

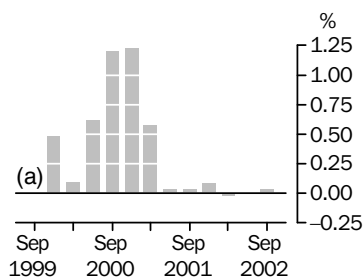


BUSINESS INDICATORS

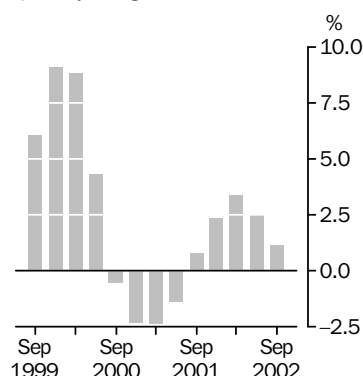
AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 2 DEC 2002

Inventories (chain volume measures)

Trend estimates
Quarterly change

Company gross operating profits

Trend estimates
Quarterly change

KEY FIGURES

	Jun Qtr 02 to Sep Qtr 02	Sep Qtr 01 to Sep Qtr 02
	%	%
Income from sales of goods & services (Chain vol. meas.)		
Manufacturing		
Trend	0.6	3.9
Seasonally Adjusted	0.6	4.1
Wholesale trade		
Trend	1.1	6.3
Seasonally Adjusted	2.5	9.6
Inventories (Chain vol. meas.)		
Trend	0.0	0.1
Seasonally Adjusted	0.3	0.2
Company profits before income tax		
Trend	3.0	21.2
Seasonally Adjusted	6.9	26.8
Company gross operating profits		
Trend	1.2	9.8
Seasonally Adjusted	4.7	17.8
Wages and salaries		
Original	1.5	5.5

KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend estimate (in volume terms) for inventories for the September quarter 2002 is \$92,958m, and has remained relatively flat for the latest six quarters. The trend estimates (in volume terms) for income from sales of goods and services by Manufacturing and Wholesale trade have increased in the latest seven quarters. The trend estimate (in current price terms) for company gross operating profits for companies with 20 or more employees increased by 1.2% in the September quarter 2002. Company profits before income tax increased by 3.0%, continuing the increases of the previous four quarters.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- The seasonally adjusted estimate (in volume terms) for inventories has increased by 0.3% in the September quarter 2002, with Retail trade being the major contributor. Wholesale trade income from sales of goods and services increased by 2.5% in the September quarter 2002 after also increasing in the previous quarter. Manufacturing income from sales of goods and services increased 0.6%, continuing the increases in the previous three quarters.
- Wholesale trade was the major contributor to the 4.7% increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate (in current price terms) for company gross operating profits.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Mark Wise on Sydney 02 9268 4241.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

December 2002

3 March 2003

March 2003

2 June 2003

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CHANGES TO NEXT ISSUE

In April 2000, the ABS released an information paper, *ABS Statistics and The New Tax System* (cat. no. 1358.0), which foreshadowed changes in the statistical infrastructure supporting the compilation of ABS economic series. The changes will allow better use of data available from the taxation system to improve efficiency, coverage and sample design.

This publication presents the last release of estimates from the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey compiled using the old infrastructure.

In the next release of this publication, estimates for the latest period will be compiled on the new basis. To facilitate comparisons over time, the historical series in that release will be adjusted so that all estimates are presented on the new basis.

An information paper, *Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics [Arising from The New Tax System]* (cat. no. 1372.0), was released on 6 May 2002. That paper described the changes in more detail and provided information about the treatment of statistical impacts of the changes across ABS economic series.

For further information, contact Mark Wise on (02) 9268 4241 or <mark.wise@abs.gov.au>.

REVISIONS

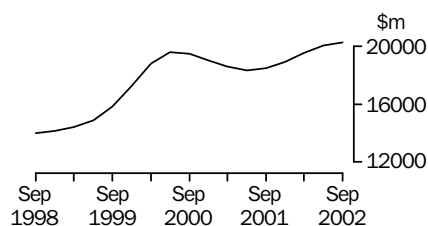
As is usually the case after the initial release of a quarter's estimates, revisions have been made to the June quarter 2002 estimates as a result of responses received or revised after the publication of the previous issue. The net effect of these revisions has been to adjust the original, current price estimates for: total inventories by +0.2%; Manufacturing income from sales of goods and services by +0.1%; company gross operating profits by -0.8%; and wages and salaries by -0.2%. Revisions have been applied to most series in this publication and the impact can vary at the industry and state level. In a small number of cases, revisions have also been made to estimates for prior quarters.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

INDUSTRY TREND ESTIMATES

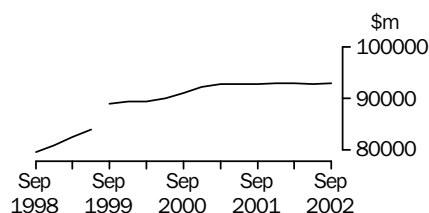
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimates for both company gross operating profits and company profits before income tax have increased for the latest five quarters and, in each case, are at the highest levels recorded.

INVENTORIES

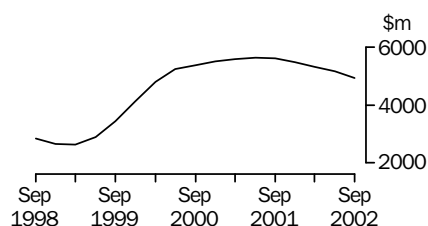


The trend estimate for total inventories (in volume terms) has remained relatively unchanged from the revised June quarter 2002 estimate.

Note: Break in series from Sep qtr 1999. Change in scope from Mar qtr 2001. See Technical Note.

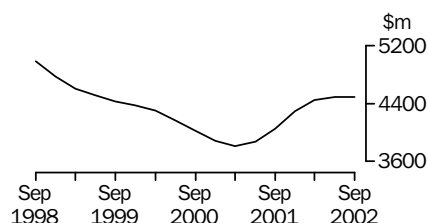
MINING

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits has decreased for the latest five quarters after a period of sustained growth. Company profits before income tax has also decreased in the latest five quarters.

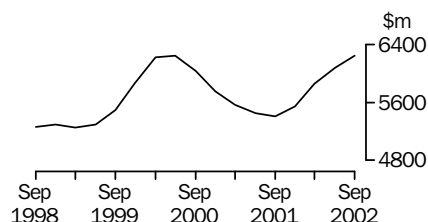
INVENTORIES



The trend estimate for inventories (in volume terms) has remained relatively flat in the latest two quarters after five quarters of strong growth.

MANUFACTURING

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS

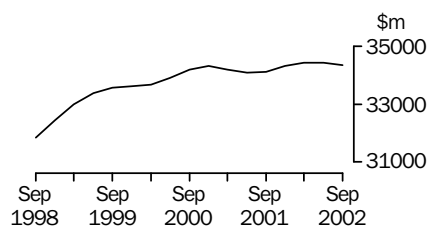


The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits has increased 2.7% in the current quarter following increases in the previous three quarters. Company profits before income tax has remained flat following three quarters of steady growth.

INDUSTRY TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

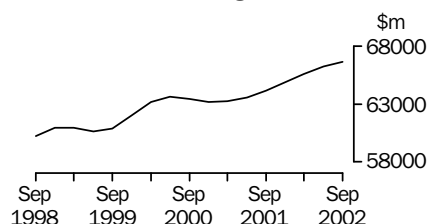
MANUFACTURING *continued*

INVENTORIES



The trend estimate for inventories (in volume terms) decreased slightly in the September quarter 2002 after being relatively flat in the previous quarter.

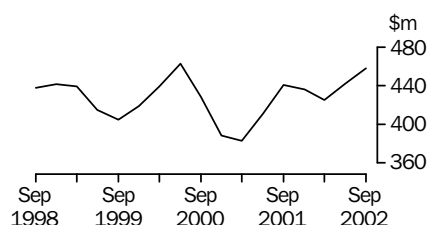
INCOME, From sales of goods and services



The trend estimate for income from sales of goods and services (in volume terms) continued to increase, following increases in the previous six quarters.

CONSTRUCTION

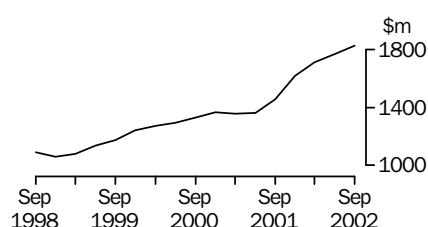
COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits estimates has increased steadily over the latest two quarters. Company profits before income tax has recorded slightly stronger growth over the same period.

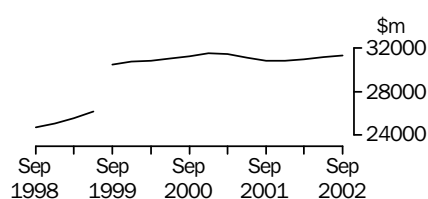
WHOLESALE TRADE

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits increased strongly in September quarter 2002, following increases in the previous four quarters. Company profits before income tax has continued to record strong growth and is more than double the level recorded twelve months earlier.

INVENTORIES



The trend estimate for inventories (in volume terms) has recorded steady growth in the latest three quarters after decreasing in the previous four quarters.

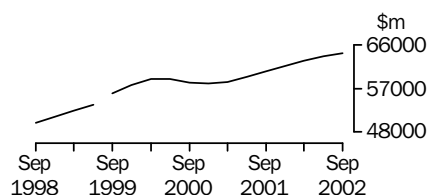
Note: Break in series. See Technical Note.

