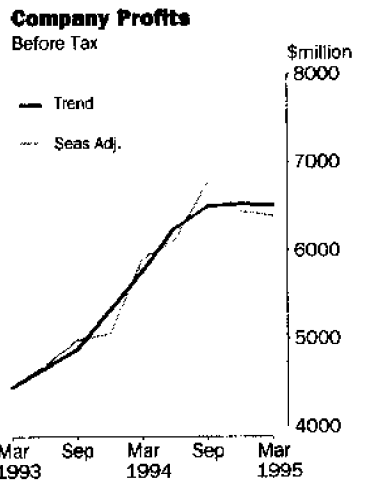


COMPANY PROFITS AUSTRALIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM THURS 18 MAY 1995

MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES



TREND ESTIMATES

	Mar 95 \$m	% change Dec 94 to Mar 95	% change Mar 94 to Mar 95
Company Profits before			
Income Tax	6 509	-0.3	13.2
Income Tax & Net Interest	7 646	-0.3	12.1
Income Tax, Net Interest & Depreciation	10 850	0.4	11.1

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Mar 95 \$m	% change Dec 94 to Mar 95	% change Mar 94 to Mar 95
Company Profits before			
Income Tax	6 386	-0.8	8.3
Income Tax & Net Interest	7 496	-0.3	7.5
Income Tax, Net Interest & Depreciation	10 783	2.1	8.9

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Mar 95 \$m	% change Dec 94 to Mar 95	% change Mar 94 to Mar 95
Company Profits before			
Income Tax	5 311	-31.2	8.6
Income Tax & Net Interest	6 587	-24.9	7.6
Income Tax, Net Interest & Depreciation	9 809	-17.7	8.9

MARCH QTR SURVEY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The provisional trend estimate of company profits before income tax, for companies with more than 30 employees, has flattened over the last two quarters, ending the continuous growth of the series over the last 3 years. The estimate is 13.2% higher than for the March 1994 quarter.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

- In seasonally adjusted terms company profits before income tax fell by 0.8% in the March quarter 1995, after a 4.9% fall in the December quarter 1994.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- The estimate for company profits before income tax as reported for the March quarter 1995 was \$5,311m, down 31.2% from the revised estimate for the December quarter 1994. Losses from foreign exchange dealings by a small number of businesses have affected this estimate.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Horst Peemoeller on 06 252 5617, or any ABS office.

COMPANY PROFITS NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 1995	17 August 1995
September 1995	16 November 1995
December 1995	15 February 1996

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

SAMPLING ERRORS

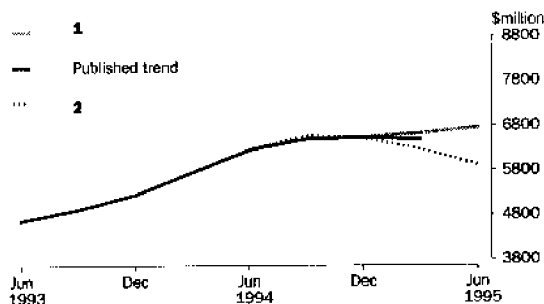
Standard errors for estimates contained in this publication are shown on pages 15-16.

TREND REVISIONS

The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when seasonally adjusted estimates for subsequent quarters become available. The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

- 1** The June 1995 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before tax is higher than the March 1995 seasonally adjusted estimate by 10.0%.
- 2** The June 1995 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before tax is lower than the March 1995 seasonally adjusted estimate by 10.0%.

The percentage change of 10.0% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last decade, has been 10.0%.

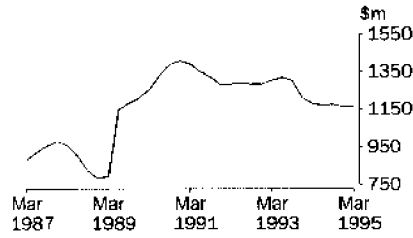


An increase of 10.0% in seasonally adjusted company profits (before Income Tax) in June quarter 1995 would show a small rise in the trend from March quarter 1995. A fall of the same magnitude would result in the trend series declining following the flattening seen in the last two quarters.

W. McLENNAN
AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

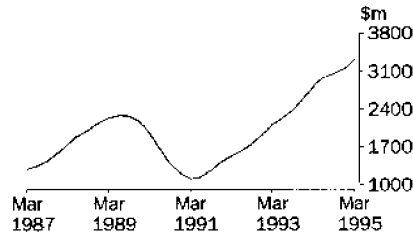
COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX BY INDUSTRY:Trend

MINING



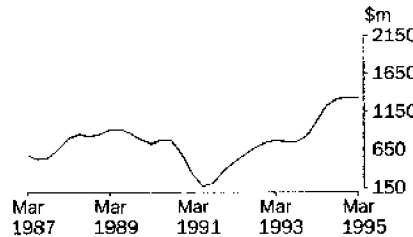
The Mining industry trend estimate for company profits before income tax shows little change over revised December quarter estimate.

MANUFACTURING



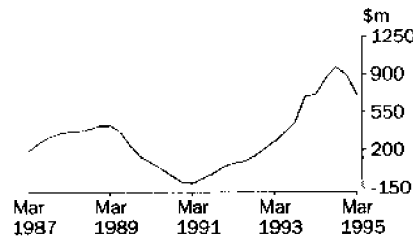
The Manufacturing industry continues to show steady growth in trend estimates, up 5.1% over the revised December quarter, and the 16th consecutive quarterly rise in profits.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL



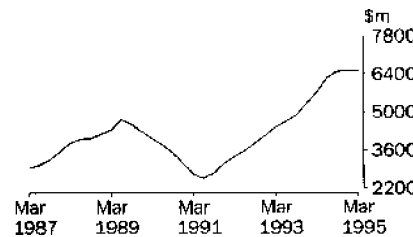
The trend in profits before income tax for the combined Wholesale and Retail industries is unchanged from the revised December quarter estimate.

