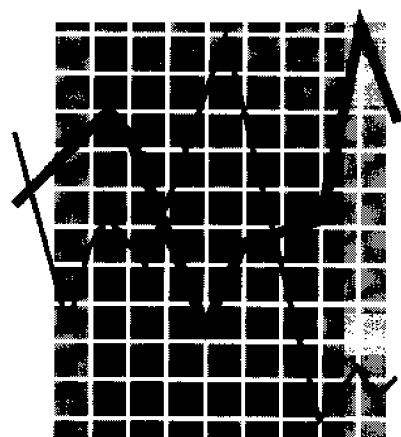


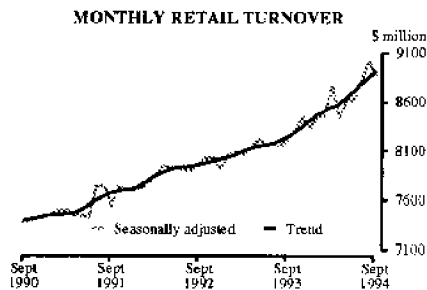
Thursday, 10 November 1994



## *The week in statistics ...*

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*statistics*



## Retail trade maintains strong growth

The Australian retail turnover trend estimates remain strong, averaging 0.8 per cent per month over the three months to September 1994. This is despite a slightly weaker 0.6 per cent increase recorded for the September month. The annual growth rate in the trend (September 1994 over September 1993) was 8.2 per cent.

The grocery industry, which contributes about 30 per cent to the total estimate, continued to record strong growth with the trend showing around 0.9 per cent increase over each of the last five months. Growth in the hotel, liquor store and licensed club industry has weakened with monthly growth dropping from a strong 1.2 per cent in both April and May 1994 to 0.2 per cent in September. Department stores and clothing and fabric stores, which had been in decline, are now showing growth.

Of the remaining industries covered by the survey, butchers, footwear stores, domestic hardware stores/jewellers, electrical goods stores, furniture stores and pharmacies were showing growth. Newsagents and other food stores were showing a declining trend in turnover to September.

**RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER  
SEPTEMBER 1994**

	Original value in September 1994 (\$m)	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended September 1994	12 months ended September 1994
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2 629	0.9	0.6
Butchers	175	0.1	-1.2
Other food stores	576	-0.4	0.8
<i>Total food group</i>	<i>3 380</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	1 092	0.5	0.8
Department and general stores	880	0.2	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	557	0.3	0.2
Electrical stores	493	1.0	0.7
Pharmacies	476	0.7	1.3
Newsagents	272	-0.3	0.9
Other industries	1 617	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	<i>8 766</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.7</i>

In constant price (i.e., allowing for price changes) seasonally adjusted terms, the total Australian estimate of turnover for the September quarter 1994 rose by 3.2 per cent over the June quarter 1994 and by 6.8 per cent over the September quarter 1993.

**RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER**  
At average 1989-90 prices, seasonally adjusted

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From preceding quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
1993			
September	22 070	-0.6	0.4
December	22 491	1.9	2.3
1994			
March	22 874	1.7	4.2
June	22 832	-0.2	2.8
September	23 573	3.2	6.8

*For further information, order the publication Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0), or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.*

## New estimates track demography of indigenous Australians

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released for the first time experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The estimates of the indigenous population are 'experimental' in that the standard approach to population estimation is not possible because satisfactory data on births, deaths and internal migration are not generally available. As a result, a method based on the use of life tables has been applied. The figures are also affected by changes in the propensity of people to identify as being of indigenous origin.

The estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 30 June 1991 was 283,000, an increase of 32,200 since 30 June 1986. The average annual growth rate of the indigenous population of Australia for the period 1986 to 1991 was 2.4 per cent, higher than the rate for the total population of 1.5 per cent.

The 30 June 1991 estimate of the indigenous population represents 1.6 per cent of the total population (17,284,000), an increase of 0.1 percentage points since 1986.

