



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Mark Parham on Adelaide 08 8237 7645, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES	ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
	July 1998	1 July 1998
	August 1998	31 July 1998
	September	1 September

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION *South Australian Economic Indicators* is a monthly publication which contains the latest available data at the time of preparation for a range of statistical series that have been identified as indicators of economic activity in this State. In a number of cases the figures presented are preliminary and subject to revision in subsequent issues.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE There are no changes in this issue.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES		
	n.a.	not available
	n.y.a.	not yet available
	*	subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
	..	not applicable
	0, 0.0	nil or rounded to zero

ROUNDING Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

INFORMATION More detailed information on each series, including explanatory and technical notes, can be obtained from other Australian Bureau of Statistics publications or alternative data sources. To assist those seeking further information a source publication for each of the series has been documented in the statistical summary.

P. M. Gardner
Regional Director
South Australia

REVIEW

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OVERVIEW

- The value of merchandise exports, where the final stage of production was in South Australia increased 29.4% to \$470.1m in March 1998.
- The value of merchandise imports released from Customs control in South Australia was \$357.6m in March 1998.
- The trend estimate for retail turnover has eased slightly to show 0.7% growth for March 1998.
- The trend for new motor vehicle registrations fell by 1.5% in March 1998.
- The trend for total dwelling units approved has risen 4.3% in March 1998 to be 23.0% higher than the level of a year ago.
- The total value of building approved in March 1998 was \$128.1 million of which \$63.6m was new residential building and \$53.8m non-residential building.
- In February 1998 there were 9,560 short-term overseas visitor arrivals, an increase of 26.1% on the previous month whilst there were 9,111 short-term resident departures representing a fall of 3.6%.
- The trend unemployment rate has generally risen over the past 12 months; up from 9.6% in April 1997 to 9.8% in April 1998.
- The trend estimate of average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult employees increased 1.4% from November 1997 to February 1998.
- In February 1998 a total of 300 working days were lost through industrial disputation.
- The trend estimate for the value of commitments (excluding alterations and additions) decreased 1.5% during March 1998 to \$250.8m, the fourth consecutive monthly decline.

STATE ACCOUNTS

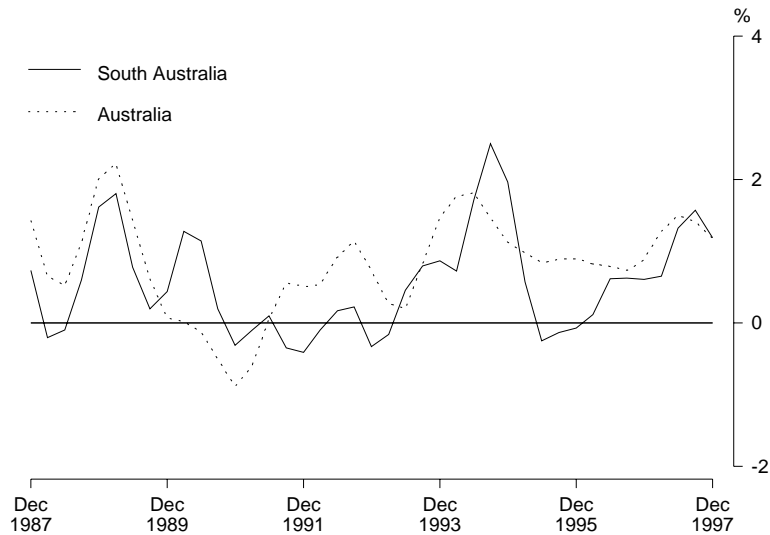
NOTE: The ABS no longer compiles quarterly State Account estimates. However, some of the information previously included in *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (Cat. No. 5242.0) is now provided in a new Standard Data Service entitled *Australian National Accounts: Quarterly State Details* (Cat. No. 5206.0.40.001). This information will be available quarterly, usually within one week of the release of the quarterly Australian National Accounts.

Trend (Constant prices)

State final demand (SFD) increased by 1.2% in the December quarter with the rate of increase down from the peak of 1.6% in the September quarter 1997. The national rate was also 1.2%. Growth through the year to December quarter 1997 was 4.8% compared with the national rate of 5.5%. Contributing to the slowing in the growth of SFD was a decline in the growth rate of private gross fixed capital expenditure from 3.1% in the September quarter to 1.0% in the December quarter, the lowest rate of increase for approximately 2 years.

Private final consumption expenditure rose 1.4% (the national rate was 1.5%). The rate of increase in final consumption expenditure has been fairly constant for the past three quarters. Growth through the year to December quarter was 4.6% compared with the national rate of 5.0%.

State Final Demand: Trend (Constant prices)(a)

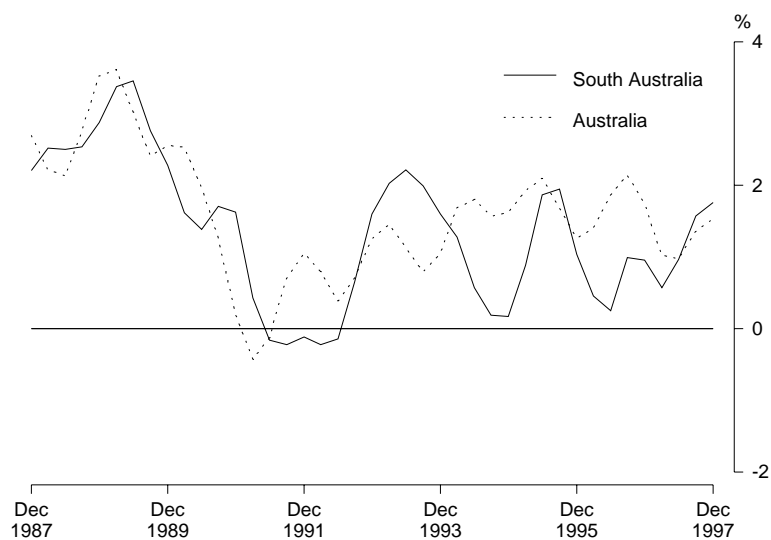


(a) Quarterly changes

Trend (Current prices)

Wages, salaries and supplements grew by 1.8% in the December quarter and has, for the past two quarters, grown at a slightly faster rate than the national rate, reversing a previous trend evident from the December quarter 1995. Growth through the year to the December quarter was 5.0%, the same as the national rate.

Wages, salaries and supplements: Trend (Current prices)(a)



(a) Quarterly changes

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Merchandise exports

The value of merchandise exports, where the final stage of production was in South Australia increased from \$363.3m in February 1998 to \$470.1m in March 1998. This was an increase of 29.4% on the previous month and a fall of 7.3% on the previous year. All major commodity groups experienced an increase in March 1998 compared with February 1998 with the major contributors being road vehicles parts and accessories up \$18.5m to \$37.6m and cereal and cereal preparations up \$16.8m to \$62.2m.

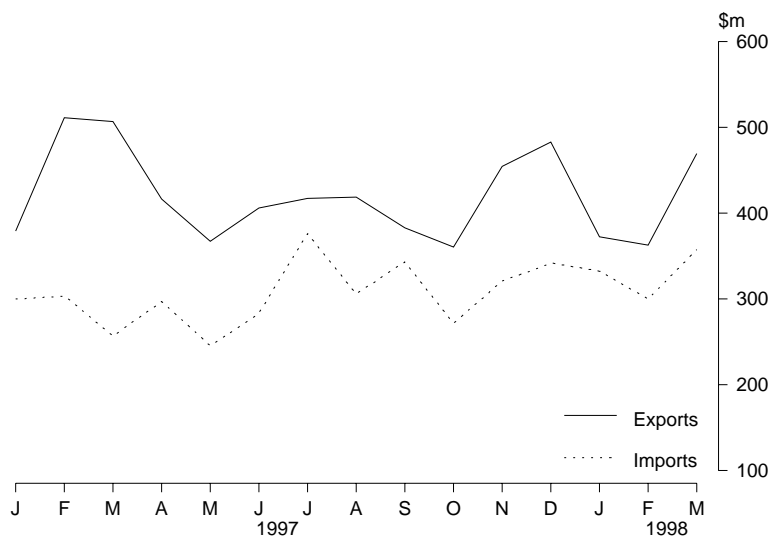
The major destinations of South Australian exports in March 1998 were the United States of America (\$63.7m), Japan (\$46.2m) and China (\$38.4m). Most selected regions showed an increase on the previous month.

Exports from the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry accounted for 23.4% of the March 1998 total whilst the manufacturing sector accounted for 65.3%, with food, beverages and tobacco the biggest contributor with \$113.8m or 24.2% of total exports.

Merchandise imports

The value of merchandise imports released from Customs control in South Australia was \$357.6m in March 1998. This represents a 19.3% increase from February 1998 and a 39.0% increase when compared with the same time last year. The rise in imports was the result of all commodities recording an increase, with the major contributors being machinery \$87.2m, up \$17.3m and road vehicles and accessories \$70.4m, up \$16.8m.

Merchandise exports and imports



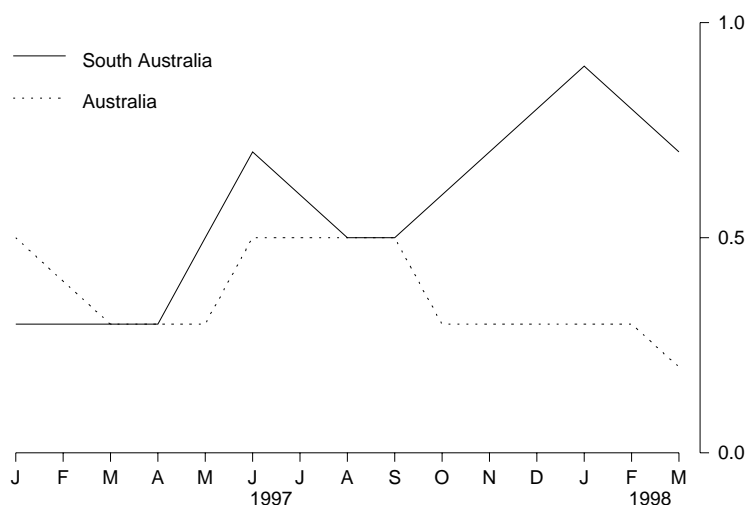
CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT

Retail turnover

The trend estimate for retail turnover has eased slightly to show 0.7% growth for March 1998. All groups with the exception of the household good group have recorded moderate to strong increases over the previous month.

Over the three months to March 1998 the trend estimate for retail turnover has increased \$20.0m, with the main contributors being food retailing (\$12.7m), other retailing (\$3.8m) and department stores (\$2.7m). The hospitality and services and the household good groups partially offset these increases with both falling \$1.1m.

Retail turnover: Trend



In original terms, South Australian retail turnover for March 1998 was \$810.5m, a rise of 9.3% from February 1998 and 6.3% from March 1997. In seasonally adjusted, constant price terms, the estimate of turnover for the March quarter rose 3.5% over the December quarter.

Australian turnover was \$10,773.8m, an 8.3% and 3.1% increase for the corresponding periods above. The South Australian share of the Australian total was 7.5%.

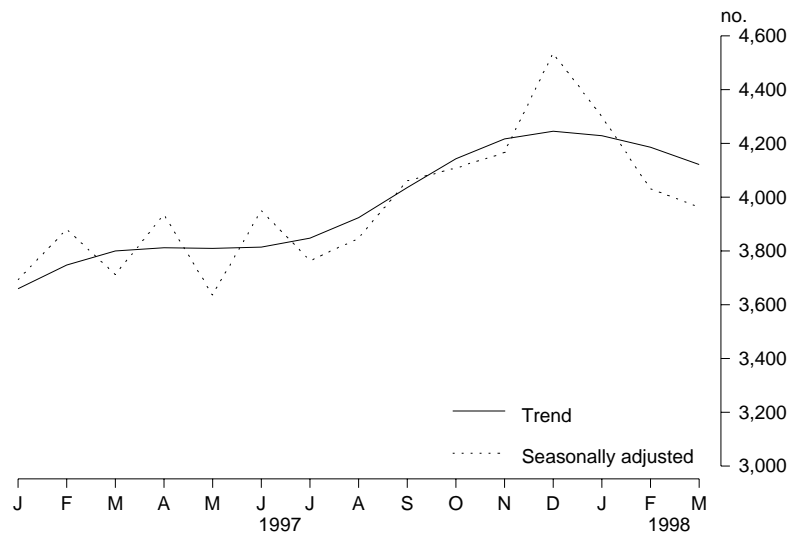
New motor vehicle registrations

The trend for new motor vehicle registrations fell by 1.5% in March 1998. This follows falls of 1.0% and 0.4% in the previous two months after seven months of growth. The annual increase was 8.4%. The Australian figure fell 0.5% in March 1998 compared with last month and increased 11.5% on March 1997.

In original terms new motor vehicle registrations were 4,348 in March 1998, up from 3,980 (9.2%) in February 1998. The leading makers of vehicles registered in South Australia for March 1998 were Holden (850 vehicles), Mitsubishi (607), Ford (538), Toyota (536), Hyundai (222), Nissan (158) and Mazda (101).

Australian total registrations of new motor vehicles (original figures) for March 1998 increased by 13.4% compared with February 1998.

New motor vehicle registrations

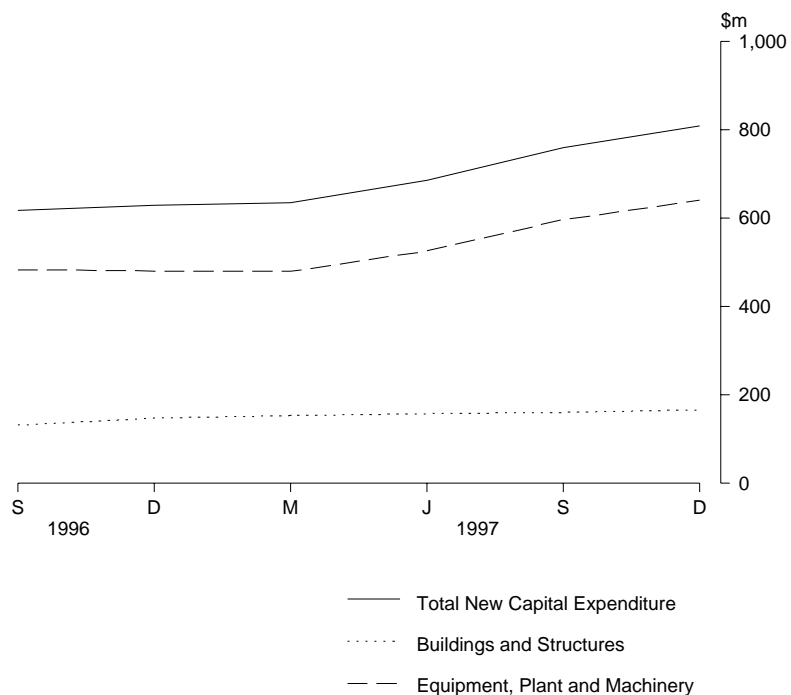


Private new capital expenditure

The trend estimate at current prices for private new capital expenditure for the December quarter 1997 increased 6.6% from the previous quarter to \$810m. Expenditure on both buildings and equipment increased, up 3.7% and 7.4% respectively. Over the same period the Australian total increased 0.7%.

In original terms, private new capital expenditure for the December quarter 1997 was \$927m, an increase of 29.5% on the previous quarter and 34.7% on the December quarter 1996. Equipment, plant and machinery accounted for \$735m and buildings and structures \$192m.

Private new capital expenditure, type of asset: **Trend**



Tourist accommodation

The number of rooms available in hotels, motels and guesthouses in South Australia for December quarter 1997 fell by 54 (0.5%) from December quarter 1996 to 10,897. The room occupancy rate increased to 58.3%, the highest December quarter rate recorded since the commencement of the Survey in 1975. Takings for all accommodation types increased when compared to December quarter 1996, with holiday flats, units and houses having the largest percentage increase, up 24.6%. Average takings per room night occupied rose to \$82 for hotels, motels and guesthouses.

