

RGFCE – Real General Government Final Consumption Expenditure

1. **Definition (as of June 2011)¹:** General Government Final Consumption Expenditure measures the current expenditure by general government bodies on services to the community such as defence, education, and public order and safety less any explicit charges for these services. Constant price measures up to the 1998Q3 vintage and chain volume measures thereafter.
2. **Vintage Date:** The vintage date reflects the quarter in which the publication is released.
3. **Reference Date:** The reference date refers to the date to which the observation is referring to.
4. **First Quarterly Vintage:** 1971Q3 dating back to 1969Q1.
5. **Earliest Observation:** Historical series available dating back to 1959Q3, although not for all vintages.
6. **Seasonality:** Seasonally adjusted from the 1971Q4 vintage.
7. **Unit of Observations:** Millions of dollars.
8. **Base Prices of Observations:** Observations are at constant prices. The base year changes approximately every five years before the introduction of the chain volume measure in 1998Q4 and every three to five quarters thereafter.
9. **Quarterly Vintage Names:** RGFCEyyQq, where yy is the year of the vintage, Q refers to Quarter and q the number of the vintage quarter. For example, the column heading RGFCE75Q1 indicates that this column contains observations available in the first quarter of 1975.
10. **Publication Delay:** The quarterly vintages are obtained from the issue released in the last month of any quarter (typically in the first week of the month). The data in these vintages relate to the observation of the respective series in the previous quarter. For example, data for the first quarter is available in the issue released in the first week of June. Therefore, there is a one quarter delay in the release of data.

¹ Source: *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0), 2009-10.

Table 1: Publication Delay

| First Observation of | Reference Date in ABS Publication | ABS Publication Date | Vintage Date |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Q1 | March | First week in June | Q2 |
| Q2 | June | First week in September | Q3 |
| Q3 | September | First week in December | Q4 |
| Q4 | December | First week in March | Q1 |

11. Revisions:

- a. An annual seasonal re-analysis took place in either the December or March quarter until 2006Q4. From 2007Q1 onwards, a concurrent adjustment for seasonality was adopted resulting in an updating of the estimates in every quarter.
- b. Annual revisions take place in either the June or September quarter following an adjustment to the annual data ensure consistency with the quarterly data.

12. **Chain Volume Measure:** First introduced in 1998Q4. Prior to this, the estimates are at constant prices where the base year changes approximately every five years. The method used to compute the chain volume index is detailed in the *Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5216.0), Chapter 10. The chain volume measures are expressed in terms of the values of a particular reference year as recommended in the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (SNA93). The reference year is the year prior to the latest complete financial year and up until the 2006Q3 vintage was updated annually. From 2007 onwards, the reference year is updated in the fourth quarter vintage.

13. **Data Sources:** The primary data source is the ABS publication *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0). Deep-history vintages are obtained from various sources including the ABS publication *Supplement to Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure* (cat. no. 5207.0), *Time Series Data* (cat. no. 1311.0 & 1335.0) and *NIF-10S Model Data* (cat. no. 1313.0 & 1343.0) available on

microfiche, PC AusStats CD ROMs and data obtained directly from ABS personnel; see Table 2 for details.

Table 2: Sources of Data Series

| Publication Date | Reference | Format | Source |
|------------------|---|------------|---|
| 1971Q3 – 1972Q1 | <i>Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | Microfiche | The University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library |
| 1972Q2 – 1979Q3 | <i>Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | PDF | Online |
| | <i>Supplement to Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure</i> (cat. no. 5207.0) and ABS | Microfiche | The University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library and ABS House, Canberra |
| 1979Q4 – 1988Q1 | <i>Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | PDF | Online |
| | <i>Time Series Data</i> (cat. no. 1311.0) and <i>NIF-10S Model Data</i> (cat. no. 1313.0) | Microfiche | The University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library, the National Library and ABS House, Canberra |
| 1988Q2 – 1992Q4 | <i>Australian National Accounts, National Income and Expenditure</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | PDF | Online |
| | <i>Time Series Data</i> (cat. no. 1335.0), <i>NIF-10S Model Data</i> (cat. no. 1343.0) | Microfiche | The University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library, the National Library and ABS House, Canberra |

Table 2: Sources of Data Series (Continued)

| Publication Date | Reference | Format | Source |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 1993Q1 – 2005Q3 | <i>Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | PDF | Online |
| | <i>NIF-10S Model Data</i> (cat. no. 1343.0), <i>PC AusStats</i> CD ROMs and <i>Australian National Accounts, 1998-2005</i> workbooks. | Micro-fiche & CDs | The University of Melbourne, Baillieu Library, ABS House, Canberra |
| 2005Q4 – 2006Q2 | <i>Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product</i> (cat. no. 5206.0) | Lotus 123 | Online |
| 2006Q3 – present | <i>Australian National Accounts, National Income, Expenditure and Product</i> (cat. no. 5206.0); Table 2; Series ID: A2304080V. | Excel workbook | Online |

Special notes:

