Australian Bureau of Statistics

July 1997

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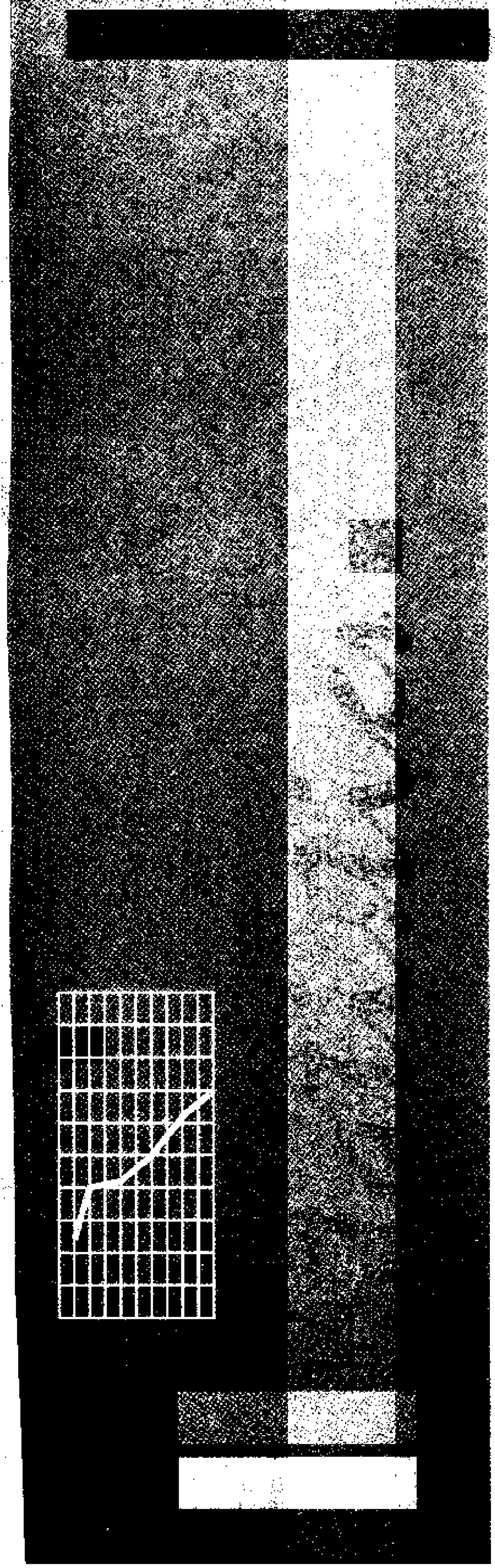


Business Indicators

Australian Capital Territory

ABS Catalogue No. 1303.8

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	*RELEASE DATE*
August 1997	18 August 1997
September 1997	22 September 1997

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.

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

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director
Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the June 1997 issue are: State accounts; housing finance; labour force; job vacancies; industrial disputes; building approvals and commencements; retail turnover; business expectations; and new motor vehicle registrations. A feature article on Career Experience in the ACT is included on pages 7 and 8.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

State accounts

Trend gross State product at average 1989–90 prices for the ACT decreased 0.2% in the March quarter 1997 to $2,194 million. Following revisions, trend Gross State Product (GSP) has now experienced three consecutive quarters of decline, and no growth in the June quarter 1996. The annual change in GSP to March 1997 was a decline of just over 1.0%. The main contribution to the decline in GSP is the five consecutive months of negative growth in Public Sector Final Demand and an annual fall of nearly 15.0% since the March quarter 1996. The trend State Final Demand at average 1989–90 prices has also continued to fall, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of decline to $2,791 million in the March quarter 1997, with an annual decrease of 6.6%.

Labour force

Trend employment in the ACT is at an all time high, although the increase in the growth is slowing. The number of persons employed has continued to increase for each of the last seven months from a trough of 152,200 persons in November 1996 to 159,700 persons in June 1997 (up 4.9%). The trend number of persons unemployed has fallen from 14,400 during the period August–October 1996 to 12,300 in June 1997, with the trend unemployment rate decreasing from 8.6% to 7.1%. The trend participation rate has increased for each of the past six months, rising 2.3 percentage points from 71.0% in December 1996 to 73.3% in June 1997. The ACT has continued to outperform the national labour market which showed decreased employment for the fourth consecutive month.

