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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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CONTENTS

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Mike Thomas on Perth (08) 9360 5353.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES	ISSUE (Quarter)	RELEASE DATE
	June 2006	5 July 2006
	September 2006	4 October 2006

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This release was reissued due to changes made to the construction data contained in the Feature Article 'Skills shortages in Western Australia - Part 2' on page 45.

INTERNET

This publication and all published feature articles can be downloaded free from the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. Go to Themes–Regional–Western Australia–WA releases–1367.5 Western Australian Statistical Indicators.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 22 March 2006. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in *Western Australian Statistical Indicators*. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

INQUIRIES

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

ABBREVIATIONS

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
CPI	consumer price index
ERP	estimated resident population
GSP	gross state product
HES	Household Expenditure Survey
LNG	liquefied natural gas
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
n.f.d.	not further defined
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
USA	United States of America
WA	Western Australia
WPI	wage price index

Alan Hubbard
Regional Director, Western Australia

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Western Australia's domestic economy continued its recent acceleration of growth in the December quarter 2005, with State Final Demand (trend chain volume terms) increasing by 2.8%, slightly higher than the 2.7% growth recorded in the previous quarter. The December quarter result was more than double the 1.2% increase in Australia's Domestic Final Demand and the highest growth of all states and territories. In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, growth in the state economy in the December quarter 2005 (4.5%) was the highest recorded since the March quarter 2001 (6.2%). Growth during the quarter was driven by private business investment (up $672 million or 13.9%), supported by investment in oil and gas projects. Rising labour and materials costs in housing construction contributed to an increase of $103 million (7.2%) in expenditure on dwellings. In contrast, the sale of assets by state and local government contributed to a fall of $45 million (10.1%) in general government investment.

The value of exports from Western Australia increased by 27.2% ($2,584 million) through the year to December quarter 2005 to reach $12,092 million. Strong demand from China contributed to a rise of $1,573 million (91.4%) in the value of iron ore exports, mainly due to higher prices, although export volumes also increased by 11.2% over the period. Growth in prices drove increases in the export values of crude petroleum oil and combined confidential items, up $239 million (20.0%) and $237 million (13.5%) respectively. The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 17.2% ($601 million) through the year to December quarter 2005 to reach $4,093 million. The largest rise in the value of imports over the period was recorded for non-monetary gold, up $224 million (58.2%), largely due to growth in prices.

The outlook for Western Australian exports remains positive, with greater than expected recent growth in the US and Japanese economies, and the Chinese economy continuing to expand at a rapid pace. In addition, high global commodity prices can be expected to provide a favourable environment for continued export growth.

Employment growth eased in Western Australia in the three months to February 2006, with the trend estimate of employed persons rising by 0.2%, following an increase of 0.4% over the previous three month period. Driving employment growth in the state over the period was a 0.8% increase in full-time employment. The industries showing the largest growth in employment in the February quarter 2006 were Construction (up 12,165 or 12.2%) and Retail trade (up 6,417 or 4.4%). Unemployment increased in Western Australia over the three months to February 2006, with the trend estimate of unemployed persons rising by 1.9% (846 persons), following a fall of 6.6% (3,187 persons) in the previous three months. The slight rise in the number of unemployed persons in the state has seen the unemployment rate (trend) stabilise at 4.1% in February 2006, well below the national rate of 5.2%.

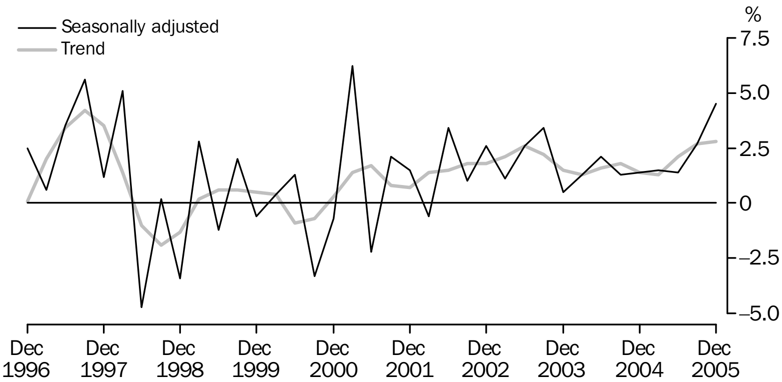
STATE ACCOUNTS

State final demand

State Final Demand in Western Australia increased by 2.8% in the December quarter 2005 (trend chain volume terms), slightly higher than the 2.7% growth recorded in the previous quarter. Growth in the state's domestic economy was fairly steady between the December quarter 2003 and the March quarter 2005, averaging 1.5% per quarter, but has accelerated since the June quarter 2005 to average 2.6% over the last three quarters. Growth in Western Australia's State Final Demand in the December quarter 2005 (2.8%) was more than double growth in Australia's Domestic Final Demand (1.2%) and the highest growth of all states and territories.

State final demand continued

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures—Change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, Western Australia's State Final Demand increased by 4.5% in the December quarter 2005, the strongest growth recorded since the March quarter 2001 (6.2%). The main contributor to growth during the quarter was private business investment, which rose by $672 million (13.9%), driven by strong growth in new engineering construction (up $415 million or 33.8%) and new machinery and equipment (up $235 million or 8.4%), supported by investment in oil and gas projects including the fifth LNG train of the North West Shelf Project. Rising labour and materials costs in housing construction contributed to an increase of $103 million (7.2%) in expenditure on dwellings during the quarter. Other notable contributions to growth in the December quarter 2005 were household final consumption expenditure (up $153 million or 1.2%); public corporations (up $60 million or 12.1%), mainly due to increased spending by state and local governments on public housing, electricity, gas and water; and government final consumption expenditure (up $48 million or 1.4%), largely due to increased national government spending on defence. In contrast, the sale of assets by state and local government contributed to a fall of $45 million (10.1%) in general government investment.

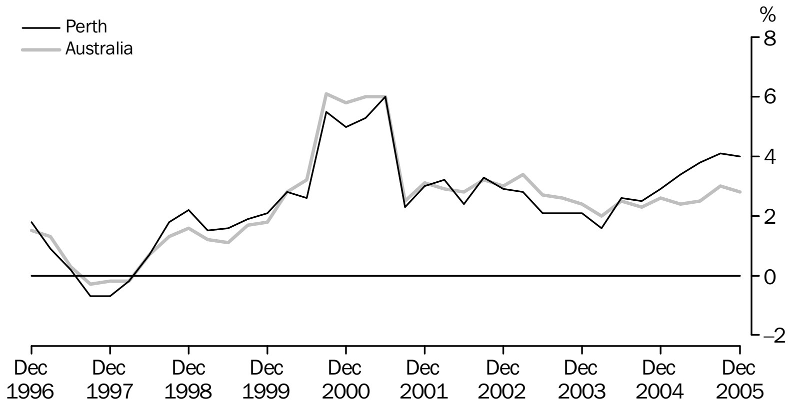
PRICES

Consumer Price Index

Growth in Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased slightly in the December quarter 2005 to 0.8%, following an increase of 1.0% in the previous quarter. Nationally, the weighted average CPI rose by 0.5% in the December quarter. The major contributors to Perth's CPI growth were house purchase (up 3.9%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (up 4.4%) and deposit and loan facilities (up 2.5%). Strong demand for housing in Perth saw the city record the largest increase in housing costs of all capitals during the quarter, driven by rising prices for labour and materials. Increases in some banking charges such as account keeping and transaction fees contributed to the rise in deposit and loan facilities. Partially offsetting CPI growth in Perth in the December quarter 2005 were notable price falls for audio, visual and computing equipment (down 3.8%), automotive fuel (down 1.1%) and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 1.6%).

Consumer Price Index continued

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from same quarter previous year



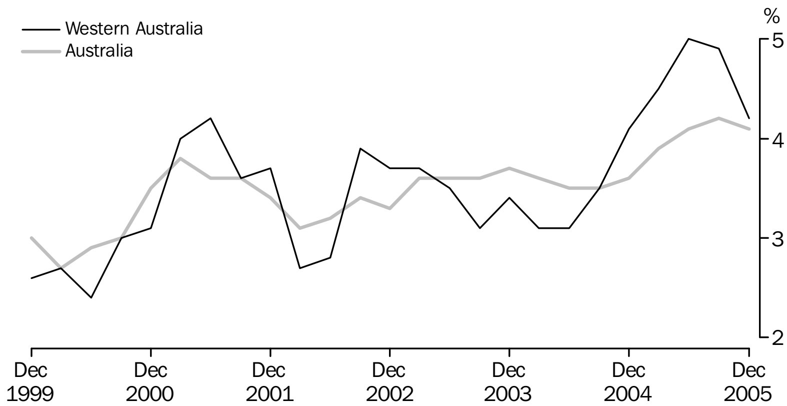
Source: *Consumer Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6401.0.

Perth's CPI increase of 4.0% through the year to December quarter 2005 was the largest increase of all capital cities and well above the weighted average rise of 2.8%. Strong growth in the purchase price of new houses in Perth through the year drove a 9.3% increase in housing costs, more than double the weighted average increase of 3.6%. The national average CPI increase of 2.8% over the year was within the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range of 2.0%–3.0% for inflation. The RBA expects underlying prices to increase gradually over the year ahead and has identified the main inflationary pressures as rising wages and labour costs, as well as increases in the prices of administered items such as health, education and utilities.

Wage Price Index

Western Australia's quarterly index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses rose by 4.2% through the year to December quarter 2005. After peaking at 5.0% through the year to June quarter 2005, well above the national increase of 4.1%, annual wages growth in the state eased over the past two quarters to be only slightly higher than the national increase of 4.1% in the current period.

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: *Labour Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6345.0.

Wage Price Index continued

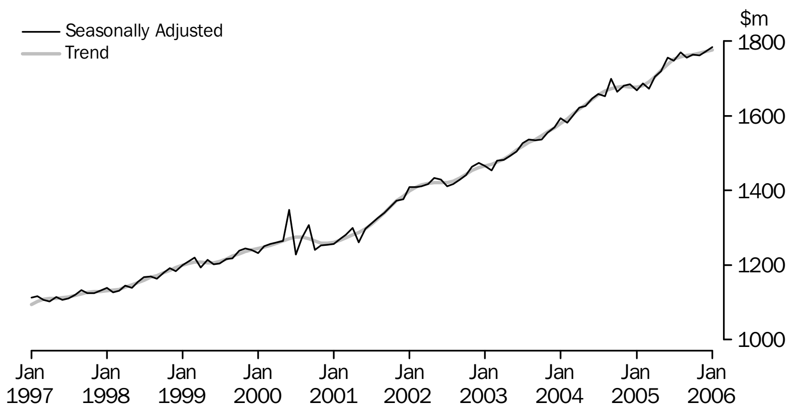
Strong demand for labour in Western Australia, particularly in the construction and resources sectors, continues to drive wages growth in the state. The relative strength of Western Australia's housing market contributed to an 8.7% increase in annual wages growth for Construction, the highest among the selected industries in the state and almost double the next highest increase of 4.8% for Education. Mining and Manufacturing (both up 4.6%) also recorded strong annual wages growth in the current period. The occupations recording the highest annual wages growth in Western Australia through the year to December quarter 2005 were Associate professionals (up 5.0%), Labourers and related workers (up 4.7%) and Managers and administrators (up 4.6%).

CONSUMPTION

Retail trade

Retail turnover (trend) in Western Australia increased by 0.6% ($32 million) in the three months to January 2006, compared to the previous three month period. Nationally, retail turnover increased by a slightly higher 0.8%. After peaking at 1.0% in June 2005, growth in Western Australia's retail turnover has been relatively flat since September 2005, averaging 0.2% per month to January 2006. Several factors may have contributed to the slowdown in retail spending in the state, including an easing in consumer sentiment throughout 2005, uncertainty about future movements in interest rates and households taking a more cautious approach to finance generally.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



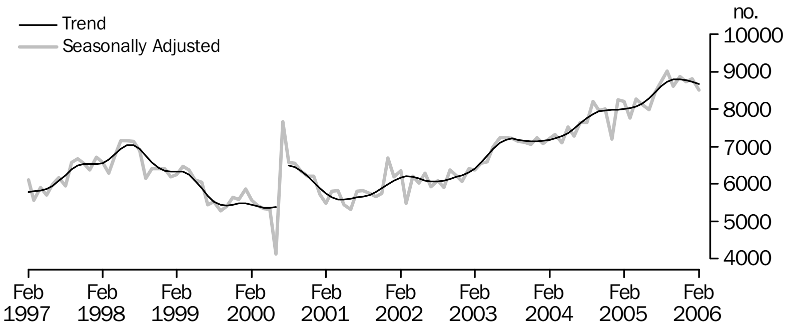
Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat. no. 8501.0.

Growth in retail turnover in Western Australia in the three months to January 2006 (compared to the three months to October 2005) was highest for household good retailing, up $14 million (1.5%), reflecting the relative strength of the state's housing market. Strong growth was also recorded for recreational good retailing, up $11 million (3.6%); clothing and soft good retailing, up $9 million (3.3%); and food retailing, up $6 million (0.2%). Conversely, turnover declined during the period for other retailing (including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, antiques, garden supplies and jewellery), down $5 million (1.1%); hospitality and service industries, down $3 million (0.4%); and department stores, down $2 million (0.4%).

New motor vehicle sales

The trend estimate for sales of new motor vehicles in Western Australia fell for the third consecutive month in February 2006, decreasing by 0.6% to 8,670 vehicles. New motor vehicle sales began to decline in December 2005, following 24 consecutive months of growth since December 2003. Despite the decline, sales of new motor vehicles in the state remain near historically high levels.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



(a) Break in time series for trend between June and July 2000. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Electronic Publication), cat. no. 9314.0.

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

Over the three months to February 2006, sales of new motor vehicles (trend) in Western Australia fell by 0.7% (175 vehicles), compared to the previous three month period. Nationally, new motor vehicle sales fell by 0.3%. The state decline over the period was entirely due to a fall in sales of passenger vehicles (down 285 vehicles or 1.9%). In contrast, sales of sports utility vehicles increased by 63 vehicles (1.2%) and sales of other vehicles (including utilities, vans, trucks and buses) rose by 47 vehicles (0.8%) over the period.

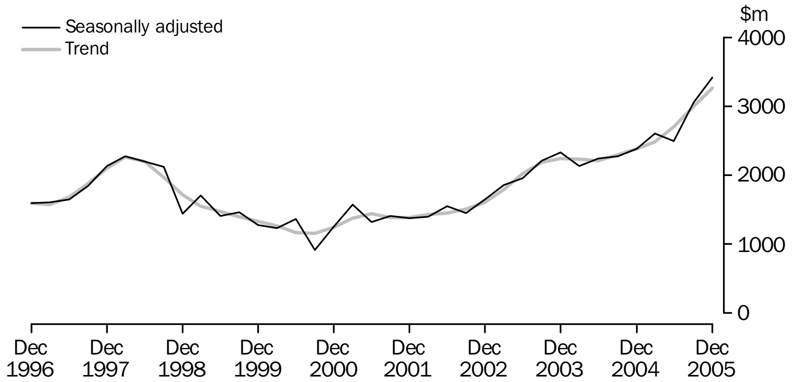
INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure

Business investment (trend chain volume terms) in Western Australia increased by 8.6% ($258 million) to $3,259 million in the December quarter 2005 – the highest level since the quarterly series began in the September quarter 1989. Investment grew strongly on equipment, plant and machinery (up 9.5% or $148 million) and buildings and structures (up 6.1% or $88 million) during the quarter, driven by the commencement of construction work on a number of resource-related projects. The development of infrastructure such as port upgrades, rail lines and gas pipelines to support these projects can be expected to facilitate further capacity expansions in the state's resources sector.

Private new capital expenditure continued

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



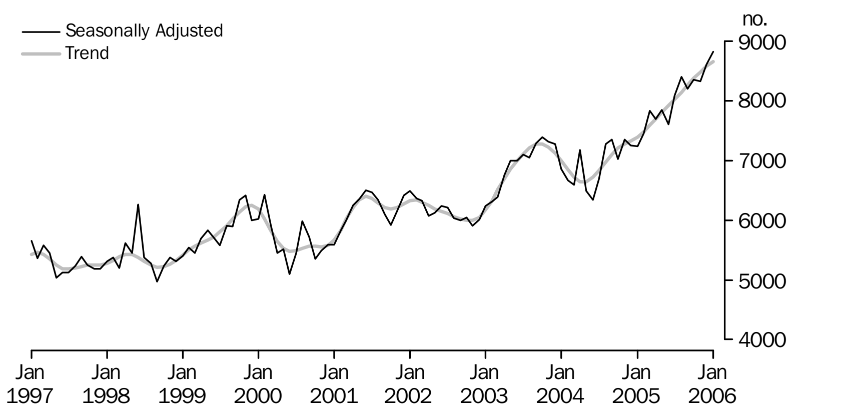
Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

In original current price terms, business investment in Western Australia reached a record high of $3,918 million in the December quarter 2005, after rising through the year by 46.6% ($1,246 million). Strong growth was recorded for all industry groups through the year to December quarter 2005, particularly mining, up $890 million (62.2%); and, to a lesser extent, other selected industries (including retail, construction and property and business services), up $214 million (24.5%) and manufacturing, up $142 million (38.6%). Investment in the mining industry in the state totalled $2.3 billion in the December quarter 2005, supported by strong global demand for Western Australian commodities and associated high commodity prices.

Housing finance commitments

The number of housing finance commitments for owner occupation (trend) in Western Australia increased by 3.8% (942) in the three months to January 2006, compared to the previous three months, higher than the national increase of 3.1%. The total value of housing finance commitments (trend) in the state also increased over the period, rising by 7.5% ($346 million). Growth in housing finance commitments in Western Australia has now been sustained since the first half of 2004, with the number of commitments rising for 20 consecutive months since June 2004.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

Housing finance commitments continued

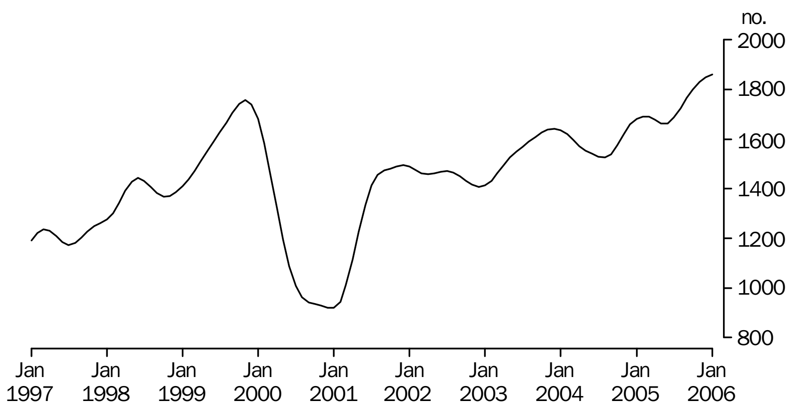
In original terms, the total value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation increased by 4.6% ($213 million) in Western Australia in the three months to January 2006, compared to the previous three month period. Growth was mainly driven by finance commitments for the purchase of other established dwellings, up $192 million(7.0%). The value of housing finance commitments for the construction of new dwellings rose by 1.2% ($8 million) over the period, wholly attributable to investors, up $31 million(37.5%); with owner occupiers falling by $23 million (3.8%). The increase in owner occupier commitments for the purchase of other established dwellings, coupled with the fall in commitments for the construction of new dwellings, provides some indication that owner occupiers are purchasing established homes rather than building. However, growth in the construction of new dwellings continues to be supported by investors, and can be expected to lead to continued growth in building approvals over the coming quarters.

CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals

The number of houses approved (trend) for construction in Western Australia increased by 4.7% (248 approvals) in the three months to January 2006, compared to the previous three month period. Nationally, the number of house approvals fell by 4.0%. The number of house approvals in the state has now increased for eight consecutive months since June 2005, although growth has eased from a high of 2.3% in September 2005 to 0.5% in January 2006. Despite the moderation in growth, the number of house approvals in Western Australia remained at a historically high level of 1,860 in January 2006 – the highest level since September 1988 (1,886).

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS APPROVED, Houses: **Trend**



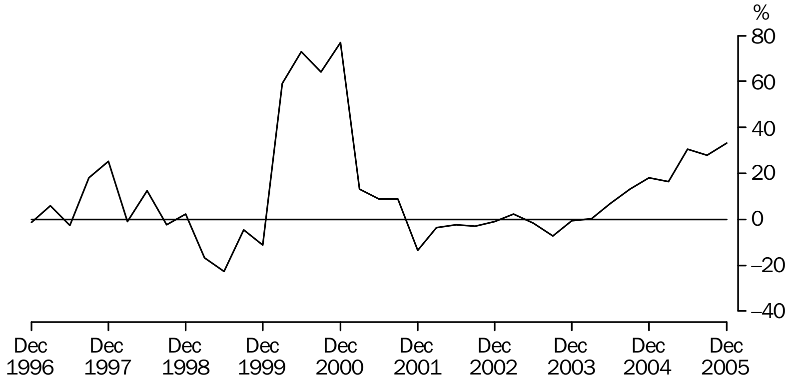
Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

Coinciding with the increase in houses approved, the number of other dwellings (comprising non-house building) approved (trend) in Western Australia rose by 51.7% (479 approvals) in the three months to January 2006, compared to the previous three months. The recent strength in building approvals in the state, along with an increase in the value of new house construction activity yet to be done at the end of the September quarter 2005 (up 17.0% to $1,550 million), supports the likely continuation of high levels of housing construction activity for the remainder of 2006.

TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus increased by 33.0% ($1,983 million) through the year to December quarter 2005 to reach $7,999 million – the largest trade surplus in the last ten years. The increase was driven by strong growth in the state's exports (up $2,584 million), largely due to growth in resource commodity prices and, to a lesser extent, capacity expansions in the resources sector. The value of imports into Western Australia also increased over the period (up $601 million), supported by a strong domestic currency, coupled with high levels of consumer and business sentiment and business investment.

VALUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE SURPLUS, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: ABS data available on request, International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, cat. no. 5368.0.

An increase in exports of iron ore from Western Australia contributed to significant improvements in the state's trade positions with China (surplus up $1,069 million to $2,302 million) and Japan (surplus up $960 million to $2,495 million) through the year to December quarter 2005. The state's trade surplus with the United Kingdom also rose over the period (up $417 million to $720 million), mainly due to an increase in exports of non-monetary gold. Conversely, a fall in exports of non-monetary gold contributed to declines in the state's trade positions with Thailand (surplus down $258 million to $187 million) and India (surplus down $218 million to $488 million). The state's trade surplus with the USA also decreased over the period (down $190 million to a deficit of $43 million), largely attributable to a fall in petroleum exports.

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports increased by 27.2% through the year to December quarter 2005, to reach $12,092 million. Strong demand from China contributed to a rise of $1,573 million (91.4%) in the value of iron ore exports, mainly due to higher prices, although export volumes also increased by 11.2% over the period. Growth in prices drove increases in the export values of crude petroleum oil and combined confidential items, up $239 million (20.0%) and $237 million (13.5%) respectively, with export volumes falling for both commodities. The value of exports of non-crude petroleum oils and wheat both declined by $27 million (19.4% and 5.9% respectively) over the period, largely due to falls in export volumes.

Imports

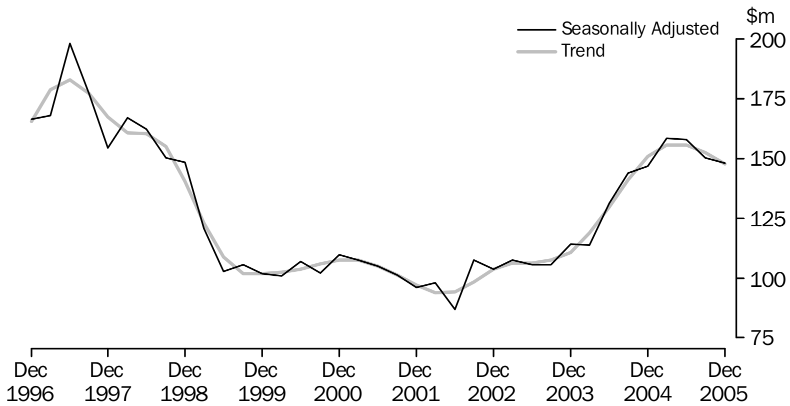
The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 17.2% through the year to December quarter 2005, to reach $4,093 million. The largest rise in the value of imports over the period was recorded for non-monetary gold, up $224 million (58.2%), largely due to growth in prices. An increase of 30.5% in volume contributed to a rise of $154 million(69.1%) in the value of imports of non-crude petroleum oils. Conversely, increasing prices fuelled a rise in the value of imports of crude petroleum oils (up $107 million or 27.2%), with the volume of imports falling by 9.3%. The value of imports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products declined by $90 million (76.9%) over the period, largely due to a 50.4% fall in the volume imported.

MINING

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) in Western Australia fell for the third consecutive quarter in the December quarter 2005, down by 3.1% ($5 million). Despite the decline, mineral exploration expenditure in the state remains near historically high levels, supported by strong global demand for raw materials, particularly from China and other emerging economies, which has pushed commodity prices to record high levels.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

In original terms, Western Australia's expenditure on mineral exploration increased by 0.8% ($1 million) through the year to December quarter 2005. Driving growth over the period were increases in exploration expenditure on iron ore (up $6 million or 18.3%) and silver, lead, zinc (up $4 million or 633.3%). Exploration expenditure fell for all other selected minerals, with the largest decline recorded for gold (down $6 million or 9.5%).

Petroleum exploration expenditure (original) in Western Australia rose by 35.1% ($40 million) through the year to December quarter 2005. Although petroleum prices are relatively volatile and sensitive to unexpected events, recent strength in petroleum prices has stimulated exploration expenditure in the state.

Mineral and energy production

Production of many mineral and energy resources in Western Australia increased through the year to December quarter 2005. The largest growth was recorded in the production of zinc (up 266.7%), in response to recent strength in world prices. Production also increased for crude oil (up 17.9%) and iron ore (up 7.1%). The largest falls in production over the period were recorded in the production of diamonds (down 27.7%), reflecting maintenance activities at the Argyle mine as well as changes in

Mineral and energy production continued

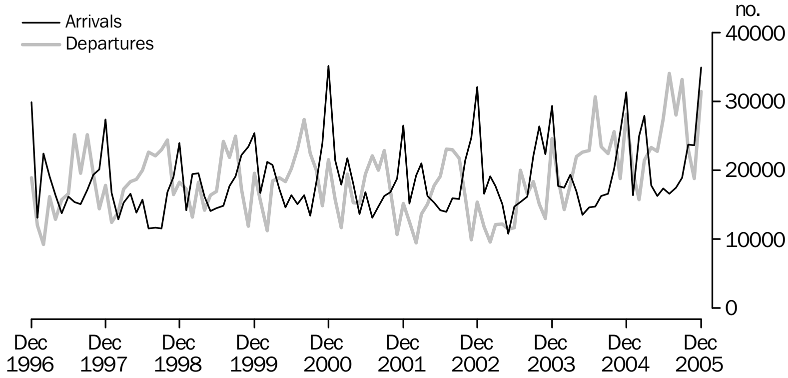
processing practices; ilmenite (down 6.1%); and nickel (down 5.7%), in response to a recent softening in world prices.

