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ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES  
JULY 1996

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**MAIN FEATURES**

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,794,600 in June 1996, an increase of 0.7% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.1% over the same period.
UNEMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 232,400 in June 1996, a fall of 3.9% on the previous month and a rise of 2.8% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June 1996 was 7.7% in NSW and 8.3% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	Seasonally adjusted, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW decreased by 19.6% from 20,626 in April 1996 to 16,586 in May 1996.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in May 1996 was 3,915, an increase of 16.4% on the previous month, but 10.9% lower than in May 1995.
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS	The number of new dwelling units commenced in NSW in March Quarter 1996 was 9,564, an increase of 2.9% on the previous quarter, but a decrease of 15.7% on March Quarter 1995.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in May 1996 rose by 21.5% from April 1996 and 11.0% from May 1995.

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**NOTES**

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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Gregory W. Bray  
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

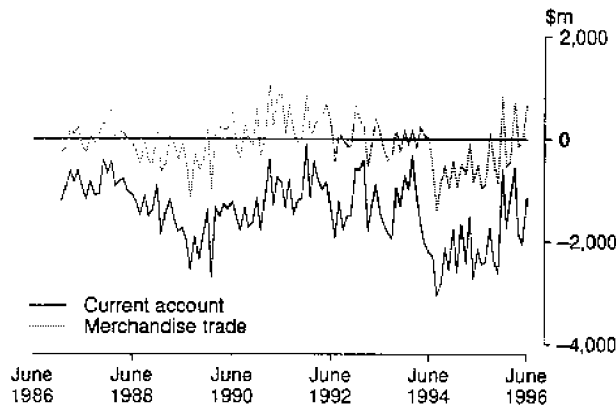
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- INQUIRIES:
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Peter Bellhouse on Sydney (02) 9268 4377 or any ABS office.
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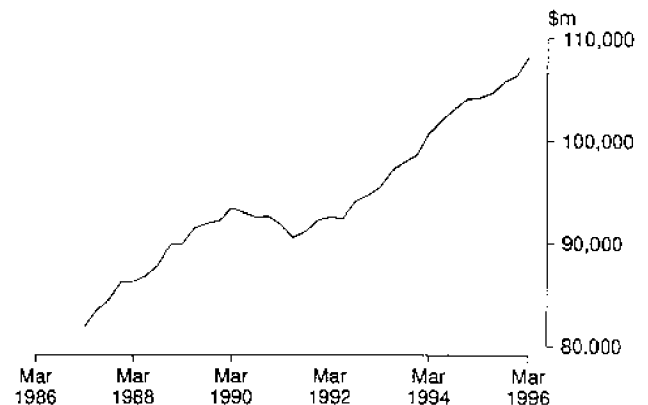
## NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
<b>National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—</b>							
Gross non-farm product	%	Mar. qtr 96	1.7	3.3			
Gross domestic product	%	Mar. qtr 96	1.9	4.0			
<i>Figures for preceding periods</i>							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
<b>Balance of payments—</b>							
Merchandise exports	\$m	June 96	6 269	6 619	6 173	6 849	5 709
Merchandise imports	\$m	June 96	-5 572	-6 705	-6 312	-6 098	-6 221
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	June 96	697	-86	-139	751	-512
Balance on goods and services	\$m	June 96	516	-299	-182	905	-851
Balance on current account	\$m	June 96	-1 141	-2 055	-1 844	-570	-2 146
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	June 96	-1 291	-2 203	-2 011	-1 310	-2 034
<b>Terms of trade for goods and services—</b>							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		Mar. qtr 96	96.0	93.9	94.0	93.2	92.7
<b>Exchange Rates at end of period—</b>							
\$US/\$A		June 96	0.7890	0.7983	0.7854	0.7793	0.7086
Trade weighted index of value SA	May 1970 = 100	June 96	58.1	58.7	57.1	56.8	48.4
<b>Interest Rates—</b>							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	June 96	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.60-10.75

