



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
	April 1999	1 April 1999
	May 1999	3 May 1999
	June 1999	1 June 1999
	July 1999	1 July 1999
	August 1999	2 August 1999
	September 1999	1 September 1999

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.

I. Crettenden
Regional Director
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REVIEW

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OVERVIEW

- The value of merchandise exports, where the final stage of production was in South Australia were \$508.9m in December 1998. This was an increase of \$111.5m from November. The value of merchandise imports released from Customs control was \$284.2m in December 1998, a decrease of 15.1% (\$50.6m) on November 1998 and a 16.9% fall on December 1997.
- The trend estimate for retail turnover has moved into decline over the last two months and the growth rate was -0.3% for December 1998.
- The trend for new motor vehicle registrations fell 2.0% in December 1998. This continues the downward trend over the past six months since the record high in June 1998.
- The fall of 3.3% in the trend for total dwelling units approved in December 1998 continued the decline evident since July 1998.
- In November 1998 there were 9,308 short-term overseas visitor arrivals to South Australia, an increase of 33.4% on the previous month.
- The trend estimate of employed persons has increased in the seven months to January 1999 with the latest estimate (662,100) being 1.2% higher than the level 12 months ago.
- The trend estimate of the unemployment rate has decreased in recent months, reaching 9.3% in January 1999.
- A total of 1,300 working days were lost through industrial disputes during October 1998, a decrease of 900 working days from September 1998.
- In December 1998 the trend estimate for the value of new housing commitments (excluding alterations and additions) increased marginally for the third consecutive month.

STATE ACCOUNTS

Trend (Constant prices)

State Final demand (SFD) increased 0.7% in the September quarter 1998, down slightly from the June quarter (0.8%). Growth in SFD has remained constant for the last three quarters. The national trend slowed marginally to 1.0% after five quarters of constant growth of between 1.2%–1.3%.

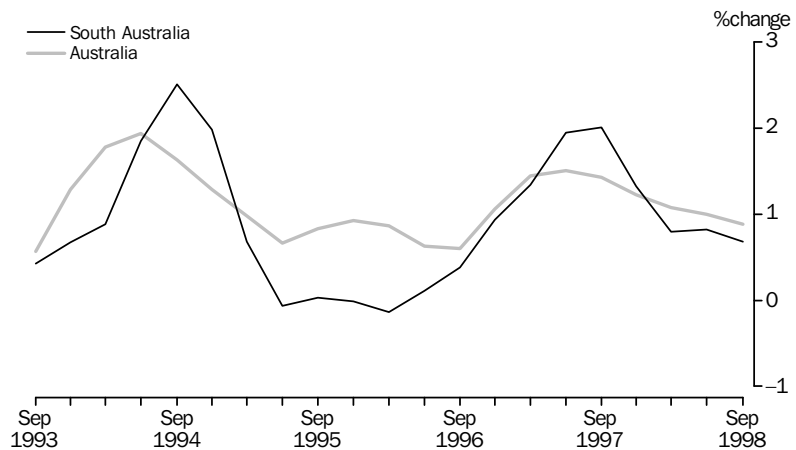
Growth through the year to September quarter 1998 was 3.7% compared with the national rate of 4.6%. Only Tasmania recorded a lower increase (0.3%).

Contributing to the growth of SFD was a 0.7% increase in household final consumption expenditure, offset by a 3.3% fall in the growth rate of private gross fixed capital expenditure (due mainly to a 4.4% fall in plant and machinery). Public final demand increased by 2.9%, continuing an upward trend evident over the last three quarters.

Trend (Constant prices) *continued*

Household final consumption expenditure rose 0.7%, the same as the national rate. South Australia had been marginally ahead of the national rate for the previous four quarters. Growth through the year to September quarter was 4.3%, compared with the national rate of 3.6%.

State final demand: **Trend** (Chain volume measures) (a)



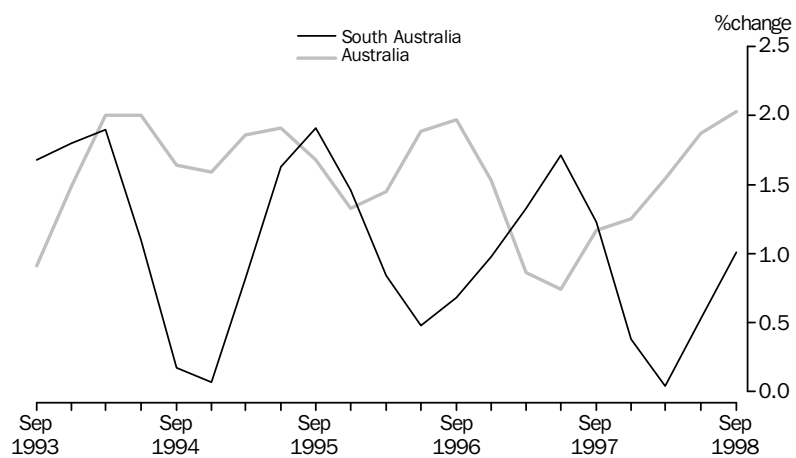
(a) Quarterly changes

Trend (Current prices)

Compensation of employees rose 1.0% in the September quarter, half the national rate of 2.0%.

Growth through the year to September quarter was 2.0%, significantly below the national rate of 6.9% and the lowest of all States and Territories. South Australia has been significantly below the national rate for the last four quarters.

Compensation of employees: **Trend** (Current prices) (a)



(a) Quarterly changes

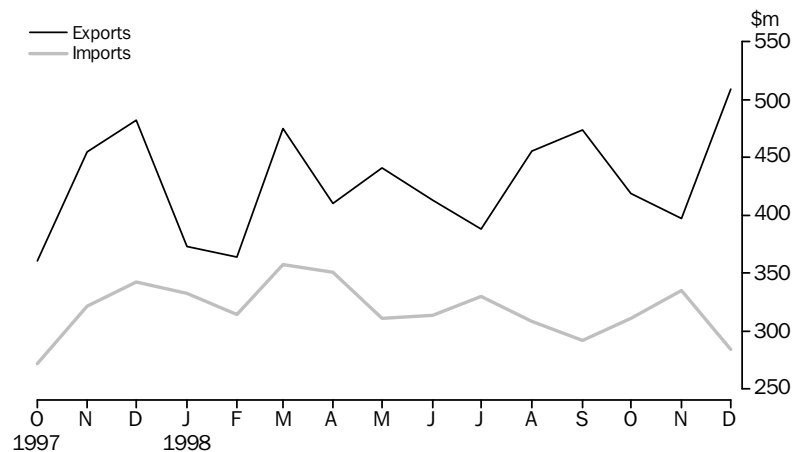
INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Merchandise exports

The value of merchandise exports, where the final stage of production was in South Australia were valued at \$508.9m in December 1998. This was an increase of \$111.5m on last month and was a 5.5% decrease over the same period of the previous year. The export commodity groups recording significant increases on the previous month were cereal and cereal preparations, up \$74.3m to \$86.8m, petroleum, up \$14.2m to \$22.9m and wine, up \$5.9m to \$45.9m. The increase was partly offset by a decrease in road vehicles, parts and accessories, down \$4.3m to \$72.0m, and minor decreases in the exports of wool and meat.

Of the major trading partners, the Middle East showed the largest increase in December 1998, rising from \$33.6m to \$111.5m, mainly as a result of the export of cereals to that region. Other regions to show an increase on the previous month were the European Community, up \$37.4m to \$78.6m and Japan, up \$18.1m to \$48.4m. The United States of America was still the largest single country destination for South Australian goods with \$70.1m in December 1998.

Merchandise exports and imports



Merchandise imports

The value of merchandise imports released from Customs control in South Australia was \$284.2m in December 1998, a decrease of 15.1% (\$50.6m) on November 1998 and a 16.9% fall on December 1997. The major commodity groups which recorded decreases over the previous month were petrol and petroleum products, down \$19.6m to \$16.9m, other manufactured goods, down \$12.7m to \$59.2m and road vehicles, parts and accessories, down \$6.2m to \$64.4m. Food, beverages and tobacco, petrol, chemicals, textiles, and machinery all recorded small decreases for the month.

CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT

Retail turnover

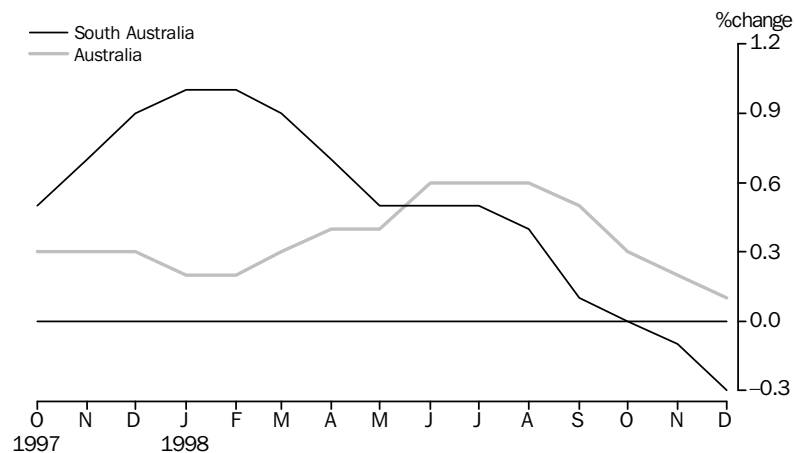
The trend estimate for retail turnover has moved into decline over the last two months and the growth rate for December 1998 was -0.3%. The major contributors were the recreational good and hospitality and services groups.

The decline in the trend rate in December 1998 and preceding months resulted from a fall in the seasonally adjusted data of 2.4%. This fall is partly due the fact that growth in original terms for December 1998, while large was not as strong as expected considering the number of traditionally strong trading days occurring in this month.

Over the three months to December 1998 the trend estimate has declined by \$3.3m. The major contributors to this fall were hospitality and services (\$6.7m), recreational good retailing (\$1.9m), department stores (\$1.7m), and clothing and soft good retailing (\$1.1m). Increases were recorded for food retailing (\$4.3m) and other retailing (\$4.1m).

In original terms, South Australian retail turnover for December 1998 was \$1,157.4m, a increase of 29.0% on November 1998 and an increase of 8.5% on December 1997. In comparison, the Australian turnover was \$15,251.8m, a 4.6% increase on last year. The South Australian share of the Australian total was 7.6%.

Retail turnover: **Trend**



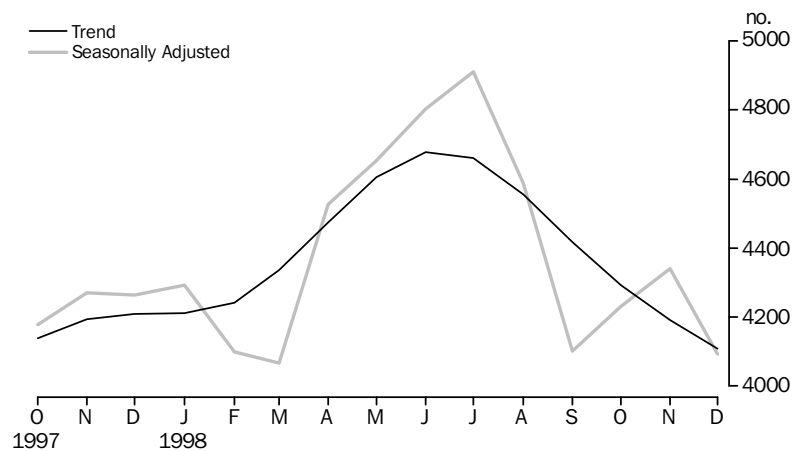
New motor vehicle registrations

The trend for new motor vehicle registrations fell 2.0% in December 1998. This continues the downward trend over the past six months since the record high in June 1998.

In original numbers there were 4,344 vehicles registered during December 1998. The leading makes of passenger vehicles registered were Holden (805), Ford (712), Toyota (679), Mitsubishi (477), Hyundai (222), Nissan (151) and Honda (109).

In December 1998 total Australian new motor vehicle registrations (71,088) in original numbers were 4.7% higher than a year ago.

