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ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES MAY 1996

MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,761,300 in April 1996, a decrease of 1.2% 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 253,700 in April 1996, a rise of 4.0% on the previous month and 9.2% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 1996 was 8.4% in NSW and 8.9% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	Seasonally adjusted, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 18.3% from 17,448 in March 1996 to 20,649 in April 1996.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in March 1996 was 3,296, a decrease of 8.1% on the previous month.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in March 1996 increased by 10.8% from February 1996 and 3.2% from March 1995.

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

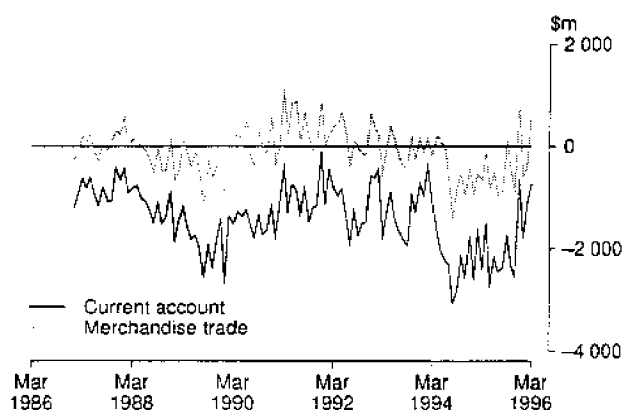
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- INQUIRIES:
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Peter Bellhouse on Sydney (02) 268 4377 or any ABS office.
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1

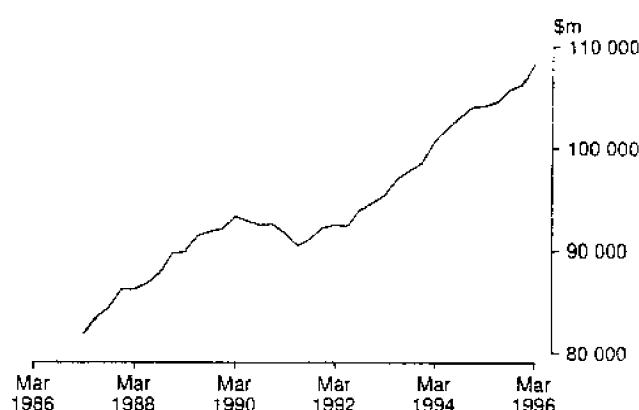
NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—							
Gross non-farm product	%	Mar. qtr 95	1.7	3.3			
Gross domestic product	%	Mar. qtr 95	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
Balance of payments—							
Merchandise exports	\$m	Mar. 96	6 777	5 860	5 896	6 767	6 139
Merchandise imports	\$m	Mar. 96	-6 104	-6 264	-6 460	-5 698	-6 811
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Mar. 96	673	-404	-564	821	-672
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Mar. 96	763	203	-400	921	-690
Balance on current account	\$m	Mar. 96	-735	-1 137	-1 797	-643	-2 381
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar. 96	-1 512	-1 711	-1 576	-1 632	-2 602
Terms of trade for goods and services—							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100	Dec. qtr 95	93.8	93.7	93.2	92.7	91.3	
Exchange Rates at end of period—							
\$US/SA	Mar. 96	0.7793	0.7635	0.7447	0.7450	0.7280	
Trade weighted index of value SA	May 1970 = 100	Mar. 96	56.8	55.5	54.7	53.9	50.7
Interest Rates—							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Apr. 96	10.75-10.85	10.75-10.85	10.75	10.75	10.60-10.75

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)



