



# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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## INQUIRIES

For further information  
about these and related  
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National Information and  
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# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

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## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This publication has several new features including:

- The integration of commentary with summary tables;
- Excel spreadsheets that can be individually downloaded from the ABS website. Many of the spreadsheets contain more detail than the corresponding summary table. Some of the Construction, Agriculture and Reported offences data are now available only in spreadsheet format.
- Most summary tables include data for the last two financial years, the last two quarters and the corresponding quarter from the previous year.
- Some previously published data are no longer provided, or are provided in a different format, owing to changes in statistical collections, user requirements and data availability on the ABS website. The affected data include Retail Trade (now provided as monthly data); Building approvals by number and value (now provided as quarterly data); and International Trade (commodity data now provided at the one digit level).
- Data tables no longer provided include Livestock slaughtered and meat produced; Tourist Accommodation and Job vacancies.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 19 March 2009. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in *Western Australian Statistical Indicators*. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

## REVISIONS

Data contained in this publication are subject to revision as more complete and accurate information becomes available each quarter.

## INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the last page of this publication.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
Aust.	Australia
ERP	estimated resident population
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
n.f.d.	not further defined
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
WA	Western Australia

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## SECTION 1 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY

#### *Population*

- By September 2008, the estimated resident population of Western Australia had risen to 2.19 million, representing a quarterly increase of 0.8%.
- Western Australia's quarterly population growth was well above the national growth (0.5%) and higher than in all other states and territories. Queensland and Northern Territory had the next highest growth rate (both 0.6%).
- In the September quarter 2008, the principal component of population growth was overseas migration, which brought an additional 11,400 people (net) to the state.
- A further 4,200 people were added to the population through natural increase (births minus deaths) while interstate migration gave a net gain of 1,600 persons.
- In the ten years to 2007, the median age at first marriage in Western Australia steadily increased, to 30.0 years for males and 27.8 years for females.
- Since 2002, the total fertility rate (TFR) has trended upwards from 1.7 to 2.0 babies per woman. This increase is the result of higher fertility among women aged 30 years and over.

#### *Employment and Earnings*

- In the three months to February 2009, unemployment in Western Australia rose from 2.9% to 3.6%.
- Over the same period there was a small decrease in the number of employed persons (0.5%).
- Latest trend figures show the average full-time ordinary time earnings of adult employees rose by 1.7% to \$1,448 per week for males and by 1.9% to \$1,050 per week for females during the November quarter 2008.

#### *State Accounts*

- In seasonally adjusted terms state final demand grew 0.6% in the December quarter 2008 to over \$35 billion. In trend terms, state final demand rose by 1.0% over the same period.

#### *Prices*

- Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell 0.3% in the December quarter 2008, the first decrease since March 1999. This decrease was mainly due to the lower price of automotive fuel (down 17%) and motor vehicles (down 2.4%).
- In the December quarter 2008, the price index for established houses in Perth declined for the fourth successive quarter. However, the fall of 0.9% was considerably lower than previous falls of 2.3% in the June quarter and 2.5% in the September quarter.
- In contrast, the price index for project homes continued to increase. The index has climbed by 3.8% since December 2007.

#### *Consumption*

- In seasonally adjusted terms, retail turnover in Western Australia rose by 1.4% in January 2009 following a larger rise (2.8%) in December 2008.
- In trend terms, there was a steady decrease in the sales of new motor vehicles in the 13 months to February 2009. In that period, the number of vehicles sold fell by almost one-fifth to 8,370 vehicles.

#### *International merchandise trade*

- In the December quarter 2008, Western Australia's international trade surplus was more than \$14 billion. This was 45% higher than the surplus for the same quarter of the previous year (almost \$10 billion).

## SECTION 1 STATISTICAL SUMMARY *continued*

### *International merchandise trade continued*

- China and Japan continued to be the major export destinations despite a significant fall in exports to China from the previous quarter.

### *Investment and finance*

- Private new capital expenditure in Western Australia rose by almost 7% in trend chain volume terms in the December quarter 2008, to just over \$7 billion. The mining industry continued to be a strong driver of this investment growth.
- After 15 months of continuing decline, the number of housing finance commitments (trend) commenced a slow rise in September 2008 (6,285), reaching 6,432 in January 2009. However this figure was still almost 20% down compared with January 2008 (8,002).

### *Construction*

- In the three months to January 2009, 3,622 houses were approved for construction in Western Australia (trend). This was 11% lower than in the previous quarter and 17% lower than in the same quarter of the previous year.
- Over the same period there was a proportionally larger fall in other dwelling approvals. The number of approvals for semi-detached, townhouses and flats, and units and apartments fell to 548, a decrease of 40% compared with the previous quarter and 65% compared with the same quarter of the previous year.
- Latest figures for dwelling construction relate to the September quarter 2008 in which construction commenced on 5,060 dwellings. This represents a decrease of approximately 15% compared with the previous quarter and 11% compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

### *Mining and energy*

- Following eleven quarters of strong growth, expenditure on mineral exploration in Western Australia marginally decreased, from \$357 million to \$354 million, in the three months to December 2008.
- The only significant growth in mineral exploration in the December quarter was related to iron ore where expenditure rose by 11%. Expenditure on silver, lead and zinc, nickel and cobalt; and gold exploration were all substantially down.
- Petroleum exploration expenditure rose by 48% in the December quarter.
- Production of iron ore and bauxite both fell in the December quarter after some volatility in previous quarters, while the production of diamonds had its third successive quarterly increase (12%).

### *Tourism*

- The December quarter 2008 saw a fall of nearly 5% in the number of overseas visitors compared with the same quarter of the previous year, with markedly fewer visitors from Japan and Thailand.
- The top five countries of origin were the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and New Zealand, with Malaysia overtaking Japan in the December quarter 2008 as the third most common source country.
- There is some seasonal variation in visitor arrivals. Visitors from the United Kingdom were the predominant group in the December and March quarters whereas visitors from Singapore were the largest group in the June quarter.
- The top destination for Western Australian residents holidaying abroad in the December quarter was Indonesia. Other popular destinations were Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand and Malaysia.

# SECTION 1 STATISTICAL SUMMARY *continued*

## 1 SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, AUSTRALIAN COMPARISON

Indicator	Reference period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA			AUSTRALIA		
		Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>Estimated resident population ('000)</b>	Sep qtr 2008	2 188.5	0.8	2.9	21 542.5	0.5	1.8
<b>Employment and earnings(a)</b>							
No. of persons employed full-time ('000)	February 2009	839.1	-0.5	2.0	7 682.4	-0.1	0.1
No. of persons employed ('000)	February 2009	1 169.6	-0.2	2.7	10 811.7	—	0.8
Unemployment rate (%)	February 2009	3.6	0.3pts	0.5pts	4.9	0.1pts	0.8pts
Participation rate (%)	February 2009	68.9	-0.1pts	0.4pts	65.4	0.0pts	-0.1pts
Average weekly earnings(b) (\$)	November 2008	1 315.7	1.6	7.7	1 164.9	1.5	5.2
<b>State final demand(a)(c) (\$m)</b>	Dec qtr 2008	35 211	1.0	5.9	284 426	0.3	2.9
<b>Prices(d)(e)</b>							
Consumer Price Index, All groups	Dec qtr 2008	166.2	-0.3	3.7	166.0	-0.3	3.7
Wage Price Index: Hourly rates of pay(f)	Dec qtr 2008	126.8	1.8	5.7	121.5	1.2	4.3
Established house price index(g)	Dec qtr 2008	184.4	-0.9	-6.7	125.8	-0.8	-3.3
Project home price index(g)	Dec qtr 2008	154.0	1.0	3.8	123.1	0.2	4.5
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups(h)	Dec qtr 2008	162.3	1.1	8.9	161.3	1.3	6.9
<b>Consumption</b>							
Retail turnover: Seasonally adjusted (\$m)	January 2009	2 125.6	1.4	6.5	19 208.5	0.2	5.9
Sales of new motor vehicles(a) (no.)	February 2009	8 370	-1.7	-19.4	74 254	-1.1	-18.0
<b>International merchandise trade(e)</b>							
Exports (\$m)	Dec qtr 2008	23 743	3.7	47.2	67 473	10.5	55.6
Imports (\$m)	Dec qtr 2008	9 359	8.7	50.2	62 835	6.6	24.4
<b>Investment and finance</b>							
Private new capital expenditure(a)(c) (\$m)	Dec qtr 2008	7 186	6.9	31.3	24 753	4.2	18.0
Commercial finance commitments(e) (\$m)	January 2009	2 620	-11.4	3.4	25 829	-23.0	-36.2
Personal finance commitments(e) (\$m)	January 2009	857	-6.4	-14.9	5 785	-11.6	-12.5
Housing finance commitments(a)(i) (no.)	January 2009	6 432	0.8	-19.6	53 713	2.4	-15.7
<b>Construction</b>							
Houses approved(a) (no.)	Jan qtr 2009	3 622	-10.6	-17.1	21 506	-9.0	-23.5
New residential building activity commenced(e) (no.)	Sep qtr 2008	5 060	-15.1	-11.4	36 807	-6.6	-9.2
<b>Mining and energy(e)</b>							
Mineral exploration expenditure (\$m)	Dec qtr 2008	364.0	-5.2	16.0	648.5	-5.7	3.6
Petroleum exploration expenditure (\$m)	Dec qtr 2008	798.9	48.1	55.8	1 013.4	29.7	31.6
<b>Tourism(e)</b>							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday (no.)	Dec qtr 2008	76 427	71.4	-4.7	768 420	27.0	-5.5
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air on holiday (no.)	Dec qtr 2008	116 083	-16.1	6.9	780 543	-8.0	5.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Trend

(b) Full-time adult ordinary time earnings.

(c) Chain volume measures.

(d) Index

(e) Original

(f) Total hourly rates excluding bonuses.

(g) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 8 Capital Cities.

(h) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.

(i) Owner occupation housing.

## SECTION 2 POPULATION

### POPULATION

#### *Estimated resident population*

- The preliminary estimated resident population for Western Australia was 2.19 million persons at 30 September 2008, an increase of 0.8% since 30 June 2008. This was the highest percentage rise across the nation, ahead of Queensland and Northern Territory (both up 0.6%) and above the national population growth of 0.5%.
- In the September quarter, Western Australia recorded 7,700 births and 3,400 deaths, a natural increase of 4,200 persons.
- Net overseas migration added a further 11,400 persons to the State's population while net interstate migration added 1,600 persons.
- In the year to September 2008, net overseas migration was the principal component of population growth followed by natural increase. Net interstate migration was a relatively small component of the growth.

### 2 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (b)	COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH					
	Total	Births	Deaths	Natural increase (c)	Net interstate migration	Net overseas migration (d)	Total population growth (e)
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
<b>2006-2007</b>	2 112 967	28 900	11 956	16 944	5 188	31 454	53 586
<b>2007-2008</b>	2 171 197	31 167	12 437	18 730	4 808	34 692	58 230
<b>2006</b>	2 084 733	27 928	11 634	16 294	4 528	26 235	47 461
<b>2007</b>	2 138 062	29 260	12 323	16 937	4 674	31 718	53 329
September	2 125 905	7 773	3 382	4 391	889	7 658	12 938
December	2 138 062	6 848	2 977	3 871	740	7 546	12 517
<b>2008</b>							
March	2 156 673	8 411	2 954	5 457	1 710	11 444	18 611
June	2 171 197	8 135	3 124	5 011	1 469	8 044	14 524
September	2 188 462	7 673	3 432	4 241	1 640	11 384	17 265

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication.

(b) At end of reference period.

(c) Births minus deaths.

(d) Adjusted for category jumping.

(e) Differences between total growth and the sum of the components of population change prior to September quarter 2006 are due to intercensal discrepancy.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

### EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

#### Labour Force Status

- Western Australia's unemployment rate (trend) increased from 2.9% in November 2008 to 3.6% in February 2009. This is 0.5 percentage points higher than the rate one year before. Nationally, Australia's unemployment rate stood at 4.9% in February 2009.
- The number of unemployed persons (trend) increased from 35,000 to 44,200 persons in the February quarter 2009.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

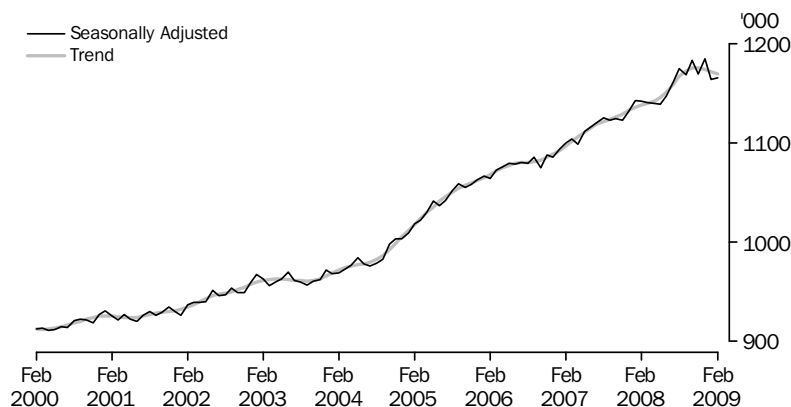


Note: Break in trend series at April 2001.

Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

- The number of employed people (trend) showed a small downturn in the February quarter (down 0.5%) although this figure rose by 2.7% over the preceding year.
- Notwithstanding the recent downturn, there has been steady growth in the annual employment figures since the year 2000, with faster growth in the years 2005 to 2007 reflecting overall population growth as well as government policy to attract skilled migrant workers.

### EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### Labour Force Status *continued*

### 3 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER): **Trend**

	Employed	Unemployed	Total labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Quarter	'000	'000	'000	%	%
PERSONS					
<b>2008</b>					
February	1 138.4	37.4	1 175.8	68.5	3.2
May	1 145.6	38.5	1 184.1	68.5	3.2
August	1 167.1	34.5	1 201.5	69.1	2.9
November	1 175.6	35.5	1 211.0	69.2	2.9
<b>2009</b>					
February	1 169.6	44.2	1 213.9	68.9	3.6

(a) Discrepancies in total may occur due to rounding.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

### Industry of employment

- In original data terms, the industries with the largest employment losses in the February quarter 2009 were Mining (21%), Financial and insurance services (14%), Professional, scientific and technical services (12%) and Transport, postal and warehousing (6%). Some of these industries, notably Financial and insurance services; and Professional, scientific and technical services, have declined in employment since the February quarter 2008 while the movement in Mining, along with Transport, postal and warehousing, has been more volatile over this period.
- Despite the general downturn, there was substantial growth in employee numbers in several industries. This included increases of 15% in Electricity, gas, water and waste services, 12% in Retail trade, 11% in Public administration and safety and 6% in Manufacturing. With the exception of Manufacturing, these industries have exhibited a steady growth in employment since February 2008.



## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

Industry of employment  
*continued*

### 4 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), By industry(b): original

	2008		2009
	February	November	February
	'000	'000	'000
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>1 139.9</b>	<b>1 168.1</b>	<b>1 163.4</b>
<b>Industry</b>			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	42.0	50.7	50.1
Mining	56.0	71.5	56.8
Manufacturing	102.8	96.7	102.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	13.7	19.7	22.6
Construction	125.4	124.3	122.3
Wholesale trade	34.8	41.8	42.1
Retail trade	124.9	130.4	146.4
Accommodation and food services	54.7	66.5	65.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	53.4	63.3	59.7
Information media and telecommunications	13.6	13.2	14.0
Financial and insurance services	31.5	30.1	26.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	22.2	24.5	21.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	88.0	75.1	66.4
Administrative and support services	39.8	33.0	35.7
Public administration and safety	63.7	67.3	74.7
Education and training	86.8	78.3	77.1
Health Care and social assistance	111.8	114.3	115.1
Arts and recreation services	23.3	18.0	19.6
Other services	51.6	49.2	45.9

(a) The ANZSIC 2006 classification system replaces the existing classification ANZSIC 1993, for the periods November 1984 to the current release. Industry data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Group (3 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSIC 2006 see *Information Paper: Update on ANZSIC 2006 Implementation, 2008* (cat.no.1295.0.55.001).

(b) Industry estimates are classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006.

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

Occupation of employment

- Based on original data, the occupation recording the largest decrease in employment in the February quarter 2009 was Labourers (13%). Decreases were also experienced by Professionals and Machinery operators and drivers (both down almost 8%).
- Over the same period, employment growth occurred in other occupations including Technicians and trades workers; Clerical and administrative workers; Managers; and Sales workers, all with increases of between 5% and 7%.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

Occupation of employment  
*continued*

### 5 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), By occupation(b): **original**

	2008		2009
	February	November	February
	'000	'000	'000
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>1 139.9</b>	<b>1 168.1</b>	<b>1 163.4</b>
<b>Occupation</b>			
Managers	132.7	143.6	151.5
Professionals	234.9	222.6	205.7
Technicians and trades workers	198.0	199.4	211.6
Community and personal service workers	92.2	100.1	100.4
Clerical and administrative workers	167.3	160.4	171.6
Sales workers	101.0	108.2	114.0
Machinery operators and drivers	85.5	92.7	85.4
Labourers	128.4	141.1	123.1

- (a) The ANZSCO classification system replaces the classification Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition, introduced in August 1996. Occupation data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Unit Group (4 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSCO see *Information Paper: ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2005* (cat.no.1221.0).
- (b) Occupation estimates are based the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### Employees and hours worked

- Based on original data, the average weekly number of hours worked by employees in Western Australia (35.1) has remained steady over the last two quarters. Employees in the mining (45.7) and construction (42.4) industries continued to work longer hours on average.
- Industries showing substantial increases in average hours worked during the February quarter were Information media and telecommunications (up 5.4 hours to 37.7 hours per week) and Wholesale trade (up 3 hours to 39.9 hours per week). In both industries, however, the figure for the last quarter was relatively close to the February 2008 figure.
- Average weekly hours worked decreased in other industries including Administrative and support services (down 4.1 hours to 28.9 hours per week), Other services (down 2.8 hours to 34.1 hours per week) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 2.6 hours to 40.3 hours per week). Some of this decrease in working hours may be attributable to seasonal factors and the prevalence of casual labour particularly in the service industries.

### 6 EMPLOYEES AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(a), By industry(b): **Original**

	2008		2009
	February	November	February
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (HOURS)			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	40.2	42.9	40.3
Mining	43.4	43.7	45.7
Manufacturing	40.3	38.9	39.6
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	40.6	36.0	36.3
Construction	40.7	42.0	42.4
Wholesale trade	38.7	36.9	39.9
Retail trade	29.0	28.4	28.6
Accommodation and food services	28.7	29.2	28.9
Transport, postal and warehousing	37.7	39.3	38.0
Information media and telecommunications	37.2	32.3	37.7
Financial and insurance services	36.1	36.7	35.9
Rental, hiring and real estate services	37.3	37.0	37.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	39.7	36.9	37.6
Administrative and support services	31.8	33.0	28.9
Public administration and safety	34.4	33.3	35.0
Education and training	33.9	31.6	32.4
Health Care and social assistance	29.2	29.4	29.3
Arts and recreation services	30.2	29.3	30.7
Other services	36.0	36.9	34.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>35.1</b>

- (a) The ANZSIC 2006 classification system replaces the existing classification ANZSIC 1993, for the periods November 1984 to the current release. Industry data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Group (3 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSIC 2006 see *Information Paper: Update on ANZSIC 2006 Implementation, 2008* (cat.no.1295.0.55.001).
- (b) Industry estimates are classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006.

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### *Employees and hours worked continued*

- From an occupation perspective, employees in managerial occupations consistently work the longest hours, averaging more than 43 hours a week for the last two quarters. They are closely followed by Machine operators and drivers; and Technicians and trades workers who worked an average of 42.3 hours and 39.9 hours respectively in the February quarter.
- By contrast, people employed as Community and personal service workers, Sales workers and Labourers averaged less than 30 hours a week in the last quarter. Over the previous year these employees consistently worked fewer hours than employees in other occupations, almost certainly reflecting the greater proportion of part-time workers.

### **7** EMPLOYEES AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(a), By occupation(b): **Original**

	2008		2009
	February	November	February
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (HOURS)			
Managers	43.1	43.5	43.3
Professionals	36.3	35.9	36.8
Technicians and trades workers	40.4	38.7	39.9
Community and personal service workers	28.2	27.4	26.0
Clerical and administrative workers	33.3	32.8	32.3
Sales workers	27.5	26.6	27.5
Machinery operators and drivers	41.8	43.5	42.3
Labourers	30.8	31.1	29.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>35.1</b>

- (a) The ANZSCO classification system replaces the classification Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition, introduced in August 1996. Occupation data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Unit Group (4 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSCO see *Information Paper: ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2005* (cat.no.1221.0).
- (b) Occupation estimates are based the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### Average weekly earnings

- In trend terms Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) of full-time adult employees rose 1.6% to \$1,316 in the November quarter in Western Australia.
- Ordinary time earnings for full-time adult employees rose for both males (1.7% or \$25 per week) and females (1.9% or \$19 per week) in the quarter.

### 8 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: All series

FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS			
Quarter	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
ORIGINAL (\$)			
<b>2007</b>			
November	1 330.20	972.30	1 216.60
<b>2008</b>			
August	1 421.00	1 024.20	1 291.50
November	1 452.80	1 057.10	1 321.40
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (\$)			
<b>2007</b>			
November	1 328.60	970.90	1 215.10
<b>2008</b>			
August	1 422.40	1 026.20	1 293.20
November	1 451.20	1 054.70	1 319.40
TREND (\$)			
<b>2007</b>			
November	1 337.70	973.20	1 221.90
<b>2008</b>			
August	1 423.20	1 031.10	1 295.20
November	1 447.70	1 050.40	1 315.70

Source: *Average weekly Earnings, Australia*, cat. no. 6302.0.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### Average weekly earnings *continued*

- Industries with the largest percentage increase in average weekly earnings of full-time adult employees in the November quarter were Retail Trade, Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants and Wholesale Trade. These industries had increases around 5% to 6%.
- The industries where average weekly earnings decreased in the November quarter included Health and Community Services (down 2.2%) and Finance and Insurance (down 1.1%).

### 9 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, By industry: Original

ANZSIC Division	2007	2008	
	November	August	November
FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS (\$)			
Mining	1 978.30	2 135.80	2 136.40
Manufacturing	1 152.60	1 194.50	1 213.10
Electricity, gas and water supply	1 498.80	1 575.70	1 635.10
Construction	1 206.30	1 323.20	1 328.40
Wholesale trade	1 144.90	1 224.10	1 288.60
Retail trade	896.00	927.10	985.70
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	906.10	826.80	878.40
Transport and storage	1 005.60	1 218.60	1 265.90
Communication services	1 044.00	1 028.10	1 039.20
Finance and insurance	1 161.70	1 233.80	1 219.80
Property and business services	1 392.10	1 423.60	1 443.60
Government administration and defence	1 089.40	1 103.00	1 132.10
Education	1 124.10	1 181.10	1 228.20
Health and community services	1 137.90	1 238.50	1 211.70
Cultural and recreational services	1 131.60	1 113.60	1 139.70
Personal and other services	1 035.20	1 134.30	1 173.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 216.60</b>	<b>1 291.50</b>	<b>1 321.40</b>

Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, cat. no. 6302.0.

## SECTION 3 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS *continued*

### *Industrial disputes*

- For the December quarter 2008, there were 6 disputes in Western Australia, one fewer than in the previous quarter.
- The number of employees involved in industrial disputes in Western Australia in the December quarter was about 1,200, which was three times more than in the September quarter.
- Approximately 1,800 working days were lost due to industrial disputation. However, this quarterly figure is very volatile.

### **10** INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: Original

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>Number of disputes</i>	<i>Number of employees involved</i>	<i>Working days lost</i>	<i>Working days lost per thousand employees</i>
	no.	'000	'000	no.
<b>2007</b>	16	2.1	3.1	np
<b>2008</b>	30	11.9	10.4	np
<b>2007</b>				
September	5	0.5	0.9	0.9
December	np	0.6	1.3	1.3
<b>2008</b>				
March	9	8.9	6.8	6.9
June	10	1.6	1.4	1.4
September	7	0.4	0.4	0.4
December	6	1.2	1.8	1.8

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

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes, Australia*, cat. no. 6321.0.55.001.

## SECTION 4 STATE ACCOUNTS

### STATE ACCOUNTS

#### State Final Demand

- In seasonally adjusted terms, Western Australia's state final demand grew 0.6% in the December quarter 2008.
- Growth in final consumption expenditure for the quarter was minimal for general government and slightly down for households but was stronger for private gross fixed capital formation (up 1.7% seasonally adjusted).

### 11 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures(a)

	2007	2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	December	September	December	Same quarter previous year
	\$m	\$m	\$m	%
TREND				
Final consumption expenditure				
General government	4 303	4 392	4 407	0.3
Households	15 029	15 375	15 469	0.6
<b>Total final consumption expenditure</b>	<b>19 332</b>	<b>19 767</b>	<b>19 876</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Private gross fixed capital formation	12 573	13 669	13 865	1.4
Public gross fixed capital formation	np	np	np	np
<b>State final demand</b>	<b>33 241</b>	<b>34 865</b>	<b>35 211</b>	<b>1.0</b>
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
Final consumption expenditure				
General government	4 323	4 399	4 405	0.1
Households	15 027	15 466	15 439	-0.2
<b>Total final consumption expenditure</b>	<b>19 350</b>	<b>19 865</b>	<b>19 844</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Private gross fixed capital formation	12 460	13 555	13 786	1.7
Public gross fixed capital formation	1 339	1 453	1 453	—
<b>State final demand</b>	<b>33 150</b>	<b>34 873</b>	<b>35 083</b>	<b>0.6</b>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2006–07.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

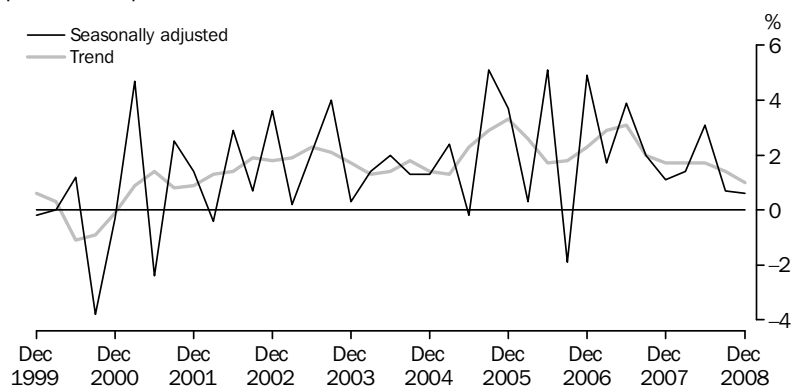


## SECTION 4 STATE ACCOUNTS *continued*

### *State Final Demand continued*

- Western Australia's state final demand (trend chain volume measures) rose 1.0% to just over \$35 billion in the December quarter 2008 following 1.4% growth in the previous quarter. Nationally, domestic final demand grew 0.3% in the December quarter 2008.
- Growth in the December quarter was second highest amongst the states and territories, with Northern Territory having the highest growth of 1.8%.

### STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures—Change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

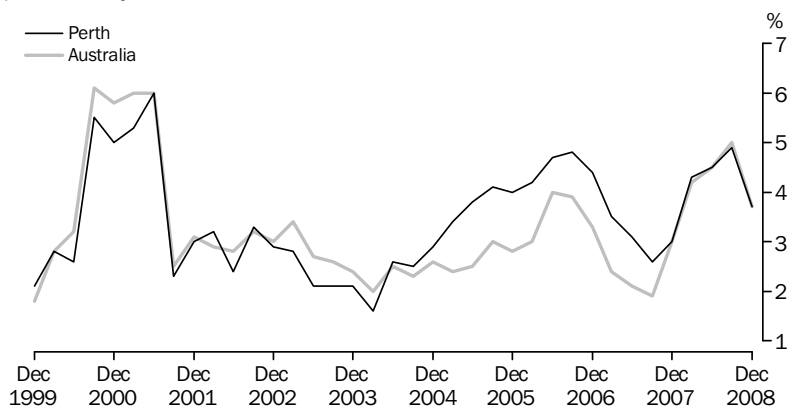
## SECTION 5 PRICES

### PRICES

#### Consumer Price Index

- Despite an overall rise in Perth's prices during 2008, the three months to December 2008 saw Perth's CPI fall 0.3%, the first decrease since March 1999. The main drivers of this decrease were transportation costs, which fell by 6.5% in the December quarter. This reflected the lower price of automotive fuel (down 17%) and motor vehicles (down 2.4%).
- In the year to December 2008, Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.7%, on par with the nation's CPI rise. Of the Australian capital cities, Brisbane had the largest increase (4.3%) while Melbourne had the smallest (3.2%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from same quarter previous year



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

- The main contributors to Perth's CPI growth in 2008 were Education (up 7.8%) and Financial and insurance services (up 7.7%).
- The increase in prices across all Education sectors (primary, secondary and tertiary) occurred primarily between December and March. This has been a consistent pattern over many years, most likely reflecting increases in education costs levied at the commencement of each academic year.
- Rising prices in Financial and insurance services reflected increases in the price of deposit and loan facilities as well as insurance.

## SECTION 5 PRICES *continued*

### Consumer Price Index *continued*

### 12 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth

	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR		CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER	
	2006–2007	2007–2008	December 2008	September 2008	December 2008
	%	%	%	%	%
All groups	4.0	3.6	3.7	1.0	–0.3
Food	5.4	4.2	5.5	0.4	1.2
Alcohol and tobacco	3.6	4.1	6.3	2.2	1.3
Clothing and footwear	–0.9	–0.9	–1.4	–2.3	1.1
Housing	7.4	4.6	5.9	2.7	0.8
Household contents and services	2.3	–0.7	1.5	0.2	1.1
Health	5.3	5.4	5.0	–0.2	–0.6
Transportation	2.4	4.7	–1.0	0.3	–6.5
Communication	1.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4
Recreation	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.4	0.9
Education	6.9	7.8	7.8	—	—
Financial and insurance services(b)	2.0	5.7	7.7	0.9	–0.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.

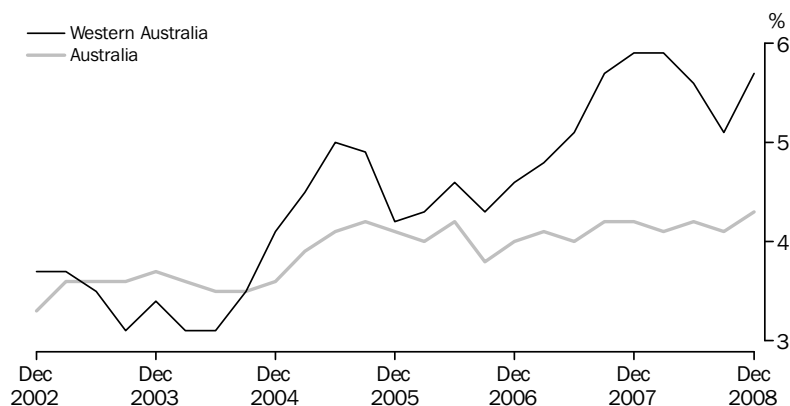
(b) Base of index: June quarter 2005 = 100.0.

Source: *Consumer Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6401.0.

### Wage Price Index

- Western Australia's Wage Price Index (WPI) rose 1.8% in the December quarter 2008. This followed growth of 1.3% and 1.4% in the two previous quarters.
- The State's 'all sector' WPI growth of 1.8% was higher than Australia's growth of 1.2% and was the highest among all states and territories.
- Through the year to December 2008, the WPI for Western Australia grew 5.7%, which was considerably higher than the national growth of 4.3%.

### WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: *Labour Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6345.0.

## SECTION 5 PRICES *continued*

### *Wage Price Index continued*

- In the December quarter 2008 public sector wages increased by 3.1%, more than double the private sector increase (1.4%). This reflects some pay increases for Western Australian Government employees implemented during the quarter, including backdated pay rises for the general public service and teachers.
- Of the selected industries, wage increases in the December quarter were highest in Government administration and defence (4.3%) followed by Education (3.1%), Manufacturing (1.9%) and Health and Community Services (1.7%).
- Mining had the strongest wage price growth for the year (7.3%) but the lowest for the quarter (0.6%). Similarly, growth was high in Construction for the year (7.0%) but relatively low for the quarter (1.3%). Retail trade had the lowest wage price index rise for the year (3.3%) and the second lowest for the quarter (0.9%).

### **13** WAGE PRICE INDEX, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: **Original**

	2007 .....	2008 .....	CHANGE FROM .....		
	December	September	December	Previous quarter	Same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>124.5</b>	<b>126.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Sector</b>					
Private	120.7	125.6	127.4	1.4	5.6
Public	117.7	121.0	124.8	3.1	6.0
<b>Selected Industries</b>					
Mining	124.8	133.1	133.9	0.6	7.3
Manufacturing	121.1	125.3	127.7	1.9	5.5
Construction	136.4	144.0	145.9	1.3	7.0
Retail trade	117.5	120.3	121.4	0.9	3.3
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	115.2	118.7	120.4	1.4	4.5
Transport and storage	117.0	122.8	124.5	1.4	6.4
Property and business services	120.6	126.3	128.2	1.5	6.3
Government administration and defence	118.0	119.8	124.9	4.3	5.8
Education	117.0	120.4	124.1	3.1	6.1
Health and community services	116.0	120.3	122.4	1.7	5.5
Personal and other services	121.2	126.4	127.9	1.2	5.5

Note: No occupation data from September quarter 2008 onwards.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6345.0.

## SECTION 5 PRICES *continued*

### House Price Indexes

- According to preliminary estimates for the December quarter 2008, the price index for established houses in Perth continued to decline for the fourth successive quarter. However, the fall (0.9%) was considerably lower than in the June and September quarters (2.3% and 2.5% respectively).
- In contrast, the price index for project homes increased 1.0% in the December 2008 quarter. This index has climbed by 3.8% since the December quarter 2007.

### **14** HOUSE PRICE INDEXES (a)—Perth

Reference period	ESTABLISHED HOMES(b)  index	Change from previous period(b)	PROJECT HOMES  index	Change from previous period
		%		%
<b>2006–2007</b>	192.8	32.3	144.1	10.6
<b>2007–2008</b>	r194.8	r1.1	148.7	3.2
<b>2007</b>				
September	195.5	1.8	147.6	0.9
December	197.6	1.1	148.3	0.5
<b>2008</b>				
March	195.3	–1.2	148.8	0.3
June	r190.8	r–2.3	150.0	0.8
September	p186.1	p–2.5	152.5	1.7
December	p184.4	p–0.9	154.0	1.0

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

r revised

(a) Base of each index 2003–04 = 100.0.

(b) Estimates for the two most recent quarters are experimental (see paragraph 12 and 13 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication).

Source: *House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities*, cat. no. 6416.0.

## SECTION 5 PRICES *continued*

### Price indexes of materials used in building

- In the December quarter 2008, the increase in the price of materials for house building in Western Australia slowed to 1.1%. This was the lowest quarterly increase since December 2007.
- During the year ending December 2008 the price index for these materials rose by nearly 9%. This was around two percentage points higher than the national rise.
- The largest contributors to the increase over the year were steel and other metal products.

### **15** PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING (a), By material—Perth

Material group	2007	2008		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
				Sep Qtr 2008	Dec Qtr 2007
	December	September	December	to Dec Qtr 2008	to Dec Qtr 2008
	index	index	index	%	%
<b>All groups</b>	<b>149.0</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>162.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Timber, board and joinery	134.7	145.1	143.7	-1.0	6.7
Ceramic products	160.1	163.6	164.2	0.4	2.6
Concrete, cement and sand	156.8	168.5	171.8	2.0	9.6
Cement products	134.3	136.5	136.5	—	1.6
Steel products	184.8	244.8	249.4	1.9	35.0
Other metal products	146.6	154.8	162.5	5.0	10.8
Plumbing products	135.1	144.6	145.8	0.8	7.9
Electrical equipment	116.4	121.9	120.8	-0.9	3.8
Installed gas and electrical appliances	140.3	145.1	145.2	0.1	3.5
Other materials	169.5	178.1	180.0	1.1	6.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Reference base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0

Source: *Producer Price Indexes, Australia*, cat. no. 6427.0.

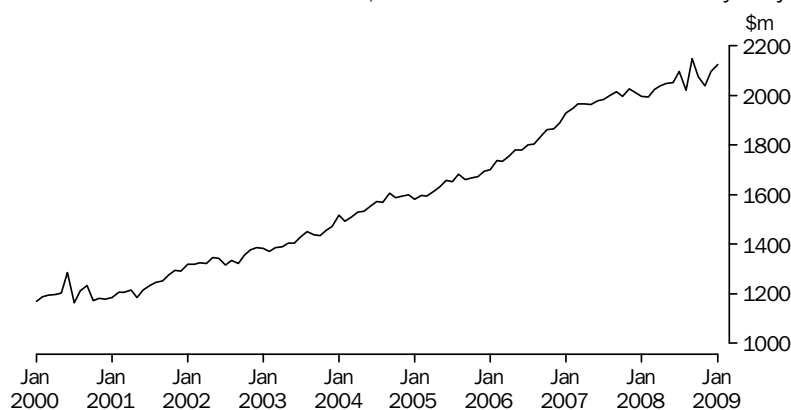
## SECTION 6 CONSUMPTION

### CONSUMPTION

#### Retail

- As it is not possible to determine the trend in retail turnover through the period affected by the Government's stimulus package and other influences associated with global economic conditions, the retail trade trend series was suspended in November 2008.
- In seasonally adjusted terms, retail turnover in Western Australia rose by 1.4% in January 2009 following a larger increase (2.8%) in December 2008.
- In the preceding year, there were small fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted figures. Some of these may be related to the global financial situation in the second half of 2008 before the Australian government's economic stimulus package took effect in December.
- Apart from these recent monthly fluctuations, there has been steady growth in Western Australia's retail turnover since late 2000.

#### MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current Prices—Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat. no. 8501.0

- While the seasonally adjusted increase in turnover in December 2008 was spread across all areas of retail trade, increases in the following month occurred primarily in food retailing (up 5.0% or \$40 million) and department stores (up 2.4% or \$4 million).
- In contrast, the January turnover for household goods retailing fell by 3.9%, or \$15 million, and for clothing and soft goods retailing by 2.7%, or \$4 million.

## SECTION 6 CONSUMPTION *continued*

Retail continued

### 16 RETAIL TRADE(a), monthly turnover—Current price: **Seasonally Adjusted**

	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Other retailing	Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	Total
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (\$M)							
<b>2008</b>							
January	755.8	171.6	139.3	366.6	300.3	262.4	1 996.0
February	751.9	171.1	144.2	360.3	305.6	261.3	1 994.3
March	765.0	168.0	138.8	367.9	315.2	267.8	2 022.8
April	757.2	174.4	146.7	352.7	326.7	281.3	2 038.9
May	769.2	172.1	144.9	353.3	330.1	279.4	2 049.1
June	770.7	168.8	142.5	355.1	327.9	286.1	2 051.1
July	806.6	181.5	117.5	343.1	326.4	321.6	2 096.8
August	787.8	173.8	109.5	367.4	301.8	279.8	2 020.1
September	842.0	178.6	113.4	373.7	349.5	293.0	2 150.2
October	784.7	174.5	161.7	315.2	333.4	307.4	2 076.9
November	812.0	166.6	120.6	341.5	315.2	284.1	2 040.0
December	805.7	181.3	128.3	381.2	333.4	266.9	2 096.7
<b>2009</b>							
January	845.9	185.6	124.8	366.2	336.4	266.9	2 125.6

(a) For industry definitions see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publications.

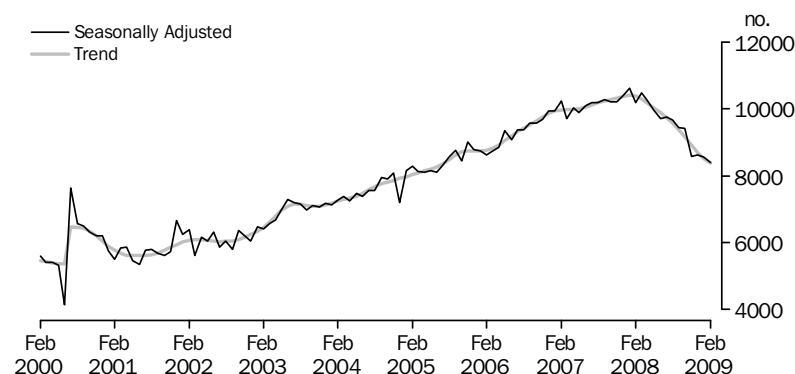
Note: As of July 2008, all historical data have been revised as a result of changes to the survey design.

Source: *Retail Trade, Australia*, cat. no. 8501.0.

New motor vehicle sales

- There was a steady decrease in the sales of new motor vehicles (trend) in Western Australia over the thirteen months to February 2009. In that period, the number of vehicles sold fell by more than 19% to 8,370.
- Monthly vehicle sales in Western Australia have not surpassed 10,000 since May 2008 (10,033 vehicles).

### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



Note: Break in trend series between June and July 2000.

Source: *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia*, cat. no. 9314.0.



## SECTION 6 CONSUMPTION *continued*

### *New motor vehicle sales continued*

- In the three months to February 2009, new motor vehicle sales were almost 7% lower than in the previous three month period.
- In the three months to February 2009, a decline in sales was recorded for all vehicle types including passenger vehicles (5%), sports utility vehicles (7%) and other vehicles (10%).

### **17** NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, By type of vehicle: **Trend**

	Passenger vehicles	Sports utility vehicles	Other vehicles	Total vehicles
Month	no.	no.	no.	no.
TREND				
<b>2007</b>				
December	5 636	2 194	2 553	10 382
<b>2008</b>				
January	5 587	2 229	2 592	10 408
February	5 535	2 250	2 601	10 386
March	5 490	2 237	2 579	10 306
April	5 454	2 190	2 534	10 177
May	5 419	2 129	2 484	10 033
June	5 372	2 069	2 450	9 892
July	5 284	2 020	2 443	9 747
August	5 147	1 977	2 457	9 581
September	4 987	1 933	2 462	9 383
October	4 839	1 885	2 438	9 162
November	4 724	1 829	2 373	8 926
December	4 645	1 778	2 282	8 705
<b>2009</b>				
January	4 593	1 739	2 184	8 516
February	4 566	1 712	2 093	8 370

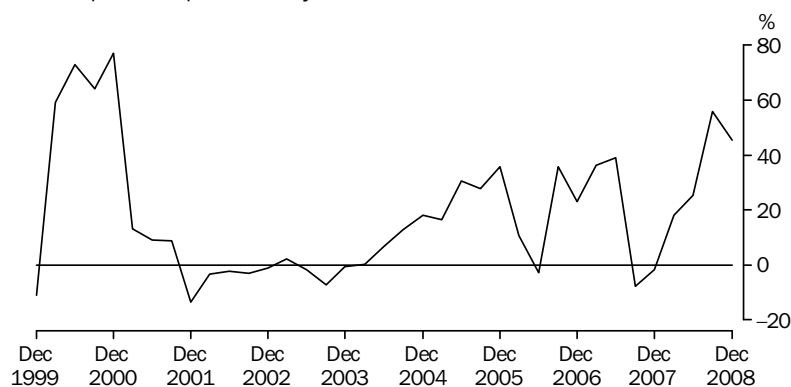
Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.

## SECTION 7 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

### INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

- Western Australia's trade surplus in the December quarter 2008 (more than \$14b) was 45% higher than the surplus in the same quarter of the previous year (less than \$10b).

VALUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE SURPLUS, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia*, cat. no. 5368.0.

### Exports

- The value of exports was 47% higher in the December 2008 quarter than in the December 2007 quarter, up from \$16 billion to almost \$24 billion.
- China and Japan continued to be the major export destinations, each receiving goods to the value of more than \$6 billion. However, in the case of China, there was a decrease of \$437 million from the September quarter 2008. The value of exports to Japan increased through the year to being almost double the value of exports in December 2007.

### 18 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE(a), Exports—Top 10 countries: Original

#### EXPORTS

	December quarter 2007	September quarter 2008	December quarter 2008
Country	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
China	4 117 879	6 481 841	6 045 015
Japan	3 120 717	4 881 908	6 021 476
Korea, Republic of	1 552 543	2 122 141	2 148 533
United Kingdom	1 799 678	1 464 705	1 691 146
India	792 978	1 625 567	1 372 865
United Arab Emirates	208 184	825 941	780 217
Singapore	507 165	724 346	703 183
Thailand	361 115	809 455	631 353
United States of America	543 542	664 834	603 379
Taiwan	235 233	442 529	539 499
<b>Total Export(b)</b>	<b>16 126 050</b>	<b>22 887 121</b>	<b>23 743 393</b>

(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.

(b) Includes countries not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia*, cat. no. 5368.0.

## SECTION 7 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE *continued*

### Exports *continued*

- As in the previous quarter, the two leading export commodities in the December 2008 quarter were Iron ore and concentrates; and non-monetary gold, with export values of \$8.9 billion and \$4 billion respectively.
- Although declining slightly since the September quarter, the value of Iron ore exports for the December 2008 quarter was more than double the figure for the same quarter of the previous year.
- Over this 12 month period, the export values of gold and natural gas both rose substantially while the export values of Nickel and Base metal ores both fell by more than 50%.

### 19 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE(a), By major commodity: Original

Category of the SITC	2007	2008	
	December	September	December
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES (b)			
Iron ore and concentrates	4 395 215	9 436 358	8 982 022
Gold, non-monetary	2 837 507	3 954 843	4 020 785
Natural gas	1 180 347	1 721 854	2 688 677
Confidential items	2 281 368	1 586 108	2 249 564
Crude petroleum oils	2 255 066	2 938 254	2 048 321
Wheat	307 711	594 452	673 128
Nickel ores and concentrates	180 324	274 706	310 870
Liquefied propane and butane	235 334	207 952	216 229
Live animals	103 946	119 622	145 344
Refined petroleum oils	176 022	115 078	127 108
Ores and concentrates of base metal	299 515	151 307	110 218
Nickel	231 163	175 572	100 344
Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	94 163	72 262	94 679
Wool and other animal hair	77 323	47 707	70 192
Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	45 201	46 513	65 302
<b>Total exports(c)</b>	<b>16 126 050</b>	<b>22 887 121</b>	<b>23 743 393</b>

(a) Care should be taken when comparing with commodities data prior to July 2005. For full details about changes to international trade statistics, users should refer to the Information Paper: Impact of introducing Revision 4 of the Standard International Trade Classification, 2008 (cat.no. 5368.0.55.10).

(b) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.

(c) Includes categories not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia*, cat. no. 5368.0.

## SECTION 7 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE *continued*

### Imports

- Compared to import values in the same quarter of the previous year, the import values in December quarter 2008 were higher by just over \$3 billion (slightly more than 50%).
- The United Kingdom (U.K.) was the foremost supplier of commodities imported in the December quarter 2008. There was a very large increase (over 1000%) in the value of imports from the UK compared to December quarter 2007. This was primarily due to a return to the historically higher level of non-monetary gold imports following a temporary slump in the last quarter of 2007.
- Of the \$1.6 billion of imports from the U.K. in the December quarter, approximately \$1.3 billion were non-monetary gold (excluding ores and concentrates), comprising leaf, foil, bullion and fabricated gold, including granules. Gold in these forms is imported to Western Australia where it is processed before exportation under a different commodity classification.
- Singapore and the United States of America ranked as the second and third highest countries supplying commodities to Western Australia, with both showing substantial increases in the value of imports in December quarter 2008 compared to December quarter 2007.

### **20** INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE(a), Imports—Top 10 countries: **Original**

IMPORTS			
	December quarter 2007	September quarter 2008	December quarter 2008
Country	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
United Kingdom	144 166	1 182 772	1 640 280
Singapore	651 643	964 759	1 514 047
United States of America	553 532	872 743	1 103 974
Thailand	432 119	776 543	725 386
China	550 494	543 789	723 845
Japan	961 037	544 414	661 983
Germany	289 245	314 059	327 043
Indonesia	210 547	431 021	271 198
United Arab Emirates	435 622	581 847	259 684
Malaysia	220 432	347 113	249 493
<b>Total all countries(b)</b>	<b>6 229 979</b>	<b>8 609 336</b>	<b>9 359 480</b>

(a) Customs value.

(b) Includes countries not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia*, cat. no. 5368.0.

## SECTION 7 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE *continued*

### *Imports continued*

- The major commodities driving the increase in the value of imports in the December quarter 2008 were (non-monetary) gold products and refined petroleum oils, both of which were approximately double the value of imports in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- Over the 12 month period, there was a fourfold increase in the value of Fertiliser imports. This was largely the result of the Varanus Island gas explosion in June 2008, which had a major impact on fertiliser production in Western Australia.

### **21** INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE(a), By major commodity: **Original**

Category of the SITC	2007	2008	
	December	September	December
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES (b)			
Gold, non-monetary	1 371 968	2 271 258	2 504 780
Refined petroleum oils	477 751	804 128	1 095 407
Crude petroleum oils	630 552	1 146 329	433 632
Confidential items	211 695	307 110	407 615
Passenger motor vehicles	413 905	392 695	360 768
Civil engineering plant and equipment	282 256	261 205	323 606
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	257 971	318 182	296 096
Fertilisers	93 563	210 783	284 307
Iron or steel tubes and pipes	79 237	102 494	155 352
Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	97 582	104 598	126 154
Rubber tyres	83 493	87 348	105 170
Automatic data processing machines	42 110	41 097	55 299
Ships, boats and floating structures	40 736	25 975	47 462
Aircraft and associated equipment	55 690	138 687	43 290
Parts and accessories of office machines	6 305	6 122	9 254
<b>Total imports(c)</b>	<b>6 229 979</b>	<b>8 609 336</b>	<b>9 359 480</b>

(a) Care should be taken when comparing with commodities data prior to July 2005. For full details about changes to international trade statistics, users should refer to the Information Paper: Impact of introducing Revision 4 of the Standard International Trade Classification, 2008 (cat.no. 5368.0.55.10).

(b) Customs value

(c) Includes categories not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia*, cat. no. 5368.0.

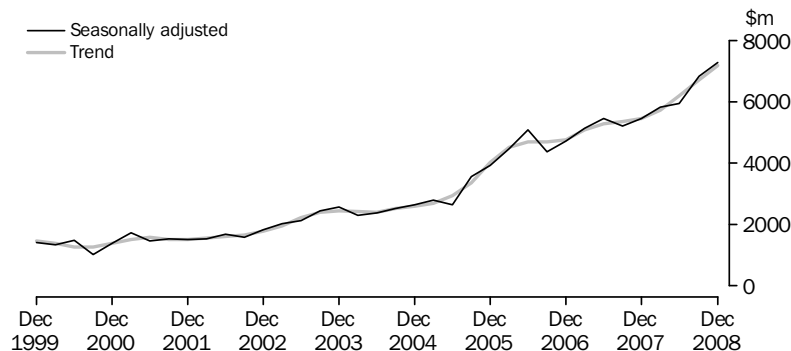
## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

### INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

#### *Private new capital expenditure*

- In trend chain volume terms, private new capital expenditure in Western Australia rose by 6.9% to just over \$7 billion in the December quarter 2008. This rise was higher than the national growth of 4.2%.
- The total increase for Western Australia was driven by investment in building and structures, which rose by almost 10% in the December quarter, to just under \$5 billion.

#### PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



Note: Break in trend series between December 2006 and March 2007.

Source: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia*, cat. no. 5625.0.

#### **22** PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By type of asset—Chain volume measures(a): **Trend**

##### TREND

Reference period	Buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2006–2007</b>	(b) 13 386	(b) 6 490	(b) 19 865
<b>2007–2008</b>	14 780	7 994	22 774
<b>2007</b>			
September	3 554	1 821	5 379
December	3 572	1 901	5 473
<b>2008</b>			
March	3 664	2 064	5 727
June	3 990	2 208	6 195
September	4 459	2 262	6 720
December	4 901	2 253	7 186

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2006–07.

(b) Break in series between December 2006 and March 2007.

Source: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia*, cat. no. 5625.0.

## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE *continued*

### *Private new capital expenditure continued*

- In original current price terms, Western Australia's private new capital expenditure rose to \$8.5 billion in the December quarter 2008. This expenditure was about 24% higher than in the previous quarter and 42% higher than in the corresponding quarter of 2007.
- The mining industry continued to be a strong driver of growth, with expenditure rising by 23% to \$6.6 billion in the December quarter 2008. Expenditure on manufacturing rose 34% to \$550 million in the same three month period.

### **23** PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By industry—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	Mining	Manufacturing	Other selected industries	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2006–2007</b>	13 542	1 492	4 683	19 717
<b>2007–2008</b>	17 111	1 653	4 428	23 191
<b>2007</b>				
September	3 602	318	^ 1 103	5 023
December	4 250	^ 481	^ 1 280	6 011
<b>2008</b>				
March	4 264	^ 409	904	5 577
June	4 995	^ 445	1 141	6 580
September	5 383	^ 409	1 107	6 899
December	6 612	550	1 367	8 529

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

Source: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia*, cat. no. 5625.0.

## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE *continued*

### Lending finance commitments

- In original terms commercial finance lending commitments decreased in value by more than 11% in the month of January 2009. This followed an increase in December of 23%, mainly attributable to the sharp rise in revolving credit commitments (58%) between November and December 2008. These fell back a little in January 2009 as did the value of fixed loans for commercial purposes.
- The value of personal finance commitments decreased by just over 6% in the month of January 2009 after a substantial increase (almost 15%) in the month of December. Fixed loans (up 21%) and revolving credit (up 10%) both contributed to this rise.

### 24 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: Original

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE			PERSONAL FINANCE			Total lease finance commitments
	Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2006–2007</b>	23 634.6	13 340.5	36 975.1	6 768.2	6 257.2	13 025.4	427.2
<b>2007–2008</b>	28 782.8	11 379.3	40 891.1	6 251.9	6 524.9	12 776.8	535.1
<b>2007</b>							
November	2 159.7	2 369.6	4 529.4	611.5	552.8	1 164.2	46.5
December	3 895.5	1 008.2	4 903.7	505.5	567.8	1 073.3	38.9
<b>2008</b>							
January	1 929.4	605.0	2 534.4	513.7	493.3	1 007.0	37.3
February	1 770.2	1 000.9	2 771.1	506.3	539.1	1 045.4	37.5
March	2 319.6	908.5	3 228.0	459.9	520.6	980.5	45.2
April	2 492.7	837.1	3 329.8	501.9	537.8	1 039.6	42.4
May	2 307.3	815.3	3 122.7	482.9	564.5	1 047.3	46.8
June	2 397.4	873.5	3 270.9	548.6	542.0	1 090.5	63.7
July	1 975.9	1 337.0	3 312.9	485.5	626.7	1 112.1	51.3
August	1 959.8	1 272.7	3 232.5	425.4	449.7	875.1	39.9
September	1 989.7	896.4	2 886.1	459.5	481.6	941.1	41.3
October	2 140.4	719.6	2 859.9	447.7	549.3	996.9	51.2
November	1 610.7	783.5	2 394.2	350.7	446.8	797.5	33.5
December	1 722.0	1 234.8	2 956.8	424.9	490.1	915.1	42.5
<b>2009</b>							
January	1 468.6	1 151.3	2 619.9	401.8	455.1	856.9	18.7

(a) Includes refinancing.

(b) New and increased credit limits during the period. Includes credit cards.

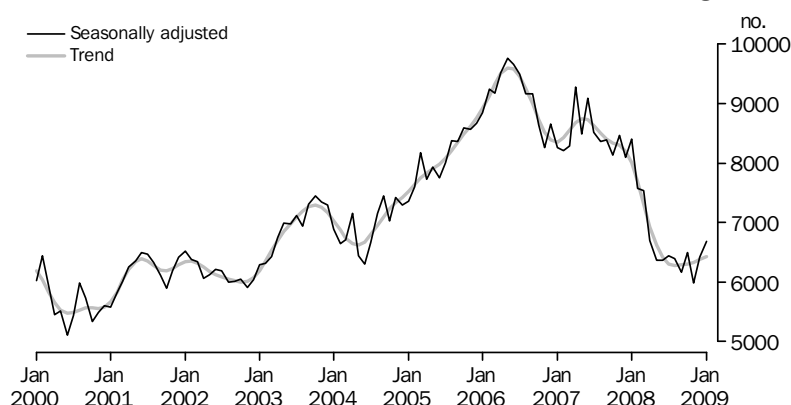
Source: Lending Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5671.0.



## Housing finance commitments

- After 15 months of continuing decline, the number of dwellings financed (trend) in the state commenced a slow rise from September 2008 (6,285) reaching 6,432 in January 2009. The upturn reflects recent falls in bank interest rates as well as government initiatives to stimulate the economy, including the increase in first home-buyer grants.
- While the number of dwellings financed grew by 1.5% in the three months to January, the January 2009 figure was still almost 20% down compared with January 2008 (8,002).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

- After falling for 12 consecutive months, the value of housing commitments (trend) began to rise again in August 2008. In the three months to January 2009, the value grew by 5.3% and by 1.7% in the month of January alone.
- The total value of housing commitments fell in the year to January 2009 from approximately \$1.9 billion to \$1.7 billion. Falling house prices, as well as the reduced number of dwellings financed, are factors in this decline. However, in percentage terms, the decline in the value of commitments (10%) over the year was only half the decline shown in the total number of dwellings financed (20%) over the same period.

## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE *continued*

Housing finance  
commitments *continued*

### **25** HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By dwellings financed: **Trend**

TREND		
Reference period	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments
	no.	\$m
<b>2006-07</b>	104 820	23 240.5
<b>2007-08</b>	93 310	22 281.3
<b>2007</b>		
November	8 298	1 970.9
December	8 199	1 946.0
<b>2008</b>		
January	8 002	1 901.5
February	7 684	1 835.5
March	7 302	1 756.5
April	6 921	1 675.3
May	6 614	1 610.2
June	6 415	1 570.4
July	6 307	1 556.4
August	6 278	1 567.6
September	6 285	1 592.2
October	6 303	1 619.9
November	6 332	1 648.2
December	6 378	1 677.5
<b>2009</b>		
January	6 432	1 706.8

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0.

- Based on original data, the number of loans to first home buyers rose sharply in December 2008 reaching its highest level since July 2001. Again this increase can be attributed to reduced interest rates and falling house prices as well as activity to take advantage of the temporary increase in the first home buyer's grant at the end of the calendar year. Loans to new home buyers subsequently decreased in January 2009. Nevertheless, the number of first home-buyer loans financed that month (1,613) was almost 14% higher than comparable loans financed in January 2008 (1,417) and 39% higher than those financed in March 2008 (1,161), when the monthly figure had fallen to its lowest point.

## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE *continued*

### *Housing finance commitments continued*

- The size of the average home loan increased fairly steadily over the year with first home-buyers experiencing a 22% increase between January 2008 (\$231,100) and January 2009 (\$282,300).
- For buyers of second and subsequent homes, the number of dwellings financed had a more erratic course during the year to January 2009, following a long-term downward movement but with small upswings in the months of April, July, October and December. The number decreased again in the month of January (-13%), reaching its lowest point (4,234) since September 2001 (4,074). The January 2009 figure was almost 33% lower than the comparable figure for January 2008 (6,297).

### **26** HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By type of buyer: **Original**

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS			NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS		
	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average loan size	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average loan size
	no.	\$m	\$'000	no.	\$m	\$'000
<b>2006-2007</b>	13 789	3 027.2	219.5	90 808	20 421.5	224.9
<b>2007-2008</b>	16 445	3 956.9	240.6	76 326	18 247.3	239.1
<b>2007</b>						
November	1 478	356.4	241.1	7 305	1 693.3	231.8
December	1 366	308.3	225.7	6 376	1 488.4	233.4
<b>2008</b>						
January	1 417	327.5	231.1	6 297	1 465.7	232.8
February	1 325	310.1	234.0	6 131	1 503.8	245.3
March	1 161	272.1	234.4	5 664	1 358.5	239.8
April	1 309	322.5	246.4	5 714	1 394.7	244.1
May	1 207	301.0	249.4	5 516	1 339.6	242.9
June	1 260	298.5	236.9	5 165	1 281.5	248.1
July	1 425	355.7	249.6	5 684	1 423.4	250.4
August	1 264	321.1	254.0	5 193	1 286.9	247.8
September	1 240	316.9	255.6	4 788	1 207.3	252.2
October	1 307	348.1	266.4	5 281	1 364.8	258.4
November	1 384	389.8	281.7	4 442	1 096.2	246.8
December	1 774	487.9	275.1	4 866	1 247.0	256.3
<b>2009</b>						
January	1 613	455.4	282.3	4 234	1 074.4	253.7

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0

## SECTION 8 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE *continued*

### *Housing finance commitments continued*

- The value of dwellings constructed for owner-occupation remained stable in the month of January 2009 after erratic behaviour in the previous eight months. However the value of new dwellings purchased for owner-occupation decreased just under 24% from December to January.
- While the value of other established dwellings purchased by owner-occupiers also decreased in January, the proportional decline (just under 11%) was lower than for new dwellings. Through the year the value of established homes purchased for owner-occupation fell from just over \$1 billion to around \$800 million in January 2009.
- The value of dwellings purchased by individuals for investment purposes fell by almost 21% in January 2009 after a small increase in the previous month. The value of \$406 million for January 2009 is the lowest since January 2005.

### **27** HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a), By purpose: **Original**

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)				INVESTMENT HOUSING(b)		
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or release	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2006-2007</b>	2 311.2	1 224.6	12 973.4	6 939.6	404.2	9 511.9	717.1
<b>2007-2008</b>	2 270.0	969.9	12 609.9	6 354.3	444.0	8 476.6	841.7
<b>2007</b>							
November	195.8	81.3	1 193.9	578.6	44.1	795.3	103.6
December	161.0	90.6	1 018.8	526.2	45.4	668.3	71.5
<b>2008</b>							
January	188.1	58.2	1 048.8	498.1	18.3	626.2	56.6
February	181.9	70.7	1 035.9	525.3	31.5	643.4	69.8
March	170.0	56.7	916.9	487.0	np	557.1	37.3
April	188.5	54.3	944.6	529.8	np	624.3	68.8
May	202.2	54.2	863.5	520.7	48.5	634.6	60.6
June	181.8	66.0	821.3	510.9	81.9	697.5	124.2
July	236.4	65.9	895.7	581.0	105.9	622.4	73.8
August	196.6	61.4	819.7	530.3	69.1	584.1	60.9
September	180.4	62.5	813.7	467.6	41.0	563.0	43.2
October	202.9	64.7	937.0	508.4	np	632.3	33.1
November	172.2	57.7	789.3	466.9	66.7	489.3	26.5
December	195.5	67.2	929.1	543.1	95.3	513.8	57.3
<b>2009</b>							
January	195.2	51.3	828.3	454.9	np	406.4	41.4

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

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Excludes revolving credit.

Source: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0; *Lending Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5671.0.

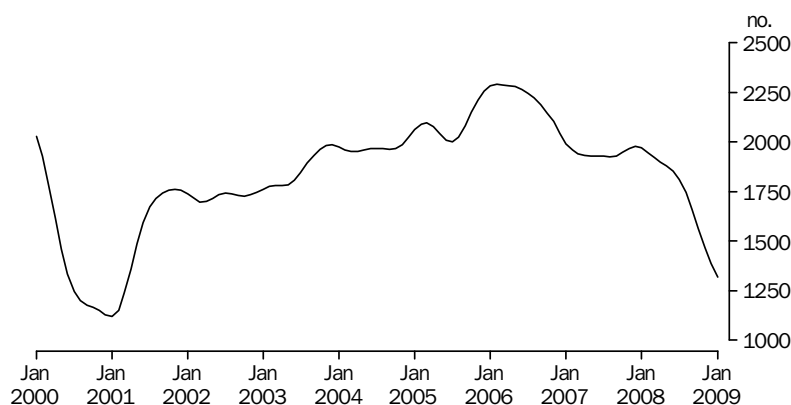
## SECTION 9 CONSTRUCTION

### CONSTRUCTION

#### Building approvals

- There were 3,622 houses (trend) approved for construction in Western Australia in the three months to January 2009. This was 11% lower than the figure for the October 2008 quarter and the biggest fall through the year.
- In proportional terms, there was an even larger fall in approvals for other residential dwellings including semi detached houses; townhouses and flats; units and apartments (trend). The number of approvals fell 40% in the January quarter to 548 dwellings.
- Overall, the total number of dwellings approved (trend) decreased 16% in the January quarter.

#### NUMBER OF DWELLINGS APPROVED, Houses: Trend



Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

#### 28 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved and sector: Trend

Reference period	HOUSES		OTHER DWELLINGS		TOTAL DWELLINGS	
	Private	Total	Private	Total	Private	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
<b>2006–2007</b>	19 165	19 622	4 413	5 000	23 577	24 622
<b>2007–2008</b>	16 702	17 233	5 344	5 905	22 045	23 137
<b>2008</b>						
January	4 196	4 369	1 370	1 545	5 566	5 915
April	4 091	4 242	1 394	1 518	5 485	5 760
July	4 127	4 211	1 236	1 332	5 362	5 543
October	3 976	4 052	829	913	4 805	4 966
<b>2009</b>						
January	3 571	3 622	466	548	4 038	4 170

Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

## SECTION 9 CONSTRUCTION *continued*

### *Building activity*

- New residential building commencements declined by approximately 15% for the September quarter 2008. There was a very small increase (less than 0.3%) in buildings under construction while about 14% fewer new residential buildings were completed. The decline in commencements and completions was mainly due to slowing building activity on new houses.
- In the year to September 2008, new residential building activity fell across all stages of production. The number of new houses commenced fell by more than 23%, while houses under construction and completed fell by 12% and 22% respectively.
- Over the same period, building activity for other types of dwelling (apartments, units and other higher density accommodation) generally increased, with dwelling commencements for the September 2008 quarter being over 26% higher than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

### **29** BUILDING ACTIVITY, By number of dwelling units and stage of production: **Original**

Reference period	New houses no.	New other residential building no.	Total residential building(a) no.
.....			
COMMENCED			
<b>2006–2007</b>	19 896	4 752	24 647
<b>2007–2008</b>	16 924	5 347	22 272
<b>2007</b>			
September	4 341	1 372	5 714
<b>2008</b>			
June	4 597	1 362	5 959
September	3 327	1 733	5 060
.....			
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD			
<b>2006–2007</b>	15 057	6 440	21 497
<b>2007–2008</b>	13 145	7 244	20 388
<b>2007</b>			
September	14 323	6 520	20 843
<b>2008</b>			
June	13 145	7 244	20 388
September	12 574	7 866	20 440
.....			
COMPLETED			
<b>2006–2007</b>	20 952	3 881	24 834
<b>2007–2008</b>	18 739	4 475	23 214
<b>2007</b>			
September	5 016	1 286	6 302
<b>2008</b>			
June	4 808	1 030	5 838
September	3 906	1 110	5 016

(a) Excludes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.

Source: *Building Activity, Australia*, cat. no. 8752.0.

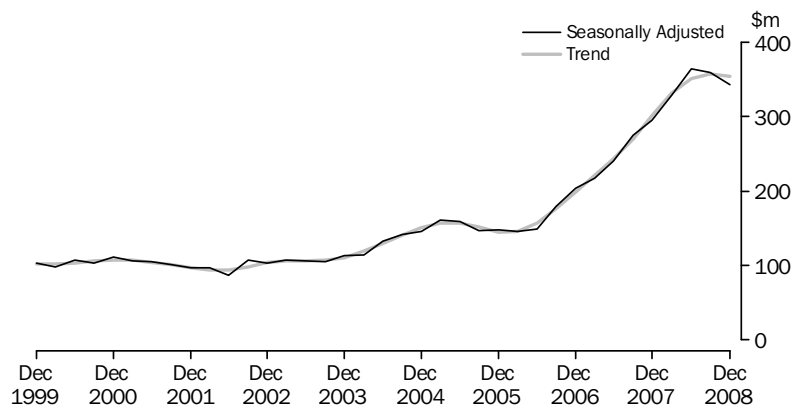
## SECTION 10 MINING AND ENERGY

### MINING

#### Mineral exploration

- In trend terms, expenditure on mineral exploration in Western Australia experienced 11 quarters of strong growth from March quarter 2006 (\$146 million) to September quarter 2008 (\$357 million) followed by a small decrease in the December quarter 2008 (\$354 million).

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

- Original data show that the only significant growth in mineral exploration in the December quarter was in relation to iron ore where expenditure rose by 11%. Expenditure on silver, lead and zinc exploration decreased by more than 50% while the figures for copper; nickel and cobalt; and gold were also substantially down.
- Petroleum exploration expenditure increased by about 48% to \$799 million in the December quarter 2008.

### 30 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE(a), By selected mineral: **Original**

	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Total minerals(b)	Total petroleum
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2006-2007</b>	22.8	41.8	158.2	276.5	272.1	839.1	1 481.0
<b>2007-2008</b>	39.0	56.2	280.0	347.9	420.7	1 259.8	2 174.9
<b>2007</b>							
September	10.6	16.4	61.2	76.5	104.5	293.3	546.5
December	9.0	19.7	79.5	85.8	94.0	313.8	512.7
<b>2008</b>							
March	9.0	9.7	58.2	85.2	82.9	271.4	498.7
June	10.3	10.5	81.0	100.3	139.3	381.2	616.9
September	11.0	13.1	90.3	75.9	153.2	383.8	539.5
December	9.4	6.5	73.7	67.7	170.6	364.0	798.9

(a) Includes expenditure on Western Australia leases in the Zone of Cooperation Area B.

(b) Includes minerals not listed in the table.

Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

## SECTION 10 MINING AND ENERGY *continued*

### Mineral production

- In terms of original data, the production of diamonds had its third successive quarterly increase (12%) in December 2008 after a substantial drop in production in the first quarter of the year. However, the December 2008 figure was down by almost 12% on the amount for the same quarter a year before.
- Production of iron ore decreased by 15% in the December quarter to less than 77 billion tonnes. This followed relatively large increases in the two previous quarters. Bauxite production in 2008 followed a similar pattern although the quarterly changes were less significant. The December 2008 figures for both bauxite and iron ore were each around 2% lower, in original terms, than the comparable data for December 2007.

### 31 MINERAL PRODUCTION (a): Original

#### SELECTED MINERALS

	Diamonds	Iron ore (b)	Bauxite
Reference period	'000 carats	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes
<b>2006-2007</b>	24 622	281 157	41 363
<b>2007-2008</b>	16 528	313 505	41 398
<b>2007</b>			
September	4 980	71 942	10 211
December	6 145	78 352	10 415
<b>2008</b>			
March	2 277	77 262	10 363
June	3 126	85 949	10 409
September	4 839	89 999	10 584
December	5 428	76 642	10 251

(a) Latest figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

(b) For use in iron and steel making.

Source: ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics*; ABS data available on request, *Manufacturing Production, Australia*, cat. no. 8301.0.55.001.



## SECTION 10 MINING AND ENERGY *continued*

### Energy production

- In the December 2008 quarter, production (in original terms) increased for all major energy sources in Western Australia. Natural gas production exhibited the largest increase (18%), followed by electricity (9%) and crude oil (0.6%).
- In annual terms, electricity (20%) and natural gas (5%) showed positive growth, while crude oil production fell 25% through the year to December 2008. Factors could include a reduction in the amount of oil available from existing wells, a temporary lessening of demand due to the current global financial crisis or even the beginning of a more long-term decline in demand for non-renewable energy sources in response to climate change.

### 32 ENERGY PRODUCTION (a): Original

Reference period	ENERGY		
	Electricity generated	Crude oil (b)	Natural gas (c)
	million kWh	megalitres	million m <sup>3</sup>
<b>2006–2007</b>	22 460	19 940	27 199
<b>2007–2008</b>	22 794	12 293	27 499
<b>2007</b>			
September	5 644	4 592	6 970
December	5 615	4 625	7 267
<b>2008</b>			
March	6 209	4 190	6 617
June	5 326	4 604	6 646
September	6 197	3 448	6 431
December	6 760	3 469	7 603

(a) Latest figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

(b) Includes condensate.

(c) Commercial sales plus field and plant usage.

Source: ABARE, *Australian Mineral Statistics*; ABS data available on request, *Manufacturing Production, Australia*, cat. no. 8301.0.55.001.

## SECTION 11 TOURISM

### TOURISM

#### Short-term arrivals on holiday

- More than 243,000 overseas visitors holidayed in Western Australia in the year ending June 2008. The top five countries of origin were the United Kingdom (25%); Singapore (16%); Japan and Malaysia (both over 8%); and New Zealand (just under 6%).
- Western Australia had a smaller number of short-term overseas arrivals during the December quarter 2008 than in the same quarter of the previous calendar year (nearly 5% less). In particular, there were fewer visitors from Japan (36% less) and Thailand (60% less).
- Some seasonal variation in visitor arrivals is apparent. Visitors from the United Kingdom have been the predominant group in the December and March quarters while visitors from Singapore were the largest group in the June quarter 2008.
- In the December quarter 2008, Malaysia overtook Japan as the third most common country of origin for short-term visitors, with 7,750 arrivals from Malaysia during that 3 month period. This was 42% higher than the number of Malaysian visitors during the December quarter 2007.

#### 33 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS(a), Top 10 countries of origin: **Original**

Countries	2007		2008			
	2007–2008	December	March	June	September	December
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS (b)						
United Kingdom(c)	60 755	21 982	21 611	8 138	8 548	20 471
Singapore	39 927	13 798	7 787	10 140	6 543	13 544
Japan	20 490	6 220	4 254	2 806	5 230	4 009
Malaysia	19 629	5 455	5 284	4 135	3 296	7 750
New Zealand	13 840	3 928	2 633	3 393	3 042	3 048
Indonesia	7 535	2 555	1 889	1 506	2 105	2 778
Thailand	6 338	1 915	528	1 528	598	768
South Africa	6 023	2 311	1 391	1 440	1 613	2 303
United States of America	5 601	1 758	1 594	1 458	669	1 461
Hong Kong(d)	4 885	1 325	1 597	736	809	1 406
<b>Europe(e)</b>	<b>35 497</b>	<b>12 373</b>	<b>9 692</b>	<b>5 317</b>	<b>6 901</b>	<b>12 459</b>
<b>Total(f)</b>	<b>243 346</b>	<b>80 194</b>	<b>65 051</b>	<b>45 070</b>	<b>44 584</b>	<b>76 427</b>

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.

(b) Overseas visitors arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.

(c) Includes Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

(d) Special Administrative Region of China.

(e) Excluding United Kingdom.

(f) Total includes countries not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*, cat. no. 3401.0.

## SECTION 11 TOURISM *continued*

### Short-term departures on holiday

- Of the 425,100 Western Australian residents taking holidays abroad in 2007-08, almost half travelled to nearby Asian countries. The top three destinations were Indonesia (25%), Thailand (15%) and Singapore (9%), followed by New Zealand and the United Kingdom (both about 7%).
- The number of Western Australians holidaying overseas rose by almost 7% in the December quarter 2008 compared with the corresponding quarter of 2007. Indonesia (31%) and Malaysia (22%) had the largest percentage increases.

### 34 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS RESIDENT DEPARTURES (a), Top 10 countries of destination: **Original**

Countries	2007		2008			
	2007-2008	December	March	June	September	December
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
RESIDENT DEPARTURES (b)						
Indonesia	104 097	25 916	23 516	29 161	40 082	33 932
Thailand	63 528	16 006	11 323	16 317	17 842	13 956
Singapore	37 324	11 640	6 805	7 511	8 888	8 946
New Zealand	31 039	7 940	8 155	5 014	8 413	8 663
United Kingdom(c)	29 650	6 089	3 366	9 613	11 938	5 297
Malaysia	23 960	6 816	5 435	5 010	7 443	8 327
United States of America	18 316	5 705	2 727	5 473	6 182	4 941
Hong Kong(d)	12 823	3 405	3 096	3 399	3 758	3 753
Japan	6 361	1 561	2 800	1 197	785	1 458
South Africa	4 892	2 058	866	1 137	1 209	1 619
<b>Europe(e)</b>	<b>32 867</b>	<b>5 246</b>	<b>2 303</b>	<b>11 668</b>	<b>13 371</b>	<b>4 923</b>
<b>Total(f)</b>	<b>425 093</b>	<b>108 624</b>	<b>82 825</b>	<b>109 970</b>	<b>138 398</b>	<b>116 083</b>

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.

(b) Resident departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.

(c) Includes Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

(d) Special Administrative Region of China.

(e) Excluding United Kingdom.

(f) Total includes countries not listed.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia*, cat. no. 3401.0.

## SECTION 12 SOCIAL TRENDS - FAMILIES

### FAMILY FORMATION

- In the past decade the median age at first marriage has steadily increased for both sexes reaching 30.0 years for males and 27.8 years for females in 2007.
- Since 2002, when the fertility of the Western Australian population reached an historic low of 1.7 babies per woman, the total fertility rate (TFR) has trended upwards reaching 2.0 babies per woman in 2007. In line with national trends, the recent increase would appear to be the result of higher fertility among women aged 30 years and over.
- In the 10 years to June 2007, the number of births to mothers aged 35 years and over rose by 72%. These births represented 14% of all births in Western Australia in 1997 but 21% of all births in 2007.

### 35 FAMILY FORMATION

Indicator		1997	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Registered marriages</b>						
Number of marriages(a)	no.	10 456	10 601	11 124	11 602	12 290
Crude marriage rate	rate	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8
Marriages where both partners married for first time	no.	6 700	7 002	7 321	7 780	8 286
Median age at first marriage						
Males	years	28.1	29.6	29.9	29.9	30.0
Females	years	26.1	27.6	27.8	27.7	27.8
Median age at remarriage - divorced persons						
Males	years	42.5	45.5	45.7	45.6	46.1
Females	years	39.2	41.8	42.4	42.3	42.8
<b>Divorces(b)</b>						
Number of divorces	no.	5 046	4 337	5 265	5 544	4 932
Crude divorce rate(c)	rate	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.3
Median duration between marriage and separation	years	8.3	9.1	9.5	9.6	9.9
Divorces involving children aged under 18(d)	no.	2 717	2 159	2 680	2 786	2 410
Children aged under 18 affected by divorce	no.	na	4 049	5 126	5 248	4 576
<b>Fertility</b>						
Number of births	no.	24 776	25 295	26 253	27 776	29 164
Total fertility rate(e)	rate	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Births to mothers aged under 20	no.	1 348	1 371	1 446	1 392	1 485
Births to mothers aged 35 and over	no.	3 582	4 674	5 174	5 763	6 145
Births outside marriage	no.	7 642	9 427	9 653	10 393	11 133
Births outside marriage acknowledged by father	no.	6 490	8 457	8 687	9 478	10 012

na not available

(a) The number of marriages registered in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.

(b) The lower number of divorces recorded in 2004 was due to processing and timing issues. In general, around 25% of divorces applied in a particular year are registered in the following year. In 2003 more divorces were registered in the year they occurred leading to a fall in the number of late registrations processed in 2004.

(c) The number of divorces granted in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.

(d) Refers to divorces of couples with unmarried children of the registered marriage aged under 18 at the time of application for divorce.

(e) The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of

Source: *Marriages, Australia* cat. no. 3306.0.55.001; *Divorces, Australia* cat. no. 3307.0.55.001; *Births, Australia* cat. no. 3301.0; ABS data available on request, *Births, Australia; Demography, Western Australia* cat. no. 3311.5.5.001

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