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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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CONTENTS

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)	*RELEASE DATE*
March 2006	5 April 2006
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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

FEATURE ARTICLES

All published feature articles are available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. Go to Themes–Regional–Western Australia–WA Data on the Web–Feature Articles from Western Australian Statistical Indicators.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 21 December 2005. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in *Western Australian Statistical Indicators*. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CPI	consumer price index
ERP	estimated resident population
LGA	local government area
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
n.f.d.	not further defined
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SD	statistical division
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
WA	Western Australia

Alan Hubbard
Regional Director, Western Australia

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Western Australia's domestic economy continued to grow at a steady pace in the September quarter 2005, with State Final Demand (trend chain volume terms) increasing by 1.4%, slightly down on the 1.6% rise in the previous quarter. The September quarter result was higher than the 0.8% increase in Australia's Domestic Final Demand. Growth in the state economy was driven by Business investment, up $725 million (17.8%) in the September quarter, in seasonally adjusted terms. Detracting from Western Australia's growth in State Final Demand was Government sector investment, mainly from State and local public corporations (down $205 million or 39.2%) and General state and local government (down $123 million or 24.1%).

The value of exports from Western Australia continued to grow strongly through the year to September quarter 2005, increasing by $2,013 million (22.2%). The main driver of growth was Iron ore exports, rising in value by $1,247 million (73.4%), aided by both price and volume increases. Natural gas (up $282 million or 40.2%) and Crude petroleum oils (up $272 million or 21.6%) also made significant contributions to the state's exports growth over the period. The greater than expected growth in the US and Chinese economies over recent quarters, as well as the strengthening Japanese economy, provide a positive outlook for Western Australian exports in 2006. The value of imports to Western Australia have also grown substantially between the September quarters of 2004 and 2005, rising by $429 million (12.9%), mainly in Refined petroleum oils and Non-monetary gold.

Employment growth weakened in Western Australia in the three months to November 2005, with the trend estimate of employed persons rising by 0.3%, compared to the 1.0% increase over the previous three month period. The decline in Western Australia's employment growth was driven by a 0.6% fall in full-time employment. The industries showing the largest growth in employment were Manufacturing (up 7,581 or 8.5%) and Mining (up 5,065 or 10.6%). Unemployment fell dramatically in the state in the three months to November 2005, with the number of unemployed persons decreasing by 10.8%, following an 8.0% fall in the previous three month period. The sharp and persistent decline in unemployed persons since mid-2005 has driven the state's unemployment rate to 3.9% in November 2005, its lowest level since the current series began in 1978.

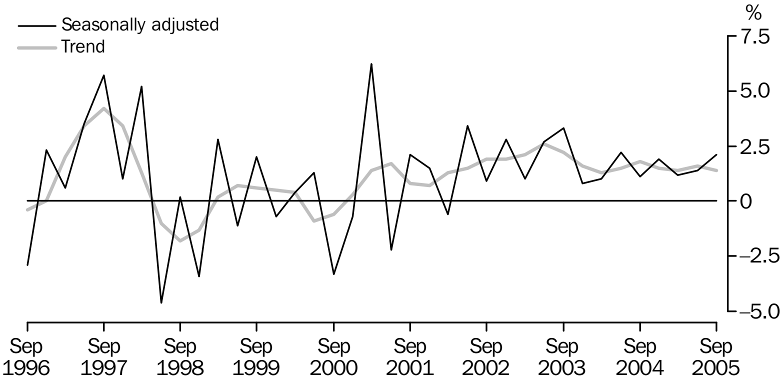
STATE ACCOUNTS

State Final Demand

Growth in Western Australia's domestic economy has been relatively steady since the December quarter 2003, with State Final Demand (trend chain volume terms) growing between the narrow bounds of 1.3% (March quarter 2004) and 1.8% (September quarter 2004) over the eight quarters to September 2005. State Final Demand in Western Australia rose by 1.4% in the September quarter 2005, down slightly on the 1.6% increase in the previous quarter. The September quarter result was higher than the 0.8% increase in Australia's Domestic Final Demand and ranked equal second (with Queensland) behind the growth recorded in the Northern Territory of 1.7%.

State Final Demand continued

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures—Change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

In seasonally adjusted terms, Western Australia's chain volume measure of State Final Demand rose by 2.1% in the September quarter 2005, mainly driven by Business investment (up $725 million or 17.8%). Strong growth was recorded in investment on New machinery and equipment and New engineering construction, supported by the expansion of the state's Mining industry, including work on the fifth LNG train of the North West Shelf Project and the Enfield oil field development. Mining-related activities of the Property and business services industry, such as surveying, consultant engineering and equipment leasing, also recorded strong investment growth during the quarter. Other notable contributions to September quarter growth were Dwelling investment (up $102 million or 7.4%) and Household final consumption expenditure (up $92 million or 0.8%), mainly on Food and Rent and other dwelling services. Despite the significant contribution of household consumption to the state economy, its rate of growth almost halved from the previous quarter, mainly due to a decline in fuel consumption as a result of rising fuel prices.

Detracting from Western Australia's growth in State Final Demand (seasonally adjusted chain volume terms) in the September quarter 2005 was Government sector expenditure. Investment by State and local public corporations fell by $205 million (39.2%) and investment by General state and local government was down by $123 million (24.1%). Final consumption expenditure by State and local government also fell by $52 million (2.2%) in the quarter. The decline in government spending, however, comes after a strong period of growth in State and local government expenditure in the June quarter 2005.

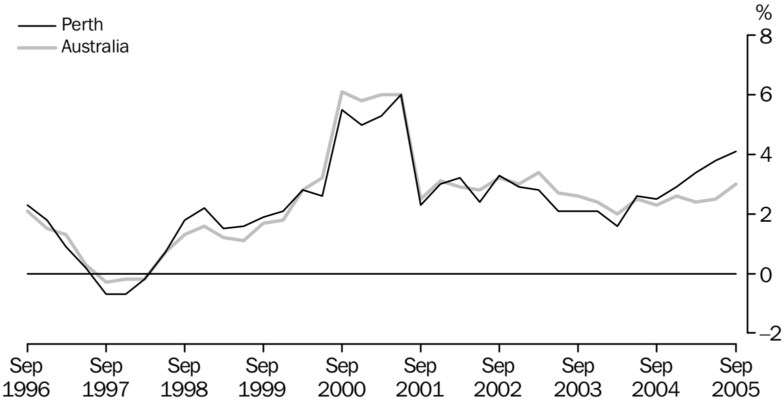
PRICES

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Perth rose by 1.0% in the September quarter 2005, following an increase of 1.3% in the previous quarter. Nationally, the CPI rose by 0.9% in the September quarter. The major contributors to Perth's CPI growth were Automotive fuel (up 12.8%) and House purchase (up 3.6%). Petrol prices continued to rise following the trend in global crude oil prices, while the ongoing strength of housing demand in Perth drove up the purchase price of housing. Other notable contributions to Perth's CPI growth were Vegetables (up 6.4%), Domestic holiday travel and accommodation (up 2.8%) and Property rates and charges (up 5.1%).

Consumer Price Index continued

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from same quarter previous year



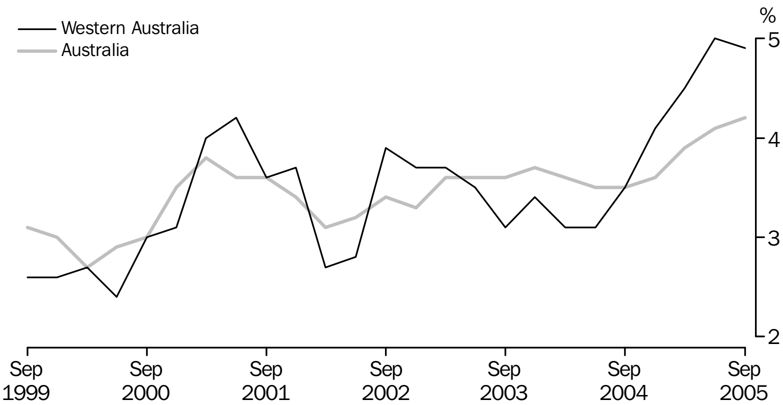
Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

Across Australia's capital cities, Perth recorded the largest increase in prices through the year to September quarter 2005. Perth's CPI rose by 4.1%, well above the national increase of 3.0%. The higher result for Perth was largely attributable to Housing, which rose by 8.9%, more than twice the national average (up 3.9%). Australia's CPI increase of 3.0% over the year was at the top of the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range for inflation. Despite this result, the RBA has played down any immediate need for a tightening of monetary policy, as it expects underlying prices to increase only gradually over the year ahead. It identified the main inflationary pressures as rising import prices and higher business costs such as wages, fuel and commodities.

Wage Price Index

A slight deceleration in growth in Western Australia's Wage Price Index (WPI) indicates that wage pressures may be easing in the state. Growth in the state's quarterly index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 4.9% through the year to September quarter 2005, slightly lower than the 5.0% increase in the year to June quarter 2005. However, the rise of 4.9% in the current period was above the national increase of 4.2% and was the largest increase of all states and territories.

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: Labour Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6345.0.

Wage Price Index continued

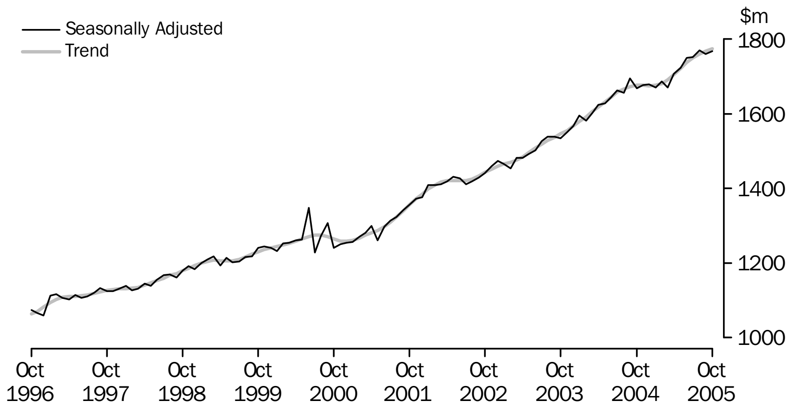
The higher result for Western Australia reflects the relative strength of economic activity, and associated labour demand, in the state's resources, construction and housing sectors. Construction (up 14.9%) and Mining (up 5.5%) recorded the highest annual wages growth in the state, driven by the strong demand for skilled labour in these rapidly expanding industries. The occupations showing the highest annual wages growth in Western Australia were Labourers and related workers (up 8.0%), Tradespersons and related workers (up 7.5%) and Managers and administrators (up 5.4%).

CONSUMPTION

Retail trade

Retail turnover (trend) rose by 1.8% (or $93 million) in Western Australia in the three months to October 2005, compared to the previous three month period. Nationally, retail turnover increased by 1.0%. Growth in Western Australia's retail turnover has decelerated in the last five months, from 1.0% in May 2005 to 0.3% in October 2005. This downward trend in growth has coincided with falling consumer sentiment in the state throughout 2005, as a result of weaker than expected economic data, the increase in official interest rates in March 2005 (up 0.25% to 5.50%), and rising petrol prices.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat. no. 8501.0.

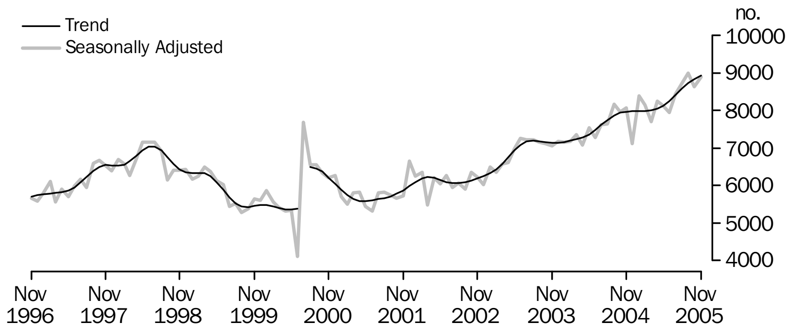
Growth in turnover was evident across all sectors of Western Australia's retail industry in the three months to October 2005 (compared to the three months to July 2005), with the exception of Other retailing (down 6.1% or $29 million). Growth was highest in Food retailing, which increased by 3.8% (or $85 million) over the period, followed by growth in Household good retailing, up 2.3% (or $21 million), reflecting the renewed strength of the state's housing market.

New motor vehicle sales

The trend estimate for sales of new motor vehicles in Western Australia increased for the twenty-fourth consecutive month in November 2005, rising by 1.1% to 8,937 vehicles. Growth in new motor vehicle sales have, however, moderated over the last three months, from 2.0% in August 2005 to 1.1% in November 2005.

New motor vehicle sales continued

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



(a) Break in time series for trend between June and July 2000. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Electronic Publication), cat. no. 9314.0.

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

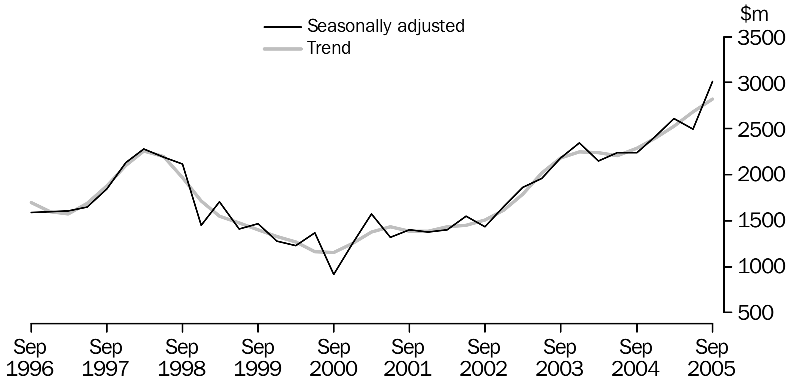
In the three months to November 2005, sales of new motor vehicles (trend) rose by 4.9% (1,250 vehicles) in Western Australia, compared to the previous three month period. In contrast, new motor vehicle sales fell by 1.0% nationally. Driving the state increase were sales of Passenger vehicles, up 712 vehicles (4.8%), while Sports utility vehicles (up 279 vehicles or 5.7%) and Other vehicles (up 259 vehicles or 4.5%) also recorded strong sales growth over the period.

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure

Business investment (trend chain volume terms) increased by 5.1% ($137 million) in Western Australia in the September quarter 2005, following increases of 6.3% and 5.5% in the previous two quarters. Between the June and September quarters of 2005 investment growth eased slightly for Buildings and structures, down from 6.6% ($81 million) to 4.0% ($52 million); and Equipment, plant and machinery, down from 6.0% ($78 million) to 4.9% ($67 million). Despite the deceleration, the level of business investment in Western Australia was at a record high level in the September quarter 2005 ($2,821 million), with investment in Equipment, plant and machinery ($1,440 million) and Buildings and structures ($1,365 million) contributing almost equally to the total.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

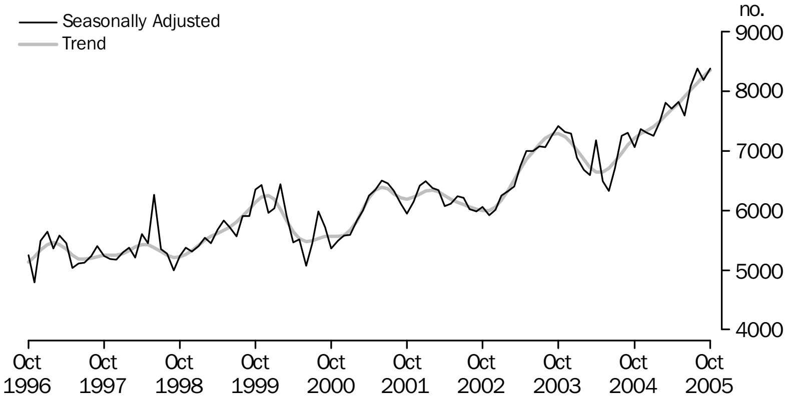
Private new capital expenditure continued

In original current price terms, business investment rose by 37.7% ($856 million) in Western Australia through the year to September quarter 2005. Growth was recorded across all broad industry groups, including Mining (up $408 million or 30.2%), Manufacturing (up $260 million or 112.1%) and Other selected industries (up $188 million or 27.2%). The investment activity in Mining ($1.8 billion) and Manufacturing($492 million) were at their highest levels on record in the September quarter. Much of the growth in business investment over the year can be attributed to the expansion of the state's resources sector, including activities of mining, downstream mineral processing and mining-related business services such as surveying, consultant engineering and equipment leasing.

Housing finance commitments

The number of housing finance commitments for owner occupation (trend) in Western Australia increased by 4.4% (1,033) in the three months to October 2005, compared to the previous three month period, and above the 2.7% rise nationally. The state's housing finance commitments reached their highest level on record at 8,360 in October 2005. The rise in housing finance (original) was mainly driven by non-first home buyers, up 424 commitments (2.1%) over the last three months (compared to the previous three months), with first home buyers recording a smaller increase of 352 commitments (8.5%).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

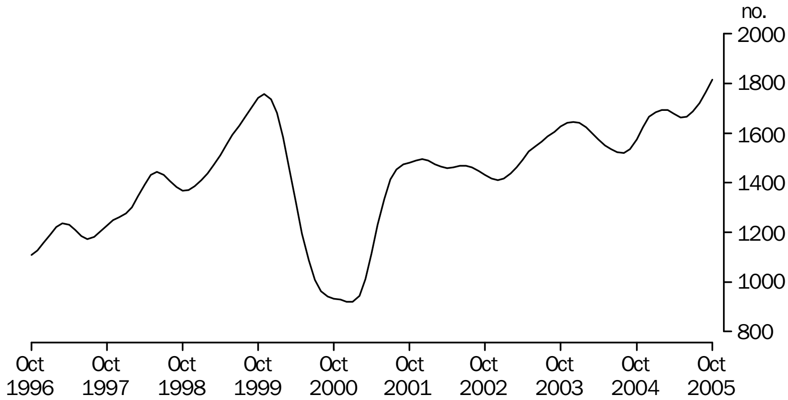
The total value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation (trend) increased by 8.0% ($340 million) in Western Australia in the three months to October 2005, compared to the previous three months - almost double the national rise of 4.2%. The state increase was mainly driven by finance commitments for the purchase of established dwellings, up $221 million (8.1%) in original terms. The value of housing finance for the construction of new dwellings (original) also rose during the period, up 3.5% ($23 million), driven by both owner occupiers (up $12 million or 2.1%) and investors (up $11 million or 15.3%). The rise of 3.5% in the last three months was significantly lower than the 12.4% increase recorded in the previous three month period, indicating that the growth in housing construction activity may begin to moderate in the latter half of 2006, after the recent rise in new house approvals and housing work in the pipeline reaches completion.

CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals

In the three months to October 2005, the number of houses approved for construction (trend) increased by 5.7% (287 approvals) in Western Australia, compared to the previous three months. Nationally, the number of house approvals fell by 3.2% over the same period. The number of house approvals in Western Australia rose in each month since June 2005 to reach 1,817 approvals in October 2005 - the highest level since October 1988. The resurgence in house approvals since mid-2005 suggests construction activity in the state's housing sector should continue to grow into early 2006.

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS APPROVED, Houses: **Trend**



Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

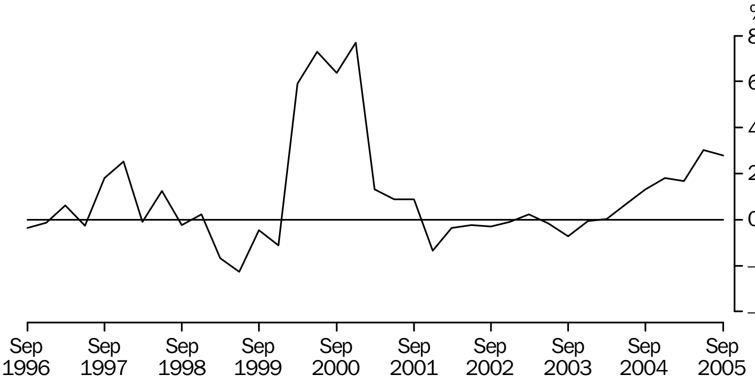
In current price terms, the value of new houses approved (trend) in Western Australia rose by 8.5% ($83 million) in the three months to October 2005, from the previous three month period. In contrast, the value of new house approvals declined by 7.1% nationally. Growth in the value of new house approvals in Western Australia, coupled with an increase in the value of new house construction activity yet to be done at the end of the June quarter 2005 (up 6.0% to $1,331 million), further supports growth in house construction activity into the first half of 2006.

TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus rose by 27.6% between the September quarters of 2004 and 2005, reaching $7,315 million. The increase was driven by strong exports growth, up $2,013 million, reflecting the rapid rise in commodity prices and increased volumes following production capacity expansions in the state's resources sector. Imports also grew over the period (up $429 million), supported by a higher terms of trade, a strong domestic currency and high levels of consumer and business confidence.

TRADE *continued*

VALUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE SURPLUS, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: ABS data available on request, International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, cat. no. 5368.0.

Western Australia's trade surplus with China increased by $807 million (74.1%) to $1,896 million between the September quarters of 2004 and 2005, largely driven by Iron ore exports. The state's trade position with Japan also improved considerably, with the surplus increasing by $543 million (32.1%) to $2,236 million. The trade surplus with India grew by $529 million (122.8%) over the year to $961 million, with Non-monetary gold exports accounting for $911 million (94.8%) of the surplus. A fall in Western Australia's Gold exports to the United Kingdom saw the state record a trade deficit of $38 million with that country, after recording a $670 million surplus in the September quarter 2004. The state's largest quarterly trade deficit, with the United States, rose by $66 million (53.8%) to $188.9 million over the period.

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 22.2% to $11,069 million in the September quarter 2005, compared to the same period of 2004 – the highest value recorded since the quarterly series began in March 1988. Iron ore exports were the main contributor to growth, increasing by $1,247 million (73.4%), aided by a 71.5% price rise negotiated with Japanese steel mills (taking effect in April 2005) and higher export volumes (up 7.6%) over the period. The value of Crude petroleum oil exports increased by $272 million (21.6%) due to strong price growth, while the value of exports of Natural gas rose by $282 million (40.2%) coinciding with the commissioning of the fourth LNG train on the North West Shelf in December. Detracting from growth over the period were exports of Wheat, which fell by $175 million (31.4%) through the year to September quarter 2005, largely due to a 23.3% decline in the volume exported.

