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### RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1987

**PHONE INQUIRIES** • *about these statistics*—contact Mr Jack Brzozowski on Canberra (062) 52 5096 or any ABS State office.

- *about the constant price estimates*—contact Mr Henry Foira on Canberra (062) 52 6724.
- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

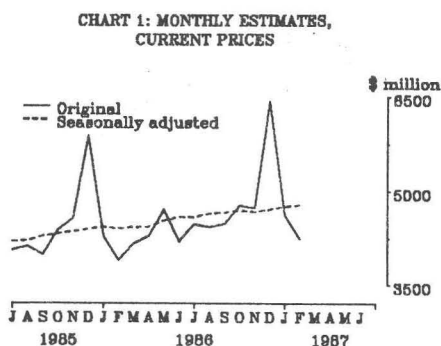
**MAIL INQUIRIES** • *write to Information Services*, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.

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#### MAIN FEATURES

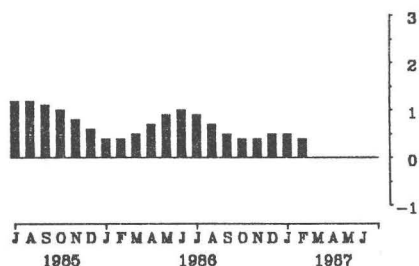
TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), AUSTRALIA



*This publication includes trend estimates of retail sales (formerly referred to as smoothed seasonally adjusted). The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series to provide a basis for identifying the underlying trend. However, the trend estimates for the most recent months are subject to revision as data for subsequent months become available. Further details are given in paragraphs 16 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes at the end of this publication.*

*Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability as explained in paragraphs 10 to 15.*

**CHART 2: MONTHLY CHANGES, CURRENT PRICES**  
Smoothed seasonally adjusted  
Percentage change from preceding month

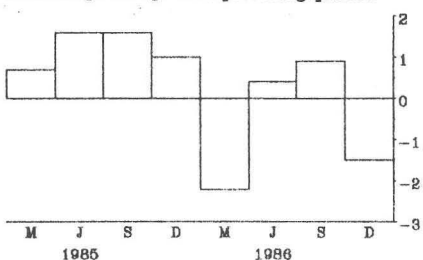


#### AUSTRALIA TOTAL ESTIMATES (see Charts 1 to 3)

For February 1987, the estimated value of retail sales in Australia (excluding sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol etc), in original terms is \$4,237.1 million (see Chart 1). This is a decrease of 8.3% from January 1987 but an increase of 8.6% from February 1986.

In seasonally adjusted terms, February 1987 shows an increase of 0.5% over January 1987.

**CHART 3: QUARTERLY CHANGES, CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1979-80) PRICES**  
Seasonally adjusted  
Percentage change from preceding quarter



The latest trend estimate of Australian retail sales (formerly referred to as smoothed seasonally adjusted) shows that the monthly rate of growth experienced over the past six months has remained steady at 0.4% or 0.5% (see Chart 2).

The total Australian estimates have been seasonally reanalysed using data to February 1987. This reanalysis has enabled the seasonal factors to reflect the changing pattern of post-Christmas retail trading that has occurred in the past few years.

TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS  
(EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),  
SMOOTHED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, MONTHLY CHANGES,  
CURRENT PRICES, SELECTED INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA  
Percentage change from preceding month

CHART 4: GROCERS, CONFECTIONERS, TOBACCONISTS

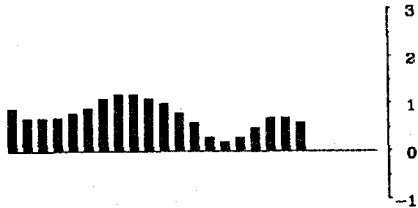


CHART 5: OTHER FOOD STORES

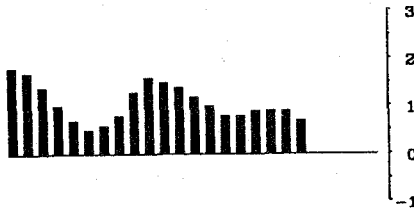


CHART 6: HOTELS, LIQUOR STORES, LICENSED CLUBS

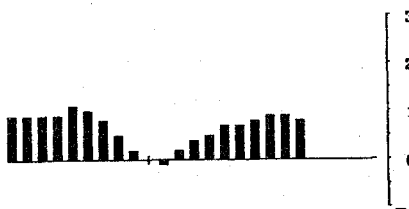


CHART 7: CLOTHING AND FABRICS STORES

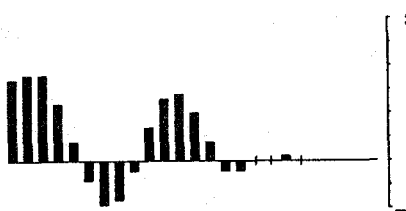


CHART 8: DEPARTMENT STORES

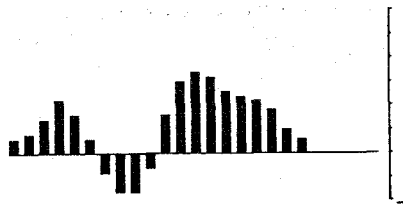
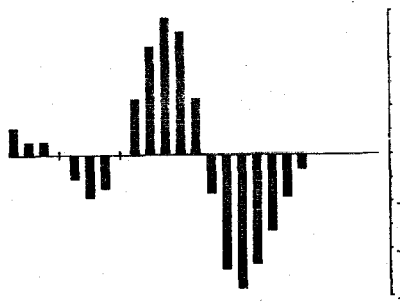


CHART 9: ELECTRICAL GOODS STORES



J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J  
1985 1986 1987

INDUSTRY ESTIMATES (see Charts 4 to 9 on page 2)

The inclusion of February 1987 data has caused little change to the previously published trend estimates for most industries.

The major exception is for electrical goods stores which have shown a lessening in their rate of decline in February, as well as upward revisions in their trend estimates over the past few months. Floorcoverings stores have also had upward revisions to their trend estimates for the past few months but this industry is subject to large, irregular movements and the trend estimate could be revised substantially when data for subsequent months are available.

STATE ESTIMATES (see Charts 10 to 15 on page 7)

With the inclusion of figures for February 1987, the monthly growth in the trend estimates for total retail sales in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia continues to show a small but steady increase over recent months. Figures for Queensland continue the moderate growth previously exhibited, while there are indications that the strong Western Australia growth experienced to January 1987 is starting to moderate. The trend in Tasmanian retail sales is one of continuing small monthly declines.

