Australian Bureau of Statistics

APRIL 1998

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BUSINESS INDICATORS

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 23 APR 1998

CONTENTS

- For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.
- For further information about these statistics, contact Conrad Bulenda on Canberra 02 6207 0286.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	*RELEASE DATE*
May 1998	18 May 1998
June 1998	22 June 1998

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

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the March 1998 issue are: labour force; industrial disputes; job vacancies; housing finance; housing and construction; retail turnover; motor vehicle registrations; and tourist accommodation. Feature articles on Retail Turnover in the ACT by type of Retailing and Shopping Centre and Shopping Preferences in the ACT are included on pages 7–9.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force

The March 1998 trend unemployment rate for the ACT fell by 0.2 percentage points from February to a level of 7.2% after peaking at 8.2% in October 1997. Trend employment increased (up 0.4% or 700 persons) in March 1998 and the participation rate remained unchanged at 71.6%. Nationally, trend employment increased by 2,800 persons while the trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.1%.

Industrial disputes

For the 12 months ended December 1997 there were 15 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT, compared to a figure of 74 days nationally. This represented no change on the previous month for both the ACT and Australia, however there was a decrease of 89.9% and 43.5% on the number of working days lost from the corresponding quarter of the previous year for the ACT and Australia respectively.

Job vacancies

There were 1 000 job vacancies in the ACT for the February quarter 1998, recording no change from the previous quarter or the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Nationally, job vacancies for the February quarter rose 10.9% since the November quarter 1997 and increased 20.6% on the previous year.

Housing finance

The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during February 1998 increased to 750 dwellings, a rise of 0.3%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was $85.5 million, a rise of 0.5% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 14.9% of the total number of dwelling units financed in February 1998, which was down 5.1 percentage points on the previous month. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during February 1998 declined by 0.2% and the trend estimate for the value of commitments fell by 0.3%.

Housing and construction

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 7.7% to 108 dwelling units in February 1998, the third consecutive monthly decrease. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved decreased by 0.2% in February 1998.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was $24.1 million in February 1998, an increase of $3.5 million (up 17.0%) from the previous month and $11.9 million (97.5%) higher than February 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 12.6% from the previous month and was 21.4% higher than February 1997.

Retail turnover

The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for February 1998 was $218.1 million, up 0.7% on the previous month's figure and up 7.8% on twelve months ago. The trend estimate for retail turnover has increased each month for the last eleven months. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.3% on the previous month and 4.3% on a year ago.

Motor vehicle registrations

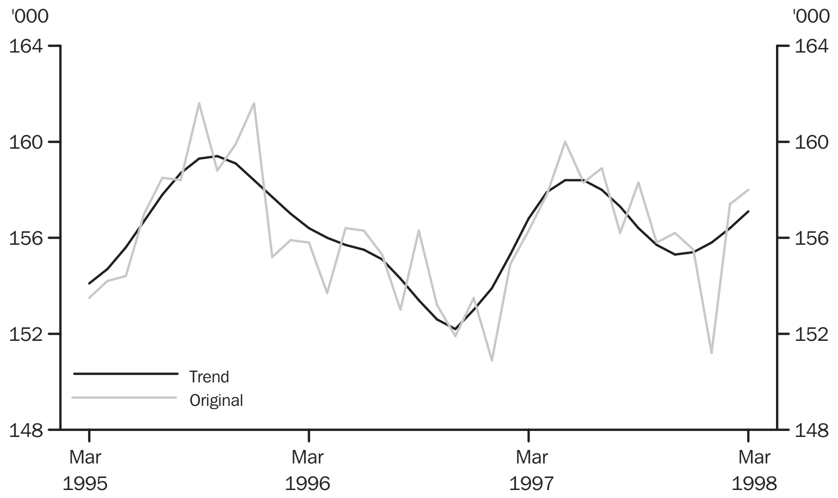
The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in February 1998 was 1,459, down 0.1% on the previous month, but up 52.3% on February 1997. This is the first month of decline after fifteen consecutive months of increase in the series. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in February 1998 recorded a 0.1% increase, the seventeenth consecutive monthly increase.