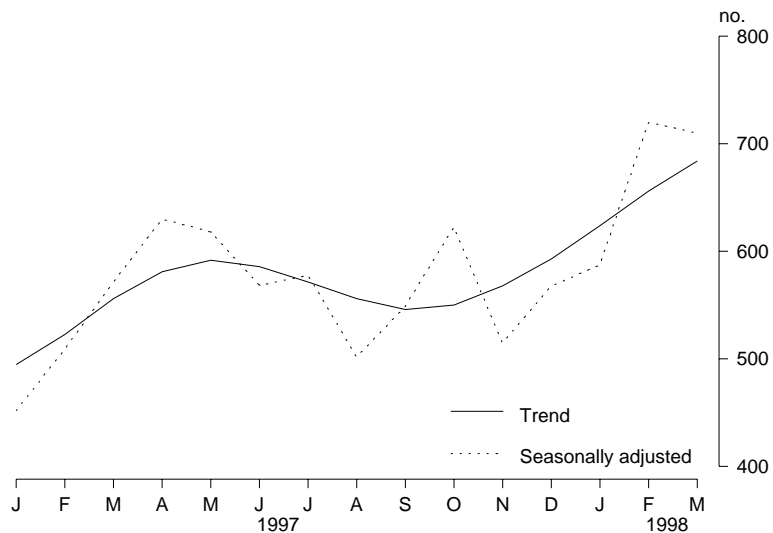
PRODUCTION

Building approvals

The trend for total dwelling units approved has risen 4.3% in March 1998 to be 23.0% higher than the level of a year ago. In original terms, the total number of dwellings approved for March 1998 was 738, up 10.8% from the previous month and 35.9% higher than that of a year earlier. The number (669) of houses approved for March 1998 was the highest since March 1995. The number (48) of public sector houses approved is also the highest since March 1995.

For Australia, the trend for total dwelling units approved increased by 12.7% over the last year although there was a relatively flat period in the first half of 1997. Of all the States and Territories that recorded a growth in total dwelling units trend estimates South Australia recorded the highest with 4.3% in March 1998. In original terms, South Australia accounted for 5.3% of the total dwelling units approved in Australia during March 1998.

Dwelling units approved

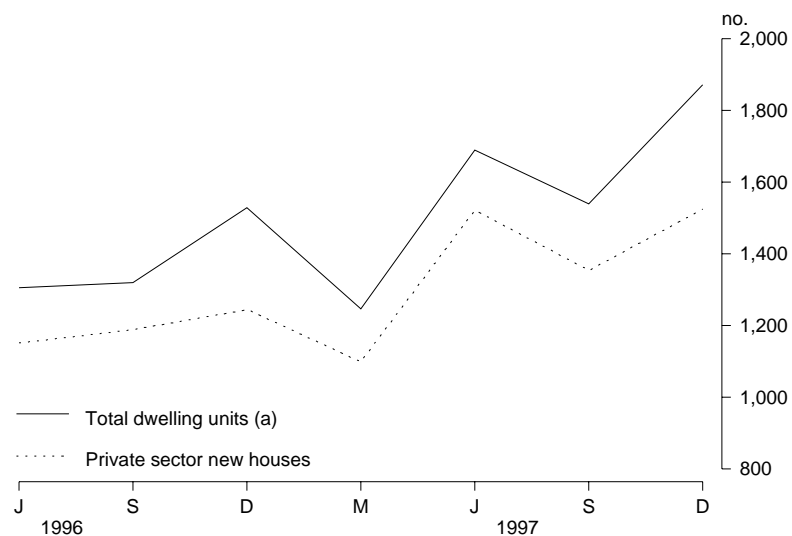


The total value of building approved in March 1998 for South Australia was \$128.1m of which \$63.6m was new residential building and \$53.8m non-residential building. Other business premises and shops categories were the only major contributors (\$28.8m and \$9.7m respectively) to this value for March 1998.

Building activity

For the December quarter 1997, the trend for the total number of dwelling units commenced in South Australia rose by 5.8% and was 24.8% above the level of a year earlier. Corresponding figures for Australia were 4.3% and 16.3%. In original terms, 1,872 dwellings were commenced in the State during the December quarter, an increase of 331 or 21.5% from the previous quarter. The December quarter level represents 4.9% of all dwelling units commenced in Australia, compared with 4.4% for the September quarter 1997.

Dwelling units commenced



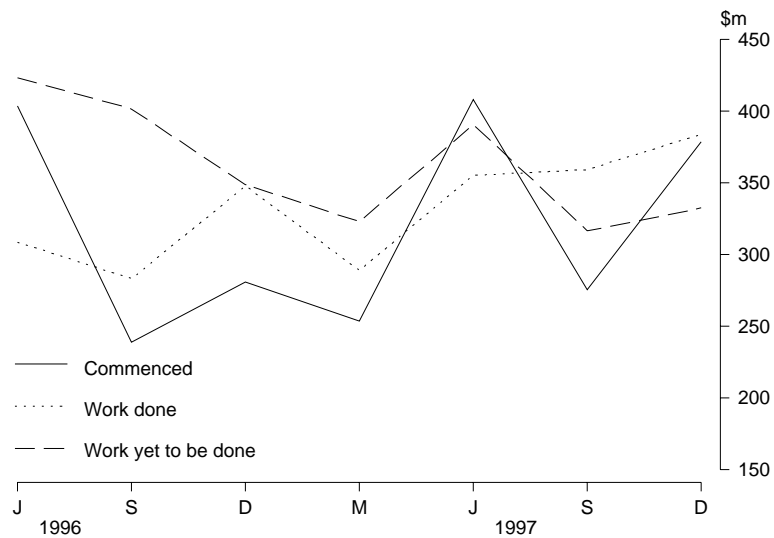
(a) Includes conversions.

The total value of building work commenced in South Australia during the December quarter 1997 rose by 37.3% to \$378.7m. While the value of new residential building increased by 33.7%, non-residential building increased by 49.9%, with the main increases occurring in Shops, Offices and Educational categories.

The total value of building work done during the December quarter 1997 rose by 6.9% to \$384.1m compared with a 5.2% increase nationally. However, compared with the December quarter 1996, South Australia recorded a 10.4% increase in total building work done while the increase nationally was 11.8%.

The total value of building work yet to be done at the end of December 1997 was \$332.7m. Although this was an increase of 5.0% on the figure at the end of September, it remained at an unchanged 2.7% of the corresponding national figure.

Value of building activity



Engineering construction

The value of engineering construction work done for the December quarter 1997 rose by 18.5% to \$299.4m, compared with a national increase of 14.8%. The December quarter level represents 7.2% of the national figure, compared with 7.0% for the September quarter. In South Australia, work commenced during the December quarter fell by 49.4% to \$206.7m, compared with a national fall of 18.8%. As a result, the State's proportion of the national total of commencements fell from 8.4% for the September quarter 1997 to 5.2% for the December quarter.

PRICES

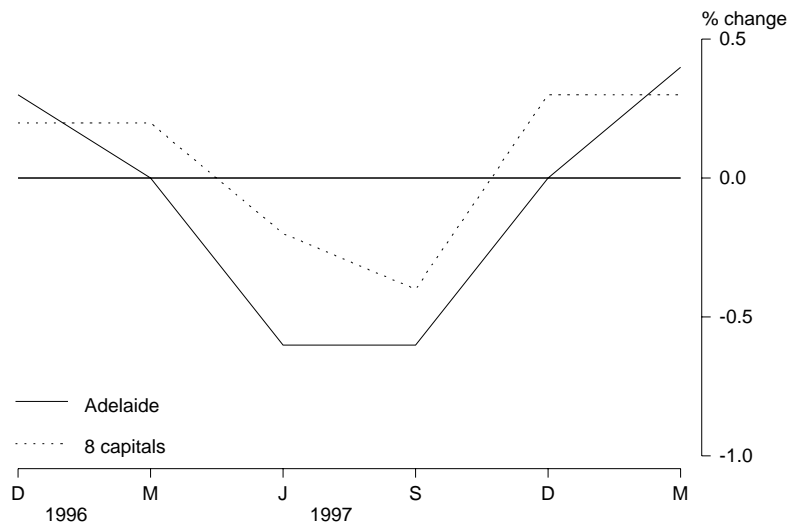
Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (all groups) in Adelaide rose 0.4% between the December quarter 1997 and the March quarter 1998. The groups which contributed most to the overall increase this quarter were health and personal care, recreation and education and food. Partially offsetting these increases were the falls in the transportation and clothing groups.

In annual terms, the index has shown a 0.7% decrease between March 1998 and March 1997.

The Consumer Price Index for the weighted average of eight capital cities rose 0.3% from the previous quarter and fell 0.2% compared with last year.

Consumer price index

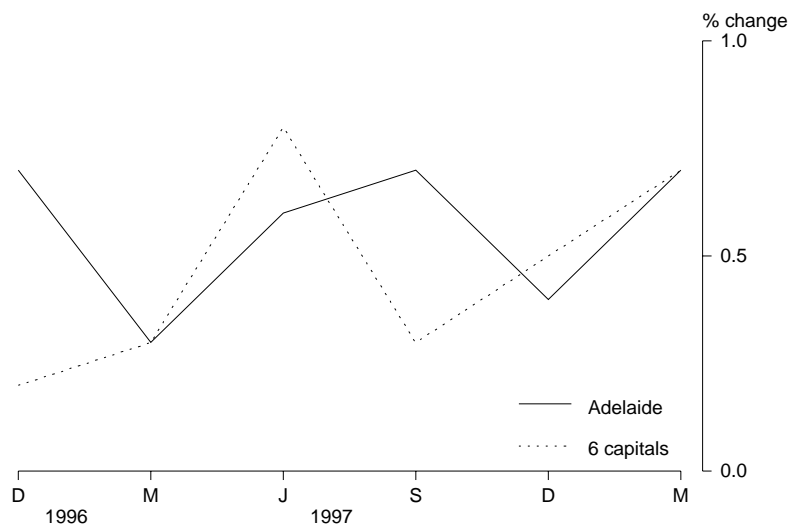


House building materials index

The Price Index of Materials used in House Building rose by 0.7% for the March quarter 1998 in Adelaide. Increases in softwood and aluminium windows were the main contributors to the rise, being off-set with decreases in ready-mixed concrete. The weighted average of the six State capitals recorded a 0.7% increase in the same period.

Adelaide recorded a rise of 2.4% in the Index for the 12 months to March quarter, with the weighted average of the six State capitals recording a 2.2% increase.

Materials used in house building

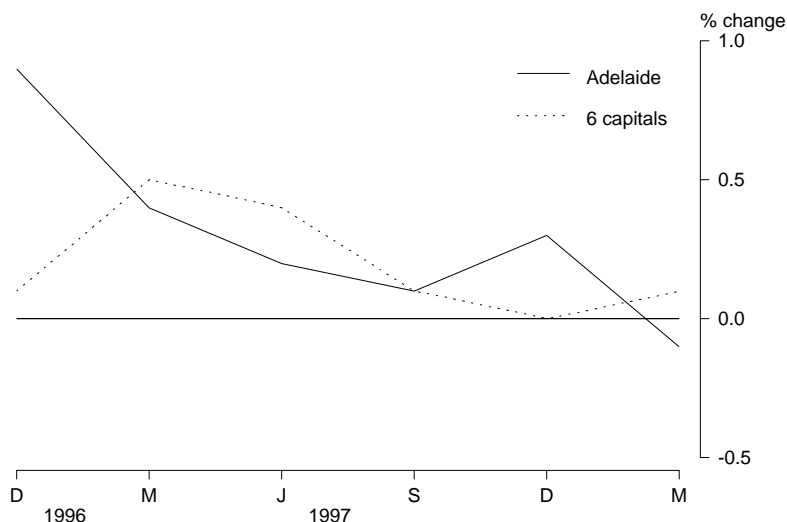


Non-house building materials index

A decrease of 0.1% was recorded in the Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building for the March quarter for Adelaide. Materials to record decreases were ready-mixed concrete, paint and some plumbing items, while structural timber, pre-cast concrete products and aluminium windows recorded increases. For the same period, the weighted average of the six State capitals rose 0.1%.

For the 12 months to the March quarter, Adelaide recorded a rise of 0.4% in the Index, while the weighted average of the six State capitals showed a 0.6% increase in the same period.

Materials used in building other than house building



House prices indexes

During the December quarter 1997 the Price Index of Established Houses in Adelaide rose by 0.9%, while over the year to the December quarter the index increased 3.8%. Over the corresponding periods, the weighted average of the eight capital cities index increased 1.9% and 6.0% respectively.

The Project Home Price Index increased by 0.5% during the December quarter 1997 and 4.8% when compared to the same time the previous year. Nationally, the index rose 0.1% from the September quarter and 0.8% from the December quarter 1996.

Passenger transport cost index

The Passenger Transport Cost Index measures changes in the costs of operating a public transport passenger bus service in Adelaide. Costs covered include labour costs, leasing charges, registration and insurance, repairs and maintenance, fuel and overheads. The index has been compiled on a quarterly basis from September 1995 with a base of 100.0 in 1993-94. The December quarter 1997 index was 108.3, a marginal increase from the September quarter 1997 (108.2). The index showed a 0.5% increase in the 12 months to December 1997.

LABOUR FORCE AND DEMOGRAPHY

Population

At 30 September 1997 the estimated resident population of South Australia was 1,481,599. This was an increase of 1,792 persons from the June quarter and was due to a natural increase of 1,322 persons and a net migration gain of 470 persons.

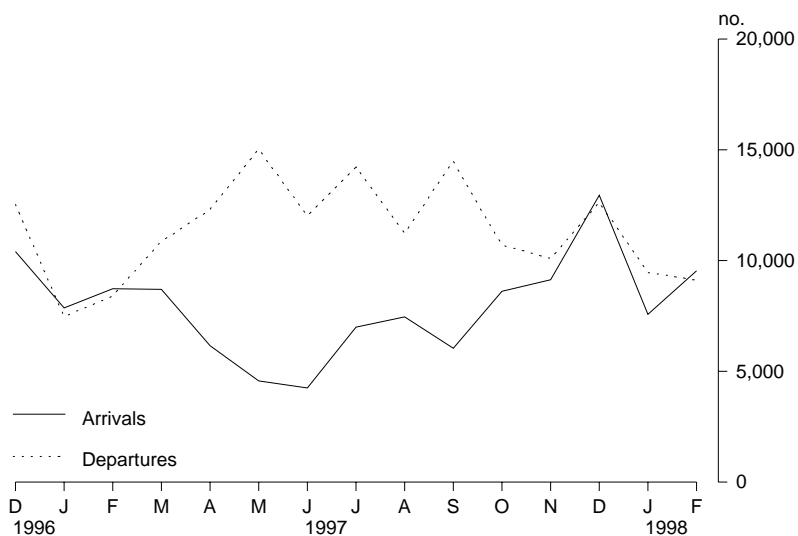
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals

In February 1998 there were 9,560 short-term overseas visitor arrivals to South Australia, an increase of 26.1% on the previous month. A comparison with the same period last year shows that there was a rise of 9.2%. For Australia there was a 2.1% increase on the previous month and a fall of 13.3% on an annual basis. The proportion of short-term visitors to South Australia was 2.7%

Short-term resident departures

There were 9,111 short-term resident departures in February 1998. This represents a fall of 3.6% from last month and a 8.1% increase on last year. The Australian data for the same periods shows a similar pattern falling 5.0% on last month but increasing 9.2% on last year. South Australia accounted for 4.6% of all short term resident departures.

Short-term arrivals and departures



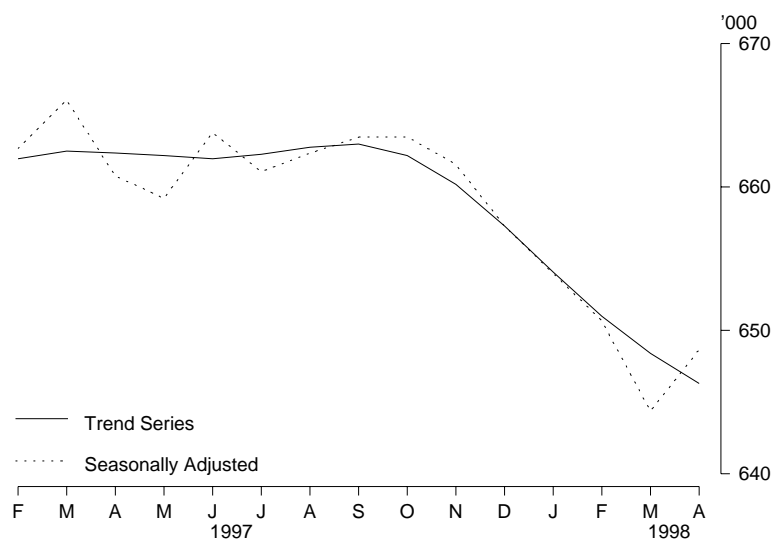
Employment

The trend estimate of employed persons in South Australia was 646,300 in April 1998. This was 2.4% lower than the level of 12 months ago (662,500). However, full-time employment as a proportion of total employment has increased from 71.3% in April 1997 to 72.4% in April 1998.

In original terms, the proportion of under-employed part-time workers (i.e. with a preference to work extra hours) in South Australia has declined slightly; from 29.5% in April 1997 to 28.2% in April 1998.

