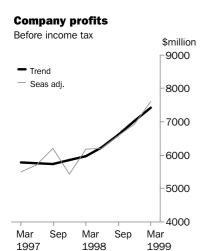


### **COMPANY PROFITS**

**AUSTRALIA** 

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 20 MAY 1999



## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES	Mar 1999 \$m	% change Dec 1998 t Mar 1999	% change o Mar 1998 to Mar 1999
Company profits before			
Income tax	7 437	6.0	24.4
Income tax & net interest	9 303	4.7	20.6
Income tax, net interest & depreciation	13 890	3.3	14.2

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Mar 1999 \$m	% change Dec 1998 ( Mar 1999	% change to Mar 1998 to Mar 1999
Company profits before			
Income tax	7 626	10.0	23.6
Income tax & net interest	9 498	6.6	19.7
Income tax, net interest & depreciation	14 149	5.5	15.1

### MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

#### TREND ESTIMATES

- The provisional trend estimate for company profits before income tax for companies with more than 30 employees is \$7,437m, which is 24% higher than for the March quarter last year.
- Trend estimates for company profits before income tax have been increasing since September quarter 1997, with the growth rate at about 6% over the past three quarters.

#### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

- Seasonally adjusted estimates rose 10% to \$7,626m in the March quarter. This followed increases of 6% and 5% in the preceding two quarters.
- The main contributors to the seasonally adjusted increase this quarter were Other Services (up \$209m or 32%) and Retail Trade (up \$165m or 27%). The increase in Other Services was dominated by profits made by large businesses in the utilities and accommodation industries.
- All other industries, except Services to Finance and Insurance and Transport and Storage also reported increases in seasonally adjusted terms this quarter.

■ For further information about these and related statistics, contact Lazaros Georgiadis on Sydney
02 9268 4176, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

#### NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

June 1999 RELEASE DATE

June 1999 19 August 1999

September 1999 18 November 1999

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This issue contains revisions to the December 1998 quarter as a result of late responses. The revisions affect all industries in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms.

SAMPLING ERRORS

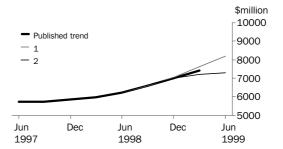
Standard errors for estimates contained in this publication are shown on pages 14-15.

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 1999 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before income tax is higher than the March 1999 seasonally adjusted estimate by 10.0%.
- **2** The June 1999 seasonally adjusted estimate for company profits before income tax is lower than the March 1999 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% in seasonally adjusted company profits before income tax in the June 1999 quarter would show an increase of 10% in the trend estimate from the March 1999 quarter. A fall of this magnitude would result in the trend being revised to reflect a decrease of 2.1% in the June 1999 quarter.

W. McLennan Australian Statistician

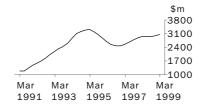
#### COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX BY INDUSTRY: Trend

MINING



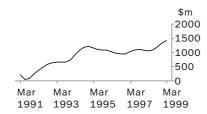
The trend estimate for Mining continued the fall which started in the March quarter 1997. The March quarter 1999 estimate is 11% lower than the March quarter 1998 estimate.

MANUFACTURING



Trend estimates for manufacturing have been growing by less than 2% per quarter for the past year.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL



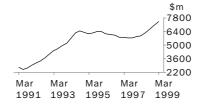
Trend estimates for the Wholesale industry have been alternating between small positive and negative movements since the September quarter 1997. Trend estimates for the Retail industry have been growing very strongly over 1998-99, with the latest trend estimate more than double the corresponding March quarter 1998 estimate.

OTHER SELECTED INDUSTRIES(a)



Trend estimates for Other Selected industries have been growing strongly over the past year, with the current estimate being 157% higher than the corresponding estimate for 1998. The Other Services sector was mainly responsible for this increase.

TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES



The All industires trend estimate has been increasing since the September quarter 1997.

