

COMPANY PROFITS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 21 MAY 1998

MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES**TREND ESTIMATES**

	Mar 98 \$m	% change Dec 97 to Mar 98	% change Mar 97 to Mar 98
Company profits before			
Income tax	5 980	1.8	3.6
Income tax & net interest	7 679	3.4	6.3
Income tax, net interest & depreciation	12 030	2.4	6.2

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Mar 98 \$m	% change Dec 97 to Mar 98	% change Mar 97 to Mar 98
Company profits before			
Income tax	6 214	16.3	11.5
Income tax & net interest	8 013	16.5	15.0
Income tax, net interest & depreciation	12 295	8.6	10.6

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS**TREND ESTIMATES**

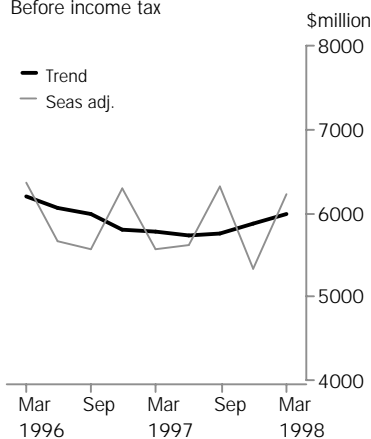
- The provisional trend estimate of company profits before income tax, for companies with more than 30 employees is \$5,980m.
- After falling from a peak of \$6,424m in September 1995, the trend in company profits before income tax has risen slightly for each of the past three quarters. Whether this trend will continue depends on the seasonally adjusted estimates for future quarters. See page 2 for further information.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

- The seasonally adjusted estimate of company profits before income tax in the December 1997 quarter was affected by businesses taking account of abnormal items in Mining, Transport, Services to finance and insurance, and Other services. This is a major reason for the increase in the March 1998 quarter estimate.
- The Manufacturing industry estimate was relatively unchanged this quarter following three quarters of steady growth.
- In general, businesses did not nominate recent developments in Asia as a major reason for changes in profits, however there is emerging evidence of some impact in the Wholesale trade industry.

Company profits

Before income tax



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Sue Phillips on 02 9268 4357, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 1998	20 August 1998
September 1998	19 November 1998



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This issue contains revisions to the December 1997 quarter as a result of responses received or revised after publication of the previous issue. It also contains minor revisions to the previous nine quarters due to corrections to data and some late responses. The revisions affect all industries in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms.



SAMPLING ERRORS

Standard errors for estimates contained in this publication are shown on pages 14–15.

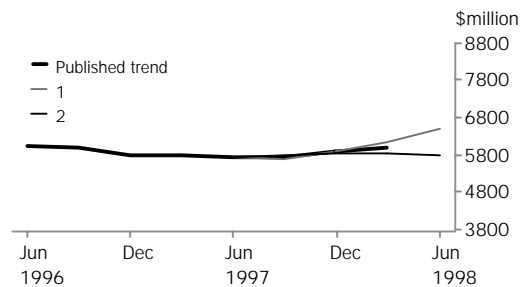


TREND REVISIONS

The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when seasonally adjusted estimates for subsequent quarters become available. The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

- 1** The June 1998 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before income tax is higher than the March 1998 seasonally adjusted estimate by 10.0%.
- 2** The June 1998 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before income tax is lower than the March 1998 seasonally adjusted estimate by 10.0%.

The percentage change of 10.0% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last decade, has been 10.0%.

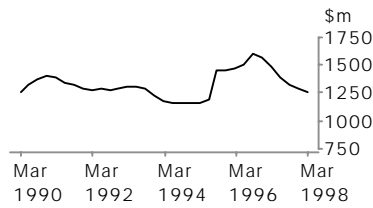


An increase of 10.0% in seasonally adjusted company profits before income tax in the June 1998 quarter would show a gradual increase in the trend estimate from the September 1997 quarter. A fall of this magnitude would result in the trend being revised to reflect a relatively flat trend.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

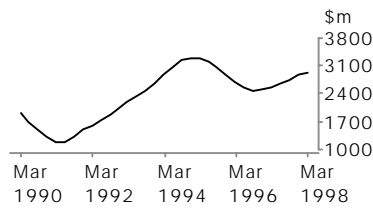
COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX BY INDUSTRY: Trend

MINING



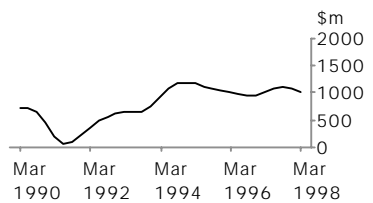
The Mining industry trend estimate has declined from a peak in the September 1996 quarter. The trend estimate has been affected by businesses reporting large abnormal losses in the December 1997 quarter.