The trend estimate of the labour force participation rate in South Australia was 60.2% in April 1998, a decrease from 62.0% in April 1997.

Employed persons



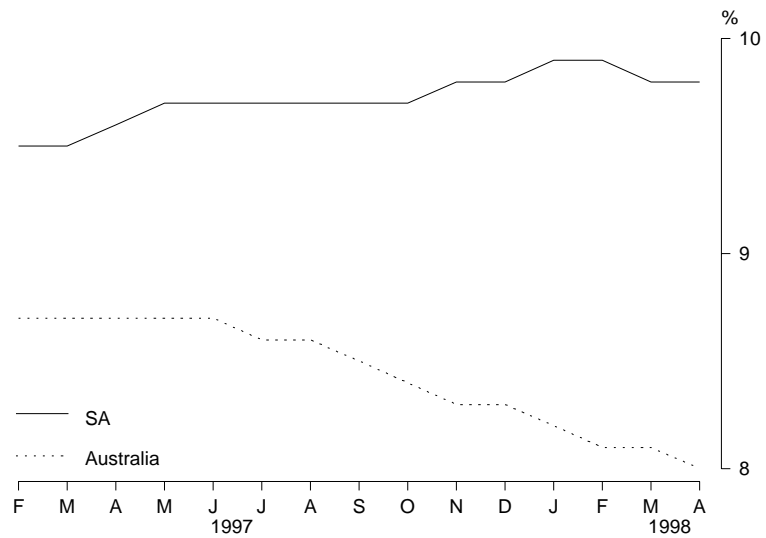
Unemployment

The trend unemployment rate has generally risen over the past 12 months; up from 9.6% in April 1997 to 9.8% in April 1998. The latest estimate was the highest recorded on the mainland. In contrast, the trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Australia has decreased from 8.7% in April 1997, to 8.0% in April 1998.

In original, unadjusted terms, the teenage full-time unemployment rate in South Australia was 38.0% in April 1998, up from the 37.6% recorded in the previous month.

At April 1998, the median duration of unemployment (one half of all observations lie above this value, the other half below it) in South Australia was 26 weeks, compared with 18 weeks for Australia. In April 1997, the corresponding medians were lower, at 23 weeks for South Australia and 17 weeks for Australia.

Unemployment rates: **Trend**

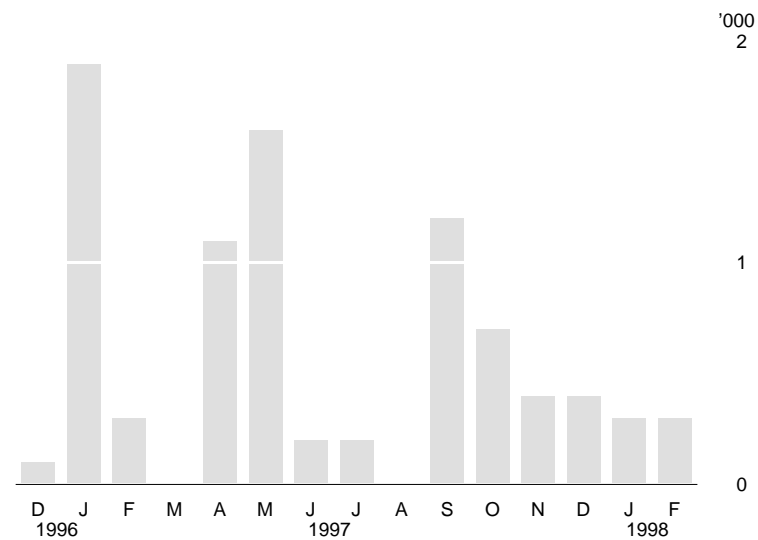


Industrial disputes

In February 1998 a total of 300 working days were lost through industrial disputation, the same level as reported in January 1998. South Australia had a low level of industrial disputation, contributing less than 1% to the national level of 39,400 working days lost.

The number of working days lost in South Australia in the 12 months to February 1998 was 6,500, much lower than the 39,600 days lost in the 12 months to February 1997.

Working days lost



Overtime

In original terms, the proportion of employees who worked overtime in South Australia in February 1998 was 16.2%, compared with 15.7% in February 1997.

In February 1998, employees who worked overtime in South Australia recorded an average of 5.4 overtime hours per week. This was lower than the 6.6 overtime hours recorded 12 months earlier.

INCOMES

Average weekly earnings

The trend estimate of average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult employees increased 1.4% from November 1997 to February 1998. The full-time adult ordinary time earnings for males and females rose 0.9% and 2.8% respectively.

Between February 1997 and February 1998, the trend estimate of average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult male employees increased 3.7% whilst the female rate increased 6.6%.

For Australia, the trend estimate of full-time adult ordinary time earnings for males and females rose by 4.5% and 4.1% respectively in the 12 months to February 1998.

Note: Since it is an average of earnings across all employees, changes in average weekly earnings may occur through changes in employment as well as changes in pay levels.

Wage cost Index

The ABS has recently released its first wage cost index. The index measures quarterly changes in wage and salary costs for employee jobs. Hourly rates of pay are collected on both an ordinary time and total time basis, with or without bonuses. The first reference period is the quarter to December 1997. This new measure replaces the discontinued award rates of pay index.

In South Australia, the index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) increased by 0.8% between September 1997 and December 1997. Nationally, the corresponding increase was also 0.8%.

In South Australia, the index of ordinary time hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 0.8% in the quarter to December 1997. An identical increase was observed for Australia.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Housing finance

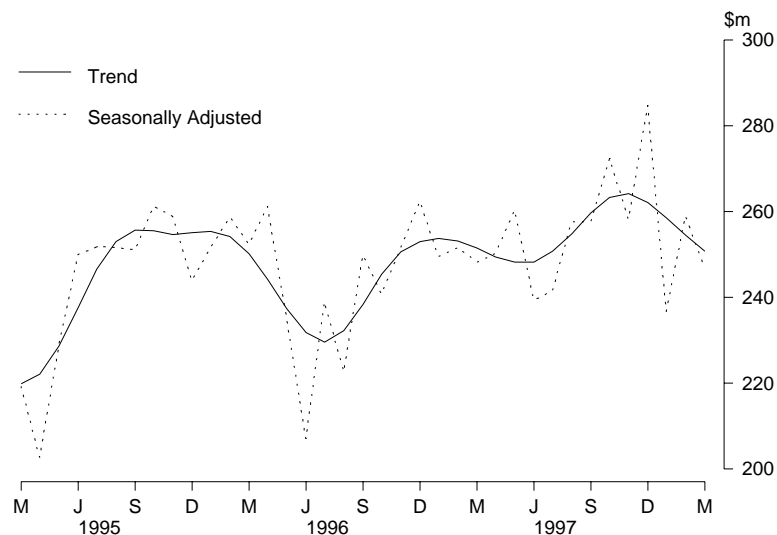
The trend estimate for the value of commitments (excluding alterations and additions) decreased 1.5% during March 1998 to \$250.8m, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. South Australia's trend estimate was marginally below the previous March. Nationally the trend was 1.2% down for the month but 3.1% above the previous March. The seasonally adjusted value of commitments for South Australia fell 4.7% to \$246.8m.

Total housing finance commitments (original figures including alterations and additions) increased 12.5% to \$297.4m, to be 12.5% above the previous March. Nationally the new lending commitments were up 6.6% for the month, 11.5% up for the year. The number of dwellings financed in South Australia increased 6.9% to 3,321 together with a increase in the average value to \$84,800. Nationally the number increased 4.1% and the average value increased to \$114,100.

The increase in total housing was due to the recovery during the month in commitments for the purchase of established dwellings, for refinancing and for alterations and additions. Commitments for established dwellings were up 10.5% to \$172.4m, the highest month since March 1996. Refinancing (the second largest category) increased 19.0% to \$66.3m, 15.3% above March 1997. Alterations and additions were up 54.4% to \$15.9m, 23.1% higher than the previous March.

Construction of dwellings increased marginally to \$34.8m, 23.9% above the previous March. Nationally commitments for construction rose 7.0% to be 30.1% up over the year. Commitments for newly erected dwellings in South Australia rose 2.7% to \$8.1m.

Secured housing finance commitments(a)



(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

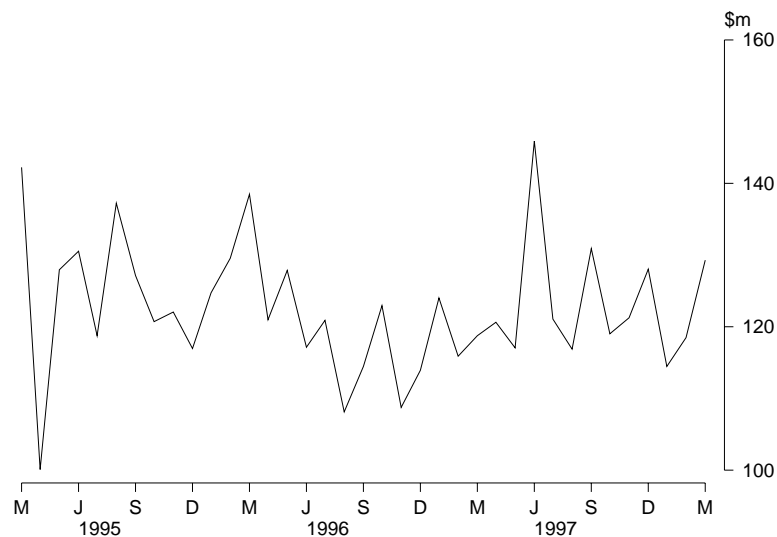
Personal finance

Total commitments increased 17.0% to \$245.0m, 7.7% above March 1997. Nationally the increase for the month was 9.0%, 20.1% above the previous March. In seasonally adjusted terms the national total represents a fall for the month of 2.8%.

Revolving credit facilities were up 27.4 % to \$115.8m with secured new and increased credit limits increasing 41.2% to \$70.0m, building on the significant increase in the previous month. The two consecutive increases took secured revolving credit facilities marginally lower than the previous March. Unsecured revolving credit facilities increased 10.9% to \$45.8m, 19.0% above March 1997.

Fixed loan commitments increased 9.1% to \$129.3m, 8.8% above the previous March. The main increase occurred for used motor cars and station wagons, up 9.2% to \$39.4m and 16.1% above March 1997. Refinancing rose 20.7% to \$14.8m, 30.1% below the previous March.

Fixed loan commitments, all lenders



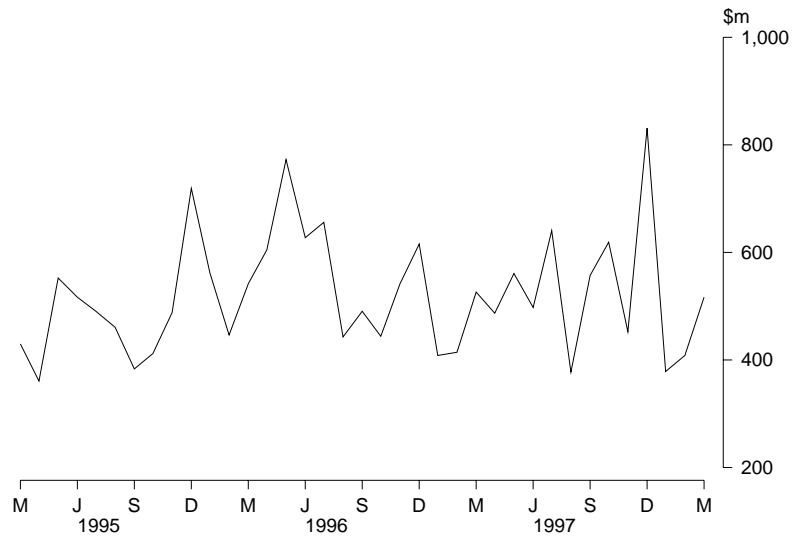
Commercial finance

Total commercial finance commitments recovered a further part of the major fall that occurred in January with a rise of 26.4% to \$517.2m. Nationally commercial finance commitments decreased 6.5% for the month to be 5.7% above March 1997.

Commitments under fixed loan facilities increased 28.3% to \$360.5m, 24.5% above the previous March. Major increases occurred for property and business services, up \$30.5m to \$54.7m, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, up \$19.0m to \$59.0m and manufacturing, up \$14.8m to \$28.5m. All these categories were significantly higher than the same time last year. The main falls were for wholesale trade, down \$3.1m to \$39.8m and mining, down \$1.4m to \$0.6m.

Revolving credit facilities increased 22.3% to \$156.7m, 33.9% below the previous March. The main increases were for finance, investment and insurance, up \$30.3m to \$43.9m and manufacturing, up \$20.1m to \$29.1m. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was down \$15.4m to \$31.1m and wholesale trade was down \$13.4m to \$5.2m.

Commercial finance commitments, all lenders



Lease finance

New finance lease commitments rose 30.3% to \$24.2m, 73.7% above the previous March and the third consecutive month to be significantly above the corresponding month of last year. Nationally the increase for the month was 25.5%, with the last ten months significantly higher than the corresponding month of the previous year. Seasonally adjusted the national increase for the month is 8.0%.

The increase for South Australia was due largely to the rise in new finance lease commitments for new heavy trucks, up \$4.7m to \$5.6m. This was the highest month for this category since July 1985 when 176 trucks were financed for \$6.1m compared with the 12 trucks for \$5.6m in March 1998. The other categories to increase significantly were new motor cars and station wagons not subject to depreciation, up \$0.7m to \$4.8m agricultural machinery and equipment, up \$0.7m to \$2.3m and shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment, up \$0.6m to \$0.8m following a low month.

Three categories had significant decreases with construction and earth moving equipment, down \$0.9m to \$0.6m, manufacturing equipment, down \$0.6m to \$1.9m and office machines down \$0.6m to \$2.9m.

FORWARD OUTLOOK

Composite leading indicator for Australia

The Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) is a single time series produced by aggregating eight individual economic indicators, and has been developed by the ABS as an experimental series to supplement existing forms of economic analysis and modelling.

The CLI summarises the early signals contained in a selection of economic indicators and is designed to assist the detection of turning points between successive expansions and slow downs of economic activity as measured by constant price GDP(A). It does not attempt to forecast the level of economic activity.

Composite leading indicator for Australia

In the December quarter 1997 :

- the experimental CLI fell 0.08%, following rises of 0.13% and 0.04% in the June quarter and the September quarter respectively and this fall is the first since the September quarter 1995 and gives a provisional peak in the CLI in the September quarter 1997.

The quarterly data are released in more detail in the *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0). The CLI was the topic of the Focus article in the September 1993 edition of *South Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1307.4). A review of the performance of the CLI and its components was published in the July 1997 issue of Cat. no. 1350.0.

Business expectations

Surveys of business expectations have been available to decision makers for a number of years from several sources. These surveys provided *qualitative* indicators in the form of the net proportion of businesses expecting a rise or fall in future business conditions. Since the December quarter 1993, the ABS has been compiling a *quantitative* indicator of business expectations in the form of an expected weighted aggregate change in a range of economic variables. These data are available on a quarterly basis in *Australian Business Expectations* (Cat. no. 5250.0).

South Australia, Short-term outlook expected aggregate change

	EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.....				
	Jun qtr 1997	Sep qtr 1997	Dec qtr 1997	Mar qtr 1998	Jun qtr 1998
<i>Business performance indicators</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trading performance					
Operating income	2.8	0.0	5.1	0.2	1.9
Selling prices	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Profit	14.2	-3.9	26.5	3.0	2.9
Investment					
Capital expenditure	1.0	5.4	9.5	1.5	9.8
Stocks	-0.5	-0.4	0.6	1.9	0.2
Employment					
Full time equivalent	-0.4	-0.4	1.0	0.1	-0.1

Business expectations *continued*

Short term—South Australian businesses expect an increase of 1.9% in operating income in the June quarter 1998 compared with the March quarter 1998 whilst the Australian rate was 1.7%. The investment component for South Australia was expected to be 9.8% increase in capital expenditure compared with 3.8% for Australia whilst full-time employment levels were expected to fall by 0.1% for both South Australia and Australia.

South Australia, Medium-term outlook expected aggregate change

EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.....

	Mar qtr 1998	Jun qtr 1998	Sep qtr 1998	Dec qtr 1998	Mar qtr 1999
<i>Business performance indicators</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trading performance					
Operating income	4.0	3.4	4.8	4.3	2.7
Selling prices	1.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Profit	16.8	11.2	25.3	18.1	22.7
Investment					
Capital expenditure	1.9	-0.8	3.0	2.3	-2.0
Stocks	0.2	0.3	1.1	2.0	0.2
Employment					
Full time equivalent	0.2	0.0	-0.3	-1.5	-1.3

Medium term—Businesses in South Australia expect operating income in the March quarter 1999 to be 2.7% above March quarter 1998. Capital expenditure and employment indicators are showing negative change in the medium term whilst the Australian data shows a 2.0% increase in capital expenditure and a 0.1% increase in employment levels.