Industrial disputes

In March 1997, there were 129 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT and 122 days lost per thousand in Australia. This represented a levelling for the ACT and a 4.7% decrease for Australia from the previous month's figure.

Housing finance

The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT during April 1997 decreased to 763 dwellings, a fall of 2.2%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was $81.1 million, a decrease of 1.8% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 23.1% of the total number of dwelling units financed in April 1997, which was down 1.3 percentage points on the previous month.

Housing and construction

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 6.3% to 149 dwelling units in May 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT has fallen for each of the last six months. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by

0.1% in May 1997. The national trend in the number of dwelling units has increased for each of the last nine months.

The value of non-residential building approvals was $30.1 million in May 1997; an increase of $17 million (or 129.8%) from the previous month but a decrease of $79.2 million (72.5%) from May 1996.

Retail turnover

The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for May 1997 was $192.6 million, down 0.4% on the previous month's figure of $193.4 million. This was the sixth consecutive month in which a decrease was recorded. The national trend retail turnover experienced an increase of 0.4% on the previous month.

Business expectations

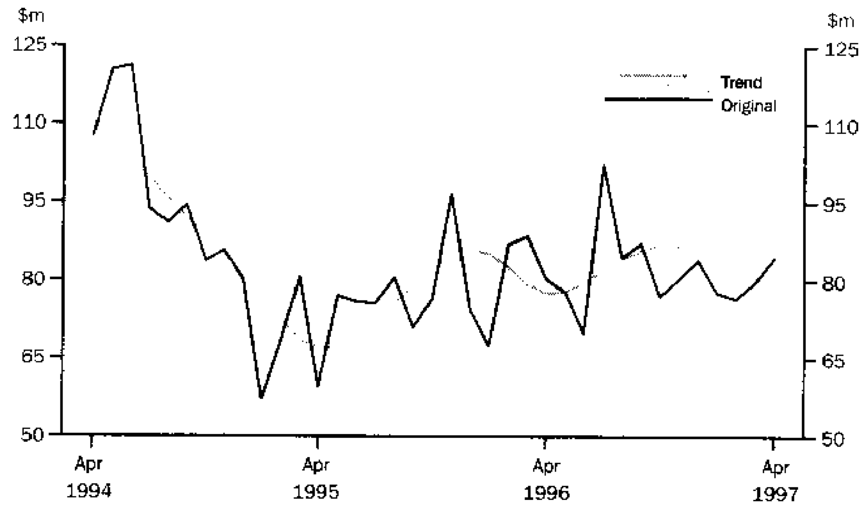
Businesses in the ACT expect a short-term decrease of 1.7% in the sales of goods and services in the September quarter 1997. This follows on from an anticipated increase of 1.3% in the previous quarter. The expected national growth during the September quarter is 0.7%. In the medium term (June quarter 1997 — June quarter 1998), growth of 2.0% is expected in the ACT, which is below the national expectation of 2.4%.

Motor vehicle registrations

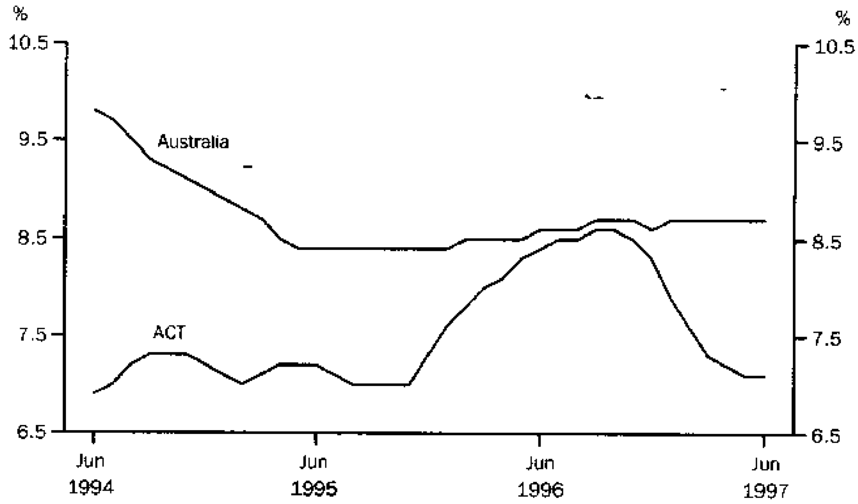
The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in May 1997 was 1,054, up 2.2% on the previous month, and up 6.5% on 12 months ago. The series has now recorded seven consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in May 1997 recorded a 0.4% decrease on the previous months figure.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

