

**BUSINESS INDICATORS**AUSTRALIAN  
CAPITAL  
TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 18 MAY 1998

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

- For further information about these statistics, contact Conrad Bulenda on Canberra 02 6207 0286.

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June	22 June 1998
July	20 July 1998

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

Dalma Jacobs  
Regional Director

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the April 1998 issue are: labour force; industrial disputes; wage and salary earners; housing and construction; engineering construction; retail turnover; motor vehicle registrations; and the Consumer price index. The feature article is on Participation in Education in the ACT on pages 8–9.

### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- Labour force The April 1998 trend unemployment rate for the ACT fell by 0.2 percentage points from March to a level of 6.9% after peaking at 8.2% in October 1997. This is the lowest figure since October 1991 (6.7%). Trend employment increased (up 0.4% or 600 persons) in March 1998 and the participation rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 71.8%. Nationally, trend employment increased by 8,500 or 0.1% persons while the trend unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 8.0%.
- Industrial disputes For the 12 months ended January 1998 there were 15 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 73 days nationally. This represented no change on the previous period for the ACT and a fall of 2.7% for Australia. There was a decrease of 89.9% and 44.7% on the number of working days lost from the previous year for the ACT and Australia respectively.
- Wage and Salary Earners The trend number of wage and salary earners reported by Government agencies and businesses located in the ACT fell 1.8% (or 2,500 persons) to 137,200 in the period August 1997 to November 1997. This compares to a national decline of 0.1% (or 5,100 persons). The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT now stands at 49%. These figures exclude self employed persons in jobs located in the private sector.
- Housing and construction The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 6.6% to 99 dwelling units in March 1998, the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.9% in March 1998.
- The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$7.6 million in March 1998, a decrease of \$16.5 million (down 68.5%) from the previous month and \$4.1 million (117.4%) higher than March 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 17.7% from the previous month and was 34.4% higher than March 1997.

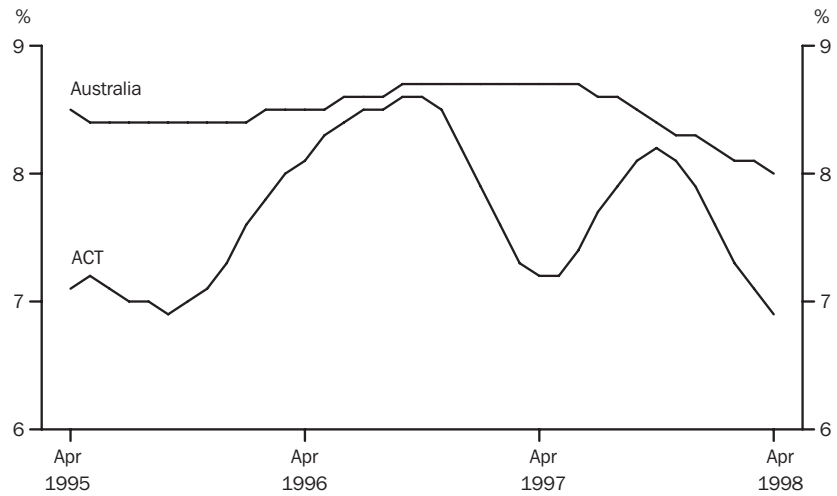
Engineering construction	<p>The value of engineering construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the December quarter 1997 increased by 15.9% or \$2.5 million from the previous quarter and was down \$2.7 million or 12.9% on the December quarter 1996. Nationally, the value of public sector work done increased 12% from the previous quarter and was down 5.6% on the December quarter 1996.</p> <p>The value of engineering construction work done by the private sector in the ACT during the December quarter 1997 increased by 136.3% to \$18.9 million from the previous quarter and was up 71.8% or \$7.9 million on the December quarter 1996. Nationally, the value of private sector engineering construction work done was up 16.3% from the previous quarter and was up 20.9% on the December quarter 1996.</p>
Retail turnover	<p>The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for March 1998 was \$216.3 million, up 0.1% on the previous month's figure and up 7.0% on twelve months ago. The trend estimate for retail turnover has increased each month for the last year. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.2% on the previous month and was up 4.3% on a year ago.</p>
Motor vehicle registrations	<p>The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in March 1998 was 1,477, up 0.1% on the previous month, but up 46.7% on March 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in March 1998 recorded a 0.5% decrease, the second consecutive monthly decrease after thirteen months of growth.</p>
Consumer price index	<p>The ACT experienced a 0.7% increase in the All Groups CPI for the March quarter 1998. This compared to a national rise of 0.3%. The ACT annual CPI rate to March quarter 1998 recorded a negative figure of 0.7%, the equal largest decrease with Adelaide. The annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities was minus 0.2%.</p>