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)**



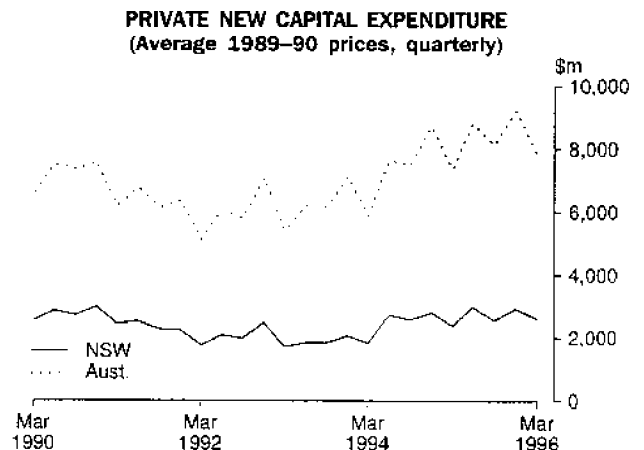
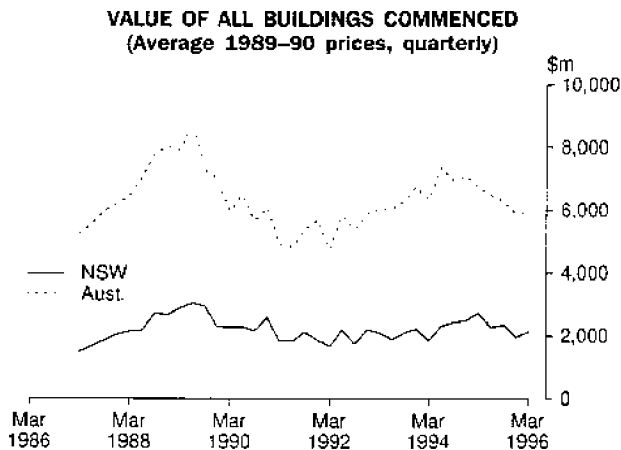
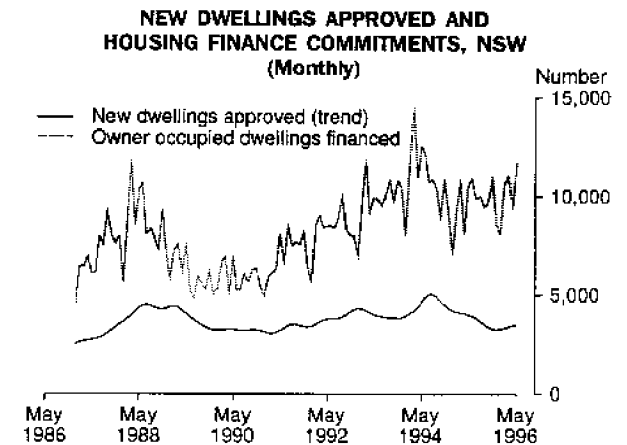
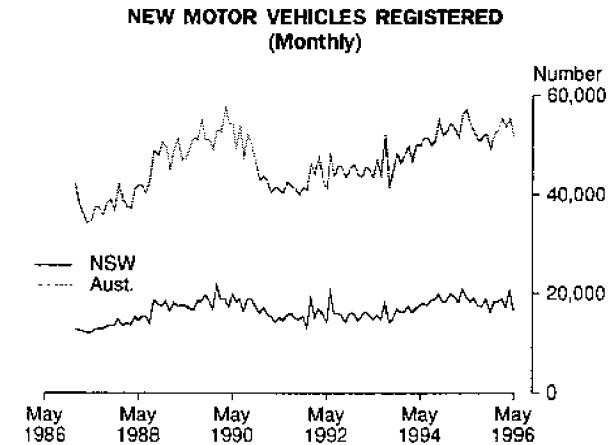