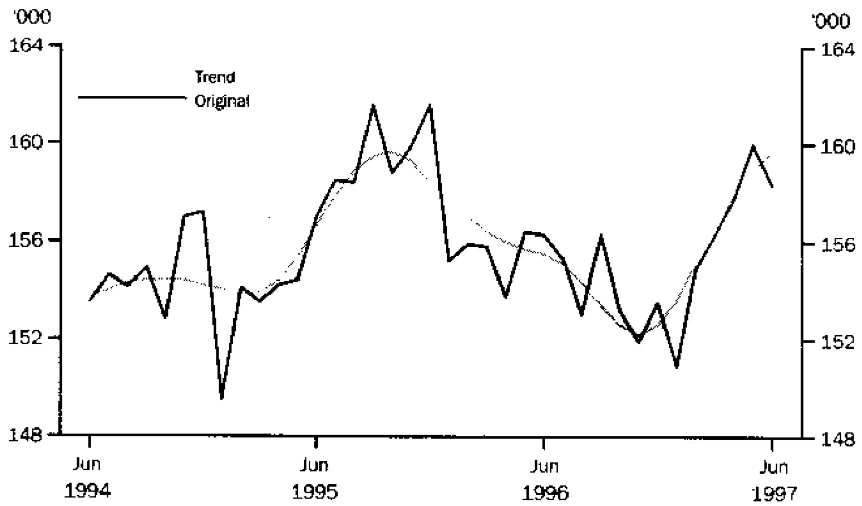
HOUSING FINANCE
COMMITMENTS



LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

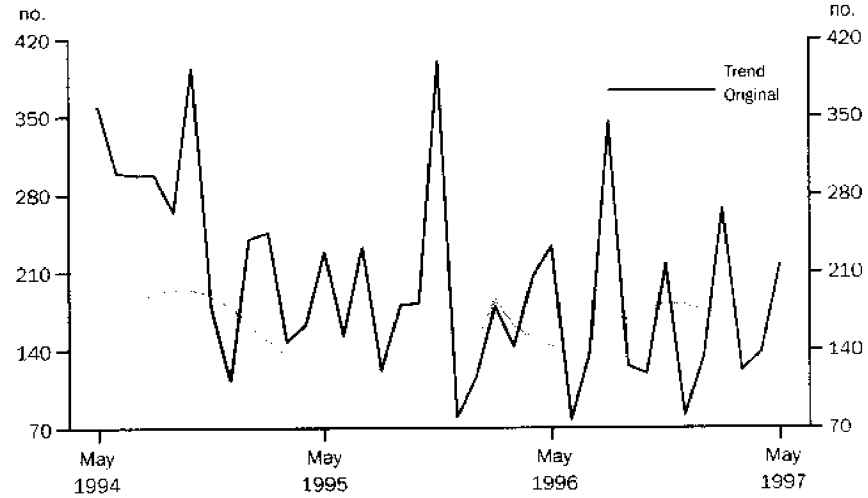


LABOUR FORCE —
EMPLOYMENT

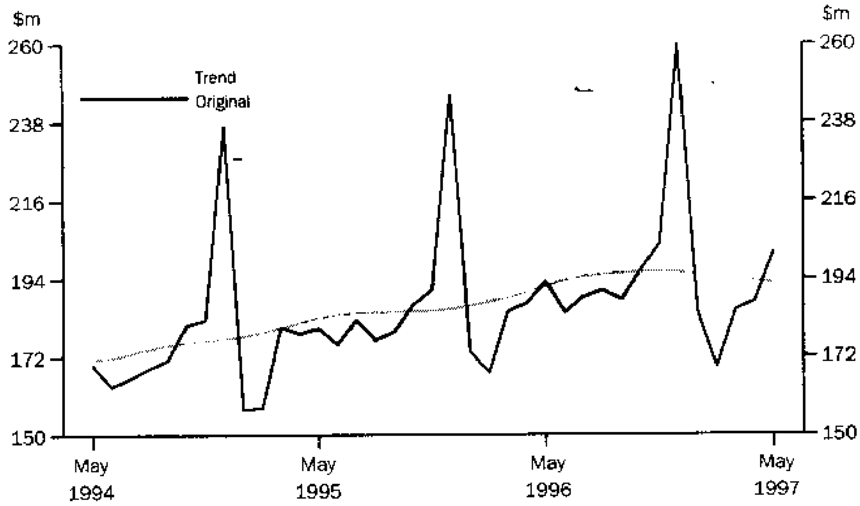


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

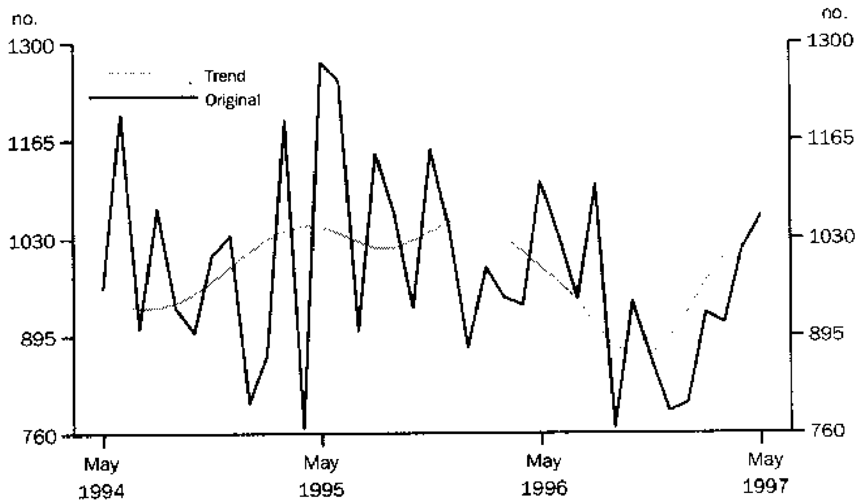
BUILDING APPROVAL — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



RETAIL TURNOVER



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



FEATURE ARTICLE

CAREER EXPERIENCE OF ACT RESIDENTS

In November 1996 there were 132,379 employees in the ACT labour force. Of these persons 91,337 (69.0%) had been with their current employer for one year or more and had experienced some change in their work in the previous 12 months. This closely compares with the proportion of 69.8% nationally.

A further 10,290 (7.8%) employees had been with their current employer for one year or more and had no change in their work. The remaining 30,752 (23.2%) employees had been with their current employer for less than one year. The national comparisons are 5.3% and 24.8% respectively

The proportions of employees who had worked for their current employer for one year or more, reporting specific changes in their work in the 12 months to November 1996 were:

- new, different, or extra duties (47.0%), national comparison (33.9%);
- more responsibility (44.3%), national comparison (37.0%);
- change in hours (17.4%), national comparison (18.3%);
- transferred (14.5%), national comparison (7.7%);
- changed location of employment (11.7%), national comparison (9.4%);
- promoted (10.3%), national comparison (7.3%); and
- none of the above (10.1%), national comparison (7.1%).

Female employees were more likely to have new, different or extra duties (48.5%) and to have been transferred (15.6%) than male employees (46.0% and 13.7% respectively). Some 10.8% of males and 9.7% of female employees had been promoted, while 17.8% of males and 17.0% of female employees had a change in hours worked.

More than twice the proportion of full-time employees were transferred compared with part-time employees (15.9% compared with *7.8%) and full-time employees (10.9%) were more likely to be promoted than part-time employees (*7.6).

Full-time employees were more likely to have had new, different, or extra duties (50.6%) and more responsibility (47.4%) than part-time employees (29.5% and 29.3% respectively).

