

CASINOS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 20 JAN 1998

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INQUIRIES

- For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.
- For further information about these statistics, contact Graham Boxsell on Canberra (02) 6252 5633.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents results for the financial year 1996–97 from an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey of the casino industry. It is the fourth survey of this industry with previous surveys being conducted in respect of 1991–92, 1994–95 and 1995–96.

The census of casinos included businesses classified to Class 9322, Casinos, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Class 9322 includes units mainly engaged in providing a range of gambling services in addition to totalisator or gaming machine services, and other amusements, in a building to which the general public have access.

The ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users recommending industries and data items for inclusion in future service industries surveys. These comments should be addressed to:

The Director, Service Industries Surveys, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
EBIT	Earnings before interest and tax
OPBT	Operating tax before profit
n.a.	not available
r	figure or series revised since previous issue

Where figures have been rounded discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents results from a census of Australian casino businesses, conducted in respect of 1996-97. For the purposes of this publication the Christmas Island casino has been included. Generally the ABS does not include statistics from Cocos and Christmas Islands. However, it is considered that the statistical significance of the Christmas Island casino warrants its inclusion in these data.

Previous ABS censuses of casino businesses were conducted in respect of 1991-92, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

NUMBER OF CASINOS

At the end of June 1997, there were 14 operating casinos in Australia, the same number as were operating in June 1996 and June 1995.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Total income for casinos in 1996-97 was \$2,308.1 million. The major source of income was takings from gambling which accounted for \$1,951.4 million (85%). This represented a 4% increase in takings from gambling from 1995-96 and compares with a 36% increase in takings from gambling between 1994-95 and 1995-96.

The major components of takings from gambling were takings from poker/gaming machines (\$556.3 million), which increased by 20% since 1995-96, and takings from other gambling (table games), which decreased by 2% to \$1,356.5 million.

EXPENSES

Total expenses for the casino industry were \$2,287.4 million in 1996-97. The major components of these expenses were labour costs of \$674.3 million (29%), gambling taxes and levies of \$371.8 million (16%) and other operating expenses of \$450.5 million (20%), which mainly comprised casino junket expenses. A lowering of the gambling tax rate in some States has resulted in poker machine, keno and other gambling taxes/levies decreasing by 1% from 1995-96 following an increase of 27% from 1994-95 to 1995-96.

Labour costs increased by 13% from 1995-96 to 1996-97 which was reflected in a 22% increase in employment since 1995-96.

OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE TAX

In 1996-97, the casino industry generated an operating profit before tax of \$27.4 million, which represented an operating profit margin of 1.2%. This operating profit margin was much lower than the 8.9% in 1995-96 and the 6.5% in 1994-95.

The operating profit before tax per person employed was \$1,200 compared to \$10,700 in 1995-96.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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GAMBLING FACILITIES

At the end of June 1997, there were 9,408 poker/gaming machines and 1,171 gaming tables located in the 14 casinos. The number of poker/gaming machines increased 14% and the number of gaming tables increased 18% since June 1996.

Takings per poker/gaming machine were \$59,100, which was an increase of 5% from \$56,300 per machine in 1995-96. However, takings per gaming table were \$1.2 million in 1996-97, which was a decrease of 17% from \$1.4 million per table in 1995-96.

EMPLOYMENT

At the end of June 1997, there were 22,508 persons employed by casinos in Australia, comprising 14,656 full-time employees (65%) and 7,852 part-time employees (35%). There was a 22% increase in employment since June 1996, which was dominated by a 69% increase in part-time employees.

At the end of June 1997, 9,341 persons (42%) worked as licensed gaming staff. Takings from gambling per licensed gaming staff member was \$208,900 which was a decrease of 13% from \$241,200 in 1995-96.

CONCENTRATION STATISTICS

Casinos operated by the four largest enterprise groups involved in the casino industry accounted for 82% of employment at the end of June 1997 and 82% of total income in 1996-97. This represented an increased concentration by the four largest enterprise groups, which accounted for 74% of employment at the end of June 1996 and 80% of total income in 1995-96.