MANUFACTURING



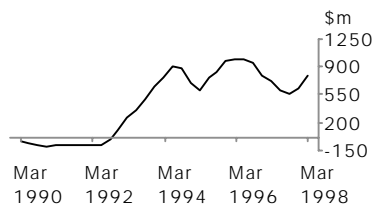
The Manufacturing industry trend estimate increased by 2.5%, continuing the increases recorded since the December 1996 quarter and approaching the peak level reported in the March 1995 quarter.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL



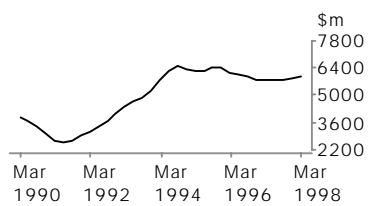
The Retail trade industry trend estimate continues to be relatively flat. The Wholesale trade industry trend estimate has declined in the last two quarters.

OTHER SELECTED INDUSTRIES(a)



The trend estimate for Other selected industries peaked in the June 1996 quarter. The trend has increased in the last two quarters largely driven by improvements in Construction and Other services.

TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES



The All Industries trend estimate has risen slightly for each of the past three quarters.

(a) This includes Construction, Transport & storage, Services to finance & insurance, Property & business services, and Other services.

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX : All series

Quarter	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax and net interest paid</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL			
1994-95			
March	9 479	6 276	5 013
June	10 004	6 713	5 408
1995-96			
September	11 982	8 550	7 283
December	12 004	8 510	7 213
March	10 620	6 993	5 546
June	10 146	6 300	4 794
1996-97			
September	11 658	7 750	6 037
December	12 993	8 929	7 526
March	10 187	6 122	4 820
June	10 376	6 218	4 672
1997-98			
September	12 546	8 308	6 841
December	12 651	8 143	6 668
March	11 219	6 977	5 391
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1994-95			
March	10 446	7 238	6 039
June	10 713	7 413	6 206
1995-96			
September	11 382	7 955	6 784
December	10 897	7 418	6 020
March	11 590	7 956	6 353
June	11 068	7 211	5 660
1996-97			
September	11 026	7 119	5 568
December	11 764	7 786	6 284
March	11 118	6 969	5 575
June	11 363	7 155	5 622
1997-98			
September	11 850	7 653	6 319
December	11 316	6 878	5 345
March	12 295	8 013	6 214
TREND ESTIMATES			
1994-95			
March	10 654	7 424	6 233
June	10 779	7 466	6 275
1995-96			
September	11 064	7 671	6 424
December	11 281	7 770	6 379
March	11 368	7 714	6 188
June	11 424	7 629	6 048
1996-97			
September	11 437	7 522	5 984
December	11 317	7 297	5 805
March	11 329	7 225	5 773
June	11 350	7 150	5 741
1997-98			
September	11 480	7 207	5 760
December	11 751	7 429	5 873
March	12 030	7 679	5 980

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, Depreciation and Interest: **Original**

Period	<i>Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation</i>	<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax and net interest paid</i>	<i>Interest paid</i>	<i>Interest received</i>	<i>Net interest paid</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1994-95	42 831	12 817	30 014	11 233	6 435	4 799	25 216
1995-96	44 752	14 400	30 352	11 323	5 807	5 516	24 836
1996-97	45 215	16 196	29 019	13 816	7 852	5 964	23 055
1994-95							
March	9 479	3 204	6 276	2 740	1 477	1 263	5 013
June	10 004	3 291	6 713	3 247	1 942	1 305	5 408
1995-96							
September	11 982	3 432	8 550	2 620	1 354	1 266	7 283
December	12 004	3 495	8 510	2 702	1 405	1 296	7 213
March	10 620	3 627	6 993	2 867	1 419	1 447	5 546
June	10 146	3 846	6 300	3 135	1 629	1 507	4 794
1996-97							
September	11 658	3 908	7 750	3 380	1 667	1 713	6 037
December	12 993	4 064	8 929	3 399	1 996	1 403	7 526
March	10 187	4 065	6 122	3 217	1 916	1 301	4 820
June	10 376	4 158	6 218	3 820	2 274	1 546	4 672
1997-98							
September	12 546	4 238	8 308	3 283	1 816	1 467	6 841
December	12 651	4 508	8 143	3 616	2 140	1 475	6 668
March	11 219	4 242	6 977	3 464	1 878	1 586	5 391

