

Australian Capital Territory





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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1995

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Businesses in the ACT expect a strong growth of 5.2 per cent in the sales of goods and services for the June quarter 1995. This follows on from an anticipated decline of 1.3 per cent in the previous quarter. This is the largest growth of all States and Territories and is above the national increase of 1.4 per cent. In the medium term (March quarter 1995 March quarter 1996), a growth of 3.0 per cent is expected for the ACT which is equivalent to that expected nationally.
- ACT trend estimate for the number employed continued to remain steady over the last three months. In April 1994, 153,900 people were employed in the ACT (up 0.1%). The national trend for employment increased to 8,199,900; an increase of 0.4 per cent from the previous month. Unemployment for the ACT remained constant for April 1995 at 11,600 after a period of decline since November 1994 (12,100). Though the unemployment rate for the ACT continued to remain at 7.0 per cent, the participation rate had slightly decreased by 0.1 percentage point.
- There were no working days lost due to industrial disputes in January 1995 for the ACT. Nationally, there were 37 disputes involving a loss of 12,300 working days in the same period. This represents a decrease of 76.4 per cent from the previous month. January has historically shown to be a low month in terms of industrial disputation. For the ACT, the number of days lost per thousand employees for the year ending January 1995 was 8 for the fourth consecutive month. This compares to the January 1995 national figure of 76 days.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments financed in the ACT continued to decline. The value

- of ACT financed housing commitments for February 1995 was \$75.9 million; a decrease of 4.4 per cent from the previous month. Seasonally adjusted, the value of commitments decreased by 13.2 per cent to \$67.1 million. The trend national recorded a 1.6 per cent decrease for the same period.
- The trend for the total number of ACT dwelling units approved in March 1995 was 203. This represented a decrease of 9.4 per cent from the previous month. The number of ACT approvals has gradually declined and is now 29.0 per cent lower than its peak of 285 in September 1994. Of all the States and Territories, ACT recorded the lowest fall. The original estimates for the value of approvals for new residential buildings and for residential alterations and additions fell by \$17.1 million (34.7%) and \$3.9 million (36.1%) respectively, while the value of non-residential buildings increased by \$16.4 million (10.8%).
- The price index of house building materials for Canberra rose by 0.3 per cent in March 1995 after a decline of 0.1 per cent in February 1995. This was above the increase of 0.2 per cent for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. In the twelve months from March 1994, the price index increased by 1.7 per cent for the ACT compared to the 3.1 per cent increase for the cities' weighted average.
- Trend estimates of retail turnover for Australia increased by a weak 0.2 per cent in March 1995. This continues the gradual easing of growth observed over recent months. In contrast, retail turnover for the ACT has shown moderate growth in its trend estimates, recording the highest increase at 0.6 per cent of all States and Territories. Retail turnover for the ACT reached \$180.1 million in March 1995. The two main contributors to this increase were the hospitality and services, and clothing and soft goods retailing (not published in the ACT Business Indicators) industries at 3.1 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively. In the twelve months to March 1995, the retail turnover for the ACT showed a 3.2 per cent increase.

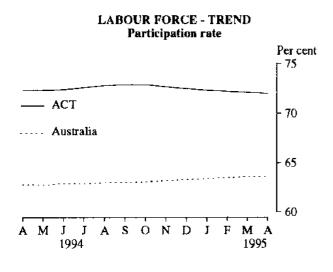
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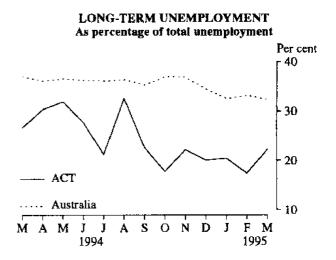
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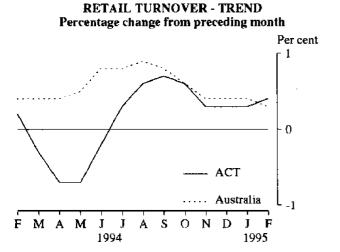
 In March 1995 1,072 new motor vehicles were registered in the ACT. This represented an increase of 1.4 per cent from the previous month, in contrast to the national decline of 0.8 per cent. The ACT has the second highest increase of all States and Territories, following Northern Territory with the highest at 2.6 per cent.

