RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1986

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MAIN FEATURES

TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SAIES OF GOODS
(EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), AUSTRALIA

CHART 1: MONTHLY ESTIMATES, CURRENT PRICES


CHART S: QUARTERLY CHANGES,
CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1979-80) PRICES
Seasonally adjusted
Percentage change from preceding quarter


This publication includes smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates of retail sales. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series to provide a basis for identifying the underlying trend. However, the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates for the most recent months are subject to revision as data for subsequent months become available. Further details are given in paragraphs 16 to 21 of the Explanatory Notes at the end of this publication.

Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability as explained in paragraphs 10 to 15.

AUSTRALIAN TOTAL ESTIMATES (see Charts 1 to 3)
For December 1986, the estimated value of retail sales in Australia (excluding sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc), in original terms, is $\$ 6,428.0$ million (see Chart 1). This is an increase of $\mathbf{3 5 . 7 \%}$ from November 1986 and $9.4 \%$ from December 1985. Sales for the full year 1986 totalled $\$ 54.9$ billion, up $9.6 \%$ on the $\$ 50.1$ billion recorded for 1985.

The underlying trend in Australian retail sales, as indicated by the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates, continues to show a slackening in the rate of growth over recent months, from a monthly rate of $\mathbf{1 . 1 \%}$ in June 1986 to $0.2 \%$ in December 1986 (see Chart 2). In smoothed seasonally adjusted terms, retail sales in December 1986 are $7.3 \%$ above sales in December 1985.

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, the preliminary estimate of the value of retail sales shows a fall of $1.5 \%$ for December quarter 1986, after moderate growth in June and September quarters ( $+0.4 \%$, and $+0.9 \%$ respectively)(See Chart 3). Following the annual reanalysis of the adjusted quarterly data, the contraction that was evident in the March quarter 1986 is now shown to be a little more severe than originally estimated, while the increases in June and September quarters are a little larger than previously estimated.

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, retail sales in calendar year 1986 are estimated to be virtually the same as sales in calendar year 1985 (up 0.2\%).
INDUSTRY ESTIMATES (see Charts 4 to 9)
Over the last few months most industries show a slackening in their rate of growth, as indicated by the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates. This trend has continued with the inclusion of December data.

Of the major retail industries, an important exception is Department Stores (see Chart 8). Because of sluggish trading in October and November, it appeared on the basis of data to

CHART 4: GROCERS, CONFECTIONHRS, TOBACCONISTS


CEART 5: OTHER FOOD STORES


CHART 6: HOTELS, LIQUOR STORES, LICENSED CLUBS


CHART 7: CLOTHING AND FABRICS STORES


CHART B: DMPARTMENT STORES


CHART Q: BLECTRICAL GOODS STORES


November that growth had ceased, but with the December data indicating much stronger trading, a revised monthly growth rate of over $1 \%$ for the last 7 months is now indicated. Data for January, and possibly February, will be needed before the growth rate can be confirmed.

The trend in sales by electrical goods stores (which account for about $5 \%$ of total retail sales) continues to show a strong decline on the basis of estimates to December 1986 (see Chart 9). The estimated monthly growth rate for December 1986 is $\mathbf{- 3 . 0 \%}$. With the addition of data for December, the rates for the preceding few months have again been revised downwards substantially. The smoothed adjusted data for December 1986 is 3\% below that for December 1985. This series shows more irregular movements than the other large retail industries, and the provisional growth rate could be revised substantially in subsequent months.

## STATE ESTIMATES (see Charts $\mathbf{1 0 - 1 5}$ on page 7)

As indicated by the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates, the monthly growth rate of retail sales in New South Wales has remained at $0.1 \%$ in December 1986 for the second month in a row, following a peak of $1.6 \%$ in June 1986 (see Chart 10). New South Wales accounts for about $\mathbf{3 6 \%}$ of total retail sales in Australia.

Victoria (which accounts for about $27 \%$ of total retail sales) also experienced a slackening in the growth rate, from a peak of $1.6 \%$ in April and May 1986 to a growth rate of $0.1 \%$ in December 1986 (see Chart 11).

With the incorporation of December data, the monthly growth rate in Queensland for the past few months has been revised upwards, now showing a steady growth rate of $0.4 \%$ or $0.5 \%$ each month since May (see Chart 12). Queensland accounts for about $16 \%$ of total retail sales.

South Australia (about $\mathbf{8} \%$ of total sales) has had a gradual decline in the monthly rate of growth in the trend in retail sales, from $0.9 \%$ in September 1985 to $0.1 \%$ in December 1986, with growth rates of $\mathbf{0} \%$ or slightly below from July to November 1986 (see Chart 13).

Western Australia (about $9 \%$ of total retail sales) has continued to show growth rates of $0.6 \%$ to $0.8 \%$ from August to December 1986 ( $0.6 \%$ in December), (see Chart 14).

Tasmania (which accounts for about 3\% of total retail sales) has experienced a further slackening in the monthly growth rate of the trend of retail sales from $1.2 \%$ in July 1986 to $0.2 \%$ in December 1986 (see Chart 15).

The general decline over the past 6 months has been severe in the ACT. The smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates have fallen by over $\mathbf{1 \%}$ in each of the past $\mathbf{3}$ months.

TABLE 1. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)

| Month | Original |  | Seasonally adjusted |  | Smoothed seasonally adjusted |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$ m | \% change from preceding month | \$ m | \% change from preceding month | \$ m | \% change from preceding month | \% change from corresponding month of previous year |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 4,384.6 | 9.9 | 4,332.8 | 1.2 | 4,326.8 | 1.0 | 12.4 |
| November | 4,572.5 | 4.3 | 4,353.4 | 0.5 | 4,362.0 | 0.8 | 12.4 |
| December | 5,874.8 | 28.5 | 4,399.2 | 1.1 | 4,386.7 | 0.6 | 12.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 4,276.0 | -27.2 | 4,459.1 | 1.4 | 4,403.2 | 0.4 | 11.8 |
| February | 3,902.7 | -8.7 | 4,383.4 | -1.7 | 4,418.1 | 0.3 | 11.3 |
| March | 4,162.5 | 6.7 | 4,415.7 | 0.7 | 4,438.6 | 0.5 | 10.9 |
| April | 4,284.9 | 2.9 | 4,424.4 | 0.2 | 4,469.5 | 0.7 | 10.6 |
| May | 4,706.5 | 9.8 | 4,536.2 | 2.5 | 4,511.5 | 0.9 | 10.4 |
| June | 4,196.8 | -10.8 | 4,590.0 | 1.2 | 4,559.4 | 1.1 | 10.3 |
| July | 4,477.3 | 6.7 | 4,589.3 | 0.0 | r4,604.6 | 1.0 | 10.0 |
| August | 4,439.1 | -0.9 | 4,652.8 | 1.4 | r4,639.1 | r0.7 | 9.5 |
| September | 4,484.0 | 1.0 | 4,663.0 | 0.2 | r4,663.3 | r0.5 | 8.9 |
| October | 4,775.1 | 6.5 | 4,707.5 | 1.0 | r4,682.2 | 0.4 | r8.2 |
| November | 4,737.5 | -0.8 | 4,665.9 | -0.9 | r4,696.7 | r0.3 | r7.7 |
| December | 6,428.0 | 35.7 | 4,714.2 | 1.0 | 4,707.3 | 0.2 | 7.3 |
| Standard error(b) of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 1986 | 39.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change: December 1986 from November 1986 | 18.6 | 0.4 |  |  |  |  |  |

