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FORECASTING

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

A comprehensive introduction to the latest forecasting methods using R. Learn to improve your forecast accuracy using dozens of real data examples.



3RD EDITION

 **OTexts**
Open Texts Publishing

9. ARIMA models

9.1 Stationary and differencing

OTexts.org/fpp3/

Stationarity

Definition

If $\{y_t\}$ is a stationary time series, then for all s , the distribution of (y_t, \dots, y_{t+s}) does not depend on t .

Stationarity

Definition

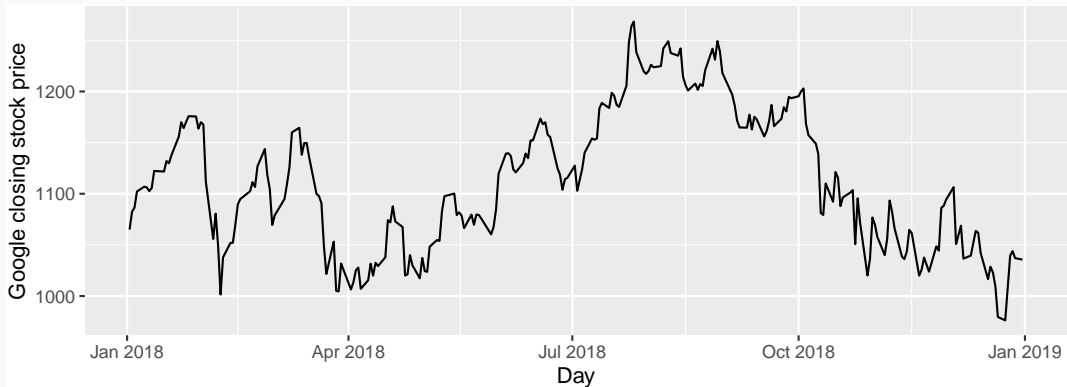
If $\{y_t\}$ is a stationary time series, then for all s , the distribution of (y_t, \dots, y_{t+s}) does not depend on t .

A **stationary series** is:

- roughly horizontal
- constant variance
- no patterns predictable in the long-term

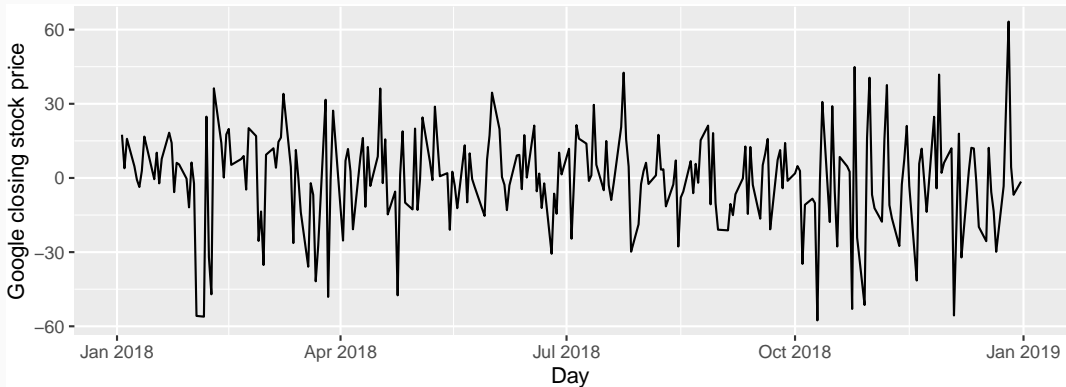
Stationary?

```
gafa_stock |>  
  filter(Symbol == "GOOG", year(Date) == 2018) |>  
  autoplot(Close) +  
  labs(y = "Google closing stock price", x = "Day")
```



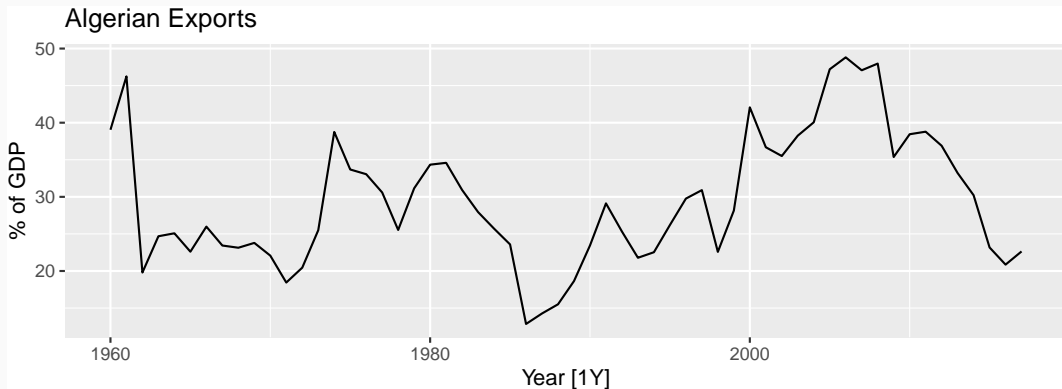
Stationary?