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

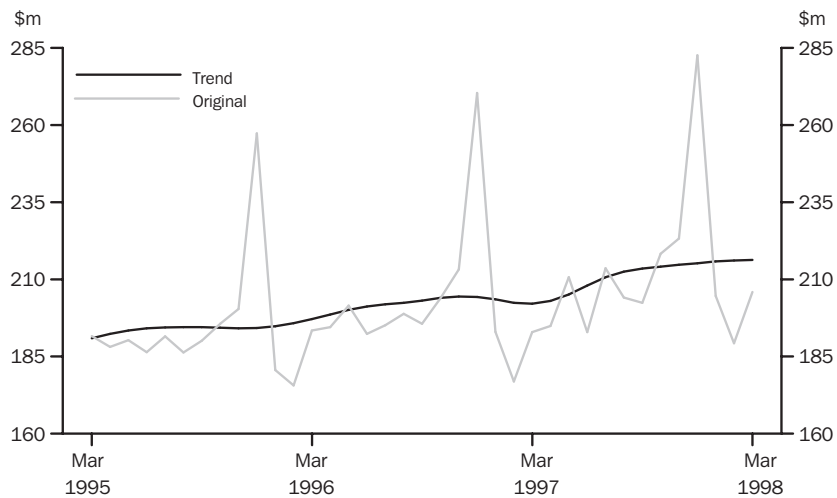
LABOUR FORCE —  
EMPLOYMENT



LABOUR FORCE — TREND  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

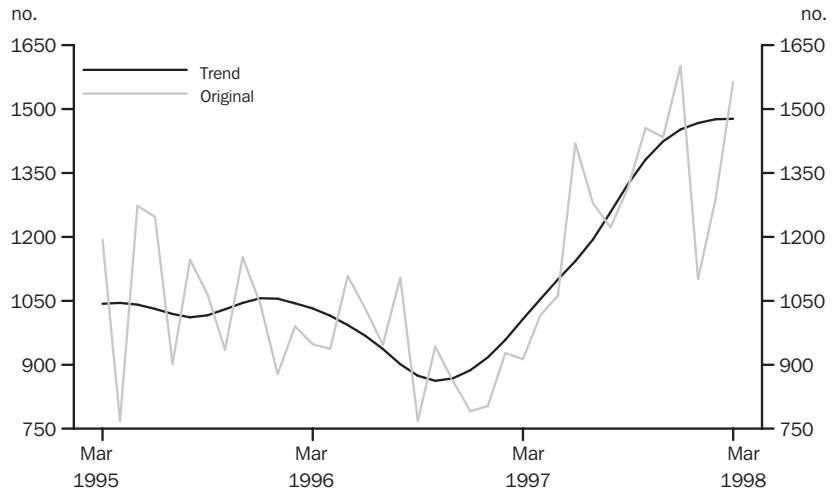


RETAIL TURNOVER

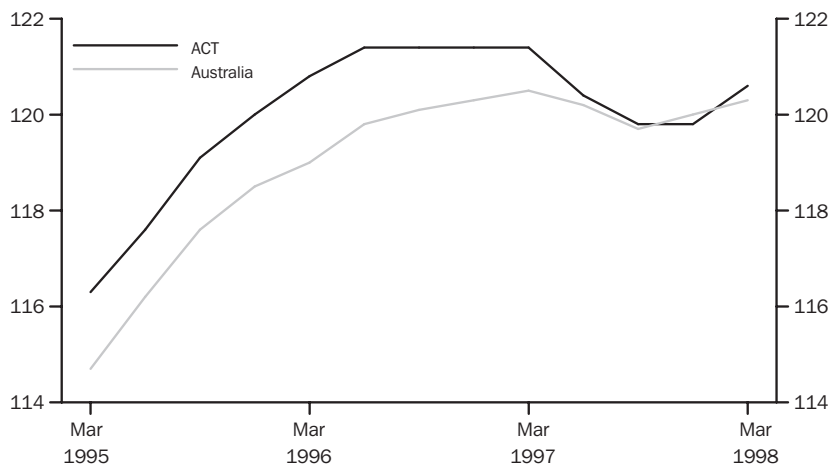


**SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS** *continued*

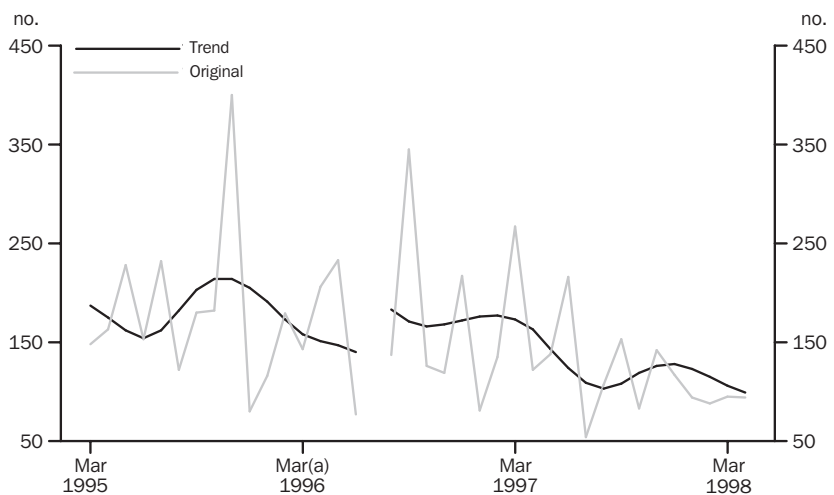
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS**



**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**



**BUILDING APPROVAL —  
NUMBER OF DWELLING  
UNITS APPROVED**



(a) For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996. As further information is received and analysed, the series prior to that are likely to be revised. A trend break has been included in the graph.

There were 50,400 persons aged 15 to 24 years of age in the ACT as at September 1997. Of these, 28,653 (56.9%) were attending an educational institution, this was the highest of any State or Territory and above the national average of 53.0%. These were divided into 14,019 persons attending school and 14,634 attending a tertiary institution (8,658 in higher education, 5,317 at TAFE and the remainder at institutions such as business colleges, \*199, and other, \*460). In September 1996, 30,562 persons were attending an educational institution, representing 58.4% of the equivalent population. The fall of 1,909 persons from 1996 was due mainly to a decrease of 2,947 in higher education students although this was partially compensated for by a rise of 1,809 in TAFE students. School students fell slightly by 398 persons.

Of the 14,019 school students, 6,261 were in the labour force, giving a participation rate of 44.7%. Almost 25% (1,555) of those in the labour force were unemployed while the remaining 4,706 were all employed part time. The labour force participation rate of the 14,634 tertiary students was 78.0%; however for full time students it was 71.6% and for part time students it was 88.9%. The unemployment rate for full time students was 17.3% (1,150 persons), while for part time students it was lower at \*11.0% (\*525 persons). The vast majority of full time students were employed part time (5,222 persons or 95.3%) while most part time students were employed full time (3,199 persons or 75.1%).

