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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL INDICATORS

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CONTENTS

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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)	*RELEASE DATE*
September 2005	19 October 2005
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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

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
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
GSP	gross state product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LNG	liquefied natural gas
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
TWI	trade-weighted index
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America

Alan Hubbard
Regional Director, Western Australia

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

The Western Australian economy grew by a moderate 0.5% in the March Quarter 2005, according to the trend chain volume series of state final demand. Growth in state final demand more than halved in the March quarter, from an increase of 1.1% in the December Quarter 2005. The largest contribution to growth during the period was business investment on intangible fixed assets, increasing by 8.9% in seasonally adjusted chain volume terms. Business investment also increased on machinery and equipment (up 1.2%). The government sector reduced its contribution to the state economy in the March Quarter 2005, with final consumption expenditure by all levels of government decreasing by 1.6% and national government investment declining by 12.3%.

The value of Western Australia's exports increased by 13.8% between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005, driven by increased production capacity in the resources sector, higher commodity prices and strong global demand for minerals and energy. The major commodities to increase their value of exports during the period were Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (up 38.4%), Crude petroleum oil (up 31.9%) and Natural and manufactured gas (up 50.4%). Over the same period, the value of Western Australia's imports grew by 16.7%, supported by strong domestic demand, a high $A and tariff reductions on some imported goods.

The number of employed persons (trend) grew by 1.8% in Western Australia over the three months to May 2005, more than double the national increase of 0.8%. Despite this strong performance, the state's unemployed persons (trend) also increased over the period, rising by 3.6% – three times the national increase of 1.2%. Much of this growth in unemployment can be attributed to West Australians entering the labour market, with the state's labour force rising by 20,600 persons and the participation rate increasing from 67.0% to 68.1% between February and May 2005. The increase in unemployed persons has seen the state's unemployment rate rise slightly, from 4.7% in February 2005 to 4.8% in May 2005.

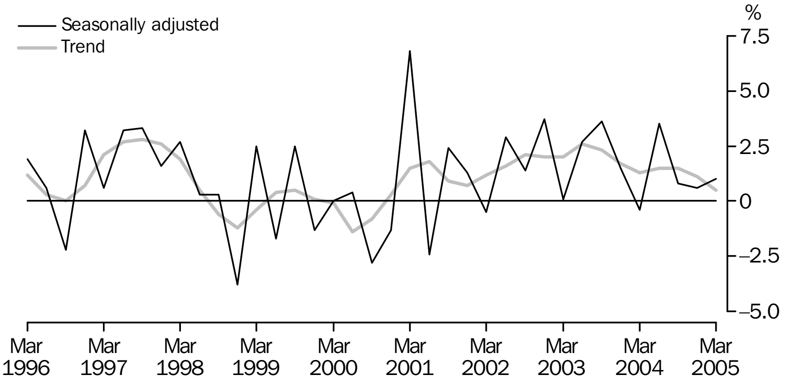
STATE ACCOUNTS

State final demand

Growth continued to moderate in Western Australia's state final demand (trend chain volume terms) in the March Quarter 2005, rising by 0.5% ($116 million), following increases of 1.5% (September) and 1.1% (December) in the previous two quarters. Generally, the rate of growth in state final demand has been in decline since peaking at 2.6% in the June Quarter 2003. Nationally, domestic final demand increased by 0.6% in the March Quarter 2005.

State final demand continued

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 1.0% ($212 million) in the March Quarter 2005. The largest contribution to growth during the quarter was business investment on intangible fixed assets, increasing by $34 million (8.9%), mainly due to an increase in petroleum exploration expenditure. Business investment also increased on machinery and equipment, rising by $28 million (1.2%) during the quarter. Other notable contributions to growth in state final demand were: state and local government investment (up $34 million or 10.4%); household final consumption expenditure on other goods and services (up $32 million or 3.7%); and private investment on new and used dwellings (up $28 million or 3.8%).

The main detractor from growth in state final demand in the March Quarter 2005 was the government sector. Final consumption expenditure by all levels of government decreased by $54 million (1.6%), and national government investment in the state fell by $10 million (12.3%). Further reducing growth during the quarter were declines in household final consumption expenditure on food (down $18 million or 1.4%) and operation of vehicles (down $10 million or 1.5%).

PRICES

Consumer Price Index

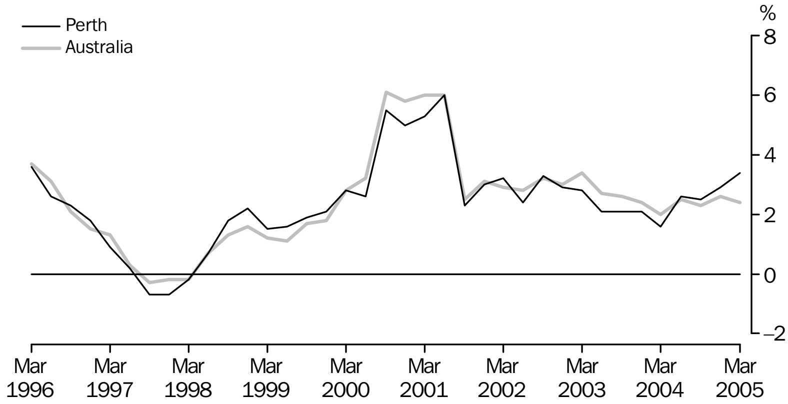
Growth in Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased slightly to 0.8% in the March Quarter 2005, following an increase of 0.9% in the previous quarter. Prices growth in Perth during the March quarter was slightly above the national average of 0.7%.

The main contributor to Perth's CPI growth in the March Quarter 2005 was Housing (up 2.4%), largely driven by the impact of rising labour and materials (timber and steel) costs on the purchase price of housing. Other notable contributions were Food (up 1.0%), mainly due to an increase in vegetable prices; and Health (up 3.6%), attributable to the cyclical effect of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) safety net and an increase in the patient co-payment for PBS prescription pharmaceuticals from 1 January 2005.

Consumer Price Index continued

The major detractor from prices growth in Perth in the March Quarter 2005 was Transportation (down 1.4%), mainly due to easing petrol prices and a drop in the list prices of some motor vehicles following import tariff cuts in January 2005, as well as competitive pricing between dealers to clear stocks of 2004 plated vehicles. Household furnishings, supplies and services (down 2.6%) and Clothing and footwear (down 1.4%) also contributed to price decreases in the March quarter, as department and specialty stores held their post-Christmas and New Year sales.

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 3.4% between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005, well above the national increase of 2.4% over the same period. Perth's higher annual growth was mainly due to food, housing and recreation prices rising by more than the national average. Although the national CPI increased within the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range of 2.0%–3.0%, the RBA cautioned that price pressures could arise from higher oil (and other commodity) prices, as well as capacity constraints in some parts of the economy, including the labour market.

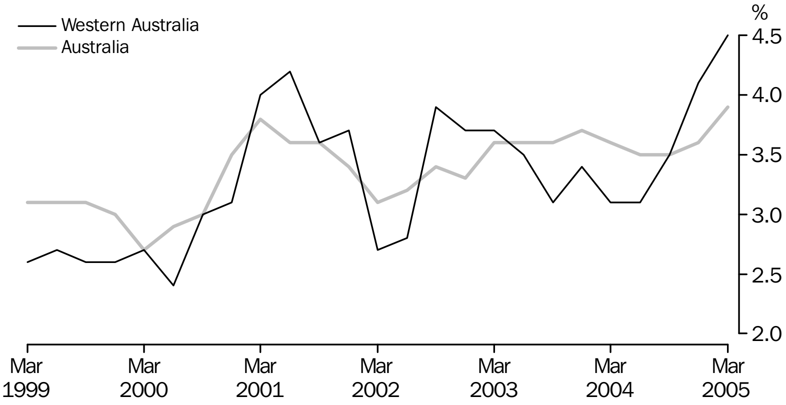
Wage Price Index

Wages growth eased in Western Australia in the March Quarter 2005, with the state's quarterly index of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) increasing by 0.9%, following a rise of 1.4% in the previous quarter. Growth in the state's wages during the March quarter was slightly lower than the national average of 1.1%.

The main (selected) industries contributing to Western Australia's wages growth in the March Quarter 2005 were Education (up 1.3%) and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (up 1.1%). Among the selected occupations, Tradespersons and related workers (up 1.8%) and Associate professionals (up 1.6%) recorded the highest quarterly wages growth in the state. The RBA suggests that shortages of skilled labour in the construction and resources sectors, and in parts of the business services sector, may be contributing to higher wages in these occupations.

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 4.5% between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005 – well above the national increase of 3.9% and higher than any other state or territory over the period. The main (selected) industries driving the increase were Manufacturing (up 4.4%), Government administration and defence (up 4.2%) and Education (up 4.2%). Among the selected occupations, the highest annual wages growth was recorded by Labourers and related workers (up 8.1%) and Tradespersons and related workers (up 7.2%). Wages growth in these occupations was driven by continued strong activity in the state's mining and construction sectors, coupled with a shortage of skilled workers.

The RBA has noted that, while aggregate wages growth remains contained, there are greater wage pressures in industries facing strong demand, such as construction and mining. They caution that labour shortages are becoming increasingly broad-based across industries and skill levels, and business surveys indicate that difficulty in finding suitable labour has become a key factor constraining output. This could lead to wage pressures building in the economy in the longer term.

CONSUMPTION

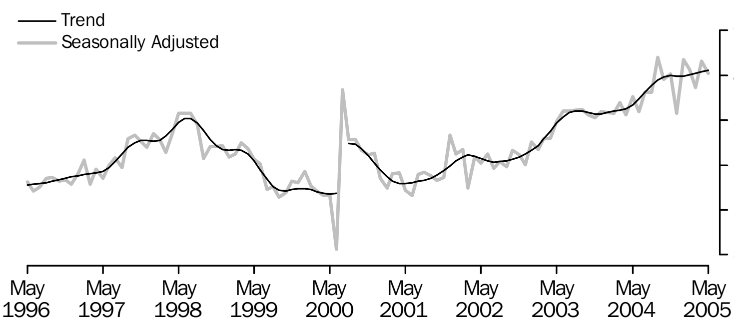
New motor vehicle sales

Sales of new motor vehicles (trend) in Western Australia increased for the fourth consecutive month in May 2005, rising by 0.3% to 8,115 vehicles. This upturn can be attributed to strong consumer confidence, a high $A and lower prices paid for imported vehicles since tariffs were reduced in January 2005. All of these factors have helped to consolidate the state's vehicle sales at historically high levels.

Over the three months to May 2005, sales in Western Australia rose by 1.1% compared to the preceding three months, more than double the rise nationally (0.5%). Growth in the state was driven by sales of both Other vehicles (including vans, trucks and buses) and Passenger vehicles – up 3.0% and 1.3% respectively over the period. Partially offsetting growth was a fall in Sports utility vehicle sales – down 1.5%.

New motor vehicle sales continued

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES(a)



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

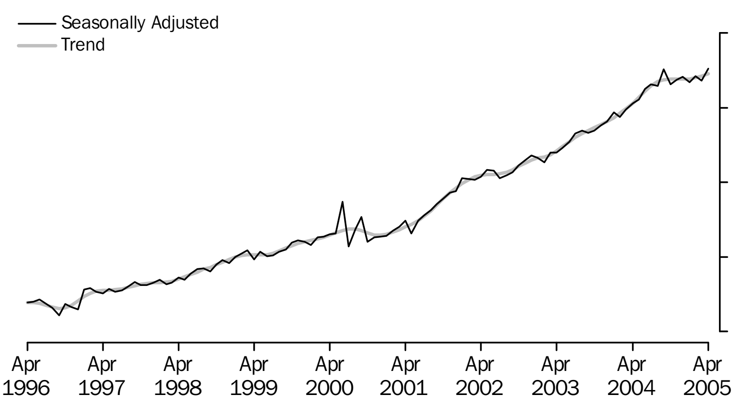
Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, cat. no. 9314.0.55.001.

In original terms, Western Australia's new motor vehicle sales were 9.6% (2,107 vehicles) higher in the three months to May 2005, than in the same period of 2004. Growth over the period was supported by increased sales across all motor vehicle types, including Sports utility vehicles (up 12.4% or 515 vehicles), Passenger vehicles (up 11.0% or 1,390 vehicles) and Other vehicles (up 3.9% or 202 vehicles).

Retail trade

Retail turnover (trend) in Western Australia increased by 0.5% in the three months to April 2005, compared to the previous three months, equivalent to the increase recorded nationally. This followed a modest increase of 0.2% in the state's retail turnover in the three months to January 2005. After a sustained period of strong growth, increases in retail expenditure have moderated in 2005, coinciding with a period of interest rate uncertainty. Most recently, the RBA increased official interest rates in March 2005.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER, Current prices



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

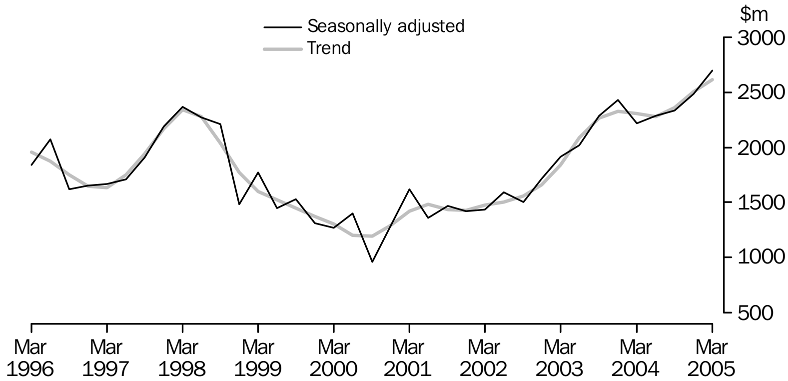
The main drivers of the increase in retail turnover, over the three months to April 2005, were expenditure on Household goods, up $21 million (2.4%); Recreational goods, up $16 million (6.0%); and Clothing and soft goods, up $6 million (2.2%). These increases were partly offset by a $25 million (4.8%) decline in Other retailing expenditure (which includes pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, antiques, garden supplies and jewellery).

INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure

Business investment (trend chain volume terms) in Western Australia increased by 4.5% ($112 million) to $2,614 million in the March Quarter 2005 – the third consecutive quarterly increase. Growth in business investment was mainly driven by expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery, rising by 4.2% to $1,451 million. Investment on Buildings and structures also increased in the March quarter, up by 3.5% to $1,149 million – the twelfth consecutive quarterly increase. Recent growth in business investment has been driven by the state's resources sector, expanding its capacity and infrastructure in response to strong global demand for minerals and energy, particularly 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 26.2% ($491 million) higher in the March Quarter 2005 than in the same quarter of 2004. Over the period, investment in Manufacturing almost doubled, increasing by 93.3% ($196 million) to $406 million – the highest level of investment in Manufacturing since the September Quarter 1998 ($410 million) – mainly driven by metal products manufacturing. Investment also increased in Mining and Other selected industries (comprising Retail trade, Construction and Property and business services), rising by 14.2% ($149 million) and 23.8% ($146 million) respectively.

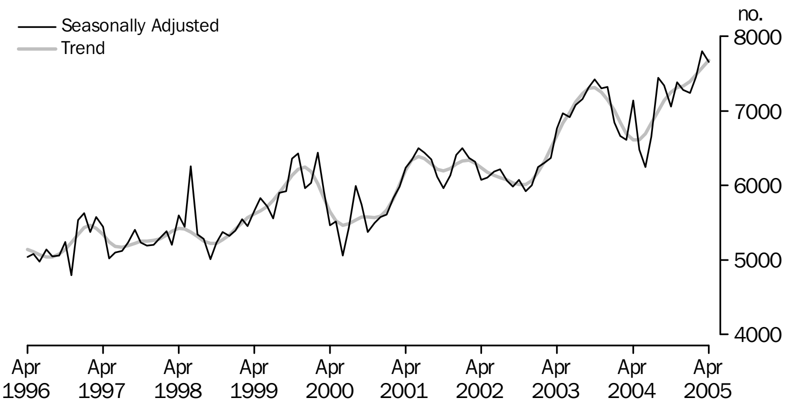
According to the Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance, the outlook for business investment in Western Australia remains positive, supported by strong commodity prices and high rates of capacity utilisation. Work is continuing to progress on several large projects, and is expected to commence on the Enfield oil and gas field and the Ravensthorpe nickel project in the latter half of 2004–05. However, recent reports have indicated that shortages of skilled labour have impacted on the cost of some projects, and the availability of skilled labour and materials could be a potential constraint on business investment in the short term.

Housing finance commitments

West Australians have continued to increase their borrowing for housing since a downturn in mid-2004. In April 2005, the number of housing finance commitments (trend) rose by 1.2% to 7,674 – the eleventh consecutive monthly increase and the highest level of commitments since the monthly series began in April 1985.

Much of the growth in housing finance commitments since mid-2004 has been driven by first home buyers, reflecting the impact of increased stamp duty concessions in the latter half of that year. The number of housing finance commitments (original) for first home buyers rose by 36.1% in the three months to April 2005, compared to the same period of 2004 – much higher than the 6.2% increase recorded for non-first home buyers over the same period. The average loan size for first home buyers increased by 13.3% to $170,700 in the three months to April 2005, compared to the same period a year earlier, while the average loan size for non-first home buyers rose by 12.0% to $175,300.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



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

Growth in the total value of housing finance commitments (trend) in Western Australia moderated slightly in the three months to April 2005, rising by 4.5% ($168 million), following a rise of 5.2% ($187 million) in the previous three months.

