

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1995

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the September 1995 issue are: population; labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; State accounts; and business expectations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- The estimated resident population of the ACT at 31 March 1995 was 303,900, an increase of 2,300 (0.8%) in the March quarter and 3,700 (1.2%) since 31 March 1994. Over the year to 31 March 1995 natural increase contributed 86 per cent of the population growth with net migration only contributing 14 per cent. In previous years, the contribution from net migration was much higher but this contribution has been declining over recent years (49% in year to June 1991; 33% in 1992; 23% in 1993). Australia's population reached 18 million in March 1995 and it took 5 years to gain the latest million people.
- Trend total employed in the ACT increased by another 1,200 persons to reach 160,400 persons in September 1995, which was 5,800 (or 3.8%) above the level recorded in September 1994. However the estimate of trend full-time employed decreased by 500 persons over the year to September 1995, with part-time employment providing all the growth in total employment. The trend unemployment series declined slightly (down 200 persons) in September 1995 to now stand at 12,000 persons, which was much the same level of a year ago. The participation rate for the ACT rose by another 0.4 percentage points in September 1995 (an additional 900 people to the labour force) to reach 74.7 per cent, the highest on record and around 9 percentage points above that for Australia. The trend unemployment rate for the ACT in September 1995 was 7.0 per cent which was the lowest of all States/Territories and below the national level of 8.3 per cent.
- The estimate of job vacancies in the ACT declined by 35 per cent in the quarter to August 1995 and by 66 per cent over the year to August 1995. This compares to a national increase of 15 per cent in the August 1995 quarter and a decline of 10 per cent over the year.
- There were no working days lost due to industrial disputes in June 1995 for the ACT. Over the year to June 1995, only 6 working days per 1,000 employees was lost in the ACT, which was well below the national figure of 86 days.
- The trend series for the number of dwellings financed and total value of commitments show that April 1995 was the low point following 13 consecutive monthly falls in the ACT. From April to July 1995, both series showed monthly increases with the number of dwellings financed increasing by 12 per cent and the value of housing commitments financed increasing by 8 per cent in the ACT. This turnaround is consistent with the national trend series.
- The trend for the total number of ACT dwelling units approved declined for the tenth consecutive month with 133 dwelling units being approved in August 1995, compared to the high of 285 in October 1994.
- The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for August 1995 was \$185.2 million, an increase of only \$0.2 million (0.1%) over the previous month's turnover. This compares with a 0.9 per cent increase for Australia in August 1995. The national trend retail turnover has increased by 8.7 per cent over the last 12 months, compared to 6.4 per cent for the ACT.
- The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in August 1995 was 1,005, a decrease of 2.1 per cent from July 1995, but 9.8 per cent higher than for August 1994. The trend series in the ACT has shown a slight decrease for each of the last four months. Nationally there was a 1.5 per cent decrease from July 1995 and an increase of 3.1 per cent over August 1994.

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Nives Marelic on Canberra (06) 207 0315 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

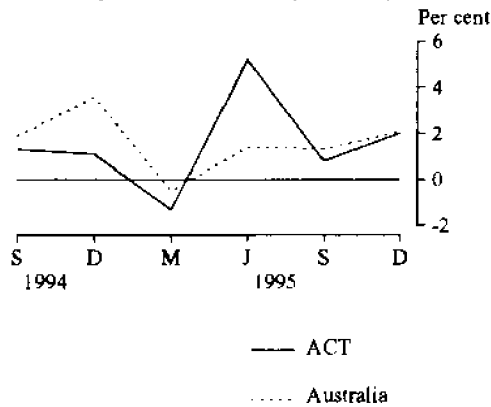
- Experimental estimates of trend constant price Gross State Product (GSP) for the ACT grew 0.4 per cent in the June quarter and 2.5 per cent through the year, showing similar rates to the national growth in GDP (I).

- The short-term outlook of businesses sales of goods and services for the December quarter 1995 compared with the September quarter 1995 indicated an increase of 2.0 per cent for the ACT, compared to 2.1 per cent for Australia.

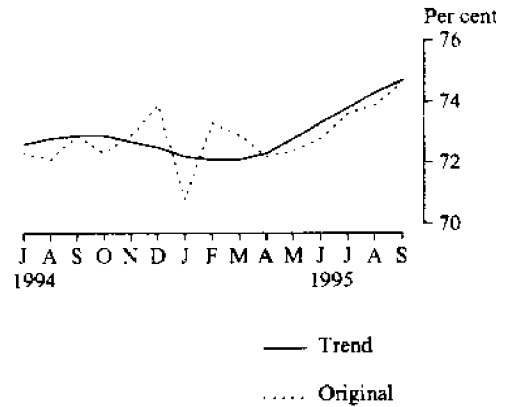
Dalma Jacobs
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

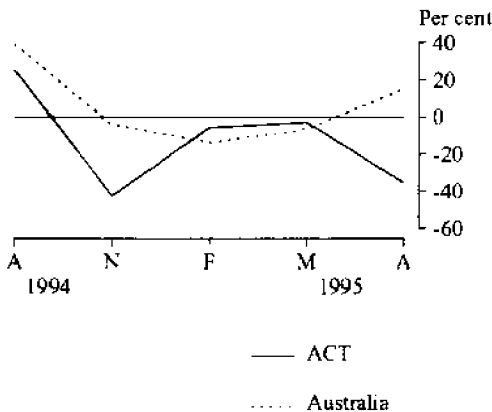
EXPECTED SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES
 Expected change from previous quarter



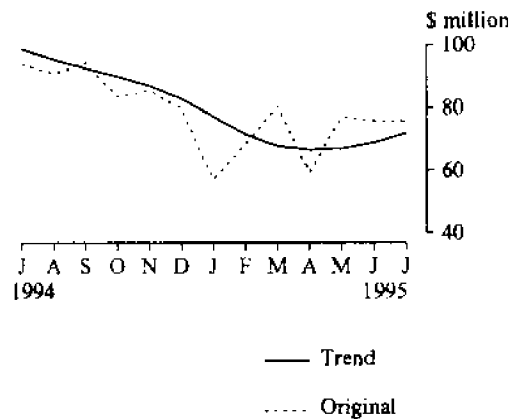
LABOUR FORCE
 Participation rate



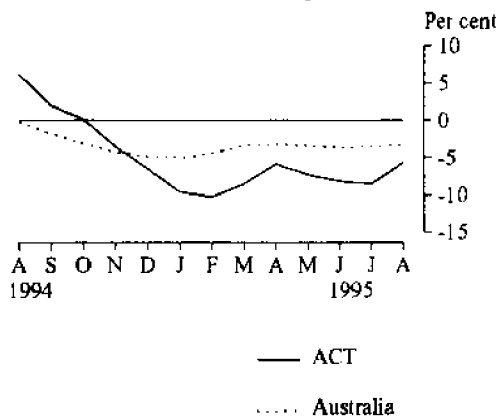
JOB VACANCIES
 Percentage change from previous quarter



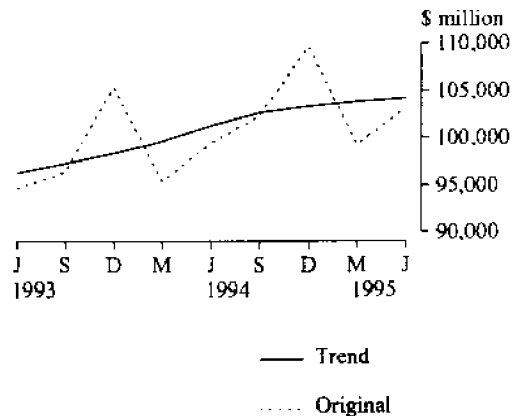
HOUSING FINANCE
 Total value of commitments



DWELLINGS APPROVED - TREND
 Percentage change from preceding month



GROSS STATE PRODUCT
 At average 1989-90 prices



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
DECEMBER QUARTER 1995/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1996
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Short-term		
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1994	1.1	3.6
Dec. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Mar. qtr 1995-June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4
June qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1995	0.8	1.3
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	2.0	2.1
Medium-term		
Sept. qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1995	1.5	2.9
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3
Mar. qtr 1995-Mar. qtr 1996	3.0	3.0
June qtr 1995-June qtr 1996	-0.8	2.3
Sept. qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1996	3.1	3.4

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1995

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, March qtr 95	'000	303.9	0.8	1.2	18 000.5	0.4	1.1
Natural increase	no.	841	6.7	-1.2	36 667	10.2	1.4
Net migration	no.	1 384	-325.0	-6 390.9	31 992	263.6	63.7
Total increase	no.	2 225	1 186.1	168.4	68 659	63.2	23.3
LABOUR FORCE, September 95							
Original series							
Employed	'000	161.6	2.0	4.3	8 340.6	1.5	3.1
Unemployed	'000	10.6	-12.4	-10.2	763.3	5.7	-8.1
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.2	-0.9	-0.9	8.4	0.3	-0.9
Participation rate(a)	%	74.6	0.7	1.7	64.2	1.1	0.4
Long-term unemployed (August 95)	no.	2 492	-7.4	-27.7	222 212	-4.1	-23.4
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (August 95)(a)	%	20.6	-3.7	-12.0	30.8	-1.9	-5.6
Trend series							
Employed	'000	160.4	0.8	3.8	8 279.4	0.1	3.7
Unemployed	'000	12.0	-1.6	-0.8	753.3	0.3	-8.4
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.0	-0.1	-0.3	8.3	—	-1.0
Participation rate(a)	%	74.7	0.4	1.8	63.7	—	0.7
JOB VACANCIES, August 95	'000	0.8	-35.2	-65.6	62.0	15.3	-9.8
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, June 95							
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	—	39.0	-56.0	37.3
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended June 95)	no.	6	—	-92.4	86	2.4	4.9
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, July 95							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	7.0	-30.7	-30.7	541.4	-2.7	-26.9
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	8.7	-15.5	-48.2	183.3	-2.7	-5.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	43.0	6.2	-25.5	2 822.6	-5.5	-5.4
Total housing commitments	\$m	75.6	-0.4	-19.3	3 547.4	-5.0	-9.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.0	18.3	-17.9	3 676.6	-4.1	-10.1
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	71.9	4.5	-27.2	3 570.7	3.6	-11.0
BUILDING APPROVALS, August 95							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	122	-47.4	-58.9	11 573	2.8	-39.4
Value of new residential	\$m	14.0	-50.4	-46.8	1 091.1	4.1	-38.1
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	6.1	-29.8	1.7	196.4	4.6	-18.5
Value of non-residential	\$m	34.6	181.3	47.9	1 114.3	44.2	28.1
Value of total building	\$m	54.7	21.0	-1.8	2 401.8	19.6	-16.4
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	133	-5.7	-13.6	10 753	-3.2	-35.7
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, March qtr 95							
New houses	no.	316	-15.3	-14.8	24 259	-23.9	-15.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	37.5	-11.6	-7.4	2 369.1	-22.1	-9.9
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	55.5	-24.3	-65.3	2 093.0	-4.9	-7.3
Value of total commencements	\$m	128.9	-26.1	-53.4	6 059.2	-16.4	-4.6

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1995 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION — continued							
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, June qtr 95	(1989-90 =100.0)	128.1	-2.1	-4.3	112.4	-0.7	1.4
Price index of house building materials, June 95	(b)	154.9	0.1	2.2	158.0	-0.4	2.4
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 95							
	(1989-90 =100.0)						
Food		116.7	0.3	4.8	113.7	0.4	3.8
Housing		110.7	1.8	11.5	104.7	1.8	10.9
Transportation		122.1	2.0	3.7	118.8	1.3	3.1
All groups		117.6	1.1	5.0	116.2	1.3	4.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May 95							
Original series							
Males	\$	718.50	1.5	0.6	652.70	0.4	4.4
Females	\$	516.50	0.7	4.1	429.90	-0.2	1.7
Total persons	\$	616.20	1.0	2.3	548.10	—	3.1
Trend series							
Males	\$	711.40	0.6	—	653.80	0.9	4.1
Females	\$	511.30	1.1	3.4	430.30	0.7	2.3
Total persons	\$	611.30	1.1	1.7	548.50	0.6	3.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, August 95							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	74.6	3.9	14.9	3 922.3	3.6	13.2
Department stores	\$m	19.9	-20.4	2.1	874.0	-0.8	9.4
Hospitality and services	\$m	28.5	-7.2	-0.3	1 694.9	—	8.9
All other retailing	\$m	53.6	-2.4	-3.9	3 139.7	0.9	4.5
Total	\$m	176.6	-3.2	4.6	9 630.9	1.7	9.1
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	75.1	0.7	13.4	3 920.1	0.9	11.0
Department stores	\$m	24.4	0.8	3.8	992.7	1.5	7.4
Hospitality and services	\$m	29.3	-1.3	3.2	1 738.0	0.6	9.0
All other retailing	\$m	56.4	-0.2	0.7	3 267.0	0.8	6.3
Total	\$m	185.2	0.1	6.4	9 917.8	0.9	8.7
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, December qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	215.8	0.9	0.1	9 051.2	1.4	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.4	-2.1	0.5	796.9	4.9	12.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.5	-15.2	-12.7	624.3	-3.6	5.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	204.1	-3.6	1.0	8 878.1	2.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-6.8	1.7	770.5	4.3	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.0	-18.6	-11.4	612.3	-1.7	5.8
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	205.8	-1.5	0.7	8 840.5	2.2	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.1	-1.1	3.4	767.2	4.0	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.2	-4.4	-3.2	619.6	0.4	7.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, August 95							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 146	27.1	6.9	54 125	2.3	2.3
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	936	1.1	6.2	50 249	-5.1	1.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 005	-2.1	9.8	52 932	-1.5	3.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, June qtr 95(c)							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 124	11.1	3.3	103 210	4.0	3.8
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 438	9.6	4.5	114 566	5.0	5.9
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 943	8.5	-2.0	105 252	8.0	4.3
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 342	5.8	6.4	71 313	4.8	7.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	205	1.5	-34.7	19 115	10.2	1.4
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 064	0.4	2.5	104 172	0.3	2.8
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 391	0.7	4.0	115 612	1.3	5.6
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 872	-0.7	-1.9	104 151	0.5	4.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 359	1.2	5.3	72 352	1.7	6.9
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	206	-12.3	-29.7	18 710	-2.4	2.0

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0. (c) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5206.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0.40.001, 8762.0.40.001, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Mar. qtr 95	6 097.6	4 496.3	3 256.0	1 473.0	1 724.2	473.2	173.5	303.9	18 000.5
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Sept. 95	2 780.6	2 057.0	1 511.6	660.2	829.1	199.5	77.5	160.4	8279.4
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Sept. 95	7.6	9.0	9.2	9.7	7.3	9.3	7.8	7.0	8.3
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	June qtr 95	35 383	27 562	17 150	7 462	11 622	2 110	1 180	2 064	104 172
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	June qtr 95	39 498	30 343	18 766	8 599	12 270	2 437	1 252	2 391	115 612
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Aug. 95	3 783	2 105	2 924	671	1 596	223	149	122	11 573
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Aug. 95	3 822	2 046	2 678	536	1 382	216	157	133	10 753
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Aug. 95	4 805	180.5	289.5	31.5	53.2	23.8	20.7	34.6	1 114.3
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Aug. 95	950.0	427.1	582.2	94.9	202.6	44.0	46.4	54.7	2 401.8
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	1 085.6	604.9	664.4	156.8	372.8	50.5	50.1	34.3	3 019.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 95	671.60	644.20	605.70	616.70	643.80	605.90	659.20	735.10	646.10
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Aug. 95	3 501.4	2 270.2	1 833.0	769.9	1 002.9	238.3	116.8	185.2	9 917.8
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Dec. qtr 94	3 025.4	1 409.4	2 338.5	503.3	787.9	263.0	307.2	205.8	8 840.5
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Aug. 95	18 383	12 395	10 386	3 562	5 362	1 189	650	1 005	52 932
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		June qtr 95	114.0	111.7	114.5	115.7	115.7	116.1	115.5	116.7	113.7
Housing		June qtr 95	106.6	102.0	110.7	102.2	99.0	104.5	115.5	110.7	104.7
Transportation		June qtr 95	116.8	119.9	117.4	121.4	121.4	117.2	116.4	122.1	118.8
All Groups		June qtr 95	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	108.0	113.0	111.0	110.0	112.0	120.0	100.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Aug. qtr 95	179.0	160.0	171.0	139.0	163.0	156.0	185.0	185.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	1 260.0	1 120.0	1 138.0	1 121.0	1 120.0	1 148.0	1 258.0	1 186.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	295.0	321.0	294.0	323.0	324.0	346.0	359.0	302.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	98.0	137.0	106.0	87.0	121.0	71.0	123.0	110.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Aug. qtr 95	573.0	561.0	602.0	546.0	583.0	653.0	520.0	568.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Aug. qtr 95	306.0	260.0	242.0	316.0	357.0	211.0	296.0	274.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	70.6	71.1	63.8	72.0	75.4	75.4	76.4	75.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	68.6	69.1	61.8	69.1	73.4	73.4	74.4	73.0	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Mar. qtr 95	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Sept. 95	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-1.1	0.8	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Sept. 95	—	0.2	0.1	—	—	-0.1	—	-0.1	—
STATE ACCOUNTS(b)										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	June qtr 95	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.3	0.9	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.3
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	June qtr 95	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.2	2.5	0.7	1.3
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Aug. 95	-10.0	2.6	10.0	16.5	32.7	4.7	35.5	-47.4	2.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Aug. 95	-2.4	-4.3	-3.0	-0.7	-1.2	-2.7	-1.3	-5.7	-3.2
Value of non-residential building approved	Aug. 95	28.8	37.4	95.8	-13.2	-3.4	150.5	191.5	181.3	44.2
Value of all buildings approved	Aug. 95	7.8	18.0	42.7	4.7	17.9	50.2	124.2	21.0	19.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar. qtr 95	-11.7	9.0	-16.4	-8.4	-1.6	25.3	-41.9	-32.5	-8.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May. qtr 95	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.3
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Aug. 95	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.2	—	1.3	0.1	12.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Dec. qtr 94	3.0	3.0	0.8	4.3	-0.8	-2.4	12.2	-1.5	2.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Aug. 95	-1.7	-1.3	-1.7	-0.8	-0.9	-0.4	-2.7	-2.1	-1.5
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	June qtr 95	0.5	0.4	0.4	—	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4
Housing	June qtr 95	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.8
Transportation	June qtr 95	1.2	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.3
All Groups	June qtr 95	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	0.9	1.8	—	5.8	3.7	2.6	1.0	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	1.1	3.9	1.8	0.7	5.2	-0.6	—	5.1	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Aug. qtr 95	-0.6	4.9	0.7	-1.6	-1.9	-0.6	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Aug. qtr 95	-2.6	1.3	0.3	-1.5	-3.9	-1.1	4.4	7.1	n.a.
Potatoes	Aug. qtr 95	-8.4	0.7	-2.8	-13.0	-2.4	-6.6	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Aug. qtr 95	-1.7	-3.4	4.9	-4.5	4.9	2.7	1.2	-4.2	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Aug. qtr 95	1.3	1.6	1.3	0.3	-1.7	-0.5	1.0	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	1.9	1.0	3.4	4.0	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	2.0	—	3.5	4.1	2.6	3.1	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data; n.p. — not available for publication.