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gafa_stock |>  
  filter(Symbol == "GOOG", year(Date) == 2018) |>  
  autoplot(difference(Close)) +  
  labs(y = "Google closing stock price", x = "Day")
```



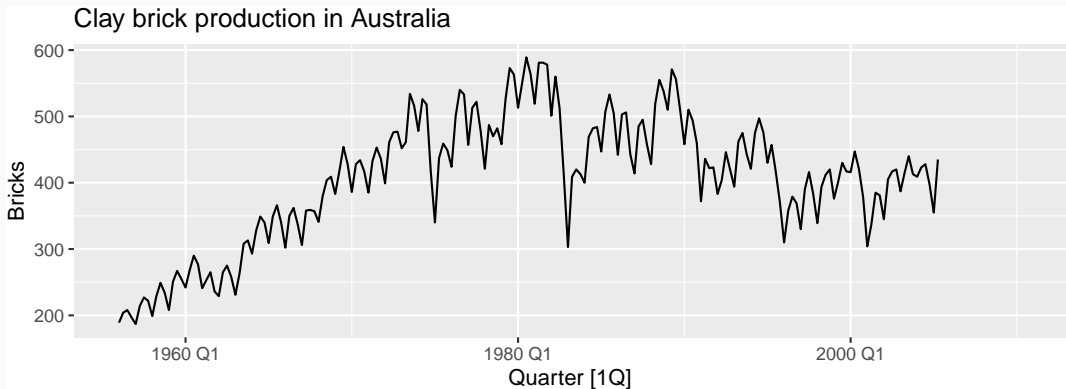
Stationary?

```
global_economy |>  
  filter(Country == "Algeria") |>  
  autoplot(Exports) +  
  labs(y = "% of GDP", title = "Algerian Exports")
```



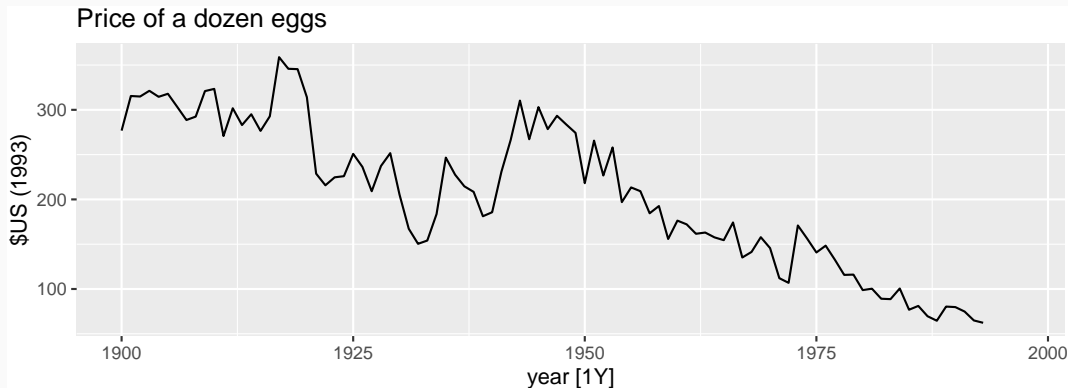
Stationary?

```
aus_production |>  
  autoplot(Bricks) +  
  labs(title = "Clay brick production in Australia")
```



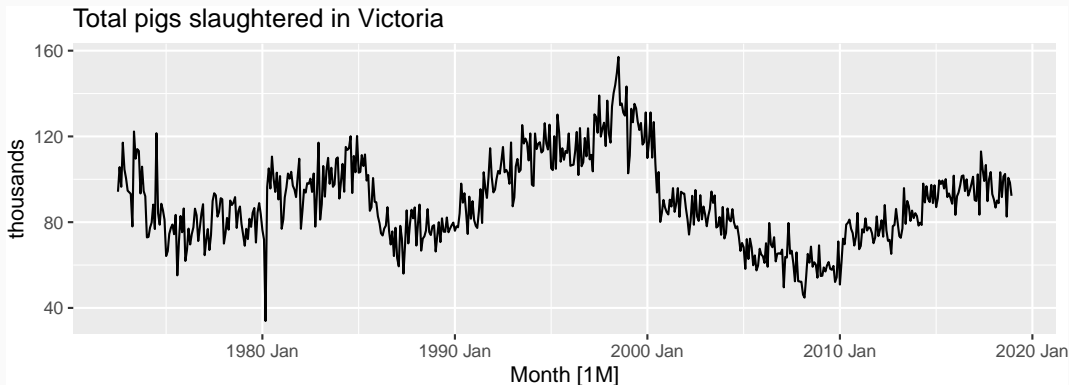
Stationary?