INTRODUCTION

Small business is acknowledged as a vital sector of the Australian economy. It is recognised that women play a significant role in Australian business, particularly in small business. This article looks at the overall structure of the Australian small business sector, focusing in particular on the role women play in small business, and on some of the characteristics of female business operators and the businesses they operate.

A business is traditionally regarded as small if: it is independently owned and operated; it is closely controlled by the owners who also contribute most if not all of the operating capital; and the principal decision making functions rest with the owners.

Unfortunately, these characteristics are not readily identifiable for the business population as a whole, which renders such a definition impractical for statistical purposes. Hence business employment is commonly accepted as a proxy for defining businesses by size in most statistics in Australia. For this article small businesses are defined as those non-agricultural businesses employing less than 20 people.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SMALL BUSINESS

Employment in Australia has grown over the past 50 years from just over 3 million people to today's level of about 8.3 million, an increase of just over 5 million people. Female employment has contributed slightly more than half of this rise, increasing from 0.8 million to 3.6 million over the period. This percentage increase (350%) represents an average annual rate of increase of 3.2%. Employment of males has virtually doubled over the last 50 years, representing a significantly lower average annual rate of increase of 1.4%.

Expressing this another way, the participation rate of women in the workforce has risen from about 20% 50 years ago to about 53% today. The participation rate for women is still less than for men, currently running at 73%, but the rate for women is increasing rapidly.

If current trends continue, the number of women in the workforce will be about the same as the number of men in another 50 years.

It is not possible to undertake a similar analysis for women in small business, as the data sources do not support such analysis. However on the assumption that the proportion of females in small business employment is about the same as the proportion for all businesses, it seems reasonable to assume that the same conclusion could be drawn.

WOMEN IN SMALL BUSINESS BY INDUSTRY

The small business sector in 1994–95 had employment of almost 2.5 million, of which 1.0 million (40%) were female. Of this ,206,000 worked by themselves in their own business ,104,000 ran businesses which had employees, and 709,000 were employees.

WOMEN IN SMALL BUSINESS BY INDUSTRY *continued*

Employed Persons in Small Business, Sex and Industry—1994–95

Industry	EMPLOYMENT.....				
	Females.....		Males.....		All
	'000	%	'000	%	
Mining	1.4	14.7	8.1	85.3	9.5
Manufacturing	74.6	31.2	164.3	68.8	238.9
Construction	58.7	16.2	303.4	83.8	362.1
Wholesale trade	72.8	33.7	143.2	66.3	216.0
Retail trade	231.7	45.7	275.3	54.3	507.0
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	83.0	55.9	65.4	44.1	148.4
Transport and storage	29.1	23.7	93.9	76.3	123.0
Finance and insurance	24.0	47.4	26.6	52.6	50.6
Property and business services	174.5	46.2	203.3	53.8	377.8
Education	30.4	69.6	13.3	30.4	43.7
Health and community services	123.1	69.1	55.0	30.9	178.1
Cultural and recreational services	37.7	52.8	33.7	47.2	71.4
Personal and other services	74.8	57.7	54.8	42.3	129.6
Total all industries(a)	1 019.4	41.3	1 450.6	58.7	2 470.0

(a) Includes the Electricity, gas and water supply and Communication services industries.

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings, unpublished data; Labour Force Survey, unpublished data. Adapted from table 1.3 in *Small Business in Australia, 1995* (Cat. no. 1321.0).

From the table above it can be seen that most women work in Retail trade (231,700) Property and business services (174,600) and health and community services (123,100).

There were also significant numbers of women employed in Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (83,000), Personal and other services (74,800), Manufacturing (74,600), and Wholesale trade (72,800).

The industries in which women represent the greatest proportion of employment are as follows: Education (70%), Health and community services (69%), Personal and other services (58%), Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (56%) and Cultural and recreational services 53%

In the Retail sector, the proportion of women in the workforce is 46%, the same as for Property and business services. Clearly women are having a far greater impact on employment in the services sector of the economy than in the goods producing sector.

WOMEN WORKING IN THEIR OWN SMALL BUSINESS

In 1994–95 there were 310,000 women working in their own business, nearly 33% of people working in their own business. Over the period 1984–85 to 1994–95, this has grown from 225,000, which was 30% of people working in their own business.

The average annual growth rate of women working in their own business over this period has been 3.3%. This compares to an average annual growth of men working in their own business (518,000 in 1984–85 to 639,000 in 1994–95) of 2.1%.

WOMEN WORKING IN THEIR OWN SMALL BUSINESS *continued*

From the following table which shows the industry distribution of the women and men working in their own business, it can be seen that most women who work in their own business are in Retail trade (86,400), Property and business services (44,200), Personal and other services (33,000), Construction (28,900), Manufacturing (25,400), and Health and community services (25,200).

Persons Working in Their Own Small Business—1994–95

Industry	Females.....		Males.....		All
	'000	%	'000	%	
Mining	0.4	10.0	3.6	90.0	4.0
Manufacturing	25.4	35.6	46.0	64.4	71.4
Construction	28.9	13.6	184.3	86.4	213.2
Wholesale trade	13.0	30.9	29.1	69.1	42.1
Retail trade	86.4	40.2	124.4	57.9	214.8
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	16.4	47.8	17.9	52.2	34.3
Transport and storage	10.8	17.9	49.5	82.1	60.3
Finance and insurance	2.2	21.4	8.1	78.6	10.3
Property and business services	44.2	32.1	93.4	67.9	137.6
Education	9.7	61.0	6.2	39.0	15.9
Health and community services	25.2	55.0	20.6	45.0	45.8
Cultural and recreational services	12.7	42.9	16.9	57.1	29.6
Personal and other services	33.0	52.1	30.3	47.9	63.3
Total all industries(a)	310.6	32.7	638.9	67.3	949.5

(a) Includes the Electricity, gas and water supply and Communication services industries.

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings, unpublished data; Labour Force Survey, unpublished data.

Adapted from table 1.3 in *Small Business in Australia, 1995* (Cat. no. 1321.0).

The proportions of women working in their own business are highest in Education (61%), Health and community services (55%), Personal and other services (52%), Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (48%), Cultural and recreational services (43%).

These are the same industries in which women represent the highest proportion of employment.

The trend in business ownership and operation by women is toward a far greater involvement in the services sector of the economy. Of women working in their own business, 83% are in this sector, compared with only 63% of men.

WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS

In February 1995, the ABS conducted a sample survey of households which collected details of the characteristics of small business operators. The following table is based on the results of that survey and hence the actual number of businesses and their operators differs from those shown in previous tables.

In this survey, operators were identified if they were the proprietor of a sole proprietorship, the partner(s) in a partnership, or the working director of an incorporated company.

WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS *continued*

The survey identified 1.25 million small business proprietors in Australia, of which 424,000 were female (34%).

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, Selected Characteristics—Feb. 1995(a)

	Females.....		Males.....		All
	'000	%	'000	%	
Age					
Less than 30	45.4	10.7	99.8	12.1	145.3
30–50	298.1	70.3	518.0	62.6	816.0
Greater than 50	80.8	19.0	210.0	25.4	290.8
Total	424.3	100.0	827.8	100.0	1 252.1
Qualifications(a)					
Secondary school	228.3	54.1	286.1	34.9	514.4
Basic or skill vocational	93.5	22.2	323.4	39.4	416.8
Degree or diploma	99.9	23.7	210.6	25.7	310.5
Total	421.7	100.0	820.0	100.0	1 241.7
Ethnicity					
Born in Australia	316.5	74.6	588.1	71.0	904.6
Born overseas	107.7	25.4	239.7	29.0	347.4
Total	424.3	100.0	827.8	100.0	1 252.1

(a) Persons who did not complete the highest available year of secondary school and did not go on to achieve vocational qualifications or a degree/diploma have been excluded from this table.

Source: Adapted from tables 1, 2 and 5 in *Characteristics of Small Business, Australia, 1995* (Cat. no. 8127.0).

The table shows that 11% of the female small business operators were less than 30 years old, 70% were between 30 and 50 years old and 19% were older than 50. When compared to males, there is a smaller proportion of small business operators who are women older than 50, but a greater proportion in the 30–50 age category. The proportions are about the same for operators who are less than 30.

Looking at the qualifications of the small business operators, nearly a quarter (24%) of the female small business operators had a degree or a diploma. This is fairly similar to the proportion for male small business operators (26%). However there are significant differences for the other qualification categories. Only 22% of female small business operators had basic or skilled vocational qualifications and 54% had secondary school qualifications as their highest level of qualification. For males these proportions were 39% and 35% respectively.

Three quarters of female small business operators were born in Australia, proportionally slightly greater than for males.

HOURS WORKED BY FEMALE SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS

The ABS Characteristics of Small Business survey also explored the number of hours spent by the small business operators working in their business and the results are shown in the following table.

HOURS WORKED BY FEMALE SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS *continued*

Over half of the female small business operators work less than 35 hours per week in their business. This compares to less than one sixth of male small business operators. As a consequence, there is a far greater proportion of male operators who work between 35 and 75 hours per week in their business. However, the proportion of operators who work more than 75 hours per week is nearly the same for women as it is for men.

This shows that there are important differences between part-time and full-time female small business operators. These are best explored by seeing if there any differences in the characteristics of the two groups.

Full-Time and Part-Time Small Business Operators—1994–95

Hours worked	Females.....		Males.....		All
	'000	%	'000	%	'000
Part-time operators					
1–10	80.3	33.8	19.1	16.0	99.4
11–20	104.6	44.0	52.9	44.3	157.4
21–34	52.8	22.2	47.3	39.6	100.1
<i>Total</i>	237.6	100.0	119.3	100.0	356.9
Full-time operators					
35–50	119.7	64.2	416.7	58.8	536.3
51–75	47.2	25.3	242.5	34.2	289.7
More than 75	19.6	10.5	49.3	7.0	68.9
<i>Total</i>	186.5	100.0	708.5	100.0	895.0
Total operators	424.3	100.0	827.8	100.0	1 252.1

(a) Hours worked relates to the usual number of hours worked by an operator in a week.

Source: Adapted from Tables 3 and 4 in *Characteristics of Small Business, Australia, 1995* (Cat. no. 8127.0).

Looking first at age, there is not much difference between the characteristics of female part-time and full-time small business operators. Those less than 30 years of age account for 10.3% of part-time women small business operators, compared with 11.2% for full-time operators. The proportion of women over 50 is slightly less for part-time operators (18.7%) than it is for full-time operators (19.5%). By definition, there is a slight reversal in the proportions for the 30–50 age group.

There is, however, a significant difference in the ethnicity of women small business operators. Part-time operators who were born in Australia account for 78.7% of total women part-time operators. This compares with a figure for female Australian-born full-time operators of 69.4%. Correspondingly, the proportions for female overseas-born operators were 21.3% for part-time operators and 30.6% for full-time operators. It appears that Australian-born female small business operators have a greater leaning towards part-time employment than their overseas-born counterparts.

FOCUS — Women in Small Business *continued*

HOURS WORKED BY FEMALE SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS *continued*

There is also a marked difference in the area of qualifications. Women small business operators holding either a degree or diploma accounted for 27.0% of female part-time operators and 19.6% of full-time operators. The opposite is evident for those women for whom the highest available year of secondary school education was the highest qualification gained. For 51.3% of part-time female small business operators this was the highest level of qualification, compared with 57.7% of full-time operators. Somewhat surprisingly, it seems that part-time operators have a higher level of qualifications.

However, the largest differences become apparent when one examines the industrial classification of the female small business operators.

WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, February 1995

<i>Industry</i>	Full-time	Part-time
Mining	0.2	0.1
Manufacturing	10.2	8.1
Construction	5.0	19.8
Wholesale trade	6.4	6.7
Retail trade	31.3	18.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	8.2	2.1
Transport and storage	3.1	5.0
Communication services	0.5	0.1
Finance and insurance	1.1	1.2
Property and business services	13.8	20.3
Education	1.7	2.7
Health and community services	7.2	5.8
Cultural and recreational services	4.0	3.1
Personal and other services	7.5	6.2
Total all industries(a)	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes the Electricity, gas and water supply industries.

Source: Characteristics of Small Business Survey, unpublished data.

There are some very marked differences in these data. Of part-time operators, nearly 20% are engaged in the Construction industry, while for full-time operators the figure is only 5%. Clearly there are a large number of female small business operators who are working part-time in the building and construction special trades (plumbing etc) industries. Similarly, 20% of part-time female small business operators are in the Property and business services industry, compared with nearly 14% of the full-time operators. On the other hand, there is a higher proportion of full-time than part-time female small business operators in the Retail trade industry (31.3% full-time and 18.6% part-time) and the Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry (8.2% full-time and 2.1% part-time).

WOMEN AS MAJOR DECISION MAKERS IN SMALL BUSINESS

In its 1994-95 Business Growth and Performance survey, the ABS sought information about the major decision maker in the firm, in cases where there was a major decision maker. This survey showed that 60% of small firms with employees had a major decision maker, and of these 10% of the major decision makers were female.

WOMEN AS MAJOR DECISION MAKERS IN SMALL BUSINESS *continued*

From its February 1995 survey looking at the characteristics of small business operators, the ABS estimated that, in nearly 30% of non-employing small businesses with a single decision maker, the decision maker was female.

Combining these two statistics provides an estimate of a little over 80,000 Australian businesses which have a woman major decision maker. This represents about 10% of all small businesses in Australia. (It should be noted that this estimate excludes any non-employing firms with more than one operator; hence it is likely to be a slight underestimate of the true number of firms with a female major decision maker.)

Looking at the industrial classification of major decision makers from the Business Growth and Performance Survey, one finds a set of proportions similar to those for full-time operators. This tends to further indicate that the female small business operators who work part-time are either not the major decision maker in the firm, or are in firms which do not have any employees.

The qualifications of women who were major decision makers were as follows; highest available year of secondary school (52.0%), trade qualifications (16.6%), tertiary qualifications (28.4%) and not stated (2.9%).

FEMALE MAJOR DECISION MAKERS IN SMALL BUSINESS—EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING A BUSINESS

The Business Growth and Performance Survey collected information on the years of experience as a business proprietor or director. The survey indicates that the number of women becoming major decision makers has increased significantly in recent years.

The average length of experience of a female major decision maker is about 9 years. For males the figure is 12 years.

SUMMARY

Women are an important part of business in Australia today. Their contribution to the workforce has grown at more than twice the rate for men over the past 50 years. It can reasonably be assumed that the same is true for women in the small business sector.

The proportion of women working in their own business is also growing rapidly. Over the past decade there has been an average annual growth rate of over 3%, which is one and a half times the rate for men.

Of these women working in their own business, 70% are 30--50 years of age. One quarter of them have tertiary qualifications, a further quarter have basic or skilled vocational qualifications and half have no higher qualification than a secondary school certificate. Three quarters of them are Australian born. Interestingly, however, more than half of these women small business operators work part time, or less than 35 hours per week. This is the major difference that seems to exist when compared to men working in their own business, of whom only one in seven work part-time.

Whether one looks at the industry classification of full time or total female small business operators, the predominant industries are Retail trade and Professional and business services. Compared to the number of male small business operators, the industries in which women predominate are the range of personal and community service industries.

SUMMARY *continued*

Women appear to be the major decision makers in about 10% of all small businesses in Australia. Based on a subset of these—firms which employed staff and which had a single major decision maker—it is possible to look at their length of experience in being a decision maker. On average these women appear to have had about nine years experience as decision makers, compared to 12 years for men. It is also interesting that, as length of experience becomes shorter, the proportion of female major decision makers becomes greater. Of persons with over 20 years decision-making experience, less than 5% are female, but of those with less than two years experience the proportion of women is more than 15%.