TOURISM

Short-term arrivals on holiday

A total of 82,266 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia by air on holiday in the three months to December 2005 – 5,248 (6.8%) more than in the same period of 2004. Visitor arrivals increased from all of the selected countries except Japan and Thailand, from which 770 (8.9%) and 601 (35.4%) fewer visitors arrived respectively. The largest increases in visitor arrivals over the period were from the United Kingdom (up 2,603 or 12.5%), Europe (up 696 or 6.3%) and Indonesia (up 513 or 21.8%).

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS AND RESIDENT DEPARTURES OVERSEAS, By air on holiday



Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, cat. no. 3401.0.

Short-term departures on holiday

The number of Western Australian residents departing by air on holiday overseas rose to 73,213 in the three months to December 2005, an increase of 636 (0.9%) from the same period of 2004. The rise in the number of residents departing overseas on holiday coincided with a fall in the price of overseas holiday travel and accommodation in the December quarter 2005. The largest increases in resident departures over the period were to Thailand (up 2,593 or 38.1%), Malaysia (up 1,524 or 27.2%) and the United States of America (up 1,468 or 53.2%). A large fall in resident departures to Indonesia (down 10,317 or 44.9%) followed the bombing in Bali on 1 October 2005. Falls were also recorded in resident departures to South Africa (down 211 or 14.8%) and Japan (down 71 or 9.3%).

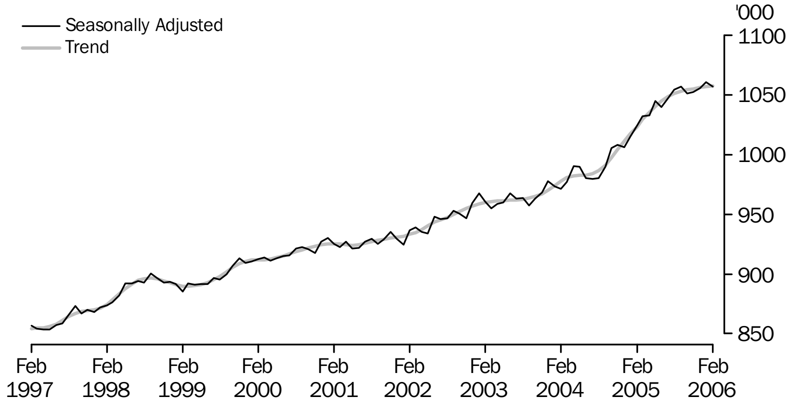
LABOUR MARKET

Employment

Employment growth eased in Western Australia in the three months to February 2006, with the trend estimate of employed persons rising by 0.2%, following an increase of 0.4% over the previous three month period. Nationally, employment remained relatively unchanged over the three months to February 2006. Driving employment growth in the state over the period was a 0.8% increase in full-time employment, largely due to a rise of 1.5% in full-time employed females, as well as a 0.5% rise in full-time employed males. Despite slower growth in the last three months, there were 2,544 more persons employed in Western Australia in February 2006 than in November 2005.

Employment continued

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

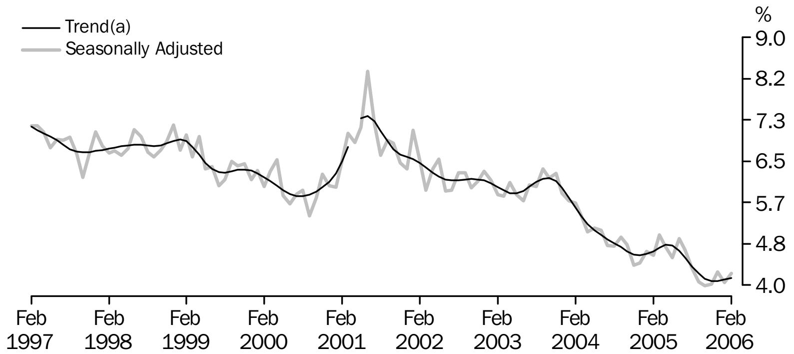
Industry Employment

Growth in employment in Western Australia was spread across approximately half the industries in the state in the February quarter 2006, compared to the previous quarter. The industries contributing most to employment growth were Construction (up 12,165 or 12.2%), Retail trade (up 6,417 or 4.4%) and Health and community services (up 5,068 or 4.9%). The largest falls in employment over the period were recorded by Education (down 9,772 or 13.4%), Mining (down 6,875 or 13.0%) and Transport and storage (down 4,095 or 8.3%).

Unemployment

Unemployment in Western Australia increased in the three months to February 2006, with the trend estimate of unemployed persons rising by 1.9% (846 persons). The rise follows falls of 6.6% (3,187 persons) and 8.1% (4,265 persons) over the three months to November and August 2005 respectively. The slight rise in the number of unemployed persons in the state has seen the unemployment rate (trend) stabilise at 4.1% in February 2006, well below the national rate of 5.2%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



(a) Break in time series for trend at April 2001. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

Participation

Participation in Western Australia's labour force remained relatively unchanged in the three months to February 2006, with 67.7% of the state's civilian population aged 15 years and over being either employed or actively seeking employment in February 2006, compared to 67.8% in November 2005.

SKILLS SHORTAGES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA - PART 2

INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of Western Australia's current period of economic expansion in 2001-02, the state has experienced shortages of skilled labour across many occupations and related industries. Shortages have mainly been in the occupation groups of Tradespersons and Professionals as a result of rapidly growing demand from the industries of Mining, Property and business services, Manufacturing and Construction. This article will expand on the previous analysis published in the December quarter 2005 edition of this publication, which identified the existence and extent of the skills shortage across the economy. It will investigate the factors contributing to the shortage of skilled labour in the state and the impact it has had on the Western Australian economy, focusing on why many occupations have experienced a growing number of skilled vacancies between 2001-02 and 2004-05.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The Western Australian economy has expanded rapidly since 2001-02, which has moved the economy closer to full employment. High levels of consumption, business investment, property market and construction activity and international demand for the state's resource commodities has fuelled the demand for skilled labour and placed considerable pressure on the labour supply. In turn, the labour supply has been constrained to varying degrees by population growth, an ageing labour force and reduced education and training activity.

The Western Australian economy slowed in 2004-05, coinciding with the height of the skills shortages in the state. The extent to which the skills shortage caused that slowdown is not known, but given that labour is an important component of output in many of the industries driving the economy and also the industries most affected by the skills shortage, it is likely to have had a significant impact.

Western Australia is very reliant on the industries of Mining, Manufacturing, Construction and Property and business services as sources of economic growth, and all of these industries showed signs of slowing in 2004-05. Manufacturing and Property and business services recorded declines in economic growth in the last year, while business investment slowed in the Mining industry. Newspaper reports also indicated that some of the state's major development projects have been deferred as a result of rising labour costs and lack of suitably qualified workers. The Construction industry, despite continuing to grow at a healthy rate, has seen the amount of work in its pipeline increase substantially in recent years, mainly due to an insufficient supply of tradespersons. Skills shortages also appear to have had an effect on raising wages and consumer prices in the state, both of which have risen at rates well above national averages.

SKILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations provides counts of advertised skilled vacancies by occupation in major metropolitan newspapers. These counts provide a broad indication of skilled shortages in Western Australia, although there are other recruitment methods not covered by these statistics (e.g. Internet advertisements). The following table displays the occupations in Western Australia that have experienced some of the largest increases (and decreases) in skilled vacancies over the period of skills shortage, from 2001-02 to 2004-05.

SKILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION *continued*

SKILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION GROUP

	2001–02	2004–05	Change	
Occupation group (a)	no.	no.	no.	%
Construction trades	867	3 611	2 745	316.7
Metal trades	864	3 431	2 567	297.3
Electrical and electronics trades	390	1 206	816	209.5
Automotive trades	608	1 142	534	87.7
Building and engineering professionals	466	770	304	65.3
Food trades	239	515	276	115.5
Hairdressers	285	480	195	68.4
Wood and textile trades	180	347	167	92.8
Chefs	627	792	165	26.2
Science professionals	175	310	135	77.4
Building and engineering associates	279	376	97	34.6
Miscellaneous	116	180	64	54.7
Printing trades	52	80	28	53.8
Medical and science technical officers	24	43	19	77.1
Organisation and information professionals	69	82	13	19.0
Social professionals	178	186	8	4.5
Marketing and advertising professionals	36	27	–9	–25.0
Computing professionals	165	83	–82	–49.5
Health professionals	1 211	981	–230	–19.0
Accountants and auditors	694	305	–389	–56.1
Total	**7 521**	**14 942**	**7 421**	**98.7**

(a) Occupation groups are ranked from highest to lowest based on growth in the number of skilled vacancies between 2001–02 and 2004–05.

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Trade occupations have experienced some of the largest increases in skilled vacancies in Western Australia over the last three years, particularly Construction trades, which rose by 2,745 vacancies (316.7%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. Among professional occupations, Building and engineering professionals recorded the largest rise in skilled vacancies, increasing by 304 vacancies or 65.3%. There were some occupations that showed a decline in skilled vacancies, including Accountants and auditors (down 389 vacancies or 56.1%), Health professionals (down 230 vacancies or 19.0%) and Computing professionals (down 82 vacancies or 49.5%). Despite the decline, the number of skilled vacancies for Health professionals (981) remained high in 2004-05 compared to most other occupations.

The reasons why particular occupations have experienced a rising number of skilled vacancies over recent years centre around the factors that drive labour demand and supply in the economy. These factors are discussed in the section below.

DEMAND FACTORS

In general, an expanding economy will create a greater level of demand for labour, as more workers are required to increase production to meet the growing demand for goods and services. More specifically, economic growth helps reduce cyclical unemployment in the short term, and through structural change creates new employment opportunities in the long term.

The Western Australian economy has recently experienced a period of rapid expansion, which has helped move the economy nearer to full employment. Characteristics of Western Australia's booming economy have included: high levels of domestic consumption expenditure; increased business profitability and investment; high levels of

DEMAND FACTORS *continued*

property market and construction activity; and strong exports growth from a surge in international demand for the state's resource commodities. All of these characteristics have had a positive impact on the demand for labour in the economy, placing considerable pressure on the state's labour supply, particularly skilled labour.

Generally, an economy can be expected to grow at least in line with population growth. However, in recent years, economic growth in Western Australia has outpaced population growth, which has increased the demand for labour above expected levels. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, Western Australia's population grew by 4.4% or at an annual average rate of 1.4%.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT

The Western Australian economy grew strongly in the three years to 2003-04, with Gross State Product (chain volume measures) increasing by 5.6% in 2001-02 and 2002-03 and by 8.1% in 2003-04, much higher than the long run average of 4.1%. However, in the most recent year (2004-05) growth fell below the long run average to 2.7%, suggesting that shortages of skilled labour may have had some impact on constraining growth in the economy.

GROWTH IN GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Chain volume measures

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

The average rate of growth in the Western Australian economy over the last four years was 5.5%, much higher than the previous four year period of 2.9%. Coinciding with this growth, was an acceleration in employment growth from 1.1% in 2001-02 to 4.2% in 2004-05.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT continued

GROWTH IN GSP(a) AND EMPLOYMENT(b)

(a) Chain volume measures.
(b) Trend.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

INDUSTRY GROWTH

The extent to which economic growth achieves higher employment depends on which industries the growth is concentrated in. Generally, growth in more labour intensive industries will have a greater effect on raising aggregate employment, than growth in more capital intensive industries. This was much the case for Western Australia during its recent period of expansion. Economic growth was widespread across a range of more labour intensive industries, most notably Property and business services and Health and community services, and it was in these types of industries that employment growth was strongest. However, Mining, a very capital intensive industry, also made a significant contribution to growth in state employment over the last three years.

Over the last three years, economic growth in Western Australia was mainly driven by the state's Mining industry, accounting for 21.7% of the increase in Gross State Product (GSP). The value of Mining production rose by an estimated 27.7% ($4,676 million) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. Despite Mining being a capital intensive industry, its rapid growth saw employment rise by 30.9% (9,900 persons) over the last three years, the fourth largest increase across all industries. Growth in Mining employment was also more than three times the 8.7% growth in total employment in Western Australia over the period. The sheer size and pace of growth achieved by this industry in recent years has been fuelled by the rapidly rising global demand for raw materials and increased investment in new production capacity and exploration, which has warranted significant increases in labour input.

ESTIMATED GROSS INDUSTRY PRODUCT AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	ESTIMATED GROSS INDUSTRY PRODUCT(b)				INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT			
	2001–02	*2004–05*	*Change*		*2001–02*	*2004–05*	*Change*	
Industry (a)	$m	$m	$m	%	'000	'000	'000	%
Labour intensive industries:								
Property and business services	8 042	10 992	2 950	36.7	100.4	119.6	19.2	19.2
Manufacturing	7 164	9 417	2 254	31.5	88.8	96.6	7.8	8.8
Construction	5 056	7 065	2 009	39.7	79.2	92.1	12.9	16.2
Health and community services	4 373	5 703	1 330	30.4	86.3	98.7	12.4	14.4
Transport and storage	3 492	4 617	1 124	32.2	38.7	42.6	3.9	10.1
Retail trade	4 626	5 684	1 058	22.9	148.4	152.7	4.3	2.9
Wholesale trade	3 252	3 974	722	22.2	47.0	46.6	–0.5	–1.0
Education	2 602	3 141	539	20.7	68.7	70.6	1.9	2.8
Government administration and defence	1 874	2 205	331	17.7	37.9	42.3	4.4	11.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	1 329	1 598	269	20.2	46.6	43.1	–3.4	–7.3
Personal and other services	1 514	1 751	236	15.6	42.7	45.5	2.8	6.6
Cultural and recreational services	771	970	199	25.8	22.2	22.6	0.5	2.1
Total	*44 095*	*57 117*	*13 021*	*29.5*	*806.9*	*873.0*	*66.2*	*8.2*
Capital intensive industries:								
Mining	16 906	21 582	4 676	27.7	32.2	42.1	9.9	30.9
Electricity, gas and water supply	2 428	3 090	663	27.3	6.5	10.0	3.5	53.8
Finance and insurance	3 316	3 909	593	17.9	27.7	26.2	–1.5	–5.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4 068	4 572	504	12.4	47.3	48.0	0.7	1.4
Communication services	2 098	2 562	464	22.1	12.1	14.6	2.5	21.0
Total	*28 816*	*35 715*	*6 900*	*23.9*	*125.8*	*140.9*	*15.1*	*12.0*
Western Australia(c)(d)	**79 400**	**100 900**	**21 500**	**27.1**	**932.5**	**1 013.9**	**81.4**	**8.7**

(a) Industries are ranked from highest to lowest based on growth in estimated Gross Industry Product between 2001–02 and 2004–05.
(b) Estimated Gross Industry Product at current prices.
(c) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.
(d) Includes the principal components Ownership of dwellings and General government not shown in the table.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

INDUSTRY GROWTH continued

Nearly all of the remaining GSP growth in Western Australia was driven by the more labour intensive industries, accounting for 60.6% of the state's GSP growth between 2001-02 and 2004-05. The most significant contributions came from Property and business services, Manufacturing, Construction and Health and community services. Resulting from the widespread increase in economic activity, employment across Western Australia's labour intensive industries rose by 8.2% (66,200 persons) over the last three years, accounting for 81.4% of the rise in state employment. The highest growth in employment in Western Australia was recorded by the Property and business services industry, followed by Construction and Health and community services.

DOMESTIC DEMAND

Employment or the demand for labour is closely linked to the aggregate level of consumption in the economy. As the demand for domestically produced goods and services increases, so does the requirement for labour in the production process. The Western Australian economy has been strongly driven by the consumption expenditure of households over recent years, which has helped raise the level of employment in the economy.

The demand for final goods and services in Western Australia rose by 23.1% or $16,867 million (trend chain volume terms) between 2001-02 and 2004-05, with almost half (45.1%) of that growth attributable to household consumption expenditure (up 18.8% or$7,614 million). Since 2001-02, growth in household consumption has increased from

DOMESTIC DEMAND continued

3.8% to 6.5% in 2004-05. As a result, household final consumption expenditure peaked at$48,208 million in 2004-05, the highest level on record.

GROWTH IN HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION, Chain volume measures: **Trend**

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

Despite growing demand for imported items such as furniture, white goods and motor vehicles in Western Australia, the consumption of goods and services produced domestically has also grown strongly over recent years. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, expenditure increased markedly on Recreation and culture (up $1,414 million or 32.3%), Rent and other dwelling services (up $917 million or 13.0%), and Furnishings and household equipment (up $862 million or 34.1%). Other notable increases were in the consumption of goods and services relating to Health, Food and Hotels, cafes and restaurants - all rising by over $500 million.

The increase in consumption by Western Australian households on locally produced goods and services has translated into employment growth in related industries. The rise in household expenditure on Recreation and culture over the past three years has coincided with employment growth in the industries of Sport (up 1,600 persons or 22.5%), Parks and gardens (up 1,100 persons or 269.6%) and Libraries (up 300 persons or 17.6%). Growth in household spending on Rents and other dwelling services between 2001-02 and 2004-05 has helped fuel the rise in persons employed as Real estate agents, up 2,100 persons or 20.8%. Increased expenditure on Furnishings and household equipment has underpinned employment growth in Furniture, houseware and appliance retailing (up 1,700 persons or 11.6%) and Furniture manufacturing (up 700 persons or 11.4%). The increase in Food consumption has aided employment growth in Supermarket and grocery stores retailing (up 3,300 persons or 14.9%), Marine fishing (up 1,200 persons or 81.4%), Other food manufacturing (up 1,000 persons or 63.3%) and Meat and meat product manufacturing (up 600 persons or 15.3%).

Other notable occurrences of consumption-led employment growth were in expenditure on Hotels, cafes and restaurants stimulating employment in Pubs, taverns and bars (up 2,400 persons or 37.4%); and Health expenditure aiding employment in Medical and dental services (up 2,000 persons or 15.9%) and Veterinary services (up 1,300 persons or 294.7%).

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION

As with domestic demand, international demand for Western Australian produced goods and services also increases the demand for labour in the local economy. Economic conditions in the state's major export markets have a great bearing on economic activity and labour demand in Western Australia, with over 40% of the state's production shipped overseas each year. The state relies heavily on countries like Japan and China as markets for its goods and services, particularly resource commodities.

Over the last four years, economic conditions in Western Australia's major export markets have greatly improved, boosting investment and general economic activity in the state. This has led to a surge in demand for labour in industries like Mining, Manufacturing, Construction, Business services and Transport. Japan, the state's largest export market, has begun to recover from a prolonged period of weak growth, while China has continued to expand at an accelerated rate of around 9% per year, becoming the state's main driver of export growth in mineral and energy commodities. India has also emerged as a major export market for Western Australia, particularly for gold. Economic growth in India has accelerated from 3.9% in 2001 to 7.1% in 2005, with the last three years experiencing growth of above 7% per year. Thailand and Indonesia have been the other major export markets to grow strongly in recent years, both recording an average rate of growth of 4.8% per year, from 2001 to 2005.

Western Australia's recent period of economic expansion has been strongly influenced by the wave of activity in the state's resources sector, which has also flowed through into other parts of the economy. As a result, the demand for labour has increased in the Mining industry, as well as in related industries such as Metal products manufacturing, Construction, Business services and Transport. It has primarily been the surge in demand for raw materials from countries like China and India that has led this growth.

Since 2001-02, Western Australian exports to China doubled (up 105.3%) to over $6.5 billion in 2004-05, with 70.7% of that growth attributable to iron ore exports. The rest of the growth was spread across commodities like nickel, nickel ore, gold and base metals. Japan also increased its imports of Western Australian iron ore by $475 million or 21.8% over the period. India's demand for Western Australian gold has increased greatly over the last three years, from $144 million in 2001-02 to $2,773 million in 2004-05. Thailand also showed strong gains in gold imports from Western Australia, increasing by $944 million over the period. Another major export commodity to grow in demand over the last three years was crude petroleum oil, with Indonesia (up $396 million), Thailand (up $278 million), Singapore (up $270 million) and New Zealand (up $219 million) recording the strongest increases among the state's major trading partners.

It is no coincidence that the Mining and related industries of Western Australia have been among those most affected by skills shortages. The rapid and somewhat unexpected rise (at least in magnitude) in overseas demand for the state's resource commodities, mainly from China and India, has meant these industries have had to react quickly to increase production capacity. In the process the demand for skilled labour has also risen sharply.

Employment in Western Australia's Mining industry increased by 9,942 persons (30.9%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. The number of employed persons rose across all sectors of the Mining industry, with the largest increase in Other mining, up 6,973 persons or 162.7% (Other mining includes people employed in the Mining industry who are not

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION continued

allocated to a specific sub-industry and who may be carrying out only part of a mining operation on a fee or contract basis - mainly providing specialist oil field services). There was also strong employment growth in Oil and gas extraction (up 1,312 persons or 91.2%) and Exploration (up 691 persons or 11.9%).

Among mining-related industries operating in Western Australia, there was strong employment growth in Technical business services, such as Surveying and Consultant engineering, much of which can be associated with mining operations in the state. Employment in Technical services rose by 4,165 persons or 26.2% over the three years to 2004-05. Basic non-ferrous metal manufacturing also showed strong employment growth, increasing by 2,532 persons or 71.8% over the period. This industry mainly engages in alumina production, aluminium smelting, and the smelting and refining of copper, silver, lead and zinc.

The recent expansion of Western Australia's resources sector has involved the construction of new infrastructure, which has increased the state's need for additional building and engineering professionals, as well as construction workers. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, heavy industry engineering construction activity (commencements) rose by $1,423 million (144.5%) in Western Australia, from $985 million to $2,408 million. Heavy industry engineering construction activity includes the construction of production, storage and distribution facilities, refineries, pumping stations, mines, chemical plants, blast furnaces, steel mills, other industrial processing plants and ovens.

Concurrently, the number of persons employed as Building and engineering professionals (and associate professionals) has risen, many of whom could be expected to be employed in the Mining industry or contracted to it for a period of time, during such a dynamic period of expansion. Employment in Building and engineering professionals rose by 3,340 persons (29.3%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05, and includes Civil engineers, Electrical and electronics engineers, Mechanical, production and plant engineers and Mining and materials engineers. Engineers directly associated with the mining industry - Mining and materials engineers - increased by 935 persons or 65.9% over the period. Civil engineers (up 987 persons or 36.1%) and Mechanical, production and plant engineers (up 641 persons or 23.7%) also recorded strong employment growth in the state, as did Associate professionals of Building and engineering (up 343 persons or 40.5%).

BUSINESS PROFITABILITY

During periods of rising profits, businesses tend to employ more workers to raise production levels to take advantage of the higher profits margins on offer. In Western Australia, business profits rose by 28.7% or $11,375 million between 2001-02 and 2004-05. The main industries to realise increased profits over the period were Mining (up $3,307 million or 25.5%), Property and business services (up $1,366 million or 53.7%), Manufacturing (up $1,332 million or 47.6%) and Construction (up $761 million or 33.6%). It is not surprising that these industries were also the ones to record strong growth in production and labour demand in recent years, and be among those most affected by skills shortages in Western Australia.

BUSINESS PROFITABILITY continued

CHANGE IN BUSINESS PROFITS(a), Current prices

(a) Gross operating surplus and gross mixed income.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

A number of factors have influenced the rapid growth in business investment over the last three years in Western Australia, including low interest rates, improved business profitability, strong global demand for raw materials and a high $A. Increased business investment activity in recent years has had a positive effect on labour demand. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, business investment rose by 52.1% ($5,543 million) in Western Australia (chain volume measures), mainly driven by expenditure on new machinery and equipment and new engineering construction. The level of business investment in the state was at a near record high in 2004-05 at $16,190 million - only $756 million below the record of $16,946 million in 1997-98.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT, Chain volume measures

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

As with business profitability, the industries that have driven investment growth in Western Australia have also been among those most affected by shortages of skilled labour. In current price terms, investment grew strongly in Mining (up $2,440 million or 78.9%), Other selected industries (including Retail trade, Construction and Property and business services) (up $865 million or 40.4%) and Manufacturing (up $650 million or 85.5%), between 2001-02 and 2004-05.

HOUSING SECTOR ACTIVITY

Activity in Western Australia's housing sector has risen rapidly over the last three years. House prices have grown strongly, as has dwelling investment and residential building construction, all of which have fuelled the demand for labour in occupations such as tradespersons, construction materials manufacturing workers and property service workers.

Dwelling investment (chain volume measures) in Western Australia rose by 12.3% ($632 million) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. This result was much higher than the increase of 2.0% ($89 million) between 1997-98 and 2000-01. The level of dwelling investment reached a peak of $5,756 million in 2004-05, only $52 million less than the record high in 1999-2000, just prior to the introduction of the GST.

DWELLING INVESTMENT, Chain volume measures

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

Rising dwelling investment was translated into increased dwelling construction activity over recent years. The number of dwellings commenced rose by 20.7% (3,939 units) between 2001-02 and 2004-05 in Western Australia. To put this in perspective, the growth in dwelling commencements since 2001-02 was almost ten times the rate in annual average terms than it was in the previous four year period (12.9% per year compared to 1.3% per year). In each year since 2001-02, dwelling construction has grown to reach a high of 22,941 units commenced in 2004-05 - only 1,951 less than the previous peak in 1993-94 of 24,892 units, when the Construction industry began to recover from a period of slow growth.

HOUSING SECTOR ACTIVITY continued

BUILDING ACTIVITY, Dwellings commenced: **Trend**

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

Increased activity in the state's housing sector has underpinned employment growth in a number of related industries. The strongest growth was recorded in Building structure service workers (which includes concreters, bricklayers, roof tilers and metal roof fixers), rising by 3,500 persons (47.3%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. The second highest employment growth over the period was in Other construction services (primarily landscapers), increasing by 3,100 persons (46.6%). Employment in Building completion services recorded the third highest rise, increasing by 3,000 persons (16.4%), mainly consisting of plasterers, carpenters, tilers (wall and floor), painters and glaziers.

In the Manufacturing industry, there was substantial employment growth in Prefabricated building manufacturing, increasing by 700 persons (152.3%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05, with workers mainly engaged in manufacturing prefabricated metal buildings, carports, garages and sheds.

COMPETITION FOR LABOUR

Reflecting the widespread nature of Western Australia's economic growth over the last three years, competition for labour has risen across a range of industries in the state, exacerbating the problem of skills shortages. There has been an increase in demand for most occupations throughout the economy, although some industries have shown stronger demand for particular occupations than others, reflecting the relative strength of growth in the industry.