Imports

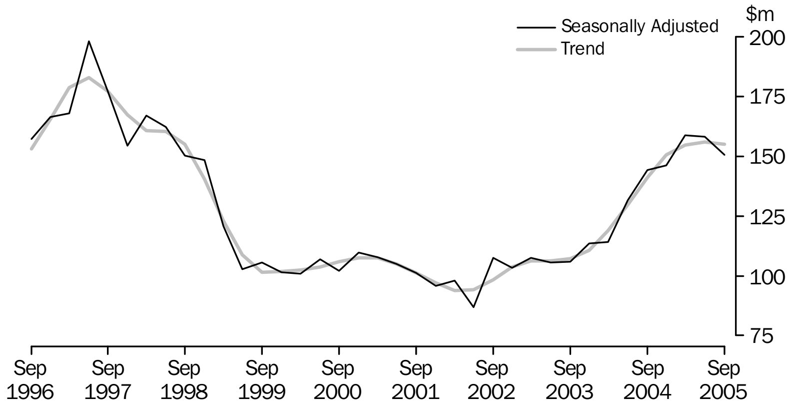
The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 12.9% to $3,755 million in the September quarter 2005, compared to the same period of 2005. Much of the growth in imports was driven by rising levels of investment activity, primarily within the state's resources sector and high levels of consumer and business sentiment in the state. The main commodities contributing to the rise in the state's imports were: Refined petroleum oils, up $159 million (91.9%) - reflecting both price and volume increases; Non-monetary gold, up $148 million (29.9%) and Confidential items, up $67 million (79.2%).

MINING

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) in Western Australia fell slightly, down 0.6% ($1 million) in the September quarter 2005, having increased for the previous fourteen quarters - the longest period of growth since the quarterly series began in 1988. Strong global demand for raw materials and high commodity prices have continued to drive expenditure on mineral exploration in the state.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

Western Australia's mineral exploration expenditure (original) rose by 4.4% ($7 million) through the year to September quarter 2005. The main contributors to growth over the period were exploration expenditure on Nickel and cobalt (up 27.2 % or $8 million) and on Iron ore (up 21.3% or $6 million). Detracting from growth was a 16.1% ($12 million) fall in expenditure on Gold exploration.

Petroleum exploration expenditure (original) in Western Australia rose by 4.2% ($5 million) through the year to September quarter 2005. The rapid rise in petroleum prices over the period, together with the susceptibility of global oil supplies to unexpected events, have stimulated exploration expenditure in the state.

Mineral and energy production

Western Australia recorded production increases in most major mineral and energy resources in the September quarter 2005, compared to the corresponding quarter of 2004. The largest growth was recorded in the production of Zinc, which increased by 38.5% in response to rising world prices. Production of Diamonds rose by 13.3%, mainly due to production at the Argyle mine recovering from tight mining conditions in 2004. Gold (down 2.3%) and Electricity generated (down 2.2%) were the only major commodities to record production decreases over the year.

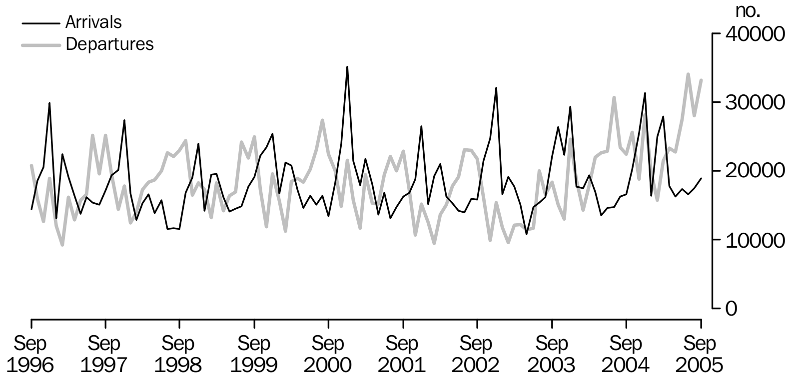
TOURISM

Short-term arrivals on holiday

A total of 52,913 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia by air on holiday in the three months to September 2005, an increase of 5,274 (11.1%) on the same period of 2004. Visitors arrivals rose from most selected countries with Singapore (up 2,757 or 44.8%), the United Kingdom and Ireland (up 912 or 10.7%) and Europe (up 465 or 6.7%) recording the largest increases. The only falls recorded were in arrivals from Thailand (down 164 or 13.6%) and Japan (down 134 or 1.5%).

Short-term arrivals on holiday continued

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS AND RESIDENT DEPARTURES OVERSEAS, By air on holiday



Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, cat. no. 3401.0.

Short-term departures on holiday

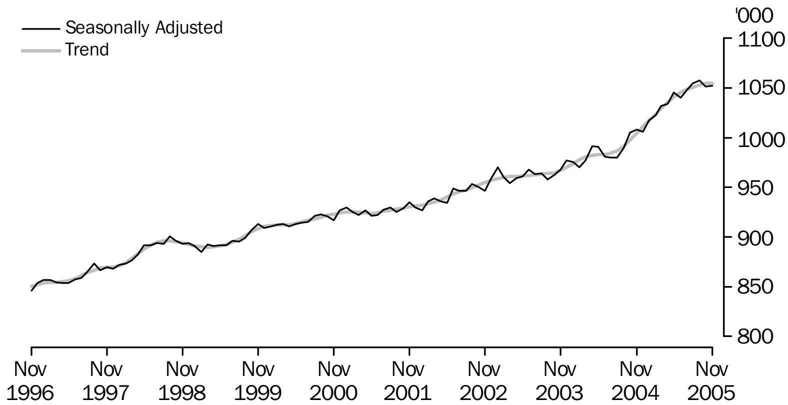
The number of Western Australian residents departing by air on holiday increased to 95,069 in the three months to September 2005, 18,622 (24.4%) more than in the same period of 2004. Increases in resident departures were recorded to most of the selected destinations, with the largest being departures to Indonesia (up 6,038 or 23.6%), Singapore (up 3,142 or 56.5%) and Malaysia (up 1,708 or 41.5%). Thailand (down 79 or 1.0%) recorded the only decrease in short-term resident departures from Western Australia over the period.

LABOUR MARKET

Employment

Employment growth weakened in Western Australia in the three months to November 2005, with the trend estimate of employed persons rising by 0.3%, compared to the 1.0% increase over the previous three month period. Nationally, employment remained relatively unchanged over the three months to November. The decline in Western Australia's employment growth was driven by a 0.6% fall in full-time employment, entirely in full-time employed females, while male full-time employment rose by 0.1%. Despite slower growth in the last three months, there were 3,536 more persons employed in Western Australia in November 2005 than in August 2005 - mainly part-time employed persons.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

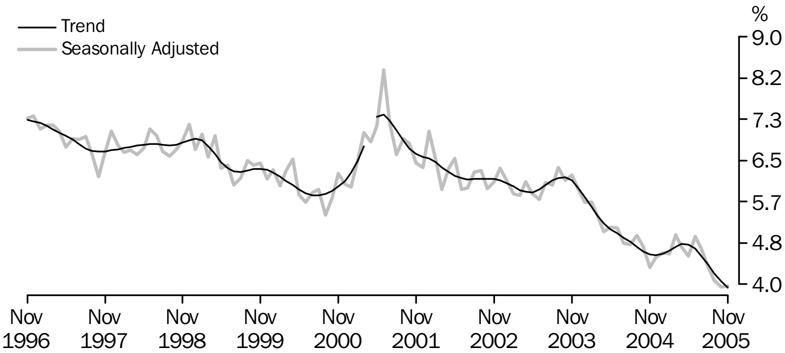
Industry employment

Growth in state employment was spread across most industries in Western Australia during the three months ending in November 2005. The industries contributing most to employment growth were Manufacturing (up 7,581 or 8.5%), Mining (up 5,065 or 10.6%), Government administration and defence (up 4,594 or 10.0%) and Accommodation, restaurants and cafes (up 4,589 or 11.7%). Growth in these industries, as well as in a number of others, were enough to offset the decline in five industries, including Retail(down 9,364 or 6.0%), Education (down 6,795 or 8.5%) and Electricity, gas and water supply (down 4,223 or 37.4%).

Unemployment

Unemployment in Western Australia fell dramatically in the three months to November 2005, with the number of unemployed persons decreasing by 10.8% (5,211 persons). This followed a substantial fall in the previous three month period of 8.0% (4,198 persons). The sharp and persistent decline in unemployed persons since mid-2005 has driven the state's unemployment rate to 3.9% in November 2005 – well below the national rate of 5.1% and the lowest level recorded since the current series began in 1978.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



(a) Break in time series for trend at April 2001. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

Participation

Participation in Western Australia's labour force weakened in the three months to November 2005, with 67.7% of the state's civilian population aged 15 years and over being either employed or actively seeking employment in November 2005, compared to 68.0% in August 2005. Together with the fall in unemployed persons, the decline in labour force participation has aided the fall in Western Australia's unemployment rate to a historically low level.

FEATURE ARTICLE 1

SKILLS SHORTAGES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Recently, skills shortages have emerged as a major labour issue in Western Australia. Headlines such as 'Booming WA has skills shortage' and 'Skills shortage may threaten WA mining projects' have become regular newspaper features. Business surveys have indicated that firms are finding it harder to find suitable labour, with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia–BankWest Survey of Business Expectations reporting that 63% of Western Australian businesses considered labour availability to be 'scarce' in the September quarter 2005, compared to 44% a year earlier. Other reports have also indicated that businesses are poaching workers from others or sourcing skilled labour from interstate and overseas.

This article is the first part of an analysis of skills shortages in Western Australia. It will examine the indicators of skills shortage in Western Australia and explore the nature of the recent shortage, by determining whether the shortage is a skills or labour shortage, identifying where the problem is most concentrated in terms of occupations and related industries, and investigating whether the issue is cyclical (due to an insufficient supply of labour) or structural (due to a mismatch of skills). The second part of the analysis will identify major contributing factors to the skills shortage and investigate the impacts of skills shortages on the Western Australian economy.

Impacts of skills shortages on the economy

Concerns have been raised over the possible impacts of skills shortages on the economy. Western Australia has experienced a lengthy period of economic growth since late 2000. As a measure of domestic economic activity, state final demand increased for 20 consecutive quarters, from the December quarter 2000 to the September quarter 2005. Over this period, quarterly growth in state final demand averaged 1.6%, more than double the average over the previous five year period (0.7%), and well above the long-term average of 1.1%. Growth in the domestic economy accelerated rapidly from the recession in the early 1990s to peak at 2.6% in the June quarter 2003. Since that time, however, growth has slowed to an average of 1.5% per quarter over the last year.

There have also been reports of businesses delaying new projects as a result of the declining availability of skilled workers, supported by the recent deceleration in investment growth. Growth in private new capital expenditure in Western Australia dropped to 5.1% in the September quarter 2005, following larger increases of 6.3% and 5.5% in the previous two quarters.

Economic commentators have also cautioned that shortages of skilled labour increases the likelihood of a rise in inflation, as rising wages place upward pressure on prices, which in turn raises the possibility of interest rate increases. Recently, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) noted that "underlying inflation is expected to increase gradually over the year ahead, reflecting the current upward drift in the growth of labour costs" (Reserve Bank of Australia 2005).

What is a skills shortage?

A skills shortage occurs when the demand for skilled workers exceeds supply. The demand for skilled workers tends to rise during periods of strong economic growth, when rising profitability and investment in new capital and technology encourages businesses to employ more workers to increase production. The supply of skilled workers can be constrained by inadequate provision of education and training, changes

What is a skills shortage? continued

in employment arrangements, qualified workers not working in the occupation for which they are qualified and demographic change in the working age population.

Some skills imbalances will always exist in a dynamic labour market due to the mismatch between the types of skills required and the types of skills available. The degree of mismatch will vary between occupations and industries, and will usually be greater in areas of the economy in which there is rapid structural change. In a competitive economy with price and wage flexibility, skills imbalances can be expected to resolve over time as a result of market adjustment. However, adjustment takes time and it is during this period that skills shortages can be experienced.

The term skills shortage can be used to describe a variety of situations, not all of which represent an actual market shortage. In order to distinguish situations of skills shortage from other situations of shortage, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) differentiates between skills shortages, skills gaps and recruitment difficulties.

Skills shortages exist when employers are unable to fill or have considerable difficulty in filling vacancies for an occupation, or specialised skill needs within that occupation, at current levels of remuneration and conditions of employment, and reasonably accessible location. Shortages are typically for specialised and experienced workers. An occupation may be in shortage even though not all specialisations are in shortage. Occupations may be in shortage in particular geographical areas and not in others. Skills shortages generally involve skills that require a significant period of training and/or experience.

Skills gaps occur where existing employees do not have the required qualifications, experience and/or specialised skills to meet a firm's skill needs for an occupation. Workers may not be adequately trained or qualified to perform tasks or may not have upskilled to emerging skill requirements.

Recruitment difficulties occur when employers have some difficulty in filling vacancies for an occupation and may be due to characteristics of the industry, occupation or employer, such as relatively low remuneration, unsatisfactory working hours, location hard to commute to, ineffective recruitment advertising or processes or firm-specific and highly specialised skill needs.

Measurement of skills shortages

Skills shortages are usually measured by one of two methods – employer-based surveys or analysis of labour market indicators. It is important to note that there does not currently exist a single measure of skills shortage, and the choice of measurement is largely determined by the availability and reliability of data. The use of employer-based surveys can provide very specific and detailed information, but may be problematic due to the reliance on employers' perceptions of shortage and the reporting of skills gaps and recruitment difficulties as skills shortages. Analysis of labour market indicators provides a market-wide perspective and is more objective, but also suffers shortcomings such as the inability to distinguish between job vacancies and hard-to-fill vacancies. The major labour market indicators of skilled vacancies, employment, unemployment, participation, hours worked and wages are not direct measures of shortages, but large rates of change in these indicators can point to the emergence of a skills shortage, in the absence of complete labour market adjustment. Based on the availability and reliability of

Measurement of skills shortages *continued*

data, this article will use the labour market indicators approach to investigate skills shortages in Western Australia.

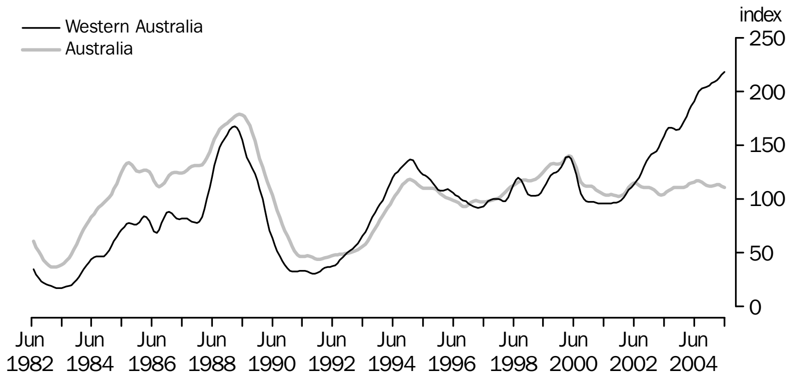
EXTENT OF SKILLS SHORTAGES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Evidence of a skills shortage in Western Australia can be found by examining movements in a range of labour market indicators, including the skilled vacancies index produced by DEWR, as well as a number of indicators obtained from labour market surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Currently, many of these indicators are at record highs or lows – following a sustained period of strong growth in the Western Australian economy – indicating that the demand for labour, including skilled labour, may be exceeding supply. At this point it is assumed that shortages are mainly for skilled labour, and evidence to support this is presented later in the article.

Skilled vacancies index

The skilled vacancies index, compiled by DEWR, is based on a count of skilled vacancies in major metropolitan newspapers. As shown in the graph below, movements in Western Australia's skilled vacancies index largely mirrored movements in the national index for the 20 year period between June 1982 and June 2002. During that time, there were three peaks in skilled vacancies, the first in 1989, the second in 1995 and the third in 2000, all of which indicate likely periods of skills shortage.

SKILLED VACANCIES INDEX(a): **Trend**



(a) Base of index: November 1997 = 100.0.

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Since July 2002, there has been a large and increasing divergence between the skilled vacancies indexes for Western Australia and Australia. The state index rose by 88.0% over the last three years, while the national index fell by 3.5%. As a result, the skilled vacancies index for Western Australia (218.4) was almost double the Australian index (110.5) in June 2005. Some of this difference may, however, be attributable to the growing trend in Western Australia for businesses to use several labour hire agencies to advertise a single skilled vacancy, resulting in a greater number of multiple advertisements, artificially inflating the number of skilled vacancies in the state.

Movements in the skilled vacancies index provide some indication that the recent skills shortage may be more severe than those previously experienced in Western Australia. Skilled vacancies reached an all-time high in Western Australia in June 2005, with the index 30.5% higher than the next highest peak in March 1989. Leading up to the recent peak, skilled vacancies rose for 47 months between August 2001 and June 2005, longer than the growth experienced in any of the previously identified periods of skills

Skilled vacancies index continued

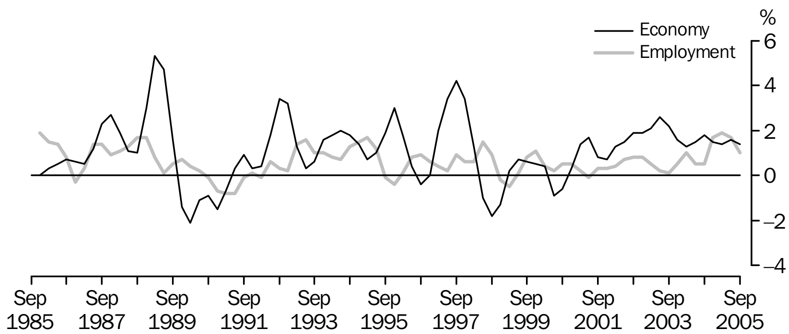
shortage– 15 months in 1989, 39 months in 1995 and 14 months in 2000. The growing discrepancy in skilled vacancies between Western Australia and the nation further indicates the relative severity of the state's shortage of skilled labour.

Employment

During a skills or labour shortage, strong growth in demand for labour will initially lead to growth in employment as any excess labour is absorbed, before being constrained by the availability of labour, including skilled labour. This pattern of employment growth has been evident in Western Australia in recent years.

Fluctuations in employment usually follow the fluctuations in economic growth, with a slight lag. Recently, there was a significant lag between growth in economic activity and employment. Growth in state final demand peaked at 2.6% in the June quarter 2003, while growth in employed persons peaked at 1.9% in the March quarter 2005. This lag of seven quarters was the longest between peaks in economic and employment growth in the past 20 years. When employment growth did eventually rise, it was sustained at a high level for three quarters before beginning to trend downwards again. The apparent inability of employment to respond adequately to strong labour demand conditions suggests that the supply of labour, including skilled labour, may have constrained employment growth.

ECONOMIC(a) VS EMPLOYMENT(b) GROWTH: **Trend**



(a) State final demand.
(b) Number of employed persons.

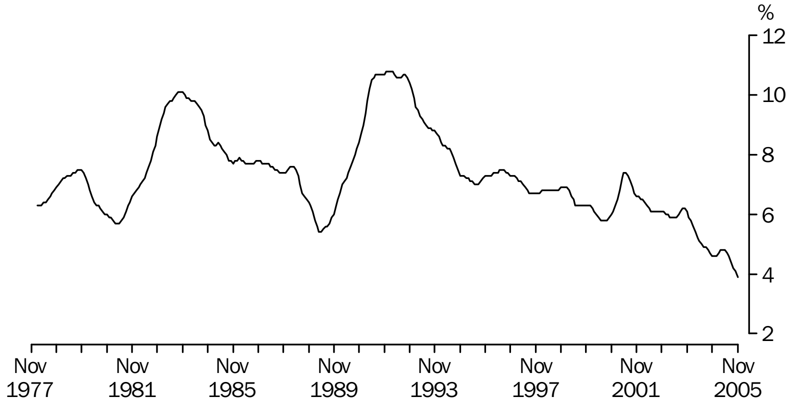
Source: ABS data available on request: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate, which is the proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force, can be expected to decline during a skills or labour shortage, as businesses utilise a greater proportion of workers in the labour force. The recent downward trend in Western Australia's unemployment rate supports this concept. From July 2001, the unemployment rate (trend) in Western Australia dropped by 3.4 percentage points to its lowest level on record in November 2005 (3.9%). The large fall in the state's unemployment rate to historically low levels provides evidence of an economy that has continued to exhaust its available supply of labour, including skilled labour.

Unemployment continued

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: **Trend**

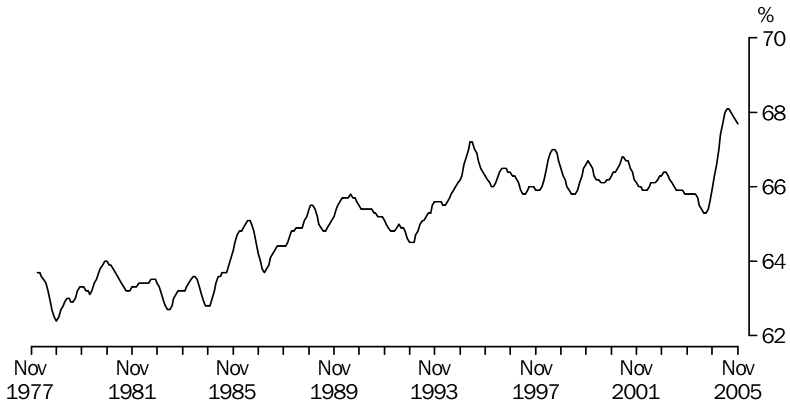


Source: ABS data available on request: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Participation

During a period of skills shortage or strong labour demand, participation in the labour force can be expected to increase, as improved job opportunities and employment conditions encourage people to enter the labour market. The participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population aged 15 years or over who are either in work or actively seeking employment, climbed sharply in Western Australia in recent years. Between September 2004 and June 2005, the participation rate rose by 2.7 percentage points in trend terms – the most prolonged rise in the series for ten years – reaching its highest level on record of 68.1% in June 2005. Since then, the participation rate has only dropped marginally to 67.7% in November 2005.