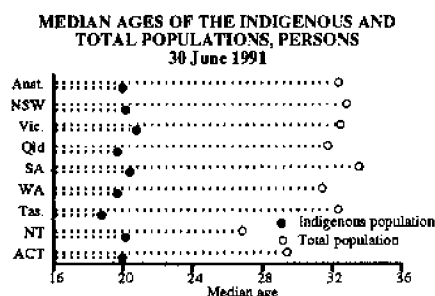
New South Wales had the largest indigenous population at 30 June 1991, with 75,000, or 26.5 per cent of the total indigenous population, followed by Queensland with 26.2 per cent.

The indigenous population of the Northern Territory comprised 26.1 per cent (43,300) of the total Northern Territory population at 30 June 1991. This is the highest proportion of any State/Territory. The lowest was 0.4 per cent (17,900) for Victoria.

The Northern Territory had the lowest average annual growth rate (2.1%).

#### ESTIMATED RESIDENT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1991

State/Territory	Indigenous population ('000)	Per cent of indigenous population	Per cent of total population	Annual average rate of growth, 1986-1991	
				Indigenous population (per cent)	Total population (per cent)
New South Wales	75.0	26.5	1.3	2.5	1.3
Victoria	17.9	6.3	0.4	2.5	1.2
Queensland	74.2	26.2	2.5	2.4	2.4
South Australia	17.2	6.1	1.2	2.4	0.9
Western Australia	44.1	15.6	2.7	2.4	2.3
Tasmania	9.5	3.3	2.0	2.8	0.9
Northern Territory	43.3	15.3	26.1	2.1	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	1.6	0.6	0.6	3.1	2.2
<i>Australia (incl. Jervis Bay Territory)</i>	<i>283.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>1.5</i>



At 30 June 1991, Australia's indigenous population had a median age of 20.0 years, about 12 years younger than for the total population. The median age of the indigenous population ranged from 18.8 years in Tasmania to 20.8 years in Victoria.

The median age of the indigenous population increased by 1.1 years in the five years to 30 June 1991. For the total population this increase was 1.3 years.

The median age of indigenous males at 30 June 1991 was 19.6 years and for indigenous females 20.4 years. The median age for males was about one year lower than for females for all States and Territories except Tasmania where the median age for males was about the same as for females.

The proportion of the indigenous population under 15 years of age was 39.1 per cent compared with 21.9 per cent for the total population. Persons aged 65 and over comprise 2.5 per cent of the indigenous population and 11.3 per cent of the total population.

The age structure of the male indigenous population is similar to that of the female indigenous population.

## Day surgery on the rise in private hospital industry

Results from a national census of private hospitals show there were 417 private hospitals in operation in Australia during 1992-93, comprising 323 acute and psychiatric hospitals and 94 free-standing day hospital facilities.

Although there was little change in the numbers of private acute and psychiatric hospitals since the previous year (from 319 in 1991-92 to 323 in 1992-93), the numbers of free-standing day hospital facilities rose significantly from 72 to 94. There was also a significant rise, from 30 to 45, in the number of day surgery units established within private hospitals.

### PRIVATE HOSPITALS: NUMBERS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Acute and psychiatric hospitals</i>	<i>Day hospital facilities</i>	<i>Total private hospitals</i>
1992-93			
New South Wales	90	57	147
Victoria	113	23	136
Queensland	49	5	54
South Australia	39	1	40
Western Australia	21	4	25
Tasmania	8		8
Northern Territory	1		1
Australian Capital Territory	2	4	6
<i>Australia</i>	323	94	417
1991-92			
<i>Australia</i>	319	72	391

## Separations and occupied bed days

The number of inpatient separations from private acute and psychiatric hospitals in Australia during 1992-93 was 1,202,200 — an increase of 3.9 per cent on the previous year's figure.

Over five million (5,006,300) occupied bed days were recorded in respect of all separations, 2.4 per cent greater than the total for the previous year. The average length of stay for inpatients across all private acute and psychiatric hospitals was 4.2 days, unchanged from 1991-92.