(a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) See paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), QUARTERLY ESTIMATES, AT CONSTANT (AVERAGE 1979-80) PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)

| Quarter | Original |  |  | Seasonally adjusted |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$m | \% change from preceding quarter | \% change from corresponding quarter of previous year | \$m | \% change from preceding quarter | \% change from corresponding quarter of previous year |
| 1985- |  |  |  | r | r |  |
| December quarter | 9,659.4 | 19.0 | 5.4 | 8,544.7 | 1.0 | 5.1 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March quarter | 7,810.8 | -19.1 | 1.6 | 8,360.5 | -2.2 | 2.1 |
| June quarter | r8,190.4 | 4.9 | 1.2 | 8,395.8 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| September quarter | r8,150.9 | -0.5 | 0.4 | 8,471.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| December quarter | 9,426.5 | 15.6 | -2.4 | 8,343.2 | -1.5 | -2.4 |

(a) Excluding Northern Territory.
TABLE 3. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | lion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 1,346.7 | 151.4 | 41.4 | 269.7 | 498.2 | 416.8 | 495.9 | 74.3 | 111.7 | 238.5 | 122.0 | 47.6 | 167.7 | 146.3 | 191.1 | 4,326.8 |
| November | 1,357.7 | 153.1 | 42.0 | 271.6 | 503.5 | 418.3 | 500.0 | 75.5 | 113.5 | 237.2 | 121.9 | 47.1 | 168.4 | 147.0 | 193.0 | 4,362.0 |
| December | 1,370.0 | 153.5 | 42.5 | 273.0 | 508.5 | 416.5 | 501.6 | 75.7 | 114.5 | 235.1 | 121.4 | 46.5 | 169.4 | 148.2 | 195.1 | 4,386.7 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,384.4 | 153.1 | 42.8 | 274.6 | 512.7 | 412.9 | 499.8 | 74.9 | 115.1 | 233.5 | 121.0 | 46.2 | 170.8 | 149.8 | 197.8 | 4,403.2 |
| February | 1,400.3 | 152.6 | 42.6 | 277.0 | 515.5 | 409.8 | 496.1 | 73.9 | 115.7 | 233.4 | 120.8 | 46.5 | 172.5 | 151.6 | 201.6 | 4,418.1 |
| March | 1,416.8 | 152.3 | 42.0 | 280.6 | 516.6 | 409.1 | 492.1 | 73.3 | 116.4 | 236.1 | 121.4 | 47.3 | 174.4 | 153.4 | 206.3 | 4,438.6 |
| April | 1,433.3 | 152.9 | 41.3 | 284.8 | 516.5 | 411.7 | 490.6 | 73.8 | 117.4 | 241.7 | 122.5 | 48.5 | 176.1 | 155.1 | 211.5 | 4,469.5 |
| May | 1,448.1 | 154.0 | 40.9 | 288.9 | 516.3 | 416.8 | 494.1 | 75.4 | 118.5 | 248.8 | 123.7 | 49.5 | 178.2 | 156.3 | 217.0 | 4,511.5 |
| June r | 1,460.7 | 155.0 | 40.9 | 292.9 | 517.2 | 422.2 | 501.2 | 77.4 | 119.6 | 255.4 | 124.7 | 50.0 | 180.6 | 157.1 | 222.8 | 4,559.4 |
| July r | 1,470.1 | 155.3 | 41.4 | 296.3 | 519.7 | 425.9 | 509.8 | 79.4 | 120.6 | 258.4 | 125.1 | 49.8 | 183.3 | 157.9 | 227.7 | 4,604.6 |
| August r | 1,475.5 | 155.0 | 42.2 | 299.3 | 523.0 | 427.1 | 517.6 | 80.7 | 121.8 | 256.2 | 124.9 | 49.1 | 185.8 | 158.9 | 231.1 | 4,639.1 |
| September r | 1,477.9 | 154.4 | 43.3 | 302.0 | 526.3 | 426.7 | 524.0 | 81.4 | 123.0 | 250.1 | 124.1 | 48.4 | 188.0 | 160.2 | 232.8 | 4,663.3 |
| October r | 1,478.8 | 153.8 | 44.4 | 304.4 | 528.9 | 426.5 | 530.4 | 81.9 | 124.3 | 242.6 | 123.4 | 47.9 | 189.7 | 162.0 | 233.3 | 4,682.2 |
| November r | 1,478.6 | 153.3 | 45.4 | 306.5 | 530.6 | 426.7 | 536.5 | 82.3 | 125.5 | 235.1 | 122.6 | 47.5 | 190.9 | 164.0 | 232.7 | 4,696.7 |
| December | 1,478.6 | 152.8 | 46.5 | 307.8 | 531.5 | 426.8 | 543.9 | 82.5 | 126.0 | 228.0 | 121.8 | 47.2 | 191.3 | 166.0 | 231.3 | 4,707.3 |

TABLE 3. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.),
MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a)-continued

