

**ECONOMIC  
INDICATORS**

NEW SOUTH WALES

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## NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATION

Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from a series so that the effects of other variations on that series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present. This means that movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of the underlying trend by reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. This smoothing technique does result in revisions to the most recent estimates as additional observations become available. For an explanation of seasonal adjustment derivation, refer to the publication *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (Cat. no. 1308.0).

### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

One measure of the variability which occurs as a result of surveying only samples of the total business population is the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all businesses had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that it is within two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the relative standard error (RSE).

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (Cat. no. 1101.0). A *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These publications are available from any ABS office.

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### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

kWh	kilowatt hour
teraJ	terajoule
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
n.y.a.	not yet available
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero
—	break in continuity of series (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)

Gregory W. Bray  
Regional Director  
New South Wales

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# NSW OVERVIEW

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## EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW rose by 0.9% in March 1998 to 2,830,300. Nationally, employment fell marginally to 8,513,900.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW fell by 1.6% in March 1998 to 230,700 and the unemployment rate fell to 7.5%. Twelve months earlier, the rate was 7.9%. The national unemployment rate was 8.2% in March 1998, about the same as for the previous three months.

## JOB VACANCIES

There were 23,500 job vacancies in NSW in February 1998, a rise of 2.9% over the quarter. National job vacancies rose by 10.9% over the same period.

## BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved for NSW in February 1998 declined by 9.9% from the previous month to 3,920.

## RETAIL

In seasonally adjusted terms, total retail sales for NSW in February 1998 decreased by 1.7% on January 1998 to \$3,973.9 million.

## NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for NSW in February 1998 fell by 1.5% from the previous month to 21,760.

## FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in February 1998 was \$1,748.4 million. This represented a 24.5% increase from January 1998 and a 12.4% increase on February 1997.

## MAIN FEATURES

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### BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new houses approved for NSW in February 1998 fell by 8.1% from the previous month to 2,429. However, there was an increase of 16.3% compared to February 1997. New houses comprised 62.0% of total new dwelling unit approvals. At the national level, new houses approved totalled 9,043, a slight decrease on the previous month but 19.9% up on the previous year. After seven months of growth, the trend figure for new dwelling units approved in NSW fell by 1.5% in February 1998.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the value of new residential building approved for NSW in February 1998 was \$436.8 million, a slight increase on the previous month but 8.9% down on February 1997. Nationally, the figure was \$1,308.4 million, a decrease of 8.2% and an increase of 7.5% respectively over the same periods. Both at the State and national levels, the value of alterations and additions to residential buildings showed strong growth (31.6% and 17.1% respectively) compared to the figures a year ago.

In original terms, the value of all building approved for NSW in February 1998 fell by 4.1% over the previous month to \$943.8 million, but was significantly higher (28.5%) than February 1997. At the national level, the figure was \$2,584.1 million, showing increases of 5.2% and 14.3% respectively over the same periods. For NSW, the value of non-residential building approved was \$461.8 million, nearly double (91.2%) the value a year ago. The national figure showed an increase of 21.4% over the same period.

### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for NSW in February 1998 were 21,760, a decrease of 1.5% on the previous month but 9.8% up on February 1997. The national figure showed identical movements for the same periods.

The seasonally adjusted figure for passenger vehicles for NSW in February was 18,501, a decline of 3.2% on the previous month but an increase of 9.3% on the previous year. The national figure was 52,813, and showed similar movements over the same periods.

The figure for new registrations of other vehicles (excluding motor cycles) for NSW in February 1998 was 3,259. This represented an increase of 9.8% on the previous month and 12.6% up on February 1997. Nationally, the increases were 10.4% and 13.6% respectively over the same periods.

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# 1

## ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, NSW

Period	Estimated resident population at end of period			Increase during period			Mean estimated resident population for year ended	
	Males	Females	Persons	Natural increase(a)	Net estimated migration	Total increase(b)	30 June	31 December
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>1994</b>	3 026.8	3 063.5	6 090.3	42.8	13.2	57.5	6 034.9	6 064.0
<b>1995</b>	3 064.0	3 104.8	6 168.8	42.0	33.7	78.6	6 093.2	6 128.0
<b>1996</b>	3 098.2	3 142.6	6 240.9	40.6	29.3	72.1	6 167.2	6 204.2
<b>1996</b>								
June qtr	3 081.0	3 123.7	6 204.7	9.8	7.5	18.3	..	..
September qtr	3 089.1	3 132.3	6 221.4	8.8	7.9	16.6	..	..
December qtr	3 098.2	3 142.6	6 240.9	11.1	8.4	19.5	..	..
<b>1997</b>								
March qtr	3 108.6	3 152.6	6 261.3	11.4	9.0	20.4	..	..
June qtr	3 115.3	3 159.0	6 274.4	11.0	2.1	13.1	..	..
September qtr	3 124.9	3 168.1	6 293.0	7.6	11.0	18.6	..	..

<sup>a</sup> Excess of live births over deaths.

