

BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

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FEATURE ARTICLE

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- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Will Blythe on Canberra 02 6205 0032 or Marianita Jose on Canberra 02 6207 0277, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
April 1999	19 April 1999
May 1999	24 May 1999
June 1999	21 June 1999
July 1999	19 July 1999
Aug 1999	23 August 1999
September 1999	20 September 1999

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

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director, Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the February 1999 issue are: labour force, average weekly earnings, house price index, housing finance, building approvals, industrial disputes, retail trade, and motor vehicle registrations. The feature article on pages 6–8 is on Education and Labour Force Status of the ACT's Young People.

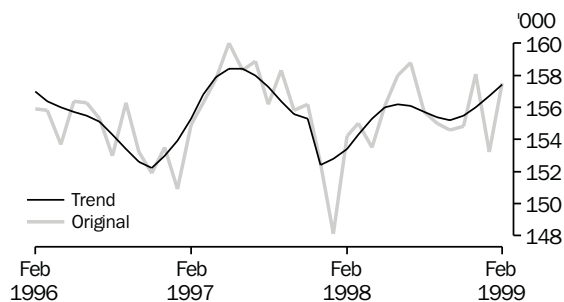
NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force	In February 1999, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 5.8%, a 0.1% decrease from the previous month and the lowest rate since November 1990. Trend employment increased by 0.4% (to 157,400 persons) and the trend participation rate increased by 0.1% to 70.8% from the previous period. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.1% from the previous period and the trend unemployment rate dropped by 0.1% to 7.4%.
Industrial disputes	For the 12 months ended November 1998 there were 34 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 68 days nationally. In comparison with the 12 months ended November 1997, there was an increase of 126.7% for the ACT and a decrease of 9.3% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
Average weekly earnings	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings in the ACT were \$855 in November 1998, an increase of \$33 (4.0%) since November 1997. Comparable national earnings were \$743 in November 1998, up \$30 (4.2%) since November 1997.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for January 1999 was \$222.1 million, the same level as in the previous month and up 3.1% compared to 12 months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.5% from the previous month and was up 5.8% compared to a year ago.
Housing and construction	<p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 15.7% to 265 dwelling units in January 1999. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.4% to 12,674 dwelling units in January 1999.</p> <p>The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$2.2 million in January 1999, a decrease of \$28.9 million (down 92.9%) from the previous month. There were high levels of non-residential building approvals in Griffith and Bruce during the previous month. There has been a decrease of \$18.4 million (down 89.3%) compared to January 1998. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 34.7% from the previous month and was down 3.3% from January 1998.</p>

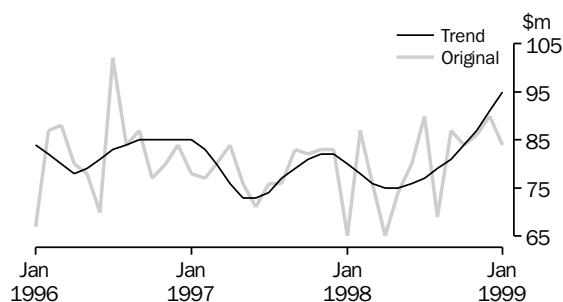
House price index	The established house price index for the ACT during the December quarter 1998 increased by 0.9% from the previous quarter and up 1.3% compared to December quarter 1997. Nationally, the established house price index increased by 1.7% from the previous quarter and up 6.4% compared to December quarter 1997.
Housing finance	The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during January 1999 was 778, an increase of 2.5% from the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$95 million, an increase of \$4 million from the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings was \$12 million, a 9.1% increase from the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 14.3% of the total value of total housing finance in January 1999. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during January 1999 was 39,383, an increase of 1.3% from the previous month, while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased to \$5,056 million (up 2.5%) from the previous month.
Motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in January 1999 was 1,208, down 0.9% from the previous month, and down 17.3% compared to January 1998. Nationally, the trend for total new motor registrations in January 1999 recorded a 0.2% increase from the previous month, and was up 3.1% compared to January 1998.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