PARTICIPATION RATE: **Trend**



Source: ABS data available on request: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Hours worked

An increase in hours worked can be indicative of a skills or labour shortage, as employers try to make the most of their existing workforce. Data for Western Australia show only a very slight upward trend in average weekly hours worked by employees over recent years. Average weekly hours worked peaked in December 2004 at 36.5 hours, the highest level since December 1999 (36.5 hours). Average weekly hours worked in November 2005 was only slightly lower at 35.3 hours.

Hours worked continued

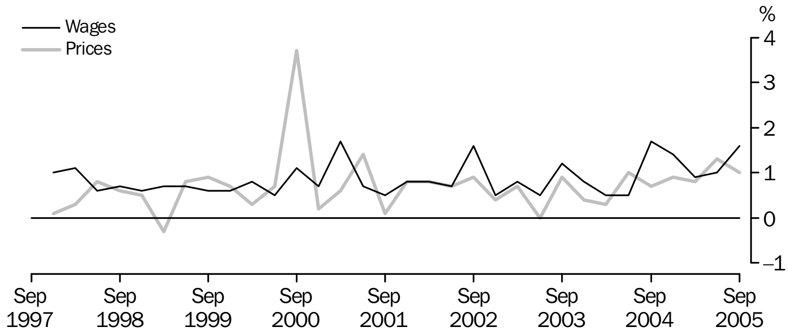
Further analysis reveals that the rise in average weekly hours worked was driven by part-time rather than full-time employees. Between December 1999 and December 2004, growth in average weekly hours worked by part-time employees (0.7 hours) was more than three times the growth in average weekly hours worked by full-time employees (0.2 hours). The relatively strong rise in hours worked by part-time employees suggests that businesses have increasingly utilised part-time workers to supplement the hours worked by full-time workers, and that marginally attached workers who are more likely to work part-time may have been attracted back into the labour market.

An alternative measure of hours worked can be obtained from the biennial Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours. It measures the total time weekly hours worked by non-managerial adult employees. The series for Western Australia recently peaked in May 2004 at 33.5 hours, the highest level since May 1996 (33.5 hours). Between May 2002 and May 2004, total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked increased by 0.7 hours, the largest increase on record.

Wages

Rising wages can also indicate the presence of a skills or labour shortage. When the labour market is 'tight' or the demand for labour (including skilled labour) is well above supply, the price of labour rises. During these times, workers are in a stronger position to bargain for larger wage increases and businesses tend to pay higher wages to retain or attract workers. Recently, wages growth in Western Australia has been strong, and the wage price index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) has grown faster than the general level of prices. Between the June quarter 2004 and the September quarter 2005, the wage price index increased by 6.6%, compared to an increase of 4.8% in the state's consumer price index. Average quarterly growth in wages over this period was 1.3% – almost one and a half times higher than the long-term average of 0.9%. There have also been record levels of quarterly growth in recent times, with growth in the September quarter 2004 (1.7%), the December quarter 2004 (1.4%) and the June quarter 2005 (1.0%) all the highest on record for those quarters.

WAGES(a) VS PRICES(b) GROWTH: **Original**



(a) Wage price index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.
(b) Consumer price index.

Source: ABS data available on request: Labour Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6345.0; Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

NATURE OF THE SKILLS SHORTAGE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The recent shortage of skilled labour in Western Australia appears to be widespread, affecting many occupations and related industries. According to the DEWR labour market ratings for 2004–05, there were 31 skilled occupations in shortage across the state. An understanding of the nature of the skills shortage in Western Australia can be gained by determining whether the shortage is mainly in skilled labour as opposed to a general labour shortage, identifying the occupations and industries in which it is most concentrated and investigating whether the issue is cyclical or structural.

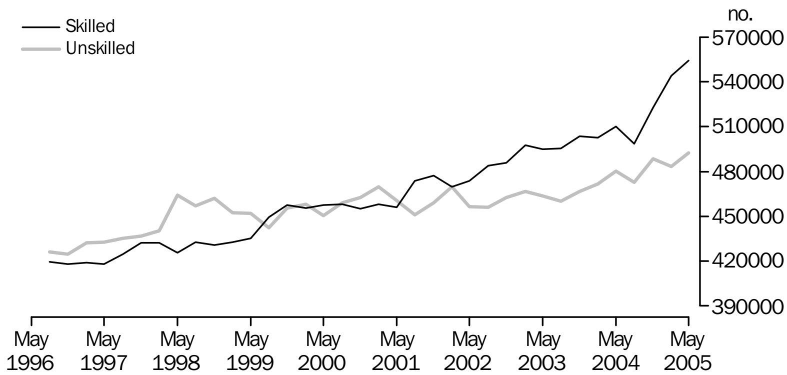
Skills shortage or labour shortage?

One way in which a skills shortage can be distinguished from a general labour shortage is by examining whether shortages exist for both skilled and unskilled labour. This can be achieved by comparing the demand for skilled and unskilled occupations, using employment as the indicator of demand.

The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) is a hierarchical skill-based classification which enables the separation of skilled and unskilled occupations. For the purposes of this analysis, skilled occupations include the ASCO major groups of Managers and administrators, Professionals, Associate professionals and Tradespersons and related workers. Unskilled occupations include the major groups of Advanced clerical and service workers, Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, Intermediate production and transport workers, Elementary clerical, sales and service workers and Labourers and related workers.

As shown in the graph below, growth in skilled employment outpaced growth in unskilled employment over the last ten years, and particularly since early 2002. Growth in the number of employed persons in skilled occupations rose by 18.0% from the February quarter 2002, while the number of persons employed in unskilled occupations grew by only 4.8%. To put this in context, growth in skilled employment accounted for 78.9% of the total increase in employment in Western Australia, while growth in unskilled employment accounted for the remainder (21.1%).

SKILLED VS UNSKILLED EMPLOYMENT(a): **Original**



(a) Number of employed persons.

Source: ABS data available on request: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

The most dramatic rise in skilled employment occurred in the more recent quarters, with the number of persons employed in skilled occupations rising by 6.0% in the three quarters to May 2005. As a result, skilled employment now accounts for a greater proportion of people employed in Western Australia (53.0%) than it did before the recent skills shortage – 49.4% in the February quarter 2001. Because skilled occupations

Skills shortage or labour shortage? continued

have recently been in greater demand in Western Australia, it appears likely that the current shortage is more pronounced for skilled rather than unskilled labour.

Occupations

The relative strength of demand for skilled labour in Western Australia suggests that skilled occupations are those in which the recent shortage is most concentrated. Analysis across a wider range of indicators further supports shortages of labour in skilled occupations, and reveals that some less skilled occupations are also experiencing shortages. The occupation major groups that have displayed the strongest signs of shortage across the range of labour market indicators are analysed below. Analysis for all indicators is from early 2002 to mid-2005, or the most recent time period available.

LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS(a)(b)

Labour market indicator	*Unit*	*Tradespersons and related workers*	*Professionals*	*Labourers and related workers*	*Intermediate production and transport workers*	*Managers and administrators*	*Western Australia*
Employed persons							
Change over reference period(c)	no.	19 183	26 565	7 479	8 662	26 173	107 234
Proportion of total state change	%	17.9	24.8	7.0	8.1	24.4	100.0
Occupation ranking(d)	no.	3	1	7	6	2	. .
Unemployed persons							
Change over reference period(c)	no.	–4 973	–2 406	–857	323	–856	–16 109
Proportion of total state change	%	30.9	14.9	5.3	–2.0	5.3	100.0
Occupation ranking(d)	no.	1	4	5	9	6	. .
Wage price index(e)							
Change over reference period(f)	%	15.4	13.0	16.8	12.6	12.4	12.8
Occupation ranking(d)	no.	2	3	1	4	5	. .
Total time adult weekly earnings							
Change over reference period(g)	$	183.70	86.20	126.70	155.20	39.70	91.60
Occupation ranking(d)	no.	1	4	3	2	6	. .
Total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked							
Change over reference period(g)	hours	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.5	–0.2	0.7
Occupation ranking(d)	no.	1	3	4	2	6	. .

. . not applicable
(a) Labour market indicators that are available and reliable for the state by occupation level.
(b) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) major group.
(c) Reference period is from the February quarter 2002 to the May quarter 2005.
(d) Occupations are ranked based on either the proportion of the total state change, or the change over the reference period, for each indicator.
(e) Index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.
(f) Reference period is from the March quarter 2002 to the June quarter 2005.
(g) Reference period is from May 2002 to May 2004.
Source: ABS data available on request: *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0; *Labour Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6345.0; *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia,* cat. no. 6306.0.

TRADESPERSONS AND RELATED WORKERS

From early 2002 to mid-2005, Tradespersons and related workers recorded the third largest increase in employment (19,183 persons) among the occupations, accounting for 17.9% of the total state increase. Tradespersons and related workers recorded the largest decline in unemployment since last job (4,973 persons) of all occupations, accounting for 30.9% of the total state decrease. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Tradespersons and related workers rose by 15.4%, well above the total state increase of 12.8% and the second largest occupation increase. Tradespersons and related workers recorded the largest occupation increases in both total time adult weekly

Occupations *continued*

TRADESPERSONS AND RELATED WORKERS *continued*

earnings ($183.70) and total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked (3.0 hours), more than double the total state increases of $91.60 and 0.7 hours respectively.

Structural steel and welding tradespersons, Fibrous plasterers, Cabinetmakers, Communications tradespersons and Electricians were the occupation unit groups contributing most to employment growth for Tradespersons over the reference period.

According to DEWR, the number of skilled vacancies for Trades increased by 189.8% between March 2002 and June 2005. The largest increases in skilled vacancies over this period occurred for Metal trades (up 487.6%), Electrical and electronics trades (up 304.9%) and Construction trades (up 241.1%).

PROFESSIONALS

Professionals recorded the largest increase in employment (26,565 persons) of all occupations, and accounted for 24.8% of the total state increase from early 2002 to mid-2005. Professionals recorded the fourth largest decline in unemployment since last job (2,406 persons) among the occupations, accounting for 14.9% of the total state decline. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 13.0% for Professionals, higher than the total state increase of 12.8% and the third largest occupation increase. Professionals recorded the fourth largest increase in total time adult weekly earnings – up by $86.20. Total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked by Professionals rose by 2.0 hours, more than double the total state increase of 0.7 hours and the third largest occupation increase.

Registered nurses, Primary school teachers, Accountants, Computing professionals and Mining and materials engineers were the occupation unit groups contributing most to employment growth for Professionals over the reference period.

According to DEWR, the number of skilled vacancies increased by 58.7% for Building and engineering professionals and 37.1% for Science professionals between March 2002 and June 2005.

LABOURERS AND RELATED WORKERS

The number of persons employed as Labourers and related workers increased by 7,479 from early 2002 to mid-2005, the seventh largest increase among the occupations, accounting for 7.0% of the total state increase. Labourers and related workers recorded the fifth largest decrease of all occupations in the number of persons unemployed since last job (857), accounting for 5.3% of the total state decrease. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Labourers and related workers rose by 16.8%, significantly higher than the 12.8% total state increase and the largest occupation increase. Total time adult weekly earnings for Labourers and related workers increased by $126.70, well above the $91.60 total state increase and the third largest occupation increase. Labourers and related workers recorded the fourth largest occupation increase in total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked (1.0 hour), higher than the total state increase of 0.7 hours.

Occupations continued

LABOURERS AND RELATED WORKERS *continued*

Construction and plumber's assistants, Other miscellaneous labourers and related workers, Other process workers, Handypersons and Concreters were the occupation unit groups contributing most to employment growth for Labourers and related workers over the reference period.

INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT WORKERS

From early 2002 to mid-2005, the number of persons employed as Intermediate production and transport workers increased by 8,662, the sixth largest increase of all occupations, accounting for 8.1% of the total state increase. However, Intermediate production and transport workers were the only occupation to record an increase in unemployment since last job – up by 323 persons. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Intermediate production and transport workers rose by 12.6%, the fourth largest occupation increase. Intermediate production and transport workers recorded the second largest occupation increase in total time adult weekly earnings ($155.20), more than one and a half times the total state increase of $91.60. Intermediate production and transport workers also recorded the second largest occupation increase in total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked (2.5 hours), more than three times the total state increase of 0.7 hours.

Storepersons, Structural steel construction workers, Truck drivers, Other mobile plant operators and Miners were the occupation unit groups contributing most to employment growth for Intermediate production and transport workers over the reference period.

MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Managers and administrators recorded the second largest increase in employed persons (26,173) among the occupations from early 2002 to mid-2005, accounting for 24.4% of the total state increase. Managers and administrators recorded the sixth largest decline of all occupations in unemployment since last job (856 persons), accounting for 5.3% of the total state decline. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Managers and administrators increased by 12.4% – the fifth largest occupation increase. Total time adult weekly earnings for Managers and administrators increased by $39.70, the sixth largest occupation increase. However, total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked by Managers and administrators fell by 0.2 hours.

Livestock farmers, General managers, Crop farmers, Sales and marketing managers and Other specialist managers were the occupation unit groups contributing most to employment growth for Managers and administrators over the reference period.

Industries

The recent shortage of skilled labour in Western Australia appears to be most concentrated in those industries experiencing the largest growth in demand for the occupations highlighted above. Not surprisingly, the same industries appear as major contributors to demand for several occupations. The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) industry divisions contributing most to employment growth in the selected occupations were as follows:

- Tradespersons and related workers (up 19,183 persons) – Construction (10,245), Mining (4,904) and Manufacturing (2,769);

Industries continued

- Professionals (up 26,565 persons) – Property and business services (8,516), Health and community services (6,901) and Education (5,120);
- Labourers and related workers (up 7,479 persons) – Construction (6,951), Manufacturing (4,332) and Health and community services (1,546);
- Intermediate production and transport workers (up 8,662 persons) – Construction (4,025), Agriculture, forestry and fishing (3,775) and Mining (3,003); and
- Managers and administrators (up 26,173 persons) – Agriculture, forestry and fishing (5,695), Property and business services (5,301) and Manufacturing (2,995).

Combining these results with the industries displaying the strongest signs of shortage across the range of labour market indicators, five industries emerge as being those in which the recent skills shortage is most concentrated. These industry divisions are analysed below. As per the occupation section above, analysis for all indicators is from early 2002 to mid-2005, or the most recent time period available.

LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES(a)(b)

Labour market indicator	Unit	Construction	Manufacturing	Property and business services	Mining	Health and community services	Western Australia
Employed persons							
Change over reference period(c)	no.	21 968	9 793	28 243	12 481	24 484	107 234
Proportion of total state change	%	20.5	9.1	26.3	11.6	22.8	100.0
Industry ranking(d)	no.	3	5	1	4	2	. .
Unemployed persons							
Change over reference period(c)	no.	–1 673	–1 634	–1 772	286	–446	–16 109
Proportion of total state change	%	10.4	10.1	11.0	–1.8	2.8	100.0
Industry ranking(d)	no.	4	5	3	17	11	. .
Wage price index(e)							
Change over reference period(f)	%	22.5	14.5	11.8	14.2	11.3	12.8
Industry ranking(d)	no.	1	3	7	4	8	. .
Average weekly adult full-time earnings							
Change over reference period(c)	$	381.10	243.20	78.80	250.30	209.50	192.70
Industry ranking(d)	no.	1	4	14	3	6	. .
Total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked							
Change over reference period(g)	hours	3.6	1.0	0.1	2.4	1.0	0.7
Industry ranking(d)	no.	2	7	10	4	6	. .

. . not applicable
(a) Labour market indicators that are available and reliable for the state by industry level.
(b) Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) division.
(c) Reference period is from the February quarter 2002 to the May quarter 2005.
(d) Industries are ranked based on either the proportion of the total state change, or the change over the reference period, for each indicator.
(e) Index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses.
(f) Reference period is from the March quarter 2002 to the June quarter 2005.
(g) Reference period is from May 2002 to May 2004.
Source: ABS data available on request: *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0; *Labour Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6345.0; *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia,* cat. no. 6302.0; *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia,* cat. no. 6306.0.

CONSTRUCTION

From early 2002 to mid-2005, Construction recorded the third largest increase in employment (21,968 persons) of all industries, accounting for 20.5% of the total state increase. Construction recorded the fourth largest decrease among the industries in the number of persons unemployed since last job (1,673), accounting for 10.4% of the total state decrease. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for

Industries continued

CONSTRUCTION *continued*

Construction rose by 22.5%, almost double the total state increase of 12.8% and the largest industry increase. Average weekly adult full-time earnings in Construction increased by $381.10, significantly higher than the $192.70 total state increase and the largest industry increase. Total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked by employees in Construction increased by 3.6 hours, more than five times the total state increase of 0.7 hours and the second largest industry increase.

Building structure services, Other construction services, Installation trade services, Building completion services and Site preparation services were the industry groups contributing most to employment growth for Construction over the reference period.

MANUFACTURING

Employment in Manufacturing increased by 9,793 persons from early 2002 to mid-2005, the fifth largest increase among the industries, accounting for 9.1% of the total state increase. The number of persons unemployed since last job in Manufacturing declined by 1,634, accounting for 10.1% of the total state decline and the fifth largest decline of all industries. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Manufacturing rose by 14.5%, well above the total state increase of 12.8% and the third largest industry increase. Average weekly adult full-time earnings in Manufacturing increased by $243.20, higher than the total state increase of $192.70 and the fourth largest industry increase. Manufacturing recorded the seventh largest industry increase in total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked (1.0 hour), higher than the total state increase of 0.7 hours.

Manufacturing – not further defined, Basic non-ferrous metal manufacturing, Beverage and malt manufacturing, Furniture manufacturing and Printing and services to printing were the industry groups contributing most to employment growth for Manufacturing over the reference period.

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Property and business services recorded the largest increase in employment (28,243 persons) among the industries from early 2002 to mid-2005, accounting for 26.3% of the total state increase. The number of persons unemployed since last job in Property and business services fell by 1,772, the third largest decline of all industries, accounting for 11.0% of the total state decline. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Property and business services increased by 11.8% – the seventh largest industry increase. Average weekly adult full-time earnings in Property and business services rose by $78.80, the fourteenth largest industry increase. Property and business services recorded the tenth largest industry increase in total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked, up by 0.1 hours.

Other business services, Technical services, Real estate agents and Computer services were the industry groups contributing most to employment growth for Property and business services over the reference period.

Industries continued

MINING

The number of persons employed in Mining increased by 12,481 from early 2002 to mid-2005, accounting for 11.6% of the total state increase and the fourth largest increase of all industries. However, the number of persons unemployed since last job in Mining increased by 286, one of only two industries to record an increase over the period. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Mining rose by 14.2%, higher than the total state increase of 12.8% and the fourth largest industry increase. Average weekly adult full-time earnings for employees in Mining increased by $250.30, higher than the $192.70 total state increase and the third largest industry increase. Total time(non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked by employees in Mining rose by 2.4 hours, more than three times the total state increase of 0.7 hours and the fourth largest industry increase.

Mining – not further defined, Metal ore mining and Other mining services were the industry groups contributing most to employment growth for Mining over the reference period.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

From early 2002 to mid-2005, Health and community services recorded the second largest increase in employment (24,484 persons) among the industries, accounting for 22.8% of the total state increase. The number of persons unemployed since last job in Health and community services declined by 446, the eleventh largest decline of all industries, accounting for 2.8% of the total state decline. The index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) for Health and community services increased by 11.3%, the eighth largest industry increase. Average weekly adult full-time earnings for Health and community services rose by $209.50, higher than the total state increase of $192.70 and the sixth largest industry increase. Health and community services also recorded the sixth largest increase in total time (non-managerial adult) weekly hours worked (1.0 hour), higher than the total state increase of 0.7 hours.

Hospitals and nursing homes, Community care services, Child care services and Medical and dental services were the industry groups contributing most to employment growth for Health and community services over the reference period.

Cyclical or structural imbalance in the labour market?

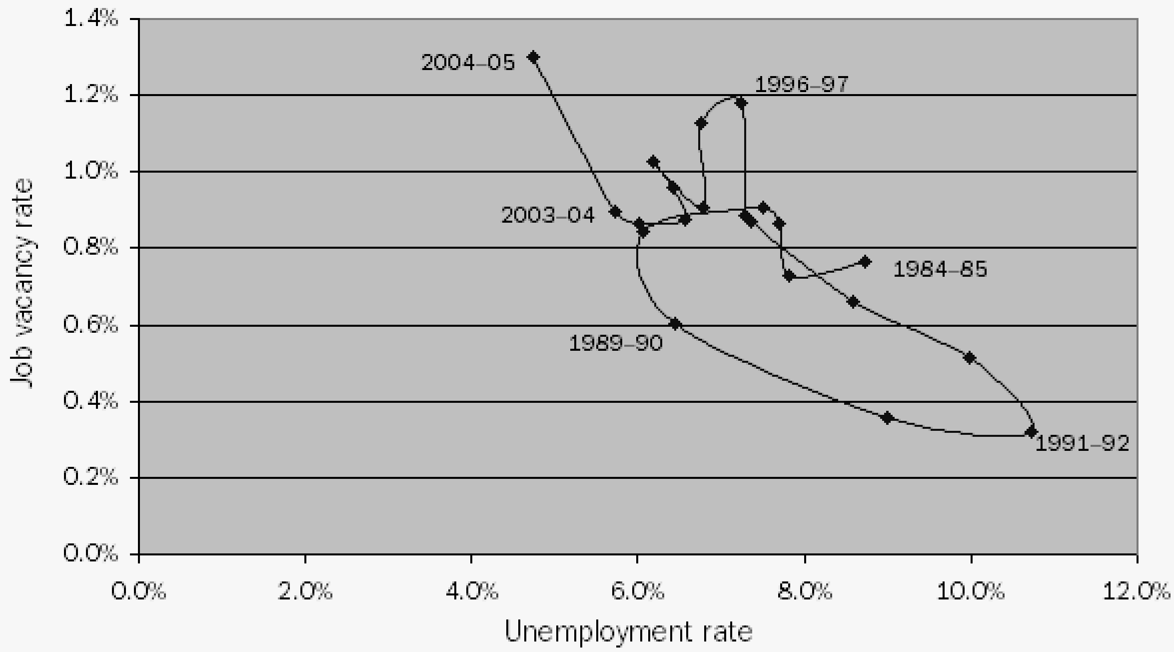
As mentioned previously, large movements in labour market indicators reflect imbalances between the demand and available supply of labour, and it is possible to identify periods of skills shortage by monitoring these trends over time. Labour market imbalances are either cyclical or structural in nature. Cyclical imbalance tends to follow the ups and downs of the business cycle, as the demand for labour is directly related to the demand for goods and services in the economy. Structural or reallocation imbalance occurs when there is significant variation in rates of growth between sectors or regions, creating a mismatch between labour demand and supply.