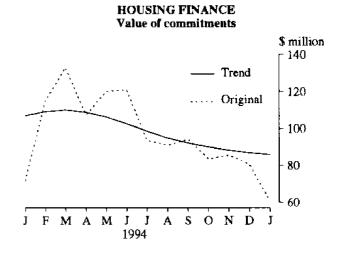
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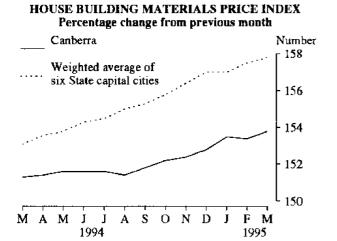
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











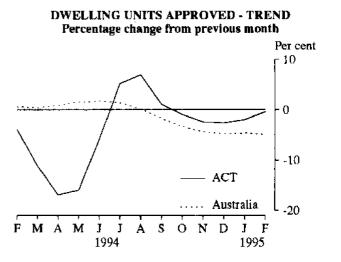


TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, JUNE QUARTER 1995/MARCH QUARTER 1996
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE (per cent)

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australie		
Short-term				
Mar. qtr 1994-June qtr 1994	1.6	1.9		
June gtr 1994-Sept. gtr 1994	1.3	1.9		
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1994	1.1	3.6		
Dec. qir 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	1.3	- 0.5		
Mar. qtr 1995-June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4		
Medium-term				
Mar. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	3.8	3.9		
June gtr 1994-June gtr 1995	6.2	3.3		
Sept. qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1995	1.5	2.9		
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3		
Mar. qtr 1995–June qtr 1995	3.0	3.0		

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1995

		Austi	ralian Capital	Territory	Australia			
Indicator	Unit	Latest figure	previous	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR	1000	201.5	0.3	0.5	17.0067	0.3	1 1	
POPULATION, September qtr 94	'000	301.5	0.2	0.8	17 896.7 28 412	- 19.6	1.1 - 11.5	
Natural increase	no.	714 - 114	- 18.5 - 15.6	- 10.2 - 214.0	25 013	348.6	- 11 44.0	
Net migration Total increase	по. <i>па</i> .	600	- 13.6 - 19.0	- 214.0 - 33.0	53 425	30.5	8.0	
LABOUR FORCE, April 95p								
Original series								
Employed	'000	154.2	0.5	1.3	8 230.6	0.8	5.0	
Unemployed	,000	11.7	- 14.6	_	743.0	- 8.9	- 15.5	
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.0	- 1.2	-0.2	8.3	- 0.8	~ 1.	
Participation rate(a)	70 %	72.2	- 0.7	0.2	63.7	-0.1	1.0	
	no.	3 055	24.2	- 2.5	263 188	10.7	– 25. 0	
Long-term unemployed (Mar. 95)	110.	3 03.5	24.2	- 4-1-7	20.7 100	10.1		
Long-term unemployed as percentage total	%	22.3	4.9	- 4.4	32.3	- 0.9	4.7	
unemployed (Mar. 95)(a)	%c	22.3	4.9	-4.4	32.3	- (7. 5		
Trend series	1000	152.0	0.1	0.5	8 199.9	0.4	4.5	
Employed	'000 '000	153.9	0.1	0.9	765.6	- 1.1	13.4	
Unemployed	,000	11.6		0.9		-0.2	1.7.4 1, [
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.0	_		8.5			
Participation rate(a)	%	72.0	- 0.1	- 0.3	63.6		0.0	
OB VACANCIES, February 95	1000	1.3	7.1	- 13.3	57.2	- 13.3	24.9	
NDUSTRIAL, DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, January 95	1000				13.3	76.4	127 (
Working days lost	,000	_	_	 	12.3	- 76.4	127.3	
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Jan. 95)	no.	8		- 89.3	76	_	23.2	
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION HOUSING FINANCE, February 95 Secured commitments to individuals for Original series								
Construction of dwellings	\$m	5.3	- 7.0	29.3	497.4	16.2	-27.4	
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	11.5	- 9.4	-26.3	162.4	10.0		
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	43.7	36.1	-45.4	2 415.7	25.4	~ 26.	
Total housing commitments	\$m	68.4	19.8	~ 40.6	3 075.4	23.0	- 26.	
Seasonally adjusted series								
Total housing commitments	\$m	67.I	- 13.2	- 40.6	3 165.5	- 0.5	- 26. .	
Trend series								
Total housing commitments	\$in	75.9	4. 4	- 30.6	3 290.3	- 1.6	22	
BUILDING APPROVALS, March 95								
Original series								
Dwelling units	no.	148	- 39.8	- 58.8	13 501	10.4	-20.1	
Value of new residential	Sm	17.1	- 34.7	– 47.7	1 245.2	14.5	- 14.	
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.9	- 36.1	-40.0	216.5	21.0		
Value of non-residential	\$m	16.4	10.8	20.6	736.5	-18.7	23.	
Value of total building	\$m	37.4	- 20.6	- 29.2	2 198.2	1.2	– 2 .	
Trend series								
Dwelling units	no.	203	9,4	- 46.4	12 775	- 3.2	- 19.	
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June 9tr 94								
New houses	no.	360	-3.0	37.5	33 632	17.2		
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	- 33.9	3 170.9	20.6		
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	- 68.3	- 22.0	2 322.3	2.9		
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	- 42 .7	- 21.5	7 171.2	12.9		
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TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1995 — continued