These four largest enterprise groups had an operating profit margin of 2.1% compared to the other six groups which had an operating profit margin of -2.9%.

NET WORTH

At the end of June 1997, the net worth of the casino industry was \$2,623.2 million which represented a 21% increase compared with June 1996. During the year there was a 30% increase in assets to \$5,031.7 million and a 42% increase in liabilities to \$2,408.5 million.

PERFORMANCE RATIOS

In 1996-97, labour costs per person employed was \$30,000 compared to \$32,200 in 1995-96. This reduction reflected the 69% increase in the number of part-time employees.

In 1996-97, the short-term debt to equity ratio was 22.3%, which was similar to 1995-96 (22.8%). The long-term debt to equity ratio increased from 55.2% in 1995-96 to 69.6% in 1996-97.

The return on assets and return on funds decreased markedly between 1995-96 and 1996-97, from 5.1% to 0.5% and 7.8% to 2.4% respectively.

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KEY FIGURES

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Casinos at end June (no.)	14	14	14
Employment at end June			
Permanent employees (no.)	11 281	14 038	17 490
Casual employees (no.)	4 556	4 452	5 018
Total (no.)	15 837	18 490	22 508
Gambling equipment at end June			
Gaming/poker machines (no.)	7 282	8 225	9 408
Gambling tables (no.)	863	993	1 171
Income			
Takings from gambling (\$m)	1 381.8	1 881.2	1 951.4
Other income (\$m)	268.7	349.5	356.7
Total (\$m)	1 650.5	2 230.7	2 308.1
Expenses			
Labour costs (\$m)	441.9	595.2	674.3
Poker machine, keno and other gambling taxes/levies (\$m)	296.1	374.8	371.8
Other expenses (\$m)	807.8	1 066.1	1 241.3
Total (\$m)	1 545.8	2 036.1	2 287.4
Operating profit before tax (\$m)	107.4	198.0	27.4
Operating profit margin (%)	6.5	8.9	1.2
Industry gross product (\$m)	649.8	982.1	920.1

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SOURCES OF INCOME

	1994-95.....		1995-96.....		1996-97.....	
Sources of income	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
.....						
Sales of goods and services						
Takings from gambling						
Takings from poker/gaming machines	343.6	20.8	462.7	20.7	556.3	24.1
Takings from keno	25.5	1.5	37.0	1.7	38.7	1.7
Takings from other gambling	1 012.7	61.4	1 381.5	61.9	1 356.5	58.8
Total	1 381.8	83.7	1 881.2	84.3	1 951.4	84.5
Commissions from TAB operations/sports betting operations	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.1
Takings from meals	92.3	5.6	112.8	5.1	126.7	5.5
Sales of beer, wine and spirits	91.1	5.5	118.1	5.3	115.1	5.0
Takings from accommodation	42.9	2.6	48.2	2.2	47.5	2.1
Other retail sales	4.4	0.3	5.3	0.2	7.4	0.3
Rent, lease and hiring income	3.1	0.2	4.5	0.2	4.3	0.2
Takings from car parking operations(a)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	17.7	0.8
Other operating income	26.8	1.6	52.7	2.4	21.7	0.9
Total	1 643.3	99.6	2 224.0	99.7	2 293.0	99.3
Interest income	4.6	0.3	4.6	0.2	6.4	0.3
Other non-operating income	2.6	0.2	2.0	0.1	8.8	0.4
Total	1 650.5	100.0	2 230.7	100.0	2 308.1	100.0
.....						

(a) Takings from car parking operations for 1994-95 and 1995-96 included in other operating income.

