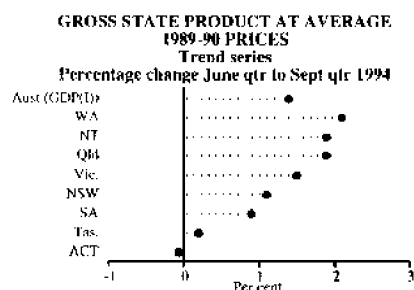


Thursday, 22 December 1994

The week in statistics ...

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Gross State product now published in constant price terms

The September quarter 1994 issue of *Australian National Accounts : State Accounts* includes the first estimates of gross State product (GSP) to be published in constant price terms. It provides constant price estimates of the income-based measure of gross State product (GSP(I)).

The basic strategy adopted in producing the constant price estimates has been to derive an overall deflator using the existing deflators for State final demand (SFD) in conjunction with the best available information on the composition and prices of the balance of expenditure between GSP and SFD. This overall deflator has been used to revalue estimates of current price GSP(I). For a more detailed description of the method used, see the technical note in the September quarter 1994 issue.

All of the following commentary relates to constant price, trend estimates unless otherwise indicated. The term 'State' has been used to refer to all States and Territories.

Western Australia leads growth

The growth in gross domestic product, as measured by the income approach (GDP(I)), was 5.7 per cent between September quarter 1993 and September quarter 1994. However, there was significant variation around this movement amongst the various States. Western Australian GSP(I) grew by 10.2 per cent over this period, the strongest growth of all the States. Queensland and the Northern Territory were the only other States where growth exceeded the national rate, recording 7.1 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES

Trend series
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
New South Wales	1.1	4.7
Victoria	1.5	4.9
Queensland	1.9	7.1
South Australia	0.9	2.0
Western Australia	2.1	10.2
Tasmania	0.2	-0.2
Northern Territory	1.9	6.6
Australian Capital Territory	-0.1	1.5
<i>Australia (GDP(I))</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>5.7</i>

In Western Australia and the Northern Territory the growth in GSP exceeded the growth in SFD, whereas nationally GDP(I) grew by 5.7 per cent, not matching the 7.1 per cent growth in domestic final demand (DFD). Each of the other six States matched the national experience of stronger growth in demand than in production, with the difference being greatest in South Australia (SFD 5.9% and GSP(I) 2.0%) and New South Wales (SFD 8.3% and GSP(I) 4.7%).

In both of these States, growth in demand was strong over the four quarters to September 1994 and followed significant periods of decline or slow growth.

The Western Australian September quarter 1994 on the June quarter 1994 growth in GSP(I) of 2.1 per cent was also stronger than that in the other States, evidence of a continuing strong trend. This growth was closely matched by 1.9 per cent growth in Queensland and the Northern Territory. The only other State to exceed the national GDP(I) growth of 1.4 per cent over the quarter was Victoria, with 1.5 per cent growth.

In all States except the Northern Territory and Victoria, business investment was a significant contributor to growth in SFD in the September quarter 1994. In Victoria, growth in private final consumption expenditure was the major contributor and in the Northern Territory, public gross fixed capital expenditure was the only area of growth in SFD.

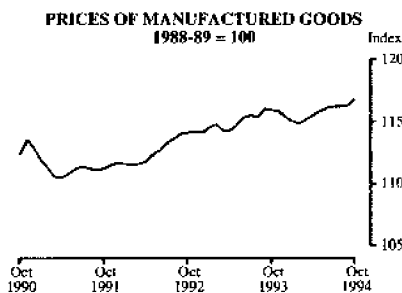
For further information, order the publication Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (5242.0), or contact Dharshi Ganeson on (06) 252 7188 for current price estimates, and Jo Jackson on (06) 252 6708 for constant price estimates.

Base metal products head rise in prices of manufactures

Increased prices for a number of base metal products accounted for almost half the overall 0.4 per cent increase in manufactured articles prices from September to October 1994.