<sup>b</sup> For dates prior to June 1996, differences between the total increase shown and the sum of the natural increase and net estimated migration arise from retrospective adjustments to population estimates (which are made after each Census) to compensate for any intercensal discrepancy. A description of intercensal discrepancy is contained in the ABS information paper Demographic Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0)

## 2

### LABOUR, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia			
			Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Employed persons (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Mar 98	2 830.3	0.9	0.5	8 513.9	-0.2	1.5
Unemployed persons (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Mar 98	230.7	-1.6	-4.4	760.4	1.3	-5.0
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Mar 98	3 061.0	0.7	0.1	9 274.3	-0.1	1.0
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Mar 98	61.5	0.6	-1.1	63.0	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Mar 98	7.5	-2.3	-4.5	8.2	1.3	-5.9
Industrial disputes—working days lost	'000	Jan 98	3.3	-31.3	3.1	8.6	-64.6	-63.4
Job vacancies	'000	Feb 98	23.5	2.9	2.3	75.5	10.9	20.7
Average weekly employee earnings—full-time adult ordinary time earnings (seasonally adjusted)	\$	Nov 97	740.2	1.1	3.2	711.6	0.4	3.7

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0), Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0), Industrial Disputes, Australia (6321.0), Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (Cat. no. 6302.0)

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### LABOUR, NSW

Period	Seasonally adjusted						
	Employed persons '000	Unemployed persons '000	Labour force '000	Participation rate %	Unemployment rate %	Industrial disputes (working days lost) '000	Job vacancies '000
<b>1997</b>							
January	2 829.7	239.8	3 069.5	62.6	7.8	3.2	..
February	2 798.9	256.4	3 055.3	62.2	8.4	3.2	22.9
March	2 815.4	241.3	3 056.8	62.2	7.9	16.3	..
April	2 822.9	245.5	3 068.3	62.4	8.0	2.6	..
May	2 803.3	250.6	3 054.0	62.0	8.2	13.2	19.6
June	2 790.4	232.6	3 023.0	61.3	7.7	10.8	..
July	2 805.7	255.4	3 061.1	62.0	8.3	18.5	..
August	2 774.4	242.2	3 016.6	61.0	8.0	22.1	19.3
September	2 815.2	240.2	3 055.5	61.7	7.9	23.0	..
October	2 787.7	244.1	3 031.7	61.2	8.1	28.0	..
November	2 831.9	238.7	3 070.6	61.9	7.8	8.1	22.8
December	2 836.6	228.0	3 064.7	61.7	7.4	4.8	..
<b>1998</b>							
January	2 843.3	227.1	3 070.4	61.8	7.4	3.3	..
February	2 805.4	234.5	3 039.9	61.1	7.7	n.y.a.	23.5
March	2 830.3	230.7	3 061.0	61.5	7.5	n.y.a.	..

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0), Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0)

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## LABOUR FORCE STATUS, NSW—ORIGINAL

Month	Employed		Unemployed		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate(a)	Participation rate(b)
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Total					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
<b>MALES</b>									
<b>March</b>									
1994	1 340.8	1 500.9	170.7	188.6	1 689.4	633.4	2 322.9	11.2	72.7
1995	1 400.0	1 560.8	127.9	146.9	1 707.7	641.5	2 349.3	8.6	72.7
1996	1 401.5	1 582.8	130.3	150.9	1 733.7	646.3	2 380.0	8.7	72.8
<b>1997</b>									
January	1 437.6	1 605.6	133.2	151.6	1 757.3	651.9	2 409.2	8.6	72.9
February	1 419.3	1 588.4	142.7	161.6	1 750.0	661.1	2 411.1	9.2	72.6
March	1 434.1	1 603.9	126.3	147.2	1 751.1	661.9	2 413.0	8.4	72.6
April	1 421.2	1 610.1	120.9	139.1	1 749.3	666.3	2 415.6	8.0	72.4
May	1 408.0	1 597.3	127.6	143.3	1 740.7	677.4	2 418.1	8.2	72.0
June	1 416.4	1 598.9	116.8	129.1	1 728.1	692.7	2 420.7	7.5	71.4
July	1 422.3	1 600.4	130.3	145.4	1 745.8	677.8	2 423.6	8.3	72.0
August	1 390.3	1 567.6	120.3	135.2	1 702.8	723.7	2 426.5	7.9	70.2
September	1 434.3	1 613.3	126.1	147.6	1 760.9	668.5	2 429.3	8.4	72.5
October	1 428.1	1 595.3	121.3	138.9	1 734.2	698.1	2 432.3	8.0	71.3
November	1 431.3	1 615.2	119.0	138.1	1 753.3	681.9	2 435.2	7.9	72.0
December	1 456.8	1 637.6	116.8	135.1	1 772.7	665.4	2 438.1	7.6	72.7
<b>1998</b>									
January	1 441.8	1 616.3	127.1	141.7	1 758.0	682.3	2 440.3	8.1	72.0
February	1 431.8	1 599.2	129.3	150.7	1 749.9	692.5	2 442.4	8.6	71.6
March	1 432.2	1 613.1	123.5	140.6	1 753.7	690.9	2 444.6	8.0	71.7
<b>FEMALES</b>									
<b>March</b>									
1994	691.6	1 132.1	88.5	121.6	1 253.7	1 152.7	2 406.4	9.7	52.1
1995	679.3	1 152.2	70.5	111.8	1 264.0	1 169.1	2 433.1	8.8	51.9
1996	735.3	1 213.7	69.8	105.5	1 319.2	1 144.6	2 463.8	8.0	53.5
<b>1997</b>									
January	729.7	1 182.3	75.0	106.4	1 288.6	1 209.5	2 498.1	8.3	51.6
February	725.7	1 194.1	80.0	125.6	1 319.8	1 180.6	2 500.3	9.5	52.8
March	722.6	1 212.4	73.1	110.0	1 322.4	1 180.2	2 502.5	8.3	52.8
April	730.2	1 211.6	68.9	104.5	1 316.1	1 189.1	2 505.3	7.9	52.5
May	720.4	1 206.6	67.2	101.9	1 308.5	1 199.5	2 508.0	7.8	52.2
June	704.3	1 192.4	64.1	92.3	1 284.7	1 226.0	2 510.7	7.2	51.2
July	729.6	1 213.2	61.7	92.7	1 305.9	1 207.7	2 513.6	7.1	52.0
August	703.9	1 182.9	65.3	92.7	1 275.6	1 240.8	2 516.5	7.3	50.7
September	722.2	1 226.8	63.4	96.1	1 322.9	1 196.5	2 519.4	7.3	52.5
October	721.0	1 194.1	68.1	97.3	1 291.5	1 230.6	2 522.1	7.5	51.2
November	725.5	1 228.3	62.1	87.8	1 316.1	1 208.6	2 524.7	6.7	52.1
December	730.8	1 234.9	66.3	95.7	1 330.6	1 196.8	2 527.4	7.2	52.6
<b>1998</b>									
January	721.4	1 185.5	71.4	102.6	1 288.1	1 241.2	2 529.3	8.0	50.9
February	707.1	1 189.9	72.1	111.7	1 301.7	1 229.5	2 531.1	8.6	51.4
March	715.8	1 217.8	73.7	105.3	1 323.1	1 209.9	2 533.0	8.0	52.2

