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RETAIL TRADE
AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1991



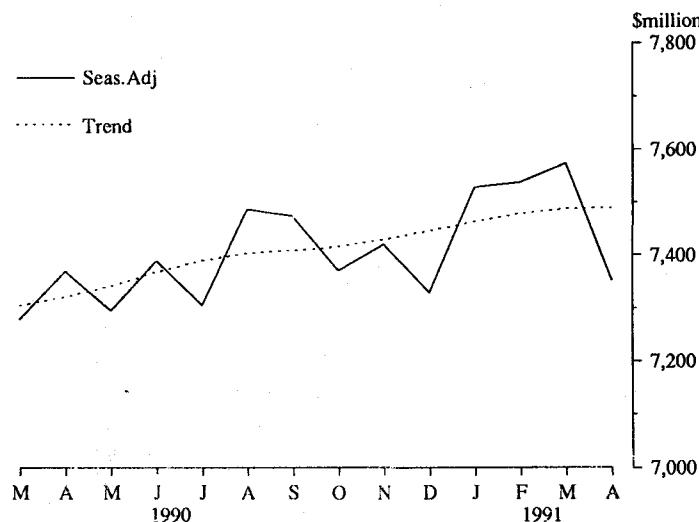
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Australian estimates

With the addition of data for April 1991 trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments covered by the survey have weakened, increasing by an average of only 0.1 per cent per month for the three months ending April 1991. The annual growth rate (April 1991 over April 1990) has now dropped to 2.3 per cent. The weakening of the growth rate for the Australian estimate is largely due to the Grocery industry now showing very weak growth.

In seasonally adjusted terms the Australian estimate for April 1991 fell 2.9 per cent over March 1991. The relatively large decrease in the seasonally adjusted estimate could be due to a number of factors including depressed trading and the timing of Easter, which commenced at the end of March. This timing of the Easter holiday, which involves both March and April, is a rare occurrence and while the seasonal adjustment procedures have allowed for this event, users are reminded of the need to take care in the interpretation of month to month movements. In original terms the estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments fell 2.3 per cent to \$7102.7m.

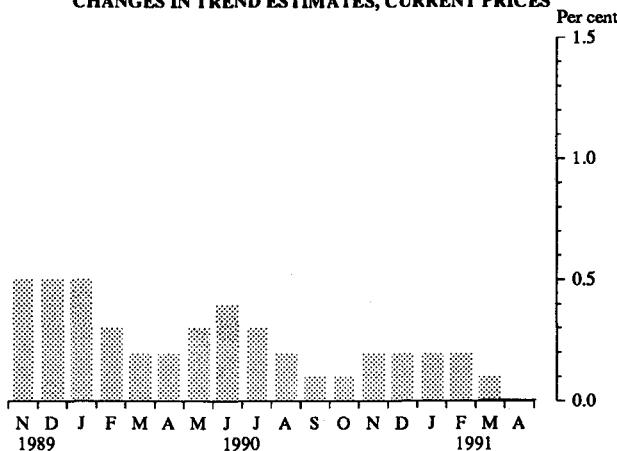
CHART 1: TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AUSTRALIA



INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Powell on Canberra (06) 252 6132 or any ABS office.
- for further information about constant price estimates contact Alan Tryde on Canberra (06) 252 6801.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

CHART2: TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, AUSTRALIA, MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN TREND ESTIMATES, CURRENT PRICES



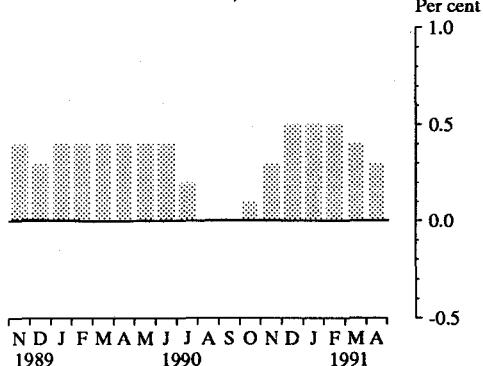
Industry trends

The Grocery trend estimates are now showing very weak growth, averaging only 0.2 per cent increase per month over the last three months. This follows a period of strong growth and is a result of relatively low turnover in April 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms. Clothing stores have weakened slightly with an average growth rate of 0.6 per cent per month over the last three months. Department stores, as well as Hotels, licensed clubs and liquor stores, are in decline. Of the smaller industries Domestic hardware stores/jewellers, Furniture stores and Pharmacies are showing strong growth. Industries in decline include Electrical goods stores and Floorcovering stores.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TREND ESTIMATES OF TURNOVER

Industry	Average monthly increase for 3 months to April 1991	Average monthly increase for 12 months to April 1991
Grocers	0.2	0.6
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	-0.3	-0.1
Department and general stores	-0.1	0.1
Clothing and fabrics stores	0.6	0.4
Total all industries	0.1	0.2

CHART3: TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, AUSTRALIA, MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN TREND ESTIMATES, CURRENT PRICES



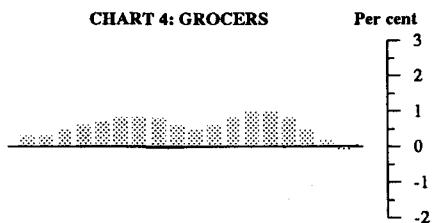
Analysis of the *retail only* industries in total shows growth averaging 0.3 per cent per month over the last 3 months. Over the past year (April 1991 over April 1990) the *retail* industries have experienced growth in turnover of 3.6 per cent, which is 1.3 percentage points higher than the all industries growth rate over the same period. The higher growth rate for *retail only* industries is due to the impact of Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs on the overall figure.

State trends

Average growth in the trend estimates of turnover for the last three months show that New South Wales and Queensland are experiencing weak to moderate growth. For Tasmania the growth rate is weak whilst turnover in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia is in decline. The Australian Capital Territory is the only State to record strong growth.

TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, AUSTRALIA

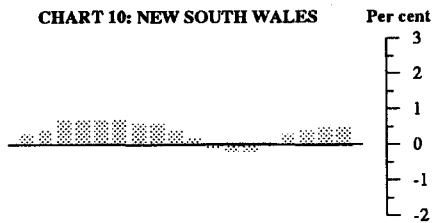
**TREND ESTIMATES, MONTHLY CHANGES
CURRENT PRICES, SELECTED INDUSTRIES**
Percentage change from preceding month

CHART 4: GROCERS

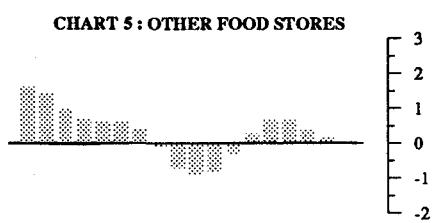
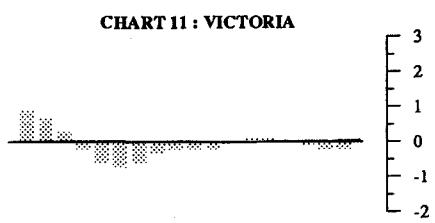
Per cent

TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

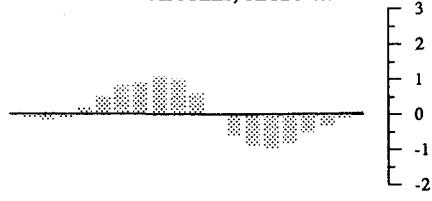
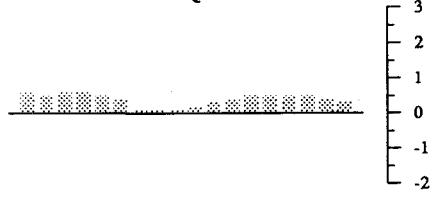
**TREND ESTIMATES, MONTHLY CHANGES
CURRENT PRICES, STATES**
Percentage change from preceding month

CHART 10: NEW SOUTH WALES

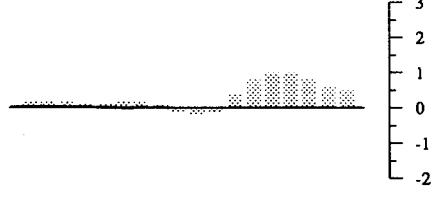
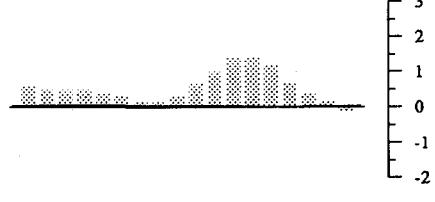
Per cent

CHART 5 : OTHER FOOD STORES**CHART 11 : VICTORIA**

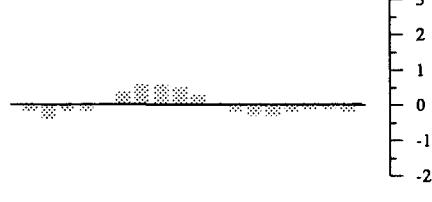
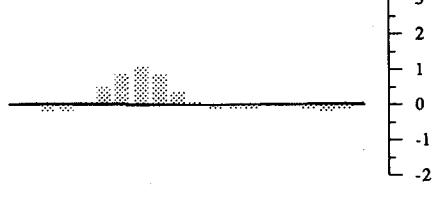
Per cent

CHART 6 : HOTELS, CLUBS etc**CHART 12 : QUEENSLAND**

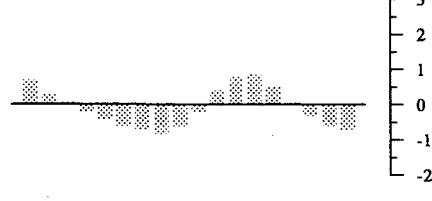
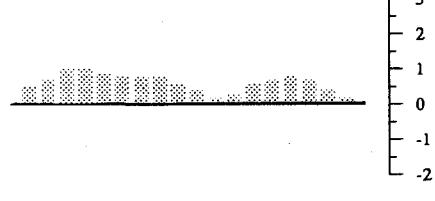
Per cent