```
prices |>  
  filter(year >= 1900) |>  
  autoplot(eggs) +  
  labs(y = "$US (1993)", title = "Price of a dozen eggs")
```



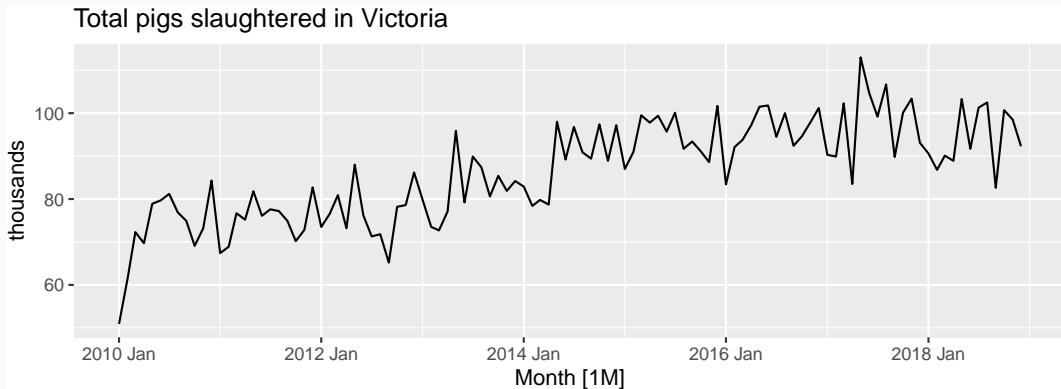
Stationary?

```
aus_livestock |>  
  filter(Animal == "Pigs", State == "Victoria") |>  
  autoplot(Count / 1e3) +  
  labs(y = "thousands", title = "Total pigs slaughtered in Victoria")
```



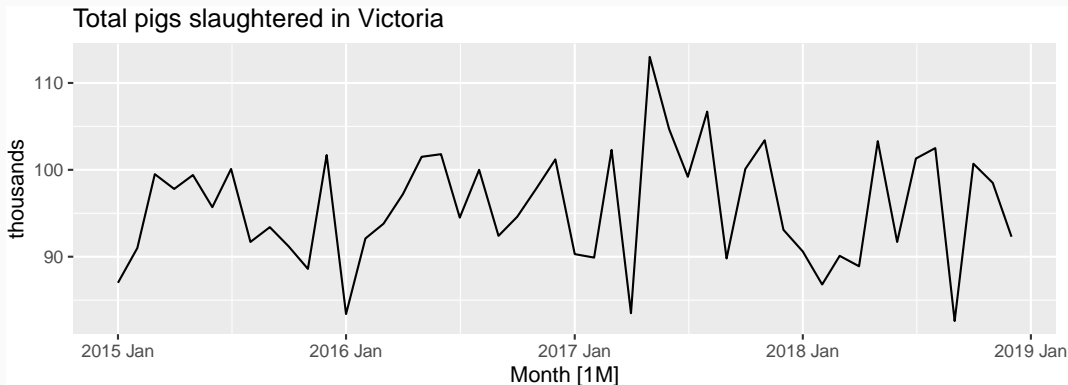
Stationary?