The Beveridge curve, as shown below, plots the civilian unemployment rate (total unemployed as a percentage of the labour force) against an imputed job vacancy rate (job vacancies as a percentage of the labour force) for Western Australia. Over the last 20 years unemployment and vacancies have generally been negatively related. Higher unemployment has been associated with lower vacancies, and lower unemployment with higher vacancies.

Cyclical or structural imbalance in the labour market? continued

When the labour market is 'tight' and demand for labour (including skilled labour) is high, most workers who wish to work have found employment, so the unemployment rate is low. The vacancy rate, however, is relatively high as employers experience some difficulty finding suitable workers to fill jobs.

BEVERIDGE CURVE, Western Australia—1984–85 to 2004–05



Source: ABS data available on request: *Job Vacancies, Australia*, cat. no. 6354.0; *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0.

The position of the Beveridge curve indicates where the economy is in the business cycle. Recessions are generally times of high unemployment and few job vacancies (points on the lower right hand side of the graph), while expansions are generally times of low unemployment and high job vacancies (points on the upper left hand side of the graph). In addition, the location of the curve relative to the origin indicates the overall level of labour market activity. When the curve moves inwards towards the origin it represents an improvement in the job matching process, as workers find jobs faster – filling vacancies and reducing unemployment. An outward movement of the curve suggests a decline in the efficiency of the matching process, probably due to greater structural mismatch, as both vacancies and unemployment rise.

Between 1984–85 and 2004–05, the Beveridge curve for Western Australia moved in a counterclockwise loop. The recession of the early 1990s corresponds to points on the bottom right hand side of the curve, when unemployment was high and job vacancies low. Since that time the economy has generally been in a period of expansion (despite some weakening in the late 1990s) with rising job vacancies and declining unemployment.

Cyclical or structural imbalance in the labour market? continued

More recently, the Beveridge curve provides some insight into the nature of the skills shortage in Western Australia. Between 1996–97 and 2003–04, there was a large inward shift of the curve, indicating that the labour market showed considerable structural improvement, with both vacancies and unemployment declining. In 2004–05, a large spike occurred in job vacancies, accompanied by a decline in unemployment, reflecting the rapid expansion of the economy. It is these movements, coupled with the fact that the expansion was widespread across a range of industries, that provide evidence of the cyclical nature of the current shortage of skilled labour in the state.

CONCLUSION

Skills shortages have recently emerged as an area of particular concern for Western Australia. Large movements in labour market indicators provide some evidence that Western Australia is currently experiencing a skills shortage, which appears to be more severe than those previously experienced. Recent strong demand for skilled labour, relative to the demand for unskilled labour, supports the existence of a labour shortage that is more skilled than general in nature. Further analysis of labour market indicators reveals that shortages are most concentrated in the occupations of Tradespersons and related workers, Professionals, Labourers and related workers, Intermediate production and transport workers and Managers and administrators; and the industries of Construction, Manufacturing, Property and business services, Mining and Health and community services. Movements in the Beveridge curve indicate that the current shortage of skilled labour in Western Australia is cyclical (due to an insufficient supply of labour), reflecting the recent strong growth in the state's economy.

Part 2 of the analysis of skills shortages in Western Australia is proposed for inclusion in the March quarter 2006 issue of *Western Australian Statistical Indicators*. It will identify major contributing factors to the skills shortage, by reviewing factors influencing the supply of and demand for skilled labour in the state, including labour force characteristics, interstate and overseas migration, education and training, business profitability and confidence, consumption and investment expenditure, and export revenue. The impacts of skills shortages on the Western Australian economy will also be investigated, by examining the relationships between skills shortages, productivity and economic performance.

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FEATURE ARTICLE 2

STATE ACCOUNTS – A SNAPSHOT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMY IN 2004–05

INTRODUCTION

The state accounts compiled for Western Australia provide a systematic statistical framework for measuring the performance of the economy and its components over time. This article reports on the growth of the Western Australian economy in 2004–05, using the measures of Gross State Product, Gross State Product per capita and Real Gross State Income, and compares its performance with other states and territories. It also analyses the components of the economy that have driven growth in 2004–05 such as household consumption, business investment, government spending and net exports, as well as identifying the industries that have contributed most to economic growth, using the measure of Total Factor Income.

GROWTH IN THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Gross State Product

The broadest measure of economic activity contained within the accounts is Gross State Product (GSP). Estimates of GSP in current prices are produced by summing factor incomes (i.e. compensation of employees and gross operating surplus and gross mixed income) plus taxes, less subsidies on production and imports. Chain volume estimates of GSP are derived by revaluing current price, income-based estimates of GSP, using deflators which are calculated from the expenditure components.

The Western Australian economy increased its total volume of production for the fourth consecutive year in 2004–05. The chain volume measure of GSP grew by 2.7% ($2,488 million), following an increase of 8.1% in the previous year. Despite the large deceleration, Western Australia's GSP growth of 2.7% was greater than the national increase of 2.3% and raised the state's volume estimate of GSP to its highest level on record ($94,827 million). The moderate growth in Western Australia's GSP was, however, greater than the growth in New South Wales (1.1%), Victoria (2.3%), and South Australia (2.6%), but less than the remaining states and territories. Queensland and Tasmania recorded the highest rates of GSP growth in 2004–05 of 4.0%.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Chain volume measures(a)(b)

	LEVELS			PER CAPITA		
	2003–04	*2004–05*	*Change*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*Change*
	$m	$m	%	$	$	%
New South Wales	290 746	293 978	1.1	43 377	43 556	0.4
Victoria	212 243	217 047	2.3	42 975	43 447	1.1
Queensland	144 701	150 559	4.0	37 626	38 349	1.9
South Australia	56 737	58 186	2.6	37 088	37 845	2.0
Western Australia	***92 339***	***94 827***	***2.7***	***47 003***	***47 539***	***1.1***
Tasmania	14 794	15 389	4.0	30 810	31 801	3.2
Northern Territory	9 381	9 718	3.6	47 160	48 333	2.5
Australian Capital Territory	17 309	17 829	3.0	53 501	54 924	2.7
Australia (GDP)	**838 251**	**857 765**	**2.3**	**41 946**	**42 437**	**1.2**

(a) Users are cautioned that these volume estimates of GSP are derived indirectly by calculating a price deflator from the expenditure components of GSP, which is then applied to the current price income estimate of GSP. For more information refer to paragraphs 30 to 34 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.
(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05, cat. no. 5220.0.

Gross State Product per capita

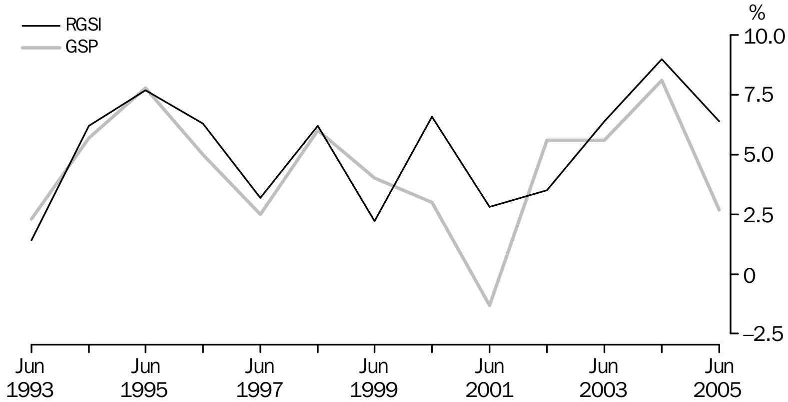
In 2004–05, Western Australia recorded one of the lowest rates of growth in GSP per capita in Australia. The state's chain volume measure of GSP per capita rose by 1.1%, equal to the growth in Victoria, but lower than the rest of the states and territories except for New South Wales (0.4%). Western Australia's growth in GSP per capita was, however, only marginally below the national increase of 1.2%. The highest growth in GSP per capita in 2004–05 was recorded in Tasmania (3.2%).

In dollar terms, each Western Australian's share of GSP in chain volume terms grew by $536 to $47,539 in 2004–05. This increased share of GSP in Western Australia was above the national average of $42,437 and ahead of all the other states, including New South Wales ($43,556) and Victoria ($43,447). However, it was below the shares recorded for the Australian Capital Territory ($54,924) and Northern Territory ($48,333).

Real Gross State Income

Western Australia's chain volume estimate of GSP measures the volume of goods and services produced in the economy. However, when the state's exports prices are rising more rapidly than its imports prices, as they did in 2004–05, the volume estimate of GSP will not accurately reflect the improvement in real purchasing power of the income generated within the state. For this reason Real Gross State Income (RGSI) has been developed to measure the real income generated in the state during times of fluctuating prices, by adjusting the volume estimate of GSP for changes in the 'terms of trade' (the ratio of exports to imports prices).

GROWTH IN REAL GROSS STATE INCOME



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05, cat. no. 5220.0.

In each of the last three years, growth in Western Australia's RGSI was greater than in GSP, due to the rapid improvement in the terms of trade over the period. The largest discrepancy occurred in 2004–05, with the state's RGSI rising by 6.4%, compared to the 2.7% growth in GSP – a difference of 3.7 percentage points. This difference shows that over half of Western Australia's income growth in 2004–05 was the result of higher prices received for the state's exports relative to the prices paid for its imports. Therefore, when using RGSI as the measure of growth, the Western Australian economy performed decidedly better against other states and territories, than it did using the measure of GSP. Western Australia's RGSI growth of 6.4% in 2004–05 was well above the national increase of 4.0%, and ranked third among the states and territories behind Queensland (6.9%) and the Northern Territory (6.5%).

Real Gross State Income continued

REAL GROSS STATE INCOME, Chain volume measures(a)

	LEVELS			PER CAPITA		
	2003–04	2004–05	Change	2003–04	2004–05	Change
	$m	$m	%	$	$	%
New South Wales	290 746	299 003	2.8	43 377	44 300	2.1
Victoria	212 243	218 392	2.9	42 975	43 716	1.7
Queensland	144 701	154 751	6.9	37 626	39 417	4.8
South Australia	56 737	58 598	3.3	37 088	38 114	2.8
Western Australia	***92 339***	***98 289***	***6.4***	***47 003***	***49 275***	***4.8***
Tasmania	14 794	15 623	5.6	30 810	32 284	4.8
Northern Territory	9 381	9 994	6.5	47 160	49 705	5.4
Australian Capital Territory	17 309	17 825	3.0	53 501	54 910	2.6
Australia (RGDI)	**838 251**	**871 899**	**4.0**	**41 946**	**43 136**	**2.8**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05, cat. no. 5220.0.

BROAD EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT

Growth in the Western Australian economy was recorded across all broad expenditure components of GSP (chain volume terms) in 2004–05, with the exception of net exports (down $980 million or 4.5%). The main drivers of growth were household consumption (up $2,787 million or 6.1%) and government spending (up $1,296 million or 7.8%), while dwelling and business investment also made significant contributions to growth in the economy.

BROAD EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF GSP, Chain volume measures(a)

	2003–04	2004–05	Change	
	$m	$m	$m	%
Household consumption(b)	45 485	48 272	2 787	6.1
Business investment(c)	15 764	16 190	426	2.7
Dwelling investment(d)	7 138	7 597	459	6.4
Government spending(e)	16 523	17 819	1 296	7.8
Net exports(f)	21 962	20 982	–980	–4.5
Balancing item(g)	–14 533	–16 033	–1 500	10.3
Gross State Product	**92 339**	**94 827**	**2 488**	**2.7**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.
(b) Household final consumption expenditure.
(c) Private gross fixed capital formation of machinery and equipment, non-dwelling construction, livestock and intangible fixed assets.
(d) Includes Ownership transfer costs.
(e) General government final consumption expenditure plus Total public gross fixed capital formation.
(f) Exports of goods and services less Imports of goods and services.
(g) Implicitly comprises changes in inventories, total net interstate trade and statistical discrepancy.
Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05, cat. no. 5220.0.

Household consumption

Household consumption made the largest contribution to GSP growth in Western Australia in 2004–05, rising by 6.1% ($2,787 million), greater than the increase nationally (4.3%) and higher than all states and territories. Western Australian households mainly increased their expenditure on: Miscellaneous goods and services (up $487 million or

Household consumption continued

7.6%) such as items of personal care, personal effects and insurance; Recreation and culture (up $468 million or 8.8%); Furnishings and other household equipment (up $393 million or 13.1%); and Rent and other dwelling services (up $351 million or 4.6%).

Business investment

The contribution of business investment to growth in the Western Australian economy dropped markedly in 2004–05. Business investment rose by 2.7% ($426 million) over the year, significantly less than the 21.0% ($2,738 million) increase in 2003–04, and much lower than the rise nationally (11.1% in 2004–05). The fall in Western Australia's investment growth reflects the completion of a number of large resource-related projects in 2004–05, including the fourth LNG train of the North West Shelf. Despite the deceleration, investment activity in Western Australia has been maintained at relatively high levels due to the continued expenditure on new and existing mining projects – represented by the growth in investment on new engineering construction (up $260 million or 7.0%) and new machinery and equipment (up $249 million or 2.9%) in 2004–05.

Government spending

Government spending was the second largest contributor to economic growth in Western Australia in 2004–05, rising by 7.8% ($1,296 million). This result was notably higher than the 4.4% growth in government spending at the nation level in 2004–05. In Western Australia, fixed capital investment by the government sector rose by 24.2% ($767 million) mainly due to the increased investment by state and local public corporations. Government final consumption expenditure also showed significant gains in 2004–05, increasing by 4.0% ($529 million).

Dwelling investment

Investment in Western Australia's housing sector rebounded strongly in 2004–05. Dwelling investment (including ownership transfer costs) rose by 6.4% ($459 million) in 2004–05, following a decline of 2.3% in 2003–04. The growth in dwelling investment in Western Australia went against the declining trend nationally (down 4.9% in 2004–05). The relative strength of the state's dwelling investment was supported by the strong rise in Perth's established house prices in 2004–05 (up 16.3%), compared to the more moderate growth in established house prices nationally (up 2.0% in 2004–05).

Net exports

Net exports, or the surplus of exports over imports, was the only broad expenditure component to detract from GSP growth in Western Australia in 2004–05, falling by 4.5% ($980 million). The decline in net exports was the result of much stronger growth in imports than exports. Imports of goods and services rose by 15.1% ($2,244 million) in 2004–05 compared to 3.4% ($1,264 million) in the exports of goods and services. Adding to the fall in net exports was a 1.3% ($36 million) decline in services exported from the state. The main factors contributing to the growth in imports in 2004–05 were strong domestic demand, higher terms of trade and $A, low interest rates encouraging investment in capital goods produced overseas, and tariff reductions on some imported items.

INDUSTRY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL FACTOR INCOME

Total Factor Income (TFI) in current price terms is that part of the cost of producing GSP which consists of gross payments to the factors of production (labour and capital). It represents the value added by these factors in the process of production and is equivalent to GSP less taxes, plus subsidies on production and imports. In 2004–05, TFI

INDUSTRY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL FACTOR INCOME *continued*

grew by 10.0% ($8,348 million) in Western Australia, with all of the state's industries and principal components contributing to growth, with the exception of Agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The Mining industry accounted for most (53.4%) of Western Australia's TFI growth in 2004–05, rising by 29.4% ($4,462 million), reflecting the surge in overseas demand for the state's mineral and energy resources and the associated rise in global commodity prices. The non-rural commodity price index for Western Australia rose by 27.3% in $US terms (20.6% in $A terms) in 2004–05 (which includes alumina, diamonds, gold, iron ore, nickel, petrol, LNG and mineral sands).

Other notable contributors came from Property and business services (up $750 million or 8.1%) and Construction (up $660 million or 11.4%). These industries benefited from the continued strength in housing market activity in the state and the ongoing expansion of the state's resources sector. Coming off a very strong year in 2003–04, Agriculture, forestry and fishing was the only industry to record a decline in TFI in 2004–05, decreasing by 8.9% ($406 million). The result was influenced by falling global agricultural commodity prices during the year, as indicated by the decline of 4.0% in $US terms (9.3% in $A terms) in the rural commodity price index for Western Australia in 2004–05 (including barley, lupins, wheat, wool, beef and live sheep).

TOTAL FACTOR INCOME BY INDUSTRY AND PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS(a), Current prices

	2003–04	*2004–05*	*Change*	
	$m	$m	$m	%
Mining	15 190	19 652	4 462	29.4
Property and business services	9 259	10 009	750	8.1
Construction	5 773	6 433	660	11.4
Manufacturing	8 161	8 575	414	5.1
Ownership of dwellings	5 512	5 921	409	7.4
Retail trade	4 846	5 176	330	6.8
Transport and storage	3 893	4 204	311	8.0
Electricity, gas and water supply	2 541	2 814	273	10.7
Health and community services	5 013	5 193	180	3.6
Government administration and defence	1 843	2 008	165	9.0
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	1 302	1 455	153	11.8
Communication services	2 188	2 333	145	6.6
Personal and other services	1 460	1 594	134	9.2
Wholesale trade	3 511	3 619	108	3.1
General government	1 336	1 426	90	6.7
Education	2 788	2 860	72	2.6
Finance and insurance	3 506	3 559	53	1.5
Cultural and recreational services	838	883	45	5.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4 569	4 163	–406	–8.9
All industries	**83 529**	**91 877**	**8 348**	**10.0**

(a) Ranked according to contribution to All industries TFI growth in 2004–05.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2004–05, cat. no. 5220.0.

LIST OF TABLES

1

SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Australian comparison

Indicator	*Reference period*	WESTERN AUSTRALIA *Current figure*	*Change from previous period (%)*	*Change from same period previous year (%)*	AUSTRALIA *Current figure*	*Change from previous period (%)*	*Change from same period previous year (%)*
State final demand: Trend(a) *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	23 294	1.4	6.1	228 476	0.8	3.8
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups: Original(b) *(index)*	Sep qtr 2005	147.8	1.0	4.1	149.8	0.9	3.0
Wage Price Index, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Original *(index)*	Sep qtr 2005	107.5	1.6	4.9	106.6	1.4	4.2
Established house price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Sep qtr 2005	p125.8	p3.1	p17.7	p101.0	p–1.0	p1.0
Project home price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Sep qtr 2005	122.7	3.7	16.1	109.1	0.8	5.3
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups: Original(c) *(index)*	Sep qtr 2005	134.7	0.5	4.7	141.0	0.4	2.8
Consumption							
Retail turnover: Trend *($m)*	October 2005	1 774.0	0.3	5.8	17 264.5	0.3	3.5
Sales of new motor vehicles: Trend *(no.)*	November 2005	8 937	1.1	12.1	81 191	–0.5	–0.6
Investment and finance							
Private new capital expenditure: Trend(a) *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	2 821	5.1	23.5	16 320	5.1	22.2
Commercial finance commitments: Original *($m)*	October 2005	2 110.8	16.6	52.0	27 122.4	2.3	6.5
Personal finance commitments: Original *($m)*	October 2005	758.9	–5.7	12.3	5 546.4	–8.5	–12.2
Housing finance commitments: Trend(d) *(no.)*	October 2005	8 057	–0.4	19.3	56 568	–4.6	15.0
Construction							
Houses approved: Trend *(no.)*	October 2005	1 817	3.0	15.4	8 571	–1.8	–2.3
New residential building activity commenced: Original *(no.)*	Jun qtr 2005	5 738	7.1	8.5	38 650	15.1	–6.4
Engineering construction activity commenced: Original *($m)*	Jun qtr 2005	1 021.7	–7.2	47.5	7 533.6	–30.6	4.9
Engineering construction activity yet to be done: Original *($m)*	Jun qtr 2005	4 663.6	0.3	66.4	19 846.4	–5.6	48.2
International merchandise trade							
Exports: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	11 069.3	0.4	22.2	35 833.0	1.6	15.8
Imports: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	3 754.6	–3.6	12.9	40 418.9	5.9	7.1
Mining and energy							
Total mineral exploration expenditure: Trend *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	155.2	–0.6	10.0	281.1	2.9	17.5
Total petroleum exploration expenditure: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	135.1	4.4	4.2	282.0	1.3	34.0
Agriculture							
Exports of wheat: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	383.6	33.4	–31.4	751.8	27.5	–31.5
Exports of live sheep: Original *($m)*	Sep qtr 2005	67.6	140.1	39.3	82.4	110.0	41.8
Tourism							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday *(no.)*	September 2005	18 928	8.6	14.1	216 005	–9.5	7.4
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air *(no.)*	September 2005	33 095	18.4	47.7	258 690	38.8	14.1
Labour market							
Number of persons employed full-time: Trend *('000)*	November 2005	739.4	–0.3	4.4	7 134.1	–0.1	1.9
Number of persons employed: Trend *('000)*	November 2005	1 054.7	—	5.0	10 028.4	—	2.3
Unemployment rate: Trend *(%)*	November 2005	3.9	. .	. .	5.1	. .	. .
Participation rate: Trend *(%)*	November 2005	67.7	. .	. .	64.4	. .	. .
Estimated resident population *('000)*	Jun qtr 2005	2 010.1	0.3	1.6	20 328.6	0.2	1.2

. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
(a) Chain volume measures.
(b) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 8 Capital Cities.
(c) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
(d) Owner occupation housing.