CHART 7 : CLOTHING STORES etc**CHART 13 : SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Per cent

CHART 8 : DEPARTMENT STORES**CHART 14 : WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Per cent

CHART 9 : ELECTRICAL GOODS STORES**CHART 15 : TASMANIA**

Per cent

N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A
1989 1990 1991

N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A
1989 1990 1991

**TABLE 1. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA (a)**

Month	Original		Seasonally adjusted		Trend estimates (b)		
	\$m	% change from preceding month	% change from corresponding month of previous year	\$m	% change from preceding month	\$m	% change from corresponding month of previous year
<i>1990 —</i>							
February	6,408.3	-7.9	8.3	7,297.0	0.4	7,285.6	0.3
March	7,195.4	12.3	7.0	7,277.6	-0.3	7,303.5	0.2
April	6,884.6	-4.3	6.4	7,369.3	1.3	7,321.2	0.2
May	7,294.5	6.0	7.8	7,293.7	-1.0	7,341.1	0.3
June	7,160.1	-1.8	5.1	7,388.4	1.3	7,366.8	0.4
July	6,974.6	-2.6	4.0	7,304.8	-1.1	7,388.9	0.3
August	7,282.4	4.4	6.7	7,484.7	2.5	7,403.2	0.2
September	7,064.6	-3.0	0.9	7,472.8	-0.2	7,409.0	0.1
October	7,431.2	5.2	6.2	7,371.3	-1.4	7,416.7	0.1
November	7,779.8	4.7	3.8	7,420.2	0.7	7,429.1	0.2
December	9,745.5	25.3	0.1	7,328.3	-1.2	7,444.9	0.2
<i>1991 —</i>							
January	7,254.5	-25.6	4.3	7,527.1	2.7	7,462.4	0.2
February	6,616.4	-8.8	3.2	7,536.7	0.1	7,477.8	0.2
March	r 7,270.2	9.9	1.0	r 7,572.8	0.5	7,485.8	0.1
April	7,102.7	-2.3	3.2	7,350.5	-2.9	7,489.3	0.0
<i>Standard error (c) of</i>							
Latest month	73.9						
Change from previous month	31.9	0.4					

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc. (b) Subject to revision — see from paragraph 21 of Explanatory Notes. (c) See paragraphs 9 to 13 of Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 2. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES, AUSTRALIA (a)**

Quarter	Original		Seasonally adjusted						
	\$m	% change from preceding quarter	% change from corresponding quarter of previous year	\$m					
AT CURRENT PRICES									
<i>1990 —</i>									
March	20,561.6	-15.1	8.1	21,844.6	1.4				
June	21,339.2	3.8	6.4	22,051.4	0.9				
September	21,321.6	-0.1	3.8	22,262.3	1.0				
December	24,956.5	17.0	3.0	22,119.8	-0.6				
<i>1991 —</i>									
March	r 21,141.1	-15.3	2.8	r 22,636.6	2.3				
AT CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1984-85) PRICES									
<i>1990 —</i>									
March	14,585.2	-16.0	2.4	15,440.9	-0.1				
June	14,874.1	2.0	1.1	15,386.8	-0.4				
September	14,798.5	-0.5	-0.4	15,468.0	0.5				
December	17,115.1	15.7	-1.4	15,184.4	-1.8				
<i>1991 —</i>									
March	r 14,284.8	-16.5	-2.1	r 15,243.0	0.4				

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc.

TABLE 3. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY INDUSTRY, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA (a)

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacc-	Hospitals, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Cafes and restau-	Depart- ment and general stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Furni- ture stores	Floor cover- ings stores	Pharma- cies	News- agents	Other stores	Total
	onists	Other food stores	aurants	Footwear stores	jewellers	stores	stores	stores	agents		
ORIGINAL \$ million											
1990 —											
February	1,849.9	173.2	456.0	899.7	337.1	400.4	580.2	76.0	191.8	392.8	135.3
March	2,074.3	195.8	495.7	988.0	381.5	478.7	719.7	89.4	210.8	424.8	151.0
April	1,932.7	179.9	480.9	949.6	353.1	512.2	736.7	97.0	187.3	406.1	135.7
May	2,022.0	192.8	479.5	937.0	354.0	578.6	807.2	102.1	205.5	461.9	156.3
June	2,001.1	203.3	491.7	930.7	339.6	538.1	823.8	105.6	186.5	444.9	153.4
July	1,951.1	194.9	488.7	945.9	352.8	522.6	703.2	93.4	185.8	425.0	157.2
August	2,106.1	199.8	494.3	963.3	353.7	510.9	751.7	86.2	195.1	444.7	152.0
September	1,969.9	187.6	465.9	997.8	371.8	506.5	733.6	94.7	195.4	402.7	145.5
October	2,084.4	191.9	493.9	1,027.1	363.6	545.0	778.6	94.4	213.4	430.2	160.3
November	2,176.5	189.3	492.1	1,058.2	375.3	574.1	921.8	95.6	239.4	447.4	160.9
December	2,409.2	207.1	562.1	1,256.4	413.4	771.8	1,547.5	132.5	376.4	618.7	167.5
1991 —											
January	2,188.2	176.0	520.4	1,008.8	365.8	496.9	687.2	109.4	199.5	432.6	145.0
February	2,008.7	165.3	458.8	913.2	329.1	428.9	598.6	81.3	203.1	389.0	135.9
March	2,237.7	183.3	r 499.9	993.9	344.0	475.4	712.1	r 93.7	196.0	395.7	150.4
April	2,051.1	177.4	483.8	947.1	337.2	552.0	740.7	105.9	190.0	403.9	145.0
Standard error (b) of											
Level	25.4	11.1	28.2	35.1	18.4	22.1	0.0	4.8	9.3	15.6	8.0
Change	9.1	3.2	6.1	11.4	5.7	7.6	0.0	1.4	5.4	4.8	2.9
TREND ESTIMATES (c) \$ million											
1990 —											
February	1,977.8	191.1	492.4	972.6	n.p.	532.7	805.2	97.3	224.5	451.5	155.0
March	1,992.5	193.5	495.3	977.5	n.p.	533.0	805.6	96.4	224.3	449.6	155.2
April	2,009.0	195.0	498.4	985.3	n.p.	533.8	808.7	95.6	225.1	446.7	155.3
May	2,025.2	195.7	500.6	994.6	n.p.	534.7	813.5	95.3	226.1	443.4	155.5
June	2,040.5	195.9	499.9	1,005.1	n.p.	535.4	818.5	95.1	226.6	440.0	155.3
July	2,053.4	195.7	496.6	1,014.7	n.p.	534.9	822.8	95.0	225.5	437.3	154.2
August	2,064.5	194.5	492.3	1,020.5	n.p.	533.7	825.1	95.3	222.0	436.4	152.1
September	2,077.0	192.3	488.5	1,020.3	n.p.	533.2	825.1	96.4	216.8	438.0	149.6
October	2,094.5	189.4	487.1	1,014.3	n.p.	535.1	823.5	98.3	211.8	441.7	147.7
November	2,115.6	186.5	488.4	1,004.8	n.p.	539.4	821.0	100.5	208.8	445.6	147.3
December	2,136.3	184.4	491.8	994.7	n.p.	544.9	818.9	102.6	209.0	447.9	148.5
1991 —											
January	2,152.7	183.5	495.2	987.1	n.p.	550.3	817.5	104.1	211.9	448.2	151.1
February	2,162.5	183.4	497.4	982.4	n.p.	554.8	816.6	104.9	215.9	446.7	154.1
March	2,166.3	183.9	498.5	979.9	n.p.	558.2	816.1	105.1	219.9	443.9	157.1
April	2,164.1	184.7	498.6	979.1	n.p.	561.0	814.5	105.0	224.1	440.9	160.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY INDUSTRY, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA (a) -continued

