Tidy Time Series & Forecasting in R

7. Exponential smoothing



Outline

- 1 Exponential smoothing
- 2 Trend methods
- 3 Lab Session 14
- 4 Seasonal methods
- 5 ETS taxonomy
- 6 Lab Session 15
- 7 Non-Gaussian forecast distributions

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The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is the Australian government drugs subsidy scheme.

- Many drugs bought from pharmacies are subsidised to allow more equitable access to modern drugs.
- The cost to government is determined by the number and types of drugs purchased. Currently nearly 1% of GDP.
- The total cost is budgeted based on forecasts of drug usage.



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Opp demands drug price restriction after PBS budget blow-out

The Federal Opposition has called for tighter controls on drug prices after the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) budget blew out by almost \$800 million

The money was spent on two new drugs including the controversial anti-smoking aid Zyban, which dropped in price from \$220 to \$22 after it was listed on the PBS.

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FEATURES

Püblic Record Federal Election 2001

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- In 2001: \$4.5 billion budget, under-forecasted by \$800 million.
- Thousands of products. Seasonal demand.
- Subject to covert marketing, volatile products, uncontrollable expenditure.
- Although monthly data available for 10 years, data are aggregated to annual values, and only the first three years are used in estimating the forecasts.
- All forecasts being done with the FORECAST function in MS-Excel!

Historical perspective

- Developed in the 1950s and 1960s as methods (algorithms) to produce point forecasts.
- Combine a "level", "trend" (slope) and "seasonal" component to describe a time series.
- The rate of change of the components are controlled by "smoothing parameters": α , β and γ respectively.
- Need to choose best values for the smoothing parameters (and initial states).
- Equivalent ETS state space models developed in the 1990s and 2000s.

We want a model that captures the level (ℓ_t), trend (b_t) and seasonality (s_t).

How do we combine these elements?

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Additively?

$$y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-m} + \varepsilon_t$$

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Multiplicatively?

$$y_t = \ell_{t-1}b_{t-1}s_{t-m}(1+\varepsilon_t)$$

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Perhaps a mix of both?

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How do the level, trend and seasonal components evolve over time?

ETS models

General notation ETS: ExponenTial Smoothing

∠ ↑ △

Error Trend Season

Error: Additive ("A") or multiplicative ("M")

ETS models

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Trend: None ("N"), additive ("A"), multiplicative ("M"), or damped ("Ad" or "Md").

ETS models

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Trend: None ("N"), additive ("A"), multiplicative ("M"), or damped ("Ad" or "Md").

Seasonality: None ("N"), additive ("A") or multiplicative ("M")

ETS(A,N,N): SES with additive errors

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T$$

Measurement equation $y_t = \ell_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

State equation $\ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + \alpha \varepsilon_t$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \sigma^2)$.

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where $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \sigma^2)$.

- "innovations" or "single source of error" because equations have the same error process, ε_t .
- Measurement equation: relationship between observations and states.
- Transition/state equation(s): evolution of the state(s) through time.

ETS(M,N,N): SES with multiplicative errors

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T$$

Measurement equation $y_t = \ell_{t-1}(1 + \varepsilon_t)$

State equation $\ell_t = \ell_{t-1}(1 + \alpha \varepsilon_t)$

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Models with additive and multiplicative errors with the same parameters generate the same point forecasts but different prediction intervals.

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Holt's linear trend

Additive errors: ETS(A,A,N)

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T + hb_T$$

Measurement equation $y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

State equations $\ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha \varepsilon_t$
 $\ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + \beta \varepsilon_t$

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Multiplicative errors: ETS(M,A,N)

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T + hb_T$$

Measurement equation
$$y_t = (\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})(1 + \varepsilon_t)$$

State equations
$$\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})(1 + \alpha \varepsilon_t)$$

$$b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta \varepsilon_t$$

```
aus_economy <- global_economy %>%
 filter(Code == "AUS") %>%
 mutate(Pop = Population / 1e6)
fit <- aus economy %>% model(AAN = ETS(Pop))
report(fit)
## Series: Pop
## Model: ETS(A,A,N)
    Smoothing parameters:
##
      alpha = 1
##
##
      beta = 0.327
##
   Initial states:
##
##
   1. b
##
   10.1 0.222
##
##
    sigma^2: 0.0041
##
##
    ATC ATCC BTC
## -77.0 -75.8 -66.7
```