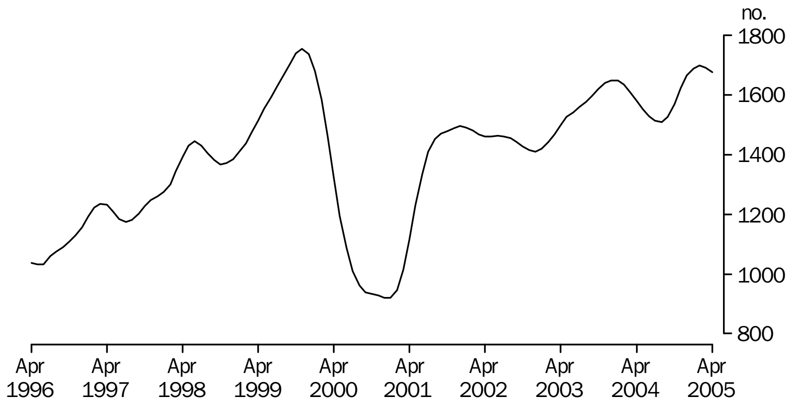
CONSTRUCTION

Building approvals

In trend terms, 5,070 houses were approved in Western Australia over the three months to April 2005, an increase of 1.8% when compared to the previous three months. However, approvals for the last two months of the period declined slightly. Nationally, house approvals fell by 0.8% over the three month period.

Building approvals continued

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



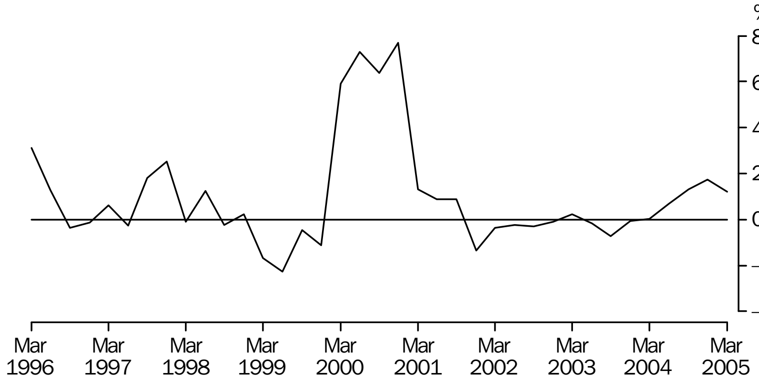
Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

In current price terms, the value of new houses approved in Western Australia decreased by 2.1% to $790 million in the three months to April 2005, compared to the preceding three months. Nationally, the value of new house approvals increased by 4.3% over the same period. The value of non-residential building work approved in the state increased by 12.4% to $516 million over the period. This was largely due to a $208 million public sector building approval in Australia's external territories, which was included in Western Australia's data for February 2005.

TRADE

The value of Western Australia's trade surplus increased by $599 million (12.0%) between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005, rising to $5,571 million. Over the period, growth in the value of the state's exports (up $1,095 million) was more than double the growth in the value of imports (up $497 million). Western Australia's resources sector continues to drive the state's export growth, aided by increases in production and transport capacity, high commodity prices and strong global demand. Growth in imports continues to be supported by strong domestic demand, a high $A and tariff reductions on some imported goods.

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.

TRADE *continued*

Between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005, Western Australia's trade position improved with several major trading partners. Most notably, the state's trade surplus with Thailand increased from $91 million to $547 million, largely due to increases in the value of exports of non-monetary gold and petroleum. The state's trade surplus with China also improved considerably over the period, increasing from $847 million to $1,239 million, largely due to an increase in the value of iron ore exports, aided by a rise in iron ore contract prices. Conversely, decreases in the value of exports of non-monetary gold to the Republic of Korea and India contributed to declines in the state's trade surpluses with those countries, down by $274 million and $214 million respectively.

Exports

The value of Western Australia's exports rose by 13.8% to $9,047 million in the March Quarter 2005, compared to the same quarter of 2004. Over the period, the value of exports of Metalliferous ores and metal scrap increased by $527 million (38.4%), mainly due to an increase in the volume of iron ore exports (up 15.1%), associated with the expansion of several iron ore mines. The value of exports of Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials rose by $338 million (34.3%), largely driven by an increase in the value of crude petroleum oil exports (up 31.9%), reflecting high international oil prices. Exports of Natural and manufactured gas increased by $300 million (50.4%) – comprised almost entirely of natural gas exports – coinciding with the commencement of exports from the 4th LNG train on the North West Shelf in late 2004.

Offsetting the state's export growth over the period was a decrease in the value of exports of Iron and steel – down $60 million (84.2%), due to the cessation of pig iron exports from Western Australia in mid-2004.

Imports

The value of imports to Western Australia rose by 16.7% to $3,476 million in the March Quarter 2005, compared to the same quarter of 2004. Recent growth in imports has been fuelled by rising investment activity in the state's resources sector, as well as high levels of consumer and business sentiment. The main commodities contributing to the rise in the value of the state's imports over the period were: Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials, up $119 million (26.5%), solely driven by higher oil prices with petroleum imports declining by 2.9% in volume terms; and Power generating machinery and equipment, up $71 million (85.2%).

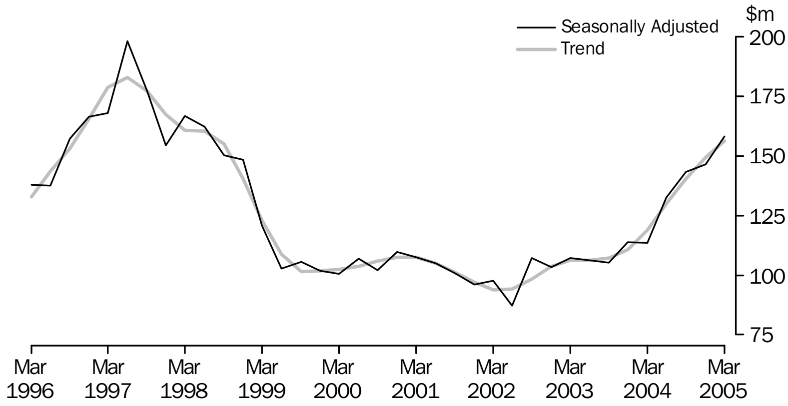
MINING

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure

Expenditure on mineral exploration (trend) continues to grow in Western Australia, rising by 4.7% ($7 million) in the March Quarter 2005, following increases of 8.2% (September) and 6.4% (December) in the previous two quarters. Growth in exploration has been supported by strong international demand for minerals throughout 2004–05. Mineral exploration expenditure totalled $157 million in the March quarter, the highest level since the June Quarter 1998 ($161 million). Expenditure has now increased for twelve consecutive quarters, the longest period of growth since the last major upturn between the June Quarter 1992 and March Quarter 1995 (12 quarters).

Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure continued

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 $134 million in the March Quarter 2005 – $38 million (39.3%) higher than in the same quarter of 2004. Over the period, growth was driven by expenditure on Nickel and cobalt exploration, up $27 million (186.0%), supported by growth in the price of nickel and strong demand from China's stainless steel producers. Detracting from growth was a fall of $5 million (8.8%) in expenditure on Gold exploration.

Expenditure on petroleum exploration (original) in Western Australia totalled $154 million in the March Quarter 2005 – $47 million (44.3%) higher than in the same quarter of the previous year.

Mineral production

Minerals to record increases in production volumes between the March quarters of 2004 and 2005, were Diamonds (up 139.0%), Iron ore (up 18.2%) and Gold (up 9.8%). A decrease was recorded in the production of Zinc (down 23.5%).

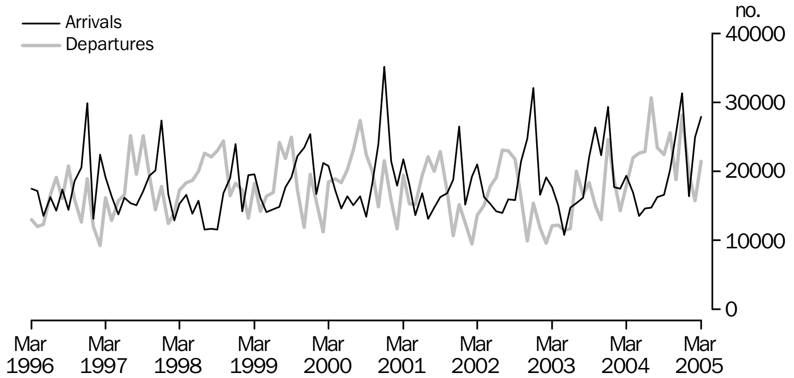
TOURISM

Short-term arrivals on holiday

A record number of 69,099 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia by air on holiday in the three months to March 2005 – 14,556 (26.7%) more than in the same period of 2004. Visitor arrivals increased from most of the selected countries, including Singapore (up 4,947 or 83.5%), the United Kingdom and Ireland (up 2,568 or 14.1%) and the rest of Europe (up 1,330 or 17.6%). The only fall in visitor arrivals was recorded from Thailand (down 328 or 24.8%).

Short-term arrivals on holiday continued

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



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

Short-term departures on holiday

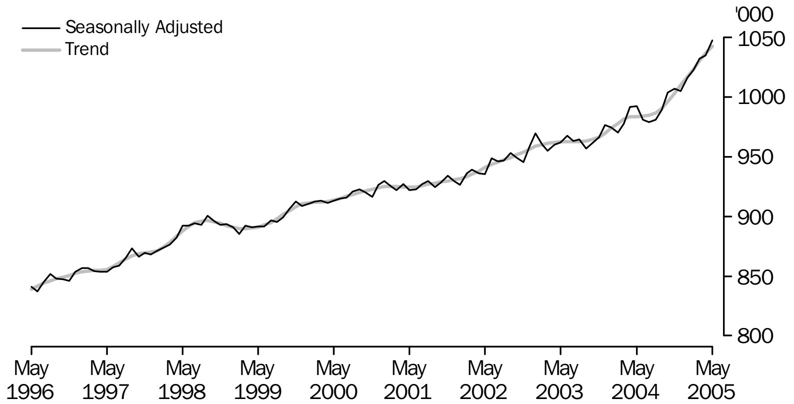
The number of Western Australian residents departing by air on holiday increased to 56,916 in the three months to March 2005 – 6,062 (11.9%) more than in the same period of 2004. The rise in the number of resident departures coincided with a fall in the price of overseas holiday travel and accommodation over the period. Resident departures increased to Singapore (up 3,013 or 78.4%), New Zealand (up 1,307 or 21.0%) and Hong Kong (up 1,223 or 364.0%). Partly offsetting the rise were decreases in resident departures to Thailand (down 599 or 15.0%), continental Europe (down 455 or 29.2%) and the United States of America (down 452 or 22.7%). The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in December 2004 have impacted on travel between Western Australia and Thailand.

LABOUR MARKET

Employment

Western Australia's labour market continued its strong performance over the three months to May 2005, with the trend estimate of employed persons increasing by 18,900 or 1.8% – well above the national increase of 0.8%. So far in 2005, employment in Western Australia has grown at twice the rate of 2004 – 0.6% per month compared to 0.3%. The number of persons employed full-time rose by 13,403 (1.8%) over the three months to May 2005, driven by increases in both males and females. Monthly growth in the state's full-time employment has averaged 0.8% (5,400 persons) since November 2004, compared to 0.3% nationally.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Total



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

Industry employment

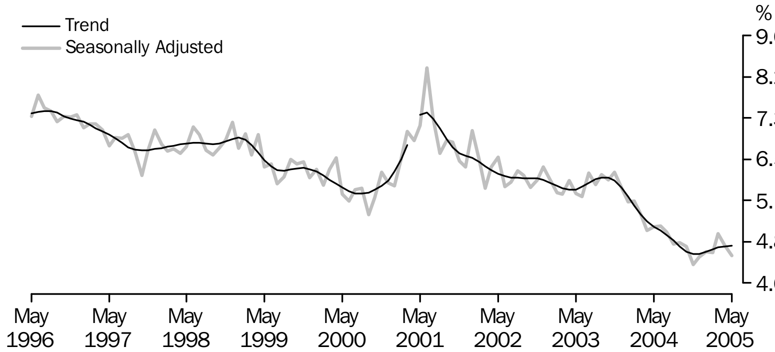
The Construction industry in Western Australia recorded the largest increase in employment between May 2004 and May 2005, rising by 19,644 (24.4%). Other industries to record strong growth over the period were Property and business services (up 14,422 or 13.2%) and Government administration and defence (up 10,279 or 28.1%). Industries that recorded decreases in employment over the period included Wholesale trade (down 10,703 or 20.4%) and Personal and other services (down 7,496 or 16.4%).

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia increased by 1,812 or 3.6% over the three months to May 2005 – three times the national increase (1.2%). Much of the recent growth in unemployment can be attributed to West Australians entering the labour market, with the state's labour force rising by 20,600 persons and the participation rate increasing from 67.0% to 68.1% between February and May 2005. Unemployed females accounted for most (72.2%) of the rise in unemployed persons during the period.

The rise in the number of unemployed persons in Western Australia has seen the state's unemployment rate increase slightly, from 4.7% in February 2005 to 4.8% in May 2005. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a)



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

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

FEATURE ARTICLE 1

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S CHANGING TRADE RELATIONS – THE EMERGENCE OF CHINA AND INDIA

INTRODUCTION

Western Australia is Australia's largest net exporter (exports less imports), accounting for more than a quarter of the nation's exports and less than a tenth of national imports. International merchandise trade contributes substantially to the Western Australian economy, with net merchandise exports contributing 26.6% to Gross State Product in 2003–04.

In the last ten years, the Western Australian economy has become more exposed to trade with the rest of the world. The total volume of exports has risen from 40.1% of the output of the economy to 44.1%. Western Australia exports both goods and services, with goods accounting for a much higher proportion of total exports (93.1% in 2003–04) than services.

The direction of Western Australia's trade has seen major changes over the ten years to 2003–04, reflecting economic changes in Asia. In particular, China and India have emerged as two of the state's leading trade destinations, accounting for 11.4% and 6.6% of total merchandise trade respectively in 2003–04.

This article reviews Western Australia's international trade relations over the ten years to 2003–04. It then explores in more detail the state's trade relations with the emerging markets of China and India.

Merchandise trade data are classified by the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), which is the United Nations recommended classification for the publication of international merchandise trade statistics. Commodity information presented in this article is at the three-digit level of detail. Further information on SITC is available from the *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* publication, cat. no. 5489.0.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

Over the last ten years, Western Australia's international trade has grown substantially. Between 1994–95 and 2003–04, the value of the state's merchandise exports rose by $15.9 billion (96.5%) and the value of merchandise imports increased by $5.9 billion (101.6%).

MERCHANDISE TRADE

Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE *continued*

Western Australia's exports increased steadily over the ten year period, at an average of 8.2% per year. The most notable increase occurred in 2000–01 when the value of exports rose by 21.4% to $30.9 billion, aided by the recovery from the 1997 Asian financial crisis and strong commodity prices. Since then, export growth has moderated to an average of 1.6% per year, consistent with a slowing global economy and the impact of the September 2001 terrorist attack on the United States (US). The resulting fall in consumer and business confidence led to a decline in global investment and a weakening of commodity prices.

By 2002–03 however, the US economy had begun to recover and the Chinese economy was growing strongly, supporting global trade with its demand for raw materials, energy and various high level services. The Western Australian resources sector responded to the growing demand for minerals and energy products by expanding its production and transport capacity. The expansion, however, has taken some time to fully meet demand, and as a consequence, export growth in Western Australia has remained relatively flat since 2000–01.

Western Australia's imports have grown marginally faster than its exports. Import growth averaged 8.6% per year between 1994–95 and 2003–04, driven by rising domestic demand, growing consumer confidence, and rising levels of employment and income. Strong recovery in business investment in recent years has also fuelled demand for capital goods produced overseas.

BALANCE OF TRADE

The difference between the value of exports and imports is termed the balance of trade (or net exports). If exports exceed imports then a trade surplus is said to exist. An excess of imports over exports results in a trade deficit.

Western Australia recorded a trade surplus in every year between 1994–95 and 2003–04. The trade surplus almost doubled from $10.6 billion to $20.6 billion, during the period. The most favourable surplus occurred in 2000–01, when it increased by 35.5% (or $5.7 billion). This was largely driven by increases in exports of petroleum, iron ore and natural gas, and declines in imports of gold, industrial machinery and computers.

Between 1994–95 and 2000–01, the average rate of growth in Western Australia's trade surplus was 13.5% per year. Since its peak in 2000–01, the trade surplus has declined by an average of 1.5% annually, mainly due to strong domestic demand and an appreciating currency attracting more imports into the state.

Other factors limiting Western Australia's export growth, since 2000–01, were the adverse effects of the 2002 drought on farm production, and the impacts on world trade of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the war in Iraq.

BALANCE OF TRADE *continued*

BALANCE OF MERCHANDISE TRADE IN GOODS

Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

Western Australia's trade surplus far exceeds that of the other states and territories. Between 1994–95 and 2003–04, its average trade surplus was $16.2 billion, over three times the size of the next largest surplus, recorded in Queensland ($5.5 billion per year).

