APRIL 2000

1303.8

BUSINESS INDICATORS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 27 APR 2000

CONTENTS

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Lenya Redfern on Canberra 02 6207 0446, Will Blythe on Canberra 02 6207 0311, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	*RELEASE DATE*
May 2000	22 May 2000
June 2000	23 June 2000
July 2000	28 July 2000
August 2000	25 August 2000
September 2000	22 September 2000
October 2000	27 October 2000

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
no.	number
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

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director, Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the March 2000 issue are: population, housing finance, industrial disputes, private new capital expenditure, business expectations, engineering construction activity, tourist accommodation, job vacancies, building approvals, labour force, new motor vehicle registrations, retail turnover, and state final demand. The feature article, beginning on page 8 is Emergency Services and Public Transport Usage in the ACT.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Population

The estimated resident population of the ACT in September quarter 1999 was 310,760, an increase of 587 persons (0.2%) since the June quarter 1999 and an increase of 2,455 (0.8%) persons since the September quarter 1998. The population for the 12 months to September 1999 showed an increase of 0.8% in the ACT, while Australia's population grew by 1.2%. For the September quarter 1999, net migration showed a loss of 61 residents. The positive gain in net overseas migration was outweighed by the negative net interstate migration.

Labour force

In March 2000, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT decreased 0.1 percentage points to 5.2% (9,000 persons) compared to the previous month, and decreased 0.8 percentage points compared to March 1999. Compared with the previous month, ACT trend employment remained constant at 165,400 persons. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.2% (to 8,962,000 persons) from the previous month, while the trend unemployment decreased by 0.4% (to 651,000 persons) for March 2000. The national trend unemployment rate remained steady at 6.8%. The trend participation rate in the ACT decreased 0.2 percentage points to 72.7%, while the national rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 63.5%.

Housing finance

The trend number of dwelling units financed (including re-financing) in the ACT in January 2000 was 1,013 an increase of 0.1% from the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT remained steady at $128 million compared with the previous month. Re-financing of existing dwellings comprised 10% of the total value of dwelling units financed in January 2000, compared with 12% recorded in December 1999. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including re-financing) during January 2000 was 48,723, compared with 48,710 in the previous month, while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased to $6,810 million (up 0.8%) from previous month.

Industrial disputes

For the 12 months ended December 1999 there were 30 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to 87 days nationally. In comparison with the 12 months ended December 1998, there was a decrease of 16.7% for the ACT and an increase of 20.8% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.

Private new capital expenditure

The trend private new capital expenditure in the ACT in the December quarter 1999 was $88 million, an increase of 15.8% from the previous quarter, and a decrease of 8.3% compared to the December quarter 1998. Private new capital expenditure on buildings increased 5.3% from the previous quarter, equipment also increased by 19.3% from the previous quarter. Since the December quarter 1998, private new capital expenditure on buildings decreased by 16.7%, likewise equipment decreased by 5.6%. Nationally, the trend private new capital expenditure was down 1.7% from the previous quarter and down 10.4% since the December quarter 1998.

Business expectations

Business expectations in the ACT indicate a positive movement of 1.5% in expected operating income from the sales of goods and services in the short term for the June quarter 2000. Nationally, there is an expected short term increase of 1.6% in the June quarter 2000. In the medium term (June quarter 1999 to June 2000), growth of 1.6% in sales is expected for the ACT, whilst the national expectation is 2.5%.

Engineering construction activity

The value of construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the December quarter 1999 decreased by 18% or $5.2 million from the previous quarter, and increased $2.6 million or 12% from the December quarter 1998. Nationally, the value of public sector work done increased 18% from the previous quarter, and increased 10% from the December quarter 1998.

The value of engineering construction work done by the private sector in the ACT during the December quarter 1999 decreased by 31% from the previous quarter to $17.2 million, and increased 14% from the December quarter 1998. Nationally, the value of private sector engineering construction work done decreased by $24.4 million from the previous quarter, and increased by $5.9 million from the December quarter 1998.

Tourist accommodation

The room occupancy rate for ACT hotels, motels and guest houses in the December quarter 1999 was 60.1% down 6.3 percentage points from the previous quarter, and up 1.2 percentage points from the December quarter 1998. Nationally, in the December quarter, the room occupancy rate decreased by 1.1 percentage points to 59.7% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Job vacancies

There were 3,900 job vacancies in the ACT for the February quarter 2000 recording a 3% increase from the previous quarter, and an increase of 56% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Nationally, job vacancies for February quarter 2000 increased by 9% since the November quarter, and increased 36% on the previous year.

Building approvals

There were 334 dwellings approved in February, 86 more than January and 118 more than February 1999. One conversion project accounted for 68 dwellings.

The number of houses approved (168) rose by 52 while other residential (98) fell by 34 dwellings. Dwelling approvals were concentrated in City (68), Nicholls (51) and Palmerston (42).

Building approvals *continued*

The value of total building was $84.8 million, an increase of $43.2 million on January. This comprised of an increase of $19.1 million in the value of residential building and an increase of $24.1 million in the value of non-residential building. There was one large public sector education project in the Weston Creek-Stromlo SSD Balance valued at $28 million.

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 5% to 273 dwelling units in February 2000. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units approved increased by 2% to 15,827 dwelling units in February 2000.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was $31.2 million in February 2000, an increase of $24.1 million from the previous month. In comparison with February 1999 there was a decrease of $54.8 (64%). Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals for February 2000 was $823.4 million, a decrease of 7% from the previous month, and down 33% from February 1999.

