

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Amanda Baile on Perth (08) 9360 5178.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

June 2005

13 July 2005

September 2005

19 October 2005

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Changes have been made to the format and content of this publication. Some tables have been removed from the Prices, Consumption, Construction, Labour market, Population and Environment sections. New tables have been included in the Trade and Social trends sections. The layout and content of several tables has changed. Please refer to the List of Tables on page 34.

FEATURE ARTICLES

All previously published feature articles are available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <[http://www.abs.gov.au/Themes/Western Australia/Articles of interest on Western Australia](http://www.abs.gov.au/Themes/Western%20Australia/Articles%20of%20interest%20on%20Western%20Australia)>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 24 March 2005. 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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CPI	Consumer Price Index
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	gross state product
GSS	General Social Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LNG	liquefied natural gas
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
NATSIS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
TWI	trade-weighted index
USA	United States of America

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OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

Western Australia's domestic economy continued to expand in the December Quarter 2004, with state final demand increasing by 1.1% in trend chain volume terms. However, growth in state final demand has generally been in decline since peaking at 2.6% in the June Quarter 2003. Growth in the current quarter was driven by strong business investment on Machinery and equipment, rising by 7.1% in seasonally adjusted chain volume terms. The main industries contributing to the increase were Mining, Manufacturing and Agriculture, forestry and fishing, as they developed new capacity to meet growing global demand for minerals, energy and agricultural products. Detracting from growth in the December quarter was State and local government investment, down by 24.6%, mainly driven by reduced expenditure on road construction, housing and community amenities.

Western Australia's exports are growing strongly, supported by high commodity prices and increased production capacity in the state's resources sector. The total value of exports rose by 17.5% in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003. Strong growth was recorded for exports of petroleum, natural gas and iron ore. Growth in petroleum exports was driven by strong \$US price growth, while natural gas exports rose sharply with the 4th LNG train in the North West Shelf coming on-line in December. Iron ore exports were also aided by production, rail and port expansions. During the period, strong global demand and higher commodity prices (up 22.1% in \$US and 15.7% in \$A) more than offset the impact of a rising \$A (up 5.9% and 1.5% against the \$US and TWI respectively) on export volumes. The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 18.1% in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same period of 2003. Much of the recent growth in imports has been fuelled by rising levels of investment activity, high consumer and business sentiment, and a strong \$A. The outlook for export growth in Western Australia remains positive, with commodity prices expected to remain high due to strong demand conditions in China and the United States of America (USA). According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts, economic growth is expected to be strong in 2005 for China (8.2%) and the USA (3.6%). Japan's recovery is also forecast to continue, with economic growth expected to be around 1.1% in 2005.

The labour market in Western Australia has maintained its recent strong performance. In the three months to February 2005, full-time employment rose by 2.3% (15,958 persons) – well above the 0.8% rise recorded nationally. More Western Australians are entering the labour force, with the state's participation rate increasing from 65.9% in November 2004 to 66.6% in February 2005. The number of unemployed persons was unchanged at 48,300 persons in February 2005, compared to November 2004. The state's unemployment rate also steadied at 4.5% over the last three months, well below the national unemployment rate of 5.1% in February 2005.

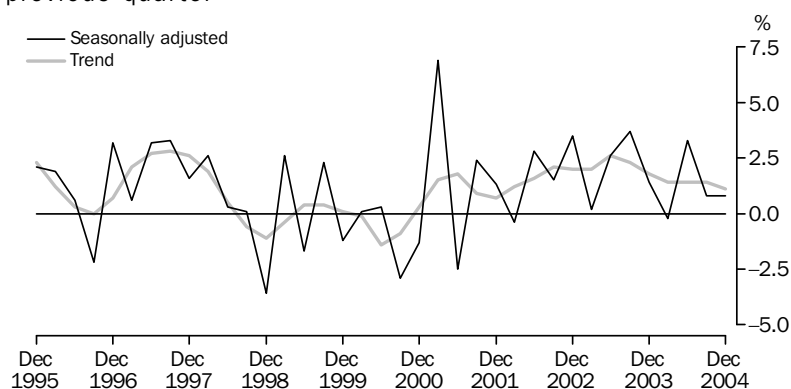
OVERVIEW *continued*

STATE ACCOUNTS

State final demand

Western Australia's state final demand (trend chain volume terms) increased by 1.1% (\$244 million) in the December Quarter 2004, following three consecutive quarterly increases of 1.4%. Generally, growth in state final demand has been in decline since peaking at 2.6% in the June Quarter 2003. Nationally, growth in domestic final demand has remained steady at 1.0% in each of the last three quarters.

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, state final demand in Western Australia increased by 0.8% (\$175 million) in the December Quarter 2004. Business investment on Machinery and equipment made the largest contribution to growth during the quarter, increasing by \$149 million (7.1%), mainly driven by the mining, manufacturing and agriculture industries. Final consumption expenditure by State and local government contributed a further \$71 million (3.2%) to state final demand, while Household final consumption expenditure was strong for Recreation and culture (up \$44 million or 3.1%) and Rent and other dwelling services (up \$21 million or 1.1%).

The main detractor from growth in state final demand in the December Quarter 2004 was State and local government investment, decreasing by \$115 million (24.6%), mainly on road construction, housing and community amenities. Other notable declines were in private investment on Intangible fixed assets (down \$43 million or 10.1%) and household expenditure on Hotels, cafes and restaurants (down \$29 million or 4.1%), Food (down \$25 million or 1.9%) and Purchase of vehicles (down \$22 million or 5.2%).

PRICES

Consumer Price Index

Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.9% in the December Quarter 2004, following a 0.7% increase in the previous quarter. Prices growth in Perth during the December quarter was slightly above the national weighted average of 0.8%.

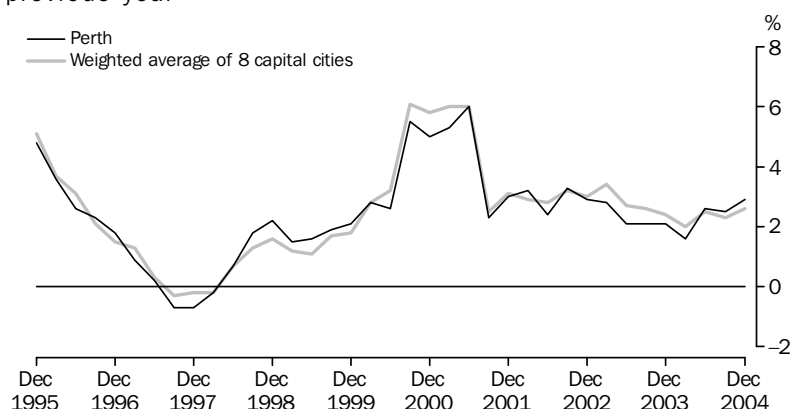
The main contributor to Perth's CPI growth in the December Quarter 2004 was Housing (up 1.9%), largely attributable to increases in the purchase price of housing, as a result of rising costs for skilled labour and materials such as steel. Other notable contributions were: Transportation (up 1.6%), driven by rising petrol prices; and Recreation (up 1.2%), reflecting a seasonal increase in holiday accommodation tariffs and domestic airfares.

OVERVIEW *continued*

Consumer Price Index continued

The only detractors from prices growth in Perth in the December Quarter 2004 were Clothing and footwear (down 1.7%), reflecting discounting by retailers in the lead-up to Christmas; and Health (down 0.5%), due to the cyclical effect of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net in lowering pharmaceutical prices towards the end of the year.

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



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

Perth's CPI rose by 2.9% in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the December Quarter 2003. Nationally, the CPI rose by 2.6% over the same period – within the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range of 2.0%–3.0%. The RBA, however, expects inflation to increase gradually in 2005, as a result of rising production costs from higher raw materials prices, strong domestic and international demand, and the continued strength of the labour market, placing upward pressure on wage costs.

Wage Price Index

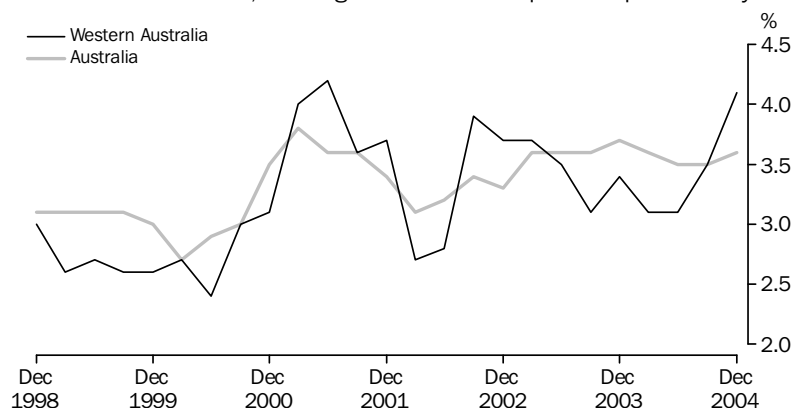
Wages growth in Western Australia moderated slightly in the December Quarter 2004, with the state's quarterly index of total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses increasing by 1.4%, following an increase of 1.7% in the previous quarter. Growth in the state's wages in the December Quarter 2004 was higher than the national growth of 1.0%, and was the second largest increase of all the states and territories behind the Australian Capital Territory (up 1.8%). These increases partly reflect a further flow-on effect from the May 2004 Safety Net Review decision to raise full-time minimum award wages by \$19 per week.

Of the selected industries for Western Australia, wages growth in the December Quarter 2004 was highest in Government administration and defence (up 2.1%) and Property and business services (up 1.2%). The highest quarterly growth among the selected occupations was recorded by Labourers and related workers (up 4.7%) and Tradespersons and related workers (up 3.5%). Anecdotal evidence suggests that wages growth in these occupations may be driven by recent strong activity in the state's mining and construction sectors, coupled with a shortage of skilled workers.

OVERVIEW *continued*

Wage Price Index *continued*

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



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

Western Australia recorded wages growth of 4.1% in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003 – well above the national increase of 3.6% over the same period. The selected industries to record the highest annual wages growth were Manufacturing (up 5.2%) and Government administration and defence (up 4.3%). Labourers and related workers (up 7.6%) and Tradespersons and related workers (up 6.0%) recorded the highest annual wages growth among the selected occupations.

The RBA has noted that, although the strength of activity in the construction and resources sectors has led to wage increases in those industries, there is little indication of emerging widespread wage pressure. They caution, however, that indicators of labour demand point to solid employment growth in the short term, and the recent tightening of labour market conditions could increase the likelihood of wage pressures building in the economy in the longer term.

CONSUMPTION

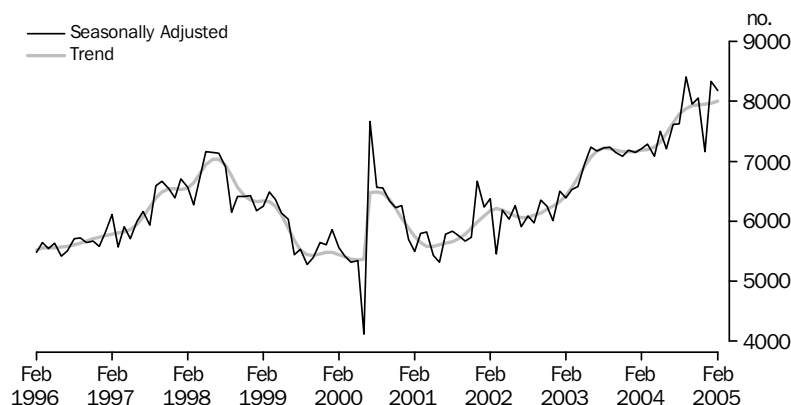
New motor vehicle sales

Sales of new motor vehicles (trend) in Western Australia increased for the fourteenth consecutive month in February 2005, rising by 0.4% to 8,007 vehicles. While the number of new motor vehicles sold in the state remains at historically high levels, the rate of growth has slowed from a high of 2.7% in July 2004. Strength in new motor vehicle sales continues to be supported by high levels of consumer confidence and a strong \$A, lowering the prices of imported vehicles. Over the three months to February 2005, growth in new motor vehicle sales in Western Australia averaged 0.3%, well below the average monthly growth of 0.9% recorded nationally.

OVERVIEW *continued*

New motor vehicle sales *continued*

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



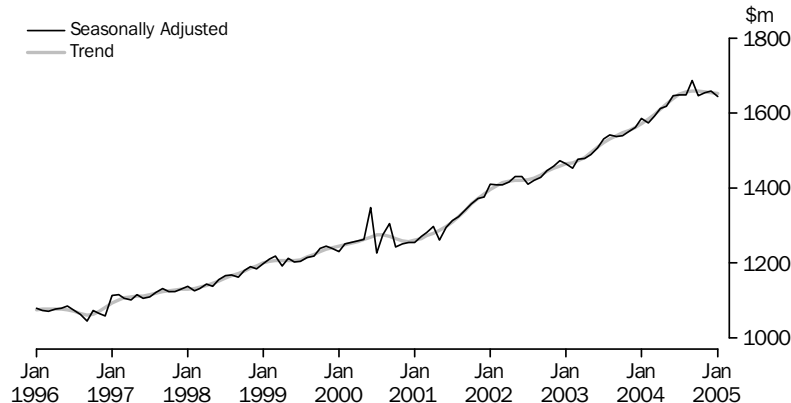
Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

Recent growth in Western Australia's new motor vehicle sales (trend) has been driven by sales of Passenger vehicles, which increased by 1.1% (153 vehicles) over the three months to February 2005, compared to the previous three month period. Sales of Sports utility vehicles increased by 0.9% (39 vehicles), while sales of Other vehicles declined by 0.2% (12 vehicles).

Retail trade

Retail turnover (trend) in Western Australia fell 0.2% in the three months to January 2005, compared to the previous three months, slightly below the 0.6% decline recorded nationally. The recent decline continues a period of easing in retail spending in Western Australia dating back to October 2004, following a sustained period of strong growth.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



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

The main drivers of the decline in retail turnover, over the three months to January 2005, were spending on: Food, down \$34.9 million (1.6%); Hospitality and services, down \$13.6 million (2.3%); and Department stores, down \$3.9 million (1.0%). Going against this trend, however, were strong increases in spending on: Recreational goods, up \$19.3 million (7.7%); and Other retailing, up \$11.3 million (2.3%).

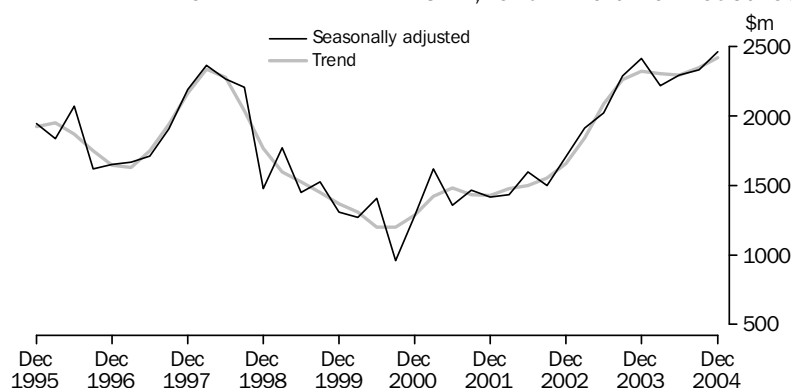
OVERVIEW *continued*

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure

In trend chain volume terms, business investment in Western Australia rose by 2.9% (\$69 million) to \$2,417 million in the December Quarter 2004 – the highest level since the series began in the September Quarter 1989. Growth in the state's capital expenditure over the period was mainly driven by a 3.8% increase in expenditure on Buildings and structures (up \$39 million to \$1,063 million). This was the eleventh consecutive quarterly increase in investment in Buildings and structures, although the rate of growth has slowed from the high of 21.3% in the December Quarter 2002. Investment on Equipment, plant and machinery rose by 1.5% (up \$20 million to \$1,344 million) in the December Quarter 2004, following three successive quarterly declines. Recent growth in business investment in the state has been underpinned by strong activity in the resources sector, largely reflecting high demand for mineral resources from China.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



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

In original current price terms, business investment in Western Australia was 5.0% (\$127 million) higher in the December Quarter 2004 than in the same quarter of 2003. Investment growth over the period was largely driven by a 9.7% (\$34 million) increase in investment in Manufacturing, and a 6.8% (\$53 million) increase in investment in Other selected industries (comprising Retail trade, Construction and Property and business services). Investment in Mining also increased – up 2.8% (\$40 million).

According to the Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance, the overall outlook for business investment in Western Australia remains positive, supported by high profitability and strong domestic and international demand. However, the RBA suggests that capacity constraints may become more important for trade-exposed industries, which are yet to take full advantage of ongoing global economic expansion and favourable terms of trade.

Housing finance commitments

The number of housing finance commitments (trend) in Western Australia fell by 0.2% to 7,314 in January 2005, following eight consecutive months of growth. Average monthly growth in housing finance commitments fell to 0.2% over the three months to January 2005, down from an average of 2.0% in the previous three month period.

Despite declining numbers, the total value of housing finance commitments in Western Australia increased by 4.2% (\$151 million) in the three months to January 2005.

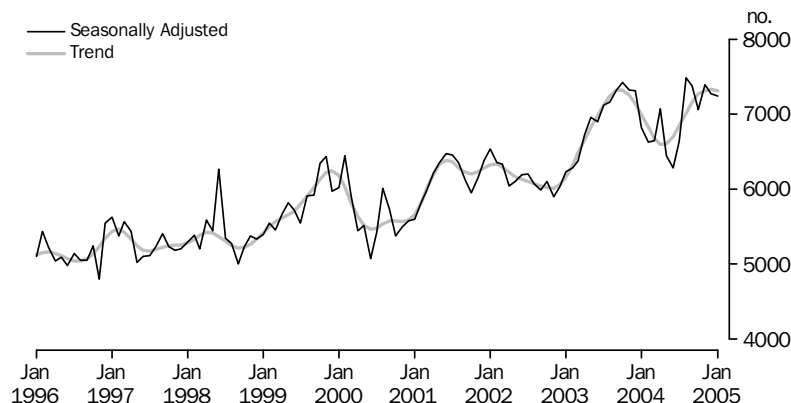
However, growth in the value of housing finance commitments over this period was well below the 9.9% (\$323 million) increase recorded in the previous three month period.

OVERVIEW *continued*

Housing finance commitments *continued*

Monthly increases in the value of commitments have steadily moderated over the last seven months, from 3.6% in July 2004 to 0.0% in January 2005.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



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

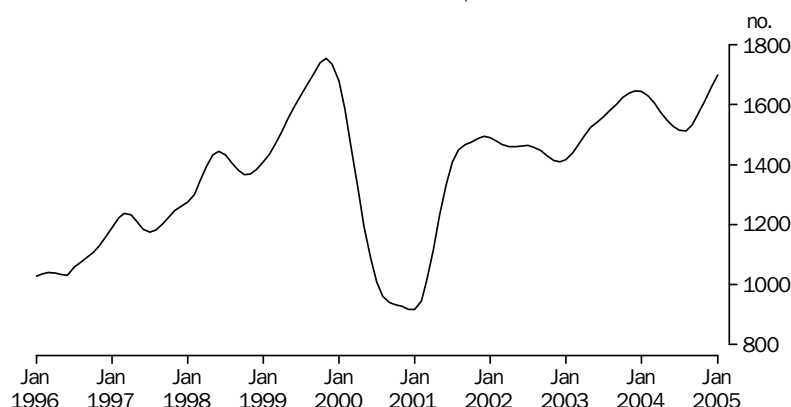
In original terms, the number of housing finance commitments in Western Australia, in the three months to January 2005, was 3.5% higher than in the corresponding period a year earlier. The number of commitments rose by 28.1% (869) for first home buyers over the period, but fell by 0.8% (148) for non-first home buyers. Average loan sizes increased for both first home buyers (up 0.9% to \$168,736) and non-first home buyers (up 1.3% to \$168,506) over the three months to January 2005.

CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals

The number of houses approved (trend) in Western Australia increased by 2.6% to 1,700 in January 2005 – the highest level of approvals since September 1999 (1,705). Over the three months to January, the number of houses approved in Western Australia increased by 7.7%, compared to the previous three months. In contrast, national house building approvals fell by 2.1% over the period.

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



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

In current price terms, the value of new houses approved in Western Australia, in the three months to January 2005, was \$806.2 million – an increase of 0.1% from the previous three month period. Nationally, the value of new houses approved decreased by 10.2%. Over the same period, the value of non-residential building work approved in

OVERVIEW *continued*

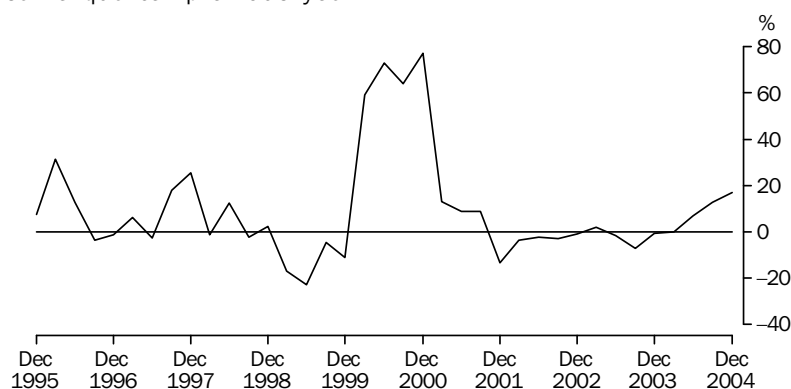
Building approvals continued

the state increased by 14.6% to \$432.4 million, due to increases in the value of approvals of Health, Offices and Entertainment and recreational premises.

TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus increased by \$871.9 million (17.1%) between the December quarters of 2003 and 2004, rising to \$5,968.3 million – the largest surplus recorded since the December Quarter 2000 (\$6,000.5 million). Over the period, the value of the state's exports (up \$1,408.0 million) increased by more than two and a half times the growth in the value of imports (up \$536.1 million). The recent completion of a number of resource projects in Western Australia has bolstered the state's minerals and energy exports, with new production and transport capacity coming on-line to meet strong global demand. Growth in imports continues to be supported by high levels of consumer confidence and business investment, as well as a strong \$A.

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 December quarters of 2003 and 2004, Western Australia's trade position improved with several major trading partners. Most notably, the state's trade position with Thailand moved from a deficit of \$4.0 million to a surplus of \$443.5 million, largely due to increases in the value of exports of non-monetary gold and petroleum. The state's trade position with the USA also improved considerably over the period, moving from a deficit of \$65.4 million to a surplus of \$168.3 million, largely due to an increase in the value of petroleum exports. Conversely, the state's trade surplus with the United Kingdom fell by \$199.3 million to \$303.3 million, mainly attributable to a decrease in exports of combined confidential items (including alumina, nickel, mineral sands and some agricultural products).

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 17.5% to \$9,464.4 million in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003 – the highest value recorded since the quarterly series began in March 1988. Over the period, the value of exports of Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials increased by \$460.5 million (49.9%), mainly driven by strong \$US price growth. The value of exports of Natural and manufactured gas rose by \$380.9 million (62.0%), comprised almost entirely of natural gas exports, coinciding with the commissioning of the 4th LNG train in the North West Shelf in December. Exports of Metalliferous ores and metal scrap increased

OVERVIEW *continued*

Exports continued

by \$380.2 million (24.0%), as a result of an increase in the volume of iron ore exports (up 14.9%), associated with recent production and transport (port) capacity expansions.

Offsetting the state's export growth over the period was a decrease in the value of exports of Iron and steel – down \$77.6 million (76.7%). Since the closure of one of the state's Hot Briquetted Iron plants following an accident in May 2004, Western Australia has ceased to export pig iron products.

Imports

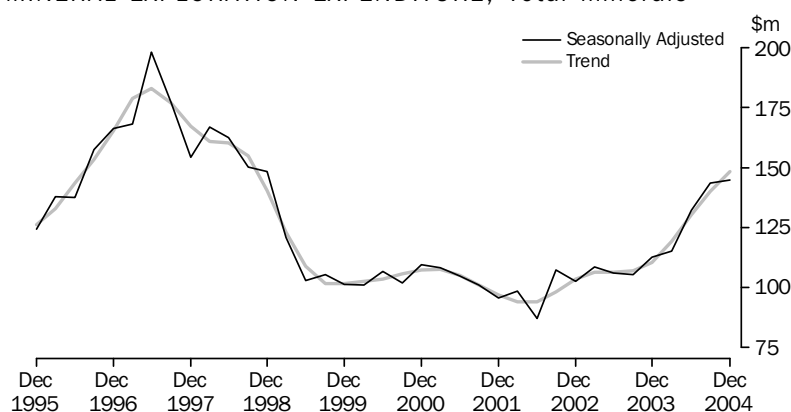
The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 18.1% to \$3,496.1 million in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003. Much of the recent growth in imports has been fuelled by rising levels of investment activity, primarily within the state's resources sector. High levels of consumer and business sentiment have also added to imports growth, particularly for manufactured goods. The main commodities contributing to the rise in value of the state's imports in the December Quarter 2004 were: Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials, up \$236.5 million (60.6%); General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s., up \$106.7 million (65.1%); and Medicinal and pharmaceutical products, up \$62.3 million (112.1%).

MINING

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) in Western Australia increased for the eleventh consecutive quarter in the December Quarter 2004, rising by 5.8% (\$8.2 million) to \$148.4 million. Quarterly growth in the state's mineral exploration expenditure has averaged 4.3% since the June Quarter 2002. Strong global demand for Western Australia's mineral resources continues to stimulate growth in exploration expenditure.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



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

In original terms, Western Australia's mineral exploration expenditure totalled \$156.7 million in the December Quarter 2004 – \$34.7 million (28.4%) higher than in the same quarter of 2003. Over the period, growth was driven by expenditure on Nickel and cobalt exploration, up by \$18.0 million (90.0%), supported by continued growth in the price of nickel and strong global demand. Petroleum exploration expenditure (original) totalled \$113.1 million in the December Quarter 2004 – \$75.1 million (39.9%) less than in the same quarter of 2003.

OVERVIEW *continued*

Mineral production

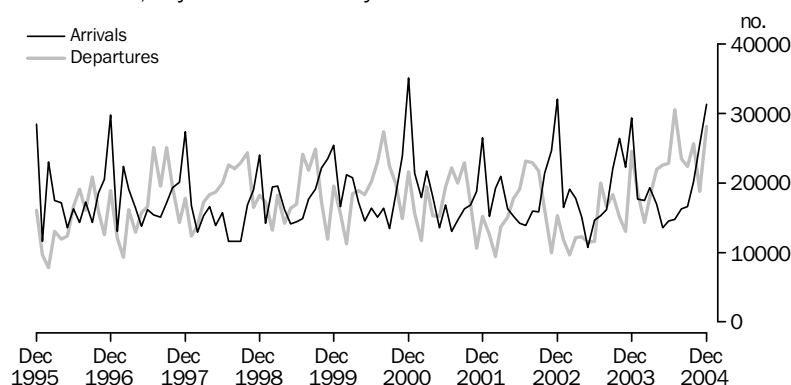
Minerals to record increases in production in the December Quarter 2004, compared to the same quarter of 2003, were Diamonds (up 8.5%), Iron ore (up 3.1%) and Nickel (up 2.0%). Decreases were recorded in the production of Zinc (down 53.3%) and Gold (down 10.6%).

TOURISM

Short-term arrivals on holiday

A total of 77,018 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia by air on holiday in the three months to December 2004 – 1,028 (1.3%) fewer than in the same period of 2003. Contributing to the decline were falls in visitor arrivals from Malaysia (down 2,868 or 29.5%) and South Africa (down 1,613 or 63.1%), although these were partly offset by increases in the number of visitors from Singapore (up 1,069 or 8.1%) and Japan (up 958 or 12.4%).

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 increased to 72,577 in the three months to December 2004 – 19,904 (37.8%) more than in the same period of 2003, and a record level of resident departures for this three month period. The rise in the number of residents departing by air on holiday coincided with a fall in the price of overseas holiday travel and accommodation over the period. Resident departures increased to Indonesia (up 6,383 or 38.4%), Singapore (up 2,539 or 64.8%) and Malaysia (up 1,900 or 51.2%). The only fall in resident departures was recorded to the United Kingdom and Ireland (down 233 or 6.2%).

LABOUR MARKET

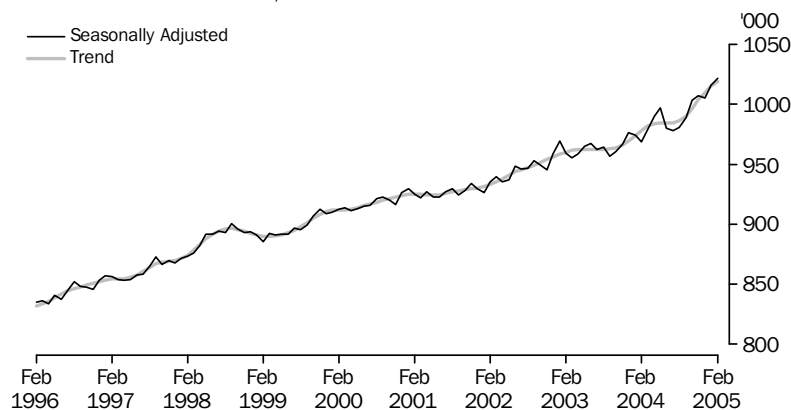
Employment

Western Australia's labour market continued to perform strongly over the three months to February 2005, with the trend estimate of employed persons increasing by 1.5% – well above the national increase of 0.9%. The number of persons employed full-time in the state rose by 2.3% (15,958) over the period, mainly due to a 2.4% increase in the number of full-time employed males. Monthly growth in full-time employment in Western Australia has averaged 0.7% since October 2004, more than double the average monthly growth of 0.3% recorded nationally.

OVERVIEW *continued*

Employment *continued*

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



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

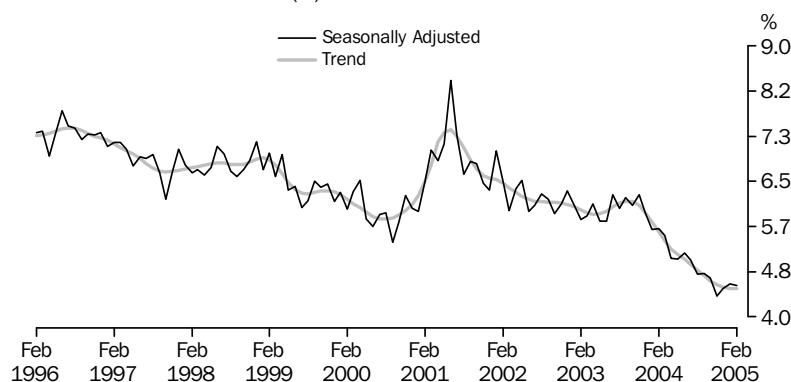
Industry employment

The Property and business services industry in Western Australia recorded the largest increase in employment in February 2005, compared to the same month of 2004, rising by 17,217 (15.2%). Other industries to record strong growth over the period were Construction (up 11,084 or 13.4%) and Government administration and defence (up 7,817 or 23.9%). Several industries recorded decreases in employment over the period, including Wholesale trade (down 6,431 or 12.9%) and Cultural and recreational services (down 4,225 or 17.3%).

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia rose by 0.4% (181) in February 2005 – the first increase since September 2003. Over the three months to February 2005, a rise of 2.3% (531) in the number of unemployed females was completely offset by a fall of 2.1% (530) in the number of unemployed males, to leave the total number of unemployed persons unchanged from the previous three months. The state's unemployment rate declined slightly over the period, from 4.6% in November 2004 to 4.5% in February 2005, well below the national unemployment rate of 5.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (a)



(a) Break in series, April 2001.

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

Overall, conditions in Western Australia's labour market remain tight, with the number of employed persons in the state continuing to grow, the unemployment rate at a record low and businesses reporting difficulties in finding suitable skilled staff.

COMPONENTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

INTRODUCTION

Economic growth has been described as the increasing ability of an economy to satisfy the wants and needs of its people over time (Parry and Kemp 2002). As production and incomes in the economy rise, so too does the standard of living. The interaction of a number of factors contributes to economic growth, including rising population, increasing inputs such as labour and capital, labour productivity growth and technological progress.

There are many ways to measure economic growth. The simplest way is to compare gross domestic product (GDP) or gross state product (GSP) from year to year. Using this measure, Western Australia has experienced more than a decade of strong economic growth since the early 1990s, with the average annual rate of growth in GSP exceeding 4.0% since 1989–90. However, a more useful way to measure economic growth is to compare real GDP or GSP per capita from year to year. This measure relates the real output of the economy to the number of people who produce and consume that output.

This article explores the drivers of Western Australia's economic growth (measured by real GSP per capita) over the decade from 1993–94 to 2003–04, and compares the state's economic growth with that of Australia. The analysis will be of a similar style to that used in the *Intergenerational Report 2002–03*, and will focus on five components of economic growth derived from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Real GDP (GSP)/Population (real GDP (GSP) per capita)} \\ &= \text{Real GDP (GSP)/Hours worked (labour productivity)} \\ &\times \text{Hours worked/Employed persons (average hours worked)} \\ &\times \text{Employed persons/Labour force (employment rate)} \\ &\times \text{Labour force/Population aged 15 years and over (participation rate)} \\ &\times \text{Population aged 15 years and over/Total population (proportion of the population} \\ &\quad \text{aged 15 years and over)} \end{aligned}$$

Definitions of terms used in this article

Gross domestic product is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period, after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production, but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. *Gross state product* is defined equivalently to gross domestic product, but refers to production within a state or territory rather than to the nation as a whole.

Real GDP (GSP) is GDP (GSP) at market prices, adjusted for price changes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measures real GDP (GSP) using chain volume estimates. Chain volume estimates of GSP are derived by revaluing current price, income-based estimates of GSP, using deflators which are calculated from the expenditure components of the state series concerned.

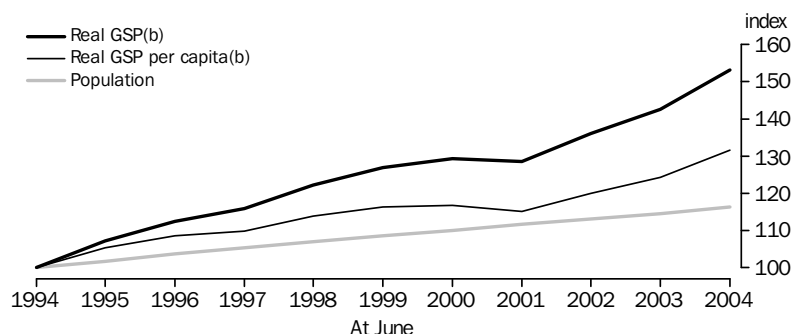
ECONOMIC GROWTH

Between 1993–94 and 2003–04, the Western Australian economy experienced stronger growth than the Australian economy, with the state's real GSP increasing by 53.2%, compared to an increase of 46.2% in Australia's real GDP. In annual average terms, Western Australia's real GSP grew at a rate of 4.4% per year – faster than the national growth in real GDP of 3.9% per year over the period.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

continued

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC AND POPULATION GROWTH (a)



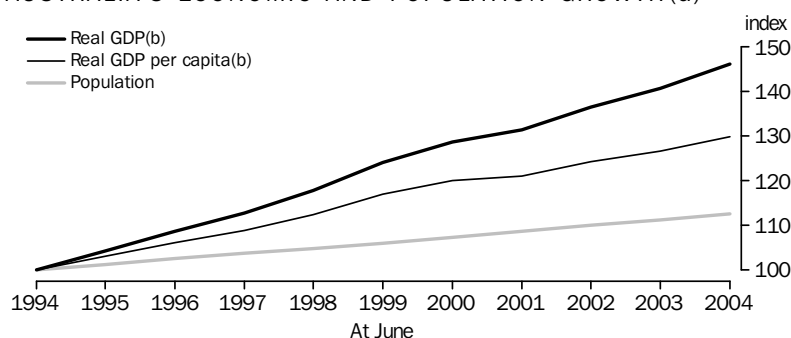
(a) Index base: Year ended June 1994 = 100.0.

(b) Based on chain volume estimates of GSP. See endnote 1 for further details.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0;

Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, cat. no. 3201.0.

AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC AND POPULATION GROWTH (a)



(a) Index base: Year ended June 1994 = 100.0.

(b) Based on chain volume estimates of GDP. See endnote 1 for further details.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0;

Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, cat. no. 3201.0.

Growth in Western Australia's population also outstripped growth in Australia's population from 1993–94 to 2003–04 – rising by 16.4%, compared to an increase of 12.6% nationally. Both the number of males and females in the state increased at a faster rate than that recorded nationally over the period – males up by 15.9% compared to 12.4% nationally, and females up by 16.9% compared to 12.8% nationally. The average annual rate of growth in Western Australia's population over the period was 1.5%, compared to a national rate of growth of 1.2%.

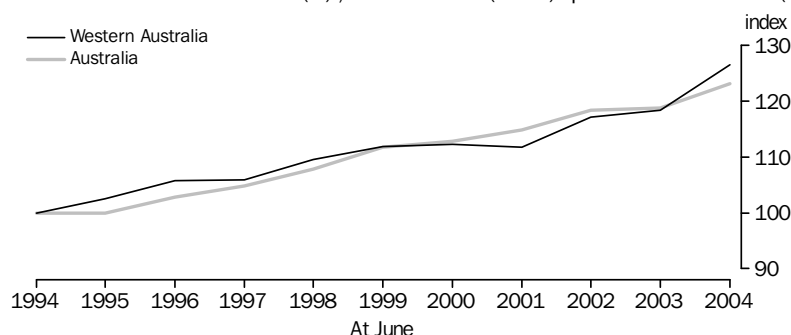
Western Australia's real GSP per capita was on average \$4,545 higher than Australia's real GDP per capita for each of the ten years from 1993–94 to 2003–04. The state's real GSP per capita rose by 31.5% (\$10,855), compared to growth of 29.8% (\$9,027) in Australia's real GDP per capita over the decade. Growth in Western Australia's real GSP per capita averaged 2.8% per year between 1993–94 and 2003–04, higher than Australia's average annual growth rate of 2.6% in real GDP per capita. The state's real GSP per capita in 2003–04 (\$45,277) was a record \$5,953 higher than Australia's real GDP per capita of \$39,324.

Labour productivity

Labour productivity is the relationship between hours worked and output. Increases in labour productivity can reflect improvements in education and training, increased competition, improvements in production methods within firms and the shift of labour and capital towards firms or industries that are more efficient. Productivity growth is a key driver of real economic growth in the long term.

Labour productivity (measured by real GDP (GSP) per hour worked) made a positive contribution to economic growth for both Western Australia and Australia, with the state recording higher growth in labour productivity than that recorded nationally between 1993–94 and 2003–04. The amount of real GSP per hour worked for Western Australia increased by 26.5% (\$47.62 per hour), compared to an increase of 23.1% (\$38.44 per hour) in real GDP per hour worked for Australia. Over the ten year period, growth in Western Australia's labour productivity averaged 2.4% (\$4.76 per hour) per year, compared to 2.1% (\$3.84 per hour) for Australia. Although the rate of growth in the state's labour productivity was below the rate of growth in national labour productivity during several periods over the decade, the amount of real GSP per hour worked was higher than the amount of real GDP per hour worked for each of the ten years, by an average of 8.6% (\$15.70 per hour).

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY(a), Real GDP (GSP) per hour worked(b)



(a) Index base: Year ended June 1994 = 100.0.

(b) Based on chain volume estimates of GDP (GSP). See endnote 1 for further details.

Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, cat. no. 5220.0;

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

Because labour productivity is a difficult concept to measure and analyse, the reasons behind improvements in the amount of real GDP (GSP) per hour worked are not readily identifiable. Possible causes of higher labour productivity growth in Western Australia are a combination of strong multifactor productivity and capital deepening, as well as high levels of business research and development (Government of Western Australia 2004).

Average hours worked

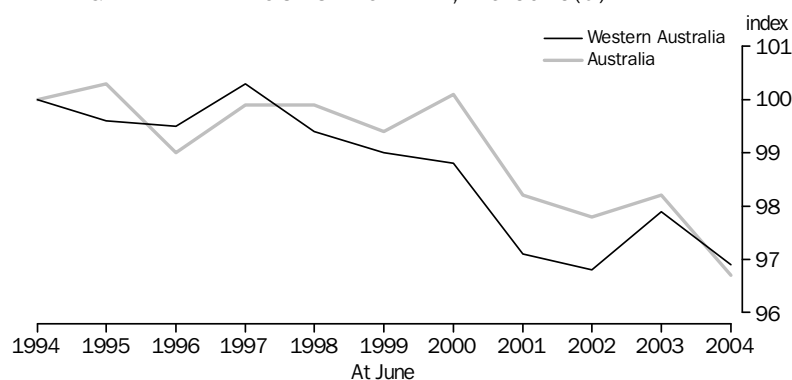
Increases in average hours worked can lead to increases in total production, which in turn can contribute to economic growth. Growth or decline in average hours worked is largely influenced by the number of part-time workers.

Between 1993–94 and 2003–04, average weekly hours worked declined for both Western Australia and Australia, contributing negatively to economic growth. Average weekly hours worked decreased by 3.1% (1.1 hours) in the state, and 3.3% (1.1 hours) nationally. Over the period, the annual average rate of decline in average weekly hours worked was the same for Western Australia and Australia – falling by 0.3% per year. From 1993–94 to 2003–04, similar rates of decline were recorded by the state and the nation

Average hours worked continued

for average weekly hours worked by full-time employees – down by 0.6% and 0.7% respectively. Average weekly hours worked by part-time employees rose by 5.6% for Western Australia, and by 5.5% for Australia.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED, Persons(a)



(a) Index base: Year ended June 1994 = 100.0.