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Indicator	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....					AUSTRALIA.....				
	Unit	Period	Number	% change from.....		Number	% change from...		SA as a % of Aust.	Source index
				Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year		
State accounts										
Domestic final demand										
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	9 477	1.4	5.7	129 371	1.7	6.3	7.3	(1)
1989-90 prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	8 145	1.2	4.8	116 996	1.2	5.5	7.0	(1)
Private final consumption expenditure										
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	6 110	1.5	5.1	84 091	1.8	6.2	7.3	(1)
1989-90 prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	5 164	1.4	4.6	70 594	1.5	5.0	7.3	(1)
Private gross fixed capital expenditure										
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	1 319	1.3	10.9	22 911	2.1	9.0	5.8	(1)
1989-90 prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	1 264	1.0	9.0	23 019	1.8	11.5	5.5	(1)
Wages, salaries and supplements										
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	4 729	1.8	5.0	67 478	1.5	5.0	7.0	(1)
International accounts										
Exports	\$m	Mar 98	470.1	29.4	-7.3	6 943.1	8.8	10.0	6.8	(2)
Imports	\$m	Mar 98	357.6	19.3	39.0	8 201.1	18.0	37.0	4.4	(2)
Consumption and investment										
Retail turnover										
Current prices original	\$m	Mar 98	810.5	9.3	6.3	10 773.8	8.3	3.1	7.5	(3)
Current prices trend	\$m	Mar 98	853.2	0.7	7.9	11 305.5	0.2	4.3	7.5	(3)
1989-90 prices original	\$m	Mar qtr 98	1 985.2	-13.8	7.6	26 286.1	-15.9	2.6	7.6	(3)
New motor vehicle registrations										
Original	no.	Mar 98	4 348	9.2	19.9	68 314	13.4	24.2	6.4	(4)
Trend	no.	Mar 98	4 122	-1.5	8.4	63 610	-0.5	11.5	6.7	(4)
Private new capital expenditure										
Current prices original	\$m	Dec qtr 97	927	29.5	34.7	12 590	19.2	7.6	7.4	(5)
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec qtr 97	810	6.6	28.8	11 350	0.7	3.7	7.1	(5)
Private new capital expenditure	\$m	1996-97	2 580	..	37.7	43 837	..	8.3	5.9	(5)
Takings, licensed hotels, motels and guesthouses with facilities	\$m	Dec qtr 97	48.1	15.2	11.1	979.2	3.1	3.5	4.9	(6)
Production										
Dwelling unit approvals										
Original	no.	Mar 98	738	10.8	35.9	13 843	19.6	25.8	5.3	(7)
Trend	no.	Mar 98	684	4.3	23.0	13 461	0.9	12.7	5.1	(7)
New dwelling units commenced	no.	Dec qtr 97	1 872	21.5	22.4	38 269	8.4	19.8	4.9	(8a)
Value of non-residential building approvals	\$m	Mar 98	53.8	28.4	52.0	960.1	-17.7	34.4	5.6	(7)
Value of total building activity										
Commenced	\$m	Dec qtr 97	378.7	37.3	34.8	8 387.3	2.3	15.7	4.5	(8)
Work done	\$m	Dec qtr 97	384.1	6.9	10.4	8 198.5	5.2	11.8	4.7	(8)
Work yet to be done	\$m	Dec qtr 97	332.7	5.0	-4.6	12 161.9	6.1	26.9	2.7	(8)
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec qtr 97	299.4	18.5	61.1	4 149.7	14.8	11.1	7.2	(9)
Manufacturing production										
Red meat	tonnes	Mar 98	20 085	-3.5	18.5	251 286	1.0	10.5	8.0	(11)
Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum)	\$m	Dec qtr 97	11.4	-8.8	42.5	282.0	-6.6	-3.3	4.0	(12)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....

AUSTRALIA.....

Indicator	Unit	Period	Number	% change from....		Number	% change from		SA as a % of Aust.	Source index
				Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year		
Prices										
CPI – All groups	1989–90=100	Mar qtr 98	121.7	0.4	–0.7	120.3	0.3	–0.2	..	(13)
Price index of materials used in house building	1989–90=100	Mar qtr 98	123.7	0.7	2.4	118.7	0.7	2.2	..	(14)
Price index of materials used in building other than houses	1989–90=100	Mar qtr 98	115.0	–0.1	0.4	114.1	0.1	0.6	..	(15)
Price index of established houses	1989–90=100	Dec qtr 97	110.8	0.9	3.8	121.2	1.9	6.0	..	(16)
Price index of project homes	1989–90=100	Dec qtr 97	112.5	0.5	4.8	110.0	0.1	0.8	..	(16)
Labour force and demography										
Population (resident at end qtr)	'000	Sep qtr 97	1 481.6	0.1	0.4	18 588.6	0.3	1.2	8.0	(17)
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	no.	Feb 98	9 560	26.1	9.2	353 610	2.1	–13.3	2.7	(21)
Short-term resident departures	no.	Feb 98	9 111	–3.6	8.1	196 879	–5.0	9.2	4.6	(21)
Labour force										
Original	'000	Apr 98	716.2	–0.5	–2.1	9 313.2	–0.1	1.1	7.7	(18)
Trend	'000	Apr 98	716.5	–0.4	–2.2	9 293.0	0.1	1.0	7.7	(18)
Employed persons										
Original	'000	Apr 98	648.6	0.1	–2.1	8 576.4	0.7	2.0	7.6	(18)
Trend	'000	Apr 98	646.3	–0.3	–2.4	8 547.6	0.1	1.8	7.6	(18)
Participation rate										
Original(a)	%	Apr 98	60.2	–0.3	–1.7	63.2	–0.2	–0.2	..	(18)
Trend(a)	%	Apr 98	60.2	–0.2	–1.8	63.1	0.0	–0.2	..	(18)
Unemployment rate										
Original(a)	%	Apr 98	9.4	–0.8	–0.3	7.9	–0.7	–0.8	..	(18)
Trend(a)	%	Apr 98	9.8	0.0	0.2	8.0	–0.1	–0.7	..	(18)
Job vacancies	'000	Feb 98	3.3	6.5	–10.8	75.5	10.9	20.6	4.4	(19)
Average weekly overtime per employee working overtime	hours	Feb 98	5.4	–17.6	–18.4	6.7	–4.1	–5.1	..	(19)
Industrial disputes	'000 working days lost	Feb 98	0.3	0.0	0.0	39.4	358.1	120.1	0.8	(20)
Incomes										
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time)										
Original	\$	Feb 98	683.60	4.4	5.2	722.30	1.5	4.1	..	(22)
Trend	\$	Feb 98	675.40	1.4	4.1	720.80	1.1	4.2	..	(22)
Wage cost index (Total hourly rate excluding bonuses)										
	Sep 1997=100	Dec 97	100.8	0.8	..	100.8	0.8	..	..	(23)
Financial markets										
Secured housing finance										
Finance commitments	\$m	Mar 98	297.4	12.5	12.5	4 988.8	6.6	11.5	6.0	(24)
Personal										
Commercial	\$m	Mar 98	245.0	17.0	7.7	3 543.7	9.0	20.1	6.9	(25)
Lease										
	\$m	Mar 98	517.2	26.4	–1.8	12 491.6	–6.5	5.7	4.1	(25)
Interest rates										
Banks new housing loans(a)	%	Apr 98	..	..	..	6.70	0.0	0.9	..	(26)
Banks business loans(a)										
Small, medium sized business										
	%	Apr 98	..	..	..	8.80	0.0	–1.0	..	(26)
Large business										
	%	Apr 98	8.25	–0.2	–1.1	..	(26)

(a) Change is shown in terms of percentage points.

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STATE ACCOUNTS AT CURRENT PRICES

Period	FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE....		GROSS FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE....		State final demand	Gross State product (I)	Wages, salaries and supplements
	Private	Government	Private	Government			
ANNUAL (\$m)							
1991-92	18 958	5 812	4 021	1 429	30 220	28 719	14 718
1992-93	19 493	5 969	3 980	1 372	30 814	29 989	15 131
1993-94	20 596	6 628	4 019	1 182	32 426	32 057	16 370
1994-95	21 778	6 704	4 888	1 250	34 630	33 437	16 712
1995-96	23 004	6 750	4 510	1 010	35 274	35 457	17 556
1996-97	23 337	6 842	4 847	1 117	36 143	36 023	18 009
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR							
1991-92	4.6	6.1	-5.0	-6.5	2.9	1.0	-0.2
1992-93	2.8	2.7	-1.0	-4.0	2.0	4.4	2.8
1993-94	5.7	11.0	1.0	-13.8	5.2	6.9	8.2
1994-95	5.7	1.1	21.6	5.8	6.8	4.3	2.1
1995-96	5.6	0.7	-7.7	-19.2	1.9	6.0	5.1
1996-97	1.4	1.4	7.5	10.6	2.5	1.6	2.6
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)							
1996-97							
September	5 770	1 640	1 207	222	8 839	8 534	4 435
December	6 119	1 721	1 276	264	9 380	9 849	4 624
March	5 604	1 584	1 024	315	8 528	8 634	4 404
June	5 844	1 897	1 340	315	9 396	9 006	4 546
1997-98							
September	6 003	1 747	1 273	219	9 242	n.a.	4 692
December	6 454	1 677	1 439	333	9 903	n.a.	4 820
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)							
1996-97							
September	5 790	1 667	1 157	288	8 901	8 909	4 462
December	5 813	1 689	1 174	293	8 969	8 976	4 505
March	5 847	1 723	1 204	278	9 053	9 049	4 531
June	5 926	1 736	1 257	273	9 192	9 116	4 575
1997-98							
September	6 017	1 738	1 302	291	9 348	n.a.	4 647
December	6 110	1 728	1 319	320	9 477	n.a.	4 729
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND							
1996-97							
September	0.3	-0.4	0.5	7.1	0.4	0.2	1.0
December	0.4	1.3	1.5	1.7	0.8	0.8	1.0
March	0.6	2.0	2.6	-5.1	0.9	0.8	0.6
June	1.4	0.8	4.4	-1.8	1.5	0.7	1.0
1997-98							
September	1.5	0.1	3.6	6.6	1.7	..	1.6
December	1.5	-0.6	1.3	10.0	1.4	..	1.8

Period	FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE....		GROSS FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE....		State final demand	Gross State product (I)
	Private	Government	Private	Government		
ANNUAL (\$m)						
1991-92	17 447	5 328	3 849	1 364	27 988	27 023
1992-93	17 491	5 358	3 696	1 292	27 837	28 077
1993-94	18 150	5 646	3 655	1 118	28 568	29 004
1994-95	19 020	5 765	4 448	1 175	30 408	29 226
1995-96	19 732	5 713	4 094	948	30 487	30 465
1996-97	19 811	5 711	4 718	1 038	31 278	30 868
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991-92	1.6	2.3	-6.0	-7.8	1.4	-2.4
1992-93	0.3	0.6	-4.0	-5.3	-0.5	3.9
1993-94	3.8	5.4	-1.1	-13.5	2.6	3.3
1994-95	4.8	2.1	21.7	5.1	6.4	0.8
1995-96	3.7	-0.9	-8.0	-19.3	0.3	4.2
1996-97	0.4	0.0	15.2	9.5	2.6	1.3
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)						
1996-97						
September	4 921	1 381	1 188	208	7 698	7 363
December	5 198	1 424	1 262	245	8 128	8 701
March	4 739	1 329	988	291	7 346	7 280
June	4 953	1 577	1 280	295	8 105	7 524
1997-98						
September	5 070	1 434	1 242	189	7 935	n.a.
December	5 463	1 398	1 370	302	8 533	n.a.
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)						
1996-97						
September	4 937	1 394	1 124	267	7 722	7 706
December	4 937	1 410	1 149	273	7 769	7 717
March	4 951	1 438	1 172	258	7 820	7 701
June	5 015	1 446	1 214	249	7 924	7 662
1997-98						
September	5 092	1 443	1 252	262	8 049	n.a.
December	5 164	1 431	1 264	286	8 145	n.a.
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND						
1996-97						
September	0.0	-0.6	3.6	6.4	0.6	0.4
December	0.0	1.1	2.2	2.2	0.6	0.1
March	0.3	2.0	2.0	-5.5	0.7	-0.2
June	1.3	0.6	3.6	-3.5	1.3	-0.5
1997-98						
September	1.5	-0.2	3.1	5.2	1.6	..
December	1.4	-0.8	1.0	9.2	1.2	..

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MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, By Selected Commodity Group(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Meat and meat preparations</i>	<i>Cereals and cereal preparations</i>	<i>Wine</i>	<i>Wool and sheepskins</i>	<i>Machinery</i>	<i>Metals and metal manu- factures</i>	<i>Fish and crustaceans</i>	<i>Road vehicles, parts and accessories</i>	<i>Petroleum and petroleum products</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ANNUAL										
1991-92	270 237	565 582	165 914	351 096	176 536	489 030	147 532	137 091	341 477	3 431 139
1992-93	282 181	573 375	192 255	318 989	211 426	490 594	154 608	338 359	372 445	3 760 602
1993-94	324 796	436 517	238 366	290 963	223 760	462 355	186 861	351 229	276 473	3 889 783
1994-95	307 785	261 052	250 527	301 645	285 309	571 094	191 386	332 321	285 310	3 829 336
1995-96	244 508	713 092	318 534	240 148	340 205	610 899	196 629	249 237	220 915	4 498 532
1996-97	182 478	745 241	397 949	260 974	378 923	542 204	191 093	655 895	286 458	5 013 434
MONTHLY										
1996-97										
January	13 701	108 010	21 366	18 392	17 653	33 405	20 477	46 808	4 275	379 289
February	17 065	124 924	30 844	22 350	27 097	39 512	20 942	58 234	46 498	511 223
March	17 492	118 000	34 185	22 682	39 619	46 802	23 664	58 579	25 712	507 174
April	17 415	61 511	34 047	25 234	31 992	39 508	19 935	45 176	26 197	416 470
May	16 003	16 145	36 804	26 233	35 384	55 444	15 449	39 711	15 488	367 828
June	15 421	18 998	30 160	23 847	29 641	47 560	11 051	57 089	36 706	406 373
1997-98										
July	12 693	18 848	38 625	31 249	41 558	47 372	16 678	53 496	14 509	407 524
August	11 641	18 718	44 669	17 560	31 082	43 635	18 826	60 483	39 320	419 434
September	15 556	27 719	62 570	24 139	38 751	50 905	18 769	18 938	26 927	383 291
October	17 450	10 488	62 258	23 438	26 461	37 876	23 608	39 342	10 935	360 806
November	21 311	8 739	33 344	29 856	41 032	61 844	18 039	84 083	18 110	455 169
December	22 683	67 164	36 065	35 565	38 300	40 932	13 680	72 253	33 679	483 439
January	15 420	92 923	25 835	20 187	21 783	56 613	24 550	15 137	12 427	372 848
February	20 961	45 385	43 691	17 499	27 617	41 100	18 284	19 060	18 197	363 343
March	23 313	62 199	55 231	25 043	37 148	51 547	22 441	37 609	19 641	470 141

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

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MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, By Selected Countries(a)

Period	EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.....					EAST ASIA.....				
	<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Middle East</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Total European Community</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>ASEAN</i>	<i>Total East Asia</i>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ANNUAL										
1991-92	300 139	381 761	220 048	550 258	214 522	647 674	148 308	108 583	437 670	1 627 108
1992-93	352 764	314 049	237 520	594 701	288 421	649 684	208 135	171 803	487 174	1 820 065
1993-94	393 611	280 499	263 092	571 047	311 999	625 481	220 211	165 163	533 977	1 898 975
1994-95	329 878	184 342	246 118	553 051	376 262	682 937	177 875	193 014	551 433	2 004 013
1995-96	279 555	525 348	287 727	691 996	376 628	672 885	293 360	202 307	572 529	2 057 945
1996-97	707 871	563 409	304 645	641 308	382 103	612 115	244 917	234 547	615 018	2 034 488
MONTHLY										
1996-97										
January	47 334	83 789	13 228	29 012	32 659	31 483	17 714	16 327	28 376	119 338
February	57 587	66 413	22 843	49 748	29 728	56 641	27 861	23 395	75 021	209 483
March	69 002	96 254	26 863	67 132	28 321	59 413	22 364	26 579	39 860	182 126
April	59 320	49 119	26 023	52 789	22 885	51 075	33 261	18 598	61 197	185 838
May	49 537	30 815	26 606	63 289	21 142	47 286	17 553	16 373	50 567	166 869
June	83 248	19 843	21 783	60 136	21 859	56 675	15 479	17 994	59 211	180 155
1997-98										
July	75 629	33 014	27 348	60 442	25 538	47 644	31 626	15 779	55 728	178 994
August	80 052	22 224	43 757	72 636	22 840	51 224	21 497	16 567	56 418	175 292
September	25 569	14 786	43 947	79 167	31 036	64 737	22 139	22 409	53 528	182 763
October	26 279	10 465	55 190	89 953	41 159	52 529	27 453	10 146	41 821	149 676
November	92 792	20 278	26 755	56 937	26 456	65 589	33 375	28 165	65 241	224 744
December	80 392	41 986	27 798	60 354	17 402	54 759	33 218	25 295	51 299	196 506
January	19 798	50 590	16 660	37 176	23 869	39 080	24 532	27 240	34 059	155 018
February	33 823	32 691	28 220	69 583	29 889	36 484	36 860	22 829	19 944	137 080
March	63 728	57 813	33 241	77 060	37 033	46 161	38 359	21 096	39 341	178 739

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

MANUFACTURING.....