The largest growth in employment was in the occupation group of Managers and Administrators, increasing by 22,900 persons (37.5%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. This was the only occupation group in Western Australia to have increased employment across all of the state's industries, although one third (32.7%) of the growth was concentrated within Property and business services and Manufacturing. The second largest rise in employment was in Associated professionals, rising by 12,700 persons (10.8%) from 2001-02 to 2004-05. Most (79.8%) of the growth came from the industries of Health and community services, Property and business services and Mining. Tradespersons and related workers recorded the third highest increase in employment over the last three years, rising by 11,500 persons or 8.9%. The demand for Tradespersons and related workers was strong across a wide range of industries, with more than 1,000 additional tradespersons employed in each of Construction, Personal and other services, Mining, Manufacturing, Property and business services, Wholesale trade, Cultural and recreational services, Electricity, gas and water supply and

COMPETITION FOR LABOUR *continued*

Communication services. The only other occupation to record employment growth of greater than 10,000 persons between 2001-02 and 2004-05 was Intermediate production and transport workers (up 10,400 persons or 12.9%). The demand for this occupation group was also widespread across industries, with Mining, Retail trade and Construction accounting for most of the rise (81.1%).

SUPPLY FACTORS

The supply of labour in an economy is affected by factors such as population growth (including natural increase and migration), workforce participation and education and training, which helps to increase the stock of accumulated knowledge and skills in the workforce.

POPULATION GROWTH

Population growth results from natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (the gain from immigration less the loss from emigration). At the state level, net migration includes both overseas and interstate migration. In recent years, Western Australia's population growth has recovered from a lengthy period of deceleration. Population growth had slowed from 31,469 persons in 1995-96 to 23,394 persons in 2001-02, but has since increased to 32,034 persons in 2004-05.

POPULATION GROWTH

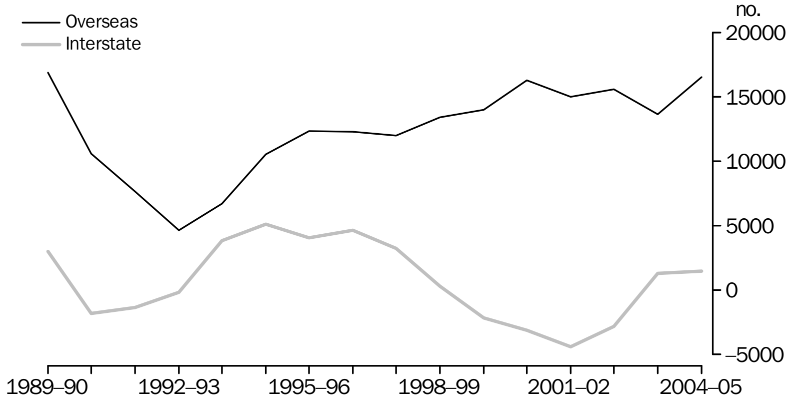
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

The effect population growth has on the labour supply will depend on which components drive the growth in population. Natural increase does not create an immediate increase in the supply of labour, as it is not until the person reaches 15 years of age that he or she can enter the workforce. Migration, on the other hand, has an immediate impact on the labour supply if migrants are of working age and well qualified. Migration not only has the ability to increase the quantity of workers in the state, but also the potential to raise the quality of the labour force by adding educated, trained and skilled workers.

Over the three years to 2004-05, Western Australia's population rose by 85,560 persons, with over half of that growth attributable to net migration (53.3%). These additional 45,622 persons did potentially add to the state's workforce, as 78.6% of arrivals into Western Australia were aged 15-65 years during this period. Therefore, around 35,800 potential workers were added to the state's labour supply between 2001-02 and 2004-05.

POPULATION GROWTH continued

GROWTH IN NET MIGRATION



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat no. 3101.0.

The declining rate of population growth over the last decade has had a negative impact on Western Australia's labour supply in recent years. Growth in net overseas arrivals to Western Australia, which had risen to a peak of 16,263 persons in 2000-01, had fallen to 13,634 persons in 2003-04. There was also a period early this decade when Western Australia lost a significant number of people to interstate migration. Between 1999-2000 and 2002-03, there was a net departure of 12,492 persons from Western Australia to other states and territories of Australia.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The impact of population growth on the supply of labour centres around its effect on increasing the rate of growth of the labour force. The labour force constitutes all persons employed and unemployed (actively seeking employment) in the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The size of the labour force is strongly influenced by population growth, but also by the participation of the population in the workforce, labour utilisation and the ageing of the labour force. Also important, particularly during a period of high demand for skilled labour, is the composition of occupations or skills in the labour force and whether there are enough workers available for each occupation or skill to satisfy demand.

SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE

Over the last four years, the size of the Western Australia labour force has grown at an annual average rate of 1.9% (19,590 persons), much lower than the long term (25 year) average growth rate of 2.5% (19,116 persons). The result would have been decidedly lower if it wasn't for the strong growth of 3.2% (32,750 persons) in 2004-05, which coincided with an acceleration in net overseas migration. The growth in the labour force had remained below the 25 year average for nine consecutive years between 1995-96 and 2003-04, until rising above the long run average in 2004-05. It was this relatively slow growth of the labour force prior to 2004-05, during a period of strong economic growth and rising labour demand, that would have contributed to the skills shortage in Western Australia.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION *continued*

SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE *continued*

GROWTH OF THE LABOUR FORCE: **Trend**

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Given Western Australia's population growth has been relatively strong over recent years, other factors affecting the growth of the labour force, including labour force participation, the utilisation of labour and the age and occupation profile of the workforce, are likely to have played a part.

PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR FORCE

The participation rate is the proportion of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the labour force. The declining trend in the participation of workers in the state's labour force over the last decade partly explains the slow growth in the labour force over the period. More recently, and just prior to the strong rise in 2004-05, the participation rate in Western Australia experienced its largest decline in the last decade, falling from a peak of 66.4% in 2000-01 to 65.8% in 2003-04. However, in 2004-05, it reached an equal record high of 66.5% (1,064,346 persons). In that year, the state's working population grew strongly with the influx of workers from abroad and interstate, and marginally detached workers re-entered the workforce with the promise of better opportunities and higher wages.

PARTICIPATION RATE, Annual averages: **Trend**

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION continued

LABOUR UTILISATION

Strong demand for labour, coupled with slowing growth in labour force participation, have resulted in increasing utilisation of existing workers. Since the start of the skills shortage in Western Australia, the utilisation of workers in the labour force has grown, with average weekly hours worked rising from 34.7 hours in 2001-02 to 35.6 hours in 2004-05, as an initial response to the shortage of labour. As the utilisation of labour began to reach its peak in 2004-05, the number of persons employed in the state's workforce increased sharply, supplementing the rise in hours worked. However, prior to 2001-02, average weekly hours worked had been declining. In that year, average weekly hours worked fell markedly to 34.7 hours, from 35.4 hours in 2000-01.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

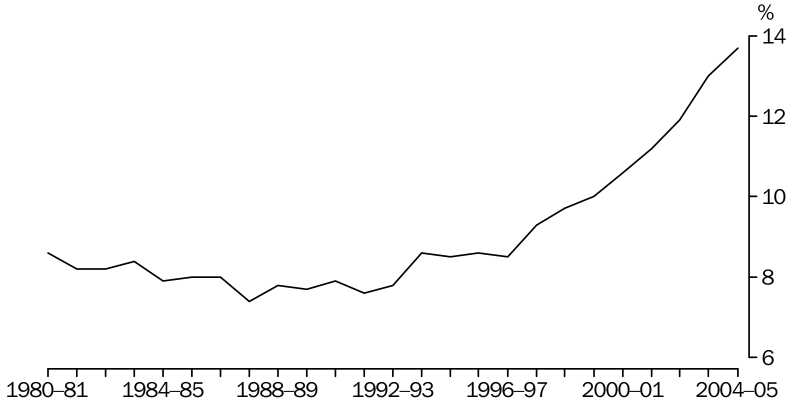
AGEING LABOUR FORCE

An ageing workforce detracts from the supply of workers in an economy by raising the rate of retirement from the labour force. The Western Australian labour force has been ageing rapidly since the mid-1990s, with the proportion of persons aged 55 years and over rising from 8.5% in 1996-97 to 13.7% in 2004-05. There was, however, a slight deceleration in the proportion of older workers in the labour force in 2004-05, indicating an increase in people aged 55 years and over retiring from the workforce (as well as the jump in net migration in 2004-05). This is further supported by the spike in the proportion of persons aged 55 years and over not in the labour force in 2004-05.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION continued

AGEING LABOUR FORCE *continued*

LABOUR FORCE, Proportion of persons aged 55 years and over



Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Since the late 1990's, the proportion of persons aged 55 years and over not in Western Australia's labour force continued to rise gradually, despite a dip in 2003-04. The proportion of persons aged 55 years and over not in the labour force rose from 52.2% in 1996-97 to 55.3% in 2004-05. Over the three years to 2004-05, the number of persons aged 55 years and over not in the labour force and who were permanently not intending to work or were no longer looking for work, rose by 19,058 persons or 7.5%. This loss of experienced workers from Western Australia's labour force would have had an impact on the supply of skilled workers over the period.

SUPPLY OF OCCUPATIONS OR SKILLS

Given labour shortages were more severe for certain occupations in Western Australia than others, the growth in the pool of workers for each occupation can be used to determine whether there were any deficiencies in the supply of those skills. A measure of the labour supply for each occupation can be created by aggregating the number of employed persons in each occupation and the number of unemployed persons by occupation of last job.

The supply of Managers and administrators recorded the largest increase among all occupation groups in Western Australia, rising by 22,618 persons or 36.5% between 2001-02 and 2004-05. This occupation group was previously identified as the fifth most affected by skills shortages in the state, suggesting that the demand for these skills continued to outpace supply. Similarly, the supply of Intermediate production and transport workers in Western Australia grew by 9,174 persons or 10.6% over the last three years, despite being identified as the fourth most affected by the skills shortage. The occupations identified as the three most affected by shortages in Western Australia - Professionals (up 8,177 persons or 4.8%), Tradespersons and related workers (up 8,138 persons or 6.0%) and Labourers and related workers (up 6,069 persons or 6.5%) - all recorded relatively moderate increases in labour supply.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION continued

SUPPLY OF OCCUPATIONS OR SKILLS *continued*

Workers from the pool of unemployed persons in Western Australia have been drawn on quite extensively in recent years, which has seen unemployment fall rapidly in all occupations (based on the person's occupation of last job). Given shortages continued to be reported for many occupations, it seems likely that this source of labour supply was inadequate to meet the growing demand for skilled labour.

Over recent years, the number of unemployed persons in Western Australia declined from 65,575 in 2001-02 to 48,750 in 2004-05. All occupation groups experienced a fall in unemployed persons, ranging from a decline of 3,400 persons (50.2%) in Tradespersons and related workers to a fall of 300 persons (34.3%) in Managers and administrators. Other occupation groups identified as being in major shortage in the state also drew extensively from their supply of unemployed workers, including Labourers and related workers (down 2,075 persons or 23.7%), Intermediate production and transport workers (down 1,275 persons or 24.2%) and Professionals (down 825 persons or 20.4%).

SKILLED MIGRATION

A potentially large and immediate supply of skilled workers can come through migration. Net migration (arrivals less departures) in Western Australia, although increasing, has shown some deceleration since the beginning of the decade. During the initial years of Western Australia's skills shortage, the net gain from overseas migration dropped and the state lost many workers to interstate migration.

For the purposes of this analysis, net overseas migration is calculated as the aggregate of Permanent arrivals, Long-term residents returning and Long-term visitors arriving less the aggregate of Permanent departures, Long-term residents departing and Long-term visitors departing. Excluded from total overseas arrivals and departures are short-term (less than 12 months) travellers, as these people generally do not work during their visit or work only limited hours in less skilled jobs, and consequently, do not greatly alter the size of the labour force.

Between 2000-01 and 2003-04, Western Australia experienced a deceleration in growth in net overseas migration, which had an effect on the supply of labour to various occupations in the state. A net loss was recorded for Labourers and related workers (down 132 persons) and Intermediate production and transport workers (down 73 persons). Both of these occupation groups were identified as being among those most affected by skills shortages in Western Australia. Other affected occupation groups, despite recording increases from net overseas migration, showed declining trends in growth. Growth in Managers and administrators slowed from 1,075 persons in 2000-01 to 784 persons in 2003-04, while Tradespersons and related workers recorded a deceleration in growth from 611 persons in 2000-01 to 464 persons in 2001-02.

In contrast to the declining rate of growth in net overseas migration during the initial years of the skills shortage, Western Australia experienced a marked improvement in net overseas migration in 2004-05. In that year, the state gained 3,884 Professionals and 1,290 Tradespersons and related workers.

SKILLED MIGRATION continued

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION BY OCCUPATION, Aggregate from 2001–02 2004–05: **Original**

Occupation(a)	Arrivals	Departures	Net gain
	no.	no.	no.
Professionals	35 437	24 035	11 402
Tradespersons and related workers	8 514	4 568	3 946
Managers and administrators	10 122	6 708	3 414
Associate professionals	6 618	4 853	1 765
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	7 938	6 475	1 463
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	3 179	2 200	979
Advanced clerical and service workers	2 443	1 844	599
Intermediate production and transport workers	1 632	1 606	26
Labourers and related workers	814	962	–148

(a) Occupations are ranked from highest to lowest based on aggregate net gain in overseas migration between 2001–02 and 2004–05.

Source: Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, cat. no. 3401.0.

In aggregate over the period from 2001-02 to 2004-05, Western Australia, as a result of net overseas migration, gained 11,402 Professionals, 3,946 Tradespersons and related workers and 3,414 persons Managers and administrators - the largest gains among all occupation groups. These occupation groups were also those most affected by shortages of skilled labour, suggesting the problem of skills shortages in these occupations centred around the lack of supply from Western Australia's existing population. However, two other occupation groups identified as affected by skills shortages - Labourers and related workers (down 148 persons) and Intermediate production and transport workers (up 26 persons) - recorded very weak results from net overseas migration.

The net gains from overseas migration in the Professional and Tradespersons and related workers occupation groups were driven by the following sub-occupations. For Professionals, Computing professionals (up 1,550 persons), Registered nurses (up 1,517 persons) and Building and engineering professionals (up 890 persons) recorded the largest increases; while for Tradespersons and related workers, Electricians (up 414 persons), Carpentry and joinery tradespersons (up 400 persons) and Hairdressers (up 343 persons) showed strong rises. Interestingly, these sub-occupations were among those most affected by the skills shortage in Western Australia, further suggesting that much of the issue lies with the supply of skilled workers from the domestic population.

Overseas migration had a positive impact on skilled vacancies in some of these occupations. The rise in migration of Computing professionals and Registered nurses in Western Australia coincided with a fall in the number of vacancies for Computing professionals (down 82 vacancies or 49.5%) and Health professionals (down 230 persons or 19.0%) between 2001-02 and 2004-05. However, skilled vacancies rose in each of the remaining four occupations identified, including Building and engineering professionals (up 304 vacancies or 65.3%), Electrical and electronics trades (up 816 vacancies or 209.5%), Wood and textile trades (up 167 vacancies or 92.8%) and Hairdressers (up 195 vacancies or 68.4%).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Previous analysis revealed that shortages of labour in Western Australia were mainly in skilled occupations. As a result, and given there is a strong relationship between skilled workers and education and training, the number of people participating in education and training and the types of education and training being undertaken, should shed some light on why certain skills are in short supply in the state.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The level of education attained by persons aged 15-64 years in the civilian population of Western Australia has risen moderately in recent years. There were 38,300 (5.9%) more Western Australians with an educational qualification (based on their highest level of non-school qualification) in May 2005 than in May 2002. The increase was mainly driven by Bachelor degrees (up 19,400 persons or 11.9%) and Advanced diplomas or diplomas (up 11,500 or 11.0%). The next largest increase over the period was Postgraduate degrees, rising by 7,900 persons or 36.2%. Two levels of education recorded declines, including Certificates (down 9,100 persons or 2.8%) and Graduate diploma or graduate certificates (down 700 persons or 2.1%).

Many of these Western Australians attained their qualifications from outside the state, as the number of persons enrolled in courses of study in Western Australia declined over the last three years. This indicates that if it were not for the educational qualifications held by those persons migrating to Western Australia, the state's skills shortage could have been far greater.

COURSE OF STUDY

The number of persons enrolled in a course of study fell in Western Australia over the last three years. In May 2005, there were 222,700 persons enrolled in study (leading to a qualification) in the state, 8,900 persons (3.8%) less than in May 2002. In terms of educational institution, persons enrolled in Schools (up 700 or 1.2%) recorded an increase between May 2002 and May 2005, while persons enrolled in TAFE (down by 8,000 persons or 13.5%) and Higher education (down by 4,500 persons or 4.8%) drove the decline over the period.

FIELD OF STUDY

In terms of education and training, skills shortages in Western Australia appear to be more the result of an insufficient number of persons participating in education or training, rather than the fields in which they are studying not matching the skills that are in high demand. The fields of study that Western Australians have increasingly been undertaking over the last three years were those in high demand in the state's labour market, such as Health, Engineering and Architecture and building. However, it appears that despite this rise, there still remains an insufficient number of students completing their studies in these occupations to satisfy current demand.

The fields of study that showed the largest increases in Western Australia between May 2002 and May 2005 were Health (up 5,100 persons or 40.8%) and Engineering and related technologies (up 4,800 persons or 27.9%). These results were positive for those occupations in short supply. Over the last three years, the number of skilled vacancies in the Health profession fell by 230 vacancies. Despite the decline, the level of skilled vacancies in the Health profession was still high compared to other occupations in

EDUCATION AND TRAINING continued

FIELD OF STUDY *continued*

2004-05. The Building and engineering profession recorded an increase of 304 skilled vacancies, showing that more students are still required in this field of study to match the growth in job vacancies in the profession.

MAIN FIELD OF EDUCATION OF STUDY(a)

	May 2002	May 2005	Change	
Field of education (b)	'000	'000	'000	%
Health	12.5	17.6	5.1	40.8
Engineering and related technologies	17.2	22.0	4.8	27.9
Education	8.8	12.1	3.3	37.5
Architecture and building	5.9	8.9	3.0	50.8
Food, hospitality and personal services	5.2	5.7	0.5	9.6
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	4.5	4.3	–0.2	–4.4
Society and culture	25.9	25.1	–0.8	–3.1
Natural and physical sciences	8.1	6.2	–1.9	–23.5
Mixed field programmes	64.1	61.3	–2.8	–4.4
Creative arts	15.0	10.4	–4.6	–30.7
Management and commerce	39.5	32.9	–6.6	–16.7
Information technology	11.7	4.9	–6.8	–58.1

(a) Persons studying towards a qualification.

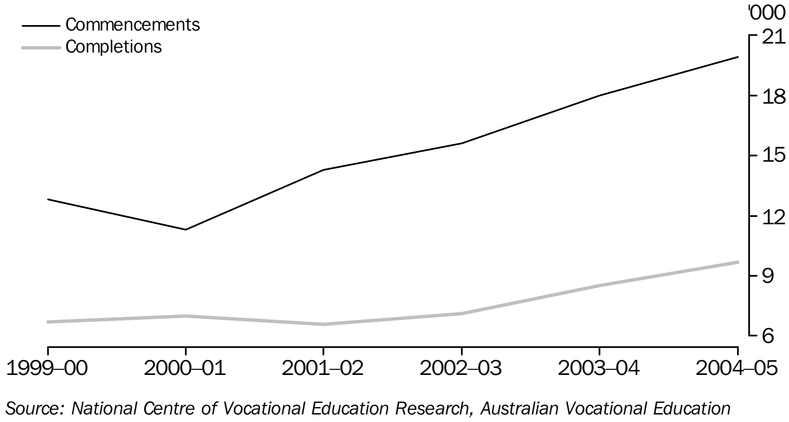
(b) Fields of education are ranked from highest to lowest based on growth in the number of students between May 2002 and May 2005.

Source: Education and Work, Australia, cat. no. 6227.0.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

Another major area of concern has been the supply of apprentices and trainees in Western Australia, particularly for the Tradespersons and related workers occupation group. Importantly, the number of people commencing and completing apprenticeships and traineeships has increased in Western Australia over the last three years. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, the number of apprentices and trainees commencing their training rose by 5,600 persons or 39.2%, while the number of completions rose by 3,100 persons or 47.0%.

APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES



Source: National Centre of Vocational Education Research, Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING continued

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS *continued*

However, the gap between apprenticeship and traineeship commencements and completions has widened over the last three years, suggesting that more people are either failing to finish their training or postponing their training for a period of time. Either way, this has had a negative impact on the supply of these skills to the labour market. The discrepancy between the number of commencements and completions rose from 7,700 persons in 2001-02 to 10,200 persons in 2004-05.

The main occupation groups driving the growth in apprentice and trainee commencements over the last three years were Trades and related workers (up 3,100 persons or 73.8%) and Clerical, sales and service workers (up 2,600 persons or 56.5%). Driving the increase in completions of apprenticeships and traineeships were Intermediate production and transport workers (up 1,500 persons or 750.0%), Clerical, sales and service workers (up 900 persons or 40.9%) and Labourers and related workers (up 700 persons or 87.5%).

APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

	2001–02	*2004–05*	*Change*	
	'000	'000	'000	%
COMMENCEMENTS				
Managers, administrators and professionals(a)	0.6	1.0	0.4	66.7
Trades and related workers	4.2	7.3	3.1	73.8
Clerical, sales and service workers(b)	4.6	7.2	2.6	56.5
Intermediate production and transport workers	2.7	1.9	–0.8	–29.6
Labourers and related workers	2.2	2.5	0.3	13.6
Total	*14.3*	*19.9*	*5.6*	*39.2*
COMPLETIONS				
Managers, administrators and professionals(a)	0.5	0.4	–0.1	–20.0
Trades and related workers	2.9	2.9	—	—
Clerical, sales and service workers(b)	2.2	3.1	0.9	40.9
Intermediate production and transport workers	0.2	1.7	1.5	750.0
Labourers and related workers	0.8	1.5	0.7	87.5
Total	*6.6*	*9.7*	*3.1*	*47.0*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Includes Associate professionals.
(b) Includes Advanced clerical and service workers, Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers.
Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics, June Quarter 2005, Summary.*

The gap between apprenticeship (and traineeship) commencements and completions for Trades and related workers rose substantially over the last three years, from 1,300 persons in 2001-02 to 4,400 persons in 2004-05. This result coincided with an increase of 7,545 Trade skilled vacancies over the same period, mainly driven by vacancies in Construction trades (up 2,745) and Metal trades (up 2,567).

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Shortages of skilled labour have the ability to constrain the growth of an economy as labour is an important input to the process of production. During times of rapid economic growth, the available supply of skilled labour can be quickly exhausted, which can affect the ability of the economy to sustain its growth rate. Economic growth can be seriously impaired if the industries experiencing the labour shortages are the key drivers of the economy. Skills shortages can also affect the growth of an economy by raising wages and consumer prices, which may require a tightening response from the Reserve Bank of Australia in the form of interest rate increases.

It is important to note that the impact of skills shortages on economic performance is very hard to quantify or assign direct causation. What can be achieved through time series analysis is an understanding of the degree of correlation between movements in labour market indicators of skills shortages and data relating to the performance of the economy.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

In 2004-05, growth in the Western Australian economy fell below its long run average for the time since 2000-01. Growth in the volume of state production fell from 8.1% in 2003-04 to 2.7% in 2004-05, the most severe annual decline since the series began in 1990-91.

GROWTH IN GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Chain volume measures

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

The relationship between economic growth and employment growth can be a potential cause of this fall in production. There has been a large difference between economic growth and employment growth in recent years - the largest since the series began in 1991-92. There was, however, a convergence in 2004-05, as economic growth fell and employment growth rose. Given that labour is an important input to the production process, especially in key Western Australian industries such as Construction, Manufacturing and Property and business services, employment growth appears to have failed to respond fast enough to sustain economic growth at rates experienced over the previous three years.

ECONOMIC GROWTH continued

GROWTH IN GSP(a) AND EMPLOYMENT(b)

(a) Chain volume measures.
(b) Trend.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0.

Indications are, however, that GSP growth will rise in 2005-06, supported by strong employment growth in 2004-05 and a significant recovery in business investment in the state.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

Business investment has been one of the main reasons why the Western Australian economy has grown so rapidly in recent years. Investment has increased the production capacity of the state's major industries. In trend chain volume terms, investment in the state increased by 74.9% ($4,235 million) over the last three years, to reach a record high of $9,886 million in 2004-05. The main industries contributing to growth were Mining (61.7%), Other selected industries (comprising Retail, Construction and Property and business services) (21.9%) and Manufacturing (16.4%).

However, growth in business investment slowed considerably in 2004-05, declining to 11.5% ($1,017 million) from 28.2% ($1,952 million) in 2003-04. This was mainly the result of capital investment plans in the resources sector being brought forward in 2003-04 to help satisfy the surge in demand for raw materials from China, and the completion of the 4th LNG train on the North West Shelf in 2004-05. The deceleration in investment growth in 2004-05 coincided with the height of the skills shortage in Western Australia and it is likely that the limited supply of skilled workers in the state's construction industry had some impact on investment plans in that year.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT, Chain volume measures: **Trend**

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT continued

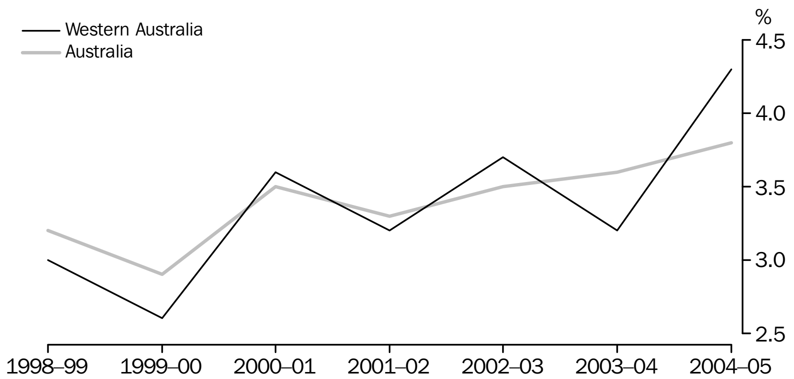
Data show that investment growth mainly fell on Equipment, plant and machinery, from 31.1% ($1,201 million) in 2003-04 to 1.0% ($52 million) in 2004-05, while investment growth on Buildings and structures rose slightly, from 24.2% ($742 million) in 2003-04 to 25.5% ($970 million) in 2004-05. The slowdown of investment growth on Equipment, plant and machinery is consistent with the end of the equipping phase of the previous cycle of investment on Buildings and structures, but also with reports that plant development (e.g. Burrup Ammonia plant) in the state's resources industry is becoming less feasible as a result of rising labour and material costs.