Month	Grocers, confec- tioners, tobac- co-nists	Butchers	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Other food stores	Cafes and rest- aurants	Clothing and fabrics stores	Depart- ment and general stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electri- cal goods stores	Floor- cover- ings stores	Furni- ture stores	Pharma- cies	News- agents	Other stores	Total	TREND ESTIMATES (c)
																percentage change from preceding month
<i>1990 —</i>																TREND ESTIMATES (c)
February	0.6	1.8	0.7	0.2	n.p.	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	0.2	0.8	1.4	0.5	n.p.	0.3
March	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.5	n.p.	0.1	0.0	-0.9	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.5	n.p.	0.2
April	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	n.p.	0.2	0.4	-0.8	0.4	-0.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	n.p.	0.2
May	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.9	n.p.	0.2	0.6	-0.3	0.4	-0.7	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.2	n.p.	0.3
June	0.8	0.1	-0.1	1.1	n.p.	0.1	0.6	-0.2	0.2	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	0.9	0.1	r.p.	0.4
July	0.6	-0.1	-0.7	1.0	n.p.	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	0.0	1.4	-0.2	n.p.	0.3
August	0.5	-0.6	-0.9	0.6	n.p.	-0.2	0.3	0.3	-1.6	-0.2	-1.4	-0.6	1.4	-0.7	n.p.	0.2
September	0.6	-1.1	-0.8	0.0	n.p.	-0.1	0.0	1.2	-2.3	0.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.8	-1.7	n.p.	0.1
October	0.8	-1.5	-0.3	-0.6	n.p.	0.4	-0.2	2.0	-2.3	0.8	-1.3	-1.4	-0.2	-2.3	r.p.	0.1
November	1.0	-1.5	0.3	-0.9	n.p.	0.8	-0.3	2.2	-1.4	0.9	-0.3	-1.7	-0.8	-2.0	r.p.	0.2
December	1.0	-1.1	0.7	-1.0	n.p.	1.0	-0.3	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	-1.8	-0.6	-0.9	n.p.	0.2
<i>1991 —</i>																TREND ESTIMATES (c)
January	0.8	-0.5	0.7	-0.8	n.p.	1.0	-0.2	1.5	1.4	0.1	1.8	-1.6	0.4	0.2	n.p.	0.2
February	0.5	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	n.p.	0.8	-0.1	0.8	1.9	-0.3	2.0	-1.0	1.7	0.8	n.p.	0.2
March	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.3	n.p.	0.6	-0.1	0.2	1.9	-0.6	1.9	-0.3	2.5	1.0	r.p.	0.1
April	-0.1	0.4	0.0	-0.1	n.p.	0.5	-0.2	-0.1	1.9	-0.7	2.0	0.3	2.7	0.9	r.p.	0.0
																TREND ESTIMATES (c)
February	7.8	9.0	16.0	8.8	n.p.	-4.9	4.6	16.0	-9.1	13.2	6.7	0.6	16.0	5.9	n.p.	7.7
March	8.0	9.1	15.2	7.2	n.p.	-4.3	4.9	13.0	-10.8	11.2	5.5	2.2	15.9	4.6	n.p.	7.2
April	8.2	9.1	14.4	5.8	n.p.	-3.0	5.0	9.3	-11.3	9.1	4.8	2.2	15.4	3.8	n.p.	6.7
May	8.2	9.3	13.7	4.9	n.p.	-1.4	4.9	6.2	-10.9	6.9	4.9	1.4	14.9	3.0	n.p.	6.2
June	8.1	9.8	12.4	4.5	n.p.	0.0	4.4	3.9	-10.0	4.3	5.2	0.3	14.7	2.1	n.p.	5.8
July	7.8	10.6	10.5	4.5	n.p.	0.6	3.6	2.4	-9.4	1.8	5.0	-0.2	14.8	1.4	n.p.	5.3
August	7.4	10.9	8.0	4.6	n.p.	0.7	2.6	1.7	-9.3	-0.1	3.5	-0.3	14.8	0.6	n.p.	4.7
September	7.4	10.0	5.5	4.5	n.p.	0.8	1.8	2.1	-9.6	-1.1	0.9	-0.5	14.1	-0.8	n.p.	4.1
October	7.8	7.6	3.5	4.0	n.p.	1.1	1.4	3.4	-10.0	-1.3	-1.7	-1.4	12.4	-2.7	n.p.	3.6
November	8.5	4.1	2.1	3.3	n.p.	1.8	1.2	4.6	-9.8	-1.1	-3.5	-3.1	10.2	-4.6	n.p.	3.3
December	9.2	0.5	1.5	2.4	n.p.	2.6	1.3	5.8	-8.5	-0.9	-3.6	-4.4	8.2	-5.7	n.p.	3.0
<i>1991 —</i>																TREND ESTIMATES (c)
January	9.5	-2.2	1.2	1.7	n.p.	3.4	1.3	6.7	-6.1	-0.9	-2.3	-6.2	7.1	-5.9	n.p.	2.8
February	9.3	-4.0	1.0	1.0	n.p.	4.1	1.4	7.8	-3.8	-1.1	-0.6	-7.9	7.5	-5.6	n.p.	2.6
March	8.7	-5.0	0.6	0.2	n.p.	4.7	1.3	9.0	-2.0	-1.3	1.2	-8.7	9.0	-5.1	n.p.	2.5
April	7.7	-5.3	0.0	-0.6	n.p.	5.1	0.7	9.8	-0.4	-1.3	3.2	-8.6	11.2	-4.6	n.p.	2.3

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc. (b) The standard error of the estimates for the latest month and of the latest month from the preceding month — see paragraphs 9 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (c) Subject to revision — see paragraph 21 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 4. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES BY INDUSTRY, AT CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1984—85) PRICES, AUSTRALIA (a)

Quarter	Grocers, confec- tioners, tobacc- oists	Butchers	Depart- ment stores clubs	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed food				Cafes and resta- urants				Clothing and fabrics				Domestic hardware stores				Electri- cal goods stores				Floor cover- ings stores				Furni- ture stores				Pharma- ceutical agents				News- agents				Total
				Other food stores	Butchers stores	Cafes and resta- urants	Clothing and fabrics	Domestic hardware stores	Footwear stores	Electri- cal goods stores	Furni- ture stores	Pharma- ceutical agents	News- agents	Other stores	Total																									
ORIGINAL																																								
1990—																																								
March	4,141.9	400.6	969.7	1,972.7	761.5	930.3	1,408.8	191.4	479.5	1,044.0	303.3	114.9	580.8	532.7	753.1	14,585.2																								
June	4,129.2	411.8	921.8	1,895.6	715.6	1,096.6	1,664.6	217.8	445.4	1,109.3	303.6	125.3	612.1	486.1	739.3	14,874.1																								
September	4,181.4	421.1	945.7	1,925.3	730.4	1,030.2	1,528.9	195.5	445.7	1,066.9	308.9	124.6	630.4	498.5	765.0	14,798.5																								
December	4,570.7	430.0	997.3	2,164.2	766.7	1,243.7	2,237.7	225.6	636.6	1,248.2	323.2	127.9	701.1	506.8	935.4	17,115.1																								
1991—																																								
March	4,336.1	377.6	r 912.1	1,866.5	685.3	916.9	1,367.7	r 197.1	456.9	1,016.1	287.2	100.9	r 573.1	476.8	714.5	14,284.8																								
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES																																								
1990—																																								
March	4,186.7	416.5	965.6	1,990.4	n.p.	1,089.3	1,707.9	208.7	530.1	1,143.8	322.8	126.1	617.2	532.3	n.p.	15,440.9																								
June	4,218.1	422.4	951.8	2,007.0	n.p.	1,094.7	1,736.3	206.1	519.3	1,124.4	319.0	129.4	634.7	511.3	n.p.	15,386.8																								
September	4,300.6	425.4	971.9	2,028.6	n.p.	1,067.3	1,719.8	205.6	519.3	1,103.2	312.0	121.0	636.9	516.9	n.p.	15,468.0																								
December	4,331.0	405.0	947.5	1,953.4	n.p.	1,059.0	1,702.1	210.2	471.5	1,106.2	287.9	117.7	638.9	471.2	n.p.	15,184.4																								
1991—																																								
March	4,420.8	392.1	r 911.7	1,886.4	n.p.	1,087.4	1,673.6	r 216.1	502.2	1,120.8	310.4	110.7	r 612.7	478.8	n.p.	15,243.0																								
percentage change from preceding quarter																																								
1990—																																								
March	0.0	5.5	3.0	-2.0	n.p.	-0.4	-3.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	1.1	-2.4	1.5	0.6	1.9	n.p.	-0.1																							
June	0.7	1.4	-1.4	0.8	n.p.	0.5	1.7	-1.2	-2.0	-2.0	-1.7	-1.2	2.6	2.8	-3.9	n.p.	-0.4																							
September	2.0	0.7	2.1	1.1	n.p.	-2.5	-1.0	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-1.9	-2.2	-6.5	0.3	1.1	n.p.	0.5																							
December	0.7	-4.8	-2.5	-3.7	n.p.	-0.8	-1.0	2.2	-9.2	0.3	-7.7	-7.7	-2.7	0.3	-8.8	n.p.	-1.8																							
1991—																																								
March	2.1	-3.2	-3.8	-3.4	n.p.	2.7	-1.7	2.8	6.5	1.3	7.8	-5.9	-4.1	1.6	n.p.	0.4																								
percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year																																								
1990—																																								
March	0.3	0.9	9.6	0.3	n.p.	-11.7	-1.2	10.2	-10.0	12.8	0.9	-0.2	9.4	4.6	n.p.	1.3																								
June	2.2	3.0	9.1	-2.3	n.p.	-5.3	1.8	5.0	-12.6	6.0	-5.6	-4.6	9.9	-3.1	n.p.	1.3																								
September	2.6	7.9	11.2	-1.9	n.p.	-3.7	-2.0	1.3	-9.4	-0.7	-2.7	-11.2	7.9	-4.1	n.p.	0.4																								
December	3.4	2.6	1.1	-3.8	n.p.	-3.2	-3.4	0.2	-11.5	-2.2	-13.0	-5.2	4.1	-9.8	n.p.	-1.8																								
1991—																																								
March	5.6	-5.9	-5.6	-5.2	n.p.	-0.2	-2.0	3.5	-5.3	-2.0	-3.8	-12.2	-0.7	-10.1	n.p.	-1.3																								

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc.

