



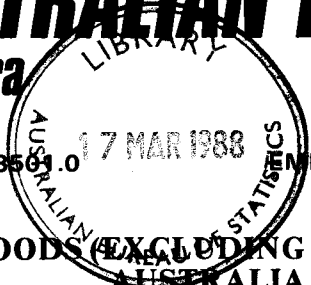
# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Canberra



CATALOGUE NO. 8561.0

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## RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), AUSTRALIA, JANUARY 1988

- PHONE INQUIRIES** • *about these statistics*—contact Mr Gill Allen on Canberra (062) 52 5559 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 5402, 52 6007, 52 6627 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

CHART 1 : MONTHLY ESTIMATES CURRENT PRICES

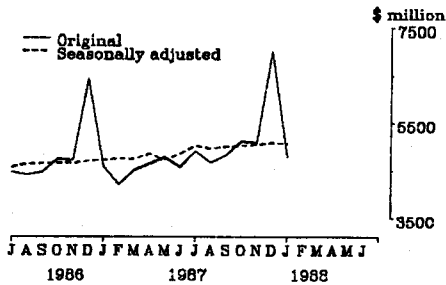


CHART 2 : MONTHLY CHANGES CURRENT PRICES Trend estimates

Percentage change from preceding month

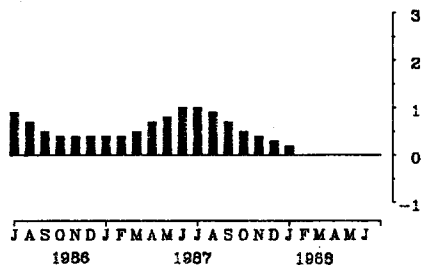
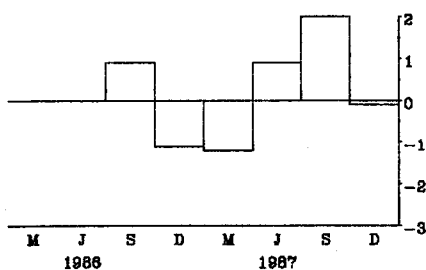


CHART 3 : QUARTERLY CHANGES CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1979-80) PRICES Seasonally adjusted

Percentage change from preceding quarter



*This publication includes trend estimates of retail sales, which have been derived by smoothing the series of 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 21 of the Explanatory Notes at the end of this publication.*

*Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability as explained in paragraphs 8 to 13.*

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

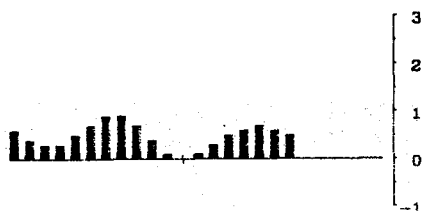
For January 1988, the estimated value of retail sales in Australia (excluding sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol etc), in original terms is \$4,799.8 million (See Chart 1). This is a decrease of 31.5% and mainly reflects the normal seasonal fall in sales after Christmas.

After seasonal adjustment, January 1988 shows a small decrease of 0.3%. Users should take note of the comment contained in previous releases of this bulletin that the changes to school holiday arrangements in a number of States in 1987 may have affected the seasonality of the series. However, the influence of the change is largely removed by the process of producing trend estimates (which smooth out irregularities in the seasonally adjusted series).

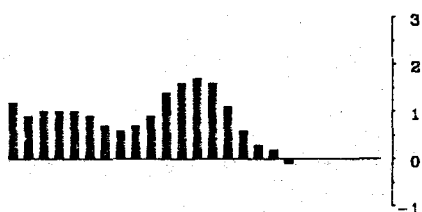
Trend estimates for January show a small growth in retail sales of 0.2% (see Chart 2) and continue the pattern in statistics since mid 1987 of a weakening in the rate of sales growth. This has occurred across most industries and States.

