JUNE QUARTER 2006

1367.5

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 5 JUL 2006

CONTENTS

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Mike Thomas on Perth (08) 9360 5353.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)	*RELEASE DATE*
September 2006	4 October 2006
December 2006	10 January 2007

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

INTERNET

This publication and all published feature articles can be downloaded free from the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. Go to Themes–Regional–Western Australia–WA releases–1367.5 Western Australian Statistical Indicators.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 22 June 2006. 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.

INQUIRIES

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

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
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CPI	consumer price index
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	gross state product
LNG	liquefied natural gas
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
n.f.d.	not further defined
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SLA	statistical local area
USA	United States of America
WA	Western Australia

Alan Hubbard
Regional Director, Western Australia

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Growth in State Final Demand (trend chain volume measures) in Western Australia slowed to 2.7% in the March quarter 2006, from 3.0% in the previous quarter, mainly due to the impact of Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda on activity in the state's resources sector. In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, the largest declines were recorded in business investment on New engineering construction (down $75 million or 4.1%) and Intangible fixed assets (down $23 million or 5.9%), as well as private investment on Alterations and additions to dwellings (down $39 million or 6.2%) during the quarter. Offsetting these decreases were increases in business investment on Machinery and equipment (up $385 million or 12.7%), and Household final consumption expenditure (up $91 million or 0.7%).

Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 4.2% through the year the March quarter 2006, much higher than the national increase of 3.0%. Despite national CPI growth remaining well below the rise in Perth, it has now reached the top of the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range for inflation of 3.0%, which influenced a decision by the RBA to increase official interest rates by 25 basis points to 5.75% in May 2006.

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 20.6% ($1,900 million) through the year to March quarter 2006, mainly in iron ore, gold and natural gas. Constraining growth were falls in exports of nickel ores and petroleum, negatively affected by cyclone activity in the state's north-west during the March quarter. The value of Western Australia's imports grew strongly through the year, rising by 39.9% ($1,379 million), mainly for gold and petroleum. The outlook for Western Australian exports remains positive for the remainder of 2006 and 2007, with economic activity forecast to grow favourably in the state's major export markets. Western Australia's largest export market, Japan, is expected to grow by 2.8% in 2006 and 2.1% in 2007, a considerable improvement after years of deflation and declining asset prices. Japan's economic growth, and in turn its demand for Western Australian exports, relies heavily on economic conditions in the United States of America which are showing signs of continued growth (3.4% in 2006 and 3.3% in 2007). Even stronger rates of growth have been forecast for other major export markets for Western Australia including China (9.5% in 2006 and 9.0% in 2007), the Republic of Korea (5.5% in 2006 and 4.5% in 2007) and India (7.3% in 2006 and 7.0% in 2007).

Western Australia's labour force continued to grow in the three months to May 2006, with the number of employed persons (trend) rising by 4,600 (0.4%), including 2,200 full-time workers. As at May 2006, there were 1,065,700 persons employed in the state's labour force, with 752,800 (70.6%) employed full-time. The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia fell strongly, down by 3,600 (8.0%) in the three months to May 2006. The sharp decline in unemployed persons in the state has seen the unemployment rate drop from 4.1% in February 2006 to a record low of 3.7% in May 2006 – well below the 5.0% rate of unemployment across the nation.

STATE ACCOUNTS

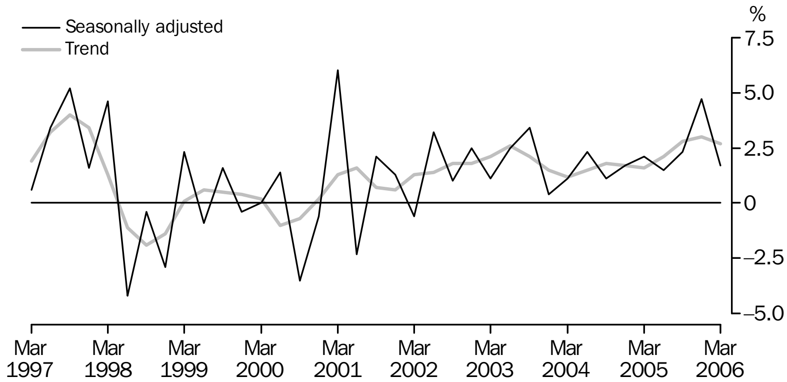
State final demand

The expansion of Western Australia's domestic economy slowed for the first time in a year, with growth in State Final Demand (trend chain volume measures) decelerating to 2.7% in the March quarter 2006, from 3.0% in the previous quarter. Despite the deceleration, growth in Western Australia (2.7%) remained well above the national average of 0.9% during the quarter and was much higher than the second ranked state or territory (Queensland) with 1.9%. The slowdown in Western Australia can partly be

State final demand continued

attributed to the impact of Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda on crude oil production and mining-related exports from the north-west of the state. The cyclones are also expected to have a negative effect on economic growth in the June quarter 2006.

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



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

In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, growth in Western Australia's State Final Demand slowed to 1.7% in the March quarter 2006, from a high of 4.7% in the previous quarter – a much greater deceleration than in the trend series. The deceleration was mainly attributable to lower business investment on New engineering construction (down $75 million or 4.1%) during the quarter, mainly due to decreased expenditure on a large nickel project in the state and the completion of a major power station. The decline follows very strong growth of 33.1% in the previous quarter, as a result of expansions made in alumina refining capacity. Investment on Alterations and additions to dwellings (down $39 million or 6.2%) and Intangible fixed assets (down $23 million or 5.9%) also fell during the quarter. The falls in expenditure on Intangible fixed assets were mainly in computer software, and mineral and petroleum exploration due to the impact of Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda. Offsetting these declines were increases in business investment on Machinery and equipment (up $385 million or 12.7%) and Household final consumption expenditure (up $91 million or 0.7%), mainly on Food and Rents and other dwelling services.

PRICES

Consumer Price Index

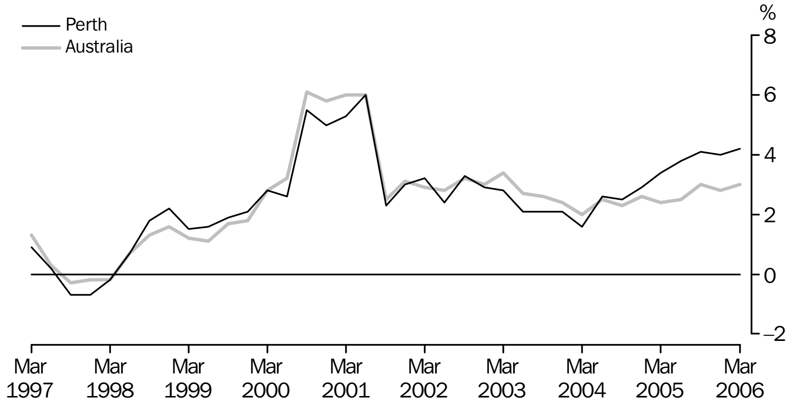
Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 1.0% in the March quarter 2006, slightly higher than the national increase of 0.9%. The main contributor to Perth's CPI growth was Housing, which increased by 1.9% during the quarter, almost entirely due to the rising costs of house purchase – including the price of new homes (excluding land) and major improvements to existing homes, as well as fixed appliances such as hot water systems, dishwashers, etc..

Other major contributors to Perth's CPI growth over the quarter were Transport (up 1.2%), Health (up 3.1%) and Education (up 6.0%). Transport prices rose mainly due to increased motor vehicle prices, as fewer incentives and bonuses were offered during the period. Health prices increased mainly due to rising pharmaceutical prices, while the increase in Education prices coincided with the commencement of the new school year.

Consumer Price Index continued

Pharmaceutical and education costs tend to rise more sharply in the first quarter of each calendar year than in other quarters.

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



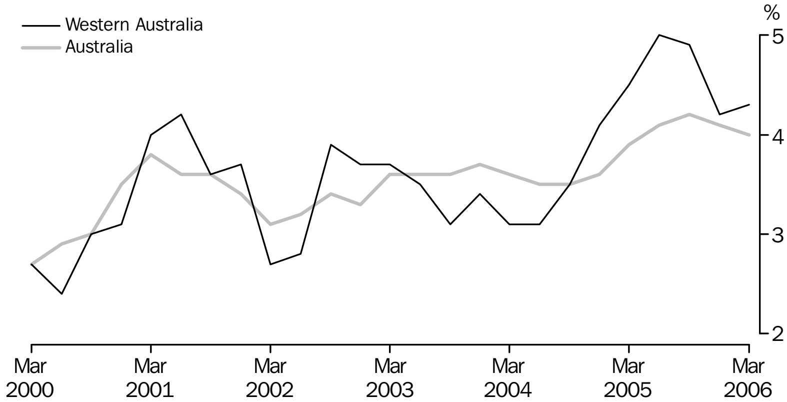
Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

Through the year to March quarter 2006, Perth's CPI grew by 4.2%, much higher than the 3.0% growth recorded nationally. The higher result for Perth was largely due to an 8.7% increase in Housing, more than double the national average of 3.3%, largely attributable to a 15.2% increase in new house purchase prices in Perth through the year. Despite national CPI growth remaining well below the rise in Perth, it has now reached the top of the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range for inflation of 3.0%, which influenced a decision by the RBA to increase official interest rates by 25 basis points to 5.75% in May 2006.

Wage Price Index

Western Australia's Wage Price Index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 0.9% in the March quarter 2006, slightly higher than the 0.7% increase in the previous quarter. Despite the acceleration, wages growth in Western Australia remained below the 1.0% increase recorded nationally.

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



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

Wage Price Index continued

The latest quarterly increase in Western Australia's Wage Price Index has lifted the annual rate of wages growth to 4.3% through the year to March quarter 2006, from 4.2% in the previous period. This acceleration was the first since wages rose by 5.0% through the year to June quarter 2005. The main industries contributing to annual wages growth were Construction (up 6.8%) and Mining (up 6.1%), supported by the strength of activity in these industries and associated high levels of labour demand. The occupations contributing most to annual wages growth were Managers and administrators (up 5.6%), Labourers and related workers (up 5.3%) and Intermediate production and transport workers (up 5.1%), many of whom are employed in the Construction and Mining industries, as well as in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Manufacturing and Transport and storage.

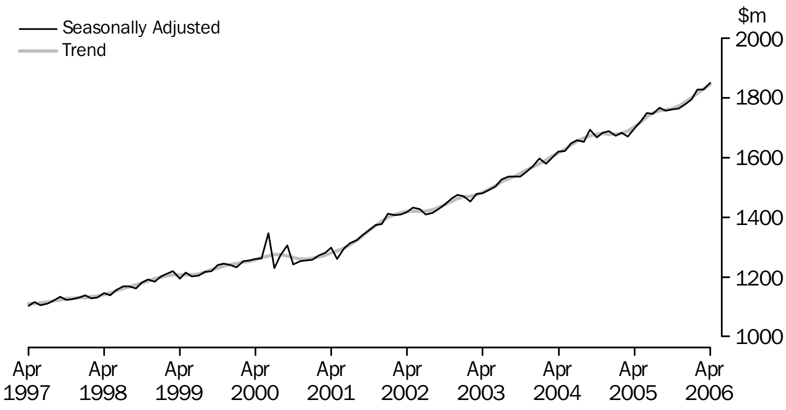
Western Australia's wages growth (4.3%) was higher than the national increase of 4.0% through the year to March quarter 2006. Wages in Australia have continued to grow above 4% per year over the last four periods, although the rate of growth has decelerated since peaking at 4.2% through the year to September quarter 2005.

CONSUMPTION

Retail trade

Growth in retail turnover accelerated in Western Australia over the three months to April 2006, increasing by 2.6% ($138 million) in trend terms, almost double the rate of growth in the previous three month period (1.4%). This acceleration comes after growth in monthly retail turnover had decelerated through much of the second half of 2005. The pick-up in retail trade can be attributed to the rebound in domestic demand and employment growth during late 2005 and early 2006. Western Australia's retail trade reflected a similar pattern to the nation's, with Australia's growth in retail turnover increasing by 2.0% in the three months to April 2006, from 1.1% in the previous period.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



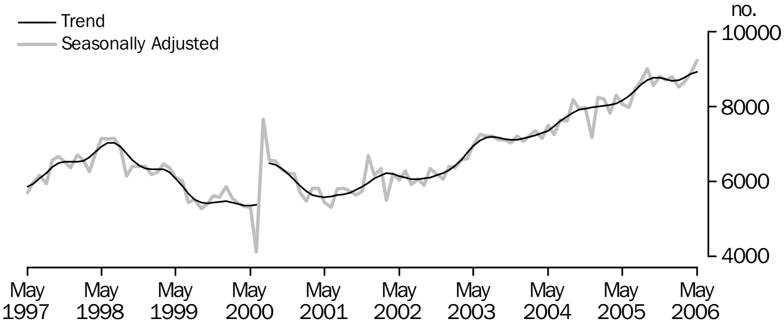
Source: Retail Trade, Australia, cat. no. 8501.0.

Growth in Western Australia's retail turnover was across all industry groups over the three months to April 2006, with the exception of Recreational good retailing which decreased by $14 million or 4.6%. The largest increases were recorded in Food retailing (up $46 million or 2.0%), Household good retailing (up $29 million or 3.1%) and Hospitality services retailing (up $22 million or 3.5%).

New motor vehicle sales

New motor vehicle sales (trend) in Western Australia rose for the fourth consecutive month in May 2006, increasing by 0.9% to 8,944 vehicles – the highest level of sales since the series began in January 1994. Sales of new motor vehicles in the state have generally followed an upward trend since mid-2001.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



(a) Break in time series for trend between June and July 2000. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Electronic Publication), cat. no. 9314.0.

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

Over the three months to May 2006, sales of new motor vehicles (trend) in Western Australia rose by 1.7% (446 vehicles), compared to the previous three month period. In contrast, national new motor vehicle sales fell by 1.1%. The state increase over the period was driven mainly by sales of passenger vehicles, up 213 vehicles or 1.4%; and other vehicles (including utilities, vans, trucks and buses), up by 204 vehicles or 3.4%. Sales of sports utility vehicles also rose over the period, up by 29 vehicles or 0.6%.

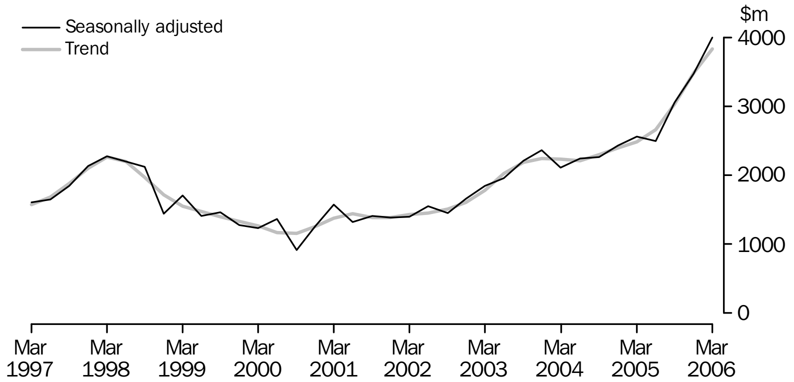
INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure

Business investment (trend chain volume measures) in Western Australia has continued to grow for seven successive quarters since mid-2004, from $2,211 million in the June quarter 2004 to a record high of $3,828 million in the March quarter 2006. Growth has been particularly strong in recent quarters, with the state recording double-digit percentage increases in business investment of 13.9% (September 2005), 15.1% (December 2005) and 10.0% (March 2006) in the last three quarters. In the March quarter 2006, private new capital expenditure rose by $347 million (10.0%), driven by increases in expenditure on both Equipment, plant and machinery (up $166 million or 9.2%) and Buildings and structures (up $144 million or 8.6%).

Private new capital expenditure continued

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



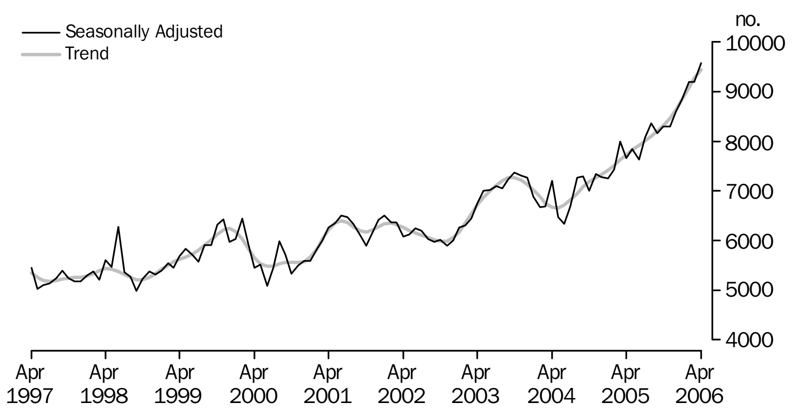
Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.

Through the year to March quarter 2006, business investment (original current prices) rose by $1,405 million (59.2%) in Western Australia. Nearly all of this growth was attributable to Mining industry investment, which almost doubled through the year, increasing by $1,214 million or 99.4%. This increase coincides with strong growth in engineering construction activity in the state's resources sector. Construction started on a number of very large resource projects in the state in the last half of 2005, including BHP Billiton's Ravensthorpe nickel project, the 5th LNG Train of the North West Shelf, Woodside's Enfield, Vincent and Laverda oil and gas project and BHP Billiton's 'Rapid Growth 2' iron ore expansion, inducing the development of infrastructure such as port upgrades, railway lines, electricity-related projects and gas pipelines.

Housing finance commitments

The number of dwellings financed (trend) in Western Australia has continued to rise for 23 consecutive months, from 6,659 in May 2004 to a record level of 9,447 in April 2006. In the last six months, growth in housing finance has accelerated rapidly, at a rate of 2.2% per month, more than four times the monthly average of 0.5% over the last 10 years.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



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

In the three months to April 2006, the number of dwellings financed (original) rose by 1,647 (6.6%) from the previous three month period. All of this rise was attributable to an increase of 1,711 (8.3%) dwellings financed by non-first home buyers, while first home buyers recorded a decrease of 64 (1.4%). Given established house prices in Perth have

Housing finance commitments continued

risen by 28.8% through the year to March quarter 2006 (eight times the national average) and average home loans have now become larger for first home buyers ($198,800) than changeover buyers ($196,000), first home buyers may have become discouraged from entering the housing market.

Contributing to a positive outlook for dwelling construction activity in the second half of 2006 has been an increase in the value of housing finance for the construction of new dwellings (original) in Western Australia, rising by $13 million (1.9%) in the three months to April 2006, entirely driven by owner occupiers (as opposed to investors).

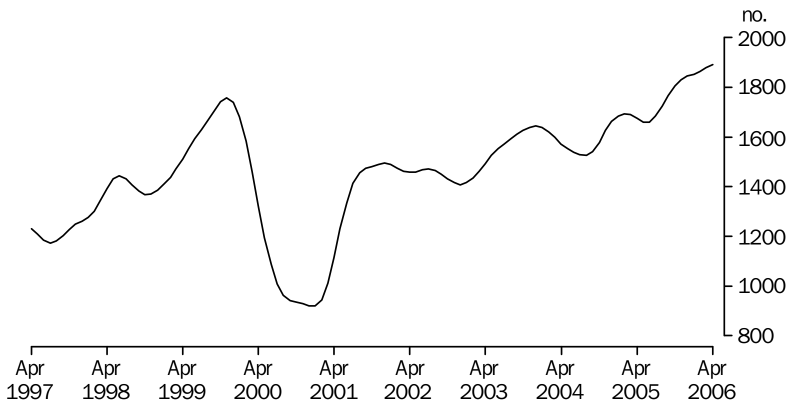
CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals

The number of dwellings approved (trend) for construction in Western Australia rose by 72 (1.1%) in the three months to April 2006, a large deceleration from the rise of 496 (8.0%) in the previous three month period. Growth in House approvals decelerated from 231 (4.4%) to 106 (1.9%) in the three months to April 2006, while Other dwelling approvals declined by 34 (2.8%) after strong growth in the previous three months of 265 (28.3%).

The deceleration in growth of building approvals in Western Australia appears to be the effect of supply-side constraints such as insufficient supply of land for development and a large and increasing backlog of work in the construction pipeline, rather than a softening in housing demand. The Housing Industry Forecasting Group of Western Australia suggests labour and materials shortages are limiting completion capacity to only 19,000 dwellings per year, less than the underlying minimum requirement of 19,600. Demand conditions for housing remain strong in the state with high levels of population, employment and wages growth being underpinned by the expanding Western Australian economy.

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



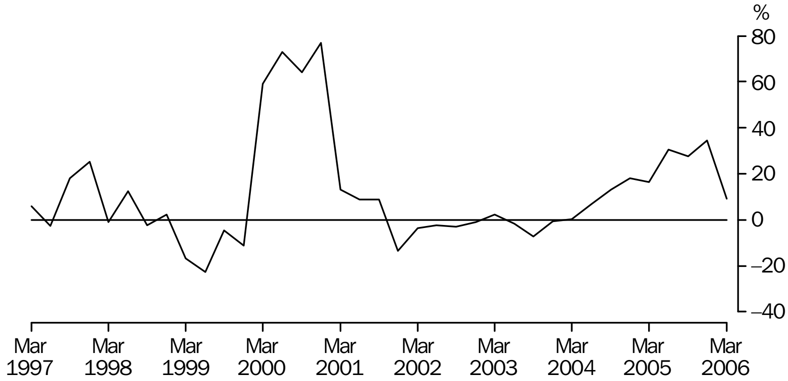
Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

The value of building approved (original) for construction fell slightly in Western Australia in the three months to April 2006, down $2 million or 0.1%. The deceleration was the result of a $55 million (27.6%) decrease in the value of New other residential building approvals and a $20 million (14.3%) decline in approvals for housing renovations (i.e. alterations and additions including refurbishments and conversions). Partially offsetting these declines were increases in the value of approvals for New houses (up $60 million or 6.0%) and Non-residential buildings (up $12 million or 2.4%) in the three months to April 2006.

TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus rose by 9.0% through the year to March quarter 2006, a large deceleration from growth of 34.5% in the previous period. Much of the deceleration was caused by interruptions to mining production and exports during the quarter (particularly nickel ore and petroleum) as a result of Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda crossing the Pilbara coast on 9 January and 30 March respectively, as well as a substantial increase in imports. The value of Western Australia's exports grew by 20.6% through the year to March quarter 2006, well below the growth of 39.9% in the value of imports. To put this in perspective, three quarters (72.6%) of the aggregate growth in exports ($1,900 million) was offset by imports growth ($1,379 million) through the year.

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.

Between the March quarters of 2005 and 2006, the value of Western Australia's trade surplus rose by $521 million to $6,313 million. The main contributors to the rise were increases in the state's trade surplus with the United Kingdom (up $791 million), China (up $568 million), the Republic of Korea (up $384 million) and Japan (up $357 million). Partially offsetting these increases were decreases in Western Australia's trade balance with Thailand (down $488 million to a surplus of $58 million), Singapore (down $377 million to a deficit of $322), the United States of America (down $187 million to a deficit of $354 million) and Indonesia (down $167 million to a deficit of $42 million).

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 20.6% ($1,900 million) to $11,145 million through the year to March quarter 2006. The major commodities contributing to the increase were Iron ore and concentrates (up $1,101 million or 64.5%), Non-monetary gold (up $326 million or 24.3%) and Natural gas (up $213 million or 28.1%). Constraining growth through the year were falls in exports of Nickel ores and concentrates (down $90 million or 47.6%), Refined petroleum oils (down $34 million or 20.0%) and Crude petroleum oils (down $28 million or 2.3%), negatively affected by cyclone activity in the state's north-west during the March quarter 2006.

Imports

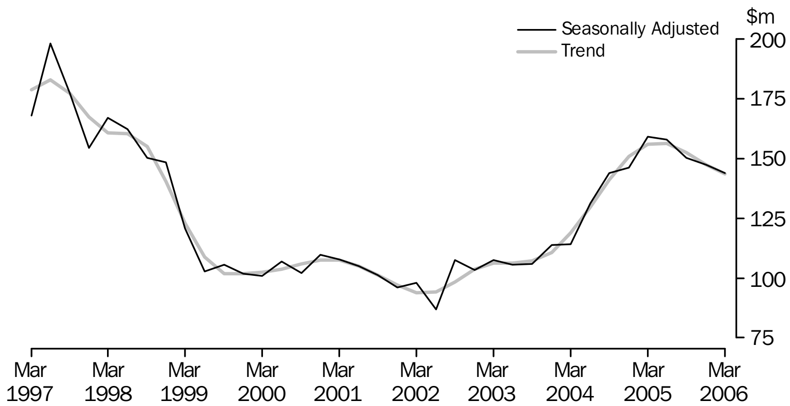
The value of Western Australia's imports rose by 39.9% ($1,379 million) to $4,832 million through the year to March quarter 2006. The major commodities contributing to the increase were Non-monetary gold (up $856 million or 206.8%), Refined petroleum oils (up $159 million or 86.3%) and Crude petroleum oils (up $92 million or 23.3%).

MINING

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure

Mineral exploration has continued to decline in Western Australia over the last three quarters. Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) peaked at $156 million in the June quarter 2005 and has since fallen to $144 million in the March quarter 2006. During the March quarter expenditure on mineral exploration fell by 2.6% or $4 million, mainly due to the impact of Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda on exploration activity in the state's north-west and difficulties in accessing land.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



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

In original terms, mineral exploration expenditure fell by 9.6% ($13 million) in Western Australia through the year to March quarter 2006. The major mineral driving the decline was Nickel, cobalt (down $21 million or 51.8%), while Iron ore (up $4 million or 13.6%) partially offset the fall. The large decrease in nickel exploration coincides with an 18.1% fall in nickel prices over the second half of 2005, from a peak of $22,095 per tonne in May to $18,106 per tonne in December. Petroleum exploration expenditure also declined in Western Australia, falling by 11.2% ($17 million) to $137 million through the year to March quarter 2006, also hampered by the effects of the two cyclones.

Mineral and energy production

The production of minerals and energy in Western Australia were also interrupted by Tropical Cyclones Clare and Glenda. Production fell across most major commodities through the year to March quarter 2006, including Nickel (down 22.4%), Crude oil (down 13.8%), Diamonds (down 12.3%), Gold (down 11.1%), Electricity (down 6.9%), Bauxite (down 2.2%) and Iron ore (down 1.5%). Increases were, however, recorded for the production of Zinc (up 207.7%), Coal (up 10.6%), Ilmenite (up 9.4%) and Natural gas (up 8.5%).

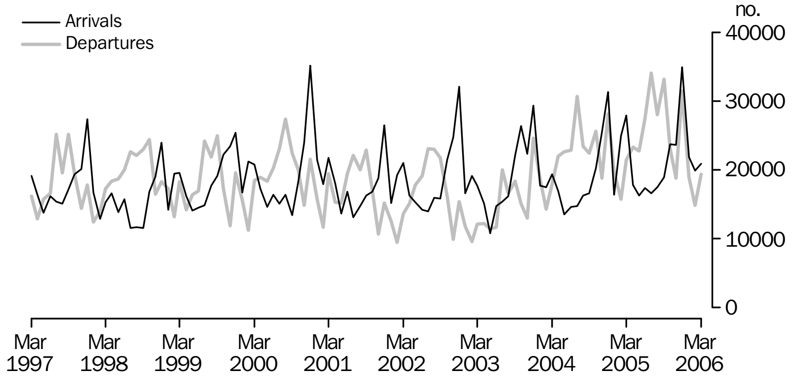
TOURISM

Short-term arrivals on holiday

A total of 62,637 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia by air on holiday in the three months to March 2006 – 6,462 fewer than in the same period of 2005. The largest declines in visitor arrivals over the period were from Singapore (down 4,313 or 39.7%) and Malaysia (down 2,022 or 34.3%). Despite the overall decline, visitor arrivals increased from several countries, including the United Kingdom and Ireland (up 678 or 3.3%) and Europe (up 353 or 4.0%).

