

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 13 January 1994

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Trade figures keep current account deficit in check 2
- ☐ New vehicle registrations resume their slow growth path 3
- ☐ Manufacturing production trends 4
- ☐ Home building approvals 5
- ☐ International merchandise trade 6
- ☐ Retail trade accelerates 7
- ☐ New edition of labour statistics compendium published 8
- ☐ Established house prices 9
- ☐ This week in brief ... 9
- ☐ Expected releases over the fortnight to 25 January 11
- ☐ Selected releases: 5 to 11 January 11
- ☐ The latest ...
— key national/State indicators 12

statistics

Non-rural exports in original terms fell \$230 million, or 6 per cent, to \$3 881 million. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- ❑ gold, down \$117 million or 21 per cent;
- ❑ coal, coke and briquettes, down \$56 million or 8 per cent;
- ❑ 'other' metals, down \$25 million or 5 per cent; and
- ❑ 'other' manufactures, down \$25 million or 4 per cent.

Increases were recorded in metal ores and minerals, up \$23 million or 4 per cent and 'other' mineral fuels, up \$6 million or 2 per cent.

Merchandise imports in original terms rose \$135 million, or 2 per cent, to \$5 697 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

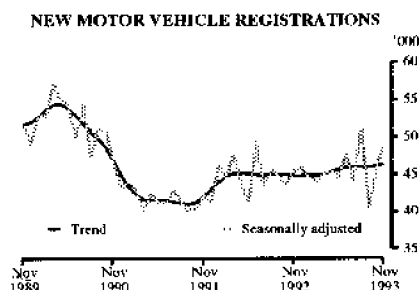
- ❑ machinery, up \$98 million or 6 per cent;
- ❑ 'other' transport equipment, up \$81 million or 95 per cent (due mainly to the import of the bulk carrier *Iron Chieftain*); and
- ❑ 'other' manufactures, up \$30 million or 2 per cent.

The largest decreases occurred in civil aircraft, down \$49 million (there were no imports of civil aircraft in November compared with the import of one civil aircraft in October); 'other' imports, down \$35 million or 14 per cent; and road vehicles, down \$21 million or 3 per cent.

In the five months to November 1993 the total current account deficit (in original terms) was \$7 369 million, a decrease of 9 per cent on the same period of the previous financial year.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 5540 or Peter Morrow on (06) 252 6689.

New vehicle registrations resume their slow growth path



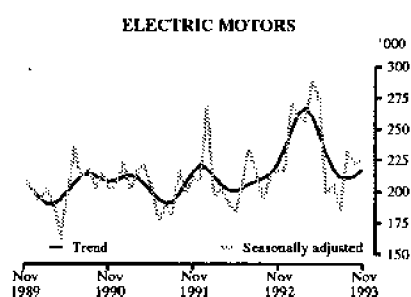
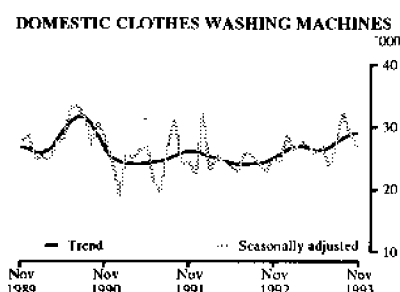
The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations has returned to the same path of small, steady increases recorded from January to July 1993, with minor increases over the last three months following a small fall in August. New passenger vehicle registrations have been rising steadily since March 1993.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total registrations for November 1993 rose by 7.4 per cent from October 1993.

In unadjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for November 1993 rose by 12.1 per cent, from 44 687 in October 1993 to 50 109 vehicles. Passenger vehicles rose by 12.1 per cent, from 37 163 to 41 656 vehicles with 'other' vehicles recording a rise of 12.3 per cent, from 7 524 vehicles to 8 453 for November.

Increases were recorded in all States except Queensland, where registrations fell by 8.6 per cent in November.

For further information, order the publication *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.