```
aus_livestock |>  
  filter(Animal == "Pigs", State == "Victoria", year(Month) >= 2010) |>  
  autoplot(Count / 1e3) +  
  labs(y = "thousands", title = "Total pigs slaughtered in Victoria")
```



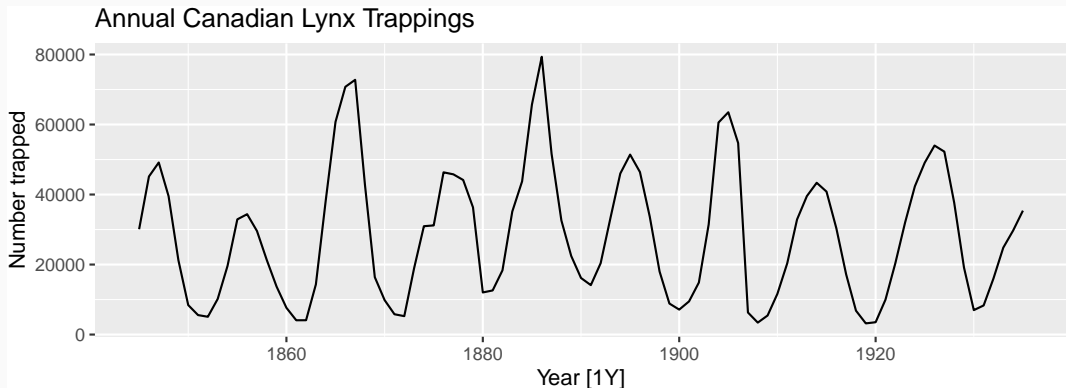
Stationary?

```
aus_livestock |>  
  filter(Animal == "Pigs", State == "Victoria", year(Month) >= 2015) |>  
  autoplot(Count / 1e3) +  
  labs(y = "thousands", title = "Total pigs slaughtered in Victoria")
```



Stationary?

```
pelt |>  
  autoplot(Lynx) +  
  labs(y = "Number trapped", title = "Annual Canadian Lynx Trappings")
```



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Transformations help to **stabilize the variance**.

For ARIMA modelling, we also need to **stabilize the mean**.

Non-stationarity in the mean

Identifying non-stationary series

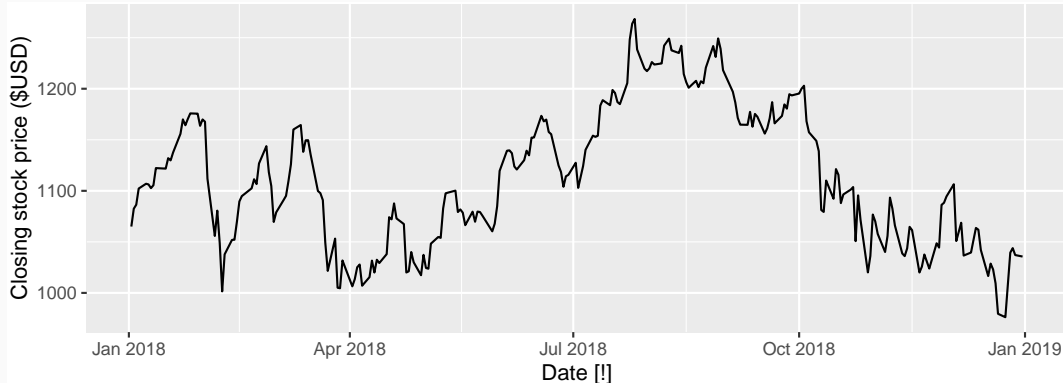
- time plot.
- The ACF of stationary data drops to zero relatively quickly
- The ACF of non-stationary data decreases slowly.
- For non-stationary data, the value of r_1 is often large and positive.

Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 <- gafa_stock |>  
  filter(Symbol == "GOOG", year(Date) == 2018)
```