**TABLE 1. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)**

Month	Original		Seasonally adjusted <i>r</i>		Trend estimates <i>r</i>		
	\$ m	% change from preceding month	\$ m	% change from preceding month	\$ m	% change from preceding month	% change from corresponding month of previous year
1985—							
December	5,874.8	28.5	4,395.2	0.9	4,382.2	0.6	12.2
1986—							
January	4,276.0	-27.2	4,429.1	0.8	4,401.4	0.4	11.8
February	3,902.7	-8.7	4,402.8	-0.6	4,419.9	0.4	11.4
March	4,162.5	6.7	4,426.3	0.5	4,443.4	0.5	11.0
April	4,284.9	2.9	4,434.8	0.2	4,475.8	0.7	10.7
May	4,706.5	9.8	4,537.3	2.3	4,516.9	0.9	10.5
June	4,196.8	-10.8	4,589.2	1.1	4,562.2	1.0	10.3
July	4,478.8	6.7	4,592.8	0.1	4,604.1	0.9	10.0
August	4,433.7	-1.0	4,645.3	1.1	4,637.0	0.7	9.5
September	4,486.1	1.2	4,664.2	0.4	4,660.6	0.5	8.9
October	4,775.1	6.4	4,697.2	0.7	4,680.1	0.4	8.3
November	4,737.5	-0.8	4,672.1	-0.5	4,701.0	0.4	7.9
December	6,428.0	35.7	4,709.6	0.8	4,723.4	0.5	7.8
1987—							
January	4,620.7	-28.1	4,761.0	1.1	4,745.4	0.5	7.8
February	4,237.1	-8.3	4,784.7	0.5	4,763.3	0.4	7.8
Standard error(b) of—							
February 1987	27.7						
Change: February 1987 from January 1987	15.2	0.3					

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) See paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 2. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), QUARTERLY ESTIMATES, AT CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1979-80) PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)**

Quarter	Original			Seasonally adjusted		
	\$m	% change from preceding quarter	% change from corresponding quarter of previous year	\$m	% change from preceding quarter	% change from corresponding quarter of previous year
1985—						
December quarter	9,659.4	19.0	5.4	8,544.7	1.0	5.1
1986—						
March quarter	7,810.8	-19.1	1.6	8,360.5	-2.2	2.1
June quarter	8,190.4	4.9	1.2	8,395.8	0.4	0.9
September quarter	8,150.9	-0.5	0.4	8,471.1	0.9	0.2
December quarter	9,426.5	15.6	-2.4	8,343.2	-1.5	-2.4

(a) Excluding Northern Territory.

TABLE 3. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)

Month	ORIGINAL										Total					
	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics	Department stores	Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores		Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	Newsagents	Other
\$ million																
1985— December	1,544.9	178.2	69.6	303.5	668.0	618.8	915.2	93.5	237.3	350.9	145.2	51.3	215.3	188.5	294.6	5,874.8
1986— January	1,399.7	148.7	38.4	297.0	528.3	360.3	434.6	75.6	101.4	223.5	116.4	38.5	167.1	153.8	192.8	4,276.0
February	1,307.9	136.9	35.3	258.8	482.3	321.2	360.5	58.2	102.0	198.4	107.8	41.8	155.7	157.3	178.6	3,902.7
March	1,409.2	145.7	36.9	279.0	525.2	342.3	416.4	60.1	102.3	201.5	109.8	41.1	161.6	145.6	206.2	4,162.5
April	1,379.8	147.6	41.6	276.7	490.3	413.9	450.3	79.3	101.4	224.0	115.9	47.1	171.6	145.0	200.6	4,284.9
May	1,471.2	157.6	45.7	285.0	494.6	488.3	577.6	93.0	105.8	264.6	131.2	51.0	179.7	152.7	208.6	4,706.5
June	1,379.7	151.3	34.6	273.7	467.9	401.5	423.1	73.0	98.3	234.5	117.3	49.7	168.9	138.2	185.2	4,196.8
July	1,453.1	156.9	40.0	284.1	475.3	414.4	507.7	79.2	95.0	256.3	123.6	50.1	180.8	151.8	210.3	4,478.8
August	1,439.9	156.2	38.5	297.6	506.1	390.3	441.6	72.2	103.9	256.3	125.3	48.7	183.6	151.2	222.2	4,433.7
September	1,429.8	152.4	42.3	297.0	501.7	400.6	506.9	80.6	104.6	234.2	122.9	48.2	183.0	152.7	229.3	4,486.1
October	1,527.1	158.4	43.2	312.1	540.8	437.8	511.6	83.9	129.7	240.0	132.9	52.0	199.5	162.3	243.7	4,775.1
November	1,484.6	150.7	43.1	311.9	541.3	436.1	536.6	77.4	143.3	232.4	126.3	54.9	188.7	163.3	246.9	4,737.5
December	1,724.1	180.6	78.6	343.4	696.1	643.6	1,054.2	102.9	256.2	342.4	143.5	53.1	240.5	221.0	347.9	6,428.0
1987— January	1,523.0	147.0	36.5	338.3	571.4	373.6	r470.0	81.7	118.6	219.0	r115.1	41.7	191.1	170.3	223.4	r4620.7
February	1,424.7	143.6	34.3	301.8	516.9	336.5	391.9	65.1	115.3	203.1	105.0	49.1	175.5	175.1	199.3	4,237.1
Standard error of— Level(b) Change(c)	14.4 6.0	6.3 1.8	0.9 0.3	9.9 5.3	9.9 8.4	6.8 4.1	0.2 0.0	2.4 1.7	5.1 2.4	4.8 2.1	4.3 2.4	3.6 1.6	6.0 2.9	7.2 4.1	8.2 5.4	27.7 15.2
TREND ESTIMATES																
\$ million																
1985— December	1,370.0	153.5	42.5	273.0	508.5	416.5	501.6	75.7	114.5	235.1	121.4	46.5	169.4	148.2	195.1	4,382.2
1986— January	1,384.5	153.1	42.8	274.6	512.7	412.9	499.7	75.0	115.1	233.5	120.9	46.2	170.8	149.9	197.8	4,401.4
February	1,400.5	152.5	42.6	276.9	515.5	409.7	495.9	74.0	115.7	233.4	120.8	46.5	172.5	151.7	201.5	4,419.9
March	1,417.1	152.3	42.0	280.5	516.6	409.0	492.1	73.3	116.4	236.1	121.3	47.3	174.4	153.4	206.2	4,443.4
April	1,433.1	153.0	41.3	284.9	516.4	411.8	490.8	73.7	117.4	241.5	122.6	48.4	176.2	154.8	211.7	4,475.8
May	1,447.1	154.2	40.9	289.3	516.0	417.3	494.8	75.1	118.5	248.5	124.0	49.3	178.1	155.6	217.5	4,516.9
June	1,456.7	155.3	40.9	293.4	516.8	423.1	502.3	77.0	119.6	255.0	125.2	49.7	180.5	156.2	223.5	4,562.2
July	1,466.8	155.7	41.5	297.0	518.8	427.2	r510.8	79.0	120.5	258.0	125.8	49.5	183.1	156.8	228.8	4,604.1
August r	1,471.3	155.3	42.5	299.9	521.5	428.7	519.2	80.5	121.6	256.0	125.7	48.7	185.6	157.8	232.5	4,637.0
September r	1,474.2	154.5	43.5	302.4	525.1	428.0	526.2	81.3	122.9	249.9	124.9	48.0	187.8	159.5	233.9	4,660.6
October r	1,478.3	153.8	44.2	304.9	529.0	427.0	532.3	81.6	124.8	242.8	123.9	47.8	189.6	162.0	233.3	4,680.1
November r	1,485.9	153.5	44.4	307.5	533.3	426.9	538.1	81.7	126.5	237.2	122.8	48.3	190.9	165.0	231.2	4,701.0
December r	1,495.7	153.6	44.1	310.4	538.0	426.9	542.7	81.8	128.4	233.5	121.4	49.3	191.8	167.8	228.6	4,723.4
1987— January r	1,506.3	154.0	43.6	313.1	543.0	427.2	545.6	81.9	130.2	231.5	120.0	50.5	192.5	170.2	226.1	4,745.4
February	1,515.3	154.2	42.8	315.4	547.6	427.0	547.2	81.9	131.1	230.9	118.7	51.7	193.0	172.3	223.8	4,763.3