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

#### COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX: All series

	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation	Company profits before income tax and net interest paid	Company profits before income tax
Quarter	\$m	\$m	\$m
• • • • • • • • • • • •	ODI	OINAI	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
1995-1996	OKI	GINAL	
March	10 620	6 993	5 546
June	10 146	6 300	4 794
1996-1997			
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
1997-1998			
September	12 546	8 308	6 841
December	12 651	8 143	6 668
March	11 310	7 039	5 464
June	11 717	7 132	5 154
1998-1999	40.504	0.634	= 440
September	13 501	8 931	7 148
December	14 894	10 360	8 381
March	12 997	8 397	6 702
	SEASONAL	LY ADJUSTED	
1995-1996			
March	11 542	7 889	6 303
June	11 126	7 262	5 759
1996-1997			
September	10 992	7 094	5 495
December	11 798	7 853	6 399
March	11 059	6 894	5 501
June	11 396	7 194	5 718
1997-1998			
September	11 803	7 613	6 218
December	11 361	6 921	5 423
March	12 290	7 934	6 172
June	12 816	8 213	6 205
1998-1999	10 770	0.057	6 502
September	12 778	8 257	6 583
December March	13 410 14 149	8 910 9 498	6 934 7 626
IVIAICII	14 143	9 498	7 626
	TREND E	ESTIMATES	
1995-1996			
March	11 358	7 701	6 195
June	11 431	7 634	6 070
1996-1997			
September	11 440	7 532	6 000
December	11 317	7 308	5 831
March	11 321	7 222	5 788
June	11 350	7 153	5 753
1997-1998			
September	11 437	7 171	5 742
December	11 777	7 428	5 858
March	12 167	7 713	5 978
June	12 581	8 069	6 219
1998-1999			
September	13 021	8 486	6 614
December	13 452	8 889	7 017
March	13 890	9 303	7 437
• • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and		Company profits before income tax and net	Interest	Interest	Net interest	Company profits before
	depreciation	Depreciation	interest paid	paid	received	paid	income tax
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • •
1995-1996	44 752	14 400	30 352	11 323	5 807	5 516	24 836
1996-1997	45 215	16 196	29 019	13 816	7 852	5 964	23 055
1997-1998	48 225	17 602	30 622	14 346	7 851	6 495	24 127
1995-1996							
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
1996-1997							
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
1997-1998							
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	11 310	4 271	7 039	3 445	1 870	1 575	5 464
June	11 717	4 585	7 132	4 003	2 024	1 978	5 154
1998-1999							
September	13 501	4 570	8 931	4 154	2 372	1 783	7 148
December	14 894	4 534	10 360	4 115	2 137	1 979	8 381
March	12 997	4 600	8 397	3 800	2 105	1 695	6 702

	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
• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	0	RIGINAL	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	•••••	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •
1995-1996	5 950	10 771	619	2 546	1 629	780	602	-10	1 949	24 836
1996-1997 1997-1998	5 862 5 207	10 126 11 627	728 819	2 338 2 889	1 623 1 577	918 923	253 - 177	- 164 -40	1 370 1 303	23 055 24 127
1996-1997	4.740	0.040	100	0.40	704	445	405	100	450	7.500
December March	1 743 1 476	3 046 2 152	193 112	643 456	784 221	415 334	105 6	139 - 154	458 217	7 526 4 820
June	1 069	2 328	267	456 658	345	334 11	-13	- 154 -78	21 <i>1</i> 85	4 820 4 672
1997-1998	1 009	2 320	201	000	340	11	-13	-10	60	4 072
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	1 478	2 475	219	471	208	323	15	-53	328	5 464
June	904	2 768	240	840	289	50	-28	- 120	210	5 154
<b>1998-1999</b> September	1 722	3 057	206	693	400	272	97	95	606	7 148
December	955	3 494	283	654	1 158	522	386	213	716	8 381
March	1 187	2 701	247	643	436	397	165	104	822	6 702
• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •		SEASON	ALLY ADJU	STED	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •
1995-1996	6 034	10 637	615	2 542	1 626	870	605	-10	1 957	24 876
1996-1997	5 927	10 111	747	2 332	1 617	915	255	- 164	1 374	23 113
1997-1998	5 132	11 646	846	2 886	1 501	921	<b>- 176</b>	-44	1 304	24 017
1996-1997										
December	1 912	2 625	152	608	409	235	83	-17	391	6 399
March	1 414	2 480	123	576	395	268	58	-87	274	5 501
June	1 277	2 591	316	628	447	242	-36	10	243	5 718
1997-1998										
September	1 437	2 835	186	869	316	288	54	-31	263	6 218
December	1 196	2 876	142	621	441	98	- 251	10	291	5 423
March	1 405	2 855	237	591	369	255	71	13	376	6 172
June	1 093	3 080	281	806	376	279	-50	-36	374	6 205
<b>1998-1999</b> September	1 393	2 872	211	638	524	296	89	102	459	6 583
December	1 082	2 982	228	626	608	336	361	56	654	6 934
March	1 123	3 124	266	761	773	329	218	169	863	7 626
• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • •		• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •
				TRENI	) ESTIMAT	ŁS				
1995-1996	5 941	11 185	617	2 526	1 628	847	595	- 154	1 896	25 080
1996-1997	6 103	10 167	601	2 429	1 577	933	304	- 127	1 385	23 372
1997-1998	5 148	11 512	821	2 757	1 562	899	- 190	1	1 288	23 797
1996-1997										
December	1 602	2 490	143	552	398	223	95	-51	377	5 831
March	1 513	2 548	151	610	408	261	51	-48	295	5 788
June <b>1997-1998</b>	1 387	2 643	158	691	400	258	-5	-28	249	5 753
September	1 308	2 753	166	711	390	219	-56	-8	259	5 742
December	1 303	2 876	190	698	377	197	-81	-4	301	5 858
March	1 280	2 935	222	678	379	216	-70	-2	340	5 978
June	1 256	2 947	243	671	415	266	17	15	389	6 219
1998-1999										
September	1 225	2 966	242	684	502	308	139	51	497	6 614
December	1 169	3 002	237	681	627	323	229	98	652	7 017
March	1 138	3 053	244	690	744	336	294	133	806	7 437