Tourist accommodation

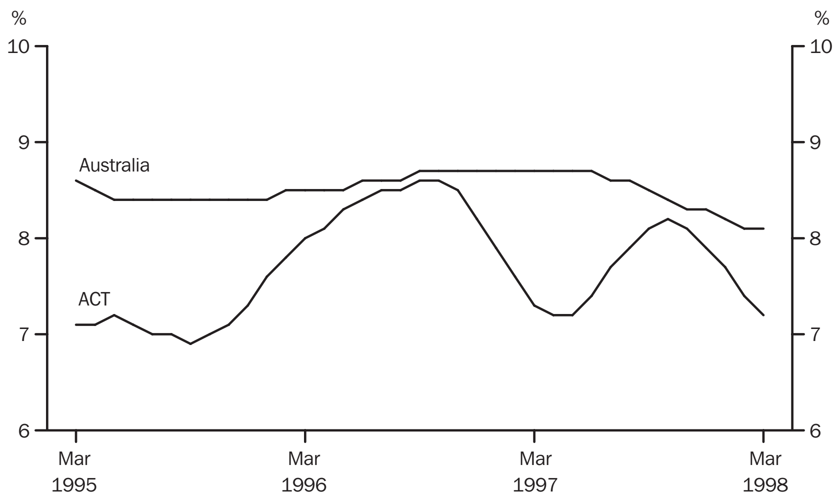
The room occupancy rate for ACT hotels, motels and guest houses in the December quarter 1997 was 63.3%, up 7.0 percentage points on the previous quarter and 0.2 percentage points on twelve months ago. Nationally, the room occupancy rate was 58.2% in the December quarter 1997, up 0.2 percentage points on the previous quarter and down 1.7 percentage points on twelve months ago.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