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 3. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists		Hotels, liquor stores, and licensed clubs		Clothing and fabrics stores		Department stores		Foot-wear stores, jewellers		Electrical goods stores		Furniture stores		Floor coverings stores		Chemists		News-agents		Other		Total	
	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, and licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Foot-wear stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	News-agents	Other	Total										
TREND ESTIMATES—continued																								
% change from preceding month																								
1985—	0.9	0.3	1.2	0.5	1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	-0.9	-0.4	-1.3	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.6	
1986—	1.1	-0.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	-0.9	-0.4	-0.4	-0.9	0.5	-0.7	-0.4	-0.6	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.4	
January	1.2	-0.4	-0.5	0.8	0.5	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-1.3	0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.9	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.9	0.4	
February	1.2	-0.1	-1.4	1.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.3	-0.9	0.6	2.3	0.4	1.7	1.1	1.1	2.3	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.9	2.7	0.7	
March	1.1	0.5	-1.7	1.6	0.0	0.7	-0.3	0.5	0.5	0.9	2.3	1.1	2.3	1.0	0.9	2.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	2.7	0.9	0.9	
April	1.1	0.8	-1.0	1.5	-0.1	1.3	0.8	1.9	1.9	0.9	2.9	1.1	1.9	1.1	0.5	2.8	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	2.8	1.0	0.9	
May	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.2	1.4	1.5	2.5	2.5	0.9	2.6	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.4	2.4	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4	2.4	1.0	1.0	
June	0.6	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.4	1.0	r1.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.5	-0.4	1.4	0.4	2.4	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.4	2.4	0.9	0.9	
July	0.6	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.4	1.0	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	-0.8	-0.1	-1.6	1.4	0.6	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.6	0.7	0.7	
August	0.3	-0.3	2.4	1.0	0.5	0.4	1.3	1.0	1.9	1.1	-2.4	-0.6	-1.4	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	
September	0.2	-0.5	2.4	0.8	0.7	-0.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	-2.4	-0.6	-1.4	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	
October	0.3	-0.5	1.6	0.8	0.7	-0.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	-2.8	-0.8	-0.4	1.0	1.6	-0.3	0.4	0.4	1.6	1.6	-0.3	0.4	0.4	
November	0.5	-0.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.6	-2.3	-0.9	1.0	0.7	1.9	-0.9	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.9	-0.9	0.4	0.4	
December	0.7	0.1	-0.7	0.9	0.9	-0.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	1.5	-1.6	-1.1	2.1	0.5	1.7	-1.1	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.7	-1.1	0.5	0.5	
1987—	0.7	0.3	-1.1	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.4	-0.9	-1.2	2.4	0.4	1.4	-1.1	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.4	-1.1	0.5	0.5	
January	0.6	0.1	-1.8	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	-0.3	-1.1	2.4	0.3	1.2	-1.0	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.2	-1.0	0.4	0.4	
February																								
% change from corresponding month of previous year																								
1985—	11.2	19.8	9.3	13.1	11.3	15.9	11.9	11.5	17.8	5.3	23.6	10.2	9.1	9.1	r2.3	20.4	12.2	12.2	r2.3	r2.3	20.4	12.2	12.2	
1986—	11.3	17.2	10.6	13.7	10.9	13.7	9.8	12.3	18.3	3.7	22.9	8.7	9.6	9.6	r3.5	20.5	11.8	11.8	r3.5	r3.5	20.5	11.8	11.8	
January	11.4	14.8	10.1	14.3	10.5	11.4	7.3	12.5	17.6	2.8	21.0	7.1	10.4	10.4	r5.2	21.3	11.4	11.4	r5.2	r5.2	21.3	11.4	11.4	
February	11.6	13.1	7.7	15.1	9.8	9.7	4.9	12.4	16.2	3.2	18.3	6.1	11.2	11.2	r6.8	22.7	11.0	11.0	r6.8	r6.8	22.7	11.0	11.0	
March	11.8	12.4	4.6	15.6	9.1	8.8	3.2	13.4	14.8	4.6	15.4	5.7	11.5	11.5	r7.5	25.9	10.7	10.7	r7.5	r7.5	25.9	10.7	10.7	
April	11.8	12.1	2.5	15.7	8.3	8.6	3.0	14.8	13.9	6.4	12.6	5.3	11.6	11.6	7.4	25.9	10.5	10.5	7.4	7.4	25.9	10.5	10.5	
May	11.6	11.6	1.7	15.3	7.6	8.4	3.8	16.0	13.7	8.1	9.9	4.6	11.8	11.8	7.1	26.8	10.3	10.3	7.1	7.1	26.8	10.3	10.3	
June	11.3	9.8	2.7	14.6	7.0	7.6	5.3	16.3	13.3	7.5	7.5	3.1	11.9	11.9	7.2	27.0	10.0	10.0	7.2	7.2	27.0	10.0	10.0	
July	10.8	7.0	4.7	13.9	6.6	6.0	6.6	15.0	12.7	7.6	5.3	1.2	12.2	12.2	7.9	26.2	9.5	9.5	7.9	7.9	26.2	9.5	9.5	
August	10.3	4.0	6.4	13.3	6.4	4.0	7.3	12.4	11.9	4.7	3.1	0.2	12.6	12.6	9.1	24.3	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.1	24.3	8.9	8.9	
September	9.8	1.6	6.8	13.1	6.2	2.4	7.3	9.8	11.5	1.8	1.6	0.2	13.1	13.1	10.7	22.1	8.3	8.3	10.7	10.7	22.1	8.3	8.3	
October	9.4	0.3	5.7	13.2	5.9	2.1	7.6	8.2	11.5	0.0	0.7	2.5	13.4	13.4	12.2	19.8	7.9	7.9	12.2	12.2	19.8	7.9	7.9	
November	9.2	0.1	3.8	13.7	5.8	2.5	8.2	8.1	12.1	-0.7	0.0	6.0	13.2	13.2	13.2	17.2	7.8	7.8	13.2	13.2	17.2	7.8	7.8	
December																								
1987—	8.8	0.6	1.9	14.0	5.9	3.5	9.2	9.2	13.1	-0.9	-0.7	9.3	12.7	12.7	13.5	14.3	7.8	7.8	13.5	13.5	14.3	7.8	7.8	
January	8.2	1.1	0.5	13.9	6.2	4.2	10.3	10.7	13.3	-1.1	-1.7	11.2	11.9	11.9	13.6	11.1	7.8	7.8	13.6	13.6	11.1	7.8	7.8	
February																								