New motor vehicle registrations

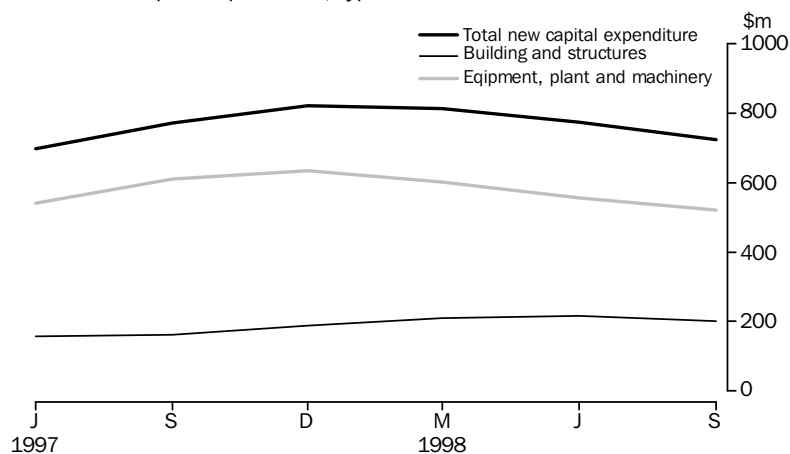


Private new capital expenditure

The trend estimate at current prices for private new capital expenditure for the September quarter 1998 decreased 6.3% from the previous quarter. Expenditure on buildings decreased by 6.5% and equipment decreased 6.3%. When compared with September quarter 1997, total expenditure has decreased by \$48m (6.2%). Expenditure on buildings has increased by \$41m (25.5%), and equipment fell by \$90m (14.7%).

In original terms, private new capital expenditure for the September quarter 1998 was \$623m, a decrease of 22.4% on the previous quarter. Equipment, plant and machinery accounted for \$463m and buildings and structures \$159m.

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



Tourist accommodation

The number of rooms and units available in licensed hotels, motels and guesthouses, and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms or units increased 2.3% in the September quarter 1998 compared with the September quarter 1997. The room occupancy rate increased from 53.7% to 54.3%. Takings for all accommodation types increased when compared with September quarter 1997, with total takings increasing from \$39.3m to \$42.5m. Average takings per room night occupied rose from \$82.30 to \$86.00.

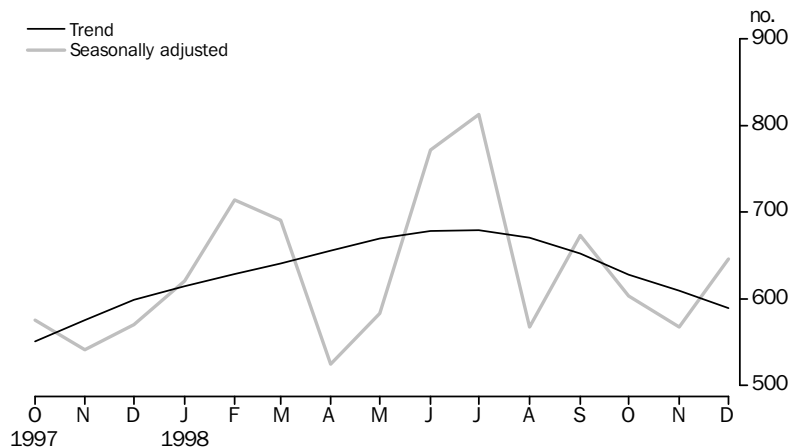
PRODUCTION

Building approvals

The fall of 3.3% in the trend for total dwelling units approved in December 1998 continued the decline evident since July 1998. It has fallen 13.3% in that time. In original terms, 563 dwelling units were approved, a decrease of 7.1% on the previous month. Total dwelling units approved for Australia also decreased by 5.0% from the previous month. As a percentage of total dwelling units approved, South Australia accounted for 4.5% which is above the level of a year ago.

The number of dwelling units approved in the 1998 calendar year increased by 16.5% to 7,780. New residential building (7,682) and conversions (80) both recorded increases while alterations and additions to residential buildings (12) and non-residential building (6) recorded falls in dwelling units approved for 1998.

Dwelling units approved



A decrease of 11.6% in the value of total building approved for December 1998 can be attributed to falls of over 14% in both residential and non-residential building. Public sector non-residential building accounted for over 50% of the value of non-residential building with the educational category (\$16.7m) the main contributor to this value.

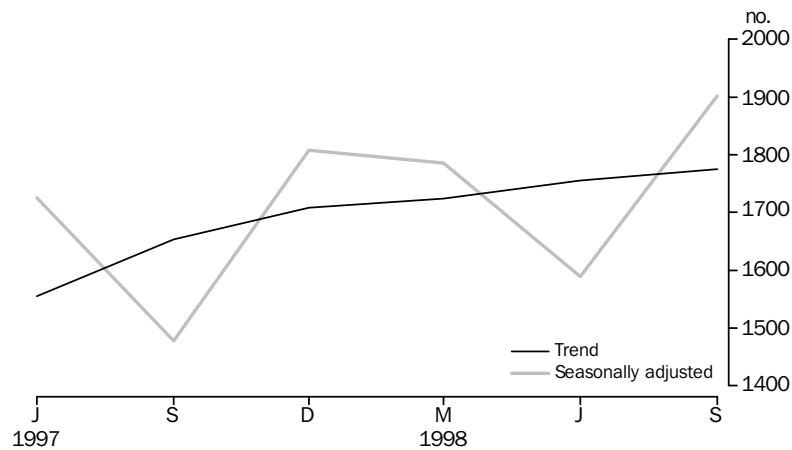
Building approvals *continued*

The value of building approved for the 1998 calendar year remained steady at \$1,395.7m. Both the value of new residential building (\$731.8m) and conversions (\$7.4m) increased for the 1998 calendar year while the value of non-residential building (532.6m) decreased.

Building activity

For the September quarter 1998, the trend for the total number of dwelling units commenced rose by 1.2% and was 6.3% above the level of a year earlier. Corresponding figures for Australia were -0.8% and 3.8%. In original terms, 1,981 dwellings were commenced in the State during the September quarter, an increase of 423 or 27.2% from the previous quarter. The September quarter level represents 5.1% of all dwelling units commenced in Australia.

Dwelling units commenced

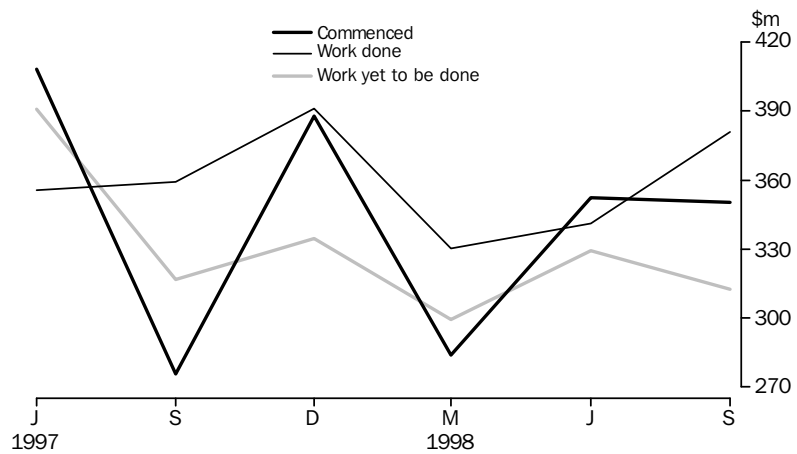


The total value of building work commenced during the September quarter 1998 fell by \$1.9m from the previous quarter. This was due to an increase of 19.7% in new residential building offsetting a 22.5% decrease in non-residential building.

South Australia recorded the largest percentage increase (11.7%) for total building work done during the September quarter 1998. The increase of \$39.9m for South Australia is mostly attributed to a \$32.0m increase in the value of total residential building. Nationally the value for total building work done increased by 1.5%.

The total value of building work yet to be done at the end of September 1998 was \$312.6m. This was a decrease of 5.1% on the figure at the end of June 1998 and it only accounted for 2.3% of the corresponding national figure.

Value of building activity



Engineering construction

The value of engineering construction work done in the September quarter 1998 fell by 18.6% to \$244.7m, which follows the national figure which fell by 10.7%. The September quarter level represents 5.7% of the national figure, compared with 6.9% for the September quarter of a year ago. In South Australia, work commenced during the September quarter fell by 16.7% to \$177.8m, compared with a national fall of 8.3%. Roads, highways and subdivisions (\$56.5m), Oil, gas, coal and other minerals (\$28.7m), and Electricity generation, transmission and distribution (\$28.5m) categories contributed to over half of the value of work commenced for this period.

PRICES

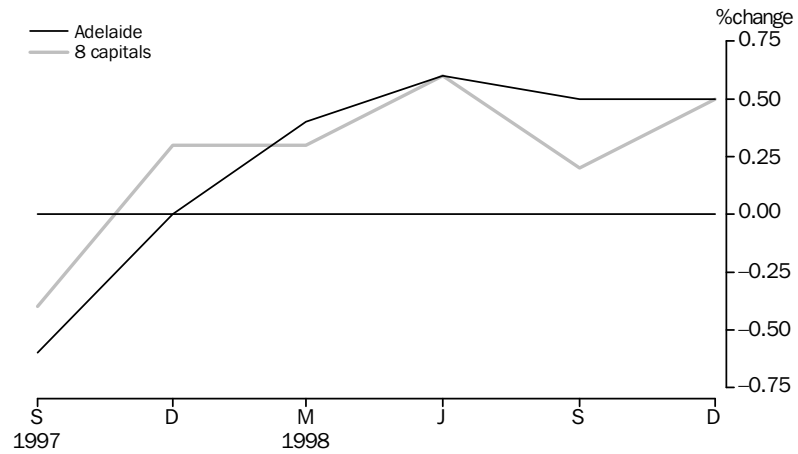
Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (all groups) in Adelaide rose 0.5% in the December quarter 1998. The groups which contributed most to the overall increase this quarter were food and housing. The clothing, alcohol and tobacco, household equipment and operation, recreation and education groups all had small increases which were partly offset by decreases in transport, and health and personal care.

In annual terms, the index has shown a 2.0% increase between December quarters 1997 and 1998.

The Consumer Price Index for the weighted average of eight capital cities rose 0.5% from the previous quarter and rose 1.6% compared with last year.

Consumer price index

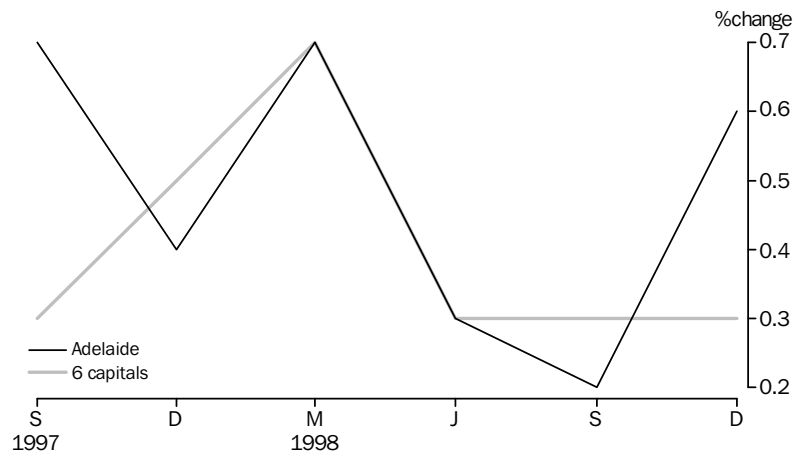


House building materials index

The Price Index of Materials used in House Building rose by 0.6% for the December quarter 1998 in Adelaide. The major contributors to the rise in the index were increased prices for plaster products and cupboards. The weighted average of the six State capitals recorded a 0.3% increase in the same period.

Adelaide recorded a rise of 1.9% in the Index for the 12 months to December quarter 1998, with the weighted average of the six State capitals recording an increase of 1.5%.