OTHER SELECTED INDUSTRIES



This consists of Construction, Transport, Services to Finance & Insurance, Property & Business Services and Other services. The March quarter estimate has fallen by 20.2%.

TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES



The All Industries provisional trend series has flattened with an estimate of \$6,509m (0.3% down on the revised December quarter).

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX: All Series

Quarter	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax and net interest paid</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL			
1991-92			
March	7 570	4 802	2 893
June	7 701	4 963	2 954
1992-93			
September	8 461	5 703	4 186
December	9 496	6 593	5 043
March	7 996	5 197	3 691
June	8 670	5 743	4 063
1993-94			
September	9 552	6 635	5 345
December	10 349	7 362	6 164
March	9 008	6 123	4 891
June	9 444	6 444	5 290
1994-95			
September r	11 417	8 287	7 121
December r	11 915	8 765	7 716
March p	9 809	6 587	5 311
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1991-92			
March	8 265	5 451	3 440
June	8 110	5 358	3 437
1992-93			
September	8 342	5 594	3 967
December	8 444	5 618	4 083
March	8 713	5 889	4 452
June	9 186	6 198	4 684
1993-94			
September	9 362	6 431	4 981
December	9 207	6 281	5 050
March	9 899	6 972	5 897
June	9 994	6 986	6 115
1994-95			
September r	11 181	8 068	6 770
December r	10 566	7 521	6 439
March p	10 783	7 496	6 386
TREND ESTIMATES			
1991-92			
March	8 159	5 409	3 361
June	8 215	5 448	3 588
1992-93			
September	8 292	5 520	3 850
December	8 473	5 671	4 139
March	8 809	5 934	4 449
June	9 064	6 136	4 660
1993-94			
September	9 209	6 275	4 871
December	9 480	6 541	5 305
March r	9 770	6 819	5 749
June r	10 280	7 281	6 240
1994-95			
September r	10 662	7 597	6 496
December r	10 804	7 666	6 526
March p	10 850	7 646	6 509

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, Depreciation and Interest: Original

Period	Company profits before income tax net interest paid and depreciation		Company profits before income tax and net interest paid		Interest received	Net interest paid	Company profits before income tax
	\$m	Depreciation \$m	\$m	Interest paid \$m			
1991-92	32 225	10 901	21 325	12 921	4 471	8 450	12 875
1992-93	34 623	11 387	23 236	9 719	3 467	6 252	16 983
1993-94	38 354	11 790	26 564	8 764	3 890	4 874	21 689
1991-92							
March	7 570	2 768	4 802	2 892	983	1 909	2 893
June	7 701	2 738	4 963	3 188	1 179	2 009	2 954
1992-93							
September	8 461	2 758	5 703	2 342	826	1 516	4 186
December	9 496	2 902	6 593	2 513	963	1 550	5 043
March	7 996	2 800	5 197	2 297	791	1 506	3 691
June	8 670	2 928	5 743	2 566	887	1 680	4 063
1993-94							
September	9 552	2 917	6 635	2 123	833	1 290	5 345
December	10 349	2 987	7 362	2 234	1 035	1 199	6 164
March	9 008	2 885	6 123	2 104	873	1 231	4 891
June	9 444	3 000	6 444	2 304	1 150	1 154	5 290
1994-95							
September r	11 417	3 130	8 287	2 576	1 410	1 165	7 121
December r	11 915	3 150	8 765	2 683	1 634	1 049	7 716
March p	9 809	3 222	6 587	2 769	1 493	1 276	5 311



COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, By Broad Industry: All Series

Period	Mining \$m	Manu- facturing \$m	Construction \$m	Wholesale trade \$m	Retail trade \$m	Transport and storage \$m	Services to finance and insurance \$m	Property and business services \$m	Other services \$m	Total \$m
ORIGINAL										
1991-92	5 048	5 746	393	1 004	901	374	256	-1053	206	12 875
1992-93	5 268	7 983	324	1 463	1 359	394	356	-452	289	16 983
1993-94	4 827	10 655	368	1 965	1 626	774	837	-75	713	21 689
1992-93										
December	1 173	2 298	127	400	646	138	75	49	137	5 043
March	1 326	1 697	81	320	201	76	69	-96	16	3 691
June	1 270	1 983	42	439	269	78	151	-199	31	4 063
1993-94										
September	1 364	2 733	91	439	198	209	29	23	258	5 345
December	1 206	2 830	122	399	760	243	320	87	197	6 164
March	1 169	2 421	77	493	262	159	255	-31	87	4 891
June	1 089	2 671	78	633	406	162	232	-154	171	5 290
1994-95										
September r	1 297	3 398	139	899	379	213	237	93	466	7 121
December r	1 064	3 527	149	814	907	198	396	268	393	7 716
March p	1 240	2 868	121	683	274	92	-59	10	83	5 311
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
1991-92	5 043	5 815	409	1 000	811	363	254	-1045	206	12 855
1992-93	5 278	8 069	315	1 458	1 467	402	354	-446	289	17 185
1993-94	4 827	10 831	375	1 958	1 768	803	836	-66	713	22 043
1992-93										
December	1 126	1 960	92	365	303	105	75	-23	80	4 083
March	1 330	2 057	89	408	418	114	94	-121	63	4 452
June	1 333	2 272	62	425	361	96	125	-89	99	4 684
1993-94										
September	1 352	2 413	89	393	314	174	31	17	199	4 981
December	1 159	2 424	88	376	354	183	319	5	141	5 050
March	1 168	2 924	84	580	548	238	281	-61	135	5 897
June	1 147	3 070	114	609	552	208	204	-28	239	6 115
1994-95										
September r	1 285	2 990	135	852	599	174	240	89	406	6 770
December r	1 024	3 028	108	797	421	149	394	181	337	6 439
March p	1 237	3 457	133	769	576	138	-32	-22	130	6 386
TREND ESTIMATES										
1991-92	5 171	5 822	373	790	852	338	250	-1020	258	12 834
1992-93	5 184	8 021	339	1 508	1 407	424	326	-430	321	17 098
1993-94	4 860	10 762	370	2 028	1 797	781	896	-64	736	22 166
1992-93										
December	1 283	1 925	85	359	369	101	84	-122	57	4 139
March	1 302	2 105	79	391	373	105	90	-77	81	4 449
June	1 316	2 231	79	405	348	122	91	-52	120	4 660
1993-94										
September	1 303	2 372	79	398	346	156	97	-25	145	4 871
December	1 211	2 585	84	428	393	197	274	-16	148	5 305
March r	1 176	2 826	97	530	500	219	255	-31	177	5 749
June r	1 170	2 979	110	672	558	208	269	8	266	6 240
1994-95										
September r	1 172	3 051	121	767	545	180	262	72	327	6 496
December r	1 162	3 146	125	804	519	152	220	95	302	6 526
March p	1 165	3 306	125	808	518	138	152	70	228	6 509