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes. (c) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 4. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a), STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australian Capital Territory	Australia(a)
ORIGINAL								
\$ million								
1985—								
December	2,153.2	1,534.0	924.2	493.9	508.0	161.3	100.2	5,874.8
1986—								
January	1,512.9	1,107.4	719.7	360.0	391.6	110.5	74.0	4,276.0
February	1,350.9	1,048.8	634.9	334.0	362.1	106.9	65.1	3,902.7
March	1,459.0	1,106.0	674.3	355.0	381.5	111.7	75.0	4,162.5
April	1,500.6	1,160.4	681.8	371.8	383.4	111.4	75.4	4,284.9
May	1,665.2	1,266.0	745.6	406.8	415.4	122.6	84.9	4,706.5
June	1,477.2	1,110.2	692.7	357.7	374.4	108.6	76.0	4,196.8
July	1,600.4	1,191.5	718.4	373.9	392.6	117.3	84.7	4,478.8
August	1,568.1	1,180.6	722.5	368.6	395.4	116.7	81.8	4,433.7
September	1,598.7	1,179.2	733.1	374.1	399.9	118.3	82.7	4,486.1
October	1,695.3	1,280.7	775.7	388.5	427.7	122.8	84.4	4,775.1
November	1,707.4	1,267.0	755.5	384.5	417.3	122.8	83.0	4,737.5
December	2,339.4	1,714.0	1,016.7	509.9	566.3	172.5	109.2	6,428.0
1987—								
January	r1,633.4	1,231.6	761.9	377.1	425.9	116.7	74.0	r4,620.7
February	1,496.1	1,146.4	673.9	343.1	392.5	111.4	73.7	r4,237.1
Standard error of—								
Level(b)	16.6	17.4	10.5	5.1	6.5	1.6	1.9	27.7
Change(c)	8.7	8.6	5.5	2.3	6.6	0.8	1.3	15.2
TREND ESTIMATES								
\$ million								
1985—								
December	1,557.9	1,141.0	708.8	375.0	392.7	117.5	76.7	4,382.2
1986—								
January	1,556.7	1,147.3	715.5	377.2	396.9	117.5	77.2	4,401.4
February	1,556.3	1,157.5	721.8	379.2	400.4	117.2	77.8	4,419.9
March	1,560.4	1,172.4	726.8	381.0	402.7	117.0	78.6	4,443.4
April	1,573.4	1,191.0	730.4	382.7	403.6	117.3	79.6	4,475.8
May	1,595.2	1,210.7	733.5	383.9	404.0	118.1	81.0	4,516.9
June	1,621.1	1,228.2	736.1	384.6	404.6	119.3	82.6	4,562.2
July	r1,643.4	1,241.0	738.6	384.4	405.7	120.8	83.9	4,604.1
August r	1,658.4	1,248.5	741.4	383.7	407.9	122.1	84.3	4,637.0
September r	1,666.3	1,251.7	745.1	383.3	411.5	123.0	83.8	4,660.6
October r	1,671.3	1,253.3	749.8	383.6	416.3	123.3	82.9	4,680.1
November r	1,677.0	1,255.5	755.7	384.6	421.6	123.3	82.2	4,701.0
December r	1,683.4	1,258.4	761.5	385.8	426.9	123.0	81.9	4,723.0
1987—								
January r	1,689.8	1,261.3	766.8	387.1	431.8	122.8	82.1	4,745.4
February	1,695.1	1,264.0	770.4	388.2	435.4	122.4	82.6	4,763.3
% change from preceding month								
1985—								
December	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
1986—								
January	-0.1	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.4
February	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.9	-0.3	0.8	0.4
March	0.3	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	-0.2	1.0	0.5
April	0.8	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.7
May	1.4	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.7	1.8	0.9
June	1.6	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	2.0	1.0
July	1.4	1.0	0.3	-0.1	0.3	1.3	1.6	0.9
August r	0.9	0.6	0.4	-0.2	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.7
September r	0.5	0.3	0.5	-0.1	0.9	0.7	-0.6	0.5
October r	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	1.2	0.2	-1.1	0.4
November r	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.0	-0.8	0.4
December r	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.3	1.3	-0.2	-0.4	0.5
1987—								
January r	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.3	1.1	-0.2	0.2	0.5
February	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	-0.3	0.6	0.4
% change from corresponding month of previous year								
1985—								
December	12.7	11.4	13.3	11.2	12.5	8.5	13.6	12.2
1986—								
January	12.0	11.0	13.5	10.6	12.6	7.2	13.0	11.8
February	11.1	11.0	13.4	9.8	12.6	5.8	11.9	11.4
March	10.3	11.3	13.0	9.2	12.2	4.7	10.7	11.0
April	9.8	11.9	12.3	8.7	11.3	4.3	9.6	10.7
May	9.7	12.4	11.5	8.1	10.2	4.5	9.3	10.5
June	9.8	12.5	10.7	7.4	9.1	5.0	9.5	10.3
July	9.8	12.3	10.0	6.5	8.3	5.8	10.1	10.0
August r	9.3	11.8	9.4	5.4	7.9	6.3	10.3	9.5
September r	8.6	11.2	8.7	4.4	8.0	6.3	9.7	8.9
October r	7.9	10.7	8.1	3.6	8.2	5.8	8.7	8.3
November r	7.8	10.5	7.7	3.2	8.5	5.3	7.7	7.9
December r	8.1	10.3	7.4	2.9	8.7	4.7	6.8	7.8
1987—								
January r	8.6	9.9	7.2	2.6	8.8	4.5	6.3	7.8
February	8.9	9.2	6.7	2.4	8.7	4.4	6.2	7.8