INFLATION

Economists define inflation as a persistent and appreciable rise in the general level of prices. Inflation occurs as either demand-pull inflation or cost-push inflation. Demand-pull inflation occurs when high levels of demand for goods and services cause prices to rise. This may involve an excess level of demand for labour in sectors of the economy where shortages of labour cause prices to rise. Cost-push inflation occurs when rising production costs are passed on to consumers as higher prices for goods and services. One source of cost pressures occur when wages growth exceeds productivity growth (i.e. output per worker). During periods of labour or skills shortage, wages growth has a tendency to outstrip productivity growth, as jobs are filled with less qualified or less experienced workers, who require further training and experience before they become fully effective in their jobs. Data suggest that wages have risen solidly in Western Australia over the period of skills shortage, particularly in 2004-05.

The Wage Price Index (WPI) measures changes in the price of labour unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed, ensuring that only the 'pure' price change is reflected. The WPI of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses), which includes ordinary time and overtime rates of hourly pay, rose by 11.6% in Western Australia between 2001-02 and 2004-05, marginally higher than the 11.3% growth nationally. The largest discrepancy occurred in 2004-05, with wages growth of 4.3% in Western Australia, compared to 3.8% in Australia.

WAGES(a) GROWTH



(a) Wage Price Index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.
Source: Labour Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6345.0.

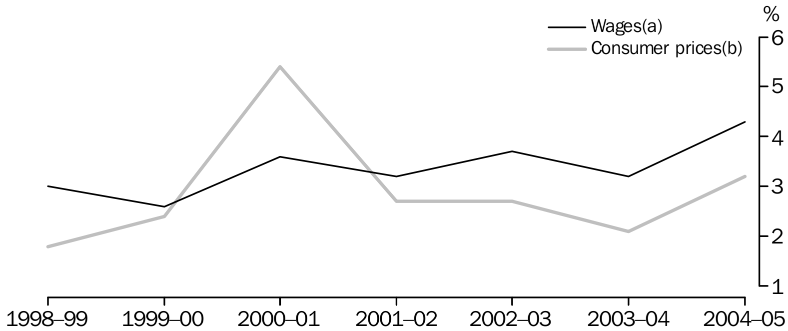
There is a relationship between movements in wages and consumer prices. As wages rise, firms may charge higher prices for the goods and services they produce to maintain revenue or profit margins. A wage-price spiral can occur if the economy is operating above full employment, as rising wages cause higher prices and higher prices feed higher

INFLATION continued

wages. Although Western Australia has yet to reach full employment, there is strong evidence to suggest that it is operating closer to full employment than it has for some time. The evidence centres around the record high rates of labour force participation, record low unemployment and very high levels of capacity utilisation experienced in the state in recent years.

There has been a strong positive correlation between wages and consumer price growth in Western Australia since the beginning of the decade, although wages growth outpaced consumer price growth in each year from 2001-02 to 2004-05. Wages rose by 3.8% on average per year over the period, while consumer prices rose by 2.8% per year. In 2004-05, Western Australia's CPI growth of 3.2% was well above national growth of 2.4%, for the first time since 1998-99.

GROWTH IN WAGES VS CONSUMER PRICES



(a) Wage Price Index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.
(b) Consumer Price Index – Perth.

Source: Labour Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6345.0; Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

The degree to which skills shortages have caused wages growth in Western Australia, and in turn fed into consumer price inflation, can be examined by analysing the wages growth in some of the industries identified as most affected by skills shortage, as well as the prices of goods and services produced by those industries. Data show that recent wages growth in Western Australia was mostly driven by industries where skilled labour had been in short supply.

Wages in the Construction industry rose by 18.2% between 2001-02 and 2004-05, much higher than the 11.6% rise in general wages across the state. Much of the rise in Construction wages occurred in 2004-05, accelerating by 10.3% in that year, more than twice the state average of 4.3%. Coinciding with rising wages in the Construction industry, the price of purchasing a newly constructed house climbed sharply in Perth in recent years. Perth's price index of project homes rose by 26.3% between 2001-02 and 2004-05, while the price index of materials used in house building rose by 9.8% over the same period.

Wages in the Manufacturing industry increased by 13.0% between 2001-02 and 2004-05, above the 11.6% growth in general state wages. Wages growth in Manufacturing was also most pronounced in 2004-05, rising by 4.8%, compared to the state average in that year of 4.3%. The Mining industry also showed solid growth in wages, particularly in 2004-05, rising to 4.7% from 3.0% in 2003-04. In the Health and community services industry, annual wages growth was above the state average between 2001-02 and 2003-04; while

INFLATION continued

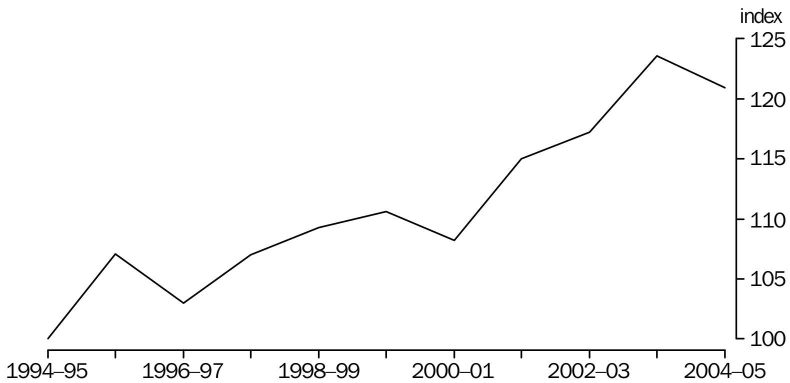
the price of Health services (including hospital, medical, optical and dental) rose by 22.9% for Perth consumers between 2001-02 and 2004-05, well above the 8.2% rise across all goods and services in Perth.

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

One of the major drivers of economic growth is labour productivity or the amount of output produced per unit of labour. Growth in labour productivity occurs when the volume of output rises faster than the volume of input from labour in the process of production. During a period of skills shortage, labour productivity may be affected in two ways (or a combination of both). A shortage of skilled labour may lead to gains in labour productivity as employers increasingly utilise their existing workers. Conversely, labour productivity may fall because employers are forced to fill skilled positions with less qualified or less experienced workers - as well as there being more workers moving into new jobs. For this analysis labour productivity is measured by dividing an index of the volume of value added (GSP) by an index of labour input (hours worked) for the Western Australian economy.

In 2004-05, labour productivity recorded its first fall in Western Australia after three years of strong growth. Labour productivity declined by 2.4% in 2004-05, reflecting a 5.1% increase in the hours worked measure of labour input against a 2.7% increase in Western Australian output (GSP). Despite this decline, labour productivity rose by 5.1% between 2001-02 and 2004-05. This pattern in labour productivity appears to suggest that employers continued to increasingly utilise their existing workers during the initial stages of the skills shortage, but as employment rose rapidly against production in 2004-05, the productivity of labour was adversely affected.

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Since 2000-01, the volume of labour input has grown by 2.6% per year on an hours worked basis. This growth has seen average weekly hours worked by various occupations rise over the skills shortage period. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, the largest increases were recorded for Intermediate production and transport workers (2.6 hours per week) and Labourers and related workers (2.0 hours per week), which were two of the occupation groups most affected by skills shortages.

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Labour intensive industries are more likely to be affected by a skills shortage than capital intensive industries. Industries can also be affected to varying degrees by the relative strength of growth between industries. The performance of an industry affected by skills shortages tends to follow a pattern of accelerated growth for a lengthy period of time, followed by a marked deceleration, as the shortage of workers begins to constrain the growth of the industry. The performance of industries identified as most affected by skills shortages in Western Australia will be examined. These include Construction, Manufacturing, Property and business services, Mining and Health and community services.

CONSTRUCTION

Growth in the Construction industry rose substantially in 2001-02, with Total Factor Income (TFI) increasing by 18.2% or $710 million in that year, after a decline of 15.3% ($703 million) in the previous year. This appears to have been a catalyst for the skills shortage in Western Australia. Just prior to this period, there were reports of many construction workers and tradespersons leaving the state to work on the development of facilities and accommodation for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Evidence of this appears in the employment data for the Construction industry, which fell by 5.5% between 1997-98 and 1998-99, as well as the state's net loss from interstate migration during this period.

CONSTRUCTION

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

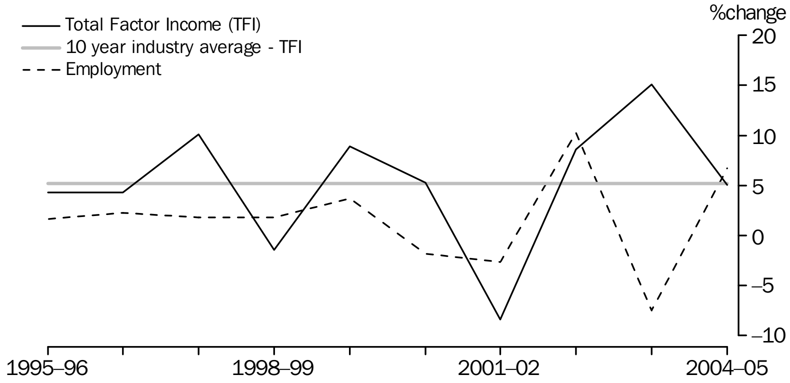
As shown on the graph above, growth in the Western Australian construction industry has remained above the long term industry average of 7.3% per year since 2001-02. TFI growth in Construction decelerated from 18.2% in 2001-02 to 7.9% in 2003-04 (with some recovery in 2004-05 at 11.4%). The general slowdown in construction activity may have been influenced by shortage of skilled labour in the industry, particularly Tradespersons and Building and engineering professionals. Employment growth in the Construction industry declined from 9.5% in 1999-2000 to -4.0% in 2002-03, with some recovery in the following two years.

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE continued

MANUFACTURING

The Manufacturing industry began to recover in 2002-03 after two consecutive years of declining growth. Growth in the industry peaked in 2003-04, with TFI increasing by 15.1% or $1,068 million, but decelerated again in 2004-05 to 5.1%. Much of the expansion in the manufacturing industry was aided by the recent resources boom, boosting activities of minerals processing and metal products manufacturing. This pattern of strong growth followed by an acute deceleration is what can be expected from an industry experiencing shortages of skilled labour. The industry recorded a large fall in employment in 2003-04, declining by 7.5% - although employment did recover in 2004-05(up 6.7%).

MANUFACTURING

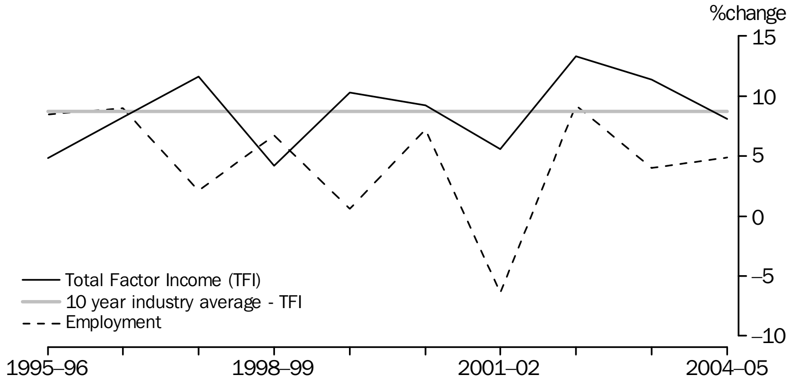


Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Activity in the Property and business services industry of Western Australia has been very strong in recent years, with TFI growth of 13.3% and 11.4% in the two years to 2003-04. The industry has been the beneficiary of the flow-on effects from increased activity in the state's construction and mining industries. Property services have benefited from the rising activity in the state's property market, while business services have benefited from the accelerated growth in the resources sector.

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE continued

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES *continued*

Again a familiar pattern has occurred in the activity of the Property and businesses industry, with growth accelerating above its long term trend of 8.7% in 2002-03 (13.3%), and then decelerating to 8.1% in 2004-05 - just below the industry long run average. This decline in growth coincided with a decline in employment growth in the industry from 9.2% in 2002-03 to 4.9% in 2004-05.

MINING

In conjunction with the Construction industry, the Mining industry also appears to have triggered the recent period of skills shortage in Western Australia. In 2000-01, TFI growth in Mining rose by 28.8% or $3,465 million. However, over the next three years growth in the Mining industry was quite subdued, as the industry began to invest in new production and transport capacity to meet the growing demand for minerals and energy from China. During this period, the industry recorded TFI growth of -0.5% (2001-02), 3.6% (2002-03) and -4.9% (2003-04). As new production and transport capacity came on-line, the industry experienced its largest period of growth in the last ten years, with TFI increasing by 29.4% ($4,462 million) in 2004-05. The fact that the industry was so subdued for such a lengthy period of time prior to 2004-05, could also have been caused by the curtailing of employment growth in the industry over that period. There was a distinct lack of building and engineering professionals and tradespersons to develop new mine capacity and infrastructure such as rail and ports during that time.

MINING

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

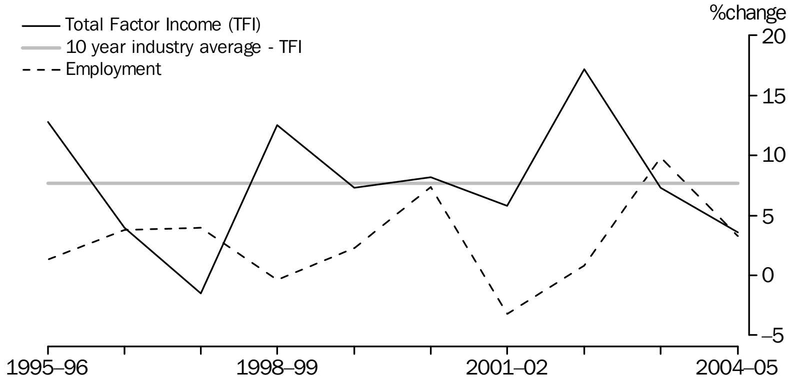
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Growth in the state's Health and community services industry peaked in 2002-03 at 17.2% ($685 million), but has since declined to 3.6% ($180 million) in 2004-05, less than half the industry's long term average growth of 7.7% per year. This deceleration in growth corresponds with reports that the industry found it increasingly difficult to find doctors, nurses and child care workers to fill the large number of vacancies in these occupations. Employment growth in the industry over the last four years averaged only 2.7% per year, with the worst result being -3.2% in 2001-02 and the best 9.8% in 2003-04.

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE continued

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES *continued*

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

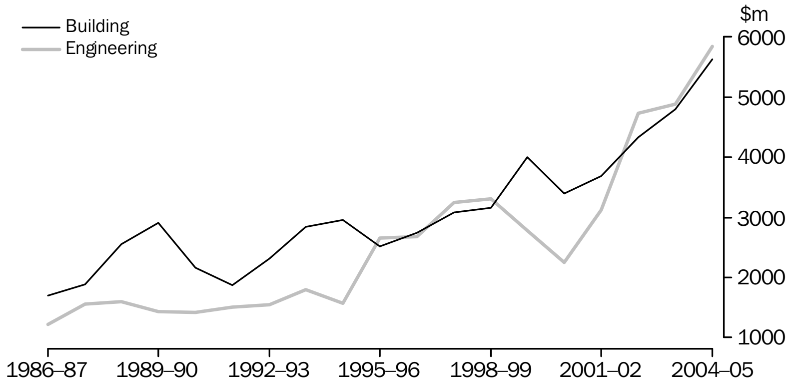


Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION BOTTLENECKS

In Western Australia, the construction industry has been a key driver of growth in the economy. Both building and engineering construction activity have risen strongly in recent years. The value of building activity rose by 52.6% over the last three years to $5,625 million in 2004-05, while engineering construction activity increased by 87.2% to $5,838 million over the same period.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, Value of work done: **Original**



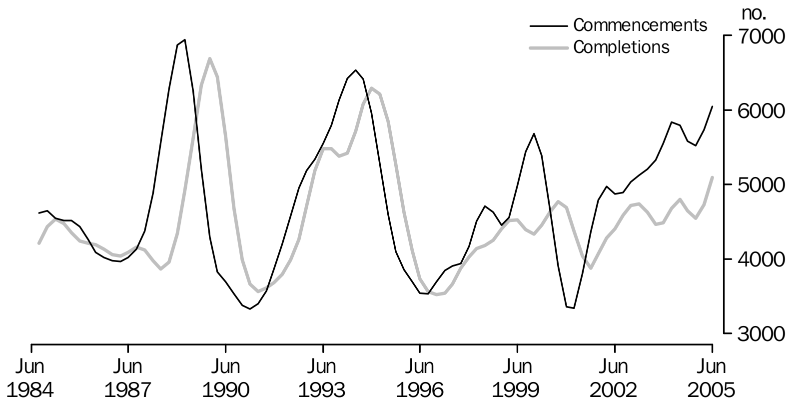
Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no.8752.0; Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8762.0.

However, due to an insufficient supply of skilled workers (mainly Tradespersons and Building and engineering professionals), the capacity of the construction industry to meet the rising level of demand for new buildings and structures has diminished, prolonging the expansionary phase of the current building cycle and creating an increasing amount of work in the construction pipeline.

Western Australia is now experiencing its fourth cycle of residential building activity since the mid-1980s, with the latest cycle yet to fully reach its peak. Each cycle of building activity begins with a trough, then goes through a recovery or expansionary period, followed by a peak and then a downturn. The cycle of dwelling commencements also tends to lead the cycle of dwelling completions.

BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION BOTTLENECKS continued

BUILDING ACTIVITY, Dwelling units: **Trend**

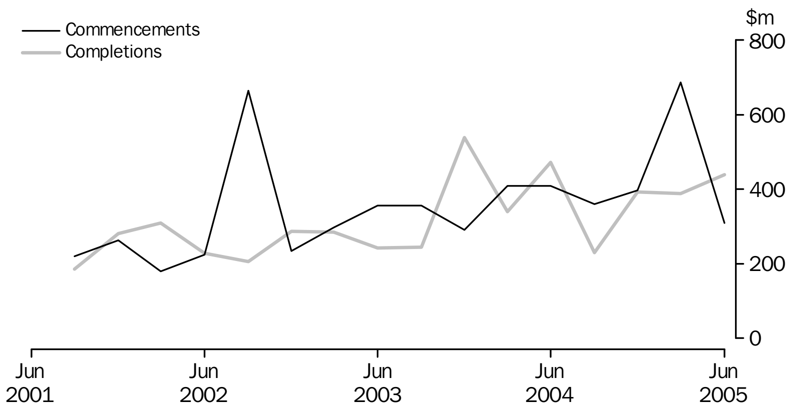


Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

In the latest cycle the gap between dwelling commencements and completions has continued for a lengthy period of time, from around 2001-02 to the current day, which is unlike the previous cycles where completions managed to rise above commencements around one year after the peak in commencements. The inability of the industry to close the gap between the number of dwellings commenced and completed suggests that the demand for new dwelling construction has continued to rise strongly, and that the skills shortage in the building industry has caused delays in dwelling completions, extending the current expansionary phase of the building cycle.

Non-residential construction activity has shown a similar pattern whereby peaks in building completions have lagged behind commencements. It took a long time for non-residential building work to be completed after commencements peaked in September 2002 and commencements were relatively subdued until early 2005. Given that skills shortages were being experienced by the construction industry during this period, it appears to have had an impact on lengthening of the lag between commencements and completions.

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ACTIVITY: **Original**



Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION BOTTLENECKS continued

Another effect of the increasing gap between building commencements and completions has been an increase in the amount of building work in the pipeline. In Western Australia, the value of planned building work has more than doubled (up 123.9%) over the last three years to $2,693 million in 2004-05. Most of this rise can be attributed to the build-up of work in House construction (up 131.6%), while Non-residential building (up 116.4%) and Other residential building (up 115.1%) also contributed to the increase in building work in the pipeline.

BUILDING WORK IN THE PIPELINE

	2001–02	*2004–05*	*Change*	
	$m	$m	$m	%
Houses	607	1 406	799	131.6
Other residential building	225	484	259	115.1
Non-residential building	371	803	432	116.4
Total building	**1 203**	**2 693**	**1 490**	**123.9**

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

The same situation has occurred in engineering construction activity in Western Australia. Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, the value of work in the engineering construction pipeline more than doubled from $2,547 million to $6,478 million. The gain was recorded across most types of engineering construction activity, including the largest rise of $2,759 million in Heavy industry construction, as well as a substantial increase in Bridges, railways and harbours, up from $46 million in 2001-02 to $1,080 million in 2004-05.

FEATURE ARTICLE 2

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Over the past few years the Western Australian economy has been booming. The community as a whole have taken advantage of this period of economic prosperity, increasing their consumer spending substantially. This analysis provides some insight into recent expenditure patterns of Western Australian households by examining results from the 2003–04 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) released in August 2005.

The results of the survey, which is conducted every five years, are used to highlight differences in spending for households with a range of social and demographic characteristics and present comparisons between the expenditure patterns of Perth and regional Western Australian households. State specific changes in consumer spending over time are also examined along with differences in expenditure patterns between Western Australia and Australia.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES

In the 12 months to June 2004, Western Australian households spent an average of $878 each week on goods and services. This was an increase of $202 or 30% on the $676 spent per week in 1998–99. Part of this increase is due to inflation. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Perth rose by 16% in the five years to 2003–04. Over the same period, mean gross household income increased by 25% to $1,098 per week.

Average weekly household expenditure was marginally lower in Western Australia than for Australia in 2003–04 ($878 compared with $893). However, between 1998–99 and 2003–04 growth in spending per week was slightly higher in Western Australia (30%) than recorded nationally (28%). This was despite a smaller increase in the CPI for Perth (16%) than the weighted average for all capital cities (18%) and lesser growth in Western Australian household income (25% compared with 28%) over this period.

SELECTED INDICATORS—1998–99 and 2003–04

	Unit	*Western Australia*	*Australia*
Mean gross household income per week			
1998–99	$	880	885
2003–04	$	1 098	1 128
Percentage change 1998–99 to 2003–04(a)	%	25	28
Consumer Price Index			
1998–99	index	120.1	121.8
2003–04	index	139.6	143.5
Percentage change 1998–99 to 2003–04(a)	%	16	18
Average weekly household expenditure			
1998–99	$	676	699
2003–04	$	878	893
Percentage change 1998–99 to 2003–04(a)	%	30	28

(a) Discrepancies may occur between between percentage changes and component items due to rounding.

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, Summary of Results, cat. no. 6530.0; *Consumer Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6401.0.

EXPENDITURE GROUPS

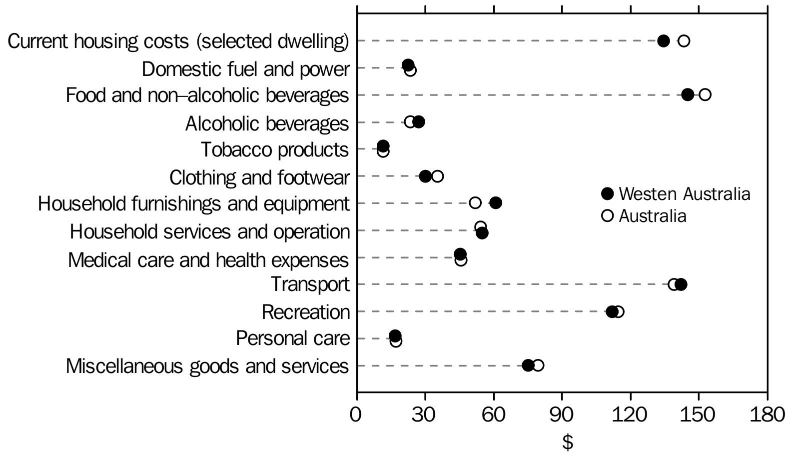
Household expenditure in 2003–04

In 2003–04, the broad expenditure groups contributing most to average weekly household expenditure in Western Australia were:

- food and non-alcoholic beverages ($145 or 17% of total expenditure on goods and services);
- transport ($142 or 16%);
- current housing costs (selected dwelling) ($134 or 15%); and
- recreation ($112 or 13%).

These four categories accounted for 61% of total expenditure for Western Australian households and a similar proportion of household spending at the national level (62%). Broad expenditure categories where Western Australian households spent more than nationally included household furnishings and equipment ($61 compared to $52), alcoholic beverages ($27 compared to $23), and transport ($142 compared to $139). Food and non-alcoholic beverages ($145 compared to $153), current housing costs ($134 compared to $144) and clothing and footwear ($30 compared to $35) were expenditure groups where spending by Western Australian households was lower than the national average.

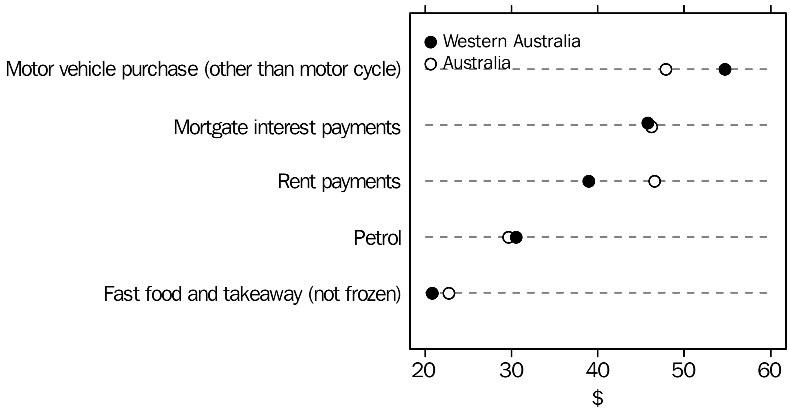
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES—2003–04



The purchase of a new or used motor vehicle is typically a large lump sum expense incurred by some households. In average weekly terms, the purchase of motor vehicles represented the single largest expenditure item for Western Australian households in 2003–04 ($55). Other high expenditure items were mortgage interest payments ($46), rent payments ($39), petrol ($31) and fast food and takeaways (not frozen) ($21). These items were also the top 5 nationally although the order was slightly different, with Australian households spending slightly more on rent payments ($47) than mortgage interest payments ($46). Western Australian households on average spent notably more on motor vehicle purchases ($55 compared to $48) but less on rent payments ($39 compared to $47).

Household expenditure in 2003–04 continued

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, Highest expenditure items(a)—2003–04



(a) Coded to 10 digit level of classification.

Other detailed expenditure items on which Western Australian households spent more per week than at the national level included:

- meat (excluding fish and seafood) ($22 compared to $20);
- whitegoods and other electrical appliances ($13 compared to $9);
- beer ($13 compared to $9);
- lounge and dining room furniture ($12 compared to $9);
- mobile telephone account ($10 compared to $9); and
- dental fees ($8 compared to $6).

Among the expenditure items on which Western Australian households spent less per week than nationally were:

- meals out and fast foods ($37 compared to $42);
- vehicle servicing ($11 compared to $13);
- women's clothing ($9 compared to $10); and
- fresh fruit ($7 compared to $8).

Change in expenditure between 1998–99 and 2003–04

Between 1998–99 and 2003–04 the fastest growing broad categories of spending by Western Australian households were:

- current housing costs up $47 (54%) to $134 per week;
- household furnishings and equipment up $20 (48%) to $61 per week;
- medical care and health expenses up $15 (48%) to $45 per week; and
- household services and operation up $14 (33%) to $55 per week.

