

PRINTING ERROR

10 Comparative Economic Statistics

Key Indicator	Labor	Liberal
Net Government Debt	\$95.8 billion (95–96)	ZERO (07–08)
Interest on Government Debt	\$8.4 billion (95–96)	ZERO (07–08)
Average Mortgage Rates	12.75%	7.25%
Average Real Wages Growth	-1.8% (Mar 83 – Mar 96)	21.5% (Mar 96 – Jun 07)
Average Small Business Lending Rates	14.25%	8.90%
Unemployment Rate	8.2% (Mar 96)	4.2% (Sep 07)
Long-Term Unemployed	197 900 (Mar 96)	66 700 (Aug 07)
Australians in Work	8.3 million (Mar 96)	10.5 million (Sep 07)
Average Inflation	5.2%	2.5%
Tax Burden	22.3% of GDP (95–96)	20.7% of GDP (07–08)
Middle Tax Bracket	34%—up to \$38 000	30%—up to \$80 000 (from 1/7/08)
Top Tax Bracket	47%— \$50 001+	45%— \$180 001+ (from 1/7/08)
Waterfront Crane Rates (per hour)	16.9 (Mar 96)	26.8 (Dec 06)
Industrial Disputes (days lost per 1000 employees, per year)	193 (Avg 83–95)	59 (Avg 96–06)

APPENDIX 10

Key Indicator	Labor	Liberal
Credit Rating	AA Downgraded twice	AAA Upgraded twice
Direct Investment in the Environment	\$379 million (95–96)	\$1724 million (07–08)
Investment in Climate Change Programs	\$16 million (96–97)	\$666 million (07–08)
Total Spending on Health and Ageing	\$19.5 billion (95–96)	\$51.8 billion (07–08)
Australians with Private Health Insurance	34% (1996)	44% (2007)
Immunisation Rates	52% (0–6 year olds as at 1995)	90% (12–15 month olds)
Investment in Vocational Education and Training	\$1.1 billion (95–96)	\$2.9 billion (07–08)
Apprentices in Training	154 800 (Mar 96)	414 390 (Mar 07)
Mandatory Literacy Testing for Children	NONE	Yrs 3, 5, 7, 9
Federal Investment in Government Schools	\$1.4 billion (95–96)	\$3.5 billion (07–08)
Work for the Dole Participants	NONE	599 613
Total Number of Aged Care Places	141 292 (June 96)	208 698 (Dec 06)

In comparing levels of funding and numbers of places, it should be noted that between March 1996 and June 2007, Australia's population increased around 15 per cent and CPI (inflation) increased just 32.4 per cent. Facts sourced from official Government documents, with information accurate at September 2007.