Manufacturing production trends

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-three with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

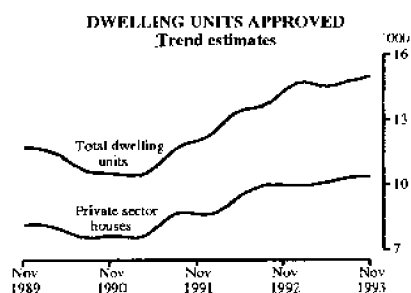
In the table below, fifteen of twenty-three items are showing an increase in trend over production levels twelve months earlier. Domestic clothes washing machines continue the rising production trend observed since May 1993. Current production of iron and steel is flat but remains significantly above the November 1992 production levels. The trend in clay bricks production has levelled off over the last six months while recent trend data suggests that portland cement production has also levelled off after showing a slight fall from May 1993, although production of both these products remain up on the levels observed twelve months ago. The trend in production of cars and station wagons remains quite strong.

The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the quarterly publications.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, NOVEMBER 1993
Percentage change in trend

| Product | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Domestic clothes washing machines | 1.4 | 16.5 |
| Particle board and similar boards | 0.6 | 16.4 |
| Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms | 0.9 | 14.3 |
| Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron | -0.4 | 11.5 |
| Cars and station wagons | 1.5 | 10.3 |
| Television sets | 0.1 | 9.9 |
| Portland cement | -0.3 | 7.5 |
| Cotton yarn | -1.8 | 7.3 |
| Chocolate based confectionery | 2.4 | 7.0 |
| Textile floor coverings | 1.2 | 4.5 |
| Clay bricks | -0.5 | 4.0 |
| Electricity | 0.9 | 3.1 |
| Gas available for issue through mains | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| Plastics in primary forms | -1.3 | 1.8 |
| Wool yarn | -0.6 | 0.3 |
| Electric motors | 2.4 | -1.5 |
| Sulphuric acid; oleum | 2.4 | -2.1 |
| Woven man-made fibre fabric | -1.7 | -2.2 |
| Beer | -1.1 | -3.9 |
| Other confectionery | 1.6 | -4.2 |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | -2.9 | -4.5 |
| Woven wool fabric (including blanketing) | -2.9 | -17.4 |
| Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging | 2.4 | -31.6 |

Home building approvals



The provisional trend estimate for the total number of dwelling units approved to November 1993 is showing weak growth, as it has done since May 1993. However the seasonally adjusted number of dwelling units approved has fallen marginally in each of the last two months and any further fall in the December 1993 seasonally adjusted estimates will cause the trend series to show early signs of decline. The trend rose by 0.6 per cent to 15 023 in November, following growth of 0.4 per cent in October and 0.6 per cent in September 1993.

The provisional trend estimate for the number of private sector house approvals has flattened to November 1993, ending a period of gradual growth since January 1993. The trend in private sector house approvals was steady in November at 10 362, following growth of 0.1 per cent in October and 0.3 per cent in September. Unless there is an increase of more than 2.5 per cent in the December seasonally adjusted estimate of private sector house approvals, the trend series will begin to turn down. The historical average monthly movement of this series, regardless of sign, is 4 per cent.

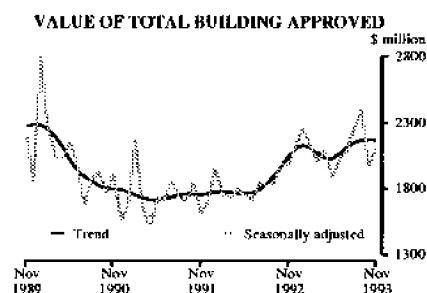
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1993

| | | Percentage change | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|---|
| | Number | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| Private sector houses | | | |
| Trend estimate | 10 362 | 0.0 | 3.9 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 10 278 | 1.2 | 3.5 |
| Original | 10 960 | 5.0 | 7.9 |
| Total dwelling units | | | |
| Trend estimate | 15 023 | 0.6 | 5.1 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 14 879 | -0.3 | 4.6 |
| Original | 16 161 | 10.4 | 10.7 |

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved fell marginally by 0.3 per cent in November, following a 0.4 per cent decline in October and growth of 2.1 per cent in September. The number of private sector house approvals rose by 1.2 per cent in November, following a 3.2 per cent fall in October and increases in the previous four months.

Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimate for the value of total building approved is showing early signs of decline to November, following growth of nearly 7 per cent between May and October 1993. There would need to be an increase of 10 per cent in the seasonally adjusted value of total building approved in December 1993 to arrest this decline. The historical average monthly movement of this series, regardless of sign, is 9 per cent.



The provisional trend series for the value of new residential building approved continues the growth evident since May 1993, rising by 0.7 per cent in both November and October and 1.1 per cent in September 1993. However, any fall in the seasonally adjusted value of residential building approved in December will see the trend flatten out.

Influenced by the approval of a small number of very large projects in August and September, there was a short period of growth in the trend estimates of the value of non-residential building approved over the period March to August 1993. However, with the October and November seasonally adjusted estimates of non-residential building being more in-line with those of the previous 12 months, the trend series levelled out in September and is falling to November 1993. This fall in the trend will continue unless there is an increase of 36 per cent (twice the historical average monthly movement) in the seasonally adjusted series in December 1993.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1993

| | | Percentage change | |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|
| | \$ million | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| New residential building | | | |
| Trend | 1 265.6 | 0.7 | 5.0 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 1 245.1 | 0.2 | 7.5 |
| Original | 1 338.2 | 10.8 | 13.7 |
| Non-residential building | | | |
| Trend | 706.5 | -2.7 | 6.7 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 641.8 | 21.1 | -0.9 |
| Original | 672.7 | 8.8 | 2.1 |
| Total building | | | |
| Trend | 2 165.5 | -0.2 | 5.9 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 2 091.5 | 6.1 | 5.3 |
| Original | 2 209.2 | 9.3 | 9.7 |

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

International merchandise trade

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has a wide range of standard and customised products and services on international merchandise trade and related shipping statistics. The statistics are available on hard copy, floppy disk, microfiche, magnetic tape and/or via electronic mail. Data for months up to and including November 1993 are now available for release.

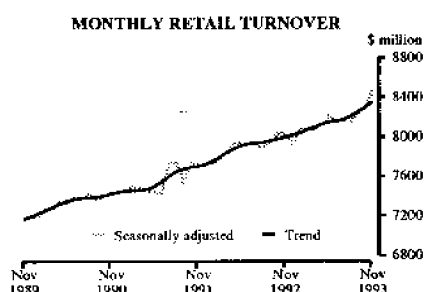
For further information, contact ABS Information Services in your capital city on the telephone number provided on page 11 or the International Trade Section on (06) 252 5400.

Retail trade accelerates

The trend estimates of retail turnover have strengthened considerably following the strong seasonally adjusted result in November 1993. Over the last three months the trend estimates increased by 0.5 per cent in September and 0.6 per cent in both October and November. The annual growth rate (November 1993 over November 1992) was 4.4 per cent.

The improvement in the trend estimates may have resulted from the tax cuts which came into effect in mid-November.

During the three months ended November the grocery industry recorded growth of around 0.3 per cent per month. Other food stores continued to show a weakening in the growth rate which fell from 1.0 per cent in August to 0.6 per cent in November. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs showed growth of 0.5 per cent over each of the last three months. Department stores showed some growth in the last three months while clothing and fabric stores remain in decline. The trend for electrical goods stores showed strong growth for the seventh successive month.



RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

| | Original value in November 1993 (\$ million) | Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| | | 3 months ended November 1993 | 12 months ended November 1993 |
| Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists | 2 480 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Butcher | 193 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Other food stores | 544 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Total food group | 3 217 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs | 1 054 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Department and general stores | 960 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Clothing and fabric stores | 563 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| Electrical stores | 525 | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| Pharmacies | 436 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Newsagents | 257 | 0.4 | -0.7 |
| Other industries | 1 625 | na | n.a. |
| All industries | 8 636 | 0.6 | 0.4 |

Queensland and Tasmania showed strong growth in retail turnover trend estimates. The growth rate for New South Wales improved whilst it eased for both South Australia and Western Australia. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory showed weak to moderate growth.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | ACT | Aust. |
|-----------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 1993 | | | | | | | | |
| July | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| August | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| September | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| October | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| November | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 |

New edition of labour statistics compendium published



The latest edition of *Labour Statistics, Australia* has just been released. A comprehensive overview of the wealth of labour statistics produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), this 183-page publication is designed as a reference work for researchers and analysts of the full range of labour market issues. It will also be valuable to other users wanting an overall picture of the Australian labour market.

