

CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1995

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the January 1995 issue are: business expectations; labour force, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials, consumer price index; retail turnover; and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Businesses expect the sale of goods and services in the ACT to decrease by 1.3 per cent in the March quarter 1995. This is a stronger decline in sales than the 0.5 per cent expected nationally. However, the ACT's 1.3 per cent decrease for the March quarter follows on from the high 3.8 per cent increase in the previous quarter (nationally 2.3%). In the medium term (December quarter 1995), ACT is expected to see an increase in sales of 3.5 per cent compared to 3.3 per cent nationally.
- In trend terms, all labour force series for the ACT fell in January 1995. The number of employed declined by 0.3 per cent in this period, while the number of unemployed decreased by 2.5 per cent. The unemployment rate of 7.2 per cent dropped by 0.1 percentage points; the lowest level reached since August 1994. The participation rate for the ACT also fell in January 1995 by 0.3 percentage points.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments in the ACT continued to fall for the eighth consecutive month from a peak of \$110.2 million in March 1994. In November 1994 the value of commitments in the ACT fell by 2.7 per cent to \$86.7 million. For Australia, a 3.4 per cent fall was recorded. The original estimates show a growth of 2.4 per cent for the ACT and 11.9 per cent nationally in November 1994.
- The trend for the total number of dwelling unit approvals in the ACT fell by 7.0 per cent in December. All States and Territories, except for Victoria, recorded declines in dwelling unit approvals. The corresponding original figure for the ACT indicated a 36.5 per cent drop in December 1994. The value of total building approvals declined in December 1994 by 64.5 per cent, which was mainly influenced by a significant decrease of 84.4 per cent in non-residential approvals.
- The price index of house building materials for Canberra rose by 0.1 per cent in November 1994 and 1.5 per cent from November 1993. Greater increases were reported in the six State capital cities, with a 0.4 per cent increase in November 1994 and 3.2 per cent over the year.
- The All groups CPI for Canberra increased by 1.1 per cent between the September and December quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase of 2.2 per cent. Canberra, along with Brisbane, recorded the highest increase in the December quarter 1994. The weighted average of the eight capital cities showed a 0.8 per cent increase in the quarter to December 1994 and a 2.5 per cent increase in the year to December 1994. The housing group (particularly mortgage interest charges) was the largest contributor to the rise in Canberra's All groups index, accounting for over 50 per cent of the total change this quarter.
- Growth in the trend estimate of retail turnover for the ACT was 0.3 per cent for December 1994. There has been a gradual decline in growth since September 1994 for which a growth of 0.8 per cent was recorded. This ease in the growth rate is consistent with the national series which recorded growth of 0.2 per cent for December 1994.
- The trend estimate of the number of new motor vehicle registrations in the ACT increased by 2.5 per cent to 974 vehicles in December 1994. Nationally the increase was 0.6 per cent. The original estimates of new motor vehicle registrations showed a 2.9 per cent increase for the ACT and a 4.8 per cent decrease for Australia in December 1994.

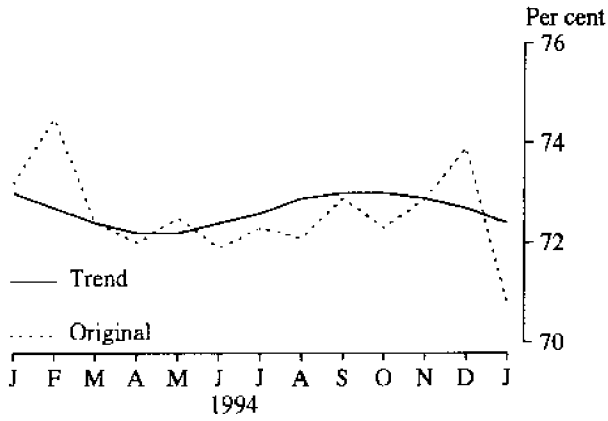
Dalma Jacobs
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

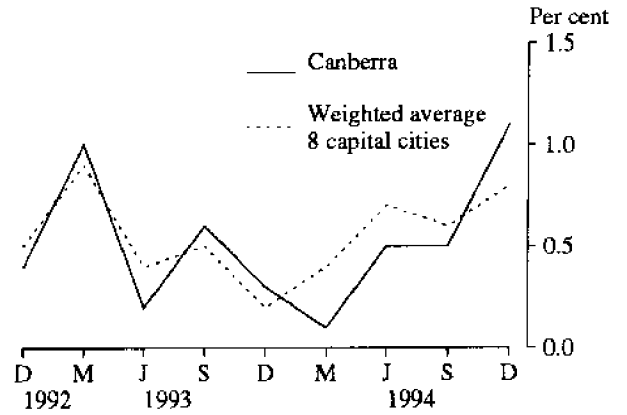
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- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