Motor vehicle registrations

The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in February 2000 was 1,200, up 3% from the previous month, and recorded the same figure compared to February 1999. Nationally, the trend for total new motor vehicle registrations in February 2000 increased by 1% to 64,493 since January 2000, and was down 3% compared to February 1999.

Retail turnover

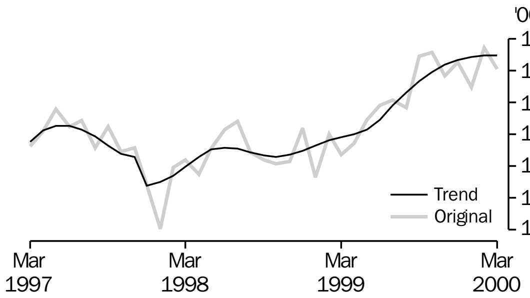
The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for February 2000 was $235.1 million, an increase of 0.8% from the previous month and was up 8.2% compared to February 1999. The national trend retail turnover recorded a decrease of 0.3% from the previous month and was up 3.4% compared to the previous year.

State final demand

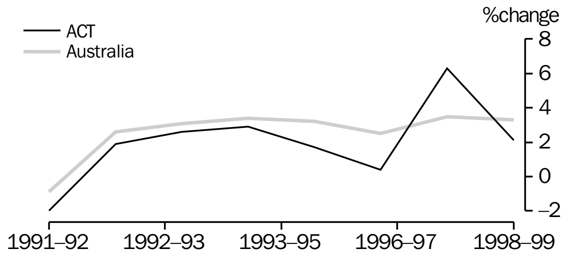
In the ACT, the original State Final Demand (chain volume measures) grew by 8% to $5,239 million in the December quarter 1999, compared to $4,865 million in September quarter 1999, and was up 6% compared to December quarter 1998. Nationally, Domestic final demand (chain volume measure) grew by 6% compared to the September quarter 1999, and was up 5% compared to the December quarter 1999.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

LABOUR FORCE, Employment

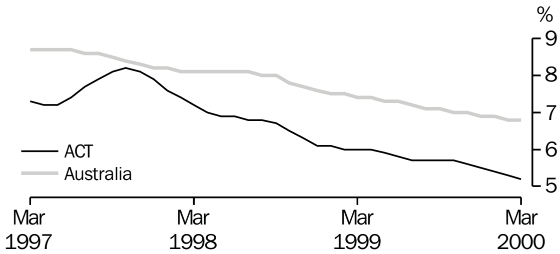


GROSS STATE PRODUCT, (chain volume measures)



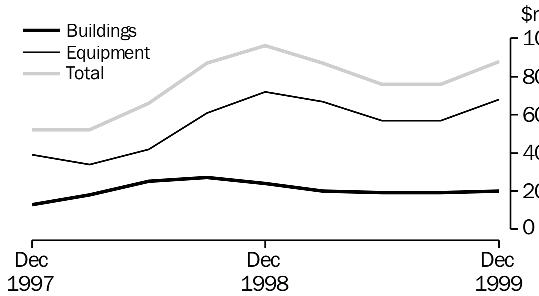
Note: Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

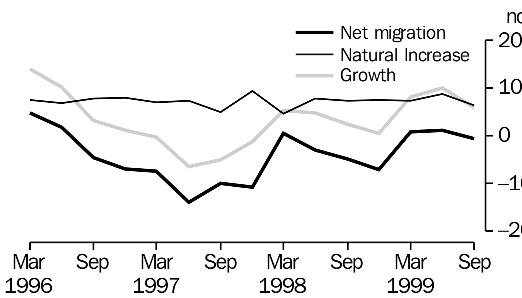


Note: Trend estimates for March 1999 to August 1999 have been revis

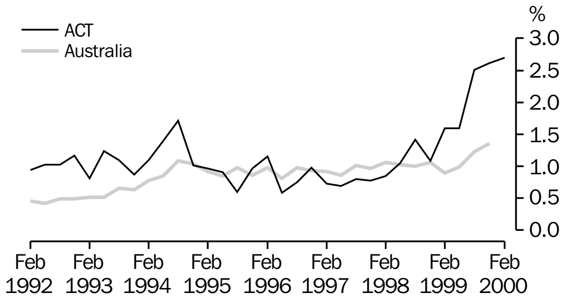
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: TREND



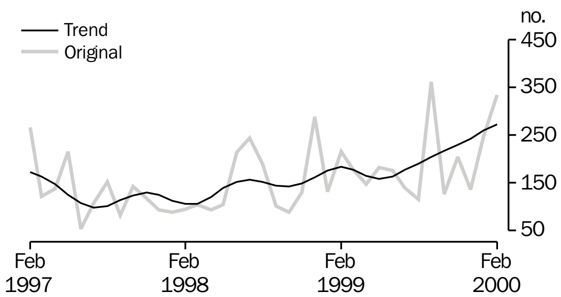
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