##

##

##

##

##

##

4 Australia AAN

5 Australia AAN

6 Australia AAN

7 Australia AAN

8 Australia AAN

9 Australia AAN

10 Auctralia AAN

components(fit) ## # A dable: 59 x 7 [1Y] ## # Key: Country, .model [1] ## # ETS(A,A,N) Decomposition: Pop = lag(level, 1) + lag(slope, 1) ## # remainder Country .model Year Pop level slope remainder ## ## <fct> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <fdb>> ## 1 Australia AAN 1959 NA 10.1 0.222 NA 2 Australia AAN 1960 10.3 10.3 0.222 -0.000145

3 Australia AAN 1961 10.5 10.5 0.217 -0.0159

1967

1060

1962 10.7 10.7 0.231 0.0418

1963 11.0 11.0 0.223 -0.0229

1964 11.2 11.2 0.221 -0.00641

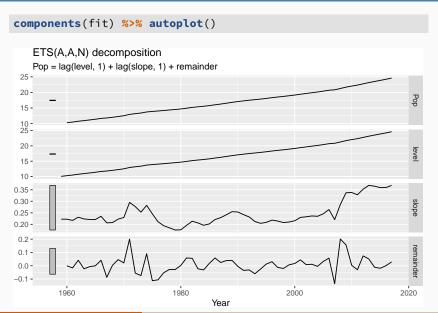
1965 11.4 11.4 0.221 -0.000314

11.8 11.8 0.206 -0.0869

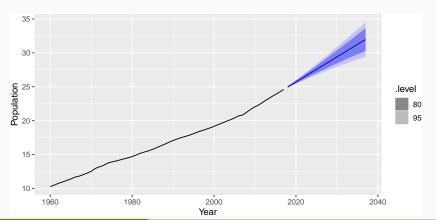
12 0 12 0 0 200 0 00250

16

1966 11.7 11.7 0.235 0.0418



```
fit %>%
  forecast(h = 20) %>%
  autoplot(aus_economy) +
  ylab("Population") + xlab("Year")
```



ETS(A,Ad,N): Damped trend method

Additive errors

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T + (\phi + \cdots + \phi^{h-1})b_T$$

Measurement equation $y_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \varepsilon_t$
State equations $\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \alpha \varepsilon_t$
 $\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \alpha \varepsilon_t$

ETS(A,Ad,N): Damped trend method

Additive errors

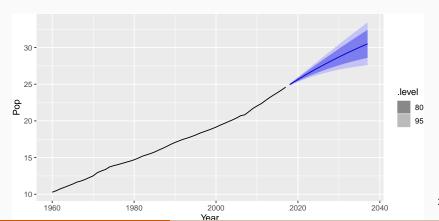
Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \ell_T + (\phi + \cdots + \phi^{h-1})b_T$$

Measurement equation $y_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \varepsilon_t$

State equations $\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \alpha \varepsilon_t$
 $\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) + \alpha \varepsilon_t$

- Damping parameter $0 < \phi < 1$.
- If ϕ = 1, identical to Holt's linear trend.
- As $h \to \infty$, $\hat{y}_{T+h|T} \to \ell_T + \phi b_T/(1-\phi)$.
- Short-run forecasts trended, long-run forecasts constant.

```
aus_economy %>%
  model(holt = ETS(Pop ~ trend("Ad"))) %>%
  forecast(h = 20) %>%
  autoplot(aus_economy)
```



Example: National populations

```
fit <- global_economy %>%
 mutate(Pop = Population / 1e6) %>%
 model(ets = ETS(Pop))
fit
## # A mable: 263 x 2
## # Key: Country [263]
## Country
                       ets
## <fct>
                      <model>
## 1 Afghanistan
                       <ETS(A,A,N)>
## 2 Albania
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 3 Algeria
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 4 American Samoa
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 5 Andorra
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 6 Angola
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 7 Antigua and Barbuda <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 8 Arab World
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## 9 Argentina
                        <ETS(A,A,N)>
## 10 Armenia
                        <ETS(M,A,N)>
## # ... with 253 more rows
```

