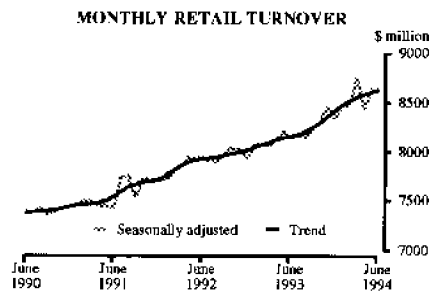


Thursday, 11 August 1994



The week in statistics ...

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Growth in retail trade slows

The growth in retail turnover has continued to slow with the trend estimate for June 1994 showing 0.2 per cent growth. The monthly growth rate in trend estimates has gradually fallen from the peak of 0.8 per cent recorded for December 1993. The annual growth rate (June 1994 on June 1993) was 5.8 per cent.

The 'other food stores' industry showed a decline of 0.7 per cent for June 1994, a marked turnaround from January 1994 where growth of 2.5 per cent was recorded. The clothing stores industry has shown a pattern of accelerating declines for the last four months, culminating in a fall of 1.3 per cent for June 1994. By contrast, strong growth was recorded in the hotel, liquor stores and licensed clubs industry, averaging around 0.9 per cent a month throughout 1994 while the department stores industry recorded monthly growth rates of between 0.5 per cent and 0.9 per cent for the same period. Grocers have shown moderate growth of around 0.3 per cent over the last three months.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in June 1994 (\$ million)	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended June 1994	12 months ended June 1994
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2 514	0.3	0.3
Butchers	169	-0.5	-1.4
Other food stores	555	-0.2	1.2
<i>Total food group</i>	3 238	0.2	0.3
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	1 018	0.8	0.7
Department and general stores	906	0.7	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	551	-1.0	0.1
Electrical stores	510	0.6	0.8
Pharmacies	448	0.4	1.4
Newsagents	272	1.2	0.9
Other industries	1 450	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	8 392	0.3	0.5

Of the State trends Victoria has shown a pattern of strong growth averaging about 0.9 per cent per month for the last five months. Comparatively, over the same period New South Wales and Queensland have shown moderate growth, with the remaining States recording no growth or declines.

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms the estimate of turnover for June quarter 1994 declined by 0.2 per cent. This follows an increase of 1.7 per cent in the March quarter 1994.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
At average 1989-90 prices, seasonally adjusted

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From preceding quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
1993			
June	22 201	1.1	0.4
September	22 070	-0.6	0.4
December	22 491	1.9	2.3
1994			
March	22 874	1.7	4.2
June	22 831	-0.2	2.8

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)*, or contact Chris Kervin on (06) 252 7085.

Livestock products summary

The quantity of taxable wool received by brokers in the year to June 1994 is estimated at 804,249 tonnes, a fall of 4.7 per cent from receipts in the previous financial year.

In the eleven months to May 1994 whole milk intake by factories increased by 10 per cent when compared to the corresponding period to May 1993.

Total red meat production for the 1993-94 year was up marginally on the previous year, the provisional estimate being 2,813,912 tonnes carcass weight. At year's end, trend estimates of production were showing beef and veal trending down, with lamb, mutton and pigmeat on an upward trend. For total red meat, the trend estimate of production for the month of June was down 0.4 per cent. Chicken meat production maintained the upward production trend which began in April 1992 with an estimated 0.9 per cent rise in the trend estimate for June.

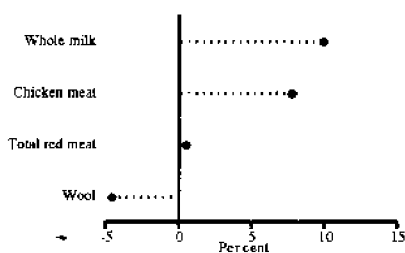
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS
Percentage change

	Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Bulls, bullocks and steers	-10.8	-13.2
Cows and heifers	-13.2	-10.3
Calves	53.8	15.1
Sheep	-19.7	-15.5
Lambs	-8.4	3.2
Pigs	2.7	2.6

The table shows movements in the numbers of livestock slaughtered in original terms. Seasonally adjusted figures are not yet available for these series.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia (7215.0)*, or contact Penny Cooke on (06) 252 5435.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1993-94 (ON 1992-93)



Trends in labour force activity

Some 9.5 million Australians aged between 15 and 69 had been in the labour force (that is, either worked or looked for work) at some time during the year ending March 1994. Of these people, 6.9 million spent the whole year in the labour force and of those, 5.7 million (83%) worked for all 52 weeks.