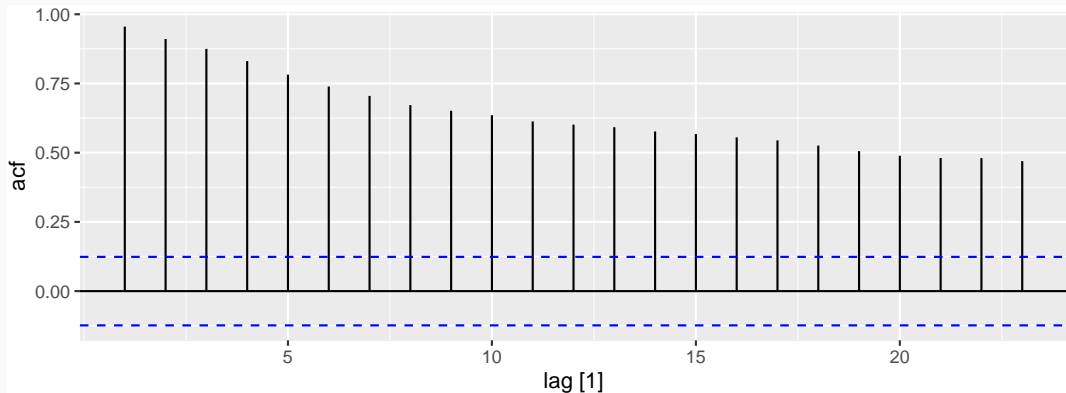

Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  autoplot(Close) +  
  labs(y = "Closing stock price ($USD)")
```



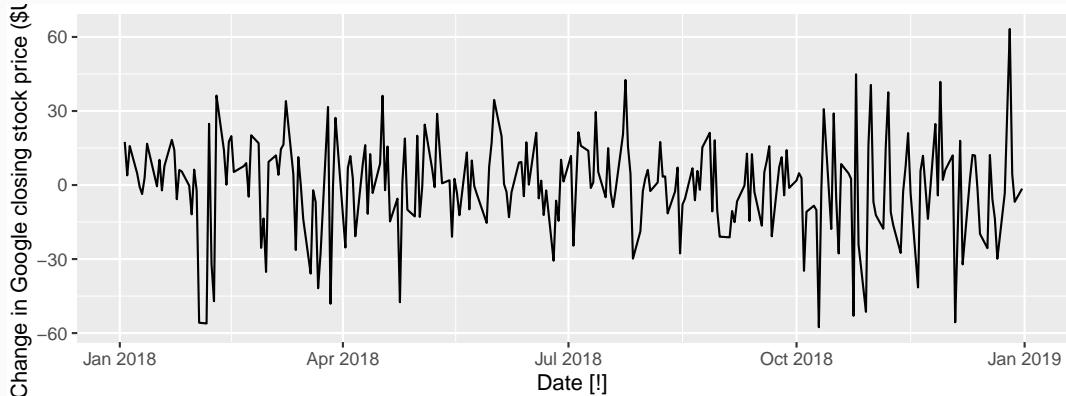
Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  ACF(Close) |>  
  autoplot()
```



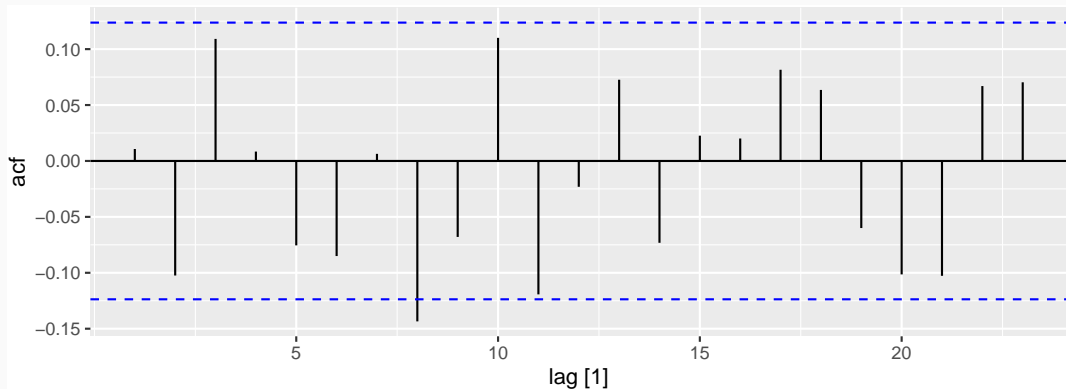
Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  autoplot(difference(Close)) +  
  labs(y = "Change in Google closing stock price ($USD)")
```



Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  ACF(difference(Close)) |>  
  autoplot()
```



Differencing

- Differencing helps to **stabilize the mean**.
- The differenced series is the *change* between each observation in the original series: $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-1}$.
- The differenced series will have only $T - 1$ values since it is not possible to calculate a difference y'_1 for the first observation.

Random walk model

If differenced series is white noise with zero mean:

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = \varepsilon_t \quad \text{or} \quad y_t = y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

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

- Very widely used for non-stationary data.
- This is the model behind the **naïve method**.
- Random walks typically have:
 - ▶ long periods of apparent trends up or down
 - ▶ Sudden/unpredictable changes in direction
- Forecast are equal to the last observation
 - ▶ future movements up or down are equally likely.

Random walk with drift model

If differenced series is white noise with non-zero mean:

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = c + \varepsilon_t \quad \text{or} \quad y_t = c + y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

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

- c is the **average change** between consecutive observations.
- If $c > 0$, y_t will tend to drift upwards and vice versa.
- This is the model behind the **drift method**.

Second-order differencing

Occasionally the differenced data will not appear stationary and it may be necessary to difference the data a second time:

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$$\begin{aligned}y_t'' &= y_t' - y_{t-1}' \\&= (y_t - y_{t-1}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-2}) \\&= y_t - 2y_{t-1} + y_{t-2}.\end{aligned}$$

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- y_t'' will have $T - 2$ values.
- In practice, it is almost never necessary to go beyond second-order differences.