Statistics on employment and underemployment, unemployment, persons not in the labour force, award rates of pay, earnings, employment benefits, hours of work, industrial disputes and trade unions are presented as time series. Information on labour costs and expenditure on training is also included. Selected features highlight the more significant elements and trends. The data used are the latest available to June 1993, and generally relate to the calendar year 1992.

International comparisons of the more important series are featured. For example, the unemployment rate in Australia increased by 1.2 percentage points from 1991 to 1992. Similar increases were recorded in the UK (1.3 percentage points) and Canada (1.0 percentage points). Over the same period, the unemployment rate for New Zealand remained steady, while in the former Federal Republic of Germany there was an increase of 0.4 percentage points and in Japan an increase of only 0.1 percentage points.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, SELECTED COUNTRIES, 1987 TO 1992
Per cent

| | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Japan | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before unification) | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| Sweden | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 4.8 |
| USA | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 6.6 | 7.3 |
| Italy | 10.9 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 9.9 | 9.9 |
| United Kingdom | 10.3 | 8.6 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 8.7 | 10.0 |
| France | 10.5 | 10.0 | 9.4 | 8.9 | 9.4 | 10.2 |
| New Zealand | 4.1 | 5.6 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 10.3 | 10.3 |
| Australia | 8.0 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 9.5 | 10.7 |
| Canada | 8.8 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 8.1 | 10.2 | 11.2 |

Among the longer term trends identified, Australia and Germany experienced by far the highest growth of the major economies in female employment in the services sector between 1982 and 1992 (each country recording more than 40% growth in that category). Australia also recorded the highest percentage growth in male employment in the services sector over the same period.

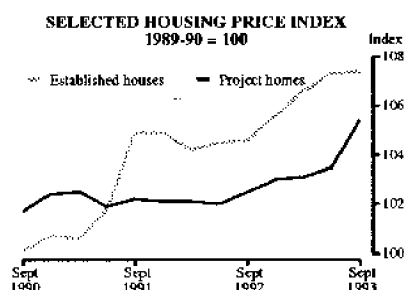
In each broad area covered in the publication, tables and charts produced from ABS data collections are supported where necessary by concise explanatory or analytical text.

Established house prices

The price index of established houses in Australia rose 0.1 per cent between the June quarter 1993 and September quarter 1993. A fall in Adelaide (7.0%), Canberra (0.3%) and Brisbane (0.1%), partially offset rises in other capital cities (ranging from 0.1% in Melbourne to 1.7% in Perth).

In the year to September quarter 1993, the index rose 2.7 per cent. This increase was due to positive annual movements in all cities. The increases ranged from 0.4 per cent in Canberra to 16.1 per cent in Darwin.

Project home prices for Australia increased 1.8 per cent between June quarter 1993 and September quarter 1993. Movements ranged from 0.4 per cent in Hobart to 3.4 per cent in Melbourne and Adelaide.



HOUSING PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993
Percentage change

| | Established homes | | Project homes | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
| Sydney | 1.0 | 3.6 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| Melbourne | 0.1 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| Brisbane | -0.1 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.8 |
| Adelaide | -7.0 | 0.6 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| Perth | 1.7 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 3.1 |
| Hobart | 0.8 | 5.0 | 0.4 | 4.1 |
| Darwin | 1.4 | 16.1 | 1.6 | 3.6 |
| Canberra | -0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 2.6 |
| Weighted average of of eight capital cities | 0.1 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 2.8 |

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Cheryl Porter on (06) 252 5754.

This week in brief ...

□ Viticulture

The total area of grapes increased by 3.1 per cent from 61 007 hectares in 1991-92 to 62 919 hectares in 1992-93.

The area of bearing vines increased by 3.9 per cent to 58 550 hectares. The total area of non-bearing vines declined by 5.8 per cent to 4 368 hectares.

For 1992-93 there were 1 937 hectares of newly planted or grafted vines, an increase of 17.7 per cent.