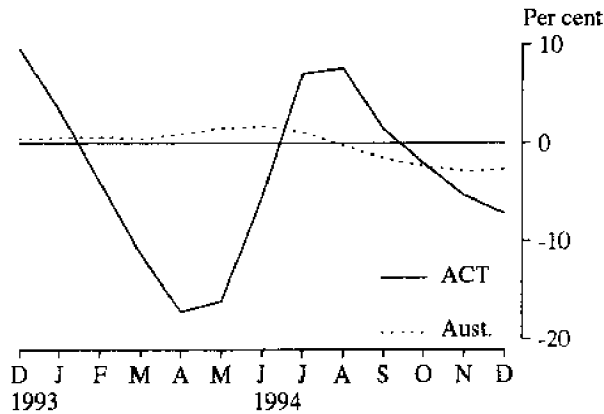
LABOUR FORCE - PARTICIPATION RATES



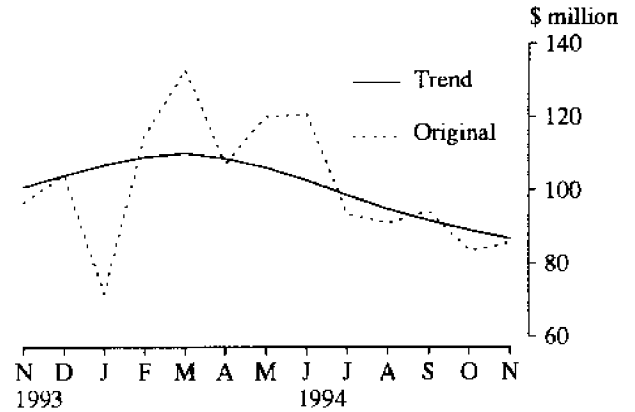
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS
Percentage change from previous quarter



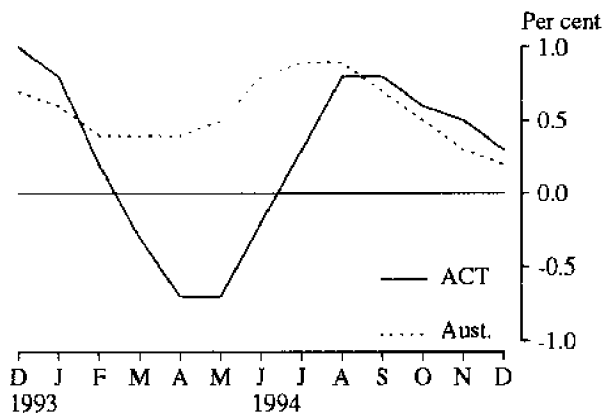
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED - TREND
Percentage change from preceding month



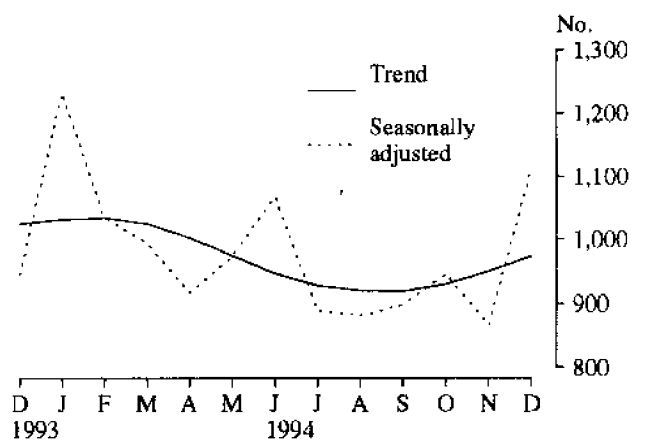
HOUSING FINANCE
Total value of commitments



RETAIL TURNOVER - TREND
Percentage change from preceding month



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
MARCH QUARTER 1995/DECEMBER QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
Mar. qtr 1994-June qtr 1994	1.6	1.9
June qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1994	3.8	2.3
Dec. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Medium-term		
Mar. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	3.8	3.9
June qtr 1994-June qtr 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1995	2.3	4.1
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1995