Part-time employees were more likely to change hours than have any other change (32.6%), compared to only 14.3% for full-time employees.

Being given more responsibility was the most common change reported in the younger groups (20–24 and 25–29 year age groups). The highest proportion of employees reporting they had more responsibility was recorded for the 25–29 years age group (51.5%). The lowest was for employees aged 55 years and over (23.0%).

Younger people were more likely to be promoted than older persons. An estimated 22.2% of persons aged 20–24 years had been promoted compared to 8.8% of employees aged 40–44 and 4.0% for those aged over 45 years. Those persons transferred, however, were more likely to be older. The highest proportion of persons transferred were in the 35–39 year age group (23.1%), although 22.2% of those aged 25–29 years were also transferred and 15.0% of employees aged 40–44 years.

In November 1996, 101,627 employees had been with their current employer for one year or more and 30,752 had been with their current employer less than one year.

Full-time employees (25.9%) were more likely to have worked with their current employer for more than 10 years than part-time workers (14.0%).

Some 34.5% of full-time employees and 31.9% of part-time employees had been with their current employer for 1–5 years. A higher proportion of part-time workers (32.4%) than full-time workers (15.0%) had been with their current employers less than one year.

Permanent employees (50.6%) were more likely to have been with their current employer for more than five years than casual employees (29.3%).

The majority (68.9%) of the 25,907 employees with children under 12 years of age reported that they had used some form of child-care. Of these employees, 43.7% used informal care only.

Employees with a youngest child aged under 3 years of age were more likely to use child-care (75.5%) than employees with a youngest child aged 3-5 years (72.3%).

Female employees were more likely to use child-care, either formal (24.1%), informal (44.6%) or both (31.3%), than males (30.6% formal, 43.1% informal and 26.3% both).

Almost three-quarters (69.0%) of employees received some kind of education or training in the 12 months to November 1996. Of these employees, 38.8% received more than one type of education and training.

The proportions of all employees reporting each type of education and training during the 12 months to November 1996 were:

- attended training courses(s) (46.8%);
- on-the-job training (44.9%);
- studied for an educational qualification (19.6%); and
- other work-related training (6.7%).

1 BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, JUNE QUARTER 1997/MARCH QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

	ACT	Aust.
Period	%	%
Short-term		
Mar qtr 1996–Jun qtr 1996	1.8	2.3
Jun qtr 1996–Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1996	–0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996–Mar qtr 1997	–1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1998–Sept qtr 1997	–1.7	0.7
Medium-term		
Mar qtr 1996–Mar qtr 1997	2.3	4.1
Jun qtr 1996–Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996–Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1997