Seasonal differencing

A seasonal difference is the difference between an observation and the corresponding observation from the previous year.

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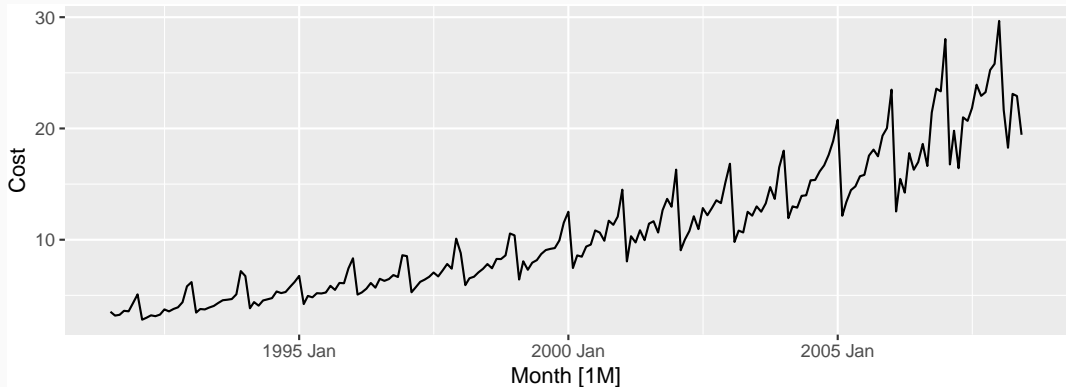
- For monthly data $m = 12$.
- For quarterly data $m = 4$.

Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 <- PBS |>  
  filter(ATC2 == "A10") |>  
  summarise(Cost = sum(Cost) / 1e6)
```

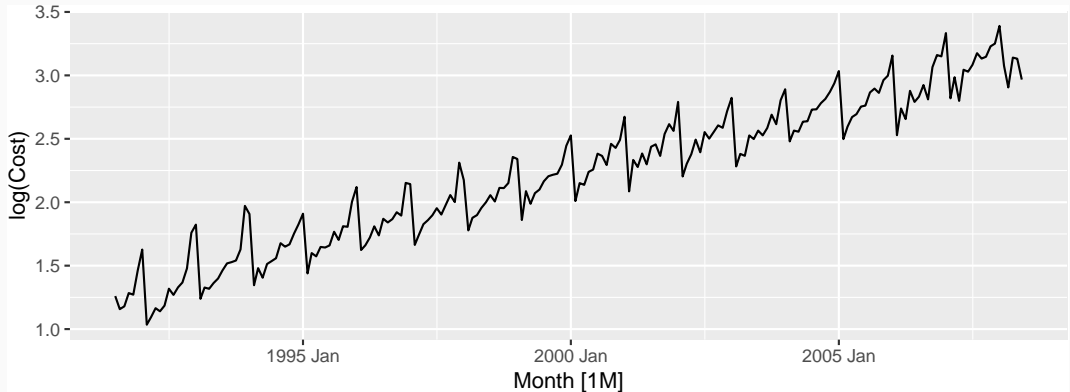
Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  Cost  
)
```



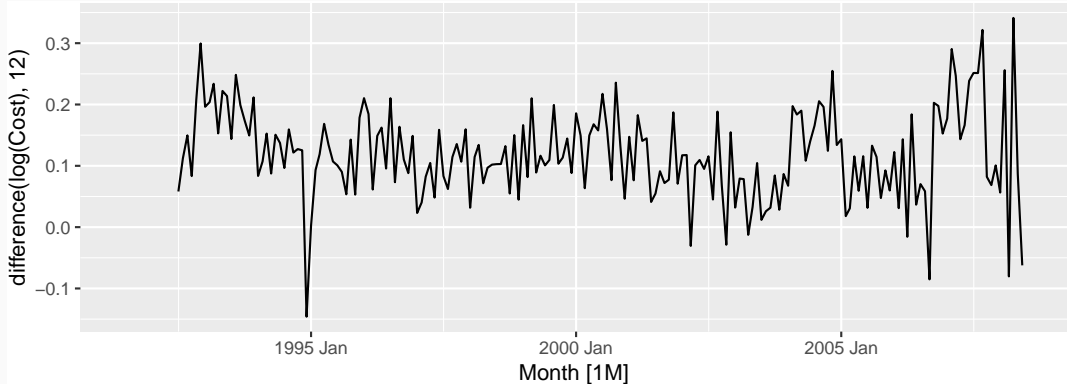
Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost)  
)
```



Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12)  
)
```