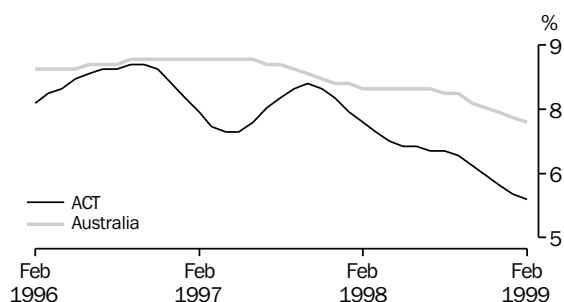
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



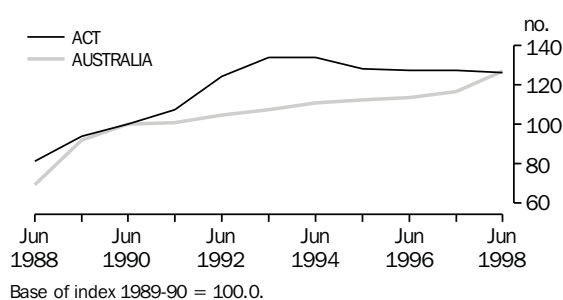
HOUSING FINANCE



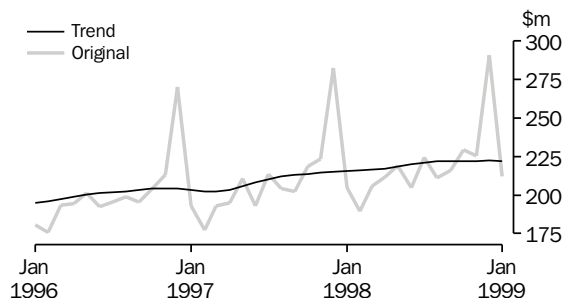
LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



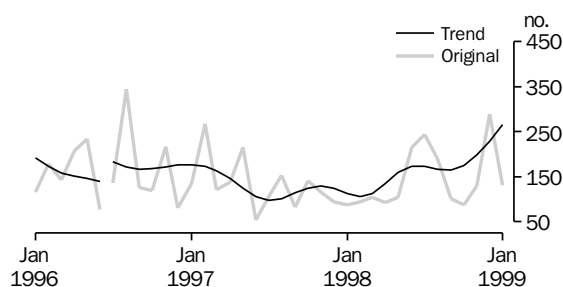
ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE ANNUAL INDEX



RETAIL TURNOVER

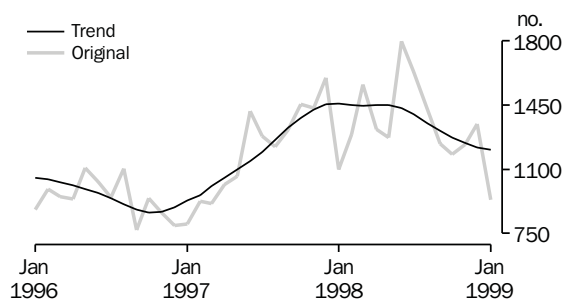


BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



Note: For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996 and a trend break has been included in the graph.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



EDUCATION AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE ACT'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing conducted on 6 August 1996, there were 71,267 young people aged 12–25 years, constituting 24.0% of all people in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). This was the highest proportion of young people of any State or Territory. Nationally, 12–25 year olds represented 20.5% of all people counted.