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

The decline in average weekly hours worked experienced by Western Australia and Australia over the ten years from 1993–94 to 2003–04, was mainly driven by large increases in the number of part-time workers. The number of part-time workers rose by 46.1% for the state and by 46.9% nationally; compared to increases of 17.9% and 15.4% respectively in the number of full-time workers.

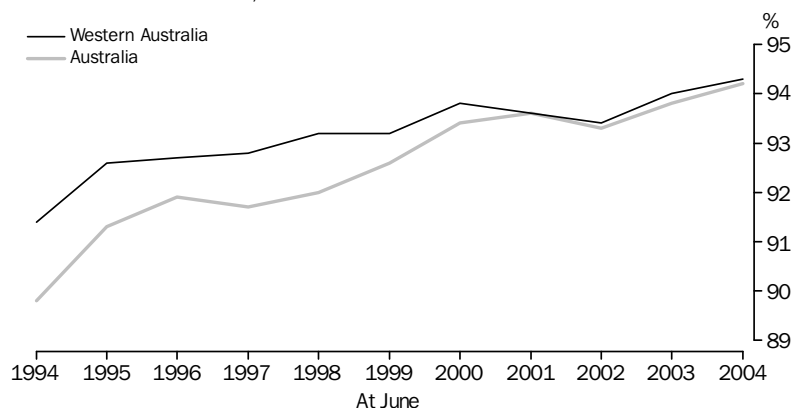
Employment rate

An increase in the employment rate (the proportion of employed persons in the labour force), or conversely a decrease in the unemployment rate, can contribute to economic growth by increasing total production, income and expenditure. A rise in the employment rate generally reflects buoyant labour market conditions.

Employment rates increased for both Western Australia and Australia between 1993–94 and 2003–04, making a positive contribution to economic growth. The proportion of employed persons in Western Australia's labour force increased by 2.9 percentage points, from 91.4% in 1993–94 to 94.3% in 2003–04; while the proportion of employed persons in the Australian labour force increased by 4.4 percentage points, from 89.8% in 1993–94 to 94.2% in 2003–04. Over the period, growth in Western Australia's employment rate averaged 0.3 percentage points per year, slightly lower than the average annual growth rate of 0.4 percentage points for Australia.

Employment rate continued

EMPLOYMENT RATE, Persons



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001.

Despite experiencing slightly slower growth in the employment rate between 1993–94 and 2003–04, the proportion of employed persons in Western Australia's labour force has been equal to or greater than the proportion of employed persons in the Australian labour force for every year of the ten year period. However, the gap has narrowed from 1.6 percentage points in 1993–94 to just 0.1 percentage points in 2003–04. Stronger growth in Australia's employment rate has been driven by stronger growth in employment rates for both males and females – up by 5.1 and 3.6 percentage points respectively, compared to increases of 3.2 and 2.4 percentage points respectively for the state.

Participation rate

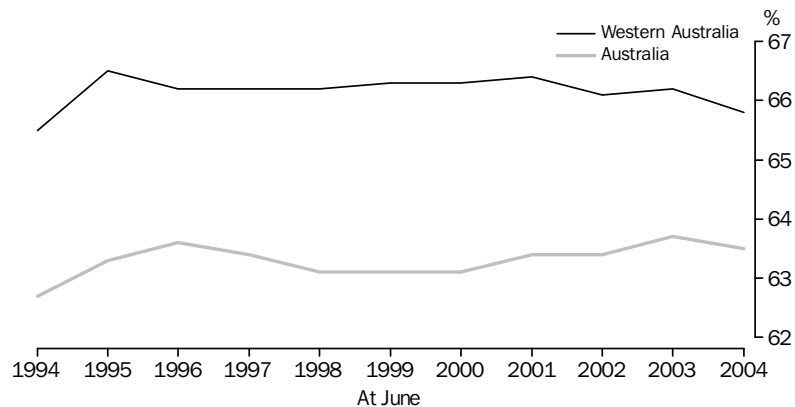
The participation rate is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. It represents the proportion of the population who are either in a job or actively seeking work. An increase in the participation rate reflects a greater proportion of the working age population available to work, which can contribute to economic growth by increasing the effective labour supply.

Between 1993–94 and 2003–04, there was little change in participation rates for both Western Australia and Australia. The largest increase in participation occurred between 1993–94 and 1994–95, when participation rates increased by 1.1 percentage points for the state and 0.6 percentage points nationally. Between 2002–03 and 2003–04, participation rates fell for both Western Australia and Australia, down by 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points respectively.

Despite the recent decline, there was an overall increase in participation rates for both the state and the nation over the ten years from 1993–94 to 2003–04, contributing positively to economic growth. The state's participation rate rose from 65.5% in 1993–94 to 65.8% in 2003–04, while the national rate increased from 62.7% to 63.5%. The average annual rate of growth in Western Australia's participation rate over the period was 0.03%, well below the average annual increase of 0.07% for Australia.

Participation rate continued

PARTICIPATION RATE, Persons



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001.

Although Western Australia experienced slower growth in its participation rate than Australia over the period from 1993–94 to 2003–04, the state recorded a higher proportion of its working age population either in a job or actively seeking work for each of the ten years, by an average of 2.9 percentage points. Participation rates for both males and females were higher for Western Australia than for Australia – by an average of 3.2 and 2.3 percentage points per year. Higher participation rates in Western Australia partly reflect higher participation rates for persons aged 55 to 64 years, particularly males aged 55 to 59 years (Government of Western Australia 2004).

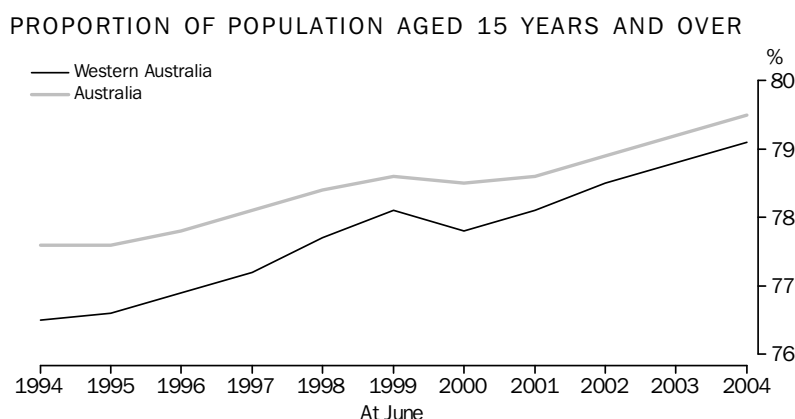
Participation rates for males and females moved in opposite directions between 1993–94 and 2003–04. Participation rates for males fell for both Western Australia and Australia over the period – down by 2.4 and 2.0 percentage points respectively. Conversely, participation rates for females rose by 3.1 percentage points for the state and by 3.4 percentage points nationally. Greater female participation in the labour force has been cited as the major driving force behind the increase in aggregate participation rates over the past 25 years, and reflects the fact that women have become better educated, have fewer children and greater access to part-time jobs and childcare (Productivity Commission 2004).

Proportion of the
population aged 15 years
and over

The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over represents the maximum potential size of the labour force. Increases in the ratio may indicate a greater proportion of the population available to work, and reflect the ageing of the population. A rise in the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over can contribute to economic growth by increasing the size of the labour force, which in turn can increase total production and lead to higher per capita incomes.

Over the ten years from 1993–94 to 2003–04, the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over increased for both Western Australia and Australia, making a positive contribution to economic growth. The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over in Western Australia increased from 76.5% in 1993–94 to 79.1% in 2003–04, while the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over in Australia increased from 77.6% to 79.5%. Over the ten year period, the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over in the state increased by an annual average of 0.3 percentage points, compared to an average of 0.2 percentage points nationally.

Proportion of the
population aged 15 years
and over continued



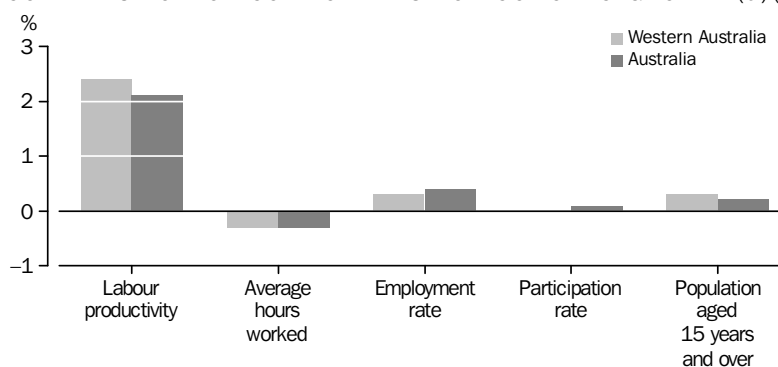
Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001;
Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, cat. no. 3201.0.

CONCLUSION

Western Australia has experienced more than a decade of strong economic growth since the early 1990s. Between 1993–94 and 2003–04, the state's real GSP per capita rose by 31.5%, from \$34,422 in 1993–94 to \$45,277 in 2003–04. Over the ten year period, growth in Western Australia's real GSP per capita averaged 2.8% per year, outpacing growth in national GDP per capita of 2.6% per year.

The average annual rate of economic growth (measured by real GDP (GSP) per capita) is approximately equal to the combination of the average annual increases in five components. Analysis of these five components between 1993–94 and 2003–04 reveals that improvements in labour productivity made the largest contribution to the increase in both Australia's real GDP per capita (contributing 2.1 percentage points to the 2.6% rise), and Western Australia's real GSP per capita (contributing 2.4 percentage points to the 2.8% rise). Other components contributing to the state's economic growth were increases in the employment rate and the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over (each contributing 0.3 percentage points). The slight increase in the participation rate had a negligible effect on economic growth (contributing 0.0 percentage points), while the only component not to contribute to Western Australia's economic growth over the decade was average hours worked (a loss of 0.3 percentage points).

CONTRIBUTION OF COMPONENTS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH (a)(b)(c)



(a) Average annual growth rates.

(b) Based on chain volume estimates of GDP (GSP). See endnote 1 for further details.

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

CONCLUSION *continued*

While economic conditions are currently favourable, a number of issues have recently emerged that could impact on future growth in the state's economy. In particular, capacity constraints have emerged in several areas, including labour supply, production and transport infrastructure such as ports and rail. Businesses have reported difficulty finding suitably skilled staff, and growth in export volumes has been limited by constraints on extraction and production capacity. It is likely that continued economic growth in Western Australia will, therefore, require a focus on supply – increasing output and productivity to meet demand and more effectively matching labour supply to demand.

Over the coming decades, the ageing of Western Australia's population and a projected slowing in the rate of population growth are expected to affect the state's economic growth. Most components of economic growth analysed in this article will be affected by the projected decline in labour supply, particularly labour productivity, average hours worked and the participation rate, as more people shift into older age groups where part-time work is more common and participation rates are lower. Given the potential impacts of the ageing population and slower population growth on the state's labour supply, it is likely that labour productivity will continue to be a key contributor to economic growth in Western Australia.

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- Reserve Bank of Australia 2004, *Economic and Financial Conditions December 2004*, Address to the Australian Business Economists and the Economic Society of Australia (NSW Branch), 14 December 2004, Sydney.
- Reserve Bank of Australia 2005, *Statement on Monetary Policy*, 7 February 2005, Sydney.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Based on chain volume estimates of GDP (GSP). Users are cautioned that these estimates are derived indirectly by calculating a deflator from the expenditure components of the state series concerned. Therefore, in general, the sum of the state estimates may not equal the estimates for Australia. It is emphasised that, at times, there may be movements that cannot be fully explained in the chain volume estimates of GSP through the use of the proxy deflator.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SUPPORT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

Relationships and networks are at the core of society and are essential to individual wellbeing. People are linked together with family and friends, and in wider communities characterised by shared interests, sympathies or living circumstances. There is a growing interest in the ways in which social attachment may contribute to positive outcomes for individuals in areas such as health and employment, and for communities through broader opportunities for participation and safer environments.

This article explores people's social interactions and sources of support outside the home, including interactions with family, friends and the wider community in Western Australia. The article also examines potential barriers to social interactions such as feelings of safety and access to transport. Social circumstances which may impact on social attachment, such as disability, labour force status, age, geographic region and life cycle stage are also examined.

The statistics presented in this article are drawn from the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS). The GSS collected data from adults aged 18 years and over on a range of topics including: social characteristics; social interactions and participation; voluntary work; personal and financial stress; access to transport; participation in sport, culture and recreational activities; and computer and Internet use. Unless otherwise specified, the statistics presented in this article are for the usually resident adult population of Western Australia.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SUPPORT OUTSIDE THE HOME

Family and community support

It is generally accepted that family members living together provide each other with economic and emotional support, and that extended family and community networks are also important sources of support and care. Many people provide support to relatives living elsewhere, such as grandparents providing care for grandchildren or children caring for elderly parents. Additionally, the daily interactions that people have with others in the wider community (such as friends, neighbours and work colleagues) help to build relationships which provide greater access to sources of information and support in times of need. There is growing recognition that the extent to which people have access to these informal networks can affect their economic, social and emotional wellbeing, as well as impact on their need for formal government and community support services.

In this article, people are described as having family and community support if they had contact with family and friends living outside the household in the week prior to interview, and that they could ask for small favours and support in a time of crisis from people outside the household. In 2002, 90% of people residing in Western Australia indicated that they had access to family and community support from outside the household. A high level of family and community support was reported by adults across differing family and households types, including lone parents, couple families with or without dependent children and people living alone.

Almost all (96%) Western Australian adults had some form of contact with family and friends living outside the household in the week prior to the survey. This high level of contact was evident for both males and females and across all age groups. Face to face contact with family and friends living outside the household was reported by 90% of

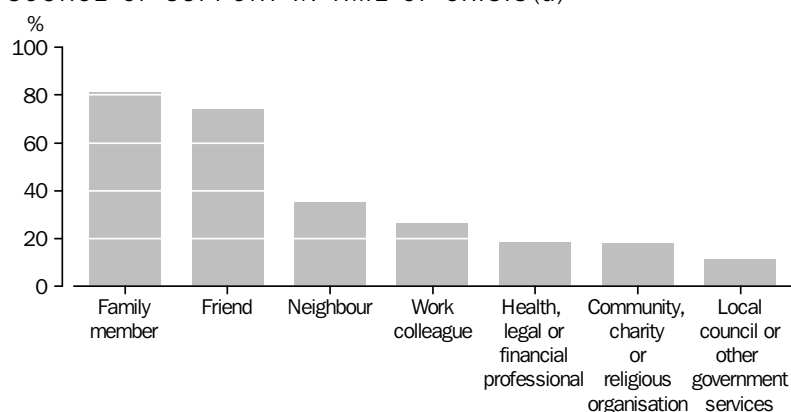
Family and community support continued

adults. It is not surprising, therefore, that most adults (95%) felt they could ask people outside their household for small favours, such as looking after pets, collecting mail or borrowing equipment. Similarly, most adults (95%) felt they could obtain support in a time of crisis from people not living with them.

Sources of support

In times of crisis, people may seek support from a number of formal and informal sources. Formal support services are provided by a range of government, professional and community organisations in line with identified areas of social concern. However, a considerable amount of support is provided by less formal networks of family, friends, and work colleagues. In fact, in 2002, family (81%) and friends (74%) were the most likely sources of support from outside the home reported by Western Australian adults, followed by neighbours (35%) and work colleagues (26%). Less than 20% of Western Australian adults reported that they would seek support from Health, legal or financial professionals (18%), Community, charity or religious organisations (18%) or Local Council or other government service providers (11%).

SOURCE OF SUPPORT IN TIME OF CRISIS (a)



Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

SUPPORT FOR RELATIVES LIVING ELSEWHERE

Family networks and support roles often extend to those who live beyond the household. Support for children until they are independent is a primary responsibility for parents. With increasing numbers of parents not living with their natural children, there is an interest in their continuing relationships and the provision of support. Additionally, the ageing population has focused attention on the level and types of support provided by family members to parents. Many grandparents also contribute to the care of children for working or absent parents. The GSS asked people whether they or their partners, where relevant, had provided support to their children or other family members who lived elsewhere. In couple relationships this support could be for the children or other relatives of either partner.

Children aged under 15 years

Of the 58,000 people who stated that they or their partner had children aged 0–14 years who did not live with them, most (91%) had provided some form of material support for these children. Child Support Payments were the most common type of support reported (76%). Other frequently reported types of support for children in this age group were providing or paying for clothing (48%), driving them to places (39%) and providing them with pocket money or an allowance (35%).

Children aged under 15 years continued

There were 22,400 adults who lived with a partner and dependent children who also had children aged 0–14 years not living with them. The majority (93%) had provided some type of support to these children living elsewhere and most (83%) were contributing Child Support Payments. Of the 9,500 people living alone who had children in this age group living elsewhere, 79% had provided support and 74% were paying Child Support Payments. Almost all of these absent parents living in lone person households were men.

Children aged 15–24 years

The age group 15–24 years is traditionally one when children move from being dependent on their parents to living independently. While some children in this age group not living with a parent are in the care of other families, many are living on their own or in group households. Material support from parents is often important in helping these young people to establish their independence.

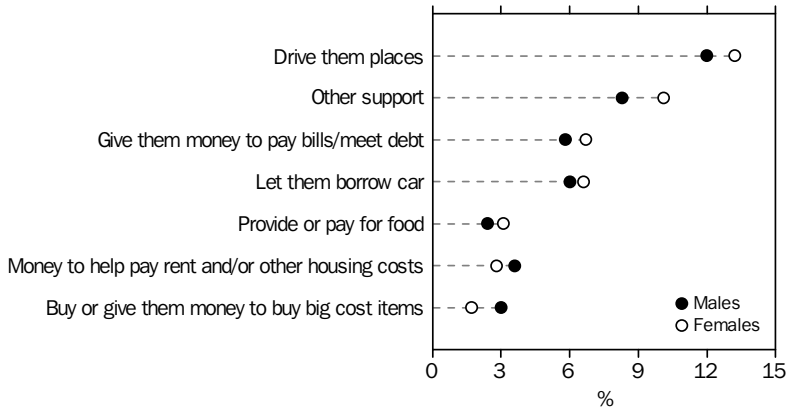
In 2002, there were 165,000 Western Australians who either had children aged 15–24 years not living with them or lived with a partner who did. Almost two thirds (62%) of these people (or their partner) provided some form of material support to children not living with them in the previous year.

The most common form of support provided to children aged 15–24 years living away from home was assistance with paying off debt. Almost a quarter (24%) of people in Western Australia with children in this age group not living with them, provided assistance to pay bills or meet other debts. Other commonly reported forms of support were: providing use of a car (21%); providing or paying for food (21%); providing or paying for big cost items (such as cars, computers, household appliances etc.) (21%); and driving them to places (20%).

Other relatives

Over one in four (27%) adults or their partners had provided support to other relatives (other than their children aged under 25 years) who were not living with them. Commonly reported types of support given were driving them to places, giving money to help pay bills or meet debt and providing use of a car.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO OTHER RELATIVES



Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

SELECTED INFLUENCES ON SOCIAL INTERACTIONS BY LIFE CYCLE STAGE—2002

	Family and community(a)	Voluntary work	Attendance at culture and leisure venues	Sport and physical recreation activities	Can easily get to places needed	Feels very safe/safe(b)	Victims(c)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lone person aged 18–34 years	89.4	24.7	95.0	87.8	88.1	84.1	31.1
Couple only, selected person aged under 18–34 years	92.8	25.4	98.4	88.8	92.3	80.5	*22.8
Couple with dependent children	91.4	40.0	96.1	80.3	90.4	81.0	21.8
Lone parent with dependent children	92.4	39.2	95.0	76.4	78.0	64.5	41.0
Couple only, selected person aged 65 years or over	89.8	31.9	77.0	69.9	87.0	70.5	*13.0
Lone person aged 65 years or over	91.4	21.6	68.1	55.9	63.5	80.1	*7.0
Total	91.3	35.0	91.7	78.1	87.1	78.4	21.8

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Persons who had weekly contact with family or friends, could ask for small favours and able to get support in times of crisis.

(b) At home alone after dark.

(c) Of physical or threatened violence, or attempted or actual break-in.

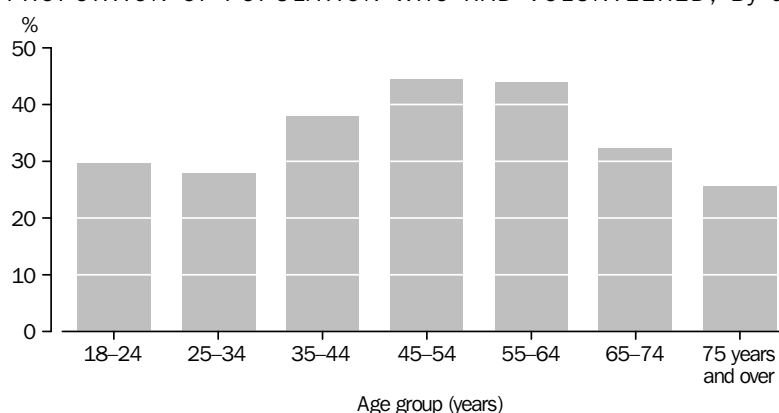
Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

VOLUNTEERING

Many people provide support to the community by performing unpaid work in organisations and groups. Voluntary work provides significant benefits to the community and makes an important contribution to the economy. The level of volunteering is also a key indicator of the strength and cohesion of a community. The 2000 Survey of Voluntary Work showed the rate of volunteering in Western Australia to have significantly increased, from a quarter (25%) of adults aged 18 years and over in 1995 to a third (32%) in 2000.