The number of patient separations from free-standing day hospital facilities in Australia during 1992-93 was 149,390, a 21.1 per cent increase which reflects the growth in the numbers of these centres since 1991-92.

## Services provided

For health fund benefits purposes patients are categorised according to the type of services they receive. These categories comprise surgery (separately identifying advanced and minor surgery), obstetric, medical, psychiatric and rehabilitation.

Of the 1.2 million inpatient separations from private acute and psychiatric hospitals in 1992-93, 69.4 per cent were classed as surgery (including advanced and minor surgery), 22.2 per cent as medical, 4.7 per cent as obstetric, 2.3 per cent as psychiatric and 1.3 per cent as rehabilitation.

Some 94.5 per cent of separations from day hospital facilities during 1992-93 were classed as surgery patients. Of these, 50.8 per cent were categorised as minor surgery, 48.4 per cent as surgery and the remaining 0.8 per cent as advanced surgery.

## Finances

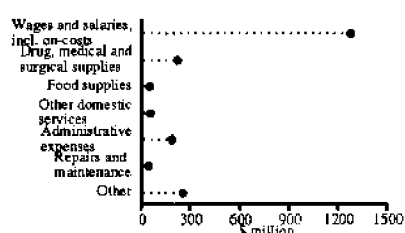
The average operating expenditure per inpatient separation for all private acute and psychiatric hospitals in Australia during 1992-93 was \$1,705 or \$409 per occupied bed day. Total operating expenditure was \$2,049.4 million, up by 4.9 per cent on the previous year. The expenditure category, 'wages and salaries including on-costs', accounted for 61.3 per cent of total expenditure.

The average operating expenditure per patient separation for all free-standing day hospital facilities was \$327 in 1992-93. The large growth in free-standing day hospital facilities between 1991-92 and 1992-93 resulted in a 38.3 per cent increase to \$48.9 million in their total operating expenditure. Some 40.0 per cent of this total was for wages and salaries, including on-costs.

For all private acute and psychiatric hospitals, total revenue amounted to \$2,325.5 million in 1992-93 and 95.7 per cent of this was received as patient fees. Total revenue for free-standing day hospital facilities was \$60.8 million of which 96.1 per cent was received as patient fees.

For further information, order the publication *Private Hospitals, Australia, 1992-93* (4390.0), or contact Keith Carter on (07) 222 6374.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS, EXPENDITURE, 1992-93



## In brief ...

### AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS

September quarter 1994

(cents)

Item	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart
Milk (1 litre)	104	106	107	101	105	115
Bread, sliced (680g)	163	154	145	125	139	160
Butter (500g)	172	182	156	161	163	203
Lamb, leg (1kg)	581	523	545	507	568	524
Potatoes (1kg)	68	70	76	60	115	70
Tea (250g)	185	183	164	159	178	199

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order  
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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### Editor

Rad Leovic  
(06) 252 6104

**Statistics Weekly**  
10 November 1994

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over fortnight to 22 November

- 10** The Labour Force, Australia, October 1994, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)  
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1994, Preliminary (6301.0; \$11.00)
- 11** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
- 16** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, September 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)
- 17** Merchandise Imports, Australia: Balance of Payments Basis, October 1994 (5320.0; \$10.00)  
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)  
Company Profits, Australia, September Quarter 1994 (5651.0; \$11.00)
- 21** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, September 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)  
Import Price Index, Australia, September 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)

### Selected releases: 2 to 8 November

#### General

Australian Bureau of Statistics Publications to be Released in 1995 (1109.0; free)

South Australian Economic Indicators, November 1994 (1307.4; \$10.50)

#### Social statistics

Crime and Safety, Vic., April 1994 (4509.2; \$11.50)

#### National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Government Financial Estimates, Aust., 1994-95 (5501.0; \$30.00)