		ACT			Aust.		
			% change from			% change from	
Indicator	Unit	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION Dec qtr 96	'000	308 500.0	-0.1	1.0	18 426.9	0.3	1.3
Natural increase	no.	781	4.6	19.0	31 085	11.6	1.1
Net migration	no.	-991	3 439.3	6.9	24 834	-21.6	-12.6
Total increase	*no.*	*-210*	*-129.2*	*-667.6*	*55 919*	*-6.1*	*-5.5*
LABOUR FORCE, Jun 97							
Original series							
Employed	'000	158.3	-1.1	1.3	8 418.1	0.3	0.8
Unemployed	'000	12.3	5.1	-0.8	750.8	-5.2	2.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	0.4	-0.1	8.2	-0.4	0.2
Participation rate(a)	%	72.7	-0.4	0.1	63.0	-0.1	-0.3
Long-term unemployed (May 97)	no.	2 127	-30.1	-16.3	238 237	0.7	15.9
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (May 97)(a)	—	18.2	-7.3	-0.6	30.1	0.1	3.0
Trend series							
Employed	'000	159.7	0.4	2.7	8 392.5	-0.1	0.7
Unemployed	'000	12.3	0.8	-13.4	796.5	-0.4	1.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.1	—	-1.3	8.7	—	0.1
Participation rate(a)	%	73.3	0.4	0.3	63.1	-0.1	-0.4
JOB VACANCIES, May 97	'000	1.0	—	25.0	58.1	-7.2	8.4
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Mar 97							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	—	—	47.1	167.6	-46.1
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Mar 97)	no.	129.0	—	396.2	122.0	-4.7	43.5
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Apr 97							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	$m	8.0	19.4	45.5	658.3	16.4	33.4
Purchase of new dwellings	$m	7.7	-2.5	-11.5	258.8	14.9	33.5
Purchase of established dwellings	$m	50.9	8.5	0.4	2 837.5	9.4	33.5
Refinancing	$m	17.7	-2.7	14.9	991.4	16.8	48.9
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*84.4*	*5.9*	*5.1*	*4 745.9*	*12.1*	*35.5*
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*75.7*	*-8.7*	*-5.6*	*4 618.0*	*10.5*	*23.7*
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	763	-2.2	-2.4	41 401	1.2	9.4
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*81.1*	*-1.8*	*4.6*	*4 435.7*	*1.5*	*20.3*
BUILDING APPROVALS, May 97							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	216	56.5	-7.3	13 438	8.3	10.7
Value of new residential	$m	24.2	45.8	0.4	1 450.0	16.5	13.8
Value of residential alterations and additions	$m	3.9	-32.8	-4.9	224.4	5.5	10.3
Value of non-residential	$m	30.1	129.8	-72.5	913.0	10.7	-18.5
Value of total building	*$m*	*58.2*	*64.4*	*-57.7*	*2 587.4*	*13.4*	*-0.4*
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	149	-6.3	4.2	12 147	0.1	15.9
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Dec qtr 96							
New houses	no.	280	-1.1	-27.3	21 397	3.1	-4.1
Value of houses commenced	$m	31.8	-6.2	-29.3	2 347.7	5.1	3.2
Value of non-residential building commenced	$m	111.1	1.6	91.2	3 156.8	11.2	26.3
Value of total commencements	*$m*	*170.1*	*0.9*	*11.2*	*7 057.3*	*8.3*	*15.4*
PRICE INDEXES							
Establised house price index, Mar qtr 97	—	124.3	-1.8	-2.1	115.3	0.9	2.8

For footnotes see end of table.

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1997 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	ACT Latest figure	ACT % change from Previous period	ACT % change from Same period previous year	Aust. Latest figure	Aust. % change from Previous period	Aust. % change from Same period previous year
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Mar qtr 97							
Food	(1989–90=100.0)	122.0	—	2.3	120.2	0.7	3.7
Housing	(1989–90=100.0)	103.4	–4.2	–7.8	100.2	–2.9	–5.2
Transportation	(1989–90=100.0)	131.9	1.3	3.5	125.2	0.6	2.3
All groups	(1989–90=100.0)	121.4	—	0.5	120.5	0.2	1.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Feb 97							
Original series							
Males	$	777.3	1.0	2.3	688.7	1.3	3.1
Females	$	576.5	2.7	9.6	457.8	2.4	4.2
Persons	$	679.3	2.3	6.2	581.6	2.0	3.4
Trend series							
Males	$	777.6	1.1	3.6	685.0	0.7	2.7
Females	$	574.0	1.9	9.4	454.2	0.9	4.1
Persons	$	*675.3*	*1.7*	*6.1*	*577.0*	0.8	3.1
RETAIL TURNOVER, May 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	$m	76.7	7.4	–5.7	4 339.2	5.0	4.4
Department stores	$m	24.5	18.9	3.8	995.1	17.2	3.4
Hospitality and services	$m	30.8	3.0	4.8	1 725.0	1.4	0.8
All other retailing	$m	69.5	6.1	18.4	3 445.0	5.2	4.2
Total	$m	*201.5*	7.5	*4.4*	*10 504.3*	5.5	3.6
Trend series							
Food retailing	'000	73.3	–0.5	–8.3	4 302.8	0.4	4.1
Department stores	$m	22.5	–2.2	–4.7	959.3	–0.9	–0.8
Hospitality and services	$m	29.0	0.7	–1.4	1 769.6	0.6	–0.1
All other retailing	%	67.8	0.4	15.1	3 475.8	0.6	3.7
Total	'000	*192.6*	*–0.4*	*0.4*	*10 507.5*	*0.4*	2.8
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 96							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	221.0	11.8	2.3	9 551.6	2.7	2.8
Takings at current prices	$m	20.7	13.7	7.8	946.1	5.5	8.3
Takings at 1989–90 prices	$m	17.1	14.0	6.9	785.6	5.3	6.5
Room occupancy rate (Mar qtr 97)(a)	%	58.0	–5.1	–1.8	58.6	–1.3	–0.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	211.1	7.5	3.1	9 334.3	3.3	2.7
Takings at current prices	$m	20.1	9.8	9.8	912.3	4.1	8.5
Takings at 1989–90 prices	$m	16.5	9.3	7.8	757.5	3.9	6.7
Trend series							
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, May 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 061	4.4	–4.2	58 605	2.6	1.3
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 042	2.3	3.1	55 355	–0.7	5.7
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 054	2.2	6.5	57 040	–0.4	5.5