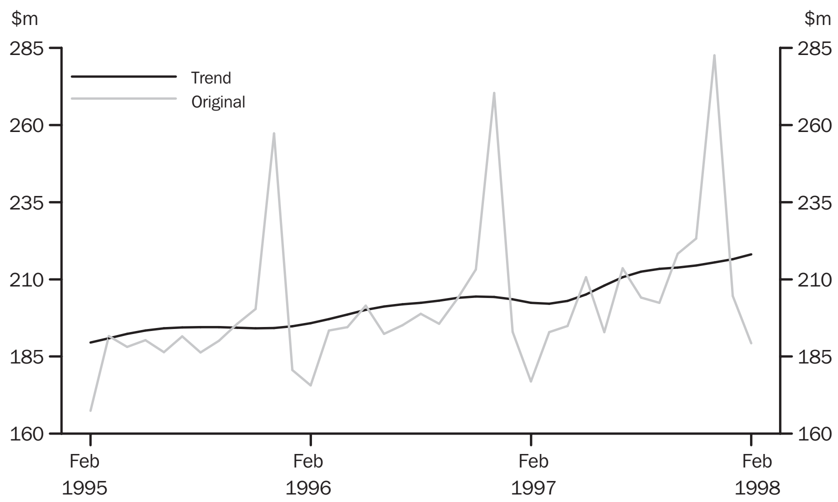
LABOUR FORCE —
EMPLOYMENT



LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

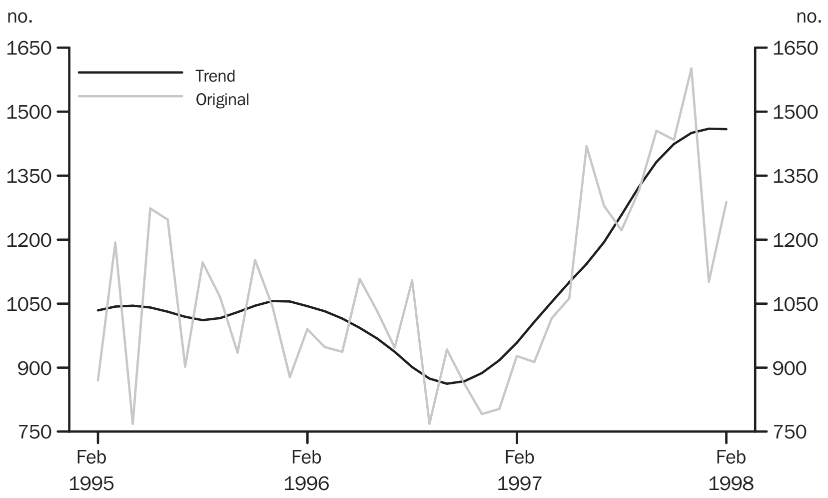


RETAIL TURNOVER

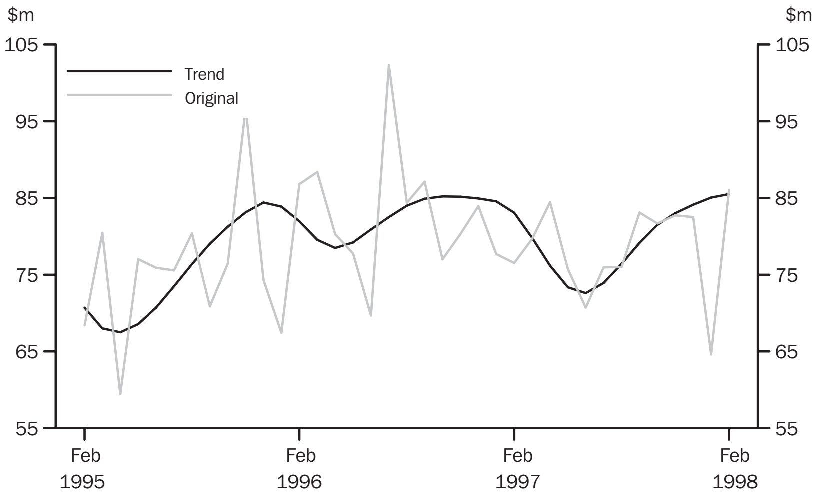


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

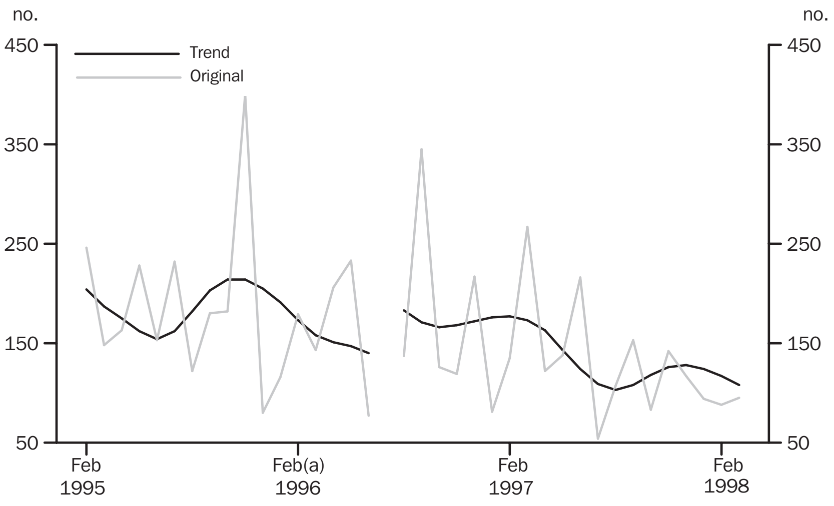
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



HOUSING FINANCE



BUILDING APPROVAL — NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



(a) For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of $40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996. As further information is received and analysed, the series prior to that are likely to be revised. A trend break has been included in the graph.

FEATURE ARTICLES

RETAIL TURNOVER IN THE ACT BY TYPE OF RETAILING AND SHOPPING CENTRE

The 1996–97 estimates of retail businesses turnover by type of retailing and shopping centre in the ACT contained in this article have been compiled from the monthly ABS Retail Trade Survey. Care should be utilised in interpreting these details as some of the information relating to multi-location businesses has been estimated using a variety of indicators (eg number of employees, floor area, etc).

In 1996–97, food retailing in the ACT comprised around 40% ($966 million) of total retail turnover. The greatest proportion of food retailing was through Group centres (41% or $398 million) which was closely followed by Town centres (37% or $360 million). Food retailing through Local centres was 14% ($134 million) and through Other centres (Fyshwick and Mitchell) was 8% ($73 million).