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, By Broad Industry: All series

	Mining	Manu- facturing	Cons- truction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Services to finance and insurance	Property and business services	Other services	Total
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL										
1994-95	4 668	13 011	500	2 758	1 933	649	916	- 340	1 121	25 216
1995-96	5 950	10 771	619	2 546	1 629	780	602	-10	1 949	24 836
1996-97	5 862	10 126	728	2 338	1 623	918	253	- 164	1 370	23 055
1995-96										
December	1 468	3 327	205	656	786	328	104	- 137	476	7 213
March	1 418	2 401	146	597	217	246	85	-5	440	5 546
June	1 459	1 765	119	632	277	-46	254	-25	360	4 794
1996-97										
September	1 574	2 599	156	581	274	158	155	-71	610	6 037
December	1 743	3 046	193	643	784	415	105	139	458	7 526
March	1 476	2 152	112	456	221	334	6	- 154	217	4 820
June	1 069	2 328	267	658	345	11	-13	-78	85	4 672
1997-98										
September	1 759	3 026	182	926	240	268	61	-32	410	6 841
December	1 066	3 357	177	652	840	282	- 226	165	355	6 668
March	1 316	2 514	218	481	211	337	31	-44	327	5 391
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
1994-95	4 665	13 027	524	2 758	1 942	651	915	- 338	1 133	25 277
1995-96	5 963	10 637	621	2 548	1 626	873	602	-11	1 957	24 817
1996-97	5 844	10 117	756	2 337	1 617	918	251	- 165	1 373	23 048
1995-96										
December	1 492	2 905	155	598	410	260	88	- 292	405	6 020
March	1 394	2 759	176	712	390	186	143	68	526	6 353
June	1 587	1 973	148	638	350	194	217	55	497	5 660
1996-97										
September	1 458	2 392	147	512	373	156	143	-68	455	5 568
December	1 768	2 654	149	592	408	235	105	-19	391	6 284
March	1 450	2 467	135	572	398	275	55	-77	300	5 575
June	1 168	2 603	325	661	438	251	-52	-1	228	5 622
1997-98										
September	1 629	2 794	173	858	325	269	47	-27	251	6 319
December	1 078	2 917	138	600	438	100	- 220	5	289	5 345
March	1 295	2 882	261	598	379	279	77	34	408	6 214
TREND ESTIMATES										
1994-95	4 681	13 047	532	2 705	1 946	663	885	- 309	1 176	25 326
1995-96	5 897	11 183	620	2 527	1 629	848	594	- 154	1 896	25 040
1996-97	6 043	10 163	596	2 430	1 578	932	302	- 127	1 385	23 303
1995-96										
December	1 463	2 880	160	641	423	231	139	-45	487	6 379
March	1 469	2 697	163	649	382	208	146	-24	499	6 188
June	1 511	2 547	157	624	365	180	173	0	491	6 048
1996-97										
September	1 598	2 482	147	574	373	187	163	-1	460	5 984
December	1 568	2 495	142	547	399	223	100	-50	380	5 805
March	1 485	2 549	152	612	407	264	50	-47	301	5 773
June	1 392	2 637	155	697	399	258	-11	-30	245	5 741
1997-98										
September	1 321	2 757	164	719	391	220	-54	-13	255	5 760
December	1 289	2 872	185	681	390	201	-60	8	307	5 873
March	1 252	2 943	214	610	391	206	-32	20	377	5 980

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, By Broad Industry-Percentage Changes: **All series(a)**