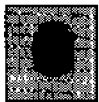
COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, By Broad Industry—Percentage Changes: All Series¹

Period	Mining	Manu- facturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Services to finance and insurance	Property and business services	Other services	Total
ORIGINAL (% change from preceding period)										
1991-92	-14.9	18.1	14.3	2.7	-0.3	7.4	84.5	22.5	29.0	4.6
1992-93	4.4	38.9	-17.7	45.6	50.8	5.4	39.1	57.1	40.6	31.9
1993-94	-8.4	33.5	13.5	34.3	19.6	96.4	135.1	83.4	146.6	27.7
1992-93										
December	-21.7	14.7	71.4	31.6	166.5	36.4	20.8	123.6	29.5	20.5
March	13.0	-26.1	-35.6	-20.0	-68.8	-45.2	-8.3	-296.8	-88.5	-26.8
June	-4.3	16.9	-48.4	37.1	33.7	3.1	119.4	-108.2	94.8	10.1
1993-94										
September	7.4	37.8	117.5	0.0	-26.4	167.7	-80.4	111.3	740.5	31.5
December	-11.6	3.5	33.3	-9.0	283.1	16.4	985.9	285.7	-23.8	15.3
March	-3.0	-14.4	-37.1	23.5	-65.6	-34.9	-20.5	-135.3	-55.5	-20.6
June	-6.8	10.3	1.5	28.4	55.1	2.4	-8.7	-400.8	94.9	8.1
1994-95										
September r	19.1	27.2	78.8	41.9	-6.6	30.9	2.1	160.7	173.0	34.6
December r	-18.0	3.8	7.2	-9.4	139.2	-6.7	66.8	187.5	-15.7	8.4
March p	16.5	-18.7	-18.7	-16.1	-69.8	-53.6	-115.0	-96.1	-78.9	-31.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (% change from preceding period)										
1991-92	-14.7	21.1	24.2	2.7	0.3	8.7	86.3	22.7	28.5	6.2
1992-93	4.7	38.8	-23.1	45.9	80.9	10.6	39.7	57.3	39.9	33.7
1993-94	-8.5	34.2	19.3	34.3	20.5	99.7	135.8	85.1	146.9	28.3
1992-93										
December	-24.3	10.1	27.5	40.0	-21.2	20.5	22.8	89.4	71.4	2.9
March	18.1	4.9	-2.5	11.8	38.1	9.4	25.3	-435.7	-22.0	9.0
June	0.2	10.4	-31.1	4.2	-13.7	-15.7	33.3	26.8	58.7	5.2
1993-94										
September	1.4	6.2	44.5	-7.5	-13.2	80.4	-75.3	119.1	100.2	6.3
December	-14.2	0.5	-0.6	-4.3	12.8	5.2	935.5	-69.1	-29.2	1.4
March	0.8	20.6	-5.1	54.1	54.9	30.2	-11.7	np	-4.4	16.8
June	-1.8	5.0	35.8	5.0	0.8	-12.8	-27.4	54.6	77.5	3.7
1994-95										
September r	12.0	-2.6	18.8	39.9	8.5	-16.0	17.4	420.2	70.0	10.7
December r	-20.3	1.3	-20.0	-6.5	-29.8	-14.7	64.1	104.7	-16.9	-4.9
March p	20.8	14.2	22.5	-3.5	36.9	-7.2	-108.0	-112.2	-61.5	-0.8
TREND ESTIMATES (% change from preceding period)										
1991-92	-6.4	19.6	8.5	-21.0	3.7	-10.6	88.3	20.2	164.1	7.9
1992-93	0.2	37.8	-9.3	90.9	65.0	25.3	30.2	57.9	24.7	33.2
1993-94	-6.2	34.2	9.4	34.5	27.7	84.4	175.0	85.1	129.3	29.6
1992-93										
December	0.0	9.4	-10.5	1.8	16.5	4.9	37.1	31.6	-11.6	7.5
March	1.5	9.4	-7.3	8.8	1.3	3.9	8.0	37.3	42.3	7.5
June	1.1	6.0	0.3	3.6	-6.9	16.9	1.0	31.8	49.0	4.7
1993-94										
September	-1.0	6.3	-0.4	-1.6	-0.6	27.8	6.8	51.6	21.1	4.5
December	-7.1	9.0	7.0	7.4	13.6	26.4	182.0	38.2	2.0	8.9
March r	-2.9	9.3	15.3	23.9	27.2	11.0	-7.0	-97.6	19.3	8.4
June r	-0.5	5.4	13.0	26.9	11.6	-5.0	5.4	125.8	50.5	8.5
1994-95										
September r	0.2	2.4	9.8	14.1	-2.4	-13.5	-2.7	np	22.8	4.1
December r	-0.8	3.1	3.3	4.7	-4.7	-15.3	-15.9	32.6	-7.5	0.5
March p	0.2	5.1	-0.1	0.6	-0.3	-9.5	-31.2	-26.1	-24.7	-0.3