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>			<i>Australia</i>		
		<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>Change from previous period (%)</i>	<i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i>	<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>Change from previous period (%)</i>	<i>Change from same period previous year (%)</i>
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, June qtr 94	'000	300.9	0.2	0.7	17 843.3	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	876	6.8	5.8	35 358	1.2	3.2
Net migration	no.	-135	-350.0	-65.8	5 576	-75.2	-189.4
Total increase	no.	741	-15.2	71.1	40 934	-28.8	46.1
LABOUR FORCE, January 95p							
Original series							
Employed	'000	149.5	-4.9	-1.0	7 953.4	-2.5	3.6
Unemployed	'000	12.9	5.7	-12.8	853.7	5.7	-12.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.9	0.7	-1.0	9.7	0.7	-1.6
Participation rate(a)	%	70.8	-3.1	-2.4	62.7	-1.2	0.2
Long-term unemployed (Dec. 94)	no.	2 456	11.7	-25.9	278 516	-1.1	-18.1
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Dec. 94)(a)	%	20.1	-2.1	-7.5	34.5	-2.3	-1.6
Trend series							
Employed	'000	154.0	-0.3	0.6	8 077.2	0.2	3.5
Unemployed	'000	11.9	-2.5	-3.3	798.3	-0.4	-13.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	-0.1	-0.2	9.0	—	-1.6
Participation rate(a)	%	72.4	-0.3	-0.6	63.2	—	0.2
JOB VACANCIES, November qtr 94	'000	1.4	-41.7	27.3	66.0	-3.9	72.8
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, October 94							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	100.0	-98.8	48.9	73.4	-38.5
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Oct. 94)	no.	8	-88.7	-89.6	69	8.0	-66.8
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, November 94							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	8.7	6.1	-19.4	654.7	9.4	2.8
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	18.2	12.1	10.3	204.9	1.2	6.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	49.7	5.7	-16.6	2 838.8	13.4	-5.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	85.7	2.4	-11.6	3 698.4	11.9	-3.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.3	-10.8	-16.1	3 270.4	-6.4	-13.4
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	86.7	-2.7	-14.2	3 378.2	-3.4	-13.0
BUILDING APPROVALS, December 94							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	113	-36.5	-57.4	12 963	-18.5	-9.0
Value of new residential	\$m	12.5	-24.2	-47.5	1 234.0	-11.7	7.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	2.9	-46.3	7.4	151.8	-31.7	-9.7
Value of non-residential	\$m	6.0	-84.4	-64.9	559.9	-23.4	-27.8
Value of total building	\$m	21.4	-64.5	-50.9	1 945.7	-17.2	-7.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	251	-7.0	41.5	15 229	-2.5	2.4
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94							
New houses	no.	360	-3.0	-37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	-33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	-68.3	-22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	-42.7	-21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Sept. qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)		132.3	-1.1	-0.8	112.6	1.5	4.8
Price index of house building materials, Nov. 94 (b)		152.4	0.1	1.5	156.4	0.4	3.2

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1995 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, December qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		113.6	1.2	2.0	110.9	0.5	1.3
Housing		102.8	3.1	3.6	97.5	2.7	4.2
Transportation		118.9	-0.6	1.2	116.8	-0.2	2.9
All groups		113.8	1.1	2.2	112.8	0.8	2.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, August qtr 94							
Original series							
Males	\$	706.80	-1.0	5.5	631.80	1.1	2.2
Females	\$	500.70	0.9	6.0	421.40	-0.3	2.9
Total persons	\$	601.20	-0.2	5.4	536.20	0.8	3.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	713.60	0.2	5.3	633.80	1.0	2.5
Females	\$	506.00	2.2	5.5	426.30	1.4	4.0
Total persons	\$	606.60	0.8	4.8	539.90	1.4	3.4
RETAIL TURNOVER, December 94							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	78.5	13.8	3.4	4 278.2	18.4	8.2
Department stores	\$m	45.7	90.4	4.3	1 817.8	81.6	6.3
Hospitality and services	\$m	31.8	5.0	-2.8	1 930.2	15.1	8.4
All other retailing	\$m	80.9	36.9	-7.0	4 333.7	33.0	2.0
Total	\$m	236.9	29.9	-1.0	12 359.9	29.4	5.7
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	68.5	0.6	5.2	3 634.2	0.5	7.7
Department stores	\$m	23.4	—	1.3	928.9	-0.2	3.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	27.1	-0.7	-2.9	1 624.4	0.1	10.5
All other retailing	\$m	58.4	0.7	2.1	3 086.9	—	4.7
Total	\$m	177.4	0.3	2.4	9 274.4	0.2	6.7
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	199.2	-2.6	6.5	8 196.9	-1.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.2	-1.7	8.2	674.5	-4.2	10.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.7	—	9.0	580.7	-0.6	8.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	207.0	-2.8	14.7	8 558.5	0.5	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.3	-5.5	8.8	714.2	-0.1	10.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.8	-3.7	9.7	611.9	2.9	8.5
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	209.5	-0.1	12.6	8 597.3	1.0	7.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-1.1	9.3	720.1	1.2	11.5
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.1	—	5.9	609.3	2.6	8.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, December 94							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 035	2.9	8.4	52 800	-4.8	8.8
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 113	28.4	17.8	52 603	1.3	14.1
Trend motor vehicles	no.	974	2.5	5.1	52 923	0.6	12.7
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, September qtr 94							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 122	1.3	5.8	102 726	2.9	6.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 315	-2.4	-0.1	111 038	2.5	7.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 035	-1.8	6.6	101 834	1.3	8.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 343	3.2	2.8	69 191	4.1	7.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	339	5.9	31.9	18 709	2.3	18.8
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 034	-0.1	1.5	102 948	1.4	5.7
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 363	1.1	5.2	112 075	2.2	7.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 997	-0.3	2.8	101 426	1.6	7.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	0.1	1.7	68 718	1.5	6.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	326	7.9	16.8	18 758	5.2	19.4