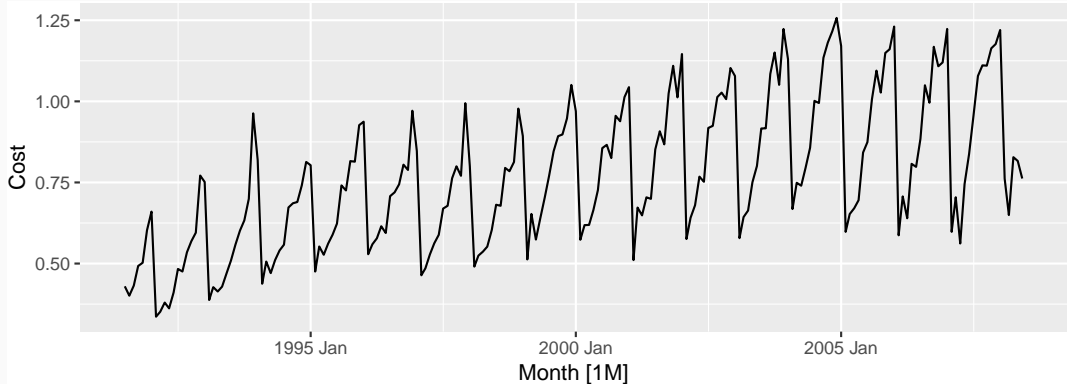


Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 <- PBS |>  
  filter(ATC2 == "H02") |>  
  summarise(Cost = sum(Cost) / 1e6)
```

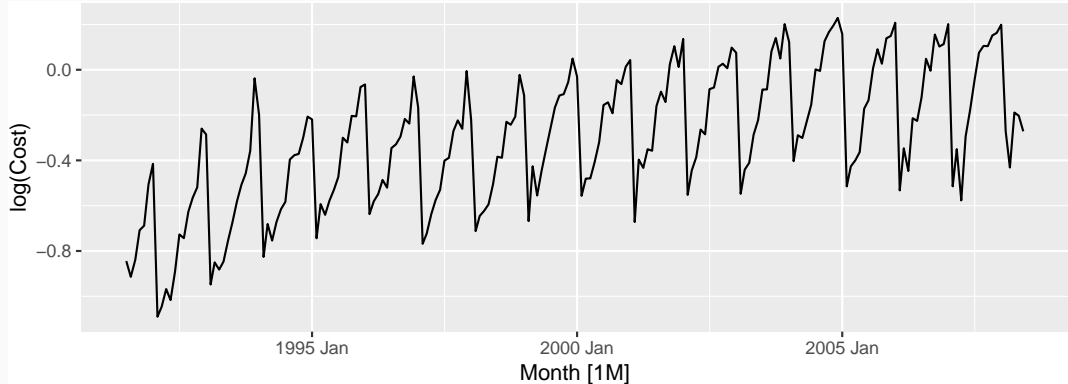
Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  Cost  
)
```