Other retailing in the ACT comprised around 60% ($1,477 million) of total retail turnover in 1996–97. The greatest proportion of other retailing was through Town centres (59% or $870 million), with the other three types of centres each having much the same proportion (around 14% or $200 million).

Overall, Town centres share of total retail turnover was 50%, Group centres share was 24%, Local centres share was 14% and Other centres share was 12%.

RETAIL TURNOVER BY TYPE OF SHOPPING CENTRE

	1996–97 Retail Survey Turnover					
	Food retailing		*Other retailing*		*Total*	
	$m	*%*	*$m*	*%*	*$m*	*%*
Town centre	360.4	37.4	869.5	58.9	1 230.1	50.4
Group centre	398.1	41.2	199.8	13.5	597.9	24.5
Local centre	133.9	13.9	196.0	13.3	329.9	13.5
Other centre	72.9	7.6	211.4	14.3	284.3	11.6
Total	**965.5**	**100.0**	**1 476.7**	**100.0**	**2 442.2**	**100.0**

SHOPPING PREFERENCES IN THE ACT

This article contains a summary of the results from the 1997 ACT Shopping Preferences Survey, conducted throughout the ACT in October 1997. The major aim of the survey was to provide details of shopping preferences of households for purchasing food and grocery items, types of shopping centres used, type of transport used, and day of week and time of day of shopping trips. For further information about these and related statistics, please refer to the publication *Shopping Preferences, Australian Capital Territory, 1997* (Cat. no. 8644.8).