Example: National populations

fit %>%

```
forecast(h = 5)
## # A fable: 1,315 x 5 [1Y]
  # Key: Country, .model [263]
##
## Country .model Year Pop .distribution
## <fct> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dist>
##
   1 Afghanistan ets 2018 36.4 N(36, 0.012)
##
   2 Afghanistan ets 2019 37.3 N(37, 0.059)
   3 Afghanistan ets
                       2020 38.2 N(38, 0.164)
##
##
   4 Afghanistan ets
                       2021 39.0 N(39, 0.351)
##
   5 Afghanistan ets
                       2022 39.9
                                 N(40, 0.644)
   6 Albania
                       2018 2.87 N(2.9, 0.00012)
##
               ets
##
   7 Albania
               ets
                       2019 2.87 N(2.9, 0.00060)
                       2020 2.87 N(2.9, 0.00169)
## 8 Albania
               ets
                       2021 2.86 N(2.9, 0.00362)
   9 Albania
##
               ets
```

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Lab Session 14

Try forecasting the Chinese GDP from the global_economy data set using an ETS model.

Experiment with the various options in the ETS() function to see how much the forecasts change with damped trend, or with a Box-Cox transformation. Try to develop an intuition of what each is doing to the forecasts.

[Hint: use h=20 when forecasting, so you can clearly see the differences between the various options when plotting the forecasts.]

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ETS(A,A,A): Holt-Winters additive method

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = \ell_t + hb_t + s_{t+h-m(k+1)}$$

Observation equation $y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-m} + \varepsilon_t$
State equations $\ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha \varepsilon_t$
 $b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta \varepsilon_t$
 $s_t = s_{t-m} + \gamma \varepsilon_t$

- k = integer part of (h-1)/m.
- \blacksquare $\sum_i s_i \approx 0.$
- Parameters: $0 \le \alpha \le 1$, $0 \le \beta^* \le 1$, $0 \le \gamma \le 1 \alpha$ and m = period of seasonality (e.g. m = 4 for quarterly data).

ETS(M,A,M): Holt-Winters multiplicative method

Forecast equation
$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = (\ell_t + hb_t)s_{t+h-m(k+1)}$$

Observation equation $y_t = (\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})s_{t-m}(1 + \varepsilon_t)$
State equations $\ell_t = (\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})(1 + \alpha \varepsilon_t)$
 $b_t = b_{t-1}(1 + \beta \varepsilon_t)$
 $s_t = s_{t-m}(1 + \gamma \varepsilon_t)$

- k is integer part of (h-1)/m.
- lacksquare $\sum_i s_i \approx m$.
- Parameters: $0 \le \alpha \le 1$, $0 \le \beta^* \le 1$, $0 \le \gamma \le 1 \alpha$ and m = period of seasonality (e.g. m = 4 for quarterly data).

```
holidays <- tourism %>%
 filter(Purpose == "Holiday")
fit <- holidays %>% model(ets = ETS(Trips))
fit
## # A mable: 76 x 4
## # Key: Region, State, Purpose [76]
##
     Region
                                State
                                                  Purpose ets
     <chr>
                                <chr>>
                                                  <chr> <model>
##
   1 Adelaide
                                South Australia Holiday <ETS(A,N,A~
##
   2 Adelaide Hills
##
                                South Australia
                                                  Holiday <ETS(A,A,N~
##
   3 Alice Springs
                                Northern Territo~ Holiday <ETS(M,N,A~
   4 Australia's Coral Coast
                                Western Australia Holiday <ETS(M,N,A~
##
   5 Australia's Golden Outba~
                                Western Australia Holiday <ETS(M,N,M~
##
   6 Australia's North West
##
                                Western Australia Holiday <ETS(A,N,A~
                                Western Australia Holiday <ETS(M,N,M~
##
    7 Australia's South West
##
   8 Ballarat
                                Victoria
                                                  Holiday <ETS(M,N,A~
##
   9 Barkly
                                Northern Territo~ Holiday <ETS(A,N,A~
                                South Australia Holiday <ETS(A,N,N~ 28
## 10 Barossa
```