Period	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining	Food, beverages and tobacco	Petroleum, coal, chemical associated product	Metal product	Machinery and equipment	Other manu- facturing	Other industries/ confidential	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ANNUAL									
1991-92	882 011	248 846	702 148	201 681	541 522	381 737	178 485	294 709	3 431 139
1992-93	883 725	294 586	766 518	195 387	509 303	641 930	178 726	290 427	3 760 602
1993-94	733 014	245 247	884 737	180 147	475 060	665 066	208 573	497 938	3 889 783
1994-95	592 129	268 537	886 337	186 661	584 838	711 529	243 314	355 991	3 829 336
1995-96	1 014 521	226 309	978 332	172 285	639 267	674 131	226 496	567 191	4 498 532
1996-97	1 067 867	205 433	981 918	290 382	569 715	1 140 115	229 503	528 502	5 013 434
MONTHLY									
1996-97									
January	133 106	1 294	72 585	10 035	33 508	69 654	15 632	43 473	379 289
February	151 003	39 505	86 482	33 856	43 376	93 004	18 510	45 485	511 223
March	140 271	734	97 840	33 514	50 176	106 476	18 821	59 366	507 198
April	88 768	30 741	86 093	17 247	40 321	96 254	19 110	37 936	416 470
May	42 278	991	85 038	27 168	59 594	85 062	20 725	46 969	367 826
June	54 021	32 623	75 807	27 832	51 123	92 575	17 531	54 860	406 373
1997-98									
July	79 999	20 940	83 465	14 727	48 601	105 308	24 710	29 775	407 524
August	51 751	11 810	93 512	37 889	48 749	99 482	24 132	52 109	419 434
September	55 954	22 149	115 722	24 156	55 582	65 691	21 983	22 055	383 291
October	43 738	1 722	119 482	18 070	39 144	73 859	19 047	45 743	360 806
November	45 830	16 715	89 420	25 488	68 052	134 173	22 046	53 446	455 169
December	102 793	28 936	88 028	26 808	45 353	121 923	21 832	47 765	483 439
January	120 935	6 767	77 076	17 938	58 344	43 235	18 367	30 186	372 848
February	77 103	805	91 342	25 881	42 616	56 076	19 489	50 032	363 343
March	110 139	14 779	113 762	23 103	55 576	85 895	28 661	38 225	470 141

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

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MERCHANDISE IMPORTS, By Selected Commodity Group(a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food, beverages and tobacco</i>	<i>Petroleum and petroleum products</i>	<i>Chemicals</i>	<i>Textiles</i>	<i>Metals and metal manufactures</i>	<i>Machinery</i>	<i>Road, vehicles, parts and accessories</i>	<i>Other manufactured goods</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ANNUAL									
1991-92	82 095	362 777	153 574	62 884	151 165	523 848	435 121	513 012	2 396 954
1992-93	91 756	570 334	186 001	57 434	255 924	609 212	661 714	521 723	3 068 122
1993-94	99 177	404 626	200 225	60 172	160 937	595 238	663 617	484 590	2 803 446
1994-95	115 930	330 430	220 536	64 524	214 432	695 038	749 658	563 368	3 099 510
1995-96	118 237	346 397	254 102	76 847	213 487	675 869	546 445	728 096	3 114 309
1996-97	136 695	505 633	225 187	79 708	223 259	868 346	538 690	695 238	3 413 043
MONTHLY									
1996-97									
January	9 935	24 997	24 943	8 035	20 890	107 391	42 244	52 370	300 286
February	9 788	52 619	16 510	6 087	20 531	96 667	45 732	46 861	303 870
March	8 356	50 383	28 119	5 065	14 786	50 785	44 387	46 896	257 380
April	10 428	58 416	18 075	7 691	19 477	62 146	55 134	50 015	297 599
May	11 588	45 354	19 293	6 467	15 123	54 510	35 983	48 198	246 008
June	9 424	39 315	20 252	7 109	20 569	66 474	54 586	48 670	283 146
1997-98									
July	10 522	66 543	14 283	6 781	22 112	107 428	83 398	56 474	376 173
August	12 208	29 929	13 882	6 401	24 929	75 139	81 995	53 136	305 788
September	13 380	61 141	13 489	7 031	21 941	79 644	58 896	80 302	343 992
October	15 074	2 052	12 983	8 211	22 588	76 605	67 992	56 732	271 659
November	14 009	67 061	16 244	7 528	21 290	75 565	55 373	51 324	321 544
December	13 857	32 306	22 826	6 632	21 526	115 617	58 610	58 097	342 166
January	13 497	29 721	39 180	8 118	24 947	96 756	54 033	55 516	332 517
February	10 557	39 843	26 205	8 157	27 709	69 833	53 601	55 593	299 885
March	11 294	41 435	31 273	8 736	26 175	87 166	70 443	70 560	357 646

(a) Goods released from Customs control in South Australia.

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TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, By Industry

Period	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
ANNUAL (\$m)								
1991-92	3 223.7	1 087.4	472.4	833.1	289.6	537.7	1 198.4	7 642.5
1992-93	3 081.8	1 101.5	440.4	829.9	324.5	645.0	1 181.8	7 604.9
1993-94	3 253.3	1 107.8	479.0	917.8	378.1	684.0	1 338.8	8 158.8
1994-95	3 477.3	1 128.8	538.0	959.6	383.8	793.5	1 654.4	8 935.4
1995-96	3 786.5	1 138.5	546.7	1 025.6	431.2	902.8	1 762.0	9 593.2
1996-97	4 065.0	1 121.0	467.0	937.0	425.0	792.8	1 648.1	9 455.8
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)								
1996-97								
January	351.1	79.3	37.1	70.3	33.4	60.5	142.1	774.0
February	317.3	69.7	28.1	67.0	28.7	56.5	127.1	694.5
March	350.0	82.7	34.9	70.1	32.0	60.7	131.9	762.4
April	331.2	86.2	45.3	73.3	32.6	65.0	128.4	762.1
May	344.6	96.2	45.3	77.2	32.0	71.3	132.4	798.9
June	320.2	80.0	40.7	74.9	29.6	63.9	132.5	741.8
1997-98								
July	355.0	97.9	45.8	83.1	31.6	67.5	123.7	804.6
August	349.6	80.5	38.7	83.5	32.0	66.0	127.4	777.6
September	348.9	84.8	38.8	84.5	33.2	65.8	121.1	777.2
October	370.4	92.0	46.3	94.3	34.6	76.1	126.6	840.2
November	365.4	105.6	45.6	95.5	36.6	79.2	129.0	856.9
December	418.2	106.5	58.3	121.3	52.5	107.7	148.4	1 066.8
January	396.1	93.8	45.3	94.2	33.4	77.0	116.1	856.0
February	344.9	76.0	33.0	81.9	29.1	69.3	107.4	741.5
March	373.6	78.4	42.9	85.2	34.3	75.8	120.4	810.5
MONTHLY, TREND (\$m)								
1996-97								
January	343.2	94.0	37.5	75.4	34.4	63.7	136.1	786.4
February	344.4	93.7	38.3	75.5	33.8	64.9	136.6	788.5
March	344.5	93.3	39.4	75.9	33.4	66.3	137.3	790.6
April	344.5	93.1	40.6	76.6	33.4	67.4	137.8	793.3
May	345.3	93.3	41.8	77.8	33.6	67.9	137.7	797.1
June	347.6	93.8	42.9	79.8	34.0	68.0	136.8	802.6
1997-98								
July	350.5	94.0	43.7	82.3	34.4	68.1	134.8	807.8
August	353.8	93.8	44.1	85.0	34.6	68.9	131.7	811.9
September	357.2	93.7	44.2	88.1	34.6	70.7	127.5	815.9
October	360.7	94.1	44.0	90.7	34.4	73.3	123.3	820.4
November	364.6	95.0	44.0	92.5	34.2	76.0	120.0	826.2
December	369.2	96.2	44.0	93.4	34.0	78.4	118.1	833.2
January	374.1	97.5	44.2	93.6	33.9	80.2	117.0	840.5
February	378.5	98.5	44.6	93.3	34.0	81.4	116.5	847.3
March	381.9	98.9	44.9	92.5	34.2	82.2	117.0	853.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND								
1996-97								
December	0.8	0.2	0.5	-1.4	-2.5	0.3	0.1	0.2
January	0.6	-0.1	1.4	-0.8	-2.5	1.3	0.3	0.3
February	0.3	-0.3	2.1	0.1	-1.7	1.9	0.4	0.3
March	0.0	-0.4	2.9	0.5	-1.2	2.2	0.5	0.3
April	0.0	-0.2	3.0	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.4	0.3
May	0.2	0.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.7	-0.1	0.5
June	0.7	0.5	2.6	2.6	1.2	0.1	-0.7	0.7
1997-98								
July	0.8	0.2	1.9	3.1	1.2	0.1	-1.5	0.6
August	0.9	-0.2	0.9	3.3	0.6	1.2	-2.3	0.5
September	1.0	-0.1	0.2	3.6	0.0	2.6	-3.2	0.5
November	1.0	0.4	-0.5	3.0	-0.6	3.7	-3.3	0.6
October	1.1	1.0	0.0	2.0	-0.6	3.7	-2.7	0.7
December	1.3	1.3	0.0	1.0	-0.6	3.2	-1.6	0.8
January	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.2	-0.3	2.3	-0.9	0.9
February	1.2	1.0	0.9	-0.3	0.3	1.5	-0.4	0.8
March	0.9	0.4	0.7	-0.9	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.7

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS, By Type of Vehicle

Period	ORIGINAL.....			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.....			TREND ESTIMATE.....		
	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ANNUAL									
1991-92	32 351	5 333	37 684	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992-93	32 894	5 577	38 471	..	..	..	..	..	..
1993-94	32 806	5 781	38 587	..	..	..	..	..	..
1994-95	35 830	6 736	42 566	..	..	..	..	..	..
1995-96	36 067	6 828	42 895	..	..	..	..	..	..
1996-97	36 146	6 970	43 116	..	..	..	..	..	..
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
1991-92	-6.9	-19.4	-8.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992-93	1.7	4.6	2.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
1993-94	-0.3	3.7	0.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
1994-95	9.2	16.5	10.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
1995-96	0.7	1.4	0.8	..	..	..	..	..	..
1996-97	0.2	2.1	0.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
MONTHLY									
1996-97									
December	2 997	585	3 582	3 003	581	3 584	2 990	564	3 553
January	2 493	449	2 942	3 118	576	3 694	3 079	581	3 660
February	3 302	525	3 827	3 307	574	3 881	3 152	598	3 749
March	3 034	593	3 627	3 091	622	3 713	3 193	608	3 801
April	3 015	701	3 716	3 263	673	3 936	3 205	608	3 813
May	3 028	612	3 640	3 075	562	3 637	3 211	599	3 810
June	3 659	780	4 439	3 357	593	3 951	3 230	585	3 815
1997-98									
July	3 351	545	3 896	3 227	539	3 766	3 277	571	3 848
August	3 368	508	3 876	3 274	574	3 848	3 362	563	3 925
September	3 619	555	4 174	3 487	577	4 064	n.a.	n.a.	4 036
October	3 775	560	4 335	3 537	573	4 110	n.a.	n.a.	4 144
November	3 662	537	4 199	3 604	563	4 167	n.a.	n.a.	4 219
December	3 781	702	4 483	3 877	661	4 537	n.a.	n.a.	4 246
January	2 883	483	3 366	3 657	643	4 300	n.a.	n.a.	4 230
February	3 340	640	3 980	3 332	700	4 033	n.a.	n.a.	4 187
March	3 661	687	4 348	3 369	592	3 961	n.a.	n.a.	4 122
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH									
1996-97									
December	0.7	8.5	1.9	2.8	9.0	3.8	3.1	1.8	2.9
January	-16.8	-23.2	-17.9	3.8	-0.9	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0
February	32.5	16.9	30.1	6.1	-0.3	5.1	2.4	2.9	2.4
March	-8.1	13.0	-5.2	-6.5	8.4	-4.3	1.3	1.7	1.4
April	-0.6	18.2	2.5	5.6	8.2	6.0	0.4	0.0	0.3
May	0.4	-12.7	-2.0	-5.8	-16.5	-7.6	0.2	-1.5	-0.1
June	20.8	27.5	22.0	9.2	5.5	8.6	0.6	-2.3	0.1
1997-98									
July	-8.4	-30.1	-12.2	-3.9	-9.1	-4.7	1.5	-2.4	0.9
August	0.5	-6.8	-0.5	1.5	6.5	2.2	2.6	-1.4	2.0
September	7.5	9.3	7.7	6.5	0.5	5.6	n.a.	n.a.	2.8
October	4.3	0.9	3.9	1.4	-0.7	1.1	n.a.	n.a.	2.7
November	-3.0	-4.1	-3.1	1.9	-1.7	1.4	n.a.	n.a.	1.8
December	3.2	30.7	6.8	7.6	17.4	8.9	n.a.	n.a.	0.6
January	-23.8	-31.2	-24.9	-5.7	-2.7	-5.2	n.a.	n.a.	-0.4
February	15.9	32.5	18.2	-8.9	8.9	-6.2	n.a.	n.a.	-1.0
March	9.6	7.3	9.2	1.1	-15.4	-1.8	n.a.	n.a.	-1.5

Period	INDUSTRY.....			Total	TYPE OF ASSET.....	
	Mining	Manu- facturing	Other selected industries		New buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery
ANNUAL (\$m)						
1991-92	193	763	668	1 625	392	1 233
1992-93	218	564	739	1 522	416	1 105
1993-94	97	613	773	1 484	356	1 128
1994-95	115	829	1 162	2 106	351	1 755
1995-96	196	756	921	1 873	358	1 515
1996-97	489	840	1 251	2 580	594	1 985
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991-92	58.4	2.9	-32.3	-12.2	-37.5	0.8
1992-93	12.8	-26.1	10.6	-6.4	6.1	-10.4
1993-94	-55.5	8.7	4.6	-2.5	-14.5	2.0
1994-95	18.3	35.2	50.3	41.9	-1.4	55.6
1995-96	70.4	-8.8	-20.7	-11.1	2.0	-13.7
1996-97	149.5	11.1	35.8	37.7	65.9	31.0
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)						
1996-97						
September	61	187	399	647	133	514
December	82	234	373	688	172	517
March	79	198	245	521	130	391
June	267	221	234	720	160	563
1997-98						
September	345	170	201	716	159	557
December	447	264	217	927	192	735
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, ORIGINAL						
1996-97						
September	3.4	-11.0	44.6	18.7	13.7	20.1
December	34.4	25.1	-6.5	6.3	29.3	0.6
March	-3.7	-15.4	-34.3	-24.3	-24.4	-24.4
June	238.0	11.6	-4.5	38.2	23.1	44.0
1997-98						
September	29.2	-23.1	-14.1	-0.6	-0.6	-1.1
December	29.6	55.3	8.0	29.5	20.8	32.0
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)						
1996-97						
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	618	133	484
December	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	629	148	481
March	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	635	154	480
June	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	686	159	527
1997-98						
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	760	162	598
December	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	810	168	642
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND						
1996-97						
September	..	..	..	9.2	13.7	7.8
December	..	..	..	1.8	11.3	-0.6
March	..	..	..	1.0	4.1	-0.2
June	..	..	..	8.0	3.2	9.8
1997-98						
September	..	..	..	10.8	1.9	13.5
December	..	..	..	6.6	3.7	7.4

