



CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 30 SEPTEMBER 1996

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES SEPTEMBER 1996

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### MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,799,100 in August 1996, an increase of 0.4% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.5% over the same period.
UNEMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 247,900 in August 1996, a rise of 3.9% on the previous month and a rise of 5.0% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August 1996 was 8.1% in NSW and 8.8% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	Seasonally adjusted, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW decreased by 21.9% from 22,427 in June 1996 to 17,506 in July 1996.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in July 1996 was 4,166, an increase of 22.3% on the previous month, but 6.5% lower than in July 1995.
TOURISM	The number of guest nights for licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities in NSW for the June Quarter 1996 was 5,200,300, an increase of 3.2% on June Quarter 1995.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in July 1996 rose by 20.2% from June 1996 and 30.5% from July 1995.
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Private new capital expenditure in the June Quarter 1996 for NSW on equipment, plant and machinery increased by 32.1% since the previous quarter and 5.9% when compared with June Quarter 1995. Expenditure on new buildings and structures rose 42.9% from the previous quarter.

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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

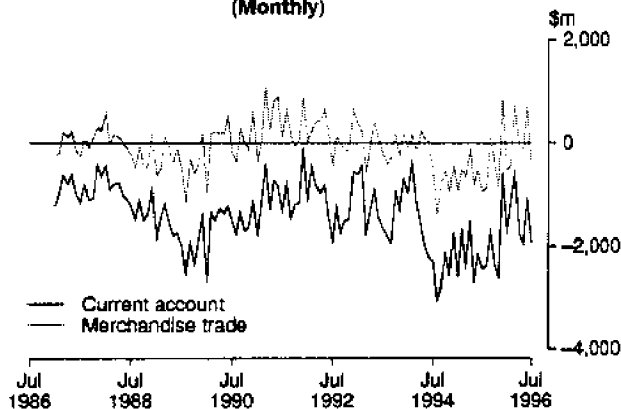
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- INQUIRIES:
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 9268 4376 or any ABS office.
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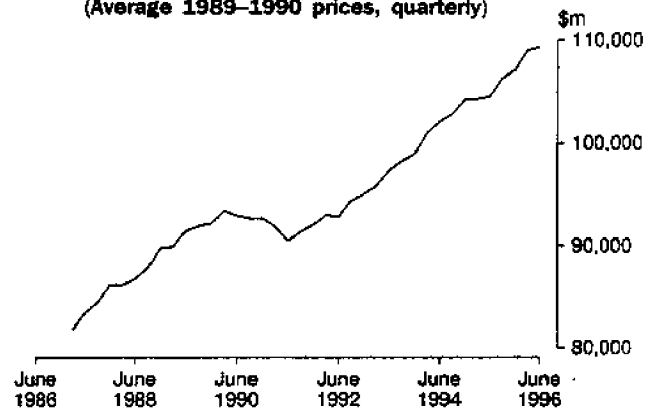
## NATIONAL ECONOMY

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	%	June qtr 96	0.4	3.8			
Gross domestic product	%	June qtr 96	0.3	4.5			
<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	July 96	6 443	6 269	6 619	6 173	6 231
Merchandise imports	\$m	July 96	-6 954	-5 572	-6 705	-6 312	-7 191
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	July 96	-511	697	-86	-139	-960
Balance on goods and services	\$m	July 96	-498	516	-299	-182	-1 065
Balance on current account	\$m	July 96	-1 921	-1 066	-1 971	-1 760	-2 439
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	July 96	-1 282	-1 223	-2 124	-1 934	-2 078
<b>Terms of trade for goods and services—</b>							
Index (seasonally adjusted)	1989-90=100	June qtr 96	97.8	95.9	94.0	94.0	93.0
<b>Exchange Rates at end of period—</b>							
\$US/\$A		July 96	0.7731	0.7890	0.7983	0.7854	0.7389
Trade weighted index of value \$A	May 1970=100	July 96	56.5	58.1	58.7	57.1	51.0
<b>Indicator Lending Rate—</b>							
Bank loans to large businesses (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Aug. 96	10.40	10.80	10.80	10.80	10.70