In 2002, 36% (508,700) of Western Australian adults had undertaken voluntary work in the previous 12 months, similar to the national average of 34%. In Western Australia, the rates for men and women were similar during this period (36% and 35% respectively). A higher proportion of people in the age groups 45–54 years (45%) and 55–64 years (44%) had volunteered than those in other age groups.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED, By age group

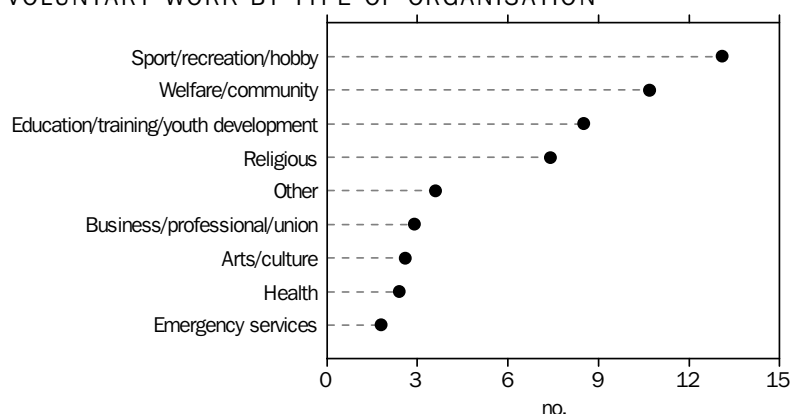


Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

VOLUNTEERING *continued*

Adults in families with dependent children present were more likely to have undertaken voluntary work in the previous 12 months than people in other household types. Sport, recreation or hobby and education were commonly reported organisations where people volunteered, with many parents most likely volunteering around activities in which their children were involved. In 2002, 13% of Western Australian adults undertook unpaid voluntary work in sport, recreation or hobby organisations, 11% volunteered in welfare and community organisations and 9% in education, training and youth development.

VOLUNTARY WORK BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

BARRIERS TO SOCIAL INTERACTION

Crime victimisation

Being a victim of crime can impact on the physical, emotional and financial wellbeing of individuals and families. Perceptions and fear of crime can also decrease feelings of personal safety and reduce the level of trust in the community. This can lead people to modify their behaviour and may restrict their ability to freely enjoy or participate in the community.

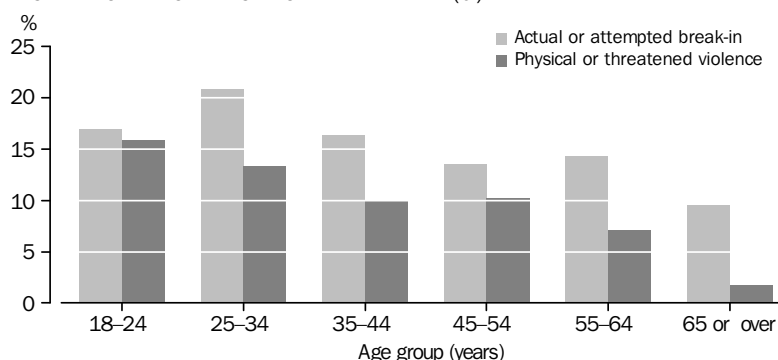
In 2002, 23% of Western Australian adults indicated that they had been a victim of physical or threatened violence or of an attempted or actual break-in in the last year. This crime victimisation rate was higher than the national average of 18%. In particular, the victimisation rates for attempted or actual break-ins were higher in Western Australia than the national average (16% compared to 12% respectively), with only the Northern Territory (of any state or territory) having a higher rate (29%).

Victimisation rates varied according to living arrangements. Lone parents with dependent children were almost twice as likely (41%) to have indicated that they had been a victim of either an attempted or actual break-in or of threatened or physical violence in the previous 12 months compared to all Western Australian adults (23%). The victimisation rate was also higher for people aged 18–34 who lived alone (31%).

In 2002, one in ten Western Australian adults (10%) indicated that they had been a victim of threatened or physical violence in the previous year. The likelihood of being a victim of violence generally decreased with age. In 2002, 16% of 18–24 year olds in Western Australia said they had been a victim compared to less than 2% of those aged 65 years or over. Higher victimisation rates were evident among young men, with almost one in five (19%) 18–24 year olds having been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous year.

Crime victimisation continued

VICTIM OF VIOLENCE OR BREAK-IN (a)



(a) Victim of threatened or physical violence or victim of attempted or actual break-in in 12 month period prior to survey.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

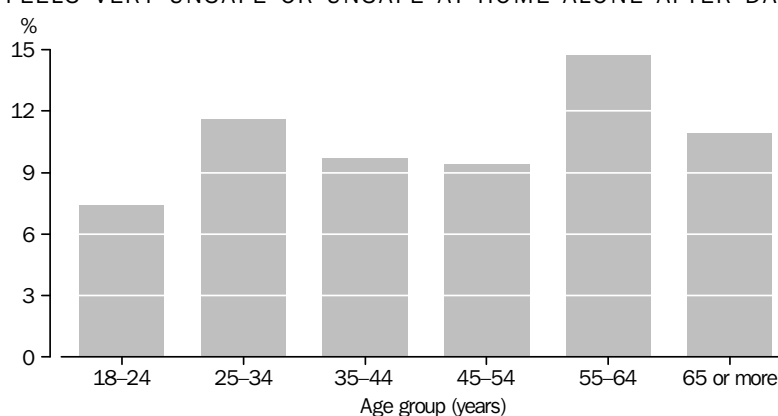
Feeling safe

In 2002, over three quarters (79%) of Western Australian adults indicated that they felt safe or very safe at home alone after dark. However, just over one in ten people (11%) indicated that they felt unsafe or very unsafe when home alone after dark. The remainder felt neither safe nor unsafe or were never at home alone after dark. Women were much more likely to feel unsafe or very unsafe after dark than men (17% compared with 4% respectively).

Although they were less likely to have been a victim, adults in older age groups were more likely to feel vulnerable when at home alone after dark, than those in younger age groups. Of Western Australians aged 65 years and over, 11% felt unsafe or very unsafe at home alone at night compared to 7% of 18-24 year olds.

Feelings of safety also varied by living arrangements. Lone parents with dependent children, who had been more likely to report that they had been a victim of crime, were also less likely to report feeling very safe or safe when home alone after dark (64% compared to 79% of the total population). While a high proportion (31%) of people aged 18-34 years who lived alone had also been a victim in the previous year, the proportion who felt very safe or safe (84%) was higher than that of the total population (78%).

FEELS VERY UNSAFE OR UNSAFE AT HOME ALONE AFTER DARK

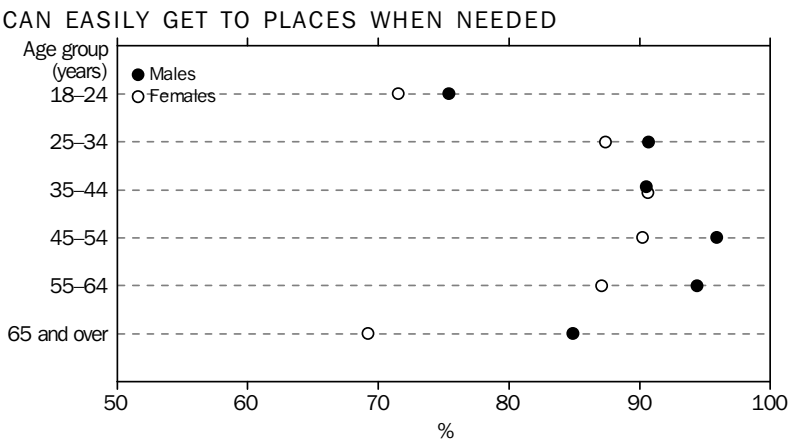


Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

Transport

A further barrier to interaction within the community can be posed by lack of access to appropriate forms of transport. For instance, lack of access to transport can limit choices and opportunities to access goods and services, gain employment, participate in cultural, sporting or community activities, and may restrict contact with family or friends.

In 2002, 89% of men and 84% women in Western Australia were able to easily get to places when needed. With the exception of those aged 35–44 years, men were less likely than women to report difficulties with transport in all age groups. The greatest difference occurred for those aged 65 years and over, with 85% of men reporting no difficulty with transport compared to 69% of women. People aged 65 years and over who lived alone were less likely than those the same age living with a partner to be able to easily get to the places needed, 64% compared to 87% respectively. Young men and women (18–24 years) also reported some transport difficulties, with 75% and 71% respectively stating that they could not easily get to places compared to 89% of all Western Australian adults.

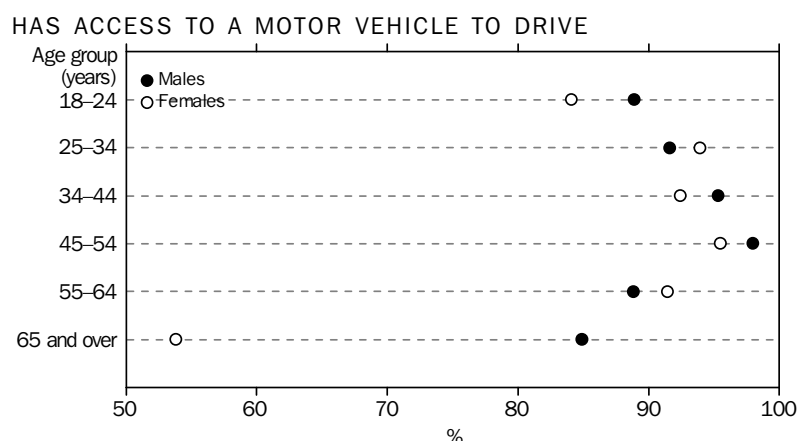


Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

Access to motor vehicles

Most (90%) adults in Western Australia had access to a motor vehicle to drive for personal use. However, older people aged 65 years or over, were less likely to have access to motor vehicles to drive than other age groups. Across most age groups, men were more likely than women to have access to a motor vehicle to drive. A significantly lower proportion of women aged 65 years and over had access to a motor vehicle to drive than men the same age (53% compared to 89%).

Access to motor vehicles continued



Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

INFLUENCES ON SOCIAL INTERACTION

Many factors influence an individual's social interaction. While social participation is to some degree a matter of choice, personal circumstances can affect interaction with others and involvement in social activities. Some groups in the community are at greater risk of disadvantage or social isolation compared to the rest of the population. Disabilities or long-term health conditions which restrict everyday activities can be barriers to social participation. Similarly, the inability to understand or speak English can cause social isolation and limit interactions. Employment status affects the number of social networks a person has and their income levels, while remoteness and population size can limit the opportunities for social interaction and access to services and support networks.

Disability

In 2002, similar proportions of people with a disability or long-term health condition had family and community support and attended culture and leisure venues or volunteered, compared to those with no disability or long-term health condition. However, only 68% of those with a disability or long-term health condition participated in sport or physical recreation activities, compared to 81% of others in Western Australia. People with disabilities were also less likely to be able to easily get to places needed (80%) compared to others in the community (91%).

Labour force status

In the main, employed people were more likely to have family and community support, participate in sport and recreation, attend culture and leisure venues, be easily able to get to places and to have undertaken voluntary work than those who did not work.

Similar proportions of unemployed people had attended culture and leisure venues and participated in sport and recreation activities as employed people. However, a lower proportion of unemployed people had access to family and community support than those who were employed (78% compared to 92%). Unemployed people were less able to easily get to places needed than those who were employed (68% compared to 92%). Also, a lower proportion of unemployed people felt safe when home alone after dark than employed people (71% compared to 84% respectively).

Labour force status

continued

Persons not in the labour force were less likely to have attended a culture and leisure venue (80%) or participated in a sport and physical recreation activity (68%) than employed persons. This may partly be explained by the fact that a large proportion of those not in the labour force were aged over 65 years or had a disability or long-term health condition.

SELECTED INFLUENCES ON SOCIAL INTERACTIONS—2002

	Family and community(a)	Voluntary work	Attendance at culture and leisure venues	Sport and physical recreation activities	Can easily get to places needed	Feels very safe/safe(b)	Victim(c)
<i>Population characteristic</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Disability status							
Has disability or long-term health condition	88.5	35.6	87.3	68.5	79.8	73.9	25.4
Has no disability or long-term health condition	91.2	35.4	93.7	81.4	91.0	81.9	20.5
Labour force status							
Employed	92.0	39.8	95.6	80.0	92.0	83.5	24.6
Unemployed	77.8	*24.4	96.5	75.5	67.0	71.4	23.6
Not in the labour force	87.8	28.2	80.3	67.8	77.2	69.0	17.7
Proficiency in spoken English							
Speaks language other than English at home							
Very well/well	85.3	31.9	90.6	69.6	77.8	71.6	24.3
Not well/not at all	70.9	*13.9	62.6	72.1	71.0	45.7	*14.7
Speaks English at home	91.1	36.6	91.7	77.1	88.0	80.2	22.4
Age group							
18–24 years	89.5	29.8	98.5	83.9	73.5	83.1	28.4
25–64 years	90.3	37.9	93.0	77.4	90.8	78.7	23.7
65 years and over	89.6	29.6	73.6	62.0	76.5	73.7	10.5
Remoteness(d)							
Perth	90.6	33.3	92.2	76.6	86.3	77.4	23.1
Inner Regional	86.9	34.4	87.3	75.2	85.7	81.1	21.9
Other	90.9	49.5	87.8	74.5	90.4	83.5	19.8
Western Australia	90.0	35.6	91.1	76.2	86.5	78.6	22.5

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Persons who had weekly contact with family or friends, could ask for small favours and able to get support in times of crisis.

(b) At home alone after dark.

(c) Of physical or threatened violence, or attempted or actual break-in.

(d) See 'Definitions of Terms Used in This Article'.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2002 General Social Survey.

Difficulty with English

In 2002, there were 185,900 Western Australian adults who spoke a language other than English at home. Of these, 14% indicated that they spoke English either 'not well' or 'not at all'. Those who had difficulty with spoken English were less likely to have access to family and community support than those who spoke English very well or well. They were also less likely to have attended a culture or leisure venue, to easily be able to get to places or to feel very safe or safe when at home alone after dark than others in the community.

Remoteness

In 2002, high proportions of adults had access to family and community support, had attended a culture or leisure venue and participated in sport or physical recreation across the various regions of the state. The most significant difference between the regions was the involvement in voluntary work. Participation increased with remoteness from 33% in Perth to 50% in Other areas.

**2002 NATIONAL
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL
SURVEY**

In 2002, the ABS conducted the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). This was the second national survey of Indigenous Australians undertaken by the ABS, the first being the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS). The 2002 NATSISS was designed to be comparable with both the 2002 GSS and the 1994 NATSIS. This combination provides a rich source of data which allows aspects of social wellbeing to be compared between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population as well as providing some indicative time series data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

A comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians requires more detailed explanation than is possible in this article. However, as an example some comparative data from both surveys have been presented in the table below.

A high proportion of the state's Indigenous adult population reported they were able to receive support in a time of crisis. However, Indigenous people were twice as likely to have been a victim of an actual or attempted break-in or threatened or physical violence. Indigenous people were also over four times less likely to be able to raise \$2,000 in a week for something important. A significantly lower proportion of Indigenous adults had access to a motor vehicle to drive than non-Indigenous adults (60% compared to 90%).

SELECTED INDICATORS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS—2002

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%
Able to get support in time of crisis	89	95
Participated in sport or physical recreation activities in last 12 months	49	77
Victim of physical or threatened violence	21	10
Has access to motor vehicle	60	90
Unable to raise \$2,000 for something important	56	12

Source: ABS data available on request, *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Western Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4714.5.55.001.

Further information on the 2002 NATSISS can be found in the following publications: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, cat. no. 4714.0; *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002*, cat. no. 4714.0.55.022.

**DEFINITIONS OF TERMS
USED IN THIS ARTICLE**
Dependent children/Dependants

All persons aged under 15 years; and people aged 15–24 years who are full-time students, have a parent in the household and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS
USED IN THIS ARTICLE
continued

Disability or long-term health condition

A disability or long-term health condition exists if a limitation, restriction, impairment, disease or disorder, had lasted, or was likely to last for at least six months, and which restricted everyday activities.

Remoteness

Broad geographical regions which share common characteristics of remoteness based on the Remoteness Structure of the ABS' Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Remoteness is calculated using the road distance to different sized urban centres where the population size is considered to govern the range and type of services available. In this article the categories Perth (major city), and Inner Regional from the Remoteness Structure are presented along with a residual category labelled 'Other areas'. As the GSS did not cover sparse areas of Australia, 'Other Areas', encompasses most of Outer Regional Western Australia, part of Remote Western Australia, and only a small proportion of Very Remote Western Australia.

Participants in sport and physical recreational activities

Participants comprise those people who physically undertook a sport or physical recreational activity in the last 12 months, as well as people involved in 'non-playing roles', such as coaches, officials, umpires and administrators.

Proficiency in spoken English

A self-assessment by persons who speak a language other than English at home, of whether they speak English very well, well, not well, or not at all.

Support for children living outside the household

Support provided by a person or their partner to their children (under the age of 25 years) who do not live with them. Support may be provided to the other parent/carer for the child(ren), or to the child themselves. Types of support may be financial, such as child support payments, paying for educational costs, or providing pocket money or an allowance, or non-financial, such as driving them places, letting them borrow the car, or providing food or clothing.

Support in a time of crisis

Refers to whether there is someone outside the person's household that could be asked for support in a time of crisis. Support could be in the form of emotional, physical or financial help. Potential sources of support could be family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and various community, government and professional organisations.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Australian Social Trends, 2003, cat. no. 4102.0.

General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2002, cat. no. 4159.0.

Measuring Wellbeing, Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics, cat. no. 4160.0.

Voluntary Work Australia, 2000, cat. no. 4441.0.

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Australian comparison

Indicator	Reference period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA			AUSTRALIA		
		Current figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period previous year	Current figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period previous year
State final demand: Trend(a) (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	21 539	1.1	5.5	212 663	1.0	4.5
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups: Original(b) (index)	Dec qtr 2004	143.3	0.9	2.9	146.5	0.8	2.6
Wage Price Index, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Original (index)	Dec qtr 2004	103.9	1.4	4.1	103.3	1.0	3.6
Established house price index: Original(b) (index)	Dec qtr 2004	212.6	2.4	8.9	251.7	0.6	2.7
Project home price index: Original(b) (index)	Dec qtr 2004	159.2	3.6	10.7	163.1	1.7	6.1
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups: Original(c) (index)	Dec qtr 2004	130.1	1.1	3.9	138.3	0.8	3.5
Consumption							
Sales of new motor vehicles: Trend (no.)	February 2005	8 007	0.4	11.5	83 998	0.8	7.7
Retail turnover: Trend (\$m)	January 2005	1 652.1	-0.2	5.0	16 391.7	-0.1	1.4
Investment and finance							
Private new capital expenditure: Trend(a) (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	2 417	2.9	4.0	14 788	3.3	9.4
Commercial finance commitments: Original (\$m)	January 2005	1 530.9	-26.0	27.2	17 792.0	-40.3	1.5
Personal finance commitments: Original (\$m)	January 2005	596.1	-12.4	1.5	5 091.9	-19.1	-9.0
Housing finance commitments: Trend(d) (no.)	January 2005	7 314	-0.3	4.5	53 007	0.8	-1.7
Construction							
Houses approved: Trend (no.)	January 2005	1 700	2.6	3.4	8 720	-0.1	-12.8
New residential building activity commenced: Original (no.)	Sep qtr 2004	6 137	16.0	10.7	41 594	0.7	-3.6
Engineering construction activity commenced: Original (\$m)	Sep qtr 2004	2 694.8	289.1	228.9	9 553.0	32.9	27.4
Engineering construction activity yet to be done: Original (\$m)	Sep qtr 2004	4 058.9	44.8	89.7	15 373.0	14.8	10.5
International merchandise trade							
Exports: Original (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	9 464.4	4.6	17.5	31 388.2	1.6	16.4
Imports: Original (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	3 496.1	5.1	18.1	38 308.6	1.5	15.8
Mining and energy							
Total mineral exploration expenditure: Trend (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	148.4	5.8	34.3	249.2	4.5	33.3
Total petroleum exploration expenditure: Original (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	113.1	-12.8	-39.9	286.6	36.2	-0.5
Agriculture							
Exports of wheat: Original (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	454.9	-18.6	8.5	841.2	-23.4	22.3
Exports of live sheep: Original (\$m)	Dec qtr 2004	52.1	7.4	-3.4	53.9	-7.1	-26.8
Tourism							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday (no.)	December 2004	31 325	22.8	6.8	321 748	23.9	3.7
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air (no.)	December 2004	28 135	49.4	14.3	243 864	72.7	25.0
Labour market							
Number of persons employed full-time: Trend ('000)	February 2005	723.5	0.7	5.4	7 057.5	0.2	2.8
Number of persons employed: Trend ('000)	February 2005	1 019.3	0.4	4.2	9 881.3	0.2	3.0
Unemployment rate: Trend (%)	February 2005	4.5	..	..	5.1	..	..
Participation rate: Trend (%)	February 2005	66.8	..	..	64.1	..	..
Estimated resident population ('000)	Sep qtr 2004	1 989.6	0.4	1.6	20 168.9	0.3	1.2

.. not applicable

(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.

