



## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
September 1997	22 September 1997
October 1997	20 October 1997

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

### INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (02) 6207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

Dalma Jacobs  
Regional Director

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the July 1997 issue are: housing finance; labour force; industrial disputes; building approvals and commencements; retail turnover; consumer price index; engineering construction; and new motor vehicle registrations. There are two feature articles, one on income distribution in the ACT and the other on labour force experience in the ACT on pages 7-9.

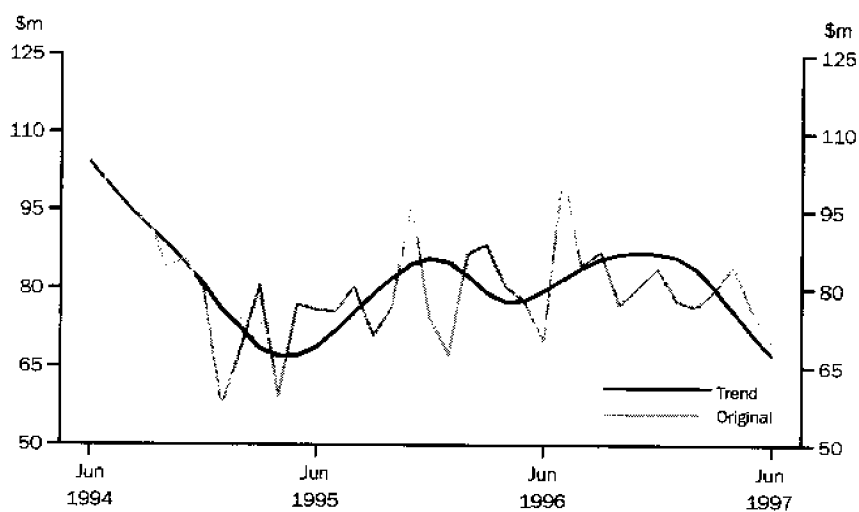
### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Labour force             | Trend employment increased marginally (up 0.1% to be 159,400) in July with the ACT recording its eighth consecutive month of growth. The rate of growth in the ACT has slowed considerably for the past two months. The marginal increase in the trend unemployment rate (up 0.1 percentage points to 7.2%) was due to a small rise in the participation rate (up 0.1 percentage points to be 73.1%), the seventh consecutive month of increase. The ACT has continued to outperform the national labour market which showed decreased employment for the fifth consecutive month.  |
| Industrial disputes      | In April 1997, there were 130 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT and 117 days lost per thousand in Australia. This represented a 0.8% increase for the ACT and a 4.1% decrease for Australia from the previous month's figure.  |
| Housing finance          | The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT during June 1997 decreased to 641 dwellings, a fall of 5.7%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$67.3 million, a decrease of 5.6% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 23.0% of the total number of new dwelling units financed in June 1997, which was up 0.9 percentage points on the previous month.  |
| Housing and construction | <p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 12.8% to 109 dwelling units in June 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT has fallen for each of the last five months. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved decreased by 0.3% in June 1997. Nationally, this represents the first fall in dwelling units approved after eleven consecutive months of increase.</p> <p>The value of non-residential building approvals was \$13.0 million in June 1997; a decrease of \$17.1 million (or 56.9%) from the previous month and a decrease of \$46.4 million (78.1%) from June 1996.</p> |
| Retail turnover          | The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for June 1997 was \$194.5 million, up 0.3% on the previous month's figure of \$194.0 million. This increase was the first, after six consecutive months of decline. The national trend retail turnover experienced an increase of 0.1% on the previous month.   |