TABLE 5. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES (a)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory		Australia
								ORIGINAL \$ million	TREND ESTIMATES (c) \$ million	
<i>1990 —</i>										
February	2,284.2	1,661.8	1,072.2	495.1	565.1	162.8	59.6	107.5	6,408.3	
March	2,572.5	1,831.8	1,198.4	571.2	647.0	184.3	68.2	121.9	7,195.4	
April	2,467.5	1,749.6	1,130.9	553.7	623.4	172.1	67.3	120.1	6,884.6	
May	2,615.0	1,826.2	1,225.5	584.9	653.0	185.1	74.8	130.0	7,294.5	
June	2,550.8	1,773.8	1,228.5	566.5	653.2	180.1	77.4	129.8	7,160.1	
July	2,519.6	1,710.3	1,183.0	553.5	626.3	173.0	82.1	126.8	6,974.6	
August	2,622.3	1,781.3	1,255.7	578.2	649.0	183.8	83.5	128.7	7,282.4	
September	2,571.0	1,718.3	1,205.9	554.5	631.5	177.5	79.3	126.6	7,064.6	
October	2,692.1	1,812.3	1,268.3	595.4	663.7	187.3	80.6	131.5	7,431.2	
November	2,816.8	1,898.3	1,306.7	652.7	691.0	199.1	77.9	137.4	7,779.8	
December	3,490.0	2,459.5	1,616.6	796.2	879.3	245.3	87.5	171.0	9,745.5	
<i>1991 —</i>										
January	2,589.6	1,779.6	1,255.6	603.6	644.9	190.7	67.0	123.5	7,254.5	
February	2,369.3	1,627.9	1,126.3	541.1	591.2	177.0	65.3	118.3	6,616.4	
March	r 2,599.0	r 1,777.9	r 1,222.2	612.4	r 650.1	197.8	74.4	136.4	r 7,270.2	
April	2,566.4	1,733.9	1,186.4	590.4	635.8	180.5	72.8	136.5	7,102.7	
<i>Standard error (b) of</i>										
Level	54.3	38.3	25.7	14.0	12.8	4.5	1.6	3.0	73.9	
Change	26.6	13.9	6.4	6.2	5.7	1.8	0.8	1.3	31.9	
<i>1990 —</i>										
February	2,593.3	1,875.8	1,225.5	574.4	642.8	180.2	n.p.	124.4	7,285.6	
March	2,610.8	1,864.1	1,232.1	576.7	646.1	181.8	n.p.	125.4	7,303.5	
April	2,628.4	1,850.6	1,236.7	578.5	652.1	183.3	n.p.	126.5	7,321.2	
May	2,644.3	1,840.2	1,238.3	579.6	659.1	184.7	n.p.	127.9	7,341.1	
June	2,659.8	1,834.4	1,239.1	580.7	664.9	186.2	n.p.	129.2	7,366.8	
July	2,671.7	1,830.6	1,240.8	582.6	667.8	187.4	n.p.	130.3	7,388.9	
August	2,677.3	1,826.4	1,243.1	586.5	668.4	188.2	n.p.	131.0	7,403.2	
September	2,675.9	1,822.3	1,246.5	592.2	667.5	188.6	n.p.	131.1	7,409.0	
October	2,670.0	1,821.4	1,251.3	600.2	666.5	189.2	n.p.	131.4	7,416.7	
November	2,664.5	1,823.4	1,257.7	608.6	665.6	190.3	n.p.	132.1	7,429.1	
December	2,664.7	1,826.0	1,264.6	615.6	665.3	191.6	n.p.	133.5	7,444.9	
<i>1991 —</i>										
January	2,672.2	1,826.9	1,270.6	620.0	665.1	193.1	n.p.	135.2	7,462.4	
February	2,684.1	1,825.3	1,276.4	622.4	664.4	194.5	n.p.	137.0	7,477.8	
March	2,696.2	1,821.3	1,281.7	623.4	663.2	195.3	n.p.	138.7	7,485.8	
April	2,708.6	1,817.5	1,285.6	622.5	662.4	195.7	n.p.	140.3	7,499.3	

See Footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES (a)—continued

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
TREND ESTIMATES (c) percentage change from preceding month									
<i>1990—</i>									
February	0.7	-0.2	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.0	n.p.	0.8	0.3
March	0.7	-0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.9	n.p.	0.8	0.2
April	0.7	-0.7	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.8	n.p.	0.9	0.2
May	0.6	-0.6	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.8	n.p.	1.1	0.3
June	0.6	-0.3	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.8	n.p.	1.0	0.4
July	0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	n.p.	0.9	0.3
August	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.4	n.p.	0.5	0.2
September	-0.1	-0.2	0.3	1.0	-0.1	0.2	n.p.	0.1	0.1
October	-0.2	0.0	0.4	1.4	-0.1	0.3	n.p.	0.2	0.1
November	-0.2	0.1	0.5	1.4	-0.1	0.6	n.p.	0.5	0.2
December	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.2	0.0	0.7	n.p.	1.1	0.2
<i>1991—</i>									
January	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.8	n.p.	1.3	0.2
February	0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.4	-0.1	0.7	n.p.	1.3	0.2
March	0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.4	n.p.	1.2	0.1
April	0.5	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	n.p.	1.2	0.0
TREND ESTIMATES (c) percentage change from corresponding month of previous year									
<i>1990—</i>									
February	9.0	6.0	10.0	4.7	6.7	7.8	n.p.	7.2	7.7
March	8.5	4.8	9.2	5.1	6.8	8.3	n.p.	8.7	7.2
April	8.1	3.5	8.2	5.5	7.3	8.9	n.p.	10.0	6.7
May	7.6	2.4	7.2	5.7	7.7	9.4	n.p.	11.0	6.2
June	7.2	1.7	6.4	5.8	7.6	9.7	n.p.	11.3	5.8
July	6.6	1.2	5.6	5.7	6.6	9.7	n.p.	10.9	5.3
August	6.1	0.6	5.0	5.7	5.3	9.2	n.p.	10.1	4.7
September	5.6	-0.4	4.7	6.0	4.1	8.6	n.p.	9.0	4.1
October	5.1	-1.3	4.5	6.7	3.4	8.4	n.p.	8.3	3.6
November	4.6	-2.1	4.5	7.5	3.2	8.4	n.p.	8.1	3.3
December	4.1	-2.6	4.5	8.2	3.4	8.4	n.p.	8.8	3.0
<i>1991—</i>									
January	3.7	-2.8	4.3	8.4	3.6	8.2	n.p.	9.6	2.8
February	3.5	-2.7	4.2	8.4	3.4	7.9	n.p.	10.1	2.6
March	3.3	-2.3	4.0	8.1	2.6	7.4	n.p.	10.6	2.5
April	3.1	-1.8	4.0	7.6	1.6	6.8	n.p.	10.9	2.3

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc. (b) The standard error of the estimates for the latest month and of the latest month from the preceding month — see paragraphs 9 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (c) Subject to revision — see from paragraph 21 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES, AT CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1984-85) PRICES, AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES (a)

Quarter	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
ORIGINAL \$ million									
1990—									
March	5,220.7	3,724.4	2,452.9	1,158.8	1,279.8	364.4	134.5	249.7	14,585.2
June	5,371.8	3,670.8	2,498.5	1,204.9	1,328.8	374.6	152.8	271.9	14,874.1
September	5,408.9	3,560.4	2,535.5	1,178.2	1,305.7	370.0	168.7	271.1	14,798.5
December	6,255.0	4,162.6	2,874.8	1,399.7	1,515.4	431.0	166.6	310.0	17,115.1
1991—									
March	r 5,151.6	r 3,466.9	r 2,423.9	1,195.7	r 1,263.8	381.0	138.5	263.4	r 14,284.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES \$ million									
1990—									
March	5,553.9	3,924.1	2,604.2	1,229.1	1,341.5	380.9	n.p.	271.3	15,440.9
June	5,579.1	3,813.1	2,607.3	1,238.3	1,366.3	387.0	n.p.	277.5	15,386.8
September	5,654.7	3,757.0	2,579.0	1,223.7	1,374.7	392.5	n.p.	278.0	15,468.0
December	5,513.0	3,671.4	2,587.6	1,253.6	1,352.2	383.1	n.p.	276.4	15,184.4
1991—									
March	r 5,520.0	r 3,665.9	r 2,580.0	1,273.8	r 1,336.1	402.6	n.p.	288.9	r 15,243.0
Percentage change from preceding quarter									
1990—									
March	0.1	-0.3	1.3	0.2	-3.0	2.0	n.p.	1.2	-0.1
June	0.5	-2.8	0.1	0.7	1.8	1.6	n.p.	2.3	-0.4
September	1.4	-1.5	-1.1	-1.2	0.6	1.4	n.p.	0.2	0.5
December	-2.5	-2.3	0.3	2.4	-1.6	-2.4	n.p.	-0.6	-1.8
1991—									
March	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	1.6	-1.2	5.1	n.p.	4.5	0.4
Percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
1990—									
March	2.7	-0.4	4.6	-0.1	0.1	1.5	n.p.	1.8	1.3
June	1.6	-2.7	2.9	2.5	2.4	4.8	n.p.	7.0	1.3
September	2.4	-4.1	0.9	0.9	-0.1	4.7	n.p.	4.1	0.4
December	-0.6	-6.7	0.7	2.2	-2.3	2.6	n.p.	3.1	-1.8
1991—									
March	-0.6	-6.6	-0.9	3.6	-0.4	5.7	n.p.	6.5	-1.3