| Month | Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | Butchers | General stores | Other food stores | Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | Clothing and fabrics stores | Depart- ment stores | Foot wear stores | Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | Electrical goods stores | Furniture stores | Floor coverings stores | Chemists | Newsagents | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SMOOTHED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED-continued |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985 | \% change from preceding month |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 0.7 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.7 | -0.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| November | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | -0.5 | -0.1 | -1.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| December | 0.9 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 | -0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.9 | -0.9 | -0.4 | -1.3 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1.1 | -0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.8 | -0.9 | -0.4 | -1.1 | 0.5 | -0.7 | -0.3 | -0.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| February | 1.1 | -0.3 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 0.5 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -1.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 | -0.2 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 0.3 |
| March | 1.2 | -0.2 | -1.4 | 1.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 | -0.8 | -0.8 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 0.5 |
| April | 1.2 | 0.4 | -1.7 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 | -0.3 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 0.7 |
| May | 1.0 | 0.7 | -1.0 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 0.9 |
| June r | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 2.7 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 2.7 | 1.1 |
| July r | 0.6 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 | -0.4 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 1.0 |
| August r | 0.4 | -0.2 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.0 | -0.9 | -0.2 | -1.4 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| September r | 0.2 | -0.4 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | -0.1 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.0 | -2.4 | -0.6 | -1.4 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| October r | 0.1 | -0.4 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 1.1 | -3.0 | 0.6 | -1.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| November r | 0.0 | -0.3 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 | -3.1 | -0.6 | -0.8 | 0.6 | 1.2 | -0.3 | 0.3 |
| December | 0.0 | -0.3 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 | -3.0 | -0.7 | -0.6 | 0.2 | 1.2 | -0.6 | 0.2 |
| 1985- \% change from corresponding month of previous year |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 11.3 | 22.1 | 5.1 | 12.1 | 11.7 | 18.0 | 12.9 | 7.1 | 13.6 | 8.1 | 23.1 | 12.5 | 9.8 | 1.0 | 20.3 | 12.4 |
| November | 11.3 | 21.7 | 7.1 | 12.7 | 11.5 | 17.4 | 12.8 | 9.6 | 16.2 | 7.1 | 23.6 | 11.6 | 9.2 | 0.3 | 20.5 | 12.4 |
| December | 11.2 | 19.8 | 9.3 | 13.1 | 11.3 | 15.9 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 17.8 | 5.3 | 23.6 | 10.2 | 9.1 | 0.6 | 20.4 | 12.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 11.3 | 17.2 | 10.6 | 13.7 | 10.9 | 13.7 | 9.9 | 12.1 | 18.3 | 3.7 | 23.0 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 1.9 | 20.5 | 11.8 |
| February | 11.4 | 14.9 | 10.1 | 14.3 | 10.5 | 11.4 | 7.3 | 12.3 | 17.6 | 2.8 | 21.0 | 7.1 | 10.4 | 3.8 | 21.4 | 11.3 |
| March | 11.6 | 13.1 | 7.7 | 15.1 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 4.9 | 12.4 | 16.2 | 3.2 | 18.4 | 6.1 | 11.2 | 5.7 | 22.8 | 10.9 |
| April | 11.8 | 12.3 | 4.6 | 15.6 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 3.1 | 13.5 | 14.8 | 4.7 | 15.3 | 5.9 | 11.5 | 7.0 | 24.4 | 10.6 |
| May | 11.9 | 12.0 | 2.5 | 15.6 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 2.8 | 15.3 | 13.9 | 6.6 | 12.4 | 5.8 | 11.7 | 7.5 | 25.7 | 10.4 |
| June r | 11.8 | 11.4 | 1.7 | 15.1 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 3.6 | 16.6 | 13.7 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 5.3 | 11.8 | 7.7 | 26.4 | 10.3 |
| July r | 11.5 | 9.5 | 2.5 | 14.4 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 5.0 | 16.9 | 13.3 | 8.9 | 6.9 | 3.7 | 12.0 | 8.0 | 26.4 | 10.0 |
| August r | 11.1 | 6.8 | 3.9 | 13.6 | 6.9 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 15.3 | 12.9 | 7.6 | 4.6 | 2.1 | 12.3 | 8.7 | 25.4 | 9.5 |
| September r | 10.5 | 3.9 | 5.9 | 13.1 | 6.6 | 3.6 | 6.8 | 12.6 | 12.0 | 4.8 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 12.7 | 9.7 | 23.7 | 8.9 |
| October r | 9.8 | 1.6 | 7.2 | 12.9 | 6.2 | 2.3 | 7.0 | 10.2 | 11.3 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 13.1 | 10.7 | 22.1 | 8.2 |
| November r | 8.9 | 0.1 | 8.1 | 12.8 | 5.4 | 2.0 | 7.3 | 9.0 | 10.6 | -0.9 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 13.4 | 11.6 | 20.6 | 7.7 |
| December | 7.9 | -0.5 | 9.4 | 12.7 | 4.5 | 2.5 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 10.0 | -3.0 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 12.9 | 12.0 | 18.6 | 7.3 |



TABLE 4. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA(a), STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

| Month | New South Wales | Victoria | Queensland | South Australia | Western Australia | Tasmania | Australian Capital Territory | Australia(a) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ORIGINAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$ million |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 1,560.6 | 1,157.9 | 708.6 | 376.9 | 386.5 | 116.9 | 77.2 | 4,384.6 |
| November | 1,655.1 | 1,199.1 | 725.1 | 390.9 | 400.3 | 122.4 | 79.6 | 4,572.5 |
| December | 2,153.2 | 1,534.0 | 924.2 | 493.9 | 508.0 | 161.3 | 100.2 | 5,874.8 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,512.9 | 1,107.4 | 719.7 | 360.0 | 391.6 | 110.5 | 74.0 | 4,276.0 |
| February | 1,350.9 | 1,048.8 | 634.9 | 334.0 | 362.1 | 106.9 | 65.1 | 3,902.7 |
| March | 1,459.0 | 1,106.0 | 674.3 | 355.0 | 381.5 | 111.7 | 75.0 | 4,162.5 |
| April | 1,500,6 | 1,160.4 | 681.8 | 371.8 | 383.4 | 111.4 | 75.4 | 4,284.9 |
| May | 1,665.2 | 1,266.0 | 745.6 | 406.8 | 415.4 | 122.6 | 84.9 | 4,706.5 |
| June | 1,477.2 | 1,110.2 | 692.7 | 357.7 | 374.4 | 108.6 | 76.0 | 4,196.8 |
| July | 1,597.2 | 1,189.9 | 720.9 | 373.3 | 394.0 | 117.0 | 85.0 | 4,477.3 |
| August | 1,567.0 | 1,179.2 | 726.8 | 371.2 | 396.2 | 116.7 | 81.9 | 4,439.1 |
| September | 1,596.4 | 1,178.4 | 734.6 | 373.4 | 399.5 | 118.3 | 83.3 | 4,484.0 |
| October | 1,695.3 | 1,280.7 | 775.7 | 388.5 | 427.7 | 122.8 | 84.4 | 4,775.1 |
| November | 1,707.4 | 1,267.0 | 755.5 | 384.5 | 417.3 | 122.8 | 83.0 | 4,737.5 |
| December | 2,339.4 | 1,714.0 | 1,016.7 | 509.9 | 566.3 | 172.5 | 109.2 | 6,428.0 |
| Standard error of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(b) | 25.2 | 22.9 | 16.1 | 6.9 | 9.4 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 39.6 |
| Change(c) | 12.2 | 11.1 | 7.0 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 18.6 |
| SMOOTHED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$ million |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 1,548.3 | 1,132.3 | 693.6 | 370.1 | 384.6 | 116.5 | 76.3 | 4,326.8 |
| November | 1,556.0 | 1,136.5 | 701.6 | 372.7 | 388.6 | 117.1 | 76.3 | 4,362.0 |
| December | 1,557.9 | 1,141.0 | 708.8 | 375.0 | 392.7 | 117.5 | 76.7 | 4,386.7 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,556.7 | 1,147.3 | 715.5 | 377.2 | 396.8 | 117.5 | 77.2 | 4,403.2 |
| February | 1,556.4 | 1,157.6 | 721.6 | 379.2 | 400.3 | 117.2 | 77.8 | 4,418.1 |
| March | 1,560.5 | 1,172.5 | 726.6 | 381.0 | 402.7 | 117.0 | 78.6 | 4,438.6 |
| April | 1,573.3 | 1,190.9 | 730.6 | 382.6 | 403.7 | 117.3 | 79.6 | 4,469.5 |
| May | 1,594.6 | 1,210.4 | 734.2 | 384.0 | 404.2 | 118.0 | 81.0 | 4,511.5 |
| June r | 1,620.0 | 1,227.6 | 737.4 | 384.8 | 405.0 | 119.3 | 82.7 | 4,559.4 |
| July r | 1,642.4 | 1,239.8 | 740.5 | 384.8 | 406.6 | 120.7 | 84.1 | 4,604.6 |
| August r | 1,656.9 | 1,246.7 | 743.7 | 384.2 | 409.1 | 121.9 | 84.6 | 4,639.1 |
| September r | 1,664.5 | 1,250.1 | 747.0 | 383.8 | 412.2 | 122.8 | 84.2 | 4,663.3 |
| October r | 1,668.9 | 1,252.5 | 750.6 | 383.5 | 415.5 | 123.4 | 83.2 | 4,682.2 |
| November r | 1,670.7 | 1,254.5 | 754.1 | 383.4 | 418.6 | 123.8 | 81.9 | 4,696.7 |
| December | 1,672.0 | 1,255.8 | 757.8 | 383.6 | 421.1 | 124.0 | 80.7 | 4,707.3 |
|  |  |  | \% change f | eceding mo |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- 0.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.7 | -0.1 | 1.0 |
| November | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| December | 0.1 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | -0.1 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| February | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.9 | -0.3 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| March | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | -0.2 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| April | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| May | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 0.9 |
| June r | 1.6 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| July r | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| August r | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | -0.2 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| September r | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.5 | 0.5 |
| October r | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | -0.1 | 0.8 | 0.5 | -1.2 | 0.4 |
| November r | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 | -1.6 | 0.3 |
| December | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.2 | -1.5 | 0.2 |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 13.5 | 11.7 | 12.0 | 12.2 | 12.7 | 10.2 | 14.2 | 12.4 |
| November | 13.3 | 11.4 | 12.7 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 9.4 | 13.9 | 12.4 |
| December | 12.7 | 11.1 | 13.3 | 11.2 | 12.5 | 8.5 | 13.6 | 12.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 12.0 | 10.8 | 13.5 | 10.6 | 12.6 | 7.2 | 13.0 | 11.8 |
| February | 11.1 | 10.8 | 13.3 | 9.8 | 12.6 | 5.8 | 11.9 | 11.3 |
| March | 10.3 | 11.2 | 12.9 | 9.2 | 12.2 | 4.7 | 10.7 | 10.9 |
| April | 9.8 | 11.8 | 12.3 | 8.6 | 11.4 | 4.3 | 9.6 | 10.6 |
| May | 9.7 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 8.1 | 10.2 | 4.4 | 9.3 | 10.4 |
| June r | 9.7 | 12.5 | 10.9 | 7.5 | 9.2 | 5.0 | 9.7 | 10.3 |
| July r | 9.7 | 12.2 | 10.3 | 6.6 | 8.5 | 5.7 | 10.4 | 10.0 |
| August r | 9.2 | 11.6 | 9.7 | 5.6 | 8.3 | 6.1 | 10.7 | 9.5 |
| September $\mathbf{r}$ | 8.5 | 11.0 | 9.0 | 4.5 | 8.2 | 6.1 | 10.2 | 8.9 |
| October r | 7.8 | 10.6 | 8.2 | 3.6 | 8.0 | 5.9 | 9.0 | 8.2 |
| November r | 7.4 | 10.4 | 7.5 | 2.9 | 7.7 | 5.7 | 7.3 | 7.7 |
| December | 7.3 | 10.1 | 6.9 | 2.3 | 7.2 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 7.3 |