Short-term arrivals on holiday continued

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS AND RESIDENT DEPARTURES OVERSEAS, By air on holiday



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

Short-term departures on holiday

The number of Western Australian residents departing by air on holiday overseas fell by 3,840 (6.7%) to total 53,076 over the three months to March 2006, compared to the same period of 2005. The largest fall in resident departures over the period was to Indonesia (down 11,798 or 58.8%) following the bombing in Bali on 1 October 2005. Falls were also recorded in resident departures to New Zealand (down 1,177 or 15.6%) and Singapore (down 859 or 12.5%). Large increases in resident departures were recorded to Thailand (up 3,415 or 100.5%) and Malaysia (up 1,280 or 35.2%).

LABOUR MARKET

Job vacancies

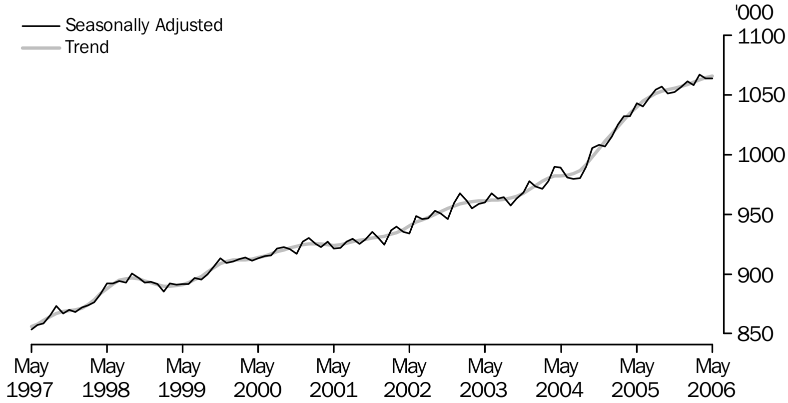
The number of job vacancies (original) in Western Australia reached 20,600 in the February quarter 2006, an increase of 5,300 (35.1%) from the February quarter 2005. Nearly all of this rise was attributable to a 37.3% increase in private sector vacancies, while public sector vacancies rose by 10.6%. Given job vacancies are a leading indicator of employment, employment growth can be expected to continue through mid-2006 if suitably qualified workers are able to be found to fill the rising number of vacancies being created by the expanding Western Australian economy.

Employment

The number of employed persons (trend) in Western Australia rose by 4,600 (0.4%) in the three months to May 2006, slightly down on the growth of 5,500 persons (0.5%) in the previous three month period. Almost half (47.8%) of the current increase was driven by full-time employment, up 2,200 or 0.3%, while part-time employment contributed the rest. As at May 2006, there were 1,065,700 persons employed in the state's labour force, with 752,800 (70.6%) employed full-time. Full-time employed males drove most of the increase in state employment, rising by 3,400 persons or 0.7% during the last three months, while part-time employed females also made a significant contribution (up an estimated 3,100 persons or 1.4%).

Employment continued

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



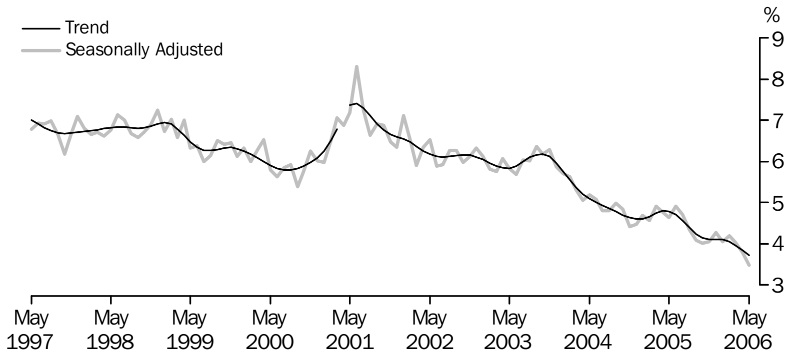
Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

In original terms, the number of employed persons rose by 22,200 or 2.1% in the state through the year to May 2006. The industries driving the increase were Personal and other services (up 7,700 persons or 20.2%), Mining (up 6,000 persons or 12.3%) and Wholesale trade (up 5,900 persons or 14.1%). Partially offsetting these increases were declines in the number of persons employed in Education (down 7,700 or 10.2%) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 5,300 or 9.9%).

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia fell by 3,600 or 8.0% in the three months to May 2006, following a decline of 400 persons or 0.9% in the previous three month period. The sharp decline in unemployed persons in the state's labour force has seen the unemployment rate drop from 4.1% in February 2006 to a record low of 3.7% in May 2006 – well below the 5.0% rate of unemployment across the nation.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



(a) Break in time series for trend at April 2001. See the Explanatory Notes in the publication: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

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

Participation

The proportion of the Western Australian civilian population participating in the state's labour force declined from 67.8% in February 2006 to 67.6% in May 2006, possibly having some effect on lowering the unemployment rate in the state (i.e. some unemployed persons may have dropped out of the labour force), as well as some influence on lowering female full-time employment (down 1,200 persons or 0.5%) and male part-time employment (down an estimated 700 persons or 0.8%) over the last three months.

LABOUR FORCE TRENDS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

The labour force in Western Australia has undergone considerable change over the past 20 years. Growth in the labour force has been influenced by factors such as population growth, labour force participation and economic growth. Trends such as greater participation by women, rising part-time employment, increasing casualisation and an ageing population have led to marked changes in the composition of the state's labour force. More recently, robust economic growth has stimulated activity in Western Australia's housing and labour markets. This increased activity, coupled with the current resources boom, has led to a strong demand for labour. The impact this has had on the labour force can be seen in recent movements of labour force indicators, most of which are currently at record highs or lows.

This article will examine changes in the size and composition of the labour force in Western Australia and identify factors that have contributed to those changes. It will also explore changes in the geographic distribution of the state's labour force.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Since 1984–85, the Western Australian labour force has increased by 397,723 persons (59.7%) to reach 1,063,832 persons in 2004–05. The largest contributor to growth in the labour force over this time was population growth, largely due to net overseas migration which recently overtook natural increase as the main driver of population growth in the state. In recent years, growth in population, labour force participation and the economy have accelerated to historically high levels, driving the increase in the state's labour force to its highest level in 20 years.

Dramatic changes have occurred in the composition of Western Australia's labour force over the past two decades. Greater opportunities for women to participate in the labour force have seen their representation in the labour force increase and their participation rate rise, while the participation rate for men has fallen. The number of women employed in the state has almost doubled over the past 20 years, leading to a reduction in the gender wage gap, although women in Western Australia in 2004 still earned less than men on average.

Greater participation by women in the labour force, as well as increased participation in further education and the desire by employers for greater flexibility in their workforces, has seen a trend towards the increasing use of part-time workers. The number of part-time workers in the state more than doubled over the past two decades and almost one third of employed persons are now employed part-time. Growth in part-time work has been associated with the increasing casualisation of the Western Australian labour force. Over the past 12 years, casual employment increased at a rate more than three times that of permanent employment.

The ageing of the Western Australian population has led to a significant change in the age structure of the state's labour force. Growth has been very strong in those age groups aged 40 years and over, resulting in almost half the labour force now being mature age. The number of persons aged 45 years and over not in the labour force and permanently not intending to work, which provides an indication of permanent loss or retirement from the labour force, has increased steadily in recent years.

MAJOR FINDINGS *continued*

Traditionally, most employed persons in Western Australia have worked 35–44 hours per week, reflecting the prevalence of full-time employees in the labour force. However, the proportion of employed persons in this category declined over the past two decades, while the proportions of employed persons working 1–34 hours and 45 hours or more per week increased. The trend towards more people working 45 hours or more per week may be attributed to employers increasing their utilisation of existing employees in the face of labour shortages, while the increasing use of part-time workers is mainly responsible for the increase in the proportion of employed persons working 1–34 hours per week.

The past five years have seen considerable change in the geographic distribution of Western Australia's labour force, with much of this change reflecting broader population trends. The bulk of growth in the labour force occurred within the Perth metropolitan area, while the largest declines were recorded by rural and remote regions.

GROWTH OF THE LABOUR FORCE

The *labour force* is defined as those persons aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed, as defined below.

Employed persons are those who, during the reference week of the Labour Force Survey:

- worked for one hour or more for payment in a job, business or on a farm;
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm;
- were employees who had a job but were not at work; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm but were not at work.

Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week and:

- had actively looked for work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

The labour force is a key measure of the total supply of labour available to the labour market. Growth in the labour force is influenced by several factors, including growth in the working age population (those aged 15 years and over), changes in labour force participation rates and economic growth.

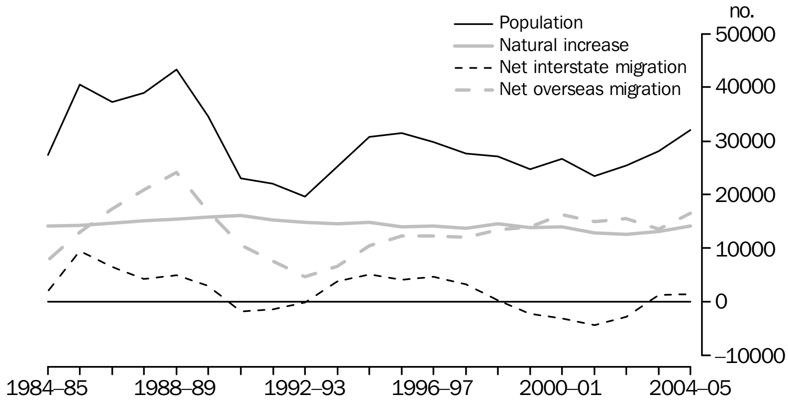
Population

The largest contributing factor to growth in the labour force is population growth, particularly in the working age population aged 15 years and over, which effectively determines the size of the labour force. Despite peaks in the mid to late 1980s and the early 1990s, population growth in Western Australia has generally followed a downward trend over the last 20 years. In recent years, however, population growth has accelerated, rising from a low of 23,394 persons in 2001–02 to reach 32,034 persons in 2004–05 – a level not seen since 1989–90 (34,615 persons).

The extent to which population growth contributes to labour force growth depends on which components drive the growth in population. The components of population growth are natural increase (births minus deaths), net interstate migration (arrivals minus departures) and net overseas migration (arrivals minus departures). Historically, *Population continued*

natural increase has been the main driver of population growth in Western Australia, accounting for an average of 50.7% of growth over the last 20 years. However, natural increase does not make an immediate contribution to labour force growth, as a person must reach 15 years of age before entering the labour force. In contrast, migration can make an immediate contribution to the size of the labour force if migrants are aged 15 years and over. The average contribution of net overseas migration to population growth was 45.9% between 1984–85 and 2004–05, while the average contribution of net interstate migration was only 4.5%.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH: **Original**



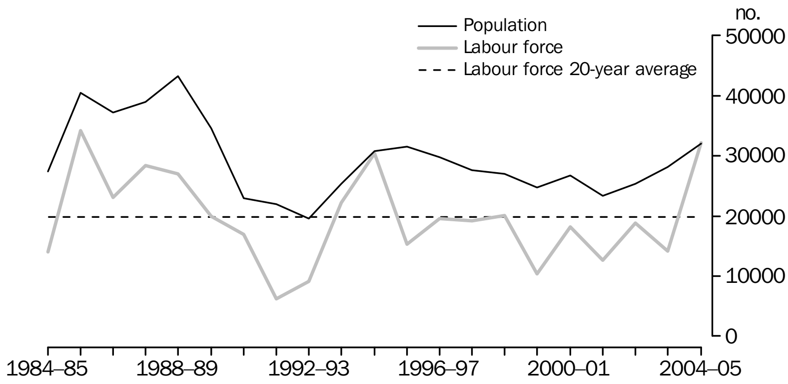
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

Since 1999–2000, net overseas migration has overtaken natural increase to become the largest contributor to population growth in Western Australia. Between 1999–2000 and 2004–05, Western Australia's population increased by 135,654 persons, with over half that growth attributable to net overseas migration (56.7%). Of these 76,927 overseas migrants, 60,675 (78.9%) were aged 15 years and over, and therefore had the potential to add to the state's labour force.

The recent acceleration in population growth, driven by net overseas migration, has seen growth in Western Australia's labour force rise above the 20-year average for the first time since 1998–99. An average of 23,115 persons have joined the state's labour force each year since 2002–03, well above the 20-year average of 19,886 persons. In 2004–05, labour force growth peaked at 32,118 persons – the largest annual increase since 1985–86 (34,126 persons). Despite this recovery, there was a period from 1995–96 to 2001–02 during which labour force growth was relatively subdued compared to growth in the state's population. This indicates that other factors, such as labour force participation and economic growth, were also impacting on labour force growth over this time.

Population continued

POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE GROWTH: **Original**

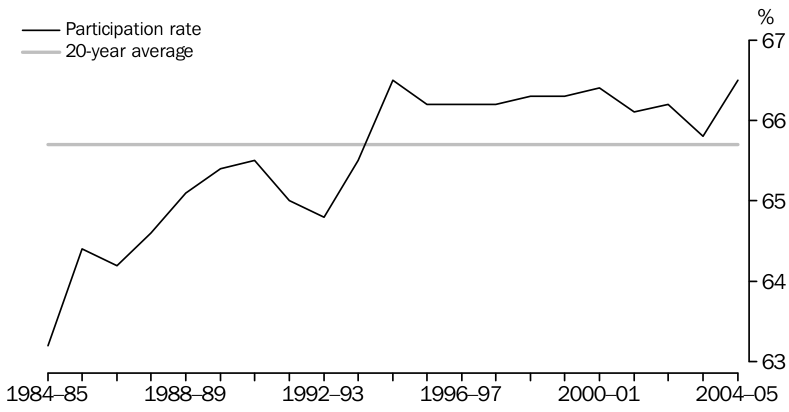


Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Participation

Participation forms the link between population and labour force growth, and is measured by the *participation rate*, which is defined as the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. An increase in population will only increase the size of the labour force if those people participate. Despite a decline in the early 1990s, Western Australia's participation rate generally followed an upward trend for the ten years from 1984–85 to 1994–95, increasing from 63.2% in 1984–85 to a record high of 66.5% in 1994–95. Since then, however, the state's participation rate has generally followed a downward trend, declining over the last decade to a low of 65.8% in 2003–04. This period of decline coincided with a period of slow labour force growth.

PARTICIPATION RATE: **Original**



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

In 2004–05, Western Australia's participation rate rose sharply to a ten-year high of 66.5% which, combined with the peak in population growth in the same year, drove growth in the state's labour force to its highest level in 20 years. Improved job opportunities and employment conditions as a result of strong labour demand, appears to have encouraged more people, particularly those marginally attached to the labour force, to participate.

Economic growth

In addition to population growth and changes in the participation rate, growth in the labour force is also influenced by economic growth. Generally, periods of robust economic activity will stimulate the labour market, leading to the creation of new jobs, increased demand for labour, high rates of employment and labour force growth. Movements in employment usually follow movements in economic growth, and this has been the case in Western Australia for the past 16 years. Western Australia has enjoyed a sustained period of strong economic growth since the early 1990s. As a measure of the state's economic activity, Gross State Product (GSP) increased for all but one year between 1989–90 and 2004–05, with growth peaking in 1994–95 (7.8%), 1997–98 (6.0%) and 2003–04 (8.1%). In response, employment growth peaked in 1994–95 (4.8%), 1997–98 (2.9%) and 2004–05 (4.2%). The most recent peak in employment growth in 2004–05 would have contributed to the rise in labour force growth in that year, as a result of the combined effect of historically high growth in population, labour force participation and the economy.

ECONOMIC(a) AND EMPLOYMENT(b) GROWTH

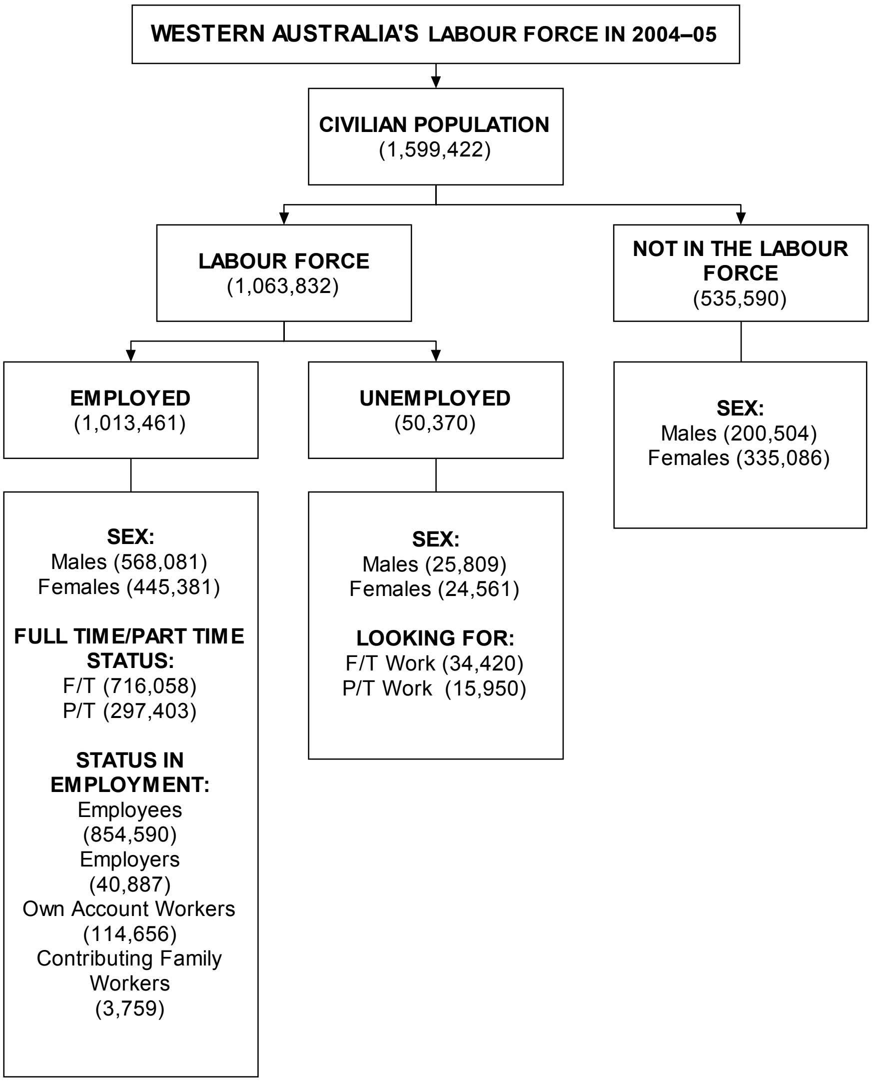
(a) Gross State Product, chain volume measures.
(b) Number of employed persons.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

CHANGES IN LABOUR FORCE COMPOSITION

Labour force composition refers to the characteristics of the labour force, including employed and unemployed persons, males and females, full-time and part-time employment, status of employed persons and the breakdown of the labour force by age groups, industries and occupations. These changes can be analysed using data collected by the monthly Labour Force Survey and supplementary surveys, which contain a series of questions to classify the population according to the framework presented in the diagram below.

CHANGES IN LABOUR FORCE COMPOSITION *continued*



Employment and unemployment

Persons in the labour force can have a labour force status of employed or unemployed. In Western Australia, the number of employed persons has increased by 66.7% over the past 20 years, rising to a peak of 1,013,461 persons in 2004–05. Over this period, the proportion of employed persons in the labour force increased from 91.3% in 1984–85 to 95.3% in 2004–05. Growth in the number of employed persons in the state has not, however, remained steady over the past two decades, ranging from a fall of 4,918 persons in 1990–91 to a rise of 40,765 persons in 2004–05.

After recovering from a period of sharp decline during the recession of the early 1990s, employment growth again declined to a low of 10,529 persons in 2001–02. Since then, however, annual growth in the number of employed persons in Western Australia has averaged 26,738 persons, well above the 20-year average of 20,276 persons. In 2004–05, employment growth peaked at 40,765 persons, aided by increased participation in the labour force.

Employment and unemployment *continued*

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH: **Original**

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

In contrast to the increase in the number of employed persons in Western Australia over the past 20 years, the number of unemployed persons decreased to total 50,371 persons in 2004–05. The state's unemployment rate, which measures the proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force, has generally been in decline since peaking at 10.7% in 1991–92. In 2004–05, the unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level on record (4.7%) after declining from 6.6% in 2001–02.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: **Original**

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

Underutilised labour

The extent to which the labour supply is used is important economically and socially. From an economic perspective, interest focuses on the amount of spare capacity in the supply of labour, while socially there is concern that people whose aspirations for work are not being met may suffer financial hardship. The number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate are the most well known measures of the available labour resources not currently utilised in the economy. When measuring labour underutilisation, however, these measures do not tell the whole story. A fuller picture of underutilised labour is obtained by including information about other groups who share labour market characteristics in common with the unemployed.

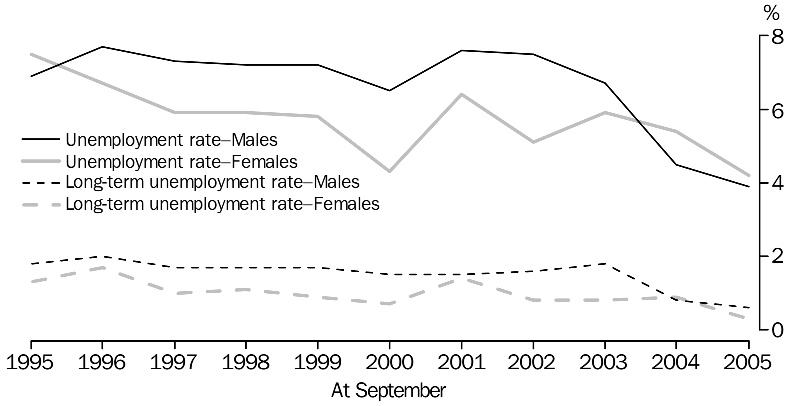
Underutilised labour continued

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed five headcount measures which provide an indication of the proportion of the population affected by labour underutilisation. These are the unemployment rate, the long-term unemployment rate, the underemployment rate, the labour force underutilisation rate and the extended labour force underutilisation rate.

The past decade has seen significant improvements in all of these measures for Western Australia. Similar to other labour market indicators, much of this improvement has occurred in the last five years, reflecting the strength of demand for labour during a period of robust economic growth.

The *long-term unemployment rate* is the number of long-term unemployed persons as a proportion of the labour force. Long-term unemployed persons are those who have been unemployed for at least one year. Over the past decade, the number of long-term unemployed persons in Western Australia fell from 14,200 persons in September 1995 to 4,700 persons in September 2005.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



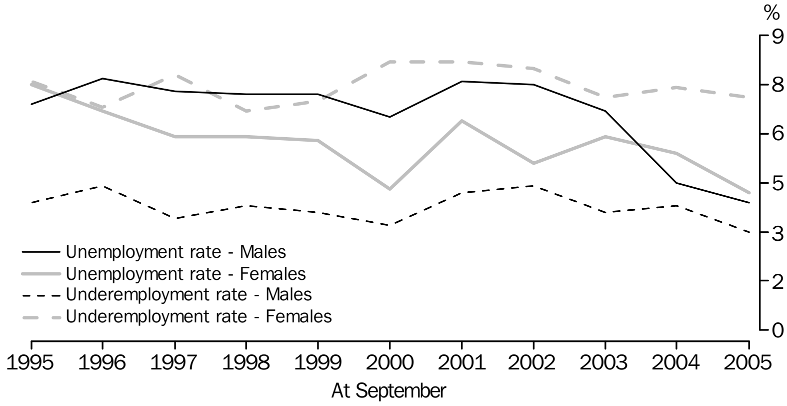
Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0.

Movements in the long-term unemployment rate in Western Australia have generally reflected movements in the unemployment rate over the past ten years. Between September 1995 and September 2005, the state's long-term unemployment rate fell from 1.6% to 0.4%, while the unemployment rate fell from 7.2% to 4.0%.

The *underemployment rate* represents the number of underemployed workers as a proportion of the labour force. Underemployed workers include part-time workers (aged 15 years and over) who want more hours of work than they currently have and are available to start work within a four week period; and full-time workers who for economic reasons worked less than 35 hours per week in the reference week of the labour force survey.

Underutilised labour continued

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES



Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0.

In September 2005, there were 53,000 workers in Western Australia who were underemployed, representing 5.0% of all employed persons. Like the unemployment rate, Western Australia's underemployment rate is currently at its lowest point in the last ten years after declining from a high of 6.0% in September 2002 to 4.8% in September 2005. The fall in the underemployment rate since September 2002 has been more gradual for women (1.0 percentage points) than men (1.3 percentage points). Their underemployment rate (7.1%) was more than double the male underemployment rate (3.0%) in September 2005.

Of the 53,000 workers in Western Australia who were underemployed in September 2005, around nine tenths (87.9%) were part-time workers wanting more hours. While part-time work allows greater flexibility for people to balance work with family, education and other non-work commitments, there is concern that many persons employed part-time work fewer hours than they would like.

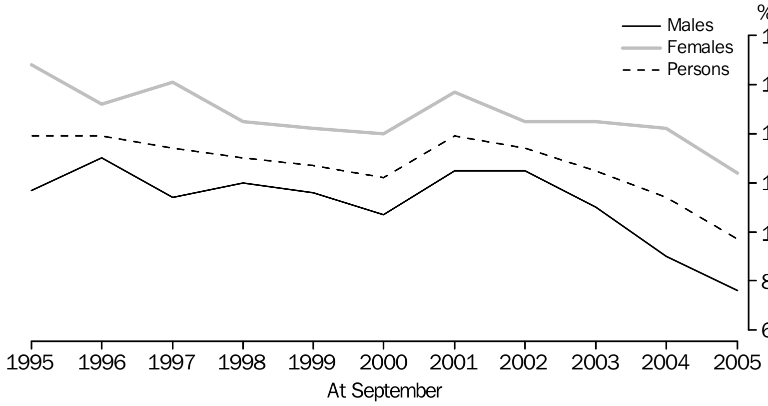
Women and young workers are most likely to be working part-time and wanting more hours. In the August quarter 2005, 64,200 part-time workers (21.2%) in Western Australia wanted more hours of work with almost two thirds (42,600) being women. Over one third (36.0%) of those part-time workers wanting more hours were young people aged 15–24 years.

The *extended labour force underutilisation rate* is the broadest of ABS measures of underutilised labour and is the sum of the unemployed, the underemployed and two groups of people marginally attached to the labour force, as a proportion of the labour force augmented by those two groups. The two groups of marginally attached people are:

- people actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start within four weeks; and
- discouraged jobseekers or persons who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but were not actively looking for work.

Underutilised labour continued

EXTENDED LABOUR FORCE UNDERTILSATION RATES



Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0.

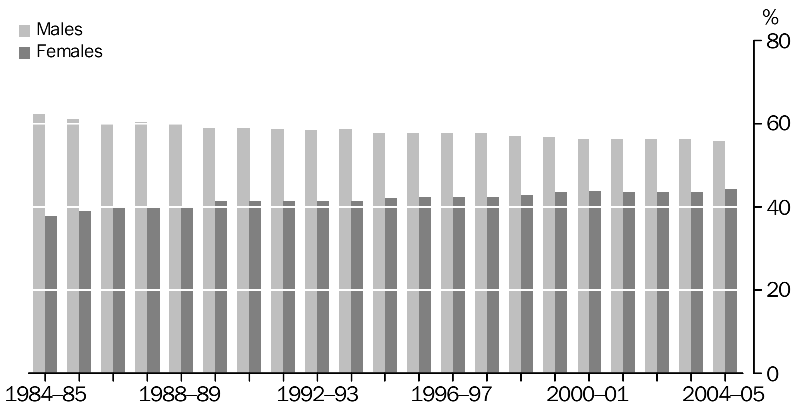
In September 2005, there were 80,600 people marginally attached to the labour force in Western Australia, 68.7% of whom were women. About one in eight (10,400) people who were marginally attached to the labour force were either discouraged jobseekers or people who were actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start within four weeks.

Western Australia's extended labour force underutilisation rate is currently at its lowest point in the past decade, having declined from 13.9% in September 1995 to 9.7% in September 2005. Despite a slightly larger improvement for females (4.5 percentage points) than for males (4.1 percentage points) over this period, the extended underutilisation rate in September 2005 remained significantly higher for women (12.4%) than men (7.6%).