Materials used in house building

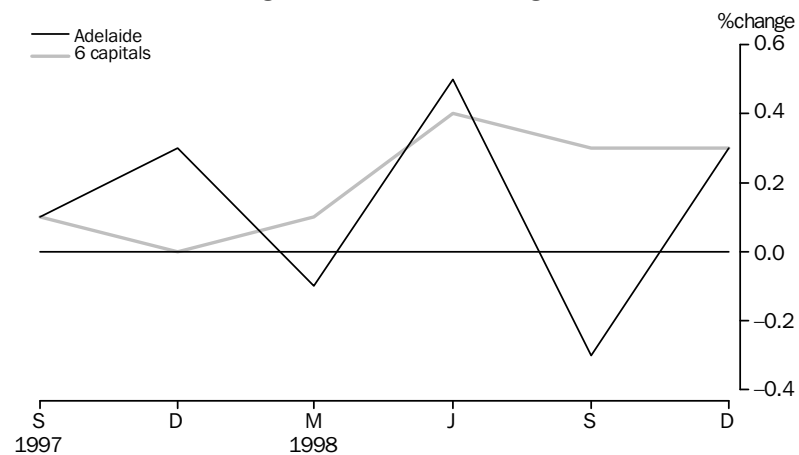


Non-house building materials index

The Price Index of Materials used in Building other than House Building rose 0.3% in the December quarter. Materials to record increases were clay bricks and elevators, escalators and travelators partly offset by decreases in ready mix concrete and reinforcing steel bar, fabric and mesh. For the same period, the weighted average of the six State capitals rose 0.3%.

For the 12 months to December quarter 1998, Adelaide recorded a rise of 0.4% in the Index, while the weighted average of the six State capitals showed a 1.1% increase in the same period.

Materials used in building other than house building



House prices indexes

During the September quarter 1998 the Price Index of Established Houses in Adelaide fell 0.5%, while there was a 3.0% increase annually. The weighted average of the eight capital cities index did not increase between September and June 1998 quarters and increased 6.7% annually.

The Project Home Price Index fell by 0.1% during the September quarter 1998 and increased 2.1% when compared with the same time the previous year. Nationally, the weighted average of eight capital cities index rose 0.5% from the June quarter and 1.4% from the September quarter 1997.

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 All Groups index number for September quarter 1998 is 111.5, up from 109.8 in the previous quarter. This rise is due to increases in the workcover levy, the superannuation guarantee rate, compulsory third party insurance and bus leases. The prices for the other items in the index remained unchanged from the last quarter, apart from fuel, depot leases and bus insurance which decreased from 99.5 to 94.9, 115.7 to 114.4 and 84.3 to 83.1 respectively.

LABOUR FORCE AND DEMOGRAPHY

Population

At 30 June 1998 the estimated resident population of South Australia was 1,487,294. This was an increase of 1,360 persons from the March quarter and was due to a natural increase of 1,625 persons and a net migration loss of 265 persons.

Between 30 June 1997 and 30 June 1998 the population for South Australia grew by 0.5% compared with the Australian rate of 1.2%. In June 1998 South Australia represented 7.9% of the Australian population.

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals

In November 1998 there were 9,308 short-term overseas visitor arrivals to South Australia, an increase of 33.4% on the previous month. A comparison with the same period last year shows a rise of 1.9%. The South Australian proportion of short-term visitors was 2.5% for November 1998.

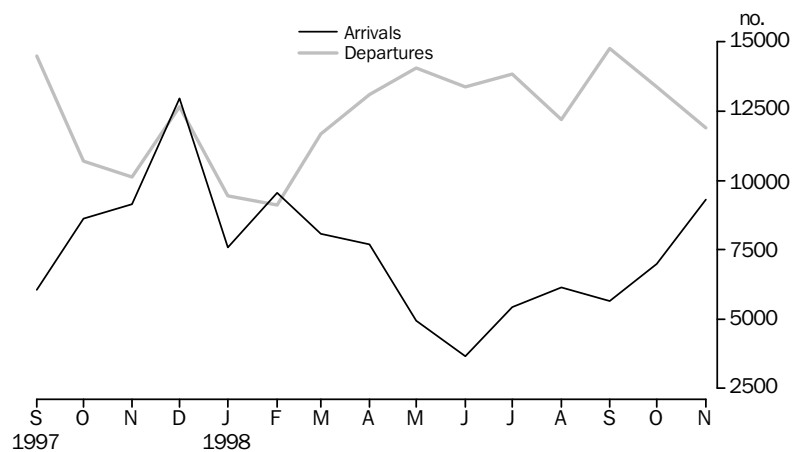
The Australian data shows 3.7% increase on last month and the annual change was a fall of 3.0%.

Short-term resident departures

There were 11,898 short-term resident departures in November 1998. This represents a decrease of 11.1% from last month and a 17.6% increase on last year. South Australia accounted for 4.6% of all short-term resident departures in November 1998.

In November 1998 the resident departures from Australia were 256,453 a 4.3% decrease on the previous month and a 10.3% increase on last year.

Short-term arrivals and departures

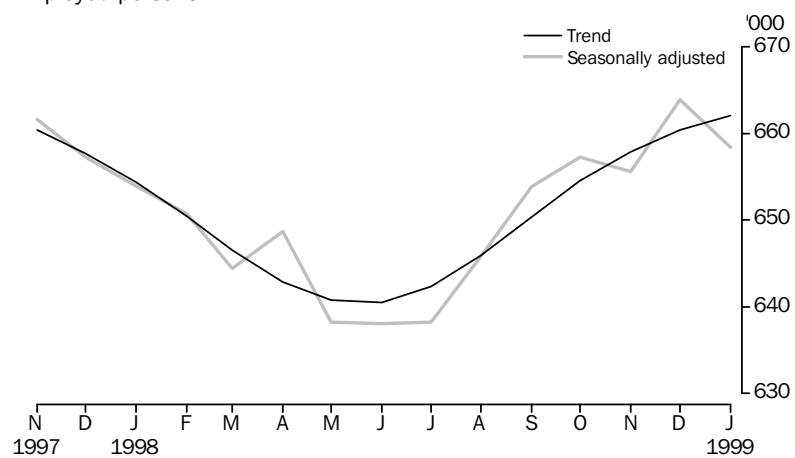


Employment

The trend estimate of employed persons has increased in the seven months to January 1999 with the latest estimate (662,100) being 1.2% higher than the level 12 months ago. Most of the recent increases have been in female part-time employment which has increased 11.2% since June 1998 while total employed has increased 3.4% in the same period.

The Australian trend estimate of employed persons has continued to rise steadily over the past 18 months, reaching 8,690,600 in January 1999.

Employed persons



Labour force participation

The labour force participation rate expresses the labour force (or all employed and unemployed persons) as a proportion of the total population aged 15 and over. It measures the economically active or productive element within the working age population. After declining in the earlier part of the year, the trend estimate of the labour force participation rate has increased gradually since July 1998. The current level in January 1999 (61.0%) is the same rate as for January 1998.

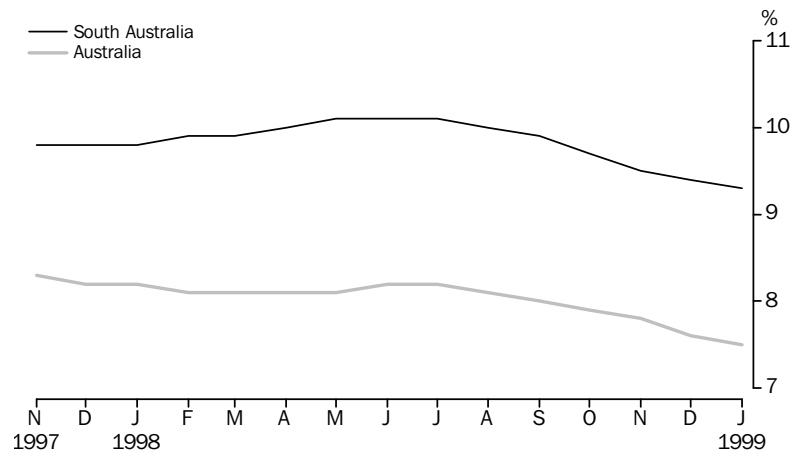
The participation rate for Australia fell by 0.1 percentage points to 63.1%, with the male rate remaining steady at 72.8%, and the female rate falling by 0.1 percentage points to 53.8%.

Unemployment

The trend estimate of the unemployment rate has decreased in recent months, reaching 9.3% in January 1999. A year earlier, the rate was higher at 9.8%. In contrast, the trend for Australia has declined gradually since August 1998, reaching 7.5% in January 1999. Twelve months ago, the rate was much higher at 8.2%.

In unadjusted, original terms, the teenage full-time unemployment rate has increased from 31.4% in December 1998 to 35.4% in January 1999. The latest result indicates that 8,700 persons aged 15–19 were actively seeking full-time work out of a teenage, full-time labour force of 24,700. However, it does not mean that over 3 in 10 of the State's teenagers were unemployed. In fact, the majority of 15–19 year olds were unavailable for full-time work, with 36,700 being not in the labour force (mainly full-time students) and 38,800 in the part-time labour force only.

Unemployment rates: **Trend**



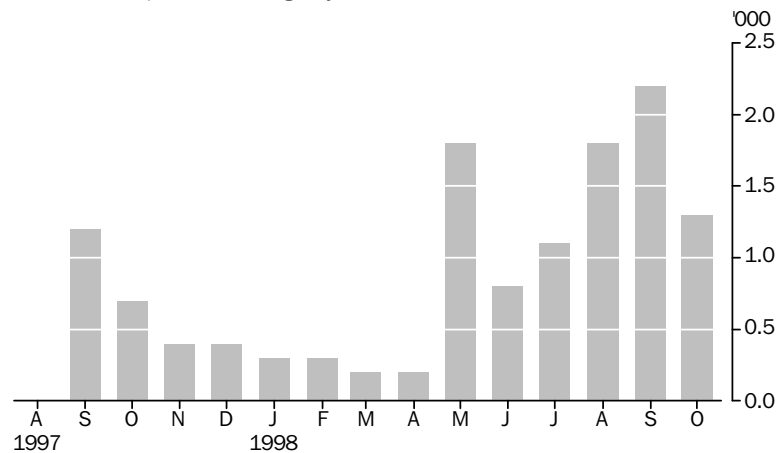
Industrial disputes

A total of 1,300 working days were lost through industrial disputation during October 1998, a decrease of 900 working days from September 1998. South Australia contributed 6.3% to the national level of 20,700 working days lost.

The number of working days lost in South Australia in the 12 months to October 1998 was 10,800, 33.3% higher than the 8,100 days lost in the 12 months to October 1997.

The Australian data for October 1998 showed that the number of working days lost fell by 27,300 days to 20,700 days. The annual estimate was 519,200 working days lost, a fall of 900 days from the 12 months ended October 1997.

Industrial disputes, working days lost



Overtime

In original terms, the proportion of employees who worked overtime in November 1998 was 14.2%, compared with 12.1% in August 1998. There was a 5.5% decrease from the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The percentage of employees working overtime in South Australia (14.2%) in November 1998 was below the national rate of 15.6%.

In November 1998, employees who worked overtime in South Australia recorded an average of 5.8 overtime hours per week. This was lower than the 6.5 overtime hours recorded 12 months earlier and lower than the Australian average of 6.8 hours.

INCOMES

Average weekly earnings

The trend estimate of average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult employees increased by 1.5% from May 1998 to August 1998. Full-time adult ordinary time earnings for males and females rose by 1.9% and 0.9% respectively.

Between August 1997 and August 1998, the trend estimate of average weekly ordinary earnings of adult male employees rose by 5.1%, compared with a larger increase of 6.9% for females.

For Australia, over the twelve months to August 1998, the trend estimate of full-time adult ordinary time earnings for both males and females increased by 4.3%.

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 Wage Cost 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 1.3% between June 1998 and September 1998. Nationally, the corresponding increase was also 1.2%. The annual change for South Australia was 3.2% compared with the Australian rate of 3.3%.