For footnotes see end of table.



# 4

## LABOUR FORCE STATUS, NSW—ORIGINAL *continued*

Month	Employed		Unemployed		Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate(a)	Participation rate(b)
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Total					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
PERSONS									
<b>March</b>									
1994	2 032.4	2 633.0	259.2	310.1	2 943.1	1 786.1	4 729.2	10.5	62.2
1995	2 079.3	2 713.0	198.5	258.7	2 971.7	1 810.7	4 782.4	8.7	62.1
1996	2 136.8	2 796.6	200.1	256.4	3 052.9	1 790.9	4 843.9	8.4	63.0
<b>1997</b>									
January	2 167.3	2 787.9	208.1	258.0	3 045.9	1 861.4	4 907.3	8.5	62.1
February	2 145.0	2 782.5	222.7	287.2	3 069.7	1 841.7	4 911.4	9.4	62.5
March	2 156.7	2 816.3	199.4	257.1	3 073.4	1 842.1	4 915.5	8.4	62.5
April	2 151.5	2 821.7	189.8	243.6	3 065.4	1 855.5	4 920.8	7.9	62.3
May	2 128.4	2 804.0	194.9	245.3	3 049.2	1 876.9	4 926.1	8.0	61.9
June	2 120.8	2 791.3	181.0	221.4	3 012.8	1 918.7	4 931.4	7.3	61.1
July	2 151.9	2 813.6	192.1	238.1	3 051.7	1 885.5	4 937.2	7.8	61.8
August	2 094.3	2 750.5	185.6	228.0	2 978.4	1 964.5	4 942.9	7.7	60.3
September	2 156.5	2 840.0	189.5	243.7	3 083.8	1 865.0	4 948.7	7.9	62.3
October	2 149.1	2 789.4	189.3	236.2	3 025.7	1 928.7	4 954.3	7.8	61.1
November	2 156.7	2 843.5	181.1	225.9	3 069.4	1 890.5	4 959.9	7.4	61.9
December	2 187.6	2 872.6	183.1	230.8	3 103.3	1 862.2	4 965.6	7.4	62.5
<b>1998</b>									
January	2 163.2	2 801.8	198.5	244.3	3 046.1	1 923.5	4 969.5	8.0	61.3
February	2 138.9	2 789.1	201.4	262.4	3 051.5	1 922.0	4 973.5	8.6	61.4
March	2 148.0	2 830.9	197.1	245.8	3 076.8	1 900.8	4 977.5	8.0	61.8

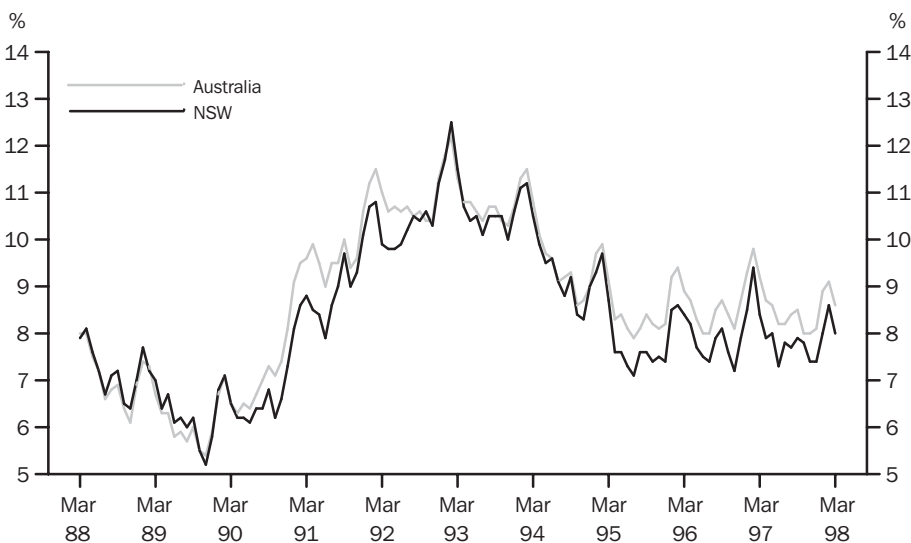
<sup>a</sup> The number of unemployed in each group expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

<sup>b</sup> The labour force in each group expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0)

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## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE—ORIGINAL



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0).

## 6

## COAL, ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRODUCTION, NSW AND AUSTRALIA—ORIGINAL

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period		Latest figure	Change from prior period		
				%	Change from same period prior year		%	Change from same period prior year	
Raw coal won—									
Underground	'000 tonnes	Jan 98	5 384	35.4	35.5	6 375	30.8	20.7	
Open cut	'000 tonnes	Jan 98	6 319	8.9	9.0	14 733	10.1	5.1	
Total	'000 tonnes	Jan 98	11 703	19.6	19.8	21 108	15.7	9.4	
Electricity	mill. kWh	Dec qtr 97	15 220	-8.4	1.1	43 461	-4.5	6.6	
Gas(a)	teraJ	Dec qtr 97	25 445	-25.4	4.3	151 337	-17.5	3.4	

<sup>a</sup> Available for issue through mains. Includes ACT.