Men and women in the labour force

Changing attitudes to women's roles and the general acceptance of women in the labour force are reflected in significant changes in the proportions of men and women in Western Australia's labour force over the past 20 years. Between 1984–85 and 2004–05, the proportion of women in the state's labour force increased from 37.9% to 44.2%. An average of 10,872 women entered the labour force each year over this period, compared to an average of 9,015 men.

LABOUR FORCE, Proportions of Males and Females

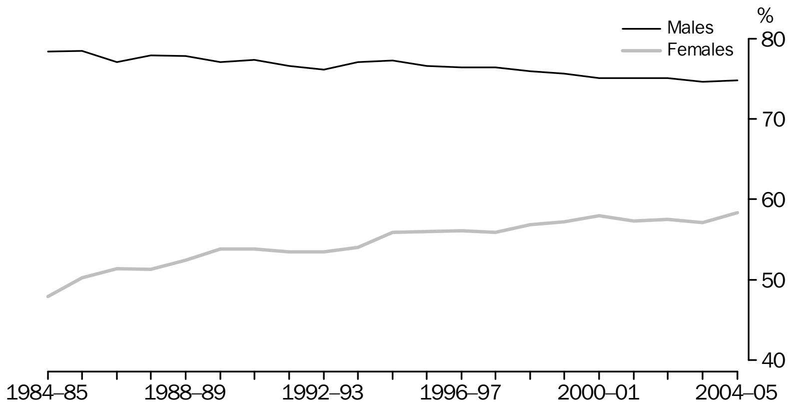


Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Men and women in the labour force continued

Greater opportunities have emerged over the past 20 years for women to participate in the labour force, with changes to family formation, child bearing and fertility patterns, increasing availability of child care services, improved educational opportunities and greater flexibility in working arrangements, notably the increasing incidence of part-time and casual employment. As a result of these changes, the participation rate for women in the Western Australian labour force increased from 47.9% in 1984–85 to 58.4% in 2004–05. In contrast, the participation rate for men declined from 78.4% to 74.8% over the same period. In 2004–05, the participation rate for women rose by 1.3 percentage points, the largest annual increase in the last ten years.

PARTICIPATION RATE: **Original**



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

As a result of the increased participation of women in the labour force, the number of women employed has increased substantially over the past 20 years. Since 1984–85, the number of women employed in Western Australia has almost doubled, increasing by 94.2% to reach 445,381 in 2004–05. The number of men employed in the state increased by 50.1% over the same period to reach 568,081 in 2004–05. The larger increase in the number of women employed saw women as a proportion of total employed persons rise from 37.7% in 1984–85 to 43.9% in 2004–05.

A slight rise in the number of women who are unemployed in Western Australia over the past two decades can also be attributed to the increased participation of women in the labour force, as persons in the labour force can be employed or unemployed. The number of unemployed women in the state increased by 6.2% from 1984–85 to 24,561 in 2004–05. In contrast, the number of unemployed men declined by 26.3% over the same period to 25,809 in 2004–05.

Men and women in the labour force continued

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: **Original**

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

Despite the increase in the number of unemployed women, the unemployment rate for women has been lower than that for men for much of the past 20 years. The unemployment rate for men first overtook that for women during the recession of the early 1990s, which may reflect a propensity for women to exit the labour market rather than remain unemployed when jobs become harder to find. The unemployment rate for men remained higher throughout the 1990s, before recently dropping below the unemployment rate for women in 2003–04. The unemployment rate for women increased by 0.7 percentage points in that year, the largest annual increase since 1991–92 (1.3 percentage points). This rise, coupled with the recent large increase in the participation rate for women, provides more evidence that some marginally attached persons who are more likely to be women, may have been encouraged to enter the labour force.

Prior to the 1970s, pay rates for women in Australia were set as a proportion of the adult male basic wage. This changed with a decision in 1972 granting equal pay for equal work, which paved the way for a reduction in the gender wage gap between men and women. Since then the increased participation of women in the labour force, as a result of greater opportunities, has also contributed to reducing the gender wage gap.

A comparison of the earnings of men and women can be affected by compositional differences, such as the number of hours worked, between male and female labour forces. One way of standardising for these compositional differences is to select a subset of employed men and women with similar earnings-sensitive labour force characteristics. Therefore, the measure used in this article to examine the gender wage gap in Western Australia is average hourly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult non-managerial employees.

Men and women in the labour force continued

FEMALE TO MALE EARNINGS RATIO, Full-time adult non-managerial employees

Source: Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, cat. no. 6306.0.

In 2004, the ratio of female to male average hourly ordinary time earnings for full-time adult non-managerial employees was 0.88. In other words, female earnings were 88.0% of male earnings, resulting in a gender wage gap of 12.0%. Among full-time adult non-managerial employees in 2004, females recorded average hourly ordinary time earnings of $21.07 compared to $24.08 for males. The female to male earnings ratio rose from a low of 0.84 in 1996 to reach a record high of 0.93 in 2000, reflecting the faster growth of female earnings over this period. Between 1996 and 2000 female earnings rose by an annual average of 5.1%, double the average annual growth of 2.5% for males.

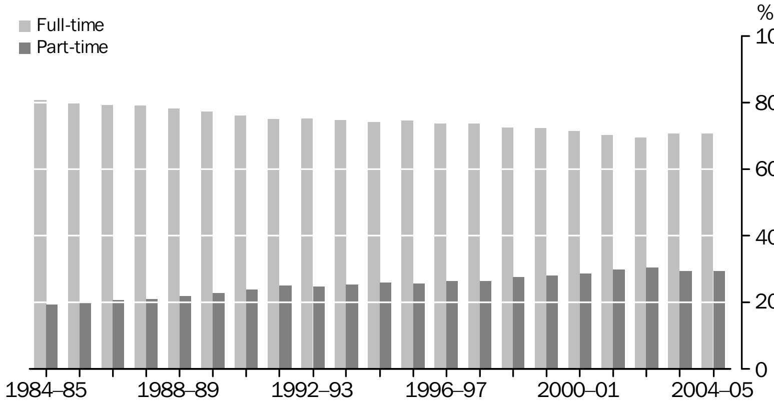
Despite the narrowing of the gender wage gap since the 1970s, women in Western Australia in 2004 were still earning less than men. Much of this discrepancy can be explained by the differences in earnings between the industries and occupations in which men and women are traditionally employed.

Full-time and part-time employment

The desire by employers to achieve greater flexibility in their workforces and gain cost advantages, as well as increasing participation in further education and greater participation by women in the labour force, have seen a trend towards the increasing use of part-time workers over the past 20 years. Between 1984–85 and 2004–05, the number of part-time workers (those working less than 35 hours per week) in Western Australia more than doubled, rising by 152.7% to reach 297,403 persons. In comparison, the number of full-time workers (those working 35 hours or more per week) rose by 46.1% over the same period to reach 716,058 persons. As a result of the strong growth in part-time employment over the past two decades, the proportion of part-time workers in the state increased from 19.4% in 1984–85 to 29.3% in 2004–05. Almost one third of employed persons in Western Australia are now employed part-time.

Full-time and part-time employment continued

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Proportions employed Full-time and Part-time



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

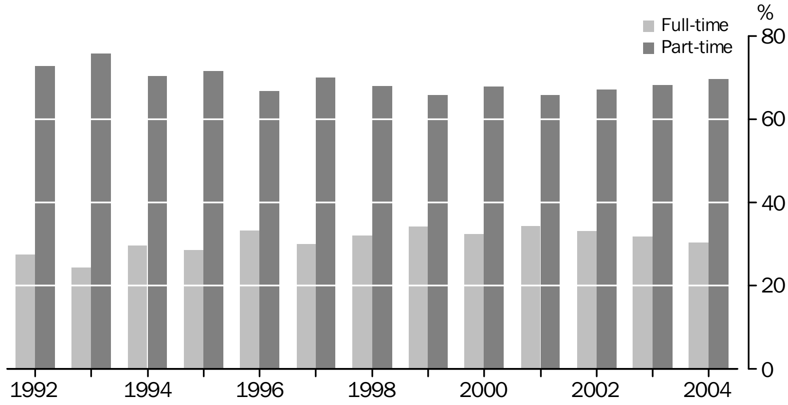
The significant growth in part-time employment in Western Australia over the past 20 years has been associated with the increasing casualisation of the state's labour force, and there is a strong link between working part-time hours and working on a casual basis. Casual employees can be defined as employees who are not entitled to either paid holiday or paid sick leave in their main job. Compared to permanent employees (those who are entitled to paid holiday and paid sick leave), casual employees tend to be younger and less well educated, more likely to have higher levels of variable hours and more than one job, and tend to be employed in industries and occupations that offer jobs which are part-time and which require lower levels of skill. These types of jobs attract younger workers who want to combine work with study and women who want to combine work and family responsibilities.

Between 1992 and 2004, the number of persons employed on a casual basis in Western Australia increased by 69.0%, more than three times the rate of increase in the number of persons employed on a permanent basis (19.3%). An average of 6,396 casuals were added to the state's labour force each year over this period. Consequently, the proportion of casual workers rose from 15.1% in 1992 to 19.7% in 2004.

The strong link between working part-time hours and working on a casual basis is supported by the large proportion of casual employees who work part-time. Over the past 12 years, the proportion of casual employees who work part-time has fluctuated between 65.7% and 75.7%, or between approximately two thirds and three quarters of the casual workforce. However, growth in the number of casual employees who work full-time has been stronger over this period, rising by 87.7% compared to growth of 61.9% in the number of part-time casuals. As a result, the proportion of full-time casuals increased from 27.4% in 1992 to 30.4% in 2004.

Full-time and part-time employment continued

CASUAL EMPLOYEES, Proportions employed Full-time and Part-time



Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0.

The proportion of casual employees working part-time rose sharply from 65.7% in 2001 to 69.6% in 2004, suggesting that employers are utilising more flexible employment options to meet their labour needs.

Ageing of the labour force

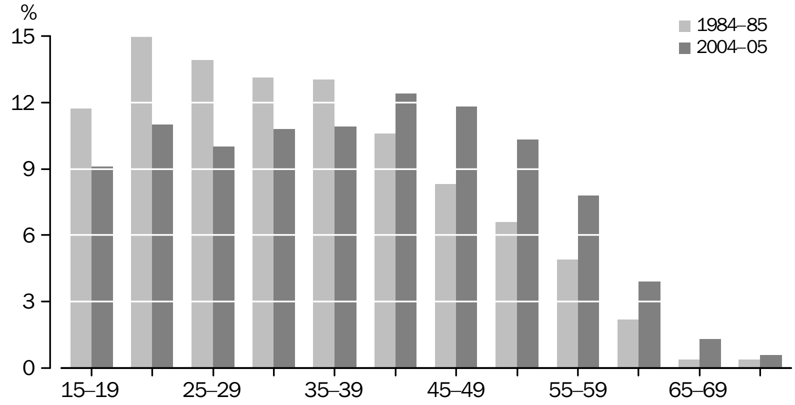
Western Australia's population is ageing, as is the rest of the nation, as a result of long-term declines in fertility and increasing life expectancy. Over the past 20 years, the median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of the state's population increased by 6.4 years, from 29.8 years at 30 June 1985 to 36.2 years at 30 June 2005. The age structure of the population has shifted as the average number of births per woman and the incidence of death in all age groups have declined, which has resulted in smaller proportions of the population at younger ages and larger proportions at older ages. The changing age structure of the population, and in particular the working age population, has significant implications for the supply of labour now and into the future.

Population ageing constrains growth in the labour force, which has been likened to a leaky tub being filled by a hose (Productivity Commission 2004). Retirement and other moves out of the labour force deplete it, while it is being replenished mainly by new young recruits and women re-entering the labour force after childbirth. The ageing of the population has significant effects on these flows by increasing outflows due to retirement, while stemming inflows of new young workers. The major impact of population ageing on the labour force is to reduce labour force participation rates, as more people move into age groups that have lower involvement in the labour force.

The ageing of the Western Australian population over the past 20 years has resulted in significant changes in the age structure of the labour force. Growth has been very strong in those age groups aged 40 years and over, which has resulted in the proportion of the labour force aged 40 years and over rising from 33.3% in 1984–85 to 48.2% in 2004–05. Driving growth in the proportion of the labour force aged 40 years and over were large increases in the numbers of people in age groups aged 45 years and over, all of which more than doubled between 1984–85 and 2004–05. The largest growth was recorded for the age groups 65–69 years (up 401.1%), 60–64 years (up 187.7%) and 55–59 years (up 157.1%). Growth among the age groups aged 15–39 years ranged from 15.0% for those aged 25–29 years to 33.4% for those aged 35–39 years.

Ageing of the labour force continued

LABOUR FORCE, Proportions by age groups



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

As the labour force ages and more people move into older age groups, the rate of retirement from the labour force increases. In Western Australia, the proportion of the labour force aged 45 years and over rose from 22.8% in 1984–85 to 35.8% in 2004–05. However, growth in the proportion of mature age workers slowed in 2004–05, suggesting an increase in persons aged 45 years and over retiring from the labour force. This is further supported by a rise in the proportion of persons aged 45 years and over not in the labour force in that year.

Since 2001–02, the number of persons aged 45 years and over not in Western Australia's labour force has risen by 15,186 (4.6%) to reach 344,424 persons in 2004–05. Almost all of these mature age persons not in the state's labour force were not looking for work or unable to work (99.1%). Of those persons not looking for work or unable to work in 2004–05, 43.3% were permanently not intending to work. This proportion, which provides an indication of permanent loss or retirement from the labour force, has increased steadily from 37.7% in 2001–02.

Industries and occupations

The industry and occupation employment structure of the Western Australian labour market has remained relatively constant over the past decade, and those industries and occupations that were the largest employers in the state in the mid-1990s remain the largest employers today. Despite this stability, several trends emerged over the period to impact on the growth of certain types of industries and occupations.

In 2004–05, the largest employing industries in Western Australia in terms of share of total employed persons were Retail trade (15.1%), Property and business services (11.8%), Health and community services (9.7%), Manufacturing (9.5%) and Construction (9.1%). These five industries together employed over half (55.2%) the state's workers.

The past decade has seen a slight move away from employment in traditional goods-producing industries towards greater employment in service industries, associated with increases in the numbers of women and part-time workers in the labour force. Both of these groups are more likely to be employed in service industries.

Between 1994–95 and 2004–05, employment growth in service industries (27.4%) in Western Australia outstripped employment growth in goods-producing industries (18.9%). As a result, the proportion of persons employed in service industries in the state rose from 70.1% to 71.5% over this period. Driving growth in the service industries over

Industries and occupations continued

the past ten years were large increases in employment in Property and business services(up 42,451 persons), Retail trade (up 34,152 persons) and Health and community services (up 24,196 persons).

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND ESTIMATED GROSS INDUSTRY PRODUCT(a)

	INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT				ESTIMATED GROSS INDUSTRY PRODUCT			
	1994–95	*2004–05*	*Change*		*1994–95*	*2004–05*	*Change*	
Industry(b)	no.	no.	no.	%	$m	$m	$m	%
Service industries:								
Property and business services	77 151	119 602	42 451	55.0	4 836	10 992	6 156	127.3
Retail trade	118 553	152 705	34 152	28.8	3 249	5 684	2 436	75.0
Health and community services	74 498	98 693	24 196	32.5	2 761	5 703	2 942	106.6
Education	56 318	70 610	14 292	25.4	1 910	3 141	1 231	64.4
Government administration and defence	30 633	42 271	11 638	38.0	2 307	3 771	1 464	63.4
Personal and other services	33 916	45 481	11 565	34.1	1 033	1 751	717	69.4
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	37 958	43 142	5 184	13.7	800	1 598	798	99.8
Transport and storage	37 859	42 560	4 701	12.4	2 338	4 617	2 279	97.4
Cultural and recreational services	18 273	22 612	4 339	23.7	470	970	500	106.3
Communication services	11 684	14 632	2 949	25.2	1 533	2 562	1 029	67.1
Wholesale trade	44 946	46 564	1 619	3.6	2 633	3 974	1 342	51.0
Finance and insurance	27 230	26 208	–1 022	–3.8	1 951	3 909	1 957	100.3
Total(c)	*569 017*	*725 079*	*156 062*	*27.4*	*25 821*	*48 671*	*22 851*	*88.5*
Goods producing industries:								
Construction	69 675	92 087	22 412	32.2	3 651	7 065	3 414	93.5
Manufacturing	83 163	96 621	13 457	16.2	5 826	9 417	3 591	61.6
Mining	31 263	42 113	10 850	34.7	9 585	21 582	11 997	125.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	9 652	9 965	313	3.2	1 324	3 090	1 766	133.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	49 179	48 026	–1 153	–2.3	2 742	4 572	1 830	66.7
Total(c)	*242 932*	*288 811*	*45 879*	*18.9*	*23 128*	*45 726*	*22 598*	*97.7*
Western Australia(c)(d)	**811 949**	**1 013 892**	**201 944**	**24.9**	**52 191**	**100 900**	**48 709**	**93.3**

(a) Estimated Gross Industry Product at current prices.
(b) Industries are ranked from highest to lowest based on growth in employment between 1994–95 and 2004–05.
(c) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.
(d) Includes the principal components Ownership of dwellings and General government not shown in the table.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0; *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

Despite greater employment growth in service industries in Western Australia over the past ten years, goods-producing industries recorded stronger growth in estimated gross industry product, rising by 97.7% between 1994–95 and 2004–05, compared to 88.5% for service industries. Much of this growth occurred in 2004–05, when estimated gross industry product for goods-producing industries rose by $5,670 million, the largest annual increase in the past decade and more than double the average annual increase of $2,260 million over this period. Almost all of this recent growth was attributable to Mining and Construction, which recorded increases in estimated gross industry product of $4,790 million and $683 million respectively in 2004–05, aided by the resources boom and buoyant housing market in the state.

The five largest employing occupations in Western Australia in 2004–05 in terms of share of total employed persons were Professionals (17.2%), Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (15.8%), Tradespersons and related workers (13.9%), Associate professionals (12.9%) and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers (9.8%).

Industries and occupations continued

Together, these occupations employed more than two thirds (69.6%) of workers in the state.

Changes in the industry structure of the Western Australian labour market over the past decade appear to have contributed to a rise in the importance attached to skills. While the proportions of persons employed in skilled and unskilled occupations were almost equal in 1996–97 (49.4% and 50.6% respectively), the faster growth in skilled employment since then has seen the proportion of persons employed in skilled occupations rise to 52.3% in 2004–05.

OCCUPATION EMPLOYMENT

	1996–97	2004–05	Change	
Occupation(a)	no.	no.	no.	%
Skilled occupations:				
Professionals	132 044	174 000	41 956	31.8
Associate professionals	93 980	131 084	37 105	39.5
Managers and administrators	58 383	84 076	25 694	44.0
Tradespersons and related workers	134 291	140 611	6 320	4.7
Total(b)	*418 697*	*529 771*	*111 074*	*26.5*
Unskilled occupations:				
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	127 171	160 144	32 974	25.9
Intermediate production and transport workers	80 265	91 546	11 281	14.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	89 798	99 356	9 558	10.6
Labourers and related workers	89 141	92 938	3 797	4.3
Advanced clerical and service workers	42 769	40 136	–2 633	–6.2
Total(b)	*429 144*	*484 120*	*54 976*	*12.8*
Western Australia	**847 841**	**1 013 892**	**166 051**	**19.6**

(a) Occupations are ranked from highest to lowest based on growth in employment between 1996–97 and 2004–05.
(b) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.
Source: Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0.

Strong demand for skilled workers has led to a sharp rise in employment in skilled occupations. In 2004–05, the number of persons employed in skilled occupations rose by 26,963 – the largest annual increase in the last eight years and almost double the average annual growth of 13,884 persons over this period.

Status of employed persons

Status of employed persons refers to the classification of workers as employees, employers, own account workers and contributing family workers (not considered in this article). An *employee* is a person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration from their employer while working, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees. An *employer* is a person who operates their own unincorporated enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees. An *own account worker* is a person who operates his or her own unincorporated enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

The status of employed persons in Western Australia has remained relatively stable over the past 20 years, with the majority of workers in the state being employees. Between 1985–86 and 2004–05, the proportions of employees and own account workers both rose slightly, from 82.1% to 84.3% and from 11.0% to 11.3% respectively. Growth in the

Status of employed persons continued

number of own account workers kept pace with growth in the number of employees over the period, increasing by 61.4% and 61.6% respectively. The number of employers increased marginally by 0.1%.

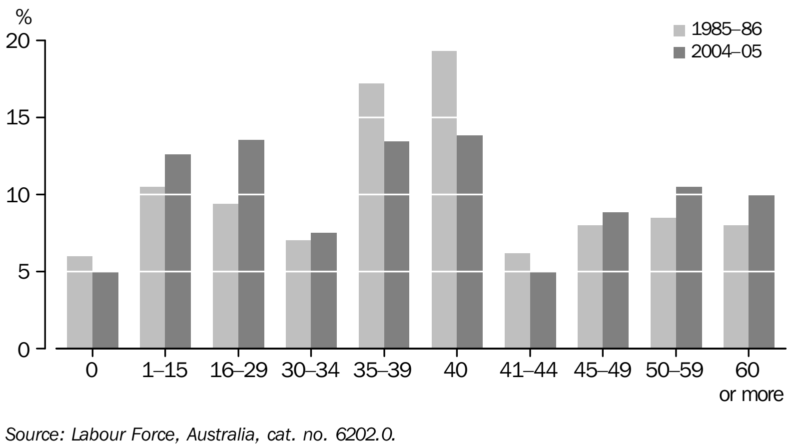
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH, By status of employed persons

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

Growth in all three types of workers in the state accelerated in 2004–05, with the number of employees rising by 3.9% and the number of own account workers by 4.1%, well above the 19-year average annual growth rate for both of 2.6%. The number of employers recorded an even sharper rise, increasing by 12.1%, sixty times the 19-year average annual growth of 0.2% and the largest annual growth in the past two decades. Some of those self-employed tradespersons classified as own account workers may have been encouraged to hire one or more employees to take advantage of the high level of activity in the state's housing market, resulting in a change in their classification to employer.

Traditionally, most employed persons in Western Australia have worked 35–44 hours per week, reflecting the prevalence of full-time employees in the labour force. Over the past 20 years, however, there has been a shift away from these traditional working hours and a move towards both shorter and longer working hours, resulting in greater proportions of employed persons working less than 35 hours per week and 45 hours or more per week.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Proportions by hours worked categories



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

Status of employed persons continued

Between 1985–86 and 2004–05, the proportion of employed persons working 35–44 hours per week fell from 42.6% to 32.1%, while the proportion of employed persons working 45 hours or more per week rose from 24.5% to 29.3%. Driving growth in longer working hours over this period were large increases in the numbers of employed persons working 60 hours or more (96.8%) and 50–59 hours (94.2%) per week, both of which almost doubled. The apparent mismatch between strong growth in the number of employees (61.6%) and a fall in the proportion of employed persons working 35–44 hours per week between 1985–86 and 2004–05 indicates that more employees are now working either longer hours as employers increase their utilisation of existing workers in the face of labour shortages, or shorter hours associated with the trend towards part-time work.

The increasing use of part-time workers in Western Australia over the past two decades has seen the proportion of employed persons working 1–34 hours per week (part-time hours) overtake the proportion of employed persons working 35–44 hours per week. Between 1985–86 and 2004–05, the proportion of employed persons working 1–34 hours per week rose from 26.9% to 33.6%, greater than the 32.1% proportion of employed persons working 35–44 hours per week in 2004–05. Driving growth in the proportion of employed persons working part-time hours were significant increases in the number of employed persons working 16–29 hours (126.8%) and 1–15 hours (89.5%) per week. In fact, the number of employed persons working 16–29 hours per week recorded the largest growth of all hours worked categories over that time.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LABOUR FORCE

The past five years have seen considerable change in the geographic distribution of Western Australia's labour force, with much of this change reflecting broader population trends. The largest increases in labour force in the state occurred in regions within the Perth metropolitan area, while the largest declines were experienced by rural and remote regions.

Nine of the ten Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in Western Australia that recorded large labour force growth between 2000–01 and 2004–05 were located in the metropolitan area, in regions where new residential construction was still occurring. The city of Swan recorded the largest increase of 7,872 persons, followed by Bayswater (6,929 persons) and Rockingham (5,471 persons). Part of the increase for Bayswater was due to a change in the boundary of Stirling–South Eastern during the period, which resulted in the suburb of Maylands becoming part of Bayswater. The city of Mandurah was the only non-metropolitan SLA to feature in the top ten largest increases in labour force, recording growth of 2,411 persons, mainly attributable to the coastal lifestyle and new housing affordability benefits it offers.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LABOUR FORCE *continued*

LARGEST INCREASES IN LABOUR FORCE, By SLA

	Change in labour force 2000–01 to 2004–05	
SLA name	no.	%
Swan (C)	7 872	20.8
Bayswater (C)(a)	6 929	27.2
Rockingham (C)	5 471	17.4
Joondalup (C)–North	5 154	22.3
Gosnells (C)	4 450	10.3
Cockburn (C)	4 363	12.4
Wanneroo (C)–North-West	4 024	43.3
Canning (C)	3 754	9.2
Wanneroo (C)–North-East	2 923	32.4
Mandurah (C)	2 411	12.4

(a) A change in the boundary of Stirling (C)–South-Eastern during the period resulted in the suburb of Maylands being removed from that SLA and moved into Bayswater (C).

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The fastest labour force growth rates between 2000–01 and 2004–05 were mainly recorded by rural and remote regions. Wanneroo–North West and Wanneroo–North-East were the only metropolitan SLAs to feature in the top ten fastest growing regions in terms of labour force, recording growth of 43.3% and 32.4% respectively. Gingin recorded the fastest growth in labour force over the period, rising by 54.8%, followed by Toodyay (49.5%) and Murchison (47.0%). The rapid labour force growth in Gingin and Toodyay has been associated with people moving out of urban areas to a semi-rural lifestyle. Increases in areas with large Indigenous populations such as Ngaanyatjarraku (35.8%) may be related to participation in Community Development Employment Projects.

FASTEST INCREASES IN LABOUR FORCE, By SLA

	Change in labour force 2000–01 to 2004–05	
SLA name	%	no.
Gingin (S)	54.8	748
Toodyay (S)	49.5	698
Murchison (S)	47.0	31
Irwin (S)	44.6	474
Wanneroo (C)–North-West	43.3	4 024
Chapman Valley (S)	37.6	158
Chittering (S)	37.4	420
Ngaanyatjarraku (S)	35.8	202
Dalwallinu (S)	33.7	294
Wanneroo (C)–North-East	32.4	2 923

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LABOUR FORCE *continued*

Many of the largest declines in labour force between 2000–01 and 2004–05 were recorded by rural and remote regions of Western Australia. Among the rural and remote regions, Ashburton recorded the largest decline of 1,186 persons, followed by Leonora(1,022 persons), East Pilbara (878 persons) and Coolgardie (762 persons). Declines in these mining regions may be associated with workers residing outside the region when not working. In the metropolitan area, Stirling–South Eastern recorded the largest decline in labour force, falling by 6,326 persons, followed by Stirling–Central (2,294 persons), Joondalup–South (960 persons) and Melville (856 persons). Part of the decrease for Stirling–South Eastern was due to the boundary change that resulted in Maylands becoming part of Bayswater.

LARGEST DECREASES IN LABOUR FORCE, By SLA

	Change in labour force 2000–01 to 2004–05	
SLA name	no.	%
Stirling (C)–South-Eastern(a)	–6 326	–41.1
Stirling (C)–Central	–2 294	–4.1
Ashburton (S)	–1 186	–24.6
Leonora (S)	–1 022	–41.8
Joondalup (C)–South	–960	–1.4
East Pilbara (S)	–878	–19.5
Melville (C)	–856	–1.6
Coolgardie (S)	–762	–24.4
Meekatharra (S)	–710	–44.7
Collie (S)	–708	–13.9

(a) A change in the boundary of Stirling (C)–South-Eastern during the period resulted in the suburb of Maylands being removed from that SLA and moved into Bayswater (C).

