

BUSINESS INDICATORSAUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 27 JAN 1998

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
Selected business indicators.	5
FEATURE ARTICLE	
Transition from education to work of working age persons in the ACT . . .	7
Job search experience of unemployed persons in the ACT	9
TABLES	
1 Business expectations: Sales, March quarter 1998/December quarter 1998, expected aggregate change	10
2 Business indicators, January 1998	11
3 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia	14
4 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia—percentage changes.	15

■ 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

February 1998	23 February 1998
March 1998	23 March 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 December 1997 issue are: population; labour force; job vacancies; business expectations; housing finance; housing and construction; engineering construction activity; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; and tourist accommodation. There is a feature article on Job Search Experience of Unemployed People in the ACT and Transition from Education to Work of Working Aged Persons in the ACT on pages 7-9.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Population

The estimated resident population of the ACT at 30 June 1997 was 309,800, a decrease of 200 since the March Quarter 1997 and an increase of 1,500 since the June quarter 1996. The growth rate for the year to June 1997 was 0.5% which is approximately half the growth rate for the preceeding year. Nationally, the estimated resident population increased by 1.2% over the year to 30 June 1997.

Labour force

Trend employment decreased marginally (down 0.5% to 154,000 persons) in December 1997 with the ACT recording its sixth consecutive month of decline. The number of full time employed decreased slightly during December (down by 500) while the participation rate fell from 71.8% to 71.4%. Notwithstanding the decline in the participation rate the trend unemployment rate has remained stable at 8.4%. Nationally, trend employment increased slightly (up 0.2%), while the trend unemployment stabilised at 8.3%.

Job vacancies

There was no improvement in job vacancies growth in the ACT in the November quarter 1997. A 200 increase in jobs growth in the public sector in the November quarter 1997 was offset by a decline of 200 in jobs growth in the private sector over the same period. Nationally, there was a decline of 1.7% (1,200) during the November quarter 1997.

Business expectations

Business expectations in the ACT indicate a short-term decrease of 1.2% in the sales of goods and services in the March quarter 1998. Nationally, there is an expected short term decrease of 0.3% in the March quarter 1998. In the medium term (December quarter 1997 - December quarter 1998), growth of 2.7% in sales is expected for the ACT, which is below that of the national expectation of 2.9%.

Housing finance

The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during November 1997 increased to 752 dwellings, a rise of 1.8%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$84.4 million, an increase of 3.2% on the previous month. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 17.5% of the total number of dwelling units financed in

November 1997, which was down 0.9 percentage points on the previous month. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during November 1997 remained steady and the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased by 1.2%.

Housing and construction

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 3.3% to 125 dwelling units in November 1997, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 2.1% in November 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in Australia has increased for each of the last five months.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$8.0 million in November 1997, an increase of \$0.4 million (or 5.3%) from the previous month but a decrease of \$6.5 million (44.8%) on November 1996. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 19.8% from the previous month and decreased by 41.5% since November 1996.

Engineering construction

The value of engineering construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the September quarter 1997 decreased by 35.1% to \$15.7 million from the previous quarter, and was down 20.0% on the September quarter 1996. Nationally, the value of public sector engineering construction was down 33.3% on the previous quarter and 12.6% relative to the September quarter 1996. The value of private sector work done in the ACT during the September quarter 1997 decreased by 7.8% to \$13.0 million from the previous quarter and was down 20.2% on the September quarter 1996. The value of private sector engineering construction work done in the September quarter 1997 throughout Australia increased by 5.1% from the previous quarter and 9.6% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Retail turnover

The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for November 1997 was \$215.0 million, up 0.3% on the previous month's figure and up 5.2% on twelve months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.3% on the previous month and 5.4% on a year ago.

