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CATALOGUE NO. 8501.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 2 JULY 1987

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

PHONE INQUIRIES • *about these statistics*—contact Mr Howard Williams on Canberra (062) 52 5631 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.

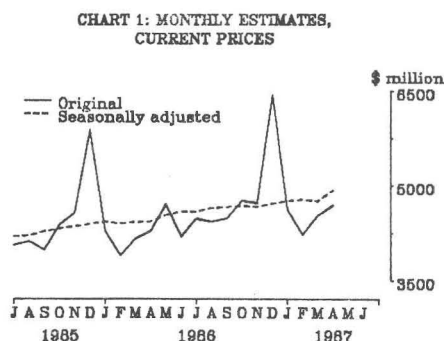
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MAIN FEATURES

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



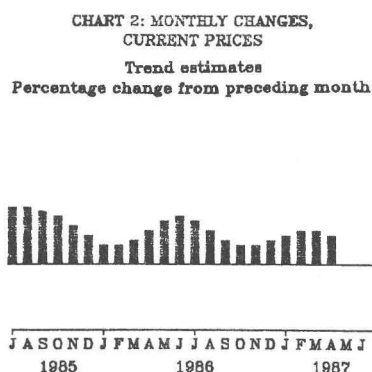
This publication includes trend estimates of retail sales (formerly referred to as smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates). The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series to provide a basis for identifying the underlying trend. However, 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.

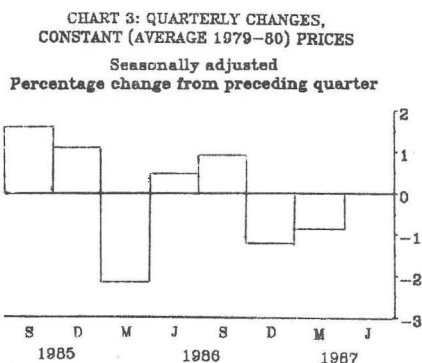
AUSTRALIAN TOTAL ESTIMATES (see Charts 1 to 3)

For April 1987, the estimated value of retail sales in Australia (excluding sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc), in original terms, is \$4,694.0 million, an increase of 3.5% from March 1987. In seasonally adjusted terms, April 1987 also shows an increase of 3.5% following a fall of 0.5% in the previous month. The seasonally adjusted increase in April 1987 is the largest monthly increase since July 1979.

In 1987 there were school holidays in April (instead of May) for the first time in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. A number of retailers in these States advised that school holidays had affected their sales in April 1987. However, it is not clear to what extent the seasonality of monthly total retail sales has been affected by the changed timing of school holidays.



The trend estimates, which are shown in Chart 2, provide a basis for identifying the underlying trend in retail sales. Taking account of data for months up to April 1987, these estimates show growth of 0.6% or 0.7% each month from January to April 1987. The trend estimate for April 1987 is 8.2% above that for April 1986.



This represents an upward revision of the growth in trend estimates for recent months, published previously. These trend estimates may be revised again when data for subsequent months become available.

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

CHART 4: GROCERS, CONFECTIONERS, TOBACCONISTS

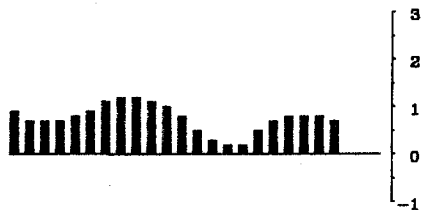


CHART 5: OTHER FOOD STORES

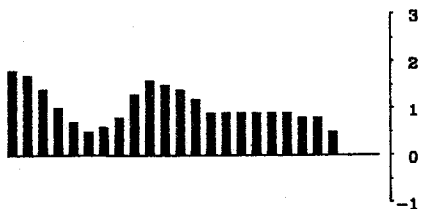


CHART 6: HOTELS, LIQUOR STORES, LICENSED CLUBS



CHART 7: CLOTHING AND FABRICS STORES

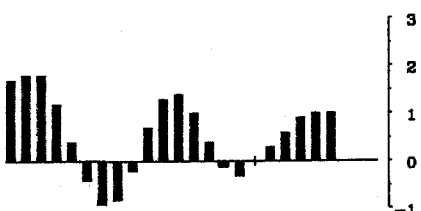


CHART 8: DEPARTMENT STORES

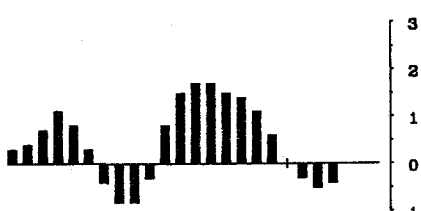
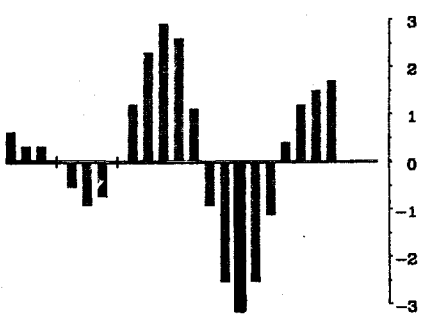