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The ten SLAs recording the fastest declines in labour force from 2000–01 to 2004–05 were almost all located in rural and remote regions of Western Australia, where falls ranged from 28.1% in Menzies to 60.3% in Sandstone.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LABOUR FORCE *continued*

FASTEST DECREASES IN LABOUR FORCE, By SLA

	Change in labour force 2000–01 to 2004–05	
SLA name	%	no.
Sandstone (S)	–60.3	–144
Wiluna (S)	–53.9	–655
Cue (S)	–52.5	–251
Meekatharra (S)	–44.7	–710
Leonora (S)	–41.8	–1 022
Stirling (C)–South-Eastern(a)	–41.1	–6 326
Yalgoo (S)	–32.4	–124
Yilgarn (S)	–32.4	–572
Laverton (S)	–28.4	–278
Menzies (S)	–28.1	–87

(a) A change in the boundary of Stirling (C)–South-Eastern during the period resulted in the suburb of Maylands being removed from that SLA and moved into Bayswater (C).

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

REFERENCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002, *The Labour Force*, in Year Book Australia 2002, cat. no. 1301.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003, *Changes in labour force participation across generations*, in Australian Social Trends 2003, cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003, *Underutilised labour*, in Australian Social Trends 2003, cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, *Casual employees*, in Australian Social Trends 2005, cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, *Female/male earnings*, in Australian Social Trends 2005, cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, *Labour force participation in Australia*, in Australian Labour Market Statistics January 2005, cat. no. 6105.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, June 2005, cat. no. 3201.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, *Labour Force, Australia*, February 2006, cat. no. 6202.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, *Persons Not In The Labour Force*, September 2005, cat. no. 6220.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, *Underutilised Labour*, in Year Book Australia 2006, cat. no. 1301.0, ABS, Canberra.

Productivity Commission 2004, *Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia*, Draft Research Report, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Treasury 1999, *Factors Influencing Medium-Term Employment Growth*, in Economic Roundup Winter 1999, Australian Government, Canberra.

FEATURE ARTICLE 2

SELECTED STATISTICS FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

There have been significant improvements in the range, quality and availability of statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians over the past decade, and the ABS continues to increase the breadth and quality of its outputs for this population.

The ABS undertakes ongoing liaison and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, organisations and users of Indigenous data. This consultation informs the ABS of existing and emerging priorities and supports the development of strategic directions. Such directions will be articulated in the publication, *Strategic Directions in Indigenous Statistics* (ABS, 2006, forthcoming).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer greater ill-health, are more likely to experience disability and reduced quality of life and to die at younger ages, than other Australians. They are also disadvantaged across a range of socio-economic conditions such as income, employment, educational outcomes and housing.

The following two-part article, summarising results for Western Australia from the *2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey*, and the *2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey*, showcases the expanded data available about Indigenous social conditions and health.

The terms 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians/people' and 'Indigenous Australians/people' are used interchangeably through the article. Both terms are inclusive and refer to all people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin who identify as Indigenous.

The Indigenous population is relatively young, with a median age some 15 years lower than the non-Indigenous population. To account for the difference in age structure, any comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are presented by age group or by using age standardised rates as appropriate.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY, 2002

Background

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) was the second national social survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the ABS. The first, undertaken in 1994, arose out of the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

The 2002 NATSISS included key areas of social concern such as health, education and employment, family and culture, income and housing, and access to information technology. Information was collected from 9,400 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over, including nearly 1,600 in Western Australia (WA). Estimates have been produced at the national and state/territory level and for remote and non-remote areas.

Results from the 2002 NATSISS may be compared with those obtained from the *2002 General Social Survey (GSS)* (cat. no. 4159.0) and the *1994 NATSIS* (cat. no. 4190.0) for some variables. Other recent ABS sources of information on the Indigenous population are the *2001 Census of Population and Housing* (cat. no. 4705.0 and 4713.0) and the *2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey* (cat. no. 4715.0).

Population context

Estimates based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing show that 66,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were usual residents of WA, comprising 3.5% of the state's total population. The majority (67%) lived outside the major urban centre of Perth.

The state's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a young population with a median age of 20.6 years, around 15 years lower than the median age of 35.4 years for non-Indigenous people. This difference relates to the higher fertility rates and lower life expectancy of the Indigenous population.

Language and culture

LANGUAGE

In 2002, over one quarter (27%) of Indigenous people in WA spoke an Indigenous language. This was a higher proportion than at the national level (21%) due in part to a greater share of this state's Indigenous population living in remote areas (47% compared with 27% nationally) where an ability to speak an Indigenous language is more common. Half (50%) the Western Australian Indigenous population living in remote areas spoke an Indigenous language.

Around one in eight Indigenous people in WA (12%) reported that the main language spoken at home was an Indigenous language, with this figure rising to one in four (24%) in remote areas. Indigenous people aged 25–44 years were twice as likely, and those aged 45 years and over nearly four times as likely as people aged 15–24 years to speak an Indigenous language as their main language at home.

CULTURE

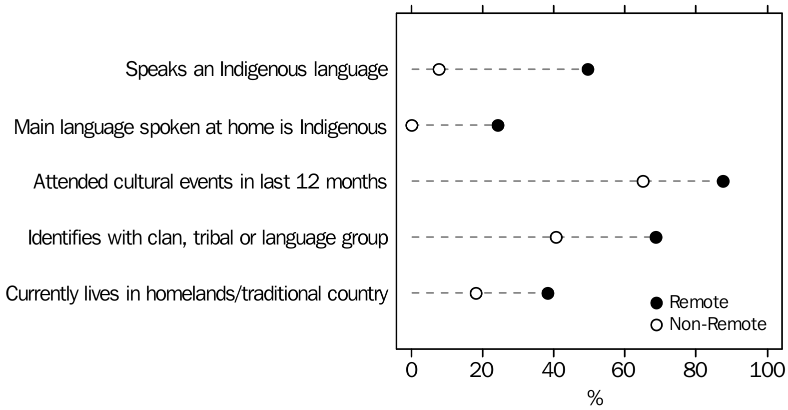
Three quarters (76%) of the Indigenous population in WA reported having attended a cultural event in the last 12 months. The most commonly reported events were funerals (62%) and festivals or carnivals involving arts, crafts, music or dance and sport (49%). In remote areas of the state, almost nine out of ten Indigenous people (88%) had attended a cultural event in the last 12 months compared with 65% in non-remote areas.

Language and culture continued

CULTURE *continued*

Over half (54%) of the Indigenous population in WA identified with a clan, tribal or language group and over one quarter (28%) currently lived in their traditional homelands or country. These characteristics were most common among Indigenous people living in remote areas and among those aged 45 years and over.

SELECTED CULTURAL INDICATORS(a), Western Australia



(a) Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over.

Community and family

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

In 2002, 88% of the Indigenous population of WA had been involved in organised social activities in the past 3 months, and nearly half (49%) had participated in organised sport and/or undertaken voluntary work (23%) in the previous year. Nonetheless, Indigenous people were significantly less likely to have been involved in each of these activities than non-Indigenous people.

The large majority of Indigenous people were able to get support in a time of crisis from someone outside their household (89%). However, this was marginally lower than the proportion for non-Indigenous people (95%).

Within the Indigenous population, participation in community activities and access to support were similar for those living in remote and non-remote areas.

STRESSORS

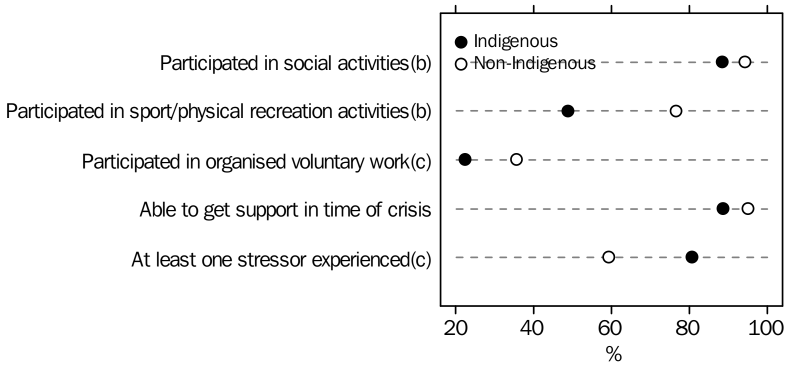
Western Australia's Indigenous population was significantly more likely than the non-Indigenous population to have reported experiencing at least one stressor in the past 12 months (81% compared with 59%). Among Indigenous people, the most frequently reported stressors were the death of a family member or close friend (45%), a member of the family sent to jail or currently in jail (26%) and serious illness or disability (25%).

Community and family continued

STRESSORS *continued*

While neither sex nor remoteness impacted significantly on Indigenous people's experience of stress, age did to some extent. A higher proportion of people aged 25–44 years (84%) reported at least one stressor in the past 12 months than those aged 15–24 years (74%) or 45 years and over (76%).

SELECTED COMMUNITY INDICATORS(a), Western Australia

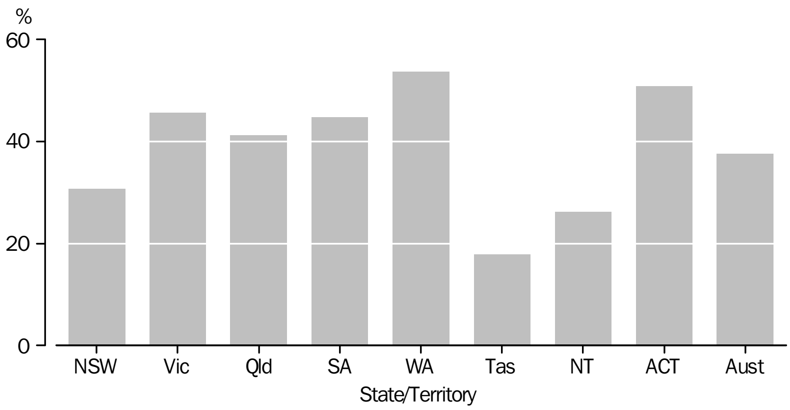


(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
(b) Refers to last 3 months.
(c) Refers to last 12 months.

REMOVAL FROM NATURAL FAMILY

One in ten (10%) Indigenous people in WA had been removed from their natural family and over half (54%) had either been removed or had relatives removed. These rates were higher than those reported by Indigenous people in any other state/territory, and above the national level (8% for individuals and 38% for self and/or relative).

PERSON OR RELATIVE REMOVED FROM NATURAL FAMILY, States and Territories(a)



(a) State/Territory is place of residence of respondent.

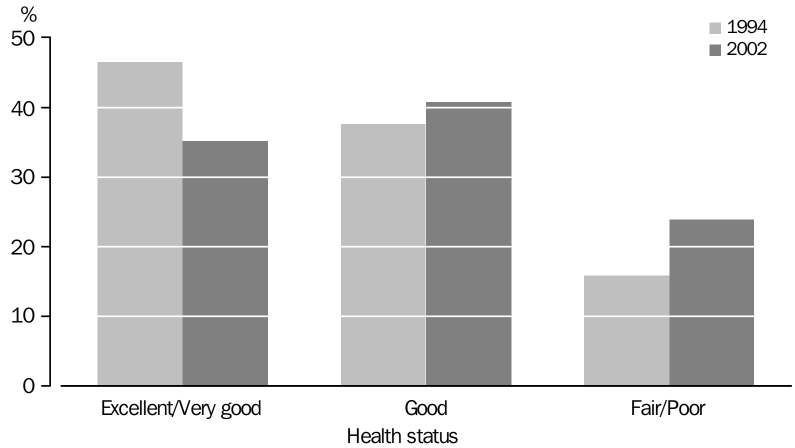
Indigenous people living in non-remote areas of WA were more likely to have been removed or to have had relatives removed from their natural family, than those living in remote areas (60% and 47%, respectively). This was also more common among those aged 25–44 years (57%) and 45 years and over (54%) than for those aged 15–24 years (48%).

Health

HEALTH STATUS

Self-assessed health status provides an indicator of overall health; it reflects an individual's perception of his or her own health. Health status was self-assessed with respondents able to report their health as either 'excellent', 'very good', 'good', 'fair' or 'poor'. In 2002, 35% of Indigenous people in WA rated their health as excellent or very good. This was lower than the 1994 NATSIS result where 47% of Indigenous people in the state rated their health as excellent or very good. Conversely, the proportion rating their health as fair or poor increased from 16% in 1994 to 24% in 2002. Although these shifts are notable they should be viewed with some caution due to the self-reporting nature of the data (for further information see the Explanatory Notes in the publication *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, cat. no. 4714.0).

SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS, Western Australia



The proportion of Indigenous people in WA who reported their health status as excellent or very good in 2002 (35%) was lower than the national level (44%). In contrast, rates of reported fair or poor health status were similar at the WA (24%) and national (23%) level.

SMOKING

Almost half (48%) of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over in WA were current daily smokers in 2002, a proportion not significantly different from the 51% who reported smoking in 1994. Neither sex, nor remoteness, had a significant impact on whether people were current smokers in 2002. However, Indigenous people who were employed were less likely to be current daily smokers than those who were unemployed (38% compared with 69%).

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

In 2002, 28% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over in WA reported no alcohol consumption in the previous 12 months. This was significantly less than the 38% who reported not having drunk alcohol in the 12 months to 1994.

One in six Indigenous people in WA (16%) reported alcohol consumption in the last 12 months that was classified (by National Health & Medical Research Council guidelines) as 'risky/high-risk'. Those living in remote areas were more than twice as likely to have reported consuming at risky/high risk levels than those in non-remote areas (22% compared with 10%). Although Indigenous males were slightly more likely to have

Health continued

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL *continued*

reported consuming alcohol at risky/high risk levels (18%) than were Indigenous females(13%) the difference was not statistically significant.

There was also a slightly higher incidence of risky/high risk consumption reported by people aged 25–44 years (18%) and 45 years and over (16%) than among those aged 15–24 years (11%). The lower reporting by young people may simply reflect the fact that this age group includes people under 18 years for whom alcohol consumption is illegal.

More recent data on self-assessed health status, smoking and alcohol consumption were collected in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Further information on these topics is provided in the companion article which outlines results from this survey.

Education

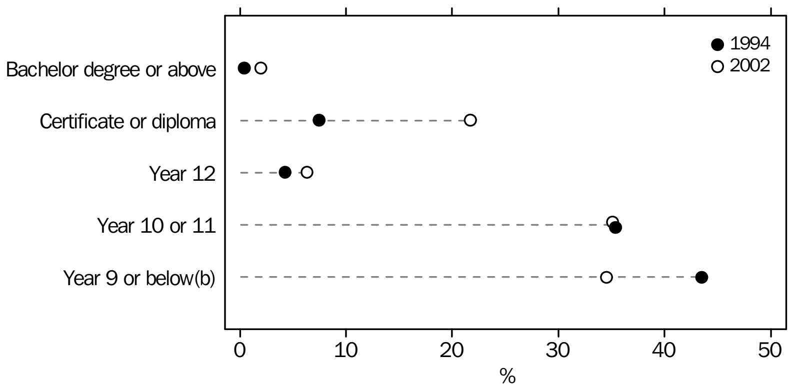
ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Information about attendance at a post school educational institution was collected by NATSISS for the first time in 2002. Estimates indicate that 3% of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over in WA were attending a University or other tertiary institution compared with 7% of the non-Indigenous population. Other post school educational facilities (including TAFE, technical and business college) were being attended by 8% of the Indigenous population and 6% of the non-Indigenous population.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Between 1994 and 2002 there was significant improvement in the educational attainment of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in WA. Over this period, the proportion with a non-school qualification trebled from 8% to 24%. However, the 24% of Indigenous people with a non-school qualification remained well below the 55% recorded for non-Indigenous people.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE(a)(b), Western Australia



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

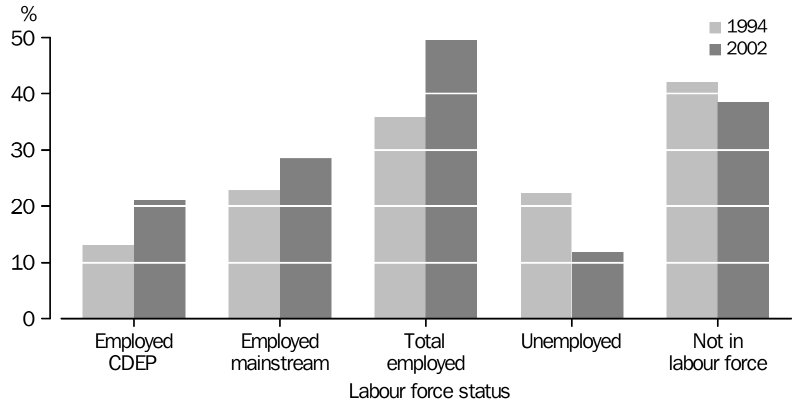
Work

In 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over in WA who were employed was 50%, significantly higher than the 36% recorded in 1994. While the Community Development Employment Projects scheme (CDEP) contributed substantially to employment growth in this period, the proportion of Indigenous people

Work continued

employed in mainstream jobs also rose, from 23% to 29%. At the time of interview the proportion of Indigenous people in WA who were unemployed was considerably less than it had been in 1994, 12% compared with 22%.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE(a), Western Australia



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

A higher proportion of the Indigenous population living in remote (59%) than non-remote areas (41%) of WA were employed in 2002. This can be linked to the important role the CDEP scheme plays in providing employment. In remote areas of WA, 36% of Indigenous people were employed through CDEP compared with 8% in non-remote areas. The comparatively high rate of employment in remote areas of WA may also be one reason for the state having a greater share of its Indigenous people employed (50%) than the national average (46%).

Non-school qualifications had a positive influence on employment outcomes in WA. Seven in ten (71%) of the state's Indigenous population no longer at school with qualifications were employed compared with 43% of those who did not have a qualification.

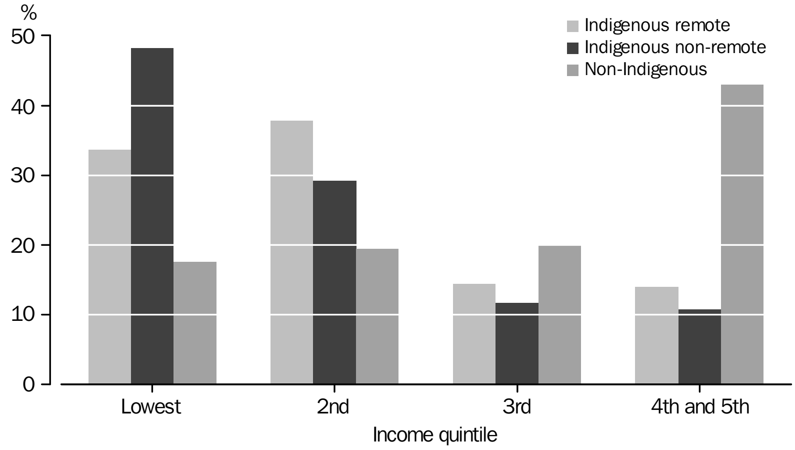
Income

The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous households' incomes in WA remains. In 2002, Indigenous households (with a reference person aged 18 years and over) earned 58% of the gross income of non-Indigenous households ($376 per week compared to $652 per week), on average, after adjusting for differences in household size and composition. Reflecting this, Indigenous Western Australians were over-represented in the lowest and second household income quintiles and under-represented in the third, fourth and highest household income quintiles.

Indigenous people living in remote areas of the state were significantly less likely to be in the lowest income quintile than those living in non-remote areas (33% compared with 48%). They were also less likely to be in the lowest quintile than all Indigenous people living in remote areas of Australia (33% compared with 41%).

Income continued

HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILES, Western Australia



In the eight years to 2002, there was a decline, from 58% to 50%, in the proportion of Indigenous people in WA who reported government pensions and allowances as their main source of personal income.

Housing

TENURE

Around three quarters (77%) of Indigenous people in WA lived in rented accommodation in 2002. This rate has not changed significantly since 1994 (79%). Over this period, however, there was a fall in the proportion renting from the State Housing Authority (54% to 32%) and an increase in the share renting from Indigenous Housing Organisations/Community housing (16% to 23%) and other private rental providers (9% to 22%).

Just under one in five Indigenous people in WA (18%) were living in dwellings either owned or being purchased in 2002. Although up slightly from 14% in 1994, this difference was not statistically significant. While still at a low rate, home ownership (with or without a mortgage) was more common among Indigenous people living in non-remote (25%) than remote areas (11%) of the state.

MOBILITY

While two thirds of Indigenous people in WA had lived in the same dwelling for the 12 months to 2002, 25% had moved once and a further 9% had moved twice or more during that period. Housing-related and family reasons were the most frequently cited reasons for the move(s). Moving house was more common in remote areas of the state (41%) than non-remote areas (27%).

QUALITY OF HOUSING

Based on information obtained from nominated household spokespersons, some 41% of Indigenous people in WA were living in a dwelling which had structural problems (50% in remote areas and 33% in non-remote areas) in 2002. This was despite 61% living in dwellings where repairs and maintenance had been carried out in the previous year (53% in remote areas and 69% in non-remote areas).

Housing continued

QUALITY OF HOUSING *continued*

Overcrowding was prevalent, with 25% of Indigenous people in WA living in a dwelling that required at least one extra bedroom. The incidence of overcrowding was much higher in remote areas (39%) than non-remote areas (13%).

Law and justice

VICTIMISATION

In 2002, more than one quarter (26%) of Indigenous Western Australians reported that they had been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months, double the rate reported in 1994 (13%). The WA rates were similar to those reported nationally (24% in 2002 and 13% in 1994).

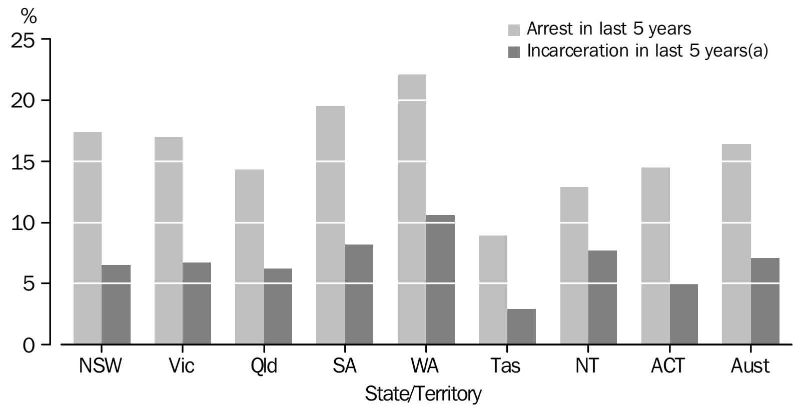
Within WA, rates of victimisation were similar for people living in remote and non-remote areas (27% compared with 25%) and for men and women (again, 27% compared with 25%). However, rates for people aged 15–24 years (32%) were higher than for those aged 25–44 years (29%) and 45 years and over (14%).

After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous persons aged 18 years or over in WA were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to have been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months (21% compared with 10%).

INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Indigenous people in WA continue to have high rates of contact with the criminal justice system and are over-represented in the prison system. In 2002, a higher proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over had been arrested (22% compared with 16%) and/or incarcerated (11% compared with 7%) in the past 5 years than was reported nationally. Arrest and incarceration rates were also higher in WA than in all other states and territories.

ARREST AND INCARCERATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, States and Territories



(a) May include persons held in protective custody.

Males were far more likely than females to report that they had been arrested (33% compared with 13%) and incarcerated (17% compared with 5%) in the last five years. Similarly, unemployed Indigenous people were twice as likely as those currently employed to have been arrested in the last five years (42% unemployed, 19% employed)

Law and justice continued

INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM *continued*

and more than three times as likely to have been incarcerated over the same period(29% unemployed, 8% employed).

End note

The 2002 NATSISS provided a large and rich source of social data about Indigenous people aged 15 years and over at both the national and state/territory level. The first part of this article has provided an overview of the key results for Western Australia.

The ABS plans to conduct a further National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey in 2008. This will provide an opportunity to build on the information collected in 2002 and enable the social circumstances of Indigenous people to continue to be compared across years.

For further information about the 2002 NATSISS or other ABS Indigenous statistical outputs please visit the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au> and under Themes, select Indigenous.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SURVEY, 2004–05

Background

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) collected information relating to health status, long-term health conditions, health actions taken, lifestyle factors which may influence health, and socioeconomic circumstances.

The survey was conducted between August 2004 and July 2005 and builds on information from the Indigenous supplement to the 2001 National Health Survey (NHSI). The NATSIHS was designed to provide comparisons with selected results for the non-Indigenous population from the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS). A number of data items in the NATSIHS were also collected in the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), which was reported in the first part of this article.

The sample size for the 2004–05 NATSIHS was approximately 10,400 Indigenous persons in both remote and non-remote areas throughout Australia. The Western Australian share of the national sample was around 14% or nearly 1,500 people.

This second part of the article summarises selected results from the NATSIHS for Western Australia. Where applicable, data items are compared with national and/or other states' results. For some aspects of health there are also comparisons with the non-Indigenous population.

The Indigenous population is relatively young, with a median age of 20.6 years compared to 35.4 years for the non-Indigenous population. As age is closely associated with health, care should be taken when comparing information for these two populations. To account for differences in the age structure, comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are presented by age group or by using age standardised rates as appropriate.

Health status

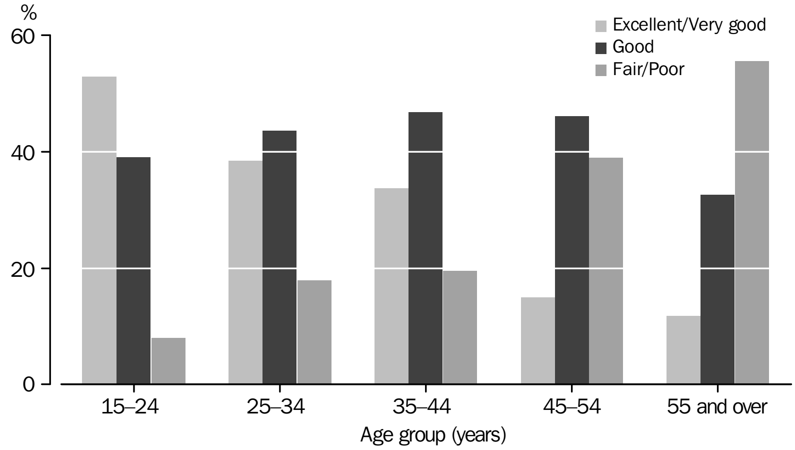
In WA over three quarters (78%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over considered their health to be 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' in 2004–05. This was the same as the national rate in the 2004–05 NATSIHS and similar to that reported for the state in the 2002 NATSISS (76%).

Although the same proportion of Indigenous people in WA assessed their health as 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' as at the national level, there were differences in the distribution of these ratings. In WA a lower proportion rated their health as 'very good' or 'excellent' (36% compared with 43% nationally) and a higher proportion assessed their health as 'good' (42% compared with 35% nationally). 'Fair' or 'poor' health was reported by 22% of Indigenous people in WA and for Australia as a whole.

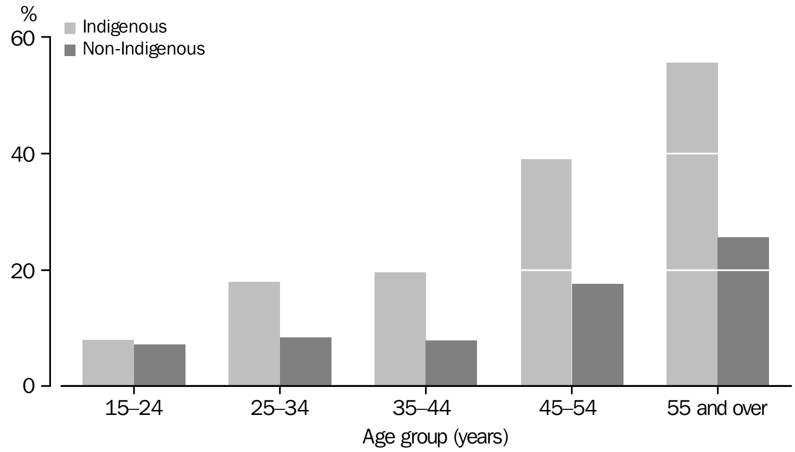
Reflecting the strong relationship between age and health, young Indigenous people (aged 15–24 years) in WA were far less likely to report fair/poor health than were Indigenous people aged 55 years and over (8% compared with 56%). After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous people were nearly twice as likely to report their health as fair or poor.

