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# Australian Capital Territory at a Glance

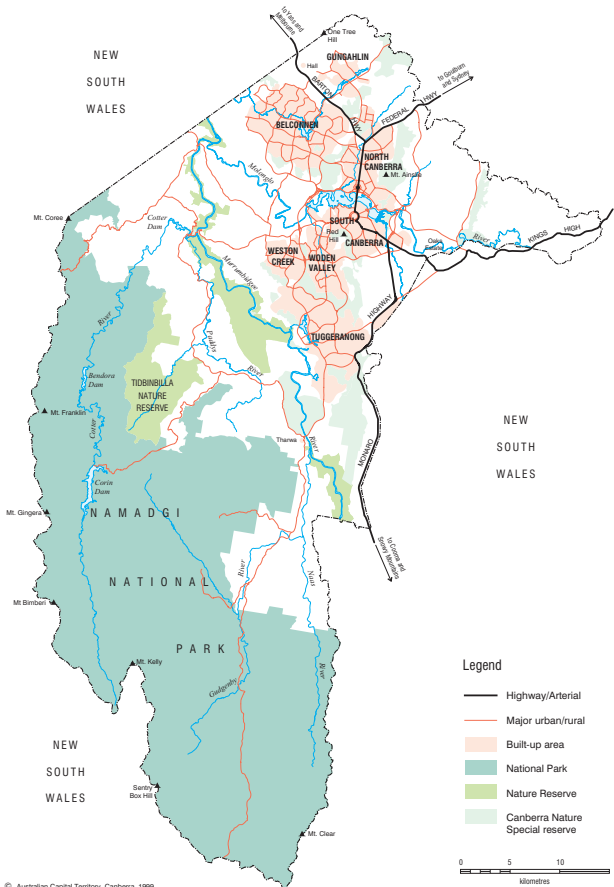
2004



In 1911, an area of approximately 2,360 square kilometres was transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia by the State of New South Wales to become the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The city of Canberra, Australia's national capital, is located in the northern part of this area, 300 km south-west of Sydney and 650 km north-east of Melbourne by road.

On 11 May 1989 self-government for the Territory was proclaimed. The ACT is the smallest of Australia's six states and two territories, but has the highest population density and is the only state or territory without a sea border.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



## CLIMATE OF THE ACT

(Latitude 35° 19'S, Longitude 149° 11'E, Height above Main Sea Level 571 metres).

The weather in the ACT in 2003 was drier, windier and warmer than the average. The ACT also recorded more thunderstorms than normal and an increase in the number of frosts in 2003.

|                                   | During 2003      | Long-term average  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Annual rainfall                   | 569.2 mm         | 625.5 mm           |
| Days of rain                      | 115              | 105                |
| Thunderstorm days                 | 35               | 23                 |
| Average daily temperature         | 13.7 °C          | 13.0 °C            |
| Days temperature exceeded 30°C    | 38               | 30                 |
| Days of frost                     | 103              | 99                 |
| Days of fog                       | 29               | 44                 |
| Average hours of sunshine per day | 7.9              | 7.6                |
| <b>Extremes</b>                   |                  |                    |
| Air temperature — hottest         | 39.8 °C (30 Jan) | 42.2 °C (1.2.68)   |
| Air temperature — coldest         | -4.9 °C (28 Jul) | -10.0 °C (11.7.71) |
| Rainfall — highest month          | 87.6 mm (Dec)    | 312 mm (Mar 1950)  |
| Rainfall — lowest month           | 11.4 mm (Jan)    | 0.0 mm (multiple)  |

## ACT IN COMPARISON TO AUSTRALIA

|             | Unit                 | Period | ACT | Australia |
|-------------|----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|
| <b>AREA</b> | '000 km <sup>2</sup> | 2003   | 2.4 | 7 692.0   |

## DEMOGRAPHY

|                               |                   |          |       |          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------|
| Estimated resident population | '000              | Dec 2003 | 322.6 | 20 008.7 |
| Annual population growth rate | %                 | 2002-03  | 0.4   | 1.2      |
| Births (per 1,000 persons)    | crude rate        | 2002     | 12.8  | 12.8     |
| Deaths (per 1,000 persons)    | standardised rate | 2002     | 5.9   | 6.7      |
| Marriages (per 1,000 persons) | crude rate        | 2002     | 4.9   | 5.4      |