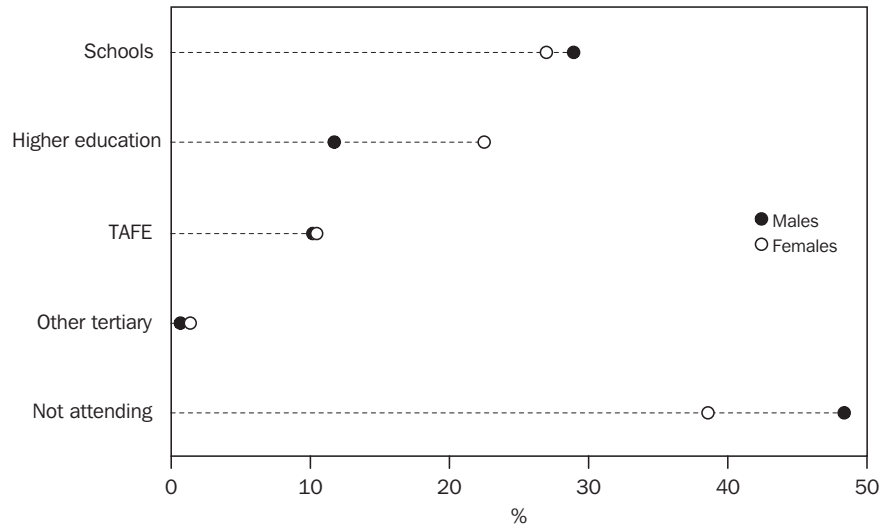
Persons aged 15 to 24 years born outside Australia were more likely to be studying at a higher education institution. While those born overseas made up 13.5% of the population aged 15 to 24 years, they made up 29.2% of all persons studying at a tertiary institution. They also made up 13.5% of school students, \*10.6% of TAFE students and only 9.1% of persons not attending an educational institution. These results may reflect the increasing numbers of overseas students studying at universities in the ACT.

Persons who had last attended a government school were less likely to be attending a higher education institution than those who had attended a non-government school. There were 8,658 persons in higher education and of these 59.7% (5,168) had attended a government school, 25.1% (2,174) a Catholic non-government school and 15.2% (1,316) an other non-government school. Of the 5,317 TAFE students 67.5% (3,590) had attended a government school, 26.1% (1,389) a Catholic non-government school and \*6.4% (\*338) an other non-government school.

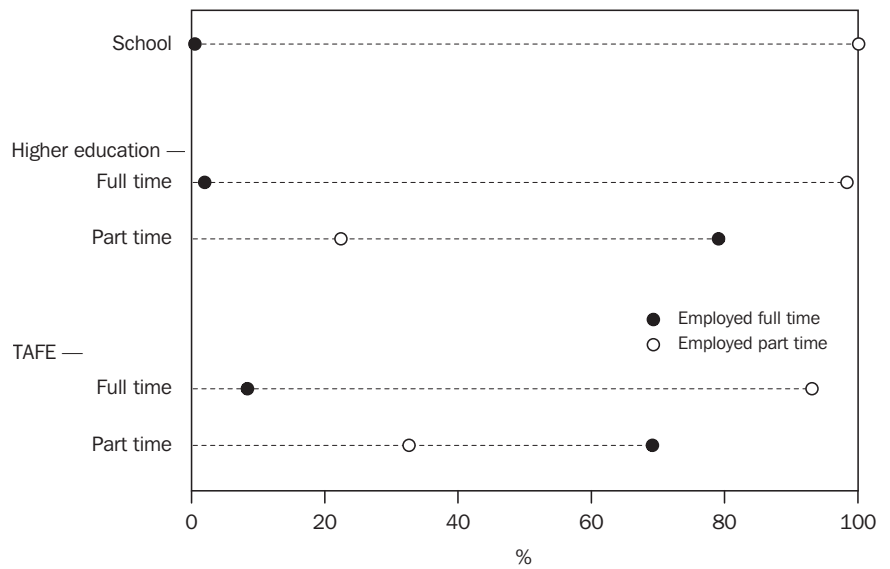
The labour force participation rates for tertiary students aged 15 to 24 years was similar for those who had last attended a government school (76.3%), a Catholic non-government school (80.9%) and other non-government school (80.4%). However, the unemployment rates were somewhat different at 18.6%, \*5.4% and \*15.7%, respectively.