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

	2003		2004			
	September	December	March	June	September	December
TREND (\$m)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 205	3 256	3 299	3 331	3 352	3 361
Households	10 752	10 988	11 196	11 369	11 523	11 653
<i>Total final consumption expenditure</i>	<i>13 957</i>	<i>14 244</i>	<i>14 495</i>	<i>14 700</i>	<i>14 875</i>	<i>15 014</i>
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 087	2 177	2 110	2 054	2 097	2 167
Non-dwelling construction	1 374	1 314	1 277	1 278	1 288	1 304
Livestock	37	40	42	44	47	51
Intangible fixed assets	419	406	412	426	429	416
<i>Total private business investment</i>	<i>3 905</i>	<i>3 936</i>	<i>3 842</i>	<i>3 803</i>	<i>3 862</i>	<i>3 944</i>
Dwellings	1 126	1 115	1 132	1 167	1 188	1 191
Ownership transfer costs	386	371	349	344	354	369
<i>Total private gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>5 418</i>	<i>5 421</i>	<i>5 323</i>	<i>5 314</i>	<i>5 405</i>	<i>5 501</i>
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	293	353	454	522	528	502
General government	391	407	432	462	489	493
<i>Total public gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>684</i>	<i>760</i>	<i>885</i>	<i>982</i>	<i>1 017</i>	<i>998</i>
State final demand	20 059	20 425	20 704	20 992	21 295	21 539

TREND (percentage changes) (b)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.3
Households	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.1
<i>Total final consumption expenditure</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	13.1	4.3	-3.1	-2.7	2.1	3.3
Non-dwelling construction	-1.9	-4.4	-2.8	0.1	0.8	1.2
Livestock	15.6	8.1	5.0	4.8	6.8	8.5
Intangible fixed assets	-2.6	-3.1	1.5	3.4	0.7	-3.0
<i>Total private business investment</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>-2.4</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.1</i>
Dwellings	-2.0	-1.0	1.5	3.1	1.8	0.3
Ownership transfer costs	1.3	-3.9	-5.9	-1.4	2.9	4.2
<i>Total private gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1.8</i>
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	-3.9	20.5	28.6	15.0	1.1	-4.9
General government	5.7	4.1	6.1	6.9	5.8	0.8
<i>Total public gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>-1.9</i>
State final demand	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.1

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002-03.

(b) Due to rounding, percentage changes may not equal those published in the source publication: *Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product*, cat. no. 5206.0.

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

COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures(a) *continued*

	2003		2004			
	September	December	March	June	September	December
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (\$m)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 223	3 252	3 272	3 389	3 302	3 385
Households	10 775	11 008	11 184	11 355	11 571	11 619
<i>Total final consumption expenditure</i>	<i>13 998</i>	<i>14 260</i>	<i>14 456</i>	<i>14 744</i>	<i>14 873</i>	<i>15 004</i>
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 203	2 227	2 054	2 012	2 086	2 235
Non-dwelling construction	1 331	1 294	1 310	1 245	1 295	1 319
Livestock	41	41	41	41	50	50
Intangible fixed assets	437	423	337	494	427	384
<i>Total private business investment</i>	<i>4 012</i>	<i>3 985</i>	<i>3 741</i>	<i>3 792</i>	<i>3 857</i>	<i>3 988</i>
Dwellings	1 147	1 047	1 178	1 158	1 194	1 190
Ownership transfer costs	397	375	340	333	364	369
<i>Total private gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>5 555</i>	<i>5 406</i>	<i>5 259</i>	<i>5 284</i>	<i>5 416</i>	<i>5 547</i>
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	269	400	339	675	470	479
General government	402	432	403	440	552	456
<i>Total public gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>671</i>	<i>833</i>	<i>742</i>	<i>1 115</i>	<i>1 022</i>	<i>935</i>
State final demand	20 223	20 499	20 458	21 143	21 310	21 485

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (percentage changes) (b)

Final consumption expenditure						
General government	1.9	0.9	0.6	3.6	-2.6	2.5
Households	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.9	0.4
<i>Total final consumption expenditure</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	24.9	1.1	-7.8	-2.0	3.7	7.1
Non-dwelling construction	-9.3	-2.8	1.2	-5.0	4.0	1.9
Livestock	46.4	—	—	—	22.0	—
Intangible fixed assets	4.8	-3.2	-20.3	46.6	-13.6	-10.1
<i>Total private business investment</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>-6.1</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>3.4</i>
Dwellings	-2.4	-8.7	12.5	-1.7	3.1	-0.3
Ownership transfer costs	4.2	-5.5	-9.3	-2.1	9.3	1.4
<i>Total private gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>-2.7</i>	<i>-2.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>2.4</i>
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	-7.9	48.7	-15.3	99.1	-30.4	1.9
General government	16.5	7.5	-6.7	9.2	25.5	-17.4
<i>Total public gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>-10.9</i>	<i>50.3</i>	<i>-8.3</i>	<i>-8.5</i>
State final demand	3.7	1.4	-0.2	3.3	0.8	0.8

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002-03.

(b) Due to rounding, percentage changes may not equal those published in the source publication: *Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product*, cat. no. 5206.0.Source: *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product*, cat. no. 5206.0.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, By group—Perth

Reference period	All groups	Food	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing	Household furnishings, supplies and services
FINANCIAL YEARS (a) (index)						
2001–2002	133.1	142.6	192.3	109.2	103.4	117.2
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
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR (%)						
2001–2002	2.7	5.9	4.1	–1.5	2.1	1.6
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
QUARTERS (a) (index)						
2003						
September	138.6	148.7	202.8	110.3	110.4	118.5
December	139.2	149.2	204.2	109.4	111.7	118.7
2004						
March	139.6	150.4	204.1	106.8	112.8	117.1
June	141.0	151.3	205.2	108.1	114.4	118.1
September	142.0	151.8	207.4	107.4	116.5	117.7
December	143.3	152.8	208.8	105.6	118.7	117.8
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR (%)						
2003						
September	2.1	2.6	3.2	–0.2	5.1	0.4
December	2.1	2.5	4.0	–1.4	5.7	—
2004						
March	1.6	1.8	2.7	–1.2	6.1	–0.3
June	2.6	1.7	2.6	–0.2	6.1	–0.3
September	2.5	2.1	2.3	–2.6	5.5	–0.7
December	2.9	2.4	2.3	–3.5	6.3	–0.8
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER (%)						
2003						
September	0.9	—	1.4	1.8	2.4	—
December	0.4	0.3	0.7	–0.8	1.2	0.2
2004						
March	0.3	0.8	—	–2.4	1.0	–1.3
June	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.2	1.4	0.9
September	0.7	0.3	1.1	–0.6	1.8	–0.3
December	0.9	0.7	0.7	–1.7	1.9	0.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

6401.0.

Reference period	Health	Transportation	Communication	Recreation	Education	Miscellaneous
FINANCIAL YEARS (a) (index)						
2001–2002	162.8	136.8	103.5	127.1	195.5	172.2
2002–2003	175.7	140.7	106.8	128.8	201.5	183.5
2003–2004	185.8	141.6	108.3	125.6	210.2	188.6
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR (%)						
2001–2002	3.7	–0.1	0.8	4.4	2.6	4.1
2002–2003	7.9	2.9	3.2	1.3	3.1	6.6
2003–2004	5.7	0.6	1.4	–2.5	4.3	2.8
QUARTERS (a) (index)						
2003						
September	181.4	140.9	108.0	125.7	205.5	187.4
December	181.7	140.3	108.3	127.0	205.5	187.5
2004						
March	187.3	141.4	108.3	124.4	214.9	189.3
June	192.8	143.6	108.7	125.3	214.9	190.3
September	191.9	144.3	109.2	125.8	214.9	195.2
December	190.9	146.6	109.5	127.3	214.9	196.0
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR (%)						
2003						
September	5.5	0.9	1.6	–2.9	4.1	2.9
December	5.8	–0.1	1.5	–2.5	4.1	2.0
2004						
March	5.3	–1.5	1.2	–3.3	4.6	2.8
June	6.5	3.3	1.4	–1.2	4.6	3.6
September	5.8	2.4	1.1	0.1	4.6	4.2
December	5.1	4.5	1.1	0.2	4.6	4.5
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER (%)						
2003						
September	0.2	1.4	0.7	–0.9	—	2.0
December	0.2	–0.4	0.3	1.0	—	0.1
2004						
March	3.1	0.8	—	–2.0	4.6	1.0
June	2.9	1.6	0.4	0.7	—	0.5
September	–0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	—	2.6
December	–0.5	1.6	0.3	1.2	—	0.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

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

	2003		2004				CHANGE FROM	
	September	December	March	June	September	December	Previous quarter	Same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	99.0	99.8	100.3	100.8	102.5	103.9	1.4	4.1
Sector								
Private	99.0	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.5	104.0	1.5	4.3
Public	99.1	99.8	100.3	100.8	102.4	103.6	1.2	3.8
Selected industries								
Manufacturing	98.5	99.2	101.0	101.4	103.5	104.4	0.9	5.2
Retail trade	99.1	99.8	100.4	100.7	102.6	103.6	1.0	3.8
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	99.4	99.9	100.0	100.7	101.9	102.8	0.9	2.9
Property and business services	99.3	100.4	100.2	100.2	101.7	102.9	1.2	2.5
Government administration and defence	98.8	99.8	100.7	100.7	102.0	104.1	2.1	4.3
Education	99.4	99.7	100.0	101.0	102.7	102.9	0.2	3.2
Health and community services	99.2	99.8	100.1	100.9	102.5	103.0	0.5	3.2
Personal and other services	98.9	100.1	100.4	100.5	103.0	103.5	0.5	3.4
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	99.2	99.9	100.2	100.8	102.0	103.4	1.4	3.5
Professionals	99.2	99.7	100.2	100.8	102.5	103.2	0.7	3.5
Associate professionals	98.9	99.8	100.4	100.8	102.4	103.2	0.8	3.4
Tradespersons and related workers	99.0	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.1	105.7	3.5	6.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	98.9	99.7	100.4	101.0	102.5	104.1	1.6	4.4
Intermediate production and transport workers	99.3	99.9	100.2	100.6	102.4	104.0	1.6	4.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	99.3	99.7	100.4	100.6	103.2	103.6	0.4	3.9
Labourers and related workers	98.9	100.2	100.3	100.6	103.0	107.8	4.7	7.6

(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*, ABS 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.

HOUSE PRICE INDEXES—Perth

Reference period	ESTABLISHED HOMES(a)	Change from previous period	PROJECT HOMES(a)	Change from previous period
	index	%	index	%
2001–2002	145.5	8.7	128.8	2.1
2002–2003	164.4	13.0	132.9	3.2
2003–2004	195.0	18.6	145.4	9.4
2003				
September	185.7	5.5	140.9	3.1
December	195.2	5.1	143.8	2.1
2004				
March	197.5	1.2	146.5	1.9
June	201.7	2.1	150.2	2.5
September	207.7	3.0	153.7	2.3
December	212.6	2.4	159.2	3.6

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

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

PRICE INDEX OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, By material—Perth

Material group	2003		2004				Change from previous quarter	Change from same quarter previous year
	September	December	March	June	September	December	%	%
	index	index	index	index	index	index		
All material groups	124.6	125.2	126.1	127.4	128.7	130.1	1.1	3.9
Concrete, cement and sand	133.0	132.7	132.6	134.7	134.6	134.3	–0.2	1.2
Cement products	113.3	114.7	115.9	117.0	118.6	122.4	3.2	6.7
Ceramic products	136.0	136.5	137.6	138.2	139.3	142.1	2.0	4.1
Timber, board and joinery	117.0	118.7	120.4	121.8	121.5	122.4	0.7	3.1
Steel products	125.0	124.8	124.3	130.2	143.5	146.1	1.8	17.1
Other metal products	120.7	121.0	120.4	121.3	122.0	123.1	0.9	1.7
Plumbing products	111.8	112.8	114.6	116.6	116.0	117.9	1.6	4.5
Electrical equipment	105.3	105.8	107.1	107.9	108.3	105.2	–2.9	–0.6
Installed gas and electrical appliances	123.9	122.5	124.8	124.7	128.0	129.7	1.3	5.9
Other materials	145.2	146.0	147.0	147.3	149.1	149.7	0.4	2.5

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

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

	Passenger vehicles	Sports utility vehicles	Other vehicles	Total vehicles
Month	no.	no.	no.	no.

ORIGINAL

2003				
December	4 326	1 277	1 558	7 161
2004				
January	3 741	1 251	1 257	6 249
February	4 187	1 320	1 606	7 113
March	4 771	1 486	1 829	8 086
April	3 816	1 202	1 511	6 529
May	3 997	1 461	1 838	7 296
June	4 948	1 716	2 305	8 969
July	4 204	1 402	1 622	7 228
August	4 437	1 422	1 654	7 513
September	4 928	1 524	1 725	8 177
October	4 895	1 376	1 604	7 875
November	4 892	1 514	1 751	8 157
December	4 327	1 314	1 700	7 341
2005				
January	4 038	1 494	1 399	6 931
February	4 680	1 574	1 626	7 880

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

2003				
December	4 361	1 254	1 574	7 189
2004				
January	4 269	1 349	1 535	7 153
February	4 225	1 329	1 653	7 207
March	4 204	1 354	1 730	7 288
April	4 163	1 296	1 628	7 087
May	4 324	1 437	1 743	7 504
June	4 251	1 318	1 646	7 215
July	4 372	1 500	1 738	7 610

	Passenger vehicles	Sports utility vehicles	Other vehicles	Total vehicles
Month	no.	no.	no.	no.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED *cont.*

2004 cont.				
August	4 358	1 551	1 721	7 630
September	5 055	1 560	1 792	8 407
October	4 700	1 523	1 738	7 961
November	4 740	1 581	1 737	8 058
December	4 253	1 234	1 669	7 156
2005				
January	4 899	1 644	1 796	8 339
February	4 824	1 628	1 729	8 181

TREND

2003				
December	4 297	1 293	1 564	7 154
2004				
January	4 258	1 309	1 597	7 164
February	4 231	1 322	1 630	7 183
March	4 209	1 335	1 658	7 202
April	4 208	1 353	1 680	7 241
May	4 241	1 381	1 697	7 319
June	4 329	1 426	1 711	7 466
July	4 444	1 472	1 723	7 639
August	4 551	1 504	1 732	7 787
September	4 629	1 516	1 740	7 885
October	4 672	1 514	1 741	7 927
November	4 690	1 511	1 739	7 940
December	4 701	1 514	1 737	7 952
2005				
January	4 714	1 524	1 735	7 973
February	4 729	1 542	1 736	8 007

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

RETAIL TRADE, Monthly turnover by industry group—Current prices: All series

	Food	Department stores	Clothing and soft goods	Household goods	Recreational goods	Other retailing	Hospitality and service industries	Total
Month	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
ORIGINAL								
2003								
November	670.2	150.1	87.2	270.5	^ 78.9	^ 152.5	207.3	1 616.7
December	792.9	229.8	118.2	313.8	^ 115.5	^ 217.2	225.4	2 012.7
2004								
January	698.0	115.0	87.8	265.1	^ 84.7	142.4	205.2	1 598.3
February	643.4	96.2	69.2	222.0	^ 76.4	139.9	190.5	1 437.7
March	681.3	109.3	78.2	242.0	^ 79.6	145.8	203.3	1 539.5
April	707.9	124.5	83.1	233.6	^ 73.8	144.5	200.0	1 567.5
May	683.2	126.3	84.7	251.1	^ 74.5	148.0	192.9	1 560.8
June	667.9	131.3	85.6	268.9	^ 75.3	145.5	185.5	1 560.0
July	705.4	128.4	84.3	276.5	^ 76.0	154.8	202.7	1 628.1
August	688.0	111.8	79.1	263.7	^ 76.0	149.3	196.5	1 564.5
September	697.8	127.9	82.6	275.5	^ 81.6	161.4	199.5	1 626.3
October	702.8	131.1	92.4	289.7	^ 80.4	181.6	203.9	1 682.0
November	701.4	149.6	93.5	292.6	^ 86.3	188.6	209.6	1 721.5
December	846.6	243.9	131.8	360.0	^ 123.6	248.9	225.3	2 180.0
2005								
January	675.3	119.9	83.9	280.5	^ 99.1	150.9	191.6	1 601.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2003								
November	666.8	130.1	83.4	249.7	79.1	142.4	200.7	1 552.3
December	680.2	124.8	81.0	248.8	81.2	149.0	196.7	1 561.7
2004								
January	678.3	127.9	88.7	259.5	81.6	150.5	200.5	1 587.0
February	678.2	129.3	85.7	243.9	80.1	156.4	201.4	1 574.9
March	678.9	130.4	88.6	257.2	81.9	154.3	201.6	1 592.9
April	699.3	131.0	84.0	262.0	79.1	156.0	201.5	1 612.9
May	701.7	129.7	81.4	264.6	79.3	157.3	205.4	1 619.5
June	710.6	133.8	86.6	271.6	80.2	158.9	205.9	1 647.6
July	705.4	135.9	86.5	279.3	77.6	163.0	201.9	1 649.6
August	711.7	135.5	86.5	274.2	79.4	159.7	201.6	1 648.6
September	720.1	141.6	90.1	279.8	86.2	166.1	202.7	1 686.6
October	700.0	131.7	91.1	271.5	85.5	174.3	192.5	1 646.6
November	699.6	132.9	88.3	278.6	85.9	171.1	198.8	1 655.2
December	704.6	132.1	89.2	282.7	87.4	170.7	192.6	1 659.3
2005								
January	681.8	137.1	87.9	280.1	95.7	165.9	195.8	1 644.4
TREND								
2003								
November	671.2	128.9	83.8	250.0	79.2	143.5	198.3	1 554.9
December	672.7	128.5	84.4	251.0	80.1	147.2	199.0	1 562.9
2004								
January	676.2	128.3	85.2	251.9	80.7	150.6	199.9	1 572.8
February	681.3	128.6	85.7	253.7	81.0	153.3	201.0	1 584.6
March	687.4	129.3	85.6	256.8	80.6	155.3	202.2	1 597.1
April	694.1	130.5	85.3	261.1	79.8	156.6	203.2	1 610.6
May	700.8	132.2	85.1	266.2	79.3	157.6	203.9	1 625.1
June	706.6	133.9	85.4	270.7	79.3	159.2	203.9	1 638.9
July	710.5	135.1	86.3	274.1	79.9	161.5	203.1	1 650.5
August	711.3	135.7	87.6	276.0	81.2	164.2	201.5	1 657.5
September	709.4	135.7	88.7	276.9	83.0	166.7	199.6	1 659.9
October	705.9	135.2	89.2	277.6	85.2	168.7	197.7	1 659.4
November	701.7	134.6	89.3	278.5	87.4	169.9	196.1	1 657.6
December	697.1	134.2	89.2	279.4	89.6	170.5	194.9	1 654.9
2005								
January	692.9	133.9	89.1	280.1	91.7	170.5	194.2	1 652.1

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

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

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

Reference period	ORIGINAL(b)			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			TREND		
	Buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	Total	Buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	Total	Buildings and structures	Equipment, plant and machinery	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2001–2002	1 901	r3 979	5 919	1 901	3 978	5 918	1 873	3 927	5 839
2002–2003	r2 899	r4 242	r7 139	2 899	4 241	7 139	2 898	4 242	7 140
2003–2004	r3 596	5 621	r9 216	3 597	5 620	9 216	3 624	5 565	9 188
2003									
September	828	1 441	2 269	833	1 454	2 287	870	1 390	2 260
December	1 034	1 591	2 625	944	1 470	2 414	879	1 445	2 324
2004									
March	742	1 221	r1 962	853	1 368	2 220	911	1 396	2 308
June	992	1 368	r2 360	967	1 328	2 295	964	1 334	2 296
September	r1 046	r1 276	r2 322	1 046	1 289	2 335	1 024	1 324	2 348
December	1 191	1 508	2 698	1 074	1 387	2 462	1 063	1 344	2 417

r revised

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2002–03.

(b) Due to rounding, statistics for financial years may not equal those published in the source publication: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia*, cat. no. 5625.0.Source: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia*, cat. no. 5625.0.