In South Australia, the index of ordinary time hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 1.3% in the quarter to September 1998. The Australian rate increased 1.2% for the same period. The annual rates were 3.2% for South Australia and 3.3% for Australia.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Housing finance

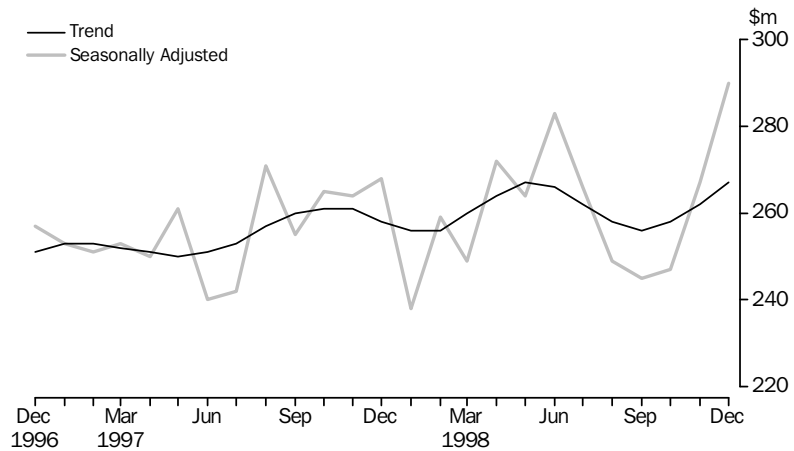
The trend estimate for the value of new housing commitments (excluding alterations and additions) increased marginally for the third consecutive month in December 1998. Seasonally adjusted, the value increased 8.6% to \$290.0m, a similar increase to the previous month. Nationally the trend increased marginally for the fourth consecutive month, while the seasonally adjusted value continued to rise for the third consecutive month. South Australia's proportion of the national total increased to 5.9%.

Total new commitments (original figures including alterations and additions) increased 6.9% to \$308.0m, 7.9% above the previous December. The number of dwelling commitments in South Australia increased 5.0% to 3,151. but of the past five months all were lower than the corresponding month of the previous year. However the average value of commitments increased for the fourth consecutive month, rising marginally during December to \$93,300.

The significant increase in the total was mainly due to the rise in commitments for the purchase of established dwellings, up \$16.0m to \$203.0m, the highest month since mid 1994. Construction of dwellings increased \$5.0m to \$41.0m, 23.2% above the previous December. The other increase was for alterations and additions, up \$3.0m to \$14.0m, 39.2% higher than December 1997.

The main decrease was purchase of newly erected dwellings, down \$4.0m to \$6.0m, 36.7% lower than the previous December. Refinancing fell \$2.0m to \$43.0m, with the past five months all significantly below the corresponding months of the previous year.

Secured housing finance commitments(a)



(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

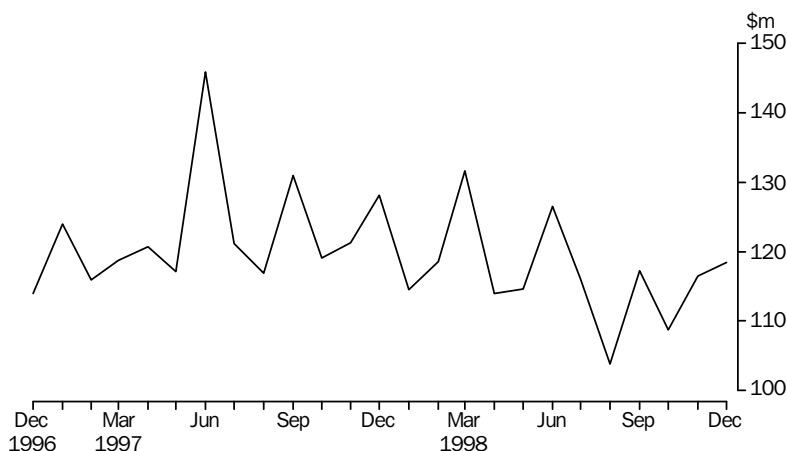
Personal finance

Personal finance commitments in December 1998 followed a similar pattern to the previous month with the total increasing 6.6% to \$273.4m, 17.2% above the previous December. This is the fifth consecutive month that total commitments have been significantly above the corresponding month of the previous year. Nationally personal commitments increased 6.3% in original figures, representing a marginal increase when seasonally adjusted. South Australia's proportion of the national total rose to 7.0%.

Revolving credit facilities continue to grow at a faster rate than fixed loan facilities. Total revolving credit facilities increased 10.7% to \$155.0m, 47.2% higher than December 1997. The increase was again due to the rise in secured revolving credit facilities, up 17.6% to \$107.7m, more than double the previous December. Unsecured revolving facilities decreased 2.4% to \$47.3m, 11.9% lower than December 1997.

Fixed loan commitments increased 1.7% to \$118.4m, 7.6% below the previous December. The main increase this time, however, was boats, caravans and trailers, up \$2.7m to \$3.7m, the highest month since mid 1996. Commitments for the purchase of used motor cars and station wagons increased 4.7% to \$38.5m. New motor cars and station wagons increased 4.0% to \$15.9m, marginally below December 1997. The main decreases were individual residential blocks of land, down 20.0% to \$5.4m, 43.6% above December 1997 and debt consolidation, down 15.8% to \$6.0m, 42.4% lower than the previous December.

Personal fixed loan commitments, all lenders



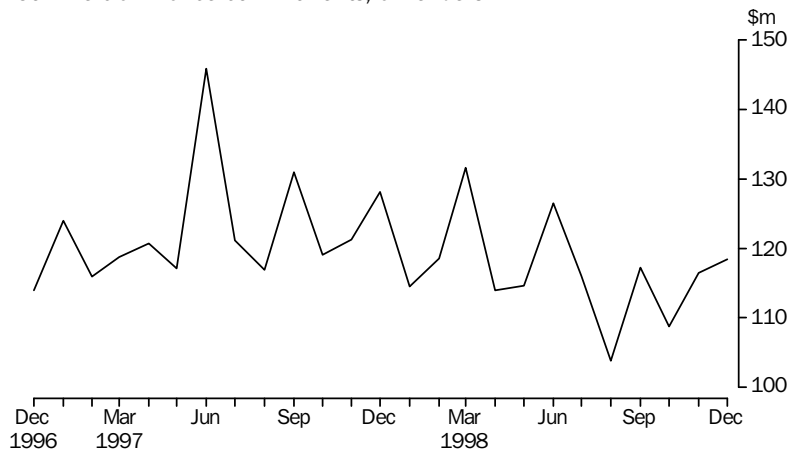
Commercial finance

Total commercial finance increased 32.6% to \$596.8m in December 1998, 28.2% lower than the previous December. The Australian total increased marginally for the month, which when seasonally adjusted represented a decrease of 20.2%. South Australia's proportion of the national total increased to 3.9%.

Revolving credit facilities increased 61.6% to \$268.2m, 16.6% below the previous December. The bulk of the increase was for manufacturing, up \$96.6m to \$121.8m (\$75.9m above the previous December). Significant increases were also recorded for finance, investment and insurance (up \$7.2m to \$19.4m), property and business services (up \$6.3m to \$17.7m), construction (up \$5.4m to \$10.4m) and health and community services (up \$4.1m to \$6.6m). The main decreases were wholesale trade (down \$13.4m to \$8.2m) and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (down \$8.1m to \$20.0m).

Fixed loan facilities in South Australia increased 15.7% to \$328.6m, 35.6% below December 1997. Significant increases were recorded for health and community services (up \$22.1m to \$31.5m), retail trade (up \$13.8m to \$29.9m), manufacturing (up \$9.9m to \$22.4m) and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (up \$9.4m to \$42.6m). The main decreases were for construction (down \$10.4m to \$8.1m) and property and business services down \$6.4m to \$38.9m.

Commercial finance commitments, all lenders



Lease finance

In December 1998 new finance lease commitments fell 19.8% to \$18.1m after a significant increase in the previous month, to be 9.3% lower than the previous December. The Australian total increased 27.9% in original terms, representing a 3.7% increase when seasonally adjusted. South Australia's proportion of Australian lease finance remained at 3.1%.

The main part of the decrease was due to the big fall in electronic data processing equipment, down \$5.3m to \$0.5m. Construction and earthmoving equipment decreased \$2.4m to \$0.4m. Both categories had major increases in the previous month.

The main increase was new motor cars and station wagons not subject to depreciation (the largest category) up \$2.0m to \$6.1m, 7.9% lower than December 1997. New heavy trucks increased \$1.6m to \$2.4m, 83.3% above the previous December. Shop and office furniture, fittings and equipment was up \$1.1m to \$1.7m, double December 1997.

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 September quarter 1998 the experimental CLI fell 0.31%, following a fall of 0.24% in the June quarter 1998. This fourth consecutive fall 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.....				
	Mar qtr 1998	Jun qtr 1998	Sep qtr 1998	Dec qtr 1998	Mar qtr 1999
<i>Business performance indicators</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trading performance					
Operating income	0.2	1.9	2.0	0.4	0.4
Selling prices	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Profit	3.0	2.9	12.4	-16.0	6.9
Investment					
Capital expenditure	1.5	9.8	2.6	0.4	-4.9
Stocks	1.9	0.2	-2.4	-0.4	-1.3
Employment					
Full time equivalent	0.1	-0.1	-1.2	-1.0	-0.8

Short term—South Australian businesses expect an increase of 0.4% in operating income in the March quarter 1999 compared with the December quarter 1998 whilst the Australian rate was -0.9%. The investment component for South Australia was expected to decrease 4.9% for capital expenditure compared with 1.3% increase for Australia whilst full-time employment levels were expected to fall 0.8% for South Australia and 0.7% for Australia.

South Australia, Medium-term outlook expected aggregate change

EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE OVER THE
SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.....

	<i>Dec qtr</i> 1998	<i>Mar qtr</i> 1999	<i>Jun qtr</i> 1999	<i>Sep qtr</i> 1999	<i>Dec qtr</i> 1999
<i>Business performance indicators</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trading performance					
Operating income	4.3	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.7
Selling prices	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.8
Profit	18.1	22.7	20.9	-0.6	10.2
Investment					
Capital expenditure	2.3	-2.0	8.6	-6.0	22.2
Stocks	2.0	0.2	0.3	1.8	-0.2
Employment					
Full time equivalent	-1.5	-1.3	-0.5	0.6	0.3

Medium term—Businesses in South Australia expect operating income in the December quarter 1999 to be 2.7% above December quarter 1998. Capital expenditure was expected to increase by 22.2% whilst employment indicators are showing an increase of 0.3%. The Australian data shows a 13.9% increase in capital expenditure and a 0.1% rise in employment levels.

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1 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Indicator	Unit	Period	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....			AUSTRALIA.....					
			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	Sep qtr 98	10 401	1.5	6.4	147 286	1.5	6.6	7.1	(1)	
Chain volume measures trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	10 106	0.7	3.7	143 181	0.9	4.2	7.1	(1)	
Private final consumption expenditure											
Current prices trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	6 288	1.3	6.3	85 758	1.2	5.6	7.3	(1)	
Chain volume measures trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	6 131	0.7	4.3	83 421	0.7	3.6	7.3	(1)	
Private gross fixed capital formation											
Current prices trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	1 678	-2.3	6.8	28 138	1.0	8.8	6.0	(1)	
Chain volume measures trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	1 622	-3.3	3.1	27 552	0.7	6.2	5.9	(1)	
Compensation of employees											
Current prices trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	4 802	1.0	2.0	70 919	2.0	6.9	6.8	(1)	
International accounts											
Exports	\$m	Dec 98	508.9	28.1	5.5	7 468.2	9.3	0.1	6.8	(2)	
Imports	\$m	Dec 98	284.2	-15.1	-16.9	7 890.0	-7.6	-0.3	3.6	(2)	
Consumption and investment											
Retail turnover											
Current prices original	\$m	Dec 98	1 157.4	29.0	8.5	15 251.8	27.8	4.6	7.6	(3)	
Current prices trend	\$m	Dec 98	877.2	-0.3	5.3	11 717.6	0.1	4.5	7.5	(3)	
1996-97 chain volume measures	\$m	Dec qtr 98	2 898.2	16.7	5.4	38 213.4	15.8	2.7	7.6	(3)	
New motor vehicle registrations											
Original	no.	Nov 98	4 475	5.6	6.6	67 998	5.2	10.6	6.6	(4)	
Trend	no.	Nov 98	4 225	-2.2	0.7	65 973	-0.8	3.5	6.4	(4)	
Private new capital expenditure											
Current prices original	\$m	Sep qtr 98	623	-22.4	-13.0	11 893	-5.2	12.6	5.2	(6)	
Current prices trend	\$m	Sep qtr 98	724	-6.3	-6.2	12 203	1.7	7.8	5.9	(6)	
Private new capital expenditure	\$m	1997-98	3 194	..	23.8	46 221	..	5.4	6.9	(6)	
Takings, licensed hotels, motels, guesthouses and apartments with facilities	\$m	Sep qtr 98	42.5	5.4	2.7	998.1	13.3	4.5	4.0	(5)	
Production											
Dwelling unit approvals											
Original	no.	Dec 98	563	-7.1	9.7	12 465	-5.0	0.1	4.5	(7)	
Trend	no.	Dec 98	589	-3.3	-1.6	12 738	0.5	-2.7	4.6	(7)	
Dwelling units commenced	no.	Sep qtr 98	1 981	27.2	26.3	38 889	0.8	13.3	5.1	(8a)	
Value of non-residential building approvals	\$m	Dec 98	53.5	-8.3	52.4	743.4	-33.0	-29.8	7.2	(7)	
Value of total building activity											
Commenced	\$m	Sep qtr 98	350.5	-0.5	27.1	8 123.8	-6.2	-0.9	4.3	(8)	
Work done	\$m	Sep qtr 98	381.0	11.7	6.0	8 532.4	1.5	9.4	4.5	(8)	
Work yet to be done	\$m	Sep qtr 98	312.6	-5.1	-1.3	13 597.9	-1.1	18.6	2.3	(8)	
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sep qtr 98	244.7	-18.6	-3.1	4 329.3	-10.7	19.1	5.7	(9)	
Manufacturing production											
Red meat	tonnes	Dec qtr 98	48 996	17.7	-11.7	752 757	1.1	3.2	6.5	(11)	
Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum)	\$m	Sep qtr 98	23.9	99.2	91.2	235.9	-10.2	-21.8	10.1	(12)	