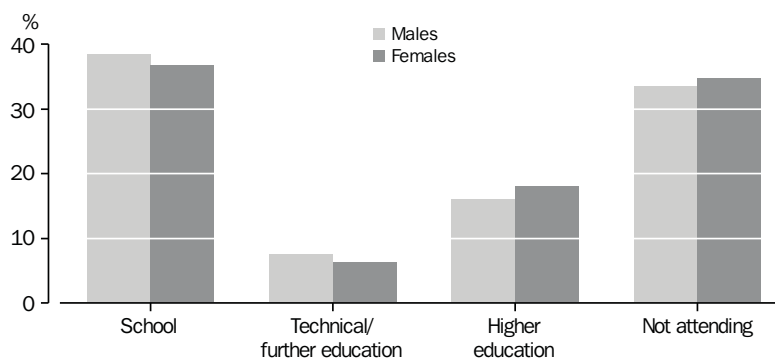
Educational participation

In August 1996, about 24% of both young males and females aged 12–25 years in the ACT were attending higher education. However, more females (18.0%) were attending University/tertiary education than males (16.1%). Educational participation among 15–25 year olds slightly increased to 54.3% in 1996 from those reported in 1991 at 53.4%.

The proportions of young people aged 12–17 years (92.2%) and 18–25 years (43.2%) attending educational institutions were above the national proportions of 87.3% and 29.9% respectively, and were higher than any other State or Territory.

Participation in education was high among young people born overseas in a country where English was not the main language. Approximately 70.0% of 15–25 year olds were attending an educational institution, compared with 54.3% of all young people of the same age group in the ACT. About 33.9% of these young people born overseas in a country where English was not the main language reported attending a university or tertiary institution, compared with 21.2% of all young people of the same age group in the ACT.

PERSONS AGED 12–25, PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION



Source: Australian Capital Territory's Young People, 1996 (Cat. no. 4123.8).

Levels of qualifications increased from 1991 to 1996 with 10.1% of young people having attained a bachelor degree or higher in 1996 compared with 6.9% in 1991. In the five years from 1991 to 1996, the proportion of 15–25 year olds with post-school qualifications increased from 16.0% to 21.0%. The proportion of these young people having attained a bachelor degree also increased from 1991 to 1996, from 6.4% to 8.3% for young males and from 6.7% to 10.4% for young females.

Educational participation *continued* In 1996, a higher proportion of females (22.9%) than males (19.1%) held post-school qualifications. Young females had higher levels in basic vocational and associate diploma qualifications (4.3% and 3.7% respectively), while young males had higher levels in skilled vocational and associate diploma qualifications (5.4% and 2.1% respectively).

Between 1991 to 1996, there have been increases in the proportion of young people with business/administration and society/culture as their major fields of study. In 1996, the major fields of study for young males were engineering (22.3%) followed by society/culture (17.7%). The major fields of study for young females were business/administration (33.3%) followed by society/culture (28.4%).

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, PERSONS AGED 15–25 YEARS—ACT

	<i>Business/ admin- istration</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Edu- cation</i>	<i>Society/ culture</i>	<i>Natural/ physical sciences</i>	<i>Engin- eering</i>	<i>Archi- tecture/ building</i>	<i>Agri- culture</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous fields(a)</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
Sex	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
1991										
Males	473	107	76	852	916	1 397	558	112	504	4 995
Females	1 870	558	312	1 294	528	89	65	56	593	5 365
Persons	2 343	665	388	2 146	1 444	1 486	623	168	1 097	10 360
1996										
Males	967	148	123	1 085	993	1 365	633	155	548	6 134
Females	2 365	459	357	2 020	716	112	60	94	825	7 112
Persons	3 332	607	480	3 105	1 709	1 477	693	249	1 400	13 246

(a) Includes hairdressing and beauty therapy, food and hospitality services, and transport. Also includes field of study inadequately described.

(b) Includes field of study not stated.

Source: Australian Capital Territory's Young People, 1996 (Cat. no. 4123.8).

Labour force status At the time of the Census there were 38,399 15–25 year olds in the ACT who were in the labour force, that is, they were either employed or looking for work. The majority (33,087 persons or 86.2%) of these young people were employed. Full-time employment accounted for 52% of those young people who were employed.

The labour force participation rate for young people in the ACT in 1996 was 67% which was the same level as in 1991. Between 1991 and 1996 the male participation rate fell from 68% to 67%, whereas the female participation rate rose from 66% to 67%.

