

## CONTENTS

page

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Notes .....                        | 2 |
| Summary of findings .....          | 3 |
| Selected business indicators ..... | 5 |

### FEATURE ARTICLE

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Schools in the ACT ..... | 6 |
|--------------------------|---|

### TABLES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>1</b> Business indicators .....  | 10 |
| <b>2</b> ACT in relation to the rest of Australia .....                     | 13 |
| <b>3</b> ACT in relation to the rest of Australia, percentage changes ..... | 14 |

### INFORMATION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Index of Feature Articles published in ACT Business Indicators ..... | 15 |
|--|----|

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Amanda Lilley on Canberra 02 6207 0277 or the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## NOTES

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

*Business Indicators, Australian Capital Territory* (Cat. no. 1303.8) is to be replaced by a new quarterly publication, *Australian Capital Territory Statistical Indicators* (Cat. no. 1367.8), with the first edition scheduled for release on 31 July 2002. This new publication is an enhancement on the current monthly publication. It will present a broader range of data and contain more detailed analysis of recent movements in key demographic, economic and labour market data. *Australian Capital Territory Statistical Indicators* (Cat. no. 1367.8) will be a tool for a wider range of clients making decisions based on ACT data. It will also include feature articles on various aspects of the ACT population and economy.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| m    | million                       |
| no.  | number                        |
| n.a. | not available                 |
| n.p. | not available for publication |
| p    | preliminary                   |
| qtr  | quarter                       |
| '000 | thousands                     |
| %    | per cent                      |
| . .  | not applicable                |
| —    | nil or rounded to zero        |

Tracy Stewart  
Regional Director, Australian Capital Territory

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

Series updated in the summary of findings and tables since the March 2002 issue are: population, labour force, retail turnover, building approvals, job vacancies, tourist accommodation, business expectations, private new capital expenditure, wage and salary earners and new motor vehicle sales.

The feature article this month, on page 6 is Schools in the ACT.

**Population** During the quarter ending September 2001, the estimated resident population of the ACT remained at 314,200, as it was during the previous quarter. Since September quarter 2000, the growth rate was 0.8%. Nationally the growth rate was 0.3% from June quarter 2001, and during the twelve months since September quarter 2000, the growth rate was 1.2%. At September 2001, the population of the ACT made up 2% of Australia's population.

**Labour force** ACT trend employment dropped from February 2002 to 167,700 people employed for March 2002. Nationally, trend employment continued to rise (less than 1% from the previous month) to 9,293,300 people.

The trend unemployment rate for the ACT remained constant at 4.3% in March 2002. The national trend unemployment rate continued to fall, to 6.5% for the same period. The ACT trend labour force participation rate fell in January 2002 to 71.1%. It has declined since October 2000 (73.5%). The national trend remained steady in March 2002 at 63.9%.

**Retail turnover** Retail turnover (trend) was \$299m for February 2002, a 0.8% increase from January 2002 figure. This increase was higher than the national growth rate for the same period, of 0.6%. The turnover for February 2002 was an increase of 11% from February 2001. Nationally, trend retail turnover was \$14,100m for February 2002, an increase of 8% from February 2001.

**Building approvals** In February 2002 the trend dwelling units approved for the ACT was 149, down 21% from the previous month but up 28% from February 2001. Nationally there were 12,943 dwelling unit approvals, a decrease of 3% from the previous month but an increase of 38% from February 2001.

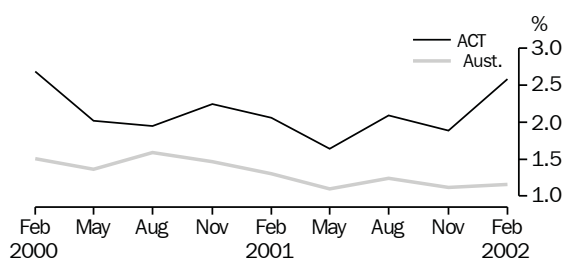
The original value of non-residential building approvals for the ACT in February 2002 was \$11m. The February 2002 figure was an increase of 136% from January 2002 but a decrease of 15% from February 2001. The original value of new residential building approvals increased by 13% to \$16m from January 2002 (\$14m).

The original value of total building approvals peaked at \$87m in October 2001. In February 2002, the value of total buildings approved was \$32m, an increase of 48% from the previous month. Nationally, the value of total building approvals in February 2002 was \$3,570m, up 21% from the previous month and up 50% from February 2001.

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Job vacancies                   | There were 3,900 job vacancies in the ACT in February 2002, an increase of 39% from November 2001 and an increase of 26% from February 2001. Nationally, job vacancies in February increased by 5% from the November quarter but fell 8% from February 2001.   |
| Tourist accommodation           | <p>At December quarter 2001 the room occupancy rate for ACT hotels, motels, serviced apartments and guest houses was 57.4%. This was a decrease of 5 percentage points from the previous quarter, and a decrease of 1.6 percentage points from the December quarter 2000. Nationally, in the December quarter 2001, the room occupancy rate was 57.6%, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the previous quarter and a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from the December quarter 2000.</p> <p>The range of tourist accommodation data showed decline during December quarter, with takings down 7% and guest arrivals down 15%.</p>                                  |
| Business expectations           | An increase of 2.7% is expected in trading performance (operating income) from the sale of goods and services in the ACT for the June quarter 2002. This is higher than the national expectation of 1.3% in this period. In the medium-term (March quarter 2002 to March quarter 2003), a 1.9% growth in sales is expected for the ACT. This is similar to the national expectation of 2%.   |
| Private new capital expenditure | Trend private new capital expenditure in the ACT in the December quarter 2001 was \$117m, a decrease of 7% from the previous quarter and a decrease of 4% from the December quarter 2000. Trend private new capital expenditure on buildings and structures decreased by 7% from the previous quarter but increased by 20% from the same period in 2000. Nationally, trend private new capital expenditure increased from the previous quarter.  |
| Wage and salary earners         | The trend number of wage and salary earners employed in the ACT increased to 160,900 people in the November quarter 2001, an increase of 1% from the previous quarter and 4% from the November quarter 2000. Excluding self-employed people, 56% of wage and salary earners in the ACT were employed in the private sector, compared with 80% nationally.  |
| New motor vehicle sales         | <p>The ABS has discontinued the new motor vehicle registrations data that was collected from the motor vehicle registration authorities in each state and territory. From January 2002 this data has been replaced with statistics on sales of new motor vehicles collected from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.</p> <p>In February 2002, the trend estimate of ACT new motor vehicle sales increased 1% from the previous month to 1,221 sales, and also increased 1% from February 2001.</p> <p>There were 71,077 new motor vehicles sales nationally in February 2002. The national trend rose 2% from the previous month and 10% from February 2001.</p> |