Indicator	Unit	Period	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.....			AUSTRALIA.....				
			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	Dec qtr 98	123.6	0.5	2.0	121.9	0.5	1.6	..	(13)
Price index of materials used in house building	1989–90=100	Dec qtr 98	125.2	0.6	1.9	119.7	0.3	1.5	..	(14)
Price index of materials used in building other than houses	1989–90=100	Dec qtr 98	115.6	0.3	0.4	115.2	0.3	1.1	..	(15)
Price index of established houses	1989–90=100	Sep qtr 98	113.1	-0.5	3.0	126.9	0.0	6.7	..	(16)
Price index of project homes	1989–90=100	Sep qtr 98	114.2	-0.1	2.1	111.4	0.5	1.4	..	(16)
Labour force and demography										
Population (resident at end qtr)	'000	Jun qtr 98	1 487.3	0.1	0.5	18 751.0	0.3	1.2	7.9	(17)
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	no.	Nov 98	9 308	33.4	1.9	367 907	3.7	-3.0	2.5	(21)
Short-term resident departures	no.	Nov 98	11 898	-11.1	17.6	256 453	-4.3	10.3	4.6	(21)
Labour force										
Original	'000	Jan 99	722.9	-2.1	0.1	9 316.1	-2.0	1.2	7.8	(18)
Trend	'000	Jan 99	730.1	0.2	0.6	9 398.9	0.0	1.3	7.8	(18)
Employed persons										
Original	'000	Jan 99	647.3	-3.5	0.6	8 557.5	-2.7	2.0	7.6	(18)
Trend	'000	Jan 99	662.1	0.3	1.2	8 690.6	0.1	2.0	7.6	(18)
Participation rate										
Original(a)	%	Jan 99	60.4	-1.3	-0.3	62.6	-1.3	-0.1	..	(18)
Trend(a)	%	Jan 99	61.0	0.1	0.0	63.1	-0.1	-0.1	..	(18)
Unemployment rate										
Original(a)	%	Jan 99	10.4	1.3	-0.5	8.1	0.7	-0.8	..	(18)
Trend(a)	%	Jan 99	9.3	-0.1	-0.5	7.5	-0.1	-0.7	..	(18)
Job vacancies	'000	Nov 98	4.8	60.0	54.8	74.3	-0.7	6.8	6.5	(19)
Average weekly overtime per employee working overtime	hours '000 working	Nov 98	5.8	10.1	-11.3	6.8	0.3	-2.6	..	(19)
Industrial disputes	days lost	Oct 98	1.3	-40.9	85.7	20.7	-56.9	-78.0	6.3	(20)
Incomes										
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time)										
Original	\$	Aug 98	694.70	2.1	4.7	736.1	1.3	4.2	..	(22)
Trend	\$	Aug 98	693.70	1.5	5.1	736.7	1.2	4.4	..	(22)
Wage cost index (Total hourly rate excluding bonuses)										
	Sep 1997=100	Sep qtr 98	103.2	1.3	3.2	103.3	1.2	3.3	..	(23)
Financial markets										
Secured housing finance										
Finance commitments	\$m	Dec 98	308.0	6.9	8.1	5 185.0	0.0	10.7	5.9	(24)
Personal										
Commercial	\$m	Dec 98	273.4	6.6	17.2	3 923.2	6.3	5.5	7.0	(25)
Lease	\$m	Dec 98	596.8	32.6	-28.2	15 477.7	0.9	-1.6	3.9	(25)
Interest rates										
Banks new housing loans(a)	%	Jan 99	..	..	..	6.50	0.0	-0.2	..	(26)
Banks business loans(a)										
Small, medium business(b)	%	Jan 99	..	..	..	7.55	0.0	-1.2	..	(26)
Large business	%	Jan 99	..	..	..	7.95	0.0	-0.5	..	(26)

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

(b) Rate for business loans over \$50,000

Period	EXPENDITURE.....				GROSS FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION.....		
	Households	General Government	Private	Public	State final demand	Gross State product (I)	Compensation of employees
ANNUAL (\$m)							
1992-93	19 538	6 499	4 399	1 527	31 964	29 989	15 155
1993-94	20 400	7 192	4 460	1 342	33 392	32 057	16 167
1994-95	21 475	7 275	5 541	1 421	35 713	33 437	16 615
1995-96	22 617	7 366	5 177	1 173	33 332	35 457	17 553
1996-97	22 920	7 411	5 722	1 291	37 396	36 023	18 178
1997-98	24 283	7 853	6 728	1 204	40 068	n.a.	18 945
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR							
1992-93	2.1	3.3	3.2	-6.7	2.1	4.4	3.2
1993-94	4.4	10.7	1.4	-12.1	4.5	6.9	6.7
1994-95	5.3	1.2	24.2	5.9	7.0	4.3	2.8
1995-96	5.3	1.3	-6.6	-17.5	-6.7	6.0	5.6
1996-97	1.3	0.6	10.5	10.1	12.2	1.6	3.6
1997-98	5.9	6.0	17.6	-6.7	7.1	n.a.	4.2
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)							
1996-97							
June	5 743	2 063	1 599	367	9 772	9 006	4 577
1997-98							
September	5 907	1 910	1 533	259	9 609	n.a.	4 767
December	6 344	1 953	1 863	361	10 521	n.a.	4 895
March	5 889	1 762	1 636	183	9 470	n.a.	4 544
June	6 143	2 228	1 696	401	10 468	n.a.	4 739
1998-99							
September	6 251	2 130	1 607	252	10 241	n.a.	4 831
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)							
1996-97							
June	5 812	1 901	1 521	328	9 562	9 116	4 652
1997-98							
September	5 916	1 929	1 609	322	9 775	n.a.	4 709
December	6 026	1 929	1 688	303	9 946	n.a.	4 727
March	6 122	1 960	1 723	286	10 089	n.a.	4 729
June	6 207	2 043	1 718	278	10 246	n.a.	4 754
1998-99							
September	6 288	2 143	1 678	291	10 401	n.a.	4 802
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND							
1996-97							
June	1.3	2.3	4.7	0.9	2.0	0.7	1.7
1997-98							
September	1.8	1.5	5.8	-1.8	2.2	..	1.2
December	1.9	0.0	4.9	-5.9	1.7	..	0.4
March	1.6	1.6	2.1	-5.6	1.4	..	0.0
June	1.4	4.2	-0.3	-2.8	1.6	..	0.5
1998-99							
September	1.3	4.9	-2.3	4.7	1.5	..	1.0

Period	FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE.....		GROSS FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION.....			State final demand	Gross State product(l)
	Households	General Government	Private	Public			
ANNUAL (\$m)							
1992-93	20 604	6 968	4 313	1 516	33 376	28 077	
1993-94	21 110	7 375	4 290	1 316	34 040	29 004	
1994-95	22 111	7 480	5 285	1 402	36 272	29 226	
1995-96	22 905	7 461	4 969	1 144	36 434	30 465	
1996-97	22 920	7 412	5 776	1 293	37 396	30 868	
1997-98	23 986	7 767	6 689	1 194	39 636	n.a.	
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR							
1992-93	-1.0	1.5	0.4	-7.4	-0.6	3.9	
1993-94	2.5	5.8	-0.5	-13.2	2.0	3.3	
1994-95	4.7	1.4	23.2	6.5	6.6	0.8	
1995-96	3.6	-0.3	-6.0	-18.4	0.4	4.2	
1996-97	0.1	-0.7	16.2	13.0	2.6	1.3	
1997-98	4.7	4.8	15.8	-7.7	6.0	..	
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)							
1996-97							
June	5 727	2 061	1 617	366	9 775	7 524	
1997-98							
September	5 862	1 910	1 556	257	9 585	n.a.	
December	6 287	1 924	1 869	361	10 441	n.a.	
March	5 814	1 741	1 617	181	9 353	n.a.	
June	6 023	2 192	1 647	395	10 257	n.a.	
1998-99							
September	6 104	2 050	1 553	243	9 950	n.a.	
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)							
1996-97							
June	5 786	1 901	1 540	327	9 556	7 662	
1997-98							
September	5 879	1 921	1 627	320	9 748	n.a.	
December	5 969	1 914	1 692	303	9 877	n.a.	
March	6 035	1 934	1 705	283	9 956	n.a.	
June	6 089	1 998	1 678	268	10 038	n.a.	
1998-99							
September	6 131	2 052	1 622	274	10 106	n.a.	
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND							
1996-97							
June	1.1	2.2	5.3	0.0	2.0	-0.5	
1997-98							
September	1.6	1.1	5.6	-2.1	2.0	..	
December	1.5	-0.4	4.0	-5.3	1.3	..	
March	1.1	1.0	0.8	-6.6	0.8	..	
June	0.9	3.3	-1.6	-5.3	0.8	..	
1998-99							
September	0.7	2.7	-3.3	2.2	0.7	..	