Source: Joint Coal Board, Manufacturing Production, Australia (Cat. no. 8301.0)

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## COAL, ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRODUCTION, NSW—ORIGINAL

Period	Raw coal won			Electricity	Gas(a)
	Underground	Open cut	Total		
	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes		
<b>1994-95</b>	48 702	59 079	107 781	60 016	104 881
<b>1995-96</b>	54 314	58 775	113 089	62 047	104 141
<b>1996-97</b>	54 642	69 037	123 679	62 788	109 284
<b>1996</b>					
October	5 534	6 569	12 103	} —	—
November	4 524	5 200	9 724		
December	3 859	4 830	8 689		
<b>1997</b>					
January	3 972	5 797	9 769	} —	—
February	3 830	5 583	9 413		
March	4 088	5 663	9 751		
April	4 803	6 626	11 429	} —	—
May	5 183	6 626	11 809		
June	4 717	5 785	10 502		
July	r6 503	r7 086	r13 589	} —	—
August	r5 112	r6 112	r11 224		
September	r4 910	r6 644	r11 554		
October	r4 496	r6 716	r11 212	} —	—
November	r4 269	r6 083	r10 352		
December	r3 977	r5 805	r9 782		
<b>1998</b>					
January	5 384	6 319	11 703	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>a</sup> Available for issue through mains. Includes ACT.

Source: Joint Coal Board, Manufacturing Production, Australia (Cat. no. 8301.0)

## 8

## BUILDING APPROVALS, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Number of dwelling units(a) (seasonally adjusted)—								
New houses	No.	Feb 98	2 429	-8.1	16.3	9 043	-0.7	19.9
Total	No.	Feb 98	3 920	-9.9	-9.0	12 517	-6.7	4.4
Value of new residential building (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Feb 98	436.8	0.1	-8.9	1 308.4	-8.2	7.5
Value of alterations and additions to residential building(b) (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Feb 98	122.4	-18.3	31.6	267.5	-6.9	17.1
Value of non-residential building(c) (original)	\$m	Feb 98	461.8	-3.2	91.2	1 165.9	12.6	21.4
Value of all building (original)	\$m	Feb 98	943.8	-4.1	28.5	2 584.1	5.2	14.3

<sup>a</sup> Includes dwelling units approved as part of the construction of non-residential building and alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units).

<sup>b</sup> Valued at \$10,000 or more. Includes conversions of existing buildings into residential buildings.

<sup>c</sup> Valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0)

## 9

## BUILDING APPROVALS, NSW

Period	Number of dwelling units(a), seasonally adjusted				Value of building approvals			
	New houses		Total		Seasonally adjusted		Original	
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential building(b)	Non-residential building(c)	All building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>1994-95</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 733.4	10 211.0
<b>1995-96</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 650.2	9 168.6
<b>1996-97</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 169.1	11 357.5
<b>1997</b>								
January	2 148	2 154	3 967	4 191	442.2	100.0	413.0	883.8
February	2 045	2 089	4 072	4 308	479.4	93.0	241.5	734.7
March	1 805	1 825	3 849	3 995	375.9	96.8	202.4	648.7
April	2 445	2 470	4 203	4 326	505.6	91.2	307.3	847.3
May	2 961	2 980	4 390	4 442	527.9	91.9	260.5	971.3
June	2 112	2 119	4 219	4 389	436.9	125.7	353.0	903.0
July	2 095	2 109	3 687	3 744	355.3	92.7	584.9	1 156.7
August	2 236	2 241	4 695	4 862	633.6	101.5	710.5	1 405.9
September	2 143	2 147	3 454	3 567	401.2	92.3	396.4	958.0
October	2 411	2 420	4 081	4 111	511.7	102.3	520.3	1 123.1
November	2 390	2 400	4 466	4 507	505.2	108.0	380.6	1 028.0
December	2 778	2 795	4 644	4 822	562.3	122.2	286.0	885.8
<b>1998</b>								
January	2 607	2 642	4 235	4 350	436.4	149.9	477.0	984.0
February	2 391	2 429	3 781	3 920	436.8	122.4	461.8	943.8

<sup>a</sup> Includes dwelling units approved as part of the construction of non-residential building and alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units).

<sup>b</sup> Valued at \$10,000 or more. Includes conversions of existing buildings into residential buildings.

<sup>c</sup> Valued at \$50,000 or more.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0)

## 10

## TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a), NSW AND AUSTRALIA—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change	Change	Latest figure	Change	Change	
				from prior period	from same period prior year		from prior period	from same period prior year	
%	%	%	%	%					
Food retailing	\$m	Feb 98	1 560.5	-0.5	7.0	4 617.6	-0.8	6.1	
Department stores	\$m	Feb 98	325.7	-11.2	-4.8	977.2	-6.5	-1.5	
Clothing and soft good retailing	\$m	Feb 98	265.1	-0.9	-4.6	732.0	2.3	5.7	
Household good retailing	\$m	Feb 98	434.7	-2.2	-8.4	1 269.8	-2.5	-5.3	
Recreational good retailing	\$m	Feb 98	224.0	-6.2	2.2	629.0	-2.9	4.9	
Other retailing	\$m	Feb 98	405.0	2.2	8.2	1 159.2	0.0	6.3	
Hospitality and services	\$m	Feb 98	758.9	-0.3	2.6	1 850.3	1.6	1.5	
<b>Total value of retail sales</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>Feb 98</b>	<b>3 973.9</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>11 235.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The figures shown are derived from a monthly survey of retail establishments. Excludes motor vehicle, boat and caravan dealers, service stations, smash repairers, tyre and battery retailers, bread and milk vendors, footwear repairers and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. Retail establishments which do not have employees are excluded from the survey. Turnover includes retail sales, wholesale sales, takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods; and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets etc.)