Period	Mining	Manu- facturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Services to finance and insurance	Property and business services	Other services	Total
ORIGINAL										
1994-95	-3.4	18.5	36.1	68.0	17.0	-16.2	7.8	n.p.	54.4	15.6
1995-96	27.5	-17.2	23.8	-7.7	-15.7	20.2	-34.2	97.2	73.9	-1.5
1996-97	-1.5	-6.0	17.6	-8.1	-0.3	17.6	-58.0	n.p.	-29.7	-7.2
1995-96										
December	-8.5	1.5	37.0	-0.6	125.3	30.3	-34.1	-187.0	-29.3	-1.0
March	-3.4	-27.8	-28.7	-9.0	-72.4	-25.0	-18.8	96.5	-7.6	-23.1
June	2.9	-26.5	-18.7	5.7	27.6	-118.7	200.1	-423.4	-18.3	-13.6
1996-97										
September	7.9	47.3	31.5	-8.0	-1.3	442.9	-38.9	-180.1	69.7	25.9
December	10.7	17.2	23.3	10.7	186.5	162.8	-32.2	297.0	-24.9	24.7
March	-15.3	-29.3	-41.9	-29.2	-71.8	-19.4	-94.8	-210.3	-52.6	-36.0
June	-27.6	8.2	138.8	44.4	56.0	-96.7	-340.8	49.1	-60.8	-3.1
1997-98										
September	64.6	29.9	-31.7	40.7	-30.3	n.p.	561.8	58.9	382.6	46.4
December	-39.4	11.0	-2.8	-29.6	249.3	5.1	-469.1	612.9	-13.4	-2.5
March	23.5	-25.1	23.1	-26.2	-74.9	19.5	113.9	-126.9	-7.9	-19.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
1994-95	-3.5	17.5	41.6	68.4	15.0	-16.4	7.8	n.p.	53.0	14.9
1995-96	27.8	-18.3	18.5	-7.6	-16.3	34.1	-34.2	96.7	72.8	-1.8
1996-97	-2.0	-4.9	21.7	-8.3	-0.6	5.1	-58.2	n.p.	-29.8	-7.1
1995-96										
December	0.2	-3.2	9.0	-0.2	-14.1	11.5	-43.3	-285.8	-23.7	-11.3
March	-6.6	-5.0	13.4	19.1	-4.8	-28.5	62.6	123.3	29.9	5.5
June	13.9	-28.5	-16.1	-10.4	-10.2	4.2	52.2	-18.8	-5.5	-10.9
1996-97										
September	-8.1	21.3	-0.5	-19.8	6.4	-19.5	-33.9	-222.8	-8.5	-1.6
December	21.3	10.9	1.0	15.6	9.5	51.0	-26.7	72.5	-14.0	12.8
March	-18.0	-7.0	-9.1	-3.4	-2.4	16.8	-48.0	-313.0	-23.3	-11.3
June	-19.5	5.5	141.0	15.5	10.0	-8.6	-194.8	98.4	-24.0	0.8
1997-98										
September	39.5	7.3	-46.9	29.8	-25.8	6.8	191.3	n.p.	10.1	12.4
December	-33.9	4.4	-20.4	-30.0	34.8	-62.9	-564.8	118.5	15.2	-15.4
March	20.2	-1.2	90.1	-0.3	-13.4	179.8	134.8	589.7	41.3	16.3
TREND ESTIMATES										
1994-95	-3.7	18.1	49.1	59.4	13.5	-13.2	2.6	-502.3	56.3	14.4
1995-96	26.0	-14.3	16.5	-6.6	-16.3	27.9	-32.9	50.2	61.3	-1.1
1996-97	2.5	-9.1	-3.9	-3.8	-3.1	10.0	-49.2	17.5	-27.0	-6.9
1995-96										
December	0.6	-5.8	15.0	4.7	-7.7	0.8	1.6	46.7	16.0	-0.7
March	0.4	-6.3	2.1	1.2	-9.7	-10.3	4.8	47.3	2.4	-3.0
June	2.9	-5.6	-3.7	-3.8	-4.4	-13.4	18.6	99.8	-1.6	-2.3
1996-97										
September	5.7	-2.5	-6.8	-8.0	2.1	4.3	-5.4	n.p.	-6.4	-1.1
December	-1.9	0.5	-2.9	-4.8	7.0	19.0	-38.7	n.p.	-17.4	-3.0
March	-5.3	2.1	6.8	11.9	2.1	18.4	-50.5	5.7	-20.8	-0.6
June	-6.3	3.4	1.6	14.0	-2.2	-2.5	-122.4	36.3	-18.5	-0.6
1997-98										
September	-5.1	4.6	6.1	3.0	-2.0	-14.4	-389.4	56.7	4.2	0.3
December	-2.5	4.2	13.1	-5.3	-0.1	-8.7	-10.4	159.0	20.3	2.0
March	-2.9	2.5	15.4	-10.4	0.1	2.5	46.1	168.1	22.6	1.8

(a) The percentages in this table have been calculated from a series defined to the nearest \$1000 and may vary slightly from calculations based on the published series in Table 3 which have been rounded to the nearest \$million.