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)**



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

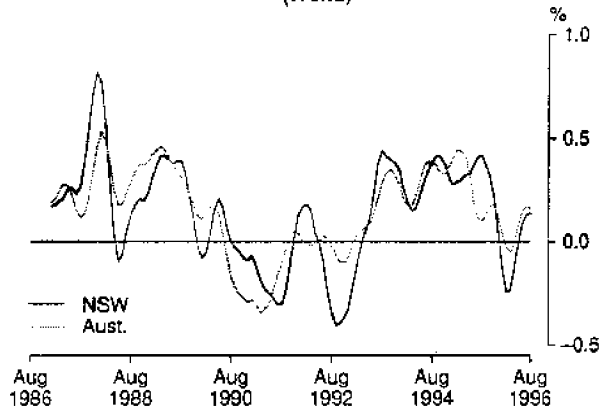


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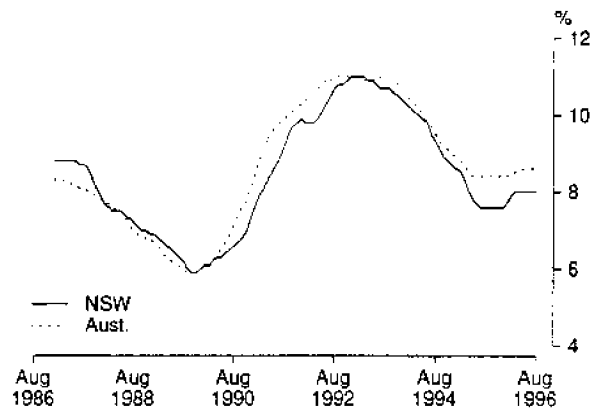
## NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Aug. 96	8.1	9.2	9.8	9.7	7.7	10.0	8.8
<b>Percentage change from previous year—</b>								
Employed persons	Aug. 96	1.1	1.2	1.8	-0.2	2.4	2.1	1.2
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)	May qtr 96	3.9	3.9	2.4	3.2	6.4	4.4	3.8
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	July 96	8.3	3.6	4.0	2.4	3.3	4.7	5.2
New motor vehicle registrations	July 96	-1.1	28.5	-20.0	15.5	21.7	30.3	3.9
Dwelling units approved	July 96	0.7	2.2	13.3	-8.3	5.2	-43.2	2.3
Value of non-residential building approved	July 96	35.5	1.9	51.9	15.4	31.6	302.2	42.5
Value of all buildings approved	July 96	-3.6	11.9	36.8	2.0	15.4	70.6	12.5
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.	June qtr 96	1.4	4.7	-3.7	2.8	-1.6	-3.5	0.0
Actual private new capital expenditure	June qtr 96	18.0	18.8	13.8	3.7	23.3	-26.7	18.5

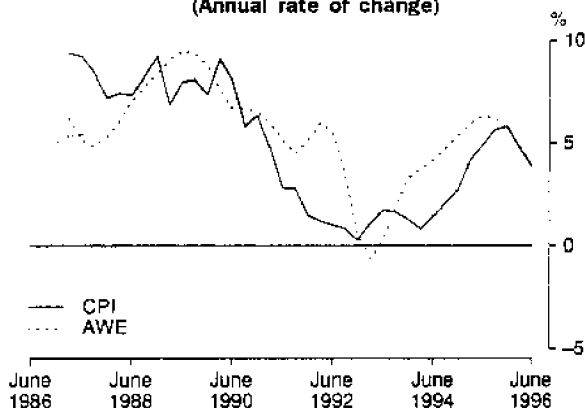
**MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED (Trend)**