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

Reference period	Mining	Manufacturing	Other selected industries	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2001–2002	3 091	760	2 143	r5 993
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	5 010	1 162	2 746	8 917
2003				
September	1 332	287	608	2 227
December	1 408	352	781	2 541
2004				
March	1 050	210	613	1 873
June	1 220	313	744	2 276
September	r1 350	r232	r690	r2 272
December	1 448	386	834	2 668

r revised

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

LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS(a): Original

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE			PERSONAL FINANCE			Total lease finance commitments
	Fixed loans(b)	Revolving credit(c)	Total	Fixed loans(b)	Revolving credit(c)	Total	
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	
2001–2002	10 371.9	5 135.4	15 507.3	3 592.3	3 272.6	6 864.9	330.9
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
2003							
November	1 123.1	388.8	1 511.9	368.5	283.0	651.5	27.4
December	1 837.0	654.4	2 491.4	379.4	288.6	668.0	25.0
2004							
January	844.7	358.9	1 203.6	331.8	255.7	587.5	20.0
February	998.5	568.1	1 566.6	323.4	244.5	567.9	29.2
March	1 168.6	344.3	1 512.9	391.9	316.5	708.4	58.3
April	1 378.9	390.4	1 769.3	345.0	308.4	653.4	30.5
May	1 207.5	397.7	1 605.2	390.2	323.3	713.5	27.5
June	1 323.3	661.1	1 984.4	416.1	348.2	764.4	38.9
July	1 039.6	488.7	1 528.4	371.6	262.7	634.3	32.1
August	1 102.5	397.7	1 500.2	390.7	272.8	663.6	32.2
September	1 087.8	384.1	1 471.9	399.1	280.0	679.1	61.2
October	1 006.9	381.6	1 388.6	384.8	290.7	675.5	34.5
November	1 222.7	520.6	1 743.3	407.2	305.3	712.5	35.5
December	1 426.4	641.4	2 067.8	378.5	301.8	680.4	35.0
2005							
January	985.7	545.2	1 530.9	323.3	272.8	596.1	25.1

(a) Includes revisions to previously published statistics.
See the 'Revisions in This Issue' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Lending Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5671.0.

(b) Includes refinancing.
(c) New and increased credit limits during the period.
Includes credit cards.
Source: *Lending Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5671.0.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION(a)(b), 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
2001–2002	74 597	9 711.0	75 006	9 757.1	75 085	9 779.5
2002–2003	75 740	10 709.2	75 811	10 728.3	75 780	10 727.3
2003–2004	83 834	12 765.6	83 596	12 715.3	83 838	12 759.3
2003						
November	7 221	1 079.3	7 329	1 094.4	7 259	1 080.4
December	7 547	1 102.4	7 316	1 085.7	7 144	1 061.6
2004						
January	5 913	871.5	6 824	995.1	6 997	1 044.3
February	6 341	963.5	6 634	996.6	6 831	1 030.1
March	7 334	1 133.4	6 652	1 027.3	6 681	1 023.9
April	6 561	1 054.6	7 070	1 120.7	6 601	1 031.1
May	6 740	1 073.9	6 452	1 023.6	6 608	1 051.7
June	6 715	1 068.6	6 281	1 003.1	6 699	1 083.4
July	6 827	1 123.1	6 637	1 096.6	6 848	1 121.9
August	7 442	1 237.7	7 490	1 245.5	7 015	1 160.9
September	7 387	1 216.4	7 373	1 215.8	7 167	1 196.2
October	6 755	1 140.8	7 062	1 201.8	7 273	1 222.7
November	7 822	1 305.7	7 401	1 244.9	7 320	1 237.8
December	7 531	1 263.5	7 271	1 241.4	7 336	1 246.6
2005						
January	6 049	1 038.8	7 246	1 232.5	7 314	1 246.5

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Includes revisions to previously published statistics. See the 'Revisions in This Issue' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0.

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

Original

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS			NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS		
	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average borrowing size	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average borrowing size
	no.	\$m	\$'000	no.	\$m	\$'000
2001–2002	17 704	2 194.1	123.9	56 893	7 516.9	132.1
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
2003						
November	1 077	152.2	141.3	6 144	927.1	150.9
December	1 148	166.1	144.7	6 399	936.3	146.3
2004						
January	867	133.8	154.3	5 046	737.7	146.2
February	886	131.1	147.9	5 455	832.4	152.6
March	1 054	158.0	149.9	6 280	975.4	155.3
April	911	140.7	154.4	5 650	913.9	161.8
May	980	154.2	157.4	5 760	919.7	159.7
June	931	142.4	152.9	5 784	926.2	160.1
July	1 146	184.3	160.8	5 681	938.8	165.3
August	1 485	248.1	167.1	5 957	989.6	166.1
September	1 449	238.2	164.4	5 938	978.3	164.7
October	1 323	225.7	170.6	5 432	915.1	168.5
November	1 465	244.0	166.5	6 357	1 061.7	167.0
December	1 383	233.4	168.8	6 148	1 030.1	167.5
2005						
January	1 113	191.0	171.6	4 936	847.7	171.7

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Includes revisions to previously published statistics. See the 'Revisions in This Issue' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0.

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

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

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)				INVESTMENT HOUSING(c)		
	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2001–2002	1 552.9	258.6	6 084.6	1 814.9	201.9	2 811.3	293.6
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
2003							
November	161.4	33.4	610.3	274.1	29.1	390.1	37.6
December	179.1	39.8	607.4	276.1	53.9	391.9	39.5
2004							
January	142.3	23.3	483.8	222.1	28.6	286.7	27.6
February	152.3	30.7	530.6	249.9	15.5	353.3	27.8
March	172.6	29.8	645.4	285.6	31.3	422.4	37.9
April	147.5	30.6	612.0	264.5	20.5	370.7	22.4
May	187.1	38.6	583.8	264.4	24.7	418.1	28.6
June	172.4	36.5	588.8	270.9	20.4	443.2	43.6
July	171.5	40.8	671.9	238.9	21.1	386.5	36.0
August	178.2	35.1	775.6	248.7	77.0	398.8	30.8
September	196.6	35.9	722.0	261.9	23.2	395.9	31.3
October	173.9	39.9	693.2	233.9	16.6	351.1	31.4
November	187.8	31.3	805.6	281.0	17.4	445.7	35.0
December	186.7	40.8	770.5	265.5	24.9	451.5	31.1
2005							
January	158.6	33.8	626.2	220.2	19.7	369.1	34.6

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Includes revisions to previously published statistics. See the 'Revisions in This Issue' section of the Notes in the source publication: *Housing Finance, Australia*, cat. no. 5609.0.

(c) Excludes revolving credit.

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

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.
2001–2002	17 074	17 602	2 502	3 009	19 576	20 611
2002–2003	16 904	17 510	3 158	3 650	20 062	21 160
2003–2004	18 720	19 188	3 719	4 198	22 439	23 386
2003						
November	1 602	1 640	283	294	1 885	1 934
December	1 604	1 646	295	312	1 899	1 958
2004						
January	1 602	1 644	303	327	1 905	1 971
February	1 593	1 630	318	350	1 911	1 980
March	1 572	1 605	340	383	1 912	1 988
April	1 545	1 577	362	420	1 907	1 997
May	1 515	1 550	382	452	1 897	2 002
June	1 489	1 529	395	470	1 884	1 999
July	1 471	1 515	395	468	1 866	1 983
August	1 470	1 512	383	448	1 853	1 960
September	1 495	1 532	354	407	1 849	1 939
October	1 537	1 570	313	354	1 850	1 924
November	1 583	1 613	271	306	1 854	1 919
December	1 629	1 657	232	265	1 861	1 922
2005						
January	1 675	1 700	201	229	1 876	1 929

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

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

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Total residential building(a)</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>
2001–2002	17 398	2 789	20 187	20 308	66	20 374
2002–2003	18 041	3 633	21 674	21 772	19	21 791
2003–2004	r19 552	r4 031	r23 583	23 670	35	r23 705
2003						
November	1 633	r390	r2 023	2 035	1	r2 036
December	1 781	140	1 921	1 941	1	1 942
2004						
January	1 324	212	1 536	1 554	—	1 554
February	1 467	536	2 003	2 005	1	2 006
March	1 747	362	2 109	2 112	—	2 112
April	1 311	273	1 584	1 585	6	1 591
May	r1 751	386	r2 137	2 146	18	r2 164
June	1 594	530	2 124	2 133	8	2 141
July	r1 438	r657	r2 095	2 102	2	r2 104
August	r1 652	306	r1 958	1 959	10	r1 969
September	r1 725	r362	r2 087	2 091	1	r2 092
October	r1 467	r461	r1 928	1 935	—	r1 935
November	1 714	201	1 915	1 919	2	1 921
December	1 527	390	1 917	1 953	1	1 954
2005						
January	1 538	129	1 667	1 670	1	1 671

— 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.

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

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Total residential building(a)</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2001–2002	r2 272.8	r347.7	r2 620.5	2 882.1	r984.8	r3 866.9
2002–2003	r2 553.0	r473.8	r3 026.9	3 318.2	r1 552.3	4 870.5
2003–2004	r2 994.7	r558.6	r3 553.4	3 875.9	1 510.4	r5 386.3
2003						
November	246.1	r48.7	r294.7	323.9	125.5	r449.4
December	272.3	24.5	r296.7	327.3	219.8	547.1
2004						
January	201.2	31.3	232.5	257.6	110.0	367.7
February	227.5	99.9	327.4	351.8	83.6	435.3
March	262.7	52.6	315.3	341.6	99.6	441.2
April	214.2	34.7	248.9	274.5	113.3	387.8
May	r280.5	44.9	r325.4	354.3	200.2	r554.5
June	255.1	59.8	314.9	348.3	139.4	r487.8
July	r244.2	r96.7	r340.9	369.2	r125.2	r494.4
August	r279.3	47.2	r326.5	353.2	r138.6	r491.8
September	r286.9	r85.6	r372.5	400.9	r140.4	r541.3
October	r238.9	r74.5	r313.4	340.4	r98.2	r438.6
November	293.1	43.3	336.4	370.5	149.5	520.0
December	259.6	79.8	339.4	375.1	164.5	539.6
2005						
January	253.5	16.7	270.2	292.0	118.4	410.4

r revised

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

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

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

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Total residential building(a)</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
COMMENCED						
2001–2002	16 241	2 820	19 062	19 108	28	19 136
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
2003						
June	3 930	686	4 616	4 656	8	4 664
September	4 651	891	5 542	5 548	2	5 550
December	4 734	1 222	5 956	5 968	6	5 974
2004						
March	4 751	788	5 539	5 570	—	5 570
June	4 365	924	5 289	5 308	18	5 326
September	4 792	1 345	6 136	6 159	16	6 175
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2001–2002	6 771	2 063	8 834	9 027	19	9 046
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
2003						
June	7 853	2 804	10 657	10 832	48	10 881
September	8 717	2 996	11 713	11 864	46	11 911
December	9 632	3 292	12 925	13 063	51	13 114
2004						
March	10 773	3 633	14 406	14 470	49	14 519
June	10 773	3 805	14 578	14 631	61	14 692
September	11 302	4 423	15 725	15 783	77	15 860
COMPLETED						
2001–2002	14 078	2 926	17 004	17 168	30	17 198
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
2003						
June	4 013	625	4 638	4 667	3	4 670
September	3 759	698	4 457	4 487	4	4 491
December	3 801	926	4 727	4 753	1	4 754
2004						
March	3 577	445	4 023	4 127	2	4 130
June	4 334	744	5 079	5 109	6	5 115
September	4 255	721	4 976	4 994	—	4 994

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

Reference period	New houses \$m	New other residential building \$m	New residential building \$m	Total residential building(b) \$m	Total non-residential building \$m	Total building \$m
COMMENCED						
2001–2002	r2 164.6	r375.2	r2 539.8	2 803.9	r886.6	3 690.5
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	3 164.2	r1 555.8	4 720.0
2003–2004	r2 857.8	r576.5	r3 434.3	3 744.2	r1 464.7	r5 208.9
2003						
June	576.3	78.3	654.6	729.1	357.3	1 086.4
September	706.6	121.7	828.3	899.4	355.7	1 255.0
December	720.8	170.0	890.8	963.6	291.4	1 255.0
2004						
March	740.2	159.3	899.5	980.0	408.8	1 388.9
June	r690.1	125.6	r815.7	901.2	r408.8	r1 310.0
September	798.3	191.3	989.6	1 079.7	360.2	1 440.0
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2001–2002	1 076.2	376.2	1 452.4	1 603.8	794.0	2 397.8
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
2003						
June	1 334.5	455.6	1 790.2	1 964.6	1 239.8	3 204.4
September	1 505.0	491.1	1 996.1	2 140.8	1 341.0	3 481.8
December	1 652.2	524.5	2 176.7	2 323.3	1 119.3	3 442.6
2004						
March	1 868.3	636.5	2 504.8	2 654.3	1 195.3	3 849.7
June	1 902.4	645.4	2 547.8	2 703.5	1 177.0	3 880.5
September	2 078.6	746.2	2 824.8	3 000.4	1 334.3	4 334.7
COMPLETED						
2001–2002	1 876.4	458.0	2 334.4	2 600.2	1 005.4	3 605.6
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
2003						
June	570.5	80.8	651.2	726.1	241.7	967.8
September	548.8	97.2	646.1	747.6	244.3	991.9
December	578.7	139.1	717.8	790.9	539.3	1 330.2
2004						
March	514.3	55.5	569.9	649.0	338.9	987.9
June	670.4	121.2	791.6	874.0	471.3	1 345.3
September	644.1	92.5	736.6	823.2	229.4	1 052.6
WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD						
2001–2002	567.9	193.2	761.1	832.2	370.9	1 203.0
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
2003						
June	692.3	232.0	924.2	992.8	540.9	1 533.7
September	794.7	244.3	1 039.0	1 101.9	493.8	1 595.7
December	920.7	305.4	1 226.1	1 288.8	442.9	1 731.7
2004						
March	987.2	341.5	1 328.7	1 395.0	515.1	1 910.1
June	1 027.8	332.6	1 360.4	1 432.5	640.1	2 072.6
September	1 156.1	372.6	1 528.7	1 610.5	629.3	2 239.8

r revised

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

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions	Bridges, railways and harbours	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage	Telecommunications	Heavy industry	Recreation and other	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
COMMENCED								
2001–2002	672.4	170.3	1 202.4	92.3	354.7	1 969.8	220.3	4 682.1
2002–2003	817.8	411.8	206.9	284.0	333.0	2 372.6	194.5	4 620.7
2003–2004	r985.6	1 619.7	256.4	r234.4	333.6	r1 252.3	r189.3	r4 871.2
2003								
June	164.4	10.0	75.7	92.9	91.4	1 150.5	50.3	1 635.2
September	^ 300.4	66.5	112.9	^ 60.1	55.2	176.2	^ 48.1	819.3
December	^ 259.9	26.6	40.7	^ 52.7	95.2	381.3	^ 40.4	896.9
2004								
March	^ 220.4	1 480.1	^ 63.0	^ 46.0	83.4	509.3	*60.3	2 462.5
June	^ r205.0	^ 46.4	^ 39.9	*75.5	99.8	r185.5	^ r40.4	r692.5
September	^ 354.6	^ 66.6	294.5	*97.0	^ 69.5	1 749.3	^ 63.3	2 694.8
WORK DONE DURING REFERENCE PERIOD								
2001–2002	708.7	171.9	314.8	136.5	408.4	1 126.6	252.3	3 119.3
2002–2003	855.7	331.0	668.0	250.3	365.2	2 060.5	204.6	4 735.3
2003–2004	r1 004.3	r371.3	683.9	302.6	334.3	r1 989.7	r194.5	r4 880.6
2003								
June	205.1	82.8	188.3	74.4	94.6	721.3	50.3	1 416.7
September	^ 214.4	58.9	188.4	^ 64.2	58.2	530.9	^ 41.3	1 156.4
December	^ 263.8	57.1	185.4	^ 71.1	95.7	530.6	^ 39.9	1 243.4
2004								
March	^ 241.7	82.8	162.2	^ 70.6	84.6	452.8	*54.1	1 148.9
June	r284.4	r172.6	^ 148.0	*96.7	95.8	r475.3	*r59.1	r1 331.9
September	^ 225.7	222.4	113.3	*92.3	70.9	563.9	*61.8	1 350.2
WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF REFERENCE PERIOD								
2001–2002	193.4	46.1	948.2	22.5	97.0	1 219.7	19.9	2 546.7
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
2003								
June	171.3	121.6	483.2	93.8	20.0	1 486.7	11.0	2 387.6
September	271.8	114.4	415.4	^ 74.8	16.4	1 232.5	13.7	2 139.1
December	248.6	128.0	300.1	^ 86.9	19.9	1 080.1	^ 14.9	1 878.6
2004								
March	253.3	1 510.0	223.3	51.8	18.6	1 164.7	^ 29.7	3 251.3
June	^ 235.5	1 413.0	163.1	*59.3	26.4	878.0	*27.7	2 803.1
September	^ 327.9	1 249.9	299.7	*56.1	17.5	2 076.1	^ 31.7	4 058.9

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

r revised

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

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

Category of the SITC	2003		2004			
	September	December	March	June	September	December
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES						
001 Live animals	91 424	110 281	80 868	76 164	87 986	113 308
036 Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	59 338	52 211	108 809	129 653	48 120	63 637
041 Wheat	314 434	419 405	450 973	600 043	558 897	454 891
268 Wool and other animal hair	110 600	119 943	121 048	150 430	117 153	133 576
281 Iron ore and concentrates	1 273 034	1 276 388	1 184 107	1 482 935	1 686 166	1 649 662
284 Nickel ores and concentrates	98 306	208 333	124 226	176 871	148 401	183 279
287 Ores and concentrates of base metal	41 717	42 926	31 497	38 697	54 274	72 603
333 Crude petroleum oils	1 123 650	826 415	891 370	800 034	1 262 739	1 240 434
334 Refined petroleum oils	88 775	97 055	93 829	83 145	101 994	143 522
342 Liquefied propane and butane	93 853	81 153	104 312	106 455	141 602	89 809
343 Natural gas	629 452	532 930	491 086	520 706	702 404	905 186
533 Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	88 572	100 224	94 261	114 998	115 580	99 390
683 Nickel	93 871	125 301	117 893	137 174	116 859	158 014
971 Gold, non-monetary	1 373 825	1 424 094	1 394 305	1 361 761	1 361 749	1 488 895
988 Confidential items	1 530 664	1 746 931	1 761 918	1 719 591	1 754 764	1 709 568
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES						
333 Crude petroleum oils	271 929	241 482	336 596	235 121	327 648	394 017
334 Refined petroleum oils	108 096	141 259	108 369	215 680	172 934	229 207
562 Fertilisers	28 053	49 617	92 797	88 549	38 763	88 446
625 Rubber tyres	46 609	44 128	38 237	42 642	45 618	53 964
679 Iron or steel tubes and pipes	59 890	19 718	27 234	38 337	39 222	41 708
723 Civil engineering plant and equipment	72 964	76 640	69 665	97 550	81 984	113 394
728 Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	36 434	50 424	64 429	44 122	55 194	51 315
752 Automatic data processing machines	38 375	40 756	36 891	48 746	49 866	40 905
759 Parts and accessories of office machines	57 671	35 915	34 521	39 592	42 384	34 566
781 Passenger motor vehicles	231 431	246 794	220 052	255 653	261 611	244 077
782 Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	78 209	109 309	109 430	123 465	140 004	138 802
792 Aircraft and associated equipment	8 140	7 012	45 104	14 167	53 656	48 260
793 Ships, boats and floating structures	2 582	13 253	5 761	6 915	6 536	22 666
971 Gold, non-monetary	511 518	466 147	533 393	463 064	493 795	384 960
988 Confidential items	89 629	88 703	77 945	90 164	84 233	101 621

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

		EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
		December Quarter 2003	September Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003	September Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2004
Section and Division of the SITC		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
0	Food and live animals(a)						
00	Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	110 281	87 986	113 308	7	22	12
01	Meat and meat preparations	96 788	93 002	114 754	5 634	7 121	9 351
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	22 746	20 678	22 621	6 063	5 872	6 935
03	Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof(a)	57 138	53 142	67 499	22 140	17 516	22 413
04	Cereals and cereal preparations(a)	438 716	575 851	480 898	6 590	7 213	6 838
05	Vegetables and fruit	23 682	31 269	24 135	13 652	12 608	14 800
06	Sugars, sugar preparations and honey(a)	1 559	1 025	1 173	2 217	2 710	3 931
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	252	360	124	2 311	3 360	2 904
08	Feeding stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)(a)	34 126	23 485	34 146	3 317	1 114	776
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	4 243	2 613	3 007	6 519	7 334	10 243
	<i>Total food and live animals(b)</i>	<i>789 530</i>	<i>889 410</i>	<i>861 664</i>	<i>68 450</i>	<i>64 870</i>	<i>78 202</i>
1	Beverages and tobacco						
11	Beverages	11 777	12 122	11 616	8 501	8 446	10 604
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	7	—	26	19	11	34
	<i>Total beverages and tobacco(b)</i>	<i>11 784</i>	<i>12 122</i>	<i>11 642</i>	<i>8 520</i>	<i>8 457</i>	<i>10 638</i>
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels(a)						
21	Hides, skins and furskins, raw(a)	5 340	9 893	12 300	—	4	—
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	53 386	40 643	53 580	549	303	505
23	Crude rubber (incl. synthetic and reclaimed)	66	6	72	659	484	577
24	Cork and wood	10 317	5 740	8 399	6 255	7 380	7 235
25	Pulp and waste paper	2 887	3 064	4 692	695	788	1 022
26	Textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)(a)	120 176	117 417	133 860	866	987	968
27	Crude fertilisers (excl. those of Division 56) and crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum and precious stones)	22 424	20 608	22 612	18 248	15 573	12 593
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap(a)	1 585 483	1 932 976	1 965 699	10 232	3 611	642
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	7 371	6 811	11 857	5 500	2 892	6 368
	<i>Total crude materials, inedible, except fuels(b)</i>	<i>1 807 450</i>	<i>2 137 158</i>	<i>2 213 072</i>	<i>43 003</i>	<i>32 023</i>	<i>29 911</i>
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials						
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	127	51	73	527	207	141
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	923 480	1 364 811	1 383 957	390 456	502 320	626 969
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	614 082	844 006	994 995	14	3	28
	<i>Total mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials(b)</i>	<i>1 537 689</i>	<i>2 208 868</i>	<i>2 379 024</i>	<i>390 997</i>	<i>502 529</i>	<i>627 137</i>
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes(a)						
41	Animal oils and fats	7 227	5 476	5 040	41	31	81
42	Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated(a)	109	3	2 203	3 431	5 532	3 913
43	Fats and oils (processed), waxes and inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	87	89	33	134	257	184
	<i>Total animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes(b)</i>	<i>7 423</i>	<i>5 568</i>	<i>7 276</i>	<i>3 606</i>	<i>5 819</i>	<i>4 177</i>
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.(a)						
51	Organic chemicals(a)	453	633	510	41 545	22 972	37 910
52	Inorganic chemicals(a)	53 569	44 525	63 187	13 382	14 311	26 695
53	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	100 227	115 580	99 390	2 962	2 516	2 983
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	51 728	44 774	90 347	55 602	56 501	117 935
55	Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	832	1 440	2 171	4 565	3 727	4 186
56	Fertilisers (excl. crude)	1 513	1 929	2 559	49 617	38 763	88 446
57	Plastics in primary forms(a)	2 824	2 861	2 724	8 331	8 175	9 925
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	4 064	7 543	3 957	18 756	18 706	19 877
59	Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	2 293	2 695	2 623	11 494	13 977	16 136
	<i>Total chemicals and related products, n.e.s.(b)</i>	<i>217 503</i>	<i>221 980</i>	<i>267 470</i>	<i>206 255</i>	<i>179 648</i>	<i>324 094</i>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.

