legislation, administrative recording practices or system coding, and locality boundaries may change. Therefore, time series may be broken.

(b) Definitional, coding and processing changes associated with the introduction of the Frontline Incident Management System have had an impact on some data. Variations in data may have resulted from reporting and recording changes, and may not reflect an actual increase or decrease in the incidence of an offence type or in total offence numbers. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting and using offence statistics from late 2002, and when comparing those statistics with earlier periods.

(c) Includes driving causing death.

(d) Includes sexual assault.

(e) Includes armed and unarmed offences.

(f) Includes burglary to dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.

(g) Most graffiti offences are committed against public property and the number reported can vary due to different strategies being adopted in different periods by agencies and local government authorities. The number can also vary between periods due to the stockpiling of offences before being reported to Police and to an inconsistency in reporting where graffiti is sometimes recorded as property damage.

(h) Includes other offences not shown in the table such as fraud, arson and threatening behaviour.

Source: Western Australian Police Service, *Offence Information System/Frontline Incident Management System.*

50 AIR QUALITY, Ozone—Perth metro area

	DAYS PER MONTH(a) WITH OZONE CONCENTRATION(b) AT THE STATED LEVEL(c) FOR AT LEAST ONE HOUR														
	2003						2004								
	Jul	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Region(d)	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Inner West Coast															
Very Good	21	18	16	27	20	25	17	11	16	18	26	26	27	25	23
Good	10	13	14	4	9	6	14	17	13	12	5	4	4	6	7
Fair	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East Metro															
Very Good	31	26	25	22	16	17	9	10	18	21	29	30	31	28	26
Good	—	5	5	9	12	12	21	13	13	9	2	—	—	3	4
Fair	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer North Coastal															
Very Good	17	10	4	18	2	na	13	10	14	17	22	22	25	14	15
Good	14	21	26	13	8	na	16	18	16	13	5	8	6	17	15
Fair	—	—	—	—	—	na	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	na	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer North East															
Very Good	28	24	22	16	12	15	11	11	18	18	27	30	30	27	22
Good	3	7	8	14	16	15	16	11	13	12	3	—	1	4	8
Fair	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Coast															
Very Good	18	16	18	24	15	24	18	14	19	21	27	26	25	20	24
Good	13	15	12	7	15	7	12	14	10	9	4	4	6	11	6
Fair	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East Metro															
Very Good	29	24	23	26	18	27	21	14	21	21	27	30	28	25	27
Good	2	7	7	5	11	3	10	14	10	9	4	—	3	6	3
Fair	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(a) The number of days per month may not correspond to the actual number of days in the month due to periods when the air monitor was offline.

(b) Ozone concentrations in a polluted atmosphere are usually taken as an indicator of the amount of photochemical smog present. Ozone at ground level is not a pollutant and should not be confused with its presence in the stratosphere, where it serves the essential function of screening out a large portion of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

(c) The Ozone standard in Western Australia is based on the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) of 0.1 parts per million averaged over 1 hour. Ozone concentrations are converted into a qualitative scale with four commonly understood terms — Very Good (Ozone concentrations less than 33% of the standard); Good (Ozone concentrations between 33% and 66% of the standard); Fair (Ozone concentrations between 66% and 100% of the standard); and Poor (Ozone concentrations greater than 100% of the standard). For more information on air quality in Western Australia, see the Department of Environment web site at <http://www.environ.wa.gov.au>.

(d) For reporting purposes, the Perth Region has been divided into seven regions. Air monitoring stations assigned to each region are: Inner West Coast — Swanbourne; North East Metro — Caversham; Outer North Coastal — Quinns Rocks; Outer North East — Rolling Green; South Coast — Rockingham; South East Metro — South Lake.

Source: Department of Environment.

51 AIR QUALITY, Visibility—Perth metro area and selected regional centres

	DAYS PER MONTH(a) WITH VISIBILITY(b) AT THE STATED LEVEL(c) FOR AT LEAST ONE HOUR														
	2003						2004								
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Region(d)	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
CBD(d)															
Clear	29	31	30	31	26	30	30	29	30	29	30	30	31	31	29
Light	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Significant	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Heavy	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East Metro(d)															
Clear	29	31	28	29	25	29	27	29	30	28	24	30	29	31	29
Light	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Significant	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	6	—	2	—	—
Heavy	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Metro(d)															
Clear	18	18	25	28	25	30	14	29	11	29	28	26	19	24	26
Light	1	2	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	6	3	1
Significant	10	7	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	2
Heavy	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Outer North Coastal(d)															
Clear	30	30	30	30	25	31	31	28	31	28	27	30	27	31	20
Light	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Significant	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heavy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—
South Coast(d)															
Clear	30	31	30	28	26	30	29	29	29	29	30	30	30	30	27
Light	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Significant	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Heavy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South East Metro(d)															
Clear	18	19	27	29	26	30	23	22	30	21	15	11	9	18	19
Light	2	4	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	6	9	9	6	6
Significant	10	8	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	3	9	10	13	7	5
Heavy	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bunbury															
Clear	19	12	25	28	22	27	30	27	25	20	12	19	15	21	26
Light	2	3	3	—	3	1	—	—	2	2	5	4	7	2	2
Significant	10	15	2	3	1	3	—	1	4	5	10	7	9	8	2
Heavy	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
Busselton															
Clear	16	9	22	28	26	28	30	29	30	16	7	18	5	11	18
Light	3	5	3	—	1	2	—	—	1	4	2	2	6	4	5
Significant	7	10	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	5	9	4	14	11	6
Heavy	5	7	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	5	8	6	6	5	1

(a) The number of days per month may not correspond to the actual number of days in the month due to periods when the air monitor was offline.

(b) Visibility is measured using an integrating Nephelometer, which measures airborne particles ranging from 0.1 to 2.0 micrometres in size that reduce the ability to see objects at a distance by scattering light. The main sources of airborne particles contributing to reduced Visibility in Perth are domestic wood stoves and motor vehicles.

(c) Visibility is converted into a qualitative scale with four commonly understood terms — Clear (Visibility exceeds 26 kilometres); Light (Visibility between 20 and 26 kilometres); Significant (Visibility between 10 and 19 kilometres); and Heavy (Visibility less than 10 kilometres). For more information on air quality in Western Australia, see the Department of Environment web site at <http://www.environ.wa.gov.au>.

(d) For reporting purposes, the Perth Region has been divided into seven regions. Air monitoring stations assigned to each region are: North East Metro — Caversham; North Metro — Duncraig; Outer North Coastal — Quinns Rocks; South Coast — Hope Valley; South East Metro — South Lake.

Source: Department of Environment.

APPENDIX

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