For footnotes see end of table.

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, JULY — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	ACT Latest figure	ACT % change from Previous period	ACT % change from Same period previous year	Aust. Latest figure	Aust. % change from Previous period	Aust. % change from Same period previous year
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Mar qtr 96(b)							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989–90 prices	$m	2 063	–11.8	–1.2	107 918	–9.7	2.4
Gross State product at current prices	$m	2 554	–12.0	2.0	124 332	–8.7	1.0
State final demand at av. 1989–90 prices	$m	2 639	–9.3	–7.2	104 913	-8.1	3.3
Private final consumption expenditure	$m	1 378	–10.1	4.5	75 903	–7.6	3.6
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	$m	169	–23.2	–2.9	19 270	–13.0	7.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989–90 prices	$m	2 194	–0.2	–1.1	112 956	1.1	3.6
Gross State product at current prices	$m	2 728	–0.4	2.9	129 156	1.2	4.8
State final demand at av. 1989–90 prices	$m	2 791	–0.6	-6.6	110 912	1.1	3.6
Private final consumption expenditure	$m	1 468	1.2	4.9	79 120	0.9	3.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	$m	196	–1.5	–3.0	21 206	1.1	7.0

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

(b) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

3 ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	*Unit*	*Latest period*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
POPULATION	'000	Dec qtr 96	6 240.9	4 581.6	3 374.3	1 476.8	1 782.7	474.2	184.9	308.5	18 426.9
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jun 97	2 798.9	2 093.7	1 554.3	663.0	848.9	192.5	85.8	159.7	8 392.5
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jun 97	8.0	9.3	9.3	9.7	7.1	10.8	6.5	7.1	8.7
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross State product at 1989–90 prices (trend)	$m	Mar qtr 97	38 259	29 439	18 353	7 713	12 919	2 261	1 190	2 194	112 956
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	$m	Mar qtr 97	45 035	33 637	20 715	9 032	13 956	2 703	1 306	2 728	129 156
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	May 97	5 242	2 487	3 014	620	1 576	147	136	216	13 438
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	May 97	4 233	2 610	2 832	621	1 453	157	155	149	12 147
Value of non-residential building approved	$m	May 97	260.5	168.3	214.7	64.7	146.4	18.1	10.1	30.1	913.0
Value of all buildings approved	$m	May 97	971.3	506.4	544.2	127.[illegible]	318.9	33.6	27.7	58.2	2 587.4
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	$m	Dec qtr 96	1 209.0	564.7	907.4	186.1	750.9	58.1	54.4	31.8	3 762.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	$	Feb 97	720.7	687.5	655.2	647.2	690.2	659.8	700.7	797.6	692.9
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	$m	May 97	3 687.2	2 483.5	1 939.2	772.1	1 069.1	252.9	111.0	192.6	10 507.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Dec qtr 96	3,129.9	1 492.9	2 454.6	523.0	840.7	263.1	307.9	207.2	9 219.1
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Mar qtr 97	60.9	59.8	57.3	55.4	57.1	62.9	46.4	58.0	58.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	May 97	19 608	14 126	10 483	3 821	6 001	1 207	740	1 054	57 040