(b) 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.

		EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
		December Quarter 2003	September Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003	September Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2004
Section and Division of the SITC		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(a)						
61	Leather, leather manufactures, and dressed furskins, n.e.s.	5 256	1 795	1 780	2 437	1 809	2 273
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	2 519	4 801	2 217	58 919	62 367	69 884
63	Cork and wood manufactures (excl. furniture)(a)	1 736	1 717	2 173	12 133	14 300	12 816
64	Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	722	944	1 348	23 704	18 275	20 366
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	3 636	2 733	2 557	26 674	28 908	26 195
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(a)	53 683	41 159	53 151	48 061	54 700	50 163
67	Iron and steel(a)	101 172	10 627	23 574	49 790	74 841	91 917
68	Non-ferrous metals	160 743	170 431	209 258	47 601	21 197	21 925
69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	12 442	18 856	15 518	70 663	80 129	92 245
	<i>Total manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(b)</i>	<i>341 908</i>	<i>253 064</i>	<i>311 577</i>	<i>339 982</i>	<i>356 525</i>	<i>387 783</i>
7	Machinery and transport equipment(a)						
71	Power generating machinery and equipment	9 643	11 740	16 680	113 079	112 227	58 059
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	26 641	44 330	43 139	177 844	225 460	221 816
73	Metal working machinery	509	1 051	1 558	9 427	9 101	11 686
74	General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.(a)	22 387	25 399	23 701	164 060	251 714	270 801
75	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	2 586	4 117	3 271	79 460	101 839	84 477
76	Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	6 361	6 087	8 751	42 008	44 990	41 647
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (incl. non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	9 456	12 113	8 950	59 329	67 332	101 108
78	Road vehicles (incl. air-cushion vehicles)	7 359	6 420	18 579	411 778	469 552	450 701
79	Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	22 818	10 200	6 088	50 267	76 641	74 033
	<i>Total machinery and transport equipment(b)</i>	<i>107 760</i>	<i>121 458</i>	<i>130 717</i>	<i>1 107 250</i>	<i>1 358 856</i>	<i>1 314 327</i>
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles(a)						
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	841	1 492	2 438	6 179	9 643	7 943
82	Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	3 846	2 951	3 948	52 925	58 047	59 957
83	Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	65	26	67	3 308	3 776	3 674
84	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	497	585	555	16 218	20 849	19 429
85	Footwear(a)	499	488	215	7 149	13 647	8 937
87	Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	9 619	25 524	19 188	34 875	60 466	46 426
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	335	420	219	3 823	4 403	4 701
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	12 086	14 991	11 464	111 991	67 571	63 849
	<i>Total miscellaneous manufactured articles(b)</i>	<i>27 790</i>	<i>46 478</i>	<i>38 094</i>	<i>236 466</i>	<i>238 404</i>	<i>214 916</i>
9	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC(c)						
93	Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	12 139	11 073	11 092	351	374	180
95	Gold coin whether or not legal tender, and other coin being legal tender	24 391	26 308	34 325	252	1 126	1 121
96	Coin (excl. gold coin), not being legal tender	—	21	—	64	8	17 058
97	Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold ores and concentrates)	1 424 094	1 361 749	1 488 895	466 147	493 795	384 960
98	Combined confidential items excl. some of SITC 280 (exports only) and some of SITCs 510 and 520 (imports only)(c)	1 746 931	1 754 764	1 709 568	88 703	84 233	101 621
	<i>Total commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC(b)</i>	<i>3 207 555</i>	<i>3 153 916</i>	<i>3 243 880</i>	<i>555 517</i>	<i>579 537</i>	<i>504 941</i>
	Total merchandise trade(b)	8 056 391	9 050 021	9 464 416	2 960 047	3 326 668	3 496 126

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 98.

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

(c) Includes exports commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction.

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

Country	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			BALANCE OF TRADE		
	December	September	December	December	September	December	December	September	December
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Austria	1 235	4 021	1 743	27 685	28 764	31 358	-26 450	-24 743	-29 614
Belgium(a)	58 573	70 268	84 427	16 843	15 924	12 559	41 730	54 345	71 867
Brazil	2 501	23 086	6 449	10 527	8 256	9 024	-8 026	14 830	-2 575
Canada	234 608	196 270	209 888	36 038	72 903	67 174	198 569	123 366	142 714
China	1 149 774	1 293 896	1 450 119	175 988	203 435	266 485	973 786	1 090 461	1 183 634
Egypt	70 921	22 308	25 855	338	409	319	70 583	21 899	25 536
Finland	152 750	114 574	115 369	17 245	22 668	27 204	135 505	91 905	88 165
France	43 913	28 441	60 406	30 670	29 875	50 157	13 243	-1 435	10 249
Germany	57 532	34 452	23 440	123 813	138 888	123 060	-66 281	-104 436	-99 620
Hong Kong(b)	85 741	70 616	67 769	51 316	9 428	8 998	34 425	61 187	58 770
India	674 463	486 857	751 614	25 191	55 743	45 067	649 272	431 114	706 546
Indonesia	276 826	303 665	223 568	204 303	250 092	132 211	72 523	53 572	91 358
Iran	2 647	26 706	20 670	259	96	170	2 388	26 610	20 500
Iraq	21 832	63 656	61 692	—	—	—	21 832	63 656	61 692
Israel	10 392	2 180	14 609	16 477	17 003	23 652	-6 085	-14 823	-9 042
Italy	55 190	48 540	44 686	99 087	127 698	171 739	-43 898	-79 158	-127 053
Japan	1 714 033	2 132 892	1 901 073	341 543	436 890	368 536	1 372 491	1 696 001	1 532 537
Korea, Republic of	778 357	862 701	818 554	159 288	88 724	73 722	619 069	773 977	744 832
Kuwait	23 843	17 555	46 427	65	4 592	233	23 778	12 963	46 194
Malaysia	93 837	107 781	83 473	101 980	141 248	155 630	-8 144	-33 468	-72 157
Mozambique	67 899	95 219	83 467	1	—	47	67 898	95 219	83 421
Netherlands	95 468	88 078	80 941	16 616	28 735	20 074	78 852	59 343	60 867
New Zealand	115 765	293 141	314 198	116 868	102 330	126 223	-1 103	190 812	187 976
Norway	8 194	15 385	11 570	3 774	3 045	37 474	4 420	12 340	-25 904
Pakistan	44 549	6 331	48 173	875	1 113	1 074	43 675	5 218	47 100
Papua New Guinea	3 711	22 892	78 493	115 938	109 353	108 127	-112 227	-86 461	-29 634
Philippines	39 377	17 657	25 306	4 979	6 069	4 107	34 398	11 588	21 199
Saudi Arabia	62 400	15 483	19 763	67 588	124 025	116 446	-5 189	-108 542	-96 683
Singapore	273 089	292 743	303 988	189 872	246 631	360 526	83 217	46 111	-56 537
South Africa	170 116	217 583	204 272	57 752	50 627	47 195	112 365	166 956	157 077
Spain	87 046	86 225	94 403	28 446	40 937	23 118	58 600	45 288	71 285
Sweden	1 607	1 379	5 975	32 428	35 560	51 848	-30 822	-34 182	-45 873
Switzerland	10 289	5 252	17 177	8 942	11 899	18 026	1 347	-6 647	-849
Taiwan	207 521	214 443	245 548	70 333	58 562	64 630	137 188	155 882	180 919
Thailand	127 914	158 042	560 064	131 895	95 415	116 592	-3 981	62 628	443 472
Turkey	3 578	10 973	48 708	10 446	3 639	3 999	-6 868	7 334	44 709
United Arab Emirates	95 966	206 916	133 992	46 126	79 930	167 786	49 840	126 986	-33 794
United Kingdom	580 907	750 437	418 417	78 343	82 210	115 159	502 565	668 227	303 258
United States of America	305 717	320 878	541 136	371 142	443 730	372 856	-65 424	-122 853	168 281
Viet Nam	16 527	60 376	28 168	66 364	31 593	42 451	-49 837	28 783	-14 283
Other countries	229 782	260 127	188 822	102 662	118 628	131 070	127 120	141 499	57 752
Total(c)	8 056 391	9 050 021	9 464 416	2 960 047	3 326 668	3 496 126	5 096 344	5 723 353	5 968 289

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Prior to July 2003, Belgium and Luxembourg were combined.

Belgium-Luxembourg is included in 'Other countries' up to and including June 2003.

(b) SAR of China.

(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.

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

	SELECTED MINERALS (ORIGINAL)						ORIGINAL	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	TREND	ORIGINAL
	Copper	Silver, lead, zinc	Nickel, cobalt	Gold	Iron ore	Diamonds	Total minerals(c)	Total minerals(c)	Total minerals(c)	Total petroleum
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
2001-2002	4.4	10.5	47.1	238.1	25.2	np	381.1	382.1	386.3	479.8
2002-2003	np	np	54.1	265.6	43.4	17.7	423.6	424.3	414.7	598.3
2003-2004	np	np	70.6	276.7	np	17.0	465.8	465.7	467.4	670.5
2003										
September	0.3	2.6	12.9	68.0	np	4.9	108.5	105.5	107.1	177.9
December	np	np	20.0	66.4	np	5.8	122.0	112.7	110.5	188.2
2004										
March	0.7	0.7	14.3	59.3	np	2.7	96.5	115.3	119.4	106.9
June	1.2	0.6	23.4	83.0	19.1	3.5	138.8	132.1	130.3	197.5
September	np	0.7	28.7	73.9	29.6	4.6	147.9	143.5	140.2	r129.7
December	1.9	0.6	38.0	67.5	35.0	5.3	156.7	145.0	148.4	113.1

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

r revised

(a) From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

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

(c) Includes minerals not listed.

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

Reference period	SELECTED MINERALS							ENERGY			
	Gold(a)	Diamonds	Iron ore(b)	Bauxite	Ilmenite	Nickel	Zinc(c)	Coal	Electricity generated	Crude oil(d)	Natural gas(e)
	tonnes	'000 carats	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	million kWh	megalitres	million m ³
2001–2002	186	30 562	179 937	36 476	1 721	205	254	6 164	18 699	19 756	18 560
2002–2003	190	31 901	193 251	36 567	1 911	183	246	6 323	20 001	19 428	20 179
2003–2004	r174	24 292	216 609	38 072	r1 774	185	91	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2003											
September	47	9 704	52 757	9 579	459	51	50	1 494	5 102	4 749	5 418
December	r47	8 307	56 735	9 607	457	49	15	1 389	5 203	4 214	4 997
2004											
March	41	3 612	50 832	9 743	429	r46	17	1 546	5 583	4 098	4 861
June	39	2 669	56 285	9 143	r429	r40	8	1 555	5 032	4 052	5 285
September	p43	p5 328	p59 718	p9 629	pr456	pr49	p13	1 524	5 279	4 261	6 257
December	p42	p9 011	p58 500	p9 431	p482	p50	p7	1 688	5 600	p3 815	p6 327

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

r revised

(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.

Reference period	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b)					RED MEAT PRODUCED(c)				
	Cattle(d)	Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs	Beef(d)	Veal	Mutton	Lamb	Pig meat
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
ORIGINAL										
2001–2002	368 255	6 046	1 961 279	1 856 648	591 427	88 593	377	39 481	35 618	39 996
2002–2003	429 252	5 305	1 771 828	2 020 982	672 328	105 074	300	35 431	39 568	45 490
2003–2004	462 916	4 693	1 845 386	2 391 769	674 419	116 555	258	37 094	47 212	45 190
2003										
September	102 230	1 269	274 672	501 038	170 572	24 687	80	5 619	9 935	11 465
December	125 524	1 093	514 254	628 980	162 318	32 363	60	10 456	12 439	10 691
2004										
March	121 729	1 253	604 094	598 723	167 744	31 198	63	12 086	11 592	11 252
June	113 433	1 078	452 366	663 028	173 785	28 307	55	8 932	13 246	11 781
September	121 973	1 195	479 083	577 740	170 582	30 219	63	9 617	11 183	11 533
December	126 649	1 124	606 027	639 447	152 592	32 317	74	12 066	12 380	10 220
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2001–2002	370 824	6 019	1 967 666	1 852 062	593 392	89 385	374	39 562	35 497	40 096
2002–2003	428 202	5 316	1 749 655	2 019 143	673 252	104 848	301	35 005	39 516	45 521
2003–2004	461 404	4 704	1 855 776	2 389 053	673 726	115 652	257	37 330	47 144	45 092
2003										
September	105 530	1 197	310 471	551 230	168 890	25 560	72	6 305	11 029	11 206
December	113 909	1 045	450 806	578 506	169 310	28 984	61	9 111	11 467	11 286
2004										
March	117 706	1 306	494 479	603 599	168 841	29 648	66	9 937	11 748	11 407
June	124 259	1 156	600 020	655 718	166 685	31 459	59	11 976	12 899	11 193
September	127 184	1 122	542 422	634 296	167 735	32 615	56	10 804	12 385	11 242
December	115 146	1 078	532 165	589 407	159 925	29 142	76	10 538	11 440	10 828
TREND										
2001–2002	371 457	5 997	1 944 869	1 847 649	593 949	89 687	371	39 118	35 390	40 074
2002–2003	430 017	5 212	1 715 873	2 024 731	672 461	105 130	296	34 325	39 713	45 477
2003–2004	461 401	4 744	1 853 743	2 372 924	674 636	115 854	259	37 298	46 765	45 203
2003										
September	107 122	1 215	370 303	545 268	169 579	26 428	72	7 497	10 842	11 345
December	111 875	1 173	419 834	578 070	168 717	27 932	66	8 484	11 422	11 274
2004										
March	119 328	1 177	508 901	616 657	168 803	30 212	61	10 224	12 118	11 318
June	123 076	1 180	554 705	632 930	167 537	31 282	60	11 093	12 383	11 266
September	122 958	1 135	557 780	628 643	165 217	31 279	63	11 100	12 273	11 119
December	120 639	1 069	547 401	612 205	162 239	30 713	68	10 847	11 925	10 944

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered for red meat production on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.

(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.

(d) Excludes calves and veal.

Source: *Livestock products, Australia*, cat. no. 7215.0.

(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.

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

Reference period	WHEAT(a)		LIVE SHEEP		
	Gross weight	Gross value	Gross weight	Quantity	Gross value
	tonnes	\$'000	tonnes	tonnes	\$'000
2001–2002	4 976 800	1 328 069	176 827	3 630 001	222 724
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
2003					
September	1 349 778	314 434	30 848	659 382	48 520
December	1 878 460	419 405	38 499	771 965	53 958
2004					
March	2 062 361	450 973	37 363	796 081	52 650
June	2 633 014	600 043	23 194	504 745	32 737
September	2 453 555	558 897	42 002	719 685	48 532
December	2 159 128	454 891	40 653	813 357	52 100

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

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

WOOL RECEIVALS(a): **Original**

Reference period	Brokers receipts		Dealers receipts		Total receipts	
	'000 bales	'000 tonnes	'000 bales	'000 tonnes	'000 bales	'000 tonnes
2001–2002	490 592	87.7	87 821	15.4	578 413	103.0
2002–2003	518 109	92.5	91 948	16.3	610 057	108.7
2003–2004	510 299	89.7	116 554	20.2	628 853	109.9
2003						
September	123 100	22.1	29 008	4.9	152 108	27.0
December	144 308	25.6	25 541	4.5	169 849	30.1
2004						
March	158 855	27.9	29 814	5.1	188 669	33.1
June	84 036	14.1	32 191	5.6	116 227	19.7
September	123 152	22.0	31 457	5.5	154 609	27.5
December	133 629	23.8	27 589	4.8	161 218	28.6

(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.

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: **Original**

Reference period	Permanent no.	LONG-TERM(a)		SHORT-TERM(b)		Total no.
		WA residents	Overseas visitors	WA residents	Overseas visitors	
.....						
ARRIVALS						
2001–2002	10 954	9 886	17 805	393 052	451 297	882 994
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
2003						
October	1 090	847	1 455	41 104	48 567	93 063
November	1 302	1 050	914	31 200	44 672	79 138
December	1 339	1 802	903	25 427	59 431	88 902
2004						
January	1 421	1 003	2 749	49 680	39 680	94 533
February	1 133	795	4 182	33 653	43 006	82 769
March	1 226	813	1 210	32 090	43 065	78 404
April	1 239	754	1 257	36 148	38 387	77 785
May	1 161	639	815	33 871	27 612	64 098
June	1 367	732	1 013	38 272	29 435	70 818
July	1 171	867	3 136	50 150	35 675	90 998
August	1 405	805	1 196	44 407	32 758	80 571
September	1 370	758	1 103	45 727	35 558	84 516
October	1 326	884	1 536	53 667	41 939	99 352
November	1 294	1 151	906	39 904	48 800	92 055
December	1 389	1 795	921	32 911	62 656	99 672
.....						
DEPARTURES						
2001–2002	4 972	9 915	6 451	388 729	450 283	860 350
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
2003						
October	397	507	456	32 104	37 746	71 210
November	429	585	864	30 080	42 019	73 976
December	504	790	1 298	47 994	44 034	94 619
2004						
January	862	1 284	748	36 767	51 234	90 895
February	513	748	476	31 771	35 013	68 521
March	573	788	675	38 069	42 768	82 874
April	571	860	562	41 328	42 650	85 970
May	526	736	574	44 003	30 122	75 961
June	441	596	853	44 624	32 838	79 353
July	543	762	815	50 367	28 799	81 286
August	580	838	581	42 469	35 270	79 738
September	397	548	513	43 092	29 694	74 244
October	426	598	513	44 666	35 925	82 128
November	472	639	812	38 735	48 233	88 891
December	538	781	1 304	54 783	46 609	104 015

(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.