Higher demand for a range of base metals resulted in higher prices for aluminium (7.0%), silver, lead and zinc (7.0%) and nickel (6.0%).

Prices of manufactured articles rose by 0.8 per cent from October 1993 to October 1994.



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, OCTOBER 1994

Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Basic metal products	1.9	4.1
Clothing and footwear	0.4	1.5
Chemical products	0.7	1.5
Transport equipment	0.1	1.3
Other industrial machinery	0.4	0.9
Food and beverages	0.2	0.7
Fabricated metal products	0.3	-0.1
Petroleum products	1.4	-16.5
Total manufacturing	0.4	0.8

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 5541.

Coffee price, grain shortages push up manufacturing materials prices

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries rose by 0.4 per cent in October.

Prices of imported materials rose by 1.1 per cent, mostly as a result of dramatic price increases for coffee beans (reflecting previous large increases in world prices).

Prices for home produced materials fell by 0.1 per cent in October. The main contributors to the decrease were further drought-related price falls for cattle and calves and for sheep and lambs.

These price falls were partly offset by price increases for most grains. Drought conditions have resulted in continuing supply shortages of wheat and other grains. Wheat prices increased a further 17 per cent during October and now have increased by 57.2 per cent since July 1994.

Between October 1993 and October 1994 the overall index fell by 2.0 per cent; home produced materials fell by 2.1 per cent and imported materials fell by 1.6 per cent.

The table below summarises the price movements.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, OCTOBER 1994
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	1.1	- 1.6
Home produced	- 0.1	- 2.1
All manufacturing	0.4	- 2.0

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

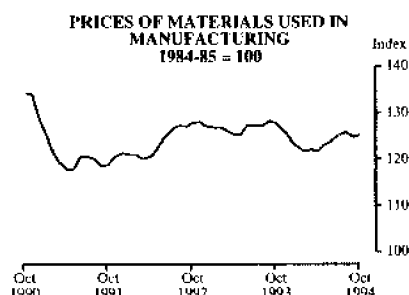
Finance in brief ...

□ Personal finance

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for October 1994 was \$2,151.8 million, a decrease of \$7.1 million (0.3%) on September 1994 but an increase of \$195.5 million (10.0%) on October 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments for October 1994 were \$2,190.8 million, an increase of \$73.4 million (3.5%) on September 1994 and an increase of \$186.4 million (9.3%) on October 1993.

Continued ...



❑ Commercial finance

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for October 1994 was \$7,886.3 million, a decrease of \$147.2 million (1.8%) on September 1994 but an increase of \$430.5 million (5.8%) on October 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, commercial finance commitments for October 1994 were \$7,223.1 million, a decrease of \$976.1 million (11.9%) on September 1994 and a decrease of \$527.5 million (6.8%) on October 1993.

❑ Lease finance

The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for October 1994 was \$530.3 million, a decrease of \$6.6 million (1.2%) on September 1994 but an increase of \$76.3 million (16.8%) on October 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments for October 1994 were \$522.5 million, a decrease of \$21.7 million (4.0%) on September 1994 but an increase of \$54.7 million (11.7%) on October 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Greg Smith on (02) 268 4788.

Ups and downs hit import prices

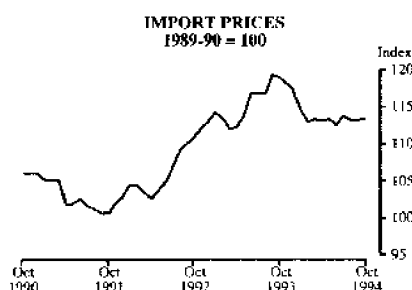
The import price index rose by 0.2 per cent in October 1994.

The value of the Australian dollar fell against the major trading currencies in October leading to price rises in a wide range of items.

The most significant price increase was for food, due largely to coffee, where large price rises reflected previous large increases in world prices.