	Unit	*Latest period*	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	*Adel.*	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Mar qtr 97	121.1	118.8	119.8	121.2	121.2	120.7	120.3	122.0	120.2
Housing	(b)	Mar qtr 97	104.9	93.5	106.4	97.5	94.8	101.9	117.8	103.4	100.2
Transportation	(b)	Mar qtr 97	125.9	125.1	124.4	125.6	122.9	122.8	122.7	131.9	125.2
All Groups	(b)	Mar qtr 97	120.6	120.1	121.5	122.6	118.2	121.9	121.6	121.4	120.5
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Mar qtr 97	115	130	116	116	127	125	117	112	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Mar qtr 97	201	193	194	153	177	175	194	193	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Mar qtr 97	1202	1079	1053	1157	1094	1051	1272	1071	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Mar qtr 97	361	379	343	351	357	393	416	362	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Mar qtr 97	105	115	93	78	119	89	112	98	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Mar qtr 97	552	533	546	500	561	573	538	559	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Mar qtr 97	318	285	252	345	340	247	315	287	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Mar qtr 97	77.1	75.2	68.2	77.5	77.4	80	82	80.3	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Mar qtr 97	74.9	73	66	75.2	75.2	77.9	80	78.1	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989–90=100.0.

4 ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	*Latest period*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
POPULATION	Dec qtr 96	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	–0.1	0.5	–0.1	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Jun 97	–0.2	—	0.2	—	–0.1	–0.5	0.9	0.4	–0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Jun 97	–0.1	0.1	–0.2	—	–0.1	—	0.1	—	—
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross State product at 1989–90 prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.0	–	0.2	1.1
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.7	1.1	–0.1	–0.4	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	May 97	22.7	–2.9	9.7	–1.3	–3.1	–25.0	–41.9	56.5	8.3
Dwelling units approved (trend)	May 97	0.8	–0.1	–0.8	6.0	2.8	—	–1.9	–6.3	0.1
Value of non-residential building approved	May 97	–15.2	–29.4	75.3	65.1	85.8	229.1	–49.2	129.8	10.7
Value of all buildings approved	May 97	14.6	–10.6	34.6	23.6	25.2	31.8	–39.4	64.4	13.4
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 96	–7.0	1.8	2.0	23.2	–4.5	14.6	–19.5	–11.9	–1.9
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb 97	0.5	1.5	1.8	1.0	0.2	1.9	1.7	0.6	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	May 97	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	–0.4	0.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Dec qtr 96	0.1	–0.4	1.2	0.5	0.7	1.3	3.6	–0.6	0.5
Room occupancy rate (original)	Mar qtr 97	—	3.8	–5.4	0.5	–3.2	–8.1	–12.1	–5.1	–1.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	May 97	–0.4	–0.8	–0.8	–0.5	0.7	0.5	1.5	2.2	–0.4

	Latest period	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	*Adel.*	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Mar qtr 97	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.7
Housing	Mar qtr 97	2.6	–3.3	–2.9	–3.0	–3.4	–2.8	–2.5	–4.2	–2.9
Transportation	Mar qtr 97	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.6
All Groups	Mar qtr 97	0.2	0.2	0.6	—	–0.2	0.5	–0.1	0.0	0.2
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Mar qtr 97	—	3.2	0.9	—	1.6	4.2	0.9	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Mar qtr 97	–1.0	–4.5	4.3	–2.5	1.7	2.9	—	0.5	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Mar qtr 97	1.4	–0.2	1.2	9.0	4.1	–3.4	2.8	4.8	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Mar qtr 97	3.4	3.8	4.3	–6.4	5.6	—	16.9	9.7	n.a.
Potatoes	Mar qtr 97	8.2	12.7	13.4	6.8	–4.0	2.3	7.7	6.5	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Mar qtr 97	–4.0	–5.3	–3.0	–2.5	0.4	–9.3	–7.1	–1.8	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Mar qtr 97	0.3	—	—	0.6	2.1	0.4	1.0	4.4	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Mar qtr 97	2.0	1.1	2.2	1.8	0.3	2.2	2.1	3.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Mar qtr 97	2.0	1.1	2.3	2.0	0.1	2.2	2.2	3.3	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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