The vast majority of persons attending a higher education institution were undertaking a Bachelor degree, (7,688 or 90.6%). Just over half (2,419 or 51.7%) of those in TAFE courses were in an undergraduate diploma or associated diploma stream while a further 41.6% (1,944) were undertaking a skilled or basic vocational course.

PERSONS AGED 15–24: PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION



EMPLOYED PERSONS AGED 15–24 IN EDUCATION: EMPLOYMENT STATUS





**1****BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, MARCH QUARTER  
1998/DECEMBER QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE**

	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Period</i>	%	%
<b>Short-term</b>		
Sep qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1996	-0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996–Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.5	3.0
Dec qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	-1.2	-0.3
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Sep qtr 1996–Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Sep qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	2.7	2.9

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from
				Same period /n previous /n year			Same period previous year
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION Sep qtr 97	'000	309.2	-0.2	0.1	18 588.6	0.3	1.2
Natural increase	no.	506	-40.4	-32.3	26 045	-21.0	-6.5
Net migration	no.	-1 072	—	—	30 355	—	—
Total increase	no.	-566	—	—	56 400	—	—
<b>LABOUR FORCE, Apr 98</b>							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	156.3	-1.1	-1.0	8 576.4	0.7	2.0
Unemployed	'000	11.5	-15.4	-3.4	736.8	-8.1	-7.9
Unemployment rate	%	6.8	-1.1	-0.2	7.9	-0.7	-0.8
Participation rate	%	71.1	-1.5	-1.2	63.2	-0.2	-0.2
Long-term unemployed, Mar 98	no.	3 709	-24.7	46.7	246 632	-6.5	0.8
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed	—	27.2	-6.4	7.6	30.8	-0.5	1.8
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.8	0.4	-0.1	8 547.6	0.1	1.8
Unemployed	'000	11.6	-3.3	-4.9	745.4	-0.5	-7.0
Unemployment rate	%	6.9	-0.2	-0.3	8.0	-0.1	-0.7
Participation rate	%	71.8	0.2	-0.7	63.1	—	-0.2
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Dec 97</b>							
Trend series							
Public Sector	'000	70.3	1.6	0.6	1 477.0	—	-0.9
Private Sector	'000	66.9	-5.1	0.6	5 363.4	-0.1	1.1
Total	'000	137.2	-1.8	0.6	6 840.4	-0.1	0.7
JOB VACANCIES, Feb 98	'000	1.0	—	—	75.5	10.9	20.6
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Jan 98</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	—	—	8.6	-64.6	-63.4
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Dec 97)	no.	15.0	—	-89.9	73.0	-2.7	-44.7
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, Feb 98</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	7.1	73.2	14.5	687.6	23.5	20.6
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	4.4	41.9	-26.7	227.3	17.5	6.0
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	62.9	35.3	32.7	2 755.4	18.6	11.6
Re-financing	\$m	11.7	7.3	-31.2	769.2	21.3	-1.1
Total housing commitments	\$m	86.0	33.1	12.4	4 439.6	19.8	10.2
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	89.0	10.7	12.7	4 533.9	-2.4	10.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	750	0.3	-5.4	40 251	-0.2	-0.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	85.5	0.5	2.9	4 612.9	-0.3	7.3
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, Mar 98</b>							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	94	-1.1	-23.0	13 843	19.6	25.8
Value of new residential	\$m	12.5	12.6	-0.8	1 451.2	23.2	33.9
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.6	—	31.4	256.4	6.8	25.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	7.6	-68.5	117.1	960.1	-17.7	34.4
Value of total building	\$m	24.7	-37.8	26.0	2 667.7	3.2	33.2
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	99	-6.6	-39.3	13 461	0.9	12.7