## ECONOMY

### Gross State Product

|                                      |     |         |        |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------|--------|---------|
| Current prices                       | \$m | 2002-03 | 15 135 | 753 252 |
| Chain volume measures                | \$m | 2002-03 | 14 519 | 734 209 |
| Percentage change from previous year | %   | 2002-03 | 3.0    | 2.8     |

### Final consumption expenditure

|                      |       |         |     |     |
|----------------------|-------|---------|-----|-----|
| General government   | %     | 2002-03 | 45  | 17  |
| Household            | %     | 2002-03 | 41  | 59  |
| Consumer price index | % chg | 2002-03 | 3.3 | 3.1 |

## LABOUR FORCE (trend)

|  |       |          |       |          |
|--|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| Total in labour force                              | '000  | Feb 2004 | 183.7 | 10 186.8 |
| Employed persons                                   | '000  | Feb 2004 | 176.8 | 9 605.8  |
| Unemployed persons                                 | '000  | Feb 2004 | 6.9   | 581.1    |
| Unemployment rate                                  | %     | Feb 2004 | 3.7   | 5.7      |
| Participation rate                                 | %     | Feb 2004 | 71.6  | 63.6     |
| <b>Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses</b> |       |          |       |          |
| Private  | index | Mar 2004 | 122.9 | 122.8    |
| Public   | index | Mar 2004 | 123.3 | 126.3    |

## TRANSPORT

|                         |     |         |        |         |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|--------|---------|
| New motor vehicle sales | no. | 2003-04 | 14 943 | 941 620 |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|--------|---------|

## ACT HISTORICAL DATA

### AGRICULTURE (at 30 Jun)

|   | Unit | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    |
|---|------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of establishments                    | no.  | 96      | 93      | 88      |
| Total area of establishments                | ha   | 54 000  | 52 000  | 50 000  |
| <b>Livestock</b>                            |      |         |         |         |
| Sheep and lambs                             | no.  | 110 000 | 88 000  | 98 000  |
| Poultry                                     | no.  | 120 000 | 220 000 | 220 000 |
| <b>Gross value of production</b>            |      |         |         |         |
| Crops (incl. pasture and grasses)           | \$m  | 4.6     | 2.6     | p 2.6   |
| Livestock slaughterings and other disposals | \$m  | 4.3     | 4.6     | p 4.2   |
| Livestock products (incl. wool and milk)    | \$m  | 10.9    | 12.4    | p 8.6   |
| Total agriculture                           | \$m  | 19.8    | 19.6    | p 15.5  |

### BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

| <b>Building commencements</b>                         |        | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Residential building                                  | \$m    | 284.8   | 454.1   | 629.8   |
| Non-residential building                              | \$m    | 158.5   | 258.7   | 374.4   |
| Engineering construction                              | \$m    | 186.3   | 207.9   | 223.5   |
| Total   | \$m    | 629.6   | 920.7   | 1 227.7 |
| <b>New dwelling units approved</b>                    |        |         |         |         |
| Houses  | no.    | 967     | 1 214   | 1 889   |
| Other dwellings                                       | no.    | 781     | 1 018   | 1 281   |
| Total   | no.    | 1 748   | 2 232   | 3 170   |
| <b>Moving annual median house prices (at Dec qtr)</b> |        |         |         |         |
| Houses  | \$'000 | 206.3   | 234.2   | 303.0   |
| Flats/units/townhouse                                 | \$'000 | 156.9   | 197.8   | 260.0   |

### CRIME

| <b>Offences reported or becoming known to police</b> |     | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|--|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| Offences against the person                          | no. | 2 580   | 2 765   | 3 350   |
| Robbery and extortion                                | no. | 323     | 252     | 210     |
| Burglary, fraud and other offences of theft          | no. | 27 676  | 22 937  | 25 632  |
| Property damage and environment offences             | no. | 9 353   | 7 467   | 8 070   |
| Offences against good order                          | no. | 3 797   | 3 212   | 3 781   |
| Other offences not elsewhere classified              | no. | 4 407   | 5 198   | 6 332   |
| Total  | no. | 48 136  | 41 831  | 47 375  |