Health status continued

SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BY AGE, Western Australia



'FAIR/POOR' SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH, Western Australia



While a slightly lower proportion of Indigenous people living in remote areas in WA rated their health as fair/poor (19%) than did those living in non-remote areas (25%), the difference was not statistically significant.

Social and emotional well-being

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information on the social and emotional well-being of Indigenous adults (aged 18 years and over) for the first time. Selected questions from the SF–36 and the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale were used, along with questions about feelings of anger, the impact of psychological distress, stressors and cultural identification. At the national level detailed analytical work is underway to assess their suitability as indicators of well-being for Indigenous people.

In response to questions about positive well-being (from the SF–36), more that half the Western Australian adult Indigenous population reported being happy (72%), calm and peaceful (57%) and/or full of life (55%) all or most of the time, while just under half (47%) said they had a lot of energy all or most of the time. These rates were very similar to the national figures for these response categories.

Social and emotional well-being continued

Responses to questions from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale showed 11% of Indigenous adults in WA reported feeling so sad nothing could cheer them up and 10% were nervous all or most of the time, while 8% said they felt without hope all or most of the time. A higher proportion of Indigenous adults in WA reported feeling restless (13%) and/or that everything was an effort (18%) all or most of the time. All responses related to the four week period prior to interview.

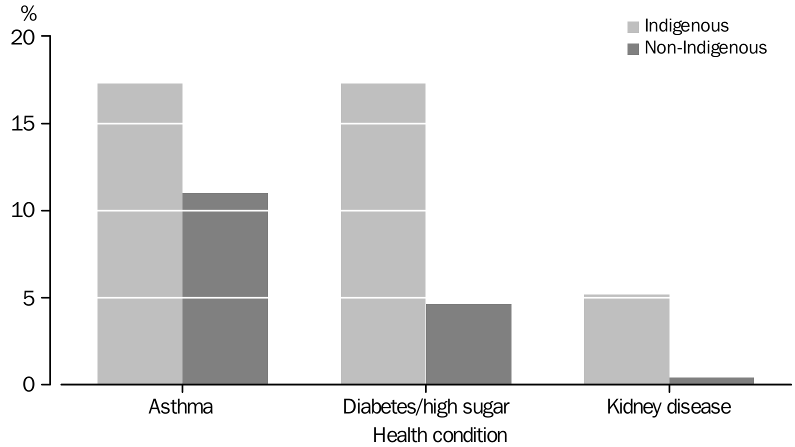
Long-term health conditions

In 2004–05, nearly two thirds (62%) of Indigenous people in WA reported at least one long-term health condition. This proportion was similar to the national figure of 65%, with no significant difference in the prevalence of long-term health conditions in remote and non-remote areas of the state.

In WA, eye/sight problems were the most commonly reported conditions (29%), followed by back problems (15%), ear/hearing problems and asthma (each 14%) and heart and circulatory diseases (12%).

After adjusting for differences in age, Indigenous people in WA were 1.2 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have reported no long-term health conditions. However, asthma, diabetes (including high sugar levels) and kidney disease were three conditions where prevalence remained considerably greater for Indigenous people after standardising for age.

PREVALENCE OF SELECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS, Western Australia



ASTHMA

Around one in seven Indigenous people in WA (14%) reported having asthma. After standardising for age, Indigenous people in WA were 1.6 times more likely to report asthma than non-Indigenous people.

The overall incidence of reported asthma in WA was similar to the Australian figure of 15%. Victoria had the highest reported incidence of asthma (20%) and the Northern Territory the lowest at 8%.

The reporting of asthma was much higher among Indigenous females than males. Nearly one quarter (23%) of Indigenous females in WA reported asthma as a long-term health condition, compared with 10% of males. Consistent with national figures, Indigenous people living in non-remote areas of the state also reported a higher incidence of asthma (17%) than those living in remote areas (11%).

Long-term health conditions continued

DIABETES/HIGH SUGAR LEVELS

Diabetes (including high sugar levels) continues to be a significant health issue among the Indigenous population. Nearly one in ten Indigenous people in WA (9%) reported having diabetes, and after adjusting for age differences, they were almost four times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have reported this condition.

The reported incidence of diabetes among Indigenous people in WA (9%) was higher than for any other state or territory and above the national figure of 6%. South Australia and the Northern Territory (each with 8%) also had rates higher than the national average.

Within WA there was no significant difference in the prevalence of diabetes among Indigenous people living in remote and non-remote areas. The pattern was different for Australia as a whole, with diabetes almost twice as prevalent among Indigenous people in remote areas (9%) as it was in non-remote areas (5%).

KIDNEY DISEASE

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information from private dwellings only and not from health care facilities. Since the treatment of kidney disease accounts for around one third of all hospital admissions of Indigenous people these results may underestimate the prevalence of kidney disease in the Indigenous population. For further information about hospitalisations of Indigenous people see *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2005* (cat. no. 4704.0).

Kidney disease was reported by 3% of Indigenous people in WA and the Northern Territory, slightly higher rates than for the other states and territories, and above the national rate of 2%. The reported incidence of kidney disease was marginally higher in remote than non-remote areas of WA, however the difference was not statistically significant.

After adjusting for age differences, rates of kidney disease were more than ten times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population.

Health-related actions

Health-related actions and access to health professionals and services are important factors in the prevention and management of health conditions. In 2004–05, Indigenous people in WA reported having consulted health professionals (other than dentists) more frequently than non-Indigenous people.

CONSULTATIONS WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Nearly one in five Indigenous people in WA (19%) reported having visited a doctor (General Practitioner or Specialist) in the two weeks prior to interview, 16% had consulted an 'other' health professional (e.g. Aboriginal health worker or nurse), 7% had visited the casualty or outpatients department of a hospital, and 3% (of people aged two years and over) had seen a dentist.

After adjusting for age differences between the two populations, Indigenous people in WA were equally as likely as non-Indigenous people to have visited a doctor, a little more likely to have consulted an 'other' health professional and three times as likely to have visited the casualty or outpatients department of a hospital in the two weeks before the

Health-related actions continued

CONSULTATIONS WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS *continued*

survey. Indigenous people were less than half as likely as non-Indigenous people to have seen a dentist during that period.

'Other' health professionals, because of their presence in communities, were more likely to have been consulted by Indigenous people in remote areas (23%) than non-remote areas (10%) of WA.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

Nearly one in five Indigenous people in WA (19%) had been admitted to hospital in the 12 months prior to the survey, well above the national rate (16%). The Northern Territory was the only jurisdiction with a higher proportion of hospital admissions (22%).

After adjusting for age differences between the two populations, Indigenous people in WA were 1.4 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have been hospitalised in the 12 months prior to interview.

Whether a person lived in a remote or non-remote area of the state had no statistically significant impact on their likelihood of hospitalisation.

ORAL HEALTH

Among Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in WA, 17% had never visited a dentist or health professional about their teeth. This proportion was twice as high for people in remote areas (24%) as for those living in non-remote areas (12%).

A higher proportion of Indigenous people in WA reported having never visited a dentist about their teeth than was reported at the national level (17% compared with 11%). Indigenous people in non-remote areas of WA were twice as likely to report having never visited a dentist as those in non-remote areas overall.

Health risk factors

Health risk factors affect the onset and prognosis of a variety of chronic diseases. Environmental factors from cultural, socioeconomic and physical domains have also been shown to have a strong association with both disease and health status. The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information about health-related aspects of lifestyle, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, substance use, diet, exercise and immunisation levels.

SMOKING

In 2004–05 nearly half (44%) of the adult Indigenous population in WA were current daily smokers; that is, people who smoked on average, one or more cigarettes per day. The Western Australian smoking rate was six percentage points lower than the national figure of 50%. The two territories had the highest and lowest recorded rates of adult smokers, with the Northern Territory at 54% and the Australian Capital Territory at 41%.

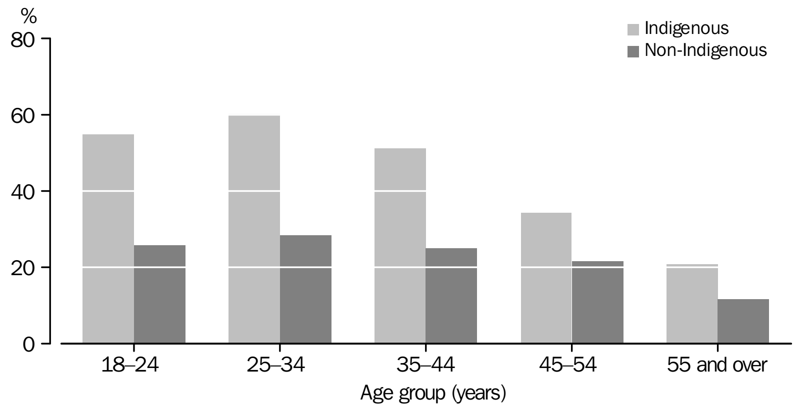
The proportion of Indigenous men in WA who were smokers (45%) was considerably lower than at the national level (53%). This was particularly so in non-remote areas of the state where 36% were smokers compared with 51% across non-remote areas overall. There was no significant difference in the smoking rates for Indigenous women in WA and Australia as a whole.

Health risk factors continued

SMOKING *continued*

In Western Australia, smoking was more prevalent among Indigenous than non-Indigenous adults of both sexes, and in every age group. After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous adults were twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to be current daily smokers.

CURRENT DAILY SMOKERS(a), Western Australia



(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

In 2004–05, nearly one in five Indigenous adults in WA (19%) reported having consumed alcohol at 'risky/high risk' levels in the week prior to interview. Along with Queensland, this was the highest reported rate at the state/territory level, and above the national figure of 16%. (Risk level was based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines, October 2001.)

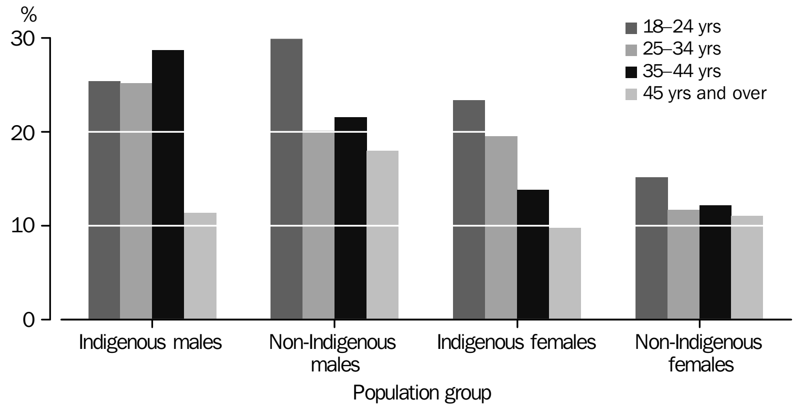
Overall, Indigenous people in remote areas of WA were more likely to report having consumed alcohol at 'risky/high risk' levels than people in non-remote areas (23% compared with 15%).

Indigenous men (22%) in WA were more likely than Indigenous women (16%) to have reported drinking at 'risky/high risk' levels in the week prior to the survey. This applied across all age groups, with Indigenous men in the 35–44 years age group most likely to have reported consuming alcohol at 'risky/high risk' levels (29%). In contrast, the proportion of Indigenous women reporting 'risky/high risk' drinking was highest for those in the 18–24 years age group (23%) and steadily declined to 10% for those aged 45 years and over.

Health risk factors continued

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION *continued*

'RISKY/HIGH RISK' ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION (a) BY AGE, Western Australia



(a) In the week prior to interview.

After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in WA reported similar rates for 'risky/high risk' drinking.

BODY MASS

The proportion of people that are overweight or obese within a given population can be determined by first calculating an individual's Body Mass Index (BMI) score (from reported information on height and weight) then grouping people into BMI categories. In the 2004–05 NATSIHS, height and weight information could not be obtained from 28% of Indigenous people in WA, a much higher level of non-response than at the national level (17%).

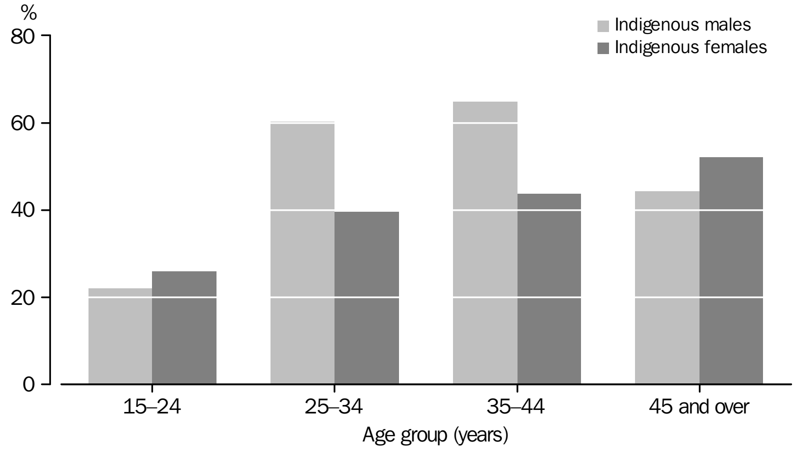
Among Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in WA, 30% were recorded in the underweight/normal or healthy weight range for their height, with a further 21% classified as overweight and obese respectively. After adjusting for non-response the proportion of Indigenous people in WA who were overweight or obese was 59%, similar to the Australian figure of 57%. Victoria had the lowest proportion of its Indigenous population in the overweight/obese category (48%) and South Australia the highest (64%).

For younger (15–24 years) and older (45 years and over) age groups there were higher overweight/obesity rates among Indigenous females than males in WA. The reverse applied for the 25–34 and 35–44 year age groups.

Health risk factors continued

BODY MASS *continued*

OVERWEIGHT/OBESE, Western Australia



After adjusting for age differences between the two populations and non-response, Indigenous people were 1.3 times more likely than non-Indigenous people in WA to be classified as overweight or obese.

DIETARY BEHAVIOURS

In 2004–05, the majority of Indigenous people aged 12 years and over in WA reported eating vegetables (94%) and/or fruit (85%) daily. These figures were consistent with national averages (95% for vegetables and 86% for fruit).

Fruit and vegetables may have been less accessible to Indigenous people in remote areas of WA, where nearly one quarter (24%) reported no usual daily fruit intake, compared with 8% in non-remote areas. The disparity was even greater for vegetables, 12% of people in remote areas reporting no usual daily intake compared with 1% in non-remote areas of the state.

Over three quarters, (78%) of Indigenous people in WA either sometimes (22%) or usually (56%) added salt after cooking. Indigenous people in remote areas (86%) were more likely than those in non-remote areas (70%) to report sometimes or usually adding salt after cooking.

Seventy eight percent of Indigenous people in WA usually drank whole (full-cream) milk in 2004–05, with 17% reporting using reduced fat or skimmed milk. Within the state, those living in remote areas (87%) were more likely to drink whole milk (including full cream powdered milk) than those living in non-remote areas (70%).

IMMUNISATION

Sixty per cent of older Indigenous people (aged 50 years and over) in WA had been vaccinated against influenza in the 12 months prior to the survey and more than one third (35%) had been vaccinated against pneumonia in the last five years. Immunisation rates for both diseases were higher for women than men, and in remote rather than non-remote areas of the state.

Women's health

In 2004–05, the majority of Indigenous women in WA aged 18–64 who had children reported having breastfed them (95%). This was a higher proportion than the national figure of 84%. Of children aged under four years in WA, 79% had been breastfed for at least some period, with 30% being breastfed at the time of the survey.

The proportion of Indigenous women in WA aged 40 years and over who reported having regular mammograms was 27%, a slightly lower proportion than nationally (32%). The proportion of Indigenous women in remote areas of WA having regular mammograms (34%) was higher than in the non-remote areas (18%).

Just under half (48%) of Indigenous women aged 18 years and over in WA reported having regular pap smear tests, the equivalent national figure was just over half (52%). Of Indigenous women 18 years and over in WA 14% reported never having had a pap smear test.

In 2004–05 condoms were the most commonly used form of contraception reported by Indigenous women in WA (21%), followed by the contraceptive pill (11%) and the contraceptive injection (DepoProvera) (9%). In addition 13% of Indigenous women in remote areas of the state and 4% in non-remote areas reported using a contraceptive implant (Implanon), which can prevent pregnancy for up to three years.

Further analysis and other outputs

The second part of this article showcases a selection of data available for WA from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). A national publication (cat. no. 4715.0) is available free of charge from the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. A series of state level tables, from which the data in this article is drawn, are also available free on the ABS web site (cat. no. 4715.5.55.005). A *Users Guide* (cat. no. 4715.0.55.004) was released in May 2006 while a *Summary Booklet* (cat. no. 4715.0.55.006), *Confidentialised Unit Record File* (cat. no. 4715.0.55.001) and associated *Information Paper* (cat. no. 4715.0.55.002) are scheduled for release later this year. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, customised tabulations may be available on request and for a fee.

LIST OF TABLES

1 SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Australian comparison

Indicator	Reference period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	AUSTRALIA Current figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
State final demand: Trend(a) *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	25 196	2.7	11.1	234 485	0.9	4.5
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2006	150.5	1.0	4.2	151.9	0.9	3.0
Wage Price Index, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Original *(index)*	Mar qtr 2006	109.3	0.9	4.3	108.6	1.0	4.0
Established house price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2006	149.8	8.8	28.8	104.9	1.0	3.6
Project home price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2006	132.7	3.8	16.2	110.4	0.4	3.1
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups: Original(c) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2006	136.1	0.8	3.3	142.1	0.4	2.0
Consumption							
Retail turnover: Trend *($m)*	April 2006	1 846.9	0.8	8.4	17 830.6	0.6	5.7
Sales of new motor vehicles: Trend *(no.)*	May 2006	8 944	0.9	9.5	79 773	–0.5	–3.9
Investment and finance							
Private new capital expenditure: Trend(a) *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	3 828	10.0	54.4	18 757	4.8	29.1
Commercial finance commitments: Original *($m)*	April 2006	2 206	–27.0	28.6	23 097	–35.6	3.6
Personal finance commitments: Original *($m)*	April 2006	835	–19.8	21.9	6 044	–17.8	6.2
Housing finance commitments: Trend(d) *(no.)*	April 2006	9 447	1.8	22.2	13 196	0.6	12.8
Construction							
Houses approved: Trend *(no.)*	April 2006	1 891	0.6	13.0	8 638	0.1	–3.2
New residential building activity commenced: Original *(no.)*	Dec qtr 2005	6 105	–10.8	9.7	36 808	–8.7	–9.2
New residential building activity yet to be done: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	2 289.7	8.4	39.0	13 264.5	—	–3.1
Engineering construction activity commenced: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	3 935.2	11.1	94.8	11 754.1	11.0	8.8
Engineering construction activity yet to be done: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2005	9 583.4	17.3	99.7	23 341.3	3.1	27.2
International merchandise trade							
Exports: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	11 145	–8.6	20.6	35 985	–6.7	23.3
Imports: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	4 832	17.8	39.9	40 474	–3.9	15.7
Mining and energy							
Total mineral exploration expenditure: Trend *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	143.6	–2.6	–7.9	316.5	3.5	20.7
Total petroleum exploration expenditure: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	137.0	–10.3	–11.2	273.6	–16.2	1.6
Agriculture							
Exports of wheat: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	433.4	–0.7	–0.8	851.2	9.8	–1.8
Exports of live sheep: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2006	43.1	–48.8	–9.8	60.3	–40.7	8.6
Tourism							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday *(no.)*	March 2006	20 877	5.1	–25.1	244 474	3.5	–12.1
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air *(no.)*	March 2006	19 320	30.1	–10.0	157 474	30.8	–8.4
Labour market							
Number of persons employed full-time: Trend *('000)*	May 2006	752.8	—	2.0	7 221.2	0.2	1.1
Number of persons employed: Trend *('000)*	May 2006	1 065.7	0.1	2.5	10 114.1	15.0	1.2
Unemployment rate: Trend *(%)*	May 2006	3.7	. .	. .	5.0	. .	. .
Participation rate: Trend *(%)*	May 2006	67.6	. .	. .	64.5	. .	. .
Estimated resident population *('000)*	Dec qtr 2005	2 028.7	0.5	1.7	20 452.3	0.3	1.2

. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Chain volume measures.
(b) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 8 Capital Cities.
(c) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
(d) Owner occupation housing.

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures(a)

	2004	2005				2006
	December	March	June	September	December	March
TREND ($m)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 456	3 470	3 494	3 505	3 498	3 482
Households	12 000	12 118	12 246	12 382	12 503	12 605
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 456*	*15 588*	*15 740*	*15 887*	*16 001*	*16 087*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 140	2 175	2 305	2 627	3 022	3 311
Non-dwelling construction	1 486	1 590	1 720	1 889	2 079	2 241
Livestock	57	58	59	61	63	63
Intangible fixed assets	398	396	415	411	391	375
Total private business investment	*4 082*	*4 216*	*4 500*	*4 987*	*5 554*	*6 000*
Dwellings	1 403	1 403	1 411	1 442	1 479	1 510
Ownership transfer costs	447	463	480	490	503	517
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 932*	*6 082*	*6 390*	*6 919*	*7 536*	*8 024*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	503	530	541	547	563	581
General government	439	479	490	472	443	433
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*942*	*1 008*	*1 031*	*1 018*	*1 005*	*1 016*
State final demand	*22 331*	*22 678*	*23 160*	*23 814*	*24 538*	*25 196*
TREND (percentage changes)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3	–0.2	–0.5
Households	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8
Total final consumption expenditure	*0.9*	*0.9*	*1.0*	*0.9*	*0.7*	*0.5*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2.4	1.6	6.0	14.0	15.0	9.6
Non-dwelling construction	8.2	7.0	8.2	9.8	10.1	7.8
Livestock	1.8	1.8	1.7	3.4	3.3	—
Intangible fixed assets	–2.7	–0.5	4.8	–1.0	–4.9	–4.1
Total private business investment	*3.5*	*3.3*	*6.7*	*10.8*	*11.4*	*8.0*
Dwellings	0.4	—	0.6	2.2	2.6	2.1
Ownership transfer costs	2.8	3.6	3.7	2.1	2.7	2.8
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*2.7*	*2.5*	*5.1*	*8.3*	*8.9*	*6.5*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	11.0	5.4	2.1	1.1	2.9	3.2
General government	6.8	9.1	2.3	–3.7	–6.1	–2.3
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*9.1*	*7.1*	*2.2*	*–1.3*	*–1.2*	*1.1*
State final demand	*1.7*	*1.6*	*2.1*	*2.8*	*3.0*	*2.7*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

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

	2004	2005				2006
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*$m*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 466	3 444	3 515	3 496	3 519	3 458
Households	11 996	12 084	12 269	12 376	12 512	12 603
Total final consumption expenditure	*15 462*	*15 528*	*15 784*	*15 872*	*16 031*	*16 061*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 196	2 251	2 104	2 692	3 031	3 416
Non-dwelling construction	1 432	1 736	1 638	1 785	2 257	2 166
Livestock	58	58	58	63	63	63
Intangible fixed assets	360	405	430	409	390	367
Total private business investment	*4 046*	*4 450*	*4 229*	*4 949*	*5 740*	*6 012*
Dwellings	1 393	1 425	1 390	1 421	1 519	1 491
Ownership transfer costs	444	449	521	452	511	530
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 884*	*6 324*	*6 141*	*6 823*	*7 770*	*8 033*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	516	495	606	494	555	621
General government	433	425	578	446	401	467
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*949*	*920*	*1 184*	*940*	*956*	*1 088*
State final demand	*22 294*	*22 772*	*23 108*	*23 634*	*24 757*	*25 183*
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*percentage changes*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	0.9	–0.6	2.1	–0.5	0.6	–1.7
Households	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.7
Total final consumption expenditure	*0.8*	*0.4*	*1.6*	*0.6*	*1.0*	*0.2*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	6.4	2.5	–6.5	27.9	12.6	12.7
Non-dwelling construction	6.6	21.2	–5.6	9.0	26.4	–4.0
Livestock	—	—	—	8.6	—	—
Intangible fixed assets	–11.8	12.5	6.2	–4.9	–4.6	–5.9
Total private business investment	*4.5*	*10.0*	*–5.0*	*17.0*	*16.0*	*4.7*
Dwellings	–0.9	2.3	–2.5	2.2	6.9	–1.8
Ownership transfer costs	4.2	1.1	16.0	–13.2	13.1	3.7
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*3.2*	*7.5*	*–2.9*	*11.1*	*13.9*	*3.4*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	17.3	–4.1	22.4	–18.5	12.3	11.9
General government	–2.5	–1.8	36.0	–22.8	–10.1	16.5
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*7.4*	*–3.0*	*28.8*	*–20.7*	*1.7*	*13.8*
State final demand	*1.7*	*2.1*	*1.5*	*2.3*	*4.7*	*1.7*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

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

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth

Reference period	All groups	Food	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing	Household contents and services
FINANCIAL YEARS(b) *(index)*						
2002–2003	136.8	146.7	198.0	109.5	106.2	118.2
2003–2004	139.6	149.9	204.1	108.7	112.3	118.1
2004–2005	144.0	153.9	210.6	105.7	120.2	117.1
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR *(%)*						
2002–2003	2.8	2.9	3.0	0.3	2.7	0.9
2003–2004	2.0	2.2	3.1	–0.7	5.7	–0.1
2004–2005	3.2	2.7	3.2	–2.8	7.0	–0.8
QUARTERS(b) *(index)*						
2004						
December	143.3	152.8	208.8	105.6	118.7	117.8
2005						
March	144.4	154.4	212.2	104.1	121.6	114.7
June	146.3	156.5	214.1	105.6	124.1	118.3
September	147.8	157.4	215.2	105.4	126.9	119.0
December	149.0	159.7	215.9	104.5	129.7	119.3
2006						
March	150.5	160.9	219.1	100.5	132.2	118.5
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*						
2004						
December	2.9	2.4	2.3	–3.5	6.3	–0.8
2005						
March	3.4	2.7	4.0	–2.5	7.8	–2.0
June	3.8	3.4	4.3	–2.3	8.5	0.2
September	4.1	3.7	3.8	–1.9	8.9	1.1
December	4.0	4.5	3.4	–1.0	9.3	1.3
2006						
March	4.2	4.2	3.3	–3.5	8.7	3.3
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*						
2004						
December	0.9	0.7	0.7	–1.7	1.9	0.1
2005						
March	0.8	1.0	1.6	–1.4	2.4	–2.6
June	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.4	2.1	3.1
September	1.0	0.6	0.5	–0.2	2.3	0.6
December	0.8	1.5	0.3	–0.9	2.2	0.3
2006						
March	1.0	0.8	1.5	–3.8	1.9	–0.7

(a) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services' group. See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

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

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

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), By group—Perth *continued*

Reference period	Health	Transportation	Communication	Recreation	Education	Financial and insurance services(b)
			FINANCIAL YEARS(c) *(index)*			
2002–2003	175.7	140.7	106.8	128.8	201.5	. .
2003–2004	185.8	141.6	108.3	125.6	210.2	. .
2004–2005	195.3	145.7	109.4	127.0	221.4	100.0
			CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR *(%)*			
2002–2003	7.9	2.9	3.2	1.3	3.1	. .
2003–2004	5.7	0.6	1.4	–2.5	4.3	. .
2004–2005	5.1	2.9	1.0	1.1	5.3	. .
			QUARTERS(c) *(index)*			
2004						
December	190.9	146.6	109.5	127.3	214.9	. .
2005						
March	197.7	144.6	109.9	127.9	227.9	. .
June	200.5	147.3	108.9	127.1	227.9	100.0
September	199.3	152.1	108.1	129.0	227.9	98.7
December	198.7	152.1	107.3	129.2	227.9	100.5
2006						
March	204.8	154.0	107.8	130.3	241.6	100.3
			CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*			
2004						
December	5.1	4.5	1.1	0.2	4.6	. .
2005						
March	5.6	2.3	1.5	2.8	6.0	. .
June	4.0	2.6	0.2	1.4	6.0	. .
September	3.9	5.4	–1.0	2.5	6.0	. .
December	4.1	3.8	–2.0	1.5	6.0	. .
2006						
March	3.6	6.5	–1.9	1.9	6.0	. .
			CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*			
2004						
December	–0.5	1.6	0.3	1.2	—	. .
2005						
March	3.6	–1.4	0.4	0.5	6.0	. .
June	1.4	1.9	–0.9	–0.6	—	. .
September	–0.6	3.3	–0.7	1.5	—	–1.3
December	–0.3	—	–0.7	0.2	—	1.8
2006						
March	3.1	1.2	0.5	0.9	6.0	–0.2

. . not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced the 15th series of the Consumer Price Index, incorporating an updated weighting pattern and introducing the 'Financial and insurance services' group. See paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.
(b) Base of index: June quarter 2005 = 100.0.
(c) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0.
Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

4 WAGE PRICE INDEX(a), Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses(b)

	2004	2005				2006	CHANGE FROM	
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*	*Previous quarter*	*Same quarter previous year*
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	**103.9**	**104.8**	**105.8**	**107.5**	**108.3**	**109.3**	**0.9**	**4.3**
Sector								
Private	104.0	104.9	105.6	107.6	108.5	109.5	0.9	4.4
Public	103.6	104.4	106.2	107.1	107.6	108.5	0.8	3.9
Selected industries								
Mining	104.5	104.7	106.3	108.8	109.3	111.1	1.6	6.1
Manufacturing	104.4	105.4	106.1	108.0	109.2	109.7	0.5	4.1
Construction	110.3	113.8	114.5	117.8	119.9	121.5	1.3	6.8
Retail trade	103.6	104.3	104.9	106.5	107.3	108.7	1.3	4.2
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	102.8	103.9	103.9	104.8	105.8	106.4	0.6	2.4
Transport and storage	102.3	102.7	103.1	105.2	106.4	107.3	0.8	4.5
Property and business services	102.9	103.2	104.3	106.6	107.1	107.8	0.7	4.5
Government administration and defence	104.1	104.9	106.8	107.0	108.1	108.5	0.4	3.4
Education	102.9	104.2	106.0	106.5	106.7	108.0	1.2	3.6
Health and community services	103.0	104.0	104.4	106.8	107.2	107.6	0.4	3.5
Personal and other services	103.5	104.1	105.1	107.2	107.4	107.7	0.3	3.5
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	103.4	103.9	105.1	107.5	108.2	109.7	1.4	5.6
Professionals	103.2	103.8	105.1	106.8	107.7	108.4	0.6	4.4
Associate professionals	103.2	104.9	105.7	107.5	108.4	108.9	0.5	3.8
Tradespersons and related workers	105.7	107.6	108.6	109.8	110.5	112.2	1.5	4.3
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	104.1	105.0	105.5	107.3	108.1	108.8	0.6	3.6
Intermediate production and transport workers	104.0	104.5	106.0	107.8	108.2	109.8	1.5	5.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	103.6	104.1	104.4	106.1	106.4	107.3	0.8	3.1
Labourers and related workers	107.8	108.4	108.6	111.2	112.9	114.1	1.1	5.3

(a) The Wage Cost Index series has been renamed the Wage Price Index series from September Quarter 2004, and has been re-based from September Quarter 1997 to the financial year 2003–04 = 100.0. The quarterly Wage Cost Index publication, now renamed Labour Price Index, has retained its catalogue number (6345.0), but will include annual non-wage costs, such as annual and public holiday leave, superannuation, workers' compensation and payroll tax. Further information about the new price index is available through *Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2004,* cat. no. 6351.0.55.001.