INDUSTRY TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

WHOLESALE TRADE

continued

INCOME, From sales of goods and services

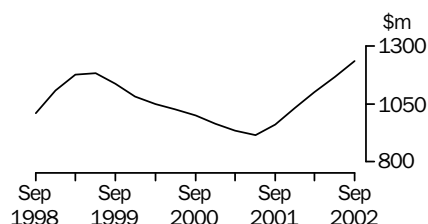


Note: Break in series. See Technical Note.

The trend estimate for income from sales of goods and services (in volume terms) continued to grow, up 1.1% in September quarter 2002, though the increase was weaker than those in the previous five quarters.

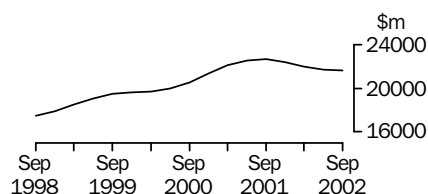
RETAIL TRADE

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits recorded steady growth in September quarter 2002, following increases recorded in the previous four quarters. Company profits before income tax has recorded increases in the latest six quarters.

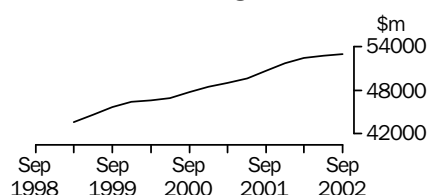
INVENTORIES



Note: Change in scope from Mar qtr 2001.

The trend estimate for inventories (in volume terms) decreased 0.5% in September quarter 2002, continuing the decreases in the previous three quarters.

INCOME, From sales of goods and services

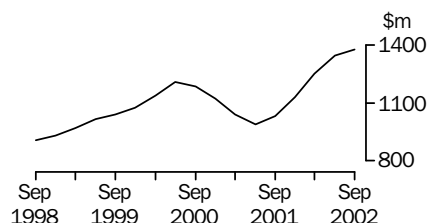


Note: CVM series commenced in Mar qtr 1999.

The trend estimate for income from sales of goods and services (in volume terms) has increased this quarter, as has been the case in each quarter since the commencement of the series in September quarter 1999, although the rate of growth has slowed in the latest three quarters.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS

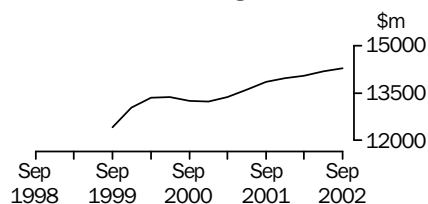


The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits increased in September quarter 2002, continuing increases from the previous four quarters. The trend estimate for company profits before income tax recorded strong growth and is more than double the level recorded twelve months earlier.

INDUSTRY TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE *continued*

INCOME, From sales of goods and services

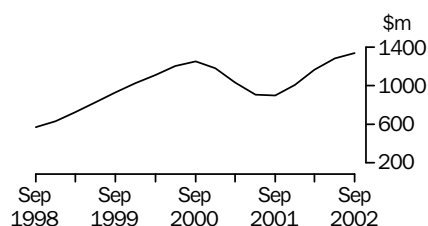


Note: CVM series commenced in Sep qtr 1999.

The trend estimate for income from sales of goods and services (in volume terms) increased in September quarter 2002 following increases recorded in the previous six quarters.

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

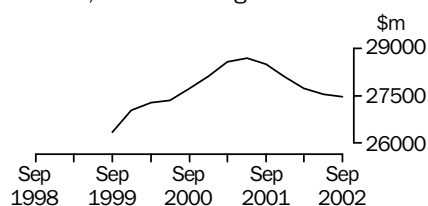
COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS



The current price trend estimate for company gross operating profits increased steadily in the September quarter 2002 following strong growth in the previous three quarters.

Company profits before income tax has rebounded from a negative level in March quarter 2002, to record steady growth in the latest two quarters.

INCOME, From sales of goods and services



Note: CVM series commenced in Sep qtr 1999.

The trend estimate for income from sales of goods and services (in volume terms) has continued to decline since the peak in June quarter 2001, though the rate of decline has been slowing in the latest two quarters.

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INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES, Chain volume measures(a)

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(b)
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
2000-01								
September	na	64 653	na	58 683	45 904	13 280	27 185	na
December	na	65 779	na	59 214	53 529	13 884	28 909	na
March	12 592	59 227	19 266	56 360	46 777	12 659	26 966	28 094
June	12 656	63 933	19 488	59 594	48 671	13 547	30 196	28 495
2001-02								
September	13 040	64 936	19 903	59 967	48 707	14 060	27 946	29 930
December	13 470	67 363	20 353	65 139	56 976	14 499	28 797	29 592
March	13 337	62 247	19 198	59 581	50 179	13 588	26 398	27 905
June	13 819	66 176	20 284	63 221	51 989	13 753	28 211	29 087
2002-03								
September	14 545	67 601	20 685	65 878	50 994	14 775	27 565	29 907
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2000-01								
September	na	63 650	na	57 812	47 651	13 048	27 360	na
December	na	63 022	na	57 047	48 865	13 385	28 407	na
March	nya	62 886	nya	59 263	48 820	13 160	28 335	nya
June	nya	64 033	nya	59 729	49 545	13 776	29 154	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	63 971	nya	59 188	50 561	13 815	28 126	nya
December	nya	64 520	nya	62 955	52 012	13 979	28 297	nya
March	nya	66 076	nya	62 474	52 371	14 126	27 738	nya
June	nya	66 154	nya	63 291	52 923	13 985	27 238	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	66 572	nya	64 853	52 935	14 517	27 742	nya
TREND								
2000-01								
September	na	63 447	na	58 215	47 720	13 264	27 723	na
December	na	63 159	na	57 980	48 467	13 228	28 122	na
March	nya	63 241	nya	58 419	49 007	13 369	28 585	nya
June	nya	63 550	nya	59 416	49 681	13 618	28 706	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	64 138	nya	60 535	50 654	13 847	28 503	nya
December	nya	64 859	nya	61 643	51 733	13 979	28 101	nya
March	nya	65 603	nya	62 773	52 424	14 061	27 728	nya
June	nya	66 250	nya	63 666	52 820	14 190	27 551	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	66 666	nya	64 337	53 026	14 279	27 475	nya

na not available

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(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000-2001.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES, Chain volume measures(a)—Percentage change from previous quarter

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(b)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ORIGINAL								
2000-01								
September	na	2.1	na	-1.6	-0.3	-0.1	-4.2	na
December	na	1.7	na	0.9	16.6	4.5	6.3	na
March	na	-10.0	na	-4.8	-12.6	-8.8	-6.7	na
June	0.5	7.9	1.2	5.7	4.1	7.0	12.0	1.4
2001-02								
September	3.0	1.6	2.1	0.6	0.1	3.8	-7.4	5.0
December	3.3	3.7	2.3	8.6	17.0	3.1	3.0	-1.1
March	-1.0	-7.6	-5.7	-8.5	-11.9	-6.3	-8.3	-5.7
June	3.6	6.3	5.7	6.1	3.6	1.2	6.9	4.2
2002-03								
September	5.3	2.2	2.0	4.2	-1.9	7.4	-2.3	2.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2000-01								
September	na	0.3	na	-3.1	1.7	-3.5	-0.1	na
December	na	-1.0	na	-1.3	2.5	2.6	3.8	na
March	na	-0.2	na	3.9	-0.1	-1.7	-0.3	na
June	nya	1.8	nya	0.8	1.5	4.7	2.9	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	-0.1	nya	-0.9	2.0	0.3	-3.5	nya
December	nya	0.9	nya	6.4	2.9	1.2	0.6	nya
March	nya	2.4	nya	-0.8	0.7	1.1	-2.0	nya
June	nya	0.1	nya	1.3	1.1	-1.0	-1.8	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	0.6	nya	2.5	0.0	3.8	1.9	nya
TREND								
2000-01								
September	na	-0.4	na	-1.2	1.6	-0.9	1.3	na
December	na	-0.5	na	-0.4	1.6	-0.3	1.4	na
March	na	0.1	na	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.6	na
June	nya	0.5	nya	1.7	1.4	1.9	0.4	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	0.9	nya	1.9	2.0	1.7	-0.7	nya
December	nya	1.1	nya	1.8	2.1	1.0	-1.4	nya
March	nya	1.1	nya	1.8	1.3	0.6	-1.3	nya
June	nya	1.0	nya	1.4	0.8	0.9	-0.6	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	0.6	nya	1.1	0.4	0.6	-0.3	nya

na not available

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(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000-2001.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES, Current prices

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(a)
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
2000-01								
September	na	63 782	na	57 509	45 325	13 172	26 927	na
December	na	65 734	na	59 601	53 002	13 883	28 916	na
March	12 478	59 300	19 309	56 030	47 043	12 707	26 899	27 853
June	13 313	64 776	19 573	60 721	49 509	13 605	30 516	28 432
2001-02								
September	13 564	65 833	20 112	59 923	49 666	14 157	28 604	29 689
December	13 516	68 451	20 663	64 621	58 433	14 612	29 706	29 531
March	13 189	63 286	19 639	58 613	51 806	13 703	27 250	28 387
June	13 619	67 469	20 932	61 883	53 706	13 929	29 233	29 654
2002-03								
September	14 505	69 210	21 594	63 918	52 923	15 096	28 864	30 431
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2000-01								
September	na	62 777	na	56 660	47 042	12 943	27 091	na
December	na	62 968	na	57 407	48 375	13 385	28 405	na
March	nya	62 935	nya	58 792	49 089	13 211	28 255	nya
June	nya	64 869	nya	60 867	50 389	13 836	29 453	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	64 859	nya	59 220	51 547	13 911	28 778	nya
December	nya	65 522	nya	62 547	53 332	14 088	29 181	nya
March	nya	67 203	nya	61 463	54 059	14 246	28 624	nya
June	nya	67 520	nya	62 059	54 661	14 165	28 216	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	68 194	nya	63 158	54 928	14 834	29 040	nya
TREND								
2000-01								
September	na	62 677	na	57 097	48 286	13 196	27 387	na
December	na	62 943	na	57 800	48 167	13 214	28 019	na
March	nya	63 510	nya	58 762	48 970	13 408	28 648	nya
June	nya	64 211	nya	59 881	50 383	13 691	29 013	nya
2001-02								
September	nya	65 036	nya	60 727	51 738	13 936	29 110	nya
December	nya	65 895	nya	61 309	53 082	14 080	28 921	nya
March	nya	66 758	nya	61 847	54 010	14 185	28 661	nya
June	nya	67 615	nya	62 362	54 623	14 385	28 604	nya
2002-03								
September	nya	68 279	nya	62 664	55 006	14 626	28 636	nya
(a) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.								