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

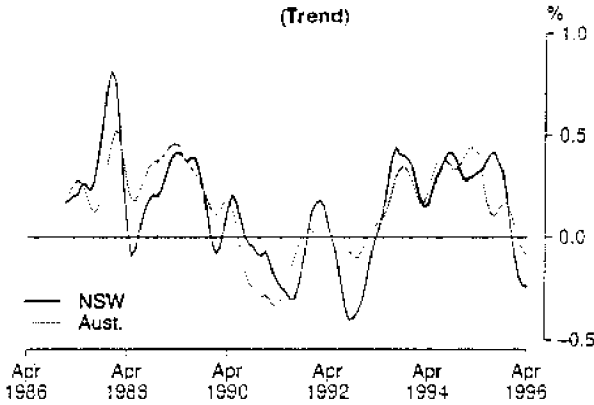


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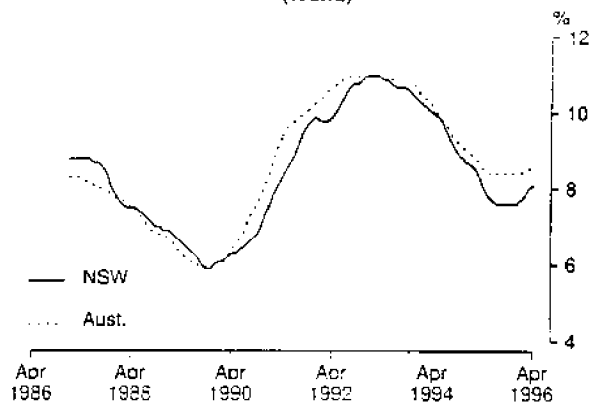
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Apr. 96	8.4	9.2	9.4	9.5	7.2	10.1	8.9
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Apr. 96	0.9	1.1	0.1	1.7	-1.4	0.4	0.6
Consumer price index: all groups	Mar. qtr 96	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.7
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)	Mar. 96	12.2	5.9	5.6	2.6	10.3	5.6	8.2
New motor vehicle registrations	Apr. 96	5.1	12.8	-11.8	18.2	16.4	-0.2	5.1
Dwelling units approved	Mar. 96	-21.8	-16.5	-31.9	-52.1	-14.8	-42.7	-24.7
Value of non-residential building approved	Mar. 96	4.1	40.5	-13.3	-36.1	13.6	14.4	3.0
Value of all buildings approved	Mar. 96	-15.5	2.2	-22.3	-39.3	-2.5	-20.0	-13.8
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec. qtr 95	7.4	3.7	6.2	-0.9	96.1	69.8	15.6
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Dec. qtr 95	2.2	4.5	-1.6	-0.2	1.6	2.9	1.2
Actual private new capital expenditure	Dec. qtr 95	4.8	20.2	10.3	-21.6	-5.2	-6.2	5.6

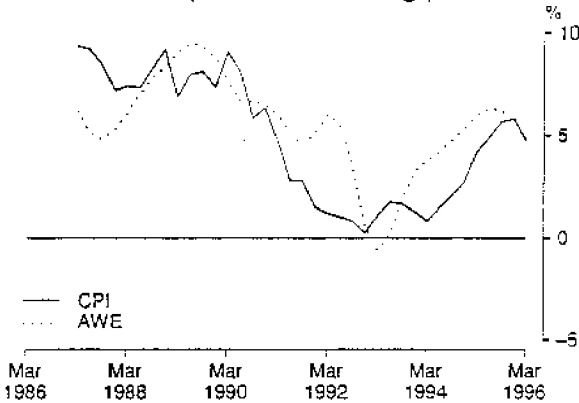
MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED (Trend)



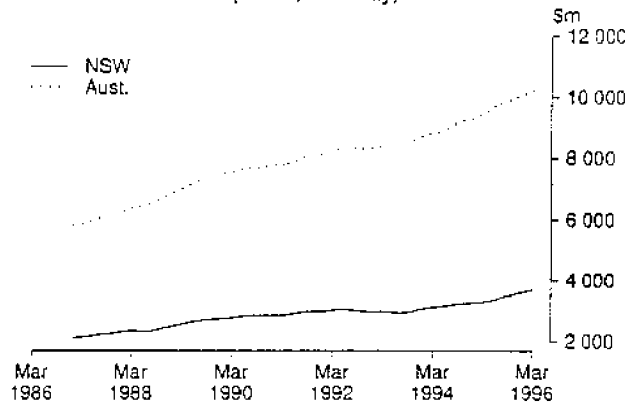
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Trend)



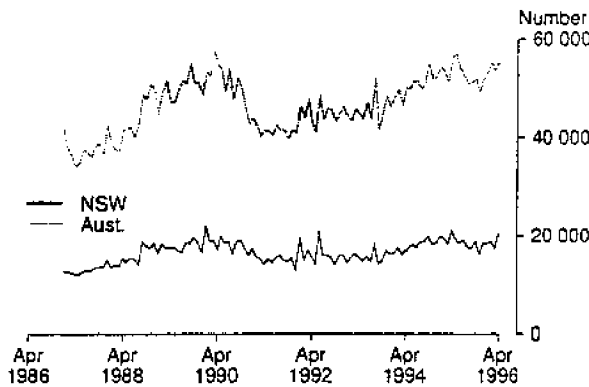
PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW (Annual rate of change)