¹ The percentages in this table have been calculated from a series defined to the nearest \$1000 and may vary slightly from calculations based on the published series in Table 3 which have been rounded to the nearest \$million.

COMPANY PROFITS, By Industry: Original

Period	Mining \$m	Manu- facturing \$m	Construction \$m	Wholesale trade \$m	Retail trade \$m	Transport and storage \$m	Services to finance and insurance \$m	Property and business services \$m	Other services \$m	Total \$m
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX										
1991-92	5 048	5 746	393	1 004	901	374	256	-1053	206	12 875
1992-93	5 268	7 983	324	1 463	1 359	394	356	-452	289	16 983
1993-94	4 827	10 655	368	1 965	1 626	774	837	-75	713	21 689
1992-93										
December	1 173	2 298	127	400	646	138	75	49	137	5 043
March	1 326	1 697	81	320	201	76	69	-96	16	3 691
June	1 270	1 983	42	439	269	78	151	-199	31	4 063
1993-94										
September	1 364	2 733	91	439	198	209	29	23	258	5 345
December	1 206	2 830	122	399	760	243	320	87	197	6 164
March	1 169	2 421	77	493	262	159	255	-31	87	4 891
June	1 089	2 671	78	633	406	162	232	-154	171	5 290
1994-95										
September r	1 297	3 398	139	899	379	213	237	93	466	7 121
December r	1 064	3 527	149	814	907	198	396	268	393	7 716
March p	1 240	2 868	121	683	274	92	-59	10	83	5 311
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX & NET INTEREST										
1991-92	5 883	8 889	518	2 118	1 424	643	370	759	720	21 325
1992-93	5 862	10 419	358	2 130	1 654	755	471	876	711	23 236
1993-94	5 381	12 202	460	2 621	1 939	1 004	1 079	851	1 026	26 564
1992-93										
December	1 313	2 884	120	603	737	224	107	360	244	6 593
March	1 462	2 246	93	464	273	156	92	308	102	5 197
June	1 454	2 685	61	590	318	172	191	97	176	5 743
1993-94										
September	1 498	3 135	113	592	279	291	49	351	332	6 635
December	1 354	3 215	143	564	843	317	387	273	266	7 362
March	1 299	2 784	100	654	334	214	343	228	167	6 123
June	1 230	3 068	103	811	483	182	305	-1	262	6 444
1994-95										
September r	1 398	3 774	165	1 096	438	271	251	366	527	8 287
December r	1 180	3 899	174	994	972	259	387	429	470	8 765
March p	1 385	3 261	151	884	338	136	-5	257	179	6 587
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, NET INTEREST & DEPRECIATION										
1991-92	8 823	13 248	738	3 134	2 118	1 300	441	1 323	1 101	32 225
1992-93	8 873	14 912	590	3 077	2 344	1 361	551	1 654	1 262	34 623
1993-94	8 481	16 763	681	3 712	2 806	1 595	1 172	1 518	1 625	38 354
1992-93										
December	2 120	4 007	181	850	917	385	125	540	369	9 496
March	2 164	3 355	148	689	439	300	111	545	245	7 996
June	2 234	3 858	122	838	485	325	211	285	312	8 670
1993-94										
September	2 261	4 261	164	856	504	438	68	510	489	9 552
December	2 129	4 361	198	852	1 078	467	410	442	411	10 349
March	2 062	3 900	155	924	538	356	367	391	317	9 008
June	2 030	4 241	165	1 080	686	334	327	175	407	9 444
1994-95										
September r	2 147	4 988	251	1 361	635	428	274	629	703	11 417
December r	1 880	5 144	265	1 264	1 155	416	412	711	668	11 915
March p	2 116	4 517	236	1 146	524	294	22	557	397	9 809