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INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY STATE(a), Current prices, original

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2000–01								
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	91 257	69 414	42 488	19 195	28 955	4 865	2 149	3 296
June	98 195	73 722	47 145	20 830	30 447	4 479	2 329	3 296
2001–02								
September	95 479	74 081	49 619	20 711	31 770	4 122	2 246	3 522
December	102 996	79 639	51 577	22 436	32 226	4 648	2 319	3 692
March	93 807	72 599	48 033	21 778	30 222	4 221	2 052	3 161
June	98 204	76 684	49 716	22 454	32 931	4 770	2 483	3 182
2002–03								
September	99 492	78 718	51 899	22 617	33 648	4 419	2 515	3 332

na not available

(a) State sales data should be used with caution. See paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Technical Note.

INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY STATE(a), Current prices, Original—Percentage change from previous quarter

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2000–01								
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
June	7.6	6.2	11.0	8.5	5.2	–7.9	8.4	0.0
2001–02								
September	–2.8	0.5	5.2	–0.6	4.3	–8.0	–3.6	6.9
December	7.9	7.5	3.9	8.3	1.4	12.8	3.3	4.8
March	–8.9	–8.8	–6.9	–2.9	–6.2	–9.2	–11.5	–14.4
June	4.7	5.6	3.5	3.1	9.0	13.0	21.0	0.7
2002–03								
September	1.3	2.7	4.4	0.7	2.2	–7.4	1.3	4.7

na not available

(a) State sales data should be used with caution. See paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Technical Note.

INVENTORIES, Chain volume measures(a)

	Mining	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade(b)	Other selected industries(c)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL						
2000-01						
September	4 037	34 206	30 629	20 640	1 175	90 592
December	3 802	33 991	33 365	21 901	1 302	94 313
March	3 948	34 471	31 724	22 244	1 267	93 631
June	3 714	34 029	30 528	22 042	1 238	91 551
2001-02						
September	4 080	34 296	29 620	22 788	1 096	91 880
December	4 326	33 825	32 856	22 720	1 076	94 803
March	4 535	34 652	31 792	22 319	1 112	94 410
June	4 410	34 700	30 818	20 948	1 031	91 907
2002-03						
September	4 516	34 440	31 048	21 801	1 064	92 872
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED						
2000-01						
September	3 997	34 071	31 449	20 691	1 220	91 302
December	3 804	34 591	31 716	21 573	1 244	92 844
March	3 943	34 158	31 304	21 927	1 262	92 539
June	3 758	33 911	31 183	22 671	1 262	92 786
2001-02						
September	4 035	34 137	30 728	22 840	1 132	92 872
December	4 326	34 451	30 799	22 366	1 027	92 969
March	4 531	34 325	31 039	21 998	1 113	93 006
June	4 466	34 568	31 129	21 559	1 049	92 771
2002-03						
September	4 463	34 259	31 391	21 844	1 103	93 060
TREND						
2000-01						
September	4 020	34 210	31 288	20 562	1 218	91 163
December	3 883	34 317	31 529	21 389	1 252	92 280
March	3 817	34 201	31 433	22 139	1 264	92 810
June	3 871	34 088	31 086	22 576	1 220	92 841
2001-02						
September	4 051	34 123	30 853	22 698	1 144	92 870
December	4 290	34 326	30 826	22 424	1 080	92 946
March	4 451	34 429	30 974	22 012	1 066	92 932
June	4 496	34 422	31 174	21 759	1 078	92 928
2002-03						
September	4 492	34 363	31 354	21 657	1 091	92 958

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000-2001.

(b) There was a change in scope for Retail trade inventories from March quarter 2001. See paragraph 20 of the Technical Note.

(c) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

INVENTORIES, Chain volume measures(a)—Percentage change from previous quarter

	Mining	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade(b)	Other selected industries(c)	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
ORIGINAL						
2000-01						
September	-4.0	0.5	1.4	8.7	-0.7	2.4
December	-5.8	-0.6	8.9	6.1	10.8	4.1
March	3.9	1.4	-4.9	1.6	-2.7	-0.7
June	-5.9	-1.3	-3.8	-0.9	-2.3	-2.2
2001-02						
September	9.8	0.8	-3.0	3.4	-11.4	0.4
December	6.0	-1.4	10.9	-0.3	-1.8	3.2
March	4.8	2.4	-3.2	-1.8	3.3	-0.4
June	-2.8	0.1	-3.1	-6.1	-7.2	-2.7
2002-03						
September	2.4	-0.7	0.7	4.1	3.2	1.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED						
2000-01						
September	-5.8	0.3	2.6	6.1	1.3	2.2
December	-4.8	1.5	0.8	4.3	1.9	1.7
March	3.6	-1.3	-1.3	1.6	1.5	-0.3
June	-4.7	-0.7	-0.4	3.4	0.0	0.3
2001-02						
September	7.4	0.7	-1.5	0.7	-10.3	0.1
December	7.2	0.9	0.2	-2.1	-9.3	0.1
March	4.7	-0.4	0.8	-1.6	8.5	0.0
June	-1.4	0.7	0.3	-2.0	-5.8	-0.3
2002-03						
September	-0.1	-0.9	0.8	1.3	5.2	0.3
TREND						
2000-01						
September	-3.6	0.9	0.9	3.1	1.7	1.2
December	-3.4	0.3	0.8	4.0	2.8	1.2
March	-1.7	-0.3	-0.3	3.5	0.9	0.6
June	1.4	-0.3	-1.1	2.0	-3.4	0.0
2001-02						
September	4.7	0.1	-0.8	0.5	-6.2	0.0
December	5.9	0.6	-0.1	-1.2	-5.6	0.1
March	3.7	0.3	0.5	-1.8	-1.3	0.0
June	1.0	0.0	0.6	-1.1	1.1	0.0
2002-03						
September	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	-0.5	1.3	0.0

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000-2001.

(b) There was a change in scope for Retail trade inventories from March quarter 2001. See paragraph 20 of the Technical Note.

(c) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

INVENTORIES, Current prices

	Mining	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade (a)	Other selected industries (b)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL						
2000-01						
September	4 085	33 818	29 851	20 251	1 145	89 151
December	3 903	33 996	33 109	21 626	1 274	93 908
March	3 931	34 728	31 962	22 229	1 283	94 133
June	3 675	34 635	31 251	22 274	1 280	93 116
2001-02						
September	4 009	34 795	30 420	23 193	1 129	93 546
December	4 192	33 961	32 902	23 367	1 108	95 531
March	4 283	34 654	32 060	23 095	1 147	95 239
June	4 276	34 689	31 011	21 747	1 079	92 802
2002-03						
September	4 464	34 614	31 448	22 702	1 141	94 369
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED						
2000-01						
September	4 044	33 676	30 589	20 301	1 188	89 798
December	3 906	34 587	31 647	21 302	1 216	92 658
March	3 926	34 398	31 607	21 912	1 278	93 121
June	3 719	34 502	32 159	22 909	1 306	94 595
2001-02						
September	3 965	34 652	31 514	23 247	1 166	94 544
December	4 193	34 578	31 188	23 003	1 056	94 018
March	4 278	34 346	33 065	22 763	1 148	95 600
June	4 331	34 519	33 097	22 383	1 097	95 427
2002-03						
September	4 412	34 463	35 446	22 746	1 182	98 249
TREND						
2000-01						
September	4 049	33 755	30 637	20 435	1 200	90 076
December	3 940	34 162	31 383	21 157	1 237	91 879
March	3 840	34 390	31 850	22 062	1 273	93 415
June	3 839	34 544	31 759	22 789	1 253	94 184
2001-02						
September	3 958	34 592	31 603	23 134	1 181	94 468
December	4 134	34 541	31 729	23 042	1 113	94 559
March	4 271	34 476	32 514	22 757	1 103	95 121
June	4 346	34 451	33 705	22 596	1 130	96 228
2002-03						
September	4 408	34 454	34 954	22 548	1 163	97 527

(a) There was a change of scope for Retail trade inventories from March quarter 2001. See paragraph 20 of the Technical Note.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX(a), Current prices