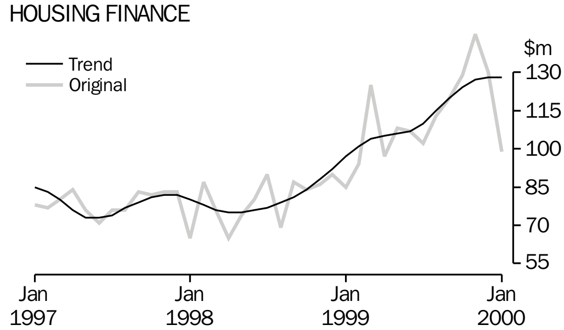
JOB VACANCY RATES

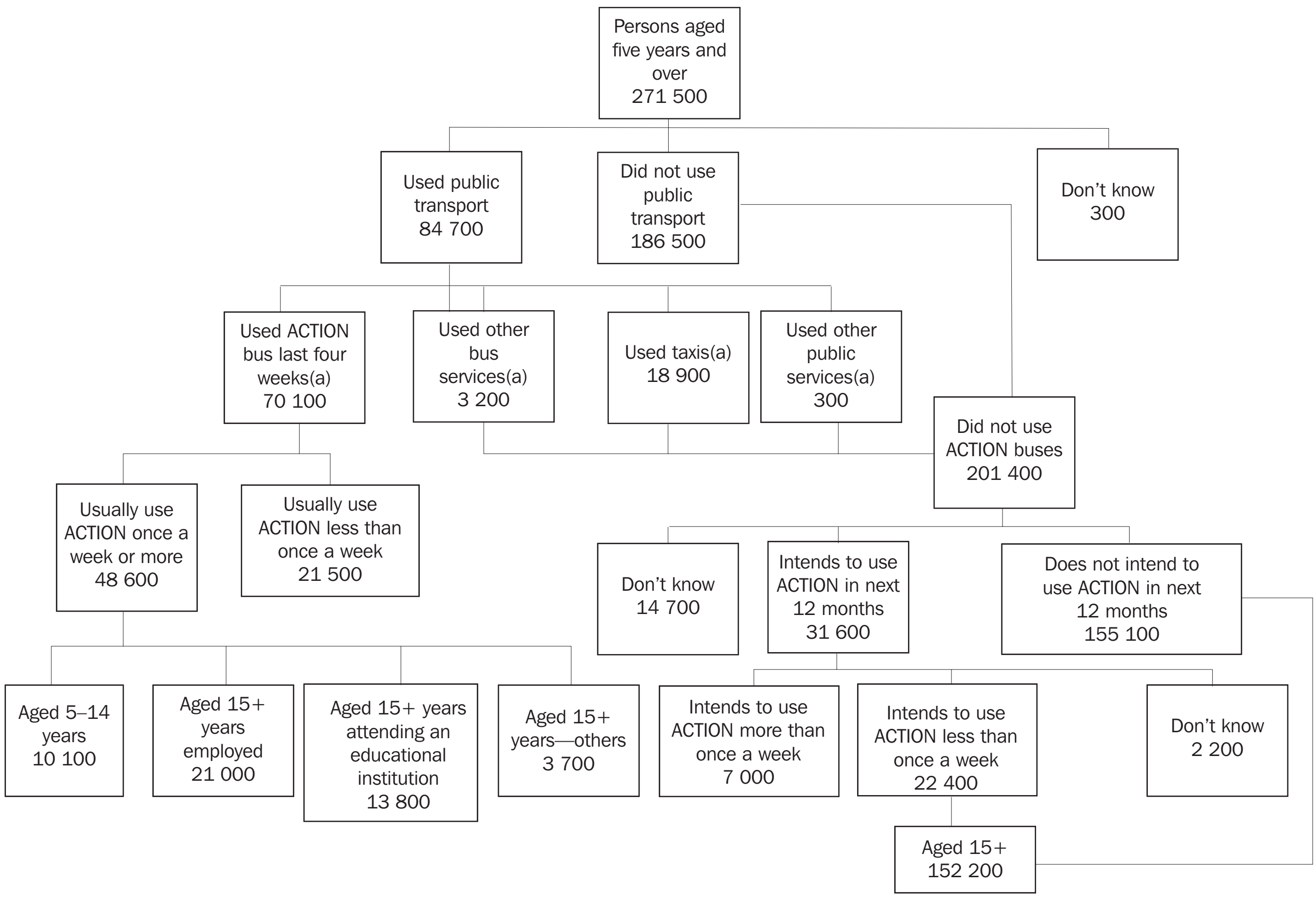


BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



HOUSING FINANCE





(a) This data relate to all services used by each respondent and will not sum to total persons who use any public transport service.

FEATURE ARTICLE

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT USAGE IN THE ACT

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Reference period and collection methodology

The ACT State Supplementary survey topic Usage of Emergency Services and Public Transport was conducted in October 1999 and provides estimates for the ACT. Data was collected from households with a responsible adult responding on behalf of all persons aged 5 years and over except for reasons not using ACTION buses, which was collected from persons aged 15 years and over. Similar surveys were conducted in October 1995 and 1998.

Comparisons with previous surveys

Great care needs to be taken in comparing estimates from this survey with those from similar surveys conducted in October 1995 and 1998. Because of the relatively small sample size, the estimates for small populations of interest can have high standard errors. Consequently the estimated changes over time are subject to very high sampling errors and checks on the statistical significance of the estimated changes need to be carried out before valid conclusions can be made. In addition, direct comparisons are also affected by calendar effects in relation to the timing of the survey weeks, school holidays and events such as Floriade.

Related information

As this data will not be published in a separate publication, a broad overview of the explanatory notes, technical information and standard errors may be obtained from the publication *Public Transport Usage and Migration Patterns, Australian Capital Territory* (Cat. no. 1365.8). More detailed information may be obtained from the contact detailed on the front of this publication.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Of the estimated 271,500 persons in the ACT aged five years and over, 31% used some form of public transport in the four weeks prior to the survey. Most of those persons who used a public transport, used an ACTION bus (83% or 70,100 people) with a small proportion using other bus services. The largest age group to use ACTION were those aged 15–24 years (25%) and those aged 5–14 years (17%). These age groups reflect those most likely to be attending educational institutions. Over one in five persons (22%) using public transport, used a taxi in that period.

USAGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE LAST 4 WEEKS—OCTOBER 1999

	Used public transport		*Did not use public transport*		*Don't know*		*Total*	
Age group (years)	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*
5–14	15 995	36.8	27 221	62.7	**200	**0.5	43 415	100.0
15–24	23 787	51.4	22 360	48.3	**106	**0.2	46 254	100.0
25–54	34 394	25.1	102 412	74.9	—	—	136 806	100.0
55 and over	10 540	23.4	34 490	76.6	—	—	45 029	100.0
Total	**84 716**	**31.2**	**186 483**	**68.7**	**306**	**0.1**	**271 504**	**100.0**

PEOPLE(a) WHO USED PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MODE OF TRANSPORT USED—OCTOBER 1999

	ACTION bus		*Other bus*		*Taxi*		*Other*		*Total*	
Age group (years)	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*
5–14	14 117	16.7	1 878	2.2	—	—	—	—	15 995	18.9
15–24	20 822	24.6	*419	*0.5	4 473	5.3	**97	**0.1	23 787	28.1
25–34	8 863	10.5	**94	**0.1	5 151	6.1	—	—	12 269	14.5
35–44	9 925	11.7	**185	**0.2	4 050	4.8	—	—	12 750	15.1
45–54	7 516	8.9	**231	**0.3	2 510	3.0	—	—	9 375	11.1
55–64	3 419	4.0	—	—	1 277	1.5	**116	**0.1	4 280	5.1
65 and over	5 461	6.4	*395	*0.5	1 391	1.6	**99	**0.1	6 260	7.4
Total	**70 123**	**82.8**	**3 202**	**3.8**	**18 851**	**22.3**	**312**	**0.4**	**84 716**	**100.0**

(a) Aged five years and over who used public transport last four weeks.

Taxis

Those using taxis are evenly distributed over the age groups between 15–44 years, representing 73% of all taxi usage and dropping significantly for those aged 55 and over (14%).

PEOPLE WHO USED ACTION SERVICES IN LAST 4 WEEKS

Frequency of ACTION usage

Of the people who used ACTION buses in the last four weeks, over two-thirds (69%) usually used the service between one to five days per week, with the highest usage by those who travelled at least five days a week.

USUAL FREQUENCY OF USE(a)—OCTOBER 1999

	Age group (years)				
	5–14	*15–24*	*25–54*	*55 and over*	*Total*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*
Usage per week (days)					
At least 5	9.5	16.3	10.3	*1.0	37.2
At least 3	1.8	5.2	5.6	1.9	14.5
At least once	3.1	4.2	6.6	3.8	17.6
Total	*14.4*	*25.7*	*22.5*	*6.7*	*69.3*
Use service less frequently	5.7	4.0	15.0	6.0	30.7
Total	**20.1**	**29.7**	**37.5**	**12.7**	**100.0**

(a) People aged five years and over who used public transport last four weeks.

Purpose of trip

Of those who usually use ACTION services for travel to an educational institution and travel to work, most make 6 or more trips per week (64% and 63% respectively).

However, of those who usually use ACTION for shopping and travel to social occasions, nearly 90% make between 1–5 trips per week (89% and 87% respectively).

PURPOSE FOR ALL USUAL TRAVEL ON ACTION BUSES(a)—OCTOBER 1999

	Usual usage per week							
	1–5 trips		*6–10 trips*		*More than 10 trips*		*Total*	
All purposes usually use ACTION buses	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
School/education	7 691	33.6	14 587	63.7	*619	*2.7	22 896	100.0
Work	5 082	32.9	9 584	62.0	*714	*4.6	15 465	100.0
Social purposes	9 581	86.8	1 461	13.2	—	—	11 042	100.0
Shopping	7 920	88.7	*906	*10.2	**99	**1.1	8 924	100.0
Other	2 617	71.9	*939	*25.8	**85	**2.3	3 641	100.0

(a) People aged five years and over who used public transport last four weeks.

Labour Force Status

Labour force status was collected only from people aged 15 years and over. Over one third (35%) of people in this age group who used ACTION in the last four weeks usually travel at least five days per week. Over one in five people who used ACTION in the last four weeks were employed and usually used the service at least five days a week.

PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO USED AN ACTION BUS LAST 4 WEEKS—OCTOBER 1999

	Labour force status							
	Employed		*Unemployed*		*Not in labour force*		*Total*	
Usual usage per week (days)	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
At least 5	12 354	22.1	1 400	2.5	5 611	10.0	19 365	34.6
3–4	4 682	8.4	*873	*1.6	3 334	6.0	8 889	15.9
1–2	3 988	7.1	*846	*1.5	5 381	9.6	10 216	18.2
Use service less frequently	11 087	19.8	*937	*1.7	5 513	9.8	17 536	31.3
Total	**32 111**	**57.3**	**4 056**	**7.2**	**19 839**	**35.4**	**56 006**	**100.0**

Intentions to use ACTION

Of those persons aged five years and over who did not use public transport in the four weeks prior to the survey, 57% did not intend to use ACTION buses in the next 12 months, while 12% did and 5% were undecided.