**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

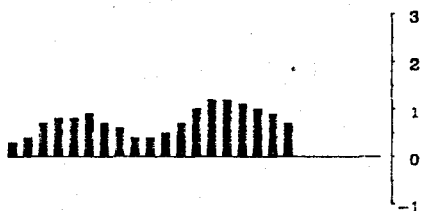
**CHART 4 : GROCERS, CONFECTIONERS, TOBACCONISTS**



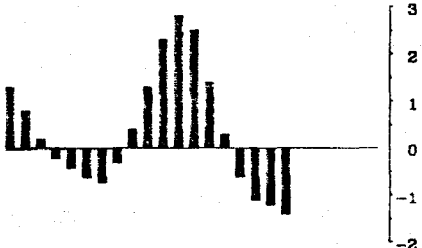
**CHART 5 : OTHER FOOD STORES**



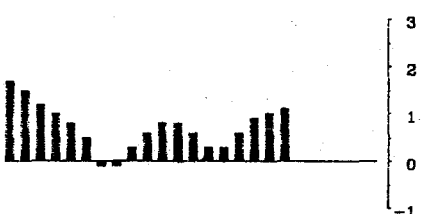
**CHART 6 : HOTELS, LIQUOR STORES, LICENSED CLUBS**



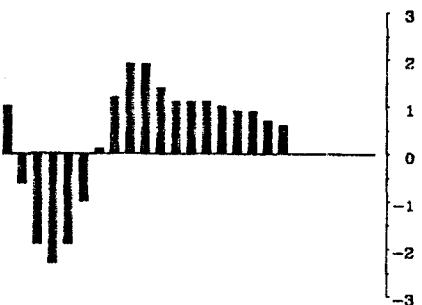
**CHART 7 : CLOTHING AND FABRICS STORES**



**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 1987 1988

**INDUSTRY ESTIMATES (see Charts 4 to 9)**

Trend estimates show that, with the exception of Department stores, there continues to be a slow down in the rate of growth in the value of retail sales across all industries in January and that some industries are showing negative growth rates in sales over recent months.

Clothing and fabrics stores, for example, show a negative trend growth of  $-1.4\%$  in January 1988, the fourth successive month in which the trend estimates decreased. Other industries showing a falling trend in January are Other food stores ( $-0.1\%$ ), Newsagents ( $-1.2\%$ ), Butchers ( $-0.8\%$ ), Furniture stores ( $-0.8\%$ ) and Domestic hardware stores and jewellers ( $-0.3\%$ ).

With the inclusion of figures for January 1988, trend estimates for Department stores show an increase in trend of  $1.1\%$  in January 1988, up from a revised  $1.0\%$  in December 1987 and  $0.9\%$  in November 1987.

**STATE ESTIMATES (see Charts 10 to 15 on page 8)**

With the exception of New South Wales and Tasmania, trend estimates for individual States continue to show a progressive weakening in the rate of growth of retail sales since mid 1987.

In New South Wales, trend estimates show that the growth rate in retail sales has been stable at  $0.6\%$  per month from September 1987 to January 1988. This, however, is lower than the peak of  $1.0\%$  measured in June 1987.

In Tasmania, trend estimates increased by  $0.9\%$  in January 1988, much the same as the  $1.0\%$  monthly increases measured for October, November and December 1987.

Trend estimates decreased in January for Victoria ( $-0.5\%$ ) and South Australia ( $-0.4\%$ ).

January trend estimates show continued increases (at a slackening rate) for Queensland ( $0.5\%$ ) and Western Australia ( $0.5\%$ ), and no growth in the Australian Capital Territory.

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(b)		
	\$m	% change from preceding month	\$m	% change from preceding month	\$m	% change from preceding month	% change from corresponding month of previous year
<b>1986</b>							
November	4,723.5	-0.6	4,663.9	0.0	4,685.2	0.4	7.7
December	6,431.1	36.2	4,706.4	0.9	4,706.2	0.4	7.6
<b>1987</b>							
January	4,586.4	-28.7	4,731.7	0.5	4,724.8	0.4	7.6
February	4,214.1	-8.1	4,758.4	0.6	4,743.9	0.4	7.6
March	4,514.8	7.1	4,751.1	-0.2	4,767.9	0.5	7.6
April	4,651.2	3.0	4,855.0	2.2	4,799.5	0.7	7.5
May	4,787.7	2.9	4,740.5	-2.4	4,839.6	0.8	7.4
June	4,582.6	-4.3	4,860.8	2.5	4,885.6	1.0	7.4
July	4,912.0	7.2	5,028.5	3.5	4,933.6	1.0	7.4
August	4,675.6	-4.8	4,969.8	-1.2	4,976.8	0.9	7.6
September	4,832.5	3.4	5,008.8	0.8	5,010.8	0.7	7.8
October	5,123.3	6.0	5,025.1	0.3	5,036.0	0.5	7.9
November	5,088.1	-0.7	5,048.1	0.5	5,055.0	0.4	7.9
December	7,008.3	37.7	5,092.1	0.9	5,070.1	0.3	7.7
<b>1988</b>							
January	4,799.8	-31.5	5,075.6	-0.3	5,078.3	0.2	7.5
<i>Standard error (c) of Latest month Change from previous month</i>	33.0						
	27.0	0.4					

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) Subject to revision - see paragraphs 17 and 18 of Explanatory Notes. (c) See paragraphs 8 to 13 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
<b>1986</b>						
December	9,453.7	15.8	-2.3	8,389.5	-1.1	-2.0
<b>1987</b>						
March	7,781.4	-17.7	-0.5	8,286.5	-1.2	-1.0
June	8,133.5	4.5	-0.9	8,362.9	0.9	-0.6
September	8,245.8	1.4	1.0	8,563.4	2.4	0.9
December	9,698.0	17.6	2.6	8,551.9	-0.1	1.9