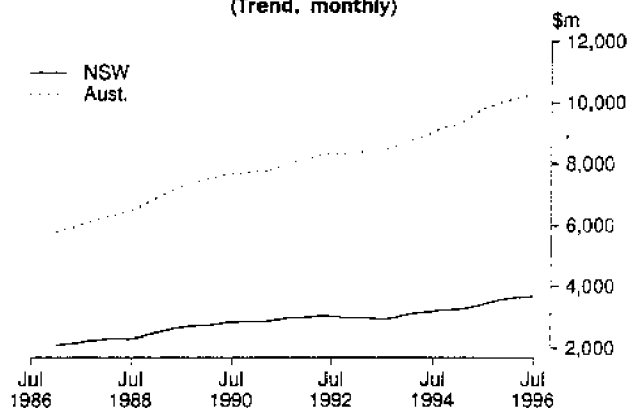
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Trend)**



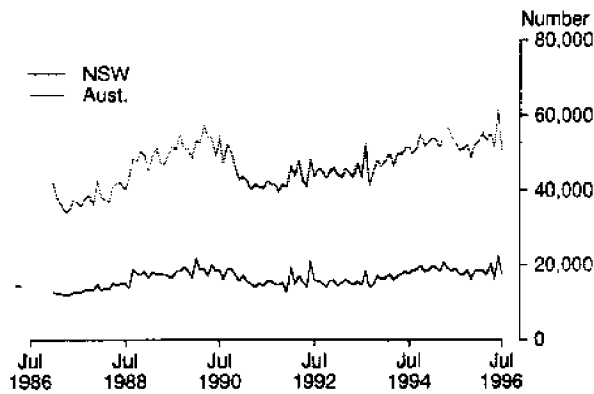
**PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW (Annual rate of change)**



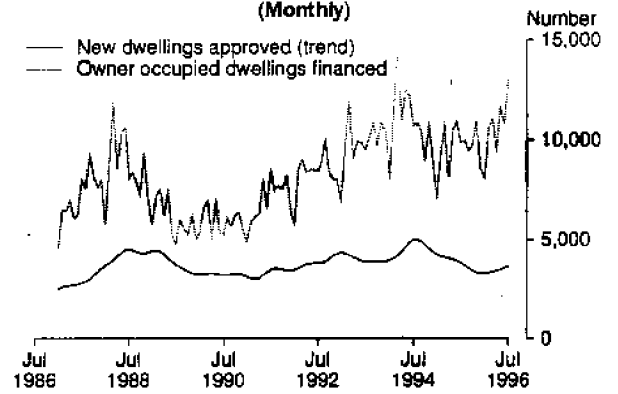
**RETAIL TURNOVER (Trend, monthly)**



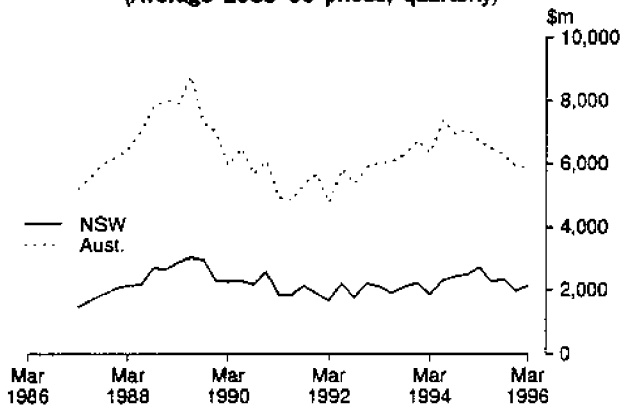
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED (Monthly)**



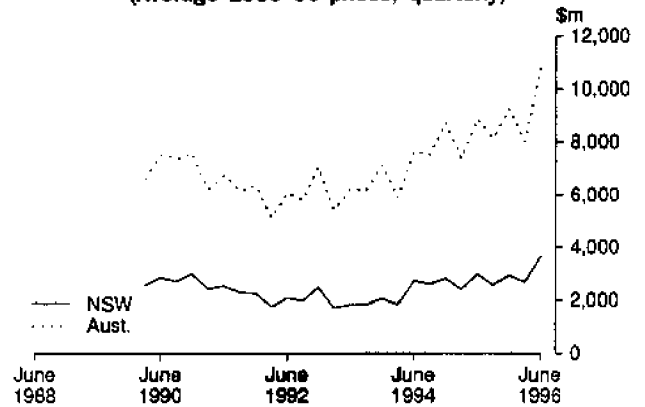
**NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW (Monthly)**



**VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia		Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Latest figure	Change from prior period			
				%	%		%	%	
<b>Population</b>									
Estimated resident population	'000	Mar. qtr 96	6 173	0.34	1.29	18 239	0.39	1.36	
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Aug. 96	4 878	0.15	1.49	14 384	0.15	1.61	
<b>Labour Force</b>									
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	Aug. 96	2 123	-1.4	0.5	6 236	-1.5	0.9	
—total (original series)	'000	Aug. 96	2 781	-0.7	1.1	8 320	-0.7	1.2	
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Aug. 96	2 799	0.4	1.1	8 381	0.5	1.2	
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	Aug. 96	238	6.5	5.1	771	5.4	6.8	
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	Aug. 96	248	3.9	5.0	807	4.5	6.8	
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Aug. 96	3 047	0.7	1.4	9 188	0.8	1.7	
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Aug. 96	62.5	0.5	-0.1	63.9	0.6	0.1	
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Aug. 96	8.1	3.2	3.6	8.8	3.7	5.0	
Job vacancies	'000	May 96	25	-8.8	2.4	54	-16.2	-0.3	
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	May 96	7.6	4.3	6.9	7.3	2.4	1.9	
<b>Average Weekly Employee Earnings</b>									
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	May 96	700.20	0.7	3.9	670.70	0.8	3.8	
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	May 96	600.00	1.3	4.6	564.60	0.9	3.0	
<b>Industrial Disputes—Working days lost</b>									
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	July 96	3 721	0.5	8.3	10 304	0.4	5.2	
New Motor Vehicle Reg (seasonally adjusted)	No.	July 96	17 506	-21.9	-8.8	50 669	-17.7	-3.9	
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	July 96	14 921	-23.4	-8.0	42 671	-17.8	-3.1	
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	July 96	2 585	-12.5	-13.0	7 998	-17.2	-7.9	
<b>Production</b>									
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	July 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	120	1.2	-14.5	
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	July 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	14 106	1.1	-1.9	
Gas (seasonally adjusted)	terajoules	July 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	53 308	6.0	-2.4	
<b>Overseas Trade</b>									
Imports	\$m	Aug. 96	3 028	2.9	-1.4	6 792	-0.7	-0.7	
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	July 96	1 466	10.3	1.7	6 177	2.7	3.5	
<b>Tourism</b>									
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	June 96	125	14.7	15.3	307	17.4	17.4	
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	June 96	110	26.4	18.1	262	21.3	14.1	
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities —									
Guest nights	'000	June qtr 96	5 200.3	-8.2	3.2	15 050.4	-6.5	3.2	
Room occupancy rate	%	June qtr 96	57.4	-6.1	1.4	56.1	-4.9	0.0	
<b>Building</b>									
Approvals—									
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	July 96	4 166	22.3	-6.5	10 619	8.1	-5.9	
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	July 96	404	23.8	-24.3	1 033	11.5	-10.0	
Value of non-residential building	\$m	July 96	289	6.1	35.5	874	2.8	42.5	
Value of all building	\$m	July 96	850	27.9	-3.6	2 259	16.7	12.5	
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	2 154	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	July 96	1 829	20.2	30.5	4 551	20.1	18.8	
Personal finance commitment—significant lenders	\$m	July 96	1 291	25.8	40.6	3 226	13.4	14.8	
Commercial finance commitment—significant lenders	\$m	July 96	7 187	6.2	67.3	14 384	-1.1	50.5	
Savings balances at end of month—									
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	July 96	131 569	2.7	(e)	289 795	2.1	11.1	
Building societies	\$m	July 96	3 893	2.1	13.1	12 035	1.2	11.4	
Credit unions	\$m	July 96	6 018	0.3	9.4	13 755	0.9	10.2	
<b>Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)</b>									
New buildings and structures	\$m	June qtr 96	3 761	34.6	18.0	11 129	33.4	18.5	
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	June qtr 96	923	42.9	82.1	3 373	52.7	47.5	
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	June qtr 96	2 838	32.1	5.9	7 756	26.5	9.2	

(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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