		Aus	tralian Capital	Territory		Australia			
Indicator	Unit	Latest figure	previous	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	previous	Change from same period previous year (%)		
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION — continued		70							
PRICE INDEXES Established house price index, Sept. qtr 94 Price index of house building materials, Mar. 95	989–90≒100.0) (b)	132.3 153.6	- 1.1 0.3	- 0.8 1.7	l 12.6 157.8	1.5 0.2			
	989-90=100.0)	112.6	1.7	2.0	110.9	0.5	1,3		
Food Housing		113.6 102.8	1.2 3.1	3.6	97.5	2.7	4.2		
Transportation All groups		118.9 113.8	- 0.6 1.1	1. 2 2.2	116.8 112.8	- 0.2 0.8			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, November qtr 94									
Original series		<00.20		1.2	643.00	1.2	2.0		
Males Females	\$ \$	699.20 491.20	- 1.1 - 1.9		642.90 425.00	1.3 0.9			
Total persons	\$	590.90	- 1.7	1.1	541.50	0.8	3.8		
Trend series Males	\$	700.70	- 1.0	1.3	642.50	1.1			
Females Total persons	\$ \$	499.60 595.60	0.1 - 0.8	4.0 1.6	427.30 543.40	0.6 0.9			
RETAIL TURNOVER, March 95									
Original series Food retailing	\$m	74.0	9.5	8.3	3 787.3	10.1			
Department stores	\$m \$m	21.3 31.3	23.8 19.0		811.3 1 670.5	18.9 11.8			
Hospitality and services All other retailing	\$m	53.6	14.8	- 2.9	2 976.7	11.5	1.9		
Total Trend series	\$m	180.2	14.2	1.8	9 245.8	11.6	4,5		
Food retailing	\$m	72.4	1.1	11.0	3 703.6				
Department stores Hospitality and services	\$m \$m	23.5 30.1	0.4 3.1		922.5 1 658.3				
All other retailing Total	\$m \$m	54.1 <i>180.1</i>	- 1.3 0.6	- 2.9	3 080.5 9 <i>364.9</i>				
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, September qtr 94 Original series	2000	212.0	7.4	7,1	8 924.8	8.9	6.7		
Room nights Takings at current prices	'000 \$m	213.9 18.8	9.3	13.3	759.9	12.7	13.0		
Takings at 1989–90 prices Seasonally adjusted series	\$n1	17.1	8.9	13.2	647.6	11.5	10.9		
Room nights	.000	211.7	2.3		8 630.7				
Takings at current prices Takings at 1989–90 prices	\$m \$m	19.0 17.2	9.8 8.9		738.5 622.8				
Trend series	1000	210.2	0.1		8 610.4	0.2	6.2		
Room nights Takings at current prices	\$m	18.6	3.9	11.4	732.7	1.4	11.6		
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$tn	16.7	1.8	9.2	622.7	2.0	10.0		
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, March 95		. 103	27.1	5.5	57 265	16.4			
Motor vehicles Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no. no.	1 193 1 083	37.1 12.1	8.8	50 455	- 5.2	9.5		
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 072	1.4	4.5	52 495	- 0.6	6.5		
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94									
Originating Receiving	`000 tonnes `000 tonnes	102.9 122.4	124.7 - 3.4		4 663.2 4 663.2				
AGGREGATE INDICATORS STATE ACCOUNTS, September qtr 94 Original series									
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 122	1.3		102 726				
Gross State product at current prices State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m \$m	2 315 3 035	- 2.4 - 1.8		111 038 101 834		8.0		
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 343	3.2	2.8	69 191	4.1	7.2		
Private gross fixed capital expenditure Trend series	\$m	339	5.9		18 709				
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m \$	2 034 2 363	- 0.1 1.1		102 948 112 075				
Gross State product at current prices State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m \$m	2 997	-0.3	3 2.8	101 426	i 1.6	5 7.1		
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m \$m	1 323 326	0.1 7.9		68 718 18 758				