Period	HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUESTHOUSES WITH FACILITIES.....			HOLIDAY FLATS, UNITS AND HOUSES.....			SHORT-TERM CARAVAN PARKS.....		
	Guest rooms	Room occupancy	Takings	Flats, units and houses	Unit occupancy	Takings	Sites	Site occupancy	Takings
	no.	%	\$'000	no.	%	\$'000	no.	%	\$'000
ANNUAL									
1991-92	10 745	47	130 578	1 302	40.4	10 492	20 601	17.1	19 111
1992-93	10 632	47	129 882	1 338	40.2	10 740	20 038	22.3	20 113
1993-94	10 597	49	138 782	1 338	40.9	11 700	19 591	23.7	20 790
1994-95	10 594	51	149 698	1 342	40.0	11 644	20 175	24.5	22 537
1995-96	10 772	52	161 136	1 356	41.5	12 844	20 187	24.9	23 578
1996-97	10 895	53	164 227	1 467	42.2	14 615	20 248	25.2	24 336
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
1991-92	2.9	..	1.5	7.6	..	1.5	4.1	..	5.6
1992-93	-1.1	..	-0.5	2.8	..	2.4	-2.7	..	5.2
1993-94	-0.3	..	6.9	0.0	..	8.9	-2.2	..	3.4
1994-95	0.0	..	7.9	0.3	..	-0.5	3.0	..	8.4
1995-96	1.7	..	7.6	1.0	..	10.3	0.1	..	4.6
1996-97	1.1	..	1.9	8.1	..	13.8	0.3	..	3.2
QUARTERLY									
1996-97									
September	10 879	48.9	37 567	1 426	35.1	2 885	20 247	21.0	4 735
December	10 951	54.9	43 266	1 470	40.7	3 651	20 260	25.2	6 340
March	10 909	55.4	43 033	1 493	54.1	4 895	20 251	30.4	7 742
June	10 842	51.1	40 361	1 477	38.8	3 184	20 233	24.3	5 519
1997-98									
September	10 885	52.2	41 722	1 465	35.1	2 964	20 844	22.3	5 273
December	10 897	58.3	48 075	1 615	44.0	4 550	20 735	26.9	6 865
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER									
1996-97									
September	0.1	..	-4.0	-1.7	..	-1.9	0.6	..	-17.5
December	0.7	..	15.2	3.1	..	26.6	0.1	..	33.9
March	-0.4	..	-0.5	1.6	..	34.1	0.0	..	22.1
June	-0.6	..	-6.2	-1.1	..	-35.0	-0.1	..	-28.7
1997-98									
September	0.4	..	3.4	-0.8	..	-6.9	3.0	..	-4.5
December	0.1	..	15.2	10.2	..	53.5	-0.5	..	30.2

Period	NEW HOUSES....		TOTAL DWELLING UNITS.....					
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential building	Non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL								
1991-92	8 613	8 931	10 254	11 290	756	124	627	1 506
1992-93	9 710	10 087	11 548	12 341	841	133	418	1 392
1993-94	9 470	9 901	11 046	11 777	839	122	375	1 336
1994-95	7 757	8 147	9 208	9 762	740	120	493	1 353
1995-96	4 930	5 109	5 760	5 968	469	119	566	1 155
1996-97	5 508	5 604	6 148	6 264	516	117	581	1 213
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL								
1996-97								
February	429	434	467	472	39.7	9.8	53.1	102.6
March	486	501	526	543	41.8	8.9	35.4	86.1
April	559	568	615	628	52.6	10.9	39.2	102.8
May	537	551	599	620	52.5	9.9	64.7	127.1
June	518	540	571	597	49.5	9.2	92.0	150.7
1997-98								
July	571	583	622	634	51.1	10.8	125.1	187.0
August	513	529	552	568	49.3	10.1	63.8	123.2
September	505	527	570	600	51.9	10.7	58.6	121.1
October	523	538	584	599	51.2	12.0	34.1	97.4
November	482	490	544	552	51.2	11.1	64.5	126.7
December	475	482	506	513	48.1	10.6	35.1	93.7
January	364	372	420	431	37.4	7.3	16.1	60.8
February	541	544	663	666	57.0	15.6	41.9	114.5
March	621	669	686	738	63.6	10.7	53.8	128.1
MONTHLY, TREND								
1996-97								
February	484	489	516	523	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
March	508	514	547	556	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
April	521	530	570	581	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
May	522	533	578	592	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
June	511	525	570	586	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1997-98								
July	497	514	554	572	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
August	485	503	535	556	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
September	480	501	526	548	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
October	486	507	532	554	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
November	497	516	549	569	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
December	510	526	572	590	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
January	525	537	599	613	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
February	541	551	629	640	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
March	579	594	667	684	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND								
1996-97								
March	5.0	5.1	6.0	6.3	..	..	..	..
April	2.6	3.1	4.2	4.5	..	..	..	..
May	0.2	0.6	1.4	1.9	..	..	..	..
June	-2.1	-1.5	-1.4	-1.0	..	..	..	..
1997-98								
July	-2.7	-2.1	-2.8	-2.4	..	..	..	..
August	-2.4	-2.1	-3.4	-2.8	..	..	..	..
September	-1.0	-0.4	-1.7	-1.4	..	..	..	..
October	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	..	..	..	..
November	2.3	1.8	3.2	2.7	..	..	..	..
December	2.6	1.9	4.2	3.7
January	2.9	2.1	4.7	3.9
February	3.0	2.6	5.0	4.4
March	3.4	3.1	4.4	4.3

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BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS

Period	NEW HOUSES.....		TOTAL DWELLING UNITS(a).....				NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.....		
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential building	Private sector	Total	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL									
1991-92	8 036	8 344	9 635	10 700	727.2	125.1	344.5	607.8	1 460.1
1992-93	9 122	9 416	10 889	11 646	816.2	122.4	205.5	458.7	1 397.2
1993-94	9 159	9 590	10 712	11 501	845.3	126.5	209.9	373.0	1 344.8
1994-95	7 745	8 210	9 132	9 796	765.5	125.3	251.7	518.5	1 409.3
1995-96	4 836	5 070	5 691	5 960	496.5	121.7	452.8	631.8	1 250.0
1996-97	5 057	5 113	5 704	5 790	496.3	116.9	423.4	568.8	1 181.9
QUARTERLY									
1995-96									
March	1 044	1 089	1 237	1 295	109.2	29.4	80.1	139.9	278.4
June	1 153	1 183	1 273	1 307	111.0	28.8	217.7	264.0	403.9
1996-97									
September	1 191	1 207	1 302	1 321	108.7	26.2	67.9	104.2	239.1
December	1 245	1 262	1 513	1 530	133.8	33.8	85.3	113.2	280.8
March	1 099	1 102	1 242	1 247	106.3	26.2	76.6	121.2	253.6
June	1 522	1 541	1 655	1 691	147.5	30.7	193.5	230.2	408.4
1997-98									
September	1 331	1 376	1 451	1 509	131.9	31.6	70.8	112.3	257.7
December	1 525	1 582	1 801	1 872	176.4	34.0	133.7	168.3	378.7

(a) Includes conversions.

Period	NEW HOUSES...		NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.....		Alterations and additions to residential building	NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.....		TOTAL BUILDING..	
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total		Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m		\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL									
1991-92	591.5	607.5	693.4	748.5	125.1	310.3	484.1	1 127.5	1 357.6
1992-93	647.2	660.9	743.8	780.6	127.1	297.9	570.9	1 166.3	1 478.6
1993-94	719.1	746.4	828.9	876.3	132.0	217.7	462.1	1 177.2	1 470.4
1994-95	659.6	693.6	766.1	816.4	129.4	271.6	476.9	1 164.3	1 422.7
1995-96	441.4	460.5	512.9	534.8	130.6	311.4	542.1	953.2	1 207.5
1996-97	433.9	438.9	485.2	490.4	122.2	444.2	663.3	1 049.8	1 275.9
QUARTERLY									
1995-96									
June	102.6	105.0	117.6	120.3	32.6	88.1	155.6	238.3	308.5
1996-97									
September	97.3	99.3	109.4	111.3	28.0	83.4	143.8	219.4	283.1
December	109.1	110.6	121.3	122.8	35.4	119.6	189.8	276.0	348.0
March	99.9	100.3	114.1	114.6	26.8	100.8	147.8	241.6	289.2
June	127.6	128.7	140.5	141.7	32.0	140.4	181.9	312.8	355.6
1997-98									
September	122.5	125.8	136.3	139.9	32.9	149.8	186.7	318.5	359.4
December	134.0	137.7	151.2	156.0	36.2	152.8	192.0	339.2	384.1

Period	Pigmeat	Beef	Mutton	Lamb	Gas	Coal	Sawn timber(a)
	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	m MJ	tonnes	m ³
ANNUAL							
1991-92	34 538	90 661	72 578	29 941	78 210	2 819 880	271 603
1992-93	38 153	96 338	65 689	39 334	83 000	2 753 610	317 096
1993-94	38 394	94 395	71 354	45 199	89 382	2 643 000	364 961
1994-95	32 063	99 108	66 759	36 147	86 123	2 554 560	392 349
1995-96	31 695	89 704	55 600	37 735	76 074	2 409 120	413 545
1996-97	29 842	85 478	51 778	34 890	76 495	2 633 820	333 691

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR							
1991-92	-10.6	4.2	10.9	-6.5	6.7	15.5	13.1
1992-93	10.5	6.3	-9.5	31.4	6.1	-2.4	16.7
1993-94	0.6	-2.0	8.6	14.9	7.7	-4.0	15.1
1994-95	-16.5	5.0	-6.4	-20.0	-3.6	-3.3	7.5
1995-96	-1.1	-9.5	-16.7	4.4	-11.7	-5.7	5.4
1996-97	-5.8	-4.7	-6.9	-7.5	0.6	9.3	-19.3

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY							
1996-97							
January	2 135	7 343	5 390	3 231	..	..	..
February	2 569	7 234	5 633	3 138	..	..	..
March	2 201	6 855	4 972	2 883	17 945	684 780	68 403
April	2 507	8 366	5 207	3 485	..	..	..
May	2 827	7 616	3 638	3 453	..	..	..
June	2 532	7 178	2 958	3 288	19 777	720 300	82 913
1997-98							
July	2 446	6 820	1 466	1 448	..	..	..
August	2 665	6 042	4 335	2 380	..	..	..
September	2 320	5 842	5 089	2 766	21 942	752 868	90 631
October	2 263	7 881	5 338	3 846	..	..	..
November	2 273	7 870	5 826	3 226	..	..	..
December	1 765	6 574	5 605	2 891	18 997	610 208	83 126
January	2 018	5 790	6 604	3 092	..	..	..
February	2 586	7 883	6 757	3 552	..	..	..
March	2 126	7 716	6 270	3 917	n.y.a.	718 990	n.y.a.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH/QUARTER							
1996-97							
January	6.8	9.7	32.3	26.3	..	..	..
February	20.3	-1.5	4.5	-2.9	..	..	..
March	-14.3	-5.2	-11.7	-8.1	1.5	24.4	-20.9
April	13.9	22.0	4.7	20.9	..	..	..
May	12.8	-9.0	-30.1	-0.9	..	..	..
June	-10.4	-5.8	-18.7	-4.8	10.2	5.2	22.4
1997-98							
July	-3.4	-5.0	-50.4	-56.0	..	..	..
August	9.0	-11.4	195.7	64.4	..	..	..
September	-12.9	-3.3	17.4	16.2	10.9	4.5	9.3
October	-2.5	34.9	4.9	39.0	..	..	..
November	0.4	-0.1	9.1	-16.1	..	..	..
December	-22.3	-16.5	-3.8	-10.4	-13.4	-18.9	-8.3
January	14.3	-11.9	17.8	7.0	..	..	..
February	28.1	36.1	2.3	14.9	..	..	..
March	-17.8	-2.1	-7.2	10.3	n.y.a.	17.8	n.y.a.

(a) From Australian softwood logs only

Period	Food	Clothing	Housing	Household equipment and operation	Transport- ation	Tobacco and alcohol	Health and personal care	Recreation and education	All groups
ANNUAL AVERAGE (1989–90 = 100)									
1991–92	106.0	105.3	100.4	107.5	110.5	118.6	127.8	107.7	108.9
1992–93	109.3	107.0	94.3	107.6	115.0	131.2	134.9	110.7	111.2
1993–94	111.7	106.6	92.1	108.0	117.8	141.5	142.7	113.7	113.4
1994–95	115.1	104.9	97.8	109.2	120.2	148.9	151.3	116.3	116.9
1995–96	118.2	105.1	103.6	112.1	124.5	160.1	158.9	118.0	121.2
1996–97	120.8	105.5	98.9	113.4	124.6	165.3	165.4	121.1	122.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR, ANNUAL AVERAGE									
1991–92	2.1	1.6	-3.6	2.0	3.3	5.9	12.7	2.8	2.5
1992–93	3.1	1.6	-6.1	0.1	4.1	10.6	5.6	2.8	2.1
1993–94	2.2	-0.4	-2.3	0.4	2.4	7.9	5.8	2.7	2.0
1994–95	3.0	-1.6	6.2	1.1	2.0	5.2	6.0	2.2	3.1
1995–96	2.7	0.2	5.9	2.7	3.6	7.6	5.0	1.5	3.7
1996–97	2.2	0.3	-4.5	1.2	0.0	3.3	4.1	2.6	0.9
QUARTERLY (1989–90 = 100.0)									
1996–97									
December	120.7	106.0	100.5	113.8	125.5	164.9	164.9	119.8	122.6
March	121.2	105.1	97.5	113.3	125.6	165.2	167.7	122.3	122.6
June	121.9	105.2	94.1	113.6	122.7	166.5	168.0	122.9	121.9
1997–98									
September	122.0	105.4	92.2	113.6	123.2	167.2	158.6	123.7	121.2
December	122.0	106.2	90.2	113.6	122.3	168.8	164.1	123.6	121.2
March	122.9	105.1	89.9	113.7	121.2	170.7	167.8	125.5	121.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR									
1996–97									
December	2.1	0.8	-3.2	1.6	1.0	3.3	3.9	2.1	1.2
March	2.5	0.2	-6.2	0.8	1.4	1.8	4.2	2.9	0.8
June	3.0	-0.3	-9.4	1.2	-2.1	1.8	4.6	3.1	-0.1
1997–98									
September	2.3	-0.1	-10.9	0.5	-1.0	1.5	-1.4	3.8	-0.8
December	1.1	0.2	-10.2	-0.2	-2.5	2.4	-0.5	3.2	-1.1
March	1.4	0.0	-7.8	0.4	-3.5	3.3	0.1	2.6	-0.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER									
1996–97									
December	1.3	0.5	-2.9	0.7	0.9	0.1	2.5	0.5	0.3
March	0.4	-0.8	-3.0	-0.4	0.1	0.2	1.7	2.1	0.0
June	0.6	0.1	-3.5	0.3	-2.3	0.8	0.2	0.5	-0.6
1997–98									
September	0.1	0.2	-2.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	-5.6	0.7	-0.6
December	0.0	0.8	-2.2	0.0	-0.7	1.0	3.5	-0.1	0.0
March	0.7	-1.0	-0.3	0.1	-0.9	1.1	2.3	1.5	0.4

		QUARTER.....				
		..				
		<i>Mar</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Mar</i>
		<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
<i>Item</i>	<i>Unit</i>	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 L	116	122	122	124	127
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	318	320	323	322	323
Butter	500 g	167	161	164	167	175
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	153	160	161	163	165
Self-raising flour	2 kg	240	235	239	236	235
Beef						
Rump steak	1 kg	1 157	1 141	1 135	1 098	1 197
Corned silverside	1 kg	597	602	626	590	596
Lamb						
Leg	1 kg	572	574	565	535	534
Loin chops	1 kg	799	792	794	796	794
Forequarter chops	1 kg	568	547	534	575	577
Pork						
Leg	1 kg	616	574	622	618	601
Loin chops	1 kg	799	792	802	788	812
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	351	370	362	351	362
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	325	295	321	295	322
Sausages	1 kg	359	360	360	351	357
Potatoes	1 kg	78	108	111	104	69
Onions	1 kg	134	114	127	165	122
Peaches, canned	825 g	182	185	188	185	193
Eggs, 55g	doz.	246	246	239	235	238
Sugar, white	2 kg	183	182	185	183	201
Tea	250 g	169	175	182	183	217
Coffee, instant, jar	150 g	500	539	573	592	588
Margarine, polyunsaturated	500 g	141	133	144	142	141
Petrol						
Leaded	1 L	77.5	75.4	74.5	75.0	71.5
Unleaded	1 L	75.2	73.0	72.2	72.6	72.0

NET MIGRATION.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Live births(a)</i>	<i>Deaths(a)</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Interstate</i>	<i>Overseas(b)</i>	<i>Total increase</i>	<i>Population at end of period(c)</i>
ANNUAL							
1991-92	19 530	11 035	8 532	- 133	2 897	11 296	1 456 523
1992-93	19 686	11 163	8 403	-4 650	1 546	5 299	1 460 730
1993-94	20 036	11 743	7 949	-3 466	1 994	6 477	1 466 127
1994-95	19 569	11 501	7 902	-6 529	2 883	4 256	1 469 411
1995-96	18 959	11 294	7 645	-6 238	4 119	5 526	1 474 253
1996-97	18 945	11 683	7 258	-5 185	3 480	5 553	1 479 806
MONTHLY/QUARTERLY							
1996-97							
July	1 732	1 102	..	..	..	..	..
August	1 662	1 207	..	..	..	..	..
September	1 464	977	1 575	-1 746	902	731	1 474 984
October	1 779	1 196	..	..	..	..	..
November	1 536	835	..	..	..	..	..
December	1 424	920	1 780	-1 565	1 003	1 218	1 476 202
January	1 582	911	..	..	..	..	..
February	1 498	827	..	..	..	..	..
March	1 301	758	1 880	-1 368	1 228	1 740	1 477 942
April	1 673	935	..	..	..	..	..
May	1 805	1 080	..	..	..	..	..
June	1 492	959	2 023	-506	347	1 864	1 479 806
1997-98							
July	1 624	1 099	..	..	..	..	..
August	1 448	1 066	..	..	..	..	..
September	1 481	1 068	1 322	-654	1 124	1 792	1 481 599

(a) Registrations.