CHART 9: ELECTRICAL GOODS STORES



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

INDUSTRY ESTIMATES (see Charts 4 to 9)

With the addition of figures for April 1987, the growth in the trend estimates of retail sales by grocers, confectioners and tobacconists has been revised upwards for recent months, and now shows a fairly steady monthly rate of 0.7% or 0.8% from December 1986 to April 1987 (see Chart 4). Grocers, confectioners and tobacconists account for about 32% of total retail sales.

For other food stores (excluding butchers), which account for about 7% of total retail sales, the growth in the trend estimates has also been revised upwards for recent months, but still shows a decline from April 1986, when it peaked at 1.6%, to a rate of 0.5% for April 1987 (see Chart 5).

For hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs (11% of total retail sales), the growth in the trend estimates has been revised upwards for recent months, to show a peak of 0.9% in January and February 1987, with a small decline to 0.7% in April 1987 (see Chart 6).

The growth in the trend estimates for clothing and fabrics stores (9% of total retail sales), has been revised upwards for recent months. From a low of -0.3% in October 1986, the monthly trend growth rate has increased to 1.0% in both March and April 1987 (see Chart 7).

For department stores (11% of total retail sales), the changes in trend estimates for recent months have been revised downwards, to show falls in February (now -0.3%), March (-0.5%) and April 1987 (-0.4%) (see Chart 8).

The changes in trend estimates for recent months for electrical goods stores (5% of total retail sales), have been revised upwards substantially with the addition of data for April 1987. The increase in the rate of growth in the trend estimates has continued, from -3.1% in October 1986 to +1.7% in April 1987 (see Chart 9). This series shows more irregular movements than the other large retail industries, and the provisional growth rate could be revised substantially in subsequent months.

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

With the inclusion of figures for April 1987, the growth in the trend estimates of retail sales in New South Wales and Victoria has been revised upwards slightly for recent months, and now shows a rate of 0.5% for each of the last few months in both States (see Charts 10 and 11). New South Wales accounts for about 35% of total retail sales in Australia, and Victoria accounts for 26%.

For Queensland (16% of total retail sales) the growth in the trend estimates has been revised only slightly, and continues to show a decline, from 0.8% in November and December 1986 to 0.1% in April 1987 (see Chart 12).

With the inclusion of data for April 1987, the growth in the trend estimates for recent months for South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania has been revised upwards substantially.

For South Australia (8% of total retail sales) and Tasmania (3% of total retail sales), the growth rate now shows an increase each month over the past few months, from below zero to 0.9% for South Australia and 1.1% for Tasmania for April 1987 (see Charts 13 and 15).

For Western Australia (9% of total retail sales), the growth rate shows a decline from a peak of 1.2% in November 1986 to 0.8% in April 1987 (see Chart 14).

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		Trend estimates		
	\$ m	% change from preceding month	\$ m	% change from preceding month	\$ m	% change from preceding month	% change from corresponding month of previous year
1986—							
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	4,476.1	0.7	10.7
May	4,706.5	9.8	4,537.3	2.3	4,517.4	0.9	10.5
June	4,196.8	-10.8	4,589.2	1.1	4,562.1	1.0	10.3
July	4,478.8	6.7	4,592.8	0.1	4,602.9	0.9	10.0
August	4,433.7	-1.0	4,645.3	1.1	4,634.9	0.7	9.5
September	4,486.1	1.2	4,664.2	0.4	4,659.0	0.5	8.9
October	4,761.8	6.1	4,684.1	0.4	4,676.9	0.4	8.2
November	4,732.7	-0.6	4,667.4	-0.4	4,695.0	0.4	7.8
December	6,440.2	36.1	4,718.5	1.1	4,718.6	0.5	7.7
1987—							
January	4,620.7	-28.3	4,761.0	0.9	4,747.4	0.6	7.9
February	4,232.5	-8.4	4,779.5	0.4	4,780.2	0.7	8.2
March	4,536.8	7.2	4,757.3	-0.5	4,813.7	0.7	8.3
April	4,694.0	3.5	4,924.2	3.5	4,844.9	0.6	8.2
Standard error(b) of—							
April 1987	27.9						
Change: April 1987 from March 1987	22.0	0.5					