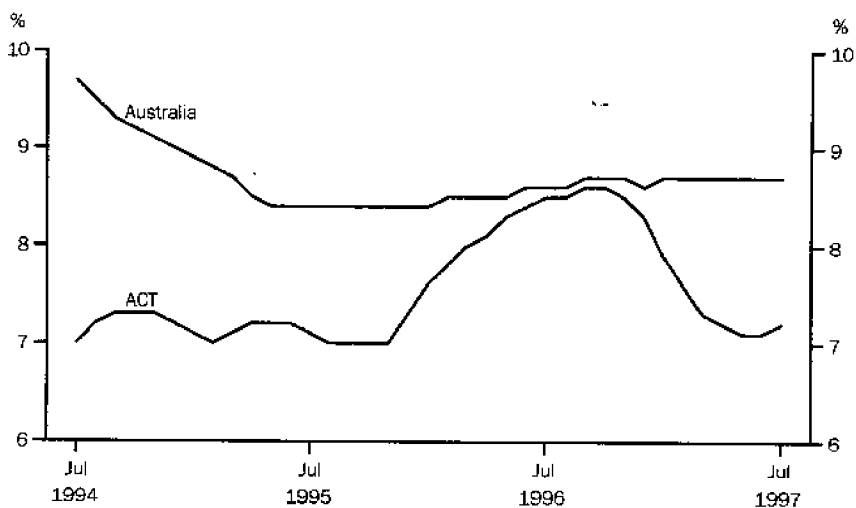
Consumer price index	The ACT experienced a 0.8% decrease for the All Groups CPI for the June quarter 1997. This fall came after four successive quarters where the CPI remained stable. The ACT annual CPI rate to June 1997 also recorded a negative figure of 0.8%, compared to the weighted average of the eight capital cities which experienced a 0.3% increase.
Engineering construction	The value of engineering construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the March quarter 1997 decreased by 21.5% to \$16.4 million from the previous quarter, yet was up 4.5% on the March quarter 1996. Nationally, the value of public sector engineering construction was down 13.1% on the previous month and down 17.1% relative to the March quarter 1996. The value of private sector work done in the ACT during the March quarter 1997 increased to \$13.3 million (up 22.0%) on the previous quarter. In contrast the value of engineering construction work done in the March quarter 1997 throughout Australia dropped to \$2,005.9 million (down 14.7%), but was up 7.7% relative to the same period last year.
Motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in June 1997 was 1,169, up 4.5% on the previous month, and up 20.5% on 12 months ago. The series has now recorded eight consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in June 1997 recorded a 1.1% increase on the previous month's figure.