TERMS OF TRADE

The volume of goods and services flowing in and out of an economy is not the only important dimension of trade. Just as important are the relative prices of imports and exports. The terms of trade is the ratio of the prices received for Australia's exports to the prices paid for its imports. It tells us the rate at which Australia can trade its goods for those of other countries (e.g. the number of tonnes of raw materials Australia has to ship offshore to purchase a fixed quantity of manufactured goods). An increase in the terms of trade has the same effect on trade earnings as an increase in export volumes with constant prices. Between 1994–95 and 2003–04, Australia's terms of trade improved by 20.1%. This means that Australians could purchase, with the same volume of exports, 20.1% more imports in 2003–04 than they could in 1994–95.

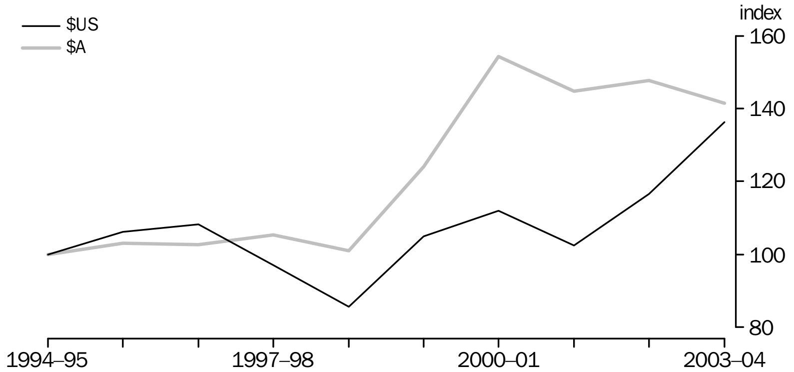
TERMS OF TRADE, Goods trade—Australia: **Seasonally adjusted**

Source: Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia, cat. no. 5302.0.

TERMS OF TRADE *continued*

As a major commodity exporter, Australia's terms of trade have traditionally been determined by commodity prices. In Western Australia, almost half of the state's merchandise exports, over the last decade, were made up of agricultural and mining products. Agricultural exports mainly comprised wheat and wool, while mining exports were mainly iron ore, gold, crude oil, natural gas, alumina and nickel.

COMMODITY PRICE INDEX



Note: Annual average prices indexed in 1994-95.
Source: Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance.

Commodity prices began to rise sharply in 1999–2000. In that year, US dollar-denominated commodity prices rose by 22.6%, and by a further 6.7% in 2000–01. Commodities showing the largest increase in price were alumina, LNG and nickel. More recently, commodity prices increased by 13.7% in 2002–03 and by 17.0% in 2003–04. The rise in 2002–03 was mainly due to rural commodity prices, while the most recent increase was driven by rising mineral and energy commodity prices.

Commodity prices are among a number of factors that influence the Australian dollar exchange rate. Increasing export prices, particularly for base metals, tend to strengthen the exchange rate – although other factors have had a stronger effect in recent years.

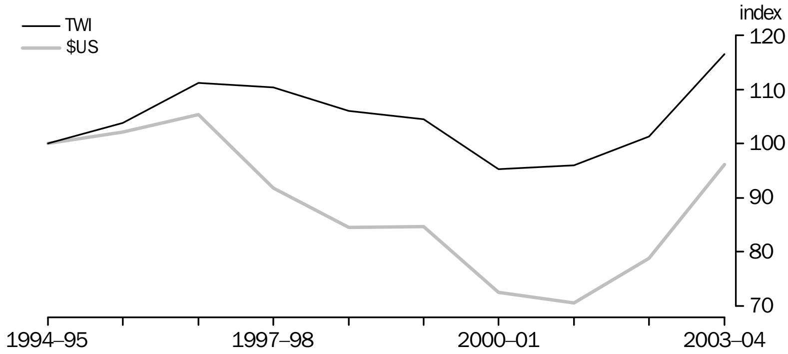
EXCHANGE RATES

The exchange rate is the amount of foreign currency that can be bought with one Australian dollar. Movements in the exchange rate change the price of Australian goods relative to overseas goods and, therefore, affect the demand for imports and exports. If the dollar is strong, it buys more foreign currency, and overseas goods become correspondingly cheaper. Exports are also sensitive to the exchange rate. A strong dollar makes Australian goods more expensive to foreign buyers.

About two thirds of Australia's goods exports, and about half of its goods imports, are invoiced in US dollars, with most of the rest invoiced in Australian dollars. As a result, changes in the value of the Australian dollar against the US dollar have had a substantial impact on the value of Western Australia's exports and imports. The Australian dollar reached a record low value against the US dollar in 2001–02, falling to 51 US cents, on average, over the period. At the same time, the value of Western Australia's exports surpassed $30 billion for the first time. In the last two years, the Australian dollar has recovered much of its lost value, rising to an average of 71 US cents in 2003–04. The effect of currency appreciation on the value of Western Australian exports has, however, been largely offset by strong international demand for commodities.

EXCHANGE RATES *continued*

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES



Note: Annual average rates indexed in 1994-95.

Source: Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia, cat. no. 5302.0.

Over the last ten years, the value of the Australian dollar has shown considerable variation against the currencies of other countries. There is, however, a convenient single measure of the Australian dollar exchange rate against the currencies of major trading partners. The Trade Weighted Index (TWI) is the average of several different exchange rates, each one weighted according to the amount of trade with Australia. As shown in the chart above, the Australian dollar has been far less volatile against the TWI than it has with the US dollar.

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

Until the 1960s, the United Kingdom (UK) was Western Australia's major trading partner and agricultural products were the state's major exports. Since the mid-1970s, minerals and energy have dominated Western Australia's commodity exports, and Asia has become increasingly important as both a consumer of the state's commodities, and as a producer of its manufactured imports.

Over the ten years to 2003–04, Japan has been Western Australia's major trading partner, followed by the Republic of Korea, the US and China. The average value of Japan's total merchandise trade with Western Australia, during the ten year period, was $7.4 billion per year – more than double that of the Republic of Korea ($3.2 billion) and the US ($3.1 billion), and almost three times that of China ($2.6 billion). Recently, however, the growth in Japanese trade has been overshadowed by growth in trade with China. Japan's stagnating economy in the 1990s, and the impact of the Asian financial crisis in mid-1997, have had a moderating effect on its demand for imports.

In 2003–04, Japan was still Western Australia's largest trading partner, with total trade valued at $8.3 billion, although it was now followed by China at $5.0 billion. China's share of total Western Australian trade increased from 5.2% in 1994–95 to 11.4% in 2003–04, while Japan's share declined from 27.9% to 18.8%. Other countries to record notable gains in their share of total Western Australian trade included India (from 0.5% to 6.6%), Indonesia (from 3.6% to 5.2%) and South Africa (from 0.7% to 2.2%). Gains in the share of trade by these countries were largely at the expense of Western Australia's more traditional trading partners such as Japan, the US, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia – all of which recorded declines in their share of the state's total trade, over the period.

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS *continued*

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, Value of total merchandise trade—2003–04

		VALUE OF TRADE			COMPOSITION OF TRADE			Share of total WA trade
		Exports	*Imports*	*Total*	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Total*	
Rank(a)	*Country*	$m	$m	$m	%	%	%	%
1 (1)	Japan	6 942.3	1 314.8	8 257.1	84.1	15.9	100.0	18.8
2 (5)	China	4 412.3	612.4	5 024.8	87.8	12.2	100.0	11.4
3 (3)	Republic of Korea	3 210.5	461.5	3 672.0	87.4	12.6	100.0	8.4
4 (23)	India	2 811.5	95.2	2 906.7	96.7	3.3	100.0	6.6
5 (2)	USA	1 548.7	1 338.5	2 887.1	53.6	46.4	100.0	6.6
6 (7)	Indonesia	1 028.4	1 245.6	2 274.0	45.2	54.8	100.0	5.2
7 (6)	UK	1 917.1	313.5	2 231.2	85.9	14.1	100.0	5.1
8 (4)	Singapore	1 238.7	870.8	2 109.4	58.7	41.3	100.0	4.8
9 (12)	Thailand	724.9	448.3	1 173.2	61.8	38.2	100.0	2.7
10 (13)	Canada	845.9	167.5	1 013.5	83.5	16.5	100.0	2.3
11 (8)	Taiwan	791.8	214.8	1 006.6	78.7	21.3	100.0	2.3
12 (21)	South Africa	788.1	188.9	977.0	80.7	19.3	100.0	2.2
13 (14)	New Zealand	470.5	417.9	888.4	53.0	47.0	100.0	2.0
14 (11)	Malaysia	332.3	548.8	881.1	37.7	62.3	100.0	2.0
15 (9)	Germany	197.5	518.1	715.6	27.6	72.4	100.0	1.6

(a) Countries are ranked on their total value of trade (exports plus imports) with Western Australia in 2003–04. Corresponding rankings in 1994–95 are in brackets.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 5422.0.

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH CHINA

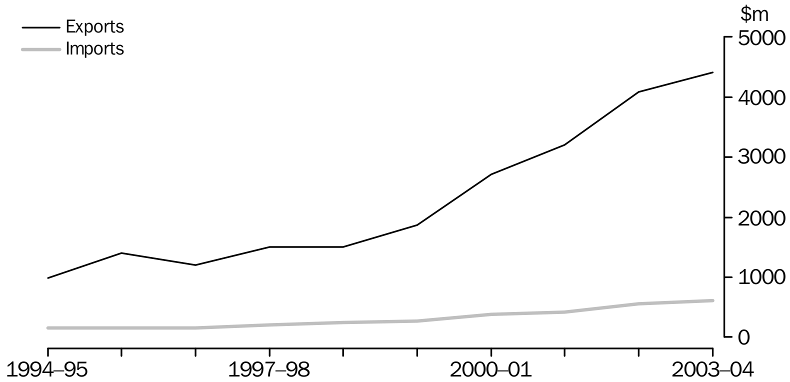
As an exporter of natural resources and importer of manufactured goods, Western Australia is well placed to take advantage of the recent expansion of the Chinese economy. China has had one of the world's fastest growing economies since beginning the transition to a market-based economy in the late 1970s. In 2003–04, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was more than three times the size it was ten years earlier. In the last two years, China has recorded economic growth of 9.0% per year. The Chinese government has indicated it will aim to maintain an average growth rate of 7.0% per year until 2010. In 2001, China was admitted to the World Trade Organisation and, as a condition of entry, began liberalising its foreign trade and foreign investment policies. By 2003, China's international trade was estimated at $A1,305.0 billion (World Bank 2004), making it one of the world's top five trading countries. China has now become Western Australia's second ranked trading partner.

Western Australia's exports to China far outweighed its imports between 1994–95 and 2003–04. The state's trade surplus with China grew, over the period, from $825.1 million to $3.8 billion. Growth in the trade surplus was strongest over the last five years (1999–2000 to 2003–04), rising at an annual average rate of 25.4%, compared to 8.1% annual growth in the previous five years.

The improvement in Western Australia's balance of trade with China can be attributed to a sharp rise in merchandise exports. The value of exports to China increased from $987.8 million in 1994–95 to $4.4 billion in 2003–04, with almost three quarters of this growth occurring since 1999–2000.

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH CHINA *continued*

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH CHINA



Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

EXPORTS TO CHINA

China is the world's largest importer of iron ore. This commodity has been Western Australia's major goods export to China over the last ten years, totalling $10.3 billion or 45.1% of total exports to China. The value of iron ore exports to China increased from $483.1 million in 1994–95 to $1.9 billion in 2003–04. During the same period, the volume of iron ore exported to China more than tripled, increasing from 21.1 million tonnes to 69.5 million tonnes. The surge in China's demand for iron ore and steel has been driven by the rapid expansion of its manufacturing and construction industries.

MAJOR COMMODITY EXPORTS TO CHINA—1994–95 to 2003–04

		VALUE OF EXPORTS			
		1994–95	*2003–04*	*10 year total*	*Share of total WA exports to China*
Rank(a)	*Commodity*	$m	$m	$m	%
1	Iron ore	483.1	1 871.7	10 321.5	45.1
2	Confidential Items	317.1	1 081.4	5 431.6	23.7
3	Wool	134.0	256.9	1 759.4	7.7
4	Petroleum oils	6.2	473.3	1 719.5	7.5
5	Pigments and paints	6.1	127.0	630.4	2.8

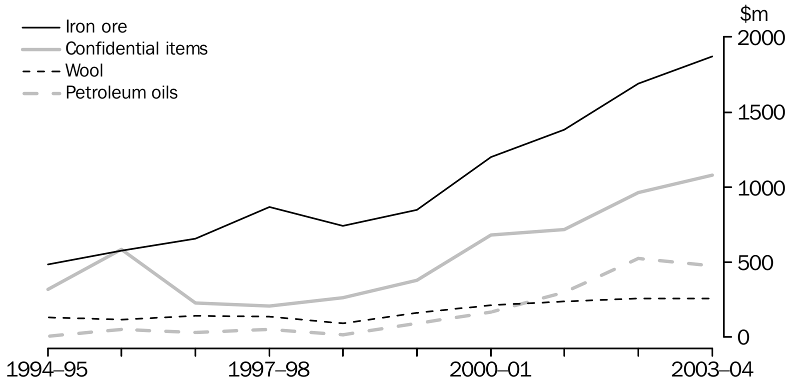
(a) Commodities are ranked on their total value of exports from Western Australia to China between 1994–95 and 2003–04.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 5422.0.

Over the ten year period, exports of Confidential items (including alumina, mineral sands and some nickel) to China totalled $5.4 billion. According to the Western Australian Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR 2004), China receives 16.0% of Western Australia's alumina exports. Over the last four years, China's aluminium industry has almost doubled its production from 3.4 million tonnes in 2001 to 6.6 million tonnes in 2004 (International Aluminium Institute 2005). China is also a major market for Western Australia's mineral sands and nickel mining industries, accounting for 13.0% and 8.0% of the state's exports of these commodities (DOIR 2004).

EXPORTS TO CHINA continued

EXPORTS TO CHINA BY COMMODITY



Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

Western Australia's next highest value export to China was Wool, with exports totalling $1.8 billion over the ten year period. In volume terms, wool exports to China increased from 25,535 tonnes in 1994–95 to 44,665 tonnes in 2003–04. Notably, the growth in wool exports to China occurred at a time when Western Australia's total volume of wool exports decreased by more than a third. Much of China's demand for wool came from its textile industry, which produced around 17.0% of the world's textiles in 2003. China uses wool to manufacture a range of fabrics used in furniture, curtains, bedding, cushions and blankets, as well as clothing such as jumpers and men's suits, for both domestic use and, increasingly, for export.

Despite it being a major producer of oil during the 1990s, China's fourth largest imports from Western Australia, over the ten years to 2003–04, were petroleum oils. In recent years, China has been unable to produce enough oil to meet the growing needs of its expanding economy. As a result, China has become more dependent on the international market to meet its petroleum needs. Exports of Crude petroleum oils from Western Australia to China totalled $1.7 billion over the period, increasing from $6.2 million in 1994–95 to $473.3 million in 2003–04.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA

Western Australia is a net importer of manufactured goods. Over the last ten years, the state has increasingly looked overseas for its supply of clothing and footwear, furniture and bedding products, and other manufactured articles. Manufactured goods (91.2%) accounted for almost all of the $449.7 million increase in imports from China to Western Australia between 1994–95 and 2003–04, reflecting the rapid growth of the Chinese manufacturing sector. Between 1993 and 2003, China's manufacturing industry increased production by an average of 10.3% per year (World Bank 2004).

IMPORTS FROM CHINA continued

MAJOR COMMODITY IMPORTS FROM CHINA—1994–95 to 2003–04

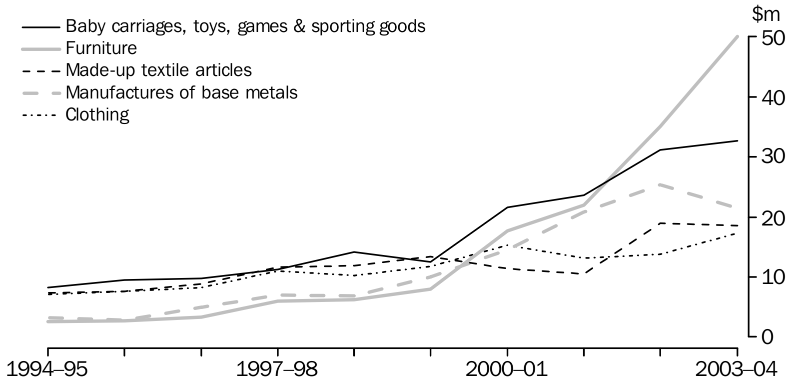
		VALUE OF IMPORTS			Share of total WA imports from China
		1994–95	2003–04	10 year total	
Rank(a)	Commodity	$m	$m	$m	%
1	Baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods	8.2	32.6	174.5	5.5
2	Furniture	2.6	50.0	153.5	4.8
3	Made-up textile articles	7.4	18.5	120.1	3.8
4	Manufactures of base metals	3.2	21.5	116.9	3.7
5	Clothing	7.1	17.3	115.4	3.6

(a) Commodities are ranked on their total value of imports to Western Australia from China between 1994–95 and 2003–04.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 5422.0.