#### Labour statistics and Prices

Employer Training Practices, Aust., February 1994 (6356.0; \$25.00)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, September Qtr 1994 (6403.0; \$6.00)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., October 1994 (6410.0; \$5.50)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., September 1994 (6415.0; \$11.00)

The Labour Force, NSW and ACT, August Qtr 1994 (6201.1; \$16.50)

#### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., September 1994 (7215.0; \$10.00)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries,

##### Building and construction

Research and Experimental Development, General Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Aust., 1992-93 (8109.0; \$22.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, June Qtr to August Qtr 1994 (8357.0; \$9.00) — *final issue*

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, June Qtr to August Qtr 1994 (8361.0; \$9.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, June Qtr to August Qtr 1994 (8362.0; \$9.00) — *final issue*

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, June Qtr to August Qtr 1994 (8367.0; \$7.00) — *final issue*

Retail Trade, Aust., September 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)

Tourism Indicators, Aust., June Qtr 1994 (8634.0; \$30.00)

Building Approvals, Vic., September 1994 (8731.2; \$11.00)

Building Approvals, WA, September 1994 (8731.5; \$11.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 94	\$m	99 058	100 666	0.9	4.3
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	September 94	\$m	- 2 434	- 1 809	14	- 54
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	- 772	- 452	48	---
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	- 1 159	- 525	46	---
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 289	5 312	- 1	- 3
Merchandise imports	"	"	- 6 061	- 5 764	7	- 7
Net foreign debt	June qtr 94	\$m	161 524	n.a.	- 1.9	- 4.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	232 698	n.a.	- 0.2	5.2
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	September 94	\$m	8 766.0	8 874.9	- 1.6	7.9
New capital expenditure at current prices	June qtr 94	"	7 284	6 994	7	11.0
New motor vehicle registrations	September 94	no.	50 438	49 056	0.5	21.3
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	September 94	no.	13 884	15 047	- 6.9	3.6
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 136	2 401	19.1	13.3
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 94	"	6 643	6 303	—	2.7
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	June qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	August 94	1988-89 = 100.0	116.2	n.a.	0.0	0.7
Materials used in manufacturing industries	" 94	1984-85 = 100.0	125.6	n.a.	0.4	- 1.2
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons (d)	September 94	'000	8 087.4	8 009.9	1.0	3.9
Participation rate † (d)	"	%	63.8	63.3	0.5	0.7
Unemployment rate † (d)	"	"	9.3	9.5	0.0	- 1.4
Job vacancies	August qtr 94	'000	68.7	65.2	23.0	75.2
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.28	1.33	0.9	10.3
Estimated resident population	March 94	million	17.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	August 94	'000	265	295	6.1	14.1
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 94	\$m	5 410	6 115	- 2.5	33.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time (d)	May 94	\$	617.50	618.20	1.4	3.3
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	September 94	% per annum	6.10	n.a.	0.40	1.25
10-year Treasury bonds †	September 94	"	10.35	n.a.	1.00	3.50
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	September 94	per \$A	0.7414	n.a.	0.1	14

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 10 November 1994.  
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 94	25.2	0.3	12.3	5.2	10.5	-34.8	n.a.	n.a.	15.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	September 94	8.9	8.4	8.2	6.6	7.2	3.2	n.a.	4.0	8.2
New motor vehicle registrations†	September 94	30.4	17.4	17.8	15.8	11.2	27.6	25.9	-10.5	20.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	September 94	-9.7	16.0	15.3	-21.5	28.0	59.5	41.2	-24.2	3.6
Value of total building work done	June qtr 94	-1.3	-0.4	9.1	-6.1	23.8	14.2	42.9	-2.7	3.9
Employed persons*	September 94	4.5	2.9	6.1	2.2	3.2	2.1	1.5	1.8	3.9
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 94	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May 94	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.8	3.0	3.2	1.2	2.6	3.5
Population	March qtr 93	0.8	0.2	2.6	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 94	5.7	6.1	6.1	2.3	9.8	14.7	8.0	6.5	6.4

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