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)

2001–2002	7 869	43 121	24 851	8 622	22 501	40 952	6 402	6 397	26 293	3 718	5 035	207 257
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
2003												
October	1 147	8 254	3 256	462	3 072	3 230	879	505	2 720	103	1 606	26 407
November	388	5 011	2 964	1 211	3 798	4 403	359	239	2 351	398	336	22 311
December	1 207	7 519	4 321	1 083	2 843	5 593	510	736	2 628	680	616	29 328
2004												
January	336	6 247	2 613	403	1 544	1 808	234	559	2 272	268	111	17 697
February	423	6 412	2 773	553	1 261	1 489	320	254	2 645	436	155	17 509
March	591	5 530	2 158	799	2 139	2 628	769	367	2 700	370	354	19 337
April	696	4 170	1 407	556	2 335	2 138	1 097	889	2 049	344	349	16 919
May	826	1 931	1 209	481	2 495	2 618	547	216	2 042	388	159	13 557
June	1 034	1 928	1 124	898	2 292	4 197	345	392	1 100	284	220	14 571
July	483	3 113	2 381	781	1 423	1 542	319	380	2 435	259	244	14 735
August	1 339	2 134	2 171	335	2 376	2 125	535	327	3 402	385	261	16 322
September	1 444	3 316	2 402	433	1 796	2 486	351	251	3 158	93	322	16 582
October	1 141	6 031	3 442	305	1 249	2 274	661	271	3 042	449	145	20 194
November	677	5 769	3 508	1 264	3 119	5 576	387	390	2 834	330	256	25 499
December	1 425	9 053	4 083	781	2 477	6 445	651	779	2 781	560	544	31 325

RESIDENT DEPARTURES (f)

2001–2002	15 104	17 088	13 057	63 428	13 149	21 037	21 940	4 485	1 219	4 851	2 011	195 481
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
2003												
October	927	1 010	469	5 103	1 034	820	2 407	440	22	619	80	15 080
November	1 366	471	776	4 938	911	1 324	872	184	163	388	227	12 986
December	3 125	2 259	1 528	6 565	1 763	1 774	1 792	642	381	1 418	339	24 607
2004												
January	2 195	702	656	7 282	1 100	2 013	1 292	94	387	623	240	18 653
February	1 462	935	329	5 854	1 199	855	1 527	80	85	541	—	14 340
March	2 558	1 137	574	7 064	1 201	977	1 178	162	5	831	153	17 861
April	2 377	2 174	1 423	6 636	986	1 250	2 043	869	189	1 123	179	21 981
May	1 001	3 285	2 616	7 754	1 062	1 164	1 676	383	151	1 059	92	22 652
June	673	2 481	3 653	8 632	1 283	1 366	1 356	349	29	1 609	—	22 829
July	3 231	2 807	2 253	9 880	1 735	2 406	3 101	680	199	1 261	261	30 582
August	2 343	2 391	1 432	8 541	1 319	1 567	2 299	162	143	865	10	23 421
September	1 595	1 895	1 606	7 156	1 059	1 590	2 678	431	99	566	322	22 404
October	1 592	920	1 212	8 726	1 874	1 913	3 503	519	243	779	475	25 610
November	1 507	713	456	7 520	1 325	1 646	1 370	663	212	694	266	18 832
December	3 163	1 874	1 322	6 743	2 409	2 898	1 929	636	305	1 286	681	28 135

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(e) Overseas visitor arrivals by air on holiday from selected country of residence.

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

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

(b) Excluding United Kingdom and Ireland.

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

(c) Special Administrative Region of China.

(d) Total includes countries not listed.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION(a)(b): Original

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>Establishments</i>	<i>Guest rooms</i>	<i>Room nights occupied</i>	<i>Room occupancy rate</i>	<i>Guest arrivals</i>	<i>Takings from accommodation</i>
	no.	no.	'000	%	'000	\$'000
2001–2002	320	19 081	3 753.0	53.7	2 724.5	382 238
2002–2003	345	19 989	4 038.8	56.6	2 862.0	424 340
2003–2004	341	20 219	4 324.9	58.2	3 100.3	471 710
2003						
June	345	19 989	987.8	54.3	682.0	104 182
September	345	20 185	1 105.1	59.7	794.8	119 710
December	343	20 491	1 114.8	59.3	787.7	123 681
2004						
March	342	20 531	1 078.8	57.8	785.9	117 613
June	341	20 219	1 026.2	55.8	731.9	110 705
September	340	20 375	1 135.5	60.7	823.7	126 265

(a) Includes hotels, motels, guest houses and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms.

(b) Break in time series between the March and June quarters 2003. See paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication: *Tourist Accommodation, Australia*, cat. no. 8635.0.

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

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

Month	EMPLOYED		Total unemployed	Labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	Full-time	Total				
	'000	'000				
MALES						
2003						
December	470.2	550.0	31.9	581.9	74.8	5.5
2004						
January	469.9	551.7	30.9	582.6	74.8	5.3
February	469.7	553.0	30.0	583.0	74.7	5.1
March	469.9	553.5	29.2	582.8	74.5	5.0
April	470.3	553.1	28.6	581.7	74.3	4.9
May	470.6	552.0	27.9	580.0	73.9	4.8
June	470.7	551.2	27.3	578.4	73.6	4.7
July	470.6	551.0	26.6	577.6	73.3	4.6
August	471.1	551.9	26.1	578.0	73.2	4.5
September	472.9	554.5	25.6	580.1	73.4	4.4
October	476.3	558.6	25.3	583.8	73.7	4.3
November	480.4	563.0	25.0	588.0	74.1	4.2
December	484.6	566.9	24.8	591.7	74.5	4.2
2005						
January	488.5	570.3	24.6	594.9	74.8	4.1
February	491.9	573.0	24.5	597.4	75.1	4.1
FEMALES						
2003						
December	215.9	419.4	29.1	448.5	56.8	6.5
2004						
January	216.0	421.9	28.5	450.4	57.0	6.3
February	216.7	425.1	27.7	452.8	57.2	6.1
March	218.1	428.3	26.8	455.0	57.4	5.9
April	220.0	430.7	26.0	456.7	57.5	5.7
May	221.9	432.4	25.5	457.9	57.5	5.6
June	223.2	433.3	25.2	458.5	57.5	5.5
July	223.9	433.9	24.8	458.7	57.4	5.4
August	224.1	434.6	24.3	458.9	57.3	5.3
September	224.5	436.0	23.8	459.8	57.3	5.2
October	225.5	438.3	23.5	461.7	57.5	5.1
November	227.1	440.8	23.3	464.1	57.7	5.0
December	228.7	443.0	23.3	466.3	57.9	5.0
2005						
January	230.2	444.9	23.5	468.4	58.1	5.0
February	231.6	446.4	23.8	470.2	58.3	5.1
PERSONS						
2003						
December	686.1	969.4	61.0	1 030.4	65.7	5.9
2004						
January	685.8	973.6	59.4	1 033.0	65.8	5.7
February	686.4	978.1	57.7	1 035.8	65.9	5.6
March	688.0	981.8	56.0	1 037.8	65.9	5.4
April	690.4	983.8	54.6	1 038.4	65.8	5.3
May	692.4	984.4	53.4	1 037.8	65.7	5.1
June	693.9	984.4	52.5	1 036.9	65.5	5.1
July	694.5	984.8	51.5	1 036.3	65.3	5.0
August	695.2	986.5	50.4	1 036.9	65.2	4.9
September	697.4	990.5	49.5	1 040.0	65.3	4.8
October	701.9	996.8	48.7	1 045.5	65.6	4.7
November	707.5	1 003.8	48.3	1 052.1	65.9	4.6
December	713.3	1 009.9	48.1	1 058.0	66.2	4.5
2005						
January	718.7	1 015.2	48.1	1 063.2	66.4	4.5
February	723.5	1 019.3	48.3	1 067.6	66.6	4.5

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

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

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

ANZSIC Division	2003	2004				2005

	November	February	May	August	November	February
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	49.5	47.3	46.3	43.3	45.4	50.2
Mining	35.8	41.1	46.7	36.8	37.7	45.3
Manufacturing	87.9	88.5	92.1	97.0	100.2	90.4
Electricity, gas and water supply	5.4	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.2	12.5
Construction	85.5	82.6	80.6	83.6	90.8	93.7
Wholesale trade	44.8	50.0	52.5	51.0	49.8	43.6
Retail trade	152.7	151.2	150.1	152.0	155.0	151.2
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	37.4	39.9	40.5	37.7	45.3	44.8
Transport and storage	42.8	44.4	41.7	45.8	39.2	43.6
Communication services	14.6	13.1	12.3	12.8	16.4	15.7
Finance and insurance	26.3	26.4	28.8	28.1	26.0	26.6
Property and business services	121.8	113.3	109.4	110.9	113.1	130.6
Government administration and defence	40.0	32.7	36.6	37.8	43.9	40.5
Education	75.0	71.3	77.2	68.1	67.9	69.8
Health and community services	94.1	96.3	99.3	90.1	98.4	102.0
Cultural and recreational services	21.6	24.5	22.4	21.5	21.8	20.2
Personal and other services	35.2	44.1	45.7	46.7	50.8	46.2
Total	970.2	974.1	990.2	971.0	1 011.0	1 027.0

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

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

	2003	2004				2005
ASCO Major group	November	February	May	August	November	February
.....						
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ('000)						
Managers and administrators	50.1	52.5	47.0	52.0	59.5	64.9
Professionals	145.1	146.5	155.3	139.6	150.6	155.6
Associate professionals	97.9	106.6	109.8	100.8	107.0	115.8
Tradespersons and related workers	103.7	101.3	103.5	96.1	101.6	103.5
Advanced clerical and service workers	32.5	31.5	32.8	29.8	28.9	33.1
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	144.0	150.2	153.5	147.8	149.9	144.4
Intermediate production and transport workers	68.6	76.5	76.1	70.3	79.7	76.8
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	95.7	86.6	95.2	91.3	92.6	95.0
Labourers and related workers	74.9	76.2	75.6	77.0	82.0	84.1
Total	812.5	827.8	848.7	804.8	851.8	873.2
.....						
TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ('000)						
Managers and administrators	2 375.1	2 322.4	2 184.5	2 372.7	2 767.3	2 985.9
Professionals	5 357.8	5 556.9	5 773.7	5 203.9	5 488.5	5 785.7
Associate professionals	3 873.1	4 154.4	4 225.3	3 852.0	4 116.0	4 623.0
Tradespersons and related workers	4 223.2	4 117.8	4 229.1	3 804.5	4 117.5	4 255.8
Advanced clerical and service workers	1 017.1	914.5	1 034.0	913.7	784.9	979.3
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4 285.0	4 473.5	4 747.3	4 552.5	4 650.2	4 517.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	2 757.0	2 892.5	3 112.7	2 761.1	3 270.6	3 122.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	2 433.7	2 088.2	2 360.6	2 164.1	2 252.0	2 465.8
Labourers and related workers	2 262.0	2 190.0	2 142.4	2 248.0	2 548.5	2 671.0
Total	28 584.0	28 710.2	29 809.6	27 872.4	29 995.4	31 406.8
.....						
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (no.)						
Managers and administrators	47.4	44.3	46.5	45.6	46.5	46.0
Professionals	36.9	37.9	37.2	37.3	36.4	37.2
Associate professionals	39.6	39.0	38.5	38.2	38.5	39.9
Tradespersons and related workers	40.7	40.7	40.9	39.6	40.5	41.1
Advanced clerical and service workers	31.3	29.0	31.5	30.7	27.1	29.6
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	29.8	29.8	30.9	30.8	31.0	31.3
Intermediate production and transport workers	40.2	37.8	40.9	39.3	41.0	40.7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	25.4	24.1	24.8	23.7	24.3	25.9
Labourers and related workers	30.2	28.8	28.4	29.2	31.1	31.8
Total	35.2	34.7	35.1	34.6	35.2	36.0

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

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: All series

Quarter	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
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ORIGINAL									
2003									
August	1 015.0	1 067.3	892.6	777.7	788.3	529.0	933.8	971.8	720.9
November	1 015.6	1 071.7	911.2	783.9	795.4	525.3	936.7	977.7	724.8
2004									
February	1 022.4	1 083.3	917.0	797.6	809.7	539.3	946.3	990.7	739.1
May	1 039.3	1 098.5	930.4	794.4	806.8	534.2	955.0	998.1	740.2
August	1 046.8	1 109.2	937.6	802.9	815.2	544.8	964.9	1 010.5	752.8
November	1 080.2	1 147.2	969.2	806.4	821.1	539.2	990.0	1 039.7	765.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2003									
August	1 012.1	1 066.1	896.3	777.4	788.7	528.8	930.7	971.0	721.7
November	1 016.0	1 071.0	910.2	783.5	794.2	529.7	936.0	976.4	727.8
2004									
February	1 026.7	1 088.2	916.2	794.9	807.2	530.3	948.7	993.6	737.1
May	1 037.4	1 095.5	928.2	798.1	810.3	539.0	956.5	997.4	738.4
August	1 043.8	1 108.0	941.8	802.4	815.3	544.6	961.8	1 009.7	753.6
November	1 080.7	1 146.4	968.0	805.9	819.8	543.8	989.1	1 038.2	768.5
TREND									
2003									
August	1 007.8	1 062.4	892.3	774.4	785.1	526.7	928.2	968.0	718.8
November	1 019.3	1 075.7	908.7	785.5	796.7	530.0	939.4	980.7	728.9
2004									
February	1 025.6	1 084.2	918.0	793.2	805.0	533.1	946.5	988.9	734.8
May	1 036.4	1 097.3	929.3	798.3	810.8	537.9	955.9	1 000.0	742.7
August	1 052.6	1 115.6	945.1	802.5	815.6	542.5	968.3	1 014.6	753.5
November	1 071.8	1 137.1	962.7	805.9	819.4	545.8	982.5	1 031.3	764.6

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

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.
2002	105	16.1	r32.1	r40.4
2003	131	53.3	r79.2	r98.1
2004	134	26.7	64.1	76.9
2003				
September	40	16.3	28.8	36.0
December	45	29.8	41.2	50.7
2004				
March	32	5.3	14.7	17.7
June	43	12.4	15.7	18.5
September	31	3.9	16.6	20.6
December	34	6.3	17.1	20.1

r revised

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes, Australia*, cat. no. 6321.0.55.001.JOB VACANCIES FOR EMPLOYEES, By sector: **Original**

Reference period	PRIVATE		PUBLIC		TOTAL	
	Job vacancies		Job vacancies		Job vacancies	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
2003						
August	6.2	-8.8	1.2	-14.6	7.4	-9.8
November	7.8	29.4	1.2	-7.7	9.0	22.8
2004						
February	9.4	-12.0	0.9	-34.0	10.2	-14.5
May	*9.5	49.3	1.0	-26.3	10.5	35.7
August	11.4	84.9	1.0	-20.1	12.4	67.4
November	11.4	46.8	1.7	41.1	13.1	46.0

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

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

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (a)

<i>At end of reference period</i>	<i>MALE</i>	<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	persons	persons	persons
2001–2002	963 418	961 135	1 924 553
2002–2003	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
2003–2004	992 452	989 752	1 982 204
2001	957 552	955 721	1 913 273
2002	968 719	966 547	1 935 266
2003	984 339	982 071	1 966 410
2003			
June	976 250	973 698	1 949 948
September	980 297	977 695	1 957 992
December	984 339	982 071	1 966 410
2004			
March	989 212	986 572	1 975 784
June	992 452	989 752	1 982 204
September	996 222	993 370	1 989 592

(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: *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0.

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

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

<i>Reference period</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural increase (b)</i>	<i>Net interstate migration</i>	<i>Net overseas migration (c)</i>	<i>Total population growth (d)</i>
persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
2001–2002	23 967	11 158	12 809	–4 385	14 970	23 394
2002–2003	23 791	11 161	12 630	–2 810	15 575	25 395
2003–2004	25 230	11 392	13 838	1 272	17 146	32 256
2001	24 235	10 920	13 315	–3 834	16 347	25 615
2002	23 782	11 216	12 566	–4 231	13 658	21 993
2003	24 103	11 371	12 732	–373	18 785	31 144
2003						
June	6 018	2 681	3 337	–213	3 042	6 166
September	6 214	3 100	3 114	221	4 709	8 044
December	5 963	2 979	2 984	117	5 317	8 418
2004						
March	6 520	2 639	3 881	480	5 013	9 374
June	6 533	2 674	3 859	454	2 107	6 420
September	6 429	3 117	3 312	289	3 787	7 388

(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: *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0.

(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.

REPORTED OFFENCES (a) (b)

Selected offences	2003		2004			
	September	December	March	June	September	December
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Homicide(c)	31	22	29	26	19	23
Assault(d)	4 243	5 113	5 502	4 717	r4 702	6 210
Robbery(e)	526	591	549	460	407	453
Burglary(f)	14 028	14 107	12 647	10 942	r10 400	10 802
Theft	22 965	23 305	21 411	18 972	r19 082	19 841
Steal motor vehicle	2 718	2 497	2 172	1 894	1 782	1 979
Property damage	9 882	10 535	9 750	8 732	r8 636	9 469
Graffiti(g)	2 901	2 681	2 083	r2 771	r2 667	1 858
Drugs	3 352	3 059	3 227	3 681	3 348	3 289
Other(h)	3 322	3 308	3 655	3 211	r3 370	3 996
Total reported offences	63 968	65 218	61 025	r55 406	r54 413	57 920

r revised

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

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

Indicator	Unit	1993	2001	2002	2003
Registered marriages					
Number of marriages	no.	10 382	9 785	10 484	9 549
Crude marriage rate(a)	rate	6.2	5.1	5.4	4.9
Marriages where both partners married for first time	no.	6 677	6 273	6 807	6 082
Median age at first marriage					
Males	years	27.1	28.7	28.8	29.5
Females	years	24.8	27.1	27.3	27.5
Median age at remarriage					
Males	years	41.2	44.3	45.2	45.4
Females	years	38.2	40.6	41.3	42.2
Divorces					
Number of divorces	no.	4 654	5 351	5 252	5 685
Crude divorce rate(b)	rate	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9
Median duration between marriage and separation	years	8.0	9.2	9.1	9.4
Divorces involving children aged under 18(c)	no.	2 466	2 905	2 756	2 942
Children aged under 18 affected by divorce	no.	4 743	5 535	5 246	5 600
Fertility					
Number of births	no.	25 081	24 002	23 601	24 273
Total fertility rate(d)	rate	1.88	1.73	1.70	1.74
Births to mothers aged under 20	no.	1 451	1 325	1 292	1 286
Births to mothers aged 35 and over	no.	2 801	4 048	4 037	4 416
Births outside marriage	no.	6 991	8 302	8 276	8 762
Births outside marriage acknowledged by father	no.	5 713	7 407	7 477	7 836

- (a) The number of marriages registered in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.
- (b) The number of divorces granted in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.
- (c) Refers to divorces of couples with unmarried children of the registered marriage aged under 18 at the time of application for divorce.
- (d) The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Source: *Demography, Western Australia*, cat. no. 3311.5.55.001; ABS data available on request, *Marriages, Divorces, Births*.

Indicator	Unit	1995	2002(b)	2003(b)	2004
Families					
Total families	'000	454.8	r523.5	r537.7	555.3
Total couple families	'000	389.3	r431.3	r450.1	458.8
Couple families with no dependent children aged 0–24 (of all couple families)	%	50.6	r54.0	r55.5	56.5
Families with at least one child aged under 5 (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	44.9	r42.9	r43.7	45.3
Couple families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	82.5	r76.6	r78.4	76.1
Lone father families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	1.9	r2.5	r2.5	2.9
Lone mother families with children under 15 years (of all families with children under 15 years)	%	15.6	r20.9	r19.2	21.0
Children under 15 years of age living in one parent families (of all children under 15 years)	%	15.4	r20.5	r20.0	21.3
Persons					
Persons aged 20–24 living with parents (of all persons aged 20–24)(c)	%	38.7	r40.5	r38.8	43.2
Persons aged 25–34 living with parents (of all persons aged 25–34)	%	8.1	r7.8	r8.6	9.9
Persons aged 15–64 who live alone (of all persons aged 15–64)	%	7.8	r8.8	r9.0	9.1
Persons aged 65 and over who live alone (of all persons aged 65 and over)	%	27.4	r30.3	r30.0	28.6
Average family size (persons)	no.	3.1	r3.0	r3.0	3.0

r revised

(a) Data on living arrangements are at June each year.

(b) Estimates for periods prior to February 2004 have been revised using updated population benchmarks based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, and incorporating a minor change to the definition of unemployed persons. See the February 2004 issue of *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0, for more details.

(c) Refers to unmarried persons with no dependants usually resident in the same household.

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

Indicator	Unit	1995	2002(b)	2003(b)	2004
Couple families					
Couple families with children aged under 15	'000	167.7	r172.4	r172.5	171.9
Both parents employed	%	57.1	r56.2	r55.7	54.1
Neither parent employed	%	7.4	r6.2	r5.5	6.0
Lone parent families					
Lone parent families with children aged under 15	'000	35.5	r52.7	r47.4	53.9
Parent employed	%	41.7	r44.0	r46.2	51.3
Children					
Children under 15 living in families where no parent is employed (of all children under 15)	%	16.9	r17.5	r16.5	16.3

r revised

(a) Data on families and work are at June each year.

(b) Estimates for periods prior to February 2004 have been revised using updated population benchmarks based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, and incorporating a minor change to the definition of unemployed persons. See the February 2004 issue of *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0, for more details.

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

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ISSN 1443 993X

RRP \$29.00