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from		Latest figure	% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period		Same period previous year	Previous period	Same period previous year
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued</b>							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Dec qtr 97							
New houses	no.	297	28.0	6.1	26 504	11.2	23.9
Value of houses commenced	\$m	37.6	52.2	18.2	2 996.0	10.9	27.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	65.6	16.1	-41.0	3 410.8	-7.2	8.0
Value of total commencements	\$m	126.6	28.7	-25.6	8 387.3	2.3	18.8
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Dec qtr 97	—	126.2	0.9	-0.3	121.2	1.9	6.0
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Dec qtr 97)</b>							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	15.1	84.1	13.5	2 751.0	-2.4	30.5
Value of work done	\$m	18.9	136.3	71.8	2 724.9	16.3	20.9
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	6.9	-69.2	-78.8	6 521.1	3.6	24.4
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	18.2	15.9	-12.9	1 424.7	12.0	-5.6
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Mar qtr 97							
Food	(a)	125.3	0.3	2.7	122.1	0.8	1.6
Housing	(a)	93.3	-0.4	-9.8	93.4	-0.8	-6.8
Transportation	(a)	129.0	—	-2.2	122.9	-0.9	-1.8
All groups	(a)	120.6	0.7	-0.7	120.3	0.3	-0.2
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Nov 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	789.1	1.2	2.5	709.1	2.2	4.3
Females	\$	589.8	2.2	5.0	466.1	1.3	4.2
Persons	\$	692.1	2.1	4.2	592.6	1.8	4.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	789.1	1.3	2.7	705.6	1.2	3.7
Females	\$	590.3	1.9	4.9	467.2	1.1	3.8
Persons	\$	689.9	1.5	4.0	591.4	1.0	3.3
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, Mar 98</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	81.5	8.1	5.8	4 553.2	6.3	3.1
Department stores	\$m	19.8	14.5	-7.0	823.1	14.9	-4.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	33.2	8.9	14.9	1 840.6	10.4	2.2
All other retailing	\$m	71.4	8.0	8.7	3 556.9	8.5	5.4
Total	\$m	205.9	8.8	6.7	10 773.8	8.3	3.1
Trend Series							
Food retailing	'000	80.9	-0.1	6.6	4 645.9	0.6	6.3
Department stores	\$m	24.0	-1.2	3.0	993.0	-0.7	2.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	33.4	0.3	7.7	1 851.1	0.2	2.1
All other retailing	%	78.0	0.6	8.5	3 815.5	0.1	3.4
Total	'000	216.3	0.1	7.0	11 305.5	0.2	4.3