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes. (c) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS  
(EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),  
SMOOTHED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, MONTHLY CHANGES  
CURRENT PRICES, STATES  
Percentage change from preceding month

CHART 10: NEW SOUTH WALES

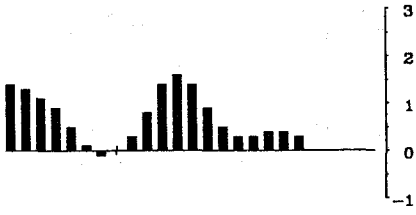


CHART 11: VICTORIA

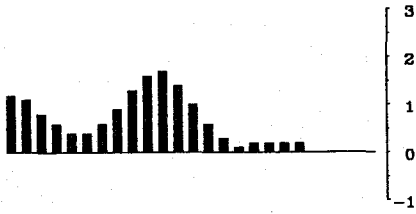


CHART 12: QUEENSLAND

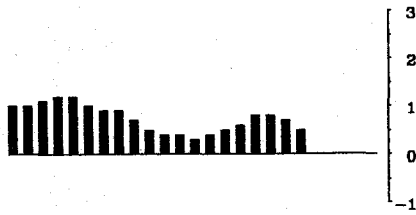


CHART 13: SOUTH AUSTRALIA

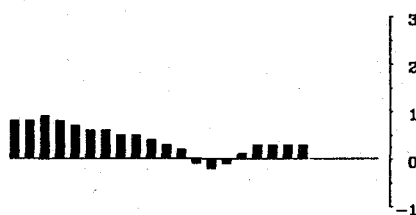


CHART 14: WESTERN AUSTRALIA

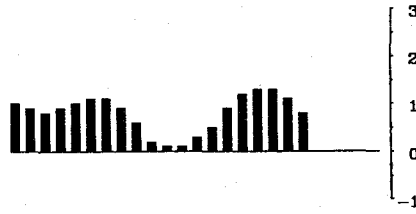
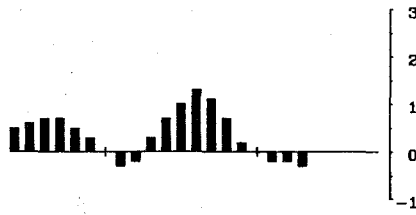


CHART 15: TASMANIA



J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J  
1985 1986 1987

TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),  
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
(\$ million)

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacco	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Newsagents	Other	Total	
																NEW SOUTH WALES
1985— December	482.6	74.5	16.7	125.3	245.8	230.6	391.2	35.0	99.3	118.3	48.8	18.2	88.9	78.4	99.6	2,153.2
1986— January	422.1	61.2	10.7	114.5	191.3	135.5	191.4	28.9	39.0	69.4	36.5	11.1	70.4	60.3	70.5	1,512.9
February	393.9	54.3	8.8	100.0	170.7	113.9	142.0	19.8	38.7	62.2	34.9	11.6	65.3	64.7	70.0	1,350.9
March	425.0	61.8	9.3	109.0	187.7	121.4	172.9	22.2	38.8	65.2	37.3	11.8	67.0	59.6	69.8	1,459.0
April	420.1	61.5	12.4	112.2	179.6	140.7	181.0	27.9	39.2	61.5	38.8	12.9	71.6	60.6	80.7	1,500.6
May	445.4	69.5	11.1	115.0	176.6	180.8	245.8	33.1	40.6	72.4	42.4	13.9	75.8	63.0	79.7	1,665.2
June	424.2	66.6	9.2	109.4	166.0	147.8	175.9	27.7	38.2	66.1	35.6	12.5	72.3	56.1	69.6	1,477.2
July	457.6	70.6	9.3	108.8	168.9	147.5	215.7	28.9	33.0	81.2	40.3	15.0	77.4	64.6	81.8	1,600.4
August	451.4	68.9	8.6	113.2	183.3	136.2	183.1	26.1	37.4	76.7	39.5	15.9	77.1	64.1	86.6	1,568.1
September	450.0	68.7	9.1	111.5	181.6	144.7	210.6	29.7	37.1	74.8	39.8	14.4	76.0	65.5	85.2	1,598.7
October	464.8	69.3	9.3	118.8	202.4	159.1	214.9	33.2	49.7	73.2	43.0	16.8	79.6	68.8	92.2	1,695.3
November	460.0	65.2	9.6	121.2	196.8	158.2	234.9	29.5	55.1	74.6	42.5	18.3	75.1	69.2	97.3	1,707.4
December	534.7	78.6	16.5	134.4	256.8	228.6	447.9	39.2	103.4	113.7	50.3	18.0	93.5	91.7	132.3	2,339.4
1987— January	468.4	62.7	8.1	123.0	208.0	136.0	198.5	30.4	44.4	66.8	39.1	10.3	81.3	65.2	91.5	1,633.4
February	433.5	61.9	7.8	109.8	188.3	119.9	166.7	23.5	41.3	59.6	39.6	12.2	75.2	77.6	79.2	1,496.1
Standard error of— Level(a)	6.1	4.1	0.5	6.3	6.0	3.9	0.0	1.2	2.6	3.0	3.3	1.9	4.5	5.7	6.2	16.6
Change(b)	3.6	1.2	0.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	2.1	3.5	3.6	8.7