In the ten years to 2003–04, Western Australia's major category of imports from China was Baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods, totalling $174.5 million or 5.5% of total Chinese imports. The value of these imports increased from $8.2 million in 1994–95 to $32.6 million in 2003–04. These commodities were typical of China's growing manufacturing sector over the period. Much of the growth has been driven by foreign firms, attracted by low-cost labour, shifting their low technology and labour intensive manufacturing operations to China.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA BY COMMODITY



Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

Of the major commodity imports from China, the fastest growth over the last ten years was in Furniture and bedding products. The value of these imports increased from $2.6 million in 1994–95 to $50.0 million in 2003–04. Over the period, China has continued to supply more of the state's office, kitchen, upholstered and bedroom furniture, as well as non-upholstered seats and seat parts. The rise in demand for furniture and bedding products in Western Australia has coincided with recent growth in household wealth and consumption expenditure, associated with the state's strong housing market.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA continued

Western Australia's imports of Chinese manufactured base metals have also shown substantial growth in the last ten years. Base metals imports from China rose from $3.2 million to $21.5 million between 1994–95 and 2003–04. Much of the recent growth in imports of base metals from China has coincided with the high level of activity in Western Australia's construction industry.

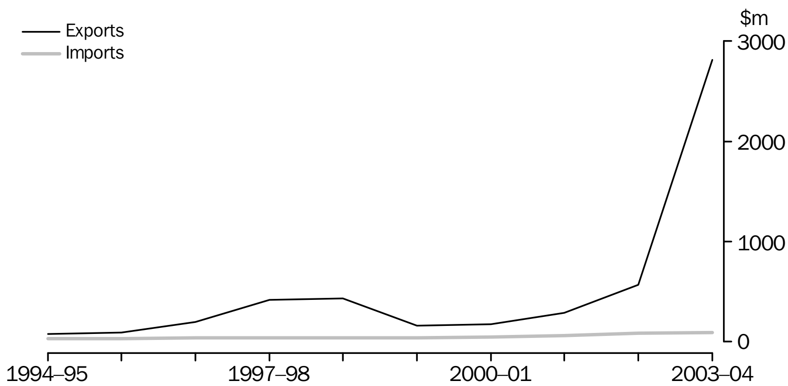
Other major imports into Western Australia from China were textiles and clothing. Western Australia's imports from China of Made-up textile articles and Clothing totalled $235.5 million, between 1994–95 and 2003–04. Imports of Made-up textile articles, which included items such as cleaning cloths, bags, linen and tents, increased at an average rate of 12.1% per year over the period. Annual Clothing imports, mainly consisting of T-shirts, jumpers, baby garments and swim wear, rose by an average of 9.1%.

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH INDIA

India is another country to recently emerge as a major trading partner for Western Australia. Like China, India has been an importer of raw materials and exporter of manufactured goods. Over the last ten years, India's per capita income has doubled, enhancing its potential as a market for the state's exports. It has also recently implemented economic reforms associated with increased trade liberalisation, and relaxed foreign investment restrictions. Coinciding with the liberalisation of the Indian economy, has been a large increase in the exports it receives from Western Australia. India's share of Western Australia's exports grew from 0.5% in 1994–95 to 8.7% in 2003–04 – taking it from the state's 27th largest export market to its 4th largest over the period.

Over the last ten years, Western Australia has enjoyed a trade surplus with India, ranging from $44.4 million in 1994–95 to $2.7 billion in 2003–04. The strong growth in the state's trade surplus with India was driven by a $2.2 billion increase in the value of total exports in 2003–04, compared to growth of just $6.3 million in imports. In 2003–04, Western Australia accounted for more than half of the value of Australia's exports to India.

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH INDIA



Source: ABS data available on request, International Merchandise Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5422.0.

EXPORTS TO INDIA

Underpinning India's emergence as one of Western Australia's major trading partners was a large jump in gold exports in 2003–04. In that year, Western Australia's gold exports to India increased by $2.3 billion, accounting for all of the increase in total exports to India. Nearly half (48.1%) of the total value of gold exported from Western Australia in 2003–04 was destined for India, making it the state's largest export market for gold.

MAJOR COMMODITY EXPORTS TO INDIA—1994–95 to 2003–04

		VALUE OF EXPORTS			
		1994–-95	*2003–04*	*10 year total*	*Share of total WA exports to India*
Rank (a)	*Commodity*	$m	$m	$m	%
1	Non-monetary gold	1.5	2 670.6	3 506.5	67.1
2	Confidential Items	11.0	17.8	699.0	13.4
3	Wool	36.9	53.1	471.8	9.0
4	Base metal ores	17.5	10.0	151.8	2.9
5	Vegetables	—	4.8	77.5	1.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Commodities are ranked on their total value of exports from Western Australia to India between 1994–95 and 2003–04.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 5422.0.

Many factors have contributed to the rapid increase in the state's gold exports to India. On the supply side, the formation of a partnership of three major firms in the Australian gold refining industry in 2002 resulted in most Australian, and some overseas, gold being refined in Western Australia. Therefore, part of the state's increase in gold exports in recent years represents gold that previously would have been refined in, and exported from, other states. On the demand side, India has traditionally been the world's largest consumer of gold, accounting for more than one quarter of total world demand for the metal. Recent economic growth, and the Indian government's relaxation of gold import restrictions in January 2004, have helped drive up the country's imports of gold. With the Indian government committed to further economic reforms, and aiming for 7.0 to 8.0% annual GDP growth (DFAT 2004), demand for gold from Western Australia is likely to remain high in the near future.

Commodities other than gold comprised just one third of Western Australia's total exports to India between 1994–95 and 2003–04. These exports mainly consisted of raw materials used in India's traditional textile and metal product manufacturing industries. Confidential items comprised 13.4% of the value of the state's exports to India from 1994–95 to 2003–04, while Wool accounted for 9.0% and Other ores and concentrates (mostly zinc, lead and titanium) made up 2.9%. From relatively low levels, most of these exports have shown only modest gains in the last ten years.

EXPORTS TO INDIA continued

As economic reforms continue to open up the Indian economy and generate further growth, more opportunities for export of Western Australian agricultural and mineral commodities may arise. According to the Western Australia Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR 2005), recent investment by Indian firms in major resource projects in the state are likely to boost exports to India. It is expected that these projects, such as the Burrup Fertilisers ammonia plant and the Nifty copper mine, will export their output to India.

IMPORTS FROM INDIA

Less than 1.0% of Western Australia's total imports from 1994–95 to 2003–04 came from India. The state's major goods imports from India over the ten year period were products of its manufacturing industries, including Textile yarn, $50.3 million; Manufactures of base metals, $20.0 million; and Tubes and pipes, $19.3 million. Imports of Base metal ores, at $21.7 million, were the second ranked import over the period. These were comprised almost entirely of titanium ore, of which $19.1 million was imported in the last three years.

MAJOR COMMODITY IMPORTS FROM INDIA—1994–95 to 2003–04

		VALUE OF IMPORTS			Share of total WA imports from India
		1994–95	2003–04	10 year total	
Rank(a)	Commodity	$m	$m	$m	%
1	Textile yarn	3.9	2.9	50.3	9.5
2	Base metal ores	0.6	11.0	21.7	4.1
3	Confidential items	0.6	1.5	21.1	4.0
4	Manufactures of base metals	1.6	2.3	20.0	3.8
5	Tubes and pipes	0.7	3.3	19.3	3.6

(a) Commodities are ranked on their total value of imports to Western Australia from India between 1994–95 and 2003–04.

Source: ABS data available on request, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia,* cat. no. 5422.0.

SERVICES TRADE WITH CHINA AND INDIA

Trade in services accounts for approximately one tenth of Western Australia's total international trade. Western Australia's trade in services is mainly comprised of tourism, education and transport. Over the last ten years, services exports have increased by an average of 2.6% per year, compared to an annual increase of 5.9% in imports of services. As a result, the state recorded a deficit of $725.0 million in services trade in 2003–04, with exports of $2.7 billion and imports of $3.4 billion.

In 2003–04, Western Australia contributed 8.6% of Australia's total trade in services – 8.1% in services exports and 9.1% in services imports. China and India are among Australia's major trading partners in services. Australia recorded a surplus of $305.0 million in services trade with China in 2003–04, with services exports totalling $1,187.0 million (3.5% of total Australian services exports). Australians purchased $881.0 million of services from China (2.6% of total services imports), making it our ninth largest source of services. In 2003–04, Australia also recorded a surplus in services trade with India, totalling $531.0 million. During the year, services exports to India contributed $564.0 million (or 1.7%) to total Australian services exports. Services imported from India totalled $33.0 million (or 0.1%) of total services imported by Australia.

SERVICES TRADE WITH CHINA AND INDIA *continued*

Travel services accounted for the largest proportion of Australia's services trade exports with both China ($884.0 million) and India ($451.0 million). Travel services include all goods and services acquired for personal use by international visitors on business and personal travel. As incomes have increased in both countries, more Chinese and Indian citizens have travelled overseas. According to the Chinese National Tourist Office (2005), the number of outbound tourists increased from 8.4 million persons in 1998 to 20.2 million in 2003. In 1997, the Chinese government granted Approved Destination Status to Australia, allowing its citizens to visit the country as tourists.

Detailed trade in services data by country are not available at the state level. However, of Western Australia's service exports with all countries in 2003–04 , $1.6 billion (59.0%) was earned through travel services. In 2003–04, of the 2.6 million short-term visitors holidaying in Australia, 231,194 (8.9%) visited Western Australia. The state total included 1,160 visitors from China and 386 from India, representing 1.3% and 2.4% respectively of short-term holidaymakers from each country in Australia.

Personal travel services exports also include expenditure by international students. In China and India, the domestic education system cannot meet demand and, as a consequence, many students complete their education overseas. According to Australian Education International (2005), of the 30,464 overseas students in Western Australia in 2004, 3,606 (11.8%) were from China, an increase of 16.7% on the previous year. Students from India totalled 585 in 2004, up from 468 in 2003. While Western Australia hosted 9.8% of Australia's international students in 2004, its share of Chinese and Indian student enrolments was 5.2% and 2.8% respectively.

CONCLUSION

Western Australia benefits significantly from trade with China and India. It is a net importer of the manufactured goods that these countries supply to world markets, particularly labour intensive consumer goods. In turn these countries are net importers of minerals, energy and agricultural goods, in which Western Australia specialises. Their large populations, and rapid economic growth, have the potential to substantially increase the state's export earnings while holding down the price of imports.

To date, this potential has been realised more in China's case than it has for India. While growth in trade with India has largely been restricted to exports of gold, trade with China has increased substantially over a range of goods. China's rapidly growing demand for minerals and energy has led it to invest heavily in Western Australia's resource projects. The strong trading partnership being formed is expected to generate considerable benefits for both China and Western Australia well into the future. The Indian economy, though smaller than China's, is growing rapidly and is being increasingly opened up to foreign trade and investment. India's trade with Western Australia is currently dominated by one commodity and it is yet to be seen whether it will further consolidate its position as one of the state's major trading partners.

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DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

There is growing interest about the prevalence and characteristics of disability in Australia. In particular, the ageing population makes disability a key social issue. Increasing numbers of people are surviving to their late eighties or beyond and most will experience a disability in their lifetime. Family members and friends are the main providers of care to people with disabilities and to the frail aged. While caring is often rewarding, it can also involve substantial personal and financial cost. Information about the circumstances of people with disabilities, the frail aged and carers is important to inform government policy and to determine the need for formal support and services.

The following article highlights selected findings from the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) for people living in Western Australia. The primary aim of the SDAC was to provide information about three population groups – people with a disability, persons aged 60 years and over, and their carers.

In 2003, there were 405,500 people with a disability in Western Australia representing 21% of the state population. This disability rate was similar to the national rate of 20%. Between 1998 and 2003 the number of people with a disability in Western Australia increased by 50,000 (14%). The number of carers who had provided informal assistance to people with disabilities or the frail aged rose by 32%, from to 187,400 to 246,800 over the same period. Meanwhile the number of primary carers rose by 11%. Primary carers are those who routinely provide the majority of informal help with activities of daily living.

DISABILITY

Definitions

A disability is defined as any limitation, restriction or impairment which has lasted or is likely to last for at least six months and restricts everyday activity. Some examples of disabilities include, loss of hearing, difficulty in learning, breathing difficulties, chronic or recurring pain, or nervous conditions.

Disability is further defined in terms of the area of life in which the restriction is experienced. Some people are restricted in ways that have a minor impact on their lives while others are restricted in the type of work they can do or in learning or schooling activities. Others may be restricted in performing activities that are more basic in terms of their wellbeing and independence. These latter activities are described as 'core activities' and comprise; self-care, mobility and communication.

The severity of these restrictions are further classified as profound, severe, moderate or mild dependent on the level and type of assistance required. People with profound and severe restrictions either always or sometimes require assistance with core activities. In 2003, over one quarter (28%) of Western Australians with a disability had a profound or severe core-activity limitation.

Health conditions

The main health conditions of 81% (329,800) of people with a disability in Western Australia in 2003 were of a physical nature. One in three (33%) people with a disability reported disorders of the musculo-skeletal system and connective tissue, which include arthritis, back problems, osteoporosis and rheumatism as their main health condition. Arthritis was the main health condition of 13% of people with a disability.

Health conditions continued

Almost one in five (75,700) people with a disability had a mental or behavioural disorder as their main health condition. Of these, one third (34%) had a psychosis or mood affective disorder such as dementia, schizophrenia and depression as their main health condition while about one quarter (27%) had an intellectual or behavioural disorder.

People with disabilities whose main health condition was a mental or behavioural disorder were more likely to be profoundly or severely restricted in core activities than those with physical conditions (39% compared to 26%). One half (50%) of those with intellectual and developmental disorders and 43% of people with psychoses and mood disorders had a profound or severe core-activity limitation.

DISABILITY STATUS—2003

	DISABILITY				
Age group (years)	*Profound or severe core-activity limitation*(a)	*All with reported disability*(b)	*Proportion of age group with a disability*	*No disability*	*Total population*
	'000	'000	%	'000	'000
0–4	*3.9	*5.0	*4.1	118.3	123.3
5–14	17.8	31.3	11.6	239.4	270.7
15–24	*5.1	27.1	9.3	265.6	292.8
25–34	9.9	43.0	14.6	251.8	294.8
35–44	8.5	44.7	15.0	253.1	297.8
45–54	14.2	64.4	23.4	210.8	275.3
55–64	12.2	67.7	35.4	123.6	191.2
65–74	12.4	56.7	47.4	62.9	119.6
75–84	16.4	45.9	61.0	29.3	75.2
85 and over	15.5	19.5	84.1	*3.6	23.2
Total	**115.8**	**405.5**	**20.6**	**1 558.6**	**1 964.1**

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes
(a) Core activities comprise communication, mobility and self-care.
(b) Includes persons with a disability who have mild and a moderate or mild core-activity limitation and those who do not have specific core-activity limitations or schooling or employment restrictions.
Source: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Western Australia: Summary of findings, 2003, cat. no. 4430.5.40.001.

Age and sex

The likelihood of disability increases with age. Older people with a disability are also more likely to be restricted in their day to day lives. In 2003, 18% of people aged under 65 years had a disability. This rate rose to 47% of those aged 65–74 years and 84% of those aged 85 years or over. While fewer than 5% of people aged 65 years or less had a profound or severe core-activity limitation the rate rose to 10% of 65–74 year olds and 67% of those 85 years or over. There were three times more women with a profound or severe core-activity limitation as men aged 85 years or over corresponding to the higher number of women in this age group.

Of people under 65 years, children aged 5–14 years had the highest rates of disability (12%) and profound or severe core-activity limitation (7%). There were twice as many boys as girls with a disability in this age group. Likewise, three times more boys aged 5–14 years had a profound or severe core-activity limitation.

Assistance

In 2003, fewer than 4% (14,600) of Western Australians with a disability lived in cared accommodation such as hospitals or nursing homes. Most (390,900) lived in households, either in private dwellings (99%) or in other types of accommodation such as caravan parks, boarding houses and self-care units in retirement villages.

Of people with a disability living in households, 60% required assistance from others to manage their health conditions or cope with everyday activities. The most common activities for which help was required were meal preparation, cognition or emotion, paperwork and property maintenance. While most people with a disability received some form of assistance, just over one quarter (26%) felt they needed more help than they already received. The proportion of those with an unmet need rose with the severity of disability. Almost a half (45%) of those with a profound or severe core-activity restriction felt their need for assistance was not fully met.

Of those needing assistance, 90% received help from informal carers such as family and friends. Most received help from either a partner or parent (71%). Similarly, 73% of those with a profound or severe core-activity restriction received assistance from a partner or parent.

In 2003, 60% of people with a disability who needed help had received assistance from formal providers. This figure rose to 66% of those with profound or severe core-activity limitations. Private commercial organisations (33%) and government organisations (33%) were the most common sources of formal assistance for all people with a disability. Government organisations (40%) were the most common formal providers to people with profound or severe core-activity restrictions.

PEOPLE AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER

In 2003, there were 299,000 people aged 60 years or over in Western Australia. Most (88%) lived in private homes and about 5% lived in aged care facilities. The remainder (7%) were living in other types of households, such as self care units in retirement villages.

Over one in three (38%) Western Australians aged 60 years or over required assistance with everyday activities because of disability or age. The need for assistance rose significantly with age to 47% of persons aged 75–84 years and to 90% of those aged 85 years or over. Almost two thirds (63%) of people aged 60 years or over who required assistance reported that their needs were fully met, while a third (37%) required more help. Three quarters of older people who needed assistance received help from family or friends.

Persons 60 years or over living in households (excluding aged care facilities) most commonly reported that they needed assistance with property maintenance and health care because of disability or age. Other common areas of need were transport, mobility, housework and self-care.

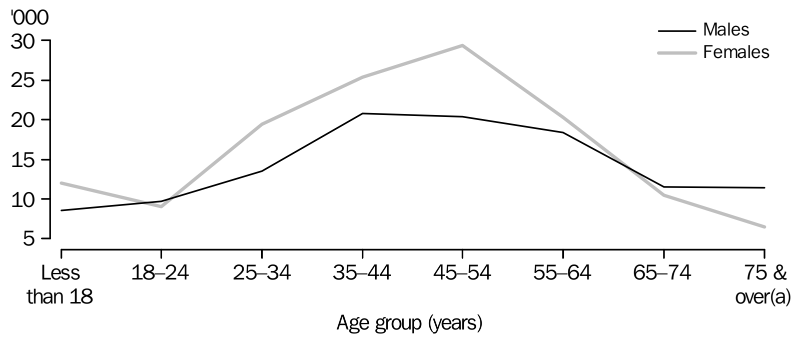
CARERS

In 2003, there were 246,800 informal carers providing assistance to people with disabilities and the aged in Western Australia. Females were more likely to be carers than males. The peak caring ages for both males and females were between 35 and 54 years. There were 54,800 women and 41,200 men of these ages providing care to people with disabilities or older people. There were a higher number of female carers in all age groups under 65 years, excepting the 18–24 year age group where the numbers of male

CARERS *continued*

and female carers were similar. Of those aged 65 years or over, more men were providing care than women (22,900 and 17,000).

ALL PERSONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS, Carers by age and sex—2003



(a) Estimate for females aged 75 years and over has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Western Australia: Summary of findings, 2003, cat. no. 4430.5.40.001.

In 2003, one in six carers (38,800) in Western Australia was a primary carer. The primary caring role was much more likely to be undertaken by females than males. Almost three quarters (73%) of primary carers of people with disabilities were women. Primary carers were more likely to be female than male in all age groups under 75 years. The age groups with the largest number of female primary carers were 25–34 years and 45–54 years.

Four out of five (31,400) primary carers lived in the same household as the recipient of care and over one third (39%) were caring for a partner. The remainder were caring for children, other relatives or friends. Forty three per cent of primary carers spent more than 40 hours per week providing assistance.

Over one third of carers of persons with a disability (39%) had a reported disability themselves (91,600 people). The rate was higher for primary carers where 44% had a reported disability (17,300 people).

Employment

In 2003, 55% of carers (aged 15 years or over) of people with disabilities were employed. People in primary caring roles were less likely to be employed than other carers, 41% compared to 58%. More than a half of primary carers (53%) who were employed worked part-time compared to 36% of other carers.

The most common principal sources of income for all carers of persons with disability were government pensions or allowances (40%) and wages and salaries (40%). Over half (54%) of primary carers relied on government pensions and allowances as their principal source of income. Of those who were not carers of people with disabilities, one half (50%) received wages and salaries as their main source and one quarter (24%) government pensions and allowances.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of findings, 2003, cat. no. 4430.0.

Disability, Ageing and Carers, Western Australia: Summary of findings, 2003, cat. no. 4430.5.40.001.

Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide, 2003, cat. no. 4430.0.55.001.

LIST OF TABLES

1 SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS, Australian comparison

Indicator	Reference period	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Current figure	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Change from previous period (%)	WESTERN AUSTRALIA Change from same period previous year (%)	AUSTRALIA Current figure	AUSTRALIA Change from previous period (%)	AUSTRALIA Change from same period previous year (%)
State final demand: Trend(a) *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	21 630	0.5	4.7	213 627	0.6	3.8
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2005	144.4	0.8	3.4	147.5	0.7	2.4
Wage Price Index, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Original *(index)*	Mar qtr 2005	104.8	0.9	4.5	104.4	1.1	3.9
Established house price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2005	217.0	2.1	9.9	252.2	0.2	0.4
Project home price index: Original(b) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2005	166.0	4.3	13.3	165.7	1.5	6.4
Price index of materials used in house building, All groups: Original(c) *(index)*	Mar qtr 2005	131.7	1.2	4.4	139.3	0.7	3.6
Consumption							
Sales of new motor vehicles: Trend *(no.)*	May 2005	8 115	0.3	10.6	83 160	—	5.9
Retail turnover: Trend *($m)*	April 2005	1 691.1	0.4	4.9	16 832.0	0.2	2.8
Investment and finance							
Private new capital expenditure: Trend(a) *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	2 614	4.5	13.4	15 404	2.0	13.8
Commercial finance commitments: Original *($m)*	April 2005	1 714.9	–12.2	–3.1	22 295.8	–11.1	–8.6
Personal finance commitments: Original *($m)*	April 2005	686.5	–5.8	5.1	5 701.3	–9.8	–8.7
Housing finance commitments: Trend(d) *(no.)*	April 2005	7 674	1.2	16.0	56 224	1.2	11.4
Construction							
Houses approved: Trend *(no.)*	April 2005	1 678	–0.9	6.1	8 627	–0.2	–9.9
New residential building activity commenced: Original *(no.)*	Dec qtr 2004	5 578	–8.3	–6.3	40 898	–0.8	–10.3
Engineering construction activity commenced: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2004	1 413.6	–47.5	57.6	6 935.9	–27.9	33.1
Engineering construction activity yet to be done: Original *($m)*	Dec qtr 2004	4 209.1	3.7	124.1	14 491.8	–5.7	17.1
International merchandise trade							
Exports: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	9 047.3	–4.6	13.8	28 918.2	–7.8	13.4
Imports: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	3 476.1	–0.5	16.7	34 820.2	–9.0	13.2
Mining and energy							
Total mineral exploration expenditure: Trend *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	156.5	4.7	31.5	265.5	4.4	31.6
Total petroleum exploration expenditure: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	154.3	36.4	44.3	269.2	–6.1	59.5
Agriculture							
Exports of wheat: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	425.3	–6.5	–5.7	867.3	3.0	–17.3
Exports of live sheep: Original *($m)*	Mar qtr 2005	48.1	–7.6	–8.6	55.7	3.3	–18.8
Tourism							
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, By air on holiday *(no.)*	March 2005	27 862	11.9	70.5	278 200	3.1	22.8
Short-term holiday departures of residents, By air *(no.)*	March 2005	21 476	36.4	9.1	171 862	42.2	11.8
Labour market							
Number of persons employed full-time: Trend *('000)*	May 2005	739.6	0.5	6.9	7 130.2	0.2	3.2
Number of persons employed: Trend *('000)*	May 2005	1 042.4	0.5	6.0	9 983.3	0.2	3.5
Unemployment rate: Trend *(%)*	May 2005	4.8	. .	. .	5.1	. .	. .
Participation rate: Trend *(%)*	May 2005	68.1	. .	. .	64.6	. .	. .
Estimated resident population *('000)*	Dec qtr 2004	1 998.4	0.4	1.6	20 229.8	0.3	1.2

. . not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Chain volume measures.

(b) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 8 Capital Cities.

(c) Index for Perth and Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.

(d) Owner occupation housing.

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures

	2003	2004				2005
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*
TREND ($m)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 255	3 301	3 338	3 348	3 335	3 318
Households	10 980	11 190	11 380	11 545	11 682	11 795
Total final consumption expenditure	*14 235*	*14 491*	*14 718*	*14 893*	*15 017*	*15 113*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 139	2 056	2 014	2 106	2 214	2 257
Non-dwelling construction	1 315	1 276	1 272	1 293	1 334	1 377
Livestock	40	42	44	47	50	52
Intangible fixed assets	405	412	426	429	414	394
Total private business investment	*3 899*	*3 787*	*3 756*	*3 874*	*4 011*	*4 090*
Dwellings	1 117	1 132	1 161	1 181	1 195	1 216
Ownership transfer costs	371	349	343	355	367	375
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 387*	*5 268*	*5 260*	*5 410*	*5 573*	*5 676*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	353	456	525	517	470	440
General government	408	435	460	468	454	434
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*762*	*892*	*984*	*985*	*925*	*865*
State final demand	**20 383**	**20 650**	**20 962**	**21 286**	**21 514**	**21 630**
TREND (percentage changes)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.3	–0.4	–0.5
Households	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0
Total final consumption expenditure	*2.0*	*1.8*	*1.6*	*1.2*	*0.8*	*0.6*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2.7	–3.9	–2.0	4.6	5.1	1.9
Non-dwelling construction	–4.2	–3.0	–0.3	1.7	3.2	3.2
Livestock	8.1	5.0	4.8	6.8	6.4	4.0
Intangible fixed assets	–3.1	1.7	3.4	0.7	–3.5	–4.8
Total private business investment	—	*–2.9*	*–0.8*	*3.1*	*3.5*	*2.0*
Dwellings	–0.9	1.3	2.6	1.7	1.2	1.8
Ownership transfer costs	–3.9	–5.9	–1.7	3.5	3.4	2.2
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*–0.5*	*–2.2*	*–0.1*	*2.8*	*3.0*	*1.9*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	20.5	29.2	15.1	–1.5	–9.1	–6.4
General government	4.6	6.6	5.7	1.7	–3.0	–4.4
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*11.6*	*17.1*	*10.4*	*0.1*	*–6.1*	*–6.4*
State final demand	**1.7**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**1.1**	**0.5**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

2 COMPONENTS OF STATE FINAL DEMAND—Chain volume measures *continued*

	2003	2004				2005
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*$m*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	3 251	3 271	3 387	3 319	3 355	3 301
Households	10 994	11 184	11 354	11 594	11 667	11 787
Total final consumption expenditure	*14 245*	*14 455*	*14 741*	*14 913*	*15 022*	*15 088*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	2 235	2 034	2 019	2 110	2 241	2 269
Non-dwelling construction	1 298	1 311	1 253	1 270	1 360	1 377
Livestock	41	41	41	50	50	50
Intangible fixed assets	422	337	497	427	382	416
Total private business investment	*3 995*	*3 722*	*3 809*	*3 856*	*4 034*	*4 112*
Dwellings	1 059	1 170	1 157	1 183	1 183	1 227
Ownership transfer costs	375	340	333	364	369	371
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*5 429*	*5 232*	*5 299*	*5 404*	*5 586*	*5 710*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	401	340	672	474	442	439
General government	434	408	439	538	407	431
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*835*	*748*	*1 111*	*1 012*	*849*	*870*
State final demand	**20 509**	**20 435**	**21 151**	**21 329**	**21 456**	**21 668**
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (*percentage changes*)						
Final consumption expenditure						
General government	0.9	0.6	3.5	–2.0	1.1	–1.6
Households	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.1	0.6	1.0
Total final consumption expenditure	*1.8*	*1.5*	*2.0*	*1.2*	*0.7*	*0.4*
Private gross fixed capital formation						
Private business investment						
Machinery and equipment	1.2	–9.0	–0.7	4.5	6.2	1.2
Non-dwelling construction	–1.7	1.0	–4.4	1.4	7.1	1.3
Livestock	—	—	—	22.0	—	—
Intangible fixed assets	–3.2	–20.1	47.5	–14.1	–10.5	8.9
Total private business investment	*–0.2*	*–6.8*	*2.3*	*1.2*	*4.6*	*1.9*
Dwellings	–7.3	10.5	–1.1	2.2	—	3.7
Ownership transfer costs	–5.5	–9.3	–2.1	9.3	1.4	0.5
Total private gross fixed capital formation	*–2.1*	*–3.6*	*1.3*	*2.0*	*3.4*	*2.2*
Public gross fixed capital formation						
Public corporations	49.6	–15.2	97.6	–29.5	–6.8	–0.7
General government	9.3	–6.0	7.6	22.6	–24.3	5.9
Total public gross fixed capital formation	*25.5*	*–10.4*	*48.5*	*–8.9*	*–16.1*	*2.4*
State final demand	**1.5**	**–0.4**	**3.5**	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1.0**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

3 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						
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
2005						
March	144.4	154.4	212.2	104.1	121.6	114.7
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR (%)						
2003						
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
2005						
March	3.4	2.7	4.0	–2.5	7.8	–2.0
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER (%)						
2003						
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
2005						
March	0.8	1.0	1.6	–1.4	2.4	–2.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

3 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, By group—Perth *continued*

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						
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
2005						
March	197.7	144.6	109.9	127.9	227.9	198.0
CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR *(%)*						
2003						
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
2005						
March	5.6	2.3	1.5	2.8	6.0	4.6
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER *(%)*						
2003						
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
2005						
March	3.6	–1.4	0.4	0.5	6.0	1.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

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

	2003	2004				2005	CHANGE FROM	
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*	*Previous quarter*	*Same quarter previous year*
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	**99.8**	**100.3**	**100.8**	**102.5**	**103.9**	**104.8**	**0.9**	**4.5**
Sector								
Private	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.5	104.0	104.9	0.9	4.5
Public	99.8	100.3	100.8	102.4	103.6	104.4	0.8	4.1
Selected industries								
Manufacturing	99.2	101.0	101.4	103.5	104.4	105.4	1.0	4.4
Retail trade	99.8	100.4	100.7	102.6	103.6	104.3	0.7	3.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	99.9	100.0	100.7	101.9	102.8	103.9	1.1	3.9
Property and business services	100.4	100.2	100.2	101.7	102.9	103.2	0.3	3.0
Government administration and defence	99.8	100.7	100.7	102.0	104.1	104.9	0.8	4.2
Education	99.7	100.0	101.0	102.7	102.9	104.2	1.3	4.2
Health and community services	99.8	100.1	100.9	102.5	103.0	104.0	1.0	3.9
Personal and other services	100.1	100.4	100.5	103.0	103.5	104.1	0.6	3.7
Selected occupations								
Managers and administrators	99.9	100.2	100.8	102.0	103.4	103.9	0.5	3.7
Professionals	99.7	100.2	100.8	102.5	103.2	103.8	0.6	3.6
Associate professionals	99.8	100.4	100.8	102.4	103.2	104.9	1.6	4.5
Tradespersons and related workers	99.7	100.4	100.9	102.1	105.7	107.6	1.8	7.2
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	99.7	100.4	101.0	102.5	104.1	105.0	0.9	4.6
Intermediate production and transport workers	99.9	100.2	100.6	102.4	104.0	104.5	0.5	4.3
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	99.7	100.4	100.6	103.2	103.6	104.1	0.5	3.7
Labourers and related workers	100.2	100.3	100.6	103.0	107.8	108.4	0.6	8.1

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

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

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

5 HOUSE PRICE INDEXES—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				
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
2005				
March	217.0	2.1	166.0	4.3

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

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

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

Material group	2003 December	2004 March	2004 June	2004 September	2004 December	2005 March	Change from previous quarter	Change from same quarter previous year
	index	index	index	index	index	index	%	%
All material groups	**125.2**	**126.1**	**127.4**	**128.7**	**130.1**	**131.7**	**1.2**	**4.4**
Concrete, cement and sand	132.7	132.6	134.7	134.6	134.3	136.0	1.3	2.6
Cement products	114.7	115.9	117.0	118.6	122.4	124.0	1.3	7.0
Ceramic products	136.5	137.6	138.2	139.3	142.1	143.4	0.9	4.2
Timber, board and joinery	118.7	120.4	121.8	121.5	122.4	123.8	1.1	2.8
Steel products	124.8	124.3	130.2	143.5	146.1	155.4	6.4	25.0
Other metal products	121.0	120.4	121.3	122.0	123.1	124.3	1.0	3.2
Plumbing products	112.8	114.6	116.6	116.0	117.9	119.8	1.6	4.5
Electrical equipment	105.8	107.1	107.9	108.3	105.2	102.7	–2.4	–4.1
Installed gas and electrical appliances	122.5	124.8	124.7	128.0	129.7	129.7	—	3.9
Other materials	146.0	147.0	147.3	149.1	149.7	149.4	–0.2	1.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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

Month	Passenger vehicles	Sports utility vehicles	Other vehicles	Total vehicles
	no.	no.	no.	no.
ORIGINAL				
2004				
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
March	5 082	1 712	1 829	8 623
April	4 304	1 346	1 679	7 329
May	4 588	1 606	1 872	8 066
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
2004				
March	4 221	1 360	1 800	7 381
April	4 178	1 305	1 632	7 115
May	4 331	1 442	1 750	7 523
June	4 248	1 311	1 629	7 188
July	4 368	1 525	1 730	7 623
August	4 372	1 533	1 721	7 626
September	5 047	1 566	1 783	8 396
October	4 684	1 517	1 719	7 920
November	4 722	1 570	1 735	8 027
December	4 251	1 239	1 665	7 155
2005				
January	4 912	1 647	1 795	8 354
February	4 787	1 625	1 715	8 127
March	4 414	1 616	1 695	7 725
April	4 891	1 432	1 989	8 312
May	4 744	1 595	1 715	8 054
TREND				
2004				
March	4 217	1 335	1 672	7 224
April	4 216	1 355	1 693	7 264
May	4 249	1 385	1 705	7 339
June	4 334	1 424	1 712	7 470
July	4 445	1 466	1 717	7 628
August	4 548	1 504	1 723	7 775
September	4 632	1 534	1 731	7 897
October	4 677	1 560	1 731	7 968
November	4 686	1 579	1 726	7 991
December	4 671	1 589	1 728	7 988
2005				
January	4 657	1 591	1 738	7 986
February	4 666	1 588	1 756	8 010
March	4 694	1 578	1 777	8 049
April	4 727	1 566	1 795	8 088
May	4 754	1 552	1 809	8 115