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries (b)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2000-01									
September	3 743	3 490	266	567	297	550	-80	1 414	10 243
December	3 232	3 061	370	1 098	779	580	394	823	10 338
March	3 099	2 663	95	594	239	226	76	313	7 305
June	3 828	2 449	374	837	-128	194	428	-508	7 473
2001-02									
September	3 688	3 012	280	-39	240	222	218	1 248	8 868
December	2 980	3 485	396	1 474	992	444	414	533	10 718
March	3 341	3 234	275	1 069	392	645	-148	89	8 897
June	3 012	3 407	323	1 311	309	387	-400	742	9 091
2002-03									
September	3 187	3 670	402	1 447	469	602	562	882	11 221
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2000-01									
September	3 318	3 309	269	625	456	561	-61	1 185	9 662
December	3 488	2 743	304	1 010	300	371	244	650	9 110
March	3 190	2 878	114	681	428	248	174	524	8 237
June	3 874	2 740	388	769	3	369	462	-314	8 291
2001-02									
September	3 330	2 864	284	39	399	233	236	1 014	8 399
December	3 186	3 000	326	1 378	514	235	262	353	9 254
March	3 471	3 638	330	1 152	579	672	-45	317	10 114
June	3 011	3 820	334	1 239	441	558	-370	930	9 963
2002-03									
September	2 901	3 332	408	1 542	629	611	582	642	10 647
TREND									
2000-01									
September	3 324	3 112	283	821	430	475	307	1 068	9 820
December	3 404	2 964	244	844	384	399	227	681	9 147
March	3 491	2 791	245	710	371	324	264	360	8 556
June	3 506	2 746	279	565	396	257	329	293	8 371
2001-02									
September	3 457	2 865	315	622	450	273	325	386	8 693
December	3 359	3 168	327	906	487	367	125	504	9 243
March	3 221	3 480	326	1 194	520	498	-34	573	9 778
June	3 109	3 621	356	1 367	541	602	6	627	10 229
2002-03									
September	2 981	3 619	378	1 405	563	643	164	784	10 537

(a) The scope for company profits before income tax estimates relates to companies with 20 or more employees. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

COMPANY PROFITS BEFORE INCOME TAX(a), Current prices—Percentage change from previous quarter

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(b)	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ORIGINAL									
2000-01									
September	20.0	18.7	-13.6	-39.7	-28.6	79.0	-118.3	54.0	9.1
December	-13.6	-12.3	38.8	93.8	162.6	5.4	np	-41.8	0.9
March	-4.1	-13.0	-74.4	-45.9	-69.4	-61.0	-80.7	-61.9	-29.3
June	23.5	-8.1	295.5	40.9	-153.7	-14.1	463.3	-262.2	2.3
2001-02									
September	-3.7	23.0	-25.1	-104.7	287.6	14.1	-49.1	345.4	18.7
December	-19.2	15.7	41.2	np	312.7	100.3	90.1	-57.3	20.9
March	12.1	-7.2	-30.6	-27.5	-60.5	45.1	-135.7	-83.3	-17.0
June	-9.8	5.4	17.6	22.7	-21.2	-40.0	-170.9	np	2.2
2002-03									
September	5.8	7.7	24.5	10.3	51.9	55.6	np	18.9	23.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2000-01									
September	2.6	0.4	-15.9	-28.6	-15.8	14.8	-113.0	6.2	-6.6
December	5.1	-17.1	13.0	61.7	-34.3	-33.8	498.2	-45.1	-5.7
March	-8.5	4.9	-62.7	-32.6	42.7	-33.1	-28.8	-19.4	-9.6
June	21.4	-4.8	242.0	12.9	-99.2	48.4	165.7	-159.9	0.7
2001-02									
September	-14.0	4.5	-26.9	-95.0	np	-36.9	-48.9	422.9	1.3
December	-4.3	4.8	14.9	np	28.7	0.9	10.9	-65.2	10.2
March	8.9	21.2	1.2	-16.4	12.7	186.4	-117.4	-10.2	9.3
June	-13.3	5.0	1.1	7.5	-24.0	-16.9	-712.7	193.4	-1.5
2002-03									
September	-3.6	-12.8	22.3	24.4	42.8	9.4	257.3	-31.0	6.9
TREND									
2000-01									
September	3.6	-3.2	-9.8	2.6	-15.0	-9.4	-31.6	-12.4	-4.1
December	2.4	-4.7	-13.8	2.8	-10.7	-16.1	-26.1	-36.2	-6.9
March	2.6	-5.9	0.4	-15.9	-3.3	-18.7	16.2	-47.1	-6.5
June	0.4	-1.6	13.8	-20.5	6.8	-20.8	24.8	-18.6	-2.2
2001-02									
September	-1.4	4.3	13.2	10.2	13.5	6.3	-1.4	31.7	3.8
December	-2.8	10.6	3.5	45.6	8.3	34.5	-61.5	30.6	6.3
March	-4.1	9.9	-0.1	31.8	6.7	35.9	-127.2	13.7	5.8
June	-3.5	4.1	9.1	14.5	4.1	20.9	118.3	9.4	4.6
2002-03									
September	-4.1	-0.1	6.2	2.8	4.0	6.8	np	25.0	3.0

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

(a) The scope for company profits before income tax estimates relates to companies with 20 or more employees. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS(a), Current prices

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(b)	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL									
2000-01									
September	6 285	6 412	442	1 083	771	1 305	1 307	3 078	20 679
December	4 929	5 830	451	1 603	1 504	1 263	1 309	2 863	19 748
March	5 434	5 474	239	1 257	739	937	893	2 456	17 428
June	5 816	4 986	545	1 353	397	964	998	2 582	17 640
2001-02									
September	5 720	5 739	369	1 315	746	866	736	2 921	18 411
December	5 510	5 821	528	1 919	1 565	1 382	1 217	2 680	20 623
March	5 137	5 506	365	1 578	960	1 300	1 024	2 591	18 462
June	4 871	5 878	408	1 595	876	1 047	1 351	2 659	18 684
2002-03									
September	5 615	6 358	501	2 076	1 078	1 481	1 285	3 126	21 520
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2000-01									
September	5 632	6 168	447	1 045	944	1 257	1 315	2 883	19 691
December	5 152	5 339	401	1 568	983	1 092	1 197	2 749	18 481
March	5 660	5 949	277	1 391	954	957	986	2 590	18 764
June	6 013	5 264	538	1 304	449	1 173	990	2 740	18 471
2001-02									
September	5 115	5 500	368	1 279	922	828	745	2 695	17 452
December	5 781	5 354	467	1 861	1 024	1 200	1 104	2 621	19 412
March	5 344	5 963	427	1 735	1 237	1 324	1 144	2 725	19 899
June	5 037	6 220	403	1 546	985	1 282	1 330	2 836	19 639
2002-03									
September	5 019	6 080	499	2 031	1 343	1 406	1 307	2 872	20 557
TREND									
2000-01									
September	5 391	6 038	429	1 333	1 001	1 185	1 253	2 873	19 503
December	5 513	5 757	389	1 370	965	1 124	1 185	2 750	19 053
March	5 601	5 566	383	1 360	935	1 041	1 036	2 681	18 603
June	5 643	5 450	411	1 360	917	991	907	2 669	18 348
2001-02									
September	5 622	5 409	441	1 458	962	1 033	899	2 671	18 495
December	5 479	5 544	436	1 620	1 033	1 133	1 012	2 680	18 937
March	5 339	5 855	425	1 715	1 102	1 252	1 165	2 725	19 578
June	5 166	6 084	443	1 772	1 166	1 346	1 282	2 808	20 067
2002-03									
September	4 928	6 247	458	1 830	1 234	1 380	1 338	2 885	20 300

(a) The scope for company gross operating profits before income tax estimates relates to companies with 20 or more employees. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS(a), Current prices—Percentage change from previous quarter

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(b)	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ORIGINAL									
2000-01									
September	25.1	6.1	-7.9	-28.1	-19.5	31.7	10.6	11.7	9.2
December	-21.6	-9.1	1.9	47.9	95.1	-3.2	0.2	-7.0	-4.5
March	10.3	-6.1	-47.0	-21.6	-50.8	-25.9	-31.8	-14.2	-11.7
June	7.0	-8.9	127.9	7.7	-46.3	3.0	11.8	5.1	1.2
2001-02									
September	-1.7	15.1	-32.3	-2.8	88.0	-10.2	-26.2	13.1	4.4
December	-3.7	1.4	43.2	45.9	109.9	59.7	65.4	-8.3	12.0
March	-6.8	-5.4	-30.9	-17.8	-38.7	-6.0	-15.8	-3.3	-10.5
June	-5.2	6.7	11.7	1.1	-8.8	-19.5	31.9	2.6	1.2
2002-03									
September	15.3	8.2	23.0	30.1	23.1	41.4	-4.9	17.6	15.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2000-01									
September	8.3	-3.0	-3.6	-27.4	-13.4	4.8	12.1	-1.7	-0.8
December	-8.5	-13.4	-10.3	50.0	4.1	-13.1	-8.9	-4.6	-6.1
March	9.9	11.4	-30.9	-11.3	-3.0	-12.4	-17.7	-5.8	1.5
June	6.2	-11.5	94.1	-6.2	-53.0	22.6	0.4	5.8	-1.6
2001-02									
September	-14.9	4.5	-31.6	-1.9	105.5	-29.4	-24.8	-1.6	-5.5
December	13.0	-2.7	26.9	45.5	11.1	44.9	48.2	-2.7	11.2
March	-7.6	11.4	-8.7	-6.8	20.8	10.3	3.7	4.0	2.5
June	-5.7	4.3	-5.6	-10.9	-20.4	-3.2	16.3	4.1	-1.3
2002-03									
September	-0.3	-2.3	24.0	31.3	36.4	9.7	-1.8	1.3	4.7
TREND									
2000-01									
September	2.6	-3.3	-7.4	3.0	-2.4	-1.9	3.6	-1.2	-0.5
December	2.3	-4.7	-9.3	2.7	-3.5	-5.1	-5.4	-4.3	-2.3
March	1.6	-3.3	-1.3	-0.7	-3.1	-7.4	-12.6	-2.5	-2.4
June	0.8	-2.1	7.2	0.0	-2.0	-4.8	-12.5	-0.4	-1.4
2001-02									
September	-0.4	-0.8	7.3	7.2	4.9	4.2	-1.0	0.1	0.8
December	-2.6	2.5	-1.2	11.1	7.4	9.6	12.6	0.3	2.4
March	-2.5	5.6	-2.4	5.9	6.7	10.5	15.2	1.7	3.4
June	-3.2	3.9	4.2	3.3	5.7	7.5	10.1	3.0	2.5
2002-03									
September	-4.6	2.7	3.4	3.3	5.9	2.6	4.3	2.7	1.2

