



# **BUSINESS INDICATORS**

**AUSTRALIAN  
CAPITAL  
TERRITORY**

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- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Will Blythe on Canberra 02 6205 0032 or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
March 1999	22 March 1999
April 1999	19 April 1999
May 1999	24 May 1999
June 1999	21 June 1999
July 1999	19 July 1999

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
no.	number
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

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the January 1999 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes, wages and salary, consumer price index, retail trade, motor vehicle registrations, building approvals, and building commencements. The feature article on pages 6–9 is on Income and Living Standards in the ACT.

### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force	In January 1999, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 5.8%, a 0.3% decrease from the previous month and the lowest rate since October 1990. Trend employment increased by 0.2% (to 157,600 persons) and the trend participation rate dropped by 0.1% to 70.8% from the previous period. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.1% from the previous period and the trend unemployment rate dropped by 0.1% to 7.5%.
Industrial disputes	For the 12 months ended October 1998 there were 32 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 71 days nationally. In comparison with the previous year, there was an increase of 52.4% for the ACT and a decrease of 2.7% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
Wage and salary earners	The trend number of wage and salary earners reported by Government agencies and businesses located in the ACT increased by 0.9% (or 1,300 persons) to 139,700 in the period May 1998 to August 1998. This compares to a national increase of 1.9% (or 133,800 persons). The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT sits just above 50%. These figures exclude self-employed persons in jobs located in the private sector.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for December 1998 was \$220.6 million, down 0.3% on the previous month's figure and up 2.6% on twelve months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.1% on the previous month and was up 4.5% on a year ago.
Consumer price index	The ACT experienced an increase of 0.3% in the All Groups CPI for the December quarter 1998. This compares with the national figure of a 0.5% increase. The ACT annual CPI rate to December quarter 1998 recorded an increase of 1.6%, which is the same as the annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.
Housing and construction	The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 16.1% to 245 dwelling units in December 1998. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.5% to 12,738 dwelling units in December 1998.

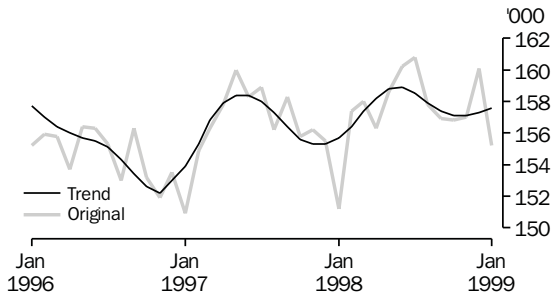
Housing and construction      The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was  
*continued*                              \$31.1 million in December 1998, an increase of \$24.9 million  
(up 401.6%) from the previous month. This increase was due mainly to  
an increase in non-residential building approvals in Griffith and Bruce.  
There has been a decrease of \$11.7 million (27.3%) in comparison to  
December 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building  
approvals decreased by 33.0% from the previous month and was down  
29.8% from December 1997.

The value of new houses commenced in the ACT in September quarter  
1998 was \$50.1 million, up 62.7% from the previous quarter and 41.1%  
from the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Nationally, the  
value of new houses commenced in September quarter 1998 recorded a  
3.9% increase from the previous quarter and a 29.7% increase on a year  
ago.

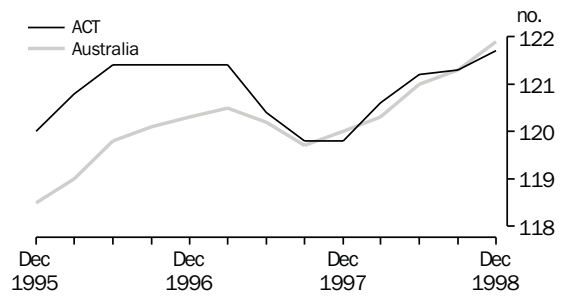
Motor vehicle registrations      The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in December  
1998 was 1,235, down 1.6% on the previous month, and down 15.1% on  
December 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new motor registrations in  
December 1998 recorded a 0.6% decrease on the previous month, and  
was up 3.0% on December 1997.

# SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

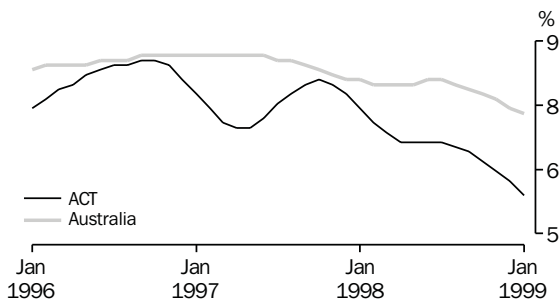
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



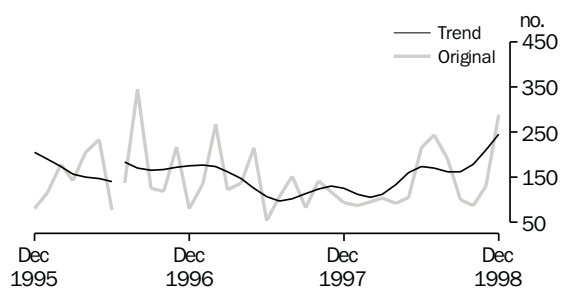
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

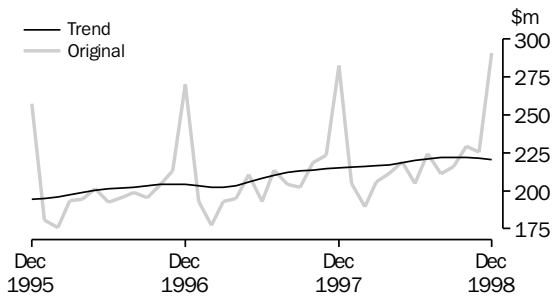


BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

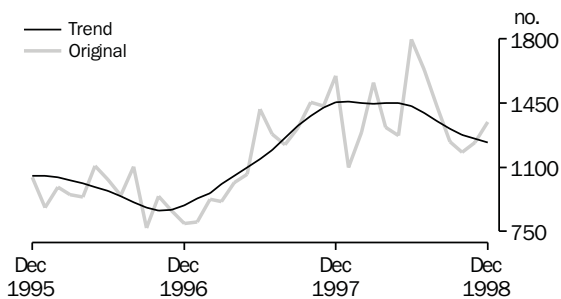


Note: For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996 and a trend break has been included in the graph.

RETAIL TURNOVER



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



Individual income Results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing showed that the median individual weekly income in the ACT was \$430 compared to \$398 in 1991 (or 8.0% increase). The Census revealed that three ACT Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) ranked in the top ten regions in Australia for median gross weekly individual income: South Canberra (\$468), Tuggeranong (\$466) and Woden Valley (\$466). All ACT SSDs had median individual weekly income well above the national figure of \$292. North Canberra (\$336) recorded the lowest median individual weekly income.

In the ACT, over a quarter of workers were employed in Government administration and defence. Tuggeranong had the highest proportion of men employed full time in high and medium skill level occupations (46.8%) and recorded the highest median gross weekly income for men (\$604), followed by South Canberra with 42.6% of men employed full time in high and medium skill level occupations and with a median gross weekly income of \$603. Nationally, the proportion of men employed full time in high and medium skill level occupations was 34.5% with a median gross weekly income of \$410.

In Woden Valley there was a high proportion of women working full-time in high and medium level occupations at 23.8% with a median gross weekly income of \$352, compared to 14.9% for Australia as a whole with a median gross weekly income of \$222.

Household income In 1996 the median household weekly income in the ACT was \$904 per week, representing a 7.1% increase over 1991 (\$844 per week). Canberra–Queanbeyan had the second highest median household weekly income (\$883) among all major population centres, which was next to Darwin (\$885). Nationally, the median household weekly income in 1996 stood at \$637.

In terms of household income per capita, the ACT registered the highest (\$398) of all States and Territories in 1996. Woden Valley (\$461) and Weston Creek–Stromlo (\$430) ranked the highest for household income per capita in the ACT in 1996.

Labour force participation In August 1996, the labour force participation rate in the ACT was 71.2%. Among the major population centres, Canberra–Queanbeyan had the third highest labour force participation rate at 71.1%, next to Darwin (75.3%) and Cairns (72.5%). Nationally, the labour force participation rate in 1996 was 61.9%. The high labour force participation rate in Canberra–Queanbeyan was coupled with a comparatively low unemployment rate at 7.3%, the lowest of all major population centres compared to 9.2% nationally at the 1996 Census. On a regional basis, Tuggeranong had the second highest labour force participation rate of any region (77.2%) in 1996. Belconnen and Gungahlin–Hall (73.4%) also ranked in the top ten regions in labour force participation rate.

Labour force participation *continued* Levels of labour force participation differ considerably between men and women and between people in different age groups. In August 1996, the labour force participation rate in the ACT for men was 75.7% and for women was 63.8%. For both men and women, participation was highest for people in the 25–54 years age group (90.3% and 76.7% respectively) and lowest among older people aged 55 years and over (39.3% and 21.1% respectively). The labour force participation rate among young people aged 15–24 years was 64.6% and 64.8% for men and women respectively.

In August 1996, over four-fifths (86.6%) of all employed people in the ACT worked in service industries, with the largest employers being in government administration and defence (25.5%), retail trade (11.4%), property and business services (10.7%), education (8.9%) and health and community services (8.0%). Among major population centres, Canberra–Queanbeyan had the highest proportion of people employed in the service industries (89.9%), compared to 74.0% nationally.

ACT regions had the highest proportions of employment in the service sector: North Canberra (94.2%), South Canberra (92.5%), Woden Valley (91.7%), Weston Creek–Stromlo (91.6%), and Belconnen and Gungahlin–Hall (91.0%) due mainly to the high levels of employment in the public sector. The largest employer in the production sector in the ACT was construction, followed by manufacturing (4.6% and 3.3% of employed persons respectively).

Index of relative disadvantage The index of relative disadvantage is an overall index of socio-economic status. It draws on a variety of personal and household characteristics available from the Census. Using this index, areas with low scores have relatively high proportions of low income families, unemployed people, people without educational qualifications, households renting public housing and people in low skilled occupations. The ACT, compared with other States and Territories, had the highest index score as shown in the following table. The relatively advantaged SSDs in the ACT were Gungahlin–Hall, Woden Valley and Weston Creek–Stromlo which ranked in the top twenty regions for the whole of Australia in 1996.

COMPARISON OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME PER CAPITA AND INDEX OF RELATIVE DISADVANTAGE

	<i>Household income per capita (\$)</i>	<i>Index of relative disadvantage</i>
State/Territory		
New South Wales	323	1 007
Victoria	309	1 016
Queensland	293	988
South Australia	285	984
Western Australia	316	1 006
Tasmania	267	974
Northern Territory	314	962
Australian Capital Territory	398	1 091
Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs)		
North Canberra	409	1 091
Belconnen	380	1 087
Woden Valley	461	1 117
Weston Creek–Stromlo	430	1 112
Tuggeranong	356	1 093
South Canberra	514	1 089
Gungahlin–Hall	397	1 122
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1 000</b>

Source: *Australia in Profile, A Regional analysis* (Cat. no. 2032.0).

Housing tenure Housing tenure refers to whether households rent, are purchasing or own their dwelling outright, or whether they occupy the dwelling under some other arrangement.

In the ACT, the proportion of households in owner-occupied dwellings was 65.7% in 1996, which was the second lowest of all States and Territories. This compares with the national average of 69.0%, with Victoria (73.6%) recording the highest proportion and Northern Territory (45.1%) with the lowest proportion of owner-occupant households. The proportion of households living in separate houses in the ACT in 1996 was 76.8%, higher than New South Wales (71.9%) and the Northern Territory (61.2%). Nationally, the proportion of households living in separate houses was 76.5%, with Tasmania (85.5%) and Victoria (79.8%) registering the highest percentages.

The proportion of households which owned their home outright in the ACT increased from 24.9% in 1991 to 29.5% in 1996. Likewise, the proportion of ACT households which were paying off their home decreased from 38.3% in 1991 to 34.5% in 1996. Among major population centres, Canberra–Queanbeyan had the highest proportion of occupied dwellings owned with a mortgage (35.0% compared to 26.5% nationally), while at the regional level Tuggeranong had a high 50.4%.

The proportion of households which were renters in the ACT remained stable over the period, from 32.8% in 1991 to 32.9% in 1996. Conversely, North Canberra and South Canberra ranked in the top ten regions with high renters of public housing units (19.5% and 16.7% of occupied dwellings respectively), compared with 5.3% nationally.

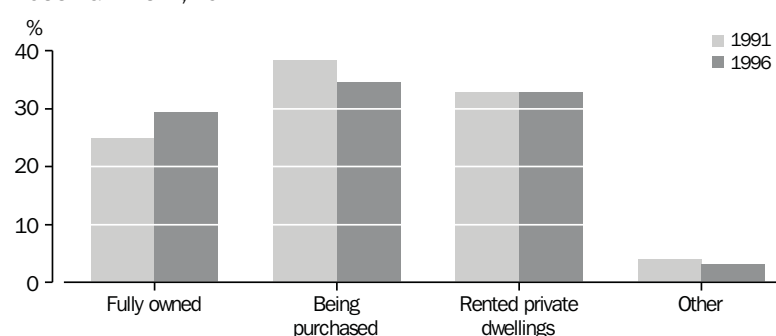


## SELECTED SOCIAL INDICATORS

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Labour force participation	%	71.2	61.9
Unemployment rate	%	7.3	9.2
Household income	\$	398.0	310.0
Households living in separate houses	%	76.8	76.5
Households in owner occupied dwellings	%	65.7	69.0
People with degree or higher qualification	%	22.6	10.4
Index of relative disadvantage	no.	1 091	1 000

Source: *Australia in Profile, A Regional Analysis (Cat. no. 2032.0)*.

### HOUSING TENURE, ACT



Note: Other private dwellings include those not stated.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, Australian Capital Territory (Cat. no. 2015.8)*.

The information contained in this article was based on data collected in the 1996 Census of Population and Housing held on 6 August 1996. It should be noted that estimates were based on information collected in the census month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year. Likewise, care should be taken when using estimates of mean weekly earnings. Employees refusing to answer questions about their earnings are excluded from estimates of mean weekly earnings. Where these employees have demographic and employment characteristics which differ on average from the rest of the employee population, it is likely that the exclusion of these persons has resulted in a slight downward bias on mean weekly estimates.

Individual median weekly income refers to income earners while household income per capita refers to all persons in a household including children. This accounts for a lower household per capita income.

# 1

## BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES

<i>Period</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	%	%
<b>Short-term</b>		
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.6	3.0
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	-1.1	-0.3
Mar qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1998	-0.1	1.7
Jun qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1998	2.7	1.1
Sep qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1998	3.5	1.5
Dec qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	-2.7	-0.9
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Sep qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.9	3.0
Mar qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	2.6	2.6
Jun qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1999	6.9	2.7
Sep qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1999	7.5	2.8
Dec qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1999	2.6	2.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION, Jun qtr 98	'000	308.4	0.2	0.1	18 751.0	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	779	64.7	5.0	31 830	3.1	-0.7
Net migration	no.	-294	-606.9	-78.8	17 531	-63.3	189.2
Total increase	no.	485	-8.7	-175.0	49 361	-37.2	29.5
<b>LABOUR FORCE, Jan 99</b>							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	155.2	-3.1	2.6	8 557.5	-2.7	2.0
Unemployed	'000	10.9	13.5	-23.2	758.6	7.4	-7.1
Unemployment rate	%	6.5	0.8	-2.1	8.1	0.7	-0.8
Participation rate	%	70.3	-1.6	0.2	62.6	-1.3	-0.1
Long-term unemployed, Dec 98	no.	2 450	-26.2	-35.1	226 830	-7.1	-9.3
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed	—	25.5	-8.2	-2.5	32.1	-2.3	-0.6
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.6	0.2	1.2	8 690.6	0.1	2.0
Unemployed	'000	9.8	-3.9	-24.0	708.3	-1.4	-6.4
Unemployment rate	%	5.8	-0.3	-1.8	7.5	-0.1	-0.7
Participation rate	%	70.8	-0.1	-0.7	63.1	-0.1	-0.1
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Aug 98</b>							
Trend series							
Public Sector	'000	67.9	-1.0	-1.9	1 460.6	-0.1	-1.0
Private Sector	'000	71.8	2.9	1.7	5 566.6	2.5	3.7
Total	'000	139.7	0.9	-0.1	7 027.2	1.9	2.7
JOB VACANCIES, Nov 98	'000	1.5	-16.7	50.0	77.4	6.0	13.7
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Oct 98</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	-100.0	-100.0	20.7	-56.9	-77.9
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Oct 98)	no.	32.0	—	52.4	71.0	-13.4	-2.7
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, Nov 98</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	8.0	60.0	14.3	713.0	-1.1	9.0
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	2.0	-33.3	—	246.0	7.0	1.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	55.0	-5.2	-1.8	4 009.0	10.7	12.8
Re-financing	\$m	12.0	-7.7	-20.0	793.0	10.4	7.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	87.0	3.6	4.8	4 967.0	8.6	11.6
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.0	-4.5	-1.2	4 949.0	8.1	7.6
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	729	—	-1.1	37 709	-0.1	-6.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.0	1.2	2.4	4 671.0	1.1	1.8
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, Dec 98</b>							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	289	122.3	207.4	12 465	-5.0	0.1
Value of new residential	\$m	17.2	8.9	59.3	1 366.2	-8.4	6.0
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.5	—	87.5	218.3	-11.9	3.3
Value of non-residential	\$m	31.1	401.6	-27.3	743.4	-33.0	-29.8
Value of total building	\$m	62.6	135.3	11.8	2 327.9	-18.3	-9.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	245	16.1	96.0	12 738	0.5	-2.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued</b>							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 98							
New houses	no.	423	77.0	29.4	27 153	3.0	24.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	50.1	62.7	41.1	3 169.3	3.9	29.7
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	54.0	-38.5	-35.0	2 955.7	-17.0	-14.4
Value of total commencements	\$m	127.7	-6.4	-8.9	8 123.8	-6.2	8.9
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Sep qtr 98		126.7	0.2	1.3	126.9	—	6.7
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Sep Qtr 98)</b>							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	9.5	-31.7	15.9	2 244.3	-10.8	-20.4
Value of work done	\$m	10.8	-14.3	35.0	2 981.9	4.1	27.2
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	13.8	13.1	-38.4	5 906.7	-8.5	-6.2
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	20.7	-31.7	31.8	1 347.4	-32.1	5.9
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 98							
Food(a)		129.1	1.2	3.4	126.0	1.0	4.0
Housing(a)		93.9	0.1	0.2	95.5	0.7	1.4
Transportation(a)		126.9	-0.9	-1.6	121.9	-0.3	-1.7
All groups(a)		121.7	0.3	1.6	121.9	0.5	1.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Aug 98							
Original series							
Males	\$	839.6	1.7	7.7	721.8	1.0	4.0
Females	\$	613.2	2.4	6.3	473.8	1.2	3.0
Persons	\$	729.0	1.9	7.6	602.9	1.1	3.6
Trend series							
Males	\$	843.6	1.7	8.3	722.7	0.7	3.6
Females	\$	613.1	1.2	5.7	472.9	0.6	2.2
Persons	\$	732.4	1.6	7.7	602.9	0.7	3.0
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, Dec 98</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	89.3	11.8	-0.8	5 478.9	16.4	6.1
Department stores	\$m	46.8	81.4	6.4	1 994.2	73.4	6.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	40.2	7.2	17.9	2 313.7	12.0	6.5
All other retailing	\$m	114.8	39.7	0.3	5 465.0	36.2	1.9
Total	\$m	291.1	29.1	3.0	15 251.8	27.8	4.6
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	79.4	-0.6	-1.7	4 759.9	0.2	4.5
Department stores	\$m	24.3	-0.4	-0.4	1 043.1	—	3.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	37.6	1.3	14.6	2 023.7	0.2	9.3
All other retailing	\$m	79.3	-0.8	3.0	3 890.9	—	2.3
Total	\$m	220.6	-0.3	2.6	11 717.6	0.1	4.5

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

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>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Sep qtr 98							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	226.0	n.a	1.8	9 639.4	10.5	3.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	22.5	n.a	4.7	998.1	n.a	4.5
Guest arrivals	'000	175.8	n.a	n.a	7 869.0	n.a	n.a
Guest nights	'000	386.2	n.a	n.a	17 181.6	n.a	n.a
Room occupancy rate	%	58.4	n.a	0.5	58.7	7.5	-1.5
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Dec 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 348	9.0	-15.8	71 088	4.8	4.7
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 351	11.3	-12.0	67 203	-1.9	3.7
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 235	-1.6	-15.1	65 842	-0.6	3.0
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
STATE ACCOUNTS, 1996-97(a)							
Original series (at average 1989-90 prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	4 981	3.6	n.a.	269 954	2.4	n.a.
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 744	-2.7	n.a.	72 844	1.5	n.a.
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	755	2.6	n.a.	85 505	12.1	n.a.
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	593	24.6	n.a.	18 685	-5.6	n.a.
Final demand	\$m	11 972	-0.4	n.a.	446 989	3.6	n.a.
Gross state product	\$m	8 813	0.6	n.a.	450 575	3.0	n.a.
Original series (at current prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 781	4.0	n.a.	318 480	4.0	n.a.
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	7 011	0.6	n.a.	86 421	3.6	n.a.
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	804	-1.6	n.a.	86 304	7.9	n.a.
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	440	-14.6	n.a.	19 230	-5.2	n.a.
Final demand	\$m	14 037	1.3	n.a.	510 435	4.2	n.a.
Gross state product	\$m	10845	5.0	n.a.	516 306	4.9	n.a.

(a) Quarterly state final demand details are released as a special data series (product no. 5206.0.40.001).

Source: ABS publications: *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0), *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (5242.0), *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), *Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0), *Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6321.0), *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0), *Consumer Price Index* (6401.0), *Price Index of Materials Used in Housing Building* (6408.0), *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0), *Tourism Indicators, Australia* (8634.0), *Tourism Accommodation, ACT* (8635.8), *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), *Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0), *New Motor Vehicle Registration, Australia* (9301.0).

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>POPULATION</b>	'000	Jun qtr 98	6 341.6	4 660.9	3 456.3	1 487.3	1 831.4	471.9	190.0	308.4	18 751.0
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jan 99	2 886.2	2 158.0	1 648.4	662.1	891.4	192.8	93.1	157.6	8 690.6
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jan 99	7.0	7.4	8.2	9.3	7.1	10.2	3.8	5.8	7.5
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS</b>											
Public sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	471.2	309.3	280.0	120.6	148.5	40.7	22.3	67.9	1 460.6
Private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	1 936.2	1 440.6	989.4	401.3	567.5	112.4	47.5	71.8	5 566.6
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Aug 98	2 407.4	1 749.9	1 269.4	521.9	716.0	153.1	69.8	139.7	7 027.2
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>											
Gross state product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	1996-97	152 378	118 338	74 768	31 094	50 665	8 910	4 945	4 981	269 954
Gross state product at current prices	\$m	1996-97	181 799	133 567	83 366	36 306	54 418	10 587	5 418	5 744	72 844
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Dec 98	4 301	3 175	2 251	563	1 641	114	131	289	12 465
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Dec 98	4 331	3 229	2 469	589	1 600	117	196	245	12 738
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Dec 98	252.0	177.4	136.0	53.5	71.5	6.7	15.4	31.1	743.4
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Dec 98	855.8	602.4	368.7	113.7	270.8	20.9	32.8	62.6	2 327.9
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sep qtr 98	1 239.0	822.6	985.8	244.7	901.4	53.6	50.7	31.6	4 329.3
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Aug 98	757.9	732.0	700.1	693.7	748.6	695.3	747.2	861.2	736.7
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Dec qtr 98	4 042.1	2 799.7	2 201.0	877.2	1 180.8	264.1	127.5	220.6	11 717.6
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied	'000	Sep qtr 98	3 077.3	1 464.3	2 850.5	494.6	935.8	194.2	396.8	221.3	8 724.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Sep qtr 98	57.9	54.4	63.6	54.3	59.8	38.8	71.3	59.1	54.6
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Dec 98	22 612	16 894	12 843	4 109	6 265	1 186	699	1 235	65 842

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>											
Food(b)		Dec qtr 98	126.8	124.3	125.0	128.2	127.6	125.0	126.9	129.1	126.0
Housing(b)		Dec qtr 98	102.6	86.6	101.3	91.9	90.4	95.4	114.5	93.9	95.5
Transportation(b)		Dec qtr 98	123.4	120.6	121.0	121.3	122.2	118.6	119.8	126.9	121.9
All Groups(b)		Dec qtr 98	122.4	120.8	123.0	123.6	120.2	122.7	122.7	121.7	121.9
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	116	135	120	132	135	125	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 98	210	201	199	167	196	204	217	210	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	1 163	1 031	1 041	1 156	1 018	881	1 229	1 166	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	366	345	338	332	349	380	351	346	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 98	127	137	134	86	135	77	123	149	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 98	573	610	600	563	679	671	605	615	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 98	353	316	270	362	384	264	327	270	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	71.1	68.3	61.8	69.5	70.8	74.8	77.2	74.0	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 98	68.8	66.1	59.5	67.2	68.6	72.8	75.2	71.7	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.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>POPULATION</b>	Jun qtr 98	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Jan 99	0.1	—	0.3	0.3	—	-0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Jan 99	—	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	—	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS</b>										
Public sector (trend)	Aug 98	-0.6	-1.1	0.5	2.3	1.2	-1.0	2.3	-1.0	-0.1
Private sector (trend)	Aug 98	1.2	0.9	7.1	4.1	3.0	-2.2	2.6	2.9	2.5
Total public and private sector (trend)	Aug 98	0.9	0.6	5.6	3.7	2.6	-1.9	2.3	0.9	1.9
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>										
State final demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	1996-97	2.8	2.6	5.2	0.8	3.3	0.2	4.6	3.6	2.4
State final demand at current prices (trend)	1996-97	6.2	4.2	5.7	1.0	4.2	2.7	7.3	-2.7	1.5
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Dec 98	-4.3	-7.7	-9.1	-7.1	-0.5	5.6	-40.7	122.3	-5.0
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Dec 98	—	1.3	-0.4	-3.3	0.1	-1.7	-3.0	16.1	0.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec 98	-45.4	-33.8	-32.9	-8.2	-7.1	-15.2	-43.8	401.6	-33.0
Value of all buildings approved	Dec 98	-25.0	-17.2	-22.2	-11.7	-0.6	3.0	-43.4	135.3	-18.3
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sep qtr 98	-21.3	-9.7	-8.1	-18.6	9.0	-22.7	0.6	-26.3	-10.7
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Aug 98	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.7	1.4	1.2
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Dec qtr 98	0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.1
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sep qtr 98	6.5	3.4	20.2	3.1	13.5	-14.1	34.5	-8.9	-3.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Sep qtr 98	1.6	0.5	9.5	0.7	5.3	-5.9	17.1	-5.7	-3.4
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Dec 98	-0.6	0.1	0.1	-2.0	-1.9	-3.4	0.9	-1.6	-0.6
	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>										
Food	Dec qtr 98	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	0.9	0.2	120.6	1.2	1.0
Housing	Dec qtr 98	0.1	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.9	-0.2	0.5	0.1	0.7
Transportation	Dec qtr 98	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-1.5	-0.7	-0.9	-0.3
All Groups	Dec qtr 98	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 98	—	—	0.8	3.9	—	-0.8	—	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 98	-2.8	—	2.1	-1.2	-4.4	-2.4	3.3	0.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 98	-0.1	-1.6	-2.7	4.2	-3.3	-14.5	1.7	0.3	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 98	10.2	1.8	15.0	-9.5	3.9	7.6	-10.0	-4.2	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 98	17.6	23.4	17.5	38.7	3.8	6.9	13.9	24.2	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 98	-13.4	0.3	-2.8	-1.2	16.5	10.4	-1.6	4.1	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 98	4.1	0.3	2.3	0.8	1.9	-0.4	—	2.7	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 98	-2.1	-2.1	0.7	-2.1	-1.1	-3.4	-2.5	-1.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 98	-2.1	-2.2	0.5	-2.0	-1.2	-3.4	-2.6	-1.4	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).

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