Other categories for which there were substantial increases in weekly spending in dollar terms rather than proportional terms included transport (up $27 to $142), recreation (up $25 to $112) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (up $23 to $145). In contrast, household expenditure on tobacco products declined marginally ($0.40 or 3.6%).

Change in expenditure between 1998–99 and 2003–04 continued

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES, Western Australia

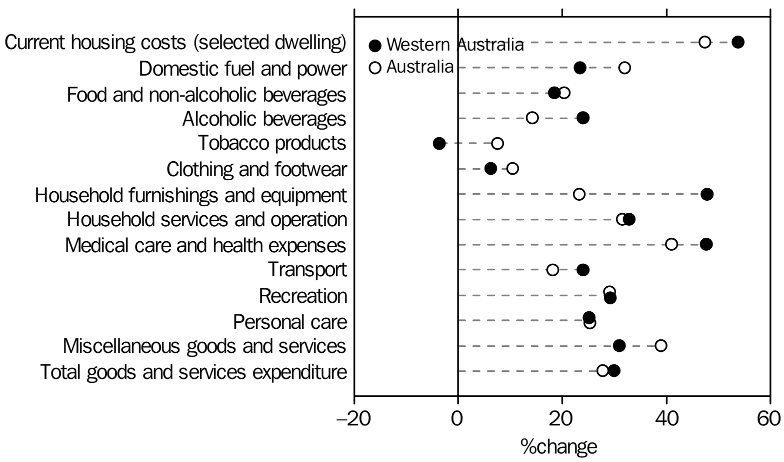
The large increase in current housing costs for Western Australian households has been attributable in part to a $23 rise in mortgage interest payments. This is likely to have been influenced by solid growth in the state's home buyer market, with the number and value of housing finance commitments increasing by 28% and 76% respectively and the share of households with a mortgage climbing from 29% to 38%. The strength of the housing sector is also likely to have contributed to the substantial increase in spending on household equipment and furnishings.

Between 1998–99 and 2003–04 changes in weekly household spending patterns differed to some extent for Western Australia and Australia. The proportional increase in spending has been more pronounced for Western Australian households than at the national level for the following expenditure categories:

- current housing costs (up 54% compared with 47%);
- household furnishings and equipment (up 48% compared with 23%);
- medical care and health expenses (up 48% compared with 41%); and
- alcoholic beverages (up 24% compared with 14%).

In contrast, Western Australian households had slower growth in their spending on domestic fuel and power (23% compared with 32%). They also had a small reduction in their expenditure on tobacco products (3.6%) compared with a 7.5% increase nationally.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES—1998–99 to 2003–04



HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The level and pattern of expenditure differs between households, reflecting characteristics such as income, wealth, household composition, household size and location. In Western Australia, households with the following characteristics were among those to have higher spending:

- high income and/or wealth households;
- larger sized households;
- households with a mortgage; and
- households in Perth metropolitan area.

Income

Generally, households with higher levels of income have higher levels of total expenditure. In 2003–04, Western Australian households in the lowest gross income quintile (the lowest 20% of households when ranked according to gross income) spent an average of $400 compared with $1,467 for households in the highest quintile. This difference relates in part to the smaller average size of households in the lowest income quintile (1.4 persons) than the highest income quintile (3.3 persons).

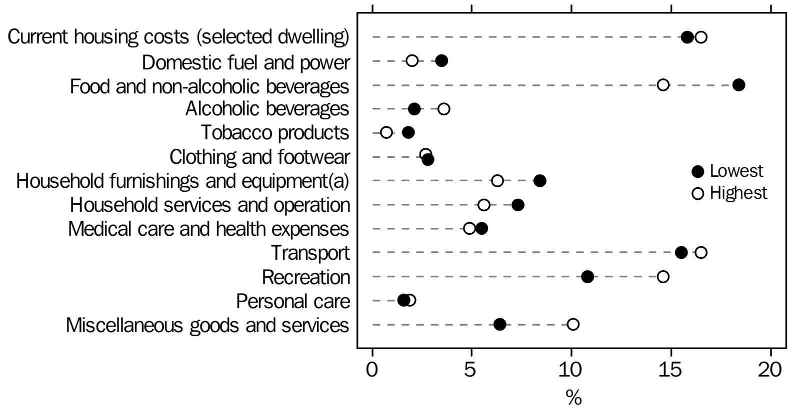
The concept of *equivalised disposable household income* enables the economic well-being of households of different size and composition to be compared. For a lone person household, it equals their disposable income. For any household comprising more than one person, adjustment is applied to reflect the disposable income a lone person household would require to maintain the same standard of living as the household in question.

In 2003–04, Western Australian households in the lowest equivalised income quintile spent on average $511 per week on goods and services, compared with $1,306 for those in the highest quintile. Households in the lowest equivalised disposable income quintile were most likely to have government pensions and allowances as their main source of income (78%), whereas the majority from the highest quintile relied primarily on wages and salaries (88%). Those households in the lowest quintile were also smaller in size and included a large proportion of lone person households (45%). Most households in the highest quintile were family households (78%).

There were many differences in the composition of household expenditure for households in the lowest and highest equivalised income quintiles. Those in the lowest quintile spent proportionally more on basic goods and services including food and non-alcoholic beverages (18% compared with 15%) but less on discretionary items like recreation (11% compared with 15%).

Income continued

PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURE ALLOCATED TO GOODS AND SERVICES BY LOWEST AND HIGHEST EQUIVALISED DISPOSABLE INCOME QUINTILES, Western Australia—2003–04



(a) Estimate has relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Household net worth

Household net worth is defined as the value of a household's assets less its liabilities. As with income, the higher the net worth of a household, the higher expenditure tends to be. In 2003–04, Western Australian households in the lowest quintile according to their net worth spent on average $604 per week on goods and services, compared with $1,271 for those in the highest quintile.

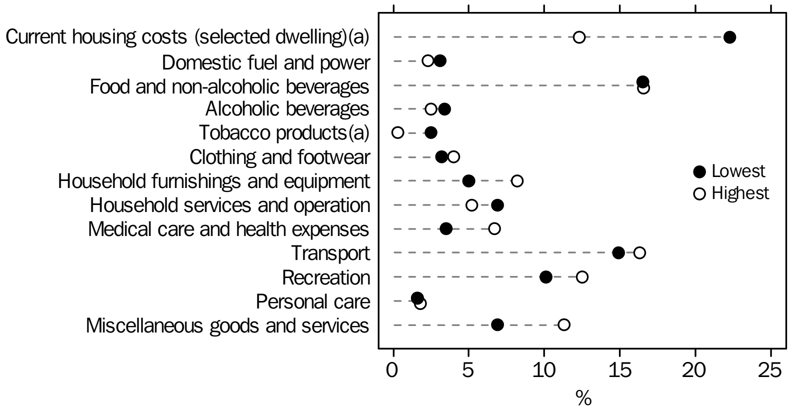
For many Western Australian households the dwelling in which they live is the principal asset. In 2003–04, the majority of households in the lowest net worth quintile were renting (89%) whereas most in the highest quintile either owned (62%) or were purchasing their home (32%).

This difference in housing circumstances is reflected in the contrasting composition of household expenditure for the lowest and highest net worth quintiles. Current housing costs accounted for 22% of spending by households in the lowest net worth quintile compared with 12% for those in the highest quintile.[1] For households in the highest quintile, a larger proportion of their expenditure was on recreation (12% compared with 10%), household furnishings and equipment (8.2% compared with 5.0%) and medical care and health expenses (6.7% compared with 3.5%).

1 Estimate has relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Household net worth continued

PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURE ALLOCATED TO GOODS AND SERVICES BY LOWEST AND HIGHEST NET WORTH QUINTILES, Western Australia—2003–04



(a) Estimate has relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Social and demographic characteristics

The levels and patterns of household income and expenditure are related to household social and demographic characteristics. In 2003–04, Western Australian households with weekly expenditure lower than the state average ($878) included:

- households who rented from the state housing authority ($361);
- lone person households ($490);
- households with government pensions and allowances as their principal source of income ($496);
- households where the reference person was aged 65 years and over ($527);[1] and
- one parent households with dependent children ($719).

In contrast, households with weekly expenditure higher than the Western Australian average included:

- couple family households with dependent children ($1,168);
- households with a mortgage ($1,102);
- households where the reference person was aged 45 to 54 years ($1,069);[1] and
- households with wages and salaries as their principal source of income ($1,067).

Location

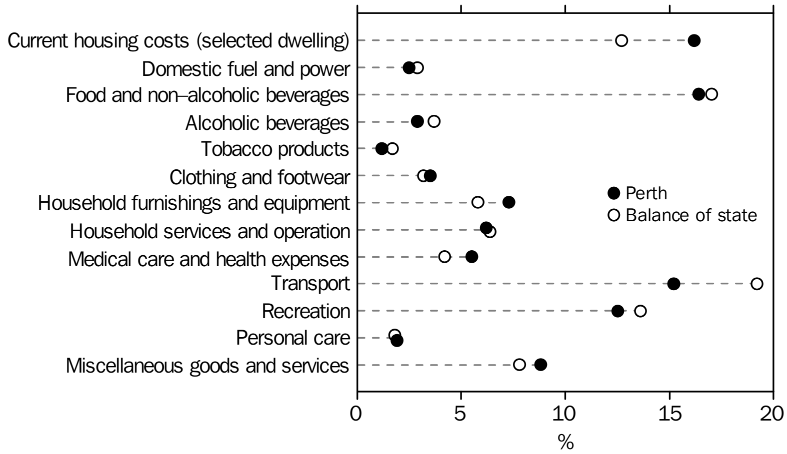
In 2003–04, average weekly household expenditure was 7.1% ($60) higher in Perth ($894) than for the balance of the state ($834). This is considerably less than the disparity recorded nationally (19% or $149) between households in capital cities ($947) and elsewhere in Australia ($798). A possible reason for this is that incomes in regional and remote areas of Western Australia are on average higher than in other parts of rural Australia due to the significance of the mining industry.

1 The reference person for each household is selected by applying various selection criteria. Details of the criteria are included in *Household Expenditure Survey, Summary of Results,* cat. no. 6530.0.

Location continued

Housing and transport expenses contribute most to differences in the composition of spending for households in Perth and the rest of the state. In 2003–04, households in Perth spent a higher proportion of their expenditure on current housing costs (16% compared to 13%) and household furnishings and equipment (7.3% compared to 5.8%). In contrast, transport (19% compared to 15%) made a larger contribution to household expenditure for households elsewhere in the state.

PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURE ALLOCATED TO GOODS AND SERVICES BY PART OF STATE, Western Australia—2003–04



When compared to the other capital cities in 2003–04, Perth households ($894) recorded higher average weekly expenditure than Adelaide ($849), Brisbane ($851) and Hobart ($881) but lower expenditure than Darwin ($1,085), Canberra ($1,064), Sydney ($1,032) and Melbourne ($945). However, between 1998–99 and 2003–04, Perth (28%) had the third fastest growth in spending of all capital cities. Only Adelaide (39%) and Hobart (36%) had household expenditure that grew at a faster rate over this period.

CONCLUSION

The level and composition of spending by Western Australian households varies considerably depending on a range of characteristics. In 2003–04 households with high income and/or net worth, larger sized households and households with a mortgage were among those with the highest levels of expenditure. In contrast, households with lower levels of income and/or net worth, lone person households and households in which the reference person was aged 65 years and over had less than average household expenditure. Households in Perth had higher expenditure than those elsewhere in Western Australia. However, the disparity between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas was less substantial than for other states and territories.

Overall, average expenditure for Western Australian households remained marginally lower than for all Australian households in 2003–04. However, between 1998–99 and 2003–04 spending by Western Australian households grew at a faster rate than at the national level despite the state recording lower increases in CPI and average household income over this period. At the state level, growth in household expenditure was led by large proportional increases in spending on current housing costs, household furnishings and equipment and medical care and health expenses.

LIST OF TABLES

1 SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Australian comparison

Indicator	Reference period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	AUSTRALIA Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
State final demand: Trend(a) *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	24 323	2.8	9.2	232 279	1.2	4.6
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups: Original(b) *(index)*	Dec qtr 2005	149.0	0.8	4.0	150.6	0.5	2.8
Wage Price Index, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Original *(index)*	Dec qtr 2005	108.3	0.7	4.2	107.5	0.8	4.1
Established house price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Dec qtr 2005	136.9	6.6	22.5	104.0	2.1	2.3
Project home price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Dec qtr 2005	127.8	4.2	16.7	110.0	0.8	4.4
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups: Original(c) *(index)*	Dec qtr 2005	135.0	0.2	3.8	141.5	0.4	2.3
Consumption							
Retail turnover: Trend *($m)*	January 2006	1 777.0	0.3	6.0	17 382.0	0.4	3.9
Sales of new motor vehicles: Trend *(no.)*	February 2006	8 670	–0.6	8.4	81 640	0.1	–2.0
Investment and finance							
Private new capital expenditure: Trend(a) *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	3 259	8.6	36.5	17 647	5.9	27.6
Commercial finance commitments: Original *($m)*	January 2006	2 096.5	–10.9	36.9	23 163.0	–38.6	30.2
Personal finance commitments: Original *($m)*	January 2006	791.4	–9.2	32.9	5 429.5	–11.9	6.7
Housing finance commitments: Trend(d) *(no.)*	January 2006	8 659	0.8	17.1	59 138	0.4	9.7
Construction							
Houses approved: Trend *(no.)*	January 2006	1 860	0.5	10.6	8 315	–1.0	–3.8
New residential building activity commenced: Original *(no.)*	Sep qtr 2005	6 860	21.1	12.7	40 304	2.7	–2.2
Engineering construction activity commenced: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	3 071.1	166.5	15.9	10 121.9	30.2	0.6
Engineering construction activity yet to be done: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	7 732.2	19.4	91.0	22 274.6	1.9	41.2
International merchandise trade							
Exports: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	12 092.1	9.1	27.2	38 354.6	6.9	22.1
Imports: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	4 092.8	8.9	17.2	42 174.3	4.3	9.5
Mining and energy							
Total mineral exploration expenditure: Trend *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	147.9	–3.1	–2.0	302.3	4.4	19.2
Total petroleum exploration expenditure: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	152.8	13.1	35.1	326.5	15.8	13.9
Agriculture							
Exports of wheat: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	436.9	13.8	–5.9	770.1	2.4	–8.5
Exports of live sheep: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	84.1	24.4	61.4	101.4	23.1	88.0
Tourism							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday *(no.)*	December 2005	34 879	47.6	11.3	335 295	32.1	4.2
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air *(no.)*	December 2005	31 353	66.7	11.4	257 361	74.2	5.5
Labour market							
Number of persons employed full-time: Trend *('000)*	February 2006	749.0	0.3	3.2	7 172.2	0.1	1.4
Number of persons employed: Trend *('000)*	February 2006	1 057.9	0.1	3.3	10 041.2	—	1.4
Unemployment rate: Trend *(%)*	February 2006	4.1	. .	. .	5.2	. .	. .
Participation rate: Trend *(%)*	February 2006	67.7	. .	. .	64.4	. .	. .
Estimated resident population *('000)*	Sep qtr 2005	2 018.7	0.4	1.7	20 387.9	0.3	1.2

. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Chain volume measures.
(b) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 8 Capital Cities.
(c) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
(d) Owner occupation housing.

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a)

	2004		2005			
	September	December	March	June	September	December
TREND ($m)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 446	3 456	3 462	3 488	3 520	3 543
Households	11 871	11 995	12 104	12 230	12 373	12 516
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 317*	*15 451*	*15 566*	*15 718*	*15 893*	*16 059*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 100	2 150	2 181	2 336	2 606	2 842
Non-dwelling construction	1 368	1 427	1 480	1 580	1 741	1 925
Livestock	56	57	58	59	61	63
Intangible fixed assets	409	398	396	413	412	400
Total private business investment	*3 948*	*4 033*	*4 112*	*4 389*	*4 820*	*5 222*
Dwellings	1 396	1 402	1 403	1 414	1 446	1 485
Ownership transfer costs	435	448	463	479	490	499
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 779*	*5 883*	*5 979*	*6 279*	*6 754*	*7 229*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	452	501	530	547	546	542
General government	411	439	478	491	471	437
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*863*	*940*	*1 008*	*1 037*	*1 017*	*979*
State final demand	**21 959**	**22 273**	**22 553**	**23 028**	**23 660**	**24 323**
TREND (percentage changes)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.7
Households	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2
Total final consumption expenditure	*1.4*	*0.9*	*0.7*	*1.0*	*1.1*	*1.0*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	3.9	2.4	1.4	7.1	11.6	9.1
Non-dwelling construction	2.1	4.3	3.7	6.8	10.2	10.6
Livestock	3.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	3.4	3.3
Intangible fixed assets	–0.5	–2.7	–0.5	4.3	–0.2	–2.9
Total private business investment	*2.4*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*6.7*	*9.8*	*8.3*
Dwellings	2.0	0.4	0.1	0.8	2.3	2.7
Ownership transfer costs	0.2	3.0	3.3	3.5	2.3	1.8
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*2.2*	*1.8*	*1.6*	*5.0*	*7.6*	*7.0*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	12.2	10.8	5.8	3.2	–0.2	–0.7
General government	–1.2	6.8	8.9	2.7	–4.1	–7.2
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*5.4*	*8.9*	*7.2*	*2.9*	*–1.9*	*–3.7*
State final demand	**1.8**	**1.4**	**1.3**	**2.1**	**2.7**	**2.8**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a) *continued*

	2004		2005			
	September	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*$m*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 435	3 481	3 416	3 518	3 507	3 555
Households	11 903	11 991	12 075	12 245	12 366	12 519
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 338*	*15 472*	*15 491*	*15 763*	*15 873*	*16 074*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 101	2 192	2 272	2 071	2 723	2 984
Non-dwelling construction	1 341	1 410	1 573	1 508	1 655	2 086
Livestock	58	58	58	58	63	63
Intangible fixed assets	408	360	405	430	409	389
Total private business investment	*3 907*	*4 020*	*4 308*	*4 066*	*4 850*	*5 522*
Dwellings	1 404	1 386	1 434	1 390	1 424	1 527
Ownership transfer costs	428	447	449	516	455	515
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 740*	*5 853*	*6 190*	*5 972*	*6 728*	*7 564*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	439	515	492	611	496	556
General government	445	430	427	577	446	401
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*884*	*946*	*918*	*1 188*	*943*	*957*
State final demand	**21 962**	**22 271**	**22 600**	**22 923**	**23 544**	**24 596**
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*percentage changes*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	–0.2	1.3	–1.9	3.0	–0.3	1.4
Households	1.9	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.2
Total final consumption expenditure	*1.4*	*0.9*	*0.1*	*1.8*	*0.7*	*1.3*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	5.6	4.3	3.6	–8.8	31.5	9.6
Non-dwelling construction	–0.7	5.1	11.6	–4.1	9.7	26.0
Livestock	9.4	—	—	—	8.6	—
Intangible fixed assets	–15.2	–11.8	12.5	6.2	–4.9	–4.9
Total private business investment	*–0.2*	*2.9*	*7.2*	*–5.6*	*19.3*	*13.9*
Dwellings	3.3	–1.3	3.5	–3.1	2.4	7.2
Ownership transfer costs	–5.9	4.4	0.4	14.9	–11.8	13.2
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*0.2*	*2.0*	*5.8*	*–3.5*	*12.7*	*12.4*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	–1.8	17.3	–4.5	24.2	–18.8	12.1
General government	16.5	–3.4	–0.7	35.1	–22.7	–10.1
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*6.8*	*7.1*	*–2.9*	*29.3*	*–20.7*	*1.6*
State final demand	**1.3**	**1.4**	**1.5**	**1.4**	**2.7**	**4.5**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth

Reference period	All groups	Food	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing	Household contents and services
FINANCIAL YEARS(b) *(index)*						
2002–2003	136.8	146.7	198.0	109.5	106.2	118.2
2003–2004	139.6	149.9	204.1	108.7	112.3	118.1
2004–2005	144.0	153.9	210.6	105.7	120.2	117.1
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR *(%)*						
2002–2003	2.8	2.9	3.0	0.3	2.7	0.9
2003–2004	2.0	2.2	3.1	–0.7	5.7	–0.1
2004–2005	3.2	2.7	3.2	–2.8	7.0	–0.8
QUARTERS(b) *(index)*						
2004						
September	142.0	151.8	207.4	107.4	116.5	117.7
December	143.3	152.8	208.8	105.6	118.7	117.8
2005						
March	144.4	154.4	212.2	104.1	121.6	114.7
June	146.3	156.5	214.1	105.6	124.1	118.3
September	147.8	157.4	215.2	105.4	126.9	119.0
December	149.0	159.7	215.9	104.5	129.7	119.3
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*						
2004						
September	2.5	2.1	2.3	–2.6	5.5	–0.7
December	2.9	2.4	2.3	–3.5	6.3	–0.8
2005						
March	3.4	2.7	4.0	–2.5	7.8	–2.0
June	3.8	3.4	4.3	–2.3	8.5	0.2
September	4.1	3.7	3.8	–1.9	8.9	1.1
December	4.0	4.5	3.4	–1.0	9.3	1.3
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*						
2004						
September	0.7	0.3	1.1	–0.6	1.8	–0.3
December	0.9	0.7	0.7	–1.7	1.9	0.1
2005						
March	0.8	1.0	1.6	–1.4	2.4	–2.6
June	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.4	2.1	3.1
September	1.0	0.6	0.5	–0.2	2.3	0.6
December	0.8	1.5	0.3	–0.9	2.2	0.3

(a) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services' group. See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth *continued*

Reference period	Health	Transportation	Communication	Recreation	Education	Financial and insurance services(b)
FINANCIAL YEARS(c) (index)						
2002–2003	175.7	140.7	106.8	128.8	201.5	. .
2003–2004	185.8	141.6	108.3	125.6	210.2	. .
2004–2005	195.3	145.7	109.4	127.0	221.4	100.0
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR (%)						
2002–2003	7.9	2.9	3.2	1.3	3.1	. .
2003–2004	5.7	0.6	1.4	–2.5	4.3	. .
2004–2005	5.1	2.9	1.0	1.1	5.3	. .
QUARTERS(c) (index)						
2004						
September	191.9	144.3	109.2	125.8	214.9	. .
December	190.9	146.6	109.5	127.3	214.9	. .
2005						
March	197.7	144.6	109.9	127.9	227.9	. .
June	200.5	147.3	108.9	127.1	227.9	100.0
September	199.3	152.1	108.1	129.0	227.9	98.7
December	198.7	152.1	107.3	129.2	227.9	100.5
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR (%)						
2004						
September	5.8	2.4	1.1	0.1	4.6	. .
December	5.1	4.5	1.1	0.2	4.6	. .
2005						
March	5.6	2.3	1.5	2.8	6.0	. .
June	4.0	2.6	0.2	1.4	6.0	. .
September	3.9	5.4	–1.0	2.5	6.0	. .
December	4.1	3.8	–2.0	1.5	6.0	. .
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER (%)						
2004						
September	–0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	—	. .
December	–0.5	1.6	0.3	1.2	—	. .
2005						
March	3.6	–1.4	0.4	0.5	6.0	. .
June	1.4	1.9	–0.9	–0.6	—	. .
September	–0.6	3.3	–0.7	1.5	—	–1.3
December	–0.3	—	–0.7	0.2	—	1.8

. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services' group. See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.
(b) Base of index: June quarter 2005 = 100.0.
(c) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.
Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

4 WAGE PRICE INDEX(a), Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses(b)

	2004		2005				CHANGE FROM	
	September	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*Previous quarter*	*Same quarter previous year*
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	**102.5**	**103.9**	**104.8**	**105.8**	**107.5**	**108.3**	**0.7**	**4.2**
Sector								
Private	102.5	104.0	104.9	105.6	107.6	108.5	0.8	4.3
Public	102.4	103.6	104.4	106.2	107.1	107.6	0.5	3.9
Selected industries								
Mining	103.1	104.5	104.7	106.3	108.8	109.3	0.5	4.6
Manufacturing	103.5	104.4	105.4	106.1	108.0	109.2	1.1	4.6
Construction	102.5	110.3	113.8	114.5	117.8	119.9	1.8	8.7
Retail trade	102.6	103.6	104.3	104.9	106.5	107.3	0.8	3.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	101.9	102.8	103.9	103.9	104.8	105.8	1.0	2.9
Transport and storage	102.0	102.3	102.7	103.1	105.2	106.4	1.1	4.0
Property and business services	101.7	102.9	103.2	104.3	106.6	107.1	0.5	4.1
Government administration and defence	102.0	104.1	104.9	106.8	107.0	108.1	1.0	3.8
Education	102.7	102.9	104.2	106.0	106.5	106.7	0.2	4.8
Health and community services	102.5	103.0	104.0	104.4	106.8	107.2	0.4	4.1
Personal and other services	103.0	103.5	104.1	105.1	107.2	107.4	0.2	3.8
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	102.0	103.4	103.9	105.1	107.5	108.2	0.7	4.6
Professionals	102.5	103.2	103.8	105.1	106.8	107.7	0.8	4.4
Associate professionals	102.4	103.2	104.9	105.7	107.5	108.4	0.8	5.0
Tradespersons and related workers	102.1	105.7	107.6	108.6	109.8	110.5	0.6	4.5
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	102.5	104.1	105.0	105.5	107.3	108.1	0.7	3.8
Intermediate production and transport workers	102.4	104.0	104.5	106.0	107.8	108.2	0.4	4.0
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	103.2	103.6	104.1	104.4	106.1	106.4	0.3	2.7
Labourers and related workers	103.0	107.8	108.4	108.6	111.2	112.9	1.5	4.7

(a) The Wage Cost Index series has been renamed the Wage Price Index series from September Quarter 2004, and has been re-based from September Quarter 1997 to the financial year 2003–04 = 100.0. The quarterly Wage Cost Index publication, now renamed Labour Price Index, has retained its catalogue number (6345.0), but will include annual non-wage costs, such as annual and public holiday leave, superannuation, workers' compensation and payroll tax. Further information about the new price index is available through *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2004,* cat. no. 6351.0.55.001.

(b) Base of each index: 2003–04 = 100.0.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6345.0.

5 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES(a)—Perth

	ESTABLISHED HOMES(b)(c)	*Change from previous period*	*PROJECT HOMES*	*Change from previous period*
	index	%	index	%
2002–2003	84.4	. .	91.4	3.2
2003–2004	100.0	18.5	100.0	9.4
2004–2005	r114.4	r14.4	111.9	11.9
2004				
September	106.9	1.9	105.7	2.3
December	111.8	4.6	109.5	3.6
2005				
March	116.3	4.0	114.2	4.3
June	r122.5	r5.3	118.3	3.6
September	p128.4	p4.8	122.7	3.7
December	p136.9	p6.6	127.8	4.2

. . not applicable

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

r revised

(a) Base of each index: 2003–04 = 100.0.