(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
1986—						
March quarter	7,822.6	-19.1	1.7	8,373.3	-2.2	2.2
June quarter	8,204.3	4.9	1.3	8,410.4	0.4	1.0
September quarter	8,165.3	-0.5	0.5	8,485.7	0.9	0.2
December quarter	9,450.9	15.7	-2.3	8,387.1	-1.2	-2.0
1987—						
March quarter	7,777.2	-17.8	-0.6	8,324.5	-0.8	-0.6

(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	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										
ORIGINAL																									
\$ million																									
1986—	1,307.9	136.9	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										
February	1,409.2	145.7	279.0	525.2	342.3	416.4	60.1	102.3	201.5	109.8	41.1	161.6	145.6	185.6	4,162.5										
March	1,379.8	147.6	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										
April	1,471.2	157.6	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										
May	1,379.7	151.3	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										
June	1,453.1	156.9	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										
July	1,439.9	156.2	285.1	475.3	390.3	441.6	72.2	103.9	256.3	123.6	48.7	183.6	151.2	222.2	4,433.7										
August	1,429.8	152.4	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										
September	1,521.6	158.4	310.9	538.1	438.0	511.4	83.8	129.9	236.5	132.1	53.6	198.4	161.0	247.1	4,761.8										
October	1,482.2	151.7	310.0	540.2	438.2	540.9	77.3	142.9	231.4	127.7	54.3	189.0	161.9	243.6	4,732.7										
November	1,722.7	180.1	349.5	696.1	648.8	1,059.4	102.8	256.3	342.5	143.0	52.8	241.5	221.4	347.5	6,440.2										
December	1,523.0	147.0	338.3	571.4	373.6	470.0	81.7	118.6	219.0	115.1	41.7	191.1	170.3	223.4	4,620.7										
January	1,424.7	143.6	301.8	516.9	336.5	391.9	65.1	110.7	203.1	105.0	49.1	175.5	175.1	199.3	4,232.5										
February	1,494.8	146.8	310.2	536.2	400.2	463.2	72.6	113.4	220.0	114.0	55.6	182.7	169.4	220.2	4,536.8										
March	1,532.0	151.8	311.5	533.3	449.7	517.3	83.0	109.0	227.0	100.0	54.4	188.8	169.7	223.9	4,694.0										
April	14.7	6.4	1.2	9.5	7.6	0.0	3.2	4.6	5.1	3.8	3.9	6.1	6.0	8.7	27.9										
Standard error of—	12.5	4.0	0.4	5.7	5.3	0.0	2.6	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.5	3.9	5.0	7.6	22.0										
Level(b)																									
Change(c)																									
TREND ESTIMATES																									
\$ million																									
1986—	1,400.5	152.5	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										
February	1,417.1	152.3	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										
March	1,432.2	153.0	284.9	516.4	411.8	490.8	73.7	117.4	241.6	122.6	48.4	176.2	154.8	211.6	4,476.1										
April	1,447.3	154.2	289.3	516.1	417.2	494.7	75.1	118.5	248.6	124.0	49.3	178.2	155.7	217.5	4,517.4										
May	1,458.8	155.3	293.4	516.8	422.9	502.2	77.0	119.6	255.0	125.2	49.7	180.5	156.3	223.6	4,562.1										
June	1,466.5	155.7	296.8	518.6	427.1	510.7	79.0	120.5	257.8	125.8	49.6	183.0	156.7	229.0	4,602.9										
July	1,470.4	155.4	299.6	521.1	428.8	519.4	80.5	121.7	255.5	125.7	48.9	185.5	157.5	232.8	4,634.9										
August	1,472.8	154.7	302.4	524.6	428.4	527.3	81.3	123.2	249.1	125.1	48.1	187.8	159.1	234.1	4,659.0										
September	1,476.1	154.0	305.1	528.3	427.2	534.7	81.7	124.9	241.3	124.2	47.7	189.6	161.3	232.9	4,676.9										
October	1,482.9	153.6	307.8	532.3	427.2	540.5	81.8	126.4	235.3	123.1	48.2	190.8	164.1	230.6	4,695.0										
November	1,493.4	153.5	310.5	536.5	428.4	543.6	81.8	127.2	232.7	121.3	49.6	191.6	167.2	228.7	4,718.6										
December	1,505.6	153.7	313.2	541.1	430.9	543.8	81.8	127.0	233.6	119.0	51.6	192.4	170.3	228.7	4,747.4										
January	1,518.3	154.0	315.6	545.9	434.6	542.2	81.6	126.5	236.4	116.7	53.7	193.5	173.2	230.4	4,780.2										
February	1,530.1	154.3	318.0	550.3	439.0	539.3	81.4	125.9	239.9	114.5	55.8	194.8	175.7	233.2	4,813.7										
March	1,540.7	154.7	319.6	553.9	443.5	537.2	81.1	125.1	243.9	112.2	57.6	196.1	178.1	236.1	4,844.9										
April	1,540.7	154.7	319.6	553.9	443.5	537.2	81.1	125.1	243.9	112.2	57.6	196.1	178.1	236.1	4,844.9										