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

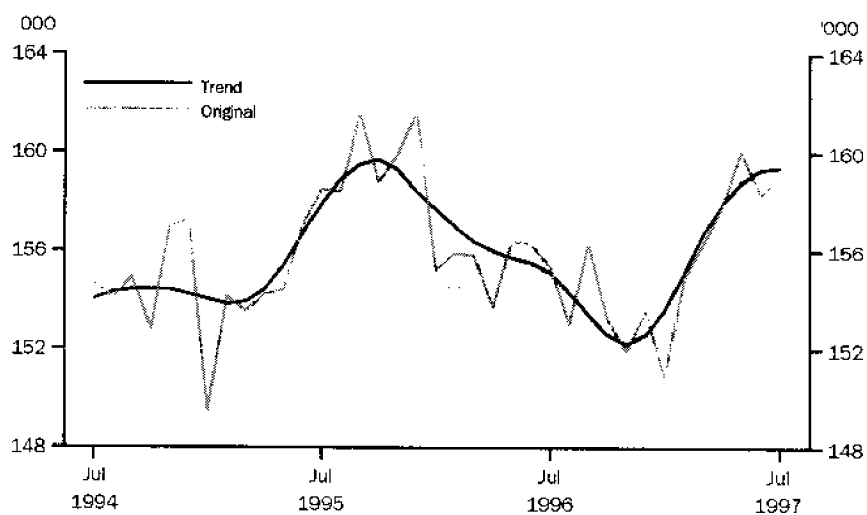
HOUSING FINANCE  
COMMITMENTS



LABOUR FORCE — TREND  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

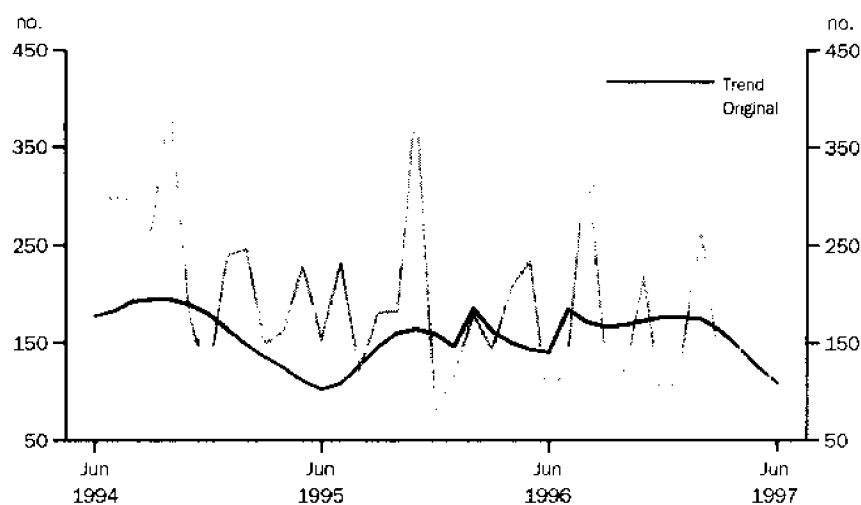


LABOUR FORCE —  
EMPLOYMENT

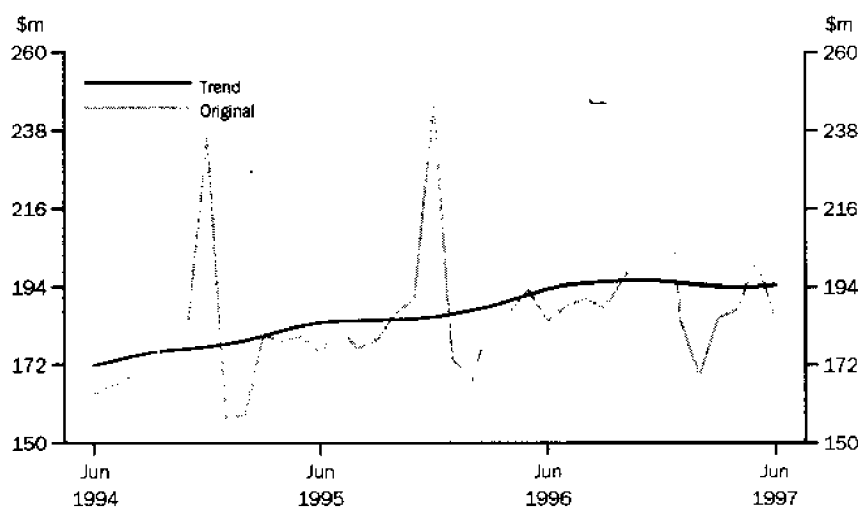


## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

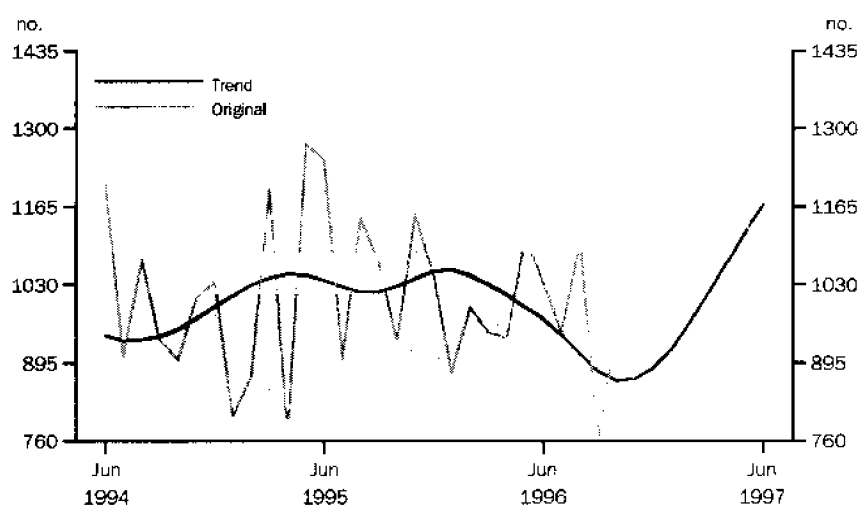
### BUILDING APPROVAL — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



### RETAIL TURNOVER



### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



In 1995-96 the average weekly income received by couple families in the ACT was \$1,078 (\$868 for Australia), by one-parent families \*\$585 (\$433 for Australia) and by single persons \$457 (\$370 for Australia).

Survey results show that levels of income are strongly related to life-cycle stages, such as early youth, and the formation, maturation and dissolution of nuclear families.

Young, independent single persons aged under 25 in the ACT had an average weekly income of \$365 (compared with the Australian average of \$313). This rose to \$555 (\$495 for Australia) for single persons aged 25-34, reflecting their higher employment rates and higher salaries.

As young people enter into relationships their income rises as they often have two income earners contributing to their family income. Young couples under 35 with no dependent children received an average of \$1,129 a week. This compares with the Australian average of \$1,092 a week.