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobac- conists		Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs		Depart- ment and general stores		Domestic hardware stores, jewellers		Elec- trical goods stores		Furni- ture stores		Floor cover- ings stores		Pharma- cies		News- agents		Other stores		Total
	Butchers	Other food stores	Cafes	Clothing and fabrics stores	Footwear stores	Resi- taurants	Furniture stores	Jewellers	Electri- cal goods stores	Furni- ture stores	Pharma- cies	Furni- ture stores	News- agents	Other stores	Total	Other stores	Total	Other stores	Total	Total	
NEW SOUTH WALES																					
1990 —																					
February	560.7	71.9	168.8	404.8	132.5	138.1	199.4	27.6	63.1	121.5	48.0	16.4	101.3	106.9	123.4	2,284.2					
March	611.6	79.0	179.7	455.1	139.1	171.3	255.6	32.7	72.1	135.5	54.7	22.5	115.0	114.7	134.0	2,572.5					
April	570.9	72.8	178.6	448.2	134.4	181.4	257.1	34.7	61.5	127.6	49.8	19.6	114.3	96.6	120.0	2,467.5					
May	597.3	78.0	177.9	447.1	130.6	211.4	284.5	36.4	68.6	146.3	56.4	24.4	124.1	107.3	124.7	2,615.0					
June	607.7	85.8	176.3	444.9	124.3	178.2	284.1	40.4	63.0	134.0	55.0	26.3	114.4	96.5	120.0	2,550.8					
July	597.3	83.6	172.7	465.3	123.2	177.1	253.7	34.8	60.8	133.2	54.0	21.3	116.7	106.5	119.6	2,519.6					
August	647.5	85.0	175.1	468.8	130.1	172.6	263.6	33.3	64.9	138.1	51.3	24.5	123.9	118.5	125.2	2,622.3					
September	607.5	78.9	152.3	475.5	139.9	184.0	264.0	35.7	64.8	131.7	51.7	26.1	135.9	100.0	123.1	2,571.0					
October	632.3	79.4	165.7	494.8	130.5	199.6	274.6	35.2	71.6	144.3	58.9	25.8	146.9	99.7	133.0	2,692.1					
November	667.8	79.7	164.6	502.9	136.7	215.2	323.7	35.8	81.2	147.0	56.1	26.3	139.9	100.7	139.3	2,816.8					
December	740.0	85.1	185.7	571.1	158.1	292.3	555.2	49.2	119.0	216.1	60.0	23.9	153.1	107.7	173.5	3,490.0					
1991 —																					
January	676.6	70.1	172.9	480.4	135.1	183.8	239.8	38.2	60.8	143.3	51.9	18.1	114.7	86.1	117.7	2,589.6					
February	615.8	67.8	152.4	433.6	119.5	152.9	206.7	28.9	64.5	129.8	48.4	20.7	114.2	103.4	110.7	2,369.3					
March	671.8	75.3	165.7	467.4	125.1	171.1	249.1	33.4	69.1	131.5	54.6	21.9	125.3	111.0	126.8	2,599.0					
April	620.7	74.3	165.7	452.3	120.6	203.5	257.8	38.0	64.5	129.2	53.0	21.4	147.6	94.9	122.9	2,566.4					
Standard error (b) of Level Change	16.7	7.2	16.6	27.7	13.1	15.5	0.0	3.7	4.5	8.4	5.4	2.5	26.0	12.6	13.9	n.p.					
	4.9	1.1	2.1	8.0	3.6	5.9	0.0	1.0	1.9	4.2	1.1	1.5	22.8	1.6	4.6	26.6					
TREND ESTIMATES (c)																					
1990 —																					
November	648.6	76.3	162.6	477.9	n.p.	198.8	288.5	36.4	67.4	147.5	52.3	23.2	131.8	98.4	n.p.	2,664.5					
December	655.1	75.0	162.9	469.8	n.p.	201.3	287.2	36.9	66.2	148.5	52.9	23.5	129.9	96.8	n.p.	2,664.7					
1991 —																					
January	659.9	74.6	163.8	463.9	n.p.	202.8	285.6	37.3	67.1	148.4	54.0	23.7	129.0	97.3	n.p.	2,672.2					
February	662.0	74.8	164.7	459.8	n.p.	203.4	284.5	37.5	69.3	147.5	55.2	24.0	130.4	98.9	n.p.	2,684.1					
March	662.0	75.6	165.9	456.9	n.p.	203.5	283.8	37.5	72.0	146.2	56.5	24.2	133.6	100.9	n.p.	2,696.2					
April	659.2	76.5	166.5	454.6	n.p.	203.2	282.9	37.6	74.9	144.4	57.7	24.4	137.6	102.9	n.p.	2,708.6					
percentage change from preceding month																					
1990 —																					
November	1.1	-2.9	-0.7	-1.8	n.p.	1.8	-0.4	0.6	-4.7	1.6	0.0	0.9	-0.8	-3.1	n.p.	-0.2					
December	1.0	-1.7	0.2	-1.7	n.p.	1.3	-0.5	1.4	-1.8	0.7	1.1	1.3	-1.4	-1.6	n.p.	0.0					
1991 —																					
January	0.7	-0.5	0.6	-1.3	n.p.	0.7	-0.6	1.1	1.4	-0.1	2.1	0.9	-0.7	0.5	n.p.	0.3					
February	0.3	0.5	-0.9	n.p.	0.3	-0.4	0.5	3.3	-0.6	2.2	1.3	1.1	1.6	n.p.	0.4						
March	0.0	1.1	0.7	-0.6	n.p.	0.0	-0.2	0.0	3.9	-0.9	2.4	0.8	2.5	2.0	n.p.	0.5					
April	-0.4	1.2	0.4	-0.5	n.p.	-0.1	-0.3	0.3	4.0	-1.2	2.1	0.8	3.0	2.0	n.p.	0.5					

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confec- tioners, tobacco- onists	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Depart- ment and general stores	Cafes and rest- aurants	Clothing and fabrics stores	Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electri- cal goods stores	Furni- ture stores	Floor cover- ings stores	Pharma- cies	News- agents	Other stores	Total
<i>1990—</i>														
February	523.1	43.4	115.7	178.2	96.2	112.7	135.5	19.5	64.7	109.8	33.5	16.3	55.7	74.5
March	592.3	52.7	121.9	186.4	115.1	126.6	165.9	20.6	70.2	112.3	35.4	14.9	61.3	61.2
April	546.7	47.7	115.1	172.6	97.1	139.4	177.9	24.0	63.6	115.1	32.9	13.0	58.6	52.3
May	570.1	50.6	111.4	163.7	99.0	152.7	188.4	24.8	69.4	125.3	37.1	15.1	63.1	61.7
June	552.0	50.7	118.0	160.5	92.6	148.4	195.6	23.5	62.2	120.4	34.3	16.2	53.8	56.4
July	526.0	46.1	118.0	159.2	104.0	145.9	156.2	21.8	65.5	114.5	38.7	12.7	52.5	56.3
August	571.6	48.2	116.9	160.9	96.4	139.5	171.5	19.3	67.1	119.8	39.3	14.4	57.5	59.3
September	539.1	47.4	109.3	182.7	101.8	130.9	162.4	19.8	65.3	105.0	34.5	11.3	55.2	53.6
October	581.7	47.3	113.1	182.7	99.5	141.3	176.7	22.2	71.6	108.7	36.9	14.2	58.2	53.6
November	604.5	45.5	113.5	194.3	95.5	149.1	212.1	22.9	79.2	110.4	39.0	12.4	55.5	56.1
December	668.6	50.1	140.8	249.7	101.5	212.3	373.6	35.2	129.6	150.0	43.0	13.4	66.5	76.8
<i>1991—</i>														
January	597.0	45.2	125.2	175.5	91.6	124.8	152.7	30.2	69.6	108.8	37.8	9.2	52.4	66.8
February	551.5	42.7	104.2	167.2	86.7	114.9	135.6	23.4	71.6	91.5	34.3	9.4	48.0	57.6
March	613.0	44.4	116.7	176.0	85.8	128.2	167.9	25.1	65.0	98.5	36.7	9.8	r 65.7	55.8
April	560.9	44.9	113.9	164.6	82.1	149.5	174.5	28.7	66.3	106.5	34.0	9.8	63.6	49.8
Standard error (b) of Level Change	15.9	7.2	19.3	14.6	7.9	12.0	0.0	2.5	7.5	11.6	5.0	1.4	8.6	4.1
	7.4	2.1	3.8	5.8	3.4	3.7	0.0	0.9	4.8	0.9	2.5	0.5	4.3	1.9
TREND ESTIMATES (c)														
<i>1990—</i>														
November	582.1	47.1	115.2	181.8	n.p.	142.4	191.3	25.3	72.2	110.6	36.6	11.7	53.9	57.6
December	586.2	46.8	116.2	179.2	n.p.	142.7	190.7	26.7	72.7	110.1	37.5	11.3	54.1	58.0
<i>1991—</i>														
January	588.0	46.3	117.2	176.1	n.p.	143.8	189.6	27.6	73.6	110.2	38.4	11.0	55.6	58.3
February	588.2	45.9	117.4	173.5	n.p.	145.2	188.6	28.1	74.4	110.7	39.1	10.7	58.3	58.2
March	587.6	45.5	117.1	171.6	n.p.	146.6	187.7	28.1	74.9	111.4	39.4	10.5	61.4	57.8
April	585.7	45.2	116.3	170.6	n.p.	147.9	186.6	28.0	75.6	112.2	39.7	10.3	64.7	57.3
percentage change from preceding month														
<i>1990—</i>														
November	1.0	-0.6	0.3	-0.7	n.p.	-0.3	0.2	6.3	-0.3	-1.1	1.9	-4.1	-1.5	-0.2
December	0.7	-0.6	0.9	-1.4	n.p.	0.2	-0.3	5.5	0.7	-0.5	2.5	-3.4	0.4	0.7
<i>1991—</i>														
January	0.3	-1.1	0.9	-1.7	n.p.	0.8	-0.6	3.4	1.2	0.1	2.4	-2.7	2.8	0.5
February	0.0	-0.9	0.2	-1.5	n.p.	1.0	-0.5	1.8	1.1	0.5	1.8	-2.7	4.9	-0.2
March	-0.1	-0.9	-0.3	-1.1	n.p.	1.0	-0.5	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.8	-1.9	5.3	-0.1
April	-0.3	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	n.p.	0.9	-0.6	-0.4	0.9	0.7	0.8	-1.9	5.4	-0.2