The participation rate for males, which had remained steady at 86 per cent for all years between 1988 and 1992, fell slightly in 1993 and 1994 to 85 per cent. For females the participation rates increased to 68 per cent in 1994 after remaining steady at 67 per cent for four years up to 1993.

The greatest increase in participation rates since last year was for those aged 15 to 19, their rate reaching 72 per cent after rates of 69 per cent in 1992 and 68 per cent in 1993.

Australia's civilian population included 12.3 million persons aged between 15 and 69 in March 1994. In the twelve months to that date:

- 8.7 million persons (71%) worked at some time;
- 2.0 million persons (17%) looked for work at some time; and
- 5.4 million persons (44%) were not in the labour force at some time.

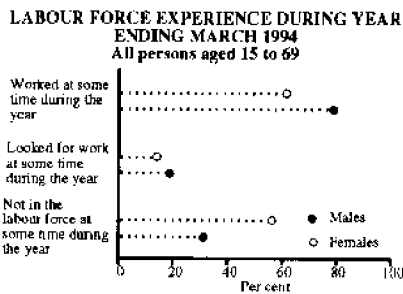
As expected, persons aged 20 to 54 years have high participation rates. Males in this age group have rates between 92 and 97 per cent while for females, the rates varied between 72 and 88 per cent. Of those persons who spent some time in the labour force, two-thirds were in the labour force for the whole year.

FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS OF THE LABOUR FORCE
(per cent)

	March 1991			March 1994		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Worked at some time during the year	82.0	62.6	72.3	79.1	61.9	70.5
Status of weeks worked						
All full-time	70.1	33.4	51.9	64.9	30.8	47.9
More full-time	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.6	3.8	4.2
More part-time	1.3	2.5	1.9	1.6	3.0	2.3
All part-time	6.3	23.2	14.6	8.1	24.2	16.2

Some 5.9 million persons had worked on a full-time basis only (that is, 48 per cent of all persons aged 15 to 69). In 1991, 52 per cent had worked only on a full-time basis. The proportion of males who worked at some time, but working only full-time has decreased from 70 per cent in 1991 to 65 per cent in 1994. For females there has been a decrease from 33 per cent to 31 per cent over this time.

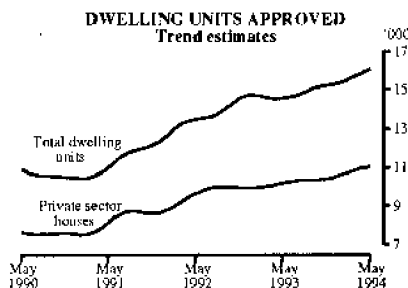
Of the 2.0 million persons who looked for work at some time in the year, some 349,400 persons (225,300 males and 124,100 females) looked for work for the whole 52 weeks.



There were 3.5 million females and 1.9 million males who spent part of the year out of the labour force. Some 59 per cent of females reported 'home duties/childcare' and a further 16 per cent 'attending an educational institution' as their main activity while not in the labour force. In comparison, the most common main activities reported by males were 'attending an educational institution' (29%), and 'retired/voluntarily inactive' (27%). Some 6 per cent of males reported 'home duties/child care' as their main activity.

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0), or contact Michael Jones on (06) 252 6503.

Dwelling approvals remain strong despite fall in June



The provisional trend for the total number of dwelling units approved continued to grow in June 1994, despite a 4.9 per cent fall in the seasonally adjusted series from the record high May 1994 estimate. The trend rose by 1.1 per cent to 16,076 approvals in June 1994, the highest monthly figure recorded for this series, following increases of 1.3 per cent in May and 1.1 per cent in April 1994. There would need to be a fall of nearly 6 per cent in the seasonally adjusted series in July to halt this growth. The historical average monthly movement of this series, regardless of sign, is 4 per cent.