⁽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	Sept. qtr 94	6 068.9	4 482.1	3 216.5	1 471.0	1 710.0	472.6	171.4	301.5	17 896.7
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Apr. 95p	2 728.6	2 048.4	1 508.8	648.5	830.7	199.9	83.3	153.9	8 199.9
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Apr. 95p	8.2	8.9	8.6	9.9	7.4	10.5	7.1	7.0	8.5
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at	*	6 01	24.600	26 511	17 005	2 200	11 705	2 102	1.000	2.034	102 948
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	•		30 031	00.030	10.000	0.212	12.167	2.150	1 154	2 262	112.076
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						0.17	1.761	200	105	140	12.50
Dwelling units approved	no.	Mar. 95	4 167	2 538	3 551	913	1.761	288	135	148	13 501
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Mar. 95	4 078	2 354	3 116	797	1 704	245	132	203	12 775
Value of non-residential											mace
building approved	\$m	Mar. 95	258.5	132.1	181.5	78.1	50.1	10.9	8.9	16.4	736.5
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Mar. 95	798.4	413.9	510.3	160.9	215.5	36.4	25.4	37.4	2 198.2
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
VERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend) \$	Nov. qtr 94	652.80	625.90	587.70	600.60	631.20	599.90	646.70	714.00	629.00
ETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Mar. 95	3 269.1	2 182.4	1.728.6	721.2	944	231.2	108.3	180.1	9 364.9
IOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST											
IOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	,000	Sept. qtr 94	2 929.6	1 359.6	2 303.5	480.0	789.1	273.6	264.8	210.2	8 610.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE											
REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Mar, 95	18 926	12 675	9 087	3 686	5 258	1 118	674	1 072	52 495
		2.24									
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust
ONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		Dec. gtr 94	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
		Dec. qtr 94	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
Housing		Dec. qtr 94	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
Transportation 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)	1 lite-	Fort at 04	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a
Milk, carton, supermarket sales : Bread, white loaf, sliced,	i mie	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	100.0	107.0	101.0	10.5.0	113.0	24.0	107.0	11.21.
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	l 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	l kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	п.а
Potatoes	l kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a
	g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a
	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	31L0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a
Scolch mp, public bar											
Private motoring petrol,			=	#0.C		~	71. 0	76.2	74.0	77.5	_
Private motoring petrol,	1 litre	Sept. gtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	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	Sept. qtr 94	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5		0.2	0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Apr. 95p	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.6	 0.4	0.1	0.4
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Apr. 95p	- 0,1	-0,2	ATC.	_	- 0.1	0.3	_	_	- 0.2
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	Mar. 95	4.4	5.2	22.1	34.5	11.0	11.2	- 5.6	- 39.8	10.4
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Mar. 95	- 2.1	- 3.2	- 5.1	-3.4	4.6	-1.2	3.1	- 9.4	-3.2
Value of non-residential										
building approved	Mar. 95	-28.9	- 44.4	18.4	191.4	-26.6	6.9	- 71.5	10.8	- 18.7
Value of all buildings approved	Mar. 95	-0.1	-17.2	14.5	77.6	2.8	11.3	- 47. 1	- 20.6	1.2
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction	9 4 4 04	20.1	24.2	2.5	-21.8	- 29.8	- 50.2	9.5	28.0	- 17.0
work done	Sept. qtr 94	- 20.1	– 24.2	2.3	- 21.8	- 29.6	- 30.2	9.5	20.0	- 17.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov. qtr 94	1.4	1.0	0.4	- 0.1	1.7	0.9	1.0	- 0.2	1.0
RETAIL TRADE		0.1	0.4		0.5	- 0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2
Retail turnover (trend)	Mar. 95	0.1	0.4	_	0.5	- 0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	V.2
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST										
HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.2	0.2	- 1.3	1.3	- 0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.1	0.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE										
REGISTRATIONS								0.0		0.1
Trend	Mar. 95	- 0.6	0.3	- 3.6	L0	- 1.6	0.1	2.6	1.4	- 0.3
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
(1989–90=100.0)	Dec. qtr 94	1.1	0.2	0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5		1.2	0
Food	Dec. qtr 94	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2,3	3.1	2.
Housing Transportation	Dec. qtr 94	-0.3	0.1	- 0.3	0.2	- 0.6	1.0	- 0.3	- 0.6	0.
All Groups	Dec. qtr 94	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.
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	п.а
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 0.1	 4.9	- 9.3 15.9	n.a
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	- 8.1	17.5	4.1	- 4.8	16.2	-9.1 -2.5	4.9 18.6	13.9	n.a n.a
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	- 16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3 0.6	16.7 - 2.5	- 1.0	1.8	0.8	n.:
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. gtr 94	1.7 2.0	-0.3	0.6	- 0.6 1.1	- 2.3 2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.2
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94 Sept. qtr 94	1.0	- 0.3 - 1.3	- 0.5	0.1	2.3	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	3ept. qtr 94	1.0	- 1.3	~ 0.5	V. i	4.4	ψ. - *	C7. 7	*- 1	

⁽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 statustic 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.

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