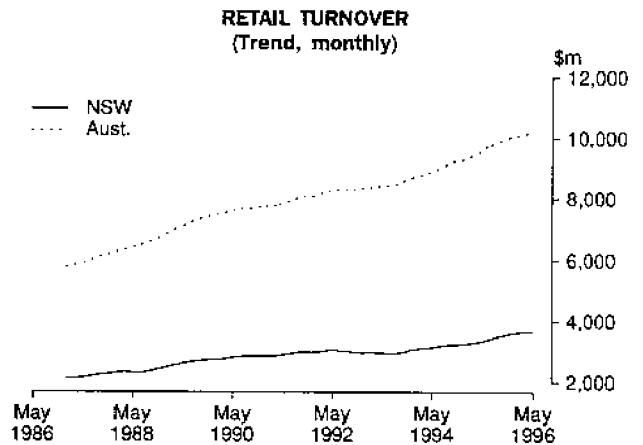
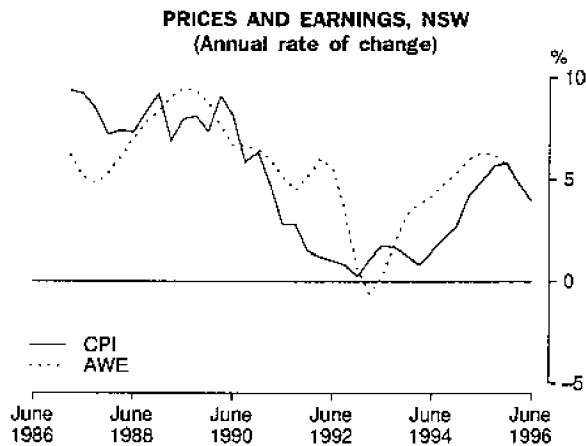
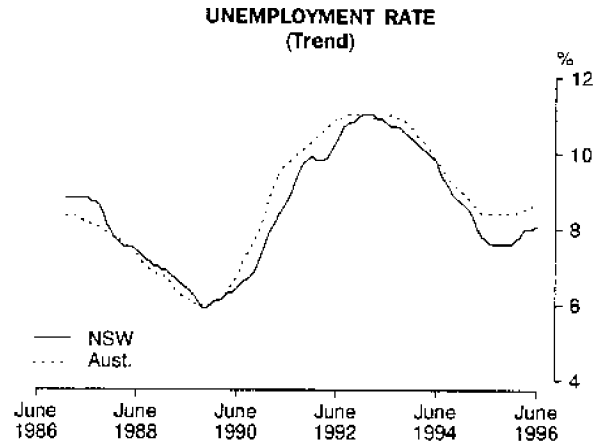
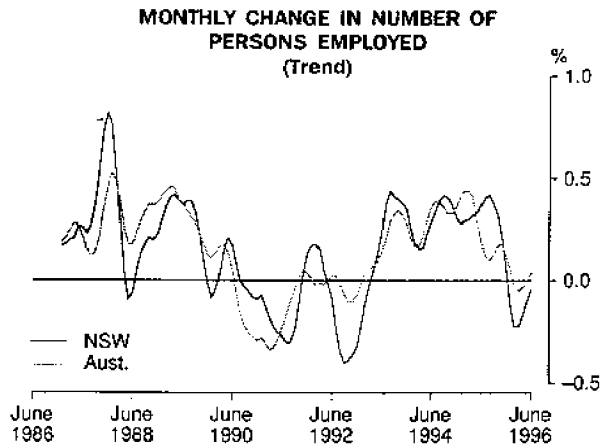
**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)**