(a) The scope for company gross operating profits before income tax estimates relates to companies with 20 or more employees. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

WAGES AND SALARIES, Current prices—Original

	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas and water supply	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Accom- modation, cafes and restaurants	Transport and storage	Com- munication services	Finance and insurance
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2000-01										
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	1 145	9 498	208	3 759	4 633	6 019	2 119	2 845	635	4 390
June	1 183	10 122	246	3 861	4 969	6 364	2 333	2 937	578	4 086
2001-02										
September	1 277	9 960	230	3 701	4 894	6 089	2 289	3 029	553	3 991
December	1 413	10 328	251	3 835	5 019	6 307	2 276	3 051	592	4 118
March	1 341	9 582	236	3 607	4 763	5 963	2 185	3 014	524	4 051
June	1 398	10 074	265	3 864	5 116	6 184	2 337	3 026	583	4 034
2002-03										
September	1 451	10 221	274	4 079	5 074	6 108	2 282	3 210	534	4 220
na	not available									

WAGES AND SALARIES, Current prices—Original *continued*

	Property and business services	Education	Health and community services	Cultural and recreational services	Personal and other services	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2000-01						
September	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	10 031	1 322	3 345	1 012	1 021	51 983
June	11 441	1 503	3 770	1 063	1 250	55 704
2001-02						
September	10 855	1 514	3 543	1 186	1 342	54 453
December	11 289	1 666	3 694	1 217	1 454	56 513
March	10 645	1 477	3 654	1 215	1 409	53 666
June	11 396	1 642	3 808	1 297	1 562	56 585
2002-03						
September	11 735	1 680	3 707	1 291	1 558	57 425
na	not available					

WAGES AND SALARIES, Current prices—Original: Percentage change from previous quarter

	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas and water supply	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Accom- modation, cafes and restaurants	Transport and storage	Communication services
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2000-01									
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
June	3.3	6.6	18.1	2.7	7.2	5.7	10.1	3.2	-9.0
2001-02									
September	7.9	-1.6	-6.3	-4.1	-1.5	-4.3	-1.9	3.1	-4.2
December	10.7	3.7	9.2	3.6	2.6	3.6	-0.6	0.7	7.1
March	-5.1	-7.2	-6.2	-6.0	-5.1	-5.5	-4.0	-1.2	-11.5
June	4.2	5.1	12.3	7.1	7.4	3.7	6.9	0.4	11.3
2002-03									
September	3.8	1.5	3.5	5.6	-0.8	-1.2	-2.3	6.1	-8.5

na not available

WAGES AND SALARIES, Current prices—Original: Percentage change from previous quarter *continued*

	Finance and insurance	Property and business services	Education	Health and community services	Cultural and recreational services	Personal and other services	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2000-01							
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
June	-6.9	14.1	13.7	12.7	5.0	22.3	7.2
2001-02							
September	-2.3	-5.1	0.7	-6.0	11.6	7.4	-2.2
December	3.2	4.0	10.0	4.3	2.7	8.4	3.8
March	-1.6	-5.7	-11.4	-1.1	-0.2	-3.1	-5.0
June	-0.4	7.0	11.2	4.2	6.8	10.8	5.4
2002-03							
September	4.6	3.0	2.3	-2.6	-0.5	-0.2	1.5

na not available

15

WAGES AND SALARIES BY STATE, Current prices—Original

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Total</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2000–01									
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	20 206	13 865	7 627	3 495	4 769	922	449	687	51 983
June	21 542	14 923	8 639	3 571	4 999	853	450	741	55 704
2001–02									
September	20 460	14 662	8 506	3 697	5 156	807	436	737	54 453
December	21 307	15 294	8 731	3 725	5 402	859	434	775	56 513
March	20 339	14 407	8 234	3 564	5 189	800	420	716	53 666
June	21 247	15 148	8 878	3 705	5 554	882	451	721	56 585
2002–03									
September	21 623	15 255	9 046	3 842	5 546	883	483	748	57 425

na not available

16

WAGES AND SALARIES BY STATE, Current prices—Original: Percentage change from previous quarter

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2000–01									
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
June	6.6	7.6	13.3	2.2	4.8	–7.5	0.2	7.9	7.2
2001–02									
September	–5.0	–1.7	–1.5	3.5	3.2	–5.4	–3.0	–0.5	–2.2
December	4.1	4.3	2.7	0.8	4.8	6.5	–0.6	5.1	3.8
March	–4.5	–5.8	–5.7	–4.3	–3.9	–6.9	–3.1	–7.7	–5.0
June	4.5	5.1	7.8	3.9	7.0	10.3	7.2	0.7	5.4
2002–03									
September	1.8	0.7	1.9	3.7	–0.1	0.0	7.3	3.7	1.5

na not available

INVENTORIES/SALES RATIO(a)(b), Current prices—Original

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(c)
2000-01								
September	na	0.53	na	0.52	0.45	na	na	na
December	na	0.52	na	0.56	0.41	na	na	na
March	0.32	0.59	na	0.57	0.47	na	na	na
June	0.28	0.53	na	0.51	0.45	na	na	na
2001-02								
September	0.30	0.53	na	0.51	0.47	na	na	na
December	0.31	0.50	na	0.51	0.40	na	na	na
March	0.32	0.55	na	0.55	0.45	na	na	na
June	0.31	0.51	na	0.50	0.40	na	na	na
2002-03								
September	0.31	0.50	na	0.49	0.43	na	na	na

na not available

(c) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

(a) Sales refers to Income from sales of goods and services.

(b) Ratio is calculated by dividing inventories by sales.

SALES/WAGES AND SALARIES RATIO(a)(b), Current prices—Original

	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transport and storage	Property and business services	Other selected industries(c)
2000-01								
September	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	10.90	6.24	5.14	12.09	7.82	4.47	2.68	2.97
June	11.25	6.40	5.07	12.22	7.78	4.63	2.67	2.98
2001-02								
September	10.62	6.61	5.43	12.25	8.16	4.67	2.64	3.10
December	9.56	6.63	5.39	12.88	9.26	4.79	2.63	2.98
March	9.83	6.60	5.44	12.31	8.69	4.55	2.56	2.95
June	9.74	6.70	5.42	12.10	8.69	4.60	2.57	2.94
2002-03								
September	10.00	6.77	5.29	12.60	8.66	4.70	2.46	3.00

na not available

(c) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

(a) Sales refers to Income from sales of goods and services.

(b) Ratio is calculated by dividing sales by wages and salaries.

	<i>Mining</i>	<i>Manufacturing</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Wholesale trade</i>	<i>Retail trade</i>	<i>Transport and storage</i>	<i>Property and business services</i>	<i>Other selected industries(c)</i>
2000-01								
September	na	0.10	na	0.02	0.06	0.09	0.05	na
December	na	0.09	na	0.03	0.10	0.09	0.05	na
March	0.47	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.11	0.08	0.16
June	0.47	0.09	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.10	0.08	0.16
2001-02								
September	0.46	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.09	0.06	0.18
December	0.45	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.10	0.17
March	0.42	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.14	0.10	0.17
June	0.39	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.16
2002-03								
September	0.42	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.15	0.11	0.18

na not available

(c) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the industries included in Other selected industries for this data item.

(a) Sales refers to Income from sales of goods and services.

(b) Estimates for both company gross operating profits and income from sales of goods and services relate to companies with 20 or more employees. Ratio is calculated by dividing profits by sales.

WHAT IF...? REVISIONS TO TREND ESTIMATES

EFFECT OF NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES ON TREND ESTIMATES

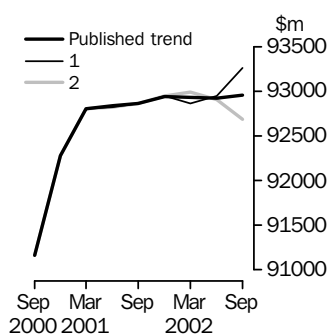
TREND REVISIONS

The most recent seasonally adjusted and trend estimates are likely to be revised when original estimates for subsequent quarters become available. To assess reliability of the trend estimate at the current end, the "what-if" chart presents trend estimates under different scenarios for the next quarter. The approximate effect of two possible scenarios on the current and previous trend estimates for total company gross operating profits and total inventories are presented below.

- (1) The December quarter seasonally adjusted estimate of total inventories (chain volume measures), and the December quarter seasonally adjusted estimate for company gross operating profits (current prices), are higher than the September quarter estimate by the percentage shown.
- (2) The December quarter seasonally adjusted estimate of total inventories (chain volume measures), and the December quarter seasonally adjusted estimate for company gross operating profits (current prices), are lower than the September quarter estimate by the percentage shown.