### DEMOGRAPHY

|   |                   | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Estimated resident population (at 31 Dec)       | '000              | 320.2 | 322.2 | 322.6 |
| <b>Statistical subdivisions (ERP at 30 Jun)</b> |                   |       |       |       |
| North Canberra                                  | '000              | 39.3  | r39.2 | p40.1 |
| Belconnen                                       | '000              | 86.2  | r86.2 | p86.1 |
| Woden Valley                                    | '000              | 32.9  | r32.4 | p32.2 |
| Weston Creek-Stromlo                            | '000              | 23.8  | r23.6 | p22.9 |
| Tuggeranong                                     | '000              | 90.8  | r90.6 | p90.3 |
| South Canberra                                  | '000              | 23.7  | r23.4 | p23.5 |
| Gungahlin-Hall                                  | '000              | 24.6  | r25.8 | p27.5 |
| Remainder of ACT                                | '000              | 0.4   | r0.4  | p0.4  |
| <b>Vital events registered</b>                  |                   |       |       |       |
| Births  | no.               | 4 065 | 3 938 | 4 112 |
| Deaths  | no.               | 1 300 | 1 419 | 1 373 |
| Marriages                                       | no.               | 1 735 | 1 572 | 1 583 |
| Divorces  | no.               | 1 561 | 1 684 | na    |
| Births (per 1,000 persons)                      | crude rate        | 13.1  | 12.2  | 12.8  |
| Deaths (per 1,000 persons)                      | standardised rate | 6.1   | 6.3   | 5.9   |
| Marriages (per 1,000 persons)                   | crude rate        | 5.6   | 4.9   | 4.9   |

## EDUCATION

| <b>Establishments</b>     |     | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Preschools                | no. | 80          | 80          | 80          |
| Schools                   |     |             |             |             |
| Government                | no. | 95          | 91          | 92          |
| Non-government            | no. | 44          | 43          | 42          |
| <b>Student enrolments</b> |     |             |             |             |
| Government preschools     | no. | 3 693       | 3 565       | 3 461       |
| Schools                   |     |             |             |             |
| Government                | no. | 37 352      | 36 876      | 36 020      |
| Non-government            | no. | 23 420      | 23 736      | 24 145      |
| <b>Higher education</b>   |     | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> |
| Establishments            | no. | 4           | 4           | 4           |
| Enrolments                | no. | 20 559      | 24 887      | 27 349      |

## GOVERNMENT FINANCE

|                              |     | <b>2000-01</b> | <b>2001-02</b> | <b>2002-03</b> |
|------------------------------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>               |     |                |                |                |
| Taxation                     | \$m | 639            | 579            | 684            |
| Current grants and subsidies | \$m | 828            | 947            | 982            |
| Other                        | \$m | 656            | 709            | 694            |
| Total                        | \$m | 2 123          | 2 236          | 2 360          |
| <b>Expenses</b>              |     |                |                |                |
| Operating                    | \$m | 1 631          | 1 609          | 1 786          |
| Other                        | \$m | 463            | 518            | 525            |
| Total                        | \$m | 2 093          | 2 127          | 2 310          |
| <b>Net operating balance</b> | \$m | 30             | 109            | 50             |

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

|         |        | <b>2000-01</b> | <b>2001-02</b> | <b>2002-03</b> |
|---------|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Imports | \$'000 | 4 840.3        | 5 405.7        | 216 526.5      |
| Exports | \$'000 | 21 579.4       | 10 572.0       | 4 345.0        |