##

##

ATC ATCC BTC

852 854 869

```
fit %>%
 filter(Region == "Snowy Mountains") %>%
 report()
## Series: Trips
## Model: ETS(M,N,A)
    Smoothing parameters:
##
##
       alpha = 0.157
##
      gamma = 1e-04
##
##
    Initial states:
##
     l s1 s2 s3 s4
##
    142 -61 131 -42.2 -27.7
##
##
    sigma^2: 0.0388
##
```

```
fit %>%
  filter(Region == "Snowy Mountains") %>%
  components(fit)
```

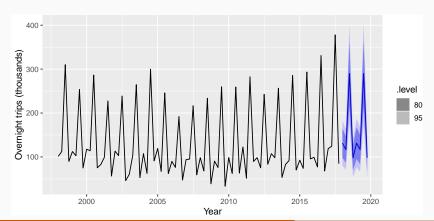
```
## # A dable:
                              84 x 9 [10]
## # Kev:
                              Region, State, Purpose, .model [1]
## # ETS(M,N,A) Decomposition: Trips = (lag(level, 1) + lag(season,
## # 4)) \star (1 + remainder)
##
     Region State Purpose .model
                                   Quarter Trips level season
##
     <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr>
                                     <qtr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
##
   1 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1997 Q1 NA
                                                   NA
                                                        -27.7
##
   2 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1997 Q2 NA
                                                   NA
                                                       -42.2
##
   3 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                                   NA
                                                        131.
                                   1997 03 NA
##
   4 Snowv~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1997 Q4 NA 142. -61.0
   5 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
##
                                   1998 01 101. 140. -27.7
##
   6 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1998 02 112. 142. -42.2
##
   7 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1998 Q3 310. 148. 131.
   8 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1998 Q4 89.8 148. -61.0
##
##
   9 Snowy~ New ~ Holiday ets
                                   1999 01 112.
                                                  147.
                                                       -27.7
```

```
fit %>%
  filter(Region == "Snowy Mountains") %>%
  components(fit) %>%
  autoplot()
     ETS(M,N,A) decomposition
     Trips = (lag(level, 1) + lag(season, 4)) * (1 + remainder)
 300 -
 200 -
 100 -
 160 -
 150 -
 140 -
 130 -
 120 -
 110 -
 100 -
  50 -
   0 -
 -50 -
0.25 -
0.00 -
-0.25 -
```

fit %>% forecast()

```
## # A fable: 608 x 7 [10]
## # Key:
             Region, State, Purpose, .model [76]
##
     Region
               State Purpose .model
                                        Quarter Trips .distribution
##
     <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr>
                                          <atr> <dbl> <dist>
   1 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2018 Q1 210. N(210, 457)
##
   2 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
##
                                        2018 Q2 173. N(173, 473)
   3 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
##
                                        2018 Q3 169. N(169, 489)
##
   4 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2018 Q4 186. N(186, 505)
##
   5 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2019 Q1 210. N(210, 521)
##
   6 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2019 Q2 173. N(173, 537)
##
   7 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2019 03 169. N(169, 553)
   8 Adelaide South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2019 04 186. N(186, 569)
##
   9 Adelaide~ South A~ Holiday ets
##
                                        2018 01 19.4 N(19, 36)
## 10 Adelaide~ South A~ Holiday ets
                                        2018 02 19.6 N(20, 36)
## # ... with 598 more rows
```

```
fit %>%
  forecast() %>%
  filter(Region == "Snowy Mountains") %>%
  autoplot(holidays) +
  xlab("Year") + ylab("Overnight trips (thousands)")
```



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Exponential smoothing models

Additive Error		Seasonal Component			
Trend		N	Α	М	
	Component	(None)	(Additive)	(Multiplicative)	
Ν	(None)	A,N,N	A,N,A	<u> </u>	
Α	(Additive)	A,A,N	A,A,A	<u> </u>	
A_d	(Additive damped)	A,A_d,N	A,A_d,A	<u>^,,,</u> ∧,	