[^0] the change of the latest month from the preceding month-see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes.

TOTAL VALUE OF RETALL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLNDING MOTOR VEIICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), SMOOTHED SEASONALIY ADJUSTED, MONTHLY CHANGES CURRKNT PRICES, STATES
Percentege change from preceding month

CHART 10: NBW SOUTH TALBS

chart 11: victoria


Chart 12: qukensland


CHART 13: SOUTH ADSTRALIA


CGART 14: MESTRRN AUSTRALIA


Chart 15: TASMANA


TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTMATES, BYNDUSTRY, (\$ million)

| Month | Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | Butchers | General stores | Other food stores | Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | Clothing and fabrics stores | Department stores | Footwear stores | Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | Electrical goods stores | Furniture stores | Floor coverings stores | Chemists | Newsagents | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NEW SOUTH WALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 421.5 | 65.4 | 10.2 | 109.4 | 181.4 | 161.9 | 206.3 | 30.2 | 42.0 | 71.2 | 40.6 | 17.0 | 72.1 | 60.9 | 70.3 | 1,560.6 |
| November | 423.6 | 63.2 | 10.6 | 115.5 | 191.5 | 176.5 | 226.6 | 31.5 | 55.4 | 82.0 | 44.5 | 19.8 | 74.9 | 64.2 | 75.2 | 1,655.1 |
| December | 482.6 | 74.5 | 16.7 | 125.3 | 245.8 | 230.6 | 391.2 | 35.0 | 99.3 | 118.3 | 48.8 | 18.2 | 88.9 | 78.4 | 99.6 | 2,153.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 422.1 | 61.2 | 10.7 | 114.5 | 191.3 | 135.5 | 191.4 | 28.9 | 39.0 | 69.4 | 36.5 | 11.1 | 70.4 | 60.3 | 70.5 | 1,512.9 |
| February | 393.9 | 54.3 | 8.8 | 100.0 | 170.7 | 113.9 | 142.0 | 19.8 | 38.7 | 62.2 | 34.9 | 11.6 | 65.3 | 64.7 | 70.0 | 1,350.9 |
| March | 425.0 | 61.8 | 9.3 | 109.0 | 187.7 | 121.4 | 172.9 | 22.2 | 38.8 | 65.2 | 37.3 | 11.8 | 67.0 | 59.6 | 69.8 | 1,459.0 |
| April | 420.1 | 61.5 | 12.4 | 112.2 | 179.6 | 140.7 | 181.0 | 27.9 | 39.2 | 61.5 | 38.8 | 12.9 | 71.6 | 60.6 | 80.7 | 1,500.6 |
| May | 445.4 | 69.5 | 11.1 | 115.0 | 176.6 | 180.8 | 245.8 | 33.1 | 40.6 | 72.4 | 42.4 | 13.9 | 75.8 | 63.0 | 79.7 | 1,665.2 |
| June | 424.2 | 66.6 | 9.2 | 109.4. | 166.0 | 147.8 | 175.9 | 27.7 | 38.2 | 66.1 | 35.6 | 12.5 | 72.3 | 56.1 | 69.6 | 1,477.2 |
| July | 456.9 | 70.5 | 9.3 | 106.6 | 169.1 | 147.4 | 216.0 | 28.9 | 32.8 | 81.9 | 40.0 | 15.0 | 77.2 | 64.7 | 81.0 | 1,597.2 |
| August | 452.4 | 69.1 | 8.6 | 113.1 | 182.8 | 134.2 | 184.4 | 26.1 | 37.5 | 78.2 | 39.6 | 15.9 | 77.5 | 62.6 | 84.9 | 1,567.0 |
| September | 450.2 | 68.6 | 9.1 | 111.4 | 179.6 | 144.6 | 212.4 | 29.7 | 37.0 | 73.1 | 39.3 | 14.4 | 75.9 | 65.6 | 85.5 | 1,596.4 |
| October | 464.8 | 69.3 | 9.3 | 118.8 | 202.4 | 159.1 | 214.9 | 33.2 | 49.7 | 73.2 | 43.0 | 16.8 | 79.6 | 68.8 | 92.2 | 1,695.3 |
| November | 460.0 | 65.2 | 9.6 | 121.2 | 196.8 | 158.2 | 234.9 | 29.5 | 55.1 | 74.6 | 42.5 | 18.3 | 75.1 | 69.2 | 97.3 | 1,707.4 |
| December | 534.7 | 78.6 | 16.5 | 134.4 | 256.8 | 228.6 | 447.9 | 39.2 | 103.4 | 113.7 | 50.3 | 18.0 | 93.5 | 91.7 | 132.3 | 2,339.4 |
| Standard error of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 7.7 | 5.4 | 0.6 | 8.8 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 3.2 | 7.7 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 10.5 | 25.2 |
| Change(b) | 2.2 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 5.7 | 12.2 |

TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), (\$ million)

| Month | Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | Butchers | General stores | Other food stores | Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | Clothing and fabrics stores | Department stores | Footwear stores | Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | Electrical goods stores | Furniture stores | Floor coverings stores | Chemists | Newsagents | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | VICTORIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 399.1 | 46.8 | 11.9 | 61.6 | 105.6 | 133.2 | 99.9 | 19.4 | 34.0 | 65.7 | 40.9 | 16.1 | 37.9 | 33.3 | 52.6 | 1,157.9 |
| November | 402.1 | 48.0 | 12.1 | 61.0 | 112.6 | 138.3 | 110.4 | 19.0 | 37.4 | 69.1 | 43.1 | 15.3 | 40.0 | 35.4 | 55.2 | 1,199.1 |
| December | 434.7 | 52.3 | 20.5 | 64.9 | 147.6 | 191.9 | 192.4 | 25.0 | 59.8 | 96.4 | 45.2 | 14.3 | 55.9 | 47.0 | 86.1 | 1,534.0 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 389.5 | 43.8 | 10.3 | 66.5 | 117.1 | 102.8 | 87.1 | 17.4 | 32.2 | 64.8 | 37.2 | 11.6 | 38.4 | 38.6 | 50.0 | 1,107.4 |
| February | 374.1 | 43.2 | 9.9 | 59.0 | 112.1 | 96.6 | 76.8 | 15.5 | 32.1 | 57.7 | 32.0 | 13.4 | 38.8 | 40.2 | 47.4 | 1,048.8 |
| March | 402.1 | 43.7 | 10.4 | 63.8 | 122.1 | 104.0 | 88.4 | 14.7 | 32.1 | 58.9 | 31.2 | 13.0 | 39.3 | 35.0 | 47.2 | 1,106.0 |
| April | 396.9 | 45.1 | 11.6 | 60.3 | 106.3 | 139.0 | 97.5 | 21.7 | 31.4 | 74.6 | 34.8 | 13.4 | 43.0 | 35.0 | 49.8 | 1,160.4 |
| May | 426.9 | 44.7 | 13.1 | 63.2 | 109.1 | 152.8 | 118.0 | 24.1 | 33.1 | 89.8 | 40.8 | 16.8 | 42.1 | 36.7 | 55.0 | 1,266.0 |
| June | 396.9 | 42.6 | 9.3 | 60.3 | 101.7 | 121.4 | 85.6 | 17.5 | 30.3 | 75.3 | 36.4 | 15.3 | 39.5 | 31.8 | 46.4 | 1,110.2 |
| July | 407.8 | 44.5 | 10.6 | 68.2 | 101.9 | 130.3 | 105.0 | 25.1 | 32.4 | 77.8 | 37.8 | 14.9 | 40.9 | 36.7 | 56.1 | 1,189.9 |
| August | 398.2 | 43.4 | 10.3 | 74.3 | 108.5 | 122.8 | 91.5 | 20.3 | 34.0 | 82.7 | 41.5 | 14.9 | 42.0 | 32.1 | 62.9 | 1,179.2 |
| September | 400.7 | 42.7 | 11.7 | 75.0 | 106.7 | 121.0 | 101.0 | 21.6 | 33.6 | 69.2 | 39.2 | 14.8 | 40.2 | 32.2 | 68.7 | 1,178.4 |
| October | 443.2 | 45.3 | 11.9 | 80.1 | 110.9 | 135.6 | 102.3 | 22.1 | 41.3 | 74.1 | 41.9 | 17.2 | 48.6 | 36.6 | 69.6 | 1,280.7 |
| November | 425.9 | 44.0 52.7 | 12.0 | 78.3 85.2 | 120.8 155.4 | 134.3 203.3 | 104.4 | 20.8 29.4 | 44.9 74.4 | 71.5 1042 | 40.3 | 17.7 15.5 | 46.5 63.5 | 36.6 51.8 | 69.1 107.3 | $1,267.0$ $1,714.0$ |
| December | 486.1 | 52.7 | 22.1 | 85.2 | 155.4 | 203.3 | 220.1 | 29.4 | 74.4 | 104.2 | 43.1 | 15.5 | 63.5 | 51.8 | 107.3 | 1,714.0 |
| Standard error of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 10.8 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 10.1 | 22.9 |
| Change(b) | 3.3 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 5.8 | 11.1 |


| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| October | 241.5 | 24.1 | 6.6 | 43.5 | 95.3 | 57.1 | 64.3 | 10.7 | 19.1 | 39.3 | 18.4 | 8.6 | 26.0 | 22.8 | 31.3 | 708.6 |
| November | 240.2 | 23.4 | 6.2 | 43.8 | 101.6 | 57.9 | 69.1 | 10.2 | 22.6 | 38.8 | 19.3 | 8.3 | 25.7 | 23.8 | 34.1 | 725.1 |
| December | 268.6 | 25.1 | 11.7 | 47.6 | 127.1 | 78.5 | 124.1 | 13.0 | 39.1 | 54.6 | 23.1 | 6.9 | 31.8 | 28.9 | 44.1 | 924.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 258.4 | 21.4 | 6.4 | 53.8 | 98.8 | 50.4 | 56.6 | 12.6 | 16.6 | 38.7 | 17.6 | 5.3 | 24.8 | 28.8 | 29.4 | 719.7 |
| February | 231.7 | 18.1 | 6.0 | 46.3 | 89.9 | 42.1 | 49.6 | 8.6 | 16.9 | 32.4 | 17.1 | 6.4 | 21.6 | 25.2 | 23.0 | 634.9 |
| March | 248.2 | 18.6 | 6.2 | 49.5 | 96.7 | 46.9 | 55.3 | 8.4 | 17.5 | 32.3 | 16.9 | 5.5 | 24.1 | 23.9 | 24.3 | 674.3 |
| April | 236.7 | 20.0 | 6.4 | 47.9 | 93.3 | 51.5 | 58.8 | 11.8 | 15.7 | 37.5 | 18.0 | 7.3 | 24.5 | 24.8 | 27.6 | 681.8 |
| May | 256.8 | 21.2 | 7.6 | 49.7 | 97.4 | 60.7 | 69.9 | 15.1 | 15.5 | 43.0 | 17.9 | 7.6 | 27.4 | 26.5 | 29.2 | 745.6 |
| June | 240.7 | 20.3 | 6.1 | 49.1 | 93.6 | 54.5 | 55.1 | 12.2 | 15.9 | 39.3 | 18.4 | 8.9 | 25.2 | 25.8 | 27.5 | 692.7 |
| July | 255.1 | 20.2 | 6.9 | 49.9 | 100.1 | 52.1 | 64.1 | 10.6 | 14.8 | 41.2 | 19.2 | 6.7 | 26.2 | 26.4 | 27.4 | 720.9 |
| August | 261.0 | 23.2 | 7.2 | 49.8 | 103.0 | 52.5 | 60.0 | 10.6 | 15.7 | 39.4 | 18.9 | 4.9 | 28.2 | 26.0 | 26.7 | 726.8 |
| September | 251.3 | 20.1 | 7.5 | 49.3 | 101.0 | 56.1 | 73.1 | 12.6 | 17.3 | 36.5 | 18.7 | 4.9 | 30.4 | 27.3 | 28.6 | 734.6 |
| October | 268.4 | 23.2 | 7.7 | 52.2 | 104.4 | 59.8 | 70.9 | 11.6 | 18.5 | 39.2 | 19.9 | 6.6 | 32.3 | 28.7 | 32.3 | 775.7 |
| November | 258.3 | 22.0 | 7.5 | 52.8 | 103.2 | 59.1 | 68.8 | 10.1 | 20.6 | 36.1 | 18.0 | 7.0 | 30.4 | 28.9 | 32.8 | 755.5 |
| December | 298.4 | 24.5 | 15.9 | 58.3 | 128.5 | 84.3 | 154.8 | 13.4 | 36.5 | 54.4 | 20.0 | 6.8 | 39.1 | 39.7 | 42.1 | 1,016.7 |
| Standard error of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 7.4 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 4.7 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 16.1 |
| Change(b) | 2.4 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 7.0 |

TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), (\$ million)

| Month | Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | Butchers | General stores | Other food stores | Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | Clothing and fabrics stores | Depart- ment stores | Footwear stores | Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | Electrical goods stores | Furniture stores | Floor coverings stores | Chemists | Newsagents | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 128.4 | 10.0 | 4.7 | 23.5 | 40.8 | 29.9 | 52.1 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 21.5 | 11.4 | 4.0 | 13.7 | 9.1 | 15.1 | 376.9 |
| November | 125.3 | 10.3 | 5.0 | 24.3 | 42.2 | 33.3 | 58.8 | 6.2 | 8.0 | 24.3 | 11.5 | 3.6 | 13.4 | 9.3 | 15.5 | 390.9 |
| December | 141.1 | 12.2 | 7.5 | 26.6 | 54.1 | 44.0 | 87.3 | 7.9 | 16.1 | 33.7 | 12.7 | 4.1 | 14.9 | 10.5 | 21.4 | 493.9 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 127.3 | 10.6 | 4.5 | 23.5 | 43.9 | 27.4 | 42.4 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 18.4 | 10.7 | 3.4 | 13.9 | 8.5 | 14.2 | 360.0 |
| February | 118.1 | 9.6 | 3.8 | 19.6 | 40.3 | 24.3 | 40.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 17.7 | 10.1 | 3.7 | 12.4 | 8.9 | 13.7 | 334.0 |
| March | 130.5 | 9.7 | 4.1 | 21.3 | 45.2 | 24.5 | 40.8 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 17.5 | 9.8 | 3.6 | 13.0 | 8.6 | 15.6 | 355.0 |
| April | 128.4 | 9.5 | 4.4 | 21.7 | 39.1 | 32.6 | 51.3 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 19.6 | 11.9 | 4.2 | 13.0 | 7.6 | 15.1 | 371.8 |
| May | 135.0 | 10.3 | 5.4 | 22.9 | 39.1 | 35.0 | 66.5 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 21.4 | 15.5 | 4.0 | 14.2 | 8.4 | 14.7 | 406.8 |
| June | 123.8 | 10.1 | 4.4 | 20.5 | 38.1 | 27.4 | 49.5 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 19.1 | 13.7 | 4.2 | 12.8 | 8.1 | 14.6 | 357.7 |
| July | 130.6 | 9.3 | 6.2 | 22.7 | 37.6 | 27.6 | 53.9 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 19.7 | 10.7 | 5.3 | 15.5 | 9.1 | 13.4 | 373.3 |
| August | 133.0 | 9.3 | 5.3 | 21.7 | 40.2 | 27.2 | 46.8 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 20.4 | 10.5 | 4.8 | 15.9 | 9.0 | 15.4 | 371.2 |
| September | 128.2 | 9.3 | 6.0 | 23.7 | 39.9 | 28.1 | 52.0 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 20.1 | 10.5 | 5.4 | 14.9 | 8.7 | 15.3 | 373.4 |
| October | 137.9 | 9.0 | 6.1 | 23.8 | 42.0 | 30.3 | 53.0 | 6.1 | 7.0 | 18.6 | 10.4 | 4.4 | 16.5 | 8.0 | 15.5 | 388.5 |
| November | 131.7 | 8.4 | 5.8 | 23.6 | 42.5 | 30.6 | 57.7 | 6.2 | 7.3 | 17.3 | 9.7 | 4.9 | 15.8 | 8.0 | 15.1 | 384.5 |
| December | 156.7 | 11.2 | 9.0 | 26.0 | 56.8 | 43.5 | 94.2 | 7.2 | 15.0 | 25.2 | 11.1 | 5.3 | 17.9 | 9.0 | 21.8 | 509.9 |
| Standard error of- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 4.2 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 6.9 |
| Change(b) | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 2.7 |
|  | WESTERN AUSTRALIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 132.8 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 25.5 | 50.9 | 33.1 | 36.8 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 22.1 | 10.1 | 6.0 | 13.3 | 10.2 | 18.7 | 386.5 |
| November | 134.1 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 25.6 | 54.7 | 35.6 | 40.9 | 7.0 | 7.7 | 23.2 | 9.0 | 6.0 | 12.9 | 11.1 | 19.6 | 400.3 |
| December | 149.3 | 7.1 | 11.4 | 28.3 | 66.5 | 51.2 | 67.0 | 8.7 | 13.8 | 30.7 | 9.3 | 5.4 | 16.3 | 15.4 | 27.5 | 508.0 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 141.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 28.0 | 56.3 | 29.6 | 33.5 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 23.3 | 10.1 | 5.4 | 13.4 | 11.5 | 15.7 | 391.6 |
| February | 132.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 24.2 | 49.9 | 30.1 | 31.0 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 19.7 | 9.1 | 5.1 | 12.1 | 11.5 | 14.3 | 362.1 |
| March | 140.2 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 25.2 | 52.0 | 31.2 | 35.2 | 6.4 | 5.2 | 19.2 | 10.4 | 5.5 | 13.1 | 11.0 | 15.1 | 381.5 |
| April | 136.2 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 24.9 | 51.3 | 32.8 | 35.2 | 7.6 | 5.7 | 21.0 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 13.3 | 11.0 | 17.1 | 383.4 |
| May | 141.3 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 24.7 | 50.6 | 40.1 | 43.6 | 9.0 | 6.3 | 26.1 | 9.0 | 6.4 | 13.9 | 11.5 | 18.8 | 415.4 |
| June | 131.6 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 25.1 | 48.1 | 34.5 | 33.3 | 6.8 | 5.3 | 23.5 | 7.9 | 6.4 | 13.2 | 10.2 | 17.4 | 374.4 |
| July | 138.5 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 24.9 | 48.6 | 38.8 | 35.4 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 24.7 | 8.7 | 7.0 | 14.2 | 11.9 | 16.7 | 394.0 |
| August | 138.3 | 5.3 | 6.6 | 26.4 | 50.9 | 36.3 | 34.4 | 6.7 | 7.5 | 25.6 | 9.1 | 5.9 | 14.5 | 11.9 | 17.0 | 396.2 |
| September | 134.3 | 5.5 | 7.1 | 27.0 | 53.7 | 35.3 | 39.5 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 21.7 | 8.9 | 6.3 | 14.9 | 12.0 | 18.1 | 399.5 |
| October | 144.5 | 5.0 | 7.5 | 26.3 | 58.9 | 37.4 | 42.5 | 7.5 | 9.1 | 24.3 | 11.8 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 13.2 | 19.5 | 427.7 |
| November | 141.0 | 5.2 | 7.5 | 25.6 | 55.7 | 37.8 | 41.9 | 7.6 | 10.7 | 22.5 | 10.4 | 4.5 | 14.5 | 13.4 | 19.0 | 417.3 |
| December | 169.6 | 5.8 | 13.9 | 28.6 | 69.8 | 59.7 | 80.0 | 9.2 | 18.1 | 29.5 | 12.7 | 4.9 | 18.0 | 19.1 | 27.5 | 566.3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 2.9 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 9.4 |
| Change(b) | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 3.4 |