(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) - continued

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists		Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs		Clothing and fabrics stores		Department stores		Footwear stores		Domestic hardware stores, jewellers		Electrical goods stores		Furniture stores		Floor coverings stores		Chemists		Newsagents		Other		Total	
	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	Newsagents	Other	Total											
TREND ESTIMATES(d)																										
% change from preceding month																										
1986																										
November	0.5	-0.5	0.2	1.0	0.8	-0.4	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	-1.9	-0.7	-0.7	1.5	0.7	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.7	1.6	-0.4	0.4
December	0.7	-0.3	-0.7	0.9	0.9	-0.6	0.5	0.2	0.5	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-1.0	-1.3	-2.0	2.5	0.6	1.3	0.6	1.3	0.6	1.3	0.6	1.3	-0.7	0.4
1987																										
January	0.9	0.1	-0.9	0.7	0.7	-0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	-2.0	-2.0	2.6	0.7	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.7	1.6	-0.4	0.4
February	0.9	0.4	-0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	1.2	-2.0	-2.0	2.5	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.8	0.3	0.4
March	0.7	0.8	-0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.9	-2.0	-2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	0.5
April	0.4	1.0	-0.7	0.9	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.7	1.9	-1.0	-1.0	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.7	0.7
May	0.1	0.9	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.8	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.8	2.2	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.6	0.8	0.8
June	0.0	0.6	1.0	1.6	0.7	2.8	0.8	0.9	2.3	0.7	2.3	1.1	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.0
July	0.1	-0.1	1.7	1.7	1.0	2.5	0.6	0.7	2.4	0.7	2.4	1.1	2.6	2.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.0
August	0.3	-0.7	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.4	0.3	0.8	2.0	0.8	2.0	1.1	2.0	2.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	1.6	0.9	0.9
September	0.5	-1.1	3.0	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.8	1.5	0.7	0.7
October	0.6	-1.3	2.7	0.6	1.1	-0.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.9	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.2	1.2	0.5	0.5
November	0.7	-1.2	2.2	0.3	1.0	-1.1	0.9	0.9	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	0.9	-0.8	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.4	0.9	0.4	0.4
December	0.6	-1.0	1.7	0.2	0.9	-1.2	1.0	1.0	-0.3	1.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.7	-0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-1.4	0.7	0.3	0.3
1988																										
January	0.5	-0.8	1.3	-0.1	0.7	-1.4	1.1	0.9	-0.3	0.9	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
1986																										
November	9.2	-0.2	3.1	13.4	5.8	1.3	8.1	8.5	11.1	9.9	11.1	-0.8	0.9	0.9	2.5	13.2	10.9	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	10.9	19.3	19.3	7.7	7.7
December	9.0	-0.8	1.2	13.8	5.6	1.4	8.5	8.4	10.6	10.6	10.6	-1.2	-0.2	-0.2	6.2	12.9	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	16.9	16.9	7.6	7.6
1987																										
January	8.9	-0.4	-0.5	13.9	5.4	1.9	8.8	9.1	9.9	9.1	9.9	-0.5	-2.0	-2.0	9.9	12.6	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	14.9	14.9	7.6	7.6
February	8.8	0.3	-1.2	13.5	5.5	2.6	9.4	10.0	9.1	10.0	9.1	1.1	-4.4	-4.4	12.9	12.4	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	13.4	13.4	7.6	7.6
March	8.4	1.3	-0.5	12.9	5.7	3.5	10.1	10.7	8.3	10.7	8.3	2.4	-6.7	-6.7	14.4	12.5	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	12.2	12.2	7.6	7.6
April	7.7	2.0	0.2	12.4	6.1	4.4	10.6	10.3	8.0	10.3	8.0	2.7	-8.5	-8.5	15.0	12.8	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	11.2	11.2	7.5	7.5
May	6.8	2.2	1.0	12.2	6.7	5.6	10.3	8.7	8.5	8.7	8.5	1.7	-8.5	-8.5	15.4	13.0	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	10.1	10.1	7.4	7.4
June	6.0	2.2	1.9	12.6	7.4	7.0	9.5	7.1	9.9	7.1	9.9	0.7	-7.0	-7.0	16.2	12.9	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	8.7	8.7	7.4	7.4
July	5.4	1.9	2.7	13.2	8.2	8.2	8.3	5.6	11.8	8.2	11.8	0.8	-4.9	-4.9	18.1	12.6	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.4
August	5.3	1.3	3.3	13.9	9.0	8.9	7.0	4.9	13.1	8.9	13.1	2.5	-2.7	-2.7	20.1	12.1	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6
September	5.6	0.6	4.9	14.0	9.6	9.0	6.0	4.7	13.2	9.0	13.2	5.5	-1.5	-1.5	22.0	11.4	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	8.5	8.5	7.8	7.8
October	6.0	-0.1	7.0	13.6	10.0	8.6	5.6	5.0	12.3	10.0	12.3	9.0	-1.4	-1.4	22.2	10.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	10.1	10.1	7.9	7.9
November	6.2	-0.9	9.0	12.9	10.2	7.9	5.6	5.6	11.2	10.2	11.2	12.1	-1.5	-1.5	20.5	10.1	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	11.9	11.9	7.9	7.9
December	6.1	-1.6	11.7	12.0	10.3	7.3	6.1	6.5	10.4	10.3	10.4	14.0	-0.9	-0.9	18.0	9.5	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	13.5	13.5	7.7	7.7
1988																										
January	5.6	-2.5	14.1	11.1	10.2	6.6	7.4	7.5	10.0	7.5	10.0	14.6	0.3	0.3	15.0	8.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	14.0	14.0	7.5	7.5