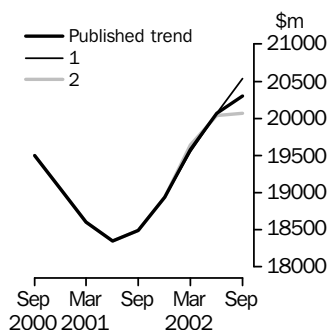
The percentages shown are the historical average of the movements, without regard to sign, in the seasonally adjusted series.

INVENTORIES (CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES)



	TREND AS PUBLISHED		WHAT IF NEXT QUARTER'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATE			
	\$m	%change	(1) rises by 1.1% on this quarter		(2) falls by 1.1% on this quarter	
	\$m	%change	\$m	%change	\$m	%change
2001						
December	92 946	0.1	92 949	0.1	92 949	0.1
2002						
March	92 932	0.0	92 871	-0.1	92 991	0.0
June	92 928	0.0	92 952	0.1	92 910	-0.1
September	92 958	0.0	93 265	0.3	92 687	-0.2

COMPANY GROSS OPERATING PROFITS (CURRENT PRICES)



	TREND AS PUBLISHED		WHAT IF NEXT QUARTER'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATE			
	\$m	%change	(1) rises by 4.0% on Sep 2001		(2) falls by 4.0% on Sep 2001	
	\$m	%change	\$m	%change	\$m	%change
2001						
December	18 937	2.4	18 935	2.4	18 935	2.4
2002						
March	19 578	3.4	19 544	3.2	19 641	3.7
June	20 067	2.5	20 072	2.7	20 036	2.0
September	20 300	1.2	20 533	2.3	20 068	0.2

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains estimates of income from sales of goods and services, wages and salaries (from the December quarter 2001 issue), company profits, and the book value of inventories for selected industries in Australia. The series have been compiled from data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its Quarterly Economic Activity Survey. The survey, which was fully implemented in the March quarter 2001, collects data from private businesses only.

PREVIOUS DATA SOURCES

2 Prior to March quarter 2001, data on sales, inventories and company profits were collected in the Survey of Inventories, Sales and Services and the Survey of Company Profits. The data from these surveys have been used to compile the historical estimates in this publication. From March quarter 2002, the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey has replaced the private sector component of the Survey of Employment and Earnings. However, as the measures of wages and salaries in the two surveys are different (refer to paragraph 36), data from the Survey of Employment and Earnings will not be used to produce historical estimates for this publication. For more information on the introduction of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey, see *Information Paper: Improvements to Australian Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Business Indicators* (cat no. 5677.0).

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

3 The Quarterly Economic Activity Survey, like most ABS economic collections, is drawn from the ABS Business Register. The register provides a list of employing businesses, and it is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's Pay As You Go Withholding (PAYGW) scheme (and prior to 1 July 2000 its Group Employer scheme). The frame is updated quarterly to take account of new businesses, businesses which have ceased employing, changes in employment levels, changes in industry and other general business changes.

4 Businesses which have ceased employing are identified when the Australian Taxation Office cancels their PAYGW registration (or previously their Group Employer registration). In addition, from September quarter 1999, businesses which did not remit under the Group Employer scheme for the previous five quarters were removed from the frame. A similar process will be adopted to remove businesses who do not remit under the PAYGW scheme.

5 The scope excludes public sector business units (i.e. all departments, authorities and other organisations owned and controlled by Commonwealth, State and Local Government).

6 The statistics in this publication exclude non-employing businesses. Though there are a substantial number of these businesses, it is expected that they would not contribute significantly to the estimates, although the impact would vary from industry to industry and from data item to data item.

7 Inventories data are not collected from businesses with fewer than 20 employees, as smaller businesses generally have difficulty in providing accurate quarterly information on the level of their inventories. Estimates for these businesses are derived by applying sales information to an estimated inventories to sales ratio. The inventories to sales ratio is based on data from the current quarter for medium sized businesses, and benchmarked to data from the annual Economic Activity Survey for small businesses. Investigations indicate that this technique produces estimates of inventories of sufficient quality.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE *continued*

8 The industries, classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (Cat. no. 1292.0), included in this publication are:

<i>Industries</i>	<i>Income from sales of goods and services</i>	<i>Wages and salaries</i>	<i>Company profits</i>	<i>Inventories</i>
Mining (Division B)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Manufacturing (Division C)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Electricity, gas and water supply (Division D)				
Electricity and gas supply (36)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Water supply (37)	Y	Y	Y	N
Construction (Division E)	Y	Y	Y	N
Wholesale trade (Division F)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Retail trade (Division G)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (Division H)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Transport and storage (Division I)	Y	Y	Y	N
Communication services (Division J)	Y	Y	Y	N
Finance and insurance (Division K)				
Deposit taking financiers (732)	N	Y	N	N
Other financiers (733)(a)	Y	Y	Y	N
Financial asset investors (734)(a)	Y	Y	Y	N
Other insurance (742)	N	Y	N	N
Services to finance and insurance (75)	Y	Y	Y	N
Property and business services (Division L)	Y	Y	Y	N
Education (Division N)	N	Y	N	N
Health and community services (Division O)	N	Y	N	N
Cultural and recreational services (Division P)	Y	Y	Y	N
Personal and other services (Division Q)				
Personal services (95)	Y	Y	Y	N
Other services (96)	N	Y	N	N

(a) See paragraph 5 for details of further scope exclusions for these industries.

9 Estimates for Company profits before income tax, and Company gross operating profits, only include private incorporated businesses ('companies') employing 20 or more persons and exclude companies in ANZSIC groups 733 or 734 classified to the Corporate Financial sector of the *Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA)*. Refer to paragraph 18 for more information on this classification. Estimates previously published in *Company Profits, Australia* (cat. no. 5651.0) related only to companies employing more than 30 persons. The ABS has collected data for companies employing between 20 and 30 persons since September 1994 and these data are now included in published estimates.

10 The estimates for all the other statistics in this publication include unincorporated businesses and businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Other than for profits estimates there are no other exclusions based on SISCA.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CHANGES TO ABS BUSINESS REGISTER

11 The introduction of The New Tax System has a number of significant implications for ABS business statistics. These are discussed in *Information Paper: ABS Statistics And The New Tax System* (cat. no. 1358.0). The replacement of the Group Employer registration process by PAYGW registration resulted in a number of changes to most business survey frames. However, an adjustment has been made to the statistics in this publication and these changes will not affect broader level estimates of level and movement.

12 Section 68 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* provides for the Australian Taxation Office to pass information to the Australian Statistician for the purposes of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The ABS is currently analysing data from Business Activity Statements (BAS) as possible alternatives to direct collection of data, and to improve sample efficiency and reduce the load on businesses in completing ABS survey forms. From the December quarter 2002, the ABS will use BAS wages and salaries data to derive size benchmarks to improve the sample design of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey.

13 In addition, the ABS will make further changes including adopting a new units model and expanding its Register to include all units on the Australian Business Register, including non-employers. These non-employers will, however, continue to be excluded from the scope of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey. Information Paper: *Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics (Arising from The New Tax System), 2002* (cat. no. 1372.0) provides further details.

STATISTICAL UNIT

14 The Quarterly Economic Activity 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, partnership, trust, sole operator, 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.

CLASSIFICATIONS

15 The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification has been developed for use in both countries for the production and analysis of industry statistics. For more information, users are referred to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

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

17 Many of the tables in this publication contain an industry classification 'Other selected industries'. For company gross operating profits, company profits before income tax, and income from sales of goods and services, Other selected industries comprises Electricity, gas and water; Accommodation, cafes and restaurants; Communication services; Other financiers; Financial asset investors; Services to finance and insurance; Cultural and recreational services; and Personal services. For inventories, it comprises Electricity, gas and water; and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants. For wages and salaries, it comprises Electricity, gas and water; Accommodation, cafes and restaurants; Communication services; Deposit taking financiers; Other financiers; Financial asset investors; Other insurance; Services to finance and insurance; Education; Health and community services; Cultural and recreational services; and Personal and other services.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CLASSIFICATIONS *continued*

18 The *Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA)* is used to classify institutional units into broad economic sectors in national accounts and related statistics. For more information, users are referred to *Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia (SESCA), 1998* (cat. no. 1218.0).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

19 The survey is conducted by mail on a quarterly basis. It is based on a random sample of approximately 16,000 units which is stratified by industry, state/territory and number of employees. All private sector units with over 250 employees, and other statistically significant units, such as joint venture partners, are included in the sample.

20 Respondents are asked to provide data on the same basis as their own management accounts. Where a selected unit does not respond in a given survey period, a value is estimated. If data are subsequently provided, the estimated value is replaced with the reported data. Aggregates are calculated from all data using the 'number raised' estimation technique. Data are edited at both individual unit level and aggregate level.

TIMING OF SURVEY CYCLE

21 Surveys are conducted in respect of each quarter and returns are completed during the 8 or 9 week period after the end of the quarter to which survey data relate e.g. December quarter survey returns are completed during January and February.

SAMPLE REVISION

22 The survey frames and samples are revised each quarter to ensure that they remain representative of the survey population. The timing for creating each quarter's survey frame is consistent with that of other ABS business surveys. This provides for greater consistency when comparing data across surveys.

23 Additionally, with these revisions to the sample, some of the units from the sampled sector are rotated out of the survey and are replaced by others, to spread the reporting workload equitably.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

24 The quarterly original estimates in this publication are affected in varying degrees by seasonal influences. The seasonal adjustment process estimates and removes the effects of normal seasonal variations from the original estimates so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised.