SHOPPING PREFERENCES IN THE ACT *continued*

Throughout the Canberra Statistical Division, Group centres were well patronised by households for both the last major and convenience shopping trips and have improved their position since the October 1996 survey. In general, Town centres were also well supported for major

shopping trips and Local centres for convenience shopping trips. Major shopping trips were undertaken to Group centres by 55% of households (47% in 1996), to Town centres by 39% (47% in 1996), to Other centres by 4% and to Local centres by 2%. Convenience shopping trips were undertaken to Group centres by 46% of households (45% in 1996), to Local centres by 41% (41% in 1996), to Town centres by 12% and to Other centres by 2%.

Overall, major shopping trips were undertaken 0.75 times a week and convenience shopping trips 2.2 times a week by households. Just over 54% of households usually did major shopping once a week and 32% once a fortnight. Nearly 76% usually did convenience shopping two or more times a week and 18% once a week.

In October 1997, just over 43% of households did their major shopping on Monday to Friday before 5pm, a decrease of four percentage points from October 1996. A further 23% did their shopping on Monday to Friday after 5pm, an increase of nearly two percentage points from the previous year. There was also an increase in shoppers preference for undertaking major shopping on Saturday morning (up one percentage point) and on Sunday (up nearly one percentage point) since the October 1996 survey.

The most popular major shopping days were Thursday, Friday and Saturday, whereas for convenience shopping, Wednesday and Tuesday were slightly favoured ahead of other days.

The most popular times for households' major shopping trips were 10.00am to 11.59am (25% of households with an average of 11 900 trips per hour), 2.00pm to 4.59pm (25% with 8 000 trips per hour) and 5.00pm to 6.59pm (17% with 8 400 trips per hour), whereas for convenience shopping it was 5.00pm to 6.59pm (28% of households with an average of 14 100 trips per hour), 2.00pm to 4.59pm (22% with 7 400 trips per hour) and 10.00am to 11.59am (18% with 9 200 trips per hour).

The time to travel to shopping centres for major shopping trips took less than 5 minutes for 25% of trips and 5 to 9 minutes for 34% of trips. For convenience shopping, 45% of trips took less than 5 minutes and 22% took 5 to 9 minutes.

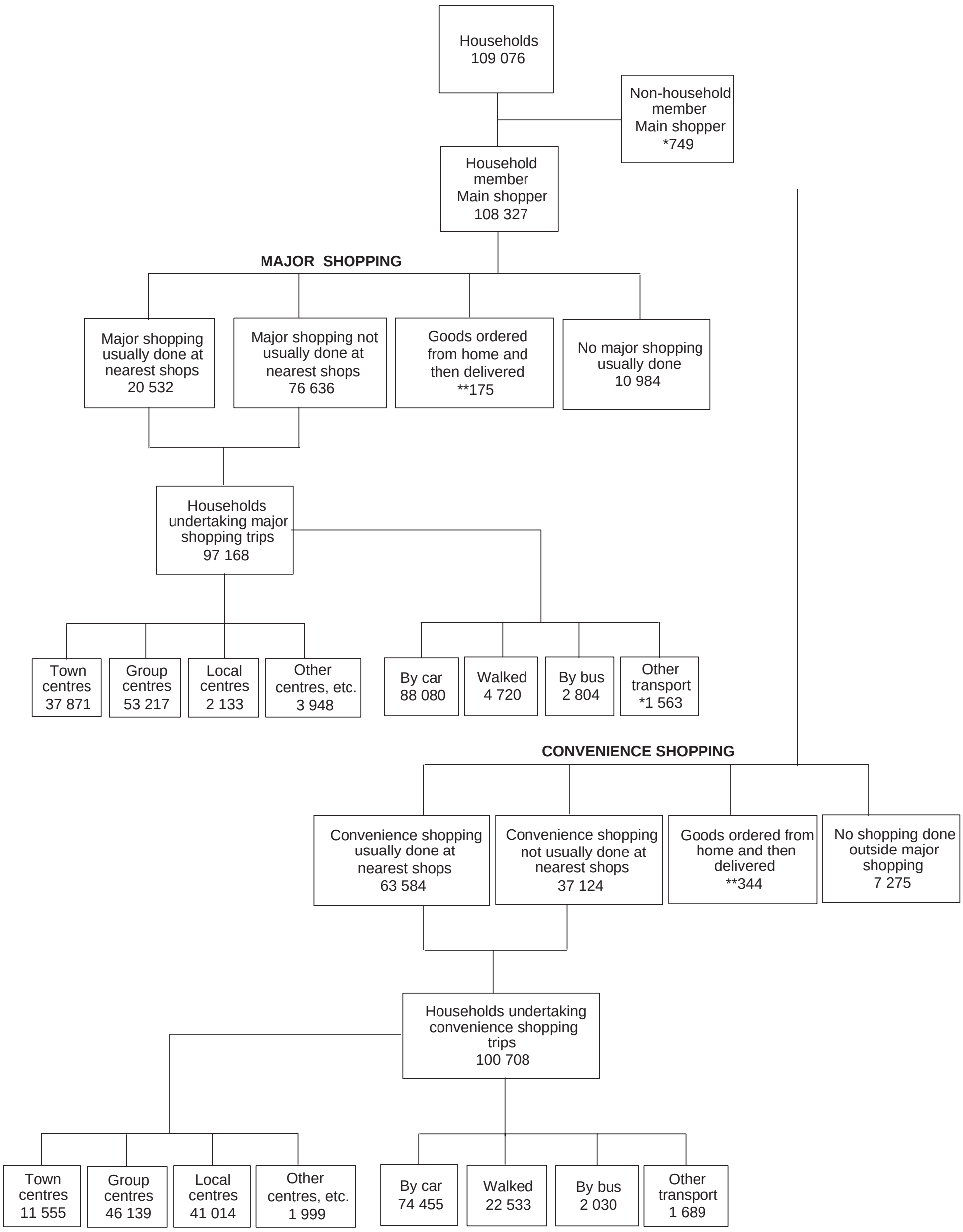
Between October 1996 and October 1997, the proportion of households reporting that Group centres were their nearest shopping centre has increased from 24.5% to 27.0%, while those reporting Town centres and Local centres as their nearest centre decreased from 5.0% to 3.6 % and from 70.4% to 69.3% respectively.