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

4

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										
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	745 227	397 949	260 974	378 923	542 204	191 093	655 916	286 458	5 012 652
1997-98	218 241	527 689	564 087	287 823	401 749	574 408	236 352	479 408	237 825	4 983 502
MONTHLY										
1997-98										
July	12 693	18 848	38 625	31 249	41 558	47 372	16 678	53 516	14 509	407 543
August	11 641	18 715	44 669	17 560	31 082	43 635	18 826	60 483	39 320	419 433
September	15 556	27 715	62 570	24 139	38 751	50 905	18 769	18 938	26 927	383 286
October	17 450	10 488	62 258	23 438	26 461	37 876	23 617	39 356	10 935	360 815
November	21 311	8 737	33 344	29 856	41 143	61 843	18 039	83 677	18 110	454 693
December	22 742	67 159	36 065	35 568	38 306	40 932	13 637	72 253	33 679	482 272
January	15 469	92 923	25 835	20 260	21 783	56 613	24 571	15 137	12 427	373 009
February	21 174	45 383	43 674	17 710	27 617	41 123	18 253	19 097	18 197	363 965
March	23 933	62 521	55 440	26 154	37 500	51 720	22 850	37 642	19 792	474 796
April	20 323	71 491	50 539	16 054	30 937	48 037	21 581	24 260	12 089	410 108
May	19 757	36 499	58 198	28 786	41 200	44 539	18 447	30 792	18 406	440 951
June	16 188	67 210	52 876	17 049	25 411	49 813	21 084	24 268	13 434	412 631
1998-99										
July	11 886	41 106	48 323	17 802	37 239	36 746	23 828	44 144	8 909	388 186
August	12 036	57 675	54 365	14 136	30 388	51 467	30 657	43 037	20 669	455 312
September	17 705	46 101	70 084	21 690	30 241	39 816	28 826	82 634	12 086	473 898
October	20 244	37 462	72 266	23 109	28 812	39 298	16 321	45 576	19 012	418 711
November	23 252	12 505	40 003	22 975	33 737	44 055	15 739	76 332	8 740	397 398
December	21 363	86 783	45 938	20 367	37 612	45 734	18 365	72 038	22 917	508 875

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

5

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										
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	611 870	244 917	234 547	614 481	2 030 435
1997-98	632 087	394 514	424 253	839 671	354 724	612 223	331 488	239 651	479 180	2 009 719
MONTHLY										
1997-98										
July	75 629	33 014	27 348	60 442	25 538	47 644	31 626	15 779	55 943	179 014
August	80 052	22 224	43 757	72 636	22 840	51 224	21 497	16 567	56 687	175 291
September	25 569	14 786	43 947	79 167	31 032	64 737	22 139	22 409	53 570	182 763
October	26 279	10 465	55 190	89 953	41 159	52 538	27 453	10 146	41 844	149 685
November	92 792	20 278	26 755	56 937	25 983	65 589	33 375	28 165	65 284	224 741
December	80 392	41 986	27 798	59 759	17 406	54 762	33 218	25 272	51 166	196 158
January	19 822	50 590	16 660	36 534	23 869	39 153	24 539	27 258	33 374	154 303
February	33 828	32 808	28 219	68 122	29 889	36 608	36 830	23 072	19 272	136 147
March	63 876	57 910	33 353	75 576	37 792	48 436	37 418	21 220	38 137	178 953
April	38 257	52 361	39 893	76 781	35 943	45 057	12 599	14 654	20 240	126 329
May	43 378	27 970	46 314	97 519	32 101	51 107	28 785	20 116	17 803	153 095
June	52 213	30 122	35 019	66 245	31 172	55 368	22 009	14 993	25 601	153 240
1998-99										
July	49 983	36 832	37 794	64 806	36 659	45 130	11 003	19 773	24 092	123 102
August	34 075	33 052	45 878	79 204	33 707	73 436	23 384	16 545	44 407	179 616
September	87 466	53 605	47 456	80 289	32 183	67 693	26 358	16 476	23 423	154 849
October	39 435	43 420	50 012	82 334	31 640	39 683	33 247	20 653	28 192	142 292
November	85 357	33 551	23 357	41 161	29 434	30 296	39 460	19 362	39 076	158 394
December	70 149	111 525	30 683	78 588	30 805	48 414	17 745	25 313	37 035	166 099

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

6

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, By Industry of Origin(a)

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									
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	1 067 084	205 433	981 918	290 361	569 715	1 140 136	229 503	528 502	5 012 652
1997-98	926 887	137 850	1 205 007	292 174	615 345	994 514	262 794	524 462	4 983 502
MONTHLY									
1997-98									
July	80 018	20 940	83 465	14 706	48 601	105 329	24 687	29 798	407 543
August	51 751	11 810	93 510	37 889	48 749	99 482	24 105	52 136	419 433
September	55 954	22 149	115 717	24 156	55 582	65 691	21 959	22 078	383 286
October	43 747	1 722	119 482	18 055	39 145	73 873	19 014	45 776	360 815
November	45 830	16 715	89 418	25 488	67 645	134 105	22 038	53 454	454 693
December	121 012	28 936	88 087	26 808	45 353	121 927	21 840	47 765	482 272
January	77 088	6 767	77 125	17 938	58 347	43 235	18 390	30 195	373 009
February	77 088	805	91 546	25 843	42 638	56 040	19 488	50 516	363 965
March	110 422	13 279	116 808	23 588	55 768	86 302	29 905	38 724	474 796
April	94 690	896	105 811	22 179	51 716	64 034	20 316	50 466	410 108
May	70 549	3 524	118 987	30 653	49 662	84 612	23 947	59 017	440 951
June	98 738	10 307	105 051	24 871	52 139	59 884	17 105	44 537	412 631
1998-99									
July	80 391	916	95 544	16 951	42 749	92 690	17 418	41 528	388 186
August	88 413	8 723	98 298	34 630	53 203	90 629	19 941	61 475	455 312
September	77 554	1 066	112 590	26 209	40 577	122 149	21 839	71 914	473 898
October	70 625	9 066	120 976	27 700	41 345	85 484	21 252	42 263	418 711
November	45 205	14 644	86 005	19 229	48 132	123 190	19 963	41 030	397 398
December	118 799	7 732	98 336	32 519	51 606	118 966	21 302	59 616	508 875

(a) Final stage of production in South Australia.

7

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									
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
1997-98	148 771	445 218	274 743	93 816	280 562	1 061 260	772 204	739 266	3 940 197
MONTHLY									
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	75 564	55 373	51 324	321 543
December	13 857	32 306	22 823	6 607	21 520	115 623	58 610	58 122	342 164
January	13 497	29 721	39 180	8 063	24 670	96 949	54 033	55 492	332 475
February	10 608	39 221	26 084	8 195	27 664	69 791	53 601	70 676	314 306
March	11 294	41 325	31 280	8 678	26 177	86 622	70 446	70 667	357 051
April	10 012	22 090	38 574	9 335	21 137	113 439	61 182	63 078	350 581
May	11 224	38 780	27 490	8 945	21 394	74 468	56 026	60 750	310 724
June	13 086	15 049	18 431	8 041	25 140	89 988	70 652	62 513	313 741
1998-99									
July	14 293	23 350	13 006	9 514	26 572	95 455	71 756	64 569	329 710
August	15 000	18 697	14 930	8 217	24 495	83 417	67 746	66 506	308 232
September	14 111	12 616	22 609	8 647	25 446	73 885	63 420	63 244	292 113
October	15 828	11 640	18 488	9 116	23 219	82 583	78 648	59 600	311 053
November	15 327	36 487	23 649	7 872	21 419	75 559	70 636	71 958	334 818
December	13 025	16 869	19 499	6 499	19 242	75 030	64 426	59 241	284 188

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

8

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)								
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	3 786.4	1 138.6	546.6	1 025.8	431.2	902.7	1 762.1	9 593.4
1996-97	4 064.9	1 120.9	467.1	936.9	424.8	792.8	1 648.0	9 455.7
1997-98	4 454.4	1 073.7	541.0	1 084.2	413.3	928.2	1 502.7	10 051.4
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)								
1997-98								
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	34.2	75.8	120.4	810.5
April	385.7	91.6	49.7	81.6	31.8	80.9	127.3	848.6
May	381.2	86.6	50.0	89.3	31.7	86.1	131.0	855.8
June	365.4	80.0	46.6	89.8	32.5	76.8	124.3	815.5
1998-99								
July	390.1	96.3	48.9	84.2	34.6	77.9	133.9	865.8
August	380.6	79.8	43.2	82.7	32.0	76.6	130.8	825.5
September	387.9	82.6	45.1	81.0	35.4	80.8	136.9	849.8
October	421.8	89.7	50.5	91.8	36.0	84.6	150.5	925.0
November	399.1	101.1	48.1	91.5	35.2	86.7	135.8	897.4
December	473.0	170.9	64.8	116.3	51.8	118.3	162.4	1 157.4
MONTHLY, TREND (\$m)								
1997-98								
October	360.6	93.3	44.1	90.2	34.0	73.4	122.9	820.1
November	364.2	92.9	44.1	92.0	33.7	76.2	119.5	825.6
December	368.5	93.2	44.1	93.0	33.4	78.7	117.7	832.7
January	373.5	93.5	44.4	93.2	33.4	80.7	117.9	840.7
February	378.4	93.8	45.0	92.9	33.6	81.9	120.0	849.2
March	382.4	93.7	45.8	92.1	34.1	82.5	123.7	856.7
April	385.3	93.5	46.5	91.0	34.7	82.5	128.0	862.6
May	387.1	93.0	47.3	89.7	35.3	82.2	132.7	867.2
June	389.1	92.4	47.9	88.6	35.9	81.5	136.8	871.7
1998-99								
July	391.6	92.1	48.3	87.8	36.1	81.0	139.3	875.9
August	394.3	92.1	48.6	87.2	36.1	81.0	140.0	879.2
September	396.7	91.9	48.5	86.7	35.8	81.8	139.2	880.5
October	398.7	91.3	48.3	86.4	35.2	83.1	137.5	880.6
November	400.2	90.3	47.9	86.3	34.6	84.5	135.2	879.5
December	401.0	90.2	47.4	86.3	33.9	85.9	132.5	877.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND								
1997-98								
October	0.9	-0.7	0.0	2.4	-0.6	3.5	-3.3	0.5
November	1.0	-0.4	0.0	2.0	-0.9	3.8	-2.8	0.7
December	1.2	0.3	0.0	1.1	-0.9	3.3	-1.5	0.9
January	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.5	0.2	1.0
February	1.3	0.3	1.4	-0.3	0.6	1.5	1.8	1.0
March	1.1	-0.1	1.8	-0.9	1.5	0.7	3.1	0.9
April	0.8	-0.2	1.5	-1.2	1.8	0.0	3.5	0.7
May	0.5	-0.5	1.7	-1.4	1.7	-0.4	3.7	0.5
June	0.5	-0.6	1.3	-1.2	1.7	-0.9	3.1	0.5
1998-99								
July	0.6	-0.3	0.8	-0.9	0.6	-0.6	1.8	0.5
August	0.7	0.0	0.6	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4
September	0.6	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	1.0	-0.6	0.1
October	0.5	-0.7	-0.4	-0.3	-1.7	1.6	-1.2	0.0
November	0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	-1.7	1.7	-1.7	-0.1
December	0.2	-0.7	-1.0	0.0	-2.0	1.7	-2.0	-0.3

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	..	..	..	..	..	..
1997-98	43 407	7 453	50 860	..	..	..	..	..	..
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	..	..	..	..	..	..
1997-98	20.1	6.9	18.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
MONTHLY									
1997-98									
October	3 775	560	4 335	3 587	591	4 178	3 550	591	4 140
November	3 662	537	4 199	3 699	571	4 270	3 586	609	4 194
December	3 781	702	4 483	3 608	656	4 264	3 581	627	4 208
January	2 883	483	3 366	3 663	630	4 293	3 567	643	4 211
February	3 340	640	3 980	3 413	688	4 100	3 588	654	4 241
March	3 661	687	4 348	3 441	626	4 067	3 675	660	4 336
April	3 385	678	4 063	3 820	706	4 526	3 809	666	4 474
May	3 693	686	4 379	4 005	647	4 653	3 937	668	4 605
June	4 889	872	5 761	4 172	632	4 804	4 009	670	4 679
1998-99									
July	4 411	681	5 092	4 233	678	4 911	3 988	672	4 660
August	3 864	676	4 540	3 837	751	4 588	3 884	672	4 556
September	3 569	597	4 166	3 471	632	4 102	3 746	671	4 417
October	3 677	560	4 237	3 609	623	4 232	3 622	670	4 292
November	3 803	672	4 475	3 635	705	4 340	3 522	670	4 191
December	3 624	718	4 342	3 425	666	4 092	3 439	669	4 108
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH									
1997-98									
October	4.3	0.9	3.9	4.6	-2.0	3.6	2.2	2.6	2.3
November	-3.0	-4.1	-3.1	3.1	-3.4	2.2	1.0	3.0	1.3
December	3.2	30.7	6.8	-2.5	14.9	-0.1	-0.1	3.0	0.3
January	-23.8	-31.2	-24.9	1.5	-4.0	0.7	-0.4	2.6	0.1
February	15.9	32.5	18.2	-6.8	9.2	-4.5	0.6	1.7	0.7
March	9.6	7.3	9.2	0.8	-9.0	-0.8	2.4	0.9	2.2
April	-7.5	-1.3	-6.6	11.0	12.8	11.3	3.6	0.9	3.2
May	9.1	1.2	7.8	4.8	-8.4	2.8	3.4	0.3	2.9
June	32.4	27.1	31.6	4.2	-2.3	3.2	1.8	0.3	1.4
1998-99									
July	-9.8	-21.9	-11.6	1.5	7.3	2.2	-0.5	0.3	-0.4
August	-12.4	-0.7	-10.8	-9.4	10.8	-6.6	-2.6	0.0	-2.2
September	-7.6	-11.7	-8.2	-9.5	-15.8	-10.6	-3.6	-0.1	-3.1
October	3.0	-6.2	1.7	4.0	-1.4	3.2	-3.3	-0.1	-2.8
November	3.4	20.0	5.6	0.7	13.2	2.6	-2.8	0.0	-2.4
December	-4.7	6.8	-3.0	-5.8	-5.5	-5.7	-2.4	-0.1	-2.0