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	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
% change from preceding month																
1986—																
February	1.2	-0.4	-0.5	0.8	0.5	-0.8	-0.8	-1.3	0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.9	0.4
March	1.2	-0.1	-1.4	1.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.9	0.6	1.2	0.4	1.7	1.1	1.1	2.3	0.5
April r	1.1	0.5	-1.7	1.6	0.0	0.7	-0.3	0.5	0.9	2.3	1.1	2.3	1.0	0.9	2.6	0.7
May r	1.0	0.8	-0.7	1.5	-0.1	1.3	0.8	1.9	0.9	2.9	1.1	1.9	1.1	0.6	2.8	0.9
June r	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.4	1.5	2.5	0.9	2.6	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.4	2.8	1.0
July r	0.5	0.3	1.0	1.2	0.3	1.0	1.7	2.6	0.8	1.1	0.5	-0.2	1.4	0.3	2.4	0.9
August r	0.3	-0.2	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.4	1.7	1.9	1.0	-0.9	-0.1	-1.4	1.4	0.5	1.7	0.7
September r	0.2	-0.5	1.7	0.9	0.7	-0.1	1.5	1.0	1.2	-2.5	-0.5	-1.6	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5
October r	0.2	-0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	-0.3	1.4	0.5	1.4	-3.1	-0.7	-0.8	1.0	1.4	-0.5	0.4
November r	0.5	-0.3	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.1	1.2	-2.5	-0.9	1.0	0.6	1.7	-1.0	0.4
December r	0.7	0.0	-0.5	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.6	-1.1	-1.5	2.9	0.4	1.9	-0.8	0.5
1987—																
January r	0.8	0.1	-0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.4	-1.9	4.0	0.4	1.9	0.0	0.6
February r	0.8	0.2	-0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	1.2	-1.9	4.1	0.6	1.7	0.7	0.7
March r	0.8	0.2	-0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.4	1.5	-1.9	3.9	0.7	1.4	1.2	0.7
April	0.7	0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.7	1.0	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6	1.7	-2.0	3.2	0.7	1.4	1.2	0.6
1986—																
February	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	5.2	21.3	11.4
March	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	6.8	22.7	11.0
April r	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	7.5	24.5	10.7
May r	11.8	12.1	2.8	15.7	8.3	8.5	2.9	14.8	13.9	6.5	12.6	5.3	11.7	7.5	25.9	10.5
June r	11.6	11.6	2.0	15.3	7.6	8.3	3.8	16.0	13.7	8.1	9.9	4.6	11.8	7.2	26.9	10.3
July r	11.2	9.8	2.5	14.6	7.0	7.5	5.2	16.3	13.3	8.6	7.5	3.3	11.9	7.1	27.1	10.0
August r	10.7	7.1	3.4	13.7	6.5	6.0	6.6	15.0	12.8	7.4	5.3	1.7	12.2	7.7	26.3	9.5
September r	10.2	4.1	4.4	13.3	6.3	4.1	7.5	12.4	12.2	4.4	3.3	0.4	12.6	8.8	24.4	8.9
October r	9.6	1.7	4.1	13.1	6.0	2.5	7.8	10.0	11.2	1.2	1.8	0.2	13.1	21.9	21.9	8.2
November r	9.2	0.3	2.9	13.3	5.7	2.1	8.1	8.3	11.4	-0.8	1.0	2.3	13.3	11.6	19.5	7.8
December r	9.0	0.0	1.2	13.7	5.5	2.9	8.4	8.1	11.1	-1.0	0.0	6.7	13.1	12.8	17.2	7.7
1987—																
January r	8.7	0.4	-0.5	14.1	5.5	4.4	8.8	9.1	10.3	0.0	-1.6	11.7	12.6	13.6	15.6	7.9
February r	8.4	1.0	-0.7	14.0	5.9	6.1	9.3	10.3	9.3	1.3	-3.4	15.5	12.7	14.2	14.3	8.2
March r	8.0	1.3	0.0	13.4	6.5	7.3	9.6	11.1	8.2	1.6	-5.6	18.0	11.7	14.5	13.1	8.3
April	7.5	1.1	1.5	12.2	7.3	7.7	9.5	10.0	6.6	1.0	-8.5	19.0	11.3	15.1	11.6	8.2