25 In the seasonal adjustment process, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors (e.g. increase in retail sales due to the Christmas period) and also trading day effects when significant (arising from the varying lengths of the quarters and the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in each quarter) to produce the seasonally adjusted estimates. Particular care should be taken in interpreting quarterly movements in the seasonally adjusted estimates because seasonal adjustment does not remove the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (e.g. change in interest rates) and reflects the sampling and other errors to which the original estimates are subject.

26 In this publication, the seasonally adjusted estimates are produced by the concurrent seasonal adjustment method which takes account of the latest available original estimates. This method improves the estimation of seasonal factors, and therefore, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for the current and previous quarters. As a result of this improvement, revisions to the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates will be observed for recent periods. In most instances the only noticeable revisions will be to the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago. A more detailed review is conducted annually prior to the September quarter release using data up to and including the June quarter.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

continued

The concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology replaces the forward factor methodology used to adjust inventories and sales estimates in *Inventories and Sales, Selected Industries, Australia* (cat. no. 5629.0) where seasonal factors for these estimates were only revised following an annual reanalysis. The concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology has been applied to company profits estimates for some years.

27 Seasonally adjusted estimates are not available for some series contained in this publication, as at least three years of data (but preferably five years) are required to discern a seasonal pattern. In addition, some seasonally adjusted and trend series for income from sales of goods and services in this publication are considered experimental as less than five years of data are available for estimation of seasonal factors.

TREND ESTIMATES

28 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted estimates. The 7-term Henderson moving average is symmetric, but as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the moving average are applied. The asymmetric moving average has been tailored to suit the particular characteristics of individual series and enable trend estimates for recent quarters to be produced. Estimates of the trend will be improved at the current end of the time series as additional observations become available. This improvement is due to the combined effect of the concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology and the application of different asymmetric moving averages for the most recent three quarters. As a result of the improvement, revisions to the trend estimates will generally be observed for the most recent three quarters. ABS research shows that about 75% of the total revision to the trend estimate at the current end is due to the use of different asymmetric moving averages when the original estimate is available for the next quarter.

29 There may also be revisions because of changes in the original estimates. As a result of these revisions, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates will also be revised. For further information, see *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring Trend, An Overview* (cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra 02 6252 6345 or email <timeseries@abs.gov.au>.

CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

30 The chain volume measures appearing in this publication are annually reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to current price values in the chosen reference year (currently 2000–2001). The current price values may be thought of as being the product of a price and quantity. The value in chain volume terms can be derived by linking together movements in volumes, calculated using the average prices of the previous financial year and applying compound movements to the current price estimates of the reference year. Each year's quarter-to-quarter growth rates in the chain volume series are based on the prices of the previous financial year, except for those quarters of the latest incomplete year which are based upon the second most recent financial year. Quarterly chain volume estimates are benchmarked to annual chain volume estimates, so that the quarterly estimates for a financial year sum to the corresponding annual estimate.

31 With each release of the June quarter issue of this publication, a new base year is introduced and the reference year is advanced one year to coincide with it. This means that with the release of the June quarter 2003 issue of this publication, the chain volume measures for 2002–03 will have 2001–02 (the previous financial year) as their base year rather than 2000–01, and the reference

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

continued

year will be 2001–02. A change in the reference year changes levels but not growth rates for all periods. A change in the base year can result in revisions, small in most cases, to growth rates for the last year.

32 Chain volume measures are not generally additive. In other words, component chain volume measures do not, in general, sum to a total in the way original current price components do. For inventories and sales data, this means that the chain volume estimates for industry groups will not add to the total for Australia. In order to minimise the impact of this, the ABS uses the latest base year as the reference year. By adopting this approach, additivity does exist for the quarters following the reference year and non-additivity is relatively small for the quarters in the reference year and those immediately preceding it. For further information on chain volume measures, refer to the *Information Paper: Introduction of Chain Volume Measures in the Australian National Accounts* (cat. no. 5248.0).

COMPARABILITY WITH NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND OTHER ABS ESTIMATES

33 The data collected in the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey are used in the compilation of the quarterly estimates of the Australian National Accounts. Inventories data are used to compile estimates of the increase in book value of non-farm inventories. Estimates of income from sales of goods and services are used to help derive quarterly chain volume measures of gross value added for selected industries. Company gross operating profits data are used to compile estimates of gross operating surplus of private non-financial corporations. From March quarter 2002, estimates of wages and salaries are being used to compile estimates for compensation of private sector employees. For further details see *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5216.0).

34 However the statistics in this publication will differ from corresponding statistics in the quarterly Australian National Accounts for the following reasons:

- the national accounts estimates are benchmarked to annual supply and use tables which are based on annual Economic Activity Survey and taxation data;
- the national accounts estimates include estimates for businesses classified to industries not in scope of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey;
- the national accounts estimates include estimates for non-employing businesses, which are outside the scope of Quarterly Economic Activity Survey;
- the national accounts estimates for gross operating surplus of private non-financial corporations include the profits of all businesses whereas company profits estimates in this publication only include incorporated businesses with 20 or more employees;
- the national accounts estimates for gross operating surplus of private non-financial corporations are after deduction of the inventory valuation adjustment which measures the portion of income attributable to holding gains or losses resulting from inventory valuation practices;
- the national accounts estimates for gross operating surplus of private non-financial corporations do not include deductions relating to interest, net land rent and natural resource payments;
- in many cases, the processes used to seasonally adjust national accounts estimates are different to those used for the seasonally adjusted estimates in this publication.

35 The estimates for income from sales of goods and services by Retail trade in this publication will differ from turnover estimates included in *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0). The latter publication presents monthly estimates of the value of turnover of retail businesses, and is sourced from the Retail Business

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY WITH NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND OTHER ABS ESTIMATES

continued

Survey. Estimates for income from sales of goods and services in this publication exclude the Goods and Services Tax, while turnover collected in the Retail Business Survey includes the Goods and Services Tax. In addition, the Retail Business Survey includes some businesses classified to ANZSIC divisions other than the Retail trade division, and includes retail establishments associated with management units that are not classified to the Retail trade division. The use of different samples in the Retail Business Survey and Quarterly Economic Activity Survey will also contribute to differences.

36 The estimates for wages and salaries in this publication differ from estimates for gross earnings previously included in *Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (cat. no. 6248.0). The latter publication presented quarterly estimates of gross earnings collected in the Survey of Employment and Earnings, and data on gross earnings were requested on a cash (payroll) basis. Data for wages and salaries estimates are requested on an accruals (accounts) basis in the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

37 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

- *Australian Business Expectations* (cat. no. 5250.0)
- *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5216.0)
- *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0)
- *Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia* (cat. no. 8140.0)
- *Experimental Estimates: Australian Industry, a State Perspective, Australia, 1998–99* (cat. no. 8156.0)
- *Information Paper: Introduction of Chain Volume Measures in the Australian National Accounts* (cat. no. 5248.0)
- *Information Paper: Improvements to ABS Quarterly Business Indicators* (cat. no. 5677.0)
- *Manufacturing Production, Australia* (cat. no. 8301.0)
- *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia* (cat. no. 5625.0)
- *Retail Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 8501.0)
- *Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (cat. no. 6428.0)

38 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 Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS web site at <www.abs.gov.au>.

ABS WEB SITE

39 The key indicators and main features from this publication are published on the ABS web site at <www.abs.gov.au>. Information on the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey and survey outputs are also published on the web site: see the Business Indicators Home Page under *Themes*.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

40 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. These series include more detailed industry data (e.g. Manufacturing subdivision), and wages and salaries by state/territory by industry. The availability of more detailed data are subject to confidentiality and quality checks. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

1 Estimates provided in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling error. The most common way of quantifying sampling error is to calculate the standard error for the published estimate. This is discussed in paragraphs 5 to 9 below.

2 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. These errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, treatment of non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers, and errors in data entry and processing. Inventories data for businesses with less than 20 employees are derived and could therefore be subject to error (although this error is estimated to be less than the sampling and non-sampling error resulting from directly collecting these data).

3 Estimates for the latest quarter presented in this publication are considered preliminary and revised estimates will be released with the next issue. As discussed in paragraphs 28 and 29 above, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates are also subject to revision as more data are revised and more data becomes available.

4 It is difficult to measure the size of non-sampling errors. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise their effects.

STANDARD ERRORS

5 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. In calculating the standard error for the statistics in this publication, the ABS would prefer to produce a smoothed standard error for the major published aggregates as this approach takes account of the variability in standard error estimates for quarterly statistics. This estimated standard error would then be used as an indication of the sampling error for the current published series. As the data in this publication are sourced from the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey, which has only been conducted since March quarter 2001, this does not allow for a smoothed estimate of the standard error to be calculated. Therefore standard errors are based upon the data in the currently published quarter. Details of standard errors are available below.

LEVEL ESTIMATES

6 To illustrate, let us say that the published level estimate for company profits before income tax is \$8,900m and the calculated standard error in this case is \$200m. The standard error is then used to interpret the level estimate of \$8,900m. For instance, the standard error of \$200m indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real value falls within the range \$8,700m to \$9,100m ($\$8,900\text{m} \pm \200m).
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real value falls within the ranges \$8,500m and \$9,300m ($\$8,900\text{m} \pm \400m).
- The real value in this case is the result we would obtain if we could enumerate the total population.

7 The following table shows the standard errors for national quarterly level estimates based upon the data in the current quarter.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

LEVEL ESTIMATES *continued*

	Company gross operating profits	Company profits before income tax	Income from sales of goods and services	Inventories	Wages and salaries
<i>Industries</i>	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Mining	21	13	239	107	17
Manufacturing	77	91	805	351	139
Construction	44	43	1 049	na	179
Wholesale trade	108	99	1 899	994	126
Retail trade	33	31	1 447	692	175
Transport and storage	31	18	672	na	113
Property and business services	123	130	1 007	na	372
Other selected industries(a)	167	166	1 376	59	652
Total	212	213	3 054	1 266	566

na not available

(a) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for a definition of the Other selected industries.