## LABOUR FORCE (Feb trend series)

|   |      | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|---|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Employed persons                        | '000 | 171.2       | 176.0       | 176.8       |
| Males                                   | '000 | 88.3        | 91.1        | 92.5        |
| Females                                 | '000 | 82.9        | 84.9        | 84.3        |
| Unemployed persons                      | '000 | 7.9         | 8.0         | 6.9         |
| Males                                   | '000 | 4.7         | 4.8         | 3.9         |
| Females                                 | '000 | 3.2         | 3.2         | 3.0         |
| Unemployment rate                       | %    | 4.4         | 4.3         | 3.7         |
| Males                                   | %    | 5.1         | 5.0         | 4.1         |
| Females                                 | %    | 3.7         | 3.6         | 3.4         |
| Participation rate                      | %    | 71.3        | 72.5        | 71.6        |
| Males                                   | %    | 76.7        | 78.0        | 77.6        |
| Females                                 | %    | 66.3        | 67.2        | 66.0        |
| <b>Employment by Industry (Feb qtr)</b> |      | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing       | '000 | *0.6        | *0.6        | *0.4        |
| Mining                                  | '000 | **0.1       | **—         | **—         |
| Manufacturing                           | '000 | 4.8         | 4.3         | 5.5         |
| Electricity, gas and water supply       | '000 | *0.5        | 1.3         | *1.1        |
| Construction                            | '000 | 8.1         | 10.2        | 10.2        |
| Wholesale trade                         | '000 | 3.9         | 3.7         | 2.2         |
| Retail trade                            | '000 | 22.4        | 20.8        | 21.5        |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants    | '000 | 6.1         | 8.2         | 9.0         |
| Transport and storage                   | '000 | 4.6         | 4.0         | 5.2         |
| Communication services                  | '000 | 3.1         | 4.1         | 1.9         |
| Finance and insurance                   | '000 | 4.5         | 3.4         | 2.7         |
| Property and business services          | '000 | 26.3        | 23.6        | 24.6        |

**Employment by Industry (Feb qtr) —**  
*continued*

|                                       |      | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Government administration and defence | '000 | 38.8        | 43.5        | 46.4        |
| Education                             | '000 | 12.9        | 14.2        | 15.5        |
| Health and community services         | '000 | 19.5        | 16.4        | 14.5        |
| Cultural and recreational services    | '000 | 5.5         | 6.1         | 6.9         |
| Personal and other services           | '000 | 7.9         | 9.5         | 7.2         |

**Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses (Mar)**

|                |       | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|----------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Private sector | index | 115.0       | 118.9       | 122.9       |
| Public sector  | index | 113.1       | 117.6       | 123.3       |
| All sectors    | index | 113.8       | 118.1       | 123.1       |

**Industrial disputes (year ending Dec)**

|                                       |      | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Working days lost                     | '000 | 0.4         | 1.0         | 1.0         |
| Working days lost per 1,000 employees | no.  | 3           | 7           | 6           |

**Public sector employment (Feb qtr trend series)**

|                         |      | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|-------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Commonwealth Government | '000 | 53.3        | 57.1        | 58.3        |
| ACT Government          | '000 | 17.4        | 17.8        | 18.2        |
| Total                   | '000 | 70.7        | 74.9        | 76.5        |

**MEDICARE SERVICES**

**Average number of services per person**

|                           |     | <b>2000-01</b> | <b>2001-02</b> | <b>2002-03</b> |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Males                     | no. | 7.1            | 7.0            | 7.0            |
| Females                   | no. | 10.9           | 11.0           | 11.0           |
| Persons                   | no. | 9.1            | 9.0            | 9.0            |
| Males 75 years and over   | no. | 17.5           | 18.4           | 19.0           |
| Females 75 years and over | no. | 22.8           | 22.8           | 23.0           |

**PRICES**

**Consumer price index for Canberra**

|  |       | <b>2000-01</b> | <b>2001-02</b> | <b>2002-03</b> |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| All groups                                   | % chg | 6.2            | 2.5            | 3.3            |
| Food   | % chg | 5.8            | 5.9            | 3.4            |
| Tobacco and alcohol                          | % chg | 11.2           | 3.6            | 2.5            |
| Clothing and footwear                        | % chg | 6.9            | 1.2            | 1.6            |
| Housing                                      | % chg | 9.7            | 4.4            | 4.4            |
| Household furnishings, supplies and services | % chg | 4.2            | 1.4            | 1.1            |
| Health                                       | % chg | 3.7            | 4.1            | 7.0            |
| Transportation                               | % chg | 4.6            | -1.6           | 2.0            |
| Communication                                | % chg | 7.0            | -0.2           | 3.1            |
| Recreation                                   | % chg | 2.6            | 2.6            | 3.5            |
| Education                                    | % chg | 3.6            | 3.3            | 3.6            |
| Miscellaneous                                | % chg | 10.0           | 0.3            | 4.7            |