SHOPPING PREFERENCES IN THE ACT *continued*

In October 1997, around 19% of households indicated that their major shopping for food and grocery items was usually undertaken at their nearest shopping centre. In contrast, just under 59% reported that their convenience shopping was usually done at these centres. These proportions compare with 15% and 59% respectively in October 1996.

The most commonly used facilities at the nearest shopping centres were supermarkets (by 74% of households), newsagents (32%), chemists (29%) and bakeries (22%). These were also the most commonly used facilities as indicated by the October 1996 survey. Overall, 17% of households did not utilise any shops or facilities at their nearest shopping centre over the four week period prior to the survey.

The structure of the population referred to in this survey are summarised in the following diagram.



1 BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, MARCH QUARTER 1998/DECEMBER QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

	ACT	Aust.
Period	%	%
Short-term		
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
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.5	3.0
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	–1.2	–0.3
Medium-term		
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
Sep qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.7	2.9

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1998

Indicator	Unit	ACT Latest figure	ACT % change from Previous period	ACT % change from Same period previous year	Aust. Latest figure	Aust. % change from Previous period	Aust. % change from Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, Sep qtr 97	'000	309.2	–0.2	0.1	18 588.6	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	506	–40.4	–32.3	26 045	–21.0	–6.5
Net migration	no.	–1 072	—	—	30 355	—	—
Total increase	*no.*	*–566*	—	—	*56 400*	—	—
LABOUR FORCE, Mar 98							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	158.0	0.4	1.1	8 520.4	0.7	1.5
Unemployed	'000	13.6	–7.5	5.4	802.0	–4.8	–5.1
Unemployment rate	%	7.9	–0.6	0.3	8.6	–0.5	–0.6
Participation rate	%	72.6	–0.3	0.5	63.4	0.1	–0.3
Long-term unemployed, Feb 98	no.	4 928	54.3	55.4	263 720	10.7	7.5
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed	—	33.6	11.1	12.4	31.3	2.1	2.7
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.1	0.4	0.2	8 528.7	—	1.5
Unemployed	'000	12.1	–3.2	–2.4	752.9	–0.3	–6.0
Unemployment rate	%	7.2	–0.2	–0.1	8.1	—	–0.6
Participation rate	%	71.6	—	–0.5	63.1	–0.1	–0.3
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Sep 97							
Trend series							
Public Sector	'000	69.0	2.4	–4.0	1 476.4	0.3	–1.9
Private Sector	'000	71.0	–4.7	6.3	5 378.7	0.5	1.4
Total	'000	140.0	–1.3	0.9	6 855.1	0.4	0.6
JOB VACANCIES, Feb 98	'000	1.0	—	—	75.5	10.9	20.6
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Dec 97							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	—	—	22.5	–60.5	–2.2
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Dec 97)	no.	15.0	—	–89.9	74.0	—	–43.5
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Feb 98							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	$m	7.1	73.2	14.5	687.6	23.5	20.6
Purchase of new dwellings	$m	4.4	41.9	–26.7	227.3	17.5	6.0
Purchase of established dwellings	$m	62.9	35.3	32.7	2 755.4	18.6	11.6
Re-financing	$m	11.7	7.3	–31.2	769.2	21.3	–1.1
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*86.0*	*33.1*	*12.4*	*4 439.6*	*19.8*	*10.2*
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*89.0*	*10.7*	*12.7*	*4 533.9*	*–2.4*	*10.1*
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	750	0.3	–5.4	40 251	–0.2	–0.8
Total housing commitments	*$m*	*85.5*	*0.5*	*2.9*	*4 612.9*	*–0.3*	*7.3*
BUILDING APPROVALS, Feb 98							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	95	8.0	–64.4	11 570	3.9	3.9
Value of new residential	$m	11.1	8.8	–59.2	1 178.1	–0.3	7.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	$m	4.6	21.1	35.3	240.1	0.6	17.1
Value of non-residential	$m	24.1	17.0	97.5	1 165.9	12.6	21.4
Value of total building	*$m*	*39.7*	*14.7*	*–7.0*	*2 584.1*	*5.2*	*14.3*
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	108	–7.7	–37.6	13 191	–0.1	11.0

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1998 — *continued*

		ACT			Aust.		
			% change from			% change from	
Indicator	*Unit*	*Latest figure*	*Previous period*	*Same period previous year*	*Latest figure*	*Previous period*	*Same period previous year*
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sept qtr 97							
New houses	no.	229	–23.9	–19.1	23 465	1.3	13.0
Value of houses commenced	$m	24.5	–27.5	–27.7	2 659.1	3.8	19.1
Value of non-residential building commenced	$m	54.3	18.6	–50.3	3 391.8	10.4	19.5
Value of total commencements	*$m*	*95.6*	*–25.2*	*–43.3*	*7 819.1*	*6.2*	*20.0*
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 97	—	126.2	0.9	–0.3	121.2	1.9	6.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Sep qtr 97)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	$m	20.9	129.7	90.0	2 823.5	–2.9	31.8
Value of work done	$m	13.0	–7.8	–20.2	2 483.5	5.1	9.6
Value of work yet to be done	$m	31.5	34.0	–10.3	6 294.1	3.6	21.5
Value of work done by public sector	$m	15.7	–35.1	–19.9	1 271.5	–33.3	–12.6
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 97							
Food	(a)	124.9	1.6	2.4	121.1	0.2	1.4
Housing	(a)	93.7	–3.4	–13.2	94.2	–1.8	–8.7
Transportation	(a)	129.0	–1.2	–0.9	124.0	–0.3	–0.4
All groups	(a)	119.8	—	–1.3	120.0	0.3	–0.2
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov 97							
Original series							
Males	$	789.1	1.2	2.5	709.1	2.2	4.3
Females	$	589.8	2.2	5.0	466.1	1.3	4.2
Persons	*$*	692.1	2.1	4.2	592.6	1.8	4.0
Trend series							
Males	$	789.1	1.3	2.7	705.6	1.2	3.7
Females	$	590.3	1.9	4.9	467.2	1.1	3.8
Persons	*$*	*689.9*	*1.5*	*4.0*	*591.4*	*1.0*	*3.3*
RETAIL TURNOVER, Feb 98							
Original series							
Food retailing	$m	75.4	–6.0	6.3	4 282.5	–10.1	5.9
Department stores	$m	17.3	–24.8	–4.4	716.4	–21.9	–1.5
Hospitality and services	$m	30.5	1.7	8.2	1 667.9	–11.5	1.3
All other retailing	$m	66.1	–7.4	10.7	3 278.7	–10.7	1.7
Total	*$m*	*189.3*	*–7.5*	*7.0*	*9 945.5*	*–11.5*	*3.2*
Trend Series							
Food retailing	’000	81.1	0.1	6.7	4 624.4	0.7	6.1
Department stores	$m	24.8	0.8	4.6	1 005.9	0.2	3.0
Hospitality and services	$m	33.6	0.9	7.3	1 835.0	–0.3	1.9
All other retailing	%	78.6	1.3	10.1	3 811.1	0.1	3.7
Total	*’000*	*218.1*	*0.7*	*7.8*	*11 276.4*	*0.3*	*4.3*

(a) Base year: 1989–90=100.0.