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	June qtr 94	6 051.4	4 476.1	3 196.9	1 469.8	1 701.9	472.4	171.1	300.9	17 843.3
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jan. 95p	2 7412.1	1 990.5	1 470.6	642.8	816.7	196.5	85.7	154.0	8 077.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jan. 95p	8.7	9.9	8.6	10.1	7.5	11.3	7.4	7.2	9.0
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	34 688	26 511	17 005	7 389	11 795	2 192	1 080	2 034	102 948
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	38 221	29 038	18 262	8 312	12 167	2 359	1 154	2 363	112 075
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Dec. 94	4 203	2 525	3 225	698	1 856	228	115	113	12 963
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Dec. 94	4 642	2 929	3 947	883	2 062	258	147	251	15 229
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Dec. 94	238.4	89.2	113.7	36.2	42.0	27.4	7.0	6.0	559.9
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Dec. 94	729.6	422.0	408.0	100.6	196.0	48.2	20.0	21.4	1 945.7
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	993.2	540.4	777.4	156.1	330.2	35.3	63.1	53.9	2 949.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Aug. qtr 94	644.20	619.90	585.60	603.60	619.90	591.80	637.00	720.20	623.20
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Dec. 94	3 250.9	2 133.8	1 720.0	703.2	952.5	229.7	106.7	177.4	9 274.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	June qtr 94	2 891.8	1 356.3	2 342.9	472.0	791.0	267.9	266.0	209.5	8 597.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Dec. 94	18 906	12 408	10 227	3 376	5 369	1 100	562	974	52 923
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		Dec. qtr 94	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
Housing		Dec. qtr 94	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
Transportation		Dec. qtr 94	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
All Groups		Dec. qtr 94	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sept. qtr 94	163.0	154.0	145.0	125.0	139.0	160.0	170.0	165.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	1 257.0	1 111.0	1 147.0	1 180.0	1 057.0	1 075.0	1 287.0	1 105.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	68.4	68.3	60.5	69.7	69.8	74.7	73.3	71.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	June qtr 94	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Jan. 95p	0.3	—	0.2	-0.3	0.4	0.4	1.4	-0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Jan. 95p	—	-0.1	-0.1	—	-0.1	0.1	—	-0.1	—
STATE ACCOUNTS										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1	0.2	1.9	-0.1	1.4
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.1	2.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Dec. 94	-8.4	-18.6	-27.1	-33.8	-13.6	-20.0	-12.2	-36.5	-18.5
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Dec. 94	-3.5	0.7	-3.9	-3.5	-1.0	-4.4	-5.2	-7.0	-2.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec. 94	-0.3	-48.7	-23.5	19.9	-38.2	51.4	-51.0	-84.4	-23.4
Value of all buildings approved	Dec. 94	-7.2	-17.6	-24.9	-15.0	-22.7	12.9	-41.2	-64.5	-17.2
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 94	-20.1	24.2	2.5	-21.8	-29.8	-50.2	9.5	28.0	-17.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Aug. qtr 94	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.1
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Dec. 94	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	—	1.4	0.3	0.2
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	June qtr 94	0.4	1.8	0.8	-0.1	3.6	3.0	-2.9	-0.1	1.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Dec. 94	-0.2	1.2	2.0	0.1	0.5	-4.0	—	2.5	0.6
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	Dec. qtr 94	1.1	0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	—	1.2	0.5
Housing	Dec. qtr 94	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2.3	3.1	2.7
Transportation	Dec. qtr 94	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.6	1.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2
All Groups	Dec. qtr 94	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	1.9	1.9	4.1	1.0	4.5	—	3.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	-1.8	0.7	-0.7	-0.8	12.1	3.9	1.2	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sept. qtr 94	-2.0	0.8	-0.1	1.4	0.8	-2.0	3.3	3.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sept. qtr 94	-6.8	3.7	-11.1	-1.2	-1.6	-1.5	—	-9.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	-8.1	—	4.1	-4.8	16.2	-9.1	4.9	15.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	-16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3	16.7	2.5	18.6	1.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. qtr 94	1.7	—	—	-0.6	-2.5	-1.0	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	-0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Sept. qtr 94	1.0	-1.3	-0.5	0.1	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