(b) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced a new methodology for compiling the established house price index. Refer to *Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index,* cat. no. 6417.0 for a discussion of the changes.

(c) Estimates for the two most recent quarters are experimental. See paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, cat. no. 6416.0.

6 PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING(a), By material—Perth

Material group	2004 September	2004 December	2005 March	2005 June	2005 September	2005 December	Change from previous quarter	Change from same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
All material groups	**128.7**	**130.1**	**131.7**	**134.0**	**134.7**	**135.0**	**0.2**	**3.8**
Concrete, cement and sand	134.6	134.3	136.0	140.6	139.9	142.6	1.9	6.2
Cement products	118.6	122.4	124.0	125.7	127.0	125.8	–0.9	2.8
Ceramic products	139.3	142.1	143.4	144.6	146.1	147.2	0.8	3.6
Timber, board and joinery	121.5	122.4	123.8	125.2	125.7	124.2	–1.2	1.5
Steel products	143.5	146.1	155.4	159.6	160.2	161.7	0.9	10.7
Other metal products	122.0	123.1	124.3	128.0	128.6	128.6	—	4.5
Plumbing products	116.0	117.9	119.8	121.8	121.8	123.2	1.1	4.5
Electrical equipment	108.3	105.2	102.7	100.5	99.1	99.0	–0.1	–5.9
Installed gas and electrical appliances	128.0	129.7	129.7	131.5	134.9	135.8	0.7	4.7
Other materials	149.1	149.7	149.4	153.2	153.1	154.1	0.7	2.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

Source: ABS data available on request, *Producer Price Indexes, Australia,* cat. no. 6427.0.

7 RETAIL TRADE, Monthly turnover by industry group—Current prices: **All series** (a)

Month	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
ORIGINAL ($m)								
2004								
November	711.6	149.6	93.6	297.8	^ 87.4	192.9	211.2	1 744.0
December	858.3	243.9	131.9	366.0	^ 124.8	253.8	227.0	2 205.6
2005								
January	686.3	119.9	84.0	288.3	^ 96.4	154.4	194.3	1 623.6
February	648.2	101.9	73.6	255.3	^ 85.2	140.4	192.7	1 497.3
March	725.8	126.0	82.2	272.2	^ 90.3	152.7	199.7	1 648.9
April	706.3	121.9	93.7	273.4	^ 94.3	149.5	199.0	1 638.2
May	711.7	121.8	93.2	277.4	^ 90.1	156.9	200.0	1 651.1
June	703.3	149.2	100.8	288.1	^ 91.2	151.7	191.8	1 676.0
July	745.2	127.1	89.4	298.3	^ 95.3	141.4	206.1	1 702.8
August	755.2	121.1	85.4	303.2	^ 94.9	142.9	203.7	1 706.3
September	760.6	123.4	85.7	293.0	^ 95.5	144.4	207.2	1 709.7
October	769.3	133.1	100.2	315.8	^ 91.1	147.7	220.3	1 777.6
November	768.7	160.2	105.4	325.6	^ 102.8	158.6	220.6	1 841.8
December	910.6	264.1	144.8	419.7	^ 151.7	216.0	233.9	2 340.7
2006								
January	763.2	119.0	96.2	302.4	^ 104.0	138.6	209.3	1 732.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ($m)								
2004								
November	711.6	133.0	88.3	284.7	87.0	175.6	200.1	1 680.1
December	716.1	132.4	90.7	285.5	87.2	174.9	198.2	1 684.9
2005								
January	691.8	137.7	88.1	288.5	93.9	170.1	199.4	1 669.6
February	706.7	138.5	91.9	291.6	91.1	160.5	206.1	1 686.5
March	701.4	137.5	91.0	290.2	94.7	161.1	196.1	1 672.0
April	722.8	133.3	94.5	293.5	97.5	160.6	202.0	1 704.3
May	732.3	131.0	91.3	297.3	98.1	161.1	208.4	1 719.4
June	744.9	147.5	100.5	287.8	98.7	165.4	210.8	1 755.7
July	753.9	138.3	93.6	303.0	97.2	151.8	209.5	1 747.3
August	768.1	141.5	94.1	312.3	96.2	148.8	209.7	1 770.8
September	770.6	138.0	92.1	303.1	100.5	145.5	206.0	1 755.8
October	771.8	136.3	98.0	303.0	98.7	145.6	210.3	1 763.7
November	762.2	139.4	100.0	302.0	101.0	146.1	211.2	1 761.8
December	757.9	140.6	98.0	321.4	106.2	147.2	200.5	1 771.8
2006								
January	772.7	138.8	100.6	306.5	103.0	150.6	212.6	1 784.8
TREND ($m)								
2004								
November	708.4	135.3	89.6	284.4	87.8	175.5	197.2	1 678.1
December	705.4	135.3	89.7	286.2	89.4	172.4	196.4	1 677.0
2005								
January	703.9	135.3	90.1	288.1	91.2	168.8	196.6	1 677.1
February	705.2	135.6	90.9	289.6	93.1	165.6	198.0	1 680.9
March	710.4	136.1	92.1	291.1	94.9	163.2	200.5	1 690.3
April	719.5	137.0	93.4	292.9	96.4	161.5	203.5	1 705.0
May	731.4	137.9	94.2	295.2	97.3	159.8	206.2	1 721.9
June	744.4	138.7	94.7	297.7	97.7	157.4	208.4	1 738.6
July	755.5	139.3	94.9	300.3	97.9	154.2	209.4	1 751.3
August	762.6	139.6	95.1	302.9	98.3	150.8	209.5	1 758.8
September	766.1	139.5	95.7	305.0	99.1	148.1	209.0	1 762.3
October	767.2	139.0	96.6	306.8	100.3	146.6	208.4	1 764.8
November	767.4	138.8	97.8	308.3	101.6	146.3	208.1	1 768.3
December	767.3	138.6	98.8	309.8	102.9	146.5	208.0	1 772.1
2006								
January	766.8	139.1	100.2	310.2	104.0	147.6	208.1	1 777.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

(a) Retail trade data for July 2004 to March 2005 have been revised, for all industry groups except Department stores. See the 'Revisions' section in the March 2005 reissue of the source publication.

Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat. no. 8501.0.

8 NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, By type of vehicle: **All series**

Month	Passenger vehicles	Sports utility vehicles	Other vehicles	Total vehicles
	no.	no.	no.	no.
ORIGINAL				
2004				
December	4 327	1 314	1 700	7 341
2005				
January	4 038	r1 500	r1 412	r6 950
February	4 680	r1 578	r1 636	r7 894
March	5 082	r1 719	r1 832	r8 633
April	4 304	r1 351	r1 684	r7 339
May	4 588	r1 617	r1 875	r8 080
June	r5 582	r1 956	r2 475	r10 013
July	r4 456	r1 499	r1 772	r7 727
August	4 974	1 719	2 021	8 714
September	5 442	1 651	2 032	9 125
October	5 023	1 484	1 842	8 349
November	5 528	1 690	1 889	9 107
December	4 911	1 713	2 040	8 664
2006				
January	4 293	1 693	1 618	7 604
February	4 629	1 656	1 880	8 165
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
2004				
December	4 247	1 280	1 668	7 195
2005				
January	4 852	1 599	1 799	8 250
February	4 829	1 636	1 737	8 202
March	4 409	1 630	1 715	7 754
April	4 896	1 442	1 922	8 260
May	4 785	1 595	1 744	8 124
June	4 824	1 402	1 763	7 989
July	4 829	1 691	1 936	8 456
August	4 925	1 761	2 039	8 725
September	5 217	1 790	2 014	9 021
October	5 019	1 623	1 968	8 610
November	5 247	1 686	1 942	8 875
December	4 931	1 758	2 035	8 724
2006				
January	4 981	1 805	2 031	8 817
February	4 790	1 720	2 011	8 521
TREND				
2004				
December	4 650	1 599	1 734	7 983
2005				
January	4 645	1 600	1 743	7 988
February	4 662	1 586	1 752	8 000
March	4 693	1 562	1 765	8 020
April	4 738	1 546	1 787	8 071
May	4 781	1 552	1 821	8 154
June	4 837	1 580	1 864	8 281
July	4 910	1 623	1 909	8 442
August	4 995	1 669	1 951	8 615
September	5 054	1 705	1 980	8 739
October	5 077	1 724	1 997	8 798
November	5 066	1 731	2 003	8 800
December	5 026	1 736	2 006	8 768
2006				
January	4 974	1 741	2 009	8 724
February	4 912	1 746	2 012	8 670

r revised

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

9 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By type of asset—Chain volume measures(a): **All series**

	ORIGINAL			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			TREND		
Reference period	*Buildings and structures* $m	*Equipment, plant and machinery* $m	*Total* $m	*Buildings and structures* $m	*Equipment, plant and machinery* $m	*Total* $m	*Buildings and structures* $m	*Equipment, plant and machinery* $m	*Total* $m
2002–2003	r3 070	3 860	r6 913	3 071	3 861	6 913	3 071	3 863	6 923
2003–2004	3 793	5 124	8 917	3 794	5 124	8 918	3 813	5 060	8 872
2004–2005	r4 748	5 003	r9 750	4 747	5 003	9 750	4 774	5 099	9 867
2004									
September	1 096	1 156	2 252	1 104	1 171	2 275	1 081	1 212	2 291
December	1 243	1 383	2 626	1 128	1 254	2 382	1 155	1 233	2 388
2005									
March	1 119	1 204	r2 322	1 258	1 342	2 600	1 216	1 269	2 485
June	r1 290	1 260	r2 550	1 257	1 236	2 493	1 322	1 385	2 703
September	r1 437	r1 571	r3 009	1 459	1 598	3 057	1 447	1 555	3 001
December	1 775	1 995	3 770	1 609	1 811	3 419	1 535	1 703	3 259

r revised
(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

10 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By industry—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	*Mining* $m	*Manufacturing* $m	*Other selected industries* $m	*Total* $m
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	5 010	1 162	2 746	8 917
2004–2005	5 531	1 410	3 008	9 950
2004				
September	1 350	232	690	2 272
December	1 431	368	873	2 672
2005				
March	1 221	404	751	2 375
June	1 529	406	694	2 630
September	r1 763	r474	r879	r3 116
December	2 321	510	1 087	3 918

r revised
Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

11 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	PERSONAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	Total lease finance commitments
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	12 430.2	4 755.0	17 185.2	4 248.0	3 364.5	7 612.4	298.3
2003–2004	14 572.9	5 776.6	20 349.5	4 517.1	3 499.2	8 016.3	384.0
2004–2005	14 523.3	6 335.8	20 859.1	4 701.9	3 627.0	8 329.0	420.3
2004							
November	1 222.7	520.6	1 743.3	407.2	305.3	712.5	35.5
December	1 426.4	641.4	2 067.8	378.5	301.8	680.4	35.0
2005							
January	985.7	545.2	1 530.9	323.3	272.3	595.6	25.1
February	1 179.5	506.8	1 686.3	360.7	277.8	638.5	30.9
March	1 325.2	627.1	1 952.2	403.7	325.4	729.1	28.7
April	1 226.4	488.7	1 715.1	396.5	288.9	685.4	32.6
May	1 349.3	643.8	1 993.1	451.3	337.8	789.2	35.3
June	1 571.3	710.1	2 281.4	434.3	411.5	845.8	37.1
July	1 549.0	522.9	2 071.9	382.7	353.1	735.7	35.2
August	1 556.7	551.9	2 108.6	450.9	402.5	853.4	44.5
September	1 368.4	442.2	1 810.6	446.8	357.6	804.4	49.9
October	1 695.2	415.6	2 110.8	r436.3	324.3	r760.6	25.8
November	1 543.3	603.8	2 147.2	464.3	362.7	827.1	36.7
December	1 666.5	686.2	2 352.7	491.4	380.1	871.5	32.3
2006							
January	1 523.9	572.6	2 096.5	440.6	350.8	791.4	34.3

r revised

(a) Includes refinancing.

(b) New and increased credit limits during the period. Includes credit cards.

Source: Lending Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5671.0.

12 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By dwellings financed: All series

Reference period	ORIGINAL		SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		TREND	
	Number of dwellings financed	*Total value of dwelling commitments*	*Number of dwellings financed*	*Total value of dwelling commitments*	*Number of dwellings financed*	*Total value of dwelling commitments*
	no.	$m	no.	$m	no.	$m
2002–2003	75 740	10 709.2	75 910	10 743.1	75 829	10 735.4
2003–2004	83 834	12 765.6	83 576	12 720.2	83 846	12 762.4
2004–2005	88 683	15 151.6	88 668	15 152.9	88 649	15 146.1
2004						
November	7 825	1 306.4	7 359	1 237.8	7 276	1 229.6
December	7 538	1 265.3	7 257	1 235.6	7 326	1 244.2
2005						
January	6 020	1 038.8	7 238	1 238.2	7 394	1 261.7
February	7 010	1 234.6	7 461	1 283.7	7 487	1 284.5
March	7 827	1 331.3	7 834	1 343.9	7 595	1 312.9
April	7 523	1 331.2	7 698	1 341.4	7 702	1 344.5
May	8 472	1 487.6	7 845	1 375.7	7 812	1 379.9
June	8 057	1 438.4	7 612	1 380.3	7 926	1 417.3
July	7 914	1 452.4	8 090	1 468.2	8 033	1 455.7
August	9 073	1 645.2	8 406	1 541.7	8 145	1 496.3
September	8 089	1 500.5	8 206	1 512.9	8 264	1 538.7
October	8 057	1 499.1	8 359	1 574.3	8 377	1 580.1
November	9 044	1 726.8	8 329	1 598.2	8 482	1 619.7
December	8 475	1 642.3	8 611	1 686.8	8 587	1 656.5
2006						
January	7 622	1 488.8	8 830	1 702.5	8 659	1 684.8

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

13 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By type of buyer: Original

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS: Number of dwellings financed (no.)	FIRST HOME BUYERS: Total value of dwelling commitments ($m)	FIRST HOME BUYERS: Average loan size ($'000)	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS: Number of dwellings financed (no.)	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS: Total value of dwelling commitments ($m)	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS: Average loan size ($'000)
2002–2003	12 775	1 679.9	131.5	62 965	9 029.3	143.4
2003–2004	12 393	1 835.9	148.1	71 441	10 929.7	153.0
2004–2005	16 060	2 720.1	169.4	72 623	12 431.6	171.2
2004						
November	1 465	244.0	166.5	6 360	1 062.4	167.0
December	1 383	233.4	168.8	6 155	1 031.9	167.7
2005						
January	1 118	192.3	172.0	4 902	846.5	172.7
February	1 266	219.5	173.4	5 744	1 015.2	176.7
March	1 352	220.2	162.9	6 475	1 111.1	171.6
April	1 271	222.2	174.8	6 252	1 109.0	177.4
May	1 417	247.8	174.9	7 055	1 239.8	175.7
June	1 385	244.5	176.6	6 672	1 193.9	178.9
July	1 326	240.6	181.5	6 588	1 211.8	183.9
August	1 581	278.4	176.1	7 492	1 366.8	182.4
September	1 473	268.8	182.5	6 616	1 231.7	186.2
October	1 426	261.1	183.1	6 631	1 238.0	186.7
November	1 599	306.3	191.6	7 445	1 420.5	190.8
December	1 462	277.5	189.8	7 013	1 364.8	194.6
2006						
January	1 383	263.9	190.8	6 239	1 224.9	196.3

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

14 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a), By purpose: **Original**

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE) Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	INVESTMENT HOUSING(b) Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	1 517.8	234.8	6 674.0	2 282.6	213.0	3 948.8	334.8
2003–2004	2 015.4	363.3	7 244.8	3 142.1	297.9	4 771.4	470.9
2004–2005	2 171.1	505.8	9 156.2	3 318.6	320.6	5 423.3	401.0
2004							
November	187.8	31.3	806.0	281.2	17.4	445.7	35.0
December	186.8	40.8	771.7	266.0	24.9	451.5	31.1
2005							
January	158.6	33.8	626.2	220.2	19.7	369.1	34.6
February	166.2	47.6	765.7	255.1	15.9	460.5	31.3
March	177.9	51.6	811.7	290.1	30.6	521.1	34.3
April	177.2	48.3	796.3	309.4	19.7	513.0	33.2
May	202.2	51.5	861.6	372.2	28.4	535.5	31.1
June	194.0	49.2	854.1	341.1	26.3	594.6	40.8
July	189.7	54.3	859.0	349.4	17.0	516.1	27.6
August	215.0	67.4	967.0	395.8	20.0	580.4	36.7
September	198.0	64.8	890.0	347.7	34.2	562.2	41.1
October	185.1	61.8	899.3	352.9	28.5	591.7	39.1
November	195.9	78.5	1 039.9	412.5	41.5	652.9	40.6
December	205.7	70.7	989.7	376.3	41.1	601.0	45.4
2006							
January	174.0	60.9	918.8	335.2	31.1	598.1	41.2

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Excludes revolving credit.

Source: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0; *Lending Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5671.0.

15 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved and sector: **Trend**

Reference period	HOUSES		OTHER DWELLINGS		TOTAL DWELLINGS	
	Private	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2002–2003	16 915	17 521	3 172	3 587	20 087	21 108
2003–2004	18 718	19 189	3 771	4 049	22 489	23 238
2004–2005	19 030	19 518	3 960	4 567	22 990	24 085
2004						
November	1 593	1 622	294	344	1 887	1 966
December	1 636	1 660	283	333	1 919	1 993
2005						
January	1 660	1 681	293	342	1 953	2 023
February	1 666	1 691	311	360	1 977	2 051
March	1 656	1 691	330	377	1 986	2 068
April	1 626	1 677	342	389	1 968	2 066
May	1 596	1 662	332	379	1 928	2 041
June	1 588	1 663	303	352	1 891	2 015
July	1 611	1 687	269	316	1 880	2 003
August	1 656	1 725	248	291	1 904	2 016
September	1 707	1 765	256	298	1 963	2 063
October	1 751	1 801	288	338	2 039	2 139
November	1 783	1 829	332	397	2 115	2 226
December	1 806	1 850	382	468	2 188	2 318
2006						
January	1 814	1 860	431	541	2 245	2 401

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

16 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2002–2003	18 049	3 633	21 682	21 780	19	21 799
2003–2004	19 556	4 031	23 587	23 674	35	23 709
2004–2005	19 351	4 591	23 942	24 046	31	24 077
2004						
November	1 721	199	1 920	1 924	2	1 926
December	1 531	390	1 921	1 957	1	1 958
2005						
January	1 538	166	1 704	1 707	1	1 708
February	1 552	416	1 968	1 984	3	1 987
March	1 567	371	1 938	1 945	—	1 945
April	1 461	559	2 020	2 026	3	2 029
May	1 911	327	2 238	2 247	—	2 247
June	1 765	395	2 160	2 165	8	2 173
July	r1 707	350	r2 057	r2 058	—	r2 058
August	r1 837	r413	r2 250	r2 266	—	r2 266
September	r1 747	r163	r1 910	r1 911	1	r1 912
October	r1 959	234	r2 193	r2 198	—	r2 198
November	2 032	324	2 356	2 362	6	2 368
December	1 598	437	2 035	2 037	2	2 039
2006						
January	1 583	335	1 918	2 028	—	2 028

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

17 BUILDING APPROVALS, By value of dwelling units approved—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
2002–2003	2 554.5	473.8	3 028.3	3 319.9	1 552.3	4 872.2
2003–2004	2 995.3	558.6	3 553.9	3 876.9	1 521.8	5 398.7
2004–2005	r3 321.5	763.7	r4 085.2	r4 442.4	r1 961.6	r6 403.9
2004						
November	294.5	43.3	337.8	375.0	166.1	541.0
December	260.1	79.8	340.0	375.8	171.1	546.9
2005						
January	253.5	25.4	278.9	300.8	169.5	470.3
February	261.1	75.5	336.6	360.3	279.5	639.8
March	275.2	45.4	320.6	350.1	83.2	433.2
April	256.7	80.4	337.1	367.4	150.7	518.1
May	349.6	55.3	404.9	441.1	r121.2	r562.3
June	r316.2	58.5	r374.7	r406.4	r296.4	r702.8
July	r308.0	77.1	r385.1	r417.1	r162.2	r579.3
August	r354.6	r91.6	r446.2	r481.2	143.6	r624.8
September	r330.2	r30.3	r360.4	r392.6	r139.2	r531.8
October	r364.9	56.6	r421.5	r459.3	r138.0	r597.3
November	385.0	60.2	445.3	492.1	175.7	667.8
December	315.3	79.8	395.1	424.9	224.8	649.7
2006						
January	310.0	55.2	365.3	417.2	111.6	528.9

r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

18 BUILDING ACTIVITY, By number of dwelling units and stage of production: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
COMMENCED						
2002–2003	16 814	3 328	20 142	20 232	49	20 281
2003–2004	18 501	3 826	22 327	22 394	26	22 420
2004–2005	r18 129	r4 546	r22 675	r22 765	23	r22 788
2004						
June	4 365	924	5 289	5 308	18	5 326
September	4 752	1 334	6 087	6 109	16	6 125
December	4 545	1 021	5 566	5 574	1	5 575
2005						
March	4 324	1 033	5 357	5 386	—	5 386
June	r4 507	r1 158	r5 666	r5 696	6	r5 702
September	5 668	1 192	6 860	6 882	6	6 888
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2002–2003	7 853	2 804	10 657	10 832	48	10 881
2003–2004	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
2004–2005	r12 931	r4 895	r17 827	r17 909	51	r17 960
2004						
June	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
September	11 246	4 409	15 655	15 712	77	15 789
December	12 116	4 678	16 793	r16 859	70	r16 929
2005						
March	13 174	5 058	18 232	18 291	63	18 353
June	r12 931	r4 895	r17 827	r17 909	51	r17 960
September	14 557	5 094	19 651	19 731	57	19 788
COMPLETED						
2002–2003	15 701	2 575	18 276	18 384	20	18 404
2003–2004	15 472	2 814	18 286	18 475	14	18 489
2004–2005	r15 831	3 384	r19 215	r19 279	33	r19 312
2004						
June	4 334	744	5 079	5 109	6	5 115
September	4 256	723	4 979	4 997	—	4 997
December	3 616	716	4 332	4 339	8	4 347
2005						
March	3 261	621	3 882	3 907	7	3 914
June	r4 698	1 324	r6 022	r6 036	18	r6 054
September	3 986	993	4 979	4 995	—	4 995

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

19 BUILDING ACTIVITY, By value and stage of production—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
			COMMENCED			
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	3 164.2	1 555.8	4 720.0
2003–2004	2 857.8	576.5	3 434.3	3 744.2	1 464.7	5 208.9
2004–2005	r3 126.2	r786.0	r3 912.2	r4 277.6	r1 752.1	r6 029.8
2004						
June	690.1	125.6	815.7	901.2	408.8	1 310.0
September	794.1	190.1	984.2	1 071.7	359.1	1 430.8
December	767.2	213.0	980.2	1 075.8	396.7	1 472.5
2005						
March	751.5	189.0	940.4	1 033.0	686.1	1 719.1
June	r813.4	r193.9	r1 007.4	r1 097.1	r310.3	r1 407.4
September	1 064.9	213.0	1 277.9	1 383.1	453.7	1 836.8
			UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD			
2002–2003	1 334.5	455.6	1 790.2	1 964.6	1 239.8	3 204.4
2003–2004	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
2004–2005	r2 512.2	r924.6	r3 436.8	r3 673.1	r1 574.5	r5 247.6
2004						
June	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
September	2 068.5	744.6	2 813.1	r3 009.3	1 330.9	r4 340.2
December	2 220.7	846.8	3 067.5	r3 281.3	1 366.4	r4 647.7
2005						
March	2 471.1	908.6	3 379.7	3 609.7	1 696.4	5 306.1
June	r2 512.2	r924.6	r3 436.8	r3 673.1	r1 574.5	r5 247.6
September	2 932.2	1 018.1	3 950.4	4 208.3	1 720.4	5 928.7
			COMPLETED			
2002–2003	2 190.0	368.5	2 558.5	2 837.4	1 019.7	3 857.1
2003–2004	2 312.3	413.1	2 725.4	3 061.6	1 593.8	4 655.3
2004–2005	r2 567.5	522.8	r3 090.3	r3 438.1	r1 451.8	r4 889.9
2004						
June	670.4	121.2	791.6	874.0	471.3	1 345.3
September	644.2	92.8	737.0	824.4	231.3	1 055.7
December	604.7	114.2	718.9	811.2	392.3	1 203.5
2005						
March	515.0	123.9	638.9	706.8	388.8	1 095.5
June	r803.6	191.9	r995.5	r1 095.8	r439.5	r1 535.2
September	658.3	146.2	804.5	888.7	375.2	1 263.9
			WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD			
2002–2003	692.3	232.0	924.2	992.8	540.9	1 533.7
2003–2004	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
2004–2005	r1 325.8	r472.2	r1 798.0	r1 890.0	r802.6	r2 692.6
2004						
June	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
September	1 149.4	373.9	1 523.3	1 604.8	630.4	2 235.2
December	1 218.6	429.1	1 647.7	1 739.2	636.8	2 376.0
2005						
March	1 255.6	455.7	1 711.4	1 804.2	922.7	2 726.9
June	r1 325.8	r472.2	r1 798.0	r1 890.0	r802.6	r2 692.6
September	1 550.4	503.4	2 053.8	2 160.8	792.9	2 953.7

r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

20 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, By value, stage and type of construction—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions	Bridges, railways and harbours	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage	Telecommunications	Heavy industry	Recreation and other	Total
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
WORK COMMENCED DURING REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	817.8	411.8	206.9	284.0	333.0	2 372.6	194.5	4 620.7
2003–2004	985.6	1 619.7	256.4	234.4	333.6	1 252.3	189.3	4 871.2
2004–2005	r927.2	r681.6	r1 036.1	r434.9	r347.0	r4 816.6	r321.5	r8 565.0
2004								
June	^205.0	^46.4	^39.9	*75.5	99.8	185.5	^40.4	692.5
September	^303.8	^67.6	298.1	*97.0	^69.5	1 749.3	^63.5	2 648.8
December	^r200.6	518.7	^r302.8	*r66.8	r83.3	r736.6	^r111.1	r2 020.0
2005								
March	^r201.2	^r47.1	^341.8	^r58.9	64.0	r1 946.7	*r84.1	r2 743.9
June	r221.6	r48.2	**r93.4	^r212.1	130.1	r384.0	*r62.8	r1 152.3
September	^377.8	67.9	**98.6	*108.2	92.6	2 238.1	^87.9	3 071.1
WORK DONE DURING REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	855.7	331.0	668.0	250.3	365.2	2 060.5	204.6	4 735.3
2003–2004	1 004.3	371.3	683.9	302.6	334.3	1 989.7	194.5	4 880.6
2004–2005	r976.3	r1 142.5	r597.9	r346.4	r323.1	r2 135.4	r316.3	r5 837.9
2004								
June	284.4	172.6	^148.0	*96.7	95.8	475.3	*59.1	1 331.9
September	214.4	236.9	114.5	*92.4	70.9	563.9	*61.9	1 354.9
December	r243.8	332.4	r149.7	*r93.2	r81.3	498.6	*r85.5	r1 484.4
2005								
March	^r244.9	r286.0	r192.7	^r63.7	72.6	r518.3	*r86.1	r1 464.3
June	r273.1	r287.2	^r141.0	^r97.1	98.4	r554.6	^r82.8	r1 534.3
September	^282.9	305.5	149.1	*94.3	95.0	760.0	^81.5	1 768.3
WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	171.3	121.6	483.2	93.8	20.0	1 486.7	11.0	2 387.6
2003–2004	235.5	1 413.0	163.1	59.3	26.4	878.0	27.7	2 803.1
2004–2005	r223.1	r1 080.0	r939.7	r161.1	r51.9	r3 979.1	r42.9	r6 477.8
2004								
June	^235.5	1 413.0	163.1	*59.3	26.4	878.0	*27.7	2 803.1
September	289.3	1 276.4	302.0	*56.1	17.5	2 076.1	^31.8	4 049.3
December	r245.4	1 490.3	^r441.0	^r47.3	24.3	r2 484.8	^r65.9	r4 799.0
2005								
March	r245.9	r1 284.0	^563.9	*r33.8	15.7	r4 047.0	^r54.1	r6 244.3
June	r223.1	r1 080.0	^r939.7	r161.1	r51.9	r3 979.1	^r42.9	r6 477.8
September	336.1	924.9	^792.7	^170.8	42.4	5 416.2	^49.1	7 732.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

r revised

Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8762.0.