COMPANY PROFITS, By Detailed Manufacturing Industry: Original

Period	Food, beverages and tobacco	Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	Wood and paper products	Printing, publishing, and recorded media	Petroleum, coal, chemical and assoc. products	Non- metallic mineral products	Metal products	Machinery and equipment	Other manu- facturing	Total manu- facturing
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX										
1991-92	1 696	277	459	373	1 046	662	472	746	16	5 746
1992-93	2 144	219	643	666	1 350	816	847	1 259	40	7 983
1993-94	2 130	380	913	1 134	1 633	1 047	1 895	1 402	122	10 655
1992-93										
December	748	73	146	200	329	253	178	356	16	2 298
March	428	38	148	165	362	103	207	255	-10	1 697
June	472	34	163	123	365	253	235	325	13	1 983
1993-94										
September	556	110	234	288	384	269	481	384	29	2 733
December	679	107	247	326	408	293	511	217	41	2 830
March	504	77	222	230	407	232	412	316	21	2 421
June	390	86	210	290	434	254	491	484	31	2 671
1994-95										
September r	578	146	279	360	504	333	582	593	23	3 398
December r	758	114	273	372	393	306	657	639	15	3 527
March p	506	116	195	324	460	236	599	425	6	2 868
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX & NET INTEREST PAID										
1991-92	2 263	408	717	831	1 458	836	1 273	1 067	38	8 889
1992-93	2 659	338	814	878	1 640	984	1 509	1 485	110	10 419
1993-94	2 560	512	1 071	1 257	1 853	1 172	2 050	1 594	133	12 202
1992-93										
December	887	104	188	236	395	300	345	403	27	2 884
March	543	67	188	193	418	141	378	303	15	2 246
June	596	61	207	237	458	286	406	405	30	2 685
1993-94										
September	665	147	273	323	442	299	521	435	31	3 135
December	781	137	288	362	464	324	551	266	43	3 215
March	602	111	258	259	458	263	449	361	24	2 784
June	513	117	253	313	490	286	530	533	34	3 068
1994-95										
September r	685	176	329	386	567	356	614	629	31	3 774
December r	882	143	314	399	452	325	695	669	23	3 899
March p	617	149	244	357	524	258	631	466	16	3 261
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, NET INTEREST PAID & DEPRECIATION										
1991-92	3 093	537	1 082	1 055	2 151	1 170	2 211	1 889	60	13 248
1992-93	3 500	470	1 149	1 089	2 409	1 344	2 444	2 275	232	14 912
1993-94	3 453	673	1 522	1 490	2 571	1 556	2 973	2 364	160	16 763
1992-93										
December	1 113	141	272	290	579	392	572	594	54	4 007
March	751	97	273	242	603	236	607	498	48	3 355
June	796	93	292	291	676	376	658	617	58	3 858
1993-94										
September	883	185	376	379	615	393	753	641	38	4 261
December	1 012	178	403	420	643	417	779	460	50	4 361
March	817	147	373	318	638	358	676	540	32	3 900
June	741	164	370	372	675	388	765	724	40	4 241
1994-95										
September r	933	228	424	451	761	460	841	848	43	4 988
December r	1 138	191	405	469	643	431	945	891	32	5 144
March p	872	198	339	431	729	367	881	672	28	4 517

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents preliminary estimates of company profits based on Management accounts for selected industries in Australia. The series have been compiled from data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its quarterly Survey of Company Profits.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The survey is designed to measure profits, depreciation and net interest paid of companies (i.e. incorporated business enterprises) in the private sector in Australia.

3 The data in this publication relate to companies employing more than 30 people.

4 In order to classify profits by industry in these series, each statistical unit is classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) industry in which it mainly operates.

5 The scope of the survey:

- includes the following Australian and New Zealand [ANZSIC] industries.

- Mining (11-15)

- Manufacturing (21-29)

- Food, beverages and tobacco (21)

- Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather (22)

- Wood and paper products (23)

- Printing, publishing and recorded media (24)

- Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)

- Non-metallic mineral products (26)

- Metal products (27)

- Machinery and equipment (28)

- Other manufacturing (29)

- Construction (41-42)

- Wholesale (45-47)

- Retail (51-53)

- Transport and storage (61-67)

- Services to finance and insurance (75)

- Property and business services (77-78)

- Other selected industries (including electricity, gas and water supply, accommodation, cafes and restaurants, communication, cultural and recreational services, and other services 36-37, 57, 71, 91-93, 95-96).

- excludes companies primarily engaged in:

- Agriculture

- Forestry

- Fishing

- Hunting

- Finance (73)

- Insurance (74)

- Government administration and defence (Division M)

- Education (Division N)

- Health and community services (Division O)

SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN

6 September quarter data reflect changes in the sample of companies surveyed. A proportion of sampled companies are rotated out of the survey in the September quarter and replaced with companies of similar size and activity. The major effect of this rotation is that standard errors of movement for the September quarter tend to be larger than for other quarters. The movement in standard errors (see Standard Errors section) is based on data from a number of quarters and will therefore tend to understate the true standard errors for September quarter movement estimates. Estimates of September quarter movement standard errors are available on request.

7 In the 12 month period between successive frames and survey samples there are many businesses which cease operating and many which are newly established. Such changes in the business population need to be reflected in the survey to ensure that the estimates produced are representative of the changing nature of the business population over the course of the year. This is particularly important for surveys which cover the small business sector because small businesses account for a very high proportion of the changes occurring to the size and structure of the business population over the course of the year.

8 For the Survey of Company Profits, which excludes businesses employing 30 or less people, this requirement is confined to the larger businesses where quarterly changes to the business population are relatively small. An estimate of the contribution expected from the larger *new* businesses is produced by the ABS each quarter based on the number of businesses in the survey sample which cease trading each quarter. This contribution accumulates progressively from 0.25% to 1% of the total estimate of company profits before tax over the 4 quarters of the survey between successive survey frames and samples.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

9 The survey is conducted by mail on a quarterly basis. Forms are sent to a sample of approximately 3,800 business units employing more than 30 people. The sample is selected from the ABS central register of businesses and is stratified by industry and number of employees. All business units with over 250 employees and/or a known large profit/loss are included in the sample.

10 Respondents are asked to provide data on the same basis as their own management accounts. Where a particular business unit does not respond in a given survey, an estimate is substituted. Aggregates are calculated from reported data using the *number raised* estimation technique. Data are edited both at individual business unit level and at aggregate level.