(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								
1986—								
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 r	1,689.5	1,278.6	770.3	389.0	428.1	122.7	83.6	4,761.8
November r	1,705.4	1,269.0	749.6	386.5	417.6	122.8	81.7	4,732.7
December r	2,346.2	1,717.9	1,015.9	513.2	565.1	172.6	109.5	6,440.2
1987—								
January	1,633.4	1,231.6	761.9	377.1	425.9	116.7	74.0	4,620.7
February	1,496.1	r1,141.8	673.9	343.1	392.5	111.4	73.7	r4,232.5
March	1,607.2	r1,229.8	720.8	371.8	404.8	118.7	83.8	r4,536.8
April	1,672.9	1,261.3	725.1	392.2	429.0	127.6	86.0	4,694.0
Standard error of—								
Level(b)	16.5	16.8	10.7	7.2	6.3	2.5	2.3	27.9
Change(c)	11.0	15.1	6.8	5.8	6.3	2.4	1.8	22.0
TREND ESTIMATES								
\$ million								
1986—								
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 r	1,573.5	1,191.0	730.5	382.7	403.6	117.3	79.6	4,476.1
May r	1,595.4	1,210.7	733.8	383.9	403.9	118.1	81.0	4,517.4
June r	1,621.0	1,228.1	736.3	384.5	404.6	119.3	82.6	4,562.1
July r	1,642.9	1,240.7	738.2	384.3	405.8	120.8	83.8	4,602.9
August r	1,657.5	1,248.4	740.2	383.9	408.0	122.1	84.1	4,634.9
September r	1,665.8	1,252.2	743.1	383.8	411.8	123.0	83.4	4,659.0
October r	1,670.9	1,253.6	747.7	384.1	416.4	123.2	82.3	4,676.9
November r	1,675.8	1,255.0	753.6	385.0	421.2	123.0	81.6	4,695.0
December r	1,682.1	1,258.0	759.4	386.5	425.8	122.9	81.8	4,718.6
1987—								
January r	1,689.9	1,263.1	763.4	388.7	430.0	123.3	83.0	4,747.4
February r	1,698.7	1,269.3	766.2	391.4	434.1	124.2	84.7	4,780.2
March r	1,707.1	1,275.9	767.6	394.4	437.9	125.5	86.3	4,813.7
April	1,715.6	1,282.4	768.5	397.8	441.2	126.9	88.1	4,844.9
% change from preceding month								
1986—								
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 r	0.8	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.7
May r	1.4	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.7	1.8	0.9
June r	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	2.0	1.0
July r	1.4	1.0	0.3	-0.1	0.3	1.3	1.5	0.9
August r	0.9	0.6	0.3	-0.1	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.7
September r	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.7	-0.8	0.5
October r	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.2	-1.3	0.4
November r	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.2	1.2	-0.2	-0.9	0.4
December r	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.4	1.1	-0.1	0.2	0.5
1987—								
January r	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.5	0.6
February r	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	2.0	0.7
March r	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.9	0.7
April	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.8	1.1	2.1	0.6
% change from corresponding month of previous year								
1986—								
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 r	9.7	12.4	11.6	8.1	10.1	4.5	9.3	10.5
June r	9.8	12.5	10.8	7.4	9.1	5.0	9.5	10.3
July r	9.7	12.3	9.9	6.5	8.3	5.8	10.0	10.0
August r	9.3	11.8	9.2	5.5	8.0	6.3	10.1	9.5
September r	8.6	11.2	8.4	4.5	8.1	6.3	9.2	8.9
October r	7.9	10.7	7.8	3.8	8.3	5.8	7.9	8.2
November r	7.7	10.4	7.4	3.3	8.4	5.0	6.9	7.8
December r	8.0	10.3	7.1	3.1	8.4	4.6	6.6	7.7
1987—								
January r	8.6	10.1	6.7	3.0	8.3	4.9	7.5	7.9
February r	9.1	9.7	6.2	3.2	8.4	6.0	8.9	8.2
March r	9.4	8.8	5.6	3.5	8.7	7.3	9.8	8.3
April	9.0	7.7	5.2	3.9	9.3	8.2	10.7	8.2

(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.),
TREND ESTIMATES, MONTHLY CHANGES
CURRENT PRICES, STATES
Percentage change from preceding month