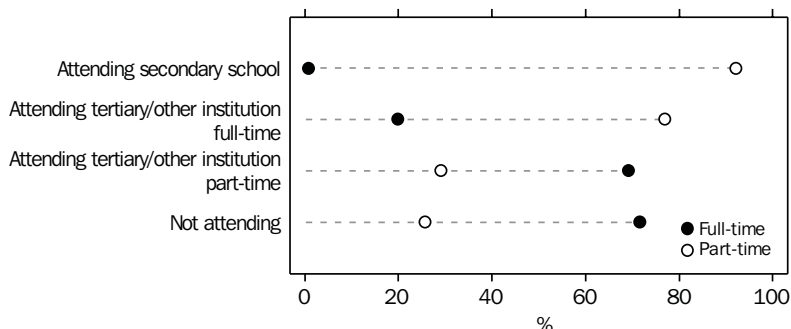
The proportion of young people aged 15–25 years employed in full-time work fell between 1991 and 1996 from 34% to 30%. This decrease was experienced by both young females and males and reflected the general move in the labour force from full-time to part-time work, especially for young people.

Between 1991 and 1996, the proportion of young people aged 15–25 years who were working part-time increased from 21% to 26%. In 1996 a higher proportion of young females than males were in part-time work (51% and 38% of those employed respectively).

Labour force status
continued

In 1996, the unemployment rate among young people in the ACT was 13.8% of those 15–25 year olds looking for full-time or part-time work. Among young males, the rate was 15.8%, compared with 11.8% for young females.

EMPLOYED PERSONS AGED 15–25, EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND WORK STATUS



Note: Total includes employed persons whose hours were not stated.

Source: Australian Capital Territory's Young People, 1996 (Cat no. 4123.8).

Occupation and income

In August 1996, the largest proportion (22.9%) of employed young people aged 15–25 years in the ACT were employed as intermediate clerical, sales and service workers. This contrasts with older people aged 26 years and over of which the largest proportion (29.0%) were employed as professionals. For young males, the most common occupations were tradespersons and related workers (18.4%), and intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (14.7%). Young females were most commonly employed as intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (30.9%) and elementary clerical, sales and service workers (26.0%).

A high proportion (15.4%) of young people reported receiving no weekly individual income. Income distribution among young people aged 15–25 years was similar between males and females. About half of young males and females reported income of less than \$200 per week (50.9% and 52.7% respectively). Only 3.9% of young people reported weekly income over \$700 compared to 33.8% of people aged 26 years and over. In 1996, the median weekly individual income among young people in the ACT was \$167, compared with \$181 nationally.