PEOPLE(a) WHO DID NOT USE ACTION, INTENDED USE NEXT 12 MONTHS—OCTOBER 1999

	Intended frequency of weekly use next 12 months									
	At least 5 days		*3–4 days*		*1–2 days*		*Less than 1 day/don't know*		*Total*	
Age group (years)	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
5–14	1 671	5.3	*390	*1.2	*385	*1.2	4 013	12.7	6 459	20.4
15–24	—	—	**97	**0.3	*413	*1.3	3 365	10.6	3 875	12.3
25–54	*721	*2.3	*802	*2.5	1 786	5.7	12 041	38.1	15 350	48.6
55 and over	**107	**0.3	*305	*1.0	*323	*1.0	5 185	16.4	5 920	18.7
Total	**2 499**	**7.9**	**1 594**	**5.0**	**2 907**	**9.2**	**24 603**	**77.8**	**31 604**	**100.0**

(a) Persons aged five years and over who did not use ACTION in last four weeks.

PEOPLE(a) INTENDING TO USE ACTION NEXT 12 MONTHS—OCTOBER 1999

	Main reason for intended use of ACTION services									
	Change in work/education		*Cost*		*Personal reasons*		*Other*		*Total*	
Age group (years)	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
5–14	1 771	64.9	—	—	*577	*18.0	**98	**13.1	2 446	34.9
15–24	**97	**3.5	—	—	*307	*9.6	**106	**14.2	510	7.3
25–54	*861	*31.6	*319	*100.0	1 791	55.9	*337	*45.1	3 309	47.3
55 and over	—	—	—	—	*529	*16.5	**206	**27.6	736	10.5
Total	**2 729**	**100.0**	**319**	**100.0**	**3 205**	**100.0**	**747**	**100.0**	**7 000**	**100.0**

(a) Aged 5 years and over who did not use ACTION in the last four four weeks and intend to use service at least 1–5 days per week in next 12 months.

Main reason not using ACTION

Most people reported their main reason for not using ACTION was because they preferred to drive, walk or ride (37%), used their own vehicle for work and/or private purposes during the day (23%) or because of inconvenient service (16%).

MAIN REASON NOT USING ACTION SERVICES MORE OFTEN(a)—OCTOBER 1999

	Age group (years)									
	15–24		*25–44*		*45–64*		*65 and over*		*Total*	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Prefer to drive/walk/ride	10 098	45.1	25 275	38.1	16 946	33.2	4 329	34.6	56 647	37.2
Private vehicle used for work/personal purposes during the day	4 349	19.4	14 902	22.5	12 314	24.2	3 479	27.8	35 043	23.0
Inconvenient/services too infrequent	3 049	13.6	11 000	16.6	9 005	17.7	*932	*7.5	23 986	15.8
Bus takes too long	*755	*3.4	3 080	4.6	2 156	4.2	**206	**1.6	6 197	4.1
Early starts/late finishes/variable hours	*982	*4.4	2 135	3.2	1 736	3.4	—	—	4 852	3.2
Use government/company car	*493	*2.2	1 917	2.9	1 690	3.3	**107	**0.9	4 207	2.8
Inflexibility/buses don't go where needed	*305	*1.4	1 840	2.8	1 848	3.6	—	—	3 993	2.6
Bus service not accessible	**129	**0.6	*397	*0.6	*846	*1.7	1 318	10.5	2 690	1.8
Fares cost too much	*365	*1.6	1 069	1.6	*990	*1.9	—	—	2 424	1.6
Other reasons	*997	*4.5	2 057	3.1	1 105	2.2	*403	*3.2	4 566	3.0
Reason unspecified/don't know	*859	*3.8	2 686	4.0	2 342	4.6	1 730	13.8	7 619	5.0
Total	**22 381**	**100.0**	**66 358**	**100.0**	**50 978**	**100.0**	**12 504**	**100.0**	**152 224**	**100.0**

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over who did not use ACTION last four weeks and do not intend to use the service, or intend to use less than once a week in the next 12 months.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Usage

Most households (92%) did not use the Emergency services '000' number in the last 12 months. Of those who did, 2% used this service two or more times.

Purpose of call

Most calls to the Emergency '000' service were for Ambulance (56%) and Police assistance was requested in 36% of calls. The remainder of calls were for Fire services and other unspecified assistance.

1 BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: TRADING PERFORMANCE, OPERATING INCOME(a)

	ACT	*Aust.*
	%	%
Short-term		
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	–1.1	–0.3
Mar qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1998	–0.1	1.7
Jun qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1998	2.7	1.1
Sep qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1998	3.5	1.6
Dec qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	–2.7	–0.9
Mar qtr 1999–Jun qtr 1999	0.4	1.8
Jun qtr 1999–Sep qtr 1999	1.4	1.8
Sep qtr 1999–Dec qtr 1999	1.9	2.4
Dec qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	–5.4	–0.7
Mar qtr 2000-Jun qtr 2000	1.5	1.6
Medium-term		
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.9	3.0
Mar qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	2.6	2.6
Jun qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1999	6.9	2.7
Sep qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1999	7.5	2.9
Dec qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1999	2.6	2.7
Mar qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	1.7	2.3
Jun qtr 1999–Jun qtr 2000	5.7	3.3
Sep qtr 1999–Sep qtr 2000	2.8	2.7
Dec qtr 1999–Dec qtr 2000	0.1	1.8
Mar qtr 2000–Mar qtr 2001	1.6	2.5

(a) This data are all expectations and have not been revised for previous quarters.