CHART 10: NEW SOUTH WALES

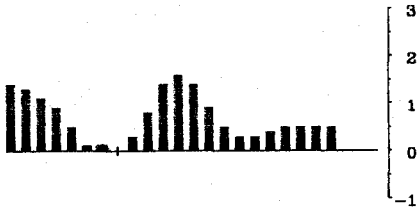


CHART 11: VICTORIA

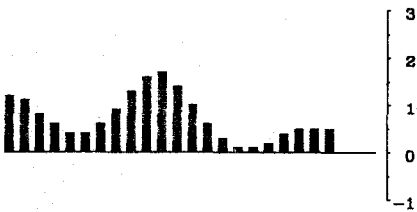


CHART 12: QUEENSLAND

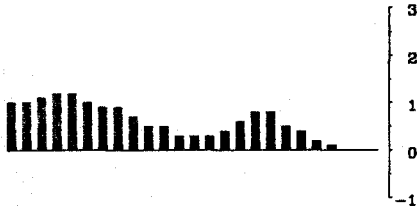


CHART 13: SOUTH AUSTRALIA

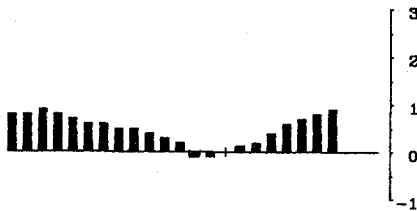


CHART 14: WESTERN AUSTRALIA

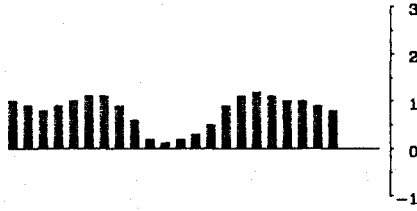
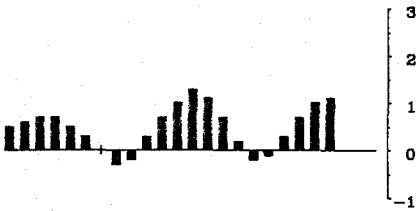


CHART 15: TASMANIA



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, confect- ioners, tobacc- onists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Depart- ment stores	Foot- wear stores	Domestic hardware stores	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	News- agents	Other	Total
1986—																
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	183.3	26.1	37.4	76.7	39.8	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	463.7	69.4	9.3	117.1	200.8	159.1	214.9	33.4	49.9	70.2	43.5	17.5	78.5	67.3	93.4	1,689.5
November	439.5	65.1	9.6	120.9	198.4	159.1	234.8	29.5	55.0	73.9	43.1	18.0	75.3	68.0	95.2	1,705.4
December	533.6	78.2	16.5	139.5	257.0	252.7	447.9	39.2	103.4	113.5	50.1	17.8	93.8	92.3	130.8	2,346.2
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
March	451.3	64.4	9.0	115.0	197.1	142.4	198.9	26.3	41.6	68.1	41.8	15.5	76.4	71.2	88.3	1,607.2
April	466.3	67.1	9.6	115.3	202.1	166.3	208.0	30.9	40.9	72.2	36.1	20.3	79.0	69.9	89.0	1,672.9
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	6.0	4.6	0.7	6.8	6.3	4.4	0.0	1.1	2.5	3.2	2.6	3.1	4.6	4.2	5.6	16.5
Change(b)	2.9	2.5	0.3	3.7	3.1	2.8	0.0	0.8	2.1	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.7	3.5	5.1	11.0

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

Month	(\$ million)										Total				
	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
VICTORIA															
1986—															
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
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
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
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
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
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	31.8	57.6
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
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
October	441.2	45.2	9.8	80.0	111.7	133.2	104.2	21.9	41.2	74.0	41.9	18.0	48.6	36.3	71.6
November	425.6	45.0	10.3	78.0	121.2	134.3	106.2	20.8	44.7	71.5	40.0	17.3	46.5	36.5	71.1
December	485.4	52.7	20.6	85.2	155.3	204.1	224.3	29.4	74.5	104.3	43.1	15.4	63.5	51.7	108.5
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
February	408.4	42.9	8.7	79.2	117.7	106.7	79.7	20.1	r36.6	61.3	29.8	18.2	40.8	37.2	54.5
March	432.1	42.6	9.4	81.0	119.4	130.6	97.3	22.5	r38.9	65.1	31.5	18.6	44.1	35.6	61.4
April	427.4	43.9	11.4	86.4	115.8	142.1	113.9	25.0	36.1	70.2	31.1	14.4	44.3	36.3	63.1
Standard error of—	9.4	3.4	0.0	7.3	4.7	5.1	0.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	1.9	1.7	3.0	2.8	5.3
Level(a)	9.9	2.6	0.0	4.4	2.8	3.7	0.0	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.7	2.4	1.9	4.7
Change(b)															
QUEENSLAND															
1986—															
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
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
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
May	256.8	21.2	7.6	49.7	97.4	50.7	69.9	15.1	15.5	43.0	17.9	7.6	26.5	27.4	29.2
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
July	253.4	21.6	6.9	49.0	99.7	64.3	64.3	10.7	14.8	40.8	19.2	5.3	26.7	26.3	27.4
August	237.0	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
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
October	266.4	23.2	7.5	52.4	102.9	60.8	68.5	11.6	18.6	38.2	18.3	6.6	32.3	29.1	33.7
November	257.5	22.0	7.4	50.8	101.5	59.7	69.0	10.0	20.6	36.1	18.0	7.0	30.4	28.9	30.7
December	299.6	24.4	14.8	59.0	128.7	84.8	151.1	13.4	36.5	55.1	20.0	6.8	39.9	39.6	42.2
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
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
March	264.8	19.8	6.8	53.1	97.5	47.9	59.7	8.9	15.9	37.0	16.5	8.4	27.4	29.6	27.5
April	265.2	19.1	7.5	48.9	97.5	53.9	69.9	9.8	13.7	34.7	10.4	7.5	30.2	30.4	26.4
Standard error of—	6.7	2.3	0.1	3.4	3.6	2.7	0.0	0.7	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.1	2.1	2.0	3.1
Level(a)	3.6	1.2	0.0	2.3	1.5	1.9	0.0	0.3	1.8	1.5	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.4	2.3
Change(b)															