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confec- tions, tobacc- onists	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed	Cafes	Clothing and fabrics	Depart- ment and general stores	Domestic hardware stores	Elect- rical goods	Furni- ture	Floor cover- ings	Pharma- cies	News- agents	Other stores	Total
	Butchers	Other food stores	clubs	restau- rants	stores	Footwear stores	jewellers	stores	stores	stores	stores	stores	Original \$ million
QUEENSLAND													
1990—													
February	318.7	31.2	78.4	140.1	42.0	72.3	95.0	13.2	29.0	77.1	21.6	9.3	36.5
March	353.9	35.4	86.4	148.8	52.9	86.3	117.5	16.9	33.1	76.9	26.3	10.5	44.7
April	332.0	32.6	82.7	140.3	51.5	88.4	110.8	16.5	28.8	70.6	20.4	9.3	42.2
May	347.3	34.8	82.6	142.0	52.5	103.6	125.5	18.0	30.1	80.6	25.9	11.5	48.5
June	343.4	37.2	86.6	141.2	50.0	104.4	138.0	19.9	25.8	83.1	27.8	11.1	45.4
July	342.1	37.1	86.7	139.8	54.2	94.0	107.3	16.1	23.7	76.3	27.8	11.3	49.0
August	359.5	36.4	88.6	148.0	56.6	99.6	122.7	15.7	25.5	82.5	25.3	13.5	55.2
September	337.6	33.6	86.7	149.8	49.4	99.1	124.4	19.0	27.2	73.7	25.2	12.4	44.3
October	359.1	34.9	88.3	154.2	51.1	106.6	127.6	16.0	29.4	80.0	27.4	13.6	55.1
November	366.1	34.3	86.5	160.9	52.3	112.0	146.7	15.8	34.4	86.5	28.0	14.1	49.0
December	399.3	36.8	95.5	191.2	59.8	138.5	237.5	21.2	53.9	120.1	27.1	11.7	58.1
1991—													
January	374.5	32.5	96.1	153.4	58.2	97.5	114.5	19.6	33.1	86.0	20.9	10.8	43.5
February	341.6	29.8	85.3	134.7	50.0	81.6	97.0	12.0	33.1	80.9	20.7	12.2	40.2
March	379.0	36.7	89.4	155.2	51.3	83.6	112.2	15.1	27.5	79.4	24.5	10.2	45.0
April	350.9	33.0	84.5	147.9	53.0	90.0	113.4	15.9	25.9	78.7	24.1	10.9	45.6
Standard error (b) of													
Level	7.2	3.6	8.9	14.4	8.3	7.7	0.0	1.7	2.5	4.0	2.3	1.4	6.4
Change	1.2	2.0	2.3	3.0	1.9	2.1	0.0	0.1	1.4	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.7
TREND ESTIMATES (c)													
1990—													
November	360.7	32.9	86.5	152.5	n.p.	100.9	132.5	17.1	30.7	83.7	24.3	12.7	49.9
December	363.2	33.3	87.2	153.3	n.p.	102.7	132.1	17.1	31.7	85.5	23.9	12.4	48.6
1991—													
January	365.1	34.1	88.2	154.0	n.p.	103.6	131.0	17.1	32.4	87.1	23.9	12.2	47.8
February	366.4	34.9	89.4	154.9	n.p.	104.0	129.9	17.0	32.9	88.3	24.2	11.9	47.4
March	367.0	35.8	90.5	156.0	n.p.	104.1	128.8	16.9	33.0	89.3	24.8	11.7	47.2
April	366.8	36.7	91.3	157.0	n.p.	103.8	127.6	16.9	33.0	90.2	25.6	11.5	47.2
Percentage change from preceding month													
1990—													
November	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.8	n.p.	2.0	0.1	0.6	3.4	2.2	-2.8	-0.8	-3.0
December	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	n.p.	1.8	-0.3	0.0	3.3	2.2	-1.6	-2.4	-1.6
1991—													
January	0.5	2.4	1.1	0.5	n.p.	0.9	-0.8	0.0	2.2	1.9	0.0	-1.6	0.0
February	0.4	2.3	1.4	0.6	n.p.	0.4	-0.8	-0.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	-2.5	1.6
March	0.2	2.6	1.2	0.7	n.p.	0.1	-0.8	-0.6	0.3	1.1	2.5	-1.7	-0.4
April	-0.1	2.5	0.9	0.6	n.p.	-0.3	-0.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.2	-1.7	0.0

See Footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacc onists	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Cafes and rest- aurants	Clothing and fabrics	Depart- men t and general stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Furni- ture stores	Floor cover- ings	Furni- ture stores	News- agents	Other stores	Total
	Butchers	Other food stores	Footwear stores	Footwear stores	Footwear stores	Jewellers	stores	Pharma- cies	Furni- ture stores	Newspaper agents	Other stores	Total
<i>1990—</i>												
February	151.1	12.8	36.4	58.5	22.9	29.1	64.9	5.5	13.9	29.8	13.8	5.2
March	175.4	14.4	42.8	65.7	24.7	36.1	75.7	7.6	13.6	35.0	15.0	5.9
April	163.3	13.4	40.4	66.1	22.1	38.8	80.2	8.7	13.0	33.6	14.4	4.9
May	172.9	14.2	40.8	60.9	23.5	41.5	88.7	8.9	14.4	39.0	16.5	6.0
June	168.0	16.4	41.2	58.9	22.2	39.7	82.0	8.6	12.9	39.4	14.9	5.2
July	160.9	14.3	41.2	56.5	22.3	40.8	82.4	7.8	12.3	37.9	15.7	5.9
August	177.6	15.9	43.1	59.1	22.3	36.1	82.8	7.1	14.5	38.1	15.3	6.4
September	161.5	14.1	42.2	62.5	25.9	35.3	76.7	8.0	13.8	32.5	14.6	5.0
October	175.1	15.6	46.2	65.5	28.1	38.0	84.6	8.6	14.8	34.4	15.1	6.0
November	186.9	15.9	48.9	68.3	35.0	37.6	106.4	8.5	16.6	37.1	15.2	7.2
December	206.9	20.3	50.9	84.7	30.2	46.1	157.9	10.5	25.5	48.4	14.3	4.0
<i>1991—</i>												
January	189.1	15.0	46.3	69.4	27.0	37.2	75.9	8.7	12.9	36.2	14.2	4.4
February	172.9	13.4	41.5	60.9	22.3	29.4	68.2	6.5	12.2	31.8	12.7	4.5
March	200.1	14.6	48.0	65.9	25.6	38.2	74.2	8.2	12.0	33.4	15.1	5.2
April	176.9	13.4	42.8	62.3	25.1	45.0	83.0	9.5	12.5	34.4	13.8	5.2
Standard error (b) of Level Change	6.1	2.3	4.8	3.1	5.1	0.0	0.8	1.3	2.9	1.4	0.6	7.0
	0.8	0.4	3.1	4.5	1.0	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.4
TREND ESTIMATES (c)												
\$ million												
percentage change from preceding month												
<i>1990—</i>												
November	179.5	15.5	45.3	65.6	n.p.	36.2	89.9	8.7	14.2	36.8	14.4	5.4
December	184.0	15.5	45.8	65.4	n.p.	36.7	90.2	8.8	14.0	36.8	14.4	5.1
<i>1991—</i>												
January	187.7	15.3	46.1	65.0	n.p.	37.8	90.1	8.8	14.0	36.6	14.5	5.0
February	190.2	15.0	46.1	64.6	n.p.	39.3	89.6	8.7	14.1	36.4	14.8	4.9
March	191.8	14.7	46.0	64.2	n.p.	40.8	88.9	8.6	14.2	36.3	15.0	4.9
April	191.9	14.3	45.7	64.0	n.p.	42.2	87.9	8.6	14.4	36.2	15.2	4.9
TREND ESTIMATES (c)												
\$ million												
percentage change from preceding month												
<i>1990—</i>												
November	2.5	-0.6	1.8	0.3	n.p.	-1.1	0.7	2.4	-2.7	0.0	-1.4	5.5
December	2.5	0.0	1.1	-0.3	n.p.	1.4	0.3	1.1	-1.4	0.0	-5.6	6.1
<i>1991—</i>												
January	2.0	-1.3	0.7	-0.6	n.p.	3.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.7	6.1
February	1.3	-2.0	0.0	-0.6	n.p.	4.0	-0.6	-1.1	0.7	-0.5	-0.7	5.4
March	0.8	-2.0	-0.2	-0.6	n.p.	3.8	-0.8	-1.1	0.7	-0.3	5.1	-1.4
April	0.1	-2.7	-0.7	-0.3	n.p.	3.4	-1.1	0.0	1.4	-0.3	3.8	-2.1