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ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

	1994-95.....		1995-96.....		1996-97.....	
Type of expense	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
Labour costs						
Wages and salaries	416.7	27.0	554.5	27.2	627.4	27.4
Employer contributions to superannuation funds	19.9	1.3	32.1	1.6	34.4	1.5
Workers' compensation costs	5.4	0.3	8.6	0.4	12.6	0.6
<i>Total</i>	441.9	28.6	595.2	29.2	674.3	29.5
Selected expenses						
Rent, leasing and hiring expenses	21.7	1.4	54.0	2.6	55.5	2.4
Advertising expenses	26.0	1.7	38.2	1.9	41.0	1.8
Poker machine, keno and other gambling taxes/levies	296.1	19.2	374.8	18.4	371.8	16.3
Liquor licence fees	2.4	0.2	2.9	0.1	3.0	0.1
Fringe benefit, payroll and land tax	31.6	2.0	42.4	2.1	50.4	2.2
Contract payments to entertainers	4.5	0.3	8.4	0.4	8.9	0.4
Fares and other travelling expenses	8.1	0.5	9.5	0.5	10.4	0.5
Marketing, promotion and sponsorship expenses	63.9	4.1	68.0	3.3	88.6	3.9
Repair and maintenance	14.1	0.9	14.3	0.7	15.6	0.7
Electricity, gas and water charges	13.5	0.9	16.2	0.8	18.4	0.8
Paper, printing and stationery	6.6	0.4	9.0	0.4	8.9	0.4
Management fees/charges paid to related and unrelated businesses(a)	n.a.	n.a.	60.1	3.0	61.4	2.7
Other operating expenses	244.3	15.8	414.6	20.4	450.5	19.7
Other selected expenses	187.9	12.2	44.6	2.2	79.2	3.5
<i>Total</i>	920.8	59.6	1 157.1	56.8	1 263.6	55.2
Other costs						
Purchases of goods for resale						
Foodstuffs for use in preparing meals(b)	n.a.	n.a.	46.8	2.3	52.8	2.3
Liquor and other beverages(b)	n.a.	n.a.	31.3	1.6	35.6	1.6
Other purchases	75.4	4.9	10.1	0.5	14.2	0.6
<i>Total</i>	75.4	4.9	88.2	4.3	102.6	4.5
Depreciation and amortisation	63.5	4.1	110.9	5.4	127.7	5.6
Insurance premiums	6.1	0.4	7.8	0.4	n.p.	n.p.
Interest expenses	24.4	1.6	63.8	3.1	78.0	3.4
Bad debts and royalties	13.6	0.9	13.1	0.6	n.p.	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	183.1	11.8	283.7	13.9	349.4	15.3
Total	1 545.8	100.0	2 036.1	100.0	2 287.4	100.0

(a) Included in other selected expenses in 1994-95.

(b) Included in other purchases in 1994-95.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT

Type of employment	FULL-TIME.....			PART-TIME.....			TOTAL.....		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Permanent employees (no.)	8 440	5 760	14 200	1 392	1 898	3 290	9 832	7 658	17 490
Casual employees (no.)	232	224	456	2 120	2 442	4 562	2 352	2 666	5 018
Total employment end June 1997 (no.)	8 672	5 984	14 656	3 512	4 340	7 852	12 184	10 324	22 508
Proportion of total (%)	38.5	26.6	65.1	15.6	19.3	34.9	54.1	45.9	100.0
Total employment end June 1996 (no.)	8 156	5 684	13 840	1 999	2 651	4 650	10 155	8 335	18 490
Proportion of total (%)	44.1	30.7	74.9	10.8	14.3	25.1	54.9	45.1	100.0
Total employment end June 1995 (no.)	6 373	4 632	11 005	2 074	2 758	4 832	8 447	7 390	15 837
Proportion of total (%)	40.2	29.2	69.5	13.1	17.4	30.5	53.3	46.7	100.0

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MAIN OCCUPATIONS

	Persons at end June 1997	Proportion of total
	no.	%
Managers/administrators	1 049	4.7
Other clerical and administrative staff	2 001	8.9
Licensed gaming staff	9 341	41.5
Chefs	1 003	4.5
Bar managers and attendants	2 349	10.4
Waiters/waitresses	2 373	10.5
Kitchen hands	622	2.8
Security officers/surveillance staff	1 050	4.7
Maintenance staff	343	1.5
Cleaning staff	688	3.1
Housekeeping staff	580	2.6
Other	1 109	4.9
Total	22 508	100.0