Multiplicative Error		Seasonal Component			
	Trend	N	Α	М	
	Component	(None)	(Additive)	(Multiplicative)	
N	(None)	M,N,N	M,N,A	M,N,M	
Α	(Additive)	M,A,N	M,A,A	M,A,M	
A_d	(Additive damped)	M,A _d ,N	M,A_d,A	M,A_d,M	

Estimating ETS models

- Smoothing parameters α , β , γ and ϕ , and the initial states ℓ_0 , b_0 , s_0 , s_{-1} , . . . , s_{-m+1} are estimated by maximising the "likelihood" = the probability of the data arising from the specified model.
- For models with additive errors equivalent to minimising SSE.
- For models with multiplicative errors, not equivalent to minimising SSE.

Model selection

Akaike's Information Criterion

$$AIC = -2\log(L) + 2k$$

where *L* is the likelihood and *k* is the number of parameters initial states estimated in the model.

Model selection

Akaike's Information Criterion

$$AIC = -2\log(L) + 2k$$

where *L* is the likelihood and *k* is the number of parameters initial states estimated in the model.

Corrected AIC

$$AIC_c = AIC + \frac{2(k+1)(k+2)}{T-k}$$

which is the AIC corrected (for small sample bias).

Model selection

Akaike's Information Criterion

$$AIC = -2\log(L) + 2k$$

where *L* is the likelihood and *k* is the number of parameters initial states estimated in the model.

Corrected AIC

$$AIC_c = AIC + \frac{2(k+1)(k+2)}{T-k}$$

which is the AIC corrected (for small sample bias).

Bayesian Information Criterion

$$BIC = AIC + k(\log(T) - 2).$$

AIC and cross-validation

Minimizing the AIC assuming
Gaussian residuals is asymptotically
equivalent to minimizing one-step
time series cross validation MSE.

Automatic forecasting

From Hyndman et al. (IJF, 2002):

- Apply each model that is appropriate to the data.

 Optimize parameters and initial values using

 MLE.
- Select best method using AICc.
- Produce forecasts using best method.
- Obtain forecast intervals using underlying state space model.
 - Method performed very well in M3 competition.
 - Used as a benchmark in the M4 competition.

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Lab Session 15

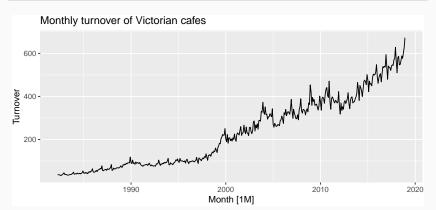
Find an ETS model for the Gas data from aus_production.

- Why is multiplicative seasonality necessary here?
- Experiment with making the trend damped. Does it improve the forecasts?

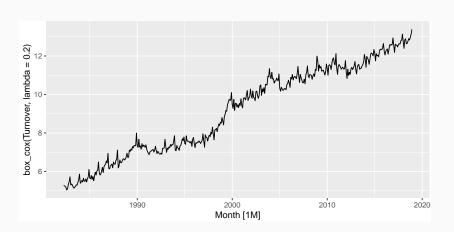
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Non-Gaussian forecast distributions



```
vic_cafe %>% autoplot(box_cox(Turnover, lambda = 0.2))
```



##

##

5 ets

6 ets

2019 Mav

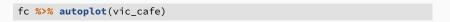
2019 Jun

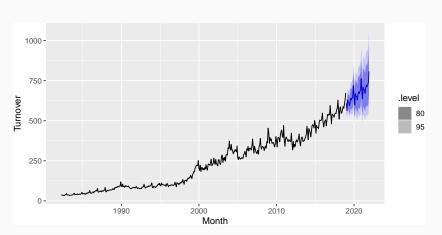
```
fit <- vic_cafe %>%
 model(ets = ETS(box_cox(Turnover, 0.2)))
fit
## # A mable: 1 x 1
## ets
## <model>
## 1 <ETS(A.A.A)>
(fc <- fit %>% forecast(h = "3 years"))
## # A fable: 36 x 4 [1M]
## # Key: .model [1]
##
  .model Month Turnover .distribution
##
  <chr> <mth> <dbl> <dist>
##
   1 ets 2019 Jan 608. t(N(13, 0.020))
   2 ets 2019 Feb
                       563. t(N(13, 0.028))
##
##
  3 ets 2019 Mar
                       629. t(N(13, 0.036))
  4 ets 2019 Apr
##
                       615. t(N(13, 0.044))
```