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0).

## 11

## TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a), NSW—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Period	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>1996</b>								
December	1 437.5	339.6	288.1	452.2	224.4	376.7	743.4	3 861.8
<b>1997</b>								
January	1 450.0	334.7	285.5	439.8	220.1	371.2	735.1	3 836.4
February	1 458.0	342.2	277.9	474.6	219.2	374.2	739.9	3 885.9
March	1 487.8	329.5	267.4	445.2	214.8	378.0	732.7	3 855.4
April	1 455.1	314.7	271.6	440.6	219.6	378.3	727.8	3 807.8
May	1 481.5	327.9	283.2	452.9	221.2	384.7	741.0	3 892.4
June	1 464.5	314.2	274.8	455.6	223.7	389.0	765.4	3 887.2
July	1 512.0	364.5	279.8	446.9	214.0	400.5	748.2	3 965.9
August	1 505.2	328.1	276.4	438.9	211.6	385.2	764.2	3 909.6
September	1 537.5	358.4	275.1	427.1	229.9	374.6	765.4	3 967.9
October	1 517.4	336.8	272.8	415.0	225.2	398.1	760.6	3 926.0
November	1 526.7	347.2	280.8	399.3	216.2	410.3	767.4	3 947.9
December	1 539.2	337.0	284.4	413.7	232.8	406.2	770.8	3 984.2
<b>1998</b>								
January	1 568.6	366.8	267.6	444.6	238.7	396.2	761.0	4 043.4
February	1 560.5	325.7	265.1	434.7	224.0	405.0	758.9	3 973.9

<sup>a</sup> The figures shown are derived from a monthly survey of retail establishments. Excludes motor vehicle, boat and caravan dealers, service stations, smash repairers, tyre and battery retailers, bread and milk vendors, footwear repairers and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. Retail establishments which do not have employees are excluded from the survey. Turnover includes retail sales, wholesale sales, takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods; and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets etc.)

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0).

## 12

## NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS(a), NSW AND AUSTRALIA—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Passenger vehicles	no.	Feb 98	18 501	-3.2	9.3	52 813	-3.6	8.9
Other vehicles (excluding motor cycles)	no.	Feb 98	3 259	9.8	12.6	10 492	10.4	13.6
Total registrations (excluding motor cycles)	no.	Feb 98	21 760	-1.5	9.8	63 305	-1.5	9.7

<sup>a</sup> Includes vehicles (other than those of the defence forces) owned by Government departments and authorities. Excludes mobile plant and equipment, tractors, trailers and non-motorised caravans.

Source: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 9301.0)*.

## 13

## NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS(a), NSW—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Period	Passenger vehicles no.	Other vehicles (excluding motor cycles) no.	Total (excluding motor cycles) no.
<b>1996</b>			
December	15 169	2 604	17 773
<b>1997</b>			
January	17 239	2 656	19 895
February	16 927	2 894	19 820
March	16 761	2 837	19 598
April	17 194	2 637	19 831
May	16 924	2 770	19 694
June	17 978	2 728	20 706
July	17 377	2 763	20 141
August	16 977	2 732	19 709
September	18 454	2 711	21 165
October	18 920	2 729	21 650
November	18 995	2 513	21 507
December	18 315	3 020	21 335
<b>1998</b>			
January	19 116	2 967	22 083
February	18 501	3 259	21 760

<sup>a</sup> Includes vehicles (other than those of the defence forces) owned by Government departments and authorities. Excludes mobile plant and equipment, tractors, trailers and non-motorised caravans.

Source: *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 9301.0)*.

# 14

## LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., NSW AND AUSTRALIA—ORIGINAL

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period		Latest figure	Change from prior period		
				%	%		%	%	
Room nights	'000	Dec qtr	3 220.2	3.4	0.0	9 640.8	1.3	0.9	
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec qtr	59.0	2.6	-3.1	58.2	0.3	-2.9	
Takings	\$'000	Dec qtr	345 737	6.3	3.7	979 184	3.1	3.5	

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (Cat. no. 8635.0)

# 15

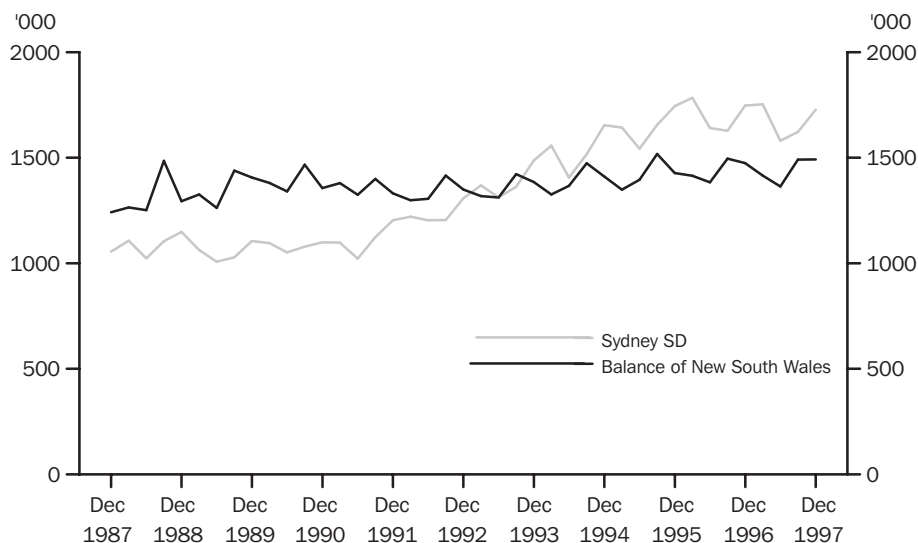
## LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., SYDNEY AND NSW—ORIGINAL