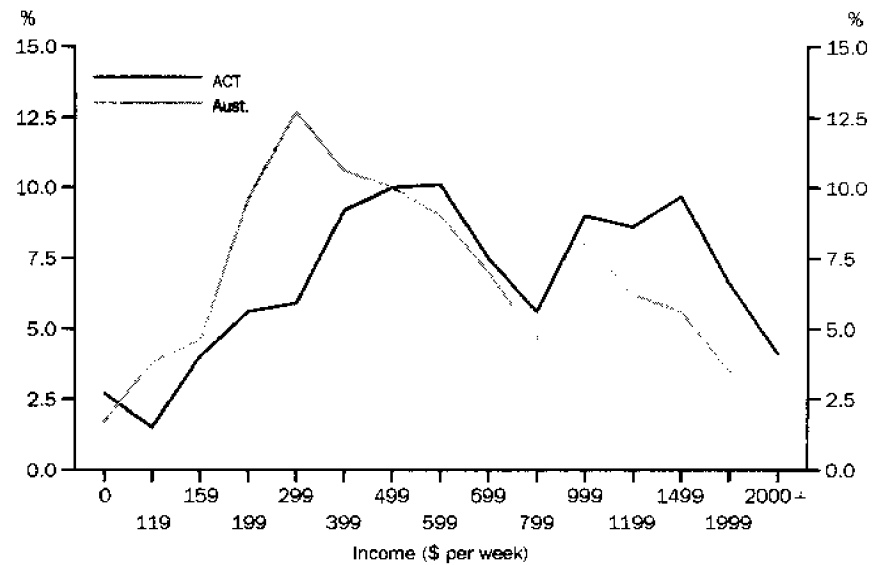
Usually the birth of children and the early years of child rearing are associated with reduced labour force participation rates of parents, and therefore reduced average weekly earnings. This was not the case, however, for ACT couples with young children (with the eldest under 5). These couples had average weekly incomes of \$1,194 (some \$65 per week higher than couples without children). Nationally such couples had average weekly incomes of \$925 per week. Income rises again as the children grow older. Couples with older children, eldest 15-24, had an average weekly income of \$1,312 (compared with the national average of \$1,080 per week).

For one-parent families the average weekly income increased with the age of the parent. Lone parents in the ACT aged between 25 and 34 received an average weekly income of \*\$421 per week, which is \$27 more than the national average income of \$394. For lone parents over 45, the ACT average weekly income was \*\*\$720 per week compared with \$524 for the national average.

The level of income received by ACT couple families was at its peak when they were between 45 and 54 years, at \$1,289 a week. This was also the case nationally, with couple families achieving their peak income level between 45 and 54, at \$1,077 a week. As parents age and children become independent, income again declines, in particular in the pre-retirement and retirement years. Couples aged 55-64 received an average income of \$1,064 and for those aged over 65 the average income fell to \$501 a week. The drop in income after 65 was not as large nationally, although for those aged 65 and over their average weekly income fell to \$429 per week after averaging \$703 a week during the 55-64 age bracket.

Single persons aged 45-54 had an average income of \$596 (\$442 nationally) per week and those aged over 65 an average of \$303 (\$226 nationally).

#### DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, ALL INCOME UNITS





## LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE IN THE ACT

In February 1997, the ACT's civilian population included 216,437 people aged 15-69 years. In the 12 months to February:

- 182,253 people (84%) were in the labour force at some time during the year with 69% (125,567 people) working or looking for work for the full 52 weeks. This compares with much lower national proportions of 77% and 56% respectively.
- 170,558 people (79%) worked at some time during the year, with 66% (112,181) working for all 52 weeks. Males were more likely to work the full 52 weeks, with 72% of males working for the whole year compared to 59% of females. Nationally the male rate was similar at 71% while the female rate was slightly higher at 61%.
- 31,454 people (15%) looked for work at some time during the year. Of these, 2,922 looked for work for 52 weeks with the largest proportion spending between 4 and 13 weeks looking for work (33% or 10,417). This was typical of the national results.
- 90,870 people (42%) were not in the labour force at some time during the year. Of these, 34,184 were not in the labour force at any time during the year.
- For males, the most commonly reported main activity while not in the labour force was 'Attended an educational institution' (34%), followed by 'Holiday or travel or leisure activities' (27%) and 'Retired or voluntarily inactive' (15%). For females, the most commonly reported main activity while not in the labour force was 'Home duties or childcare' (45%) followed by 'Attended an educational institution' (20%), 'Holiday or travel or leisure activities' (18%) and 'Retired or voluntarily inactive' (8%).
- Both nationally and in the ACT, about 96% of males with children under 15 participated in the labour force at some time during the year, compared with 86% for males without children under 15 in the ACT and 81% nationally.
- For females, the rate of participation in the labour force at some time during the year was about the same for women with or without children under 15. However, 55% of females with children under 15 participated in the labour force for the full 52 weeks, compared with 64% of females without children under 15. Nationally, 39% of females with children under 15 participated in the labour force for the full 52 weeks, compared with 48% of females without children under 15.