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (c) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (d) Subject to revision - see paragraphs 17 and 18 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 A.C.T

Month	ORIGINAL \$million							Australia (a)
	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australian Capital Territory	
1986								
November	1,701.9	1,267.0	748.3	385.6	416.7	122.5	81.4	4,723.5
December	2,342.6	1,716.0	1,014.6	512.4	564.2	172.3	109.2	6,431.1
1987								
January	1,613.2	1,218.6	765.8	375.6	423.1	116.2	73.8	4,586.4
February	1,485.3	1,135.7	673.1	341.7	392.7	112.2	73.4	4,214.1
March	1,592.4	1,226.1	721.3	370.0	404.2	118.3	82.6	4,514.8
April	1,645.5	1,244.0	732.9	390.0	427.5	127.3	84.1	4,651.2
May	1,705.5	1,282.9	742.5	395.3	446.9	128.0	86.6	4,787.7
June	1,643.8	1,213.1	719.6	378.2	419.8	124.8	83.4	4,582.6
July	1,744.3	1,303.9	798.6	404.0	443.0	128.2	89.9	4,912.0
August	1,670.5	1,235.4	756.9	385.9	422.1	121.1	83.6	4,675.6
September	1,722.1	1,271.1	786.6	395.7	442.3	126.4	88.4	4,832.5
October	1,814.9	1,357.7	840.1	414.0	472.2	135.0	89.5	5,123.3
November	1,844.4	1,329.5	823.1	409.1	457.9	133.5	89.7	5,088.1
December	2,509.0	1,875.9	1,112.8	552.4	644.7	192.9	120.6	7,008.3
1988								
January	1,746.5	1,226.8	810.4	378.3	433.3	127.2	77.4	4,799.8
Standard error of Level(b)	22.2	18.0	12.7	5.7	7.7	2.3	2.3	33.0
Change(c)	15.8	15.7	11.3	5.2	7.7	2.8	2.5	27.0
TREND ESTIMATES(d) \$ million								
1986								
November	1,668.1	1,252.9	753.1	384.6	420.5	122.4	82.0	4,685.2
December	1,673.4	1,255.4	759.6	386.1	424.8	122.5	82.2	4,706.2
1987								
January	1,678.7	1,257.6	763.8	387.5	428.9	123.2	83.0	4,724.8
February	1,686.0	1,260.6	765.6	388.9	432.8	124.6	84.1	4,743.9
March	1,696.5	1,266.2	766.4	390.5	436.5	126.4	85.1	4,767.9
April	1,710.1	1,276.5	766.8	392.8	439.6	128.2	85.8	4,799.5
May	1,726.1	1,291.7	768.5	396.1	442.3	129.6	86.5	4,839.6
June	1,744.0	1,308.2	773.5	400.1	444.6	130.5	87.0	4,885.6
July	1,760.4	1,323.2	781.9	404.1	447.5	130.9	87.6	4,933.6
August	1,773.8	1,333.1	792.2	407.1	451.0	131.3	88.1	4,976.8
September	1,784.7	1,336.6	802.6	408.7	455.0	132.1	88.5	5,010.8
October	1,794.8	1,335.2	811.9	409.0	459.5	133.4	88.7	5,036.0
November	1,805.8	1,331.4	819.8	408.4	463.5	134.8	88.8	5,055.0
December	1,817.2	1,327.1	826.4	407.4	466.5	136.2	88.9	5,070.1
1988								
January	1,828.6	1,321.0	830.7	405.7	468.6	137.4	88.9	5,078.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 4. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),  
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA (a), STATES AND A.C.T. - continued