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CONCENTRATION STATISTICS

	Enterprise groups at end June	Employment at end June	Wages and salaries	Total income	Total expenses	Operating profit before tax	Operating profit margin
<i>Enterprise groups ranked by total income</i>	no.	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	%
Largest four	4	18 356	485.0	1 896.3	1 865.9	39.1	2.1
Remainder	6	4 152	142.3	411.8	421.5	-11.7	-2.9
Total	10	22 508	627.4	2 308.1	2 287.4	27.4	1.2

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ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Assets			
Current assets	353.2	389.0	478.3
Non-current assets	2 706.5	3 483.8	4 553.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 059.7</i>	<i>3 872.7</i>	<i>5 031.7</i>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities	370.6	495.6	583.8
Non-current liabilities	731.6	1 201.5	1 824.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 102.2</i>	<i>1 697.1</i>	<i>2 408.5</i>
Net worth	1 957.6	2 175.6	2 623.2

Ratios	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Employment			
Operating profit before tax per person employed (\$'000)	6.8	10.7	1.2
Labour costs per person employed (\$'000)	27.9	32.2	30.0
Labour costs to total expenses (%)	28.6	29.2	29.5
Total assets per person employed (\$'000)	193.2	209.5	223.5
Industry gross product per person employed (\$'000)	41.0	53.1	40.9
Industry gross product to labour costs (times)	1.5	1.6	1.4
Profitability			
Operating profit margin (%)	6.5	8.9	1.2
Return on assets (%)	3.5	5.1	0.5
Return on funds (%)	4.9	7.8	2.4
Gambling			
Takings per poker/gaming machine (\$'000)	47.2	56.3	59.1
Takings per gaming table (\$'000)	1 173.4	1 391.3	1 158.4
Takings from gambling per licensed gaming staff (\$'000)	228.1	241.2	208.9
Gambling taxes to gambling income (%)	21.4	19.9	19.1
Other			
Short-term debt to equity (%)	18.9	22.8	22.3
Long-term debt to equity (%)	37.4	55.2	69.6
Current ratio (times)	1.0	0.7	0.7
Asset turnover (times)	0.5	0.6	0.5

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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SCOPE

1 The scope of the census included all businesses classified to Class 9322, Casinos of the 1993 edition of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). This class consisted of units mainly engaged in providing a range of gambling services in addition to totalisator or gaming machine services, and other amusements, in a building to which the general public has access. Included are units providing food, liquor and accommodation services in addition to a full range of gambling services.

2 The scope of the census excluded businesses not classified to the casino industry e.g. property developers engaged in the construction of casinos. Units mainly engaged in providing food or liquor and gaming machine services only are included in one of the ANZSIC Groups: 572 Pubs, Taverns and Bars; 573 Cafes and Restaurants; or 574 Clubs (Hospitality).

3 For the purposes of this collection the Christmas Island casino has been included. For practical reasons the ABS generally does not include the Cocos and Christmas Islands in economic statistics collections. However, given the statistical significance of the Christmas Island casino to the industry it was considered that it should be included in these data.

STATISTICAL UNIT

4 The unit for which statistics are produced in this publication is operating casino sites. Where the ownership of the casino site operation is the same as the ownership of the attached accommodation unit, then the total operations of the statistical unit have been included. Conversely, if the accommodation unit is separately operated, then data for the accommodation unit have not been included.

REFERENCE PERIOD

5 Data contained in the tables in this publication relate to all casinos which operated in Australia at any time during the year ended June 1997.

RELIABILITY OF DATA

6 Because the census does not have a sample component, the data are not subject to sampling variability. However, other inaccuracies collectively referred to as non-sampling error may affect the data. These non-sampling errors may arise from a number of sources, including:

- errors in the reporting of data by respondents;
- errors in the capturing or processing of data;
- estimation for missing or misreported data; and
- definition and classification errors.