Period	Sydney			New South Wales		
	Room nights	Room occupancy rate	Takings	Room nights	Room occupancy rate	Takings
	'000	%	\$'000	'000	%	\$'000
<b>1996</b>						
June qtr	1 640.4	69.5	205 884	3 024.3	57.4	296 797
September qtr	1 627.4	69.4	205 409	3 123.4	59.1	314 270
December qtr	1 747.3	74.7	232 355	3 221.7	60.9	333 494
<b>1997</b>						
March qtr	1 753.1	76.2	236 756	3 168.7	60.9	337 189
June qtr	1 581.0	67.9	214 116	2 945.2	56.0	305 726
September qtr	1 622.8	67.2	214 412	3 113.8	57.5	325 246
December qtr	1 728.1	70.6	240 678	3 220.2	59.0	345 737

Source: Tourist Accommodation, NSW (Cat. no. 8635.1)

# 16

## LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS ETC., QUARTERLY ROOM NIGHTS OCCUPIED—ORIGINAL



Source: Tourist Accommodation, NSW (Cat. no. 8635.1)

# 17

## CONSUMER AND PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES, NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia(a)		
				Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Consumer Price Index (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	120.7	0.5	0.1	120.3	0.3	-0.2
Price index of materials used in house building (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	120.8	1.2	4.1	118.7	0.7	2.2
Price index of materials used in building other than house building (all groups)	1989-90 =100.0	Mar qtr 98	114.4	0.2	1.1	114.1	0.1	0.6

<sup>a</sup> For the Consumer Price Index this is the weighted average of eight capital cities and for the other two indexes, the weighted average of the six State capital cities.

Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6407.0), Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6408.0)

# 18

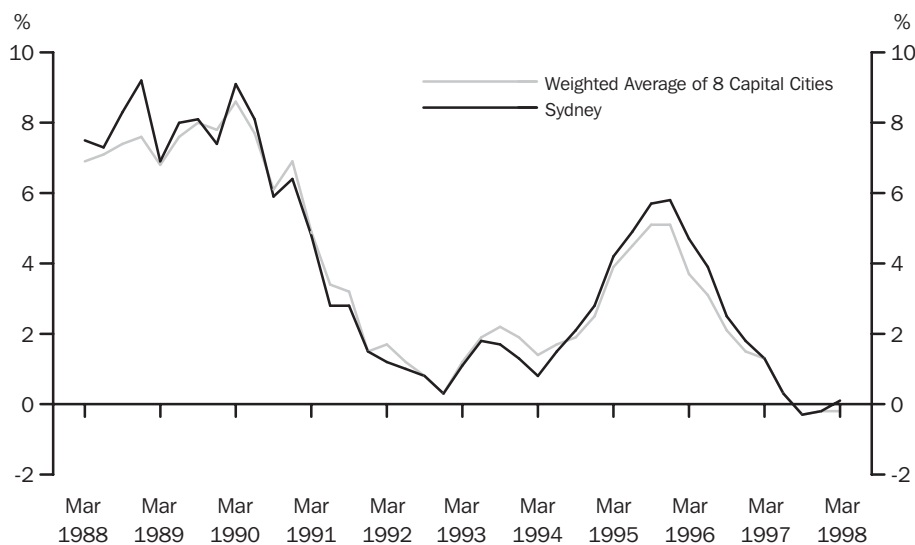
## CONSUMER AND PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES, NSW

Period	Consumer Price Index, all groups	Price Index of materials used in house building, all groups	Price Index of materials used in building other than house building, all groups
	1989-90 = 100.0	1989-90 = 100.0	1989-90 = 100.0
<b>1996</b>			
September qtr	120.2	115.9	112.5
December qtr	120.4	115.8	112.6
<b>1997</b>			
March qtr	120.6	116.0	113.2
June qtr	120.2	117.3	113.9
September qtr	119.8	117.8	114.2
December qtr	120.1	119.4	114.2
<b>1998</b>			
March qtr	120.7	120.8	114.4

Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Price index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6407.0), Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6408.0).

# 19

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE



Source: Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0)

Indicator	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
			Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
Lending commitments for the construction or purchase of dwellings—							
Construction of dwellings	Feb 98	217.8	28.8	24.0	687.6	23.5	20.6
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Feb 98	99.6	34.3	-0.5	227.3	17.5	6.0
Purchase of established dwellings(a)	Feb 98	1 134.9	23.1	15.6	3 524.6	19.2	8.6
Refinancing of existing dwellings	Feb 98	296.1	24.2	-0.5	769.2	21.3	-1.1
Lending commitments for alterations and additions	Feb 98	106.0	31.1	14.1	243.6	27.0	4.4
Total lending commitments to individuals for housing(b)	Feb 98	1 748.4	24.5	12.4	4 439.6	19.8	10.2
Total lending commitments to individuals for housing (seasonally adjusted)(b)	Feb 98	1 789.1	-7.6	12.4	4 533.9	-2.4	10.1

<sup>a</sup> Excludes refinancing.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes alterations and additions.