Production of grapes for all purposes for the 1992-93 harvest decreased markedly from 987 142 tonnes to 793 996 tonnes, a fall of 19.6 per cent. This was mainly due to excessive rain and the prevalence of disease, especially downy mildew, in many areas. Production for winemaking declined by 3.1 per cent to 546 457 tonnes. Drying tonnage showed a substantial decrease of 47.2 per cent to 197 091 tonnes, whilst grapes for table and other purposes increased slightly to 50 448 tonnes, a 0.6 per cent rise.

Source: *Viticulture, Australia, 1992-93* (7310.0).

❑ Sales of Australian wine and brandy

In seasonally adjusted terms, total domestic sales of Australian wine for November 1993 were 26.7 million litres, a decrease of 2.7 per cent on October 1993 but 6.0 per cent up on sales in November 1992. The considerable volatility in the estimates of domestic sales over the previous three months, influenced by the uncertainty about proposals to increase the sales tax on wine, has declined with the October and November 1993 seasonally adjusted sales figures more consistent with the monthly sales figures reported between March and June 1993.

There are further signs that the recent decline recorded by the provisional trend estimates of domestic sales is slowing. The trend fell by 0.3 per cent between October and November 1993, after falls of 0.7, 0.9 and 1.1 per cent in the three previous months. Any increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate of domestic wine sales for December 1993 will see the wine sales trend start to edge upwards again.

Source: *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, November 1993* (8504.0).

❑ Private new capital expenditure

Seasonally adjusted current price estimates of private new capital expenditure in each State for the September quarter 1993 are detailed below with percentage changes from the June quarter 1993.

| State | September quarter 1993 Seasonally adjusted | |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|
| | Value (\$ million) | % change on June quarter 1993 |
| NSW | 1 952 | 6 |
| Vic. | 1 594 | 9 |
| Qld | 916 | -7 |
| SA | 475 | 38 |
| WA | 1 242 | -9 |
| Tas. | 114 | 2 |
| Aust. | 6 495 | 4 |

Estimates of private new capital expenditure in original terms increased overall in the year to September 1993 compared with the previous 12 months. Western Australia showed the largest increase (30%) which was attributable to large equipment purchases in the 'mining' and 'other selected industries' groups during the period. New South Wales was the only State which did not record an increase.

Source: *State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, September Quarter 1993 Survey* (5646.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Editor

- Rad Leovic
- (06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
13 January 1994

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 25 January

- 13** The Labour Force, Australia, December 1993, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1993 (6354.0; \$13.00)
- 17** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1993 (6407.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1993 (6408.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, November 1993 (6412.0; \$11.00)
- 18** Export Price Index, Australia, November 1993 (6405.0; \$8.50)
- 20** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1993 (5609.0; \$11.00)
- 25** Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1993 (6401.0; \$12.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, November 1993 (6411.0; \$11.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, November 1993 (6414.0; \$8.50)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, December 1993, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, December 1993, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)

Selected releases: 5 to 11 January

General

Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, December 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)

Demography

Demography, Vic., 1991 (3311.2; \$27.00)
Deaths, Vic., 1991 (3312.2; \$14.50)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, October 1992 (5432.0; \$9.70)

Labour statistics and Prices

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., December 1992 (6410.0; \$5.60)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, October Qtr 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, October Qtr 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)
Mining Industry, Aust., 1990-91 (8402.0; \$21.40)
Building Activity, Vic., September Qtr 1992 (8752.2; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, October 1992 (8741.4; \$10.70)
Building Activity, SA, September Qtr 1992 (8752.4; \$10.70)
Building Activity, WA, September Qtr 1992 (8752.5; \$10.70)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., October 1992 (8741.6; \$7.10)
Building Activity, NT, September Qtr 1992 (8752.7; \$10.50)