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS

		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, Sep qtr 99	'000	310.8	0.2	0.8	19 021.4	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	648	–26.9	–11.8	26 180	–13.8	–3.9
Net migration	no.	–61	–44.6	54.5	28 473	57.8	–18.1
Total increase	*no.*	*587*	*–41.5*	*150.0*	*54 653*	*12.9*	*–11.9*
LABOUR FORCE, Mar 00							
Original series							
Employed	'000	164.0	–1.3	5.5	8 950.0	0.5	2.9
Unemployed	'000	10.3	—	–12.0	700.2	–2.6	–4.9
Unemployment rate	%	5.9	—	–1.1	7.3	–0.2	–0.5
Participation rate	%	72.6	–1.0	1.8	63.7	0.1	0.5
Long-term unemployed, Feb 00	no.	1 970	–0.9	–38.6	196 234	5.2	–19.5
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		19.1	0.1	–8.5	27.3	0.5	–3.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	165.4	—	5.2	8 962.0	0.2	2.9
Unemployed	'000	9.0	–2.2	–10.9	651.0	–0.4	–7.0
Unemployment rate	%	5.2	–0.1	–0.8	6.8	—	–0.6
Participation rate	%	72.7	–0.2	1.9	63.5	0.1	0.5
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS							
Number employed–Trend series, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector	'000	67.4	0.7	–0.7	1 450.8	0.2	–0.2
Private sector	'000	82.1	–1.9	14.2	5 774.3	0.5	3.5
Total	*'000*	*149.5*	*–0.7*	*6.9*	*7 225.1*	*0.4*	*2.7*
Gross earnings–Original series, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector	$m	911.5	16.6	–0.4	15 724.8	6.9	2.9
Private sector	$m	602.6	–12.7	13.7	47 801.4	3.3	7.0
Total	*$m*	*1 514.1*	*2.8*	*4.8*	*63 526.2*	*4.2*	*6.0*
JOB VACANCIES, Feb qtr 00	'000	3.9	2.6	56.0	112.7	9.2	36.1
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Dec 99							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	—	–66.7	40.9	–72.7	–19.8
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Oct 99)	no.	30.0	–6.3	–16.7	87.0	–1.1	20.8
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Jan 00							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	$m	10.0	–28.6	42.9	756.0	–20.5	34.8
Purchase of new dwellings	$m	2.0	–33.3	—	186.0	–17.3	10.1
Purchase of established dwellings	$m	73.0	–20.7	17.7	4 234.0	–21.8	29.0
Re-financing	$m	10.0	–37.5	–23.1	799.0	–20.1	27.8
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*99.0*	*–23.8*	*16.5*	*5 175.0*	*–21.5*	*29.1*
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*116.0*	*–5.7*	*16.0*	*6 531.0*	*–1.4*	*26.8*
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	1 013	0.1	30.7	48 723	—	21.1
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*128.0*	*—*	*33.3*	*6 810.0*	*0.8*	*32.4*
BUILDING APPROVALS, Feb 00							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	334	34.7	54.6	15 258	19.8	21.1
Value of new residential	$m	39.7	35.5	73.4	1 884.8	17.6	32.2
Value of residential alterations and additions	$m	5.9	11.3	90.3	305.9	38.4	27.0
Value of non-residential	$m	31.2	339.4	–63.7	823.4	–6.6	–33.1
Value of total building	*$m*	*84.8*	*103.8*	*–24.4*	*3 014.0*	*11.4*	*4.0*
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	273	5.0	48.4	15 827	1.5	21.7

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
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 99							
New houses	no.	264	–30.3	–37.6	28 290	3.2	4.2
Value of houses commenced	$m	38.8	–22.1	–22.6	3 633.4	7.3	14.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	$m	32.9	–51.7	–39.1	2 879.3	1.8	–2.6
Value of total commencements	*$m*	*125.7*	*–17.0*	*–1.6*	*9 204.4*	*13.9*	*13.3*
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 99		136.1	4.9	6.5	141.3	3.3	9.5
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Dec qtr 99)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	$m	11.0	–28.1	–37.9	2 697.9	–2.3	–6.4
Value of work done	$m	17.2	–31.2	13.9	2 972.1	–0.8	0.2
Value of work yet to be done	$m	19.8	–23.3	29.4	5 112.2	–3.0	–13.4
Value of work done by public sector	$m	23.9	–17.9	12.2	1 855.2	17.6	10.2
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 99							
Food(a)		130.9	2.5	1.4	128.9	0.3	2.3
Housing(a)		97.2	1.2	3.5	99.6	1.5	4.3
Transportation(a)		131.4	–0.2	3.5	126.4	–0.4	3.7
All groups(a)		123.7	1.1	1.6	124.1	0.6	1.8
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov qtr 99							
Original series							
Males	$	953.1	6.0	6.9	810.4	1.8	2.8
Females	$	827.5	5.6	6.8	683.4	1.1	3.3
Persons	*$*	897.6	5.4	6.4	763.2	1.5	3.0
Trend series							
Males	$	940.0	3.3	4.6	808.7	0.9	2.7
Females	$	816.1	2.6	5.3	682.6	0.9	3.3
Persons	*$*	*887.5*	*3.0*	*4.6*	*762.0*	*0.9*	*2.8*
WAGE COST INDEX, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector(b)		*105.6*	*0.1*	*3.2*	*103.2*	*0.3*	*3.9*
Private sector(b)		*105.9*	*0.6*	*2.7*	*106.2*	*0.6*	*2.9*
Total(b)		*105.6*	*0.3*	*3.0*	*106.4*	*0.6*	*3.2*
RETAIL TURNOVER, Feb 00							
Original series							
Food retailing	$m	82.6	–2.4	8.8	4 549.0	–5.3	4.4
Department stores	$m	19.2	–13.1	12.9	798.3	–13.7	8.1
Hospitality and services	$m	31.1	–3.1	3.0	1 958.0	–4.9	9.1
All other retailing	$m	78.6	–2.1	18.2	3 565.9	–6.0	7.8
Total	*$m*	*211.5*	*–3.5*	*11.6*	*10 871.2*	*–6.1*	*6.6*
Trend series							
Food retailing	$m	85.9	0.8	6.3	4 794.2	–0.4	1.8
Department stores	$m	25.6	—	3.2	1 064.7	–0.5	2.0
Hospitality and services	$m	34.3	0.3	–0.6	2 072.2	0.3	6.4
All other retailing	$m	89.3	1.2	15.7	3 998.5	–0.6	4.4
Total	*$m*	*235.1*	*0.8*	*8.2*	*11 929.6*	*–0.3*	*3.4*

(a) Base year: 1989–90 = 100.0.