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## NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	June 96	7.7	8.1	9.4	8.8	8.2	10.6	8.3
<b>Percentage change from previous year—</b>								
Employed persons	June 96	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5	0.2	1.4	1.0
Consumer price index: all groups	June qtr 96	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.1
Average weekly employee earnings:								
full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Feb. 96	4.8	3.8	3.1	1.9	7.3	3.0	4.3
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	May 96	9.2	4.4	3.0	1.8	7.5	5.3	5.9
New motor vehicle registrations	May 96	-14.8	-3.9	-10.2	-12.7	-1.6	-11.4	-9.8
Dwelling units approved	May 96	-10.6	-26.6	-2.8	-14.3	-20.8	-30.3	-13.6
Value of non-residential building approved	May 96	-3.5	12.2	-45.0	305.3	85.4	126.1	17.3
Value of all buildings approved	May 96	-2.0	-12.5	-8.9	113.6	13.4	32.4	3.2
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar. qtr 96	11.9	2.0	2.9	26.6	56.5	54.7	14.2
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Mar. qtr 96	3.9	3.2	-1.2	3.2	0.5	-1.6	1.5
Actual private new capital expenditure	Mar. qtr 96	9.8	11.8	5.1	-15.9	3.9	-20.0	7.4



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales			Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %	Latest figure	Change from prior period %	Change from same period prior year %
<b>Population</b>								
Estimated resident population	'000s	Dec. qtr 95	6 155	0.33	1.26	18 174	0.33	1.35
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000s	June 96	4 864	0.14	1.38	14 343	0.14	1.54
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000s	June 96	2 116	0.3	-0.1	6 243	-0.1	0.5
—total (original series)	'000s	June 96	2 797	0.4	1.0	8 354	0.2	1.0
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	June 96	2 795	0.7	1.0	8 333	0.1	1.0
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000s	June 96	225	-2.8	2.9	731	-3.6	0.8
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000s	June 96	232	-3.9	2.8	757	-2.2	0.9
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	June 96	3 027	0.4	1.1	9 091	-0.1	1.0
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	June 96	62.2	0.2	-0.2	63.4	-0.2	-0.6
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	June 96	7.7	-4.2	1.6	8.3	-2.1	0.0
Job vacancies	'000s	May 96	25	-8.6	2.5	54	-16.1	-0.2
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	May 96	7.6	4.3	6.9	7.3	2.4	2.0
<b>Average Weekly Employee Earnings</b>								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb. 96	694.90	0.7	4.8	664.80	0.8	4.3
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb. 96	590.70	1.0	3.8	558.40	0.7	2.4
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost	'000s	Apr. 96	60.3	2.1	1052.5	68.7	-21.5	136.6
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100		June qtr 96	119.9	0.7	3.9	119.8	0.7	3.1
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	May 96	3 669	0.0	9.2	10 211	0.2	5.9
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	May 96	16 586	-19.6	-14.0	51 921	-6.2	-9.0
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	May 96	14 172	-19.8	-13.1	43 337	-5.4	-8.5
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	May 96	2 414	-18.1	-18.7	8 583	-10.1	-11.5
<b>Production</b>								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	May 96	47.0	-7.2	-23.8	113	-5.2	-22.8
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	May 96	5 080	-3.5	1.1	13 850	-2.6	0.1
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	May 96	9 303	10.8	6.6	50 843	-6.2	-3.3
<b>Overseas Trade</b>								
Imports	\$m	June 96	2 622	-14.0	-11.6	5 828	-13.2	-11.2
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	May 96	1 537	21.3	15.0	6 460	8.5	9.6
<b>Tourism</b>								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000s	Apr. 96	149	-7.5	19.1	333	-8.9	13.3
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000s	Apr. 96	81	-19.8	-10.2	207	-12.1	-3.4
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000s	Mar. qtr 96	5 663.1	1.6	6.4	16 092.9	-0.5	4.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Mar. qtr 96	61.1	1.7	3.9	59.0	-1.2	1.5
<b>Building</b>								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	May 96	3 915	16.4	-10.9	10 597	1.7	-13.3
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	May 96	450	30.1	-2.5	1 124	10.3	-3.6
Value of non-residential building	\$m	May 96	302	13.2	-3.5	1 120	33.3	17.3
Value of all building	\$m	May 96	895	32.7	-2.0	2 593	30.4	3.2
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Mar. qtr 96	9 564	2.9	-15.7	27 964	-6.8	-20.8
Value of new residential buildings (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	1 052	15.8	-13.1	2 761	-0.6	-16.1
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	907	8.4	-31.6	2 665	3.2	-9.5
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 164	9.6	-21.0	5 886	-0.5	-12.4
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 029	-16.4	-4.6	5 608	-18.9	-10.0
<b>Engineering Construction</b>								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	504	42.7	6.6	3 265	82.6	77.0
Value of work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	531	-20.8	-1.7	1 862	-13.0	16.9
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	981	-5.5	-30.4	5 036	36.7	37.5
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	688	11.3	25.3	1 584	-2.7	11.2
<b>Finance</b>								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	May 96	1 695	21.5	11.0	4 364	16.3	10.3
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	May 96	1 044	20.1	12.3	3 021	15.1	10.9
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	May 96	5 589	11.1	29.3	12 895	13.1	34.8
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	May 96	125 210	0.6	(e)	279 721	0.0	10.0
Building societies	\$m	May 96	3 769	1.9	11.7	11 725	1.4	-2.0
Credit unions	\$m	May 96	5 965	0.9	12.1	13 539	1.0	12.0
<b>Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)</b>								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 793	-9.8	9.8	8 387	-13.9	7.4
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	646	-17.3	15.6	2 224	-29.4	2.4
	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 148	-7.3	8.2	6 163	-6.5	9.4

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises.



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