21 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By major commodity

Category of the SITC		2004 September $'000	2004 December $'000	2005 March $'000	2005 June $'000	2005 September $'000	2005 December $'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES(a)							
001	Live animals	87 986	113 311	87 284	68 353	116 640	126 206
036	Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	48 120	63 744	98 772	131 054	54 158	53 505
041	Wheat	558 897	464 109	436 999	287 557	384 042	436 874
268	Wool and other animal hair	117 153	132 119	107 747	133 069	95 927	113 740
281	Iron ore and concentrates	1 699 979	1 722 093	1 708 707	2 900 353	2 980 134	3 295 360
284	Nickel ores and concentrates	148 401	196 329	189 549	120 875	114 575	208 710
287	Ores and concentrates of base metal	55 505	72 398	56 710	76 827	59 581	127 255
333	Crude petroleum oils	1 260 669	1 195 944	1 209 048	1 462 065	1 557 495	1 434 685
334	Refined petroleum oils	101 994	141 300	168 598	97 366	217 679	113 924
342	Liquefied propane and butane	141 602	93 196	131 811	146 671	157 675	179 693
343	Natural gas	700 774	869 188	759 160	869 246	966 131	1 056 698
533	Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	115 580	98 714	98 025	108 895	99 809	117 438
683	Nickel	116 859	158 109	140 092	122 483	81 893	149 685
971	Gold, non-monetary	1 361 749	1 488 895	1 342 052	1 422 823	1 463 956	1 558 283
988	Confidential items	1 754 457	1 749 858	1 896 539	1 909 126	1 738 209	1 986 375
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES(b)							
333	Crude petroleum oils	327 648	394 017	396 462	535 352	285 475	501 189
334	Refined petroleum oils	172 704	223 314	184 215	273 046	332 705	376 173
562	Fertilisers	38 763	89 396	112 879	128 056	53 478	62 970
625	Rubber tyres	45 566	53 843	50 139	54 620	51 196	50 284
679	Iron or steel tubes and pipes	39 231	41 692	59 865	55 716	58 184	59 969
723	Civil engineering plant and equipment	82 015	113 417	112 364	121 685	121 335	118 077
728	Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	55 209	51 512	51 271	61 179	59 980	78 414
752	Automatic data processing machines	50 375	41 590	37 851	45 188	38 447	44 195
759	Parts and accessories of office machines	42 391	34 574	35 993	39 290	34 023	47 312
781	Passenger motor vehicles	261 671	244 112	260 316	281 379	291 303	314 116
782	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	140 022	138 678	114 276	156 470	134 214	161 420
792	Aircraft and associated equipment	53 665	48 272	21 450	21 679	11 671	26 122
793	Ships, boats and floating structures	6 554	22 660	21 496	8 211	34 645	14 364
971	Gold, non-monetary	493 799	384 927	413 741	618 236	641 406	608 790
988	Confidential items	84 179	101 573	133 917	136 162	150 440	142 770

(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS(a) December quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS(a) September quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) December quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) December quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS(b) September quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) December quarter 2005 $'000
0	**Food & live animals**(c)						
00	Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates	113 311	116 640	126 206	12	17	9
01	Meat & meat preparations	113 015	92 035	119 132	9 349	3 024	9 298
02	Dairy products & birds' eggs	22 484	19 402	22 468	6 933	5 152	5 044
03	Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates, & preparations thereof(c)	67 606	56 818	54 976	22 394	16 813	24 849
04	Cereals & cereal preparations(c)	490 016	406 097	454 046	6 862	7 850	7 346
05	Vegetables & fruit	24 166	21 591	21 481	14 802	13 007	15 677
06	Sugars, sugar preparations & honey(c)	1 173	864	2 035	3 942	2 899	2 447
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, & manufactures thereof	170	343	175	2 903	2 896	2 484
08	Feeding stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)(c)	33 942	30 676	39 049	776	5 044	2 719
09	Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	3 003	2 864	4 519	10 225	9 706	9 798
	Total food & live animals(d)	*868 887*	*747 331*	*844 088*	*78 198*	*66 409*	*79 670*
1	**Beverages & tobacco**						
11	Beverages	11 601	12 519	11 907	10 590	9 461	13 263
12	Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	26	5	—	34	22	30
	Total beverages & tobacco(d)	*11 627*	*12 524*	*11 907*	*10 624*	*9 483*	*13 293*
2	**Crude materials, inedible, except fuels**(c)						
21	Hides, skins & furskins, raw(c)	12 229	8 160	11 822	—	—	4
22	Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	53 245	19 956	42 307	505	452	333
23	Crude rubber (incl. synthetic and reclaimed)	72	84	72	582	730	1 087
24	Cork & wood	8 027	42 858	61 131	7 236	6 789	8 861
25	Pulp & waste paper	4 675	4 428	4 934	1 022	804	672
26	Textile fibres & their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)(c)	132 404	96 258	114 132	970	747	812
27	Crude fertilisers (excl. those of Division 56) & crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum & precious stones)	22 583	23 342	30 052	12 598	11 585	12 325
28	Metalliferous ores & metal scrap(c)	2 057 654	3 304 577	3 805 307	642	1 166	3 865
29	Crude animal & vegetable materials, n.e.s.	11 842	6 525	11 290	6 366	2 896	5 091
	Total crude materials, inedible, except fuels(d)	*2 302 731*	*3 506 189*	*4 081 048*	*29 921*	*25 170*	*33 051*
3	**Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials**						
32	Coal, coke & briquettes	73	279	111	141	270	720
33	Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	1 337 244	1 775 204	1 548 640	620 969	623 200	883 627
34	Gas, natural & manufactured	962 384	1 123 806	1 236 421	28	26	33
	Total mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials(d)	*2 299 701*	*2 899 289*	*2 785 171*	*621 138*	*623 496*	*884 379*
4	**Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes**(c)						
41	Animal oils & fats	5 040	3 450	4 784	81	91	110
42	Fixed vegetable fats & oils, crude, refined or fractionated(c)	2 203	1 839	1 542	3 911	5 327	3 351
43	Fats & oils (processed), waxes & inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	33	82	85	184	200	192
	Total animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes(d)	*7 276*	*5 371*	*6 410*	*4 175*	*5 618*	*3 654*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.
(d) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity *continued*

		EXPORTS(a)			IMPORTS(b)		
		December quarter 2004	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2004*	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*
Section and Division of the SITC		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
5	**Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.**(c)						
51	Organic chemicals(c)	510	280	446	37 272	26 788	47 049
52	Inorganic chemicals(c)	54 800	55 552	54 752	26 710	25 676	24 938
53	Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	98 714	99 809	117 438	2 927	3 621	3 570
54	Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	90 497	73 022	71 052	117 851	81 138	28 278
55	Essential oils & resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, polishing & cleansing preparations	2 171	1 825	2 881	4 168	3 636	5 558
56	Fertilisers (excl. crude)	2 559	123	94	89 396	53 478	62 970
57	Plastics in primary forms(c)	2 721	3 205	3 894	9 950	8 701	9 570
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	3 957	9 340	4 262	19 886	16 376	18 838
59	Chemical materials & products, n.e.s.	2 521	2 717	4 890	16 769	16 014	13 632
	Total chemicals & related products, n.e.s.(d)	*258 449*	*245 873*	*259 708*	*324 931*	*235 428*	*214 403*
6	**Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material**(c)						
61	Leather, leather manufactures, & dressed furskins, n.e.s.	1 780	850	1 003	2 284	1 342	1 040
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	2 216	3 781	5 097	69 726	71 937	66 876
63	Cork & wood manufactures (excl. furniture)(c)	2 173	2 707	2 989	12 819	10 967	12 585
64	Paper, paperboard, & articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	1 322	2 948	1 255	20 307	17 771	19 212
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., & related products	2 532	2 989	2 075	26 210	25 087	27 009
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(c)	53 040	46 492	68 222	50 244	58 718	77 446
67	Iron & steel(c)	21 324	4 191	10 950	91 928	121 152	108 722
68	Non-ferrous metals	209 313	130 667	235 335	21 955	45 882	24 276
69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	15 486	14 627	19 410	92 668	90 512	105 384
	Total manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(d)	*309 185*	*209 254*	*346 336*	*388 141*	*443 369*	*442 550*
7	**Machinery & transport equipment**(c)						
71	Power generating machinery & equipment	16 671	11 267	14 312	58 068	68 061	57 425
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	41 162	106 308	42 228	222 069	251 879	228 724
73	Metal working machinery	1 557	825	1 397	11 690	12 661	9 504
74	General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s. & machine parts, n.e.s.(c)	23 442	29 381	33 456	270 938	194 474	262 018
75	Office machines & automatic data processing machines	3 271	3 409	4 225	85 171	76 447	98 527
76	Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment	8 743	6 308	7 560	41 622	45 323	53 045
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (incl. non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	8 936	13 908	17 070	101 154	85 895	77 342
78	Road vehicles (incl. air-cushion vehicles)	18 556	14 054	7 797	450 565	492 385	544 243
79	Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	6 088	6 723	5 818	74 041	71 871	92 316
	Total machinery & transport equipment(d)	*128 426*	*192 182*	*133 864*	*1 315 318*	*1 298 995*	*1 423 145*

(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.
(d) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity *continued*

		EXPORTS(a)			IMPORTS(b)		
		December quarter 2004	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2004*	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*
Section and Division of the SITC		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
8	**Miscellaneous manufactured articles**(c)						
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating & lighting fixtures & fittings, n.e.s.	2 437	1 772	1 376	7 951	8 070	7 633
82	Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions & similar stuffed furnishings	3 936	1 461	4 973	59 993	67 878	64 755
83	Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	67	56	40	3 676	4 382	4 070
84	Articles of apparel & clothing accessories	544	573	757	19 428	22 720	21 480
85	Footwear(c)	215	224	497	8 923	15 792	9 961
87	Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s.	19 111	11 753	16 112	46 540	48 431	54 108
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment & supplies & optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks	219	433	691	4 560	3 103	3 402
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	11 435	10 559	9 320	63 902	86 229	80 980
	Total miscellaneous manufactured articles(d)	*37 963*	*26 832*	*33 767*	*214 973*	*256 605*	*246 389*
9	**Commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC**(e)						
93	Special transactions & commodities not classified according to kind	10 887	11 414	12 427	180	250	480
95	Gold coin whether or not legal tender, & other coin being legal tender	34 325	26 030	32 552	1 121	23	241
96	Coin (excl. gold coin), not being legal tender	—	24	163	17 058	3	26
97	Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold ores & concentrates)	1 488 895	1 463 956	1 558 283	384 927	641 406	608 790
98	Combined confidential items excl. some of SITC 280 (exports only) & some of SITCs 510 & 520 (imports only)(e)	1 749 858	1 738 209	1 986 375	101 573	150 440	142 770
	Total commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC(d)	*3 283 966*	*3 239 633*	*3 589 800*	*504 859*	*792 123*	*752 306*
	Total merchandise trade(d)	**9 508 211**	**11 084 478**	**12 092 099**	**3 492 278**	**3 756 696**	**4 092 839**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.
(d) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.
(e) Includes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction.
Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

23 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By selected country

	EXPORTS(a)			IMPORTS(b)			BALANCE OF TRADE		
	December quarter 2004	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2004*	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2004*	*September quarter 2005*	*December quarter 2005*
Country	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Austria	1 743	3 182	1 128	31 366	48 396	39 732	–29 623	–45 215	–38 604
Belgium(c)	84 610	64 246	105 451	12 562	17 475	16 528	72 048	46 771	88 923
Brazil	6 449	4 383	9 758	9 025	10 928	11 486	–2 576	–6 545	–1 728
Canada	221 655	128 393	164 062	67 192	36 668	60 587	154 462	91 725	103 475
China	1 500 070	2 201 565	2 595 592	266 752	288 630	293 490	1 233 319	1 912 935	2 302 102
Egypt	25 860	25 199	47 184	318	525	949	25 542	24 674	46 234
Finland	114 737	90 548	194 171	27 185	36 748	39 567	87 552	53 800	154 604
France	57 365	44 396	53 861	50 170	39 725	49 859	7 195	4 671	4 003
Germany	23 582	30 897	20 512	121 468	143 457	131 838	–97 886	–112 560	–111 325
Hong Kong(d)	67 830	56 028	51 645	8 913	9 895	63 944	58 917	46 133	–12 299
India	750 929	981 817	514 727	45 025	20 424	26 705	705 904	961 393	488 022
Indonesia	225 597	383 289	231 930	132 214	194 038	153 322	93 383	189 251	78 608
Iran	20 670	658	1 054	170	99	231	20 500	560	823
Iraq	61 692	16 142	94 580	—	—	—	61 692	16 142	94 580
Israel	14 609	2 141	7 696	23 759	8 621	15 112	–9 149	–6 481	–7 416
Italy	43 346	61 845	50 643	171 717	129 676	83 231	–128 372	–67 830	–32 588
Japan	1 903 256	2 592 918	2 903 150	368 695	377 005	408 540	1 534 561	2 215 912	2 494 610
Korea, Republic of	791 792	1 009 741	1 187 480	73 760	84 328	135 561	718 033	925 412	1 051 919
Kuwait	46 441	29 615	35 406	234	138	118	46 207	29 477	35 289
Malaysia	83 176	71 904	109 877	156 368	111 527	241 768	–73 191	–39 624	–131 891
Mozambique	96 364	130 998	91 375	47	—	—	96 317	130 998	91 375
Netherlands	80 491	89 517	102 638	20 422	30 586	36 188	60 068	58 932	66 450
New Zealand	312 181	219 931	205 999	126 154	103 377	112 133	186 027	116 554	93 865
Norway	11 254	8 535	6 802	37 476	7 004	15 006	–26 222	1 531	–8 205
Pakistan	48 206	9 269	35 359	1 079	1 516	1 499	47 127	7 753	33 860
Papua New Guinea	70 808	36 761	82 304	108 127	134 304	123 671	–37 319	–97 543	–41 367
Philippines	25 270	36 926	14 653	4 102	6 606	4 941	21 168	30 321	9 713
Saudi Arabia	19 629	64 077	116 601	116 446	47 985	235 284	–96 817	16 092	–118 682
Singapore	301 874	515 133	468 629	354 663	483 118	662 343	–52 789	32 015	–193 714
South Africa	233 473	236 164	208 652	47 047	64 171	56 478	186 426	171 994	152 174
Spain	94 090	78 629	66 571	23 132	26 132	28 861	70 957	52 497	37 710
Sweden	5 975	1 561	9 577	51 840	46 630	43 385	–45 865	–45 069	–33 808
Switzerland	17 127	4 009	29 627	18 032	10 349	15 369	–905	–6 340	14 258
Taiwan	239 086	305 928	318 898	64 641	45 325	103 862	174 445	260 603	215 036
Thailand	561 172	492 293	324 625	116 599	114 874	138 015	444 574	377 419	186 610
Turkey	48 483	63 534	12 139	4 011	3 469	3 714	44 471	60 065	8 425
United Arab Emirates	135 272	110 703	110 548	167 786	61 973	65 147	–32 515	48 730	45 401
United Kingdom	418 357	334 121	826 740	115 235	365 286	106 448	303 122	–31 165	720 292
United States of America	520 683	219 640	378 998	373 724	409 269	421 610	146 960	–189 630	–42 612
Viet Nam	28 146	48 098	21 155	42 451	86 576	13 475	–14 305	–38 478	7 680
Other countries	194 863	279 744	280 302	132 372	149 844	132 842	62 491	129 900	147 460
Total(e)	**9 508 211**	**11 084 478**	**12 092 099**	**3 492 278**	**3 756 696**	**4 092 839**	**6 015 933**	**7 327 782**	**7 999 260**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) Prior to July 2003, Belgium and Luxembourg were combined. Belgium–Luxembourg is included in 'Other countries' up to and including June 2003.
(d) SAR of China.
(e) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

24 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE(a), By selected mineral

Reference period	SELECTED MINERALS (ORIGINAL)						ORIGINAL	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	TREND	ORIGINAL
	Copper	*Silver, lead, zinc*	*Nickel, cobalt*	*Gold*	*Iron ore*	*Diamonds*	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total petroleum*
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	np	np	54.1	265.6	43.4	17.7	423.6	423.9	414.4	598.3
2003–2004	np	np	70.6	276.7	np	17.0	465.8	465.1	466.7	670.5
2004–2005	4.7	4.8	148.7	259.6	136.9	15.9	606.0	607.1	603.4	526.5
2004										
September	np	np	28.7	73.9	29.6	4.6	147.9	143.9	141.1	129.7
December	1.9	0.6	38.0	67.5	35.0	5.3	156.7	146.9	150.9	113.1
2005										
March	np	np	40.9	54.1	27.3	2.2	134.4	158.5	155.8	154.3
June	1.4	1.8	41.1	64.1	45.1	3.8	167.0	157.9	155.7	129.4
September	2.3	1.7	36.5	62.0	35.9	4.0	154.4	150.3	152.6	135.1
December	2.2	4.4	33.7	61.1	41.4	4.6	158.0	148.0	147.9	152.8

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes expenditure on Western Australian leases in the Zone of Cooperation Area B.

(b) Includes minerals not listed.

Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

25 MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION: **Original**

Reference period	Gold(a)	Diamonds	Iron ore(b)	Bauxite	Ilmenite	Nickel	Zinc(c)	Coal	Electricity generated	Crude oil(d)	Natural gas(e)
	SELECTED MINERALS							ENERGY			
	tonnes	'000 carats	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	million kWh	megalitres	million m^3
2002–2003	190	31 901	193 251	36 567	1 911	183	246	6 323	20 001	19 428	20 179
2003–2004	174	24 292	216 609	38 072	1 774	185	91	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2004–2005	173	32 446	246 720	38 070	1 873	194	47	6 233	21 956	16 997	24 582
2004											
September	43	5 328	59 718	9 629	458	48	13	1 524	5 279	4 261	6 257
December	42	9 011	61 542	9 431	493	53	6	1 688	5 600	3 872	6 347
2005											
March	45	8 633	60 098	9 798	457	49	13	1 543	5 908	3 891	5 765
June	44	9 474	65 362	9 212	464	43	16	1 478	5 169	4 973	6 213
September	p42	pr6 043	p64 558	p9 653	p497	p48	p18	1 659	5 163	p4 667	pr6 317
December	p42	p6 516	p65 922	p9 833	p463	p50	p22	1 683	5 399	p4 564	p6 691

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

r revised

(a) Gold content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined and unrefined bullion.

(b) For use in iron and steel making.

(c) Zinc content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined zinc, zinc powders, flakes and dust.

(d) Includes condensate.

(e) Commercial sales plus field and plant usage.

Source: ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics;* Department of Industry and Resources; ABS data available on request, *Manufacturing Production, Australia,* cat. no. 8301.0.55.001.

26 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND RED MEAT PRODUCED(a): **All series**

	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b)					RED MEAT PRODUCED(c)				
	Cattle(d)	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Beef*(e)	*Veal*	*Mutton*	*Lamb*	*Pig meat*
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
ORIGINAL										
2002–2003	429.3	5.3	1 771.8	2 021.0	672.3	105 074	300	35 431	39 568	45 490
2003–2004	462.9	4.7	1 845.4	2 391.8	674.4	116 555	258	37 094	47 212	45 190
2004–2005	510.5	4.3	2 205.2	2 466.7	643.7	131 407	250	43 842	49 122	43 471
2004										
September	122.0	1.2	479.1	577.7	170.6	30 219	63	9 617	11 183	11 533
December	126.6	1.1	606.0	639.4	152.6	32 317	74	12 066	12 380	10 220
2005										
March	126.1	0.9	651.6	575.6	156.8	32 581	51	12 880	11 693	10 614
June	135.8	1.1	468.5	674.0	163.7	36 289	61	9 279	13 866	11 105
September	106.1	1.1	442.1	705.4	152.8	26 452	79	9 515	14 544	10 320
December	114.4	1.0	576.7	695.8	141.6	30 467	65	12 845	14 364	9 433
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2002–2003	428.1	5.3	1 749.1	2 019.5	673.3	104 536	302	34 944	39 538	45 514
2003–2004	461.4	4.7	1 855.2	2 389.3	673.7	116 463	257	37 050	47 167	45 220
2004–2005	364.2	3.3	1 606.7	1 803.1	487.1	132 399	251	44 170	49 115	43 486
2004										
September	127.1	1.1	559.2	617.3	167.5	31 985	54	11 147	12 012	11 279
December	117.0	1.1	531.8	597.3	160.4	29 328	77	10 502	11 681	10 913
2005										
March	122.5	1.1	535.7	587.9	159.2	31 296	58	10 608	11 919	10 801
June	146.5	1.1	591.0	664.9	156.7	39 791	61	11 914	13 503	10 493
September	110.3	1.0	521.5	750.9	149.9	27 930	68	11 140	15 548	10 093
December	106.6	1.0	503.8	653.0	149.1	27 772	68	11 124	13 632	10 076
TREND										
2002–2003	430.0	5.2	1 715.5	2 025.0	672.5	105 113	295	34 293	39 704	45 428
2003–2004	461.6	4.7	1 859.3	2 376.3	674.7	116 369	260	37 262	46 768	45 353
2004–2005	363.4	3.3	1 620.9	1 810.9	486.4	128 738	255	44 094	49 810	43 353
2004										
September	121.4	1.1	555.2	619.6	165.2	30 488	63	11 046	12 097	11 148
December	123.9	1.1	549.6	597.9	162.3	31 438	64	10 858	11 791	10 990
2005										
March	128.5	1.1	551.0	616.9	158.9	33 277	64	10 939	12 374	10 753
June	127.9	1.0	552.0	663.3	155.3	33 534	64	11 252	13 547	10 461
September	120.3	1.0	537.3	695.1	151.8	31 514	65	11 360	14 365	10 211
December	109.6	1.0	513.2	701.2	148.3	28 389	69	11 264	14 592	10 006

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered for red meat production on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.
(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.
(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.
(d) Excludes calves.
(e) Excludes veal.

Source: Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0.

27 WHEAT AND LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	WHEAT(a) Gross weight		LIVE SHEEP Gross weight		
	Gross weight	Gross value	Gross weight	Quantity	Gross value
	tonnes	$'000	tonnes	no.	$'000
2002–2003	5 081 468	1 415 256	170 557	3 704 998	264 642
2003–2004	7 923 614	1 784 855	129 905	2 732 173	187 865
2004–2005	8 123 349	1 747 563	141 398	2 791 374	176 615
2004					
September	2 453 555	558 897	42 002	719 685	48 532
December	2 199 070	464 109	40 653	813 357	52 100
2005					
March	2 079 100	436 999	37 675	787 317	47 837
June	1 391 625	287 557	21 069	471 015	28 147
September	1 881 894	384 042	49 955	980 562	67 592
December	2 014 259	436 874	58 065	1 212 068	84 112

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

28 WOOL RECEIVALS(a): **Original**

Reference period	*Brokers receivals*		*Dealers receivals*		*Total receivals*	
	'000 bales	tonnes	'000 bales	tonnes	'000 bales	tonnes
2002–2003	518 109	92 450	r92 805	16 290	r610 914	108 739
2003–2004	510 299	r89 664	r117 232	r20 190	r627 531	r109 853
2004–2005	495 381	r88 049	109 477	r19 005	604 858	107 054
2004						
September	123 152	22 021	31 457	5 500	154 609	27 521
December	133 826	23 781	27 589	4 782	161 415	28 563
2005						
March	160 961	28 354	26 068	4 546	187 029	32 900
June	77 442	13 894	24 363	4 176	101 805	18 070
September	128 554	22 751	33 373	5 786	161 927	28 538
December	147 031	26 052	30 389	5 320	177 420	31 371

r revised

(a) Shows the amount of taxable wool received by brokers and purchased by dealers from wool producers. It excludes wool received by brokers on which tax has already been paid by other dealers (private buyers) or brokers.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Livestock Products, Australia,* cat. no. 7215.0.

29 OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: **Original**

Reference period	Permanent	LONG-TERM(a) WA residents	LONG-TERM(a) Overseas visitors	SHORT-TERM(b) WA residents	SHORT-TERM(b) Overseas visitors	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
ARRIVALS						
2002–2003	12 279	10 900	19 436	373 829	460 534	876 977
2003–2004	15 411	10 854	19 705	428 853	483 472	958 294
2004–2005	16 318	11 451	20 823	531 400	500 117	1 080 108
2004						
October	1 326	884	1 536	53 667	41 939	99 352
November	1 294	1 151	906	39 904	48 800	92 055
December	1 389	1 795	921	32 911	62 656	99 672
2005						
January	1 500	1 059	2 887	63 315	39 876	108 638
February	1 266	847	4 188	35 493	48 800	90 594
March	1 611	1 052	1 356	40 236	52 059	96 314
April	1 369	797	1 339	43 079	36 987	83 570
May	1 421	670	966	38 881	31 930	73 868
June	1 196	766	1 289	43 630	33 079	79 960
July	1 231	855	3 377	61 956	36 023	103 442
August	1 506	856	1 486	48 749	33 403	86 000
September	1 493	891	1 386	52 982	39 150	95 901
October	1 506	979	1 820	57 465	45 778	107 548
November	1 550	1 080	1 359	38 300	46 665	88 954
December	1 599	2 013	1 194	32 809	64 439	102 054
DEPARTURES						
2002–2003	5 430	9 253	6 730	372 625	450 453	844 492
2003–2004	6 223	8 987	8 223	454 236	455 540	933 208
2004–2005	6 387	9 683	8 370	531 698	495 331	1 051 467
2004						
October	426	598	513	44 666	35 925	82 128
November	472	639	812	38 735	48 233	88 891
December	538	781	1 304	54 783	46 609	104 015
2005						
January	836	1 322	767	40 444	55 397	98 765
February	479	801	543	32 769	43 058	77 650
March	537	880	639	42 313	49 100	93 469
April	645	950	486	43 957	46 007	92 045
May	453	857	537	46 617	36 437	84 901
June	481	707	860	51 486	40 802	94 335
July	543	768	792	55 525	30 780	88 408
August	614	809	601	49 318	37 939	89 280
September	481	633	517	56 498	33 802	91 932
October	501	582	524	42 135	38 952	82 694
November	517	638	697	39 831	49 362	91 045
December	678	861	1 284	57 743	49 910	110 476

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is 12 months or more.
(b) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is less than 12 months.
Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,* cat. no. 3401.0.