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

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

Month	Food retailing $m	Department stores $m	Clothing and soft good retailing $m	Household good retailing $m	Recreational good retailing $m	Other retailing $m	Hospitality and services $m	Total $m
ORIGINAL								
2004								
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	710.7	128.4	84.3	280.7	^78.1	157.2	203.7	1 643.3
August	693.4	111.8	79.2	267.4	^78.5	151.6	197.4	1 579.2
September	703.0	127.9	82.7	279.6	^82.1	164.1	200.4	1 639.6
October	713.1	131.1	92.5	295.3	^81.7	186.2	205.5	1 705.5
November	711.6	149.6	93.6	297.8	^87.4	192.9	211.2	1 744.0
December	858.3	243.9	131.9	366.0	^124.8	253.8	227.0	2 205.6
2005								
January	686.3	119.9	84.0	288.3	^96.4	154.4	194.3	1 623.6
February	648.2	101.9	73.6	255.3	^85.2	140.4	192.7	1 497.3
March	725.8	126.0	82.2	272.2	^90.3	152.7	199.7	1 648.9
April	716.9	121.9	93.7	273.4	^94.3	149.5	199.0	1 648.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								
2004								
February	680.6	128.1	85.5	243.7	81.1	156.6	198.9	1 574.5
March	682.5	129.2	88.9	257.0	81.7	154.4	202.0	1 595.7
April	696.0	131.4	83.4	262.7	78.8	157.8	201.4	1 611.6
May	701.4	130.0	81.5	265.3	79.7	158.8	205.6	1 622.4
June	711.3	133.8	86.9	272.9	80.5	159.6	205.8	1 650.8
July	709.4	136.3	86.0	282.8	79.3	165.7	202.5	1 661.9
August	715.3	134.8	86.4	277.5	81.1	162.0	202.3	1 659.4
September	727.4	139.9	90.1	284.9	86.9	169.4	205.4	1 704.0
October	706.7	132.3	91.5	275.1	86.4	177.4	193.3	1 662.7
November	708.8	133.0	88.1	282.7	86.5	174.2	200.6	1 674.0
December	714.2	132.8	89.9	288.5	88.0	172.8	196.2	1 682.5
2005								
January	694.0	137.5	88.4	287.3	94.2	168.9	198.1	1 668.5
February	704.4	138.9	92.0	292.9	91.5	160.6	205.4	1 685.7
March	699.6	138.0	91.5	290.9	95.1	161.2	196.2	1 672.4
April	723.2	132.7	94.9	296.0	98.2	160.7	199.8	1 705.4
TREND								
2004								
February	682.4	128.4	85.7	253.6	81.2	153.3	200.6	1 585.1
March	688.0	129.1	85.5	256.8	80.8	155.7	201.7	1 597.7
April	694.4	130.4	85.1	261.6	80.1	157.5	202.9	1 612.0
May	701.3	132.1	84.9	267.2	79.8	159.0	203.9	1 628.2
June	707.8	133.8	85.3	272.6	80.1	161.0	204.2	1 644.7
July	713.0	134.9	86.2	276.7	81.0	163.7	203.8	1 659.3
August	715.8	135.4	87.5	279.4	82.4	167.0	202.4	1 669.9
September	716.0	135.3	88.6	280.8	84.1	170.3	200.8	1 675.9
October	713.5	135.0	89.3	282.1	85.9	172.4	199.4	1 677.8
November	709.9	135.0	89.6	283.6	87.7	172.6	198.7	1 677.1
December	706.6	135.2	89.9	285.7	89.6	171.0	198.7	1 676.6
2005								
January	704.9	135.7	90.4	288.3	91.4	168.2	199.0	1 677.8
February	704.9	136.2	91.1	290.7	93.3	165.1	199.3	1 680.6
March	706.2	136.3	92.0	292.8	95.0	162.2	199.6	1 684.2
April	709.0	136.6	92.8	295.0	96.6	159.7	200.2	1 691.1

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

(a) Retail trade data for July 2004 to March 2005 have been revised, for all industry groups except Department stores. See the Revisions in the March 2005 reissue of the source publication: *Retail Trade, Australia*, cat. no. 8501.0.

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

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

Reference period	ORIGINAL Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m	TREND Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m
2001–2002	1 901	r3 978	5 919	1 900	3 977	5 920	1 872	3 929	5 839
2002–2003	r2 898	r4 241	r7 140	2 897	4 241	7 140	2 898	4 242	7 142
2003–2004	r3 597	5 621	r9 218	3 597	5 620	9 218	3 616	5 556	9 171
2003									
December	1 034	1 591	2 625	949	1 479	2 429	880	1 448	2 328
2004									
March	742	1 221	r1 963	851	1 366	2 217	911	1 395	2 306
June	992	1 368	2 360	964	1 321	2 285	954	1 321	2 275
September	1 046	r1 274	r2 319	1 046	1 288	2 334	1 029	1 331	2 358
December	r1 187	r1 517	r2 704	1 078	1 406	2 484	1 110	1 393	2 502
2005									
March	1 056	1 331	2 387	1 202	1 494	2 696	1 149	1 451	2 614

r revised

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

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

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

Reference period	Mining $m	Manufacturing $m	Other selected industries $m	Total $m
2001–2002	3 091	760	2 143	r5 994
2002–2003	3 890	981	2 269	7 140
2003–2004	5 010	1 162	2 746	8 917
2003				
December	1 408	352	781	2 541
2004				
March	1 050	210	613	1 873
June	1 220	313	744	2 276
September	1 350	232	690	2 272
December	r1 431	r368	r873	r2 672
2005				
March	1 199	406	759	2 364

r revised

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

11 LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS: **Original**

Reference period	COMMERCIAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	PERSONAL FINANCE Fixed loans(a)	Revolving credit(b)	Total	Total lease finance commitments
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
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
2004							
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	r272.3	r595.6	25.1
February	1 179.5	506.8	1 686.3	360.7	277.8	638.5	30.9
March	1 325.2	627.1	1 952.2	403.7	325.4	729.1	28.7
April	1 226.2	488.7	1 714.9	396.4	290.1	686.5	35.2

r revised

(a) Includes refinancing.

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

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

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

Reference period	ORIGINAL Number of dwellings financed	ORIGINAL Total value of dwelling commitments	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Number of dwellings financed	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Total value of dwelling commitments	TREND Number of dwellings financed	TREND Total value of dwelling commitments
	no.	$m	no.	$m	no.	$m
2001–2002	74 597	9 711.0	74 986	9 759.0	75 083	9 780.5
2002–2003	75 740	10 709.2	75 862	10 734.4	75 802	10 730.0
2003–2004	83 834	12 765.6	83 583	12 713.6	83 851	12 762.5
2004						
February	6 341	963.5	6 660	1 001.1	6 845	1 033.3
March	7 334	1 133.4	6 609	1 025.7	6 699	1 028.4
April	6 561	1 054.6	7 139	1 135.4	6 617	1 035.5
May	6 740	1 073.9	6 477	1 027.2	6 617	1 054.6
June	6 715	1 068.6	6 250	997.1	6 698	1 083.9
July	6 827	1 123.1	6 653	1 094.1	6 837	1 119.8
August	7 442	1 237.7	7 443	1 249.0	6 996	1 157.1
September	7 387	1 216.4	7 339	1 203.8	7 140	1 191.5
October	6 755	1 140.8	7 060	1 197.5	7 248	1 219.1
November	r7 825	r1 306.4	7 389	1 247.0	7 308	1 237.7
December	r7 538	r1 265.3	7 281	1 241.4	7 338	1 250.0
2005						
January	r6 020	1 038.8	7 246	1 239.2	7 396	1 266.7
February	7 010	1 234.6	7 460	1 296.1	7 486	1 287.8
March	7 827	1 331.3	7 796	1 335.7	7 582	1 308.9
April	7 508	1 331.6	7 656	1 324.1	7 674	1 326.3

r revised

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

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

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

Reference period	FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed (no.)	Total value of dwelling commitments ($m)	Average borrowing size ($'000)	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS Number of dwellings financed (no.)	Total value of dwelling commitments ($m)	Average borrowing size ($'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
2004						
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	r6 360	r1 062.4	167.0
December	1 383	233.4	168.8	r6 155	r1 031.9	r167.7
2005						
January	r1 118	r192.3	r172.0	r4 902	r846.5	r172.7
February	1 266	219.5	173.4	5 744	1 015.2	176.7
March	1 352	220.2	162.9	6 475	1 111.1	171.6
April	1 263	222.1	175.9	6 245	1 109.4	177.7

r revised

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

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

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

Reference period	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE) Construction of dwellings	Purchase of new dwellings	Purchase of other established dwellings	Refinancing of established dwellings	INVESTMENT HOUSING(b) Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale	Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
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
2004							
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	r806.0	r281.2	17.4	445.7	35.0
December	r186.8	40.8	r771.7	r266.0	24.9	451.5	31.1
2005							
January	158.6	33.8	626.2	220.2	19.7	369.1	34.6
February	166.2	47.6	765.7	255.1	15.9	460.5	31.3
March	177.9	51.6	811.7	290.1	30.6	521.1	34.3
April	177.1	48.0	796.5	310.1	19.7	512.9	33.2

r revised

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

(b) Excludes revolving credit.

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

15 BUILDING APPROVALS, By number of dwelling units approved and sector: **Trend**

Reference period	HOUSES		OTHER DWELLINGS		TOTAL DWELLINGS	
	Private	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*	*Private*	*Total*
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2001–2002	17 091	17 623	2 493	3 000	19 584	20 623
2002–2003	16 909	17 515	3 159	3 651	20 068	21 166
2003–2004	18 735	19 205	3 737	4 216	22 472	23 421
2004						
February	1 598	1 635	322	354	1 920	1 989
March	1 578	1 611	340	383	1 918	1 994
April	1 549	1 581	361	418	1 910	1 999
May	1 518	1 553	380	450	1 898	2 003
June	1 490	1 530	392	468	1 882	1 998
July	1 471	1 514	392	465	1 863	1 979
August	1 467	1 509	378	443	1 845	1 952
September	1 490	1 528	346	399	1 836	1 927
October	1 538	1 571	301	340	1 839	1 911
November	1 595	1 624	267	300	1 862	1 924
December	1 640	1 667	264	299	1 904	1 966
2005						
January	1 665	1 690	291	333	1 956	2 023
February	1 675	1 699	332	380	2 007	2 079
March	1 671	1 693	380	432	2 051	2 125
April	1 658	1 678	434	488	2 092	2 166

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

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

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
2001–2002	r17 410	2 789	r20 199	r20 321	66	r20 387
2002–2003	r18 049	3 633	r21 682	r21 780	19	r21 799
2003–2004	r19 555	4 031	r23 586	r23 673	35	r23 708
2004						
February	r1 468	536	r2 004	r2 006	1	r2 007
March	1 747	362	2 109	2 112	—	2 112
April	1 311	273	1 584	1 585	6	1 591
May	1 751	386	2 137	2 146	18	2 164
June	r1 595	530	r2 125	r2 134	8	r2 142
July	r1 439	657	r2 096	r2 103	2	r2 105
August	r1 659	306	r1 965	r1 966	10	r1 976
September	r1 724	362	r2 086	r2 090	1	r2 091
October	r1 475	r457	r1 932	r1 938	—	r1 938
November	r1 718	r199	r1 917	r1 921	2	r1 923
December	r1 530	390	r1 920	r1 956	1	r1 957
2005						
January	1 538	129	1 667	1 670	1	1 671
February	1 551	416	1 967	1 983	3	1 986
March	1 567	362	1 929	1 936	—	1 936
April	1 456	606	2 062	2 068	3	2 071

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

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

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

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

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
2001–2002	r2 274.1	347.7	r2 621.8	r2 883.7	r985.0	r3 868.7
2002–2003	r2 554.5	473.8	r3 028.3	r3 319.9	1 552.3	r4 872.2
2003–2004	r2 995.1	558.6	r3 553.7	r3 876.8	r1 515.9	r5 392.7
2004						
February	r227.7	99.9	r327.6	r352.0	83.6	r435.5
March	262.7	52.6	315.3	341.6	99.6	441.2
April	214.2	34.7	248.9	274.5	r118.8	r393.3
May	280.5	44.9	325.4	r354.7	200.2	r554.9
June	255.1	59.8	314.9	r348.4	139.4	487.8
July	r244.4	96.7	r341.1	r369.5	125.2	r494.7
August	r280.8	47.2	r328.0	r354.8	138.6	r493.4
September	r287.0	85.6	r372.7	r401.1	r139.8	r540.9
October	r241.5	r73.8	r315.4	r342.3	r109.1	r451.5
November	r294.1	43.3	r337.4	r374.6	r150.3	r524.9
December	r259.9	79.8	r339.7	r375.6	r164.6	r540.2
2005						
January	253.5	16.7	270.2	r292.1	r144.2	r436.3
February	261.0	75.5	336.5	360.2	281.4	641.6
March	275.2	43.2	318.4	347.9	82.3	430.2
April	254.0	88.1	342.0	372.2	152.3	524.6

r revised

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

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

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

Reference period	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Total residential building(a)	Total non-residential building	Total building
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
COMMENCED						
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						
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	r4 752	r1 334	r6 087	r6 109	16	r6 125
December	4 574	1 004	5 578	5 586	1	5 587
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						
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	r11 246	r4 409	r15 655	r15 712	77	r15 789
December	12 196	4 695	16 890	16 952	70	17 022
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						
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	r4 256	r723	r4 979	r4 997	—	r4 997
December	3 616	716	4 332	4 339	8	4 347

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

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

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

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

Reference period	New houses $m	New other residential building $m	New residential building $m	Total residential building(a) $m	Total non-residential building $m	Total building $m
COMMENCED						
2001–2002	2 164.6	375.2	2 539.8	2 803.9	886.6	3 690.5
2002–2003	2 416.0	457.0	2 873.1	3 164.2	1 555.8	4 720.0
2003–2004	2 857.8	576.5	3 434.3	3 744.2	1 464.7	5 208.9
2003						
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	690.1	125.6	815.7	901.2	408.8	1 310.0
September	r794.1	r190.1	r984.2	r1 071.7	r359.1	r1 430.8
December	776.4	212.7	989.0	1 084.7	391.7	1 476.4
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						
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	r2 068.5	r744.6	r2 813.1	r2 985.0	r1 330.9	r4 315.9
December	2 241.8	857.8	3 099.5	3 284.2	1 371.2	4 655.4
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						
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	r644.2	r92.8	r737.0	r824.4	r231.3	r1 055.7
December	604.6	114.2	718.9	810.8	392.7	1 203.5
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						
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	r1 149.4	r373.9	r1 523.3	r1 604.8	r630.4	r2 235.2
December	1 226.6	433.8	1 660.3	1 751.6	633.9	2 385.5

r revised

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

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

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

Reference period	Roads, highways and subdivisions $m	Bridges, railways and harbours $m	Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines $m	Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage $m	Telecommunications $m	Heavy industry $m	Recreation and other $m	Total $m
WORK 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	985.6	1 619.7	256.4	234.4	333.6	1 252.3	189.3	4 871.2
2003								
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	^205.0	^46.4	^39.9	*75.5	99.8	185.5	^40.4	692.5
September	^r354.5	^66.6	294.5	*97.0	^69.5	1 749.3	^r63.5	r2 694.9
December	^197.3	198.5	^125.0	*66.7	83.4	621.0	^121.7	1 413.6
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	1 004.3	371.3	683.9	302.6	334.3	1 989.7	194.5	4 880.6
2003								
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	284.4	172.6	^148.0	*96.7	95.8	475.3	*59.1	1 331.9
September	^r225.6	222.4	113.3	*r92.4	70.9	563.9	*r61.9	r1 350.3
December	242.4	301.5	137.2	*92.8	81.4	484.7	^95.6	1 435.6
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								
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	^r327.8	1 249.9	299.7	*56.1	17.5	2 076.1	^r31.8	4 058.9
December	242.2	1 173.2	273.2	^47.2	25.3	2 384.0	^64.1	4 209.1