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australian Capital Territory	Australia(a)	TREND ESTIMATES(d)	
									% change from preceding month	
1986										
November	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.2	1.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.4		
December	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.4		
1987										
January	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.4		
February	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.3	0.4		
March	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.2	0.5		
April	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.7		
May	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.8		
June	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.0		
July	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.0		
August	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.9		
September	0.6	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.7		
October	0.6	-0.1	1.2	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.5		
November	0.6	-0.3	1.0	-0.1	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.4		
December	0.6	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.3		
1988										
January	0.6	-0.5	0.5	-0.4	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.2		
1986										
November	7.5	10.3	7.5	3.3	8.4	4.9	7.3	7.7		
December	7.5	10.0	7.4	3.1	8.5	4.5	6.9	7.6		
1987										
January	7.8	9.5	7.0	2.9	8.5	5.0	7.2	7.6		
February	8.3	8.9	6.4	2.9	8.6	6.4	8.1	7.6		
March	8.7	8.0	5.8	2.8	8.9	8.1	8.7	7.6		
April	8.8	7.4	5.3	3.1	9.4	9.4	8.6	7.5		
May	8.5	7.0	5.0	3.6	9.9	9.9	7.9	7.4		
June	8.1	7.0	5.3	4.5	10.2	9.6	6.7	7.4		
July	7.7	7.1	6.1	5.5	10.5	8.7	6.2	7.4		
August	7.6	7.2	7.2	6.3	10.7	8.1	6.1	7.6		
September	7.7	7.1	8.1	6.6	10.6	8.0	7.0	7.8		
October	8.0	6.7	8.7	6.6	10.5	8.9	7.9	7.9		
November	8.3	6.3	8.9	6.2	10.1	10.1	8.3	7.9		
December	8.6	5.7	8.8	5.5	9.8	11.2	8.2	7.7		
1988										
January	8.9	5.0	8.8	4.7	9.3	11.5	7.1	7.5		

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (c) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (d) Subject to revision - see paragraphs 17 and 18 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

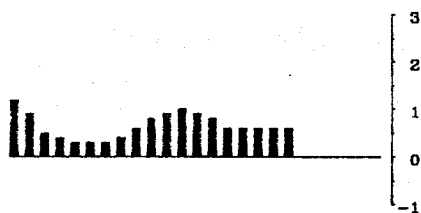


CHART 11 : VICTORIA

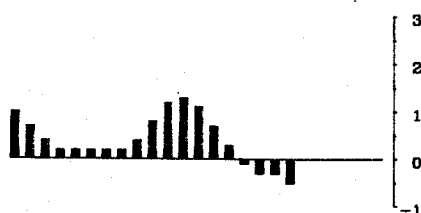


CHART 12 : QUEENSLAND

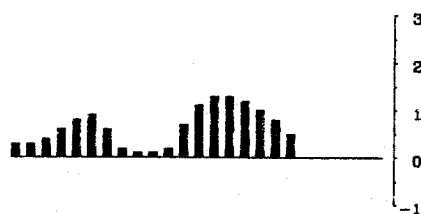


CHART 13 : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

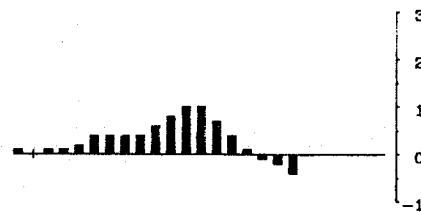


CHART 14 : WESTERN AUSTRALIA

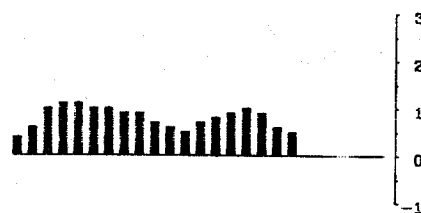
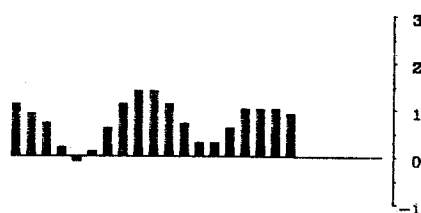