30 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS AND HOLIDAY DEPARTURES OF RESIDENTS(a), By air: Original

Reference period	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Europe(b)	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Hong Kong(c)	Japan	United States of America	South Africa	Total(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS(e)												
2002–2003	7 617	53 002	28 207	8 899	21 822	40 301	5 110	5 097	27 338	4 015	3 451	217 963
2003–2004	8 797	56 304	29 185	8 680	30 401	36 268	6 601	5 236	28 069	4 504	4 678	231 194
2004–2005	12 043	56 925	30 984	7 810	25 407	47 473	5 324	5 900	31 197	4 323	3 177	245 156
2004												
October	1 141	6 031	3 442	305	1 249	2 274	661	271	3 042	449	145	20 194
November	677	5 769	3 508	1 264	3 119	5 576	387	390	2 834	330	256	25 499
December	1 425	9 053	4 083	781	2 477	6 445	651	779	2 781	560	544	31 325
2005												
January	707	5 946	2 796	303	732	1 492	243	131	2 369	271	92	16 341
February	527	6 505	3 199	817	2 786	3 870	203	1 273	3 177	378	306	24 896
March	1 371	8 306	2 879	1 051	2 384	5 510	549	956	2 722	469	361	27 862
April	1 055	3 459	1 800	586	1 949	3 704	887	353	2 119	433	323	17 763
May	963	1 713	1 159	460	3 141	4 773	305	374	2 202	205	164	16 313
June	911	1 580	1 164	694	1 975	7 676	233	415	956	491	159	17 324
July	1 192	3 188	2 787	613	1 456	2 295	337	635	2 276	269	146	16 549
August	952	2 732	2 247	375	2 172	3 342	319	423	3 122	324	472	17 436
September	1 314	3 555	2 385	569	2 090	3 273	385	306	3 463	291	361	18 928
October	1 272	6 097	3 371	920	2 386	4 483	521	458	2 513	188	245	23 764
November	646	6 589	3 515	877	2 318	4 455	111	333	2 863	441	371	23 623
December	1 690	10 770	4 843	1 066	2 442	5 867	466	1 121	2 511	1 089	831	34 879
RESIDENT DEPARTURES(f)												
2002–2003	17 611	18 322	12 903	46 601	11 924	15 180	21 561	3 163	801	6 864	2 726	178 145
2003–2004	21 171	21 134	18 510	75 729	12 503	16 150	18 945	4 025	1 572	9 885	1 900	225 882
2004–2005	24 650	20 515	16 547	94 086	17 720	25 455	22 604	5 959	2 684	10 327	3 164	279 353
2004												
October	1 592	920	1 212	8 726	1 874	1 913	3 503	519	243	779	475	25 610
November	1 507	713	456	7 520	1 325	1 646	1 370	663	212	694	266	18 832
December	3 163	1 874	1 322	6 743	2 409	2 898	1 929	636	305	1 286	681	28 135
2005												
January	2 525	551	258	7 080	1 231	3 087	680	498	465	630	156	19 691
February	2 034	809	366	5 945	919	1 404	1 022	331	206	206	23	15 749
March	2 963	1 009	480	7 030	1 488	2 367	1 696	730	153	707	292	21 476
April	1 447	1 739	1 568	7 627	1 566	2 345	1 645	460	330	1 147	160	23 288
May	915	2 871	3 000	7 343	1 168	1 308	977	486	166	1 415	214	22 706
June	1 335	2 936	2 594	10 495	1 627	2 924	1 704	363	163	771	304	27 459
July	3 142	3 470	1 906	10 666	2 278	3 548	3 239	518	185	998	314	34 018
August	2 218	2 960	1 925	9 699	1 619	2 365	2 224	281	82	914	172	27 956
September	2 262	2 106	2 974	11 250	1 924	2 792	2 536	744	262	1 913	394	33 095
October	1 210	1 286	878	5 012	2 382	2 151	3 707	694	212	964	388	23 053
November	1 683	724	440	3 587	1 652	2 602	2 602	1 086	—	905	116	18 807
December	3 581	2 616	2 141	4 073	3 098	3 131	3 086	771	477	2 358	707	31 353

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.
(b) Excluding United Kingdom and Ireland.
(c) Special Administrative Region of China.
(d) Total includes countries not listed.
(e) Overseas visitor arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.
(f) Resident departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.
Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,* cat. no. 3401.0.

31 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, Summary of Hotels, motels and serviced apartments: **Original**

Quarter	Establishments	Rooms	Room nights occupied	Room occupancy rate	Guest arrivals	Takings from accommodation
	no.	no.	'000	%	'000	$'000
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 5–14 ROOMS						
2004						
June	na	na	na	na	na	na
September	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005						
March	135	1 122	41.9	42.6	40.1	4 408
June	134	1 113	43.0	42.6	41.4	4 423
September	133	1 095	46.0	45.9	44.3	4 773
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 15 OR MORE ROOMS						
2004						
June	341	20 219	1 026.2	55.8	731.9	110 705
September	340	20 375	1 135.5	60.7	823.7	126 265
December	344	20 937	1 174.6	61.3	869.5	134 200
2005						
March	351	20 646	1 129.4	61.0	811.4	129 037
June	350	20 890	1 119.6	59.1	756.3	129 486
September	350	20 807	1 214.0	63.5	872.7	143 553
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 5 OR MORE ROOMS						
2004						
June	na	na	na	na	na	na
September	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005						
March	486	21 768	1 171.3	60.1	851.5	133 445
June	484	22 003	1 162.5	58.2	797.6	133 909
September	483	21 902	1 260.1	62.6	916.9	148 325

na not available

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

32 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, Summary of Caravan parks, Holiday flats, units and houses and Visitor hostels: **Original**

Quarter	Establishments(a)	Capacity(b)	Nights occupied(c)	Occupancy rate(d)	Takings from accommodation
	no.	no.	'000	%	$'000
CARAVAN PARKS(e)(f)					
2003					
June	208	25 641	1 159.1	49.8	21 440
September	207	25 659	1 297.9	55.3	26 028
December	207	26 058	1 081.2	45.1	21 911
2005					
March	206	26 215	1 080.9	46.2	23 336
June	209	26 600	1 138.6	47.1	23 793
September	205	26 072	1 262.0	52.6	27 746
HOLIDAY FLATS, UNITS AND HOUSES					
2003					
June	1 231	5 702	58.2	51.9	4 884
September	1 188	5 466	55.9	51.2	4 913
December	1 186	5 381	60.4	55.3	6 046
2005					
March	1 106	6 306	61.7	62.0	7 562
June	1 096	6 184	51.6	51.7	4 683
September	1 139	6 164	63.6	60.7	5 265
VISITOR HOSTELS(g)					
2003					
June	71	5 398	208.6	42.5	3 832
September	72	5 388	182.4	37.0	3 268
December	73	5 480	216.4	42.9	4 158
2005					
March	72	5 176	235.3	50.7	4 879
June	70	5 118	210.7	45.2	4 220
September	67	5 161	193.8	40.8	3 898

(a) Number of establishments for Caravan parks and Visitor hostels. Total number of Holiday flats, units and houses.
(b) Total capacity for Caravan parks (including on-site vans, other powered sites, unpowered sites and cabins, flats, units and villas). Number of bed spaces for Holiday flats, units and houses and Visitor hostels.
(c) Site nights occupied for Caravan parks. Unit nights occupied for Holiday flats, units and houses. Guest nights occupied for Visitor hostels.
(d) Site occupancy rate for Caravan parks. Unit occupancy rate for Holiday flats, units and houses. Bed occupancy rate for Visitor hostels.
(e) Comprising establishments with 40 or more powered sites and cabins, flats, units and villas.
(f) Break in time series between the March and June quarters 2003. See paragraphs 20 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.
(g) Comprising establishments with 25 or more bed spaces.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

33 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER), By sex: **Trend**

Month	EMPLOYED Full-time	Total	Total unemployed	Labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES						
2004						
December	485.3	567.7	25.1	592.8	74.6	4.2
2005						
January	489.7	571.5	25.1	596.6	75.0	4.2
February	493.2	574.7	25.3	600.1	75.4	4.2
March	495.7	577.5	25.8	603.3	75.7	4.3
April	497.9	580.0	26.5	606.5	76.0	4.4
May	500.0	582.5	26.9	609.4	76.3	4.4
June	502.0	584.8	26.8	611.6	76.4	4.4
July	503.7	587.0	26.2	613.1	76.5	4.3
August	504.9	588.9	25.3	614.1	76.5	4.1
September	505.5	590.4	24.4	614.8	76.4	4.0
October	506.0	591.6	23.7	615.3	76.3	3.9
November	506.4	592.4	23.5	615.9	76.3	3.8
December	507.1	593.0	23.7	616.7	76.3	3.8
2006						
January	508.0	593.6	24.0	617.6	76.3	3.9
February	509.1	594.1	24.4	618.4	76.3	3.9
FEMALES						
2004						
December	229.4	443.7	23.7	467.4	58.1	5.1
2005						
January	231.1	446.3	24.3	470.6	58.4	5.2
February	232.6	449.0	25.0	474.0	58.8	5.3
March	234.4	452.0	25.6	477.6	59.2	5.4
April	236.5	455.2	25.9	481.0	59.5	5.4
May	238.5	458.1	25.5	483.6	59.8	5.3
June	239.7	460.2	24.8	485.0	59.9	5.1
July	239.7	461.5	23.8	485.4	59.8	4.9
August	238.8	462.3	22.9	485.2	59.7	4.7
September	237.5	462.6	22.1	484.8	59.5	4.6
October	236.6	462.7	21.7	484.4	59.4	4.5
November	236.4	463.0	21.4	484.4	59.3	4.4
December	237.2	463.3	21.3	484.6	59.3	4.4
2006						
January	238.5	463.6	21.3	484.9	59.3	4.4
February	240.0	463.8	21.4	485.2	59.3	4.4
PERSONS						
2004						
December	714.8	1 011.5	48.8	1 060.3	66.3	4.6
2005						
January	720.8	1 017.8	49.4	1 067.1	66.7	4.6
February	725.8	1 023.7	50.3	1 074.0	67.0	4.7
March	730.1	1 029.5	51.5	1 080.9	67.4	4.8
April	734.4	1 035.2	52.3	1 087.5	67.7	4.8
May	738.5	1 040.6	52.4	1 093.0	68.0	4.8
June	741.7	1 045.1	51.5	1 096.6	68.1	4.7
July	743.4	1 048.5	50.0	1 098.5	68.1	4.5
August	743.7	1 051.2	48.1	1 099.3	68.0	4.4
September	743.1	1 053.0	46.5	1 099.5	67.9	4.2
October	742.6	1 054.3	45.4	1 099.7	67.8	4.1
November	742.9	1 055.3	45.0	1 100.3	67.8	4.1
December	744.3	1 056.3	45.0	1 101.3	67.7	4.1
2006						
January	746.5	1 057.2	45.3	1 102.5	67.7	4.1
February	749.0	1 057.9	45.8	1 103.7	67.7	4.1

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

34 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, By industry: **Original**

ANZSIC Division	2004 November '000	2005 February '000	2005 May '000	2005 August '000	2005 November '000	2006 February '000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	45.4	50.2	53.3	56.6	57.3	58.4
Mining	37.7	45.3	48.6	47.7	52.8	45.9
Manufacturing	100.2	90.4	98.9	88.7	96.3	95.6
Electricity, gas and water supply	9.2	12.5	10.2	11.3	7.1	9.4
Construction	90.8	93.7	100.3	100.3	99.5	111.7
Wholesale trade	49.8	43.6	41.8	39.7	43.3	44.1
Retail trade	155.0	151.2	152.6	155.8	146.5	152.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	45.3	44.8	44.8	39.3	43.9	42.5
Transport and storage	39.2	43.6	41.6	44.8	49.2	45.1
Communication services	16.4	15.7	13.6	14.2	16.0	15.3
Finance and insurance	26.0	26.6	24.1	25.1	27.7	26.3
Property and business services	113.1	130.6	123.9	119.6	122.4	125.5
Government administration and defence	43.9	40.5	46.8	46.1	50.7	47.3
Education	67.9	69.8	76.7	79.7	72.9	63.2
Health and community services	98.4	102.0	104.3	106.8	103.8	108.8
Cultural and recreational services	21.8	20.2	26.8	28.5	25.9	25.7
Personal and other services	50.8	46.2	38.2	39.5	39.9	41.5
Total	**1 011.0**	**1 027.0**	**1 046.5**	**1 043.8**	**1 055.3**	**1 059.4**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

35 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND HOURS WORKED, By occupation: **Original**

ASCO Major group	2004 November	2005 February	2005 May	2005 August	2005 November	2006 February
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ('000)						
Managers and administrators	59.5	64.9	60.1	60.7	60.8	65.0
Professionals	150.6	155.6	170.1	174.7	168.7	165.4
Associate professionals	107.0	115.8	105.3	100.5	105.6	106.9
Tradespersons and related workers	101.6	103.5	109.2	106.5	104.3	106.4
Advanced clerical and service workers	28.9	33.1	33.6	34.3	31.7	32.4
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	149.9	144.4	157.8	153.5	164.9	161.4
Intermediate production and transport workers	79.7	76.8	84.9	77.6	80.6	83.7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	92.6	95.0	93.9	95.2	101.9	95.2
Labourers and related workers	82.0	84.1	73.7	75.3	77.6	84.7
Total	**851.8**	**873.2**	**888.5**	**878.2**	**895.9**	**901.2**
TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ('000)						
Managers and administrators	2 767.3	2 985.9	2 894.1	2 899.4	2 799.0	2 922.8
Professionals	5 488.5	5 785.7	6 300.1	6 500.5	6 289.9	6 172.1
Associate professionals	4 116.0	4 623.0	4 051.4	3 837.8	4 021.7	4 132.3
Tradespersons and related workers	4 117.5	4 255.8	4 356.2	4 255.3	4 232.5	4 136.3
Advanced clerical and service workers	784.9	979.3	1 011.3	1 028.5	901.4	922.9
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4 650.2	4 517.7	4 796.5	4 487.6	4 920.7	5 016.0
Intermediate production and transport workers	3 270.6	3 122.6	3 508.1	3 079.4	3 344.8	3 391.4
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	2 252.0	2 465.8	2 203.2	2 291.2	2 517.9	2 418.6
Labourers and related workers	2 548.5	2 671.0	2 200.6	2 079.7	2 244.9	2 544.5
Total	**29 995.4**	**31 406.8**	**31 321.5**	**30 459.4**	**31 272.7**	**31 657.0**
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (no.)						
Managers and administrators	46.5	46.0	48.2	47.8	46.1	45.0
Professionals	36.4	37.2	37.0	37.2	37.3	37.3
Associate professionals	38.5	39.9	38.5	38.2	38.1	38.6
Tradespersons and related workers	40.5	41.1	39.9	40.0	40.6	38.9
Advanced clerical and service workers	27.1	29.6	30.1	30.0	28.4	28.5
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	31.0	31.3	30.4	29.2	29.8	31.1
Intermediate production and transport workers	41.0	40.7	41.3	39.7	41.5	40.5
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	24.3	25.9	23.5	24.1	24.7	25.4
Labourers and related workers	31.1	31.8	29.9	27.6	28.9	30.0
Total	**35.2**	**36.0**	**35.3**	**34.7**	**34.9**	**35.1**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

36 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: All series

	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*
Quarter	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
ORIGINAL									
2004									
August	1 046.80	1 109.20	937.60	802.90	815.20	544.80	964.90	1 010.50	752.80
November	1 080.20	1 147.20	969.20	806.40	821.10	539.20	990.00	1 039.70	765.30
2005									
February	1 101.60	1 169.00	990.40	822.30	834.90	553.50	1 009.60	1 058.90	787.10
May	1 120.80	1 197.40	992.10	848.90	863.30	554.40	1 032.20	1 088.50	787.40
August	1 130.80	1 199.90	1 016.60	850.20	864.10	568.00	1 038.50	1 089.50	806.10
November	1 152.00	1 227.60	1 039.10	862.10	878.00	562.70	1 057.20	1 113.30	809.70
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
August	1 046.50	1 109.90	942.00	800.70	813.60	543.20	964.50	1 011.80	753.10
November	1 079.80	1 146.70	965.60	807.10	820.50	543.90	989.00	1 037.80	768.10
2005									
February	1 105.70	1 173.60	991.10	820.90	834.00	546.70	1 011.80	1 061.20	783.20
May	1 117.30	1 192.10	990.70	852.00	866.70	558.40	1 031.10	1 086.70	788.40
August	1 130.80	1 201.00	1 021.30	847.60	862.10	566.10	1 038.30	1 090.90	806.00
November	1 151.40	1 227.10	1 034.90	863.10	877.50	567.60	1 056.10	1 111.20	812.70
TREND									
2004									
August	1 053.20	1 115.90	945.60	800.40	813.40	541.30	968.30	1 014.40	754.00
November	1 077.40	1 143.70	965.00	809.60	822.80	544.40	988.50	1 037.00	767.40
2005									
February	1 100.90	1 170.50	983.40	825.30	838.90	549.50	1 010.40	1 061.50	780.60
May	1 118.50	1 190.00	1 000.20	841.10	855.30	556.90	1 027.80	1 080.60	792.20
August	1 133.40	1 206.50	1 016.90	853.50	868.00	564.10	1 041.80	1 096.00	803.10
November	1 148.60	1 223.30	1 033.40	863.40	877.50	569.40	1 054.80	1 110.00	812.50

Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, cat. no. 6302.0.

37 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: **Original**

Reference period	Number of disputes	Number of employees involved	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	no.	'000	'000	no.
2003	131	53.3	79.2	r98.1
2004	134	26.7	64.1	r76.9
2005	115	23.3	53.4	60.7
2004				
September	31	3.9	16.6	20.6
December	34	6.3	17.1	20.1
2005				
March	27	6.5	21.3	24.4
June	27	6.9	9.0	10.2
September	49	6.3	11.1	12.7
December	18	4.0	12.0	13.4

r revised

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes, Australia,* cat. no. 6321.0.55.001.

38 JOB VACANCIES FOR EMPLOYEES, By sector: **Original**

	PRIVATE		PUBLIC		TOTAL	
Quarter	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
2004						
August	11.4	84.9	1.0	–20.1	12.4	67.4
November	11.4	46.8	1.7	41.1	13.1	46.0
2005						
February	14.0	49.9	1.2	40.7	15.3	49.1
May	13.2	39.1	1.3	25.6	14.5	37.8
August	15.7	37.4	1.3	27.7	16.9	36.6
November	14.5	26.8	1.3	–21.2	15.8	20.7

Source: Job Vacancies, Australia, cat. no. 6354.0.

39 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

At end of reference period	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
2003–2004	991 268	986 811	1 978 079
2004–2005	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113
2002	968 719	966 547	1 935 266
2003	983 793	980 362	1 964 155
2004	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2004			
June	991 268	986 811	1 978 079
September	995 038	990 429	1 985 467
December	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2005			
March	1 004 327	999 437	2 003 764
June	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113
September	1 012 330	1 006 367	2 018 697

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

40 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase(b)	Net interstate migration	Net overseas migration(c)	Total population growth(d)
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	23 791	11 161	12 630	–2 810	15 575	25 395
2003–2004	24 530	11 305	13 225	1 272	13 634	28 131
2004–2005	25 186	11 103	14 083	1 466	16 485	32 034
2002	23 782	11 216	12 566	–4 231	13 658	21 993
2003	23 862	11 319	12 543	–373	16 719	28 889
2004	25 062	11 153	13 909	1 515	14 347	29 771
2004						
June	6 240	2 691	3 549	454	1 684	5 687
September	6 429	3 117	3 312	289	3 787	7 388
December	6 039	2 758	3 281	292	4 886	8 459
2005						
March	6 095	2 500	3 595	542	5 701	9 838
June	6 623	2 728	3 895	343	2 111	6 349
September	6 867	3 300	3 567	797	4 220	8 584

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication.

(b) Births minus deaths.

(c) Adjusted for category jumping.

(d) Differences may occur between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net migration due to intercensal discrepancy.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

41 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b)

Selected offences	2004 September	December	2005 March	June	September	December
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Homicide(c)	35	36	23	13	5	18
Assault(d)	4 996	6 498	6 550	5 400	5 335	6 078
Robbery(e)	445	479	465	441	334	458
Burglary(f)	10 447	10 840	10 348	9 151	9 249	10 202
Theft	19 350	20 075	19 228	18 871	18 405	19 951
Steal motor vehicle(g)	1 816	2 009	1 903	1 740	1 701	1 821
Property damage	8 292	9 339	10 405	9 988	10 200	11 055
Graffiti(h)	3 078	2 148	1 895	2 292	1 443	1 483
Drugs	3 512	3 396	3 586	4 228	3 699	4 022
Other(i)	3 933	4 381	4 972	4 783	4 289	5 454
Total reported offences	**55 904**	**59 201**	**59 375**	**56 907**	**54 660**	**60 542**

(a) Reported offences are selected offences reported to, or becoming known to, police and resulting in the submission of a report. The number of reported offences in a period may include offences that occurred during earlier periods. The data are subject to revisions as further data become available. Offence classifications may alter between periods due to changes in legislation, administrative recording practices or system coding, and locality boundaries may change. Therefore, time series may be broken.

(b) Definitional, coding and processing changes associated with the introduction of the *Frontline Incident Management System* have had an impact on some data. Variations in data may have resulted from reporting and recording changes, and may not reflect an actual increase or decrease in the incidence of an offence type or in total offence numbers. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting and using offence statistics from late 2002, and when comparing those statistics with earlier periods.

(c) Includes driving causing death.

(d) Includes sexual assault.

(e) Includes armed and unarmed offences.

(f) Includes burglary to dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.

(g) Includes motorised and other vehicles.

(h) Most graffiti offences are committed against public property and the number reported can vary due to different strategies being adopted in different periods by agencies and local government authorities. The number can also vary between periods due to the stockpiling of offences before being reported to police and to an inconsistency in reporting where graffiti is sometimes recorded as property damage.

(i) Includes offences such as fraud, arson and threatening behaviour.

Source: Western Australian Police Service, *Offence Information System/Frontline Incident Management System.*

FAMILY FORMATION

Indicator	Unit	1994	2002	2003	2004
Registered marriages					
Number of marriages	no.	10 366	10 484	9 549	10 601
Crude marriage rate(a)	rate	6.1	5.4	4.9	5.4
Marriages where both partners married for first time	no.	6 714	6 807	6 082	7 002
Median age at first marriage					
Males	years	27.4	28.8	29.5	29.6
Females	years	25.2	27.3	27.5	27.6
Median age at remarriage					
Males	years	42.5	45.2	45.4	46.2
Females	years	38.8	41.3	42.2	42.4
Divorces					
Number of divorces	no.	5 024	5 252	5 685	4 337
Crude divorce rate(b)	rate	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.2
Median duration between marriage and separation	years	8.1	9.1	9.4	9.1
Divorces involving children aged under 18(c)	no.	2 548	2 756	2 942	2 159
Children aged under 18 affected by divorce	no.	4 792	5 246	5 600	4 049
Fertility					
Number of births	no.	25 138	23 601	24 273	25 295
Total fertility rate(d)	rate	1.87	1.70	1.74	1.81
Births to mothers aged under 20	no.	1 535	1 292	1 286	1 371
Births to mothers aged 35 and over	no.	2 994	4 037	4 416	4 674
Births outside marriage	no.	7 220	8 276	8 762	9 427
Births outside marriage acknowledged by father	no.	5 951	7 477	7 836	8 547

(a) The number of marriages registered in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.

(b) The number of divorces granted in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.

(c) Refers to divorces of couples with unmarried children of the registered marriage aged under 18 at the time of application for divorce.

(d) The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Source: Demography, Western Australia, cat. no. 3311.5.55.001; ABS data available on request, *Marriages, Divorces, Births.*

43 HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES(a)

Indicator	Unit	1995	2003	2004	2005
Families					
Total families	'000	454.8	537.7	555.3	553.0
Total couple families	'000	389.3	450.1	458.8	462.8
Couple families with no dependent children aged 0–24 (of all couple families)	%	50.6	55.5	56.5	55.5
Families with at least one child aged under 5 (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	44.9	43.7	45.3	46.2
Couple families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	82.5	78.4	76.1	78.4
Lone father families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	1.9	2.5	2.9	2.2
Lone mother families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	15.6	19.1	21.0	19.4
Children under 15 years of age living in one parent families (of all children under 15 years)	%	15.4	20.0	21.3	19.3
Persons					
Persons aged 20–24 living with parents (of all persons aged 20–24)(b)	%	38.7	38.8	43.2	41.9
Persons aged 25–34 living with parents (of all persons aged 25–34)	%	8.1	8.6	9.9	9.8
Persons aged 15–64 who live alone (of all persons aged 15–64)	%	7.5	9.3	9.1	9.7
Persons aged 65 and over who live alone (of all persons aged 65 and over)	%	24.4	26.9	25.7	28.2
Average family size (persons)	no.	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0

(a) Data on living arrangements are at June each year.
(b) Refers to unmarried persons with no dependants usually resident in the same household.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

44 FAMILIES AND WORK(a)

Indicator	Unit	1995	2003	2004	2005
Couple families					
Couple families with children aged under 15	'000	167.7	172.5	171.9	175.1
Both parents employed	%	57.1	55.7	54.1	55.2
Neither parent employed	%	7.4	5.5	6.0	6.2
Lone parent families					
Lone parent familes with children aged under 15	'000	35.5	47.4	53.9	48.1
Parent employed	%	41.7	46.2	51.3	53.2
Children					
Children under 15 living in families where no parent is employed (of all children under 15)	%	16.9	16.5	16.3	14.7

(a) Data on families and work are at June each year.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

APPENDIX INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

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