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

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

r revised

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

21 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE , By major commodity

Category of the SITC		2003 December $'000	2004 March $'000	2004 June $'000	2004 September $'000	2004 December $'000	2005 March $'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES							
001	Live animals	110 281	80 868	76 164	87 986	113 311	86 893
036	Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	52 211	108 809	129 653	48 120	63 744	99 485
041	Wheat	419 405	450 973	600 043	558 897	454 658	425 325
268	Wool and other animal hair	119 943	121 048	150 430	117 153	132 119	108 785
281	Iron ore and concentrates	1 276 388	1 184 107	1 482 935	1 699 979	1 720 185	1 608 274
284	Nickel ores and concentrates	208 333	124 226	176 871	148 401	182 852	173 631
287	Ores and concentrates of base metal	42 926	31 497	38 697	55 505	72 550	46 476
333	Crude petroleum oils	826 415	891 370	800 034	1 260 669	1 194 576	1 175 322
334	Refined petroleum oils	97 055	93 829	83 145	101 994	140 864	147 814
342	Liquefied propane and butane	81 153	104 312	106 455	141 602	93 196	134 295
343	Natural gas	532 930	491 086	520 706	700 774	886 587	761 144
533	Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	100 224	94 261	114 998	115 580	98 714	98 183
683	Nickel	125 301	117 893	137 174	116 859	158 014	151 844
971	Gold, non-monetary	1 424 094	1 394 305	1 361 761	1 361 749	1 488 895	1 342 052
988	Confidential items	1 746 931	1 761 918	1 719 591	1 754 457	1 739 012	1 870 632
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES							
333	Crude petroleum oils	241 482	336 596	235 121	327 648	394 017	385 352
334	Refined petroleum oils	141 259	108 369	215 680	172 703	225 852	174 655
562	Fertilisers	49 617	92 797	88 549	38 763	88 676	113 106
625	Rubber tyres	44 128	38 237	42 642	45 618	53 894	50 208
679	Iron or steel tubes and pipes	19 718	27 234	38 337	39 221	41 687	59 935
723	Civil engineering plant and equipment	76 640	69 665	97 550	81 982	113 370	112 495
728	Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	50 424	64 429	44 122	55 165	51 333	51 881
752	Automatic data processing machines	40 756	36 891	48 746	49 866	40 901	37 417
759	Parts and accessories of office machines	35 915	34 521	39 592	42 384	34 568	35 975
781	Passenger motor vehicles	246 794	220 052	255 653	261 611	244 048	260 227
782	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	109 309	109 430	123 465	140 004	138 664	114 276
792	Aircraft and associated equipment	7 012	45 104	14 167	53 656	48 260	21 440
793	Ships, boats and floating structures	13 253	5 761	6 915	6 536	22 666	66 383
971	Gold, non-monetary	466 147	533 393	463 064	493 799	384 949	406 655
988	Confidential items	88 703	77 945	90 164	84 233	101 621	138 236

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

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS March Quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS December Quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS March Quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS March Quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS December Quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS March Quarter 2005 $'000
0	**Food and live animals**(a)						
00	Live animals other than fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	80 868	113 311	86 893	77	12	—
01	Meat and meat preparations	101 109	113 100	106 692	2 840	9 351	9 788
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	17 975	22 484	16 118	4 983	6 935	5 741
03	Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof(a)	113 312	67 606	102 277	15 396	22 413	18 637
04	Cereals and cereal preparations(a)	471 534	480 546	445 500	4 783	6 838	6 754
05	Vegetables and fruit	33 166	24 166	26 811	13 781	14 800	13 857
06	Sugars, sugar preparations and honey(a)	718	1 173	1 011	2 100	3 931	2 110
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	123	170	88	1 589	2 904	2 742
08	Feeding stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)(a)	29 957	33 942	31 782	816	776	3 812
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	2 693	3 007	2 839	6 432	10 203	11 512
	Total food and live animals(b)	*851 455*	*859 506*	*820 011*	*52 796*	*78 163*	*74 953*
1	**Beverages and tobacco**						
11	Beverages	12 271	11 601	11 851	6 885	10 604	9 865
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	9	26	3	47	34	3
	Total beverages and tobacco(b)	*12 280*	*11 627*	*11 854*	*6 933*	*10 638*	*9 869*
2	**Crude materials, inedible, except fuels**(a)						
21	Hides, skins and furskins, raw(a)	4 903	12 229	10 263	—	—	—
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	105 366	53 264	45 566	424	505	409
23	Crude rubber (incl. synthetic and reclaimed)	12	72	89	774	577	386
24	Cork and wood	9 434	8 027	8 212	5 157	7 235	5 913
25	Pulp and waste paper	2 785	4 694	4 102	641	1 022	654
26	Textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)(a)	121 224	132 404	109 010	638	968	1 043
27	Crude fertilisers (excl. those of Division 56) and crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum and precious stones)	15 518	22 581	23 092	12 027	12 593	6 416
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap(a)	1 372 469	2 034 101	1 899 746	4 790	642	2 779
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3 039	11 842	3 019	6 189	6 368	6 144
	Total crude materials, inedible, except fuels(b)	*1 634 749*	*2 279 214*	*2 103 098*	*30 640*	*29 911*	*23 743*
3	**Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials**						
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	31	73	37	143	141	205
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	985 198	1 335 440	1 323 145	448 004	623 615	566 657
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	595 416	979 782	895 447	27	28	25
	Total mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials(b)	*1 580 646*	*2 315 295*	*2 218 629*	*448 174*	*623 783*	*566 887*
4	**Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes**(a)						
41	Animal oils and fats	2 651	5 040	4 785	25	81	29
42	Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated(a)	861	2 203	2 604	4 772	3 913	2 946
43	Fats and oils (processed), waxes and inedible mixtures or preparations, of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	65	33	58	105	184	304
	Total animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes(b)	*3 577*	*7 276*	*7 448*	*4 902*	*4 177*	*3 278*
5	**Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.**(a)						
51	Organic chemicals(a)	650	510	155	55 005	37 965	77 524
52	Inorganic chemicals(a)	63 303	53 866	60 985	13 104	26 676	16 632
53	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	94 263	98 714	98 183	2 955	2 929	3 110
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	61 273	90 497	72 343	24 714	117 935	61 559
55	Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	1 134	2 171	1 479	5 416	4 160	4 622
56	Fertilisers (excl. crude)	1 206	2 559	392	92 797	88 676	113 106
57	Plastics in primary forms(a)	2 765	2 724	2 099	6 708	9 925	11 725
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	2 679	3 957	3 075	15 771	19 870	16 215
59	Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	1 703	2 521	2 971	26 962	16 136	33 425
	Total chemicals and related products, n.e.s.(b)	*228 975*	*257 518*	*241 681*	*243 432*	*324 271*	*337 920*

— 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.

22 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By commodity *continued*

Section and Division of the SITC		EXPORTS March Quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS December Quarter 2004 $'000	EXPORTS March Quarter 2005 $'000	IMPORTS March Quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS December Quarter 2004 $'000	IMPORTS March Quarter 2005 $'000
6	**Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material**(a)						
61	Leather, leather manufactures, and dressed furskins, n.e.s.	3 648	1 780	863	1 459	2 285	1 484
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1 772	2 216	2 232	56 041	69 771	66 576
63	Cork and wood manufactures (excl. furniture)(a)	1 522	2 173	1 421	18 211	12 816	20 421
64	Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	894	1 327	1 236	23 547	20 337	18 184
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	3 249	2 532	1 377	21 973	26 193	22 402
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(a)	46 288	53 047	35 626	51 755	50 175	48 745
67	Iron and steel(a)	71 206	23 561	11 227	68 537	91 909	121 689
68	Non-ferrous metals	169 900	209 157	193 697	36 437	21 941	61 998
69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	8 796	15 486	13 758	63 470	92 523	88 929
	Total manufactured goods classified chiefly by material(b)	*307 275*	*311 278*	*261 437*	*341 430*	*387 950*	*450 429*
7	**Machinery and transport equipment**(a)						
71	Power generating machinery and equipment	7 181	16 671	10 926	83 488	58 056	154 580
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	34 164	41 162	36 313	198 015	221 810	234 625
73	Metal working machinery	284	1 557	510	12 875	11 686	7 469
74	General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.(a)	27 566	23 442	24 066	148 894	270 784	183 488
75	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	1 593	3 271	1 664	73 731	84 475	77 691
76	Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	7 203	8 743	9 436	29 653	41 616	26 735
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances, parts (incl. non-electrical counterparts of electrical domestic equipment)	11 020	8 936	9 193	53 508	101 079	65 526
78	Road vehicles (incl. air-cushion vehicles)	3 731	18 556	4 009	371 894	450 538	422 857
79	Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	25 869	6 088	5 023	57 718	74 033	91 632
	Total machinery and transport equipment(b)	*118 612*	*128 426*	*101 140*	*1 029 774*	*1 314 076*	*1 264 602*
8	**Miscellaneous manufactured articles**(a)						
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	773	2 437	2 910	6 810	7 943	6 171
82	Furniture, parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	3 610	3 936	3 069	33 735	59 971	40 717
83	Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	48	67	49	2 701	3 674	3 150
84	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	431	544	556	18 234	19 432	22 645
85	Footwear(a)	545	215	132	10 649	8 927	14 594
87	Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	11 253	19 111	12 823	43 946	46 433	52 744
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	389	219	747	2 206	4 559	4 115
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	12 422	11 435	8 230	91 500	63 848	54 374
	Total miscellaneous manufactured articles(b)	*29 470*	*37 963*	*28 514*	*209 782*	*214 787*	*198 512*
9	**Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC**(c)						
93	Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	7 880	10 887	10 596	219	180	294
95	Gold coin whether or not legal tender, and other coin being legal tender	20 968	34 325	30 033	155	1 121	726
96	Coin (excl. gold coin), not being legal tender	—	—	164	48	17 058	—
97	Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold ores and concentrates)	1 394 305	1 488 895	1 342 052	533 393	384 949	406 655
98	Combined confidential items excl. some of SITC 280 (exports only) and some of SITCs 510 and 520 (imports only)(c)	1 761 918	1 739 012	1 870 632	77 945	101 621	138 236
	Total commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	*3 185 070*	*3 273 120*	*3 253 477*	*611 760*	*504 930*	*545 911*
	Total merchandise trade(b)	**7 952 109**	**9 481 224**	**9 047 287**	**2 979 623**	**3 492 685**	**3 476 104**

— 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.

23 INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, By selected country

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			BALANCE OF TRADE		
	March Quarter 2004	*December Quarter 2004*	*March Quarter 2005*	*March Quarter 2004*	*December Quarter 2004*	*March Quarter 2005*	*March Quarter 2004*	*December Quarter 2004*	*March Quarter 2005*
Country	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Austria	816	1 743	2 654	18 526	31 358	14 174	–17 710	–29 614	–11 519
Belgium(a)	83 911	84 610	117 210	24 490	12 559	21 829	59 421	72 050	95 381
Brazil	31 175	6 449	8 752	7 475	9 024	12 649	23 700	–2 575	–3 897
Canada	228 157	209 304	204 397	64 609	67 201	55 723	163 548	142 104	148 674
China	985 535	1 498 171	1 460 374	138 079	266 717	221 578	847 456	1 231 453	1 238 796
Egypt	47 472	25 860	1 629	479	319	442	46 993	25 541	1 186
Finland	114 430	108 013	130 680	28 395	27 188	24 036	86 035	80 825	106 644
France	35 277	60 136	41 149	47 233	50 158	56 397	–11 956	9 978	–15 248
Germany	56 213	23 473	20 792	158 855	122 917	173 051	–102 642	–99 443	–152 259
Hong Kong(b)	68 215	67 839	66 423	53 379	8 907	8 968	14 836	58 932	57 455
India	881 910	751 460	680 162	23 146	45 025	34 952	858 764	706 434	645 209
Indonesia	177 302	225 106	343 653	357 534	132 211	208 609	–180 232	92 895	135 044
Iran	24 696	20 670	343	242	170	131	24 454	20 500	212
Iraq	34 044	61 692	47 216	—	—	—	34 044	61 692	47 216
Israel	3 109	14 609	10 548	25 098	23 760	23 838	–21 989	–9 151	–13 290
Italy	54 159	43 410	65 373	76 340	171 735	85 452	–22 181	–128 325	–20 079
Japan	1 632 516	1 910 104	1 964 227	283 848	368 498	355 416	1 348 667	1 541 606	1 608 812
Korea, Republic of	948 455	799 993	625 595	144 539	73 722	96 007	803 916	726 271	529 588
Kuwait	23 697	46 441	15 761	58	233	180	23 638	46 208	15 580
Malaysia	68 297	83 176	100 834	171 128	155 630	126 009	–102 831	–72 454	–25 175
Mozambique	72 608	95 082	66 303	—	47	—	72 608	95 036	66 303
Netherlands	108 695	80 493	96 400	21 268	20 401	31 933	87 427	60 092	64 467
New Zealand	103 879	311 247	180 570	93 852	126 177	108 749	10 027	185 070	71 821
Norway	12 422	11 570	10 127	5 653	37 474	5 094	6 768	–25 904	5 034
Pakistan	60 010	48 203	58 379	916	1 074	1 108	59 094	47 130	57 271
Papua New Guinea	5 429	70 808	121 483	88 085	108 127	65 859	–82 656	–37 319	55 624
Philippines	36 745	25 348	18 708	9 274	4 107	6 863	27 471	21 241	11 846
Saudi Arabia	125 532	19 629	93 412	103 777	116 446	195 089	21 755	–96 817	–101 677
Singapore	244 218	301 874	347 555	211 433	357 157	366 652	32 785	–55 284	–19 097
South Africa	193 539	227 327	181 553	43 648	47 033	52 020	149 891	180 294	129 533
Spain	46 859	94 088	86 095	30 346	23 123	21 729	16 514	70 965	64 366
Sweden	922	5 975	1 896	30 887	51 810	40 889	–29 966	–45 836	–38 993
Switzerland	8 324	17 127	6 933	11 070	18 026	29 217	–2 746	–899	–22 284
Taiwan	180 791	239 423	265 959	34 233	64 603	78 634	146 559	174 820	187 326
Thailand	197 515	552 971	671 087	106 754	116 602	124 130	90 761	436 369	546 957
Turkey	6 010	48 483	49 816	3 112	3 999	3 370	2 898	44 484	46 447
United Arab Emirates	128 396	136 939	112 490	33 096	167 786	50 668	95 300	–30 847	61 822
United Kingdom	295 765	418 374	166 656	77 038	115 111	154 909	218 727	303 264	11 747
United States of America	295 423	520 337	227 857	344 918	372 730	392 722	–49 495	147 607	–164 866
Viet Nam	24 363	28 162	63 792	24 335	42 449	41 779	28	–14 287	22 013
Other countries	305 280	185 505	312 442	82 478	131 069	185 250	222 803	54 436	127 192
Total(c)	**7 952 109**	**9 481 224**	**9 047 287**	**2 979 623**	**3 492 685**	**3 476 104**	**4 972 487**	**5 988 539**	**5 571 183**

— 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.

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

	SELECTED MINERALS (ORIGINAL)						ORIGINAL	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	TREND	ORIGINAL
	Copper	*Silver, lead, zinc*	*Nickel, cobalt*	*Gold*	*Iron ore*	*Diamonds*	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total minerals*(b)	*Total petroleum*
	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m	$m
2001–2002	4.4	10.5	47.1	238.1	25.2	np	381.1	381.9	386.1	479.8
2002–2003	np	np	54.1	265.6	43.4	17.7	423.6	424.0	414.4	598.3
2003–2004	np	np	70.6	276.7	np	17.0	465.8	465.4	466.7	670.5
2003										
December	np	np	20.0	66.4	np	5.8	122.0	113.8	110.6	188.2
2004										
March	0.7	0.7	14.3	59.3	np	2.7	96.5	113.7	119.0	106.9
June	1.2	0.6	23.4	83.0	19.1	3.5	138.8	132.5	129.9	197.5
September	np	0.7	28.7	73.9	29.6	4.6	147.9	143.2	140.5	129.7
December	1.9	0.6	38.0	67.5	35.0	5.3	156.7	146.5	149.5	113.1
2005										
March	np	1.8	40.9	54.1	27.3	2.2	134.4	158.2	156.5	154.3

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

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

(b) Includes minerals not listed.

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

25 MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION: **Original**

Reference period	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	174	24 292	216 609	38 072	1 774	185	91	5 983	20 920	17 158	20 561
2003											
December	47	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	46	17	1 546	5 583	4 098	4 861
June	39	2 669	56 285	9 143	429	40	8	1 555	5 032	4 052	5 285
September	p43	p5 328	p59 718	p9 629	p458	p48	p13	1 524	5 279	4 261	6 257
December	p42	p9 011	p61 542	p9 431	p493	p53	p7	1 688	5 600	r3 872	r6 347
2005											
March	p45	p8 633	p60 098	p9 798	p457	p49	p13	1 543	5 908	p3 889	p5 765

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. 8301.0.55.001.

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

Reference period	Cattle(d)	Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs	Beef(e)	Veal	Mutton	Lamb	Pig meat
	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED(b)					RED MEAT PRODUCED(c)				
	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										
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
2005										
March	126 071	935	651 563	575 600	156 786	32 581	51	12 880	11 693	10 614
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED										
2001–2002	370 820	6 019	1 967 637	1 852 108	593 430	89 385	374	39 557	35 496	40 098
2002–2003	428 146	5 317	1 749 098	2 019 495	673 291	104 838	301	34 991	39 518	45 523
2003–2004	461 367	4 706	1 855 189	2 389 324	673 696	115 653	257	37 322	47 139	45 091
2003										
December	114 095	1 041	455 732	576 998	169 281	29 066	61	9 219	11 480	11 300
2004										
March	117 155	1 309	488 716	605 699	168 938	29 487	66	9 821	11 742	11 377
June	124 377	1 158	599 564	656 037	166 819	31 572	58	11 972	12 907	11 203
September	127 490	1 123	544 140	633 385	167 509	32 601	56	10 821	12 361	11 246
December	115 370	1 073	538 580	587 584	159 866	29 232	77	10 675	11 452	10 842
2005										
March	121 376	1 078	523 958	582 160	159 764	30 641	53	10 397	11 835	10 912
TREND										
2001–2002	371 459	5 997	1 944 905	1 847 580	593 960	89 687	371	39 115	35 389	40 076
2002–2003	429 985	5 213	1 715 483	2 025 018	672 502	105 127	296	34 315	39 714	45 478
2003–2004	461 575	4 748	1 859 271	2 376 335	674 712	115 936	259	37 399	46 786	45 202
2003										
December	111 855	1 172	420 474	577 834	168 672	27 923	66	8 499	11 421	11 273
2004										
March	119 208	1 178	507 634	617 189	168 848	30 191	61	10 200	12 119	11 313
June	123 308	1 183	560 079	636 469	167 687	31 386	61	11 189	12 410	11 268
September	123 106	1 134	558 253	627 069	165 136	31 303	63	11 108	12 260	11 125
December	121 119	1 083	542 380	602 916	162 098	30 758	63	10 763	11 905	10 978
2005										
March	119 138	1 067	520 302	580 912	159 160	30 100	63	10 344	11 608	10 865

(a) Includes estimates of animals slaughtered for red meat production on farms and by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments.
(b) Figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption.
(c) Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.
(d) Excludes calves.
(e) Excludes veal.