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BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.6	3.0
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	1.5
Dec qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	–2.7	–0.9
Medium-term		
Sep qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
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	2.8
Dec qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1999	2.6	2.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, Jun qtr 98	'000	308.4	0.2	0.1	18 751.0	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	779	64.7	5.0	31 830	3.1	-0.7
Net migration	no.	-294	-606.9	-78.8	17 531	-63.3	189.2
Total increase	no.	485	-8.7	-175.0	49 361	-37.2	29.5
LABOUR FORCE, Feb 99							
Original series							
Employed	'000	157.5	2.8	2.1	8 648.7	1.1	2.3
Unemployed	'000	11.6	7.4	-18.9	780.9	3.5	-6.8
Unemployment rate	%	6.9	0.3	-1.6	8.3	0.2	-0.7
Participation rate	%	71.7	2.1	-0.5	63.3	0.8	—
Long-term unemployed, Jan 99	no.	2 414	-1.5	-24.4	240 325	5.9	0.9
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed	—	22.2	-3.3	-0.3	31.7	-0.4	2.5
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.4	0.4	2.6	8 692.2	0.1	2.0
Unemployed	'000	9.7	-1.0	-20.5	699.3	-1.0	-7.0
Unemployment rate	%	5.8	-0.1	-1.6	7.4	-0.1	-0.7
Participation rate	%	70.8	0.1	-0.1	63.0	-0.1	-0.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Aug 98							
Trend series							
Public sector	'000	67.9	-1.0	-1.9	1 460.6	-0.1	-1.0
Private sector	'000	71.8	2.9	1.7	5 566.6	2.5	3.7
Total	'000	139.7	0.9	-0.1	7 027.2	1.9	2.7
JOB VACANCIES, Nov 98	'000	1.5	-16.7	50.0	77.4	6.0	13.7
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Nov 98							
Working days lost	'000	0.3	—	—	38.1	85.0	-35.1
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Nov 98)	no.	34.0	6.3	126.7	68.0	-4.2	-9.3
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Jan 99							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.0	-14.3	100.0	553.0	-24.2	-0.2
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	2.0	-33.3	—	167.0	-29.2	-12.6
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	61.0	-1.6	35.6	3 221.0	-19.5	9.7
Re-financing	\$m	12.0	9.1	-45.5	613.0	-19.0	-2.1
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.0	-6.7	29.2	3 941.0	-20.6	7.0
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	107.0	27.4	37.2	5 067.0	-0.2	12.3
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	778	2.5	10.4	39 383	1.3	-1.1
Total housing commitments	\$m	95.0	4.4	18.8	5 056.0	2.5	10.9
BUILDING APPROVALS, Jan 99							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	132	-54.3	50.0	9 647	-22.6	-13.4
Value of new residential	\$m	15.5	-9.9	52.0	1 045.4	-23.5	-11.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	0.0	-100.0	—	188.5	-13.7	-21.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	2.2	-92.9	-89.3	1 001.1	34.7	-3.3
Value of total building	\$m	20.9	-66.6	-39.6	2 235.0	-4.0	-9.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	265	15.7	134.5	12 674	0.4	-4.5

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 98							
New houses	no.	423	77.0	29.4	27 153	3.0	24.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	50.1	62.7	41.1	3 169.3	3.9	29.7
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	54.0	-38.5	-35.0	2 955.7	-17.0	-14.4
Value of total commencements	\$m	127.7	-6.4	-8.9	8 123.8	-6.2	8.9
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 98		127.8	0.9	1.3	129.0	1.7	6.4
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Sep qtr 98)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	9.5	-31.7	15.9	2 244.3	-10.8	-20.4
Value of work done	\$m	10.8	-14.3	35.0	2 981.9	4.1	27.2
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	13.8	13.1	-38.4	5 906.7	-8.5	-6.2
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	20.7	-31.7	31.8	1 347.4	-32.1	5.9
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 98							
Food(a)		129.1	1.2	3.4	126.0	1.0	4.0
Housing(a)		93.9	0.1	0.2	95.5	0.7	1.4
Transportation(a)		126.9	-0.9	-1.6	121.9	-0.3	-1.7
All groups(a)		121.7	0.3	1.6	121.9	0.5	1.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov 98							
Original series							
Males	\$	819.4	-2.4	3.8	722.8	0.1	1.9
Females	\$	612.7	-0.1	3.9	476.0	0.5	2.1
Persons	\$	720.5	-1.2	4.1	603.7	0.1	1.9
Trend series							
Males	\$	829.9	-0.3	4.5	723.9	0.4	2.6
Females	\$	616.4	0.8	4.3	478.3	1.0	2.7
Persons	\$	726.6	0.2	4.7	606.2	0.6	2.7
RETAIL TURNOVER, Jan 99							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	80.9	-9.4	0.9	4 947.7	-9.7	3.8
Department stores	\$m	24.6	-47.4	7.0	956.8	-52.0	4.3
Hospitality and services	\$m	33.5	-16.7	11.7	2 134.8	-7.7	13.3
All other retailing	\$m	73.1	-36.3	2.4	3 836.4	-29.8	4.5
Total	\$m	212.1	-27.1	3.7	11 875.7	-22.1	5.7
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	80.1	-0.1	-1.0	4 822.1	0.6	5.2
Department stores	\$m	25.8	1.2	6.6	1 068.7	0.4	6.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	37.7	1.1	13.6	2 043.0	0.4	10.3
All other retailing	\$m	78.5	-0.9	1.7	3 957.4	0.6	4.1
Total	\$m	222.1	—	3.1	11 891.2	0.5	5.8