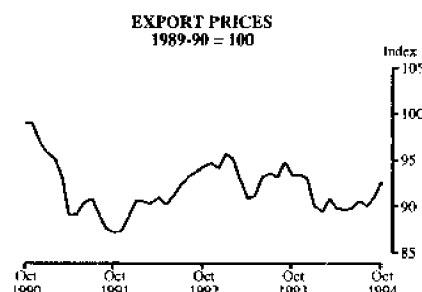
Partly offsetting price increases in other items was a large fall in prices for mineral fuels and lubricants.

Between October 1993 and October 1994 the index fell by 4.6 per cent.



IMPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1994

Selected items	Percentage change	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and live animals	6.6	7.6
Animal and vegetable oils, etc	1.7	6.3
Chemical products	1.4	-2.0
Crude materials	-0.4	-3.1
Commodities (not elsewhere specified)	0.3	-4.2
Manufactured goods, by material	0.7	-4.6
Machinery and transport equipment	0.2	-5.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.5	-5.6
Beverages and tobacco	0.3	-5.6
Mineral fuels, etc.	-9.0	-12.4
<i>All groups</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-4.6</i>



Export prices jump in October

Export prices rose 1.9 per cent from September to October 1994, the largest monthly increase recorded since June 1993.

Higher prices for wool and a number of base metals were the main contributors to the October rise reflecting higher demand and increased world commodity prices.

The overall increase in export prices was partially offset by price falls for live sheep, due to market oversupply caused by drought-induced stock reduction.

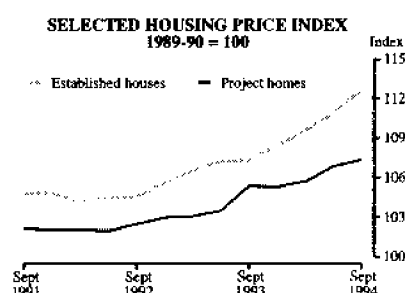
Despite the large October rise, the Export Price Index stood at 0.7 per cent below its October 1993 level.

Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1994
Percentage change

Commodity group	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Wool and cotton fibres	8.6	- 49.3
Base metals	6.2	20.2
Machinery and appliances	0.4	- 1.0
Prepared food stuffs	0.4	- 2.5
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.1	- 3.1
Gold, diamonds and coin	0.2	- 5.1
Live animals and animal products	- 1.7	- 5.6
Products of chemicals and allied industries	0.8	- 8.2
Mineral products	0.6	- 12.7
Vegetable products	1.6	- 13.7
<i>All groups</i>	1.9	- 0.7

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 5541.



House prices continue to rise

Established house prices in Australia rose 1.5 per cent between the June and September quarters 1994. A fall in Canberra (-1.1%) slightly offset rises in other capital cities (ranging from 0.9% in Melbourne to 5.2% in Darwin). Prices remained unchanged in Brisbane.

In the year to the September quarter 1994, prices for established houses in Australia rose by 4.8 per cent. Price rises were recorded in all capital cities except Canberra for this period, ranging from 2.4 per cent in Brisbane to 17.8 per cent in Darwin. A fall of 1.1 per cent was recorded for Canberra.

Inquiries

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Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
22 December 1994

Project home prices in Australia increased by 0.5 per cent between the June and September quarters 1994. Increases were reported in six capital cities ranging from 0.2 per cent in Perth to 1.8 per cent in Adelaide and Darwin. Prices fell 0.8 per cent in Canberra while prices remained unchanged in Melbourne.