CHART 15 : TASMANIA



J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J  
1986 1987 1988

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

Month	Domestic										Total					
	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	Electrical goods stores	Furni- ture stores		Floor cover- ings stores	Chem- ists	News- agents	Other	
1986																
November	459.5	65.1	9.6	120.9	198.4	155.6	234.8	29.5	73.9	43.1	18.0	75.3	68.0	95.2	1,701.9	
December	533.6	78.2	16.5	139.5	257.0	229.1	447.9	39.2	113.5	50.1	17.8	93.8	92.3	130.8	2,342.6	
1987																
January	471.4	62.7	8.0	122.0	208.3	122.7	197.2	30.4	66.8	39.3	10.1	81.6	60.7	87.9	1,613.2	
February	434.9	62.0	7.7	112.7	188.5	109.2	165.7	23.5	61.2	39.3	12.3	75.2	73.3	78.4	1,485.3	
March	457.1	64.6	8.9	114.8	197.5	128.6	195.1	26.3	68.2	41.6	15.5	76.1	71.4	85.3	1,592.4	
April	465.1	67.3	9.2	115.1	201.0	149.5	206.7	30.9	71.6	36.0	20.3	79.0	69.6	83.5	1,645.5	
May	469.5	69.5	9.6	114.3	193.0	173.5	219.8	34.2	80.6	38.9	18.7	83.4	71.7	84.1	1,705.5	
June	452.9	69.2	8.9	113.7	185.5	153.1	218.0	30.2	84.5	37.8	18.8	82.5	69.2	82.8	1,643.8	
July	469.7	73.3	10.4	125.1	200.7	159.9	231.3	31.5	79.6	44.4	22.9	84.4	80.1	90.5	1,744.3	
August	473.2	71.4	9.3	122.9	199.5	142.1	193.4	24.2	74.0	45.1	19.8	83.8	77.3	93.2	1,670.5	
September	469.5	70.9	9.9	126.7	204.0	160.0	211.5	30.0	75.6	43.3	18.2	87.0	76.0	93.0	1,722.1	
October	488.5	72.5	13.7	127.3	226.0	167.9	215.8	32.1	83.4	47.2	21.7	86.8	75.4	98.4	1,814.9	
November	488.0	66.3	13.6	127.6	223.3	164.1	245.9	29.6	86.5	47.0	23.2	88.8	73.7	102.8	1,844.4	
December	576.3	80.9	21.4	138.7	290.8	241.7	453.6	37.9	136.0	52.6	23.5	107.1	93.7	147.6	2,509.0	
1988																
January	488.3	67.8	11.7	136.2	238.7	139.7	186.3	30.9	77.8	43.8	18.7	88.3	67.8	97.1	1,746.5	
Standard error of Level (a)	8.7	5.2	0.8	7.7	10.1	4.8	0.0	2.1	4.5	3.2	2.8	6.3	4.9	9.2	22.2	
Change (b)	3.7	2.4	0.1	3.3	6.2	4.9	0.0	1.8	4.0	2.6	2.8	4.2	4.4	7.2	15.8	

See footnotes at end of table.