Source: *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0)*

Period	Lending commitments for the construction or purchase of dwellings				Lending commitments for alterations and additions \$m	Total lending commitments to individuals for housing(b)	
	Construction of dwellings \$m	Purchase of newly erected dwellings \$m	Purchase of established dwellings(a) \$m	Refinancing of existing dwellings \$m		Original \$m	Seasonally adjusted \$m
<b>1993-94</b>	2 151.4	838.5	10 911.6	2 337.2	1 078.2	16 238.7	..
<b>1994-95</b>	2 162.6	819.8	9 952.4	2 381.9	1 242.0	15 316.7	..
<b>1995-96</b>	1 894.7	897.9	10 145.3	2 929.8	1 261.8	15 867.7	..
<b>1996</b>							
December	142.7	81.5	1 000.9	265.8	84.2	1 491.0	1 665.3
<b>1997</b>							
January	147.8	93.8	948.0	304.9	83.9	1 494.5	1 940.2
February	175.6	100.1	981.9	297.5	92.9	1 555.1	1 591.4
March	187.5	106.3	1 121.1	328.4	103.8	1 743.3	1 715.8
April	212.2	116.6	1 231.9	371.7	108.5	1 932.3	1 792.4
May	221.3	121.3	1 282.3	316.2	99.7	1 941.1	1 778.7
June	193.0	120.8	1 122.6	327.5	89.9	1 764.0	1 735.7
July	220.8	116.8	1 218.6	321.5	93.1	1 877.8	1 707.7
August	213.6	114.8	1 154.9	310.7	90.3	1 794.1	1 824.0
September	236.2	116.0	1 210.2	322.4	102.7	1 884.7	1 856.1
October	224.0	110.9	1 253.3	302.3	110.1	1 890.5	1 884.3
November	201.1	110.0	1 198.4	261.8	97.9	1 771.4	1 804.5
December	203.8	111.7	1 137.4	246.8	90.6	1 699.7	1 789.0
<b>1998</b>							
January	169.1	74.2	922.2	238.4	80.8	1 403.9	1 935.7
February	217.8	99.6	1 134.9	296.1	106.0	1 748.4	1 789.1

<sup>a</sup> Excludes refinancing.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes alterations and additions.

Source: *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0)*



Item	Actual 1995-96 \$m	Actual 1996-97 \$m	Estimates 1997-98 \$m	July-February	
				1996-97 \$m	1997-98 \$m
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Current receipts					
Taxes, fees and fines					
Stamp duties	2 630	3 193	3 373	2 066	2 492
Payroll tax	2 876	3 161	3 338	2 114	2 259
Land tax	575	641	786	180	237
Motor vehicle tax	937	903	930	575	602
Gaming and betting	1 179	1 209	1 392	750	851
Licences	1 729	1 850	1 979	1 123	140
Commonwealth Safety Net Taxes	—	—	—	—	1 027
Other	943	1 000	1 114	624	558
Land transactions and royalties	246	243	238	155	159
Income from Non Budget Sector Enterprises	1 290	1 436	1 341	1 129	1 113
Commonwealth General Purpose Recurrent Grants	4 517	4 673	4 900	3 155	3 192
less—State Fiscal Contribution	—	210	216	141	143
Commonwealth Specific Purpose Recurrent Grants	2 757	2 944	2 962	1 816	1 893
Other	729	599	626	363	298
<i>Total current receipts</i>	20 408	21 642	22 763	13 909	14 678
Capital receipts					
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grants	—	—	—	—	—
Commonwealth Specific Purpose Capital Grants	867	854	854	522	458
Other	11	17	228	9	175
<i>Total capital receipts</i>	877	872	1 081	532	633
<b>Total current and capital receipts</b>	<b>21 285</b>	<b>22 514</b>	<b>23 844</b>	<b>14 441</b>	<b>15 311</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Current expenditure					
Departmental payments					
Services					
Health	5 116	5 381	5 585	3 592	3 872
Education(a)	4 641	4 928	5 174	3 286	3 336
Law and order(b)	1 247	1 679	1 711	1 063	1 133
Community Services	989	1 113	1 155	728	773
Other	3 944	4 057	4 192	2 446	2 588
Redundancies	17	22	38	11	31
Subsidies to Non Budget agencies					
Services	726	1 073	866	534	673
Redundancies	66	33	63	47	50
Interest payments	1 683	1 399	1 527	969	1 006
Superannuation	1 077	1 402	1 451	848	981
Treasurer's advance(c)	—	—	100	—	—
less—User charges	1 286	1 349	1 347	881	816
<i>Total current expenditure</i>	18 220	19 739	20 516	12 643	13 627
Capital expenditure					
Capital works	1 940	2 315	2 665	1 105	1 355
Capital grants	1 483	1 109	1 240	854	669
Advances made	65	69	15	62	6
less—Advances repaid	1 877	657	215	32	62
less—Asset sales	160	247	322	72	143
<i>Total capital expenditure</i>	1 449	2 589	3 383	1 916	1 824
<b>Total current and capital expenditure</b>	<b>19 669</b>	<b>22 328</b>	<b>23 899</b>	<b>14 559</b>	<b>15 451</b>
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT (-)</b>					
Current account	2 188	1 903	2 246	1266	1 051
Capital account	-572	-1 717	-2 302	-1 385	-1 191
<i>Total result surplus/deficit</i>	1 617	186	-56	-119	-140

<sup>a</sup> Includes Department of Training and Education Co-ordination, Department of School Education, Office of the Board of Studies and TAFE.

<sup>b</sup> Includes Attorney Generals Department, Department of Corrective Services and Police Services.

<sup>c</sup> Expenditure from the Treasurer's Advance is included in the relevant current payments figures.

Source: Financial Statement released by NSW Treasury. Figures may differ from data published in annual ABS publications.