(b) Base of each index: September quarter 1997 = 100.0.

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
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 99							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	260.1	–8.7	7.1	10 413.6	0.2	5.1
Takings at current prices	$m	28.2	11.0	25.3	1 077.8	–5.7	8.0
Guest arrivals	'000	201.6	–11.2	6.8	8 312.7	–1.0	5.2
Guest nights	'000	424.7	–11.9	14.4	18 490.1	–4.1	8.2
Room occupancy rate	%	60.1	3.3	1.8	59.7	–1.9	1.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Feb 00							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 180	37.5	8.6	62 225	23.8	3.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 275	13.1	7.3	63 649	–1.4	–1.1
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 200	3.1	—	64 493	1.1	–2.9
STATE ACCOUNTS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Dec qtr 99(a)							
Original series (chain volume measure)(b)							
Household final consumption expenditure	$m	1 731	5.6	4.5	94 922	7.0	6.1
General government final consumption expenditure	$m	3 010	8.6	12.7	28 889	6.2	14.3
Private gross fixed capital formation	$m	396	–15.2	8.8	30 494	–11.1	6.5
Public gross fixed capital formation	$m	102	–11.5	–20.0	7 513	–8.9	78.9
State final demand	$m	5 239	7.7	8.4	161 819	6.2	4.5
GROSS STATE PRODUCT (trend, chain volume measures) 1998–99	$m	11 822	2.6	n.a.	591 546	4.5	n.a.
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Dec qtr 99							
Original series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	$m	23	35.3	–20.7	2 989	–4.7	–27.1
Equipment, plant and machinery	$m	71	26.8	–15.5	7 962	5.9	1.5
Total	$m	94	30.6	–16.8	10 950	2.7	–8.4
Trend series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	$m	20	5.3	–16.7	2 809	–4.3	–24.0
Equipment, plant and machinery	$m	68	19.3	–5.6	7 546	–0.7	–4.0
Total	$m	88	15.8	–8.3	10 355	–1.7	–10.4

(a) Quarterly state final demand details are released as a special data service (Product no. 5206.0.40.001).

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996–97.

Source: ABS publications: Australia Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0), Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0), Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0), Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0), Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0), House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6416.0), Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0), Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0), Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0), Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0), New Motor Vehicle Registration, Australia (Cat. no. 9301.0), Price Index of Materials Used in Housing Building (Cat. no. 6408.0), Private New Capital Expenditure, State Estimates (Cat. no. 5646.0), Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0), Tourism Indicators, Australia (Cat. no. 8634.0), Tourism Accommodation, ACT (Cat. no. 8635.8).

3 ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	*Unit*	*Latest period*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
POPULATION	'000	Sep qtr 99	6 428.7	4 726.6	3 525.6	1 494.8	1 868.2	470.1	193.4	310.8	19 021.4
LABOUR FORCE (trend)											
Employed persons	'000	Mar 00	3 003.8	2 230.3	1 664.7	678.1	929.3	199.2	91.7	165.4	8 962.0
Unemployment rate	%	Mar 00	5.9	6.7	8.0	8.1	6.4	8.8	4.6	5.2	6.8
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)											
Public sector	'000	Sep qtr 99	467.2	300.0	288.6	113.9	150.6	40.9	22.0	67.4	1 450.8
Private sector	'000	Sep qtr 99	1 995.9	1 504.4	1 037.3	409.6	569.2	123.6	52.2	82.1	5 774.3
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Sep qtr 99	2 463.2	1 804.4	1 325.9	523.5	719.8	164.5	74.2	149.5	7 225.1
STATE ACCOUNTS(a) (trend)											
Gross state product (chain volume measures)	$m	1998–99	209 937	151 213	96 000	40 493	63 198	11 059	6 460	11 822	591 546
GSP (current prices)original	$m	1998–99	212 635	151 306	95 935	40 573	63 226	11 115	6 481	12 040	593 311
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)											
Total	$m	Dec qtr 99	3 426	2 782	1 762	542	1 436	109	261	88	10 355
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved(original)	no.	Feb 00	4 201	4 612	2 733	1 073	1 972	168	165	334	15 258
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Feb 00	4 204	4 570	3 119	1 070	2 117	186	173	273	15 827
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	$m	Feb 00	279.4	271.6	101.9	43.3	63.8	21.4	10.8	31.2	823.4
Value of all buildings approved (original)	$m	Feb 00	926.5	947.9	451.9	173.9	353.1	42.2	33.8	84.8	3 014.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	$m	Dec qtr 99	1 481.6	784.0	1 380.2	294.2	717.7	53.1	75.3	41.1	4 827.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)											
Full-time adult ordinary time	$	Nov qtr 99	800.8	750.5	706.1	707.3	775.3	714.5	780.7	887.5	762.0
RETAIL TRADE (trend)											
Retail turnover	$m	Feb 00	4 124.8	2 858.7	2 245.1	873.6	1 197.5	267.8	130.9	235.1	11 929.6
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Dec qtr 99	3 423.1	1 672.7	2 882.5	562.2	984.1	284.3	344.6	260.1	10 413.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec qtr 99	60.9	58.1	60.7	58.4	57.6	56.0	60.2	60.1	59.7
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)											
Total	no.	Feb 00	22 563	18 221	10 701	4 035	5 845	1 255	673	1 200	64 493