613. t(N(13, 0.052))

593. t(N(13, 0.061))

```
fit <- vic_cafe %>%
 model(ets = ETS(box_cox(Turnover, 0.2)))
fit
## # A mable: 1 x 1
                                    ■ t(N) denotes a
##
    ets
                                       transformed normal
## <model>
## 1 <ETS(A,A,A)>
                                       distribution.
                                    back-transformation
(fc <- fit %>% forecast(h = "3 years
                                       and bias adjustment is
## # A fable: 36 x 4 [1M]
                                       done automatically.
## # Kev: .model [1]
##
    .model
              Month Turnover .distribution
##
   <chr> <mth>
                      <dbl> <dist>
##
   1 ets 2019 Jan
                       608. t(N(13, 0.020))
   2 ets 2019 Feb
                       563. t(N(13, 0.028))
##
                       629. t(N(13, 0.036))
##
  3 ets 2019 Mar
  4 ets 2019 Apr
                       615. t(N(13, 0.044))
##
##
   5 ets
           2019 May
                       613. t(N(13, 0.052))
                       593. t(N(13, 0.061))
##
   6 ets
           2019 Jun
```

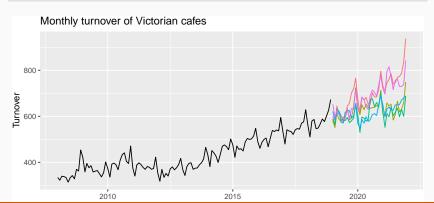




```
sim <- fit %>% generate(h = "3 years", times = 5, bootstrap = TRUE)
sim
```

```
## # A tsibble: 180 x 4 [1M]
## # Key: .model, .rep [5]
##
  .model .rep Month .sim
##
  <chr> <int> <mth> <dbl>
  1 ets 1 2019 Jan 600.
##
##
  2 ets 1 2019 Feb 559.
##
  3 ets 1 2019 Mar 644.
##
  4 ets 1 2019 Apr 609.
##
  5 ets 1 2019 May 587.
##
  6 ets 1 2019 Jun 573.
## 7 ets 1 2019 Jul 594.
## 8 ets
            1 2019 Aug 645.
             1 2019 Sep 657.
##
  9 ets
## 10 ets 1 2019 Oct 702.
## # ... with 170 more rows
```

```
vic_cafe %>%
  filter(year(Month) >= 2008) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Month)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = Turnover)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = .sim, colour = as.factor(.rep)), data = sim) +
  ggtitle("Monthly turnover of Victorian cafes") +
  guides(col = FALSE)
```



```
fc <- fit %>% forecast(h = "3 years", bootstrap = TRUE)
fc
## # A fable: 36 x 4 [1M]
## # Kev: .model [1]
##
     .model
              Month Turnover .distribution
##
   <chr> <mth>
                      <dbl> <dist>
   1 ets 2019 Jan
                       608. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
##
   2 ets 2019 Feb
                       563. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
   3 ets 2019 Mar
                       629. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
   4 ets
           2019 Apr
                       615. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
   5 ets
                       613. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
           2019 Mav
##
   6 ets
           2019 Jun
                       593. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
  7 ets 2019 Jul
                       624. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
  8 ets 2019 Aug
##
                       640. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
                       630. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
##
   9 ets
           2019 Sep
## 10 ets
           2019 Oct
                       642. t(sim(=dbl[5000]))
## # ... with 26 more rows
```

```
fc %>% autoplot(vic_cafe) +
   ggtitle("Monthly turnover of Victorian cafes")
```