TABLE 5. TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF GOODS (EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, PARTS, PETROL, ETC.), MONTHLY ESTIMATES, BY INDUSTRY, STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY-continued

| Month | Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | Butchers | General stores | Other food stores | Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | Clothing and fabrics stores | Depart- ment stores | Foot wear stores | Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | Electrical goods stores | Furniture stores | Floor coverings stores | Chemists | Newsagents | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TASMANIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 40.9 | 4.7 | n.p. | 6.3 | 14.1 | 8.7 | 14.7 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 5.8 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 3.2 | n.p. | 116.9 |
| November | 41.1 | 4.6 | n.p. | 6.1 | 14.4 | 10.0 | 16.6 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 6.4 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 3.4 | n.p. | 122.4 |
| December | 45.5 | 5.4 | n.p. | 6.5 | 19.1 | 15.4 | 29.6 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 9.6 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 4.2 | 5.0 | n.p. | 161.3 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 38.8 | 4.5 | n.p. | 6.6 | 14.9 | 8.4 | 11.5 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 4.6 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 3.7 | n.p. | 110.5 |
| February | 37.8 | 4.3 | n.p. | 6.1 | 14.2 | 9.1 | 11.7 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 4.1 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 3.0 | 4.1 | n.p. | 106.9 |
| March | 40.6 | 4.5 | n.p. | 6.6 | 15.0 | 9.2 | 12.4 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 4.3 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 4.1 | n.p. | 111.7 |
| April | 38.6 | 3.9 | n.p. | 6.1 | 13.9 | 10.5 | 13.4 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 3.5 | n.p. | 111.4 |
| May | 41.9 | 4.1 | n.p. | 6.1 | 14.7 | 10.9 | 16.5 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 6.3 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 3.8 | 4.0 | n.p. | 122.6 |
| June | 38.7 | 3.8 | n.p. | 5.9 | 13.4 | 9.3 | 12.1 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 5.7 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 3.5 | 3.7 | n.p. | 108.6 |
| July | 42.1 | 3.8 | n.p. | 6.2 | 13.7 | 9.5 | 14.2 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 6.2 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 3.9 | 4.4 | n.p. | 117.0 |
| August | 42.9 | 4.1 | n.p. | 6.2 | 14.7 | 8.2 | 12.7 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 6.3 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 3.8 | 4.5 | n.p. | 116.7 |
| September | 42.2 | 4.1 | n.p. | 6.1 | 14.5 | 8.9 | 14.3 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 6.3 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 4.1 | 4.0 | n.p. | 118.3 |
| October | 44.1 | 4.3 | n.p. | 6.9 | 15.8 | 9.3 | 13.4 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 6.0 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 4.2 | 4.2 | n.p. | 122.8 |
| November | 43.4 | 3.9 | n.p. | 6.7 | 15.8 | 9.8 | 14.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 6.1 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 3.7 | 4.2 | n.p. | 122.8 |
| December | 50.5 | 5.3 | n.p. | 7.1 | 21.7 | 15.8 | 30.1 | 3.0 | 3.9 | 9.4 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 5.2 | 6.6 | n.p. | 172.5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 1.1 | 0.5 | n.p. | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.0 | n.p. | 2.7 |
| Change(b) | 0.3 | 0.3 | n.p. | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.8 | n.p. | 1.4 |


| 1985- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| October | 22.7 | 1.6 | n.p. | 4.1 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 12.6 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 5.6 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 3.0 | 2.5 | n.p. | 77.2 |
| November | 22.9 | 1.6 | n.p. | 4.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 13.9 | 0.9 | 2.7 | 5.5 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 3.0 | 2.6 | n.p. | 79.6 |
| December | 23.1 | 1.6 | n.p. | 4.2 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 23.6 | 0.9 | 5.6 | 7.6 | 2.7 | 0.8 | 3.3 | 3.3 | n.p. | 100.2 |
| 1986- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 21.9 | 1.7 | n.p. | 4.0 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 12.1 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 2.4 | n.p. | 74.0 |
| February | 19.6 | 1.7 | n.p. | 3.6 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 8.8 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 2.6 | n.p. | 65.1 |
| March | 22.5 | 1.8 | n.p. | 3.6 | 6.6 | 5.2 | 11.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 3.4 | n.p. | 75.0 |
| April | 22.8 | 1.3 | n.p. | 3.5 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 13.0 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 4.4 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 2.5 | n.p. | 75.4 |
| May | 23.9 | 1.4 | n.p. | 3.4 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 17.4 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 5.5 | 2.4 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | n.p. | 84.9 |
| June | 23.8 | 1.8 | n.p. | 3.3 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 11.7 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 5.4 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 2.4 | n.p. | 76.0 |
| July | 25.0 | 1.8 | n.p. | 4.2 | 5.9 | 6.8 | 14.3 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 6.2 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 2.7 | 3.1 | n.p. | 85.0 |
| August | 22.5 | 1.9 | n.p. | 4.6 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 11.6 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 5.4 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 4.2 | n.p. | 81.9 |
| September | 24.1 | 1.9 | n.p. | 4.3 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 13.3 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 5.7 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 3.1 | n.p. | 83.3 |
| October | 24.3 | 2.3 | n.p. | 4.0 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 14.5 | 1.1 | 2.0 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | n.p. | 84.4 |
| November | 24.2 | 2.1 | n.p. | 3.8 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 14.3 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 3.0 | n.p. | 83.0 |
| December | 28.0 | 2.6 | n.p. | 3.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 27.1 | 1.4 | 4.9 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 0.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | n.p. | 109.2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Level(a) | 1.0 | 0.5 | n.p. | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | n.p. | 2.4 |
| Change(b) | 0.7 | 0.1 | n.p. | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | n.p. | 1.2 |

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

This publication presents monthly estimates of the value of retail sales classified by industry (i.e. type of store) for Australia and each State.
2. Quarterly estimates of total retail sales at constant (average 1979-80) prices are also included.
3. All the series shown in this publication, with estimates for earlier periods, are available on AUSSTATS - see paragraph 29.
4. Quarterly estimates of retail sales classified by commodity groups are published in Catalogue No. 8503.0. Analysis of the quarterly commodity data may lead to revisions in the monthly industry series. For this reason the monthly figures which relate to periods subsequent to the latest quarterly release should be regarded as preliminary.