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>ACT</i>			<i>Aust.</i>			
		<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>Previous period</i>	<i>% change from</i>		<i>Latest figure</i>	<i>% change from</i>	
				<i>Same period previous year</i>			<i>Same period previous year</i>	
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>								
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Sep qtr 97								
Original series								
Room nights	'000	200.8	4.6	1.6	9 521.2	9.4	2.4	
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.0	3.8	4.4	949.7	11.3	5.9	
Takings at 1989–90 prices	\$m	15.9	4.6	6.0	791.9	11.7	6.1	
Room occupancy rate (Dec qtr 97)	%	63.3	7.0	0.2	58.2	0.2	-1.7	
Seasonally adjusted series								
Room nights	'000	201.6	3.0	1.7	9 293.1	2.1	2.5	
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.2	3.8	4.9	933.5	2.5	6.2	
Takings at 1989–90 prices	\$m	16.0	3.9	6.0	778.5	2.9	6.5	
Trend series								
Room nights	'000	198.8	-1.9	-5.0	9 205.2	-0.2	0.2	
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.8	-2.1	-3.6	926.8	0.4	3.7	
Takings at 1989–90 prices	\$m	15.7	-1.3	-2.5	771.5	0.6	3.8	
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Mar 98								
Motor vehicles	no.	1 564	21.4	71.3	68 314	13.4	24.2	
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 542	10.9	59.5	62 978	-0.5	10.6	
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 477	0.1	46.7	63 610	-0.5	11.5	
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>								
STATE ACCOUNTS, Dec qtr 97(a)								
Trend series (at average 1989–90 prices)								
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 339	2.4	8.2	70 594	1.5	5.0	
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 318	0.9	3.7	18 557	0.5	2.1	
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	283	0.7	62.6	23 019	1.8	11.5	
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	22	-37.1	-83.6	4 826	-3.0	-1.0	
Final demand	\$m	2 962	1.1	5.2	116 996	1.2	5.5	

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

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

## 3

## ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>POPULATION</b>	'000	Sep qtr 97	6 293.0	4 617.4	3 417.4	1 481.6	1 805.4	472.7	188.7	309.2	18 588.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Apr 98	2 838.1	2 141.1	1 612.0	646.3	873.9	197.5	86.5	157.8	8 547.6
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Apr 98	7.4	8.4	8.5	9.8	7.0	10.6	5.7	6.9	8.0
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS</b>											
Public sector (trend)	'000	Nov 97	473.7	318.8	284.9	118.3	146.7	41.7	22.7	70.3	1 477.0
Private sector (trend)	'000	Nov 97	1 883.1	1 432.7	895.8	386.1	534.0	115.8	49.1	66.9	5 363.4
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	Nov 97	2 356.8	1 751.5	1 180.7	504.3	680.6	157.5	71.8	137.2	6 840.4
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>											
State Final Demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Dec qtr 97	40 180	28 784	20 841	8 145	12 158	2 496	1 234	2 962	116 996
State Final Demand at current prices (trend)	\$m	Dec qtr 97	46 236	32 688	24 035	9 477	13 849	2 950	1 456	3 478	134 457
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Mar 98	4 350	3 546	3 064	738	1 747	125	179	94	13 843
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Mar 98	4 397	3 078	3 199	684	1 575	126	236	99	13 461
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Mar 98	386.4	148.5	270.5	53.8	62.4	15.9	14.9	7.6	960.1
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Mar 98	988.9	604.6	600.3	128.1	251.4	31.1	38.5	24.7	2 667.7
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec qtr 97	1 240.3	679.2	934.2	299.4	852.4	47.8	59.2	37.2	4 149.7
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Nov 97	739.5	711.7	671.2	659.8	716.9	681.2	706.3	821.5	712.7
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Mar 98	3 995.0	2 612.2	2 108.4	853.2	1 136.0	264.5	119.8	216.3	11 305.5
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Sep qtr 97	3,064.6	1 562.6	2 467.2	531.7	831.6	257.3	291.4	198.8	9 205.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Dec qtr 97	59.0	56.1	59.5	58.3	58.7	53.2	51.1	63.3	58.2
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Mar 98	21 411	15 676	12 265	4 123	6 577	1 290	789	1 477	63 610
	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>											
Food	(b)	Mar qtr 98	122.8	120.7	122.6	122.9	122.7	121.7	124.4	125.3	122.1
Housing	(b)	Mar qtr 98	100.3	84.1	100.0	89.9	88.5	95.3	111.6	93.3	93.4
Transportation	(b)	Mar qtr 98	124.2	122.1	122.8	121.2	121.2	121.7	122.0	129.0	122.9
All Groups	(b)	Mar qtr 98	120.7	119.6	121.9	121.7	118.0	121.5	121.5	120.6	120.3
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	116	133	118	124	135	125	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 97	200	188	195	163	187	189	196	198	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	1226	1050	1086	1098	1052	976	1211	1123	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	363	357	359	351	368	394	386	348	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	122	142	114	104	120	83	141	125	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 97	635	633	656	592	656	697	640	642	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 97	334	299	256	354	366	259	325	289	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	75.4	74.9	68.1	75	75.8	81.3	82.6	75.6	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	73.2	72.8	65.9	72.6	73.7	79.3	80.6	73.4	n.a.

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

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

## 4

## ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>POPULATION</b>	Sep qtr 97	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.9	-0.2	0.3
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Apr 98	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.4	-0.6	0.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Apr 98	—	—	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	0.3	-0.2	-0.1
<b>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS</b>										
Pubic sector (trend)	Nov 97	0.8	-0.9	-0.2	-0.5	0.2	-0.7	-1.3	1.6	—
Private sector (trend)	Nov 97	-1.2	1.4	-1.0	1.4	1.7	-3.3	0.8	-5.1	-0.1
Total public and private sector (trend)	Nov 97	-0.8	0.9	-0.8	0.9	1.3	-2.7	0.1	-1.8	-0.1
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS(a)</b>										
State final demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Dec qtr 97	1.4	—	1.4	1.2	2.1	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
State final demand at current prices (trend)	Dec qtr 97	1.5	0.7	1.7	1.4	2.2	0.3	1.6	1.8	1.6
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Mar 98	23.0	28.6	10.9	10.8	21.0	3.3	-4.8	-1.1	19.6
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Mar 98	0.8	1.7	-0.6	4.3	1.7	-3.8	1.7	-6.6	0.9
Value of non-residential building approved	Mar 98	-16.3	-33.3	-15.7	28.4	-9.7	156.5	-24.0	-68.5	-17.7
Value of all buildings approved	Mar 98	4.8	5.2	-3.8	11.9	11.8	61.1	-11.5	-37.8	3.2
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 97	16.1	3.7	6.4	18.5	32.9	1.5	18.6	57.0	14.8
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov 97	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.1	1.3	1.1	-0.1	1.8	1.0
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Mar 98	—	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.3	-0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sep qtr 97	-1.0	1.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.6	0.7	-3.3	-1.9	-0.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	Dec qtr 97	1.5	2.9	-5.0	6.1	0.8	13.7	-15.6	7.0	0.2
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Mar 98	-0.7	-0.7	0.2	-1.5	-0.6	0.5	1.8	0.1	-0.5
	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>Syd.</i>	<i>Melb.</i>	<i>Bris.</i>	<i>Adel.</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hob.</i>	<i>Dar.</i>	<i>Canb.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>										
Food	Mar qtr 98	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.6	—	1.7	0.3	0.8
Housing	Mar qtr 98	0.2	-3.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.4	-0.8
Transportation	Mar qtr 98	-0.4	-1.8	-1.0	-0.9	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.9
All Groups	Mar qtr 98	0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	—	2.3	0.9	1.6	1.5	—	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	-1.5	-5.5	2.1	1.2	2.7	3.3	—	4.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 97	4.6	-2.1	-0.2	-3.3	2.7	-1.6	-0.6	9.2	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 97	-0.5	-10.3	1.4	-3.0	1.1	-3.0	-12.3	-6.5	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 97	—	4.4	-2.6	-6.3	4.3	18.6	6.8	10.6	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 97	0.8	-0.8	4.3	3.3	-4.2	5.1	4.9	4.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 97	1.5	3.1	0.4	1.7	3.1	2.4	1.2	-1.0	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.5	3.5	0.7	1.6	2.0	2.1	-2.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.7	3.6	0.6	1.7	2.1	2.2	-2.3	n.a.

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



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ISSN 1320-808X

RRP \$15.50