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a)

	2004			2005		
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*
			TREND (*$m*)			
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 412	3 447	3 460	3 466	3 476	3 478
Households	11 691	11 870	11 998	12 111	12 229	12 354
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 103*	*15 317*	*15 458*	*15 577*	*15 705*	*15 832*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 024	2 104	2 149	2 206	2 327	2 474
Non-dwelling construction	1 334	1 361	1 436	1 513	1 554	1 566
Livestock	54	56	57	58	59	61
Intangible fixed assets	411	409	397	396	414	423
Total private business investment	*3 849*	*3 944*	*4 041*	*4 169*	*4 354*	*4 537*
Dwellings	1 368	1 395	1 399	1 411	1 427	1 450
Ownership transfer costs	434	435	448	465	479	481
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 651*	*5 774*	*5 888*	*6 045*	*6 260*	*6 466*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	403	456	510	525	512	482
General government	416	413	440	473	495	500
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*819*	*868*	*949*	*999*	*1 007*	*979*
State final demand	**21 572**	**21 958**	**22 295**	**22 616**	**22 970**	**23 294**
			TREND (*percentage changes*)			
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	1.7	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Households	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0
Total final consumption expenditure	*2.0*	*1.4*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.8*	*0.8*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	–1.1	4.0	2.1	2.7	5.5	6.3
Non-dwelling construction	–1.8	2.0	5.5	5.4	2.7	0.8
Livestock	–1.8	3.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	3.4
Intangible fixed assets	2.5	–0.5	–2.9	–0.3	4.5	2.2
Total private business investment	*–0.9*	*2.5*	*2.5*	*3.2*	*4.4*	*4.2*
Dwellings	2.6	2.0	0.3	0.9	1.1	1.6
Ownership transfer costs	—	0.2	3.0	3.8	3.0	0.4
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*—*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*2.7*	*3.6*	*3.3*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	11.0	13.2	11.8	2.9	–2.5	–5.9
General government	–2.1	–0.7	6.5	7.5	4.7	1.0
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*3.9*	*6.0*	*9.4*	*5.2*	*0.8*	*–2.8*
State final demand	**1.5**	**1.8**	**1.5**	**1.4**	**1.6**	**1.4**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a) *continued*

	2004			2005		
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*$m*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 442	3 435	3 483	3 419	3 521	3 460
Households	11 676	11 903	11 989	12 084	12 254	12 346
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 118*	*15 338*	*15 472*	*15 503*	*15 775*	*15 806*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 000	2 106	2 203	2 246	2 083	2 747
Non-dwelling construction	1 346	1 301	1 443	1 584	1 503	1 579
Livestock	53	58	58	58	58	63
Intangible fixed assets	481	408	360	405	430	410
Total private business investment	*3 921*	*3 873*	*4 064*	*4 293*	*4 074*	*4 799*
Dwellings	1 359	1 397	1 391	1 436	1 382	1 484
Ownership transfer costs	455	428	447	449	516	455
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 733*	*5 698*	*5 903*	*6 178*	*5 972*	*6 738*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	445	442	525	484	604	394
General government	381	447	432	430	570	458
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*826*	*889*	*957*	*914*	*1 174*	*852*
State final demand	**21 677**	**21 924**	**22 331**	**22 595**	**22 921**	**23 396**
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*percentage changes*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3.4	–0.2	1.4	–1.8	3.0	–1.7
Households	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.8	1.4	0.7
Total final consumption expenditure	*2.1*	*1.5*	*0.9*	*0.2*	*1.8*	*0.2*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	–4.5	5.3	4.6	2.0	–7.3	31.9
Non-dwelling construction	–3.0	–3.3	10.9	9.8	–5.1	5.1
Livestock	—	9.4	—	—	—	8.6
Intangible fixed assets	46.2	–15.2	–11.8	12.5	6.2	–4.7
Total private business investment	*0.9*	*–1.2*	*4.9*	*5.6*	*–5.1*	*17.8*
Dwellings	–1.8	2.8	–0.4	3.2	–3.8	7.4
Ownership transfer costs	10.4	–5.9	4.4	0.4	14.9	–11.8
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*0.9*	*–0.6*	*3.6*	*4.7*	*–3.3*	*12.8*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	50.8	–0.7	18.8	–7.8	24.8	–34.8
General government	–9.9	17.3	–3.4	–0.5	32.6	–19.6
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*14.8*	*7.7*	*7.6*	*–4.4*	*28.5*	*–27.5*
State final demand	**2.2**	**1.1**	**1.9**	**1.2**	**1.4**	**2.1**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth

Reference period	All groups	Food	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing	Household contents and services
FINANCIAL YEARS(b) *(index)*						
2002–2003	136.8	146.7	198.0	109.5	106.2	118.2
2003–2004	139.6	149.9	204.1	108.7	112.3	118.1
2004–2005	144.0	153.9	210.6	105.7	120.2	117.1
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR *(%)*						
2002–2003	2.8	2.9	3.0	0.3	2.7	0.9
2003–2004	2.0	2.2	3.1	–0.7	5.7	–0.1
2004–2005	3.2	2.7	3.2	–2.8	7.0	–0.8
QUARTERS(b) *(index)*						
2004						
June	141.0	151.3	205.2	108.1	114.4	118.1
September	142.0	151.8	207.4	107.4	116.5	117.7
December	143.3	152.8	208.8	105.6	118.7	117.8
2005						
March	144.4	154.4	212.2	104.1	121.6	114.7
June	146.3	156.5	214.1	105.6	124.1	118.3
September	147.8	157.4	215.2	105.4	126.9	119.0
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*						
2004						
June	2.6	1.7	2.6	–0.2	6.1	–0.3
September	2.5	2.1	2.3	–2.6	5.5	–0.7
December	2.9	2.4	2.3	–3.5	6.3	–0.8
2005						
March	3.4	2.7	4.0	–2.5	7.8	–2.0
June	3.8	3.4	4.3	–2.3	8.5	0.2
September	4.1	3.7	3.8	–1.9	8.9	1.1
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*						
2004						
June	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.2	1.4	0.9
September	0.7	0.3	1.1	–0.6	1.8	–0.3
December	0.9	0.7	0.7	–1.7	1.9	0.1
2005						
March	0.8	1.0	1.6	–1.4	2.4	–2.6
June	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.4	2.1	3.1
September	1.0	0.6	0.5	–0.2	2.3	0.6

(a) In the September quarter 2005 ,the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services ' group. For more details, refer to the source publication.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth *continued*

Reference period	Health	Transportation	Communication	Recreation	Education	Financial and insurance services(b)
FINANCIAL YEARS(c) *(index)*						
2002–2003	175.7	140.7	106.8	128.8	201.5	—
2003–2004	185.8	141.6	108.3	125.6	210.2	—
2004–2005	195.3	145.7	109.4	127.0	221.4	100.0
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR *(%)*						
2002–2003	7.9	2.9	3.2	1.3	3.1	—
2003–2004	5.7	0.6	1.4	–2.5	4.3	—
2004–2005	5.1	2.9	1.0	1.1	5.3	. .
QUARTERS(c) *(index)*						
2004						
June	192.8	143.6	108.7	125.3	214.9	—
September	191.9	144.3	109.2	125.8	214.9	—
December	190.9	146.6	109.5	127.3	214.9	—
2005						
March	197.7	144.6	109.9	127.9	227.9	—
June	200.5	147.3	108.9	127.1	227.9	100.0
September	199.3	152.1	108.1	129.0	227.9	98.7
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*						
2004						
June	6.5	3.3	1.4	–1.2	4.6	—
September	5.8	2.4	1.1	0.1	4.6	—
December	5.1	4.5	1.1	0.2	4.6	—
2005						
March	5.6	2.3	1.5	2.8	6.0	—
June	4.0	2.6	0.2	1.4	6.0	—
September	3.9	5.4	–1.0	2.5	6.0	—
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*						
2004						
June	2.9	1.6	0.4	0.7	—	—
September	–0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	—	—
December	–0.5	1.6	0.3	1.2	—	—
2005						
March	3.6	–1.4	0.4	0.5	6.0	—
June	1.4	1.9	–0.9	–0.6	—	—
September	–0.6	3.3	–0.7	1.5	—	–1.3

. . not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) In the September quarter 2005 ,the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services ' group. For more details, refer to the source publication.

(b) Base: June quarter 2005 = 100.0.

(c) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

4 WAGE PRICE INDEX(a), Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses(b)

	2004			2005			CHANGE FROM	
	June	September	December	March	June	September	Previous quarter	Same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	**100.8**	**102.5**	**103.9**	**104.8**	**105.8**	**107.5**	**1.6**	**4.9**
Sector								
Private	100.9	102.5	104.0	104.9	105.6	107.6	1.9	5.0
Public	100.8	102.4	103.6	104.4	106.2	107.1	0.8	4.6
Selected industries								
Mining	100.6	103.1	104.5	104.7	106.3	108.8	2.4	5.5
Manufacturing	101.4	103.5	104.4	105.4	106.1	108.0	1.8	4.3
Construction	101.0	102.5	110.3	113.8	114.5	117.8	2.9	14.9
Retail trade	100.7	102.6	103.6	104.3	104.9	106.5	1.5	3.8
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	100.7	101.9	102.8	103.9	103.9	104.8	0.9	2.8
Transport and storage	100.5	102.0	102.3	102.7	103.1	105.2	2.0	3.1
Property and business services	100.2	101.7	102.9	103.2	104.3	106.6	2.2	4.8
Government administration and defence	100.7	102.0	104.1	104.9	106.8	107.0	0.2	4.9
Education	101.0	102.7	102.9	104.2	106.0	106.5	0.5	3.7
Health and community services	100.9	102.5	103.0	104.0	104.4	106.8	2.3	4.2
Personal and other services	100.5	103.0	103.5	104.1	105.1	107.2	2.0	4.1
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	100.8	102.0	103.4	103.9	105.1	107.5	2.3	5.4
Professionals	100.8	102.5	103.2	103.8	105.1	106.8	1.6	4.2
Associate professionals	100.8	102.4	103.2	104.9	105.7	107.5	1.7	5.0
Tradespersons and related workers	100.9	102.1	105.7	107.6	108.6	109.8	1.1	7.5
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	101.0	102.5	104.1	105.0	105.5	107.3	1.7	4.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	100.6	102.4	104.0	104.5	106.0	107.8	1.7	5.3
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	100.6	103.2	103.6	104.1	104.4	106.1	1.6	2.8
Labourers and related workers	100.6	103.0	107.8	108.4	108.6	111.2	2.4	8.0

(a) The Wage Cost Index series has been renamed the Wage Price Index series from September Quarter 2004, and has been re-based from September Quarter 1997 to the financial year 2003-04 = 100.0. The quarterly *Wage Cost Index* publication, now renamed *Labour Price Index,* has retained its catalogue number (6345.0), but will include annual non-wage costs, such as annual and public holiday leave, superannuation, workers' compensation and payroll tax. Further information about the new price index is available through *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2004,* cat. no. 6351.0.55.001.

(b) Base of each index: 2003-04 = 100.0.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6345.0.

5 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES(a)—Perth

	ESTABLISHED HOMES(b)(c)	Change from previous period	PROJECT HOMES	Change from previous period
	index	%	index	%
2002–03	84.4	. .	91.4	3.2
2003–04	100.0	18.5	100.0	9.4
2004–05	p114.3	p14.3	111.9	11.9
2004				
June	104.9	2.5	103.3	2.5
September	106.9	1.9	105.7	2.3
December	111.8	4.6	109.5	3.6
2005				
March	116.3	4.0	114.2	4.3
June	p122.0	p4.9	118.3	3.6
September	p125.8	p3.1	122.7	3.7

. . not applicable

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Base of each index 2003-04 = 100.0.

(b) The Established House Price Index has been compiled using a new methodology. Refer to *Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index,* cat. no. 6417.0 for a discussion of the changes.

(c) Estimates for the two most recent quarters are experimental. See paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, cat. no. 6416.0.

6 PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, By material(a)—Perth

Material group	2004 June	2004 September	2004 December	2005 March	2005 June	2005 September	Change from previous quarter	Change from same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
All material groups	**127.4**	**128.7**	**130.1**	**131.7**	**134.0**	**134.7**	**0.5**	**4.7**
Concrete, cement and sand	134.7	134.6	134.3	136.0	140.6	139.9	–0.5	3.9
Cement products	117.0	118.6	122.4	124.0	125.7	127.0	1.0	7.1
Ceramic products	138.2	139.3	142.1	143.4	144.6	146.1	1.0	4.9
Timber, board and joinery	121.8	121.5	122.4	123.8	125.2	125.7	0.4	3.5
Steel products	130.2	143.5	146.1	155.4	159.6	160.2	0.4	11.6
Other metal products	121.3	122.0	123.1	124.3	128.0	128.6	0.5	5.4
Plumbing products	116.6	116.0	117.9	119.8	121.8	121.8	—	5.0
Electrical equipment	107.9	108.3	105.2	102.7	100.5	99.1	–1.4	–8.5
Installed gas and electrical appliances	124.7	128.0	129.7	129.7	131.5	134.9	2.6	5.4
Other materials	147.3	149.1	149.7	149.4	153.2	153.1	–0.1	2.7

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

Source: ABS data available on request, *Producer Price Indexes, Australia,* cat. no. 6427.0.

7 RETAIL TRADE, Monthly turnover by industry group—Current prices: **All series** (a)

Month	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
ORIGINAL ($m)								
2004								
August	693.4	111.8	79.2	267.4	^ 78.5	151.6	197.4	1 579.2
September	703.0	127.9	82.7	279.6	^ 82.1	164.1	200.4	1 639.6
October	713.1	131.1	92.5	295.3	^ 81.7	186.2	205.5	1 705.5
November	711.6	149.6	93.6	297.8	^ 87.4	192.9	211.2	1 744.0
December	858.3	243.9	131.9	366.0	^ 124.8	253.8	227.0	2 205.6
2005								
January	686.3	119.9	84.0	288.3	^ 96.4	154.4	194.3	1 623.6
February	648.2	101.9	73.6	255.3	^ 85.2	140.4	192.7	1 497.3
March	725.8	126.0	82.2	272.2	^ 90.3	152.7	199.7	1 648.9
April	706.3	121.9	93.7	273.4	^ 94.3	149.5	199.0	1 638.2
May	711.7	121.8	93.2	277.4	^ 90.1	156.9	200.0	1 651.1
June	703.3	149.2	100.8	288.1	^ 91.2	151.7	191.8	1 676.0
July	745.2	127.1	89.4	298.3	^ 95.3	141.4	206.1	1 702.8
August	755.2	121.1	85.4	303.2	^ 94.9	142.9	203.7	1 706.3
September	760.6	123.4	85.7	293.0	^ 95.5	144.4	207.2	1 709.7
October	769.3	133.1	100.2	315.8	^ 91.1	147.7	220.3	1 777.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ($m)								
2004								
August	713.4	133.7	86.9	278.9	81.9	160.6	201.1	1 656.5
September	719.8	140.7	90.7	284.6	85.8	168.4	206.0	1 695.9
October	706.3	133.9	90.1	278.3	87.2	178.8	193.4	1 668.1
November	709.3	132.6	88.4	283.7	86.9	175.7	200.4	1 677.1
December	712.2	131.7	90.1	287.2	87.9	173.6	196.2	1 678.9
2005								
January	694.9	137.6	88.6	286.9	93.7	170.3	199.5	1 671.4
February	705.8	138.6	91.8	291.7	91.3	161.1	207.2	1 687.6
March	699.8	137.6	91.1	290.3	94.8	161.4	196.0	1 670.9
April	722.4	133.8	94.6	294.9	98.1	160.9	201.9	1 706.6
May	734.9	130.9	91.8	296.8	98.1	162.2	208.8	1 723.5
June	741.9	147.2	99.9	287.7	98.0	164.0	210.6	1 749.3
July	756.7	138.4	94.2	303.3	97.5	152.0	209.6	1 751.8
August	768.9	141.6	94.3	311.0	95.6	148.8	210.0	1 770.2
September	773.2	138.7	91.6	304.3	100.0	145.3	207.1	1 760.2
October	775.9	136.6	97.7	302.7	98.2	145.2	211.0	1 767.3
TREND ($m)								
2004								
August	713.5	135.4	87.4	280.6	82.4	164.9	201.9	1 667.4
September	713.2	135.3	88.5	281.8	84.2	166.5	200.3	1 673.8
October	711.2	135.1	89.2	282.9	86.0	(b) 176.8	198.6	1 676.8
November	708.0	135.1	89.6	284.1	87.8	175.4	197.1	1 677.0
December	704.6	135.1	89.7	285.9	89.5	172.4	196.2	1 675.7
2005								
January	703.0	135.2	90.1	287.9	91.4	168.9	196.4	1 676.2
February	704.5	135.5	90.9	289.7	93.3	165.8	197.9	1 680.7
March	710.0	136.2	92.2	291.3	95.1	163.4	200.6	1 690.7
April	719.3	137.1	93.5	293.0	96.5	161.8	203.6	1 705.6
May	731.2	137.9	94.4	295.2	97.3	160.0	206.3	1 722.3
June	743.8	138.7	94.9	297.8	97.7	157.6	208.2	1 738.2
July	755.0	139.4	95.0	300.5	97.8	154.4	209.2	1 751.0
August	764.5	139.8	95.0	303.0	98.0	150.9	209.8	1 760.9
September	772.5	139.7	95.0	305.0	98.1	147.6	210.3	1 769.2
October	777.8	139.5	95.0	306.3	98.1	144.7	210.1	1 774.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

(a) Retail trade data for July 2004 to March 2005 have been revised, for all industry groups except Department stores. See the 'Revisions' section in the March 2005 reissue of the source publication: *Retail Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 8501.0.

(b) Possible break in series. See the 'Trend Estimates' section of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication: *Retail Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 8501.0.

Source: *Retail Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 8501.0.

8 NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, By type of vehicle: **All series**

Month	Passenger vehicles no.	Sports utility vehicles no.	Other vehicles no.	Total vehicles no.
ORIGINAL				
2004				
September	4 928	1 524	1 725	8 177
October	4 895	1 376	1 604	7 875
November	4 892	1 514	1 751	8 157
December	4 327	1 314	1 700	7 341
2005				
January	4 038	1 494	1 399	6 931
February	4 680	1 574	1 626	7 880
March	5 082	1 712	1 829	8 623
April	4 304	1 346	1 679	7 329
May	4 588	1 606	1 872	8 066
June	5 578	1 940	2 468	9 986
July	4 449	1 486	1 749	7 684
August	4 974	1 719	2 021	8 714
September	5 442	1 651	2 032	9 125
October	5 023	1 484	1 842	8 349
November	5 528	1 690	1 889	9 107
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
2004				
September	4 865	1 548	1 763	8 176
October	4 735	1 528	1 712	7 975
November	4 747	1 572	1 747	8 066
December	4 208	1 240	1 667	7 115
2005				
January	4 931	1 655	1 802	8 388
February	4 789	1 628	1 722	8 139
March	4 395	1 613	1 702	7 710
April	4 893	1 442	1 923	8 258
May	4 797	1 590	1 738	8 125
June	4 792	1 389	1 756	7 937
July	4 829	1 674	1 923	8 426
August	4 922	1 784	2 037	8 743
September	5 219	1 771	2 011	9 001
October	5 033	1 630	1 972	8 635
November	5 299	1 681	1 927	8 907
TREND				
2004				
September	4 622	1 527	1 718	7 867
October	4 665	1 556	1 721	7 942
November	4 673	1 579	1 723	7 975
December	4 663	1 597	1 731	7 991
2005				
January	4 654	1 599	1 740	7 993
February	4 663	1 585	1 747	7 995
March	4 689	1 559	1 758	8 006
April	4 729	1 541	1 780	8 050
May	4 771	1 545	1 814	8 130
June	4 822	1 574	1 858	8 254
July	4 893	1 621	1 904	8 418
August	4 978	1 667	1 943	8 588
September	5 060	1 700	1 972	8 732
October	5 134	1 719	1 988	8 841
November	5 211	1 722	2 004	8 937

Source: *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia,* cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

9 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By type of asset - Chain volume measures(a): All series

Reference period	ORIGINAL Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	TREND Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m
2002–2003	r3 069	r3 860	r6 912	3 069	3 860	6 912	3 069	3 859	6 917
2003–2004	3 793	5 124	8 917	3 793	5 125	8 917	3 811	5 060	8 869
2004–2005	r4 749	r5 003	r9 751	4 749	5 002	9 752	4 781	5 112	9 886
2004									
June	r1 044	r1 248	2 286	1 025	1 225	2 242	1 006	1 207	2 210
September	r1 096	r1 156	r2 252	1 092	1 146	2 238	1 079	1 207	2 285
December	r1 243	r1 383	r2 626	1 137	1 273	2 411	1 157	1 237	2 393
2005									
March	r1 119	r1 204	r2 323	1 260	1 348	2 608	1 232	1 295	2 524
June	r1 291	r1 260	r2 551	1 260	1 235	2 495	1 313	1 373	2 684
September	1 436	1 586	3 022	1 438	1 575	3 013	1 365	1 440	2 821

r revised
(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

10 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By industry - Current prices: Original

Reference period	Mining $m	Manufacturing $m	Other selected industries $m	Total $m
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	5 010	1 162	2 746	8 917
2004–2005	r5 531	1 410	r3 008	r9 950
2004				
June	1 220	313	744	2 276
September	1 350	232	690	2 272
December	1 431	368	873	2 672
2005				
March	1 221	404	751	2 375
June	r1 529	406	r694	r2 630
September	1 758	492	878	3 128

r revised
Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

11 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	PERSONAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	Total lease finance commitments
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	12 430.2	4 755.0	17 185.2	4 248.0	3 364.5	7 612.4	298.3
2003–2004	14 572.9	5 776.6	20 349.5	4 517.1	3 499.2	8 016.3	384.0
2004–2005	14 523.3	6 335.8	20 859.1	4 701.9	3 627.0	8 329.0	420.3
2004							
August	1 102.5	397.7	1 500.2	390.7	272.8	663.6	32.2
September	1 087.8	384.1	1 471.9	399.1	280.0	679.1	61.2
October	1 006.9	381.6	1 388.6	384.8	290.7	675.5	34.5
November	1 222.7	520.6	1 743.3	407.2	305.3	712.5	35.5
December	1 426.4	641.4	2 067.8	378.5	301.8	680.4	35.0
2005							
January	985.7	545.2	1 530.9	323.3	272.3	595.6	25.1
February	1 179.5	506.8	1 686.3	360.7	277.8	638.5	30.9
March	1 325.2	627.1	1 952.2	403.7	325.4	729.1	28.7
April	1 226.4	488.7	1 715.1	396.5	288.9	685.4	32.6
May	1 349.3	643.8	1 993.1	451.3	337.8	789.2	35.3
June	1 571.3	710.1	2 281.4	434.3	411.5	845.8	37.1
July	1 549.0	522.9	2 071.9	382.7	r353.1	r735.7	35.2
August	1 556.7	551.9	2 108.6	450.9	402.5	853.4	44.5
September	1 368.4	442.2	1 810.6	446.8	357.6	804.4	49.9
October	1 695.2	415.6	2 110.8	434.6	324.3	758.9	25.8

r revised

(a) Includes refinancing.