# 23

## ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW AND AUSTRALIA, TREND

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	
				%	%		%	%	
Type of asset—									
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec qtr	1 021	0.4	-7.2	3 164	-4.1	-14.2	
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec qtr	2 684	6.4	14.5	8 315	3.5	15.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>Dec qtr</b>	<b>3 705</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>11 479</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	

Source: State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0)

# 24

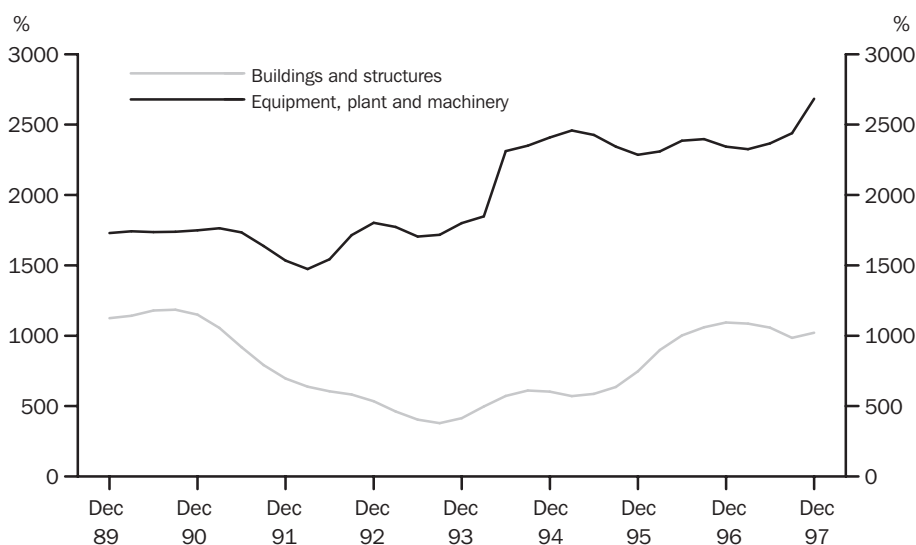
## ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW, TREND

Period	Type of asset		
	New buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>1996</b>			
September qtr	1 059	2 397	3 456
December qtr	1 100	2 344	3 444
<b>1997</b>			
March qtr	1 074	2 307	3 381
June qtr	1 043	2 374	3 417
September qtr	1 017	2 522	3 539
December qtr	1 021	2 684	3 705

Source: State Estimates of New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0)

# 25

## ACTUAL PRIVATE NEW FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, CURRENT PRICES—NSW, TREND



Source: State Estimates of New Capital Expenditure (5646.0)

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales				Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from	Change from	Latest figure	Change from	Change from	
				prior period	same period		prior period	same period	
%	%	%	%	%					
Overseas imports into NSW	\$m	Feb 98	2 807	-4.6	10.1	6 945	-2.3	14.5	
Total overseas exports(b)	\$m	Feb 98	1 443	1.2	4.3	6 396	6.7	4.4	
Exports of—									
Meat and meat preparations	\$m	Feb 98	73	12.7	12.4	295	34.4	17.3	
Cereals and cereal preparations	\$m	Feb 98	111	-17.2	-32.3	417	-19.6	-39.1	
Wool and other animal hair	\$m	Feb 98	77	7.2	29.6	279	5.0	-2.6	
Coke, coal and briquettes	\$m	Feb 98	325	-8.5	17.4	772	-10.8	17.4	
Iron and steel	\$m	Feb 98	86	-24.7	6.7	141	-17.0	2.5	
Aluminium	\$m	Feb 98	82	-30.8	-5.3	229	-18.8	11.1	
Office machines and parts	\$m	Feb 98	39	6.5	-5.1	69	31.5	8.8	

<sup>a</sup> Figures shown are Free On Board (FOB) values.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes re-exported goods. State of origin is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: *International Trade, Australia: FASTTRACCS Service (Cat. no. 5466.0)*.

Period	Overseas exports of selected commodities(b)								
	Overseas imports into NSW	Total overseas exports(b)	Meat and meat preparations	Cereals and cereal preparations	Wool and other animal hair	Coke, coal and briquettes	Iron and steel	Aluminium	Office machines and parts
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>1994-95</b>	33 280	15 201	885	458	1 035	2 801	913	1 018	829
<b>1995-96</b>	34 891	16 684	794	822	720	3 338	1 037	1 111	638
<b>1996-97</b>	34 204	17 726	784	1 540	859	3 426	968	993	535
<b>1996</b>									
December	2 798	1 494	63	125	86	279	65	77	55
<b>1997</b>									
January	2 631	1 326	54	120	64	343	87	81	35
February	2 549	r1 384	65	163	59	277	81	86	41
March	2 649	1 527	70	149	100	261	80	95	50
April	2 939	1 445	76	137	62	286	92	88	31
May	2 788	1 717	75	197	74	289	112	99	40
June	3 182	1 552	68	204	61	270	57	73	41
July	3 221	1 750	74	145	104	335	65	97	45
August	3 002	1 763	71	185	79	318	93	116	44
September	3 217	r1 668	76	157	102	350	59	73	48
October	r3 387	r1 692	78	95	119	302	123	98	45
November	r3 096	r1 760	89	148	130	328	98	102	51
December	r3 420	r1 832	r88	165	r116	384	89	99	58
<b>1998</b>									
January	r2 943	r1 426	r65	r134	r72	r355	115	118	r37
February	2 807	1 443	73	111	77	325	86	82	39

<sup>a</sup> Figures shown are Free On Board (FOB) values.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes re-exported goods. State of origin is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: *International Trade, Australia: FASTTRACCS Service (Cat. no. 5466.0)*.

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