HOUSING PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1994
Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	2.6	6.4	0.5	1.5
Melbourne	0.9	3.5	0.0	1.2
Brisbane	0.0	2.4	0.9	1.6
Adelaide	2.4	4.7	1.8	4.3
Perth	1.5	6.9	0.2	4.8
Hobart	1.7	7.1	0.6	2.8
Darwin	5.2	17.8	1.8	8.7
Canberra	-1.1	-0.8	-0.8	-1.9
Weighted average of eight capital cities	1.5	4.8	0.5	1.9

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

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 3 January

- 21** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, November 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 23** Manufacturing Production, Australia: Preliminary, November 1994 (8301.0; \$11.00)

Selected releases: 14 to 20 December

Demography

Australian Demographic Statistics, June Qtr 1994 (3101.0; \$17.00)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September Qtr 1994 (3402.0; \$14.50)

Social statistics

Focus on Families — A Statistical Series: Work and Family Responsibilities, 1994 (4422.0; \$30.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Merchandise Imports, Aust.: Balance of Payments Basis, November 1994 (5320.0; \$10.00)
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., October 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Aust., September Qtr 1994 (5629.0; \$11.00)

Labour statistics and Prices

The Labour Force, Aust., November 1994 (6203.0; \$16.50)
Transition from Education to Work, Aust., May 1994 (6227.0; \$18.00) — *final issue*
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Aust., 1993 (6243.0; \$18.00)
Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Aust., May 1994, Preliminary (6305.0; \$13.00)

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	September qtr 94	\$m	102 432	102 724	1.3	6.4
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	October 94	\$m	-1 903	-1 646	12	-29
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-516	319	29	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-690	-451	21	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 748	5 568	5	3
Merchandise imports	"	"	-6 264	-5 887	2	10
Net foreign debt	September qtr 94	\$m	160 258	n.a.	-1.5	-7.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	236 486	n.a.	1.6	2.2
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	October 94	\$m	9 323.9	9 347.2	2.4	9.1
New capital expenditure at current prices	September qtr 94	"	7 885	7995	-0.9	23.4
New motor vehicle registrations	October 94	no.	54 355	55 799	13.7	22.8
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 94	\$m	37 025	36 639	0.7	11.8
Dwelling unit approvals	October 94	no.	15 041	15 970	8.1	4.4
Building approvals	"	\$m	1 348	2 430	-0.8	6.5
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 94	"	6 643	6 303		2.7
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	October 94	1988-89 = 100.0	116.8	n.a.	0.4	0.8
Materials used in manufacturing industries	" 94	1984 85 = 100.0	125.1	n.a.	0.4	-2.0
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	November 94	'000	8 025.1	8 029.3	0.4	3.3
Participation rate †	"	%	62.8	63.2	0.3	0.1
Unemployment rate †	"	"	8.7	9.3	-0.1	1.7
Job vacancies	August qtr 94	'000	68.7	65.2	23.0	75.2
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.28	1.33	0.9	10.3
Estimated resident population	March 94	million	17.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	September 94	'000	253	296	0.2	14.3
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	September qtr 94	\$m	6 968	6 615	8.2	32.8
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	August 94	\$	620.40	622.60	0.7	1.4
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	October 94	% per annum	6.55	n.a.	0.45	1.75
10-year Treasury bonds †	October 94	"	10.50	n.a.	0.15	4.00
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	October 94	per \$A	0.7382	n.a.	-0.4	12

(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.

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*	June qtr 94	25.2	0.3	12.3	5.2	10.5	-34.8	n.a.	n.a.	16.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	October 94	8.7	9.0	10.0	7.2	6.4	1.9	11.5	3.8	8.4
New motor vehicle registrations†	October 94	32.8	21.7	17.2	9.8	18.0	21.8	18.2	-2.4	22.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	October 94	16.5	16.8	-6.5	-11.8	-6.7	-6.1	34.9	79.9	4.4
Value of total building work done	June qtr 94	-1.3	-0.4	9.1	-6.1	23.8	14.2	42.9	-2.7	3.9
Employed persons*	November 94	2.9	1.7	6.4	1.5	4.2	2.1	12.3	2.8	3.3
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)	August 94	4.3	2.4	2.0	-0.1	5.3	2.5	-0.1	2.7	3.0
Population	March qtr 93	0.8	0.2	2.6	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 94	5.7	6.1	6.1	2.3	9.8	14.7	8.0	6.5	6.4

* 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.