(b) New and increased credit limits during the period. Includes credit cards.

Source: Lending Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5671.0.

12 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By dwellings financed: All series

Reference period	ORIGINAL Number of dwellings financed	ORIGINAL Total value of dwelling commitments	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Number of dwellings financed	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Total value of dwelling commitments	TREND Number of dwellings financed	TREND Total value of dwelling commitments
	no.	$m	no.	$m	no.	$m
2002–2003	75 740	10 709.2	75 916	10 744.1	75 828	10 735.8
2003–2004	83 834	12 765.6	83 574	12 719.5	83 859	12 762.8
2004–2005	88 683	15 151.6	88 662	15 152.1	88 639	15 148.0
2004						
August	7 442	1 237.7	7 255	1 210.5	6 966	1 151.7
September	7 387	1 216.4	7 300	1 205.9	7 101	1 183.8
October	6 755	1 140.8	7 066	1 195.7	7 212	1 211.4
November	7 825	1 306.4	7 364	1 234.8	7 288	1 232.3
December	7 538	1 265.3	7 302	1 246.0	7 343	1 248.3
2005						
January	6 020	1 038.8	7 247	1 242.2	7 411	1 266.1
February	7 010	1 234.6	7 475	1 292.8	7 498	1 287.8
March	7 827	1 331.3	7 815	1 339.7	7 597	1 313.8
April	7 523	1 331.2	7 705	1 340.3	7 695	1 342.9
May	8 472	1 487.6	7 828	1 368.6	7 798	1 376.8
June	8 057	1 438.4	7 594	1 377.8	7 909	1 415.0
July	7 914	1 452.4	8 087	1 465.7	8 024	1 455.0
August	9 073	1 645.2	8 377	1 535.1	8 146	1 494.8
September	8 089	1 500.5	8 189	1 514.1	8 258	1 530.8
October	8 057	1 499.1	8 377	1 574.4	8 360	1 561.6

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

13 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By type of buyer: Original

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed			NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed		
	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average borrowing size	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average borrowing size
	no.	$m	$'000	no.	$m	$'000
2002–2003	12 775	1 679.9	131.5	62 965	9 029.3	143.4
2003–2004	12 393	1 835.9	148.1	71 441	10 929.7	153.0
2004–2005	16 060	2 720.1	169.4	72 623	12 431.6	171.2
2004						
August	1 485	248.1	167.1	5 957	989.6	166.1
September	1 449	238.2	164.4	5 938	978.3	164.7
October	1 323	225.7	170.6	5 432	915.1	168.5
November	1 465	244.0	166.5	6 360	1 062.4	167.0
December	1 383	233.4	168.8	6 155	1 031.9	167.7
2005						
January	1 118	192.3	172.0	4 902	846.5	172.7
February	1 266	219.5	173.4	5 744	1 015.2	176.7
March	1 352	220.2	162.9	6 475	1 111.1	171.6
April	1 271	222.2	174.8	6 252	1 109.0	177.4
May	1 417	247.8	174.9	7 055	1 239.8	175.7
June	1 385	244.5	176.6	6 672	1 193.9	178.9
July	1 326	240.6	181.5	6 588	1 211.8	183.9
August	1 581	278.4	176.1	7 492	1 366.8	182.4
September	1 473	268.8	182.5	6 616	1 231.7	186.2
October	1 426	261.1	183.1	6 631	1 238.0	186.7

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

14 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a), By purpose: **Original**

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE) Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	INVESTMENT HOUSING(b) Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	1 517.8	234.8	6 674.0	2 282.6	213.0	3 948.8	334.8
2003–2004	2 015.4	363.3	7 244.8	3 142.1	297.9	4 771.4	470.9
2004–2005	2 171.1	505.8	9 156.2	3 318.6	320.6	5 423.3	401.0
2004							
August	178.2	35.1	775.6	248.7	77.0	398.8	30.8
September	196.6	35.9	722.0	261.9	23.2	395.9	31.3
October	173.9	39.9	693.2	233.9	16.6	351.1	31.4
November	187.8	31.3	806.0	281.2	17.4	445.7	35.0
December	186.8	40.8	771.7	266.0	24.9	451.5	31.1
2005							
January	158.6	33.8	626.2	220.2	19.7	369.1	34.6
February	166.2	47.6	765.7	255.1	15.9	460.5	31.3
March	177.9	51.6	811.7	290.1	30.6	521.1	34.3
April	177.2	48.3	796.3	309.4	19.7	513.0	33.2
May	202.2	51.5	861.6	372.2	28.4	535.5	31.1
June	194.0	49.2	854.1	341.1	26.3	594.6	40.8
July	189.7	54.3	859.0	349.4	17.0	516.1	27.6
August	215.0	67.4	967.0	395.8	20.0	580.4	36.7
September	198.0	64.8	890.0	347.7	34.2	562.2	41.1
October	185.1	61.8	899.3	352.9	28.5	591.7	39.1

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
(b) Excludes revolving credit.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Housing Finance, Australia,* cat. no. 5609.0; *Lending Finance, Australia,* cat. no. 5671.0.

15 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved and sector: **Trend**

Reference period	HOUSES		OTHER DWELLINGS		TOTAL DWELLINGS	
	Private	Total	Private	Total	Private	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2002–2003	16 911	17 517	3 181	3 598	20 092	21 115
2003–2004	18 725	19 196	3 756	4 041	22 481	23 237
2004–2005	19 032	19 521	3 975	4 586	23 007	24 107
2004						
August	1 475	1 519	385	443	1 860	1 962
September	1 496	1 535	359	413	1 855	1 948
October	1 541	1 575	320	371	1 861	1 946
November	1 595	1 624	288	336	1 883	1 960
December	1 641	1 665	281	328	1 922	1 993
2005						
January	1 665	1 686	296	343	1 961	2 029
February	1 670	1 694	318	366	1 988	2 060
March	1 658	1 693	339	387	1 997	2 080
April	1 627	1 678	349	398	1 976	2 076
May	1 597	1 664	337	388	1 934	2 052
June	1 589	1 665	308	359	1 897	2 024
July	1 611	1 687	277	326	1 888	2 013
August	1 651	1 722	250	295	1 901	2 017
September	1 702	1 764	228	267	1 930	2 031
October	1 764	1 817	208	241	1 972	2 058

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

16 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2002–2003	18 049	3 633	21 682	21 780	19	21 799
2003–2004	19 556	4 031	23 587	23 674	35	23 709
2004–2005	r19 351	r4 591	r23 942	r24 046	31	r24 077
2004						
August	1 664	306	1 970	1 971	10	1 981
September	1 726	362	2 088	2 092	1	2 093
October	1 476	r443	r1 919	r1 925	—	r1 925
November	1 721	199	1 920	1 924	2	1 926
December	r1 531	390	r1 921	r1 957	1	r1 958
2005						
January	1 538	r166	r1 704	r1 707	1	r1 708
February	1 552	416	1 968	1 984	3	1 987
March	1 567	r371	r1 938	r1 945	—	r1 945
April	r1 461	r559	r2 020	r2 026	3	r2 029
May	1 911	r327	r2 238	r2 247	—	r2 247
June	r1 765	r395	r2 160	r2 165	8	r2 173
July	r1 708	r350	r2 058	r2 059	—	r2 059
August	1 847	381	2 228	2 244	—	2 244
September	1 746	159	1 905	1 906	1	1 907
October	1 979	234	2 213	2 218	—	2 218

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

17 BUILDING APPROVALS, By value of dwelling units approved—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	2 554.5	473.8	3 028.3	3 319.9	1 552.3	4 872.2
2003–2004	2 995.3	558.6	3 553.9	3 876.9	1 521.8	5 398.7
2004–2005	r3 321.3	r763.7	r4 085.0	r4 442.1	r1 799.6	r6 241.6
2004						
August	281.4	47.2	328.6	355.6	138.9	494.5
September	287.3	85.6	372.9	401.3	139.8	541.2
October	241.7	r70.5	r312.2	r339.2	109.1	r448.3
November	294.5	43.3	337.8	375.0	166.1	541.0
December	r260.1	79.8	r340.0	r375.8	171.1	r546.9
2005						
January	253.5	r25.4	r278.9	r300.8	169.5	r470.3
February	261.1	75.5	336.6	360.3	279.5	639.8
March	275.2	r45.4	r320.6	r350.1	83.2	r433.2
April	r256.7	r80.4	r337.1	r367.4	150.7	r518.1
May	349.6	r55.3	r404.9	r441.1	114.2	r555.3
June	r315.9	r58.5	r374.4	r406.1	r141.4	r547.5
July	r305.9	r77.1	r383.0	r415.0	r160.9	r575.9
August	356.9	69.5	426.4	461.5	143.6	605.0
September	329.5	29.9	359.3	391.2	140.0	531.2
October	367.8	56.6	424.4	462.1	137.9	600.0

r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

18 BUILDING ACTIVITY, By number of dwelling units and stage of production: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
COMMENCED						
2002–2003	16 814	3 328	20 142	20 232	49	20 281
2003–2004	18 501	3 826	22 327	22 394	26	22 420
2004–2005	18 176	4 572	22 748	22 834	23	22 857
2004						
March	4 751	788	5 539	5 570	—	5 570
June	4 365	924	5 289	5 308	18	5 326
September	4 752	1 334	6 087	6 109	16	6 125
December	4 545	1 021	5 566	5 574	1	5 575
2005						
March	r4 324	r1 033	r5 357	r5 386	—	r5 386
June	4 554	1 184	5 738	5 766	6	5 771
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2002–2003	7 853	2 804	10 657	10 832	48	10 881
2003–2004	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
2004–2005	12 806	4 918	17 724	17 804	51	17 855
2004						
March	10 773	3 633	14 406	14 470	49	14 519
June	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
September	11 246	4 409	15 655	15 712	77	15 789
December	12 116	4 678	16 793	16 855	70	16 925
2005						
March	r13 174	r5 058	r18 232	r18 291	63	r18 353
June	12 806	4 918	17 724	17 804	51	17 855
COMPLETED						
2002–2003	15 701	2 575	18 276	18 384	20	18 404
2003–2004	15 472	2 814	18 286	18 475	14	18 489
2004–2005	15 837	3 384	19 221	19 285	33	19 318
2004						
March	3 577	445	4 023	4 127	2	4 130
June	4 334	744	5 079	5 109	6	5 115
September	4 256	723	4 979	4 997	—	4 997
December	3 616	716	4 332	4 339	8	4 347
2005						
March	r3 261	621	r3 882	r3 907	7	r3 914
June	4 704	1 324	6 028	6 042	18	6 060

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

19 BUILDING ACTIVITY, By value and stage of production—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
COMMENCED						
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	3 164.2	1 555.8	4 720.0
2003–2004	2 857.8	576.5	3 434.3	3 744.2	1 464.7	5 208.9
2004–2005	3 136.9	788.6	3 925.6	4 292.0	1 753.5	6 045.5
2004						
March	740.2	159.3	899.5	980.0	408.8	1 388.9
June	690.1	125.6	815.7	901.2	408.8	1 310.0
September	794.1	190.1	984.2	1 071.7	359.1	1 430.8
December	767.2	213.0	980.2	1 075.8	396.7	1 472.5
2005						
March	r751.5	r189.0	r940.4	r1 033.0	r686.1	r1 719.1
June	824.2	196.5	1 020.7	1 111.4	311.7	1 423.1
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2002–2003	1 334.5	455.6	1 790.2	1 964.6	1 239.8	3 204.4
2003–2004	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
2004–2005	2 475.8	926.4	3 402.2	3 640.0	1 573.6	5 213.6
2004						
March	1 868.3	636.5	2 504.8	2 654.3	1 195.3	3 849.7
June	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
September	2 068.5	744.6	2 813.1	2 985.0	1 330.9	4 315.9
December	2 220.7	846.8	3 067.5	3 252.0	1 366.4	4 618.4
2005						
March	r2 471.1	r908.6	r3 379.7	r3 609.7	r1 696.4	r5 306.1
June	2 475.8	926.4	3 402.2	3 640.0	1 573.6	5 213.6
COMPLETED						
2002–2003	2 190.0	368.5	2 558.5	2 837.4	1 019.7	3 857.1
2003–2004	2 312.3	413.1	2 725.4	3 061.6	1 593.8	4 655.3
2004–2005	2 570.0	522.8	3 092.8	3 439.8	1 454.6	4 894.4
2004						
March	514.3	55.5	569.9	649.0	338.9	987.9
June	670.4	121.2	791.6	874.0	471.3	1 345.3
September	644.2	92.8	737.0	824.4	231.3	1 055.7
December	604.7	114.2	718.9	811.2	392.3	1 203.5
2005						
March	r515.0	123.9	r638.9	r706.8	r388.8	r1 095.5
June	806.0	191.9	997.9	1 097.4	442.3	1 539.7
WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2002–2003	692.3	232.0	924.2	992.8	540.9	1 533.7
2003–2004	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
2004–2005	1 331.4	475.1	1 806.5	1 899.9	813.0	2 713.0
2004						
March	987.2	341.5	1 328.7	1 395.0	515.1	1 910.1
June	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
September	1 149.4	373.9	1 523.3	1 604.8	630.4	2 235.2
December	1 218.6	429.1	1 647.7	1 739.2	636.8	2 376.0
2005						
March	r1 255.6	r455.7	r1 711.4	r1 804.2	r922.7	r2 726.9
June	1 331.4	475.1	1 806.5	1 899.9	813.0	2 713.0

r revised

(a) Includes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: Building Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8752.0.

20 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, By value, stage and type of construction—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions $m	Bridges, railways and harbours $m	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines $m	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage $m	Telecom-munications $m	Heavy industry $m	Recreation and other $m	Total $m
				WORK COMMENCED				
2002–2003	817.8	411.8	206.9	284.0	333.0	2 372.6	194.5	4 620.7
2003–2004	985.6	1 619.7	256.4	234.4	333.6	1 252.3	189.3	4 871.2
2004–2005	911.2	683.7	1 039.3	312.8	347.1	3 175.4	331.1	6 800.7
2004								
March	^220.4	1 480.1	^63.0	^46.0	83.4	509.3	*60.3	2 462.5
June	^205.0	^46.4	^39.9	*75.5	99.8	185.5	^40.4	692.5
September	^303.8	^67.6	298.1	*97.0	^69.5	1 749.3	^63.5	2 648.8
December	^199.6	518.7	^r302.2	*66.6	83.4	r736.5	^122.4	r2 029.3
2005								
March	^192.9	^47.3	^r341.8	*r55.2	64.0	315.7	*83.9	r1 100.8
June	214.9	50.1	**97.3	^94.0	130.1	373.8	*61.3	1 021.7
				WORK DONE DURING REFERENCE PERIOD				
2002–2003	855.7	331.0	668.0	250.3	365.2	2 060.5	204.6	4 735.3
2003–2004	1 004.3	371.3	683.9	302.6	334.3	1 989.7	194.5	4 880.6
2004–2005	965.3	1 142.4	591.1	325.1	323.2	2 034.1	319.9	5 701.1
2004								
March	^241.7	82.8	162.2	^70.6	84.6	452.8	*54.1	1 148.9
June	284.4	172.6	^148.0	*96.7	95.8	475.3	*59.1	1 331.9
September	214.4	236.9	114.5	*92.4	70.9	563.9	*61.9	1 354.9
December	243.0	332.4	r149.4	*92.7	81.4	r498.6	^95.5	r1 493.0
2005								
March	^238.2	r286.1	r192.6	^r60.3	72.6	r475.4	*85.2	r1 410.4
June	269.7	287.1	^134.5	*79.6	98.4	496.2	^77.3	1 442.8
				WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD				
2002–2003	171.3	121.6	483.2	93.8	20.0	1 486.7	11.0	2 387.6
2003–2004	235.5	1 413.0	163.1	59.3	26.4	878.0	27.7	2 803.1
2004–2005	217.8	1 082.4	776.3	64.2	51.8	2 426.5	44.6	4 663.6
2004								
March	253.3	1 510.0	223.3	51.8	18.6	1 164.7	^29.7	3 251.3
June	^235.5	1 413.0	163.1	*59.3	26.4	878.0	*27.7	2 803.1
September	289.3	1 276.4	302.0	*56.1	17.5	2 076.1	^31.8	4 049.3
December	245.0	1 490.3	^r440.5	^47.2	24.3	r2 484.7	^64.9	r4 797.0
2005								
March	242.1	r1 284.1	^r563.9	*r31.8	15.7	r2 459.0	^54.9	r4 651.5
June	217.8	1 082.4	^776.3	^64.2	51.8	2 426.5	^44.6	4 663.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

r revised

Source: Engineering Costruction Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8762.0.

21 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By major commodity

Category of the SITC		2004 June $'000	2004 September $'000	2004 December $'000	2005 March $'000	2005 June $'000	2005 September $'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES							
001	Live animals	76 164	87 986	113 311	87 284	68 353	116 468
036	Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	129 653	48 120	63 744	98 772	131 051	54 236
041	Wheat	600 043	558 897	464 109	436 999	287 557	383 569
268	Wool and other animal hair	150 430	117 153	132 119	107 747	133 069	95 841
281	Iron ore and concentrates	1 482 935	1 699 979	1 722 093	1 708 707	2 881 107	2 947 400
284	Nickel ores and concentrates	176 871	148 401	196 329	189 549	135 746	130 728
287	Ores and concentrates of base metal	38 697	55 505	72 398	56 710	77 253	59 297
333	Crude petroleum oils	800 034	1 260 669	1 195 944	1 209 048	1 462 065	1 532 428
334	Refined petroleum oils	83 145	101 994	141 300	168 598	97 366	221 561
342	Liquefied propane and butane	106 455	141 602	93 196	131 811	146 671	152 013
343	Natural gas	520 706	700 774	869 188	759 160	869 556	982 646
533	Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	114 998	115 580	98 714	98 025	108 895	99 960
683	Nickel	137 174	116 859	158 109	140 092	123 128	82 394
971	Gold, non-monetary	1 361 761	1 361 749	1 488 895	1 342 052	1 422 823	1 463 956
988	Confidential items	1 719 591	1 754 457	1 749 858	1 896 539	1 913 269	1 744 727
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES							
333	Crude petroleum oils	235 121	327 648	394 017	396 462	535 499	284 678
334	Refined petroleum oils	215 680	172 703	223 317	180 716	274 736	331 373
562	Fertilisers	88 549	38 763	88 548	112 874	128 055	53 479
625	Rubber tyres	42 642	45 618	53 894	50 208	54 695	51 273
679	Iron or steel tubes and pipes	38 337	39 221	41 648	59 833	55 717	58 017
723	Civil engineering plant and equipment	97 550	81 982	113 370	112 317	121 567	120 944
728	Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	44 122	55 165	51 301	51 268	61 126	60 484
752	Automatic data processing machines	48 746	49 866	40 899	37 417	44 526	37 739
759	Parts and accessories of office machines	39 592	42 384	34 568	35 975	39 272	34 002
781	Passenger motor vehicles	255 653	261 611	244 048	260 227	281 549	291 109
782	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	123 465	140 004	138 664	114 276	156 411	134 119
792	Aircraft and associated equipment	14 167	53 656	48 260	21 446	21 666	11 666
793	Ships, boats and floating structures	6 915	6 536	22 666	21 471	8 206	34 619
971	Gold, non-monetary	463 064	493 799	384 949	413 796	618 484	641 411
988	Confidential items	90 164	84 233	101 621	133 962	136 178	150 911

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS September quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS June quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS September quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS September quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS June quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS September quarter 2005 $'000
0	**Food & live animals**(a)						
00	Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates	87 986	68 353	116 468	22	1	17
01	Meat & meat preparations	93 002	106 128	93 299	7 121	7 032	3 025
02	Dairy products & birds' eggs	20 678	21 161	19 482	5 872	4 598	5 151
03	Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates, & preparations thereof	53 142	139 407	56 896	17 516	18 111	16 820
04	Cereals & cereal preparations(a)	575 851	310 576	405 797	7 213	5 454	7 828
05	Vegetables & fruit	31 269	19 037	21 663	12 608	14 422	13 005
06	Sugars, sugar preparations & honey(a)	1 025	1 290	864	2 710	2 127	2 901
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, & manufactures thereof	360	436	343	3 360	2 435	2 895
08	Feeding stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)(a)	23 485	29 023	30 676	1 114	1 781	5 064
09	Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	2 613	2 424	2 910	7 334	11 055	9 979
	Total food & live animals(b)	*889 410*	*697 836*	*748 399*	*64 870*	*67 016*	*66 684*
1	**Beverages & tobacco**						
11	Beverages	12 122	14 665	12 522	8 445	8 169	9 502
12	Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	—	5	5	11	1 165	22
	Total beverages & tobacco(b)	*12 122*	*14 670*	*12 526*	*8 456*	*9 334*	*9 524*
2	**Crude materials, inedible, except fuels**(a)						
21	Hides, skins & furskins, raw(a)	10 009	10 422	8 220	4	—	—
22	Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	40 643	42 660	20 720	303	450	453
23	Crude rubber (incl. synthetic and reclaimed)	6	128	84	484	372	725
24	Cork & wood	5 740	34 304	42 858	7 380	7 431	6 788
25	Pulp & waste paper	3 064	4 552	4 445	788	654	798
26	Textile fibres & their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)(a)	117 417	133 367	96 172	987	876	747
27	Crude fertilisers (excl. those of Division 56) & crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum & precious stones)	20 617	20 822	23 358	15 573	14 299	11 582
28	Metalliferous ores & metal scrap(a)	1 943 346	3 253 984	3 288 291	3 611	1 092	1 166
29	Crude animal & vegetable materials, n.e.s.	6 811	4 977	6 598	2 892	2 512	2 896
	Total crude materials, inedible, except fuels(b)	*2 147 654*	*3 505 217*	*3 490 746*	*32 023*	*27 687*	*25 156*
3	**Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials**						
32	Coal, coke & briquettes	51	72	279	207	287	268
33	Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	1 362 741	1 559 451	1 754 020	502 098	815 156	621 018
34	Gas, natural & manufactured	842 376	1 016 236	1 134 660	3	—	26
	Total mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials(b)	*2 205 168*	*2 575 759*	*2 888 958*	*502 308*	*815 443*	*621 312*
4	**Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes**(a)						
41	Animal oils & fats	5 476	5 596	3 487	31	114	91
42	Fixed vegetable fats & oils, crude, refined or fractionated(a)	3	715	1 839	5 532	5 476	5 321
43	Fats & oils (processed), waxes & inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	89	300	82	257	137	200
	Total animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes(b)	*5 568*	*6 611*	*5 408*	*5 819*	*5 726*	*5 611*
5	**Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.**(a)						
51	Organic chemicals(a)	633	259	280	22 972	45 471	26 689
52	Inorganic chemicals(a)	44 525	72 203	55 587	14 311	17 383	25 638
53	Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	115 580	108 895	99 960	2 516	2 746	3 618
54	Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	44 774	83 638	73 022	56 501	69 748	81 138
55	Essential oils & resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, polishing & cleansing preparations	1 440	2 777	1 825	3 727	4 134	3 680
56	Fertilisers (excl. crude)	1 929	10 025	123	38 763	128 055	53 479
57	Plastics in primary forms(a)	2 861	4 172	3 203	8 175	8 293	8 697
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	7 543	3 111	9 340	18 706	14 206	16 367
59	Chemical materials & products, n.e.s.	2 695	4 198	2 720	13 977	34 460	15 978
	Total chemicals & related products, n.e.s.(b)	*221 980*	*289 277*	*246 062*	*179 648*	*324 498*	*235 284*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.