Period	INDUSTRY.....			Total	TYPE OF ASSET.....	
	Mining	Manu- facturing	Other selected industries		New buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery
ANNUAL (\$m)						
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
1997-98	1 366	820	1 008	3 194	792	2 402
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR						
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
1997-98	179.3	-2.4	-19.4	23.8	33.3	21.0
QUARTERLY, ORIGINAL (\$m)						
1996-97						
June	267	221	234	720	160	563
1997-98						
September	345	170	201	716	159	557
December	447	265	241	953	196	757
March	360	168	193	721	188	534
June	214	217	386	803	250	553
1998-99						
September	126	157	340	623	159	463
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, ORIGINAL						
1996-97						
June	238.0	11.6	-4.5	38.2	23.1	44.0
1998-99						
September	29.2	-23.1	-14.1	-0.6	-0.6	-1.1
December	29.6	55.9	19.9	33.1	23.3	35.9
March	-19.5	-36.6	-19.9	-24.3	-4.1	-29.5
June	-40.6	29.2	100.0	11.4	33.0	3.6
1998-99						
September	-41.1	-27.6	-11.9	-22.4	-36.4	-16.3
QUARTERLY, TREND (\$m)						
1996-97						
June	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	698	157	541
1997-98						
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	772	161	611
December	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	821	187	634
March	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	812	210	601
June	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	773	216	556
1998-99						
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	724	202	521
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, TREND						
1996-97						
June	..	..	..	11.9	2.6	14.6
1997-98						
September	..	..	..	10.6	2.5	12.9
December	..	..	..	6.3	16.1	3.8
March	..	..	..	-1.1	12.3	-5.2
June	..	..	..	-4.8	2.9	-7.5
1998-99						
September	..	..	..	-6.3	-6.5	-6.3

11

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Period	HOTELS WITH FACILITIES...			MOTELS AND GUESTHOUSES..			SERVICED APARTMENTS....		
	<i>Guest rooms</i>	<i>Room occupancy</i>	<i>Takings</i>	<i>Flats, units and houses</i>	<i>Room occupancy</i>	<i>Takings</i>	<i>Guest rooms</i>	<i>Room occupancy</i>	<i>Takings</i>
	no.	%	\$'000	no.	%	\$'000	no.	%	\$'000
.....									
QUARTERLY									
1996-97									
June	3 819	54.1	18 460	5 197	50.3	16 835	624	61.4	2 624
September	3 875	56.2	19 193	5 197	51.3	17 420	624	57.9	2 714
1997-98									
June	4 048	53.6	19 048	5 136	52.8	17 773	750	59.4	3 551
September	4 048	57.2	21 068	5 112	51.7	17 805	740	56.3	3 667
.....									
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
1997-98									
June	6.0	..	3.2	-1.2	..	5.6	20.2	..	35.3
September	4.5	..	9.8	-1.3	..	2.2	18.6	..	35.1
.....									

12 BUILDING APPROVALS

Period	HOUSES.....		TOTAL DWELLING UNITS.....		Alterations and additions to residential building	Total residential building	Non-residential building	Total building
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total				
	no.	no.	no.	no.				
					\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL								
1992-93	9 715	10 091	11 548	12 341	133	973	418	1 392
1993-94	9 474	9 905	11 046	11 777	122	961	375	1 336
1994-95	7 765	8 155	9 208	9 762	120	860	493	1 353
1995-96	4 938	5 117	5 760	5 968	119	588	566	1 155
1996-97	5 512	5 608	6 148	6 264	117	632	581	1 213
1997-98	6 187	6 380	6 997	7 215	128	758	602	1 360
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL								
1997-98								
December	475	482	506	513	10.6	58.6	35.1	93.7
January	365	373	420	431	7.3	44.7	16.1	60.8
February	542	545	663	666	15.6	72.6	41.9	114.5
March	623	671	686	738	10.7	74.3	53.8	128.1
April	461	472	491	502	9.6	53.6	34.6	88.3
May	515	527	588	602	9.2	64.4	38.2	102.6
June	610	641	771	810	10.2	80.3	36.5	116.8
1998-99								
July	654	660	893	901	11.8	90.4	40.2	130.6
August	528	536	622	634	10.6	69.1	72.1	141.2
September	600	625	717	742	13.1	116.5	46.9	163.5
October	518	542	561	585	10.8	66.3	40.5	106.9
November	540	553	587	606	12.4	70.4	58.3	128.7
December	489	496	556	563	10.0	60.3	53.5	113.7
MONTHLY, TREND								
1997-98								
December	520	537	581	599	10.4	62.4	42.5	104.8
January	533	549	598	615	10.2	63.3	40.9	104.2
February	543	558	612	629	10.0	64.4	39.7	104.1
March	548	562	624	641	9.8	65.3	38.1	103.4
April	548	563	639	656	9.9	67.1	37.1	104.2
May	545	559	654	670	10.1	70.3	37.3	107.5
June	540	555	664	678	10.3	74.2	38.6	112.8
1998-99								
July	536	552	663	679	10.6	77.5	41.1	118.5
August	535	551	652	671	10.7	78.9	45.2	124.1
September	533	551	629	652	10.8	77.9	49.8	127.8
October	529	548	603	628	10.8	75.1	54.2	129.3
November	525	544	583	609	10.7	71.3	58.2	129.6
December	518	536	563	589	10.6	67.1	62.2	129.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND								
1997-98								
November	3.5	3.3	4.3	4.2	1.2	2.9	-14.7	-5.5
December	3.2	2.9	4.4	4.2	-0.3	2.6	-9.4	-2.6
January	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7	-1.7	1.5	-3.7	-0.6
February	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.3	-2.1	1.8	-2.9	-0.1
March	0.9	0.8	2.1	2.0	-1.3	1.3	-3.9	-0.7
April	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.2	0.6	2.7	-2.7	0.7
May	-0.6	-0.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	4.8	0.5	3.2
June	-0.9	-0.8	1.4	1.3	2.5	5.7	3.5	4.9
1998-99								
July	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1	0.1	2.2	4.4	6.4	5.0
August	-0.4	-0.1	-1.7	-1.3	1.5	1.8	10.1	4.7
September	-0.3	0.0	-3.4	-2.9	0.7	-1.2	10.3	3.0
October	0.7	-0.6	-4.1	-3.6	-0.2	-3.6	8.8	1.2
November	-0.8	-0.7	-3.5	-3.1	-0.7	-5.0	7.4	0.2
December	-1.3	-1.5	-3.4	-3.3	-1.0	-6.0	6.8	-0.2

13

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									
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
1997-98	5 628	5 823	6 436	6 653	614.7	134.5	419.0	550.7	1 299.9
QUARTERLY									
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	1 354	1 402	1 480	1 541	131.9	31.6	84.5	112.3	275.8
December	1 531	1 588	1 835	1 906	179.8	33.8	139.2	174.1	387.7
March	1 409	1 436	1 622	1 648	150.1	38.7	68.1	95.2	284.0
June	1 397	1 397	1 484	1 558	152.9	30.4	134.5	169.1	352.4
1998-99									
September	1 564	1 611	1 928	1 981	184.8	34.7	89.3	131.0	350.5

(a) Includes conversions.

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VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE DURING PERIOD

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									
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
1997-98	523.7	535.7	590.9	605.4	131.6	534.6	685.0	1 255.0	1 422.0
QUARTERLY									
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	152.3	157.1	36.2	157.7	197.7	345.2	391.0
March	130.5	132.8	146.1	149.9	31.4	119.3	149.2	297.7	330.4
June	135.9	139.4	154.5	158.5	31.2	112.3	151.5	297.9	341.1
1998-99									
September	151.9	157.1	176.7	182.0	39.6	134.3	159.3	350.1	381.0

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
1997-98	26 384	80 924	58 554	38 224	78 440	2 815 870	361 257
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
1997-98	-11.6	-5.3	13.1	9.6	2.5	6.9	8.3
MONTHLY/QUARTERLY							
1996-97							
June	7 866	23 160	11 802	10 225	19 777	720 300	83 742
1997-98							
September	7 431	18 704	10 889	6 594	21 942	752 868	91 537
December	6 301	22 324	16 769	9 963	18 997	610 208	83 957
March	6 731	21 110	20 144	10 561	18 098	718 990	89 540
June	5 921	18 786	10 752	11 106	19 404	733 804	96 223
1998-99							
September	5 253	15 129	10 342	10 733	23 573	748 575	95 339
December	4 643	17 519	15 722	10 985	19 718	671 040	94 578
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH/QUARTER							
1996-97							
June	13.9	8.1	-26.2	-36.1	10.2	5.2	22.4
1997-98							
September	-5.5	-19.2	-7.7	-35.5	10.9	4.5	9.3
December	-15.2	19.4	54.0	51.1	-13.4	-18.9	-8.3
March	6.8	-5.4	20.1	6.0	-4.7	17.8	6.6
June	-12.0	-11.0	-46.6	5.2	7.2	2.1	7.5
1998-99							
September	-11.3	-19.5	-3.8	-3.4	21.5	4.0	-0.9
December	-11.6	15.8	52.0	2.3	-16.4	-10.4	-0.8

(a) From Australian softwood logs only.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Clothing</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Household equipment and operation</i>	<i>Transport- ation</i>	<i>Tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>Health and personal care</i>	<i>Recreation and education</i>	<i>All groups</i>
ANNUAL AVERAGE (1989–90 = 100)									
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
1997–98	122.7	105.7	90.7	113.7	122.1	169.3	165.4	124.7	121.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR, ANNUAL AVERAGE									
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
1997–98	1.6	0.2	-8.3	0.2	-1.9	2.4	0.0	3.0	-0.6
QUARTERLY (1989–90 = 100.0)									
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
June	123.7	105.9	90.3	113.9	121.8	170.5	171.1	126.1	122.4
1998–99									
September	125.9	105.3	91.2	113.7	121.8	170.7	171.8	125.9	123.0
December	128.2	105.4	91.9	113.9	121.3	171.4	170.9	126.5	123.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR									
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
June	1.5	0.7	-4.0	0.3	-0.7	2.4	1.8	2.6	0.4
1998–99									
September	3.2	-0.1	-1.1	0.1	-1.1	2.1	8.3	1.8	1.5
December	5.1	-0.8	1.9	0.3	-0.8	1.5	4.1	2.3	2.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER									
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
June	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	-0.1	2.0	0.5	0.6
1998–99									
September	1.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.5
December	1.8	0.1	0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.4	-0.5	0.5	0.5

		QUARTER.....				
		Dec	Mar	June	Sep	Dec
		1997	1998	1998	1998	1998
Item	Unit	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 L	122	124	127	127	132
Cheese, processed, sliced, wrapped	500 g	323	322	323	335	312
Butter	500 g	164	167	175	164	175
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	161	163	165	169	167
Self-raising flour	2 kg	239	236	235	239	249
Beef						
Rump steak	1 kg	1 135	1 098	1 197	1 109	1 156
Corned silverside	1 kg	626	590	596	629	638
Lamb						
Leg	1 kg	565	535	534	554	565
Loin chops	1 kg	794	796	794	788	846
Forequarter chops	1 kg	534	575	577	551	582
Pork						
Leg	1 kg	622	618	601	576	571
Loin chops	1 kg	802	788	812	791	803
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	362	351	362	367	332
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	321	295	322	304	293
Sausages	1 kg	360	351	357	369	372
Potatoes	1 kg	111	104	69	62	86
Onions	1 kg	127	165	122	175	188
Peaches, canned	825 g	188	185	193	196	206
Eggs, 55g	doz.	239	235	238	240	245
Sugar, white	2 kg	185	183	201	210	202
Tea	250 g	182	183	217	214	220
Coffee, instant, jar	150 g	573	592	588	570	563
Margarine, polyunsaturated	500 g	144	142	141	161	172
Petrol						
Leaded	1 L	74.5	75.0	71.5	71.0	69.5
Unleaded	1 L	72.2	72.6	72.0	68.6	67.2