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confec- tioners, tobacc- onists	Other food stores	Butchers	WESTERN AUSTRALIA				ORIGINAL \$ million				News- agents	Other stores	Total
				Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Cafes and rest- aurants	Clothing and fabrics	Depart- ment and general Footwear stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electri- cal goods	Furni- ture stores	Floor cover- ings			
<i>1990—</i>														
February	186.7	7.0	38.1	75.7	27.3	54.0	5.7	13.8	36.5	9.7	8.0	24.6	19.3	30.7
March	217.2	7.0	45.2	82.4	31.8	67.7	6.4	14.2	44.6	10.5	7.9	28.5	19.5	30.8
April	202.8	6.2	45.4	75.8	31.9	37.1	7.4	12.8	39.5	8.7	7.3	26.3	21.4	29.3
May	211.7	7.0	46.7	74.7	31.3	39.5	76.7	8.0	14.5	45.1	10.0	7.9	30.1	20.0
June	206.8	5.9	49.1	73.3	34.5	37.7	81.4	7.2	15.1	44.9	10.1	6.8	28.6	22.2
July	203.5	5.7	49.0	72.1	33.1	35.4	65.0	7.4	16.5	40.9	11.0	6.9	28.6	18.7
August	218.1	5.7	49.9	74.8	32.8	35.6	70.8	5.5	15.3	43.1	10.1	6.1	30.4	20.9
September	202.3	5.4	53.2	75.1	36.5	31.7	67.4	6.7	15.9	37.7	10.2	6.4	28.1	19.7
October	210.2	5.8	57.6	76.6	36.2	32.5	74.3	7.1	17.3	40.3	11.6	6.9	31.2	18.6
November	220.5	5.7	56.3	77.3	37.6	33.5	84.6	7.1	18.2	43.1	11.6	7.1	30.9	19.4
December	251.3	6.2	64.6	96.9	44.5	48.3	141.3	9.0	32.0	54.5	11.6	5.1	40.5	24.9
<i>1991—</i>														
January	221.6	5.8	56.1	77.2	37.8	30.0	66.5	7.2	15.1	38.2	11.1	4.4	25.2	17.1
February	205.7	4.7	52.8	68.9	34.1	26.0	57.5	5.3	14.3	35.4	10.7	5.1	24.6	18.5
March	235.8	5.1	53.7	73.0	37.0	29.4	68.8	6.1	13.9	31.6	9.9	5.4	26.1	20.7
April	217.7	5.2	52.2	68.3	38.3	35.5	70.7	7.7	13.0	33.6	9.9	6.1	25.9	16.1
<i>Standard error (b) of</i>														
Level	4.7	0.8	6.1	3.5	4.5	3.9	0.0	0.3	1.5	3.5	1.1	1.0	3.2	2.8
Change	1.3	0.3	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.7
<i>TREND ESTIMATES (c)</i>														
<i>1990—</i>														
November	216.7	5.9	55.8	75.6	n.p.	33.0	76.2	6.9	16.7	41.6	10.6	5.9	29.2	19.3
December	218.3	5.8	55.7	74.3	n.p.	33.1	76.4	7.0	16.5	41.2	10.8	5.7	28.9	19.1
<i>1991—</i>														
January	220.1	5.7	55.2	72.9	n.p.	33.5	76.9	7.2	16.4	40.4	11.0	5.6	28.5	19.0
February	221.5	5.5	54.5	71.6	n.p.	34.0	77.3	7.2	16.3	39.4	11.2	5.6	28.2	19.1
March	222.4	5.4	53.7	70.4	n.p.	34.6	77.6	7.3	16.1	38.2	11.3	5.6	28.0	19.1
April	222.6	5.2	52.9	69.6	n.p.	35.2	77.4	7.4	15.9	37.2	11.5	5.8	27.7	19.2
percentage change from preceding month														
<i>1990—</i>														
November	0.4	1.7	0.9	-1.8	n.p.	-1.2	0.5	3.0	-1.8	-0.2	1.0	-3.3	-0.7	-2.0
December	0.7	-1.7	-0.2	-1.7	n.p.	0.3	1.4	-1.2	-1.0	-1.9	-3.4	-1.0	-1.0	n.p.
<i>1991—</i>														
January	0.8	-1.7	-0.9	-1.9	n.p.	1.2	0.7	2.9	-0.6	-1.9	1.9	-1.8	-1.4	-0.5
February	0.6	-3.5	-1.3	-1.8	n.p.	1.5	0.5	0.0	-0.6	-2.5	1.8	0.0	-1.1	0.0
March	0.4	-1.8	-1.5	-1.7	n.p.	1.8	0.4	1.4	-1.2	-3.0	0.9	0.0	-0.7	0.0
April	0.1	-3.7	-1.5	-1.1	n.p.	1.7	-0.3	1.4	-1.2	-2.6	1.8	3.6	-1.1	0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—*continued*

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND ACT (a)—continued

Month	Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	Butchers	Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	Other food stores	Cafes and restau- rants	Clothing and fabrics stores	Depart- ment and general stores	Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	Electri- cal goods stores	Furni- ture stores	Floor cover- ings stores	Pharma- cies	News- agents	Other stores	Total													
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY																												
ORIGINAL \$ million																												
1990—																												
February	31.1	2.0	6.1	10.9	6.6	6.7	12.6	1.5	3.2	6.7	3.8	1.3	3.8	5.4	107.5													
March	32.7	2.1	7.0	13.6	7.7	8.4	16.2	1.8	3.0	7.5	4.0	1.5	4.4	5.3	121.9													
April	31.4	2.0	6.6	12.8	7.3	10.0	17.1	2.0	3.4	7.1	5.2	1.4	3.6	4.4	120.1													
May	33.4	2.0	6.8	13.9	7.7	11.0	18.8	2.0	3.7	9.5	4.7	1.7	3.9	4.8	130.0													
June	34.3	1.8	6.4	14.1	7.9	11.0	18.8	2.0	3.5	8.0	5.6	1.9	3.7	4.8	129.8													
July	33.7	1.8	6.5	13.9	8.4	11.0	17.6	2.0	3.1	7.5	4.7	1.8	3.9	4.6	126.8													
August	36.3	1.9	6.1	14.4	7.9	9.9	16.9	1.9	3.1	7.9	5.2	1.8	4.1	5.2	128.7													
September	33.7	1.8	6.6	15.0	10.1	9.0	16.7	1.9	3.3	7.1	4.6	1.9	4.0	4.4	126.6													
October	35.1	1.9	6.9	15.1	9.1	9.0	17.9	2.0	3.3	7.9	5.2	1.7	4.4	5.1	131.5													
November	36.5	1.8	6.7	15.8	9.5	9.0	20.9	2.0	3.8	7.5	5.3	1.7	4.5	5.4	137.4													
December	40.3	1.8	8.0	18.5	9.2	12.4	36.4	2.6	6.4	9.1	5.3	1.7	4.5	6.4	171.0													
1991—																												
January	36.0	1.6	7.6	13.1	7.8	8.3	16.1	2.1	3.4	6.7	4.3	1.7	3.8	4.4	123.5													
February	34.8	1.6	7.9	12.2	8.9	6.9	14.1	1.6	3.2	6.5	4.3	1.5	3.9	4.7	118.3													
March	39.5	2.1	9.5	14.7	8.0	8.3	17.4	2.0	3.3	7.1	5.0	1.7	5.3	5.5	136.4													
April	37.0	1.9	9.3	13.7	8.1	10.9	19.1	2.4	3.2	7.2	5.3	1.8	4.9	4.6	136.5													
Standard error (b) of Level Change	1.2 0.9	0.4 0.3	1.5 0.3	1.0 0.4	1.5 0.3	0.4 0.3	0.0 0.0	0.1 0.1	0.1 0.1	0.5 0.3	0.4 0.1	0.1 0.0	0.5 0.4	0.6 0.2	3.0 1.3													
TREND ESTIMATES(c)																												
1990—																												
November	35.7	1.7	6.8	14.9	n.p.	9.6	19.2	2.1	3.3	7.6	4.8	1.8	4.1	5.1	n.p.	132.1												
December	36.3	1.8	7.4	14.8	n.p.	9.6	19.2	2.1	3.4	7.6	4.8	1.8	4.2	5.1	n.p.	133.5												
1991—																												
January	37.0	1.8	8.1	14.6	n.p.	9.5	19.3	2.0	3.5	7.7	4.9	1.8	4.4	5.1	n.p.	135.2												
February	37.7	1.9	8.7	14.4	n.p.	9.4	19.4	2.0	3.7	7.7	5.0	1.8	4.7	5.0	n.p.	137.0												
March	38.3	1.9	9.3	14.3	n.p.	9.5	19.5	2.0	3.8	7.7	5.2	1.8	4.9	5.0	n.p.	138.7												
April	38.8	2.0	9.8	14.1	n.p.	9.6	19.6	2.0	4.0	7.7	5.4	1.8	5.2	4.8	n.p.	140.3												
percentage change from preceding month																												
1990—																												
November	1.1	0.0	6.3	0.0	n.p.	0.0	-0.5	-4.5	-2.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	n.p.	0.5												
December	1.7	5.9	8.8	-0.7	n.p.	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	n.p.	1.1												
1991—																												
January	1.9	0.0	9.5	-1.4	n.p.	-1.0	0.5	-4.8	2.9	1.3	2.1	0.0	4.8	0.0	n.p.	1.3												
February	1.9	5.6	7.4	-1.4	n.p.	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.7	0.0	2.0	0.0	6.8	-2.0	n.p.	1.3												
March	1.6	0.0	6.9	-0.7	n.p.	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.7	0.0	4.0	0.0	6.4	-2.0	n.p.	1.2												
April	1.3	5.3	5.4	-1.4	n.p.	1.1	0.5	0.0	5.3	0.0	3.8	0.0	4.0	-2.0	n.p.	1.2												

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc. (b) The standard error of the estimates for the latest month and of the latest month from the preceding month — see paragraphs 9 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. (c) Subject to revision — see paragraph 21 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 8. TURNOVER OF RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS,
MONTHLY ESTIMATES AT CURRENT PRICES, NORTHERN TERRITORY (a)

Month	Food stores, liquor stores, and licensed clubs (b)		All other stores		Total	
	\$ million	% change from preceding month	\$ million	% change from preceding month	\$ million	% change from preceding month
<i>1990 —</i>						
February	41.3	-1.2	18.3	-6.6	59.6	-2.9
March	46.0	11.4	22.2	21.3	68.2	14.4
April	45.8	-0.4	21.5	-3.2	67.3	-1.3
May	50.0	9.2	24.8	15.3	74.8	11.1
June	51.7	3.4	25.9	4.4	77.4	3.5
July	55.3	7.0	26.6	2.7	82.1	6.1
August	56.1	1.4	27.4	3.0	83.5	1.7
September	52.7	-6.1	26.7	-2.6	79.3	-5.0
October	52.9	0.4	27.7	3.7	80.6	1.6
November	50.3	-4.9	27.5	-0.7	77.9	-3.3
December	51.0	1.4	36.3	32.0	87.5	12.3
<i>1991 —</i>						
January	45.5	-10.8	21.3	-41.3	67.0	-23.4
February	44.2	-2.9	21.1	-0.9	65.3	-2.5
March	51.1	15.6	23.4	10.9	74.4	13.9
April	48.9	-4.3	23.7	1.3	72.8	-2.2
<i>Standard error (c) of</i>						
Level	1.3		0.8		1.6	
Change	0.8		0.3		0.8	

(a) Excludes motor vehicle dealers, petrol stations, etc. (b) Includes Grocers, confectioners and tobacconists, Butchers, Other food stores, Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs, Cafes and restaurants. (c) The standard error of the estimates for the latest month and of the latest month from the preceding month — see paragraphs 9 to 13 of Explanatory Notes. NOTE: Series is not long enough to provide sufficient information to allow reliable seasonal adjustment estimates.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication presents monthly retail trade series based on estimates of the value of turnover of retail establishments classified by industry, and by State. These series replace the statistics based on the value of retail sales published up to June 1988.