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

Month	Domestic										Total				
	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Clothing and fabrics stores	Department stores	Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores		Furniture stores	Floor coverings stores	Chemists	Newsagents
SOUTH AUSTRALIA															
1986															
November	131.8	8.4	5.8	23.6	42.8	30.1	58.9	6.2	7.3	17.3	9.7	4.9	15.8	8.0	15.2
December	156.8	11.1	9.0	26.0	57.2	43.2	96.6	7.2	15.0	25.2	11.1	5.3	17.9	9.0	21.7
1987															
January	132.6	10.0	5.0	26.6	43.9	24.6	47.4	6.2	6.6	18.7	10.7	4.4	14.8	6.8	17.2
February	124.8	8.9	4.2	23.0	40.1	21.5	40.0	5.1	6.2	18.1	9.2	4.6	13.7	7.6	14.6
March	131.4	9.1	4.4	23.5	40.8	28.1	46.1	6.2	6.7	20.6	10.5	4.7	14.8	8.3	14.8
April	143.7	9.3	5.4	23.3	43.3	29.6	53.4	7.5	6.4	18.9	9.1	3.7	14.4	8.4	13.6
May	141.2	8.8	5.1	23.7	41.4	30.3	56.9	7.7	6.4	21.5	10.2	3.3	15.3	8.4	15.2
June	137.2	8.9	4.7	23.7	38.9	28.0	51.5	6.8	6.7	21.7	10.3	3.5	15.7	8.3	12.3
July	144.2	8.2	5.0	26.9	41.7	30.2	56.4	7.5	6.8	23.7	9.9	3.8	16.2	8.2	15.3
August	139.6	8.3	4.5	26.2	42.0	27.0	48.9	6.6	7.5	22.3	9.3	4.3	16.1	8.4	14.9
September	139.6	8.4	4.7	26.6	42.6	29.8	51.7	7.6	7.2	21.1	9.6	3.9	17.1	8.5	17.1
October	143.2	8.3	5.0	29.5	47.1	29.2	57.9	8.0	9.0	23.0	9.3	4.6	16.6	7.8	15.6
November	136.5	8.1	5.0	26.6	47.5	29.6	60.6	7.3	10.2	23.1	8.5	4.4	16.9	8.1	16.7
December	164.8	10.2	7.9	30.7	64.6	43.0	104.4	8.1	18.7	30.6	9.9	4.6	20.3	10.0	24.6
1988															
January	131.7	6.7	5.0	26.5	50.5	22.1	50.1	6.8	7.7	19.6	6.8	3.4	16.3	6.8	18.2
Standard error of -															
Level (a)	3.0	0.5	0.9	2.0	2.8	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.9
Change (b)	2.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	2.1	1.0	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.0	1.0	2.0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA															
1986															
November	140.2	5.2	7.4	26.2	54.3	37.1	42.9	7.6	10.7	22.5	11.1	4.5	14.5	13.4	19.0
December	168.8	5.8	13.8	28.7	69.0	58.1	82.2	9.2	18.1	29.0	12.3	4.9	17.8	19.1	27.5
1987															
January	147.4	5.1	6.6	28.6	67.9	32.0	39.1	7.0	7.1	22.0	9.3	4.3	13.7	15.0	18.1
February	142.9	5.2	6.6	27.1	58.4	28.1	31.9	5.7	7.7	20.1	8.1	4.8	13.4	15.5	17.1
March	145.0	5.0	7.2	27.5	59.8	31.2	36.5	5.5	6.6	20.2	7.9	5.6	13.3	15.1	17.7
April	157.0	6.0	7.9	26.7	52.7	35.6	43.7	7.2	7.3	21.4	8.2	4.8	14.4	16.2	18.3
May	157.5	6.0	8.0	26.5	51.4	41.8	47.1	7.2	7.8	26.3	10.1	6.2	15.4	17.6	17.9
June	152.4	5.8	7.2	26.2	50.2	36.8	38.1	7.9	6.7	24.6	10.1	6.2	14.4	16.4	16.9
July	153.0	6.2	7.1	28.3	53.2	40.8	44.0	7.5	7.0	26.2	11.7	7.2	14.6	16.2	19.9
August	150.6	6.0	7.4	26.3	51.7	35.1	35.4	6.2	7.5	25.4	10.9	7.6	15.1	16.9	20.1
September	155.9	6.1	8.1	26.7	57.3	36.6	43.1	8.5	8.1	22.9	9.6	5.9	15.4	16.7	21.6
October	162.1	5.8	8.4	32.9	59.8	39.5	45.0	7.8	9.4	27.0	11.1	5.2	15.9	17.3	24.9
November	154.5	5.1	7.9	33.0	59.6	38.8	44.9	7.5	9.0	24.7	10.5	5.8	15.8	15.3	25.4
December	192.8	6.1	15.1	37.2	77.9	61.7	92.6	9.1	19.4	35.7	11.6	5.4	19.9	23.3	36.9
1988															
January	151.6	4.7	7.4	33.7	67.9	28.8	40.7	7.2	7.6	22.5	9.8	4.3	13.8	12.8	20.5
Standard error of -															
Level (a)	3.4	1.0	0.1	1.7	5.6	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.6	1.5
Change (b)	2.4	0.7	0.2	1.5	4.1	1.7	0.0	0.5	1.5	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.3	3.5	3.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Month	Grocers,			Hotels,		Clothing			Domestic		Floor		News- agents	Other	Total	
	confect- toners, tobacc- onists	Butchers	General stores	Other food stores	liquor stores, licensed clubs	and fabrics stores	Depart- ment stores	Foot- wear stores	hard- ware stores, jewellers	Electrical goods stores	Furn- iture stores	cover- ings stores				Chem- ists
TASMANIA																
1986																
November	43.4	3.9	n.p.	6.7	15.8	9.5	14.7	2.1	2.4	5.8	2.5	1.5	3.7	4.2	n.p.	122.5
December	50.5	5.3	n.p.	7.1	21.7	15.5	30.3	3.0	3.9	9.4	2.8	1.7	5.2	6.6	n.p.	172.3
1987																
January	42.3	4.0	n.p.	6.8	15.3	8.9	11.4	1.8	2.3	5.6	2.0	1.4	4.2	4.4	n.p.	116.2
February	40.1	3.9	n.p.	6.1	14.2	9.1	11.3	2.2	1.9	5.0	2.2	1.4	3.8	5.8	n.p.	112.2
March	42.6	4.1	n.p.	6.0	14.6	9.8	12.9	2.0	2.1	5.6	2.2	1.7	4.1	5.2	n.p.	118.3
April	44.0	4.3	n.p.	6.9	15.3	10.7	14.9	2.2	2.9	5.9	2.3	1.6	4.3	4.9	n.p.	127.3
May	43.7	4.2	n.p.	6.9	14.2	10.8	14.7	2.4	3.1	6.7	2.5	1.7	4.5	4.9	n.p.	128.0
June	42.6	4.2	n.p.	6.8	13.5	11.0	13.8	1.9	3.1	7.1	2.4	2.0	4.5	4.6	n.p.	124.8