Every effort has been made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, efficient operating procedures and systems, and appropriate methodology.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

7 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

GLOSSARY

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Advertising expenses	This includes expenses paid to advertising agencies, direct payments to the press, radio and television stations, and other advertising expenses. It excludes marketing, promotion and sponsorship expenses.
Asset turnover	The number of times the value of sales exceeds the value of assets, i.e. sales of goods and services divided by the total value of assets.
Bad debts and royalties	Bad debts is the actual amount of bad debt written off, net of bad debts previously written off but recovered. Royalties include payments under licensing arrangements, payments for the use of copyright, patent, design or model, plan or any other property or right.
Casinos at end June	During 1996–97, there were 14 casinos operating in Australia. The ABS defines operating as those with current income and/or expenses.
Casual employees	Employees not entitled to take paid holidays.
Current assets	The book value of current assets at the end of the financial year. This includes cash on hand, stocks, trade debtors, and other accounts receivable. These are assets that would generally cease to exist or be used up within a period of 12 months.
Current liabilities	The book value of current liabilities as at the end of the financial year. This includes provisions for taxation, leave, claims, trade creditors and other accounts payable, and bank overdraft. These are liabilities that would normally be due or payable within a period of 12 months.
Current ratio	The number of times current assets exceed current liabilities, i.e. current assets/current liabilities. This liquidity measure indicates ability to meet immediate financial obligations from current assets.
Depreciation and amortisation	The financial charges made to the accounts to reflect that part of the value of the asset which may be regarded as having been used up in producing revenue in a particular accounting period.
Employer contributions to superannuation funds	The costs of the employer's superannuation contributions during the reference period (including contributions made by the employer on behalf of employees).
Employment at end June	This includes working directors, and other employees (including casual employees) working for a business during the last pay period ending in June.
Enterprise group	An enterprise group is defined as a unit covering all the operations in Australia of one or more legal entity under common ownership or control.
Fringe benefit, payroll and land tax	Fringe benefit tax is paid by employers when certain benefits in excess of normal wages or salaries (e.g. free or discounted goods) are received by their employees in connection with their employment. Payroll tax includes a payroll tax surcharge and payroll tax minus rebate adjustments made during the year. Land tax is an annual tax assessed to the owner of the land.
Full-time employees	Employees who work 35 hours per week or more.
Gambling taxes to gambling income	Poker machines, keno and other gambling taxes and levies times 100 divided by income from gambling.

GLOSSARY *continued*

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Industry gross product	This is sales of goods and services plus closing stocks minus opening stocks, minus purchases and other selected non-operating expenses.
Interest expenses	This includes interest on bank loans, loans made from related as well as unrelated businesses/organisations, and interest in respect of finance leases, interest paid to loans from partners, interest equivalents, such as hedging costs, and expenses associated with discounted bills. It excludes bank charges and capital repayments.
Interest income	This includes interest from deposits in banks and non-bank financial institutions, loans and advances made to other businesses, interest on finance leases, and earnings on discounted bills. It excludes capital repayments received.
Labour costs	Labour costs include wages and salaries, employer contribution to superannuation funds and workers' compensation.
Long-term debt to equity	Non-current liabilities times 100 divided by net worth.
Main occupation	The main occupation of persons working for a business during the last pay period ending in June 1997.
Management fees/charges paid to related and unrelated businesses	These are payments made to businesses for other management and administrative services.
Marketing, promotion and sponsorship expenses	Marketing and promotion expenses are the costs incurred in the long-range promotion of a business and its goods or services. They include cash give aways for competitions as well as printing costs. Sponsorship expenses are the costs incurred in the public support/promotion of sporting, arts or cultural activities.
Net worth	This is total assets minus total liabilities.
Non-current assets	The book value of non-current assets at the end of the financial year. These are assets of a long-term (longer than 12 months) nature and include property, plant and machinery needed for normal operations, capitalised interest, and goodwill.
Non-current liabilities	The book value of non-current liabilities as at the end of the financial year. These are liabilities that are not due within the next financial period and include bank loans, debentures, and unsecured notes.
Operating profit before tax (OPBT)	A measure of profit before extraordinary items are brought into account and prior to the deduction of income tax and appropriations to owners (e.g. dividends paid).
Operating profit margin	The percentage of sales of goods and services available as operating profit, i.e. OPBT times 100 divided by sales of goods and services.
Other costs	This includes purchases of goods for resale, depreciation and amortisation, insurance premiums, interest expenses, bad debts and royalties.
Other non-operating income	This includes net profit (loss) on sales of fixed tangible assets, dividend income, net profit (loss) on share trading, donations, and net profit (loss) on foreign loans as a result of variation in foreign exchange rates/transactions. Excludes extraordinary profit (loss), i.e. not associated with the normal operations of the business and of a non-recurring nature.