MOVEMENT ESTIMATES

8 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 inventories is \$90,000m, and the next quarter the published level estimate is \$92,000m. In this example the calculated standard error for the movement estimate is \$850m. The standard error is then used to interpret the published movement estimate of +\$2,000m. For instance, the standard error of \$850m indicates that:

- There are approximately two chances in three that the real movement over the two quarter period falls within the range \$1,150m to \$2,850m (\$2,000m \pm \$850m).
- There are approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the real movement falls within the range \$300m to \$3,700m (\$2,000m \pm \$1,700m)

9 The following table shows the standard errors for national quarterly movement estimates based upon the data in the current quarter.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

MOVEMENT ESTIMATES

continued

	<i>Company gross operating profits</i>	<i>Company profits before income tax</i>	<i>Income from sales of goods and services</i>	<i>Inventories</i>	<i>Wages and salaries</i>
<i>Industries</i>	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Mining	30	26	96	43	11
Manufacturing	98	109	619	334	86
Construction	38	38	706	na	106
Wholesale trade	104	98	1 120	581	75
Retail trade	31	30	801	375	100
Transport and storage	30	22	298	na	54
Property and business services	133	147	704	na	225
Other selected industries(a)	194	220	1 031	38	469
Total	227	240	1 885	769	350

na not available

(a) See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes for a definition of the Other selected industries.

ADJUSTMENTS TO ESTIMATES

10 Adjustments are included in the estimates to allow for lags in processing new businesses to the ABS Business Register. The following table shows the adjustments made to the current quarter's original estimates in current price terms:

<i>Data items</i>	<i>March Qtr 2002 %</i>
Company gross operating profits	2.4
Company profits before income tax	2.5
Income from sales of goods and services	5.0
Inventories	3.3
Wages and salaries	5.4

11 As previously discussed, the estimates presented in this publication are partial indicators used in the compilation of the quarterly national accounts. The movements in the Business Indicators estimates will not always be the same as the movements in the comparable national accounts series but they should be reasonably consistent after taking account of differences in concepts, scope and methodology described in paragraph 34 of the Explanatory Notes. If after taking account of these differences, there are concerns about data quality and coherence, the national accounts area provides feedback to the survey area. This process may result in adjustments being applied to the Business Indicators estimates prior to release in this publication. The objective use of the national accounts framework to provide data coherence across all ABS economic statistics ensures that a common understanding of recent economic developments is presented.

INCOME FROM SALES OF
GOODS AND SERVICES TIME
SERIES

12 With the introduction of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey from the March quarter 2001, the ABS commenced the collection of income from sales of goods and services from Mining (ANZSIC Division B); Electricity, gas and water supply (Division D); Construction (Division E); Food retailing (Subdivision 51); Personal and household good retailing (Subdivision 52); Services to finance and insurance (Subdivision 75); Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens (Groups 921–923); Video hire outlets (Class 9511); and Hairdressing and beauty salons (Class 9526).

13 The different time periods for which series are available can pose some inconsistencies between the series published in original terms and those released in seasonally adjusted and trend terms, as a minimum of three years worth of data are required in order to produce seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. To reduce these inconsistencies, the ABS has modelled estimates based on data from the monthly Retail Business survey to produce a time series for Food retailing, Personal and household good retailing, Video hire outlets and Hairdressing and beauty salons. There are some significant differences between the monthly Retail trade series and the quarterly income from sales of goods and services and series, and these are discussed in paragraph 35 in the Explanatory Notes. To address these differences in the modelling of the time series, movements from the aggregated monthly series have been applied to the level quarterly estimates for the March quarter 2001, and a time series has been created by backcasting. This has facilitated the production of seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for these industries.

14 The ABS does not have alternative data sources to model quarterly time series for income from sales of goods and services for Mining; Electricity, gas and water supply; Construction; and Services to finance and insurance; and data for these industries are only published in original terms for periods since March quarter 2001. The ABS also does not have an alternative data source to model time series for Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens. However as the scope for estimates in this publication exclude public sector business units, estimates for Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens are relatively small and have been incorporated in estimates for Cultural and recreational services from the March quarter 2001. While this has caused a small break in series in the March quarter 2001, it does not impact on quarterly movements (except for the March quarter 2001), although it will impact on comparisons of year to year movements. This has facilitated the production of seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for Cultural and recreational services.

15 This publication includes estimates of income from sales of goods and services, by industry, and by state/territory, but estimates of national total income from sales of goods and services are not published. Total income from sales of goods and services is not an adequate indicator of the performance of the Australian economy as it includes duplication; for example, goods sold by retailers may also be included in goods sold by wholesalers in the same period. However this publication does include total income from sales of goods and services, by state/territory, as it is considered that there may be interest in this item as a measure of relative activity. This data should be used with caution given the potential for the data to include duplication across industries.

INCOME FROM SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES TIME SERIES *continued*

16 Seasonally adjusted and trend data by state/territory are not provided in this publication but are available on request for a limited set of industries excluding Mining; Construction; Electricity, gas and water; and Services to finance and insurance. State/territory estimates which are most impacted by the limited scope are Western Australia and Northern Territory where income from sales of goods and services for Mining and Construction are relatively significant.

PROFITS TIME SERIES

17 With the introduction of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey from the March quarter 2001, the ABS commenced the collection of profits items from Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens (Groups 921–923). The ABS does not have an alternative data source to model quarterly time series for Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens. However as the scope for estimates in this publication exclude public sector business units, estimates for Libraries, Museums, and Parks and gardens are relatively small and have been incorporated in Company profits before income tax, and Company gross operating profits estimates for Cultural and recreational services from the March quarter 2001. While this has caused a small break in series in the March quarter 2001, it does not impact on quarterly movements (except for the March quarter 2001), although it will impact on comparisons of year to year movements. This has facilitated the production of seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for Cultural and recreational services.

18 Estimates for Company gross operating profits were formerly included in *Company Profits, Australia* as the experimental series "Company profits before income tax, net interest, depreciation and selected items". Data were published in respect of businesses employing more than 30 persons. Estimates for Company gross operating profits are compiled by deducting estimates for depreciation, net interest paid and some additional items from the Company profits before income tax series. The additional items include activities that do not involve the production of goods and services such as net foreign exchange gains/losses, unrealised gains/losses on the revaluation of assets and some other items often defined in accounting terms as abnormal items that are considered out of scope of the national accounts item Gross operating surplus.

19 While Company profits before income tax estimates for businesses employing 20 or more persons are available from September quarter 1994, data for 'abnormal' items for these businesses only became available with changes in data collection and processing introduced from the June quarter 1999. Therefore the Company gross operating profits estimates from September quarter 1994 to March quarter 1999 include 'abnormal' items reported by businesses with 20 to 30 employees, whereas Company gross operating profits estimates from the June quarter 1999 exclude these items where they are considered out of scope of the national accounts item Gross operating surplus. As these items are generally small in value for businesses with 20 to 30 employees, this difference in treatment is expected to have a minimal impact on the time series.

INVENTORIES TIME SERIES

20 With the introduction of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey, the ABS commenced the collection of inventories from businesses classified to ANZSIC classes 5322 Automotive electrical services, 5323 Smash repairs and 5329 Automotive repair and services nec. These classes contribute about 2.0% to the level estimates for Retail trade inventories and about 0.5% to the level estimate for Total inventories. Their contribution to movement estimates is not consistent with the movement estimates for Retail trade which suggests that the characteristics of these classes differ from other Retail trade classes. As a result, there is a break in the series for Retail trade inventories and Total inventories, between the December quarter 2000 and the March quarter 2001.

PRIVATISED MARKETING AUTHORITIES

21 Three significant privatised marketing authorities came into scope of the estimates in this publication from the September quarter 1999. The introduction of these units resulted in a break in series for estimates for inventories and income from sales of goods and services between the June and September quarters 1999 and comparison of the series over time should be undertaken with care.

22 The methodology used by the ABS has ensured that the trend series has not been distorted by the introduction of these units, although there is a trend break evident between the June and September quarters 1999. For this reason, the trend estimates of movement have not been released for the Wholesale trade inventories, Total inventories and Wholesale trade sales series in respect of the September quarter 1999.

GLOSSARY

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 gross operating profits	Selected items are excluded from company profits before income tax to provide a measure of underlying company profits. These items include interest income and expenses; depreciation and amortisation; and selected items which do not involve the production of goods and services such as net foreign exchange gains/losses, gains/losses arising from the sale of non-current assets, and net unrealised gains/losses from the revaluation of current or non-current assets.
Company profits before income tax	Net operating profit or loss before income tax and extraordinary items and is net of capital profits or losses arising from the sale of businesses' own capital goods and dividends received.
Income from sales of goods and services	This item includes income from sales of goods by the business and income from services provided such as commission income, repair and service income and fees, management fees, rent leasing and hiring income, delivery and installation charges, income from consulting services, sponsorship income, membership/subscription fees and royalties income. State/territory income from sales of goods and services is reported by businesses for the sales of goods and services from each state/territory in which the business operates.
Inventories	All inventories of materials etc., work in progress and finished goods owned by the business, whether held at locations of the business or elsewhere. Inventories are recorded at book value at the end of the quarter.
Wages and salaries	Gross earnings before taxation and other deductions. Includes provisions for employee entitlements.

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