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),  
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—continued  
(\$ million)

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists		Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs		Clothing and fabrics stores		Department stores		Foot-wear stores		Domestic hardware stores, jewellers		Electrical goods stores		Furniture stores		Floor coverings stores		Chemists		News-agents		Other		Total
	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Foot-wear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	News-agents	Other	Total										
VICTORIA																									
1985—																									
December	434.7	52.3	20.5	64.9	147.6	191.9	192.4	25.0	59.8	96.4	45.2	14.3	55.9	47.0	86.1	1,534.0									
1986—																									
January	389.5	43.8	10.3	66.5	117.1	102.8	87.1	17.4	32.2	64.8	37.2	11.6	38.4	38.6	50.0	1,107.4									
February	374.1	43.2	9.9	59.0	112.1	96.6	76.8	15.5	32.1	57.7	32.0	13.4	38.8	40.2	47.4	1,048.8									
March	402.1	43.7	10.4	63.8	122.1	104.0	88.4	14.7	32.1	58.9	31.2	13.0	39.3	35.0	47.2	1,106.0									
April	396.9	45.1	11.6	60.3	106.3	139.0	97.5	21.7	31.4	74.6	34.8	13.4	43.0	35.0	49.8	1,160.4									
May	426.9	44.7	13.1	63.2	109.1	152.8	118.0	24.1	33.1	89.8	40.8	16.8	42.1	36.7	55.0	1,266.0									
June	396.9	42.6	9.3	60.3	101.7	121.4	85.6	17.5	30.3	75.3	36.4	15.3	39.5	31.8	46.4	1,110.2									
July	407.1	44.5	10.6	68.3	101.1	132.1	108.9	23.3	32.4	77.6	39.5	15.2	40.9	32.4	57.6	1,191.5									
August	398.5	43.4	10.3	74.4	108.0	123.4	93.2	20.3	34.1	82.4	41.7	15.0	42.0	31.4	62.6	1,180.6									
September	400.2	42.7	11.7	75.0	106.6	121.1	102.9	21.4	33.6	69.0	39.3	15.0	40.2	32.1	68.4	1,179.2									
October	443.2	45.3	11.9	80.1	110.9	135.6	102.3	22.1	41.3	74.1	41.9	17.2	48.6	36.6	69.6	1,280.7									
November	425.9	44.0	12.0	78.3	120.8	134.3	104.4	20.8	44.9	71.5	40.3	17.7	46.5	36.6	69.1	1,267.0									
December	486.1	52.7	22.1	85.2	155.4	203.3	220.1	29.4	74.4	104.2	43.1	15.5	63.5	51.8	107.3	1,714.0									
1987—																									
January	438.5	44.4	8.7	88.3	126.6	113.5	95.9	22.4	40.3	64.7	35.4	14.9	43.6	39.3	55.2	1,231.6									
February	408.4	42.9	8.7	79.2	117.7	106.7	79.7	20.1	41.2	61.3	29.8	18.2	40.8	37.2	54.5	1,146.4									
Standard error of—																									
Level(a)	10.7	4.0	0.0	5.8	5.2	4.4	0.0	1.9	3.5	2.5	1.9	2.7	3.1	2.7	4.1	17.4									
Change(b)	3.7	1.1	0.0	3.1	4.5	2.3	0.0	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.6	0.8	1.4	0.9	3.4	8.6									
QUEENSLAND																									
1985—																									
December	268.6	25.1	11.7	47.6	127.1	78.5	124.1	13.0	39.1	54.6	23.1	6.9	31.8	28.9	44.1	924.2									
1986—																									
January	258.4	21.4	6.4	53.8	98.8	50.4	56.6	12.6	16.6	38.7	17.6	5.3	24.8	28.8	29.4	719.7									
February	231.7	18.1	6.0	46.3	89.9	42.1	49.6	8.6	16.9	32.4	17.1	6.4	21.6	25.2	23.0	634.9									
March	248.2	18.6	6.2	49.5	96.7	46.9	55.3	8.4	17.5	32.3	16.9	5.5	24.1	23.9	24.3	674.3									
April	236.7	20.0	6.4	47.9	93.3	51.5	58.8	11.8	15.7	37.5	18.0	7.3	24.5	24.8	27.6	681.8									
May	256.8	21.2	7.6	49.7	97.4	60.7	69.9	15.1	15.5	43.0	17.9	7.6	27.4	26.5	29.2	745.6									
June	240.7	20.3	6.1	49.1	93.6	54.5	55.1	12.2	15.9	39.3	18.4	8.9	25.2	25.8	27.5	692.7									
July	253.4	21.6	6.9	49.0	99.7	52.3	64.3	10.7	14.8	40.8	19.2	5.3	26.7	26.3	27.4	718.4									
August	257.0	23.2	7.1	49.8	102.5	52.7	60.1	10.5	15.6	39.4	18.9	4.9	28.2	26.0	26.7	722.5									
September	250.0	20.1	7.5	49.1	100.7	56.4	73.2	12.6	17.3	36.6	18.7	4.8	30.4	27.3	28.6	733.1									
October	268.4	23.2	7.7	52.2	104.4	59.8	70.9	11.6	18.5	39.2	19.9	6.6	32.3	32.7	32.7	775.7									
November	258.3	22.0	7.5	52.8	103.2	59.1	68.8	10.1	20.6	36.1	18.0	7.0	30.4	28.9	32.8	755.5									
December	298.4	24.5	15.9	58.3	128.5	84.3	154.8	13.4	36.5	54.4	20.0	6.8	39.1	39.7	42.1	1,016.7									
1987—																									
January	268.7	19.1	7.4	60.4	104.1	48.6	67.4	12.7	16.0	38.5	15.3	5.4	31.1	36.9	30.4	761.9									
February	249.0	19.2	6.2	51.9	91.2	44.1	52.1	8.0	15.5	35.8	13.5	6.9	26.2	29.5	24.8	673.9									
Standard error of—																									
Level(a)	6.1	2.1	0.1	4.1	3.5	2.6	0.2	0.6	2.4	2.1	1.5	0.9	2.0	1.9	2.8	10.5									
Change(b)	2.1	0.4	0.0	2.9	1.4	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.7	1.6	5.5									

For footnotes see end of table.





TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—continued  
(\$ million)

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Foot-wear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	News-agents	Other	Total
1985—																
December	45.5	5.4	n.p.	6.5	19.1	15.4	29.6	3.0	3.7	9.6	3.4	1.5	4.2	5.0	n.p.	161.3
1986—																
January	38.8	4.5	n.p.	6.6	14.9	8.4	11.5	2.1	2.0	4.6	2.6	0.9	3.3	3.7	n.p.	110.5
February	37.8	4.3	n.p.	6.1	14.2	9.1	11.7	2.3	1.7	4.1	2.5	0.9	3.0	4.1	n.p.	106.9
March	40.6	4.5	n.p.	6.6	15.0	9.2	12.4	2.2	1.4	4.3	2.4	0.9	2.8	4.1	n.p.	111.7
April	38.6	3.9	n.p.	6.1	13.9	10.5	13.4	2.4	1.5	5.3	2.8	1.0	3.6	3.5	n.p.	111.4
May	41.9	4.1	n.p.	6.1	14.7	10.9	16.5	2.8	1.5	6.3	3.2	1.2	3.8	4.0	n.p.	122.6
June	38.7	3.8	n.p.	5.9	13.4	9.3	12.1	2.2	1.3	5.7	2.9	1.3	3.5	3.7	n.p.	108.6
July	42.1	3.8	n.p.	6.2	13.7	9.7	14.3	2.2	1.3	6.2	2.7	1.3	3.9	4.4	n.p.	117.3
August	42.9	4.1	n.p.	6.2	14.7	8.2	12.8	2.0	1.5	6.3	2.7	1.3	3.8	4.5	n.p.	116.7
September	42.2	4.1	n.p.	6.1	14.5	8.9	14.3	2.2	1.7	6.3	2.7	1.3	4.1	4.0	n.p.	118.3
October	44.1	4.3	n.p.	6.9	13.4	9.3	13.4	2.2	2.0	6.0	2.6	1.5	4.2	4.2	n.p.	122.8
November	43.4	3.9	n.p.	6.7	15.8	9.8	14.7	2.1	2.4	6.1	2.3	1.5	3.7	4.2	n.p.	122.8
December	50.5	5.3	n.p.	7.1	21.7	15.8	30.1	3.0	3.9	9.4	2.8	1.7	5.2	6.6	n.p.	172.5
1987—																
January	42.3	4.0	n.p.	7.0	15.2	9.1	11.4	1.8	2.3	5.6	2.0	1.4	4.2	4.4	n.p.	116.7
February	40.1	3.9	n.p.	6.1	14.3	9.4	11.2	2.2	1.9	5.0	2.2	1.4	3.8	4.6	n.p.	111.4
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	0.7	0.2	n.p.	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	n.p.	1.6
Change(b)	0.3	0.0	n.p.	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	n.p.	0.8
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY																
1985—																
December	23.1	1.6	n.p.	4.2	7.9	7.2	23.6	0.9	5.6	7.6	2.7	0.8	3.3	3.3	n.p.	100.2
1986—																
January	21.9	1.7	n.p.	4.0	6.0	6.1	12.1	1.0	1.8	4.2	1.7	0.8	2.8	2.4	n.p.	74.0
February	19.6	1.7	n.p.	3.6	5.2	5.1	8.8	0.9	1.8	4.7	2.1	0.8	2.5	2.6	n.p.	65.1
March	22.5	1.8	n.p.	3.6	6.6	5.2	11.3	0.9	1.7	4.4	1.7	0.9	2.3	3.4	n.p.	75.0
April	22.8	1.3	n.p.	3.5	6.7	6.9	13.0	1.1	1.6	4.4	2.0	0.9	2.6	2.5	n.p.	75.4
May	23.9	1.4	n.p.	3.4	7.1	8.1	17.4	1.2	1.9	5.5	2.4	1.1	2.5	2.5	n.p.	84.9
June	23.8	1.8	n.p.	3.3	6.9	6.7	11.7	0.9	1.7	5.4	2.4	1.0	2.4	2.4	n.p.	76.0
July	24.9	1.8	n.p.	4.1	5.8	6.8	14.1	1.0	1.7	6.1	2.5	1.1	2.6	3.1	n.p.	84.7
August	22.6	1.9	n.p.	4.6	6.6	6.7	11.5	0.9	1.8	5.5	2.8	1.0	2.7	4.2	n.p.	81.8
September	23.9	1.9	n.p.	4.3	6.4	6.3	13.2	1.0	1.9	5.7	2.9	1.0	2.6	3.1	n.p.	82.7
October	24.3	2.3	n.p.	4.0	6.4	6.2	14.5	1.1	2.0	4.5	3.3	1.0	2.9	2.8	n.p.	84.4
November	24.2	2.1	n.p.	3.8	6.4	6.4	14.3	1.1	2.3	4.3	3.2	1.0	2.7	3.0	n.p.	83.0
December	28.0	2.6	n.p.	3.9	7.1	8.4	27.1	1.4	4.9	6.0	3.6	0.9	3.2	3.2	n.p.	109.2
1987—																
January	25.6	1.8	n.p.	3.7	4.9	5.5	11.5	1.2	1.9	3.5	2.7	0.7	2.4	2.6	n.p.	74.0
February	25.0	1.6	n.p.	4.3	6.4	5.5	10.7	1.0	1.5	3.7	2.2	0.9	2.4	2.9	n.p.	73.7
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	0.8	0.5	n.p.	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	n.p.	1.9
Change(b)	0.3	0.2	n.p.	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	n.p.	1.3

(a) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes. (b) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month—see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication presents monthly estimates of the value of retail sales classified by *industry* (i.e. type of store) for Australia and each State.

2. Quarterly estimates of total retail sales at constant (average 1979-80) prices are also included.
3. All the series shown in this publication, with estimates for earlier periods, are available on AUSSTATS — see paragraph 30.
4. Quarterly estimates of retail sales classified by *commodity* groups are published in Catalogue No. 8503.0. Analysis of the quarterly commodity data may lead to revisions in the monthly industry series. For this reason the monthly figures which relate to periods subsequent to the latest quarterly release should be regarded as preliminary.