(b) Includes category jumping.

Period	EMPLOYED FULL-TIME.....		EMPLOYED PART-TIME.....		TOTAL EMPLOYED.....		UNEMPLOYED..		LABOUR FORCE.....	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
ANNUAL AVERAGE ('000)										
1991-92	323.3	145.7	37.5	121.6	360.8	267.3	50.0	29.3	410.8	296.6
1992-93	322.2	143.2	39.2	126.8	361.4	270.0	51.9	29.9	413.3	299.9
1993-94	322.0	146.3	40.0	127.0	362.0	273.3	47.3	29.9	409.3	303.2
1994-95	323.1	151.5	42.6	131.3	365.7	282.8	44.6	28.7	410.3	311.5
1995-96	325.2	150.0	45.5	136.7	370.7	286.7	42.6	26.0	413.2	312.7
1996-97	320.8	150.5	48.6	140.7	369.4	291.2	42.1	27.5	411.5	318.7
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL ('000)										
1996-97										
April	319.9	148.2	49.3	143.2	369.2	291.5	43.8	27.4	413.0	318.8
May	318.3	149.2	51.6	140.2	369.9	289.4	44.0	25.7	413.9	315.1
June	324.9	151.1	49.1	141.6	374.0	292.7	41.4	26.8	415.4	319.5
1997-98										
July	325.9	149.3	47.5	140.1	373.4	289.4	40.9	27.0	414.3	316.5
August	323.3	143.1	50.0	142.9	373.3	290.4	42.1	25.6	415.3	311.6
September	325.0	144.7	50.4	145.2	375.3	286.1	44.5	27.7	419.9	317.5
October	324.1	145.2	49.6	143.6	373.7	289.9	43.2	26.6	416.9	315.4
November	324.0	147.8	49.2	142.4	373.2	290.3	42.5	26.7	415.8	317.0
December	329.8	151.7	47.1	135.8	376.9	287.5	42.8	28.3	419.7	315.8
January	325.1	147.6	43.3	127.3	368.4	274.9	46.1	32.8	414.5	307.7
February	318.2	148.2	50.0	132.1	368.2	280.2	45.8	31.1	414.0	311.3
March	317.2	148.7	50.4	129.6	367.6	278.2	41.7	31.9	409.3	310.2
April	317.4	145.6	52.2	133.3	369.7	278.9	39.1	28.6	408.8	307.5
MONTHLY, TREND ('000)										
1996-97										
April	321.6	150.7	49.3	140.8	370.9	291.5	43.0	27.4	413.9	318.9
May	322.3	150.3	49.6	140.0	371.9	290.3	43.3	27.5	415.2	317.8
June	323.3	149.4	49.7	139.7	373.0	289.1	43.4	27.6	416.4	316.7
1997-98										
July	324.1	148.3	49.8	140.1	373.9	288.4	43.4	27.7	417.3	316.1
August	324.6	147.1	49.9	141.2	374.5	288.3	43.4	27.8	417.9	316.1
September	324.8	146.2	49.9	142.1	374.7	288.3	43.4	27.8	418.1	316.1
October	324.7	145.8	49.5	142.3	374.2	288.1	43.4	27.9	417.6	316.0
November	324.1	146.1	49.0	141.0	373.1	287.1	43.5	28.1	416.6	315.2
December	323.2	146.7	48.6	138.8	371.8	285.5	43.3	28.4	415.1	313.9
January	322.3	147.4	48.2	136.2	370.5	283.6	42.8	28.7	413.3	312.3
February	321.3	147.9	48.1	133.7	369.4	281.6	42.3	29.0	411.7	310.6
March	320.4	148.3	48.1	131.6	368.5	279.9	41.6	29.1	410.1	309.0
April	319.6	148.5	48.3	129.9	367.9	278.4	41.0	29.2	408.9	307.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND										
1996-97										
April	0.1	0.1	0.6	-0.7	0.2	-0.3	0.9	0.7	0.3	-0.2
May	0.2	-0.3	0.6	-0.6	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	-0.3
June	0.3	-0.6	0.2	-0.2	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.3
1997-98										
July	0.2	-0.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.2
August	0.2	-0.8	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0
September	0.1	-0.6	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
October	0.0	-0.3	-0.8	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.4	-0.1	0.0
November	-0.2	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.7	-0.2	-0.3
December	-0.3	0.4	-0.8	-1.6	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	1.1	-0.4	-0.4
February	-0.3	0.5	-0.8	-1.9	-0.3	-0.7	-1.2	1.1	-0.4	-0.5
March	-0.3	0.3	0.0	-1.6	-0.2	-0.6	-1.7	0.3	-0.4	-0.5
January	-0.3	0.3	-0.2	-1.8	-0.3	-0.7	-1.2	1.0	-0.4	-0.5
April	-0.2	0.1	0.4	-1.3	-0.2	-0.5	-1.4	0.3	-0.3	-0.5

(a) Population aged 15 and over.

Period	CIVILIAN POPULATION....		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.....				PARTICIPATION RATE..		
	Males aged 15 and over	Females aged 15 and over	Persons aged 15-19	Males all ages	Females all ages	Persons all ages	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ANNUAL AVERAGE									
1991-92	563.9	585.4	25.0	12.1	9.9	11.2	72.9	50.7	61.6
1992-93	567.4	588.9	26.6	12.6	10.0	11.5	72.8	51.0	61.7
1993-94	570.6	592.0	28.3	11.5	9.8	10.8	71.7	51.2	61.3
1994-95	573.7	594.7	25.2	10.9	9.2	10.2	71.5	52.4	61.8
1995-96	576.2	597.1	27.2	10.3	8.3	9.5	71.7	52.4	61.9
1996-97	579.8	600.6	23.7	10.2	8.6	9.5	71.0	53.1	61.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
1991-92	1.0	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992-93	0.6	0.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1993-94	0.6	0.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1994-95	0.6	0.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1995-96	0.4	0.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1996-97	0.6	0.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL									
1996-97									
February	580.3	601.0	23.5	10.7	9.4	10.1	71.1	53.7	62.2
March	580.5	601.2	22.7	10.0	9.1	9.6	71.5	53.8	62.5
April	580.8	601.5	26.7	10.6	8.6	9.7	71.1	53.0	61.9
May	581.1	601.8	23.7	10.6	8.2	9.6	71.2	52.4	61.6
June	581.5	602.2	24.3	10.0	8.4	9.3	71.4	53.1	62.1
1997-98									
July	581.9	602.6	21.6	9.9	8.5	9.3	71.2	52.5	61.7
August	582.3	602.9	21.2	10.1	8.2	9.3	71.3	51.7	61.3
September	582.7	603.3	23.2	10.6	8.7	9.8	72.1	52.6	62.2
October	583.1	603.7	22.5	10.4	8.4	9.5	71.5	52.2	61.7
November	583.6	604.1	20.9	10.2	8.4	9.5	71.3	52.5	61.7
December	584.0	604.5	23.3	10.2	8.9	9.7	71.9	52.2	61.9
January	584.3	604.8	26.5	11.1	10.7	10.9	70.9	50.9	60.7
February	584.5	605.1	24.8	11.1	10.0	10.6	70.8	51.5	61.0
March	584.8	605.3	26.1	10.2	10.3	10.2	70.0	51.2	60.5
April	585.1	605.6	23.0	9.6	9.3	9.4	69.9	50.8	60.2
MONTHLY, TREND									
1996-97									
February	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	8.5	9.5	70.9	53.2	61.9
March	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.3	8.5	9.5	71.1	53.2	62.0
April	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.6	9.6	71.3	53.0	62.0
May	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.7	9.7	71.4	52.8	62.0
June	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.7	9.7	71.6	52.6	61.9
1997-98									
July	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.8	9.7	71.7	52.5	61.9
August	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.8	9.7	71.8	52.4	61.9
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.8	9.7	71.7	52.4	61.9
October	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.8	9.7	71.6	52.3	61.9
November	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.9	9.8	71.4	52.2	61.6
December	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	9.0	9.8	71.1	51.9	61.3
January	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	9.2	9.9	70.7	51.6	61.0
February	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.3	9.3	9.9	70.4	51.3	60.7
March	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	9.4	9.8	70.1	51.0	60.4
April	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.0	9.5	9.8	69.9	50.8	60.2

(a) Population aged 15 and over.

Period	FULL-TIME ADULTS ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS..			FULL-TIME ADULTS TOTAL EARNINGS.....			ALL EMPLOYEES TOTAL EARNINGS.....		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
ANNUAL AVERAGE (\$ per week)									
1991-92	588.40	524.10	567.80	624.90	534.00	595.80	564.80	386.90	483.70
1992-93	610.10	534.90	585.40	646.40	546.80	613.70	560.00	382.60	477.40
1993-94	625.10	547.60	600.00	667.50	560.10	632.70	595.10	396.60	503.30
1994-95	632.70	559.10	608.20	681.70	572.50	645.30	599.90	411.90	513.40
1995-96	653.80	555.90	622.80	703.20	568.50	660.10	620.10	403.90	520.70
1996-97	678.20	575.10	644.30	735.10	589.40	687.20	636.90	408.70	529.80
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
1991-92	4.8	7.8	5.6	4.3	7.6	5.1	3.3	8.0	4.7
1992-93	3.7	2.1	3.1	3.4	2.4	3.0	-0.8	-1.1	-1.3
1993-94	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.3	2.4	3.1	6.3	3.7	5.4
1994-95	1.2	2.1	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.0	0.8	3.9	2.0
1995-96	3.3	-0.6	2.4	3.1	-0.7	2.3	3.4	-1.9	1.4
1996-97	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.5	3.7	4.1	2.7	1.2	1.8
QUARTERLY (\$ per week)									
1996-97									
15 November	669.60	575.30	639.50	728.30	591.80	684.80	626.80	402.30	522.20
21 February	685.60	578.20	649.70	741.90	594.00	692.40	639.80	409.50	530.80
16 May	690.90	584.50	655.70	750.00	597.20	699.30	652.30	419.50	542.50
1997-98									
15 August	703.90	583.70	663.40	756.20	593.50	701.40	651.00	420.00	542.50
21 November	689.70	594.20	655.00	739.90	607.40	691.80	631.70	433.90	533.90
20 February	715.10	626.20	683.60	764.60	642.10	721.20	656.10	447.70	553.60
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM CORRESPONDING REFERENCE DATE IN PREVIOUS YEAR									
1996-97									
15 November	3.4	4.8	3.8	5.1	5.5	5.2	3.2	1.5	2.3
21 February	4.1	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.3	3.8	1.3	1.8	0.7
16 May	3.3	4.9	3.5	4.0	4.4	3.7	1.8	2.7	1.5
1997-98									
15 August	5.6	3.8	4.9	5.0	3.3	4.3	3.6	4.1	3.6
21 November	3.0	3.3	2.4	1.6	2.6	1.0	0.8	7.9	2.2
20 February	4.3	8.3	5.2	3.1	8.1	4.2	2.5	9.3	4.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REFERENCE DATE									
1996-97									
15 November	0.4	2.3	1.1	1.1	3.0	1.9	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
21 February	2.4	0.5	1.6	1.9	0.4	1.1	2.1	1.8	1.6
16 May	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.0	2.0	2.4	2.2
1997-98									
15 August	1.9	-0.1	1.2	0.8	-0.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.0
21 November	-2.0	1.8	-1.3	-2.2	2.3	-1.4	-3.0	3.3	-1.6
20 February	3.7	5.4	4.4	3.3	5.7	4.2	3.9	3.2	3.7

SECURED HOUSING
FINANCE COMMITMENTS.....

Period	Dwelling units	Value	Alterations and additions	Personal finance commitments	Commercial finance commitments	Lease finance commitments
	no.	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL						
1991-92	31 765	2 083.8	88.8	1 456.7	6 667.9	256.2
1992-93	36 960	2 569.5	102.8	1 656.9	5 122.5	249.5
1993-94	45 725	3 387.9	221.8	1 840.3	5 467.2	250.6
1994-95	36 429	2 879.7	242.2	2 152.2	5 405.6	271.4
1995-96	38 707	2 982.2	240.7	2 211.5	6 516.2	265.4
1996-97	36 680	2 956.1	188.1	2 612.0	6 092.4	232.0

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

1991-92	10.7	20.4	51.0	-3.1	6.6	-20.7
1992-93	16.4	23.3	15.8	13.7	-23.2	-2.6
1993-94	23.7	31.9	115.7	11.1	6.7	0.5
1994-95	-20.3	-15.0	9.2	16.9	-1.1	8.3
1995-96	6.3	3.6	-0.6	2.8	20.5	-2.2
1996-97	-5.2	-0.9	-21.9	18.1	-6.5	-12.6

MONTHLY

1996-97						
January	2 885	231.3	15.3	221.0	409.1	13.7
February	3 013	246.6	16.4	214.4	415.3	15.3
March	3 117	251.4	12.9	241.7	526.5	13.9
April	3 318	270.4	15.5	251.6	487.5	21.6
May	3 228	264.5	14.8	251.7	561.6	20.7
June	3 172	253.3	11.9	249.8	497.9	30.6
1997-98						
July	3 004	243.4	10.8	278.3	640.2	29.8
August	3 085	251.1	10.4	204.6	377.0	21.8
September	3 033	252.6	9.9	218.5	556.2	21.7
October	3 138	265.4	13.2	221.1	619.2	21.6
November	2 996	255.5	11.5	219.7	452.4	17.8
December	3 200	274.7	10.1	233.3	831.4	20.0
January	2 563	210.9	8.9	196.5	379.1	15.3
February	3 107	254.1	10.3	209.4	409.2	18.6
March	3 321	281.5	15.9	245.0	517.2	24.2

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

1996-97						
January	-3.7	-8.0	17.5	0.1	-33.5	-28.6
February	4.4	6.6	7.0	-3.0	1.5	11.5
March	3.5	2.0	-21.3	12.8	26.8	-8.7
April	6.4	7.5	19.6	4.1	-7.4	55.3
May	-2.7	-2.2	-4.3	0.0	15.2	-4.2
June	-1.7	-4.2	-19.8	-0.7	-11.3	47.6
1997-98						
July	-5.3	-3.9	-9.0	11.4	28.6	-2.7
August	2.7	3.1	-3.9	-26.5	-41.1	-27.0
September	-1.7	0.6	-4.3	7.6	47.9	-0.4
October	3.5	5.1	33.2	0.4	11.1	-0.5
November	-4.5	-3.7	-12.8	-0.6	-26.9	-17.7
December	6.8	7.5	-12.0	6.2	83.8	12.4
January	-19.9	-23.2	-12.1	-15.8	-54.4	-23.5
February	23.1	22.3	15.4	6.6	7.9	21.6
March	6.9	10.8	54.4	17.0	26.4	30.3

PUBLICATIONS SOURCE INDEX

- (1) *Australian National Accounts, Quarterly State Details* (Cat. no. 5206.0.40.001)
- (2) *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 5422.0) Quarterly
- (3) *Retail Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 8501.0) Monthly
- (4) *New Motor Vehicles Registrations, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 9301.0)
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- (5) *State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure* (Cat. no. 5646.0) Quarterly
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- (8a) *Building Activity, Australia, Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8750.0) Quarterly
- (9) *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8762.0) Quarterly
- (10) *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8301.0)
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- (13) *Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6401.0) Quarterly
- (14) *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Cat. no. 6408.0) Monthly
- (15) *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (Cat. no. 6407.0) Monthly
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- (21) Unpublished overseas arrival and departure statistics on microfiche
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- (23) *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6345.0) Quarterly
- (24) *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (Cat. no. 5609.0) Monthly
- (25) Unpublished statistics available from PC AUSSTATS
- (26) *Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin*

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