# 1

## BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1997/JUNE QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	%	%
<b>Short-term</b>		
Mar qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1996	1.8	2.3
Jun qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996	-0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Mar qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	2.3	4.1
Jun qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION Dec qtr 96	'000	308.5	-0.1	1.0	18 426.9	0.3	1.3
Natural increase	no.	781	4.6	-19.0	31 085	11.6	1.1
Net migration	no.	-991	3 439.3	6.9	24 834	21.6	-12.6
Total increase	no.	-210	129.2	-667.6	55 919	6.1	-5.5
<b>LABOUR FORCE, Jul 97</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	158.9	0.4	2.3	8 452.1	0.4	0.9
Unemployed	'000	11.1	-9.8	15.9	750.9	—	2.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.6	-0.6	-1.3	8.2	—	0.2
Participation rate(a)	%	72.4	-0.3	—	63.1	0.1	-0.3
Long-term unemployed (Jun 97)	no.	3 168	48.9	22.8	239 252	0.4	18.2
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Jun 97)(a)	%	25.7	7.5	4.8	31.9	1.8	4.2
Trend series							
Employed	'000	159.4	0.1	2.8	8 397.7	—	0.6
Unemployed	'000	12.4	1.6	-13.3	795.6	-0.3	1.3
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	0.1	-1.3	8.7	—	0.1
Participation rate(a)	%	73.2	0.1	0.4	63.1	-0.1	-0.5
JOB VACANCIES, May 97	'000	1.0	—	25.0	58.1	-7.2	8.4
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Apr 97</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.3	—	—	34.3	-27.2	-50.1
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Apr 97)	no.	130.0	0.8	420.0	117.0	-4.1	30.0
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, Jun 97</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	4.4	-44.3	-24.1	605.2	-10.0	26.3
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	5.7	-6.6	18.7	251.7	-2.4	62.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	45.7	-4.0	13.7	2 622.0	-7.5	24.1
Refinancing	\$m	23.0	4.1	-21.0	880.7	7.9	16.4
Total housing commitments	\$m	70.1	-7.4	0.6	4 359.7	-5.0	23.8
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	67.6	1.8	-0.6	4 286.4	0.9	22.4
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	641	-5.7	-21.0	40 203	0.7	5.2
Total housing commitments	\$m	67.3	-5.6	-15.5	4 331.0	-0.4	15.5
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, Jun 97</b>							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	54	-75.0	-29.9	11 643	-14.6	19.3
Value of new residential	\$m	6.4	-73.6	-22.9	1 170.5	-20.5	28.1
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.2	-17.9	—	248.5	8.3	37.4
Value of non-residential	\$m	13.0	-56.8	-78.1	1 073.5	16.1	26.3
Value of total building	\$m	22.6	61.2	-68.1	2 492.5	-5.1	28.2
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	109	-12.8	22.1	12 053	-0.3	14.7
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Mar qtr 97</b>							
New houses	no.	276	-4.8	27.2	19 532	-10.6	2.3
Value of houses commenced	\$m	30.4	-6.5	24.1	2 140.0	10.4	6.4
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	112.5	0.6	72.3	2 832.7	-14.0	-6.1
Value of total commencements	\$m	168.0	2.1	45.3	6 474.4	-10.7	-1.4
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index, Mar qtr 97	(1989-90 = 100.0)	124.3	-1.8	2.1	115.3	0.9	2.8