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

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

5 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES(a)—Perth

Reference period	ESTABLISHED HOMES(b)(c)	Change from previous period	PROJECT HOMES	Change from previous period
	index	%	index	%
2002–2003	84.4	. .	91.4	3.2
2003–2004	100.0	18.5	100.0	9.4
2004–2005	114.4	14.4	111.9	12.0
2004				
December	111.8	4.6	109.5	3.6
2005				
March	116.3	4.0	114.2	4.3
June	122.5	5.3	118.3	3.6
September	r127.7	r4.2	122.7	3.7
December	p137.7	p7.8	127.8	4.2
2006				
March	p149.8	p8.8	132.7	3.8

. . not applicable

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

r revised

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

(b) In the September quarter 2005, the ABS introduced a new methodology for compiling the established house price index. Refer to *Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index,* cat. no. 6417.0 for a discussion of the changes.

(c) Estimates for the two most recent quarters are experimental. See paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

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

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

	2004	2005				2006		
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*	*Change from previous quarter*	*Change from same quarter previous year*
Material group	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
All material groups	**130.1**	**131.7**	**134.0**	**134.7**	**135.0**	**136.1**	**0.8**	**3.3**
Concrete, cement and sand	134.3	136.0	140.6	139.9	142.6	141.7	–0.6	4.2
Cement products	122.4	124.0	125.7	127.0	126.4	127.2	0.6	2.6
Ceramic products	142.1	143.4	144.6	146.1	147.2	148.2	0.7	3.3
Timber, board and joinery	122.4	123.8	125.2	125.7	124.2	124.0	–0.2	0.2
Steel products	146.1	155.4	159.6	160.2	161.7	165.2	2.2	6.3
Other metal products	123.1	124.3	128.0	128.6	128.6	130.1	1.2	4.7
Plumbing products	117.9	119.8	121.8	121.8	123.2	123.7	0.4	3.3
Electrical equipment	105.2	102.7	100.5	99.1	99.0	99.3	0.3	–3.3
Installed gas and electrical appliances	129.7	129.7	131.5	134.9	135.8	136.3	0.4	5.1
Other materials	149.7	149.4	153.2	153.1	154.1	156.6	1.6	4.8

(a) Base of each index: 1989–90 = 100.0

Source: ABS data available on request, *Producer Price Indexes, Australia,* cat. no. 6427.0.

7 RETAIL TRADE, Monthly turnover by industry group(a)—Current prices: **All series**

Month	Food retailing	Department stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Household good retailing	Recreational good retailing	Other retailing	Hospitality and services	Total
				ORIGINAL ($m)				
2005								
February	648.2	101.9	73.6	255.3	^85.2	140.4	192.7	1 497.3
March	725.8	126.0	82.2	272.2	^90.3	152.7	199.7	1 648.9
April	706.3	121.9	93.7	273.4	^94.3	149.5	199.0	1 638.2
May	711.7	121.8	93.2	277.4	^90.1	156.9	200.0	1 651.1
June	703.3	149.2	100.8	288.1	^91.2	151.7	191.8	1 676.0
July	745.2	127.1	89.4	298.3	^95.3	141.4	206.1	1 702.8
August	755.2	121.1	85.4	303.2	^94.9	142.9	203.7	1 706.3
September	760.6	123.4	85.7	293.0	^95.5	144.4	207.2	1 709.7
October	769.3	133.1	100.2	315.8	^91.1	147.7	220.3	1 777.6
November	768.7	160.2	105.4	325.6	^102.8	158.6	220.6	1 841.8
December	910.6	264.1	144.8	419.7	^151.7	216.0	233.9	2 340.7
2006								
January	763.2	119.0	96.2	302.4	^104.0	138.6	209.3	1 732.8
February	721.4	109.0	85.1	278.5	^88.1	145.3	199.1	1 626.4
March	806.3	130.4	91.1	300.3	^91.9	154.1	218.5	1 792.5
April	779.6	142.5	107.2	302.0	^83.6	136.4	218.8	1 770.1
				SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ($m)				
2005								
February	705.6	137.0	91.3	291.6	91.5	158.7	207.3	1 682.9
March	702.9	136.2	90.9	291.2	95.1	159.2	196.4	1 671.9
April	721.0	131.3	93.9	291.5	99.0	161.1	201.0	1 698.9
May	732.3	133.2	91.1	297.0	98.5	162.5	207.2	1 721.9
June	743.1	146.5	100.2	286.5	99.1	165.0	209.8	1 750.2
July	755.2	138.4	93.7	302.8	97.7	151.7	208.7	1 748.1
August	766.0	140.7	93.8	312.2	96.2	148.3	208.9	1 766.2
September	770.1	137.8	92.6	303.3	100.1	146.1	206.3	1 756.2
October	771.8	136.4	97.9	302.8	98.3	146.1	209.9	1 763.4
November	764.1	139.8	100.3	302.4	100.2	146.6	210.9	1 764.3
December	758.8	142.6	98.6	321.9	106.0	147.9	202.0	1 777.7
2006								
January	776.7	141.0	101.9	309.3	100.8	151.3	215.3	1 796.2
February	785.6	146.0	105.2	318.6	95.1	164.2	213.6	1 828.4
March	791.3	148.1	101.1	316.2	94.5	160.0	217.1	1 828.3
April	795.3	147.0	108.5	331.1	92.0	152.3	224.6	1 850.8
				TREND ($m)				
2005								
February	705.5	135.1	90.8	290.0	93.1	164.9	198.7	1 681.1
March	710.4	135.5	91.9	291.0	95.3	162.6	200.8	1 689.3
April	719.2	136.3	93.0	292.4	97.0	161.1	203.2	1 703.0
May	730.8	137.4	93.9	294.5	98.0	159.6	205.4	1 719.6
June	743.6	138.3	94.4	297.0	98.3	157.5	207.4	1 736.1
July	754.6	139.1	94.7	299.7	98.3	154.4	208.5	1 749.0
August	762.0	139.3	95.0	302.4	98.5	150.6	208.7	1 756.6
September	765.8	139.2	95.7	304.9	99.2	147.4	208.5	1 760.7
October	767.3	139.1	96.7	306.9	100.2	146.3	208.1	1 764.6
November	768.6	139.6	98.3	308.8	100.9	147.6	208.4	1 772.1
December	771.2	141.2	100.1	311.1	100.6	150.4	209.8	1 784.2
2006								
January	775.7	143.1	101.8	314.2	99.4	153.4	212.0	1 799.3
February	781.5	144.9	103.2	317.8	97.6	155.8	214.7	1 815.4
March	787.4	146.5	104.6	321.3	95.6	157.5	217.5	1 831.5
April	792.8	147.8	105.6	324.4	93.8	158.7	220.0	1 846.9

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

(a) For industry definitions see paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication.

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

8 NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, By type of vehicle: **All series**

Month	*Passenger vehicles* no.	*Sports utility vehicles* no.	*Other vehicles* no.	*Total vehicles* no.
ORIGINAL				
2005				
March	5 082	1 719	1 832	8 633
April	4 304	1 351	1 684	7 339
May	4 588	1 617	1 875	8 080
June	5 582	1 956	2 475	10 013
July	4 456	1 499	1 772	7 727
August	4 974	1 719	2 021	8 714
September	5 442	1 651	2 032	9 125
October	5 023	1 484	1 842	8 349
November	5 528	1 690	1 889	9 107
December	4 911	1 713	2 040	8 664
2006				
January	4 293	1 693	1 618	7 604
February	4 629	1 656	1 880	8 165
March	5 599	1 866	2 285	9 750
April	4 320	1 442	1 745	7 507
May	5 211	1 933	2 328	9 472
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
2005				
March	4 456	1 647	1 712	7 815
April	4 913	1 466	1 937	8 316
May	4 754	1 579	1 737	8 070
June	4 824	1 399	1 763	7 986
July	4 853	1 695	1 929	8 477
August	4 891	1 748	2 046	8 685
September	5 221	1 796	2 009	9 026
October	4 987	1 624	1 970	8 581
November	5 207	1 672	1 939	8 818
December	4 925	1 756	2 035	8 716
2006				
January	4 981	1 790	2 033	8 804
February	4 802	1 712	2 015	8 529
March	4 916	1 654	2 082	8 652
April	5 118	1 675	2 076	8 869
May	5 270	1 823	2 144	9 237
TREND				
2005				
March	4 708	1 567	1 768	8 043
April	4 750	1 551	1 789	8 090
May	4 789	1 555	1 822	8 166
June	4 838	1 581	1 864	8 283
July	4 903	1 621	1 908	8 432
August	4 982	1 666	1 949	8 597
September	5 039	1 704	1 978	8 721
October	5 059	1 727	1 996	8 782
November	5 042	1 729	2 004	8 775
December	4 998	1 722	2 006	8 726
2006				
January	4 963	1 716	2 020	8 699
February	4 960	1 718	2 044	8 722
March	4 992	1 722	2 069	8 783
April	5 045	1 729	2 092	8 866
May	5 097	1 734	2 113	8 944

Source: *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery,* cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

9 PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, By type of asset—Chain volume measures(a): **All series**

Reference period	ORIGINAL Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	TREND Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m
2002–2003	3 070	r3 861	r6 912	3 069	3 860	6 913	3 072	3 863	6 924
2003–2004	3 793	r5 123	8 917	3 793	5 124	8 918	3 815	5 061	8 873
2004–2005	r4 749	r5 006	r9 754	4 749	5 006	9 754	4 747	5 081	9 827
2004									
December	1 243	1 383	2 626	1 174	1 258	2 431	1 162	1 234	2 395
2005									
March	1 119	r1 205	r2 324	1 218	1 340	2 558	1 210	1 269	2 480
June	r1 291	r1 262	r2 552	1 260	1 237	2 497	1 290	1 366	2 656
September	r1 438	r1 573	r3 010	1 448	1 601	3 049	1 461	1 570	3 025
December	r1 739	r2 007	r3 746	1 645	1 828	3 473	1 669	1 814	3 481
2006									
March	1 778	1 829	3 606	1 937	2 053	3 990	1 813	1 980	3 828

r revised

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2003–04.

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

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

Reference period	Mining $m	Manufacturing $m	Other selected industries $m	Total $m
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	5 010	1 162	2 746	8 917
2004–2005	5 531	1 410	3 008	r9 949
2004				
December	1 431	368	873	2 672
2005				
March	1 221	404	^ 751	2 375
June	1 529	406	694	2 630
September	1 763	474	879	3 116
December	r2 354	r511	r1 022	r3 887
2006				
March	2 435	446	899	3 780

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

r revised

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

11 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	PERSONAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	Total lease finance commitments
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	12 430.2	4 755.0	17 185.2	4 248.0	3 364.5	7 612.4	298.3
2003–2004	14 572.9	5 776.6	20 349.5	4 517.1	3 499.2	8 016.3	384.0
2004–2005	14 523.3	6 335.8	20 859.1	4 701.9	3 627.0	8 329.0	420.3
2005							
February	1 179.5	506.8	1 686.3	360.7	277.8	638.5	30.9
March	1 325.2	627.1	1 952.2	403.7	325.4	729.1	28.7
April	1 226.4	488.7	1 715.1	396.5	288.9	685.4	32.6
May	1 349.3	643.8	1 993.1	451.3	337.8	789.2	35.3
June	1 571.3	710.1	2 281.4	434.3	411.5	845.8	37.1
July	1 549.0	522.9	2 071.9	382.7	353.1	735.7	35.2
August	1 556.7	551.9	2 108.6	450.9	402.5	853.4	44.5
September	1 368.4	442.2	1 810.6	446.8	357.6	804.4	49.9
October	1 695.2	415.6	2 110.8	r436.3	324.3	r760.6	25.8
November	1 543.3	603.8	2 147.2	464.3	362.7	827.1	36.7
December	1 666.5	686.2	2 352.7	491.4	380.1	871.5	32.3
2006							
January	1 523.9	572.6	2 096.5	440.6	350.8	791.4	34.3
February	1 468.3	513.3	1 981.6	468.5	381.1	849.6	34.4
March	2 377.1	646.5	3 023.6	549.5	491.6	1 041.1	41.0
April	1 624.1	581.8	2 205.9	403.4	431.8	835.3	32.4

r revised

(a) Includes refinancing.

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

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

12 HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a), By dwellings financed: All series

Reference period	ORIGINAL		SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		TREND	
	Number of dwellings financed	*Total value of dwelling commitments*	*Number of dwellings financed*	*Total value of dwelling commitments*	*Number of dwellings financed*	*Total value of dwelling commitments*
	no.	$m	no.	$m	no.	$m
2002–2003	75 740	10 709.2	75 921	10 745.6	75 837	10 737.5
2003–2004	83 834	12 765.6	83 569	12 719.6	83 852	12 764.6
2004–2005	88 683	15 151.6	88 701	15 160.2	88 667	15 149.3
2005						
February	7 010	1 234.6	7 435	1 292.4	7 517	1 288.8
March	7 827	1 331.3	7 996	1 346.6	7 627	1 316.9
April	7 523	1 331.2	7 658	1 343.1	7 729	1 347.2
May	8 472	1 487.6	7 843	1 376.3	7 826	1 380.5
June	8 057	1 438.4	7 636	1 380.2	7 922	1 415.7
July	7 914	1 452.4	8 074	1 463.9	8 012	1 452.2
August	9 073	1 645.2	8 359	1 534.0	8 101	1 490.5
September	8 089	1 500.5	8 166	1 511.0	8 205	1 530.8
October	8 057	1 499.1	8 296	1 568.3	8 322	1 572.1
November	9 044	1 726.8	8 305	1 590.2	8 460	1 615.6
December	8 475	1 642.3	8 608	1 686.7	8 636	1 662.9
2006						
January	7 604	1 485.8	8 852	1 703.8	8 848	1 713.5
February	8 658	1 680.2	9 202	1 763.2	9 070	1 763.6
March	9 926	1 986.9	9 205	1 817.9	9 277	1 809.4
April	8 186	1 597.9	9 576	1 865.9	9 447	1 845.7

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

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

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

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average loan size	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average loan size
	no.	$m	$'000	no.	$m	$'000
2002–2003	12 775	1 679.9	131.5	62 965	9 029.3	143.4
2003–2004	12 393	1 835.9	148.1	71 441	10 929.7	153.0
2004–2005	16 060	2 720.1	169.4	72 623	12 431.6	171.2
2005						
February	1 266	219.5	173.4	5 744	1 015.2	176.7
March	1 352	220.2	162.9	6 475	1 111.1	171.6
April	1 271	222.2	174.8	6 252	1 109.0	177.4
May	1 417	247.8	174.9	7 055	1 239.8	175.7
June	1 385	244.5	176.6	6 672	1 193.9	178.9
July	1 326	240.6	181.5	6 588	1 211.8	183.9
August	1 581	278.4	176.1	7 492	1 366.8	182.4
September	1 473	268.8	182.5	6 616	1 231.7	186.2
October	1 426	261.1	183.1	6 631	1 238.0	186.7
November	1 599	306.3	191.6	7 445	1 420.5	190.8
December	1 462	277.5	189.8	7 013	1 364.8	194.6
2006						
January	1 379	263.4	191.0	6 225	1 222.4	196.4
February	1 393	274.2	196.8	7 265	1 406.0	193.5
March	1 670	335.5	200.9	8 256	1 651.4	200.0
April	1 313	260.8	198.7	6 873	1 337.0	194.5

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

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

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

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE) Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	INVESTMENT HOUSING(b) Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	1 517.8	234.8	6 674.0	2 282.6	213.0	3 948.8	334.8
2003–2004	2 015.4	363.3	7 244.8	3 142.1	297.9	4 771.4	470.9
2004–2005	2 171.1	505.8	9 156.2	3 318.6	320.6	5 423.3	401.0
2005							
February	166.2	47.6	765.7	255.1	19.7	369.1	34.6
March	177.9	51.6	811.7	290.1	15.9	460.5	31.3
April	177.2	48.3	796.3	309.4	30.6	521.1	34.3
May	202.2	51.5	861.6	372.2	19.7	513.0	33.2
June	194.0	49.2	854.1	341.1	28.4	535.5	31.1
July	189.7	54.3	859.0	349.4	26.3	594.6	40.8
August	215.0	67.4	967.0	395.8	17.0	516.1	27.6
September	198.0	64.8	890.0	347.7	20.0	580.4	36.7
October	185.1	61.8	899.3	352.9	34.2	562.2	41.1
November	195.9	78.5	1 039.9	412.5	28.5	591.7	39.1
December	205.7	70.7	989.7	376.3	41.5	652.9	40.6
2006							
January	174.0	60.9	915.7	335.2	41.1	601.0	45.4
February	189.9	67.2	1 014.1	408.9	31.1	598.1	41.2
March	230.9	104.8	1 190.1	461.1	50.9	674.4	45.6
April	167.7	90.8	966.4	372.9	29.2	857.9	58.8

(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.

15 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.
2002–2003	16 917	17 524	3 178	3 597	20 095	21 121
2003–2004	18 732	19 206	3 774	4 058	22 506	23 264
2004–2005	19 031	19 519	3 977	4 585	23 008	24 104
2005						
February	1 667	1 692	312	363	1 979	2 055
March	1 654	1 689	332	381	1 986	2 070
April	1 623	1 674	344	391	1 967	2 065
May	1 593	1 659	334	379	1 927	2 038
June	1 586	1 661	306	349	1 892	2 010
July	1 609	1 685	272	311	1 881	1 996
August	1 654	1 723	255	290	1 909	2 013
September	1 708	1 768	266	305	1 974	2 073
October	1 755	1 806	292	340	2 047	2 146
November	1 785	1 829	320	380	2 105	2 209
December	1 805	1 846	336	405	2 141	2 251
2006						
January	1 816	1 853	342	415	2 158	2 268
February	1 830	1 863	336	407	2 166	2 270
March	1 849	1 880	325	391	2 174	2 271
April	1 863	1 891	308	368	2 171	2 259

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

16 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2002–2003	r18 058	3 633	r21 691	r21 789	19	r21 808
2003–2004	r19 572	r4 033	r23 605	r23 692	35	r23 727
2004–2005	19 351	4 591	23 942	24 046	31	24 077
2005						
February	1 552	416	1 968	1 984	3	1 987
March	1 567	371	1 938	1 945	—	1 945
April	1 461	559	2 020	2 026	3	2 029
May	1 911	327	2 238	2 247	—	2 247
June	1 765	395	2 160	2 165	8	2 173
July	1 707	350	2 057	2 058	—	2 058
August	1 837	r373	r2 210	r2 226	—	r2 226
September	1 747	163	1 910	1 911	1	1 912
October	1 959	r238	r2 197	r2 202	—	r2 202
November	2 032	r328	r2 360	r2 366	6	r2 372
December	r1 596	437	r2 033	r2 035	2	r2 037
2006						
January	r1 582	335	r1 917	r2 027	—	r2 027
February	1 776	176	1 952	1 954	5	1 959
March	1 871	292	2 163	2 164	1	2 165
April	1 681	319	2 000	2 028	1	2 029

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
r revised

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

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

17 BUILDING APPROVALS, By value of dwelling units approved—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	r2 556.1	473.8	r3 029.9	r3 321.5	r1 552.5	r4 874.0
2003–2004	r2 997.2	r559.0	r3 556.2	r3 879.4	r1 522.4	r5 401.8
2004–2005	3 321.5	763.7	4 085.2	4 442.4	1 961.6	6 403.9
2005						
February	261.1	75.5	336.6	360.3	279.5	639.8
March	275.2	45.4	320.6	350.1	83.2	433.2
April	256.7	80.4	337.1	367.4	150.7	518.1
May	349.6	55.3	404.9	441.1	121.2	562.3
June	316.2	58.5	374.7	406.4	296.4	702.8
July	r307.6	77.1	r384.7	r416.7	162.2	r578.9
August	354.6	r90.0	r444.6	r479.6	143.6	r623.2
September	330.2	30.3	360.4	392.6	139.2	531.8
October	364.9	r60.6	r425.5	r463.3	138.0	r601.3
November	385.0	r63.1	r448.1	r505.0	r179.2	r684.2
December	r315.0	79.8	r394.8	r424.6	r224.2	r648.8
2006						
January	r309.6	55.2	r364.8	r416.8	r108.6	r525.4
February	349.7	29.5	379.3	416.2	114.1	530.3
March	378.7	50.4	429.2	469.5	171.4	640.9
April	341.4	63.4	404.8	446.4	238.7	685.1

r revised

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

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

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

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
COMMENCED						
2002–2003	16 814	3 328	20 142	20 232	49	20 281
2003–2004	18 501	3 826	22 327	22 394	26	22 420
2004–2005	18 129	4 546	22 675	22 765	23	22 788
2004						
September	4 752	1 334	6 087	6 109	16	6 125
December	4 545	1 021	5 566	5 574	1	5 575
2005						
March	4 324	1 033	5 357	5 386	—	5 386
June	4 507	1 158	5 666	5 696	6	5 702
September	r5 652	r1 190	r6 842	r6 864	6	r6 870
December	5 401	704	6 105	6 136	9	6 145
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2002–2003	7 853	2 804	10 657	10 832	48	10 881
2003–2004	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
2004–2005	12 931	4 895	17 827	17 909	51	17 960
2004						
September	11 246	4 409	15 655	15 712	77	15 789
December	12 116	4 678	16 793	16 859	70	16 929
2005						
March	13 174	5 058	18 232	18 291	63	18 353
June	12 931	4 895	17 827	17 909	51	17 960
September	r14 505	r5 039	r19 544	r19 623	57	r19 680
December	14 985	4 867	19 852	19 952	53	20 004
COMPLETED						
2002–2003	15 701	2 575	18 276	18 384	20	18 404
2003–2004	15 472	2 814	18 286	18 475	14	18 489
2004–2005	15 831	3 384	19 215	19 279	33	19 312
2004						
September	4 256	723	4 979	4 997	—	4 997
December	3 616	716	4 332	4 339	8	4 347
2005						
March	3 261	621	3 882	3 907	7	3 914
June	4 698	1 324	6 022	6 036	18	6 054
September	r3 987	r1 011	r4 998	r5 014	—	r5 014
December	4 929	876	5 805	5 828	14	5 842

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
r revised

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

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

19 BUILDING ACTIVITY, By value and stage of production—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
			COMMENCED			
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	3 164.2	1 555.8	4 720.0
2003–2004	2 857.8	576.5	3 434.3	3 744.2	1 464.7	5 208.9
2004–2005	3 126.2	786.0	3 912.2	4 277.6	1 752.1	r6 029.8
2004						
September	794.1	190.1	984.2	1 071.7	359.1	1 430.8
December	767.2	213.0	980.2	1 075.8	396.7	1 472.5
2005						
March	751.5	189.0	940.4	1 033.0	686.1	1 719.1
June	813.4	193.9	1 007.4	1 097.1	310.3	1 407.4
September	r1 060.6	r231.2	r1 291.8	r1 396.1	r460.0	r1 856.1
December	1 055.1	148.9	1 203.9	1 332.9	607.8	1 940.7
			UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD			
2002–2003	1 334.5	455.6	1 790.2	1 964.6	1 239.8	3 204.4
2003–2004	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
2004–2005	2 512.2	924.6	3 436.8	3 673.1	1 574.5	5 247.6
2004						
September	2 068.5	744.6	2 813.1	3 009.3	1 330.9	4 340.2
December	2 220.7	846.8	3 067.5	3 281.3	1 366.4	4 647.7
2005						
March	2 471.1	908.6	3 379.7	3 609.7	1 696.4	5 306.1
June	2 512.2	924.6	3 436.8	3 673.1	1 574.5	5 247.6
September	r2 921.7	r1 063.3	r3 985.0	r4 239.9	r1 724.1	r5 964.0
December	3 105.1	1 149.9	4 255.0	4 540.4	1 939.2	6 479.6
			COMPLETED			
2002–2003	2 190.0	368.5	2 558.5	2 837.4	1 019.7	3 857.1
2003–2004	2 312.3	413.1	2 725.4	3 061.6	1 593.8	4 655.3
2004–2005	2 567.5	522.8	3 090.3	3 438.1	1 451.8	4 889.9
2004						
September	644.2	92.8	737.0	824.4	231.3	1 055.7
December	604.7	114.2	718.9	811.2	392.3	1 203.5
2005						
March	515.0	123.9	638.9	706.8	388.8	1 095.5
June	803.6	191.9	995.5	1 095.8	439.5	1 535.2
September	658.3	r148.5	r806.8	r891.0	r376.7	r1 267.7
December	886.6	134.9	1 021.4	1 138.1	429.1	1 567.2
			WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD			
2002–2003	692.3	232.0	924.2	992.8	540.9	1 533.7
2003–2004	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
2004–2005	1 325.8	472.2	1 798.0	1 890.0	802.6	2 692.6
2004						
September	1 149.4	373.9	1 523.3	1 604.8	630.4	2 235.2
December	1 218.6	429.1	1 647.7	1 739.2	636.8	2 376.0
2005						
March	1 255.6	455.7	1 711.4	1 804.2	922.7	2 726.9
June	1 325.8	472.2	1 798.0	1 890.0	802.6	2 692.6
September	r1 544.4	r568.3	r2 112.7	r2 217.7	r806.9	r3 024.7
December	1 679.3	610.4	2 289.7	2 420.0	954.0	3 374.0

r revised

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

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

20 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, By value, stage and type of construction—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions $m	Bridges, railways and harbours $m	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines $m	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage $m	Telecom-munications $m	Heavy industry $m	Recreation and other $m	Total $m
WORK COMMENCED DURING REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	817.8	411.8	206.9	284.0	333.0	2 372.6	194.5	4 620.7
2003–2004	985.6	1 619.7	256.4	234.4	333.6	1 252.3	189.3	4 871.2
2004–2005	927.2	681.6	1 036.1	434.9	347.0	4 816.6	321.5	8 565.0
2004								
September	^303.8	^67.6	298.1	*97.0	^69.5	1 749.3	^63.5	2 648.8
December	^200.6	518.7	^302.8	*66.8	83.3	736.6	^111.1	2 020.0
2005								
March	^201.2	^47.1	^341.8	^58.9	64.0	1 946.7	*84.1	2 743.9
June	221.6	48.2	**93.4	^212.1	130.1	384.0	*62.8	1 152.3
September	^r374.6	67.9	**98.6	*r107.6	92.6	r2 715.1	^r85.4	r3 541.8
December	289.0	1 280.8	^175.4	66.8	107.0	1 910.2	106.0	3 935.2
WORK DONE DURING REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	855.7	331.0	668.0	250.3	365.2	2 060.5	204.6	4 735.3
2003–2004	1 004.3	371.3	683.9	302.6	334.3	1 989.7	194.5	4 880.6
2004–2005	976.3	1 142.5	597.9	346.4	323.1	2 135.4	316.3	5 837.9
2004								
September	214.4	236.9	114.5	*92.4	70.9	563.9	*61.9	1 354.9
December	243.8	332.4	149.7	*93.2	81.3	498.6	*85.5	1 484.4
2005								
March	^244.9	286.0	192.7	^63.7	72.6	518.3	*86.1	1 464.3
June	273.1	287.2	^141.0	^97.1	98.4	554.6	^82.8	1 534.3
September	^r281.5	r305.6	149.1	*r94.0	r94.9	r780.0	^r85.4	r1 790.6
December	289.8	316.3	366.1	^76.8	94.7	1 293.0	^51.7	2 488.5
WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD								
2002–2003	171.3	121.6	483.2	93.8	20.0	1 486.7	11.0	2 387.6
2003–2004	235.5	1 413.0	163.1	59.3	26.4	878.0	27.7	2 803.1
2004–2005	223.1	1 080.0	939.7	161.1	51.9	3 979.1	42.9	6 477.8
2004								
September	289.3	1 276.4	302.0	*56.1	17.5	2 076.1	^31.8	4 049.3
December	245.4	1 490.3	^441.0	^47.3	24.3	2 484.8	^65.9	4 799.0
2005								
March	245.9	1 284.0	^563.9	*r33.8	15.7	4 047.0	^54.1	6 244.3
June	223.1	1 080.0	^939.7	161.1	51.9	3 979.1	^42.9	6 477.8
September	r329.4	924.9	^792.7	^r170.5	42.4	r5 873.1	^r52.0	r8 185.0
December	293.0	1 924.4	568.1	171.5	50.0	6 481.5	94.9	9 583.4

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

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

r revised

Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, cat. no. 8762.0.