Transport

Interstate Road Freight Movement, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (9214.0; \$7.10)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, November 1992 (9303.5; \$7.60)

| Key national indicators | Period | Units | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year |
| National accounts | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices | September qtr 93 | \$m | n.a. | 96 123 | 0.3 | 3.2 |
| International accounts | | | | | | |
| Balance on current account (b) | November 93 | \$m | -1 475 | -1 162 | 10 | 12 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (b) | " | " | -222 | 197 | 43 | 82 |
| Balance on goods and services (b) | " | " | -248 | 80 | — | — |
| Merchandise exports | " | " | 5 475 | 5 438 | — | 5 |
| Merchandise imports | " | " | -5 697 | -5 241 | -1 | 3 |
| Net foreign debt | September qtr 93 | \$m | 177 805 | n.a. | 3.5 | 8.1 |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | 239 057 | n.a. | 6.6 | 14.6 |
| Consumption and investment | | | | | | |
| Retail turnover at current prices | November 93 | \$m | 8 636 | 8 471 | 2.1 | 5.6 |
| New capital expenditure at current prices | September qtr 93 | " | 6 368 | 6 495 | 3.5 | 6.9 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (d) | November 93 | no. | 50 109 | 48 814 | 12.1 | 12.5 |
| Production | | | | | | |
| Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices | September qtr 93 | \$m | 36 435 | 35 751 | 1.6 | 8.3 |
| Dwelling unit approvals | November 93 | no. | 16 161 | 14 879 | -0.3 | 4.6 |
| Building approvals | " | \$m | 2 209 | 2 092 | 6.1 | 5.3 |
| Building work done at 1989-90 prices | June qtr 93 | " | 6 023 | 6 044 | -3.1 | 2.2 |
| Prices | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | September qtr 93 | 1989-90 = 100.0 | 109.8 | n.a. | 0.5 | 2.2 |
| Articles produced by manufacturing industry | October 93 | 1988-89 = 100.0 | 115.9 | n.a. | -0.1 | 1.6 |
| Materials used in manufacturing industries | October 93 | 1984-85 = 100.0 | 127.6 | n.a. | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| Labour force and demography | | | | | | |
| Employed persons (e) | November 93 | '000 | 7 833.1 | 7 829.5 | 0.3 | 2.3 |
| Participation rate † (e) | " | % | 62.7 | 63.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Unemployment rate † (e) | " | " | 10.3 | 11.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Job vacancies (e) | August qtr 93 | '000 | 39.0 | 37.3 | 18.0 | 38.9 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee (e) | " | hours | 1.15 | 1.19 | -0.5 | 8.3 |
| Estimated resident population | March qtr 93 | million | 17.6 | n.a. | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Short-term overseas visitor arrivals (d) | September 93 | '000 | 224 | 260 | 0.9 | 18.3 |
| Incomes | | | | | | |
| Company profits before income tax | September qtr 93 | \$m | 5 283 | 5 073 | 10.6 | 21.9 |
| Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time | August qtr 93 | \$ | 602.40 | n.a. | 0.8 | 2.8 |
| Financial markets | | | | | | |
| Interest rates (c) (monthly average) | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | November 93 | % per annum | 4.80 | n.a. | — | -1.05 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | " | " | 6.80 | n.a. | -0.30 | -2.35 |
| Exchange rate — \$/US (c) | November 93 | per \$A | 0.6649 | n.a. | 1 | -4 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 12 January 1994. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 13 January 1994.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

| | | Percentage change from same period previous year | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Key State indicators | | Period | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
| New capital expenditure* | | September qtr 93 | -8.8 | 25.4 | -5.6 | 27.1 | 16.8 | 6.8 | n.a. | n.a. | 6.1 |
| Retail turnover (trend estimate) | | November 93 | 1.8 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 6.5 | 9.5 | 4.4 | n.a. | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| New motor vehicle registrations† | | November 93 | 7.3 | 12.5 | 0.6 | 3.2 | 12.3 | 30.6 | 4.8 | 2.4 | 7.5 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals* | | November 93 | 4.6 | -0.3 | 19.9 | 6.9 | 30.6 | -4.5 | -26.7 | 41.1 | 4.6 |
| Value of total building work done | | June qtr 93 | -5.0 | -6.1 | 18.6 | 13.0 | 31.3 | -17.3 | -6.7 | -11.2 | 2.8 |
| Employed persons* | | November 93 | 3.4 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 4.9 | -0.3 | -1.2 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| Capital city consumer price index | | June qtr 93 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) | | August qtr 93 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 5.2 | 3.6 | -0.1 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| Population | | June qtr 93 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. | | September qtr 93 | 6.3 | 0.1 | 9.1 | 2.4 | 9.0 | 5.4 | 18.4 | 12.0 | 6.7 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