(b) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS September quarter 2004 $'000	June quarter 2005 $'000	September quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS September quarter 2004 $'000	June quarter 2005 $'000	September quarter 2005 $'000
6	**Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material**(a)						
61	Leather, leather manufactures, & dressed furskins, n.e.s.	1 795	846	850	1 809	1 039	1 342
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	4 801	3 940	3 782	62 367	73 700	71 994
63	Cork & wood manufactures (excl. furniture)(a)	1 717	3 012	2 707	14 300	12 082	10 959
64	Paper, paperboard, & articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	944	1 096	2 948	18 275	18 919	17 759
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., & related products	2 733	2 115	2 991	28 908	20 812	25 081
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(a)	41 159	36 234	47 045	54 700	54 816	58 662
67	Iron & steel(a)	10 627	4 547	4 317	74 841	114 795	120 992
68	Non-ferrous metals	170 431	163 113	131 551	21 197	16 255	45 874
69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	18 856	17 359	14 866	80 129	105 611	90 566
	Total manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(b)	*253 064*	*232 261*	*211 057*	*356 525*	*418 029*	*443 230*
7	**Machinery & transport equipment**(a)						
71	Power generating machinery & equipment	11 740	14 759	11 267	113 592	144 882	68 741
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	44 330	67 277	106 323	225 383	237 997	251 975
73	Metal working machinery	1 051	849	825	9 101	13 775	12 636
74	General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s. & machine parts, n.e.s.(a)	25 399	31 929	30 180	251 477	167 197	194 305
75	Office machines & automatic data processing machines	4 117	4 211	3 445	101 839	90 293	75 718
76	Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment	6 087	8 136	6 307	44 990	32 521	45 323
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (incl. non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	12 113	14 349	13 914	69 002	72 297	86 108
78	Road vehicles (incl. air-cushion vehicles)	6 420	50 702	14 054	469 546	485 247	492 038
79	Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	10 200	102 270	6 736	76 641	35 858	71 837
	Total machinery & transport equipment(b)	*121 458*	*294 482*	*193 050*	*1 361 569*	*1 280 068*	*1 298 680*
8	**Miscellaneous manufactured articles**(a)						
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating & lighting fixtures & fittings, n.e.s.	1 492	1 641	1 772	9 643	7 745	8 087
82	Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions & similar stuffed furnishings	2 951	4 686	1 461	58 047	52 663	68 940
83	Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	26	90	56	3 776	2 681	4 377
84	Articles of apparel & clothing accessories	585	854	573	20 845	18 225	22 704
85	Footwear(a)	488	295	224	13 641	8 216	15 799
87	Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s.	25 524	14 701	11 856	57 429	45 740	47 361
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment & supplies & optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks	420	740	435	4 403	2 798	3 100
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	14 991	9 598	10 565	67 573	52 439	86 181
	Total miscellaneous manufactured articles(b)	*46 478*	*32 605*	*26 943*	*235 358*	*190 507*	*256 549*
9	**Commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC**(c)						
93	Special transactions & commodities not classified according to kind	11 073	22 523	11 430	374	570	249
95	Gold coin whether or not legal tender, & other coin being legal tender	26 308	19 828	26 030	1 126	1 003	23
96	Coin (excl. gold coin), not being legal tender	21	—	24	8	11	3
97	Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold ores & concentrates)	1 361 749	1 422 823	1 463 956	493 799	618 484	641 411
98	Combined confidential items excl. some of SITC 280 (exports only) & some of SITCs 510 & 520 (imports only)(c)	1 754 457	1 913 269	1 744 727	84 233	136 178	150 911
	Total commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC(b)	*3 153 609*	*3 378 443*	*3 246 168*	*579 540*	*756 246*	*792 597*
	Total merchandise trade(b)	**9 056 511**	**11 027 162**	**11 069 316**	**3 326 118**	**3 894 552**	**3 754 628**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.

(b) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

(c) Includes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0

23 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By selected country

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			BALANCE OF TRADE		
	September quarter 2004	*June quarter 2005*	*September quarter 2005*	*September quarter 2004*	*June quarter 2005*	*September quarter 2005*	*September quarter 2004*	*June quarter 2005*	*September quarter 2005*
Country	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Austria	4 021	1 258	3 182	28 764	14 676	48 372	–24 743	–13 419	–45 190
Belgium(a)	70 268	129 699	64 628	15 924	27 753	17 456	54 345	101 946	47 172
Brazil	23 086	13 714	4 383	8 256	9 880	10 927	14 830	3 834	–6 544
Canada	196 270	209 075	144 231	72 903	48 617	36 627	123 366	160 458	107 604
China	1 292 630	2 237 876	2 184 253	203 378	228 662	288 347	1 089 251	2 009 214	1 895 907
Egypt	22 308	16 338	25 199	409	218	525	21 899	16 120	24 674
Finland	114 574	84 150	90 054	22 668	33 922	36 738	91 905	50 228	53 316
France	35 985	65 370	40 471	29 875	48 375	39 685	6 109	16 995	786
Germany	34 646	19 938	30 587	138 885	142 766	143 278	–104 239	–122 828	–112 691
Hong Kong(b)	70 616	43 740	56 323	9 428	8 920	9 915	61 187	34 820	46 408
India	487 037	1 044 366	981 144	55 743	29 744	20 424	431 294	1 014 622	960 720
Indonesia	303 665	335 321	377 543	250 092	84 593	191 825	53 573	250 728	185 718
Iran	26 706	1 754	658	96	94	99	26 610	1 661	560
Iraq	63 656	72	16 142	—	—	—	63 656	71	16 142
Israel	2 180	7 614	2 141	17 003	16 395	8 637	–14 823	–8 781	–6 496
Italy	50 318	65 296	57 036	127 698	52 876	129 610	–77 380	12 420	–72 575
Japan	2 129 991	2 514 448	2 613 545	436 890	393 828	377 210	1 693 101	2 120 619	2 236 334
Korea, Republic of	860 399	910 500	1 009 264	88 724	92 706	84 056	771 675	817 794	925 208
Kuwait	17 555	22 798	29 615	4 592	123	138	12 963	22 676	29 477
Malaysia	107 780	82 142	72 164	141 248	166 964	110 798	–33 468	–84 821	–38 634
Mozambique	95 219	108 949	128 182	—	—	—	95 219	108 949	128 182
Netherlands	88 078	103 833	88 259	28 735	20 613	30 584	59 343	83 220	57 675
New Zealand	293 141	205 576	225 669	102 333	111 276	103 378	190 808	94 301	122 291
Norway	15 385	10 236	4 947	3 045	29 821	7 003	12 340	–19 585	–2 057
Pakistan	6 331	34 508	9 171	1 113	1 636	1 516	5 218	32 872	7 656
Papua New Guinea	22 892	137 300	36 767	109 353	90 373	134 304	–86 461	46 927	–97 537
Philippines	17 657	20 246	35 341	6 069	5 760	6 605	11 588	14 485	28 736
Saudi Arabia	15 483	51 466	64 151	124 025	415 535	48 385	–108 542	–364 069	15 766
Singapore	294 026	406 948	505 552	246 488	479 962	483 068	47 538	–73 013	22 484
South Africa	217 583	180 944	248 421	50 627	61 137	64 884	166 956	119 807	183 537
Spain	86 225	187 095	78 623	40 937	27 171	26 169	45 288	159 923	52 454
Sweden	1 379	2 318	1 561	35 560	49 345	46 628	–34 182	–47 027	–45 067
Switzerland	5 252	8 689	4 009	11 899	8 970	10 341	–6 647	–280	–6 332
Taiwan	214 412	357 843	300 860	58 487	56 696	45 417	155 925	301 147	255 444
Thailand	157 630	321 050	485 092	95 177	126 203	114 918	62 453	194 847	370 174
Turkey	10 973	5 556	63 594	3 639	3 134	3 478	7 334	2 423	60 116
United Arab Emirates	206 916	104 528	110 706	79 930	20 320	61 413	126 986	84 207	49 292
United Kingdom	752 641	225 970	326 858	82 210	262 837	365 022	670 431	–36 867	–38 163
United States of America	320 862	434 140	220 633	443 692	364 383	409 553	–122 830	69 757	–188 921
Viet Nam	60 376	74 081	48 139	31 593	28 680	87 096	28 783	45 401	–38 957
Other countries	260 363	240 417	280 219	118 628	329 588	150 201	141 735	–89 172	130 018
Total(c)	**9 056 511**	**11 027 162**	**11 069 316**	**3 326 118**	**3 894 552**	**3 754 628**	**5 730 393**	**7 132 609**	**7 314 688**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Prior to July 2003, Belgium and Luxembourg were combined. Belgium–Luxembourg is included in 'Other countries' up to and including June 2003.

(b) SAR of China.

(c) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

24 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE(a), By selected mineral

Reference period	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Diamonds	Total minerals(b)	Total minerals(b)	Total minerals(b)	Total petroleum
	SELECTED MINERALS (ORIGINAL)						ORIGINAL	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	TREND	ORIGINAL
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	np	np	54.1	265.6	43.4	17.7	423.6	424.0	414.4	598.3
2003–2004	np	np	70.6	276.7	np	17.0	465.8	465.1	466.8	670.5
2004–2005	4.7	4.8	148.7	259.6	136.9	15.9	606.0	607.2	602.9	526.5
2004										
June	1.2	0.6	23.4	83.0	19.1	3.5	138.8	131.5	129.8	197.5
September	np	np	28.7	73.9	29.6	4.6	147.9	144.2	141.1	129.7
December	1.9	0.6	38.0	67.5	35.0	5.3	156.7	146.2	150.8	113.1
2005										
March	np	np	40.9	54.1	27.3	2.2	134.4	158.8	154.9	154.3
June	1.4	1.8	41.1	64.1	45.1	3.8	167.0	158.1	156.1	129.4
September	2.3	1.7	36.5	62.0	35.9	4.0	154.4	150.6	155.2	135.1

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes expenditure on Western Australian leases in the Zone of Cooperation Area B.

(b) Includes minerals not listed.

Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

25 MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION: **Original**

Reference period	SELECTED MINERALS Gold(a)	Diamonds	Iron ore(b)	Bauxite	Ilmenite	Nickel	Zinc(c)	ENERGY Coal	Electricity generated	Crude oil(d)	Natural gas(e)
	tonnes	'000 carats	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	million kWh	megalitres	million m^3
2002–2003	190	31 901	193 251	36 567	1 911	183	246	6 323	20 001	19 428	20 179
2003–2004	174	24 292	216 609	38 072	1 774	185	91	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2004–2005	173	32 446	r246 720	38 070	1 873	r194	47	6 233	21 956	16 997	24 582
2004											
June	39	2 669	56 285	9 143	429	40	8	1 555	5 032	4 052	5 285
September	43	5 328	59 718	9 629	458	48	13	1 524	5 279	4 261	6 257
December	42	9 011	61 542	9 431	493	53	6	1 688	5 600	3 872	6 347
2005											
March	45	8 633	60 098	9 798	457	49	13	1 543	5 908	3 891	5 765
June	44	9 474	r65 362	9 212	464	r43	16	1 478	5 169	4 973	6 213
September	p42	p6 037	p64 558	p9 653	p497	p48	p18	1 659	5 163	p4 667	p6 297

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r revised
(a) Gold content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined and unrefined bullion.
(b) For use in iron and steel making.
(c) Zinc content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined zinc, zinc powders, flakes and dust.
(d) Includes condensate.
(e) Commercial sales plus field and plant usage.

Source: ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics;* Department of Industry and Resources; ABS data available on request, *Manufacturing Production, Australia,* cat. no. 8301.0.55.001.

26 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND RED MEAT PRODUCED(a): **All series**

Reference period	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b) Cattle(d)	Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs	RED MEAT PRODUCED(c) Beef(e)	Veal	Mutton	Lamb	Pig meat
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
ORIGINAL										
2002–2003	429.3	5.3	1 771.9	2 021.0	672.4	105 074	300	35 431	39 568	45 490
2003–2004	462.8	4.8	1 845.5	2 391.7	674.4	116 555	258	37 094	47 212	45 190
2004–2005	510.5	4.3	2 205.2	2 466.7	643.7	131 407	250	43 842	49 122	43 471
2004										
June	113.4	1.1	452.4	663.0	173.8	28 307	55	8 932	13 246	11 781
September	122.0	1.2	479.1	577.7	170.6	30 219	63	9 617	11 183	11 533
December	126.6	1.1	606.0	639.4	152.6	32 317	74	12 066	12 380	10 220
2005										
March	126.1	0.9	651.6	575.6	156.8	32 581	51	12 880	11 693	10 614
June	135.8	1.1	468.5	674.0	163.7	36 289	61	9 279	13 866	11 105
September	106.1	1.1	442.1	705.4	152.8	26 452	79	9 515	14 544	10 320
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2002–2003	427.7	5.3	1 747.5	2 020.7	672.7	104 578	302	34 962	39 546	45 508
2003–2004	462.4	4.7	1 842.9	2 391.3	674.8	116 578	257	37 103	47 183	45 215
2004–2005	514.0	4.4	2 222.1	2 469.0	643.8	132 681	250	44 211	49 153	43 486
2004										
June	123.2	1.2	580.5	656.5	166.2	31 385	61	11 626	12 944	11 137
September	128.0	1.1	562.7	623.0	168.1	32 239	54	11 109	12 147	11 295
December	115.1	1.1	526.3	588.6	160.4	28 777	77	10 425	11 476	10 931
2005										
March	122.5	1.1	534.8	590.0	158.4	31 371	58	10 652	11 973	10 750
June	148.4	1.1	598.3	667.4	156.9	40 294	61	12 025	13 556	10 510
September	111.2	1.0	525.4	758.3	150.4	28 180	68	11 106	15 737	10 108
TREND										
2002–2003	430.0	5.1	1 715.0	2 025.3	671.7	105 149	295	34 308	39 718	45 424
2003–2004	462.3	4.9	1 853.7	2 376.6	676.2	116 473	260	37 295	46 790	45 350
2004–2005	501.6	4.3	2 210.4	2 498.1	641.7	128 761	255	44 136	49 833	43 348
2004										
June	123.2	1.2	558.2	635.7	168.1	31 254	61	11 150	12 397	11 290
September	121.6	1.1	556.6	620.3	165.4	30 528	63	11 039	12 113	11 157
December	123.5	1.1	548.6	596.3	162.3	31 341	64	10 839	11 755	10 991
2005										
March	127.4	1.1	549.1	613.7	158.8	32 997	64	10 953	12 315	10 745
June	129.1	1.0	556.1	667.8	155.2	33 895	64	11 304	13 651	10 456
September	127.0	1.0	556.8	724.5	152.0	33 402	63	11 538	14 973	10 203

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered for red meat production on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.
(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.
(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.
(d) Excludes calves.
(e) Excludes veal.
Source: Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0.

27 WHEAT AND LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	WHEAT(a) Gross weight		LIVE SHEEP Gross weight		
	Gross weight	Gross value	Gross weight	Quantity	Gross value
	tonnes	$'000	tonnes	no.	$'000
2002–2003	5 081 468	1 415 256	170 557	3 704 998	264 642
2003–2004	7 923 614	1 784 855	129 905	2 732 173	187 865
2004–2005	8 123 349	1 747 563	141 398	2 791 374	176 615
2004					
June	2 633 014	600 043	23 194	504 745	32 737
September	2 453 555	558 897	42 002	719 685	48 532
December	2 199 070	464 109	40 653	813 357	52 100
2005					
March	2 079 100	436 999	37 675	787 317	47 837
June	1 391 625	287 557	21 069	471 015	28 147
September	1 879 631	383 569	49 955	980 562	67 592

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,* cat. no. 5368.0.

28 WOOL RECEIVALS(a): **Original**

Reference period	*Brokers receivals*		*Dealers receivals*		*Total receivals*	
	'000 bales	'000 tonnes	'000 bales	'000 tonnes	'000 bales	'000 tonnes
2002–2003	518 109	92.5	91 948	16.3	610 057	108.7
2003–2004	510 299	89.7	116 554	20.2	628 853	109.9
2004–2005	495 381	88.1	109 477	19.0	604 858	107.1
2004						
June	84 036	14.1	32 191	5.6	116 227	19.7
September	123 152	22.0	31 457	5.5	154 609	27.5
December	133 826	23.8	27 589	4.8	161 415	28.6
2005						
March	160 961	28.4	26 068	4.5	187 029	32.9
June	77 442	13.9	24 363	4.2	101 805	18.1
September	128 554	22.8	33 373	5.8	161 927	28.5

(a) Shows the amount of taxable wool received by brokers and purchased by dealers from wool producers. It excludes wool received by brokers on which tax has already been paid by other dealers (private buyers) or brokers.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Livestock Products, Australia,* cat. no. 7215.0.

29 OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES : **Original**

Reference period	Permanent	LONG-TERM(a) WA residents	LONG-TERM(a) Overseas visitors	SHORT-TERM(b) WA residents	SHORT-TERM(b) Overseas visitors	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
ARRIVALS						
2002–2003	12 279	10 900	19 436	373 829	460 534	876 977
2003–2004	15 411	10 854	19 705	428 853	483 472	958 294
2004–2005	16 318	11 451	20 823	531 400	500 117	1 080 108
2004						
July	1 171	867	3 136	50 150	35 675	90 998
August	1 405	805	1 196	44 407	32 758	80 571
September	1 370	758	1 103	45 727	35 558	84 516
October	1 326	884	1 536	53 667	41 939	99 352
November	1 294	1 151	906	39 904	48 800	92 055
December	1 389	1 795	921	32 911	62 656	99 672
2005						
January	1 500	1 059	2 887	63 315	39 876	108 638
February	1 266	847	4 188	35 493	48 800	90 594
March	1 611	1 052	1 356	40 236	52 059	96 314
April	1 369	797	1 339	43 079	36 987	83 570
May	1 421	670	966	38 881	31 930	73 868
June	1 196	766	1 289	43 630	33 079	79 960
July	1 231	855	3 377	61 956	36 023	103 442
August	1 506	856	1 486	48 749	33 403	86 000
September	1 493	891	1 386	52 982	39 150	95 901
DEPARTURES						
2002–2003	5 430	9 253	6 730	372 625	450 453	844 492
2003–2004	6 223	8 987	8 223	454 236	455 540	933 208
2004–2005	6 387	9 683	8 370	531 698	495 331	1 051 467
2004						
July	543	762	815	50 367	28 799	81 286
August	580	838	581	42 469	35 270	79 738
September	397	548	513	43 092	29 694	74 244
October	426	598	513	44 666	35 925	82 128
November	472	639	812	38 735	48 233	88 891
December	538	781	1 304	54 783	46 609	104 015
2005						
January	836	1 322	767	40 444	55 397	98 765
February	479	801	543	32 769	43 058	77 650
March	537	880	639	42 313	49 100	93 469
April	645	950	486	43 957	46 007	92 045
May	453	857	537	46 617	36 437	84 901
June	481	707	860	51 486	40 802	94 335
July	543	768	792	55 525	30 780	88 408
August	614	809	601	49 318	37 939	89 280
September	481	633	517	56 498	33 802	91 932

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is 12 months or more.
(b) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is less than 12 months.
Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,* cat. no. 3401.0.