21 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By major commodity

Category of the SITC		2004 December $'000	2005 March $'000	2005 June $'000	2005 September $'000	2005 December $'000	2006 March $'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES(a)							
001	Live animals	113 311	87 284	68 353	116 640	126 268	96 647
036	Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	63 744	98 772	131 054	54 158	53 332	122 403
041	Wheat	464 109	436 999	287 557	384 042	436 607	433 429
268	Wool and other animal hair	132 119	107 747	133 069	95 927	113 757	124 065
281	Iron ore and concentrates	1 722 093	1 708 707	2 900 353	2 983 060	3 364 825	2 810 040
284	Nickel ores and concentrates	196 329	189 549	120 875	111 087	210 930	99 301
287	Ores and concentrates of base metal	72 398	56 710	76 827	57 567	132 291	115 365
333	Crude petroleum oils	1 195 944	1 209 048	1 462 065	1 557 495	1 415 308	1 180 946
334	Refined petroleum oils	141 300	168 598	97 366	217 679	121 266	134 918
342	Liquefied propane and butane	93 196	131 811	146 671	157 675	177 796	149 449
343	Natural gas	869 188	759 160	869 246	965 972	1 099 168	972 135
533	Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	98 714	98 025	108 895	99 809	117 386	104 286
683	Nickel	158 109	140 092	122 483	81 225	148 589	153 772
971	Gold, non-monetary	1 488 895	1 342 052	1 422 823	1 463 956	1 558 283	1 668 228
988	Confidential items	1 749 858	1 896 539	1 909 126	1 735 798	1 989 582	1 902 542
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES(b)							
333	Crude petroleum oils	394 017	396 462	535 352	285 475	501 189	488 857
334	Refined petroleum oils	223 314	184 215	273 046	330 280	379 006	343 106
562	Fertilisers	89 396	112 879	128 056	53 478	62 970	90 437
625	Rubber tyres	53 843	50 139	54 620	51 196	50 272	67 789
679	Iron or steel tubes and pipes	41 692	59 865	55 716	65 005	68 941	76 600
723	Civil engineering plant and equipment	113 417	112 364	121 685	121 335	119 766	158 274
728	Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	51 512	51 271	61 179	59 970	77 224	52 213
752	Automatic data processing machines	41 590	37 851	45 188	38 447	44 193	49 549
759	Parts and accessories of office machines	34 574	35 993	39 290	34 023	47 316	51 633
781	Passenger motor vehicles	244 112	260 316	281 379	291 437	314 111	261 661
782	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	138 678	114 276	156 470	134 081	161 258	186 443
792	Aircraft and associated equipment	48 272	21 450	21 679	11 671	26 117	20 906
793	Ships, boats and floating structures	22 660	21 496	8 211	34 645	14 364	50 604
971	Gold, non-monetary	384 927	413 741	618 236	641 406	608 782	1 269 520
988	Confidential items	101 573	133 917	136 162	150 440	142 402	155 580

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

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

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) December quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2006 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) December quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2006 $'000
0	**Food & live animals**						
00	Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates	87 284	126 268	96 647	—	9	17
01	Meat & meat preparations	105 486	118 323	96 005	9 787	9 298	7 291
02	Dairy products & birds' eggs	16 013	22 453	12 930	5 741	5 044	3 582
03	Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates, & preparations thereof	101 517	54 803	123 297	18 631	24 849	20 566
04	Cereals & cereal preparations	457 055	453 845	457 407	6 766	7 336	5 413
05	Vegetables & fruit	27 159	21 374	18 839	13 866	15 677	14 716
06	Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	1 008	2 035	735	2 137	2 447	2 006
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, & manufactures thereof	88	175	217	2 744	2 484	2 402
08	Feeding stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)	31 396	39 010	41 682	3 813	2 719	4 253
09	Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	2 804	4 505	3 119	11 528	9 798	11 939
	Total food & live animals(c)	*829 811*	*842 792*	*850 879*	*75 013*	*79 661*	*72 184*
1	**Beverages & tobacco**						
11	Beverages	11 838	11 907	11 351	9 863	13 260	9 747
12	Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	3	—	1	3	30	8
	Total beverages & tobacco(c)	*11 842*	*11 907*	*11 352*	*9 866*	*13 290*	*9 756*
2	**Crude materials, inedible, except fuels**						
21	Hides, skins & furskins, raw	10 240	11 839	13 351	—	4	145
22	Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	45 876	42 288	125 020	409	333	361
23	Crude rubber (incl. synthetic and reclaimed)	89	72	30	386	1 087	1 308
24	Cork & wood	8 089	61 165	66 858	5 822	8 861	8 336
25	Pulp & waste paper	3 963	4 933	4 693	654	672	894
26	Textile fibres & their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	107 972	114 149	124 356	1 043	812	733
27	Crude fertilisers (excl. those of Division 56) & crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum & precious stones)	23 427	30 250	25 598	6 419	12 325	11 840
28	Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	2 027 727	3 882 451	3 132 579	2 753	3 865	479
29	Crude animal & vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3 255	11 044	4 220	6 153	5 091	6 006
	Total crude materials, inedible, except fuels(c)	*2 230 637*	*4 158 193*	*3 496 705*	*23 639*	*33 051*	*30 103*
3	**Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials**						
32	Coal, coke & briquettes	37	111	29	205	720	210
33	Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	1 377 655	1 536 605	1 315 887	587 334	886 439	842 653
34	Gas, natural & manufactured	890 978	1 276 993	1 121 634	25	33	21
	Total mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials(c)	*2 268 670*	*2 813 708*	*2 437 549*	*587 563*	*887 191*	*842 883*
4	**Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes**						
41	Animal oils & fats	4 785	4 651	6 788	29	52	65
42	Fixed vegetable fats & oils, crude, refined or fractionated	1 422	1 542	878	2 947	3 351	4 116
43	Fats & oils (processed), waxes & inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	58	85	28	304	192	1 130
	Total animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes(c)	*6 265*	*6 277*	*7 694*	*3 280*	*3 595*	*5 311*
5	**Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.**						
51	Organic chemicals	155	446	375	76 936	47 049	76 641
52	Inorganic chemicals	60 973	53 656	61 940	16 731	24 837	21 589
53	Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	98 025	117 386	104 286	3 118	3 570	3 098
54	Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	72 215	71 052	22 326	61 555	28 278	58 287
55	Essential oils & resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, polishing & cleansing preparations	1 479	2 854	4 741	4 627	5 556	5 371
56	Fertilisers (excl. crude)	336	94	49	112 879	62 970	90 437
57	Plastics in primary forms	2 081	3 871	4 211	11 790	9 570	8 652
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	3 075	4 262	7 449	16 202	18 825	19 745
59	Chemical materials & products, n.e.s.	2 879	4 890	4 750	33 918	13 632	38 676
	Total chemicals & related products, n.e.s.(c)	*241 218*	*258 510*	*210 127*	*337 756*	*214 287*	*322 497*

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

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

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) December quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2006 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) December quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2006 $'000
6	**Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material**						
61	Leather, leather manufactures, & dressed furskins, n.e.s.	863	1 003	581	1 484	1 040	1 363
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	2 237	5 097	3 312	66 505	66 829	87 501
63	Cork & wood manufactures (excl. furniture)	1 421	2 989	2 745	20 468	12 585	19 688
64	Paper, paperboard, & articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	1 183	1 255	888	18 168	19 212	19 414
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., & related products	1 377	2 075	1 452	22 375	26 828	23 106
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	35 454	68 221	65 009	48 818	77 416	52 991
67	Iron & steel	11 238	10 950	4 585	120 643	117 686	117 721
68	Non-ferrous metals	180 287	233 527	235 741	62 072	24 276	36 039
69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	13 737	19 391	15 725	88 583	105 298	92 338
	Total manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(c)	*247 798*	*344 507*	*330 037*	*449 116*	*451 169*	*450 161*
7	**Machinery & transport equipment**						
71	Power generating machinery & equipment	11 084	14 312	12 690	154 722	57 429	105 480
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	36 302	43 521	30 409	233 877	229 224	276 054
73	Metal working machinery	510	1 397	2 708	7 481	9 506	18 860
74	General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s. & machine parts, n.e.s.	24 021	33 577	33 466	183 300	261 140	217 822
75	Office machines & automatic data processing machines	1 664	4 036	2 980	78 144	98 530	105 908
76	Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment	9 436	7 560	7 092	26 725	53 037	67 293
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (incl. non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	9 025	17 070	14 039	65 688	77 276	77 592
78	Road vehicles (incl. air-cushion vehicles)	4 008	7 612	4 778	422 967	544 056	506 688
79	Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	5 023	5 789	45 999	46 758	92 310	86 363
	Total machinery & transport equipment(c)	*101 072*	*134 874*	*154 160*	*1 219 661*	*1 422 507*	*1 462 060*
8	**Miscellaneous manufactured articles**						
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating & lighting fixtures & fittings, n.e.s.	2 910	1 376	1 826	6 164	7 526	6 079
82	Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions & similar stuffed furnishings	3 063	4 973	3 758	40 728	64 652	45 243
83	Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	49	40	73	3 186	4 077	2 986
84	Articles of apparel & clothing accessories	556	757	886	22 668	21 463	24 966
85	Footwear	132	497	275	14 595	10 007	17 488
87	Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s.	12 771	16 062	15 163	52 886	54 776	55 082
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment & supplies & optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks	747	691	735	4 117	3 402	3 110
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	8 111	9 319	7 911	54 382	80 897	56 170
	Total miscellaneous manufactured articles(c)	*28 337*	*33 716*	*30 627*	*198 726*	*246 800*	*211 124*
9	**Commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC**						
93	Special transactions & commodities not classified according to kind	10 525	12 460	10 408	295	480	376
95	Gold coin whether or not legal tender, & other coin being legal tender	30 033	32 552	34 647	726	241	366
96	Coin (excl. gold coin), not being legal tender	164	163	—	—	26	31
97	Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold ores & concentrates)	1 342 052	1 558 283	1 668 228	413 741	608 782	1 269 520
98	Combined confidential items excl. some of SITC 280 (exports only) & some of SITCs 510 & 520 (imports only)	1 896 539	1 989 582	1 902 542	133 917	142 402	155 580
	Total commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC(c)	*3 279 313*	*3 593 041*	*3 615 825*	*548 678*	*751 930*	*1 425 874*
	Total merchandise trade(c)	**9 244 962**	**12 197 523**	**11 144 956**	**3 453 297**	**4 103 480**	**4 831 952**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

(b) Customs value.

(c) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

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

23 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By selected country

Country	EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) December quarter 2005 $'000	EXPORTS(a) March quarter 2006 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) December quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS(b) March quarter 2006 $'000	BALANCE OF TRADE March quarter 2005 $'000	BALANCE OF TRADE December quarter 2005 $'000	BALANCE OF TRADE March quarter 2006 $'000
Argentina	805	411	30 902	1 639	2 417	966	–834	–2 006	29 936
Belgium	124 467	103 234	104 747	21 841	16 528	21 147	102 626	86 706	83 601
Canada	207 805	164 973	163 630	55 829	60 526	44 933	151 977	104 447	118 697
China	1 555 823	2 651 319	2 165 563	222 202	293 275	264 060	1 333 621	2 358 044	1 901 503
Denmark	2 276	1 211	3 004	38 797	11 568	47 013	–36 521	–10 357	–44 009
Egypt	1 615	47 184	130 017	442	949	820	1 173	46 234	129 197
Finland	144 602	197 328	126 801	24 034	39 567	42 668	120 568	157 761	84 133
France	41 905	53 848	55 799	56 376	49 841	64 932	–14 471	4 007	–9 133
Germany	20 826	20 502	36 408	171 737	131 775	148 054	–150 912	–111 273	–111 646
Hong Kong(c)	66 397	51 624	95 854	8 950	63 935	102 254	57 447	–12 311	–6 400
India	682 116	527 339	655 431	34 950	26 701	22 998	647 167	500 638	632 432
Indonesia	339 669	231 899	308 330	214 468	153 211	350 516	125 201	78 687	–42 185
Iran	362	1 054	32 931	131	231	334	231	823	32 597
Ireland	395	5 245	579	51 172	12 698	43 252	–50 777	–7 453	–42 673
Israel	10 548	7 696	14 694	23 829	15 103	10 838	–13 281	–7 406	3 856
Italy	67 161	54 686	51 716	85 519	83 224	95 325	–18 359	–28 538	–43 609
Japan	1 983 567	2 963 816	2 405 670	354 684	417 011	419 944	1 628 883	2 546 804	1 985 726
Jordan	26 842	12 044	30 641	168	470	211	26 674	11 575	30 430
Korea, Republic of	630 476	1 150 074	1 014 766	99 034	135 522	99 645	531 442	1 014 552	915 121
Kuwait	20 010	35 287	26 436	180	118	185	19 830	35 169	26 250
Malaysia	97 759	112 271	70 588	127 401	242 992	182 478	–29 642	–130 721	–111 890
Malta	—	469	38 631	2	36	41	–2	433	38 590
Mozambique	75 934	96 845	92 510	—	—	—	75 934	96 845	92 510
Netherlands	96 895	102 620	103 217	31 921	36 179	30 416	64 973	66 441	72 801
New Zealand	175 251	214 581	172 537	108 696	112 133	107 049	66 555	102 448	65 487
Papua New Guinea	127 007	83 423	121 601	72 978	123 671	162 109	54 029	–40 247	–40 508
Russian Federation	19 868	29 295	19 834	6 721	12 849	9 935	13 147	16 447	9 899
Saudi Arabia	88 685	116 601	102 366	199 180	235 284	211 936	–110 495	–118 682	–109 570
Singapore	377 179	455 634	317 961	322 826	665 074	640 109	54 353	–209 440	–322 148
South Africa	185 064	211 636	249 884	52 012	56 405	64 049	133 051	155 232	185 836
Spain	86 120	66 601	42 745	21 765	28 671	36 406	64 355	37 930	6 339
Sweden	1 855	11 821	1 942	40 813	43 070	69 111	–38 958	–31 249	–67 169
Switzerland	6 933	29 312	51 850	29 225	15 369	23 414	–22 291	13 942	28 436
Taiwan	268 383	320 688	231 723	78 430	103 793	64 972	189 953	216 895	166 751
Thailand	670 315	322 085	330 758	124 051	137 881	272 654	546 264	184 204	58 104
United Arab Emirates	114 689	109 420	170 572	50 672	65 147	165 380	64 017	44 272	5 192
United Kingdom	167 784	826 650	914 170	154 883	106 437	110 098	12 900	720 213	804 072
United States of America	225 847	378 997	322 128	392 743	421 254	676 266	–166 896	–42 257	–354 139
Viet Nam	63 741	21 102	30 053	41 778	13 472	23 490	21 963	7 630	6 563
Yemen	88 030	21 981	35 691	—	—	51 403	88 030	21 981	–15 713
All other countries	379 956	384 716	270 276	131 218	169 093	150 539	248 738	215 623	119 736
Total(d)	**9 244 962**	**12 197 523**	**11 144 956**	**3 453 297**	**4 103 480**	**4 831 952**	**5 791 665**	**8 094 043**	**6 313 004**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value.
(b) Customs value.
(c) SAR of China.
(d) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

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

24 MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE(a), By selected mineral

	SELECTED MINERALS (ORIGINAL)						ORIGINAL	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	TREND	ORIGINAL
Reference period	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Diamonds	Total minerals(b)	Total minerals(b)	Total minerals(b)	Total petroleum
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2002–2003	np	np	54.1	265.6	43.4	17.7	423.6	424.0	414.4	598.3
2003–2004	np	np	70.6	276.7	np	17.0	465.8	465.1	466.7	670.5
2004–2005	4.7	4.8	148.7	259.6	136.9	15.9	606.0	607.3	604.2	526.5
2004										
December	1.9	0.6	38.0	67.5	35.0	5.3	156.7	146.3	150.8	113.1
2005										
March	np	np	40.9	54.1	27.3	2.2	134.4	159.0	155.9	154.3
June	1.4	1.8	41.1	64.1	45.1	3.8	167.0	157.9	156.4	129.4
September	2.3	1.7	36.5	62.0	35.9	4.0	154.4	150.4	152.4	135.1
December	2.2	4.4	33.7	61.1	41.4	4.6	158.0	147.4	147.5	152.8
2006										
March	2.0	2.1	19.7	53.7	31.0	np	121.5	144.0	143.6	137.0

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

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

(b) Includes minerals not listed.

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

25 MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION: **Original**

Reference period	Gold(a)	Diamonds	Iron ore(b)	Bauxite	Ilmenite	Nickel	Zinc(c)	Coal	Electricity generated	Crude oil(d)	Natural gas(e)
	SELECTED MINERALS							ENERGY			
	tonnes	'000 carats	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	million kWh	megalitres	million m^3
2002–2003	190	31 901	193 251	36 567	1 911	183	246	6 323	20 001	19 428	20 179
2003–2004	174	24 292	216 609	38 072	1 774	185	91	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2004–2005	173	32 446	246 875	38 070	1 873	194	47	6 233	21 956	16 997	24 582
2004											
December	42	9 011	61 542	9 431	493	53	6	1 688	5 600	3 872	6 347
2005											
March	45	8 633	60 064	9 798	457	49	13	1 543	5 908	3 891	5 765
June	44	9 474	65 551	9 212	464	43	16	1 478	5 169	4 973	6 213
September	42	6 043	64 741	9 653	497	45	18	1 659	5 163	4 667	6 317
December	43	6 516	65 844	9 833	463	52	22	1 683	5 399	4 563	6 691
2006											
March	40	7 575	59 188	9 583	500	38	40	1 707	5 498	3 355	6 253

(a) Gold content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined and unrefined bullion.
(b) For use in iron and steel making.
(c) Zinc content of all ores, concentrates, slags, residues, intermediate products, refined zinc, zinc powders, flakes and dust.
(d) Includes condensate.
(e) Commercial sales plus field and plant usage.

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

26 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND RED MEAT PRODUCED(a): **All series**

	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b)					RED MEAT PRODUCED(c)				
	Cattle(d)	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Beef*(e)	*Veal*	*Mutton*	*Lamb*	*Pig meat*
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
ORIGINAL										
2002–2003	429.3	5.3	1 771.8	2 021.0	672.3	116 555	258	37 094	47 212	45 190
2003–2004	462.9	4.7	1 845.4	2 391.8	674.4	131 407	250	43 842	49 122	43 999
2004–2005	510.5	4.3	2 205.2	2 466.7	647.0	85 748	189	35 402	42 817	30 402
2004										
December	126.6	1.1	606.0	639.4	152.6	32 317	74	12 066	12 380	10 220
2005										
March	126.1	0.9	651.6	575.6	157.9	32 581	51	12 880	11 693	10 793
June	135.8	1.1	468.5	674.0	165.9	36 289	61	9 279	13 866	11 453
September	106.1	1.1	442.1	705.4	155.0	26 452	79	9 515	14 544	10 667
December	114.4	1.0	576.7	695.8	143.4	30 467	65	12 845	14 364	9 709
2006										
March	108.3	0.7	609.9	675.6	147.1	28 829	46	13 042	13 910	10 027
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2002–2003	428.1	5.3	1 749.1	2 019.5	673.3	116 484	258	37 047	47 171	45 217
2003–2004	461.4	4.7	1 855.2	2 389.3	673.7	132 432	250	44 188	49 114	43 997
2004–2005	364.2	3.3	1 606.7	1 803.1	487.1	83 270	183	33 066	43 334	31 000
2004										
December	116.7	1.1	530.9	598.3	160.5	29 266	74	10 459	11 675	10 926
2005										
March	122.6	1.1	533.3	591.6	160.1	31 334	60	10 617	12 011	10 962
June	146.5	1.1	591.4	663.6	158.8	39 871	61	11 904	13 483	10 817
September	110.6	1.0	526.3	745.5	152.2	27 896	69	11 203	15 443	10 445
December	106.2	1.0	502.7	653.9	151.0	27 690	64	11 073	13 616	10 386
2006										
March	105.3	0.8	500.6	694.0	148.9	27 684	49	10 790	14 275	10 169
TREND										
2002–2003	430.0	5.2	1 715.5	2 025.0	672.5	116 381	260	37 266	46 769	45 342
2003–2004	461.6	4.7	1 859.3	2 376.3	674.7	128 883	255	44 149	49 837	43 855
2004–2005	363.4	3.3	1 620.9	1 810.9	486.4	85 931	181	33 259	42 913	31 071
2004										
December	123.9	1.1	549.8	598.2	162.6	31 423	63	10 858	11 795	11 046
2005										
March	128.4	1.1	550.4	617.8	160.0	33 297	64	10 937	12 397	10 923
June	128.3	1.1	553.4	663.2	156.9	33 688	65	11 293	13 572	10 742
September	120.2	1.0	538.5	692.6	153.9	31 464	64	11 355	14 303	10 545
December	109.0	0.9	513.2	695.9	150.8	28 345	61	11 106	14 412	10 342
2006										
March	101.1	0.8	489.8	685.6	148.4	26 122	56	10 797	14 199	10 184

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered for red meat production on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.
(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.
(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.
(d) Excludes calves.
(e) Excludes veal.
Source: Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0.

27 WHEAT AND LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS—Current prices: **Original**

Reference period	WHEAT(a) Gross weight	WHEAT(a) Gross value	LIVE SHEEP Gross weight	LIVE SHEEP Quantity	LIVE SHEEP Gross value
	tonnes	$'000	tonnes	no.	$'000
2002–2003	5 081 468	1 415 256	170 557	3 704 998	264 642
2003–2004	7 923 614	1 784 855	129 905	2 732 173	187 865
2004–2005	8 123 349	1 747 563	141 398	2 791 374	176 615
2004					
December	2 199 070	464 109	40 653	813 357	52 100
2005					
March	2 079 100	436 999	37 675	787 317	47 837
June	1 391 625	287 557	21 069	471 015	28 147
September	1 881 894	384 042	49 955	980 562	67 592
December	2 013 123	436 607	58 065	1 212 050	84 174
2006					
March	2 198 360	433 429	33 199	661 304	43 128

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

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

28 WOOL RECEIVALS(a): **Original**

Reference period	*Brokers receivals* '000 bales	*Brokers receivals* tonnes	*Dealers receivals* '000 bales	*Dealers receivals* tonnes	*Total receivals* '000 bales	*Total receivals* tonnes
2002–2003	518 109	92 450	92 805	16 290	610 914	108 739
2003–2004	510 299	89 664	117 232	20 190	627 531	109 853
2004–2005	495 381	88 049	109 477	19 005	604 858	107 054
2004						
December	133 826	23 781	27 589	4 782	161 415	28 563
2005						
March	160 961	28 354	26 068	4 546	187 029	32 900
June	77 442	13 894	24 363	4 176	101 805	18 070
September	128 554	22 751	33 373	5 786	161 927	28 538
December	147 031	26 052	30 389	5 320	177 420	31 371
2006						
March	188 206	33 714	29 371	5 095	217 577	38 810

(a) Shows the amount of taxable wool received by brokers and purchased by dealers from wool producers. It excludes wool received by brokers on which tax has already been paid by other dealers (private buyers) or brokers.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Livestock Products, Australia,* cat. no. 7215.0.