2 BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1998 — *continued*

		ACT			Aust.		
			% change from			% change from	
Indicator	*Unit*	*Latest figure*	*Previous period*	*Same period previous year*	*Latest figure*	*Previous period*	*Same period previous year*
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Sep qtr 97							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	200.8	4.6	1.6	9 521.2	9.4	2.4
Takings at current prices	$m	19.0	3.8	4.4	949.7	11.3	5.9
Takings at 1989–90 prices	$m	15.9	4.6	6.0	791.9	11.7	6.1
Room occupancy rate (Dec qtr 97)	%	63.3	7.0	0.2	58.2	0.2	–1.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	201.6	3.0	1.7	9 293.1	2.1	2.5
Takings at current prices	$m	19.2	3.8	4.9	933.5	2.5	6.2
Takings at 1989–90 prices	$m	16.0	3.9	6.0	778.5	2.9	6.5
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	198.8	–1.9	–5.0	9 205.2	–0.2	0.2
Takings at current prices	$m	18.8	–2.1	–3.6	926.8	0.4	3.7
Takings at 1989–90 prices	$m	15.7	–1.3	–2.5	771.5	0.6	3.8
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Feb 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 288	17.0	38.9	60 217	17.3	9.7
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 390	3.6	38.6	63 302	–1.5	9.7
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 459	–0.1	52.3	64 456	0.1	14.2
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Dec qtr 97(a)							
Trend series (at average 1989–90 prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	$m	1 339	2.4	8.2	70 594	1.5	5.0
Government final consumption expenditure	$m	1 318	0.9	3.7	18 557	0.5	2.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	$m	283	0.7	62.6	23 019	1.8	11.5
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	$m	22	–37.1	–83.6	4 826	–3.0	–1.0
Final demand	$m	2 962	1.1	5.2	116 996	1.2	5.5

(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.

3 ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	*Unit*	*Latest period*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
POPULATION	'000	Sep qtr 97	6 293.0	4 617.4	3 417.4	*1 481.6*	1 805.4	472.7	188.7	309.2	18 588.6
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Mar 98	2 829.3	2 131.2	1 608.7	*647.8*	871.1	196.1	87.0	157.1	8 528.7
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Mar 98	7.5	8.3	8.6	*10.0*	7.1	10.8	5.6	7.2	8.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	469.9	322.1	285.0	*119.3*	146.1	42.0	23.1	69.0	1 476.4
Private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	1 913.5	1 410.3	911.8	*379.6*	523.2	120.8	48.5	71.0	5 378.7
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	2 383.5	1 732.4	1 196.8	*498.9*	669.2	162.9	71.6	140.0	6 855.1
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
State Final Demand at 1989–90 prices (trend)	$m	Dec qtr 97	40 180	28 784	20 841	*8 145*	12 158	2 496	1 234	2 962	116 996
State Final Demand at current prices (trend)	$m	Dec qtr 97	46 236	32 688	24 035	*9 477*	13 849	2 950	1 456	3 478	134 457
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Feb 98	3 536	2 757	2 763	666	1 444	121	188	95	11 570
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Feb 98	4 299	2 905	3 331	640	1 532	135	245	108	13 191
Value of non-residential building approved	$m	Feb 98	461.8	222.6	320.7	41.9	69.1	6.2	19.6	24.1	1 165.9
Value of all buildings approved	$m	Feb 98	943.8	574.5	624.0	114.5	224.8	19.3	43.5	39.7	2 584.1
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	$m	Sep qtr 97	1 019.3	657.7	896.1	255.5	803.9	46.8	47.0	28.7	3 755.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	$	Nov 97	739.5	711.7	671.2	659.8	716.9	681.2	706.3	821.5	712.7
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	$m	Feb 98	4 007.1	2 592.3	2 093.7	849.7	1 130.2	266.6	119.4	218.1	11 276.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Sep qtr 97	3,064.6	1 562.6	2 467.2	531.7	831.6	257.3	291.4	198.8	9 205.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Dec qtr 97	59.0	56.1	59.5	58.3	58.7	53.2	51.1	63.3	58.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Feb 98	21 960	15 876	12 233	4 282	6 611	1 262	772	1 459	64 456

	Unit	*Latest period*	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	Adel.	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Dec qtr 97	121.6	119.7	121.2	122.0	122.0	121.7	122.3	124.9	121.1
Housing	(b)	Dec qtr 97	100.1	86.9	100.2	90.2	88.8	95.5	111.3	93.7	94.2
Transportation	(b)	Dec qtr 97	124.7	124.4	124.0	122.3	121.5	122.1	122.4	129.0	124.0
All Groups	(b)	Dec qtr 97	120.1	119.8	121.4	121.2	117.6	121.2	120.8	119.8	120.0
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	116	133	118	124	135	125	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 97	200	188	195	163	187	189	196	198	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	1226	1050	1086	1098	1052	976	1211	1123	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	363	357	359	351	368	394	386	348	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	122	142	114	104	120	83	141	125	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 97	635	633	656	592	656	697	640	642	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 97	334	299	256	354	366	259	325	289	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	75.4	74.9	68.1	75	75.8	81.3	82.6	75.6	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	73.2	72.8	65.9	72.6	73.7	79.3	80.6	73.4	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.

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

Indicator	*Latest Period*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
POPULATION	Sep qtr 97	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4	–0.2	0.9	–0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Mar 98	—	0.1	0.2	–0.5	—	0.4	–0.3	0.4	—
Unemployment rate (trend)	Mar 98	—	—	–0.2	—	0.1	–0.1	0.5	–0.2	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Pubic sector (trend)	Aug 97	–0.3	–0.3	1.1	2.5	–0.1	–1.6	1.8	2.4	0.3
Private sector (trend)	Aug 97	0.2	—	3.4	–0.1	–0.8	0.1	–3.2	–4.7	0.5
Total public and private sector (trend)	Aug 97	0.2	–0.1	2.9	0.5	–0.7	–0.4	–1.6	–1.3	0.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
State final demand at 1989–90 prices (trend)	Dec qtr 97	1.4	—	1.4	1.2	2.1	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
State final demand at current prices (trend)	Dec qtr 97	1.5	0.7	1.7	1.4	2.2	0.3	1.6	1.8	1.6
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Feb 98	–5.8	13.0	–5.9	54.5	25.0	–9.0	–9.2	8.0	3.9
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Feb 98	–1.5	–1.6	2.2	4.4	1.6	–1.5	6.5	–7.7	–0.1
Value of non-residential building approved	Feb 98	–3.2	–4.9	60.3	160.2	20.0	–52.7	19.5	17.0	12.6
Value of all buildings approved	Feb 98	–4.1	0.3	17.9	88.3	16.1	–30.8	–17.0	14.7	5.2
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sep qtr 97	–24.5	–14.9	–9.2	–16.9	12.8	–26.9	34.3	–25.1	–12.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov 97	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.1	1.3	1.1	–0.1	1.8	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Feb 98	0.4	–0.2	0.7	1.0	—	–0.6	0.2	0.7	0.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sep qtr 97	–1.0	1.3	0.3	–0.1	–0.6	0.7	–3.3	–1.9	–0.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	Dec qtr 97	1.5	2.9	–5.0	6.1	0.8	13.7	–15.6	7.0	0.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Feb 98	0.5	–0.6	0.6	–0.1	–0.3	0.2	2.7	–0.1	0.1

	Latest period	*Syd.*	*Melb.*	*Bris.*	*Adel.*	*Perth*	*Hob.*	*Dar.*	*Canb.*	*Aust.*
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Dec qtr 97	0.2	–0.1	2.1	—	–0.3	0.6	0.4	1.6	0.2
Housing	Dec qtr 97	–1.2	–2.0	–2.1	–2.2	–1.8	–2.3	–2.0	–3.4	–1.8
Transportation	Dec qtr 97	–0.4	–0.2	0.2	–0.7	–0.2	–0.1	—	–1.2	–0.3
All Groups	Dec qtr 97	0.3	0.3	0.6	—	0.1	0.5	–0.2	0.0	0.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	—	2.3	0.9	1.6	1.5	—	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	–1.5	–5.5	2.1	1.2	2.7	3.3	—	4.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 97	4.6	–2.1	–0.2	–3.3	2.7	–1.6	–0.6	9.2	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 97	–0.5	–10.3	1.4	–3.0	1.1	–3.0	–12.3	–6.5	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 97	—	4.4	–2.6	–6.3	4.3	18.6	6.8	10.6	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 97	0.8	–0.8	4.3	3.3	–4.2	5.1	4.9	4.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 97	1.5	3.1	0.4	1.7	3.1	2.4	1.2	–1.0	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.5	3.5	0.7	1.6	2.0	2.1	–2.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.7	3.6	0.6	1.7	2.1	2.2	–2.3	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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