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							
1992-93	19 686	11 163	8 468	-5 210	1 546	5 299	1 460 730
1993-94	20 036	11 743	8 006	-3 978	1 994	6 477	1 466 127
1994-95	19 569	11 501	7 953	-7 069	2 883	4 256	1 469 411
1995-96	18 959	11 294	7 500	-6 192	3 653	5 526	1 474 253
1996-97	18 945	11 683	6 951	-4 628	3 104	5 553	1 479 680
1997-98	18 094	11 496	6 574	-3 254	4 294	7 614	1 487 294
MONTHLY/QUARTERLY							
1996-97							
September	1 464	977	1 575	-1 508	1 068	731	1 475 245
October	1 779	1 196	..	..	..	..	..
November	1 536	835	..	..	..	..	..
December	1 424	920	1 796	-1 221	758	1 333	1 476 578
January	1 582	911	..	..	..	..	..
February	1 498	827	..	..	..	..	..
March	1 301	758	2 051	-1 037	1 142	2 156	1 478 734
April	1 673	935	..	..	..	..	..
May	1 805	1 080	..	..	..	..	..
June	1 492	959	1 672	-862	136	946	1 479 680
1997-98							
July	1 624	1 099	..	..	..	..	..
August	1 448	1 066	..	..	..	..	..
September	1 481	1 068	1 322	-755	1 124	1 691	1 481 371
October	1 581	1 116	..	..	..	..	..
November	1 460	877	..	..	..	..	..
December	1 459	960	1 544	-1 098	598	1 044	1 482 415
January	1 522	871	..	..	..	..	..
February	1 403	846	..	..	..	..	..
March	1 653	813	2 083	-591	2 027	3 519	1 485 934
April	1 458	910	..	..	..	..	..
May	1 492	868	..	..	..	..	..
June	1 513	1 002	1 625	-810	545	1 360	1 487 294

(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)										
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
1997-98	321.9	146.3	49.0	136.3	370.9	282.8	42.5	28.8	413.5	311.4
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL ('000)										
1997-98										
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
May	314.6	142.9	48.7	132.0	363.3	274.9	42.5	29.9	405.8	304.8
June	318.5	141.1	49.9	131.4	368.3	272.5	39.0	29.1	407.3	301.6
1998-99										
July	322.1	145.5	44.7	127.8	366.8	273.2	42.6	26.6	409.4	299.8
August	320.8	144.2	47.1	130.9	367.9	275.1	42.9	29.2	410.8	304.2
September	326.7	147.8	44.8	136.1	371.5	283.9	45.0	27.5	416.6	311.5
October	323.2	148.7	47.1	137.4	370.3	286.1	41.0	24.4	411.2	310.5
November	324.9	147.2	46.7	138.8	371.5	286.0	43.0	25.4	414.5	311.4
December	327.8	150.7	51.0	141.6	378.8	292.3	42.5	24.8	421.3	317.1
January	319.6	147.0	49.5	131.2	369.1	278.2	46.0	29.6	415.1	307.8
MONTHLY, TREND ('000)										
1997-98										
December	323.4	146.9	48.4	138.9	371.8	285.8	43.2	28.3	415.0	314.1
January	322.3	147.6	48.1	136.3	370.4	283.9	42.8	28.7	413.2	312.6
February	320.9	147.7	48.2	133.7	369.1	281.4	42.2	29.1	411.3	310.5
March	319.4	147.1	48.5	131.4	367.9	278.5	41.7	29.4	409.6	307.9
April	318.4	146.1	48.8	129.7	367.2	275.8	41.6	29.8	408.8	305.6
May	318.3	145.3	48.7	128.5	367.0	273.8	41.8	30.0	408.8	303.8
June	319.3	145.0	48.0	128.1	367.3	273.1	42.3	30.0	409.6	303.1
1998-99										
July	320.9	145.2	47.2	129.0	368.1	274.2	42.8	29.6	410.9	303.8
August	322.4	145.9	46.8	130.9	369.2	276.8	43.3	28.8	412.5	305.6
September	323.4	146.7	46.8	133.5	370.2	280.2	43.4	27.9	413.6	308.1
October	323.6	147.2	47.5	136.3	371.1	283.5	43.3	26.9	414.4	310.4
November	323.3	147.3	48.5	138.8	371.8	286.1	43.1	26.2	414.9	312.3
December	322.6	147.2	49.7	140.9	372.3	288.1	42.9	25.7	415.2	313.8
January	321.8	147.0	50.9	142.4	372.7	289.4	42.5	25.5	415.2	314.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, TREND										
1997-98										
December	-0.2	0.5	-0.8	-1.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	1.1	-0.3	-0.4
January	-0.3	0.5	-0.6	-1.9	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	1.4	-0.4	-0.5
February	-0.4	0.1	0.2	-1.9	-0.4	-0.9	-1.4	1.4	-0.5	-0.7
March	-0.5	-0.4	0.6	-1.7	-0.3	-1.0	-1.2	1.0	-0.4	-0.8
April	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	-0.5
May	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.9	-0.1	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.6
June	0.3	-0.2	-1.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	1.2	0.0	0.2	-0.2
1998-99										
July	0.5	0.1	-1.7	0.7	0.2	0.9	1.2	-1.3	0.3	0.2
August	0.5	0.5	-0.8	1.5	0.3	0.9	1.2	-2.7	0.4	0.6
September	0.3	0.5	0.0	2.0	0.3	1.2	0.2	-3.1	0.3	0.8
October	0.1	0.3	1.5	2.1	0.2	1.2	-0.2	-3.6	0.2	0.7
November	-0.1	0.1	2.1	1.8	0.2	0.9	-0.5	-2.6	0.1	0.6
December	-0.2	-0.1	2.5	1.5	0.1	0.7	-0.5	-1.9	0.1	0.5
January	-0.2	-0.1	2.4	1.1	0.1	0.5	-0.9	-0.8	0.0	0.4

(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									
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
1997-98	583.9	604.5	23.2	10.3	9.2	9.8	70.8	51.5	61.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1997-98	0.7	0.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MONTHLY, ORIGINAL									
1997-98									
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
May	585.4	605.9	24.8	10.5	9.8	10.2	69.3	50.3	59.7
June	585.6	606.2	19.9	9.6	9.7	9.6	69.6	49.8	59.5
1997-98									
July	585.9	606.5	23.0	10.4	8.9	9.8	69.9	49.4	59.5
August	586.1	606.8	23.3	10.4	9.6	10.1	70.1	50.1	59.9
September	586.4	607.0	23.1	10.8	8.8	10.0	71.0	51.3	61.0
October	586.9	607.6	23.1	10.0	7.9	9.1	70.1	51.1	60.4
November	587.3	608.1	21.2	10.4	8.2	9.4	70.6	51.2	60.7
December	587.8	608.6	19.8	10.1	7.8	9.1	71.7	52.1	61.7
January	588.3	609.0	20.1	11.1	9.6	10.4	70.6	50.5	60.4
MONTHLY, TREND									
1997-98									
October	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.8	9.7	71.6	52.3	61.8
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	52.0	61.4
January	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	9.2	9.8	70.7	51.7	61.0
February	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.3	9.4	9.9	70.4	51.3	60.7
March	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	9.6	9.9	70.0	50.9	60.3
April	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	9.7	10.0	69.9	50.5	60.0
May	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	9.9	10.1	69.8	50.1	59.8
June	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.3	9.9	10.1	69.9	50.0	59.8
1997-98									
July	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	9.7	10.1	70.1	50.1	59.9
August	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.5	9.4	10.0	70.4	50.4	60.2
September	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.5	9.0	9.9	70.5	50.7	60.5
October	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.7	9.7	70.6	51.1	60.7
November	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	8.4	9.5	70.6	51.4	60.8
December	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.3	8.2	9.4	70.6	51.6	60.9
January	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.2	8.1	9.3	70.6	51.7	61.0

(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)									
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
1997-98	705.60	606.05	670.53	755.05	619.33	707.20	646.28	438.50	545.70
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR									
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
1997-98	4.0	5.4	4.1	2.7	5.1	2.9	1.5	7.3	3.0
QUARTERLY (\$ per week)									
1996-97									
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
15 May	713.80	620.10	680.10	759.50	634.30	714.40	646.30	452.40	552.80
1998-99									
21 August	737.50	623.50	694.70	785.60	636.30	729.60	670.40	462.10	569.60
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM CORRESPONDING REFERENCE DATE IN PREVIOUS YEAR									
1996-97									
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
15 May	3.3	6.1	3.7	1.3	6.2	2.2	-0.9	7.8	1.9
1998-99									
21 August	4.8	6.8	4.7	3.9	7.2	4.0	3.0	10.0	5.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REFERENCE DATE									
1996-97									
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
15 May	-0.2	-1.0	-0.5	-0.7	-1.2	-0.9	-1.5	1.0	-0.1
1998-99									
21 August	3.3	0.5	2.1	3.4	0.3	2.1	3.7	2.1	3.0

SECURED HOUSING
FINANCE
COMMITMENTS.....

Period	Dwelling	Value	Alterations	Personal	Commercial	Lease
	units		and	finance	finance	finance
	no.	\$m	additions	commitments	commitments	commitments
			\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ANNUAL						
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	2 215.5	6 516.2	265.7
1996-97	36 661	2 956.1	188.1	2 469.2	6 092.4	232.0
1997-98	37 379	3 129.7	139.5	2 763.9	6 486.4	267.3

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

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	2.9	20.5	-2.1
1996-97	-5.3	-0.9	-21.9	11.5	-6.5	-12.7
1997-98	-2.0	5.9	-25.8	11.9	6.5	15.2

MONTHLY

1997-98

October	3 173	267.7	13.3	221.1	619.2	21.6
November	3 033	257.8	11.5	219.7	452.4	17.8
December	3 212	275.3	10.1	233.3	831.4	20.0
January	2 515	207.1	8.6	196.5	378.8	15.3
February	3 107	254.1	10.3	209.4	409.2	18.6
March	3 349	282.8	15.8	250.9	518.2	24.2
April	3 227	271.5	12.7	227.6	466.3	16.1
May	3 054	259.8	12.1	235.6	456.3	23.0
June	3 581	307.0	14.0	265.9	779.2	37.5

1998-99

July	3 144	269.0	12.0	249.6	505.2	32.3
August	2 900	244.0	9.0	257.9	514.7	15.5
September	3 063	262.0	11.0	252.9	672.9	16.4
October	2 685	238.0	11.0	237.0	457.3	15.5
November	3 000	277.0	11.0	256.5	449.9	22.6
December	3 151	294.0	14.0	273.4	596.8	18.1

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

1997-98

October	4.4	5.7	33.9	0.4	11.1	-0.4
November	-4.4	-3.7	-13.1	-0.6	-26.9	-17.7
December	5.9	6.8	-12.9	6.2	83.8	12.4
January	-21.7	-24.8	-14.3	-15.8	-54.4	-23.5
February	23.5	22.7	19.4	6.6	8.0	21.6
March	7.8	11.3	53.7	19.9	26.6	30.3
April	-3.6	-4.0	-20.0	-9.3	-10.0	-33.4
May	-5.4	-5.1	-4.7	3.5	-2.1	42.9
June	17.3	19.0	16.1	12.9	70.8	62.7

1998-99

July	-12.2	-12.4	-14.3	-6.1	-35.2	-13.9
August	-7.8	-9.3	-25.0	3.3	1.9	-52.0
September	5.6	7.4	22.2	-1.9	30.7	5.6
October	-12.3	-9.2	0.0	-6.3	-32.0	-5.5
November	11.7	16.4	0.0	8.2	-1.6	45.8
December	5.0	6.1	27.3	6.6	32.7	-19.9

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) Monthly
- (5) *State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure* (Cat. no. 5646.0) Quarterly
- (6) *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (Cat. no. 8635.0) Quarterly
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- (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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