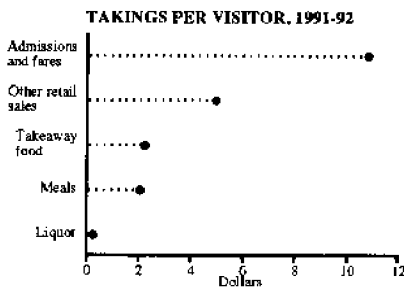
The growth in the provisional trend for the number of private sector houses approved has slowed in June 1994, as a result of a 7.8 per cent fall in the seasonally adjusted series. The trend rose by 0.7 per cent to 11,057 in June, following growth of 1.0 per cent in May and 1.1 per cent in April 1994. A further small fall (of around 0.5%) in the seasonally adjusted series in July 1994 would see the trend level off. The historical average monthly movement of this series is 4 per cent.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved fell by 4.9 per cent in June 1994 to 16,051, but remained 14.3 per cent above the June 1993 estimate. The number of private sector houses approved fell by 7.8 per cent in June 1994 to 10,757, but remained 6.5 per cent above the June 1993 estimate.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, JUNE 1994
Percentage change

	Number	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Trend estimate	11 057	0.7	8.5
Seasonally adjusted	10 757	-7.8	6.5
Original	11 429	-9.1	7.2
Total dwelling units			
Trend estimate	16 076	1.1	10.3
Seasonally adjusted	16 051	-4.9	14.3
Original	17 478	-6.2	13.3

Our amusement and theme parks bring in the business

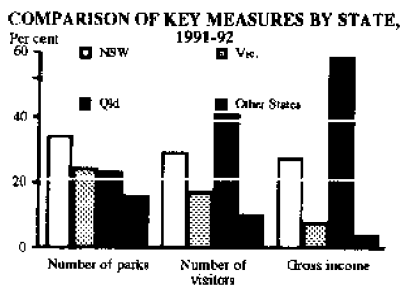


During 1991-92 the 72 biggest amusement and theme parks in Australia attracted a total 11 million visitors and generated gross income of \$236 million. Some 28 per cent of visitors attended the parks during the December and January holiday season.

These statistics are from a survey of all amusement and theme parks with gross annual income of at least \$150,000 operating in Australia during 1991-92. The table below summarises the main findings by State.

AMUSEMENT AND THEME PARKS, 1991-92

State	Businesses at end June 1992 (no.)	Total visitors ('000)	Employment at end June 1992 (no.)	Gross income (\$'000)
New South Wales	25	3 313	1 624	66 955
Victoria	18	1 948	588	19 215
Queensland	17	4 588	2 181	139 713
Rest of Australia	12	1 182	221	10 554
<i>Australia</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>11 031</i>	<i>4 614</i>	<i>236 437</i>



Although New South Wales had the most amusement and theme parks, the parks in Queensland were the largest in terms of the number of visitors, employment and income. Takings per visitor were much higher in Queensland (\$29.39) than in the other States (New South Wales \$19.16, Victoria \$9.29).

Admissions and fares accounted for 50 per cent of gross income, while souvenirs, confectionery etc. accounted for 23 per cent, and food and drinks 22 per cent.

The amusement and theme park industry is dominated by the four largest parks. These four parks accounted for 60 per cent of gross income, 45 per cent of total employment and 32 per cent of visitors.

An important characteristic of employment in amusement and theme parks was the extent of casual employment. It accounted for almost 70 per cent of total employment. Approximately 60 per cent of casual employees were females.