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

Property Services to Transport finance and Manu-Wholesale Retail and and business Other Mining facturing Period Construction trade trade storage insurance services services Total ORIGINAL 1995-1996 27.5 -17.2 23.8 -7.7 -15.7 20.2 -34.2 97.2 73.9 -1.5 1996-1997 -1.5-6.017.6 -8.1 -0.317.6 -58.0n.p. -29.7-7.2 1997-1998 -11.214.8 12.5 23.6 -2.9 0.5 - 170.0 75.3 -4.9 4.7 1996-1997 December 10.7 17.2 23.3 10.7 186.5 162.8 -32.2297.0 -24.924.7 March -15.3 -29.3 -41.9 -29.2 -71.8-19.4-94.8- 210.3 -52.6-36.0 June -27.68.2 138.8 44.4 56.0 -96.7 - 340.8 49.1 -60.8-3.1 1997-1998 September 64.6 29.9 -31.7 40.7 -30.3 561.8 58.9 382.6 46.4 n.p. -39.4-29.6249.3 612.9 December 11.0 -2.85.1 -469.1-13.4-2.538.7 -26.3 -27.7 -75.3 106.8 March 23.6 14.5 - 132.3 -7.5 -18.1 - 125.4 June -38.811.8 9.5 78.5 39.2 -84.6-281.7-36.2-5.7 1998-1999 September 90.5 10.4 -14.2-17.538.2 448.9 448.2 179.2 188.9 38.7 December -44.514.3 37.6 -5.7189 7 92.0 298 7 124.1 18.3 17.3 March 24.3 -22.7-12.9 -1.7-62.4 -23.9 -57.2 -51.0 14.7 -20.0 SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 28.7 -18.3 34.2 97.1 72.8 1995-1996 18.0 -7.7-16.4-34.0 -1.7 1996-1997 -1.8-5.0 21.5 -8.3 -0.6 5.2 -57.9 -29.8 -7.1 n.p. 1997-1998 15.2 23.8 -7.10.6 - 169.2 73.2 -13.413.3 -5.1 3.9 1996-1997 76.5 44.4 8.7 -2.516.9 12.1 37.4 -44.2-16.016.5 December March -26.0 -5.6-19.2-5.2 -3.514.2 -29.9- 422.9 -29.9 -14.0 June -9.74.5 156.7 9.1 13.2 -9.8-161.7111.7 -11.53.9 1997-1998 38.3 -29.4 September 12.6 9.4 -41.119.4 250.7 - 405.4 8.4 8.7 December -16.81.4 -23.6-28.6 39.6 -66.2-563.1131.5 10.6 -12.8March 17.5 -0.766.7 -4.9 -16.3 162.0 128.2 32.9 29.1 13.8 June -22.27.9 18.8 36.5 1.9 9.4 -170.6-374.2-0.30.5 1998-1999 27.4 -6.8 -25.1 -20.9 39.5 5.8 278.0 384.7 22.5 6.1 September December -22.33.8 8.1 -1.815.9 13.6 306.3 \_44 7 42.5 5.3 March 3.8 4.7 16.7 21.5 27.3 -2.0 -39.7198.7 32.1 10.0 TREND ESTIMATES 1995-1996 26.7 -14.335.7 -6.6 -16.427.9 -32.850.2 61.3 -0.72.7 -9.1 -2.5 -3.8 -3.1 10.1 -48.9 17.6 -27.0 -6.8 1996-1997 -15.713.2 36.5 13.5 -1.0 -3.6 - 162.6 100.8 -7.0 1.8 1997-1998 1996-1997 December 0.1 0.2 -3.9\_4 2 7.3 17.0 -41.4n.p. -18.6-2.810.4 2.5 -46.1March -5.6 2.3 5.1 16.8 5.2 -21.7-0.7 -8.3 13.3 -108.942.8 -15.8June 3.7 4.9 -1.9-1.2-0.61997-1998 September -5.6 4.2 5.1 2.9 -2.6 -14.970.0 4.0 -0.2 n.p. December -0.44.5 14.4 -1.9 -3.2 -9.9 -43.155.8 16.4 2.0 -1.8 2.0 16.5 -2.9 0.6 9.6 13.2 45.3 13.0 March 2.0 June -1.80.49.5 -1.09.3 23.0 124.0 843.8 14.3 4.0 1998-1999 240.6 27.9 -2.50.6 -0.32.0 21.0 15.8 728.3 6.3 September December -4.51.2 -2.3 -0.4 24.8 4.6 64.9 94.7 31.0 6.1 March -2.7 1.7 3.1 1.3 18.7 4.1 28.5 34.9 23.6 6.0