COMPANY PROFITS, By Broad Industry: Original

<i>Period</i>	<i>Mining</i>	<i>Manu- facturing</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Wholesale trade</i>	<i>Retail trade</i>	<i>Transport and storage</i>	<i>Services to finance and insurance</i>	<i>Property and business services</i>	<i>Other services</i>	Total
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX										
1994-95	4 668	13 011	500	2 758	1 933	649	916	- 340	1 121	25 216
1995-96	5 950	10 771	619	2 546	1 629	780	602	-10	1 949	24 836
1996-97	5 862	10 126	728	2 338	1 623	918	253	- 164	1 370	23 055
1995-96										
December	1 468	3 327	205	656	786	328	104	- 137	476	7 213
March	1 418	2 401	146	597	217	246	85	-5	440	5 546
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1996-97										
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December	1 743	3 046	193	643	784	415	105	139	458	7 526
March	1 476	2 152	112	456	221	334	6	- 154	217	4 820
June	1 069	2 328	267	658	345	11	-13	-78	85	4 672
1997-98										
September	1 759	3 026	182	926	240	268	61	-32	410	6 841
December	1 066	3 357	177	652	840	282	- 226	165	355	6 668
March	1 316	2 514	218	481	211	337	31	-44	327	5 391
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX & NET INTEREST PAID										
1994-95	5 169	14 641	607	3 597	2 185	836	1 002	507	1 469	30 014
1995-96	6 499	12 631	683	3 305	1 940	1 059	825	703	2 708	30 352
1996-97	6 502	12 263	826	2 930	1 961	1 263	78	467	2 728	29 019
1995-96										
December	1 594	3 784	222	845	860	404	121	83	595	8 510
March	1 549	2 837	161	788	306	315	180	188	669	6 993
June	1 634	2 291	131	827	356	19	285	114	643	6 300
1996-97										
September	1 732	3 198	181	763	369	241	205	146	914	7 750
December	1 903	3 538	217	792	878	516	74	219	791	8 929
March	1 628	2 624	135	587	292	433	- 115	-25	561	6 122
June	1 238	2 903	293	789	422	73	-86	126	462	6 218
1997-98										
September	1 926	3 496	201	1 024	381	408	-58	49	882	8 308
December	1 268	3 902	194	761	1 025	428	- 275	24	816	8 143
March	1 488	2 957	233	596	381	460	-27	70	820	6 977
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, NET INTEREST PAID & DEPRECIATION										
1994-95	8 113	19 834	957	4 466	2 931	1 481	1 435	1 310	2 303	42 831
1995-96	9 897	18 029	989	4 269	2 724	2 148	1 247	1 415	4 035	44 752
1996-97	10 003	18 171	1 200	3 879	2 890	2 560	515	1 334	4 662	45 215
1995-96										
December	2 423	5 127	298	1 085	1 059	661	221	252	878	12 004
March	2 398	4 190	239	1 023	510	586	284	373	1 018	10 620
June	2 543	3 649	218	1 063	555	329	410	303	1 074	10 146
1996-97										
September	2 597	4 661	264	978	614	541	293	347	1 363	11 658
December	2 758	5 041	296	1 052	1 102	813	197	448	1 286	12 993
March	2 501	4 107	230	815	524	778	-1	200	1 034	10 187
June	2 147	4 363	410	1 034	651	427	26	339	979	10 376
1997-98										
September	2 836	5 019	306	1 279	632	748	55	253	1 417	12 546
December	2 407	5 422	300	1 009	1 290	766	- 209	251	1 417	12 651
March	2 432	4 463	336	857	646	790	44	301	1 350	11 219