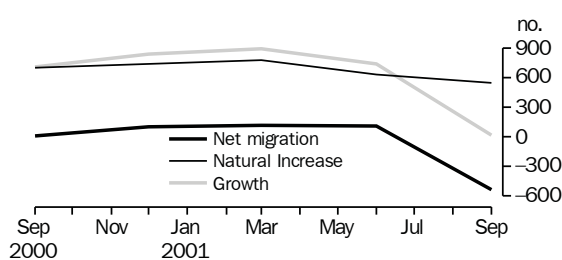
## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

### JOB VACANCY RATES



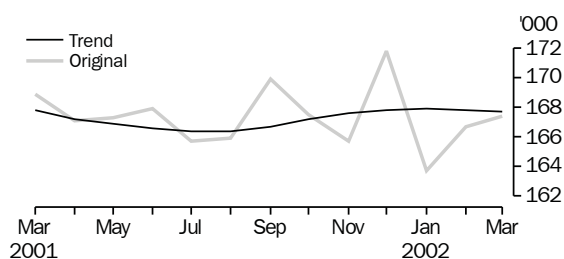
Source: Job Vacancies, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0).

### COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



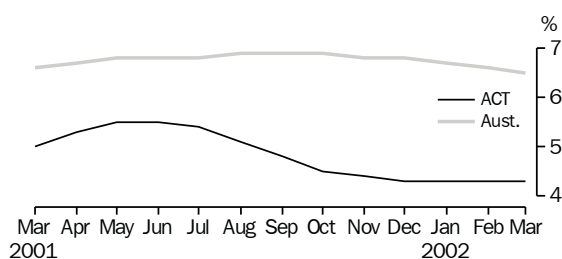
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

### EMPLOYED PERSONS



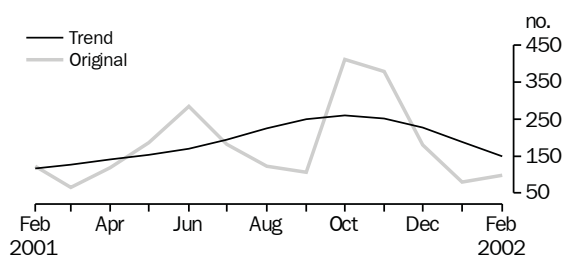
Source: Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6202.0).

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Trend series



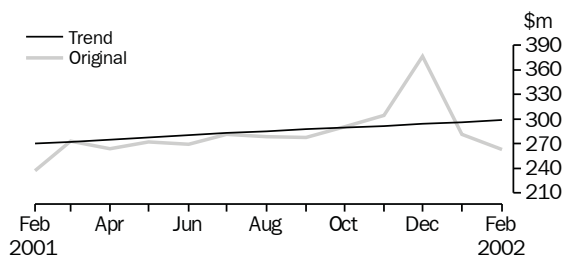
Source: Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6202.0).

### BUILDING APPROVALS: Dwelling units approved



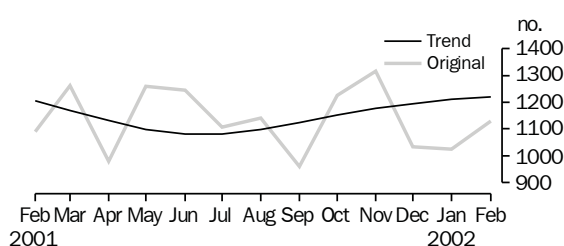
Source: Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0).

### RETAIL TRADE: Monthly turnover



Source: Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0).

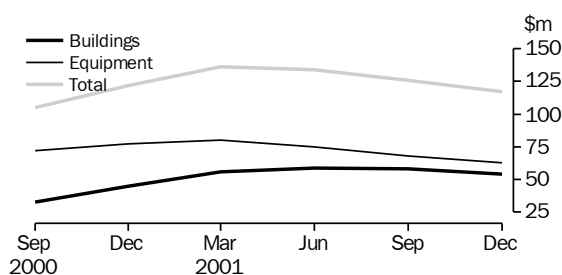
### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



Note: From January 2002 new motor vehicle sales data replaces new motor vehicle registrations data.

Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales, Australia (Cat. no. 9314.0.55.001).

### PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: Trend



Source: State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0).

The statistics in this article relate to government and non-government schools, students and staff as at August 2001. Statistics are collected annually through the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC). Except where part-time students are specified, the statistics in this article relate to full-time students.

In August 2001, there were 137 schools in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), of which 95 (69%) were government schools and 42 (31%) were non-government schools. The national proportion was similar, with 72% government schools. In 1991 there were 132 schools in the ACT.

During the decade from 1991 to 2001, the total number of schools in the ACT rose by 4%, compared with a national decline of 4%. The number of ACT government schools rose by 5% in the five years from 1991 to 1996. Since 1996, the number of government schools has shown a decline of 4%. Nationally, the number of government schools declined by 7% during the decade between 1991 and 2001.

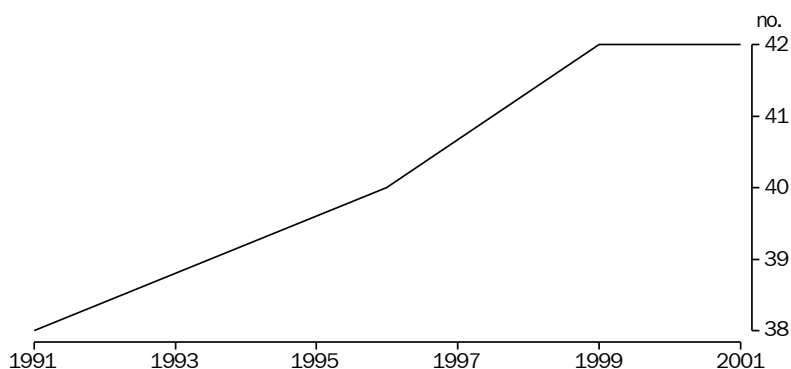
NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



Source: *Schools, Australia, 2001* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

The number of ACT non-government schools increased by 11% between 1991 and 1999 and has remained steady since. The number of non-government schools increased by 6% nationally.

NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



Source: *Schools, Australia, 2001* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

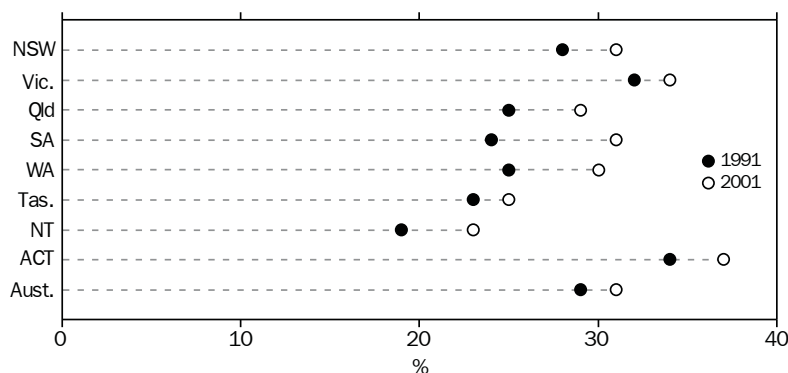
Within the ACT, the number of primary schools increased by 3% in the five years since 1996, while the number of secondary schools declined by 13%. Combined primary/secondary schools remained relatively steady. Nationally, the number of primary and secondary schools declined during this period (2% and 3% respectively) while the number of combined primary/secondary schools increased by 14%. Excluding special schools, in 2001, 68% of ACT schools were primary schools, 20% secondary and 8% combined.