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Mar qtr 97)</b>							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	8.5	35.1	34.1	1 948.9	11.1	40.3
Value of work done	\$m	13.3	22.0	5.7	2 005.9	-14.7	7.7
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	28.1	-13.3	1.1	5 529.0	-0.3	9.8
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	16.4	-21.5	4.5	1 312.7	-13.1	-17.1
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Jun qtr 97							
Food	(1989-90=100.0)	122.5	0.4	2.4	120.8	0.5	3.2
Housing	(1989-90=100.0)	98.7	-4.5	12.3	96.9	3.3	8.8
Transportation	(1989-90=100.0)	130.7	-0.9	0.6	123.9	1.0	0.1
All groups	(1989-90=100.0)	120.4	-0.8	-0.8	120.2	-0.2	0.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Feb 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	777.3	1.0	2.3	688.7	1.3	3.1
Females	\$	576.5	2.7	9.6	457.8	2.4	4.2
Persons	\$	679.3	2.3	6.2	581.6	2.0	3.4
Trend series							
Males	\$	777.6	1.1	3.6	685.0	0.7	2.7
Females	\$	574.0	1.9	9.4	454.2	0.9	4.1
Persons	\$	675.3	1.7	6.1	577.0	0.8	3.1
RETAIL TURNOVER, Jun 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	70.9	-7.6	-7.4	4 040.7	6.9	2.7
Department stores	\$m	20.0	-18.4	-15.3	830.4	-16.6	-8.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	28.3	-8.1	1.4	1 671.0	-3.1	-0.2
All other retailing	\$m	65.5	-5.8	16.8	3 245.2	-5.8	2.8
Total	\$m	184.7	-8.3	0.3	9 787.3	-6.8	1.1
Trend series							
Food retailing	'000	74.1	0.3	-8.2	4 308.9	0.3	3.7
Department stores	\$m	21.7	2.3	-8.4	919.3	-1.8	-5.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	29.4	—	-1.0	1 779.2	0.6	1.2
All other retailing	%	69.3	1.2	16.9	3 470.1	0.3	3.2
Total	'000	194.5	0.3	0.6	10 477.5	0.1	2.2
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 96							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	221.0	11.8	2.3	9 551.6	2.7	2.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	20.7	13.7	7.8	946.1	5.5	8.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	17.1	14.0	6.9	785.6	5.3	6.5
Room occupancy rate (Mar qtr 97)(a)	%	58.0	-5.1	1.8	58.6	-1.3	-0.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	211.1	7.5	3.1	9 334.3	3.3	2.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	20.1	9.8	9.8	912.3	4.1	8.5
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.5	9.3	7.8	757.5	3.9	6.7
Trend series							
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, June 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 421	33.8	37.7	67 666	15.4	6.2
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 301	24.7	37.1	62 892	13.6	4.1
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 169	4.5	20.5	59 248	1.1	10.1

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0)

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from
				Same period previous year			Same period previous year
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Mar qtr 97(a)							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 063	-11.8	1.2	107 918	-9.7	2.4
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 554	-12.0	2.0	124 332	8.7	1.0
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 639	-9.3	7.2	104 913	-8.1	3.3
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 378	-10.1	4.5	75 903	-7.6	3.6
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	169	-23.2	2.9	19 270	-13.0	7.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 194	-0.2	1.1	112 956	1.1	3.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 728	-0.4	2.9	129 156	1.2	4.8
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 791	-0.6	-6.6	110 912	1.1	3.6
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 468	1.2	4.9	79 120	0.9	3.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	196	-1.5	-3.0	21 206	1.1	7.0

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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.