COMPANY PROFITS, By Detailed Manufacturing Industry: **Original**

Period	Food, beverages and tobacco	Textile, clothing, footwear and leather	Wood and paper products	Printing, publishing and recorded media	Petroleum, coal, chemicals and assoc. products	Non- metallic mineral products	Metal products	Machinery and equipment	Other manu- facturing	Total manu- facturing
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX										
1994-95	2 252	469	983	1 411	2 165	1 132	2 364	2 170	64	13 011
1995-96	2 291	269	731	1 127	2 114	754	1 656	1 774	56	10 771
1996-97	2 285	203	625	1 098	1 925	602	1 502	1 842	42	10 126
1995-96										
December	880	77	205	340	598	225	560	423	19	3 327
March	513	42	158	218	499	160	456	343	12	2 401
June	295	49	98	229	541	129	-47	459	12	1 765
1996-97										
September	632	53	160	266	374	189	439	478	9	2 599
December	842	54	167	324	569	153	528	396	13	3 046
March	440	55	141	198	427	89	451	348	2	2 152
June	371	40	158	310	556	172	84	621	17	2 328
1997-98										
September	635	86	188	287	556	201	578	455	40	3 026
December	1 015	70	206	374	684	174	438	371	26	3 357
March	700	42	140	257	408	163	500	308	-4	2 514
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX & NET INTEREST PAID										
1994-95	2 746	594	1 162	1 535	2 443	1 225	2 510	2 325	101	14 641
1995-96	2 813	395	971	1 359	2 387	892	1 829	1 897	88	12 631
1996-97	2 834	310	926	1 286	2 250	764	1 806	2 026	63	12 263
1995-96										
December	1 025	109	261	386	667	259	602	448	26	3 784
March	627	74	219	270	561	190	501	377	18	2 837
June	433	82	161	317	611	178	-5	497	19	2 291
1996-97										
September	762	82	224	310	458	230	600	518	14	3 198
December	989	84	238	372	641	194	556	446	19	3 538
March	552	82	218	245	510	128	498	385	7	2 624
June	531	62	246	358	640	213	152	678	22	2 903
1997-98										
September	743	110	251	332	623	245	651	496	45	3 496
December	1 157	93	263	415	742	217	586	398	30	3 902
March	807	65	219	297	466	199	560	343	1	2 957
PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX, NET INTEREST PAID & DEPRECIATION										
1994-95	3 782	795	1 542	1 807	3 441	1 663	3 469	3 191	146	19 834
1995-96	3 902	595	1 402	1 691	3 438	1 359	2 840	2 663	139	18 029
1996-97	3 982	497	1 441	1 670	3 437	1 253	2 910	2 869	113	18 171
1995-96										
December	1 289	157	370	467	917	380	857	650	39	5 127
March	895	123	332	351	825	303	755	574	31	4 190
June	715	134	263	404	870	295	249	689	30	3 649
1996-97										
September	1 056	132	345	401	745	355	877	724	24	4 661
December	1 278	129	364	467	934	316	858	660	33	5 041
March	838	126	345	344	816	257	776	584	20	4 107
June	810	109	386	457	942	324	398	901	36	4 363
1997-98										
September	1 037	157	375	426	927	370	948	720	58	5 019
December	1 444	138	381	500	1 048	339	906	623	43	5 422
March	1 113	108	336	379	756	330	860	567	14	4 463

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents preliminary estimates of company profits based on Management accounts for selected industries in Australia. The series have been compiled from data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its quarterly Survey of Company Profits.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The survey is designed to measure profits, depreciation and net interest paid of companies (i.e. incorporated business enterprises) in the private sector in Australia.

3 The data in this publication relate to companies employing more than 30 people.

4 The scope of the survey:

- includes the following industries (Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification [ANZSIC] Divisions, Subdivisions and Groups):

Mining (Division B)

Manufacturing (Division C)

Food, beverages and tobacco (21)

Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather (22)

Wood and paper products (23)

Printing, publishing and recorded media (24)

Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated products (25)

Non-metallic mineral products (26)

Metal products (27)

Machinery and equipment (28)

Other manufacturing (29)

Construction (Division E)

Wholesale trade (Division F)

Retail trade (Division G)

Transport and storage (Division I)

Other financiers (733)

Financial asset investors (734)

Services to finance and insurance (75)

Property and business services (Division L)

Other services including

Electricity, gas and water supply (Division D)

Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (Division H)

Communication services (Division J)

Cultural and recreational services (Division P excluding 921 and 922)

Personal services (95)

- excludes the following industries

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (Division A)

Central bank and Deposit taking financiers (731–732)

Insurance (74)

Government administration and defence (Division M)

Education (Division N)

Health and community services (Division O)

Other services (96)

Private households employing staff (97)

- the scope excludes public sector business units (i.e. all departments, authorities and other organisations owned and/or controlled by the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments). Primary producer marketing boards are classified as public sector and are also excluded.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN

5 Prior to the September quarter 1996 survey, the survey frames and samples were revised annually to ensure that they remained representative of the survey population. From the September quarter 1996 survey, the survey frames and samples are being revised each quarter. The aim is to further improve the quality of the survey estimates by selecting a sample which will be more representative of the survey population. Additionally, the timing of sample selection will now be consistent with other ABS surveys. This will lead to greater consistency when comparing data across these surveys.