(a) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Sep qtr 98							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	226.0	n.a	1.8	9 639.4	10.5	3.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	22.5	n.a	4.7	998.1	n.a.	4.5
Guest arrivals	'000	175.8	n.a	n.a	7 869.0	n.a.	n.a.
Guest nights	'000	386.2	n.a	n.a	17 181.6	n.a.	n.a.
Room occupancy rate	%	58.4	n.a	0.5	58.7	7.5	-1.5
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Jan 99							
Motor vehicles	no.	932	-30.9	-15.3	50 097	-29.5	-2.4
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 159	-14.3	-15.8	64 890	-3.4	2.3
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 208	-0.9	-17.3	65 917	0.2	3.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, 1996-97(a)							
Original series (at average 1989-90 prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	4 981	3.6	n.a.	269 954	2.4	n.a.
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 744	-2.7	n.a.	72 844	1.5	n.a.
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	755	2.6	n.a.	85 505	12.1	n.a.
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	593	24.6	n.a.	18 685	-5.6	n.a.
Final demand	\$m	11 972	-0.4	n.a.	446 989	3.6	n.a.
Gross state product	\$m	8 813	0.6	n.a.	450 575	3.0	n.a.
Original series (at current prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 781	4.0	n.a.	318 480	4.0	n.a.
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	7 011	0.6	n.a.	86 421	3.6	n.a.
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	804	-1.6	n.a.	86 304	7.9	n.a.
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	440	-14.6	n.a.	19 230	-5.2	n.a.
Final demand	\$m	14 037	1.3	n.a.	510 435	4.2	n.a.
Gross state product	\$m	10845	5.0	n.a.	516 306	4.9	n.a.

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

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

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Jun qtr 98	6 341.6	4 660.9	3 456.3	1 487.3	1 831.4	471.9	190.0	308.4	18 751.0
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Feb 99	2 894.9	2 165.1	1 631.4	658.2	892.7	193.1	96.1	157.4	8 692.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Feb 99	6.8	7.4	8.0	9.1	7.2	10.3	3.7	5.8	7.4
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	471.2	309.3	280.0	120.6	148.5	40.7	22.3	67.9	1 460.6
Private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	1 936.2	1 440.6	989.4	401.3	567.5	112.4	47.5	71.8	5 566.6
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	2 407.4	1 749.9	1 269.4	521.9	716.0	153.1	69.8	139.7	7 027.2
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross state product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	1996-97	152 378	118 338	74 768	31 094	50 665	8 910	4 945	4 981	269 954
Gross state product at current prices	\$m	1996-97	181 799	133 567	83 366	36 306	54 418	10 587	5 418	5 744	72 844
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Jan 99	3 503	2 388	1 617	444	1 307	117	139	132	9 647
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Jan 99	4 378	3 217	2 343	606	1 651	116	179	265	12 674
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Jan 99	297.1	184.6	199.0	68.0	197.1	45.8	7.2	2.2	1 001.1
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Jan 99	756.3	511.8	373.0	123.1	365.0	59.9	25.0	20.9	2 235.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sep qtr 98	1 239.0	822.6	985.8	244.7	901.4	53.6	50.7	31.6	4 329.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Nov 98	770.2	736.5	695.7	702.8	755.0	696.5	749.3	854.5	742.6
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Jan 99	4 142.0	2 815.4	2 236.8	889.0	1 186.2	266.9	130.0	222.1	11 891.2
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Sep qtr 98	3 077.3	1 464.3	2 850.5	494.6	935.8	194.2	396.8	221.3	8 724.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Sep qtr 98	57.9	54.4	63.6	54.3	59.8	38.8	71.3	59.1	54.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Jan 99	22 470	17 263	12 698	4 073	6 253	1 264	689	1 208	65 917