GLOSSARY *continued*

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Other operating expenses	Various expense items which are general in nature and are not included elsewhere e.g. junket commissions, glass/crockery expenses, cleaning and laundry supplies, staff uniforms and amenities, in-house films etc.
Other operating income	Various income items which are not included elsewhere e.g. commissions from vending machines, income from the provision of telephone and laundry services, unredeemed gaming chips, etc.
Other retail sales	This includes sales of souvenirs, cigarettes (except those sold from vending machines), clothing and footwear, publications and takeaway food. It excludes income under licensing arrangements.
Other selected expenses	This includes motor vehicle running expenses, bank charges other than interest, periodical, magazine and journal expenses, payments for staff training services, waste handling expenses, other contract, subcontract and commission expenses, payments for cleaning services, telecommunication and postal expenses, legal and audit expenses and accommodation, entertainment and hospitality expenses.
Part-time employees	Employees who work less than 35 hours per week.
Poker machine, keno and other gambling taxes/levies	These are taxes/levies paid to the Government for poker machines, keno and other gambling facility operations. They exclude casino licence fees.
Purchases of goods for resale	This includes purchases of finished goods for resale, foodstuffs for use in preparing meals and takeaway food, liquor and other beverages, and other non-capitalised purchases such as containers and packaging materials.
Rent, leasing and hiring expenses	These are the costs from the rent, leasing and hiring of vehicles, land, buildings, machinery, equipment and other property from other businesses or individuals. They exclude expenses relating to finance leases.
Return on assets	OPBT as a percentage of the total book value of assets, i.e. OPBT times 100 divided by total assets.
Return on funds	Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) as a percentage of long-term investment funds, i.e. EBIT times 100 divided by (net worth plus non-current liabilities).
Short-term debt to equity	Current liabilities times 100 divided by net worth.
Takings from car park operations	This includes all takings from car parks operated by a casino business.
Takings from gambling	This consists of takings from gaming/poker machines, takings from keno, and takings from other gambling, such as table games.
Takings from keno	Takings from keno net of payouts to players. Excludes takings from keno gaming machines (included in Takings from poker/gaming machines).
Takings from meals	Takings from meals sold for consumption on the premises. Excludes income from catering concessions and takeaway food (included in Other retail sales).
Takings from other gambling	Takings from gambling other than from keno and poker/gaming machines. Primarily includes takings from table games (net of payouts to players).

GLOSSARY *continued*

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Takings from poker/gaming machines	Takings from poker/gaming machines net of payouts to players.
Total employment	This includes permanent, part-time, and casual employees, managerial and executive employees working for a business during the last pay period in June. Employees absent on paid or prepaid leave and contract personnel from whom PAYE tax is deducted are included.
Trading profit	A measure of profit directly attributable to trading in goods and services. It is derived by subtracting the purchases and selected expenses (cost of sales) from the value of sales of goods and services.
Wages and salaries	This includes severance, termination and redundancy payments and provision expenses for employee entitlements. It excludes payments to entertainers and contractors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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