6 With these revisions to the sample, some of the business units from the sampled sector are rotated out of the survey and are replaced by others, to spread the reporting workload equitably. The rate of rotation under quarterly sample selection is slightly higher than one quarter of the previous annual rate of rotation.

7 In the period between sample selections, there are changes to the survey frame. For example, businesses cease operating and businesses are newly established. The ABS produces an estimate of the contribution expected from new businesses each quarter, while allowance is made for the number of businesses in the sample which ceased trading during the quarter. For most quarters, the introduction of the quarterly sample selection reduces the size of the adjustments needed to account for new and ceased businesses.

8 For the Survey of Company Profits, which excludes businesses employing 30 or less people from published estimates, the effect of the adjustment for new businesses is relatively minor as the majority of new businesses tend to be small in size and outside the scope of this survey. The incidence of new, larger businesses commencing operation is less common. The adjustment for new businesses represents about 0.25% of the total estimate of company profits before income tax.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

9 The survey is conducted by mail on a quarterly basis. Forms are sent to a sample of approximately 3,800 business units employing more than 30 people. The sample is selected from the ABS central register of businesses and is stratified by industry, number of employees and, from the March 1997 quarter, by State/Territory. All business units with over 250 employees and/or a known large profit/loss are included in the sample.

10 Respondents are asked to provide data on the same basis as their own management accounts. Where a particular business unit does not respond in a given survey, an estimate is substituted. Revisions may be made to these estimates if data are provided subsequently from those businesses. Aggregates are calculated from all data using the *number raised* estimation technique. Data are edited both at individual business unit level and at aggregate level.

STATISTICAL UNIT

11 The survey uses the management unit as the statistical unit. The management unit is the highest-level accounting unit within a business, having regard to industry homogeneity, for which accounts are maintained. In nearly all cases it coincides with the legal entity owning the business (i.e. company, etc). In the case of large diversified businesses, however, there may be more than one management unit, each coinciding with a 'division' or 'line of business'. A division or line of business is recognised where separate and comprehensive accounts are compiled for it. Prior to 1989, the survey used a different statistical unit. Further details are available on request.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

CLASSIFICATION BY INDUSTRY

12 The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) has been developed for use in both countries for the production and analysis of industry statistics. It replaces the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) and the New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (NZSIC).

13 For more information, users are referred to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 1993*, ANZSIC, ABS Cat. No. 1292.0 and New Zealand Cat No. 19.005.0092.

14 In order to classify company profits by industry, each statistical unit (as defined above) is classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) industry in which it *mainly* operates.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

15 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised.

16 In the seasonal adjustment of the series, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects (arising from the varying length of each month and the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in the month). Adjustment has also been made for the influence of Easter which may affect the March and June quarter estimates.

17 Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (e.g. a change in interest rates). Particular care should be taken in interpreting quarterly movements in the adjusted figures in this publication, especially for detailed industry estimates.

18 Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after the adjustment for seasonal variation.

19 Seasonal factors have been revised concurrently since September quarter 1997 to take account of the latest original data. A more detailed review is conducted annually. The nature of the seasonal adjustment process is such that the magnitude of some revisions resulting from each adjustment may be quite significant, especially for data for more recent quarters. For this reason additional care should be exercised when interpreting movements in seasonally adjusted data for recent quarters.

20 The seasonally adjusted figures necessarily reflect the sampling and other errors to which the original figures are subject.

TREND ESTIMATES

21 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average (like all Henderson averages) is symmetric but, as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. Unlike the weights of the standard 7-term Henderson moving average, the weights employed here have been tailored to suit the particular characteristics of individual series. While the asymmetric weights enable trend estimates for recent quarters to be produced, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent three quarters as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 6252 6345.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