STATISTICAL UNIT

11 The survey uses the management unit as the statistical unit. The management unit is the highest-level accounting unit within a business, having regard to industry homogeneity, for which accounts are maintained. In nearly all cases it coincides with the legal entity owning the business (i.e. company, etc). In the case of large diversified businesses, however, there may be more than one management unit, each coinciding with a 'division' or 'line of business'. A division or line of business is recognised where separate and comprehensive accounts are compiled for it. Prior to 1989, the survey used a different statistical unit. Further details are available on request.

CLASSIFICATION BY INDUSTRY

12 The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) has been developed for use in both countries for the production and analysis of industry statistics. It replaces the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) and the New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (NZSIC) which have been in use for many years. Both have been widely accepted as statistical standards in their own right.

CLASSIFICATION BY INDUSTRY
continued

13 There has been extensive consultation with external users to ensure that the ANZSIC reflects the structure of Australian and New Zealand industry and user requirements for statistics. The Australian Bureau of Statistics and the New Zealand Department of Statistics encourage other organisations to use the classification in their own work in order to improve the comparability and usefulness of the statistics.

14 In the development of the ANZSIC greater emphasis has been placed on alignment with the international standards than has been the case in the past. The International Standards Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 3, has been used as the international standard for reference purposes. This will lead to significant improvements in the comparability of industry statistics internationally.

15 Because of the introduction of ANZSIC and its use in this publication, changes occur in classification categories when compared to previous releases of this publication. As an example, categories listed in Table 1 and under "Manufacturing" differ from previously. The old (ASIC) classification: "Textiles, Clothing & Footwear" becomes (in part) the new ANZSIC classification: "Textiles, Clothing, Footwear & Leather". The correspondence between these categories is not strictly one-to-one. Accordingly, care should be taken when making comparisons between years where different classifications have been used.

16 Users are referred to a detailed analysis of ANZSIC/ASIC and ASIC/ANZSIC concordances contained in the joint ABS, New Zealand publication: *Australian & New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 1993, ANZSIC*, ABS Cat. No. 1292.0 and New Zealand Cat. No. 19.005.0092.

17 In order to classify company profits by industry, each statistical unit (as defined above) is classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) industry in which it *mainly* operates.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

18 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.

19 In the seasonal adjustment of the series, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects (arising from the varying length of each month and the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in the month). Adjustment has also been made for the influence of Easter which may affect the March and June quarter estimates.

20 Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (e.g. a change in interest rates). Particular care should be taken in interpreting quarterly movements in the adjusted figures in this publication, especially for detailed industry estimates.

21 Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after the adjustment for seasonal variation.

22 Seasonal factors are reviewed and revised annually to take account of each additional year's original data. The nature of the seasonal adjustment process is such that the magnitude of some revisions resulting from the re-analysis may be quite significant, especially for data for more recent quarters. For this reason, additional care should be exercised when interpreting movements in seasonally adjusted data for recent quarters.

23 The seasonally adjusted figures necessarily reflect the sampling and other errors to which the original figures are subject.

TREND ESTIMATES

24 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average (like all Henderson averages) is symmetric but, as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. Unlike the weights of the standard 7-term Henderson moving average, the weights employed here have been tailored to suit the particular characteristics of individual series. While the asymmetric weights enable trend estimates for recent quarters to be produced, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent three quarters as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring Trends: an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (06) 252 6345.

DESCRIPTION OF TERMS

25 A description of the terms used in this publication are given below:

A company An incorporated private sector business enterprise. For the purpose of the survey, branches of overseas companies operating in Australia are included but overseas branches of Australian companies are excluded.

Company profits before income tax *Net operating profit or loss before income tax and extraordinary items* and is net of capital profits or losses and dividends received.

Net interest paid Interest expense less any interest income. Interest received from or paid to overseas sources is included. The interest component of finance lease payments is also included.

Depreciation of fixed assets This is as per management accounts and includes depreciation on equipment acquired under a finance lease.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER ABS STATISTICS

26 The series 'Company Profits Before Income Tax, Net Interest Paid and Depreciation' equates, broadly with the national accounting series of 'Gross Operating Surplus of Private Corporate Trading Enterprises'. However, the two series are not directly comparable for the following reasons:

- the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include the profits of all companies whereas results from the Survey of Company Profits relate only to those companies with employment of more than 30 persons
- the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include estimates for companies classified to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and community services industries
- the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus are after deduction of the stock valuation adjustment which measures the portion of income attributable to holding gains or losses resulting from stock valuation practices
- the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include details relating to net third party insurance transfers, royalty and land rent payments
- the national accounts' estimates incorporate data from other sources such as taxation data as well as information from the Survey of Company Profits.

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

27 More detailed industry data from this survey are available on request, the cost for such a service being dependent upon the amount of data requested. Inquiries should be made to Horst Peemoeller on 06 252 5617 or to any ABS office.



RELATED PUBLICATIONS

28 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *Australian National Accounts, National Income Expenditure and Product* (5206.0)
- *Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure, Preliminary* (5625.0)
- *State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, Actual and Expected Expenditure* (5646.0)
- *Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia* (5629.0)
- *Australian Business Expectations* (5250.0)

29 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and the Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- r data or series revised since previous issue
- p preliminary figures or series subject to revision
- n.p. not available for publication



STANDARD ERRORS

INTRODUCTION

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample drawn from units in the surveyed population. Because the entire population is not surveyed, the published estimates are subject to sampling error. The most common way of quantifying such sampling error is to calculate the standard error for the published estimate or statistic.

LEVEL ESTIMATES

To illustrate, let us say that the published level estimate for company profits before tax is \$5,500m. The calculated standard error in this case is \$80m. The standard error is then used to interpret the level estimate of \$5,500m. For instance, the standard error of \$80m indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real value falls within the range \$5,420m to \$5,580m (\$5,500m + or - \$80m)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real value falls within the range \$5,340m and \$5,660m (\$5,500m + or - \$160m)

The real value in this case is the result we would obtain if we could enumerate the total population.