	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food(b)		Dec qtr 98	126.8	124.3	125.0	128.2	127.6	125.0	126.9	129.1	126.0
Housing(b)		Dec qtr 98	102.6	86.6	101.3	91.9	90.4	95.4	114.5	93.9	95.5
Transportation(b)		Dec qtr 98	123.4	120.6	121.0	121.3	122.2	118.6	119.8	126.9	121.9
All Groups(b)		Dec qtr 98	122.4	120.8	123.0	123.6	120.2	122.7	122.7	121.7	121.9
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	116	135	120	132	135	125	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 98	210	201	199	167	196	204	217	210	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	1 163	1 031	1 041	1 156	1 018	881	1 229	1 166	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	366	345	338	332	349	380	351	346	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	127	137	134	86	135	77	123	149	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 98	573	610	600	563	679	671	605	615	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 98	353	316	270	362	384	264	327	270	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	71.1	68.3	61.8	69.5	70.8	74.8	77.2	74.0	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	68.8	66.1	59.5	67.2	68.6	72.8	75.2	71.7	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.

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Jun qtr 98	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Feb 99	0.1	—	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Feb 99	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	—	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Pubic sector (trend)	Aug 98	-0.6	-1.1	0.5	2.3	1.2	-1.0	2.3	-1.0	-0.1
Private sector (trend)	Aug 98	1.2	0.9	7.1	4.1	3.0	-2.2	2.6	2.9	2.5
Total public and private sector (trend)	Aug 98	0.9	0.6	5.6	3.7	2.6	-1.9	2.3	0.9	1.9
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
State final demand at 1989–90 prices (trend)	1996–97	2.8	2.6	5.2	0.8	3.3	0.2	4.6	3.6	2.4
State final demand at current prices (trend)	1996–97	6.2	4.2	5.7	1.0	4.2	2.7	7.3	-2.7	1.5
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Dec 98	-18.6	-24.8	-28.2	-21.1	-20.4	2.6	6.1	-54.3	-22.6
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Dec 98	0.9	0.6	-1.9	0.2	1.7	-1.7	-6.3	15.7	0.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec 98	17.9	4.1	46.3	27.1	175.7	583.6	-53.2	-92.9	34.7
Value of all buildings approved	Dec 98	-11.6	-15.0	1.2	8.3	34.8	186.6	-23.8	-66.6	-4.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sep qtr 98	-21.3	-9.7	-8.1	-18.6	9.0	-22.7	0.6	-26.3	-10.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov 98	1.4	0.8	—	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Jan 99	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.7	—	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sep qtr 98	6.5	3.4	20.2	3.1	13.5	-14.1	34.5	-8.9	-3.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Sep qtr 98	1.6	0.5	9.5	0.7	5.3	-5.9	17.1	-5.7	-3.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Jan 99	-0.3	1.2	0.6	-1.2	-0.6	1.3	1.3	-0.9	0.2
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Dec qtr 98	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	0.9	0.2	120.6	1.2	1.0
Housing	Dec qtr 98	0.1	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.9	-0.2	0.5	0.1	0.7
Transportation	Dec qtr 98	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-1.5	-0.7	-0.9	-0.3
All Groups	Dec qtr 98	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 98	—	—	0.8	3.9	—	-0.8	—	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 98	-2.8	—	2.1	-1.2	-4.4	-2.4	3.3	0.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 98	-0.1	-1.6	-2.7	4.2	-3.3	-14.5	1.7	0.3	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 98	10.2	1.8	15.0	-9.5	3.9	7.6	-10.0	-4.2	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 98	17.6	23.4	17.5	38.7	3.8	6.9	13.9	24.2	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 98	-13.4	0.3	-2.8	-1.2	16.5	10.4	-1.6	4.1	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 98	4.1	0.3	2.3	0.8	1.9	-0.4	—	2.7	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 98	-2.1	-2.1	0.7	-2.1	-1.1	-3.4	-2.5	-1.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 98	-2.1	-2.2	0.5	-2.0	-1.2	-3.4	-2.6	-1.4	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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