Source: Livestock Products, Australia, cat. no. 7215.0.

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

Reference period	WHEAT(a) Gross weight		LIVE SHEEP Gross weight		
	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					
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	2 158 129	454 658	40 653	813 357	52 100
2005					
March	2 027 376	425 325	37 936	792 317	48 146

(a) Includes smelt and meslin, unmilled.

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

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

Reference period	*Brokers receivals*		*Dealers receivals*		*Total receivals*	
	'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						
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	r133 826	23.8	27 589	4.8	r161 415	28.6
2005						
March	160 961	28.4	26 068	4.5	187 029	32.9

r revised

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

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

29 OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: **Original**

Reference period	Permanent	LONG-TERM(a) WA residents	LONG-TERM(a) Overseas visitors	SHORT-TERM(b) WA residents	SHORT-TERM(b) Overseas visitors	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
ARRIVALS						
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
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
2005						
January	1 500	1 059	2 887	63 315	39 876	108 638
February	1 266	847	4 188	35 493	48 800	90 594
March	1 611	1 052	1 356	40 236	52 059	96 314
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
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
2005						
January	836	1 322	767	40 444	55 397	98 765
February	479	801	543	32 769	43 058	77 650
March	537	880	639	42 313	49 100	93 469

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

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

Reference period	New Zealand	United Kingdom and Ireland	Europe(b)	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Hong Kong(c)	Japan	United States of America	South Africa	Total(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS(e)												
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
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
2005												
January	707	5 946	2 796	303	732	1 492	243	131	2 369	271	92	16 341
February	527	6 505	3 199	817	2 786	3 870	203	1 273	3 177	378	306	24 896
March	1 371	8 306	2 879	1 051	2 384	5 510	549	956	2 722	469	361	27 862
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
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
2005												
January	2 525	551	258	7 080	1 231	3 087	680	498	465	630	156	19 691
February	2 034	809	366	5 945	919	1 404	1 022	331	206	206	23	15 749
March	2 963	1 009	480	7 030	1 488	2 367	1 696	730	153	707	292	21 476

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

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

31 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION(a)(b): Original

Reference period	Establishments	Guest rooms	Room nights occupied	Room occupancy rate	Guest arrivals	Takings from accommodation
	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						
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
December	344	20 937	1 174.6	61.3	869.5	134 200

(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.

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

	EMPLOYED					
	Full-time	Total	Total unemployed	Labour force(a)	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Month	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES						
2004						
March	469.6	553.4	29.1	582.5	74.5	5.0
April	470.0	552.9	28.5	581.4	74.2	4.9
May	470.3	551.9	27.8	579.7	73.9	4.8
June	470.6	551.1	27.2	578.3	73.6	4.7
July	470.7	551.0	26.6	577.6	73.3	4.6
August	471.3	552.0	26.1	578.1	73.3	4.5
September	473.1	554.5	25.6	580.1	73.4	4.4
October	476.2	558.3	25.2	583.5	73.7	4.3
November	480.4	562.8	25.0	587.8	74.1	4.3
December	484.9	567.2	25.0	592.2	74.6	4.2
2005						
January	489.4	571.2	25.1	596.3	75.0	4.2
February	493.5	575.0	25.3	600.3	75.4	4.2
March	497.1	578.7	25.5	604.2	75.8	4.2
April	500.3	582.1	25.6	607.6	76.1	4.2
May	502.9	584.9	25.8	610.7	76.5	4.2
FEMALES						
2004						
March	218.1	428.2	26.7	454.9	57.3	5.9
April	220.0	430.4	25.9	456.3	57.4	5.7
May	221.7	431.9	25.5	457.4	57.5	5.6
June	223.1	432.9	25.2	458.0	57.4	5.5
July	223.8	433.6	24.8	458.4	57.4	5.4
August	224.1	434.6	24.3	458.9	57.3	5.3
September	224.4	436.0	23.7	459.7	57.3	5.2
October	225.4	438.2	23.3	461.5	57.5	5.0
November	227.0	440.7	23.2	463.9	57.7	5.0
December	229.0	443.2	23.6	466.8	58.0	5.1
2005						
January	230.9	445.8	24.3	470.0	58.3	5.2
February	232.7	448.6	25.0	473.6	58.7	5.3
March	234.3	451.7	25.6	477.3	59.1	5.4
April	235.7	454.7	26.0	480.7	59.5	5.4
May	236.7	457.5	26.3	483.8	59.8	5.4
PERSONS						
2004						
March	687.7	981.5	55.9	1 037.4	65.9	5.4
April	690.0	983.3	54.4	1 037.7	65.8	5.2
May	692.0	983.8	53.3	1 037.1	65.6	5.1
June	693.6	984.0	52.4	1 036.3	65.4	5.1
July	694.5	984.6	51.4	1 036.0	65.3	5.0
August	695.4	986.6	50.4	1 037.0	65.2	4.9
September	697.5	990.5	49.3	1 039.8	65.3	4.7
October	701.6	996.5	48.5	1 045.0	65.5	4.6
November	707.3	1 003.5	48.2	1 051.6	65.8	4.6
December	713.8	1 010.4	48.6	1 059.0	66.2	4.6
2005						
January	720.3	1 017.0	49.4	1 066.3	66.6	4.6
February	726.2	1 023.6	50.3	1 073.9	67.0	4.7
March	731.5	1 030.4	51.1	1 081.4	67.4	4.7
April	736.0	1 036.8	51.6	1 088.4	67.8	4.7
May	739.6	1 042.4	52.1	1 094.5	68.1	4.8

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

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

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

	2004				2005	
	February	*May*	*August*	*November*	*February*	*May*
ANZSIC Division	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	47.3	46.3	43.3	45.4	50.2	53.3
Mining	41.1	46.7	36.8	37.7	45.3	48.6
Manufacturing	88.5	92.1	97.0	100.2	90.4	98.9
Electricity, gas and water supply	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.2	12.5	10.2
Construction	82.6	80.6	83.6	90.8	93.7	100.3
Wholesale trade	50.0	52.5	51.0	49.8	43.6	41.8
Retail trade	151.2	150.1	152.0	155.0	151.2	152.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	39.9	40.5	37.7	45.3	44.8	44.8
Transport and storage	44.4	41.7	45.8	39.2	43.6	41.6
Communication services	13.1	12.3	12.8	16.4	15.7	13.6
Finance and insurance	26.4	28.8	28.1	26.0	26.6	24.1
Property and business services	113.3	109.4	110.9	113.1	130.6	123.9
Government administration and defence	32.7	36.6	37.8	43.9	40.5	46.8
Education	71.3	77.2	68.1	67.9	69.8	76.7
Health and community services	96.3	99.3	90.1	98.4	102.0	104.3
Cultural and recreational services	24.5	22.4	21.5	21.8	20.2	26.8
Personal and other services	44.1	45.7	46.7	50.8	46.2	38.2
Total	**974.1**	**990.2**	**971.0**	**1 011.0**	**1 027.0**	**1 046.5**

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

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

ASCO Major group	2004 February	2004 May	2004 August	2004 November	2005 February	2005 May
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ('000)						
Managers and administrators	52.5	47.0	52.0	59.5	64.9	60.1
Professionals	146.5	155.3	139.6	150.6	155.6	170.1
Associate professionals	106.6	109.8	100.8	107.0	115.8	105.3
Tradespersons and related workers	101.3	103.5	96.1	101.6	103.5	109.2
Advanced clerical and service workers	31.5	32.8	29.8	28.9	33.1	33.6
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	150.2	153.5	147.8	149.9	144.4	157.8
Intermediate production and transport workers	76.5	76.1	70.3	79.7	76.8	84.9
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	86.6	95.2	91.3	92.6	95.0	93.9
Labourers and related workers	76.2	75.6	77.0	82.0	84.1	73.7
Total	**827.8**	**848.7**	**804.8**	**851.8**	**873.2**	**888.5**
TOTAL WEEKLY HOURS WORKED ('000)						
Managers and administrators	2 322.4	2 184.5	2 372.7	2 767.3	2 985.9	2 894.1
Professionals	5 556.9	5 773.7	5 203.9	5 488.5	5 785.7	6 300.1
Associate professionals	4 154.4	4 225.3	3 852.0	4 116.0	4 623.0	4 051.4
Tradespersons and related workers	4 117.8	4 229.1	3 804.5	4 117.5	4 255.8	4 356.2
Advanced clerical and service workers	914.5	1 034.0	913.7	784.9	979.3	1 011.3
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4 473.5	4 747.3	4 552.5	4 650.2	4 517.7	4 796.5
Intermediate production and transport workers	2 892.5	3 112.7	2 761.1	3 270.6	3 122.6	3 508.1
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	2 088.2	2 360.6	2 164.1	2 252.0	2 465.8	2 203.2
Labourers and related workers	2 190.0	2 142.4	2 248.0	2 548.5	2 671.0	2 200.6
Total	**28 710.2**	**29 809.6**	**27 872.4**	**29 995.4**	**31 406.8**	**31 321.5**
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (no.)						
Managers and administrators	44.3	46.5	45.6	46.5	46.0	48.2
Professionals	37.9	37.2	37.3	36.4	37.2	37.0
Associate professionals	39.0	38.5	38.2	38.5	39.9	38.5
Tradespersons and related workers	40.7	40.9	39.6	40.5	41.1	39.9
Advanced clerical and service workers	29.0	31.5	30.7	27.1	29.6	30.1
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	29.8	30.9	30.8	31.0	31.3	30.4
Intermediate production and transport workers	37.8	40.9	39.3	41.0	40.7	41.3
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	24.1	24.8	23.7	24.3	25.9	23.5
Labourers and related workers	28.8	28.4	29.2	31.1	31.8	29.9
Total	**34.7**	**35.1**	**34.6**	**35.2**	**36.0**	**35.3**

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

35 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES: All series

	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*	*Full-time adult ordinary time earnings*	*Full-time adult total earnings*	*All employees total earnings*
Quarter	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
ORIGINAL									
2003									
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
2005									
February	1 101.6	1 169.0	990.4	822.3	834.9	553.5	1 009.6	1 058.9	787.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
2003									
November	1 016.2	1 072.1	909.1	783.6	794.1	529.8	936.0	976.2	727.2
2004									
February	1 027.5	1 088.4	917.6	795.1	807.5	531.3	948.6	992.5	736.9
May	1 039.9	1 096.3	928.2	798.5	810.9	538.4	956.6	998.2	739.3
August	1 040.1	1 105.7	941.6	801.6	814.6	544.0	961.8	1 010.1	753.6
November	1 081.3	1 147.9	966.7	806.0	819.6	543.9	989.0	1 038.0	767.6
2005									
February	1 107.2	1 174.5	991.2	819.9	832.8	545.4	1 012.0	1 060.9	784.9
TREND									
2003									
November	1 019.1	1 075.9	908.5	785.5	796.7	530.1	939.4	980.5	728.7
2004									
February	1 026.2	1 084.4	918.3	793.3	805.2	533.3	946.4	988.7	734.8
May	1 035.2	1 095.6	928.4	798.0	810.5	538.0	954.7	999.0	742.1
August	1 052.4	1 115.8	945.1	802.5	815.6	542.1	968.7	1 015.3	753.8
November	1 076.3	1 142.5	966.1	808.6	821.9	544.6	987.3	1 035.8	768.0
2005									
February	1 103.8	1 172.8	987.8	816.6	829.6	545.7	1 008.9	1 059.1	782.0

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

36 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD: Original

Reference period	Number of disputes	Number of employees involved	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	no.	'000	'000	no.
2002	105	16.1	32.1	40.4
2003	131	53.3	79.2	98.1
2004	134	26.7	64.1	76.9
2003				
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
2005				
March	27	6.5	21.3	24.4

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

37 JOB VACANCIES FOR EMPLOYEES, By sector: Original

	PRIVATE		PUBLIC		TOTAL	
Reference period	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year	Job vacancies	Change from same quarter previous year
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
2003						
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
2005						
February	14.0	49.9	1.2	40.7	15.3	49.1

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

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

38

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

At end of reference period	*MALE*	*FEMALE*	*TOTAL*
	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
2002	968 719	966 547	1 935 266
2003	984 339	982 071	1 966 410
2004	1 000 661	997 756	1 998 417
2003			
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
December	1 000 661	997 756	1 998 417

(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.

39 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

Reference period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase(b)	Net interstate migration	Net overseas migration(c)	Total population growth(d)
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons
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
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
2004	25 521	11 188	14 333	1 881	15 793	32 007
2003						
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
December	6 039	2 758	3 281	658	4 886	8 825

(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.

40 REPORTED OFFENCES(a)(b)

	2003	2004				2005
	December	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*	*March*
Selected offences	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Homicide(c)	22	29	26	19	23	15
Assault(d)	5 113	5 502	4 717	4 702	6 210	6 308
Robbery(e)	591	549	460	407	453	458
Burglary(f)	14 107	12 647	10 942	10 400	10 802	10 494
Theft	23 305	21 411	18 972	19 082	19 841	19 002
Steal motor vehicle	2 497	2 172	1 894	1 782	1 979	1 905
Property damage	10 535	9 750	8 732	8 636	9 469	10 593
Graffiti(g)	2 681	2 083	2 771	2 667	1 858	1 765
Drugs	3 059	3 227	3 681	3 348	3 289	3 480
Other(h)	3 308	3 655	3 211	3 370	3 996	4 343
Total reported offences	**65 218**	**61 025**	**55 406**	**54 413**	**57 920**	**58 363**

(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.*

41 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS(a)

Characteristic	Unit	1994	2002	2003	2004
Total population	'000	1 703.0	1 924.6	1 949.9	1 982.2
Male population	'000	856.5	963.4	976.3	992.5
Female population	'000	846.5	961.1	973.7	989.8
Indigenous population(b)	'000	56.0	67.2	68.4	69.7
Persons living in Perth SD	%	73.2	73.3	73.4	73.5
Population aged 0–14	%	22.6	20.8	20.4	20.2
Population aged 15–64	%	67.2	68.0	68.1	68.2
Population aged 65 and over	%	10.2	11.2	11.4	11.6
Population aged 80 and over	%	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.9
Median age of total population(c)	years	32.5	35.3	35.6	35.8
Sex ratio of population aged 0–64(d)	ratio	104.1	102.9	102.9	102.8
Sex ratio of population aged 65 and over(d)	ratio	78.3	81.4	82.1	82.8
Male life expectancy at birth(e)	years	75.5	77.9	78.1	na
Female life expectancy at birth(e)	years	81.2	82.9	83.0	na
Male life expectancy at age 65(e)	years	16.1	17.6	17.8	na
Female life expectancy at age 65(e)	years	19.8	21.2	21.2	na

na not available

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

(b) 1994 population data are based on experimental estimates while 2003 and 2004 are experimental low series projections.

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

(d) The number of males per 100 females.

(e) Life expectancies are based on three year averages, eg 2003 life expectancy is average for the 2001–2003 period.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0; ABS data available on request, *Deaths.*

42 CAUSES OF DEATH(a)

	Unit	1993	2001	2002	2003
Leading causes of death (all deaths)					
Cancer	%	27.2	29.0	29.4	29.4
Ischaemic heart disease	%	24.2	19.3	18.0	17.3
Stroke	%	9.4	8.3	8.0	8.1
Selected cancer					
Male lung cancer (of male deaths)	%	6.9	7.2	8.4	7.0
Female lung cancer (of female deaths)	%	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.6
Female breast cancer (of female deaths)	%	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.7
Prostate cancer (of male deaths)	%	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.5
Skin cancer (of all deaths)	%	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.8
Heart disease					
Male ischaemic heart disease (of male deaths)	%	24.6	19.6	18.3	18.0
Female ischaemic heart disease (of female deaths)	%	23.7	18.8	17.7	16.6
Accidents and suicide					
Motor vehicle traffic accidents					
Males (of male deaths)	%	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.0
15–24 years (of male deaths 15–24 years)	%	38.5	37.3	32.4	34.9
Females (of female deaths)	%	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.1
15–24 years (of female deaths 15–24 years)	%	31.8	30.0	28.3	34.0
Suicide					
Males (of male deaths)	%	3.1	3.7	3.2	2.8
15–24 years (of male deaths 15–24 years)	%	25.3	28.7	34.2	24.0
Females (of female deaths)	%	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1
15–24 years (of female deaths 15–24 years)	%	13.6	11.4	17.4	16.0
Total male deaths	no.	5 632	5 597	5 800	5 913
Total female deaths	no.	4 684	5 082	5 464	5 398
Total male deaths 15–24 years	no.	146	134	111	129
Total female deaths 15–24 years	no.	44	40	46	50
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	no.	5.9	5.1	4.3	4.1

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

Source: ABS data available on request, *Deaths.*

APPENDIX INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

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