<sup>(</sup>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.

	Mining	Manu– facturing	Construction	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
• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	PI	ROFITS BEFO	RE INCOI	ME TAX	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •
1995-1996	5 950	10 771	619	2 546	1 629	780	602	-10	1 949	24 836
1996-1997	5 862	10 126	728	2 338	1 623	918	253	- 164	1 370	23 055
1997-1998	5 207	11 627	819	2 889	1 577	923	<b>- 177</b>	-40	1 303	24 127
1996-1997										
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
1997-1998										
September	1 759	3 026	182	926	240	268	61	-32	410	6 841
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March	1 478	2 475	219	471	208	323	15	-53	328	5 464
June	904	2 768	240	840	289	50	-28	- 120	210	5 154
1998-1999	4 700	2.057	200	602	400	070	0.7	05	600	7.440
September	1 722	3 057	206	693	400	272	97	95	606	7 148
December March	955	3 494	283	654	1 158	522	386	213	716	8 381
March	1 187	2 701	247	643	436	397	165	104	822	6 702
• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	PROFITS BEF	ORE INCOME	E TAX & N	ET INTERES	ΓPAID	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •
1995-1996	6 499	12 631	683	3 305	1 940	1 059	825	703	2 708	30 352
1996-1997	6 502	12 263	826	2 930	1 961	1 263	78	467	2 728	29 019
1997-1998	5 961	13 670	876	3 328	2 239	1 532	- 388	137	3 267	30 622
4000 4007										
1996-1997	4 000	0.500	047	700	070	F40	7.4	040	704	0.000
December	1 903	3 538	217	792	878	516	74	219	791	8 929
March	1 628	2 624	135 293	587 780	292 422	433 73	– 115 –86	-25 126	561 462	6 122 6 218
June <b>1997-1998</b>	1 238	2 903	293	789	422	13	-00	126	402	0 210
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	1 632	2 933	234	584	372	452	-48	58	821	7 039
June	1 135	3 340	247	958	461	245	-8	6	748	7 132
1998-1999	1 100	0010	211	555	101	210	G	· ·	1 10	. 102
September	1 987	3 426	215	834	562	477	135	240	1 055	8 931
December	1 203	4 055	301	760	1 346	768	307	371	1 249	10 360
March	1 401	3 172	250	722	600	616	124	279	1 233	8 397
• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	PROFITS	S BEFORE INC	OME TAX NI	ET INTERI	FST PAID & I	DEPRECIATION OF THE PROPERTY O	ON.	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •
			SEI SILE INO	J 1777, 141				~··		
1995-1996	9 897	18 029	989	4 269	2 724	2 148	1 247	1 415	4 035	44 752
1996-1997	10 003	18 171	1 200	3 879	2 890	2 560	515	1 334	4 662	45 215
1997-1998	10 032	19 743	1 308	4 350	3 301	2 987	-66	1 057	5 514	48 225
1996-1997										
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
1997-1998										
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	2 604	4 417	341	846	647	781	23	298	1 354	11 310
June	2 185	4 884	361	1 217	732	693	66	255	1 326	11 717
1998-1999										
September	3 013	5 082	329	1 084	836	824	219	488	1 625	13 501
December	2 190	5 631	410	1 029	1 649	1 154	392	649	1 790	14 894
March	2 384	4 733	357	1 020	870	1 017	254	556	1 806	12 997