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, tobacco- orists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics	Depart- ment stores	Foot- wear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	News- agents	Other	Total
SOUTH AUSTRALIA																
1986—																
February	118.1	9.6	3.8	19.6	40.3	24.3	40.7	5.5	5.5	17.7	10.1	3.7	12.4	8.9	13.7	334.0
March	130.5	9.7	4.1	21.3	45.2	24.5	40.8	5.2	5.5	17.5	9.8	3.6	13.0	8.6	15.6	355.0
April	128.4	9.5	4.4	21.7	39.1	32.6	51.3	6.8	6.3	19.6	11.9	4.2	13.0	7.6	15.1	371.8
May	135.0	10.3	5.4	22.9	39.1	35.0	66.5	7.7	6.8	21.4	15.5	4.2	14.2	8.4	14.7	406.8
June	123.8	10.1	4.4	20.5	38.1	27.4	49.5	5.8	5.6	19.1	13.7	4.2	12.8	8.1	14.6	357.9
July	131.0	9.3	6.2	22.6	37.5	27.4	54.6	6.0	5.8	19.7	10.8	5.3	15.2	9.0	13.5	373.9
August	130.7	9.3	5.3	22.6	40.2	27.1	46.3	5.7	6.0	20.4	10.6	4.8	15.3	9.0	15.3	368.6
September	128.3	9.3	6.0	23.7	39.9	28.0	52.6	5.8	5.8	20.1	10.5	5.4	14.9	8.7	15.3	374.1
October r	138.0	9.0	6.1	23.8	42.1	30.4	53.0	6.1	7.0	18.6	10.4	4.4	16.5	8.0	15.6	389.0
November r	131.8	8.4	5.8	23.6	42.8	31.0	58.9	6.2	7.3	17.3	9.7	4.9	15.8	8.0	15.2	386.5
December r	156.8	11.1	9.0	26.0	57.2	44.0	96.6	7.2	15.0	25.2	11.1	5.3	17.9	9.0	21.7	513.2
1987—																
January	133.2	10.0	5.0	26.6	43.9	25.8	46.9	6.2	6.6	18.7	10.7	4.4	14.8	6.8	17.4	377.1
February	125.6	8.9	4.2	23.0	40.1	22.3	40.1	4.6	6.2	18.2	9.2	4.6	13.7	7.6	14.7	343.1
March	133.1	9.1	4.5	23.5	40.8	29.4	44.9	6.2	6.7	20.6	10.5	4.7	14.8	8.3	14.8	371.8
April	143.9	9.3	5.4	23.3	43.3	31.2	52.9	7.2	6.4	18.9	8.9	4.8	14.3	8.4	14.0	392.2
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	5.4	0.9	0.9	1.8	2.3	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	7.2
Change(b)	4.8	0.8	0.1	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.4	5.8
WESTERN AUSTRALIA																
1986—																
February	132.7	5.8	5.8	24.2	49.9	30.1	31.0	5.7	5.2	19.7	9.1	5.1	12.1	11.5	14.3	362.1
March	140.2	5.7	6.1	25.2	52.0	31.2	35.2	6.4	5.2	19.2	10.4	5.5	13.1	11.0	15.1	381.5
April	136.2	6.4	6.2	24.9	51.3	32.8	35.2	7.6	5.7	21.0	7.5	7.3	13.3	11.0	17.1	383.4
May	141.3	6.5	7.5	24.7	50.6	40.1	43.6	9.0	6.3	26.1	9.0	6.4	13.9	11.5	18.8	415.4
June	131.6	6.1	5.0	25.1	48.1	34.5	33.3	6.8	5.3	23.5	7.9	6.4	13.2	10.2	17.4	374.4
July	137.0	5.3	6.2	25.1	48.6	38.6	35.9	7.2	6.0	24.7	8.7	6.9	14.2	11.9	16.4	392.6
August	136.8	5.3	6.6	26.9	50.9	36.1	34.7	6.7	7.5	25.6	9.1	5.8	14.5	12.0	17.0	395.4
September	135.2	5.5	7.2	27.3	51.9	35.3	40.2	7.9	7.2	21.7	9.0	6.3	14.9	12.0	17.0	399.9
October r	143.9	5.1	7.4	26.8	58.4	37.5	42.3	7.5	9.1	24.9	12.3	4.6	15.5	13.2	19.6	428.1
November r	140.2	5.2	7.4	26.2	54.3	38.0	42.9	7.6	10.7	22.5	11.1	4.5	14.5	13.4	19.0	417.6
December r	168.8	5.8	13.8	28.7	69.0	59.0	82.2	9.2	18.1	29.0	12.3	4.9	17.8	19.1	27.5	565.1
1987—																
January	146.4	5.1	6.6	29.4	68.6	35.1	38.4	7.0	7.1	21.2	9.9	4.5	13.7	15.1	17.8	425.9
February	143.1	5.2	6.6	27.5	59.0	28.6	31.4	5.7	7.7	19.5	8.6	4.8	13.5	15.7	15.8	392.5
March	144.8	5.0	7.2	27.8	59.8	32.5	36.4	5.5	6.6	17.5	8.7	5.6	13.5	15.1	17.1	404.8
April	157.0	6.0	7.9	26.9	52.5	37.9	43.3	6.6	7.4	20.9	8.6	5.0	14.3	16.0	18.6	429.0
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	3.8	1.1	0.1	1.6	2.4	1.4	0.0	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.5	1.1	2.0	1.5	6.3
Change(b)	3.5	0.5	0.1	1.7	3.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	2.0	1.3	6.3