Motor vehicle registrations

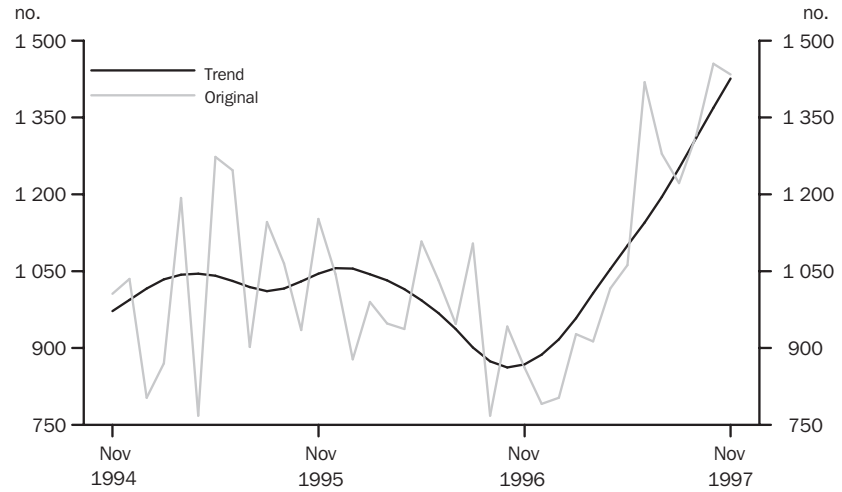
The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in November 1997 was 1,426, up 4.2% on the previous month, and up 64.3% on November 1996. The series has now recorded thirteen consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in November 1997 recorded a 1.4% increase, the fourteenth consecutive monthly increase.

Tourist accommodation

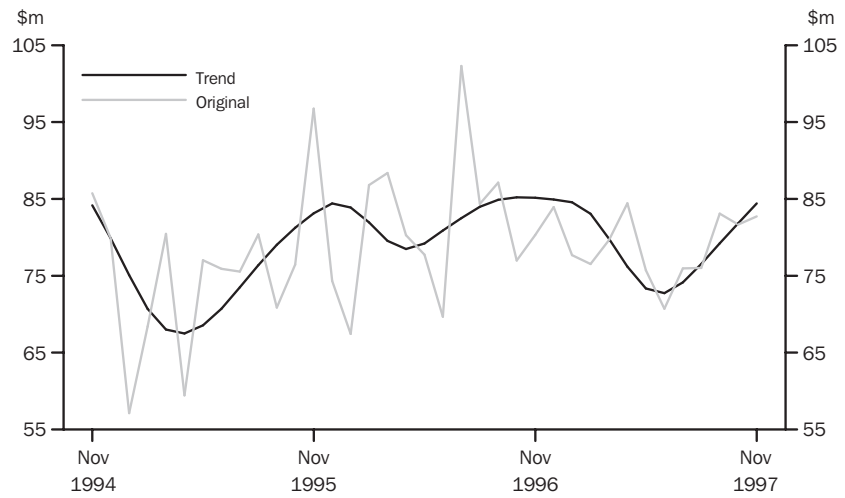
Room occupancy rates for ACT hotels, motels and guest houses in the September quarter 1997 was 56.3%, up 1.8 percentage points on the previous quarter but down 1.2 percentage points on twelve months ago.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

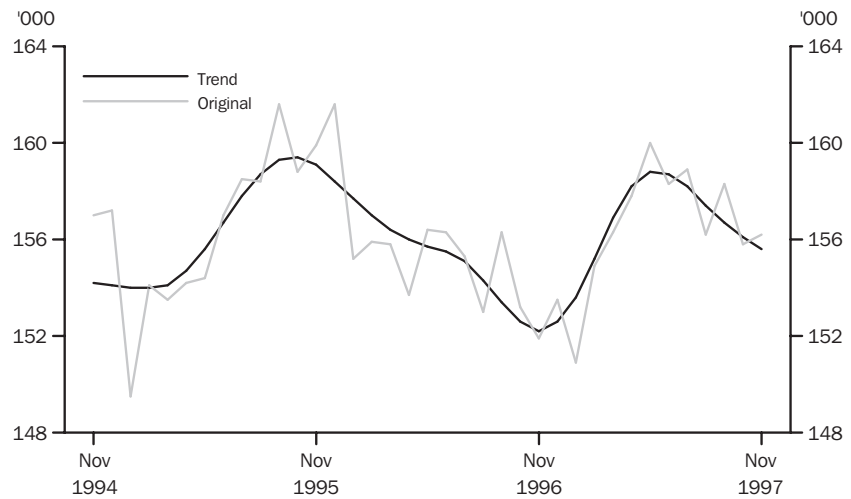
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

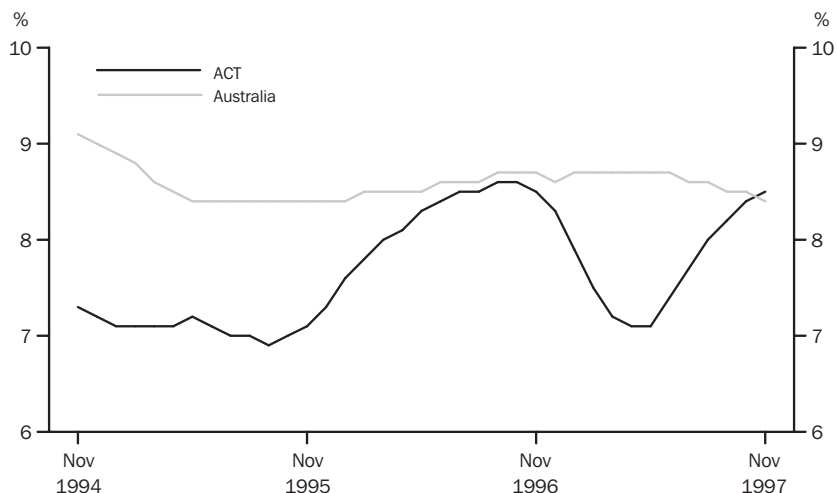


LABOUR FORCE — EMPLOYMENT

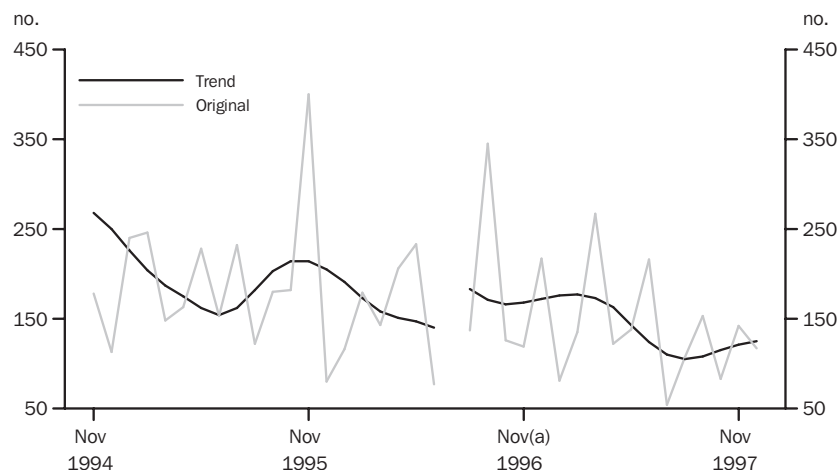


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

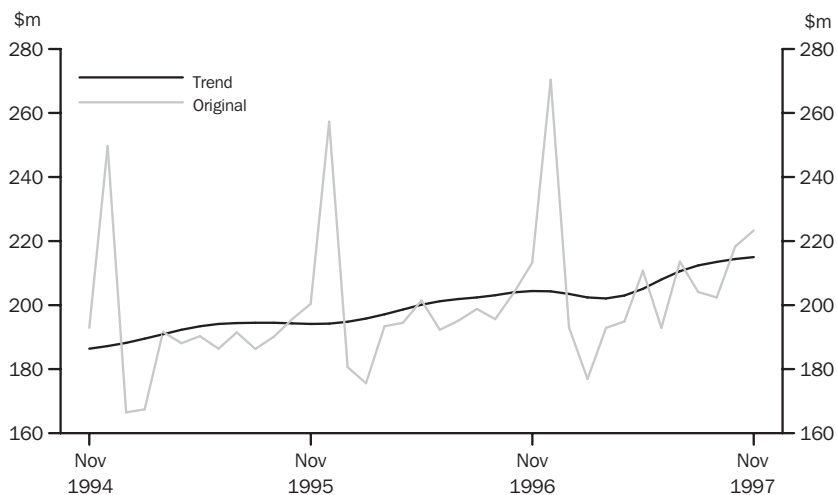


BUILDING APPROVAL —
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



(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.

RETAIL TURNOVER



TRANSITION FROM EDUCATION TO WORK OF WORKING AGE PERSONS IN THE ACT

The May 1997 Transition from Education to Work survey reported 43,388 persons in the ACT aged 15–64 studying for a recognised educational qualification while a further 3,702 were studying for a non-recognised educational qualification and 3,013 were in study not leading to any qualification.

Total students in May 1997 numbered 50,103, which amounted to almost 24% of the population aged 15–64, a drop of 565 (–1%) since May 1996. Nationally 18% of the 15–64 year old population were students, an increase of 0.2%.

There were 55,706 applications to enrol for study in 1997 and while 50,103 actually did study, 3,854 (7%) deferred study and 1,750 (3%) were unable to gain placement, a 55%* increase on 1996.

Students in recognised educational courses were almost equally divided between males (21,931) and females (21,457). However, females made up 61% of students in non-recognised courses and 73% of students in courses which led to no qualifications.

Higher education was reported as the type of educational institution attended for 41% (20,641) of total students, while 27% (13,663) were at a school, 23% (11,600) were at Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and 8% (3,782) were at other educational institutions. Attendance at higher education institutions was down by 3 percentage points since May 1996 while attendance at TAFEs rose by 4 percentage points in the same period.

There were 31,183 students attending an educational institution full-time in 1996 and of these 24,120 were still attending full time in 1997. Of the 7,063 leavers, 50% (3,511) were working full-time, 24% (1,696) were working part-time, 16%* (1,128) were unemployed with the remaining 10%* (728) not being in the labour force.

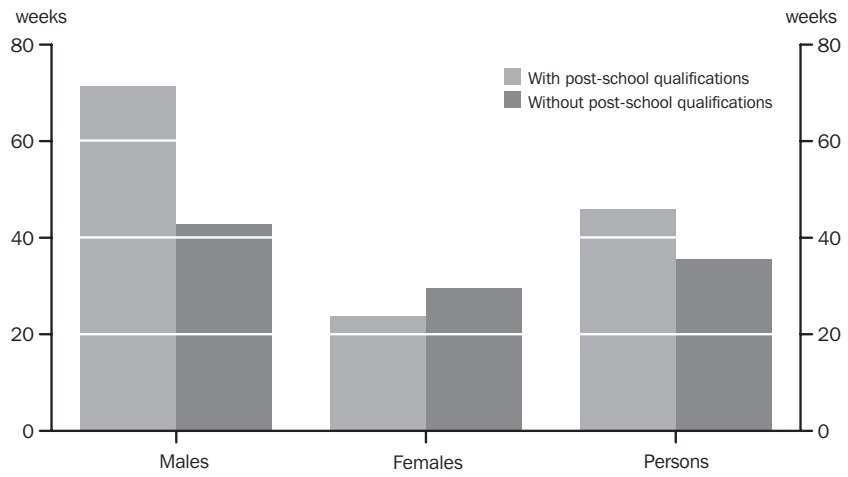
Of the 21,365 students attending an educational institution part-time in 1996, just over 50% (11,537) were attending an educational institution in May 1997. The vast majority of these (10,650) were still attending part-time.

Labour force participation rates for persons with recognised post-school qualifications remain higher (88%) than for those without qualifications (76%). Unemployment rates for persons with recognised post-school qualifications stood at 4.6% while those without qualifications had a higher rate at 8.1%. Nationally, the unemployment rates were 5.4% and 11.2% respectively.

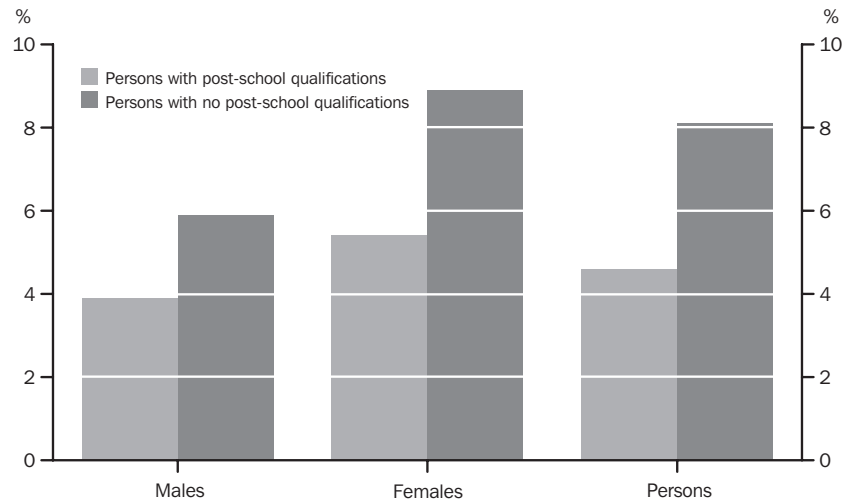
In May 1997 the average duration of unemployment for persons with post-school qualifications was 45.9 weeks while those without post-school qualifications had an average of 35.5 weeks. Overall, females were out of work for a shorter period (23.7 weeks with qualifications and 29.5 weeks without qualifications) than males (71.3 weeks with qualifications and 42.8 weeks without qualifications).

The number of apprentices reported in the ACT in May 1997 was 1,894, an increase of 982* since May 1996. The majority of the apprentices (93% or 1,757) were employed in the private sector.

AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

In July 1997 there were 10,625 unemployed persons in the ACT, as well as 512* who had been stood down. Just over three quarters of the unemployed (76% or 8,052) were looking for full-time work. Females made up 38% (3,068) of the unemployed looking for full-time work, whereas they made up 64% (1,652) of the unemployed looking for part-time work, up from 58% in the previous year. The national figures were similar.

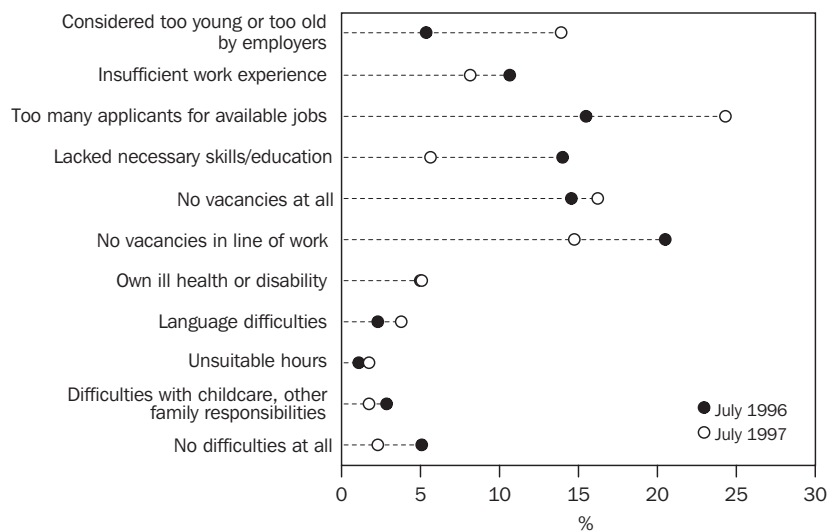
Of unemployed persons (excluding persons who have been stood down) in the ACT, 67% (7,162) were registered with the CES compared to a figure of 74% nationally. The proportion of persons in the ACT seeking full-time work who were registered with the CES was 79% while only 30% of those seeking part-time work were registered. Nationally the details were 85% and 35% respectively.

The main difficulties in finding work most commonly reported were: too many applicants for available jobs (24%); no vacancies at all (16%); no vacancies in line of work (15%) and considered too young or too old by employers (14%). Of unemployed males 25% reported no vacancies in line of work as the main difficulty in finding work while 29% of unemployed females reported too many applicants for available jobs as the main difficulty. Nationally, the most commonly reported difficulties for all persons were: considered too young or too old by employers (15%) and too many applicants for available jobs (15%).

Of all unemployed persons in the ACT at July 1997, 86% received no job offers in the previous 12 months, which was similar to the figure for Australia of 87%. Only 3% of all persons received three or more offers.

There were 5,135 unemployed persons in July 1997 who were full-time employees in their last job and who ceased that job in the last two years. Of these, 46% (2,375) were laid off or retrenched, compared to 50% in the previous year. The proportion of employees leaving voluntarily was 35%, while for Australia as a whole it was 32%.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: SELECTED MAIN DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK



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

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Jun qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996	-0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1997	0.5	3.0
Dec qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	-1.2	-0.3
Medium-term		
Jun qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Sep qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1998	2.7	2.9

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION Jun qtr 97	'000	309.8	-0.1	0.5	18 532.2	0.2	1.2
Natural increase	no.	849	16.6	23.9	32 968	-2.6	9.2
Net migration	no.	-1 044	—	—	11 486	—	—
Total increase	no.	-195	—	—	44 454	—	—
LABOUR FORCE Dec 97							
Original series Dec 97							
Employed	'000	155.5	-0.4	1.3	8 615.2	1.1	1.4
Unemployed	'000	13.5	8.0	-4.3	763.6	3.6	-5.2
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.0	0.6	-0.4	8.1	0.1	-0.6
Participation rate(a)	%	71.8	0.1	0.2	63.9	0.7	-0.4
Long-term unemployed (Nov 97)	no.	2 156	-14.6	-34.4	248 198	0.6	12.8
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Nov 97)(a)	—	17.2	-2.1	-8.7	33.7	0.2	3.9
Trend series Dec 97							
Employed	'000	154.0	-0.5	0.9	8 509.2	0.2	1.3
Unemployed	'000	14.2	—	3.6	767.1	-0.7	-3.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.4	—	0.1	8.3	—	-0.3
Participation rate(a)	%	71.4	-0.4	0.4	63.2	—	-0.4
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, May 97							
Trend Series							
Public Sector	'000	66.7	-2.1	-9.5	1 469.6	-0.6	-5.9
Private Sector	'000	75.5	5.0	11.7	5 358.9	0.9	1.8
Total Public and Private	'000	142.2	1.6	0.6	6 828.5	0.6	—
JOB VACANCIES, Nov 97	'000	1.0	—	-28.6	68.1	-1.7	9.3
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Aug 97							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	—	-96.3	31.8	-18.3	-74.1
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Aug 97)	no.	22.0	-45.0	-84.5	62.0	-17.3	-56.0
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Nov 97							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	7.0	-12.5	4.5	655.2	-9.3	27.9
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	4.0	-20.0	-34.4	242.6	-7.7	7.1
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	59.3	4.2	13.6	2 812.4	-4.6	11.5
Refinancing	\$m	12.4	6.0	-19.0	738.9	-9.9	2.7
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.7	1.2	3.0	4 449.1	-6.4	11.8
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	87.2	10.5	4.3	4 533.7	-2.3	14.9
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	752	1.8	-10.2	40 348	0.6	0.6
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.4	3.2	-0.9	4 605.0	1.2	11.6
BUILDING APPROVALS, Nov 97							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	115	-19.0	-42.8	13 077	3.0	15.5
Value of new residential	\$m	13.0	-29.0	-44.0	1 390.4	3.9	22.0
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.2	-49.2	-34.7	228.0	-12.7	-4.6
Value of non-residential	\$m	8.0	5.3	-44.8	992.1	-19.8	-41.5
Value of total building	\$m	24.7	-23.3	-42.2	2 610.5	-8.0	-15.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	125	3.3	-27.3	12 813	2.1	15.1

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

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep 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, Sep qtr 97	—	125.1	-1.7	-1.7	118.9	1.8	4.3
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, Sep qtr 97							
Food	(a)	122.9	0.3	2.2	120.8	—	2.1
Housing	(a)	97.0	-1.7	-13.4	95.9	-1.0	-9.6
Transportation	(a)	130.6	-0.1	1.3	124.4	0.4	0.8
All groups	(a)	119.8	-0.5	-1.3	119.7	-0.4	-0.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Aug 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	779.6	2.1	2.3	693.8	1.0	3.0
Females	\$	576.9	2.3	5.7	460.2	0.6	3.4
Persons	\$	677.6	2.0	4.6	582.2	0.8	2.7
Trend series							
Males	\$	775.0	0.4	1.8	694.8	0.7	2.8
Females	\$	576.0	1.0	4.3	461.4	0.8	3.5
Persons	\$	676.4	0.6	3.6	583.6	0.7	2.7
RETAIL TURNOVER, Nov 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	82.7	-1.1	-0.8	4 548.8	-2.0	4.0
Department stores	\$m	26.3	13.4	4.4	1 111.5	13.8	2.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.3	-0.3	3.6	1 905.0	-0.1	4.5
All other retailing	\$m	80.0	3.8	11.9	3 939.9	0.9	4.1
Total	\$m	223.3	2.3	4.7	11 505.2	0.6	4.0
Trend series							
Food retailing	'000	81.1	0.9	—	4 525.5	0.5	5.3
Department stores	\$m	24.5	—	2.1	1 018.8	0.4	4.8
Hospitality and services	\$m	33.3	0.3	3.7	1 865.4	—	5.1
All other retailing	%	76.1	-0.3	13.2	3 831.8	0.4	5.9
Total	'000	215.0	0.3	5.2	11 241.5	0.3	5.4

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

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

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Jun qtr 97							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	192.0	-5.6	-11.1	8 699.4	-5.4	-1.0
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.3	-4.7	-9.9	853.2	-7.6	2.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.2	-3.8	-9.0	708.9	-7.3	1.7
Room occupancy rate (Sep qtr 97)(a)	%	56.3	1.8	-1.2	58.0	3.4	-0.8
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	195.7	-6.9	-10.6	9 101.1	-2.0	-0.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.5	-6.6	-9.3	910.9	-1.4	2.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.4	-5.5	-8.3	756.9	-1.1	2.2
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	202.9	-1.3	-2.4	9 201.2	-0.4	0.6
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.2	-1.0	0.5	922.1	0.7	4.8
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.9	-0.6	0.6	764.5	0.6	4.1
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Nov 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 434	-1.4	66.4	61 460	-7.8	14.6
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 507	8.7	70.7	63 402	-0.8	17.1
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 426	4.2	64.3	63 707	1.4	17.9
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Sep qtr 97(a)							
Trend series							
Private Final Consumption expenditure	\$m	1 286	1.9	5.2	81 153	1.4	4.8
Government Final Consumption expenditure	\$m	1 311	0.9	-0.1	22 166	1.2	3.4
Private Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	\$m	193	2.1	2.1	22 301	3.6	7.7
Government Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	\$m	-9	-115.3	-107.9	4 987	-2.8	10.6
Final Demand	\$m	2 781	-1.0	-2.0	130 607	1.6	5.2

(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.

<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>
POPULATION	'000	Jun qtr 97	6 274.4	4 605.1	3 401.2	1 479.8	1 798.1	473.5	187.1	309.8	18 532.2
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Dec 97	2 829.7	2 120.6	1 587.8	660.2	870.0	193.5	88.1	154.0	8 509.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Dec 97	7.6	8.2	9.3	9.7	6.9	11.6	3.8	8.4	8.3
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	471.0	323.3	281.4	115.3	146.2	42.8	22.6	66.7	1 469.6
Private Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	1 914.9	1 410.2	876.7	380.7	529.8	120.7	50.5	75.5	5 358.9
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	2 385.9	1 733.5	1 158.1	496.0	675.9	163.4	73.1	142.2	6 828.5
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
State Final Demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Sep qtr 97	38 558	29 031	20 074	8 058	11 687	2 443	1 215	1 286	81 153
State Final Demand at current prices (trend)	\$m	Sep qtr 97	44 055	32 725	23 055	9 370	13 360	2 923	1 409	1 311	22 166
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Nov 97	4 729	3 247	2 628	552	1 541	128	135	115	13 077
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Nov 97	4 264	3 056	2 946	548	1 480	138	150	125	12 813
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Nov 97	380.6	247.3	182.0	64.5	79.4	7.3	4.6	8.0	992.1
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Nov 97	1 028.0	669.5	452.6	126.7	250.2	21.3	18.9	24.7	2 610.5
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)	\$	Aug 97	729.6	707.4	665.3	663.4	707.1	674.5	711.0	800.8	779.6
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Nov 97	3 983.6	2 626.5	2 059.0	824.5	1 131.2	276.7	119.8	215.0	11 241.5
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Jun qtr 97	3,096.5	1 531.6	2 445.2	530.5	839.7	250.4	304.4	202.9	9 201.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Sep qtr 97	57.5	53.2	64.5	52.2	57.9	39.5	66.7	56.3	58.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Nov 97	21 456	16 213	11 898	4 139	6 701	121'8	656	1 426	63 707
	<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>
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Sep qtr 97	121.4	119.8	118.7	122.0	122.4	121.0	121.8	122.9	120.8
Housing	(b)	Sep qtr 97	101.3	88.7	102.4	92.2	90.4	97.7	113.6	97.0	95.9
Transportation	(b)	Sep qtr 97	125.2	124.6	123.7	123.2	121.8	122.2	122.4	130.6	124.4
All Groups	(b)	Sep qtr 97	119.8	119.5	120.7	121.2	117.5	120.6	121.0	119.8	119.7
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	116	130	117	122	133	125	121	114	na
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sep qtr 97	203	199	191	161	182	183	196	190	na
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	1172	1072	1088	1135	1024	992	1218	1028	na
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	365	398	354	362	364	406	440	372	na
Potatoes	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	122	136	117	111	114	70	132	113	na
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Sep qtr 97	630	638	629	573	685	663	610	614	na
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sep qtr 97	329	290	255	348	355	253	321	292	na
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	74.6	74.5	65.8	74.5	74.6	79.7	80.9	77.3	na
Unleaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	72.4	72.3	63.6	72.2	72.5	77.7	78.9	75.1	na

(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

<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>
POPULATION	Jun qtr 97	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	—	0.4	-0.1	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Dec 97	0.4	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2	1.0	-0.5	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	Dec 97	-0.1	-0.2	—	—	—	0.1	-0.2	—	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Public Sector (trend)	May 97	-1.6	1.0	0.1	-2.1	-0.5	-1.8	0.9	-2.1	-0.6
Private Sector (trend)	May 97	1.9	—	1.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	-1.2	5.0	0.9
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	May 97	1.1	0.2	0.9	-0.7	—	-0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.6
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Sep qtr 97	-2.6	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.5	-1.2	0.5	1.9	1.4
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Sep qtr 97	-2.1	1.3	1.2	2.4	2.8	-0.5	—	0.9	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Nov 97	13.1	21.1	-17.3	-7.8	2.2	-21.5	-44.2	-19.0	3.0
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Nov 97	1.6	1.9	-0.6	-0.4	3.4	-0.7	—	3.3	2.1
Value of non-residential building approved	Nov 97	-26.8	-11.4	-27.0	89.1	-19.2	-31.8	-80.6	5.3	-19.8
Value of all buildings approved	Nov 97	-8.5	3.5	-21.5	30.1	-6.4	-23.9	-63.4	-23.3	-8.0
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)	Aug 97	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.3
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Nov 97	—	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Jun qtr 97	-0.8	0.8	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-2.4	-1.6	-1.3	-0.4
Room occupancy rate (original)	Sep qtr 97	1.5	-0.1	8.1	1.1	4.1	-4.2	14.0	1.8	3.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Nov 97	1.3	1.9	0.7	1.8	1.5	-100.0	1.4	4.2	1.4
	<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>
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Sep qtr 97	-0.1	0.2	-1.0	0.1	0.4	—	-0.2	0.3	0.0
Housing	Sep qtr 97	-0.5	-1.6	-0.6	-2.0	-1.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.7	-1.0
Transportation	Sep qtr 97	0.5	0.6	—	0.4	-0.3	0.4	—	-0.1	0.4
All Groups	Sep qtr 97	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 97	0.9	—	0.9	—	2.3	—	3.4	1.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 97	1.0	3.6	-3.0	0.6	2.2	7.0	1.0	-1.6	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sep qtr 97	-2.7	3.8	0.4	-0.5	-4.8	3.5	2.4	-1.4	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sep qtr 97	3.7	2.8	7.6	-2.2	3.1	1.0	1.6	-1.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sep qtr 97	0.8	4.6	0.9	2.8	1.8	-9.1	1.5	-0.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Sep qtr 97	4.0	15.2	5.4	6.3	18.7	5.6	3.0	-3.8	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sep qtr 97	3.5	1.4	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.3	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Sep qtr 97	-1.7	1.4	-1.9	-1.2	-3.1	-0.4	-1.9	-2.9	n.a.
Unleaded	Sep qtr 97	-1.8	1.3	-2.0	-1.1	-3.1	-0.3	-2.0	-3.0	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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