The following table shows the standard errors for quarterly level estimates.

	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Mining	9	9	15
Manufacturing			
Food, beverages and tobacco	17	17	19
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	6	6	8
Wood and paper products	10	11	13
Printing, publishing and recorded media	21	21	22
Petroleum, coal, chemical and assoc. products	13	14	18
Non-metallic mineral products	4	4	4
Metal products	9	9	14
Machinery and equipment	14	16	18
Other manufacturing	9	8	9
Total manufacturing	37	39	44
Construction	32	34	37
Wholesale trade	36	37	41
Retail trade	44	55	63
Transport and storage	31	31	47
Services to finance and insurance	18	16	15
Property and business services	68	58	66
Other services	48	49	17
Total	118	119	138

STANDARD ERRORS

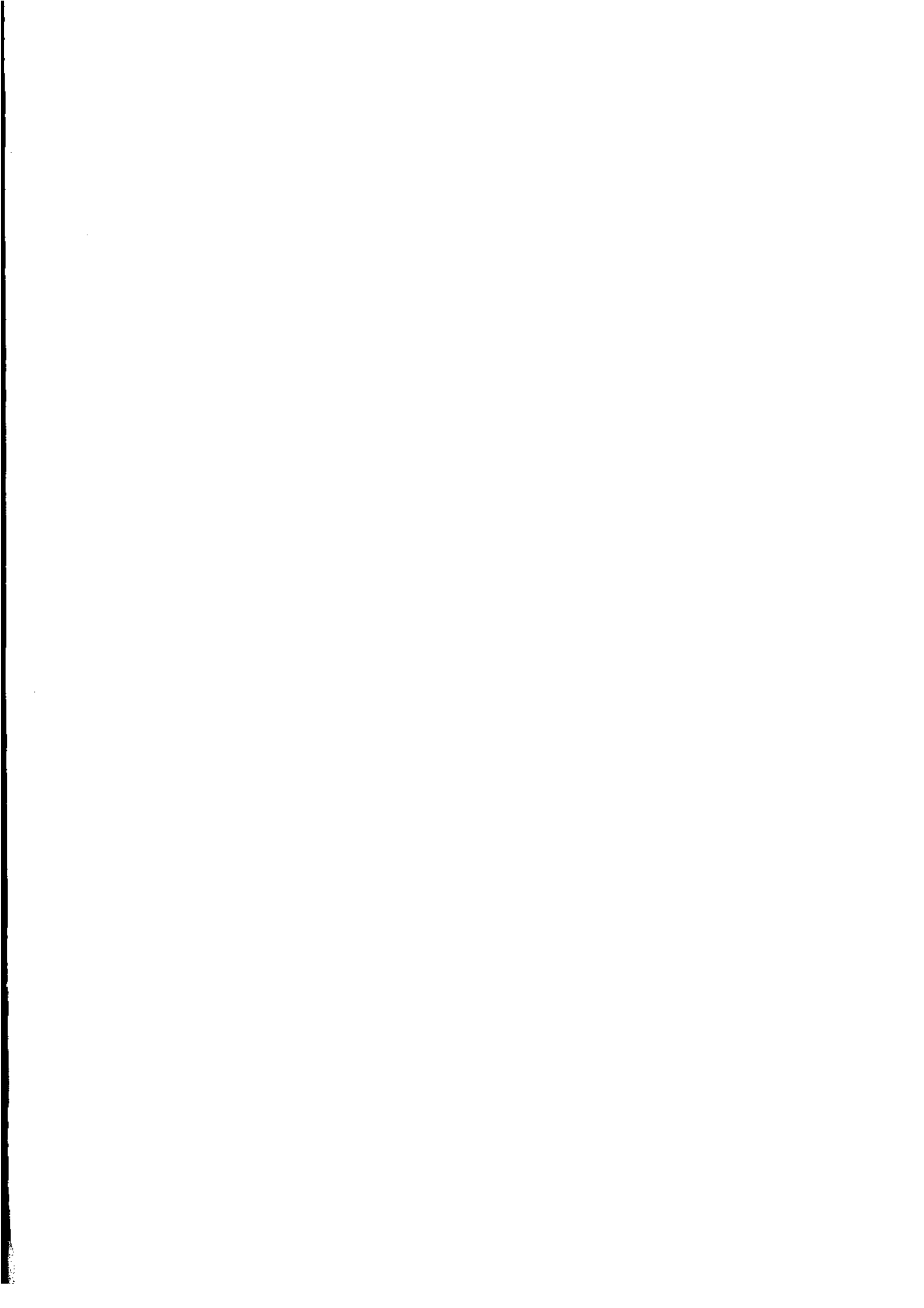
MOVEMENT ESTIMATES

The following example illustrates how to use the standard error to interpret a movement estimate. Let us say that one quarter the published level estimate for Company Profits before Tax is \$5,500m, the next quarter the published level estimate is \$6,000m. The calculated standard error for the movement estimate is \$75. The standard error is then used to interpret the published movement estimate of +\$500m. For instance, the standard error of \$75m indicates that:

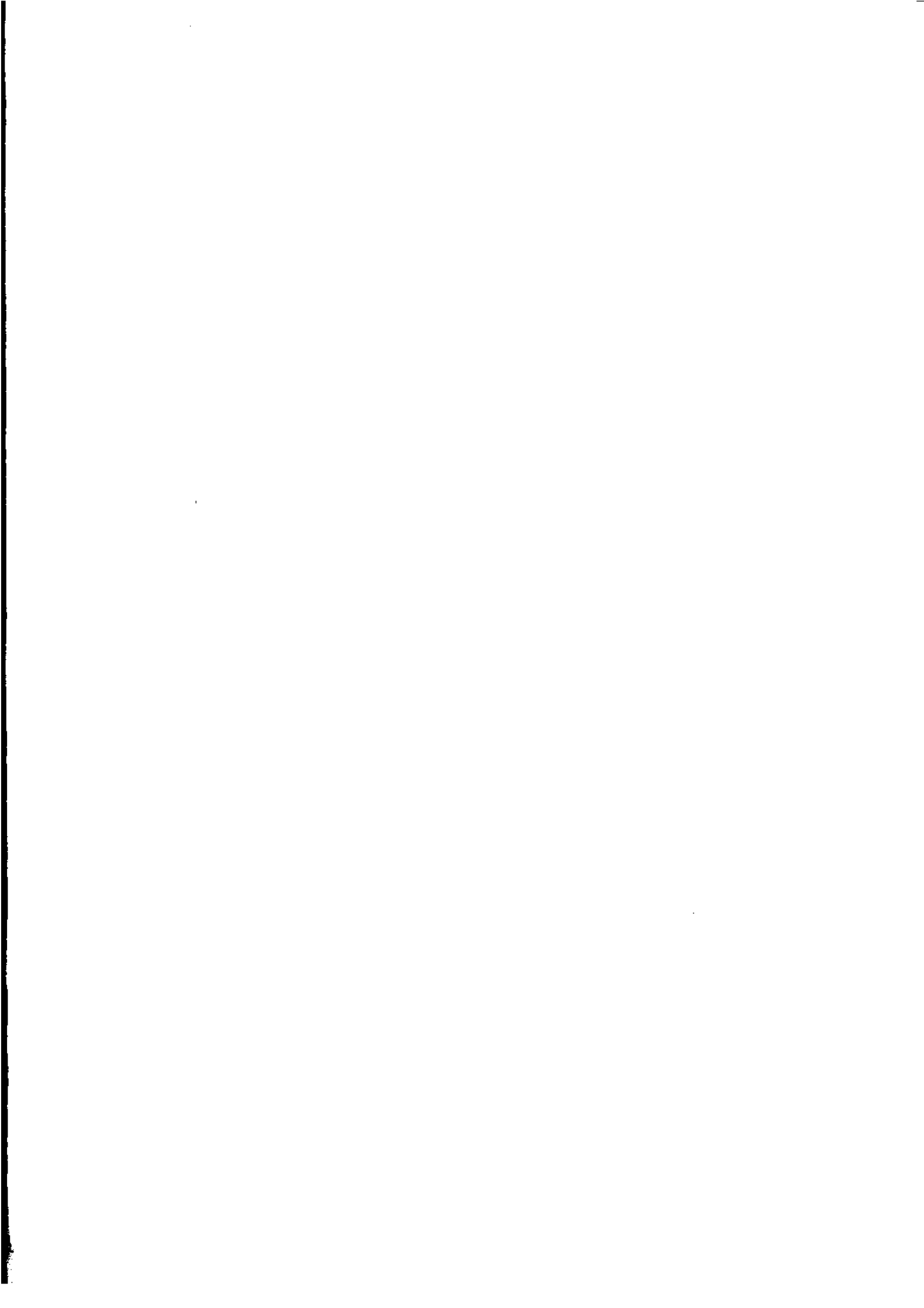
- There are approximately two chances in three that the real movement over the two quarter period falls within the range \$425m to \$575m (\$500m + or - \$75m)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real movement falls within the range \$350m to \$650m (\$500m + or - \$150m)

The following table shows the standard errors for quarterly movement estimates.

	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Mining	8	8	11
Manufacturing			
Food, beverages and tobacco	12	12	12
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	2	2	2
Wood and paper products	7	7	7
Printing, publishing and recorded media	23	23	23
Petroleum, coal, chemical and assoc. products	13	13	13
Non-metallic mineral products	6	6	6
Metal products	18	24	22
Machinery and equipment	16	16	16
Other manufacturing	7	1	7
Total manufacturing	40	43	42
Construction	37	39	39
Wholesale trade	39	37	37
Retail trade	24	26	29
Transport and storage	25	26	31
Services to finance and insurance	13	14	13
Property and business services	65	60	59
Other services	22	25	15
Total	103	103	104







FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our offices (see below).

INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Special tables or in-depth data investigations are provided by the ABS Information Consultancy Service in each of our offices (see below).

ELECTRONIC DATA SERVICES

A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS office (see below).

BOOKSHOP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

There is a large number of ABS publications available from the ABS Bookshops in each of our offices. You can also receive any of our publications on a regular basis. Join our subscription mailing service and have your publications mailed to you in Australia at no additional cost. Telephone our Publications Subscription Service toll free Australia wide on 008 0206 08.

ABS EMAIL ADDRESSES

Keylink	STAT.INFO/ABS
X.400	(C:AU,A:TELMEMO,O:ABS,SN:INFO,FN:STAT)
Internet	STAT.INFO@ABS.TELEMEMO.AU

GENERAL SALES AND INQUIRIES

* Sydney 02 268 4611	* Adelaide 08 237 7100
* Melbourne 03 615 7000	* Hobart 002 20 5800
* Brisbane 07 222 6351	* Darwin 089 43 2111
* Perth 09 360 5140	* Canberra 06 252 6007

■ Information Services, ABS
PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616



2565100003958

ISSN 0818-9986

RRP \$11.50