	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
Period	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	PR	OFITS BEFO	RE INCOM	IE TAX	• • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • •	• • • • • • • •
1995-1996	2 291	269	731	1 127	2 114	754	1 656	1 774	56	10 771
1995-1996	2 285	203	625	1 098	1 925	602	1 502	1 842	42	10 171
1997-1998	2 947	232	694	1 185	2 246	723	1 989	1 537	73	11 627
1996-1997										
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
1997-1998										
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	41	123	231	426	160	485	312	-3	2 475
June	598	35	177	293	580	189	488	398	10	2 768
1998-1999										
September	817	35	212	334	470	211	574	376	28	3 057
December	936	71	266	436	598	278	540	352	18	3 494
March	744	46	214	269	551	235	389	248	5	2 701
• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	PRO	FITS BEFO	RE INCOME	TAX & NE	T INTERE	ST PAID	• • • • • • •	• • • • • •	• • • • • • • •
1995-1996	2 813	395	971	1 359	2 387	892	1 829	1 897	88	12 631
1995-1996	2 834	310	926	1 286	2 250	764	1 806	2 026	63	12 263
1997-1998	3 454	327	959	1 360	2 537	880	2 386	1 676	92	13 670
4000 4007										
1996-1997	000	0.4	220	270	644	104	EEC	446	10	2 520
December	989	84 82	238	372	641	194	556	446	19	3 538
March June	552 531	62	218 246	245 358	510 640	128 213	498 152	385 678	7 22	2 624 2 903
1997-1998	331	02	240	336	040	215	132	076	22	2 303
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	805	65	201	271	500	196	548	346	2	2 933
June	750	59	244	341	672	221	600	436	16	3 340
1998-1999										
September	843	57	265	390	536	242	651	405	36	3 426
December	1 111	106	314	487	673	320	613	403	28	4 055
March	872	66	260	317	622	268	450	300	16	3 172
• • • • • • • • • • • •						CT DAID 0	DEDDEC	IATION	• • • • • •	• • • • • • • •
	Р	ROFITS BEF	ORE INCC	, IVI⊏ IAX, IVI	LIINIEKE	SI PAID &	DEPREC	IATION		
1995-1996	3 902	595	1 402	1 691	3 438	1 359	2 840	2 663	139	18 029
1996-1997	3 982	497	1 441	1 670	3 437	1 253	2 910	2 869	113	18 171
1997-1998	4 659	506	1 437	1 717	3 735	1 375	3 591	2 577	145	19 743
1996-1997										
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
1997-1998										
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	1 112	108	317	353	787	326	832	567	15	4 417
June	1 066	103	365	438	972	340	905	666	29	4 884
1998-1999										
September	1 175	100	459	496	827	354	952	666	52	5 082
December	1 441	146	417	597	975	436	911	664	44	5 631
March	1 207	104	362	419	918	384	747	556	35	4 733

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.

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.
- **9** The survey is conducted by mail on a quarterly basis. Forms are sent to a sample of approximately 4,000 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.
- **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.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

STATISTICAL UNIT

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* (Cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 6252 6076.

DESCRIPTION OF TERMS

**22** A description of the terms used in this publication is given below:

**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.

Company profits before Net operating profit or loss before income tax and extraordinary items and is net **income tax** of capital profits or losses and dividends received.

**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.

**Depreciation of fixed assets** This is as per management accounts and includes depreciation on equipment acquired under a finance lease.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER ABS STATISTICS

- 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:
- 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

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.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- **25** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:
  - Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product (Cat. no. 5206.0)
  - Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, (Cat. no. 5625.0)
  - State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure (Cat. no. 5646.0)
  - Inventories and Sales, Selected Industries, Australia (Cat. no. 5629.0)
  - Australian Business Expectations (Cat. no. 5250.0)
  - Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia (Cat. no. 8140.0).

**26** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of* Publications and Products, Australia (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Release Advice (Cat. no. 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.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

not available for publication n.p.

#### STANDARD ERRORS

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 ( $\$5,900m \pm \$140m$ )
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real value falls within the ranges \$5,620m and \$6,180m (\$5,900m ± \$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	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid	Company profits before income tax, net interest paid and depreciation
	\$m	\$m	\$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	Company profits before income tax, net	Company profits before income tax, net interest
	before income tax	interest paid	paid and depreciation
	\$m	\$m	\$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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