DESCRIPTION OF TERMS	<p>22 A description of the terms used in this publication is given below:</p> <p>A company An incorporated private sector business enterprise. For the purpose of the survey, branches of overseas companies operating in Australia are included but overseas branches of Australian companies are excluded.</p> <p>Company profits before income tax <i>Net operating profit or loss before income tax and extraordinary items</i> and is net of capital profits or losses and dividends received.</p> <p>Net interest paid Interest expense less any interest income. Interest received from or paid to overseas sources is included. The interest component of finance lease payments is also included.</p> <p>Depreciation of fixed assets This is as per management accounts and includes depreciation on equipment acquired under a finance lease.</p>
COMPARISON WITH OTHER ABS STATISTICS	<p>23 The series 'Company Profits Before Income Tax, Net Interest Paid and Depreciation' equates, broadly, with the national accounting series of 'Gross Operating Surplus of Private Corporate Trading Enterprises'. However, the two series are not directly comparable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include the profits of all companies whereas results from the Survey of Company Profits relate only to those companies with employment of more than 30 persons▪ the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include estimates for companies classified to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and community services industries▪ the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus are after deduction of the stock valuation adjustment which measures the portion of income attributable to holding gains or losses resulting from stock valuation practices▪ the national accounts' estimates of gross operating surplus include details relating to net third party insurance transfers, royalty and land rent payments▪ the national accounts' estimates incorporate data from other sources such as taxation data as well as information from the Survey of Company Profits.
UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS	<p>24 More detailed industry data from this survey are available on request, the cost for such a service being dependent upon the amount of data requested.</p>
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p>25 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product</i> (5206.0)▪ <i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i>, (5625.0)▪ <i>State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure</i> (5646.0)▪ <i>Stocks and Sales, Selected Industries, Australia</i> (5629.0)▪ <i>Australian Business Expectations</i> (5250.0)▪ <i>Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia</i> (8140.0). <p>26 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the <i>Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia</i> (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a <i>Release Advice</i> (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and the Release Advice are available from any ABS office.</p>
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	<p>n.p. not available for publication</p>

S T A N D A R D E R R O R S

INTRODUCTION

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample drawn from units in the surveyed population. Because the entire population is not surveyed, the published estimates are subject to sampling error. The most common way of quantifying such sampling error is to calculate the standard error for the published estimate or statistic.

LEVEL ESTIMATES

To illustrate, let us say that the published level estimate for company profits before income tax is \$5,900m and the calculated standard error in this case is \$140m. The standard error is then used to interpret the level estimate of \$5,900m.

For instance, the standard error of \$140m indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real value falls within the range \$5,760m to \$6,040m ($\$5,900\text{m} \pm \140m)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real value falls within the ranges \$5,620m and \$6,180m ($\$5,900\text{m} \pm \280m)

The real value in this case is the result we would obtain if we could enumerate the total population.

The following table shows the standard errors for national quarterly level estimates. These standard errors are based on a smoothed average of profits estimates.

	Company profits before income tax \$m	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid \$m	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation \$m
Mining	5	10	12
Manufacturing			
Food, beverages and tobacco	13	13	20
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	3	4	4
Wood and paper products	12	14	18
Printing, publishing and recorded media	16	17	19
Petroleum, coal, chemical and assoc. products	33	35	40
Non-metallic mineral products	11	10	11
Metal products	13	13	15
Machinery and equipment	34	34	36
Other manufacturing	11	11	12
Total manufacturing	59	60	68
Construction	28	36	53
Wholesale trade	64	62	65
Retail trade	30	29	35
Transport and storage	43	44	53
Services to finance and insurance	38	91	41
Property and business services	77	72	82
Other services	30	30	35
Total	139	161	159

STANDARD ERRORS

MOVEMENT ESTIMATES

The following example illustrates how to use the standard error to interpret a movement estimate. Let us say that one quarter the published level estimate for company profits before income tax is \$5,900m, and the next quarter the published level estimate is \$6,300m. In this example the calculated standard error for the movement estimate is \$145m. The standard error is then used to interpret the published movement estimate of +\$400m.

For instance, the standard error of \$145m indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real movement over the two quarter period falls within the range \$255m to \$545m ($\$400m \pm \$145m$)
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real movement falls within the range \$110m to \$690m ($\$400m \pm \$290m$)

The following table shows the standard errors for national quarterly movement estimates. These standard errors are based on a smoothed average of profits estimates.

	Company profits before income tax \$m	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid \$m	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation \$m
Mining	9	12	16
Manufacturing			
Food, beverages and tobacco	15	17	26
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	4	4	5
Wood and paper products	14	16	19
Printing, publishing and recorded media	17	18	20
Petroleum, coal, chemical and assoc. products	32	32	36
Non-metallic mineral products	10	9	10
Metal products	16	16	19
Machinery and equipment	37	38	40
Other manufacturing	14	14	15
Total manufacturing	62	62	69
Construction	35	36	51
Wholesale trade	67	66	68
Retail trade	32	31	33
Transport and storage	43	46	56
Services to finance and insurance	31	71	34
Property and business services	77	65	72
Other services	40	39	55
Total	145	153	161

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