During 1991-92, there were almost 17,000 live performances by musicians (60%) and other performing artists (40%) in amusement and theme parks. On average musicians received \$141 per performance compared with \$404 per performance by non-musicians.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
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Editor

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Statistics Weekly
11 August 1994

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 23 August

- 11** The Labour Force, Australia, July 1994, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)
- 12** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
- 16** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, June 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)
- 18** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, June 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
Company Profits, Australia, June Quarter 1994 (5651.0; \$11.00)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, May 1994 (6302.0; \$13.00)
Export Price Index, Australia, June 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, June 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, June 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)

Selected releases: 3 to 9 August

General

Publications Issued in July 1994 (1102.0; free over the counter)
Economic Indicators, Vic., July 1994 (1307.2; \$6.50)
South Australian Economic Indicators, August 1994 (1307.4; \$10.50)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., May 1994 (3401.0; \$6.50)
Age and Sex Distribution of Estimated Resident Population, Qld — Data on Floppy Disk — Technical Details and Explanatory Notes, June 1993 (3217.3; \$100.00)
Age and Sex Distribution of the Estimated Resident Population, Qld, 1993 (3224.3; \$30.00)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

International Investment Position, Aust., 1992-93 (5305.0; \$41.00)

Labour statistics and Prices

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., July 1994 (6410.0; \$5.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., June 1994 (6415.0; \$11.00)

Agriculture

Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Aust., 1992-93 Corrigendum (7507.0; free)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries,

Building and construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, May 1994 (8357.0; \$9.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, May 1994 (8367.0; \$7.00)
Mining Industry, Aust., 1992-93 (8402.0; \$21.50)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, June 1994 (8504.0; \$11.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., May 1994 (8741.2; \$11.00)
Building Approvals, Qld, June 1994 (8731.3; \$11.00)

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	March qtr 94	\$m	95 551	100 244	1.9	5.0
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	June 94	\$m	-1 657	-1 439	-15	4
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-3	-160	43	19
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-243	-116	70	65
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 223	5 372	-2	6
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5 226	-5 532	-4	5
Net foreign debt	March qtr 94	\$m	167 264	n.a.	-2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	233 967	n.a.	-0.8	11.0
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	June 94	\$m	8 392	8 616	-0.1	5.7
New capital expenditure at current prices	March qtr 94	"	5 728	6 397	-5	-2
New motor vehicle registrations	June 94	no.	57 950	52 133	2.2	9.3
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	June 94	no.	17 478	16 051	-4.9	14.3
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 912.5	2 741.7	31.5	36.2
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	"	5 783	6 236	-2.4	0.0
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	May 94	1988-89 = 100.0	115.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Materials used in manufacturing industries	May 94	1984-85 = 100.0	123.2	n.a.	1.2	-1.7
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons (d)	June 94	'000	7 892.7	7 882.0	0.2	2.8
Participation rate † (d)	"	%	62.7	62.9	0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate † (d)	"	"	9.6	10.0	0.2	-1.1
Job vacancies	May qtr 93	'000	49.4	53.0	18.5	64.1
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.31	1.33	7.5	11.1
Estimated resident population	December qtr 94	million	17.7	n.a.	0.2	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	April 94	'000	255	271	-10.6	12.1
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	March qtr 94	\$m	5 150	6 545	34.1	41.7
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May 94	\$	616.90	617.60	1.3	3.2
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	June 94	% per annum	5.45	n.a.	0.6	0.2
10-year Treasury bonds †	June 94	"	9.65	n.a.	0.85	2.3
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	June 94	per \$A	0.7333	n.a.	1	9

(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 Thursday, 11 August 1994.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	December qtr 93	-20.0	30.3	-20.4	-27.3	26.8	-39.5	n.a.	n.a.	-1.5
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	June 94	7.1	5.1	6.7	3.8	5.9	4.7	n.a.	2.4	5.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	June 94	15.0	15.2	-6.8	13.5	4.5	15.5	5.1	25.7	9.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	June 94	34.3	11.3	10.1	1.6	17.1	-15.0	-41.0	-20.7	14.3
Value of total building work done	March qtr 94	-8.2	5.6	4.6	0.7	20.6	4.6	20.3	-4.7	1.4
Employed persons*	June 94	2.8	2.8	4.7	-0.2	2.5	1.3	1.6	2.4	2.8
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 94	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.7
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	February 94	4.5	1.6	3.8	2.1	1.9	4.0	-0.5	4.0	3.1
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	March qtr 94	7.3	5.4	6.3	5.4	9.5	3.9	16.6	1.5	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 7). 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.