**Average retail prices (Jun qtr)**

|   |       | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> |
|---|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales – 1 litre             | cents | 128         | 140         | 144         |
| Bread, white loaf, supermarket sales – 650 g          | cents | 246         | 257         | 268         |
| Rump steak – 1 kg                                     | cents | 1 398       | 1 567       | 1 608       |
| Coffee, instant – 150 g jar                           | cents | 644         | 628         | 642         |
| Draught beer, full strength, public bar – 285ml glass | cents | 203         | 205         | 214         |
| Petrol, unleaded – 1 litre                            | cents | 97.8        | 91.8        | 89.8        |

## PRIVATE FINANCE (May)

| Lending commitments                  |     | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Housing finance for owner occupation | \$m | 162.9 | 166.2 | 141.1 |
| Personal                             | \$m | 76.3  | 101.4 | 105.7 |
| Commercial                           | \$m | 196.3 | 237.9 | 179.9 |
| Lease                                | \$m | 7.7   | 16.0  | 8.7   |

## RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER

|                                    |     | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| Food retailing                     | \$m | 1 353.5 | 1 387.2 | 1 428.7 |
| Department stores                  | \$m | 326.9   | 345.3   | 351.5   |
| Clothing and soft good retailing   | \$m | 229.2   | 233.5   | 237.5   |
| Household good retailing           | \$m | 530.3   | 603.8   | 656.1   |
| Recreational good retailing        | \$m | 158.7   | 169.3   | 168.6   |
| Other retailing                    | \$m | 320.4   | 281.1   | 290.2   |
| Hospitality and service industries | \$m | 589.9   | 661.9   | 645.0   |
| Total                              | \$m | 3 516.8 | 3 698.7 | 3 778.0 |

## GROSS STATE PRODUCT

|                   |     | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|-------------------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| In current prices | \$m | 13 447  | 14 114  | 15 135  |

## TOURIST ACCOMMODATION (Mar qtr)

| Hotels, motels and guest houses |        | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Establishments                  | no.    | 62     | 59     | 57     |
| Guest rooms                     | no.    | 5 228  | 5 112  | 4 941  |
| Bed spaces                      | no.    | 15 427 | 15 165 | 13 488 |
| Room occupancy rates            | %      | 62     | 62     | 66     |
| Takings from accommodation      | \$'000 | 31 992 | 32 794 | 34 268 |

## TRANSPORT

| New motor vehicle registrations |     | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| Passenger vehicles              | no. | 10 312  | 10 464  | 10 529  |
| Other vehicles                  | no. | 3 439   | 4 060   | 4 414   |
| Total                           | no. | 13 751  | 14 524  | 14 943  |

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

|                       |   |               |   |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>ACT</b>            | — Australian Capital Territory                  | <b>ERP</b>    | — estimated resident population   |
| <b>Aust.</b>          | — Australia                                     | <b>°C</b>     | — degrees Celsius   |
| <b>g</b>              | — gram  | <b>\$</b>     | — dollars   |
| <b>ha</b>             | — hectare                                       | <b>\$'000</b> | — dollars thousand  |
| <b>incl.</b>          | — including                                     | <b>\$m</b>    | — dollars million   |
| <b>kg</b>             | — kilogram                                      | <b>no.</b>    | — number  |
| <b>km</b>             | — kilometre                                     | <b>'000</b>   | — thousand  |
| <b>km<sup>2</sup></b> | — square kilometre                              | <b>%</b>      | — per cent  |
| <b>mm</b>             | — millimetres                                   | <b>% chg</b>  | — percentage change   |
| <b>ml</b>             | — millilitres                                   | <b>p</b>      | — preliminary   |
| <b>qtr</b>            | — quarter                                       | <b>na</b>     | — not available   |
| <b>Jan</b>            | — January                                       | <b>n.e.c.</b> | — not elsewhere classified  |
| <b>Feb</b>            | — February                                      | <b>r</b>      | — revised   |
| <b>Mar</b>            | — March   | <b>*</b>      | — estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution |
| <b>Jun</b>            | — June  | <b>**</b>     | — subject to sampling variability of 50% and over which is too high for most practical purposes |
| <b>Jul</b>            | — July  |               |   |
| <b>Dec</b>            | — December                                      |               |   |
| —                     | — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells) |               |   |

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