30 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS AND HOLIDAY DEPARTURES OF RESIDENTS(a), By air: Original

Reference period	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Europe(b)	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Hong Kong(c)	Japan	United States of America	South Africa	Total(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS(e)												
2002–2003	7 617	53 002	28 207	8 899	21 822	40 301	5 110	5 097	27 338	4 015	3 451	217 963
2003–2004	8 797	56 304	29 185	8 680	30 401	36 268	6 601	5 236	28 069	4 504	4 678	231 194
2004–2005	12 043	56 925	30 984	7 810	25 407	47 473	5 324	5 900	31 197	4 323	3 177	245 156
2004												
July	483	3 113	2 381	781	1 423	1 542	319	380	2 435	259	244	14 735
August	1 339	2 134	2 171	335	2 376	2 125	535	327	3 402	385	261	16 322
September	1 444	3 316	2 402	433	1 796	2 486	351	251	3 158	93	322	16 582
October	1 141	6 031	3 442	305	1 249	2 274	661	271	3 042	449	145	20 194
November	677	5 769	3 508	1 264	3 119	5 576	387	390	2 834	330	256	25 499
December	1 425	9 053	4 083	781	2 477	6 445	651	779	2 781	560	544	31 325
2005												
January	707	5 946	2 796	303	732	1 492	243	131	2 369	271	92	16 341
February	527	6 505	3 199	817	2 786	3 870	203	1 273	3 177	378	306	24 896
March	1 371	8 306	2 879	1 051	2 384	5 510	549	956	2 722	469	361	27 862
April	1 055	3 459	1 800	586	1 949	3 704	887	353	2 119	433	323	17 763
May	963	1 713	1 159	460	3 141	4 773	305	374	2 202	205	164	16 313
June	911	1 580	1 164	694	1 975	7 676	233	415	956	491	159	17 324
July	1 192	3 188	2 787	613	1 456	2 295	337	635	2 276	269	146	16 549
August	952	2 732	2 247	375	2 172	3 342	319	423	3 122	324	472	17 436
September	1 314	3 555	2 385	569	2 090	3 273	385	306	3 463	291	361	18 928
RESIDENT DEPARTURES(f)												
2002–2003	17 611	18 322	12 903	46 601	11 924	15 180	21 561	3 163	801	6 864	2 726	178 145
2003–2004	21 171	21 134	18 510	75 729	12 503	16 150	18 945	4 025	1 572	9 885	1 900	225 882
2004–2005	24 650	20 515	16 547	94 086	17 720	25 455	22 604	5 959	2 684	10 327	3 164	279 353
2004												
July	3 231	2 807	2 253	9 880	1 735	2 406	3 101	680	199	1 261	261	30 582
August	2 343	2 391	1 432	8 541	1 319	1 567	2 299	162	143	865	10	23 421
September	1 595	1 895	1 606	7 156	1 059	1 590	2 678	431	99	566	322	22 404
October	1 592	920	1 212	8 726	1 874	1 913	3 503	519	243	779	475	25 610
November	1 507	713	456	7 520	1 325	1 646	1 370	663	212	694	266	18 832
December	3 163	1 874	1 322	6 743	2 409	2 898	1 929	636	305	1 286	681	28 135
2005												
January	2 525	551	258	7 080	1 231	3 087	680	498	465	630	156	19 691
February	2 034	809	366	5 945	919	1 404	1 022	331	206	206	23	15 749
March	2 963	1 009	480	7 030	1 488	2 367	1 696	730	153	707	292	21 476
April	1 447	1 739	1 568	7 627	1 566	2 345	1 645	460	330	1 147	160	23 288
May	915	2 871	3 000	7 343	1 168	1 308	977	486	166	1 415	214	22 706
June	1 335	2 936	2 594	10 495	1 627	2 924	1 704	363	163	771	304	27 459
July	3 142	3 470	1 906	10 666	2 278	3 548	3 239	518	185	998	314	34 018
August	2 218	2 960	1 925	9 699	1 619	2 365	2 224	281	82	914	172	27 956
September	2 262	2 106	2 974	11 250	1 924	2 792	2 536	744	262	1 913	394	33 095

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.
(b) Excluding United Kingdom and Ireland.
(c) Special Administrative Region of China.
(d) Total includes countries not listed in table.
(e) Overseas visitor arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.
(f) Resident departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*, cat. no. 3401.0.

31 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION (a)(b): **Original**

Reference period	Establishments	Rooms	Room nights occupied	Room occupancy rate	Guest arrivals	Takings from accommodation
	no.	no.	'000	%	'000	$'000
2002–2003	345	19 989	4 038.8	56.6	2 862.0	424 339.8
2003–2004	341	20 219	4 324.9	58.2	3 100.3	471 709.6
2004–2005	350	20 890	4 559.1	60.5	3 260.1	518 987.2
2004						
March	342	20 531	1 078.8	57.8	785.9	117 612.8
June	341	20 219	1 026.2	55.8	731.9	110 705.3
September	340	20 375	1 135.5	60.7	823.7	126 265.0
December	344	20 937	1 174.6	61.3	869.5	134 199.7
2005						
March	351	20 646	1 129.4	61.0	811.4	129 036.6
June	350	20 890	1 119.6	59.1	756.3	129 485.9

(a) Includes hotels, motels, guest houses and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms.
(b) Break in time series between the March and June quarters 2003. See paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication: *Tourist Accommodation, Australia,* cat. no. 8635.0.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

32 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER), By sex: Trend

	EMPLOYED					
	Full-time	Total	Total unemployed	Labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Month	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES						
2004						
September	473.6	555.2	25.6	580.8	73.5	4.4
October	476.7	559.1	25.3	584.3	73.8	4.3
November	480.8	563.4	25.1	588.5	74.2	4.3
December	485.3	567.7	25.0	592.7	74.6	4.2
2005						
January	489.7	571.5	25.0	596.5	75.0	4.2
February	493.3	574.8	25.3	600.1	75.4	4.2
March	495.8	577.6	25.8	603.4	75.7	4.3
April	498.0	580.1	26.5	606.6	76.0	4.4
May	500.1	582.6	27.0	609.6	76.3	4.4
June	502.0	584.8	26.9	611.8	76.4	4.4
July	503.6	586.8	26.4	613.2	76.5	4.3
August	504.8	588.7	25.4	614.1	76.5	4.1
September	505.5	590.2	24.3	614.5	76.4	4.0
October	505.7	591.3	23.3	614.6	76.3	3.8
November	505.6	591.9	22.3	614.2	76.1	3.6
FEMALES						
2004						
September	224.5	436.2	23.9	460.1	57.4	5.2
October	225.6	438.5	23.5	462.0	57.5	5.1
November	227.4	441.0	23.4	464.4	57.8	5.0
December	229.3	443.5	23.7	467.2	58.0	5.1
2005						
January	231.0	445.9	24.3	470.2	58.4	5.2
February	232.6	448.6	25.0	473.6	58.7	5.3
March	234.4	451.7	25.6	477.3	59.1	5.4
April	236.6	455.1	25.9	480.9	59.5	5.4
May	238.7	458.2	25.6	483.7	59.8	5.3
June	239.9	460.4	24.8	485.2	59.9	5.1
July	240.0	461.7	23.8	485.6	59.8	4.9
August	239.2	462.5	22.9	485.4	59.7	4.7
September	237.7	462.8	22.1	484.9	59.6	4.6
October	235.8	463.0	21.4	484.3	59.4	4.4
November	233.9	462.7	20.9	483.6	59.3	4.3
PERSONS						
2004						
September	698.0	991.4	49.5	1 040.9	65.4	4.8
October	702.4	997.5	48.8	1 046.3	65.6	4.7
November	708.1	1 004.5	48.5	1 052.9	65.9	4.6
December	714.6	1 011.2	48.7	1 059.8	66.3	4.6
2005						
January	720.8	1 017.4	49.3	1 066.7	66.6	4.6
February	725.9	1 023.4	50.3	1 073.7	67.0	4.7
March	730.3	1 029.3	51.5	1 080.7	67.4	4.8
April	734.6	1 035.2	52.4	1 087.6	67.7	4.8
May	738.8	1 040.8	52.5	1 093.3	68.0	4.8
June	741.9	1 045.2	51.7	1 096.9	68.1	4.7
July	743.6	1 048.5	50.2	1 098.8	68.1	4.6
August	744.0	1 051.1	48.3	1 099.5	68.0	4.4
September	743.2	1 053.0	46.4	1 099.4	67.9	4.2
October	741.5	1 054.3	44.7	1 099.0	67.8	4.1
November	739.4	1 054.7	43.1	1 097.8	67.7	3.9

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

33 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, By industry: **Original**

ANZSIC Division	2004 August '000	2004 November '000	2005 February '000	2005 May '000	2005 August '000	2005 November '000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	43.3	45.4	50.2	53.3	56.6	57.3
Mining	36.8	37.7	45.3	48.6	47.7	52.8
Manufacturing	97.0	100.2	90.4	98.9	88.7	96.3
Electricity, gas and water supply	7.9	9.2	12.5	10.2	11.3	7.1
Construction	83.6	90.8	93.7	100.3	100.3	99.5
Wholesale trade	51.0	49.8	43.6	41.8	39.7	43.3
Retail trade	152.0	155.0	151.2	152.6	155.8	146.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	37.7	45.3	44.8	44.8	39.3	43.9
Transport and storage	45.8	39.2	43.6	41.6	44.8	49.2
Communication services	12.8	16.4	15.7	13.6	14.2	16.0
Finance and insurance	28.1	26.0	26.6	24.1	25.1	27.7
Property and business services	110.9	113.1	130.6	123.9	119.6	122.4
Government administration and defence	37.8	43.9	40.5	46.8	46.1	50.7
Education	68.1	67.9	69.8	76.7	79.7	72.9
Health and community services	90.1	98.4	102.0	104.3	106.8	103.8
Cultural and recreational services	21.5	21.8	20.2	26.8	28.5	25.9
Personal and other services	46.7	50.8	46.2	38.2	39.5	39.9
Total	**971.0**	**1 011.0**	**1 027.0**	**1 046.5**	**1 043.8**	**1 055.3**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

34 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND HOURS WORKED, By occupation: **Original**

ASCO Major group	2004 August	2004 November	2005 February	2005 May	2005 August	2005 November
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ('000)						
Managers and administrators	52.0	59.5	64.9	60.1	60.7	60.8
Professionals	139.6	150.6	155.6	170.1	174.7	168.7
Associate professionals	100.8	107.0	115.8	105.3	100.5	105.6
Tradespersons and related workers	96.1	101.6	103.5	109.2	106.5	104.3
Advanced clerical and service workers	29.8	28.9	33.1	33.6	34.3	31.7
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	147.8	149.9	144.4	157.8	153.5	164.9
Intermediate production and transport workers	70.3	79.7	76.8	84.9	77.6	80.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	91.3	92.6	95.0	93.9	95.2	101.9
Labourers and related workers	77.0	82.0	84.1	73.7	75.3	77.6
Total	**804.8**	**851.8**	**873.2**	**888.5**	**878.2**	**895.9**
TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ('000)						
Managers and administrators	2 372.7	2 767.3	2 985.9	2 894.1	2 899.4	2 799.0
Professionals	5 203.9	5 488.5	5 785.7	6 300.1	6 500.5	6 289.9
Associate professionals	3 852.0	4 116.0	4 623.0	4 051.4	3 837.8	4 021.7
Tradespersons and related workers	3 804.5	4 117.5	4 255.8	4 356.2	4 255.3	4 232.5
Advanced clerical and service workers	913.7	784.9	979.3	1 011.3	1 028.5	901.4
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4 552.5	4 650.2	4 517.7	4 796.5	4 487.6	4 920.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	2 761.1	3 270.6	3 122.6	3 508.1	3 079.4	3 344.8
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	2 164.1	2 252.0	2 465.8	2 203.2	2 291.2	2 517.9
Labourers and related workers	2 248.0	2 548.5	2 671.0	2 200.6	2 079.7	2 244.9
Total	**27 872.4**	**29 995.4**	**31 406.8**	**31 321.5**	**30 459.4**	**31 272.7**
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (no.)						
Managers and administrators	45.6	46.5	46.0	48.2	47.8	46.1
Professionals	37.3	36.4	37.2	37.0	37.2	37.3
Associate professionals	38.2	38.5	39.9	38.5	38.2	38.1
Tradespersons and related workers	39.6	40.5	41.1	39.9	40.0	40.6
Advanced clerical and service workers	30.7	27.1	29.6	30.1	30.0	28.4
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	30.8	31.0	31.3	30.4	29.2	29.8
Intermediate production and transport workers	39.3	41.0	40.7	41.3	39.7	41.5
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	23.7	24.3	25.9	23.5	24.1	24.7
Labourers and related workers	29.2	31.1	31.8	29.9	27.6	28.9
Total	**34.6**	**35.2**	**36.0**	**35.3**	**34.7**	**34.9**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

35 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: **All series**

	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*
Quarter	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
				ORIGINAL					
2004									
May	1 039.30	1 098.50	930.40	794.40	806.80	534.20	955.00	998.10	740.20
August	1 046.80	1 109.20	937.60	802.90	815.20	544.80	964.90	1 010.50	752.80
November	1 080.20	1 147.20	969.20	806.40	821.10	539.20	990.00	1 039.70	765.30
2005									
February	1 101.60	1 169.00	990.40	822.30	834.90	553.50	1 009.60	1 058.90	787.10
May	1 120.80	1 197.40	992.10	848.90	863.30	554.40	1 032.20	1 088.50	787.40
August	1 130.80	1 199.90	1 016.60	850.20	864.10	568.00	1 038.50	1 089.50	806.10
				SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
2004									
May	1 037.80	1 095.10	928.50	797.50	810.20	538.10	955.10	997.10	741.00
August	1 042.50	1 107.30	941.60	800.90	813.70	543.00	963.50	1 011.00	752.20
November	1 081.60	1 148.00	967.10	807.40	821.00	543.70	989.20	1 037.90	768.60
2005									
February	1 106.50	1 174.10	990.50	820.20	833.20	546.80	1 011.80	1 061.20	783.30
May	1 119.10	1 193.40	990.10	852.20	866.90	558.60	1 032.20	1 087.30	788.60
August	1 126.10	1 197.90	1 020.90	847.90	862.20	565.90	1 037.00	1 090.10	805.00
				TREND					
2004									
May	1 034.80	1 095.40	928.40	797.60	810.20	537.90	954.40	998.80	742.30
August	1 052.50	1 115.40	945.70	800.60	813.50	541.30	968.10	1 014.30	753.90
November	1 077.60	1 143.80	965.30	809.60	822.80	544.30	988.40	1 037.00	767.50
2005									
February	1 101.50	1 170.80	983.50	825.20	838.90	549.60	1 010.20	1 061.20	780.60
May	1 118.60	1 190.10	999.70	841.10	855.30	557.00	1 028.00	1 080.80	792.20
August	1 129.90	1 203.50	1 014.70	855.30	869.20	564.70	1 042.00	1 096.50	801.90

Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, cat. no. 6302.0.

36 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: **Original**

Reference period	Number of disputes	Number of employees involved	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	no.	'000	'000	no.
2002	105	16.1	32.1	40.4
2003	131	53.3	79.2	r97.9
2004	134	26.7	64.1	r77.3
2004				
June	43	12.4	15.7	18.5
September	31	3.9	16.6	20.6
December	34	6.3	17.1	20.1
2005				
March	27	6.5	21.3	24.4
June	27	6.9	9.0	10.2
September	49	6.3	11.1	12.7

r revised

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes, Australia,* cat. no. 6321.0.55.001.

37 JOB VACANCIES FOR EMPLOYEES, By sector: **Original**

	PRIVATE		PUBLIC		TOTAL	
Quarter	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
2004						
May	*9.5	49.3	1.0	–26.3	10.5	35.7
August	11.4	84.9	1.0	–20.1	12.4	67.4
November	11.4	46.8	1.7	41.1	13.1	46.0
2005						
February	14.0	49.9	1.2	40.7	15.3	49.1
May	13.2	39.1	1.3	25.6	14.5	37.8
August	15.7	37.4	1.3	27.7	16.9	36.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Source: Job Vacancies, Australia, cat. no. 6354.0.

38 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

At end of reference period	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
2003–2004	991 268	986 811	1 978 079
2004–2005	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113
2002	968 719	966 547	1 935 266
2003	983 793	980 362	1 964 155
2004	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2004			
March	988 343	984 049	1 972 392
June	991 268	986 811	1 978 079
September	995 038	990 429	1 985 467
December	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2005			
March	1 004 327	999 437	2 003 764
June	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Australian Demographic Statistics,* cat. no. 3101.0.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

39 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase(b)	Net interstate migration	Net overseas migration(c)	Total population growth(d)
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	23 791	11 161	12 630	–2 810	15 575	25 395
2003–2004	24 530	11 305	13 225	1 272	13 634	28 131
2004–2005	25 186	11 103	14 083	1 466	16 485	32 034
2002	23 782	11 216	12 566	–4 231	13 658	21 993
2003	23 862	11 319	12 543	–373	16 719	28 889
2004	25 062	11 153	13 909	1 515	14 347	29 771
2004						
March	6 354	2 587	3 767	480	3 990	8 237
June	6 240	2 691	3 549	454	1 684	5 687
September	6 429	3 117	3 312	289	3 787	7 388
December	6 039	2 758	3 281	292	4 886	8 459
2005						
March	6 095	2 500	3 595	542	5 701	9 838
June	6 623	2 728	3 895	343	2 111	6 349

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Australian Demographic Statistics,* cat. no. 3101.0.

(b) Births minus deaths.

(c) Adjusted for category jumping.

(d) Differences may occur between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net migration due to intercensal discrepancy.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

40 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b)

	2004			2005		
	June	*September*	*December*	*March*	*June*	*September*
Selected offences	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Homicide(c)	26	35	36	23	13	5
Assault(d)	4 717	4 996	6 498	6 550	5 400	5 335
Robbery(e)	460	445	479	465	441	334
Burglary(f)	10 942	10 447	10 840	10 348	9 151	9 249
Theft	18 972	19 350	20 075	19 228	18 871	18 405
Steal motor vehicle	1 894	1 816	2 009	1 903	1 740	1 701
Property damage	8 732	8 292	9 339	10 405	9 988	10 200
Graffiti(g)	2 771	3 078	2 148	1 895	2 292	1 443
Drugs	3 681	3 512	3 396	3 586	4 228	3 699
Other(h)	3 211	3 933	4 381	4 972	4 783	4 289
Total reported offences	**55 406**	**55 904**	**59 201**	**59 375**	**56 907**	**54 660**

(a) Reported offences are selected offences reported to, or becoming known to, police and resulting in the submission of a report. The number of reported offences in a period may include offences that occurred during earlier periods. The data are subject to revisions as further data become available. Offence classifications may alter between periods due to changes in legislation, administrative recording practices or system coding, and locality boundaries may change. Therefore, time series may be broken.

(b) Definitional, coding and processing changes associated with the introduction of the *Frontline Incident Management System* have had an impact on some data. Variations in data may have resulted from reporting and recording changes, and may not reflect an actual increase or decrease in the incidence of an offence type or in total offence numbers. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting and using offence statistics from late 2002, and when comparing those statistics with earlier periods.

(c) Includes driving causing death.

(d) Includes sexual assault.

(e) Includes armed and unarmed offences.

(f) Includes burglary to dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.

(g) Most graffiti offences are committed against public property and the number reported can vary due to different strategies being adopted in different periods by agencies and local government authorities. The number can also vary between periods due to the stockpiling of offences before being reported to police and to an inconsistency in reporting where graffiti is sometimes recorded as property damage.

(h) Includes offences such as fraud, arson and threatening behaviour.

Source: Western Australian Police Service, *Offence Information System/Frontline Incident Management System.*

41 INCOME

	Units	1995–96	2000–01	2002–03	2003–04
Equivalised disposable income(a)					
Mean weekly income of selected households(b)					
Lone person aged under 35	$	361	463	556	606
Couple only, reference person aged under 35	$	986	1 018	1 045	1 249
Couple with dependent children only	$	827	954	1 083	1 144
One parent with dependent children only	$	506	522	540	602
Couple only, reference person aged 65 and over	$	458	555	515	591
Lone person aged 65 and over	$	*286	*281	295	344
All households	$	647	802	838	895
Mean weekly household income for selected groups of persons(b)					
Low income(c)	$	r240	r284	279	303
Middle income(c)	$	r403	r451	457	484
High income(c)	$	r877	r974	993	993
All persons	$	457	511	518	539
Mean weekly household income of persons at top of selected percentiles(b)					
P20	$	236	279	277	303
P50	$	401	445	451	483
P80	$	652	683	708	727
Ratios of incomes of households of persons at top of selected income percentiles(b)					
P90/P10	ratio	r4.1	3.9	3.9	3.5
P80/P20	ratio	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4
P80/P50	ratio	r1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5
P20/P50	ratio	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Share of total household income received by persons with:					
High incomes(c)	%	38.5	38.0	38.3	36.8
Low incomes(c)	%	10.5	11.1	10.7	11.3
Gini coefficient of weekly equivalised household income	ratio	0.315	0.300	0.310	0.285
Main source of income – all households(a)					
Wages and salaries	%	59.0	58.6	60.3	57.2
Own business or partnership	%	7.2	8.8	7.4	8.1
Government pensions and allowances	%	25.1	24.2	24.7	26.8
Other	%	6.8	6.9	6.3	7.0
Recipients of selected government payments(d)					
Age pensioners	'000	129.3	148.4	155.9	155.9
Disability support pensioners	'000	42.8	51.6	56.3	58.7
Single parent payments	'000	34.0	43.7	45.7	46.5

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

r revised

(a) Source: ABS data available on request, *Survey of Income and Housing Costs.* Data are at year ending 30 June.

(b) Adjusted for changes in Consumer Price Index: values are given in 2003–04 dollars.

(c) Low income persons are those in the 2nd and 3rd deciles when ranked according to the equivalised disposable household income, middle income persons are those in the 5th and 6th deciles and high income persons are those in the 9th and 10th deciles.

(d) Source: Department of Family and Community Services administrative data (years 1995–96); Centrelink administrative data (years 2000–01 to 2003–04). Data are at June.

42 HOUSING(a)

	Units	1995–96	2000–01	2002–03	2003–04
Total households(b)	'000	651.2	708.4	763.9	770.5
Dwelling structure(b)					
Separate house (of all dwellings)	%	80.5	80.5	81.2	83.5
Semidetached/townhouse (of all dwellings)	%	11.9	14.1	13.4	12.5
Flat/apartment/unit (of all dwellings)	%	7.2	5.4	5.3	3.5
Tenure type(b)					
Owner without a mortgage	%	37.0	35.2	34.1	31.2
Owner with a mortgage	%	35.1	35.3	37.1	38.1
Renter – State Housing Authority	%	4.5	4.1	4.7	4.0
Renter – private landlord	%	17.6	21.2	20.1	21.9
Housing utilisation(b)					
Average persons per household	no.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5
Average bedrooms per dwelling	no.	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
Rental costs					
Mean weekly public rent(b)	$	58.0	61.0	77.0	76.0
Mean weekly private rent(b)	$	125.0	144.0	160.0	158.0
Rent cost index(c)(d)	index	106.6	115.9	122.3	125.5
Housing assistance					
Public sector rental stock(e)	'000	36.5	32.6	31.7	31.5
Applicants on housing waiting list(e)	'000	13.3	14.3	13.4	12.7
New applicants accommodated(e)	'000	7.4	4.6	4.4	4.1
Income units receiving rental assistance(f)	'000	87.9	91.7	91.0	87.4

(a) All data are at year ended 30 June.
(b) Source: ABS data available on request, *Survey of Income and Housing.*
(c) Data refer to capital city (Perth) only.
(d) Source: *Consumer Price Index, Australia,* cat. no. 6401.0.
(e) Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision, *Report on Government Services 2005,* <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/2005/attachments/attachment16.pdf>, downloaded 7 December 2005.
(f) Source: Department of Family and Community Services administrative data.

APPENDIX INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

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