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
TASMANIA																
1986—																
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 r	44.1	4.2	n.p.	6.8	15.8	9.3	13.5	2.2	2.0	6.0	2.5	1.5	4.2	4.2	n.p.	122.7
November r	43.4	3.9	n.p.	6.7	15.8	9.8	14.7	2.1	2.4	5.8	2.5	1.5	3.7	4.2	n.p.	122.8
December r	50.5	5.3	n.p.	7.1	21.7	15.8	30.3	3.0	3.9	9.4	2.8	1.7	5.2	6.6	n.p.	172.6
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
March	42.6	4.1	n.p.	6.1	14.5	10.2	12.8	2.0	2.1	5.6	2.2	1.7	4.1	5.2	n.p.	118.7
April	44.0	4.2	n.p.	7.0	15.2	11.1	14.8	2.2	2.8	5.9	2.3	1.6	4.3	4.9	n.p.	127.6
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	0.8	0.3	n.p.	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	n.p.	2.5
Change(b)	0.4	0.1	n.p.	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	n.p.	2.4
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY																
1986—																
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	4.1	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 r	24.3	2.3	n.p.	4.0	6.4	6.3	15.2	1.1	2.0	4.5	3.3	1.0	2.9	2.8	n.p.	83.6
November r	24.3	2.1	n.p.	3.9	6.0	6.4	14.3	1.1	2.2	4.3	3.2	1.0	2.8	3.0	n.p.	81.7
December r	28.0	2.6	n.p.	4.0	7.2	8.4	27.1	1.4	4.8	6.0	3.6	0.9	3.4	3.2	n.p.	109.5
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
March	26.1	1.9	n.p.	3.7	7.0	7.2	13.2	1.3	1.7	4.1	2.8	1.0	2.8	4.4	n.p.	83.8
April	28.1	2.1	n.p.	3.6	7.0	7.3	14.3	1.3	1.7	4.2	2.6	0.9	2.5	3.8	n.p.	86.0
Standard error of—																
Level(a)	1.1	0.5	n.p.	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	n.p.	2.3
Change(b)	0.4	0.2	n.p.	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	n.p.	1.8

(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:

- The estimate of \$4,694.0 million for the total value of retail sales in April 1987 has a standard error of about \$27.9 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 \$4,666.1 million to \$4,721.9 million, and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would be within \$4,638.2 million to \$4,749.8 million.
- The estimated change of +\$157.2 million (+3.5 per cent) in the total value of retail sales between March 1987 and April 1987 has a standard error of about \$22.0 million (0.5 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 +\$135.2 million to +\$179.2 million (+3.0 per cent to +4.0 per cent) and nineteen chances in twenty that the change would be within +\$113.2 million to +\$201.2 million (+2.5 per cent to +4.5 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, trend 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 trend 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.

Seasonally adjusted 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 trend estimates 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.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician