



MARCH 2000

1303.8

BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 21 MAR 2000

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3
Selected business indicators	5
FEATURE ARTICLE	
Forms of Employment	6
TABLES	
1 Business expectations: Sales, March quarter 2000/ December quarter 2000, expected aggregate change	9
2 Business indicators	10
3 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia	13
4 ACT in relation to the rest of Australia—percentage changes	14

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
April 2000	27 April 2000
May 2000	22 May 2000
June 2000	23 June 2000
July 2000	28 July 2000
August 2000	25 August 2000
September 2000	22 September 2000

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
no.	number
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director, Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the February 2000 issue are: building approvals, motor vehicle registrations, labour force, industrial disputes, retail turnover, housing finance, average weekly earnings, house price index, wage cost index. The feature article, beginning on page 6 is on Forms of Employment.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Building approvals The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 5.5% to 249 dwelling units in January 2000. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units approved increased by 1.8% to 15,530 dwelling units in January 2000.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$7.1 million in January 2000, a decrease of \$1.7 million from the previous month. There was an increase of \$4.9 million compared to January 1999. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 6.6% from the previous month and was down 13.7% from January 1999.

Motor vehicle registration The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in January 2000 was 1,119, up 1% from the previous month, and down 7.4% compared to January 1999. Nationally, the trend for total new motor vehicle registrations in January 2000 increased by 1.5% to 63,888 since December 1999, and was down 3.8% compared to January 1999.

Labour force In February 2000, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT decreased 0.1 percentage points to 5.3% (9,200 persons) compared to the previous month, and decreased 0.7 percentage points compared to February 1999. Compared with the previous month, trend employment increased by 0.2% (to 166,000 persons). Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.2% (to 8,938,300 persons) from the previous month, while the trend unemployment decreased by 0.9% (to 649,200 persons) for February 2000. The national trend unemployment rate remained steady at 6.8%. The trend participation rate in the ACT remained steady at 73.3%, while the national rate remained steady at 63.4%.

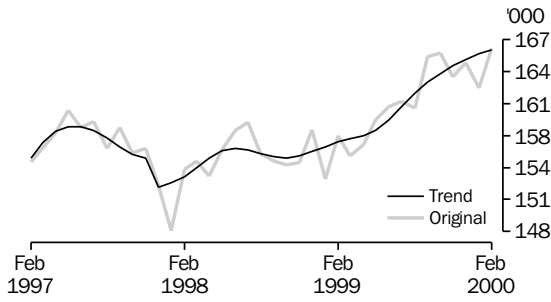
Industrial disputes For the 12 months ended November 1999 there were 32 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to 88 days nationally. In comparison with the 12 months ended November 1998, there was a decrease of 5.9% for the ACT and an increase of 20.5% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.

Retail turnover The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for January 2000 was \$232.6 million, an increase of 0.6% from the previous month and was up 8.0% compared to January 1999. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.02% from the previous month and was up 5.1% compared to the previous year.

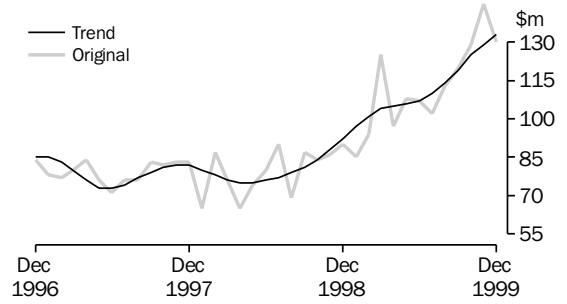
Housing finance	<p>The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT in December 1999 was 1,036 an increase of 2% from the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT increased by 3.1% (to \$133 million) compared with the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 12% of the total value of dwelling units financed in December 1999, the same value recorded for November 1999. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during November 1999 was 49,702, an increase of 1.5% from the previous month, while the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased to \$6,863 million (up 2.1%) from previous month.</p>
Average weekly earnings	<p>Trend full-time adult ordinary time earnings in the ACT were \$887.50 in the November quarter 1999, an increase of \$25.70 (3%) since the August quarter 1999. There was a rise in total average earnings from \$686.30 in the August quarter to \$705.90 in the November quarter (up 2.9%). The original series data suggests that private sector full-time average ordinary time earnings are rising (up 10.9% from November qtr 1998 to \$840.00 in November quarter 1999), similarly public sector full-time average ordinary time earnings are rising (up 2.8% from the previous year to \$972.00, November quarter 1999).</p> <p>Comparable national full-time adult ordinary time earnings were \$763.20 in the November quarter 1999, up \$11.40 (1.5%) since the August quarter 1999.</p>
House price index	<p>The established house price annual index for the ACT during the December quarter 1999 increased by 4.9% from the previous quarter and was up by 6.5% compared to December quarter 1998. Nationally, the established house price index increased by 3.3% from the previous quarter and was up by 9.5% compared to the December quarter 1998.</p>
Wage cost index	<p>The public sector wage cost index in the ACT for the September quarter 1999 increased 0.9 percentage points from the previous quarter, and was up 2.4 percentage points from the September quarter 1998. The wage cost index for the private sector increased 1.6 percentage points between the June quarter 1999 and the September quarter 1999, and was up 3.4 percentage points compared to September 1998. The overall wage cost index increased 1.2 percentage points from the previous quarter to 105.6, and increased 2.8 percentage points from the previous year. Nationally, the overall wage cost index increased 1.0 percentage points from the previous quarter to 106.4 and was up 3.1 percentage points compared to the September quarter 1998.</p>

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

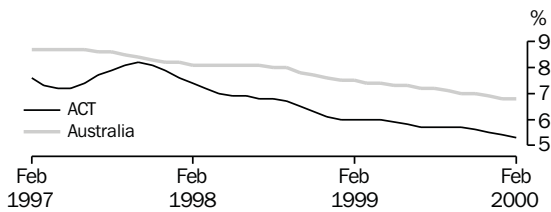
LABOUR FORCE, Employment



HOUSING FINANCE

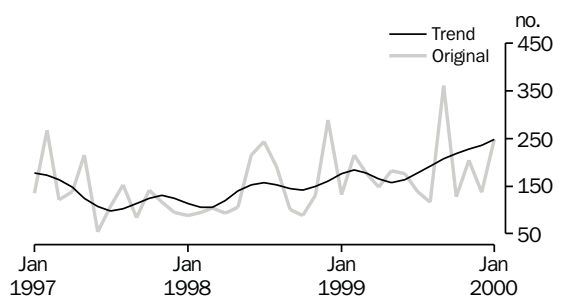


LABOUR FORCE, Unemployment Rate: Trend

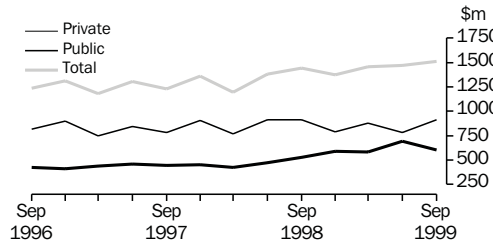


Notes: Trend estimates for March 1999 to August 1999 have been revised.

BUILDING APPROVAL, Dwelling Units Approved

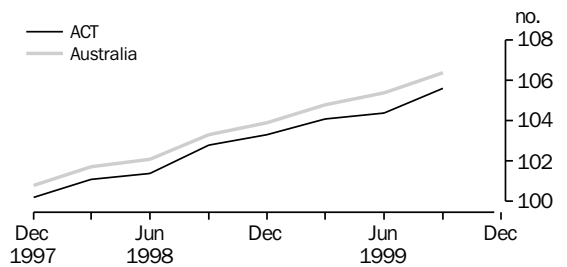


GROSS EARNINGS, By Sector—Original

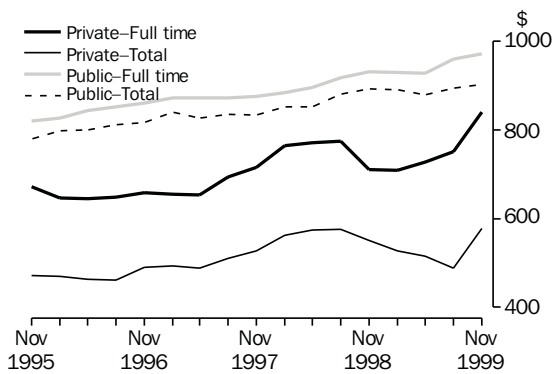


Source: Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (Cat. no. 6248.0).

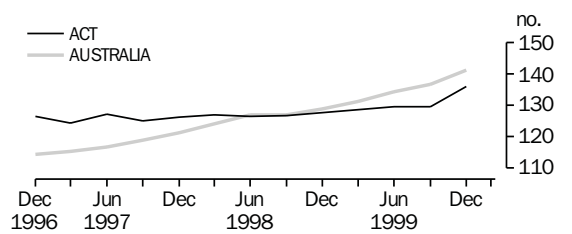
WAGE COST INDEX, Total Hourly Rates of Pay Excluding Bonuses



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: Original



ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE ANNUAL INDEX

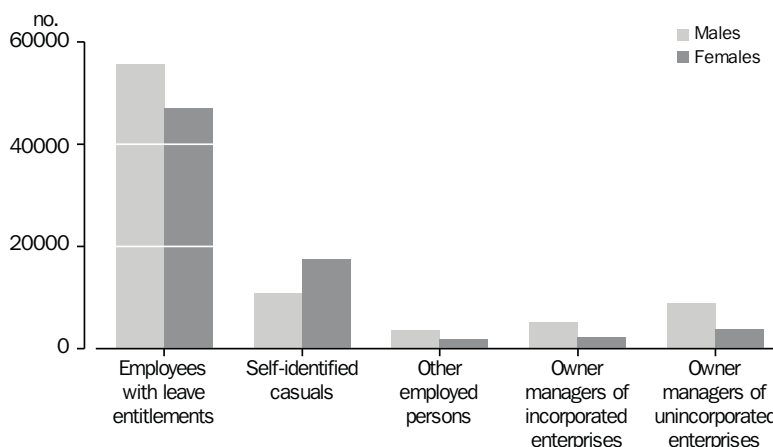


Base of index 1989-90 = 100.0.

In the ACT there were 157,151 employed persons at August 1998 (excluding contributing family workers and persons who worked only for payment in kind.) Among these employed persons, five employment types have been identified:

- 102,614 employees with leave entitlements (65% of employed persons);
- 28,602 self-identified casuals (18%);
- 5,502 other employed persons (4%);
- 7,627 owner managers of incorporated enterprises (5%); and
- 12,806 owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (8%).

Note: All information relates to a person's main job unless otherwise specified. For further information refer to *Forms of Employment, Australia* (Cat. no. 6359.0).



Employees with leave entitlements

Employees with leave entitlements made up 65% of all employed persons in the ACT, compared with 59% nationally. The majority (54%) of employees with leave entitlements in the ACT were males. Over half (55%) of employees with leave entitlements were aged 25–44 years. This age group made up 50% of all employed persons.

Employees with leave entitlements formed the majority of employed persons in most industries. Industries with particularly high concentrations of this group were government administration and defence (92%); communication services (91%); and education (74%). Significant industries in the area with relatively low proportions of employees with leave entitlements were retail trade (37%); construction (38%); and agriculture, forestry and fishing (42%).

Employees with leave entitlements <i>continued</i>	<p>Employees with leave entitlements were in the majority in most occupation groups. They comprised managers and administrators 87%; professionals 73%; associate professionals 70%; advanced clerical and service workers 68%; and intermediate clerical, sales and service workers 63%. Occupations with lower proportions of employees with leave entitlements were elementary clerical, sales and service workers (49%); and labourers and related workers (43%).</p> <p>Employees with leave entitlements earned an average of \$771 per week in their main job and worked an average of 36.9 hours in the week prior to the survey. A relatively low proportion of employees with leave entitlements (14%) had earnings which varied from month to month.</p>
Self-identified casuals	<p>There were 28,602 self-identified casuals, 18% of employed persons. This was the only employment group where females outnumbered males (62% of this group were females).</p> <p>About one-quarter of self-identified casuals were aged 15–19 years (26%) and most of the self-identified casuals in this age group were attending school or a tertiary institution full-time (86%). Some 32% of self-identified casuals worked in the retail trade industry and a further 17% in the accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry.</p> <p>Other findings about self-identified casuals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 82% worked part-time (across all jobs), in comparison to 28% of all employed persons; and ■ 63% had variable earnings from month to month, compared to 31% of all employed persons;
Other employed persons	<p>Other employed persons are defined as persons who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ worked in someone else's business; or ■ reported that they worked in their own unincorporated business but did not invoice clients for own payment and paid PAYE tax. <p>These people were not entitled to receive both paid holiday and paid sick leave and did not consider their job to be casual.</p> <p>There were 5,502 other employed persons in August 1998. Two-thirds (66%) of this group were males. Only 5% were aged 15–19 years, the largest group of people were aged 25–34 years (29%). Almost one-third (32%) of other employed persons were part-time workers (across all jobs) and 68% had been in their current job for two years or less, compared to 42% of all employees. The most common occupation of other employed persons were professionals (36%) and associate professionals (19%).</p> <p>The most common industries with the largest proportions of other employed persons were: property and business services (31%); government administration and defence (21%); and education (12%).</p>

Other employed persons
continued

There were 7,627 owner managers of incorporated enterprises and 12,806 owner managers of unincorporated enterprises at August 1998. Together they made up 13% of employed persons. These two groups had a similar demographic profiles to each other. Among all owner managers, 70% were males, compared to 54% of all employed persons.

Of all owner managers the highest proportions in the occupation groups were: associate professionals (27% of all owner managers); professionals (23%); and tradespersons and related workers (21%). For owner managers working as tradespersons or related workers, 84% were unincorporated.

For the same group, the industries with the highest proportions of all owner managers were property and business services (27% of owner managers); retail trade (18%); and construction (16%).

1

BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	-1.1	-0.3
Mar qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1998	-0.1	1.7
Jun qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1998	2.7	1.1
Sep qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1998	3.5	1.6
Dec qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	-2.7	-0.9
Mar qtr 1999–Jun qtr 1999	0.4	1.8
Jun qtr 1999–Sep qtr 1999	1.4	1.8
Sep qtr 1999–Dec qtr 1999	1.9	2.4
Dec qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	-5.4	-0.7
Medium-term		
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.9	3.0
Mar qtr 1998–Mar qtr 1999	2.6	2.6
Jun qtr 1998–Jun qtr 1999	6.9	2.7
Sep qtr 1998–Sep qtr 1999	7.5	2.9
Dec qtr 1998–Dec qtr 1999	2.6	2.7
Mar qtr 1999–Mar qtr 2000	1.7	2.3
Jun qtr 1999–Jun qtr 2000	5.7	3.3
Sep qtr 1999–Sep qtr 2000	2.8	2.7
Dec qtr 1999–Dec qtr 2000	0.1	1.8

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, June qtr 99	'000	310.2	0.3	0.7	18 966.8	0.3	1.3
Natural increase	no.	886	20.9	24.4	30 378	1.0	0.3
Net migration	no.	117	-44.6	54.5	18 041	-51.4	2.0
Total increase	no.	1 003	22.8	150.0	48 419	-27.9	0.9
LABOUR FORCE, Feb 00							
Original series							
Employed	'000	166.1	2.4	5.5	8 905.1	1.5	3.0
Unemployed	'000	10.3	-1.9	-11.2	718.7	3.2	-8.0
Unemployment rate	%	5.9	-0.2	-1.0	7.5	0.1	-0.8
Participation rate	%	73.6	1.3	1.9	63.6	1.0	0.3
Long-term unemployed, Dec 99	no.	1 757	-38.3	-26.2	189 815	0.7	-15.9
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		19.6	-5.8	-9.4	28.4	-2.5	-3.6
Trend series							
Employed	'000	166.0	0.2	5.8	8 938.3	0.2	2.8
Unemployed	'000	9.2	-2.1	-8.9	649.2	-0.9	-8.0
Unemployment rate	%	5.3	-0.1	-0.7	6.9	—	-0.7
Participation rate	%	73.3	—	2.5	63.4	—	0.4
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS							
Number employed—Trend series, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector	'000	67.4	0.7	-0.7	1 450.8	0.2	-0.2
Private sector	'000	82.1	-1.9	14.2	5 774.3	0.5	3.5
Total	'000	149.5	-0.7	-0.7	7 225.1	0.4	2.7
Gross earnings—Original series, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector	\$m	911.5	16.6	-0.4	15 724.8	6.9	6.9
Private sector	\$m	602.6	-12.7	14.7	47 801.4	3.3	7.0
Total	\$m	1 514.1	2.8	4.8	63 526.2	4.2	4.2
JOB VACANCIES, Nov qtr 99	'000	3.8	15.2	137.5	103.2	-6.2	6.2
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Nov 99							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	-100.0	-100.0	149.6	272.1	289.6
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Oct 99)	no.	32.0	-5.9	-5.9	88.0	20.5	27.5
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Dec 99							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	14.0	-6.7	100.0	915.0	-10.1	33.0
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	3.0	—	—	161.0	-14.8	11.8
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	92.0	-8.9	48.4	4 057.0	-6.6	39.1
Re-financing	\$m	16.0	-11.1	45.5	998.0	-10.2	31.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	130.0	-10.3	44.4	6 589.0	-8.3	32.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	123.0	-10.2	41.4	6 620.0	-4.2	30.8
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	1 036	2.0	36.7	49 702	1.5	26.7
Total housing commitments	\$m	133.0	3.1	46.2	6 863.0	2.1	38.4
BUILDING APPROVALS, Jan 00							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	248	81.0	87.9	12 734	-10.8	26.7
Value of new residential	\$m	29.3	82.0	89.0	1 602.5	-9.9	48.4
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.3	29.3	65.6	221.0	-14.3	16.2
Value of non-residential	\$m	7.1	-19.3	222.7	881.7	6.6	-13.7
Value of total building	\$m	41.6	42.5	99.0	2 705.2	-5.5	18.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	249	5.5	41.5	15 530	1.8	19.2

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 99							
New houses	no.	264	-30.3	-37.6	28 290	3.2	4.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	38.8	-22.1	-22.6	3 633.4	7.3	14.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	32.9	-51.7	-39.1	2 879.3	1.8	-2.6
Value of total commencements	\$m	125.7	-17.0	-1.6	9 204.4	13.9	13.3
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 99		136.1	4.9	6.5	141.3	3.3	9.5
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Jun qtr 99)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	11.7	-5.6	23.2	2 656.2	-7.5	18.4
Value of work done	\$m	22.3	22.5	106.5	2 805.0	-2.6	-5.9
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	25.2	-31.9	82.6	5 291.9	-3.2	-10.4
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	29.1	0.7	40.6	1 563.5	-26.0	16.0
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 99							
Food(a)		130.9	2.5	1.4	128.9	0.3	2.3
Housing(a)		97.2	1.2	3.5	99.6	1.5	4.3
Transportation(a)		131.4	-0.2	3.5	126.4	-0.4	3.7
All groups(a)		123.7	1.1	1.6	124.1	0.6	1.8
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov 99							
Original series							
Males	\$	953.1	6.0	6.9	810.4	1.8	2.8
Females	\$	827.5	5.6	6.8	683.4	1.1	3.3
Persons	\$	897.6	5.4	6.4	763.2	1.5	3.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	940.0	3.3	4.6	808.7	0.9	2.7
Females	\$	816.1	2.6	5.3	682.6	0.9	3.3
Persons	\$	887.5	3.0	4.6	762.0	0.9	2.8
WAGE COST INDEX, Sep qtr 99							
Public sector(b)		105.6	0.1	3.2	103.2	0.3	3.9
Private sector(b)		105.9	0.6	2.7	106.2	0.6	2.9
Total(b)		105.6	0.3	3.0	106.4	0.6	3.2
RETAIL TURNOVER, Jan 00							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	84.6	-12.1	5.0	4 811.9	-15.1	0.3
Department stores	\$m	22.1	-55.7	-10.2	925.1	-55.3	-1.8
Hospitality and services	\$m	32.1	-9.8	4.2	2 063.4	-15.2	5.2
All other retailing	\$m	80.2	-35.3	19.2	3 823.1	-32.6	4.6
Total	\$m	219.0	-28.4	7.7	11 623.5	-26.6	2.3
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	84.9	0.8	5.7	4 844.2	0.1	3.3
Department stores	\$m	25.7	-0.4	2.4	1 073.5	-0.7	2.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.4	1.2	—	2 058.2	—	7.3
All other retailing	\$m	87.6	0.3	15.9	4 059.0	—	7.0
Total	\$m	232.6	0.6	8.0	12 034.9	—	5.1

(a) Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0.

(b) Base of each index: September quarter 1997 = 100.0.

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Jun qtr 99							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	284.9	7.7	26.1	10 395.6	10.3	7.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	25.4	7.2	13.9	946.4	-5.7	7.4
Guest arrivals	'000	226.9	5.0	6.8	8 306.6	-1.0	5.2
Guest nights	'000	482.0	3.4	14.4	18 622.5	-4.1	8.2
Room occupancy rate	%	66.4	3.3	1.8	60.8	-1.9	1.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Jan 00							
Motor vehicles	no.	858	-27.7	-7.9	50 291	-24.5	0.4
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 127	5.2	-8.4	64 577	0.2	-1.7
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 119	1.0	-7.4	63 888	1.5	-3.8
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Jun qtr 99(a)							
Original series (chain volume measures)(b)							
Household final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 637	3.6	4.5	87 576	3.6	5.3
General government final consumption expenditure	\$m	2 702	-4.4	12.7	27 968	12.1	4.2
Private gross fixed capital formation	\$m	354	-15.2	8.8	30 174	-11.1	-6.5
Public gross fixed capital formation	\$m	91	-11.5	-20.0	7 763	-8.9	78.9
State final demand	\$m	4 784	-1.2	8.4	153 481	8.4	4.5
Gross state product	\$m	11 943	4.3	n.a.	555 689	4.6	n.a.
STATE ACCOUNTS, Jun qtr 99(a)							
Original series (at current prices)							
Household final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 671	4.0	6.1	88 978	3.9	7.0
General government final consumption expenditure	\$m	2 779	-3.2	14.3	28 670	11.9	6.2
Private gross fixed capital formation	\$m	351	-23.4	7.6	30 431	13.4	-5.5
Public gross fixed capital formation	\$m	89	-378.1	-16.7	7 910	-9.2	83.7
State final demand	\$m	4 890	-0.3	9.9	155 990	8.4	5.7
Gross state product	\$m	12 040	4.5	n.a.	593 311	4.8	n.a.
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Sep qtr 99							
Original series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	\$m	23	64.3	-36.1	2 805	-8.6	-23.5
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	49	-18.3	-9.3	7 887	7.1	-11.1
Total	\$m	72	-2.7	-20.0	10 691	2.5	-14.7
Trend series (at current prices)							
Buildings and structures	\$m	19	-5.0	-20.8	2 965	-11.4	-18.3
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	54	-20.6	28.6	7 573	-2.8	-8.5
Total	\$m	73	-17.0	10.6	10 478	-5.4	-11.5

(a) Quarterly state final demand details are released as a special data service (Product no. 5206.0.40.001).

(b) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

Source: ABS publications: Australia Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0), Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0), Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0), Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0), Consumer Price Index (Cat. no. 6401.0), Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0), House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (Cat. no. 6416.0), Industrial Disputes, Australia (Cat. no. 6321.0), Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (Cat. no. 6354.0), Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (Cat. no. 6202.0), Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0), New Motor Vehicle Registration, Australia (Cat. no. 9301.0), Price Index of Materials Used in Housing Building (Cat. no. 6408.0), Private New Capital Expenditure, State Estimates (Cat. no. 5646.0), Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0), Tourism Indicators, Australia (Cat. no. 8634.0), Tourism Accommodation, ACT (Cat. no. 8635.8).

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	June qtr 99	6 411.7	4 712.2	3 512.4	1 493.1	1 861.0	470.3	192.9	310.2	18 966.8
LABOUR FORCE (trend)											
Employed persons	'000	Feb 00	2 989.5	2 224.4	1 664.8	677.8	929.8	199.0	89.5	166.0	8 938.3
Unemployment rate	%	Feb 00	5.9	6.7	8.0	8.1	6.4	9.0	5.3	5.3	6.8
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)											
Public sector	'000	Sep qtr 99	467.2	300.0	288.6	113.9	150.6	40.9	22.0	67.4	1 450.8
Private sector	'000	Sep qtr 99	1 995.9	1 504.4	1 037.3	409.6	569.2	123.6	52.2	82.1	5 774.3
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Sep qtr 99	2 463.2	1 804.4	1 325.9	523.5	719.8	164.5	74.2	149.5	7 225.1
STATE ACCOUNTS(a) (original)											
Gross state product (chain volume measures)	\$m	1997-98	209 937	151 213	96 000	40 493	63 198	11 059	6 460	11 822	591 546
Gross state product (current prices)	\$m	1997-98	212 635	151 306	95 935	40 573	63 226	11 115	6 481	12 040	593 311
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)	\$m	Jun qtr 99	3 579	2 824	1 701	627	1 517	108	259	61	10 639
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved(original)	no.	Jan 00	3 501	3 841	2 462	712	1 675	181	114	248	12 734
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Jan 00	4 100	4 516	3 243	1 022	2 173	183	152	249	15 530
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	\$m	Jan 00	356.8	227.6	197.7	18.5	57.3	6.4	10.4	7.1	881.7
Value of all buildings approved (original)	\$m	Jan 00	925.7	811.6	497.3	99.6	269.2	32.0	28.2	41.6	2 705.2
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sep qtr 99	1 408.6	635.9	1 184.9	364.0	614.9	41.2	67.7	51.4	4 368.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)											
Full-time adult ordinary time	\$	Nov qtr 99	800.8	750.5	706.1	707.3	775.3	714.5	780.7	887.5	762.0
RETAIL TRADE (trend)											
Retail turnover	\$m	Jan 00	4 170.0	2 900.3	2 256.0	883.1	191.8	269.3	132.8	232.6	12 034.9
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Sep qtr 99	3 345.0	1 589.5	3 055.9	510.4	961.4	205.5	443.0	241.1	9 585.8
Room occupancy rate	%	Sep qtr 99	61.1	56.0	65.0	54.5	58.8	40.7	77.7	57.6	58.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)	no.	Jan 00	22 414	18 238	10 087	4 027	6 034	1 277	692	1 119	63 888
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food(d)		Dec qtr 99	129.6	128.6	126.4	130.4	129.3	127.5	125.9	130.9	128.9
Housing(d)		Dec qtr 99	107.3	90.4	103.9	96.9	95.1	97.4	117.8	97.2	99.6
Transportation(d)		Dec qtr 99	127.3	125.2	124.8	127.4	127.0	123.8	123.2	131.4	126.4
All Groups(d)		Dec qtr 99	124.7	123.5	124.1	125.7	122.7	124.0	123.6	123.7	124.1
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	129	142	130	141	146	130	142	119	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 99	232	239	213	219	220	239	219	230	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	1 249	1 087	1 086	1 140	1 191	1 024	1 189	1 246	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	363	367	327	375	353	371	414	360	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 99	127	170	119	105	152	93	137	141	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 99	582	603	604	568	644	693	632	570	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 99	337	328	277	368	393	264	332	275	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	79.6	76.2	69.9	78.4	79.0	84.7	86.5	83.1	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 99	76.9	73.8	67.3	75.8	76.4	82.7	84.5	80.5	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Experimental series. Users are cautioned these estimates are derived indirectly by calculating a deflator from the expenditure components of the state series concerned. Therefore, in general, the sum of the state estimates does not equal the estimates for Australia.

(c) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97.

(d) Base year: 1989-90 = 100.0.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
POPULATION	June qtr 99	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	—	0.4	0.3	0.3
LABOUR FORCE (trend)										
Employed persons	Feb 00	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	-1.3	0.2	0.2
Unemployment rate	Feb 00	—	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	—
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (trend)										
Pubic sector	Sep qtr 99	0.8	-1.4	0.1	0.5	1.3	-0.5	-0.5	0.7	0.2
Private sector	Sep qtr 99	—	0.4	1.8	1.2	-1.2	4.0	—	-1.9	0.5
Total public and private sector	Sep qtr 99	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.0	-0.7	2.9	-0.1	-0.7	0.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a) (original)										
Gross state product (chain volume measures)(b)(c)	1998-99	4.1	6.2	4.5	2.1	2.1	2.5	7.6	2.6	4.5
Gross state product (current prices)	1998-99	5.4	6.2	4.4	2.3	2.1	3.0	8.0	4.5	4.8
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend)										
Total (at current prices)	Mar qtr 99	0.4	0.5	-6.6	9.6	0.7	-0.9	13.6	-18.7	-0.8
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Jan 00	-15.6	-4.4	-12.4	-15.4	-15.2	0.6	-26.9	81.0	-10.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Jan 00	-1.7	3.2	4.0	5.5	1.6	4.6	4.1	5.5	1.8
Value of non-residential building approved (original)	Jan 00	28.8	-13.1	179.2	-85.7	-6.5	-51.1	136.4	-19.3	6.6
Value of all buildings approved (original)	Jan 00	-1.1	-7.1	13.8	-56.5	-9.8	-6.2	11.9	42.5	-5.5
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sep qtr 99	-13.8	-26.0	-6.8	42.4	-23.1	-38.9	12.6	9.1	-12.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (trend)										
Full-time adult ordinary time	Nov qtr 99	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.6	1.1	1.6	3.0	0.9
RETAIL TRADE (trend)										
Retail turnover	Jan 00	-0.1	-0.4	0.4	—	0.2	-0.2	1.0	0.6	—
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied	Sep qtr 99	7.9	2.8	18.2	1.0	11.6	-13.9	34.0	-0.7	-3.2
Room occupancy rate	Sep qtr 99	3.2	0.6	8.9	-0.1	5.5	-6.9	18.4	-1.3	-1.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS (trend)	Jan 00	0.4	3.2	0.9	1.1	1.9	1.7	-0.3	1.0	1.5
	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food(d)	Dec qtr 99	0.2	0.6	-0.5	0.5	-0.1	1.0	1.3	2.5	0.3
Housing(d)	Dec qtr 99	1.4	1.8	1.1	2.0	2.1	0.5	0.3	1.2	1.5
Transportation(d)	Dec qtr 99	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3	0.6	0.5	-0.2	-0.4
All Groups(d)	Dec qtr 99	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.6
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 99	5.7	1.4	3.2	0.7	—	—	0.7	3.5	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 99	1.8	0.4	0.9	2.8	0.9	5.8	—	0.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 99	4.3	-0.5	1.8	11.1	1.6	4.2	6.0	3.7	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 99	0.3	3.4	4.8	3.6	-4.3	-0.5	-1.7	-1.6	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 99	—	11.1	-9.8	31.3	-1.3	16.3	7.0	0.7	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 99	-4.6	-5.8	-5.0	—	-4.0	14.7	12.7	15.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 99	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.0	—	—	1.9	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 99	1.5	-0.3	—	0.5	0.8	2.3	4.1	3.1	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 99	1.5	-0.3	-0.3	0.3	0.5	2.4	4.3	2.9	n.a.

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