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>	'000	Dec qtr 96	6 240.9	4 581.6	3 374.3	1 476.8	1 782.7	474.2	184.9	308.5	18 426.9
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jul 97	2 797.6	2 092.1	1 564.3	662.0	850.2	190.9	86.7	159.4	8 397.7
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jul 97	8.1	9.2	9.1	9.8	7.1	11.0	5.9	7.2	8.7
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Mar qtr 97	38 259	29 439	18 353	7 713	12 919	2 261	1 190	2 194	112 956
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Mar qtr 97	45 035	33 637	20 715	9 032	13 956	2 703	1 306	2 728	129 156
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Jun 97	4 187	2 611	2 546	597	1 254	118	276	54	11 643
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Jun 97	4 289	2 642	2 688	618	1 363	145	221	109	12 053
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Jun 97	353.0	392.9	128.7	92.0	54.1	13.6	26.2	13.0	1 073.5
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Jun 97	903.0	739.5	392.1	150.7	198.4	25.6	60.7	22.6	2 492.5
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar qtr 97	1 068.8	604.3	729.3	187.6	608.9	62.3	27.8	29.8	3 318.7
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb 97	720.7	687.5	655.2	647.2	690.2	659.8	700.7	797.6	692.9
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Jun 97	3 695.2	2 459.4	1 934.3	774.5	1 053.6	254.5	111.4	194.5	10 477.5
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Dec qtr 96	3 129.9	1 492.9	2 454.6	523.0	840.7	263.1	307.9	207.2	9 219.1
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Mar qtr 97	60.9	59.8	57.3	55.4	57.1	62.9	46.4	58.0	58.6
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Jun 97	20 611	13 780	11 729	3 899	6 101	1 235	725	1 169	59 248
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>											
Food	(b)	Jun qtr 97	121.5	119.6	119.9	121.9	121.9	121.0	122.0	122.5	120.8
Housing	(b)	Jun qtr 97	101.8	90.1	103.0	94.1	91.8	98.4	114.6	98.7	96.9
Transportation	(b)	Jun qtr 97	124.6	123.8	123.7	122.7	122.2	121.7	122.4	130.7	123.9
All Groups	(b)	Jun qtr 97	120.2	119.9	121.1	121.9	118.1	121.3	121.5	120.4	120.2
Average retail prices (conts)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Jun qtr 97	115	130	116	122	130	125	117	112	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Jun qtr 97	201	192	197	160	178	171	194	193	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Jun qtr 97	1 205	1 033	1 084	1 141	1 076	958	1 189	1 043	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Jun qtr 97	352	387	329	370	353	402	433	377	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Jun qtr 97	121	130	116	108	112	77	130	114	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Jun qtr 97	606	554	597	539	577	628	592	638	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Jun qtr 97	318	286	254	345	350	249	319	291	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Jun qtr 97	75.9	73.5	67.1	75.4	77	80	82.5	79.6	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Jun qtr 97	73.7	71.4	64.9	73	74.8	77.9	80.5	77.4	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

## ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>	Dec qtr 96	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Jul 97	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	—	—	-0.6	0.8	0.1	
Unemployment rate (trend)	Jul 97	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.1	-0.1	0.1	—
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.0	—	-0.2	1.1
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.7	1.1	-0.1	-0.4	1.2
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Jun 97	20.1	-2.8	-15.5	-3.7	-20.4	-19.7	102.9	-75.0	-14.6
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Jun 97	0.7	—	-2.2	2.3	-0.8	-2.7	12.8	-12.8	-0.3
Value of non-residential building approved	Jun 97	35.5	118.8	-40.1	42.2	-63.0	-24.9	159.4	56.8	16.1
Value of all buildings approved	Jun 97	-7.0	35.7	-27.9	18.6	-37.8	-23.8	119.1	-61.2	-5.1
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar qtr 97	-14.5	-3.9	-20.5	1.0	-16.8	6.9	-51.7	-6.3	-14.1
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb 97	0.5	1.5	1.8	1.0	0.2	1.9	1.7	0.6	1.0
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	June 97	0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Dec qtr 96	0.1	-0.4	1.2	0.5	0.7	1.3	3.6	-0.6	0.5
Room occupancy rate (original)	Mar qtr 97	—	3.8	5.4	0.5	-3.2	8.1	-12.1	-5.1	-1.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Jun 97	1.3	1.3	3.7	0.5	0.7	1.6	0.3	4.5	1.1
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>										
Food	Jun qtr 97	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.4	0.5
Housing	Jun qtr 97	-2.6	3.3	2.9	-3.0	-3.4	-2.8	2.5	-4.5	-3.3
Transportation	Jun qtr 97	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.3	-0.9	-1.0
All Groups	Jun qtr 97	0.2	0.2	0.6	—	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Jun qtr 97	—	—	—	5.2	2.4	—	—	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Jun qtr 97	—	-0.5	1.5	4.6	0.6	-2.3	—	0.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Jun qtr 97	0.2	4.3	2.9	-1.4	-1.6	-8.8	6.5	-2.6	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Jun qtr 97	2.5	2.1	-4.1	5.4	1.1	2.3	4.1	4.1	n.a.
Potatoes	Jun qtr 97	15.2	13.0	24.7	38.5	-5.9	-13.5	16.1	16.3	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Jun qtr 97	9.8	3.9	9.3	7.8	2.9	9.6	10.0	14.1	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Jun qtr 97	—	0.4	0.8	—	2.9	0.8	1.3	1.4	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Jun qtr 97	1.6	-2.3	-1.6	-2.7	-0.5	—	0.6	-0.9	n.a.
Unleaded	Jun qtr 97	-1.6	-2.2	-1.7	-2.9	-0.5	—	0.6	-0.9	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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