July	45.4	4.6	n.p.	6.2	14.8	11.7	13.7	2.1	2.5	6.5	2.3	1.9	5.0	5.4	n.p.	128.2
August	44.7	4.3	n.p.	6.0	14.1	8.8	12.9	1.7	2.4	5.7	2.3	2.0	4.9	5.1	n.p.	121.1
September	46.1	4.4	n.p.	6.2	14.7	9.6	14.4	1.9	2.1	5.9	2.2	1.9	4.6	5.3	n.p.	126.4
October	50.3	4.4	n.p.	6.4	16.6	10.0	14.1	2.0	2.1	5.8	2.6	2.2	5.0	5.6	n.p.	135.0
November	47.1	4.2	n.p.	6.5	15.6	10.8	15.5	1.9	2.2	6.6	2.4	2.4	4.8	5.6	n.p.	133.5
December	58.1	4.9	n.p.	7.3	21.5	17.5	32.0	2.8	5.2	9.8	3.2	2.6	6.9	8.2	n.p.	192.9
1988																
January	49.8	3.5	n.p.	7.2	15.9	8.6	12.3	1.8	1.9	5.4	1.9	1.4	4.5	5.4	n.p.	127.2
Standard error of -																
Level (a)	1.6	0.2	n.p.	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.6	n.p.	2.3
Change (b)	1.1	0.2	n.p.	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.1	1.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.6	1.0	n.p.	2.8
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY																
1986																
November	24.3	2.1	n.p.	3.9	6.0	6.1	14.3	1.1	2.2	4.3	3.2	1.0	2.8	3.0	n.p.	81.4
December	28.0	2.6	n.p.	4.0	7.2	8.1	27.1	1.4	4.8	6.0	3.6	0.9	3.4	3.2	n.p.	109.2
1987																
January	25.8	1.6	n.p.	3.8	5.7	4.7	11.3	1.2	1.6	3.8	2.7	0.7	2.4	2.6	n.p.	73.8
February	25.3	1.8	n.p.	4.3	6.4	4.6	10.7	1.0	1.4	3.6	2.2	0.9	2.4	2.9	n.p.	73.4
March	26.0	1.9	n.p.	3.8	6.8	6.0	13.0	1.3	1.6	4.2	2.8	1.0	2.8	4.4	n.p.	82.6
April	27.8	2.1	n.p.	3.7	6.9	5.9	14.3	1.3	1.6	4.2	2.5	0.9	2.5	3.8	n.p.	84.1
May	27.1	2.1	n.p.	4.2	6.8	6.7	15.4	1.4	1.9	4.5	2.8	0.9	2.6	3.7	n.p.	86.6
June	26.8	2.1	n.p.	4.6	6.0	5.9	14.2	1.3	1.4	4.5	3.0	1.0	2.5	3.8	n.p.	83.4
July	27.6	2.5	n.p.	4.8	7.3	6.7	15.4	1.2	1.7	5.2	3.5	1.0	2.7	4.0	n.p.	89.9
August	26.2	2.2	n.p.	4.4	7.8	5.7	11.6	0.9	1.7	5.2	3.4	0.8	2.7	4.0	n.p.	83.6
September	27.4	2.5	n.p.	4.8	8.6	5.9	12.2	1.2	1.8	4.8	3.3	0.9	2.7	4.4	n.p.	88.4
October	28.7	1.9	n.p.	4.7	6.5	6.9	12.8	1.1	2.2	4.5	3.5	0.8	2.7	4.5	n.p.	89.5
November	27.8	1.8	n.p.	4.8	8.4	6.1	15.8	1.1	2.3	3.5	3.6	0.9	2.7	4.3	n.p.	89.7
December	31.8	2.1	n.p.	5.0	9.9	8.7	27.8	1.2	4.7	5.3	3.9	0.6	3.0	6.9	n.p.	120.6
1988																
January	26.5	1.7	n.p.	4.6	7.2	5.4	11.0	1.4	1.9	2.7	2.8	0.6	2.3	3.5	n.p.	77.4
Standard error of -																
Level (a)	1.0	0.7	n.p.	0.6	1.5	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	n.p.	2.3
Change (b)	0.4	0.2	n.p.	0.4	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.9	n.p.	2.5

(a) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (b) The standard error of the change of the latest month from the preceding month - see paragraphs 8 to 13 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. Quarterly estimates of total retail sales at constant (average 1979-80) prices are also included.

2. All the series shown in this publication, with estimates for earlier periods, are available on AUSSTATS — see concluding paragraph.

### Scope and coverage

3. 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).

4. The scope of the survey includes establishments in all States and the Australian Capital Territory, but excludes those in the Northern Territory.

5. 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.

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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 \$4,799.8 million for the total value of retail sales in January 1988 has a standard error of about \$33.0 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 \$4,766.8 million to \$4,832.8 million, and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would be within \$4,733.8 million to \$4,865.8 million.

(b) The estimated change of -\$2,208.5 million (-31.5 per cent) in the total value of retail sales between December 1987 and January 1988 has a standard error of about \$27.0 million (0.4 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 -\$2,181.5 million to -\$2,235.5 million (-31.1 per cent to -31.9 per cent) and nineteen chances in twenty that the change would be within -\$2,154.5 million to -\$2,262.5 million (-30.7 per cent to -32.3 per cent).

10. 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.

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

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

#### Related publications

22. 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).

23. 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

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

#### Electronic services

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

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