1. **RGFCE71Q3 – First constant price RGFCE measure.** Observations at 1966-67 prices and are not seasonally adjusted.
2. **RGFCE71Q4 – First constant price, seasonally adjusted RGFCE measures.** Data are at 1966-67 prices.
3. **RGFCE78Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Revision due to new methodologies and new data sources used in revaluing the current price estimates.
4. **RGFCE78Q1 to RGFCE81Q4 – At 1974-75 prices.**
5. **RGFCE82Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Revision due to the use of new methodologies in some components (principally private gross fixed capital expenditure, increase in private non-farm stocks, and exports and imports of goods and services), the use of some new sources of data, the availability of firmer data and revised annual estimates.
6. **RGFCE82Q1 to RGFCE88Q2 – At 1979-80 prices.**
7. **RGFCE85Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Revision is due to the conceptual and classificatory changes made to the Public Finance data system. Specifically, this revision involves the exclusion of the item ‘current grants to private non-profit institutions by both general government and public trading enterprises’ from Government Final Consumption Expenditure.
8. **RGFCE87Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Revision is due to the adoption of the *Australian Accounting Standard 17* (AAS 17). Specifically, this revision concerns the inclusion of estimates of consumption of fixed capital and the inclusion of repair and maintenance expenditure on roads – which were previously included as capital expenditure.
9. **RGFCE87Q3 – Unexpected revision.** Revised due to a change in the treatment of payroll tax paid by the general government. The receipts of these taxes are now regarded as transfers within the general government sector which should be netted out on consolidation when compiling the general government income and outlay account. As a result of this change, General

Government Final Consumption Expenditure has declined by the amount of payroll tax paid by general government.

10. **RGFCE88Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Estimates of all aggregates have been revised in accordance with the revised annual estimates published in the *Australian National Accounts, National Income and Expenditure, 1986-87, Summary* (cat. no. 5201.0). Significant revisions have been made to a number of aggregates as a result of the incorporation of data from periodic benchmark collections (such as the 1985-86 Retail Census and the 1986 Population Census) or from the use of new data sources. In addition, many aggregates have been revised to incorporate later information from taxation assessment statistics, the gross value of farm production series and other sources.
11. **RGFCE88Q2 – Two versions were released.** One version at 1979-80 prices and the other version at 1984-85 prices.
12. **RGFCE88Q2 to RGFCE92Q4 – At 1984-85 prices.**
13. **RGFCE89Q3 – Unexpected revision.** Time series is revised due to annual benchmark revisions, the inclusion of preliminary annual estimates for 1988-89 and new data on trade in services. Estimates for the farm sector have been revised as a result of incorporating estimates of farm costs obtained from the *ABS Agricultural Finance Surveys* conducted in 1986-87 and 1987-88.
14. **RGFCE93Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Revisions are due to an annual seasonal re-analysis and changes in the sources and methods used to compile the constant price estimates. These are outlined in the Information Paper: *Australian National Accounts: Introduction of Constant Price Estimates at Average 1989-90 Prices* (cat. no. 5243.0) (25 February 1993).
15. **RGFCE93Q1 to RGFCE98Q3 – At 1989-90 prices.**
16. **RGFCE94Q3 – Unexpected revision.** Quarterly estimates have been revised as a result of incorporating annual benchmark data. Specifically, revisions have occurred to the constant price estimates of Government Final Consumption Expenditure from the 1989Q3 reference date due to the revised

treatment of redundancy payments, as introduced in Victoria and Tasmania in the December quarter 1996 accounts.

17. **RGFCE98Q4 – First published RGFCE measures using chain volume method and unexpected revision.** Major changes were introduced to reflect the implementation of new international standards for the compilation and presentation of national accounts as in the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (SNA93). The changes include the integration of input-output tables with the quarterly and annual estimates of national income, expenditure and product and the introduction of chain volume measures. In addition, a number of other content and formatting changes were introduced. For further details, see the Information Papers *Upgraded Australian National Accounts, 1998* (cat. no. 5253.0) (4 November 1998), the associated *Addendum* (11 November 1998), *Implementation of Revised International Standards in the Australian National Accounts* (cat. no. 5251.0) (30 September 1997) and *Introduction of Chain Volume Measures in the Australian National Accounts* (cat. no. 5248.0) (19 March 1998).
18. **RGFCE98Q4 to RGFCE99Q2 – Reference year is 1996-97.**
19. **RGFCE99Q3 to RGFCE00Q2 – Reference year is 1997-98.**
20. **RGFCE00Q3 to RGFCE01Q2 – Reference year is 1998-99.**
21. **RGFCE01Q3 to RGFCE02Q2 – Reference year is 1999-00.**
22. **RGFCE02Q3 to RGFCE03Q2 – Reference year is 2000-01.**
23. **RGFCE02Q4 – Unexpected revision.** Revision due to more up-to-date data, a revised annual benchmark and an annual seasonal re-analysis.
24. **RGFCE03Q3 to RGFCE04Q2 – Reference year is 2001-02.**
25. **RGFCE04Q3 to RGFCE05Q2 – Reference year is 2002-03.**
26. **RGFCE05Q3 to RGFCE06Q2 – Reference year is 2003-04.**
27. **RGFCE05Q4 – Unexpected revision.** Revised measures to many series as a result of benchmarking quarterly series to annual benchmarks from the annual Supply and Use Tables for 1994-95 to 2003-04.
28. **RGFCE06Q3 to RGFCE07Q3 – Reference year is 2004-05.**

29. **RGFCE06Q4 – Unexpected revision.** Quarterly series are benchmarked to the revised annual Supply and Use Tables for 2002-03 to 2004-05. In addition, an annual seasonal re-analysis was undertaken on all series.
30. **RGFCE07Q1 – Unexpected revision.** Introduction of a concurrent adjustment for seasonality.
31. **RGFCE07Q4 to RGFCE08Q3 – Reference year is 2005-06.**
32. **RGFCE08Q4 to RGFCE09Q3 – Reference year is 2006-07.**
33. **RGFCE09Q4 – Unexpected revision.** Introduction of new international standards.
34. **RGFCE09Q4 to RGFCE10Q3 – Reference year is 2007-08.**
35. **RGFCE10Q4 to ... – Reference year is 2008-09.**