2. From June 1988 the series in this publication are based on turnover data obtained from a sample of retail establishments. For the period until June 1988 the series have been adjusted to a turnover basis using movements in the previous retail sales series. Linked historical data are available on AUSSTATS, or can be provided by the ABS. More information on the survey methodology and the procedures used to link statistics for the new series with those for months prior to June 1988 are contained in the Information Paper: *Introduction of Improved Monthly Retail Trade Statistics* (8511.0).

Scope and coverage

3. The estimates of turnover are derived from a survey covering all States and the two Territories. It includes in its scope all retail trade establishments classified to ASIC subdivision 48, *except* motor vehicle dealers, service stations, etc (ASIC classes 4861-4868); milk and bread vendors (4878-4879); shoe repairers (4846); and electrical appliance repairers n.e.c. (4857). *Also included* are cafes and restaurants (9231); hotels, etc. (mainly drinking places) (9232); licensed clubs (9241-9243); and hairdressers (9351-9352).

4. Retail establishments which do not have employees are excluded from the coverage of the survey.

Definition of turnover

5. Turnover includes retail sales; wholesale sales; takings from repairs, meals and hiring of goods (except for rent, leasing and hiring of land and buildings); and commissions from agency activity (e.g. commissions received from collecting dry cleaning, selling lottery tickets, etc).

Industry detail

6. The names of the industries for which statistics are published in this bulletin align with the titles given in ASIC, except for the following groupings:

Other food stores: ASIC classes 4883, 4885, 4886

Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs: ASIC classes 9232, 4884, 9241, 9242, 9243

Clothing and fabrics stores: ASIC classes 4843, 4844, 4847

Electrical goods stores: ASIC classes 4855, 4856

Other stores: ASIC classes 4892, 4893, 4895, 4896, 4897, 9351, 9352

Constant price statistics

7. To enable analysis of the movement of retail activity in 'real' terms, estimates of retail turnover at constant (average 1984-85) prices are compiled each quarter. Constant price retail turnover series are derived by deflating the original current price series of retail turnover by specially compiled indexes of price change.

Reliability of estimates

8. Retail trade statistics may be subject to error from various sources, which are usually classified as either sample or non-sample error.

Sample error

9. Since retail turnover is estimated from a survey which includes a sampled component, the estimates are subject to sampling error. That is, they may differ from figures that would have resulted if all enterprises with retail establishments were included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all inscope units had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

10. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of change since the preceding month are shown in the tables. An example of the use of these standard errors is given below:

The *estimated change* of \$167.5 million (2.3 per cent) in the total value of turnover between April 1991 and March 1991 has a standard error of about \$31.9 million (0.4 per cent). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the change which would have been obtained if all units had been included in the survey would be within the range \$135.6 million to \$199.4 million (1.9 per cent to 2.7 per cent) and nineteen chances in twenty that the change would be within \$103.7 million to \$231.3 million (1.5 per cent to 3.1 per cent).

11. The standard errors for some industries in some States are relatively high and users are advised to exercise caution in interpreting movements for such series. Some users may wish to combine such industries to obtain an estimate of the combined group which is more accurate than the components. The standard error of level of any such combination of industries may be calculated by squaring the standard error for each of the component industries, adding the squared standard errors together, and taking the square root of that sum. For example, suppose the standard error of level for Industry A is \$1.5 million and the standard error for Industry B is \$2.0 million. Then the standard error for the combination of Industries A and B is $\sqrt{(1.5)^2 + (2.0)^2} = \2.5 million.

12. Standard errors of estimates of change between non-consecutive months are not shown in publication tables.

These standard errors are generally much higher than the standard errors of change between consecutive months. For example, the standard error of change between the latest month and the corresponding month of the previous year is, on average, approximately 1.4 times the standard error of level of the latest month.

13. Seasonally adjusted, trend and constant price estimates are also subject to sampling variability. For seasonally adjusted estimates, the standard errors are approximately the same percentage of the estimate as for the unadjusted series. For trend estimates, the standard errors are generally not larger than for the seasonally adjusted estimates and are likely to be smaller. For constant price estimates, the standard errors may be up to 10 per cent higher than those for the corresponding current price estimates because of the sampling variability contained in the prices data used to deflate the current price estimates.

Non-sample error

14. This category includes a number of possible errors that arise in any type of collection, whether or not sampling of units is undertaken. The most significant of these errors are: misreporting of data items; deficiencies in coverage; non-response; and processing errors. In some cases the presence of these errors would, at least in part, be reflected in the size of the standard error.

15. *Reporting error.* Such error may arise because of poor form design, inability by survey respondents to provide requested data, or simply because of clerical error. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design and testing of forms, and by examining inconsistencies both between different respondents and between the reports in successive months for each respondent.

16. Turnover is a relatively simple data item to collect accurately because it corresponds closely to total takings by respondents. While some reporting errors will be random and thus cancel out, others may be consistently in one direction and lead to bias in the results.

17. *Under coverage.* Because of limited sources available to identify enterprises with no employees, only enterprises with employees are included in the new survey. Non-employing units are estimated to account for approximately 6% of total turnover but their significance varies substantially from industry to industry. While the exclusion of such units will therefore lead to consistent underestimation of the level of turnover, their exclusion is considered to have a negligible effect on short term movements in Retail Trade.

18. Some error may also arise because of lags in the identification of new businesses. Studies undertaken by the ABS suggest that these lags also have a negligible impact on short term movements but lead to a small consistent underestimation of the level of turnover each month. An improved method of updating new businesses is currently being implemented. Refer to paragraph 26 for more details.

19. *Non-response.* The survey of Retail Trade is a monthly survey conducted to tight timetables so that not all forms are received in time for publication. Extensive telephone follow up is undertaken each month to obtain details for respondents who have not returned forms by the due date. Despite this, it is necessary to impute responses for approximately 5% of selected units (which are, in the main, small retailers). The consequences of this imputation for data quality are also reflected, in part, in the size of the standard error.

20. *Processing errors.* Such errors may arise at any stage of processing. Editing procedures should detect significant errors at data entry stage, while all processing systems are thoroughly tested. Published tables are produced directly from 'camera-ready' computer output to avoid the possibility of clerical transcription errors at the tabulation stage.

Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates

21. 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.

22. In the seasonal adjustment of the turnover estimates, 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). For total turnover for Australia, adjustment has also been made for the effects of change in the date of Easter and Australia Day holidays. Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular influences (e.g. abnormal weather, industrial disputes) and the seasonally adjusted estimates still reflect the sampling and non-sampling errors to which the original estimates are subject.

23. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the respective seasonally adjusted series. These trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time.

24. While this smoothing technique enables estimates of trend to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent months as data for subsequent months become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller and after 3 months have a negligible impact on the series. To illustrate the effect of the seasonally adjusted results on the trend series movement, if the May seasonally adjusted result shows a +1.0 % movement, then the trend movement would be -0.2% for May, -0.1% for April and 0.0% for March. A -1.0% movement would return a trend movement of -0.5% for May, -0.4% for April, and -0.2% for March.

Coverage adjustment

25. This survey uses as its sampling frame the ABS's register of businesses which is regularly updated to take account of new businesses and businesses ceasing opera-

tion. A major source of information on new businesses is group employer (GE) registrations with the Australian Tax Office. The ABS has developed an improved computerised system which will reduce the delay in new businesses from this source being recorded on the register, while at the same time an analysis has been undertaken to identify businesses which have been omitted from the register in the past. During the time these improvements to the register were being implemented, it was necessary to temporarily suspend updating the register from GE registrations. New GE businesses were represented in the survey results for the period June 1990 to February 1991 by a small allowance (a 'new business provision') which was based on an analysis of the contribution of such units in previous periods and taking current changes to economic conditions into consideration.

26. Following the completion of the improvements to the Business Register and the analysis of previously omitted businesses the series have been revised back to April 1982. Details for prior periods not covered by the March 1991 bulletin are available from the ABS on request. At the Australia level these revisions have increased the estimates of turnover by approximately 4 per cent but have had no appreciable effect on the estimates of changes from previous months or years.

27. For a complete description of the improvements to the ABS' business register and the impacts of these changes on statistical series, users should refer to *Information Paper: Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register - Recent Developments, 1991* (Catalogue no. 8130.0). This paper was released on 28 May 1991.

Related publications

28. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

n.p.	not available for publication, but included in totals
ASIC	Australian Standard Industrial Classification
r	revised

IAN CASTLES
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18 JUL 1991



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