### Scope and coverage

5. The estimates are derived from a survey which includes in its scope all retail trade establishments, i.e. establishments classified to subdivision 48 of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), 1983 Edition (Catalogue Nos. 1201.0 and 1202.0), *except* motor vehicle dealers, petrol retailers etc. (ASIC classes 4861-4868), bread and milk vendors (4878-4879), footwear repairers (4846) and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. (4857). *Also included* are cafes and restaurants (9231), hotels, etc. (mainly drinking places) (9232), licensed clubs (9241-9243) and hairdressers (9351-9352).
6. The scope of the survey includes establishments in all States and the Australian Capital Territory, but excludes those in the Northern Territory.
7. The survey is based on a random sample of establishments within the scope defined above. From the data reported by the sampled establishments, aggregates comprising all retail sales in Australia (excluding Northern Territory) are estimated.
8. The retail sales reported are principally sales of new or used goods to final consumers for personal or household consumption. Excluded are sales of tools of trade, building materials and supplies, agricultural supplies and equipment, and business equipment. Sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol, boats, caravans, etc. are out of scope of the estimates of retail sales in this publication. Also excluded are takings from meals consumed on the premises, accommodation, hairdressing, beauty treatments, and repairs. However, the estimates of retail sales in this publication include sales of take-away food, and beer, wine and spirits served with meals.

### Industry statistics

9. Details of the value of retail sales are available for 15 industries. The ASIC class(es) which make up each industry are as follows:

Industry	ASIC Class(es)
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	4881
Butchers	4882
General stores	4815
Other food stores	4883, 4885, 4886
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	9232, 4884, 9241, 9242, 9243
Clothing and fabrics stores	4843, 4844, 4847
Department stores	4814
Footwear stores	4845
Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	4853, 4854
Electrical goods stores	4855, 4856
Furniture stores	4849
Floor coverings stores	4848
Chemists	4891
Newsagents	4894
Other	4892, 4893, 4895, 4896, 4897, 9231, 9351, 9352

### Reliability of estimates

10. Since the estimates are based on information obtained from a sample survey of retail establishments, the estimates of levels and changes are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all units had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of units was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all units had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

11. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of change since the preceding month are shown in the tables. Examples of the use of these standard errors are given below:

- (a) The estimate of \$4,237.1 million for the total value of retail sales in February 1987 has a standard error of about \$27.7 million. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the figure which would have been obtained if all establishments had been included in the survey would be within the range \$4,209.4 million to \$4,264.8 million, and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would be within \$4,181.7 million to \$4,292.5 million.
- (b) The estimated change of -\$383.6 million (-8.3 per cent) in the total value of retail sales between January 1987 and February 1987 has a standard error of about \$15.2 million (0.3 per cent). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the change which would have been obtained if all establishments had been included in the survey would be within the range -\$368.4 million to -\$398.8 million (-8.0 per cent to -8.6 per cent) and nineteen chances in twenty that the change would be within -\$353.2 million to -\$414.0 million (-7.7 per cent to -8.9 per cent).

12. Standard errors of estimates of change between non consecutive months are not shown in this publication. These standard errors are generally much higher than the standard errors of change between consecutive months. For example, the standard error of change between the latest month and the corresponding month of the previous year is, on average, approximately 1.4 times the standard error of *level* of the latest month.

13. Users of the statistics in this publication should note that the standard errors are relatively large for estimates for some industries in some States.

14. Seasonally adjusted, smoothed seasonally adjusted and constant price estimates are also subject to sampling variability. For seasonally adjusted estimates, the standard errors in percentage terms approximate those for the unadjusted series. For smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates, the standard errors are generally not larger than for the seasonally adjusted estimates and are likely to be smaller. For constant price estimates, the standard errors may be up to 10 per cent higher than those for the corresponding current price estimates, because of the sampling variability contained in the prices data used to deflate the current price estimates.

15. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting

by respondents and errors made in collection and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error and they may occur in any collection, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of forms, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.

#### Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates

16. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised. In the seasonal adjustment of the retail sales estimates, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors and 'trading-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month). For total retail sales for Australia, adjustment has also been made for the effects of change in the date of Easter and Australia Day holidays. Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular influences (e.g. abnormal weather, industrial disputes) and the seasonally adjusted estimates still reflect the sampling and non-sampling errors to which the original estimates are subject. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these series are available on request.

17. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates of retail sales have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

18. While this smoothing technique enables estimates of trend to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent months as data for subsequent months become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller and after 3 months have a negligible impact on the series. There will also be revisions as a result of revisions to the original estimates and periodic reviews of seasonal and trading day factors.

19. This publication includes monthly estimates of trend of retail sales for Australia, classified by industry, and for each State (total all industries). Seasonally adjusted estimates for industries and States are not included. These series, which commence in April 1982, are not long enough to provide sufficient information to allow reliable seasonal adjustment at present, since the seasonally adjusted estimates are subject to a relatively high degree of revision as data for later months become available and are taken into account in the re-estimation of seasonal and trading day factors. However the estimates of trend included in this publication are not expected to be subject to the same degree of revision.

20. The seasonal adjustment of each industry series and each State series has been done independently and so, for any one month, the estimates of trend for industries and States may not add to the estimates of trend of total retail sales for Australia.

21. Seasonally adjusted and estimates of trend of retail sales by industries in each State are not included because the series are not yet long enough to allow reliable adjustment.

22. Users may wish to refer to the ABS Information Papers *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of 'Trend'* (1316.0) and *Time Series Decomposition — An Overview* (1317.0) for more detailed information on smoothing of seasonally adjusted time series data.

#### Estimates at constant prices

23. A quarterly series of the value of total retail sales at average 1979-80 prices is provided in both original and seasonally adjusted form. The scope of the series at constant prices is identical to that of the series at current prices.

24. The series is a measure of change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. Measures of this type are subject to approximations and assumptions, and should not be interpreted in any precise quantitative sense.

25. Further information on the nature and concepts of constant price estimates is contained in Chapter 4 of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

26. As indicated in paragraph 4, the estimates of retail sales (at current prices), for months subsequent to the latest quarterly release, may be revised following analysis of the quarterly commodity data. Similarly, the constant price estimates of total retail sales for quarters subsequent to the latest quarterly release may be revised and therefore should be regarded as preliminary.

#### Related publications

27. Estimates of retail sales at current and constant prices for States and commodity groups are published quarterly in *Retail Sales of Goods (Excluding Motor Vehicles, Parts, Petrol, etc.) Australia* (8503.0).

28. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r revised  
n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals

29. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

30. VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

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