	Unit	*Latest period*	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	*Adel.*	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food(d)		Dec qtr 99	129.6	128.6	126.4	130.4	129.3	127.5	125.9	130.9	128.9
Housing(d)		Dec qtr 99	107.3	90.4	103.9	96.9	95.1	97.4	117.8	97.2	99.6
Transportation(d)		Dec qtr 99	127.3	125.2	124.8	127.4	127.0	123.8	123.2	131.4	126.4
All Groups(d)		Dec qtr 99	124.7	123.5	124.1	125.7	122.7	124.0	123.6	123.7	124.1
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	129	142	130	141	146	130	142	119	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 99	232	239	213	219	220	239	219	230	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	1 249	1 087	1 086	1 140	1 191	1 024	1 189	1 246	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	363	367	327	375	353	371	414	360	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	127	170	119	105	152	93	137	141	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 99	582	603	604	568	644	693	632	570	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 99	337	328	277	368	393	264	332	275	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	79.6	76.2	69.9	78.4	79.0	84.7	86.5	83.1	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	76.9	73.8	67.3	75.8	76.4	82.7	84.5	80.5	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) Experimental series. Users are cautioned 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 does not equal the estimates for Australia.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996–97.

(d) 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	Sep qtr 99	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	—	0.3	0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE (trend)										
Employed persons	Mar 00	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	—	0.2
Unemployment rate	Mar 00	—	–0.1	–0.1	0.1	–0.1	–0.1	–0.1	–0.1	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)										
Pubic sector	Sep qtr 99	0.8	–1.4	0.1	0.5	1.3	–0.5	–0.5	0.7	0.2
Private sector	Sep qtr 99	—	0.4	1.8	1.2	–1.2	4.0	—	–1.9	0.5
Total public and private sector	Sep qtr 99	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.0	–0.7	2.9	–0.1	–0.7	0.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a) (trend)										
Gross state product (chain volume measures)(b)(c)	1998–99	4.1	6.2	4.5	2.1	2.1	2.5	7.6	2.6	4.5
GSP (current prices)original	1998–99	5.4	6.2	4.4	2.3	2.1	3.0	8.0	4.5	4.8
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)										
Total (at current prices)	Dec qtr 99	–2.0	–1.8	0.3	–3.7	–3.3	–1.8	6.5	15.8	–1.7
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Feb 00	20.0	20.1	11.0	50.7	17.7	–7.2	44.7	34.7	19.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Feb 00	–0.1	2.6	0.5	4.4	—	3.9	6.1	5.0	1.5
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	Feb 00	–21.7	19.3	–48.5	134.1	11.3	234.4	3.8	339.4	–6.6
Value of all buildings approved (original)	Feb 00	0.1	16.8	–9.1	74.6	31.2	31.9	19.9	103.8	11.4
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 99	4.0	6.4	11.7	–21.3	14.5	13.9	–0.8	–23.9	5.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)										
Full-time adult ordinary time	Nov qtr 99	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.6	1.1	1.6	3.0	0.9
RETAIL TRADE (trend)										
Retail turnover	Feb qtr 00	–0.4	–0.7	0.1	–0.3	0.2	–0.3	0.2	0.8	–0.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied	Dec qtr 99	2.3	5.2	–5.7	10.1	2.4	38.3	–22.2	–8.7	0.2
Room occupancy rate	Dec qtr 99	–0.2	2.1	–4.3	3.9	–1.2	15.3	–17.5	–6.3	–1.1
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)										
Total	Feb 00	0.5	1.9	2.2	0.6	–1.0	0.7	–1.2	3.1	1.1
	Latest period	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	*Adel.*	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food(d)	Dec qtr 99	0.2	0.6	–0.5	0.5	–0.1	1.0	1.3	2.5	0.3
Housing(d)	Dec qtr 99	1.4	1.8	1.1	2.0	2.1	0.5	0.3	1.2	1.5
Transportation(d)	Dec qtr 99	–0.5	–0.6	–0.6	–0.3	–0.3	0.6	0.5	–0.2	–0.4
All Groups(d)	Dec qtr 99	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.6
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 99	5.7	1.4	3.2	0.7	—	—	0.7	3.5	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 99	1.8	0.4	0.9	2.8	0.9	5.8	—	0.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 99	4.3	–0.5	1.8	11.1	1.6	4.2	6.0	3.7	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 99	0.3	3.4	4.8	3.6	–4.3	–0.5	–1.7	–1.6	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 99	—	11.1	–9.8	31.3	–1.3	16.3	7.0	0.7	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 99	–4.6	–5.8	–5.0	—	–4.0	14.7	12.7	15.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 99	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.0	—	—	1.9	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 99	1.5	–0.3	—	0.5	0.8	2.3	4.1	3.1	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 99	1.5	–0.3	–0.3	0.3	0.5	2.4	4.3	2.9	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) Experimental series. Users are cautioned 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 does not equal the estimates for Australia.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996–97.

(d) Base year: 1989–90 = 100.0.

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