## Scope and coverage

5. The estimates are derived from a survey which includes in its scope all retail trade establishments, i.e. establishments classified to subdivision 48 of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), 1983 Edition (Catalogue Nos. 1201.0 and 1202.0), except motor vehicle dealers, petrol retailers etc. (ASIC classes 4861-4868), bread and milk vendors (4878-4879), footwear 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).
6. The scope of the survey includes establishments in all States and the Australian Capital Territory, but excludes those in the Northern Territory.
7. The survey is based on a random sample of establishments within the scope defined above. From the data reported by the sampled establishments, aggregates comprising all retail sales in Australia (excluding Northern Territory) are estimated.
8. The retail sales reported are principally sales of new or used goods to final consumers for personal or household consumption. Excluded are sales of tools of trade, building materials and supplies, agricultural supplies and equipment, and business equipment. Sales of motor vehicles, parts, petrol, boats, caravans, etc. are out of scope of the estimates of retail sales in this publication. Also excluded are takings from meals consumed on the premises, accommodation, hairdressing, beauty treatments, and repairs. However, the estimates of retail sales in this publication include sales of take-away food, and beer, wine and spirits served with meals.

## Industry statistics

9. Details of the value of retail sales are available for 15 industries. The ASIC class(es) which make up each industry are as follows:

| Industry | ASIC Class(es) |
| :--- | :--- |
| Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | 4881 |
| Butchers | 4882 |
| General stores | 4815 |
| Other food stores | $4883,4885,4886$ |
| Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | $9232,4884,9241$, |
|  | 9242,9243 |
| Clothing and fabrics stores | $4843,4844,4847$ |
| Department stores | 4814 |
| Footwear stores | 4845 |
| Domestic hardware stores, jewellers | 4853,4854 |
| Electrical goods stores | 4855,4856 |
| Furniture stores stores | 4849 |
| Floor coverings store | 4848 |
| Chemists | 4891 |
| Newsagents | 4894 |
| Other | $4892,4893,4895$, |
|  | $4896,4897,9231$, |

## Reliability of estimates

10. Since the estimates are based on information obtained from a sample survey of retail establishments, the estimates of levels and changes are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all units had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of units was included. 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 units had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.
11. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of change since the preceding month are shown in the tables. Examples of the use of these standard errors are given below:
(a) The estimate of $\$ 6,428.0$ million for the total value of retail sales in December 1986 has a standard error of about $\$ 39.6$ million. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the figure which would have been obtained if all establishments had been included in the survey would be within the range $\$ 6,388.4$ million to $\$ 6,467.6$ million, and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would be within $\$ 6,348.8$ million to $\$ 6,507.2$ million.
(b) The estimated change of $+\$ 1,690.5$ million $(+35.7$ per cent) in the total value of retail sales between November 1986 and December 1986 has a standard error of about $\$ 18.6$ million ( 0.4 per cent). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the change which would have been obtained if all establishments had been included in the survey would be within the range $+\$ 1,671.9$ million to $+\$ 1,709.1$ million ( +35.3 per cent to +36.1 per cent), and nineteen chances in twenty that the change would be within $+\$ 1,653.3$ million to $+\$ 1,727.7$ million ( +34.9 per cent to +36.5 per cent).
12. Standard errors of estimates of change between non consecutive months are not shown in this publication. 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. Users of the statistics in this publication should note that the standard errors are relatively large for estimates for some industries in some States.
14. Seasonally adjusted, smoothed seasonally adjusted and constant price estimates are also subject to sampling variability. For seasonally adjusted estimates, the standard errors in percentage terms approximate those for the unadjusted series. For smoothed seasonally adjusted 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.
15. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting
by respondents and errors made in collection and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the nonsampling error and they may occur in any collection, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of forms, editing of data and efficient operating procedures.

## Seasonal adjustment and smoothing

16. 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. In the seasonal adjustment of the retail sales estimates, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors and 'trading-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month). For total retail sales 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. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these series are available on request.
17. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates of retail sales have been derived by applying a 13 -term Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. Smoothed seasonally adjusted series (often referred to as estimates of trend) are an indicator of the underlying behaviour of the series over time.
18. While this smoothing technique enables smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates 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. There will also be revisions as a result of revisions to the original estimates and periodic reviews of seasonal and trading day factors.
19. This publication includes monthly smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates of retail sales for Australia, classified by industry, and for each State (total all industries). Seasonally adjusted estimates for industries and States are not included. These series, which commence in April 1982, are not long enough to provide sufficient information to allow reliable seasonal adjustment at present, since the seasonally adjusted estimates are subject to a relatively high degree of revision as data for later months become available and are taken into account in the re-estimation of seasonal and trading day factors. However the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates included in this publication are not expected to be subject to the same degree of revision.
20. The seasonal adjustment of each industry series and each State series has been done independently and so, for any one month, the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates for industries and States may not add to the smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates of total retail sales for Australia.
21. Seasonally adjusted and smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates of retail sales by industries in each State are not included because the series are not yet long enough to allow reliable adjustment.

## Estimates at constant prices

22. A quarterly series of the value of total retail sales at average 1979-80 prices is provided in both original and seasonally adjusted form. The scope of the series at constant prices is identical to that of the series at current prices.
23. The series is a measure of change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. Measures of this type are subject to approximations and assumptions, and should not be interpreted-in any precise quantitative sense.
24. Further information on the nature and concepts of constant price estimates is contained in Chapter 4 of Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods (5216.0).
25. As indicated in paragraph 4, the estimates of retail sales (at current prices), for months subsequent to the latest quarterly release, may be revised following analysis of the quarterly commodity data. Similarly, the constant price estimates of total retail sales for quarters subsequent to the latest quarterly release may be revised and therefore should be regarded as preliminary.

## Related publications

26. Estimates of retail sales at current and constant prices for States and commodity groups are published quarterly in Retail Sales of Goods (Excluding Motor Vehicles, Parts, Petrol, etc.), Australia (8503.0).
27. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, 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

r revised
n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals
28. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Electronic services

29. VIATEL. Key *656\# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.
AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 526017.
TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 525404.

[^1]IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician


[^0]:    (a) Excluding Northern Territory. (b) The standard error of the estimate for the latest month-see paragraphs 10 to 15 of Explanatory Notes. (c) The standard error of

[^1]:    © Commonwealth of Australia 1987