## STUDENTS

In 2001 there were 60,643 full-time students in the ACT. This figure remained steady from 2000, and decreased 2% since 1991. Nationally, the number of full-time students in 2001 rose 1% from the previous year and 6% from 1991.

The proportion of ACT students attending non-government schools was highest of all states and territories (37%), followed by Victoria at 34%. The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the lowest proportion of students attending non-government schools, at 23% and 25% respectively. For all states and territories, the proportion of students attending non-government schools has increased in the ten years since 1991.

PROPORTION OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS AT NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

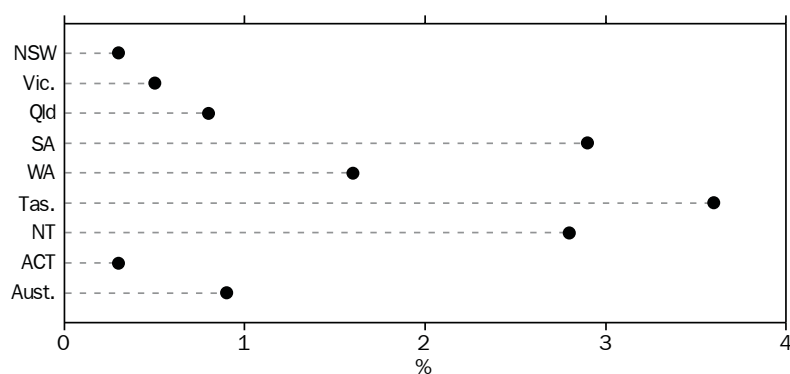


Source: *Schools, Australia, 2001* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

In the ACT there were 985 full-time Indigenous students in 2001, an increase of 11% from 2000. Nationally, the number of full-time Indigenous students increased by 4% in the same period. The highest proportions of Indigenous students were recorded in the Northern Territory (36% of full-time students) and Tasmania (6%), while the lowest proportions were recorded in Victoria (1%) and ACT (2%).

In 2001 there were 191 part-time students in the ACT. New South Wales and ACT had the lowest proportion of part-time students, each with less than half a percentage point. Tasmania had the highest proportion, almost 4%, while the national proportion of part-time students was 1%.

PROPORTION OF PART-TIME STUDENTS—2001



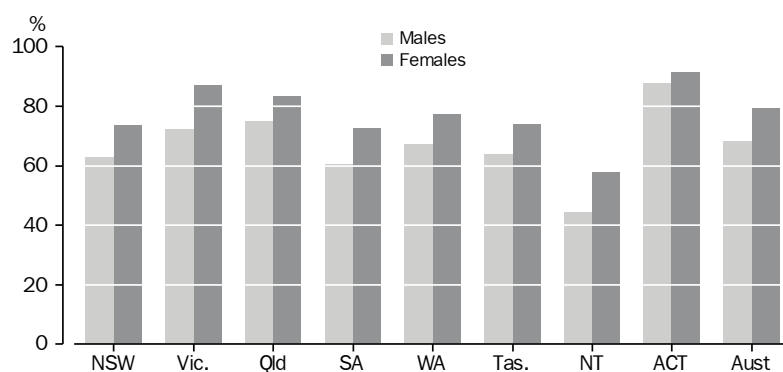
Source: *Schools, Australia, 2001* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

## APPARENT RETENTION RATES

In 2001, the apparent retention rate of ACT full-time students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 was the highest of all states and territories (89.3%). This was an increase of 2 percentage points from the previous year. Prior to this increase, the figure declined from 95.6% in 1991 to 91.3% in 1996 and 87.1% in 2000. Nationally, the apparent retention rate from Year 7/8 to Year 12 in 2001 was 73.4%. For all states and territories, the apparent retention rate was higher for females than for males. Within the ACT, the rate was 91.2% for females and 87.5% for males in 2001, compared with national rates of 79.1% and 68.1% respectively.

ACT apparent retention rates from Year 10 to Year 12 for 2001 were 93.3%, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2000. Rates were again higher for females (95.4%) than for males (91.2%). Nationally, the figures were 75.4% for all students, 80.1% for females and 70.8% for males.

APPARENT RETENTION RATES YEAR 7/8 TO YEAR 12—2001



Source: *Schools, Australia, 2001* (Cat. no. 4221.0).

## AGE PARTICIPATION RATES

School participation rates in ACT in 2001 were over 100% for 15 and 16 year olds (107% and 101% respectively), and considerably higher than the national rates for 17 and 18 year olds (93% for ACT 17 year olds, compared with 62% nationally and 28% for ACT 18 year olds compared with 13% nationally). This rate is expressed as a proportion of the estimated resident population, and indicates that a number of ACT students reside outside the Australian Capital Territory.



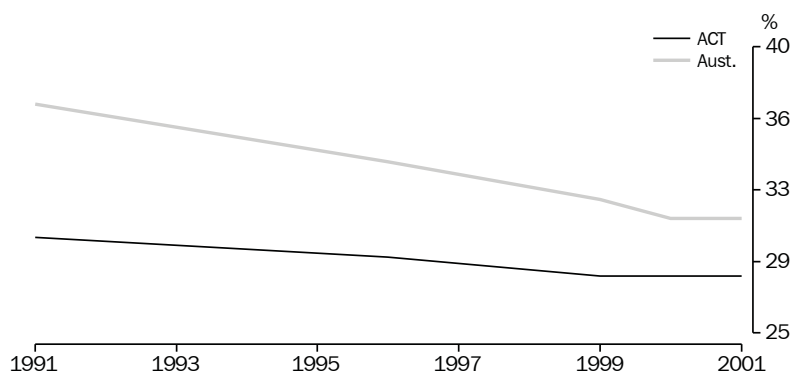
## STAFF

There were 4,448 full-time and part-time teaching staff at ACT schools in 2001, representing 4,109 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers. This was a 3% increase in FTE teachers from 2000, compared with a national increase of 2% for the same period.

The number of FTE staff in ACT secondary schools increased by 3% from 2000, and by 4% in the five years since 1996. Nationally, the increase was 1% from 2000 and 8% from 1996. The number of primary FTE teachers also increased between 2000 and 2001 (3% for ACT and 2% for Australia) and 1996 and 2001 (10% for both ACT and Australia). The highest percentage increases in FTE staff for the five years since 1996 were recorded in Queensland (18% for primary schools and 15% for secondary schools).

The proportion of male teaching staff has declined steadily since 1991 for all states and territories. At 26%, the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of male teaching staff in 2001, followed by the ACT at 28%. South Australia was highest at 34%. For FTE teaching staff, the proportion of males in 2001 was lower in primary schools (17% for ACT and 21% for Australia) than in secondary schools (39% for ACT and 45% for Australia).

PROPORTION OF MALE TEACHING STAFF



Source: Schools, Australia, 2001 (Cat. no. 4221.0).

The average number of students per FTE teacher in government primary schools was 17 for both ACT and Australia in 2001. This figure decreased in the ten years since 1991, a decline of two students per FTE teacher in ACT, and one student per FTE teacher for Australia. In government secondary schools, the ratio was 12 students per FTE teacher for both ACT and Australia in 2001.

For non-government schools, ACT had the highest average number of students per FTE teacher of all states and territories in 2001, at 20 students per FTE teacher in primary schools and 13 in secondary schools. Nationally, non-government schools had an average 18 students per FTE teacher in primary schools and 12 students in secondary schools.

| Indicator  | Unit | ACT           |                 |                           | Aust.         |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
|--|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|--|
|  |      | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year |               |  |               |  |
|  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           | % change from |  | % change from |  |
|  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| POPULATION, VITALS AND LABOUR                                  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| POPULATION, Sep qtr 01   | '000 | 314.2         | —               | 0.8                       | 19 442.3      | 0.3             | 1.2                       |               |  |               |  |
| Natural increase   | no.  | 552           | −12.5           | −21.0                     | 26 594        | −16.5           | −4.3                      |               |  |               |  |
| Net migration  | no.  | −535          | −586.4          | 120.0                     | 29 057        | 41.0            | −15.3                     |               |  |               |  |
| Total growth   | no.  | 17            | −97.7           | −97.6                     | 55 651        | 6.1             | −10.4                     |               |  |               |  |
| LABOUR FORCE   |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Original series, Mar 02  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Employed   | '000 | 167.4         | 0.4             | −0.9                      | 9 267.6       | 0.4             | 1.9                       |               |  |               |  |
| Unemployed   | '000 | 8.1           | −9.0            | −8.0                      | 661.9         | −8.9            | −2.0                      |               |  |               |  |
| Unemployment rate  | %    | 4.6           | −0.5            | −0.3                      | 6.7           | −0.6            | −0.2                      |               |  |               |  |
| Participation rate   | %    | 71.2          | −0.1            | −1.8                      | 63.8          | −0.2            | 0.2                       |               |  |               |  |
| Long-term unemployed, Feb 02                                   | no.  | 1 738         | 51.3            | −33.4                     | 176 915       | 8.9             | −0.2                      |               |  |               |  |
| Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed, Feb 02 | %    | 19.5          | 6.4             | −6.1                      | 24.4          | 2.1             | 0.7                       |               |  |               |  |
| Trend series, Mar 02   |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Employed   | '000 | 167.7         | −0.1            | −0.1                      | 9 293.3       | 0.2             | 1.8                       |               |  |               |  |
| Unemployed   | '000 | 7.5           | —               | −14.8                     | 648.0         | −1.3            | 0.1                       |               |  |               |  |
| Unemployment rate  | %    | 4.3           | —               | −0.7                      | 6.5           | −0.1            | −0.1                      |               |  |               |  |
| Participation rate   | %    | 71.1          | −0.1            | −1.4                      | 63.9          | —               | 0.2                       |               |  |               |  |
| WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Number employed, trend series, Nov qtr 01                      |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Private sector   | '000 | 90.2          | 0.9             | 4.9                       | 6 120.6       | 0.7             | 3.5                       |               |  |               |  |
| Public sector  | '000 | 70.7          | 0.7             | 1.9                       | 1 506.5       | 0.6             | 3.8                       |               |  |               |  |
| Total  | '000 | 160.9         | 0.8             | 3.5                       | 7 627.1       | 0.6             | 3.6                       |               |  |               |  |
| Gross earnings, original series, Dec qtr 01                    |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Private sector   | \$m  | 741.7         | −1.3            | 12.7                      | 55 609.4      | 4.0             | 6.5                       |               |  |               |  |
| Public sector  | \$m  | 901.5         | −10.0           | 7.0                       | 16 655.9      | −1.7            | 4.6                       |               |  |               |  |
| Total  | \$m  | 1 643.2       | −6.3            | 9.5                       | 72 265.2      | 2.6             | 6.0                       |               |  |               |  |
| JOB VACANCIES, Feb qtr 02                                      | '000 | 3.9           | 39.3            | 25.8                      | 87.9          | 5.3             | −8.0                      |               |  |               |  |
| INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Dec 01                        |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Working days lost  | '000 | —             | —               | −100.0                    | 10.5          | −71.8           | −12.5                     |               |  |               |  |
| Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Dec 01)               | no.  | 3.0           | −40.0           | −66.7                     | 50.0          | —               | −18.0                     |               |  |               |  |
| HOUSING AND BUILDING ACTIVITY                                  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| HOUSING FINANCE, Jan 02  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Secured commitments to individuals for                         |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Original series  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Construction of dwellings                                      | \$m  | 6.0           | −25.0           | 20.0                      | 985.0         | −2.3            | 115.5                     |               |  |               |  |
| Purchase of new dwellings                                      | \$m  | 6.0           | −25.0           | 20.0                      | 246.0         | −16.3           | 9.8                       |               |  |               |  |
| Purchase of established dwellings(a)                           | \$m  | 79.0          | −11.2           | 12.9                      | 6 090.0       | −3.5            | 31.8                      |               |  |               |  |
| Refinancing  | \$m  | 12.0          | −20.0           | 9.1                       | 1 275.0       | −6.3            | 21.3                      |               |  |               |  |
| Total housing commitments                                      | \$m  | 90.0          | −14.3           | 12.5                      | 7 322.0       | −3.8            | 38.1                      |               |  |               |  |
| Seasonally adjusted series                                     |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Total housing commitments                                      | \$m  | 99.0          | −11.6           | 12.5                      | 8 471.0       | 4.1             | 39.1                      |               |  |               |  |
| Trend series   |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Total housing commitments                                      | \$m  | 106.0         | −2.8            | 14.0                      | 8 249.0       | 0.8             | 36.8                      |               |  |               |  |
| Dwelling units financed  | no.  | 683           | −3.1            | −6.7                      | 53 741        | 0.5             | 18.4                      |               |  |               |  |
| PRICE INDEX  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Established house price index, Dec qtr 01                      | no.  | 171.3         | 6.3             | 17.0                      | 174.0         | 3.8             | 15.5                      |               |  |               |  |
| BUILDING APPROVALS, Feb 02                                     |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Original series  |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Dwelling units   | no.  | 97            | 22.8            | −21.1                     | 13 148        | 7.7             | 46.9                      |               |  |               |  |
| Value of new residential                                       | \$m  | 15.9          | 12.8            | −14.5                     | 1 903.4       | 10.3            | 53.6                      |               |  |               |  |
| Value of residential alterations and additions(b)              | \$m  | 5.8           | 75.8            | −13.4                     | 305.0         | 12.5            | −63.1                     |               |  |               |  |
| Value of non-residential                                       | \$m  | 10.6          | 135.6           | −14.5                     | 1 361.8       | 44.0            | 52.9                      |               |  |               |  |
| Value of total building  | \$m  | 32.3          | 47.5            | −14.6                     | 3 570.3       | 21.3            | 50.0                      |               |  |               |  |
| Trend series   |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |               |  |               |  |
| Dwelling units   | no.  | 149           | −20.7           | 28.4                      | 12 943        | −3.3            | 37.7                      |               |  |               |  |

(a) Includes refinancing.

(b) Includes conversion jobs.

| Indicator                                   | Unit | ACT           |                 |                           | Aust.         |                 |                           |
|---|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|   |      | Latest figure | Previous period | % change from             | Latest figure | Previous period | % change from             |
|   |      |               |                 | Same period previous year |               |                 | Same period previous year |
| HOUSING AND BUILDING ACTIVITY continued     |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 01          |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| New houses                                  | no.  | 285           | 19.2            | 21.3                      | 27 582        | 34.9            | 45.8                      |
| Value of houses commenced                   | \$m  | 43.4          | 11.9            | 19.9                      | 4 043.4       | 34.5            | 51.3                      |
| Value of non-residential building commenced | \$m  | 72.3          | 55.2            | 156.2                     | 2 844.7       | -16.6           | -4.7                      |
| Value of total commencements                | \$m  | 172.0         | 48.8            | 90.8                      | 10 089.3      | 16.4            | 29.9                      |
| ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION, Sep qtr 01        |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Private sector                              |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Value of work commenced                     | \$m  | 41.7          | 45.8            | 68.1                      | 4 471.9       | 94.2            | 78.2                      |
| Value of work done                          | \$m  | 28.4          | -25.8           | -16.7                     | 2 791.9       | 0.0             | -1.5                      |
| Value of work yet to be done                | \$m  | 36.0          | 166.7           | -18.6                     | 6 118.5       | 42.5            | 19.5                      |
| Public sector                               |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Value of work done                          | \$m  | 12.2          | -33.0           | -45.0                     | 1 627.6       | -30.0           | -3.8                      |
| PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING         |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 01(a)         |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Food  | no.  | 147.7         | 4.3             | 8.7                       | 143.4         | 2.6             | 7.5                       |
| Housing(b)                                  | no.  | 112.0         | 1.2             | 4.6                       | 110.7         | 0.6             | 2.8                       |
| Transportation(b)                           | no.  | 136.4         | -1.3            | -2.1                      | 136.1         | -0.7            | -0.2                      |
| All groups                                  | no.  | 134.9         | 1.3             | 2.9                       | 135.4         | 0.9             | 3.1                       |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Aug 01             |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Full-time adult ordinary time earnings      |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series                             |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Males                                       | \$   | 1 021.8       | 1.5             | 10.8                      | 888.3         | 1.7             | 4.7                       |
| Females                                     | \$   | 866.8         | 1.1             | 4.2                       | 751.1         | 1.9             | 5.7                       |
| Persons                                     | \$   | 954.7         | 1.7             | 4.1                       | 838.5         | 1.7             | 5.1                       |
| Trend series                                |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Males                                       | \$   | 1 016.8       | 0.1             | 2.0                       | 886.7         | 1.6             | 5.0                       |
| Females                                     | \$   | 869.6         | 1.1             | 3.9                       | 750.6         | 1.6             | 5.8                       |
| Persons                                     | \$   | 951.0         | 0.9             | 3.1                       | 837.6         | 1.6             | 5.4                       |
| WAGE COST INDEX, Sep qtr 01(c)              |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Public sector                               | no.  | 112.0         | 1.5             | 3.5                       | 114.4         | 1.0             | 3.7                       |
| Private sector                              | no.  | 113.6         | 1.3             | 3.2                       | 113.4         | 1.2             | 3.6                       |
| Total                                       | no.  | 112.6         | 1.4             | 3.4                       | 113.6         | 1.1             | 3.6                       |
| RETAIL TURNOVER, Feb 02                     |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Trend series                                |      |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Food retailing                              | \$m  | 115.1         | 0.2             | 16.7                      | 5 651.5       | 0.6             | 8.1                       |
| Department stores                           | \$m  | 27.7          | 1.1             | 4.5                       | 1 166.1       | 0.7             | 4.6                       |
| Hospitality and services                    | \$m  | 51.7          | 1.2             | 10.5                      | 2 395.5       | -0.1            | 3.2                       |
| All other retailing                         | \$m  | 104.3         | 1.2             | 5.9                       | 4 892.8       | 0.9             | 9.9                       |
| Total                                       | \$m  | 298.8         | 0.8             | 10.5                      | 14 105.9      | 0.6             | 7.5                       |

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

(b) The 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index was introduced September quarter 2000. Some changes include an updated commodity classification and weighting pattern and changes in composition of some groups. For more details of changes, refer to *Information Paper: Introduction of the 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6456.0) released 29 September 2000.

(c) Base of each index is September quarter 1997 = 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>TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 01</b>                              |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series   |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Room nights occupied  | '000   | 278.1         | -5.2            | 2.3                       | 10 495.8      | -1.2            | -0.4                      |
| Room occupancy rate   | %      | 57.4          | -5.0            | -1.6                      | 57.6          | -1.1            | -1.2                      |
| Guest nights  | '000   | 477.7         | -6.9            | 4.0                       | 19 110.6      | -0.4            | 1.8                       |
| Guest arrivals  | '000   | 197.2         | -15.3           | 1.3                       | 8 443.8       | 0.2             | 2.9                       |
| Takings from accommodation  | \$'000 | 29 785.0      | -7.1            | -1.1                      | 1 209 554.0   | -1.4            | -4.5                      |
| <b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, Feb 02</b>                                |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series   | no.    | 1 129         | 10.0            | 3.6                       | 64 795        | 10.7            | 10.6                      |
| Seasonally adjusted series  | no.    | 1 241         | -1.1            | 3.6                       | 69 873        | -6.0            | 10.9                      |
| Trend series  | no.    | 1 221         | 0.8             | 1.2                       | 71 077        | 1.6             | 9.6                       |
| <b>STATE ACCOUNTS, Dec qtr 01</b>                                     |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Trend series (chain volume measure)(a)                                |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| General government final consumption expenditure                      | \$m    | 2 658         | 1.1             | 2.0                       | 30 471        | 0.2             | 1.0                       |
| Household final consumption expenditure                               | \$m    | 1 917         | 1.3             | 4.2                       | 98 811        | 0.9             | 3.6                       |
| Private gross fixed capital formation                                 | \$m    | 415           | 6.4             | 18.9                      | 29 434        | 3.7             | 7.0                       |
| Public gross fixed capital formation                                  | \$m    | 187           | -7.0            | -3.6                      | 7 324         | 4.1             | 11.0                      |
| State final demand  | \$m    | 5 176         | 1.2             | 3.8                       | 166 191       | 1.5             | 4.1                       |
| <b>GROSS STATE PRODUCT (trend, chain volume measures), 2000-01(b)</b> |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
|   | \$m    | 13 087        | 3.4             | ..                        | 641 370       | 1.9             | ..                        |
| <b>PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Dec qtr 01</b>                    |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Original series (at current prices)                                   |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Buildings and structures  | \$m    | 52            | -10.3           | 8.3                       | 2 763         | 18.1            | 0.4                       |
| Equipment, plant and machinery  | \$m    | 79            | 46.3            | 3.9                       | 8 208         | 16.6            | 6.3                       |
| Total   | \$m    | 131           | 17.0            | 5.6                       | 10 970        | 16.9            | 4.8                       |
| Trend series (at current prices)                                      |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Buildings and structures  | \$m    | 54            | -6.9            | 20.0                      | 2 493         | 0.6             | 5.3                       |
| Equipment, plant and machinery  | \$m    | 63            | -7.4            | -18.2                     | 7 626         | 3.4             | 2.2                       |
| Total   | \$m    | 117           | -7.1            | -4.1                      | 10 119        | 2.7             | 3.0                       |
| <b>BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS, TRADING PERFORMANCE, OPERATING INCOME</b>   |        |               |                 |                           |               |                 |                           |
| Short term, expected change previous quarter, Mar qtr 02              | %      | 2.7           | ..              | ..                        | 1.3           | ..              | ..                        |
| Medium term, expected change previous year, Dec qtr 02                | %      | 1.9           | ..              | ..                        | 2.0           | ..              | ..                        |

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1999-00.

(b) Reference year for chain volume measure is 1998-99.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0); National Income, Expenditure and Product, Australian National Accounts (Cat. no. 5206); Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (Cat. no. 6302.0); Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0); Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0); Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0); Housing Finance, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0); House Price Indexes (Cat. no. 6416.0); Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0); Job Vacancies, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0); Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0); New Motor Vehicle Sales, Australia (Cat. no. 9314.0.55.001); Private New Capital Expenditure, State Estimates (Cat. no. 5646.0); Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0); Tourist Accommodation, Australia (Cat. no. 8635.0); Wage Cost Index, Australia (Cat. no. 6345.0).

| Indicator   | Unit  | Latest period | NSW     | Vic.    | Qld     | SA      | WA      | Tas.   | NT    | ACT    | Aust.    |
|---|-------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| <b>POPULATION</b>   | '000  | Sep qtr 01    | 6 549.7 | 4 844.2 | 3 642.4 | 1 503.7 | 1 916.7 | 470.1  | 198.0 | 314.2  | 19 442.3 |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE, trend series</b>                           |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Employed persons  | '000  | Mar 02        | 3 086.0 | 2 341.2 | 1 742.5 | 688.4   | 952.4   | 198.1  | 100.0 | 167.7  | 9 293.3  |
| Unemployment rate   | %     | Mar 02        | 6.0     | 6.2     | 7.8     | 6.9     | 6.1     | 8.4    | 6.8   | 4.3    | 6.5      |
| <b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, trend series</b>                |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Private sector  | '000  | Nov qtr 01    | 2 009.0 | 1 652.7 | 1 106.2 | 438.0   | 648.2   | 122.5  | 53.8  | 90.2   | 6 120.6  |
| Public sector   | '000  | Nov qtr 01    | 474.7   | 328.5   | 301.9   | 113.8   | 150.5   | 42.3   | 23.9  | 70.7   | 1 506.5  |
| Total   | '000  | Nov qtr 01    | 2 483.7 | 1 981.2 | 1 408.1 | 551.8   | 798.7   | 164.8  | 77.7  | 160.9  | 7 627.1  |
| <b>STATE ACCOUNTS</b>                                       |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Gross state product (chain volume measures)(a)              | \$m   | 2000-01       | 231 327 | 164 365 | 103 814 | 41 617  | 68 089  | 11 269 | 7 784 | 13 087 | 641 370  |
| <b>PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>                      |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Total (at current prices), trend series                     | \$m   | Dec qtr 01    | 3 072   | 2 529   | 1 700   | 675     | 1 404   | 175    | 410   | 117    | 10 119   |
| <b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>                                   |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Dwelling units approved, original series                    | no.   | Feb 02        | 3 294   | 3 820   | 3 186   | 971     | 1 554   | 151    | 75    | 97     | 13 148   |
| Dwelling units approved, trend series                       | no.   | Feb 02        | 3 731   | 3 618   | 2 939   | 1 009   | 1 660   | 192    | 66    | 149    | 12 943   |
| Value of non-residential building approved, original series | \$m   | Feb 02        | 453.0   | 527.5   | 196.7   | 59.6    | 52.0    | 9.6    | 52.7  | 10.6   | 1 361.8  |
| Value of all buildings approved, original series            | \$m   | Feb 02        | 1 047.2 | 1 251.1 | 685.1   | 182.2   | 276.1   | 29.6   | 66.8  | 32.3   | 3 570.3  |
| <b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION, original series</b>            |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Value of engineering construction work done                 | \$m   | Sep qtr 01    | 1 325.9 | 699.8   | 1 144.3 | 296.6   | 801.2   | 41.4   | 69.6  | 40.6   | 4 419.5  |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, trend series</b>                |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Full-time adult ordinary time earnings                      | \$    | Aug 01        | 844.8   | 790.0   | 762.4   | 772.8   | 828.7   | 738.1  | 811.9 | 951.0  | 837.6    |
| <b>RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER, trend series</b>                  | \$m   | Feb 02        | 4 798.9 | 3 428.8 | 2 603.7 | 1 076.6 | 1 442.7 | 301.7  | 147.5 | 298.8  | 14 105.9 |
| <b>TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, original series</b>               |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Room nights occupied  | '000  | Dec qtr 01    | 3 410.6 | 1 757.3 | 2 945.6 | 554.8   | 967.5   | 272.6  | 309.4 | 278.1  | 10 495.8 |
| Room occupancy rate   | %     | Dec qtr 01    | 56.8    | 58.7    | 60.0    | 57.2    | 55.0    | 53.3   | 53.4  | 57.4   | 57.6     |
| <b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, trend series</b>                | no.   | Feb 02        | 24 385  | 19 257  | 12 938  | 4 596   | 6 636   | 1 377  | 667   | 1 221  | 71 077   |
|   | Unit  | Latest period | Syd.    | Melb.   | Bris.   | Adel.   | Perth   | Hob.   | Dar.  | Canb.  | Aust.    |
| <b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(b)</b>                              |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Food  | no.   | Dec qtr 01    | 144.0   | 143.1   | 144.1   | 143.8   | 142.7   | 138.2  | 139.2 | 147.7  | 143.4    |
| Housing   | no.   | Dec qtr 01    | 118.9   | 102.1   | 114.1   | 107.9   | 103.1   | 107.8  | 123.1 | 112.0  | 110.7    |
| Transportation  | no.   | Dec qtr 01    | 137.5   | 135.8   | 136.2   | 134.4   | 135.2   | 130.4  | 131.5 | 136.4  | 136.1    |
| All Groups  | no.   | Dec qtr 01    | 136.6   | 134.8   | 135.8   | 136.6   | 132.6   | 133.9  | 133.5 | 134.9  | 135.4    |
| <b>AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES</b>                                |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Milk, supermarket sales (1 litre)                           | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 144     | 152     | 151     | 149     | 157     | 136    | 165   | 135    | ..       |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales (650g)(c)      | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 256     | 270     | 251     | 241     | 250     | 271    | 263   | 256    | ..       |
| Beef, rump steak (1kg)                                      | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 1 568   | 1 428   | 1 408   | 1 501   | 1 570   | 1 331  | 1 432 | 1 600  | ..       |
| Chicken, frozen (1kg)                                       | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 402     | 368     | 329     | 343     | 403     | 399    | 378   | 376    | ..       |
| Potatoes (1kg)  | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 137     | 182     | 175     | 116     | 160     | 105    | 181   | 143    | ..       |
| Coffee, instant (150g jar)                                  | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 643     | 638     | 599     | 581     | 668     | 651    | 635   | 649    | ..       |
| Scotch nip, public bar (30ml)                               | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 394     | 371     | 326     | 424     | 433     | 316    | 380   | 327    | ..       |
| Private motoring petrol (1 litre)                           |       |               |         |         |         |         |         |        |       |        |          |
| Super grade(d)  | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 85.6    | 84.7    | 79.0    | 85.6    | 85.8    | 88.9   | 93.6  | 88.3   | ..       |
| Unleaded  | cents | Dec qtr 01    | 82.4    | 81.6    | 75.8    | 82.5    | 82.5    | 85.8   | 90.3  | 85.2   | ..       |

(a) Experimental series. Users are cautioned these estimates are derived indirectly by calculating a deflator from the expenditure components of the state series concerned. Therefore, in general, the sum of the state estimates does not equal the estimates for Australia. Reference year for chain volume measures is 1998-99.

(b) Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0. The 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index was introduced September quarter 2000. Some changes include an updated commodity classification and weighting pattern and changes in composition of some groups. For more details of changes, refer to *Information Paper: Introduction of the 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6456.0) released 29 September 2000.

(c) 680g in Hobart and Darwin.

(d) Includes lead replacement petrol where applicable.

| Indicator   | Latest period | NSW   | Vic.  | Qld   | SA    | WA    | Tas.  | NT    | ACT   | Aust. |
|---|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>POPULATION</b>   | Sep qtr 01    | 0.3   | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.1   | 0.4   | —     | 0.2   | —     | 0.3   |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE, trend series</b>                           |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Employed persons  | Mar 02        | 0.3   | 0.2   | 0.4   | 0.2   | 0.2   | -0.3  | 0.8   | -0.1  | 0.2   |
| Unemployment rate   | Mar 02        | -0.1  | -0.1  | -0.1  | —     | —     | -0.1  | -0.3  | —     | -0.1  |
| <b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, trend series</b>                |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Private sector  | Nov qtr 01    | 0.7   | -0.5  | 2.1   | -0.4  | 2.3   | -1.1  | -0.7  | 0.9   | 0.7   |
| Pubic sector  | Nov qtr 01    | 1.1   | 1.7   | 0.6   | -1.0  | -1.5  | -0.7  | -1.2  | 0.7   | 0.6   |
| Total   | Nov qtr 01    | 0.8   | -0.2  | 1.7   | -0.5  | 1.5   | -1.0  | -0.9  | 0.8   | 0.6   |
| <b>STATE ACCOUNTS</b>                                       |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Gross state product (chain volume measures)(a)              | 2000-01       | 2.7   | 2.4   | 2.0   | 0.7   | -1.2  | -0.5  | 4.5   | 3.4   | 1.9   |
| <b>PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>                      |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Total (at current prices), trend series                     | Dec qtr 01    | -1.9  | 1.4   | 8.2   | 9.8   | -0.6  | 12.2  | 21.7  | -7.1  | 2.7   |
| <b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>                                   |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Dwelling units approved, original series                    | Feb 02        | -8.9  | 12.2  | 29.5  | 27.1  | 1.4   | -46.8 | 8.7   | 22.8  | 7.7   |
| Dwelling units approved, trend series                       | Feb 02        | -6.2  | -3.8  | 2.2   | 0.7   | -1.1  | 2.1   | 3.1   | -20.7 | -3.3  |
| Value of non-residential building approved, original series | Feb 02        | 34.5  | 101.7 | 16.9  | -18.4 | -41.0 | 26.3  | 824.6 | 135.6 | 44.0  |
| Value of all buildings approved, original series            | Feb 02        | 7.7   | 40.0  | 31.7  | 5.4   | -8.6  | -28.5 | 267.0 | 47.5  | 21.3  |
| <b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION, original series</b>            |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Value of engineering construction work done                 | Sep qtr 01    | -24.1 | -17.7 | -11.5 | -19.2 | 21.4  | -56.7 | 46.2  | -28.1 | -13.6 |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, trend series</b>                |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Full-time adult ordinary time earnings                      | Aug 01        | 0.5   | 0.9   | 1.1   | 1.7   | 1.0   | -0.3  | 0.4   | 0.9   | 1.6   |
| <b>RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER, trend series</b>                  | Feb 02        | 0.3   | 0.7   | 0.5   | 1.1   | 1.0   | 0.6   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 0.6   |
| <b>TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, original series</b>               |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Room nights occupied  | Dec qtr 01    | -0.5  | 6.6   | -6.7  | 6.3   | 1.2   | 42.8  | -26.7 | -5.2  | -1.2  |
| Room occupancy rate   | Dec qtr 01    | -0.2  | 3.2   | -5.2  | 3.7   | 0.4   | 15.0  | -19.9 | -5.0  | -1.1  |
| <b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, trend series</b>                | Feb 02        | 1.1   | 1.3   | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.2   | 1.1   | 0.8   | 1.6   |
|   | Latest period | Syd.  | Melb. | Bris. | Adel. | Perth | Hob.  | Dar.  | Canb. | Aust. |
| <b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(b)</b>                              |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Food  | Dec qtr 01    | 2.9   | 2.1   | 3.1   | 2.3   | 2.6   | 1.8   | 2.2   | 4.3   | 2.6   |
| Housing   | Dec qtr 01    | 0.6   | 0.7   | 0.4   | 1.0   | 0.6   | 0.4   | -0.1  | 1.2   | 0.6   |
| Transportation  | Dec qtr 01    | -1.2  | 0.1   | 0.1   | -1.5  | -1.2  | -0.8  | -0.5  | -1.3  | -0.7  |
| All Groups  | Dec qtr 01    | 0.9   | 0.9   | 1.2   | 1.0   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 1.3   | 0.9   |
| <b>AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES</b>                                |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales                             | Dec qtr 01    | 4.3   | 4.1   | 6.3   | 6.4   | 6.1   | 3.0   | 5.8   | 3.1   | ..    |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales                | Dec qtr 01    | 0.8   | 1.9   | 1.2   | 1.7   | 3.7   | 5.9   | 3.1   | 2.4   | ..    |
| Beef, rump steak  | Dec qtr 01    | 3.9   | -0.8  | 3.8   | 6.6   | 15.5  | 6.7   | 9.1   | 8.7   | ..    |
| Chicken, frozen   | Dec qtr 01    | 9.5   | -2.9  | -4.1  | 1.5   | 11.0  | 6.7   | -1.0  | 5.6   | ..    |
| Potatoes  | Dec qtr 01    | 7.0   | -1.1  | -1.1  | 11.5  | 2.6   | 4.0   | -2.7  | 4.4   | ..    |
| Coffee, instant (jar)                                       | Dec qtr 01    | 7.3   | 12.3  | 6.6   | 2.7   | 5.7   | —     | 16.1  | 8.5   | ..    |
| Scotch nip, public bar                                      | Dec qtr 01    | 0.3   | -0.8  | 0.9   | 1.7   | 1.4   | —     | 0.5   | 0.3   | ..    |
| Private motoring petrol                                     |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Super grade(c)  | Dec qtr 01    | -5.0  | -2.1  | -2.5  | -4.4  | -3.9  | -1.9  | -4.9  | -3.1  | ..    |
| Unleaded  | Dec qtr 01    | -5.2  | -2.3  | -2.8  | -4.5  | -4.2  | -2.3  | -5.1  | -3.2  | ..    |

(a) Experimental series. Users are cautioned these estimates are derived indirectly by calculating a deflator from the expenditure components of the state series concerned. Therefore, in general, the sum of the state estimates does not equal the estimates for Australia. Reference year for chain volume measures is 1998-99.

(b) Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0. The 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index was introduced September quarter 2000. Some changes include an updated commodity classification and weighting pattern and changes in composition of some groups. For more details of changes, refer to *Information Paper: Introduction of the 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6456.0) released 29 September 2000.

(c) Includes lead replacement petrol where applicable.

## INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN ACT BUSINESS INDICATORS

| <i>Issue</i> | <i>Title</i>   | <i>Page reference</i> |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Apr 2002     | Schools in the ACT   | 6                     |
| Mar 2002     | Household use of environmentally friendly products                 | 6                     |
| Feb 2002     | The ACT Manufacturing Industry                                     | 6                     |
| Jan 2002     | ACT Motor Vehicles   | 7                     |
| Dec 2001     | Causes of Death in the ACT   | 6                     |
| Nov 2001     | Work-Related Injuries and Illness in the ACT                       | 6                     |
| Oct 2001     | ACT Government Funding for Cultural Activities                     | 8                     |
| Sep 2001     | Volunteers in the ACT  | 7                     |
| Aug 2001     | Business Use of Information Technology (IT)                        | 7                     |
| Jul 2001     | Motor Vehicle Use in the ACT                                       | 7                     |
| Jun 2001     | Cleaning Services Industry in the ACT                              | 7                     |
| May 2001     | Working Arrangements and Superannuation in the ACT                 | 6                     |
| Apr 2001     | Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons in the ACT             | 7                     |
| Mar 2001     | Population Growth in the ACT                                       | 6                     |
| Feb 2001     | Labour Mobility in the ACT   | 7                     |
| Jan 2001     | Child Care Industry in the ACT                                     | 7                     |
| Dec 2000     | Cafes and Restaurants Industry in the ACT                          | 6                     |
| Dec 2000     | Legal Services Industry in the ACT                                 | 8                     |
| Nov 2000     | Manufacturing Industry in the ACT                                  | 6                     |
| Oct 2000     | Computing Services Industry 1998–99                                | 6                     |
| Sep 2000     | Motor Vehicle Use in the ACT                                       | 6                     |
| Aug 2000     | Household Expenditure on Goods and Services in the ACT             | 6                     |
| Jul 2000     | Small Business in the ACT  | 6                     |
| Jun 2000     | Sports Attendance  | 7                     |
| Jun 2000     | Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues                             | 8                     |
| May 2000     | Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership             | 7                     |
| Apr 2000     | Emergency Services and Public Transport Usage in the ACT           | 8                     |
| Mar 2000     | Forms of Employment  | 6                     |
| Feb 2000     | Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons                        | 6                     |
| Jan 2000     | Transition from Education to Work, May 1999                        | 6                     |
| Dec 1999     | Structure of the ACT Economy                                       | 6                     |
| Dec 1999     | Participation in Sport and Physical Activities                     | 7                     |
| Nov 1999     | Crime and Safety in the ACT  | 6                     |
| Oct 1999     | Labour Force Experience in the ACT                                 | 6                     |
| Sep 1999     | Career Experience in the ACT                                       | 7                     |
| Sep 1999     | Carers in the ACT  | 9                     |
| Aug 1999     | Stock of Human Resources in Science and Technology                 | 6                     |
| Jul 1999     | Persons with a Disability in the ACT                               | 6                     |
| Jun 1999     | Participation in Education in the ACT                              | 6                     |
| May 1999     | Transition from Education to Work of Persons Aged 15–64 in the ACT | 7                     |
| Apr 1999     | Persons Not in the Labour Force in the ACT                         | 6                     |
| Mar 1999     | Education and Labour Force Status of the ACT's Young People        | 6                     |
| Feb 1999     | Income and Living Standards in the ACT                             | 6                     |
| Jan 1999     | Education and Training Experience of ACT Resident                  | 6                     |
| Dec 1998     | Families and Labour Force Status in the ACT                        | 6                     |

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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