29 OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: **Original**

Reference period	Permanent	LONG-TERM(a) WA residents	LONG-TERM(a) Overseas visitors	SHORT-TERM(b) WA residents	SHORT-TERM(b) Overseas visitors	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
ARRIVALS						
2002–2003	12 279	10 900	19 436	373 829	460 534	876 977
2003–2004	15 411	10 854	19 705	428 853	483 472	958 294
2004–2005	16 318	11 451	20 823	531 400	500 117	1 080 108
2005						
January	1 500	1 059	2 887	63 315	39 876	108 638
February	1 266	847	4 188	35 493	48 800	90 594
March	1 611	1 052	1 356	40 236	52 059	96 314
April	1 369	797	1 339	43 079	36 987	83 570
May	1 421	670	966	38 881	31 930	73 868
June	1 196	766	1 289	43 630	33 079	79 960
July	1 231	855	3 377	61 956	36 023	103 442
August	1 506	856	1 486	48 749	33 403	86 000
September	1 493	891	1 386	52 982	39 150	95 901
October	1 506	979	1 820	57 465	45 778	107 548
November	1 550	1 080	1 359	38 300	46 665	88 954
December	1 599	2 013	1 194	32 809	64 439	102 054
2006						
January	1 602	1 114	3 438	63 910	44 241	114 305
February	1 408	823	4 782	36 565	46 094	89 672
March	1 546	881	1 849	37 036	44 261	85 573
DEPARTURES						
2002–2003	5 430	9 253	6 730	372 625	450 453	844 492
2003–2004	6 223	8 987	8 223	454 236	455 540	933 208
2004–2005	6 387	9 683	8 370	531 698	495 331	1 051 467
2005						
January	836	1 322	767	40 444	55 397	98 765
February	479	801	543	32 769	43 058	77 650
March	537	880	639	42 313	49 100	93 469
April	645	950	486	43 957	46 007	92 045
May	453	857	537	46 617	36 437	84 901
June	481	707	860	51 486	40 802	94 335
July	543	768	792	55 525	30 780	88 408
August	614	809	601	49 318	37 939	89 280
September	481	633	517	56 498	33 802	91 932
October	501	582	524	42 135	38 952	82 694
November	517	638	697	39 831	49 362	91 045
December	678	861	1 284	57 743	49 910	110 476
2006						
January	1 028	1 538	714	37 503	56 820	97 603
February	499	847	511	33 403	42 539	77 799
March	586	909	605	41 777	47 250	91 127

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is 12 months or more.
(b) Comprises travellers whose intended stay or absence is less than 12 months.
Source: ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,* cat. no. 3401.0.

30 SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS AND HOLIDAY DEPARTURES OF RESIDENTS(a), By air: Original

Reference period	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Europe(b)	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Hong Kong(c)	Japan	United States of America	South Africa	Total(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS(e)												
2002–2003	7 617	53 002	28 207	8 899	21 822	40 301	5 110	5 097	27 338	4 015	3 451	217 963
2003–2004	8 797	56 304	29 185	8 680	30 401	36 268	6 601	5 236	28 069	4 504	4 678	231 194
2004–2005	12 043	56 925	30 984	7 810	25 407	47 473	5 324	5 900	31 197	4 323	3 177	245 156
2005												
January	707	5 946	2 796	303	732	1 492	243	131	2 369	271	92	16 341
February	527	6 505	3 199	817	2 786	3 870	203	1 273	3 177	378	306	24 896
March	1 371	8 306	2 879	1 051	2 384	5 510	549	956	2 722	469	361	27 862
April	1 055	3 459	1 800	586	1 949	3 704	887	353	2 119	433	323	17 763
May	963	1 713	1 159	460	3 141	4 773	305	374	2 202	205	164	16 313
June	911	1 580	1 164	694	1 975	7 676	233	415	956	491	159	17 324
July	1 192	3 188	2 787	613	1 456	2 295	337	635	2 276	269	146	16 549
August	952	2 732	2 247	375	2 172	3 342	319	423	3 122	324	472	17 436
September	1 314	3 555	2 385	569	2 090	3 273	385	306	3 463	291	361	18 928
October	1 272	6 097	3 371	920	2 386	4 483	521	458	2 513	188	245	23 764
November	646	6 589	3 515	877	2 318	4 455	111	333	2 863	441	371	23 623
December	1 690	10 770	4 843	1 066	2 442	5 867	466	1 121	2 511	1 089	831	34 879
2006												
January	857	7 291	3 436	318	1 048	2 237	206	861	2 642	404	296	21 889
February	453	7 264	3 262	527	1 436	1 523	374	464	2 399	415	241	19 871
March	813	6 880	2 529	640	1 396	2 799	626	390	2 706	376	343	20 877
RESIDENT DEPARTURES(f)												
2002–2003	17 611	18 322	12 903	46 601	11 924	15 180	21 561	3 163	801	6 864	2 726	178 145
2003–2004	21 171	21 134	18 510	75 729	12 503	16 150	18 945	4 025	1 572	9 885	1 900	225 882
2004–2005	24 650	20 515	16 547	94 086	17 720	25 455	22 604	5 959	2 684	10 327	3 164	279 353
2005												
January	2 525	551	258	7 080	1 231	3 087	680	498	465	630	156	19 691
February	2 034	809	366	5 945	919	1 404	1 022	331	206	206	23	15 749
March	2 963	1 009	480	7 030	1 488	2 367	1 696	730	153	707	292	21 476
April	1 447	1 739	1 568	7 627	1 566	2 345	1 645	460	330	1 147	160	23 288
May	915	2 871	3 000	7 343	1 168	1 308	977	486	166	1 415	214	22 706
June	1 335	2 936	2 594	10 495	1 627	2 924	1 704	363	163	771	304	27 459
July	3 142	3 470	1 906	10 666	2 278	3 548	3 239	518	185	998	314	34 018
August	2 218	2 960	1 925	9 699	1 619	2 365	2 224	281	82	914	172	27 956
September	2 262	2 106	2 974	11 250	1 924	2 792	2 536	744	262	1 913	394	33 095
October	1 210	1 286	878	5 012	2 382	2 151	3 707	694	212	964	388	23 053
November	1 683	724	440	3 587	1 652	2 602	2 602	1 086	—	905	116	18 807
December	3 581	2 616	2 141	4 073	3 098	3 131	3 086	771	477	2 358	707	31 353
2006												
January	2 106	874	895	2 633	1 763	2 151	1 762	1 044	810	734	66	18 903
February	2 198	737	367	2 356	1 363	946	2 494	458	473	392	155	14 853
March	2 041	863	591	3 268	1 792	2 902	2 557	991	216	1 197	278	19 320

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.
(b) Excluding United Kingdom and Ireland.
(c) Special Administrative Region of China.
(d) Total includes countries not listed.
(e) Overseas visitor arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.
(f) Resident departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.

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

31 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, Summary of Hotels, motels and serviced apartments: **Original**

Quarter	Establishments (no.)	Rooms (no.)	Room nights occupied ('000)	Room occupancy rate (%)	Guest arrivals ('000)	Takings from accommodation ($'000)
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 5–14 ROOMS						
2004						
September	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005						
March	135	1 122	41.9	42.6	40.1	4 408
June	134	1 113	43.0	42.6	41.4	4 423
September	133	1 095	46.0	45.9	44.3	4 773
December	132	1 080	45.4	46.6	42.0	4 992
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 15 OR MORE ROOMS						
2004						
September	340	20 375	1 135.5	60.7	823.7	126 265
December	344	20 937	1 174.6	61.3	869.5	134 200
2005						
March	351	20 646	1 129.4	61.0	811.4	129 037
June	350	20 890	1 119.6	59.1	756.3	129 486
September	350	20 807	1 214.0	63.5	872.7	143 553
December	355	21 687	1 274.2	64.0	906.2	151 796
HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 5 OR MORE ROOMS						
2004						
September	na	na	na	na	na	na
December	na	na	na	na	na	na
2005						
March	486	21 768	1 171.3	60.1	851.5	133 445
June	484	22 003	1 162.5	58.2	797.6	133 909
September	483	21 902	1 260.1	62.6	916.9	148 325
December	487	22 767	1 319.6	63.2	948.2	156 788

na not available

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

32 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, Summary of Caravan parks, Holiday flats, units and houses and Visitor hostels: **Original**

Quarter	Establishments(a)	Capacity(b)	Nights occupied(c)	Occupancy rate(d)	Takings from accommodation
	no.	no.	'000	%	$'000
CARAVAN PARKS(e)					
2003					
September	207	25 659	1 297.9	55.3	26 028
December	207	26 058	1 081.2	45.1	21 911
2005					
March	206	26 215	1 080.9	46.2	23 336
June	209	26 600	1 138.6	47.1	23 793
September	205	26 072	1 262.0	52.6	27 746
December	203	25 874	1 103.9	46.6	25 696
HOLIDAY FLATS, UNITS AND HOUSES					
2003					
September	1 188	5 466	55.9	51.2	4 913
December	1 186	5 381	60.4	55.3	6 046
2005					
March	1 106	6 306	61.7	62.0	7 562
June	1 096	6 184	51.6	51.7	4 683
September	1 139	6 164	63.6	60.7	5 265
December	1 159	6 125	74.4	69.7	7 106
VISITOR HOSTELS(f)					
2003					
September	72	5 388	182.4	37.0	3 268
December	73	5 480	216.4	42.9	4 158
2005					
March	72	5 176	235.3	50.7	4 879
June	70	5 118	210.7	45.2	4 220
September	67	5 161	193.8	40.8	3 898
December	67	5 184	208.5	43.7	4 337

(a) Number of establishments for Caravan parks and Visitor hostels. Total number of Holiday flats, units and houses.
(b) Total capacity for Caravan parks (including on-site vans, other powered sites, unpowered sites and cabins, flats, units and villas). Number of bed spaces for Holiday flats, units and houses and Visitor hostels.
(c) Site nights occupied for Caravan parks. Unit nights occupied for Holiday flats, units and houses. Guest nights occupied for Visitor hostels.
(d) Site occupancy rate for Caravan parks. Unit occupancy rate for Holiday flats, units and houses. Bed occupancy rate for Visitor hostels.
(e) Comprising establishments with 40 or more powered sites and cabins, flats, units and villas.
(f) Comprising establishments with 25 or more bed spaces.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia, cat. no. 8635.0.

33 LABOUR FORCE STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER), By sex: Trend

Month	EMPLOYED Full-time	Total	Total unemployed	Labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES						
2005						
March	495.6	577.3	25.8	603.0	75.7	4.3
April	497.8	579.8	26.4	606.2	76.0	4.4
May	499.9	582.4	26.9	609.3	76.2	4.4
June	501.9	584.8	26.8	611.6	76.4	4.4
July	503.6	587.0	26.2	613.2	76.5	4.3
August	504.8	589.0	25.3	614.3	76.5	4.1
September	505.4	590.4	24.5	614.9	76.4	4.0
October	505.9	591.5	23.9	615.4	76.4	3.9
November	506.6	592.6	23.7	616.2	76.3	3.8
December	507.7	593.7	23.7	617.4	76.4	3.8
2006						
January	509.5	595.1	23.7	618.7	76.4	3.8
February	511.7	596.6	23.2	619.8	76.4	3.7
March	513.3	597.9	22.4	620.3	76.3	3.6
April	514.5	598.9	21.5	620.4	76.2	3.5
May	515.1	599.3	20.6	619.9	76.1	3.3
FEMALES						
2005						
March	234.4	451.9	25.5	477.4	59.1	5.3
April	236.5	455.0	25.8	480.7	59.5	5.4
May	238.5	457.8	25.5	483.3	59.7	5.3
June	239.7	460.0	24.8	484.8	59.8	5.1
July	239.7	461.4	23.9	485.3	59.8	4.9
August	238.8	462.3	23.0	485.3	59.7	4.7
September	237.6	462.8	22.2	485.0	59.6	4.6
October	236.7	463.0	21.7	484.7	59.5	4.5
November	236.5	463.1	21.5	484.6	59.4	4.4
December	237.1	463.3	21.6	484.9	59.3	4.5
2006						
January	238.2	463.8	21.7	485.5	59.3	4.5
February	238.9	464.5	21.6	486.1	59.4	4.4
March	238.9	465.2	21.4	486.5	59.3	4.4
April	238.6	465.8	21.1	486.9	59.3	4.3
May	237.7	466.4	20.7	487.1	59.3	4.2
PERSONS						
2005						
March	730.0	1 029.2	51.2	1 080.4	67.3	4.7
April	734.3	1 034.8	52.2	1 087.0	67.7	4.8
May	738.4	1 040.2	52.4	1 092.6	67.9	4.8
June	741.6	1 044.8	51.6	1 096.4	68.1	4.7
July	743.3	1 048.4	50.1	1 098.5	68.1	4.6
August	743.6	1 051.2	48.3	1 099.6	68.0	4.4
September	743.0	1 053.2	46.7	1 099.8	68.0	4.2
October	742.6	1 054.5	45.6	1 100.0	67.9	4.1
November	743.1	1 055.6	45.2	1 100.8	67.8	4.1
December	744.9	1 057.1	45.3	1 102.4	67.8	4.1
2006						
January	747.7	1 058.9	45.4	1 104.2	67.8	4.1
February	750.6	1 061.1	44.8	1 105.9	67.8	4.1
March	752.3	1 063.1	43.8	1 106.9	67.8	4.0
April	753.1	1 064.7	42.6	1 107.2	67.7	3.8
May	752.8	1 065.7	41.2	1 107.0	67.6	3.7

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.

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

34 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, By industry: **Original**

	2005				2006	
	February	*May*	*August*	*November*	*February*	*May*
ANZSIC Division	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	50.2	53.3	56.6	57.3	58.4	48.0
Mining	45.3	48.6	47.7	52.8	45.9	54.6
Manufacturing	90.4	98.9	88.7	96.3	95.6	99.6
Electricity, gas and water supply	12.5	10.2	11.3	7.1	9.4	10.0
Construction	93.7	100.3	100.3	99.5	111.7	104.9
Wholesale trade	43.6	41.8	39.7	43.3	44.1	47.7
Retail trade	151.2	152.6	155.8	146.5	152.9	157.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	44.8	44.8	39.3	43.9	42.5	45.3
Transport and storage	43.6	41.6	44.8	49.2	45.1	41.0
Communication services	15.7	13.6	14.2	16.0	15.3	16.1
Finance and insurance	26.6	24.1	25.1	27.7	26.3	28.7
Property and business services	130.6	123.9	119.6	122.4	125.5	123.6
Government administration and defence	40.5	46.8	46.1	50.7	47.3	45.8
Education	69.8	76.7	79.7	72.9	63.2	68.9
Health and community services	102.0	104.3	106.8	103.8	108.8	103.9
Cultural and recreational services	20.2	26.8	28.5	25.9	25.7	27.2
Personal and other services	46.2	38.2	39.5	39.9	41.5	45.9
Total	**1 027.0**	**1 046.5**	**1 043.8**	**1 055.3**	**1 059.4**	**1 068.7**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

35 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND HOURS WORKED, By occupation: **Original**

ASCO Major group	2005 February	2005 May	2005 August	2005 November	2006 February	2006 May
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ('000)						
Managers and administrators	64.9	60.1	60.7	60.8	65.0	61.4
Professionals	155.6	170.1	174.7	168.7	165.4	166.2
Associate professionals	115.8	105.3	100.5	105.6	106.9	114.8
Tradespersons and related workers	103.5	109.2	106.5	104.3	106.4	125.0
Advanced clerical and service workers	33.1	33.6	34.3	31.7	32.4	30.5
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	144.4	157.8	153.5	164.9	161.4	171.2
Intermediate production and transport workers	76.8	84.9	77.6	80.6	83.7	83.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	95.0	93.9	95.2	101.9	95.2	96.2
Labourers and related workers	84.1	73.7	75.3	77.6	84.7	79.1
Total	**873.2**	**888.5**	**878.2**	**895.9**	**901.2**	**927.9**
TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ('000)						
Managers and administrators	2 985.9	2 894.1	2 899.4	2 799.0	2 922.8	2 780.4
Professionals	5 785.7	6 300.1	6 500.5	6 289.9	6 172.1	6 234.6
Associate professionals	4 623.0	4 051.4	3 837.8	4 021.7	4 132.3	4 427.7
Tradespersons and related workers	4 255.8	4 356.2	4 255.3	4 232.5	4 136.3	5 029.7
Advanced clerical and service workers	979.3	1 011.3	1 028.5	901.4	922.9	833.5
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4 517.7	4 796.5	4 487.6	4 920.7	5 016.0	5 360.1
Intermediate production and transport workers	3 122.6	3 508.1	3 079.4	3 344.8	3 391.4	3 213.8
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	2 465.8	2 203.2	2 291.2	2 517.9	2 418.6	2 302.5
Labourers and related workers	2 671.0	2 200.6	2 079.7	2 244.9	2 544.5	2 517.7
Total	**31 406.8**	**31 321.5**	**30 459.4**	**31 272.7**	**31 657.0**	**32 700.1**
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (no.)						
Managers and administrators	46.0	48.2	47.8	46.1	45.0	45.3
Professionals	37.2	37.0	37.2	37.3	37.3	37.5
Associate professionals	39.9	38.5	38.2	38.1	38.6	38.6
Tradespersons and related workers	41.1	39.9	40.0	40.6	38.9	40.2
Advanced clerical and service workers	29.6	30.1	30.0	28.4	28.5	27.4
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	31.3	30.4	29.2	29.8	31.1	31.3
Intermediate production and transport workers	40.7	41.3	39.7	41.5	40.5	38.5
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	25.9	23.5	24.1	24.7	25.4	23.9
Labourers and related workers	31.8	29.9	27.6	28.9	30.0	31.8
Total	**36.0**	**35.3**	**34.7**	**34.9**	**35.1**	**35.2**

Source: ABS data available on request, *Labour Force, Australia,* cat. no. 6202.0.

36 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: **All series**

	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*
Quarter	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
ORIGINAL									
2004									
December	1 080.20	1 147.20	969.20	806.40	821.10	539.20	990.00	1 039.70	765.30
2005									
March	1 101.60	1 169.00	990.40	822.30	834.90	553.50	1 009.60	1 058.90	787.10
June	1 120.80	1 197.40	992.10	848.90	863.30	554.40	1 032.20	1 088.50	787.40
September	1 130.80	1 199.90	1 016.60	850.20	864.10	568.00	1 038.50	1 089.50	806.10
December	1 152.00	1 227.60	1 039.10	862.10	878.00	562.70	1 057.20	1 113.30	809.70
2006									
March	1 165.10	1 232.80	1 046.50	869.30	884.10	567.20	1 069.00	1 119.50	816.60
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2004									
December	1 081.10	1 147.10	967.00	807.70	821.30	543.40	989.80	1 038.30	768.30
2005									
March	1 104.50	1 172.90	989.60	820.60	833.30	547.70	1 011.00	1 060.40	783.70
June	1 117.40	1 191.90	991.00	851.90	866.80	558.20	1 031.10	1 087.00	788.80
September	1 130.50	1 201.60	1 020.90	847.40	861.80	565.80	1 038.40	1 090.90	804.80
December	1 153.00	1 227.60	1 036.60	863.80	878.50	567.10	1 057.00	1 111.80	813.00
2006									
March	1 167.80	1 236.70	1 045.80	867.30	882.20	561.50	1 070.40	1 121.20	813.00
TREND									
2004									
December	1 077.60	1 143.70	965.20	809.70	822.90	544.30	988.60	1 037.00	767.40
2005									
March	1 100.70	1 170.30	983.20	825.20	838.80	549.70	1 010.20	1 061.40	780.90
June	1 118.60	1 190.80	1 000.30	841.60	855.80	557.70	1 028.00	1 081.30	793.00
September	1 133.60	1 206.60	1 017.00	853.20	867.90	563.60	1 042.00	1 096.00	802.70
December	1 150.50	1 222.80	1 033.90	861.20	876.10	565.50	1 055.80	1 109.10	810.50
2006									
March	1 168.20	1 238.60	1 049.40	867.30	881.80	564.70	1 069.70	1 121.40	816.00

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

37 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: **Original**

Reference period	Number of disputes (no.)	Number of employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
2003	131	53.3	79.2	98.1
2004	134	26.7	64.1	76.9
2005	115	23.3	53.4	60.7
2004				
December	34	6.3	17.1	20.1
2005				
March	27	6.5	21.3	24.4
June	27	6.9	9.0	10.2
September	49	6.3	11.1	12.7
December	18	4.0	12.0	13.4
2006				
March	17	1.2	2.3	2.5

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

38 JOB VACANCIES FOR EMPLOYEES, By sector: **Original**

	PRIVATE		PUBLIC		TOTAL	
Quarter	Job vacancies ('000)	Change from same quarter previous year (%)	Job vacancies ('000)	Change from same quarter previous year (%)	Job vacancies ('000)	Change from same quarter previous year (%)
2004						
November	11.4	46.8	1.7	41.1	13.1	46.0
2005						
February	14.0	49.9	1.2	40.7	15.3	49.1
May	13.2	39.1	1.3	25.6	14.5	37.8
August	15.7	37.4	1.3	27.7	16.9	36.6
November	14.5	26.8	1.3	–21.2	15.8	20.7
2006						
February	19.3	37.3	1.4	10.6	20.6	35.1

Source: Job Vacancies, Australia, cat. no. 6354.0.

39 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

At end of reference period	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
2003–2004	991 268	986 811	1 978 079
2004–2005	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113
2003	983 793	980 362	1 964 155
2004	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2005	1 017 511	1 011 157	2 028 668
2004			
September	995 038	990 429	1 985 467
December	999 217	994 709	1 993 926
2005			
March	1 004 327	999 437	2 003 764
June	1 007 798	1 002 315	2 010 113
September	1 012 330	1 006 367	2 018 697
December	1 017 511	1 011 157	2 028 668

(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.

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

40 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase(b)	Net interstate migration	Net overseas migration(c)	Total population growth(d)
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
2002–2003	23 791	11 161	12 630	–2 810	15 575	25 395
2003–2004	24 530	11 305	13 225	1 272	13 634	28 131
2004–2005	25 186	11 103	14 083	1 466	16 485	32 034
2003	23 862	11 319	12 543	–373	16 719	28 889
2004	25 062	11 153	13 909	1 515	14 347	29 771
2005	26 224	11 293	14 931	1 989	17 822	34 742
2004						
September	6 429	3 117	3 312	289	3 787	7 388
December	6 039	2 758	3 281	292	4 886	8 459
2005						
March	6 095	2 500	3 595	542	5 701	9 838
June	6 623	2 728	3 895	343	2 111	6 349
September	6 867	3 300	3 567	797	4 220	8 584
December	6 639	2 765	3 874	307	5 790	9 971

(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) Births minus deaths.
(c) Adjusted for category jumping.
(d) Differences may occur between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net migration due to intercensal discrepancy.

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

41 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b)

Selected offences	2004 December	2005 March	2005 June	2005 September	2005 December	2006 March
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Homicide(c)	36	23	13	5	18	18
Assault(d)	6 498	6 550	5 400	5 335	6 078	6 716
Robbery(e)	479	465	441	334	458	446
Burglary(f)	10 840	10 348	9 151	9 249	10 202	10 314
Theft	20 075	19 228	18 871	18 405	19 951	20 895
Steal motor vehicle(g)	2 009	1 903	1 740	1 701	1 821	1 743
Property damage	9 339	10 405	9 988	10 200	11 055	10 856
Graffiti(h)	2 148	1 895	2 292	1 443	1 483	2 396
Drugs	3 396	3 586	4 228	3 699	4 022	3 950
Other(i)	4 381	4 972	4 783	4 289	5 454	5 300
Total reported offences	**59 201**	**59 375**	**56 907**	**54 660**	**60 542**	**62 634**

(a) Reported offences are selected offences reported to, or becoming known to, police and resulting in the submission of a report. The number of reported offences in a period may include offences that occurred during earlier periods. The data are subject to revisions as further data become available. Offence classifications may alter between periods due to changes in legislation, administrative recording practices or system coding, and locality boundaries may change. Therefore, time series may be broken.

(b) Definitional, coding and processing changes associated with the introduction of the *Frontline Incident Management System* have had an impact on some data. Variations in data may have resulted from reporting and recording changes, and may not reflect an actual increase or decrease in the incidence of an offence type or in total offence numbers. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting and using offence statistics from late 2002, and when comparing those statistics with earlier periods.

(c) Includes driving causing death.

(d) Includes sexual assault.

(e) Includes armed and unarmed offences.

(f) Includes burglary to dwellings and buildings other than dwellings.

(g) Includes motorised and other vehicles.

(h) Most graffiti offences are committed against public property and the number reported can vary due to different strategies being adopted in different periods by agencies and local government authorities. The number can also vary between periods due to the stockpiling of offences before being reported to police and to an inconsistency in reporting where graffiti is sometimes recorded as property damage.

(i) Includes offences such as fraud, arson and threatening behaviour.

Source: Western Australian Police Service, *Offence Information System/Frontline Incident Management System.*

42 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS(a)

Characteristic	Unit	1995	2003	2004	2005
Total population	'000	1 733.8	1 949.9	r1 978.1	2 010.1
Male population	'000	872.0	976.2	r991.3	1 007.8
Female population	'000	861.8	973.7	r986.8	1 002.3
Indigenous population(b)	'000	58.3	68.4	r69.7	70.9
Persons living in Perth SD	%	73.4	73.4	73.5	73.5
Population aged 0–14	%	22.5	20.4	20.2	19.9
Population aged 15–64	%	67.3	68.1	68.2	68.3
Population aged 65 and over	%	10.3	11.4	11.6	11.8
Population aged 80 and over	%	2.3	2.8	2.9	3.0
Median age of total population(c)	years	32.8	35.6	r35.9	36.2
Sex ratio of population aged 0–64(d)	ratio	104.1	102.9	102.8	103.1
Sex ratio of population aged 65 and over(d)	ratio	78.8	82.1	82.8	83.5
Male life expectancy at birth(e)	years	75.8	78.1	78.6	na
Female life expectancy at birth(e)	years	81.7	83.0	83.3	na
Male life expectancy at age 65(e)	years	16.1	17.8	18.1	na
Female life expectancy at age 65(e)	years	20.0	21.2	21.5	na

na not available

r revised

(a) Data are at 30 June each year unless otherwise specified.

(b) 1995 population data are experimental estimates based on 2001 Census data while 2003, 2004 and 2005 are experimental low series projections.

(c) The age at which half the population is younger and half is older.

(d) The number of males per 100 females.

(e) Life expectancies are based on three year averages e.g. 2004 life expectancy is the average for the 2002–2004 period.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0; *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories,* cat. no. 3201.0; *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians,* cat. no. 3238.0; *Life Tables, Western Australia,* cat. no. 3302.5.55.00.

43 CAUSES OF DEATH (a)

	Unit	1994	2002	2003	2004
Leading causes of death (all deaths)					
Cancer	%	27.7	29.4	29.4	29.8
Ischaemic heart disease	%	23.5	18.0	17.3	17.4
Stroke	%	10.1	8.0	8.1	8.1
Selected cancer					
Male lung cancer (of male deaths)	%	7.6	8.4	7.0	7.0
Female lung cancer (of female deaths)	%	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.6
Female breast cancer (of female deaths)	%	5.0	4.1	4.7	4.1
Prostate cancer (of male deaths)	%	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.7
Skin cancer (of all deaths)	%	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.1
Heart disease					
Male ischaemic heart disease (of male deaths)	%	23.9	18.4	18.0	18.4
Female ischaemic heart disease (of female deaths)	%	23.0	17.7	16.6	16.3
Accidents and suicide					
Transport accidents					
Males (of male deaths)	%	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.6
15–24 years (of male deaths 15–24 years)	%	34.7	34.2	38.8	35.0
Females (of female deaths)	%	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0
15–24 years (of female deaths 15–24 years)	%	38.0	30.4	34.0	28.8
Suicide					
Males (of male deaths)	%	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7
15–24 years (of male deaths 15–24 years)	%	25.4	34.2	24.0	15.0
Females (of female deaths)	%	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7
15–24 years (of female deaths 15–24 years)	%	2.0	17.4	16.0	9.6
Total male deaths	no.	5 598	5 836	5 913	5 850
Total female deaths	no.	4 695	5 490	5 398	5 334
Total male deaths 15–24 years	no.	173	111	129	120
Total female deaths 15–24 years	no.	50	46	50	52
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	no.	5.6	4.3	4.1	3.9

(a) Causes of death data are based on date of registration for years ending 31 December.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Deaths,* cat. no. 3302.0; *Causes of Death,* cat. no. 3303.0.

APPENDIX INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET	**www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.
LIBRARY	A range of ABS publications are available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our web site, or purchase a hard copy publication. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

PHONE	1300 135 070
EMAIL	client.services@abs.gov.au
FAX	1300 135 211
POST	Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All ABS statistics can be downloaded free of charge from the ABS web site.

WEB ADDRESS	www.abs.gov.au

2136750006066
ISSN 1443 993X

RRP $32.00