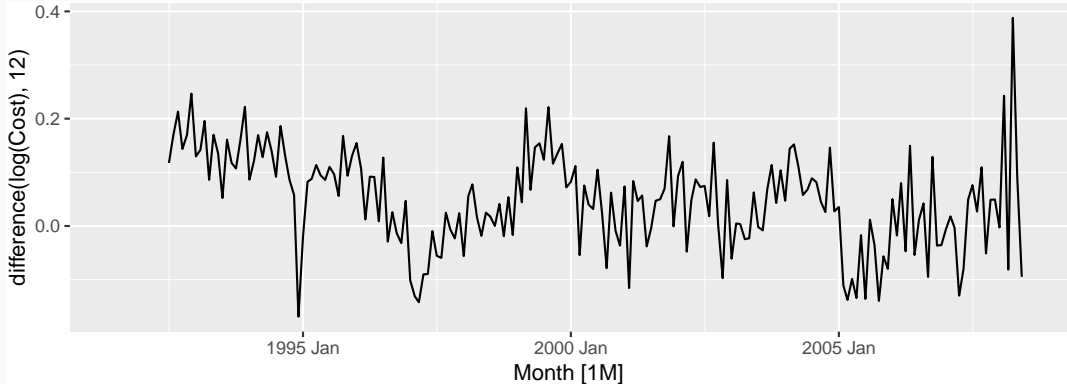
Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost)  
)
```



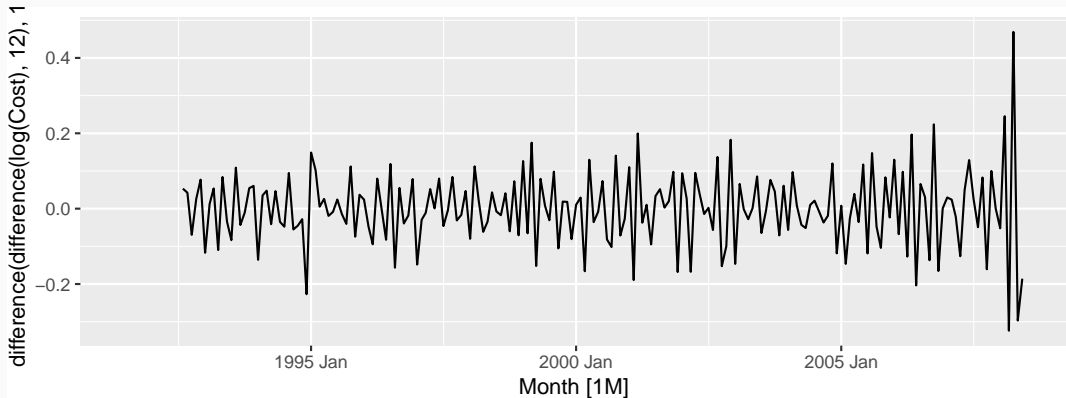
Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12)  
)
```



Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12) |> difference(1)  
)
```



Corticosteroid drug sales

- Seasonally differenced series is closer to being stationary.
- Remaining non-stationarity can be removed with further first difference.

If $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-12}$ denotes seasonally differenced series, then twice-differenced series is

$$\begin{aligned}y_t^* &= y'_t - y'_{t-1} \\&= (y_t - y_{t-12}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-13}) \\&= y_t - y_{t-1} - y_{t-12} + y_{t-13} .\end{aligned}$$

Seasonal differencing

When both seasonal and first differences are applied...

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- it makes no difference which is done first—the result will be the same.
- If seasonality is strong, we recommend that seasonal differencing be done first because sometimes the resulting series will be stationary and there will be no need for further first difference.

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It is important that if differencing is used, the differences are interpretable.

Interpretation of differencing

- first differences are the change between **one observation and the next**;
- seasonal differences are the change between **one year to the next**.

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But taking lag 3 differences for yearly data, for example, results in a model which cannot be sensibly interpreted.

Unit root tests

Statistical tests to determine the required order of differencing.

- 1 Augmented Dickey Fuller test: null hypothesis is that the data are non-stationary and non-seasonal.
- 2 Kwiatkowski-Phillips-Schmidt-Shin (KPSS) test: null hypothesis is that the data are stationary and non-seasonal.
- 3 Other tests available for seasonal data.

KPSS test

```
google_2018 |>  
  features(Close, unitroot_kpss)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 3  
##   Symbol kpss_stat kpss_pvalue  
##   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>  
## 1 GOOG      0.573      0.0252
```

KPSS test

```
google_2018 |>  
  features(Close, unitroot_kpss)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 3  
##   Symbol kpss_stat kpss_pvalue  
##   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>  
## 1 GOOG      0.573      0.0252
```

```
google_2018 |>  
  features(Close, unitroot_ndiffs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 2  
##   Symbol ndiffs  
##   <chr>   <int>  
## 1 GOOG     1
```

Automatically selecting differences

STL decomposition: $y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$

Seasonal strength $F_s = \max\left(0, 1 - \frac{\text{Var}(R_t)}{\text{Var}(S_t + R_t)}\right)$

If $F_s > 0.64$, do one seasonal difference.

```
h02 |>
  mutate(log_sales = log(Cost)) |>
  features(log_sales, list(unitroot_nsdiffs, feat_stl)) |>
  select(1:3)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 3
##   nsdiffs trend_strength seasonal_strength_year
##   <int>      <dbl>          <dbl>
## 1      1      0.957          0.955
```


Automatically selecting differences

```
h02 |>  
  mutate(log_sales = log(Cost)) |>  
  features(log_sales, unitroot_nsdiffs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1  
##   nsdiffs  
##   <int>  
## 1       1
```

```
h02 |>  
  mutate(d_log_sales = difference(log(Cost), 12)) |>  
  features(d_log_sales, unitroot_ndiffs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1  
##   ndiffs  
##   <int>  
## 1       1
```