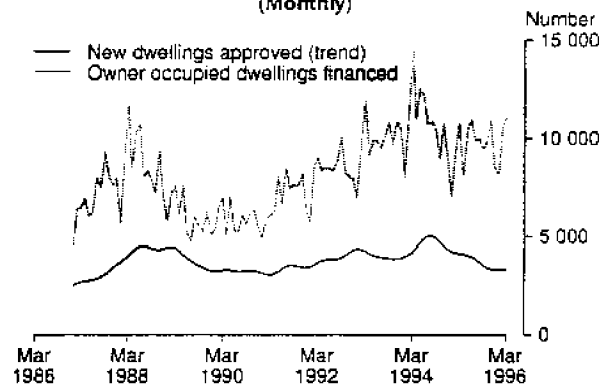
RETAIL TURNOVER (Trend, monthly)



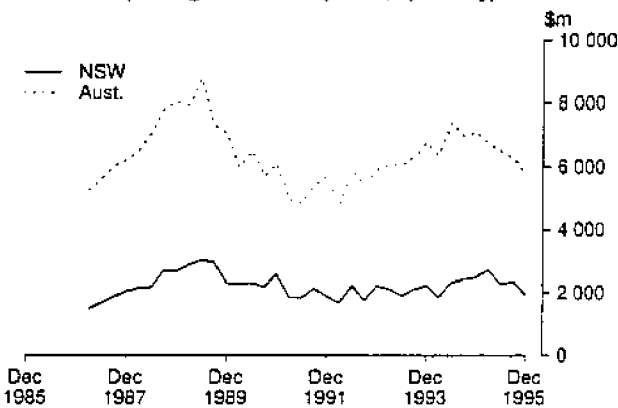
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED (Monthly)



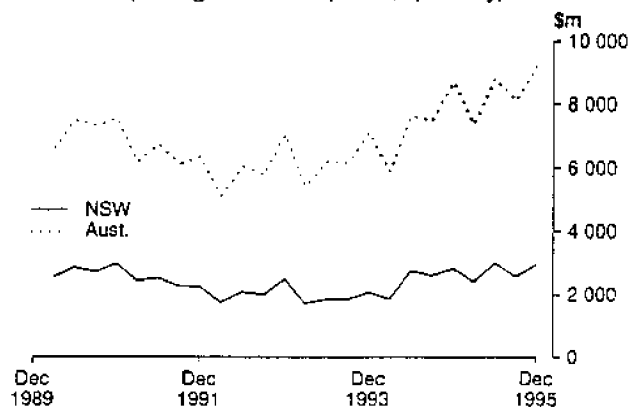
NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW (Monthly)



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			
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Latest figure	Change from prior period		
				%		%		
Population								
Estimated resident population	'000s	Sept. qtr 95	6 135	0.33	1.14	18 114	0.33	1.26
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000s	Apr. 96	4 850	0.14	1.32	14 301	0.14	1.50
Labour Force								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000s	Apr. 96	2 129	-0.4	1.3	6 230	-0.1	0.8
—total (original series)	'000s	Apr. 96	2 769	-1.0	0.9	8 278	-0.3	0.6
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Apr. 96	2 761	-1.2	0.9	8 291	0.1	0.6
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000s	Apr. 96	246	-4.0	8.9	793	-2.2	6.7
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Apr. 96	254	4.0	9.2	805	4.4	6.8
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000s	Apr. 96	3 015	-0.8	1.6	9 096	0.5	1.1
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr. 96	62.2	-0.9	0.3	63.6	0.3	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr. 96	8.4	4.8	7.5	8.9	3.9	5.6
Job vacancies	'000s	Feb. 96	27	5.5	11.2	64	13.9	11.7
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Feb. 96	7.3	4.0	0.7	7.1	3.0	-2.6
Average Weekly Employee Earnings								
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	Feb. 96	21.5	710.6	235.9	44.9	124.3	-14.9
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100								
		Mar. qtr 96	119.1	0.7	4.7	119.0	0.4	3.7
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)								
	\$m	Mar. 96	3 706	1.0	12.2	10 241	0.6	8.2
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)								
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Apr. 96	20 649	18.3	-1.8	55 427	3.7	-1.4
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	Apr. 96	17 718	19.3	-1.4	45 921	3.2	-0.6
		Apr. 96	2 931	12.8	-4.0	9 507	6.2	-4.6
Production								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Mar. 96	51.1	1.4	-10.2	116	7.5	-20.6
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Mar. 96	4 821	-3.5	-5.7	14 164	1.6	3.1
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Mar. 96	6 725	-17.6	-20.6	52 724	-0.1	2.6
Overseas Trade								
Imports	\$m	Apr. 96	2 864	4.5	9.4	6 456	2.9	12.3
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Mar. 96	1 537	21.7	12.3	6 461	12.2	9.1
Tourism								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000s	Feb. 96	172	21.0	20.3	393	23.8	23.1
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000s	Feb. 96	71	-5.3	15.9	167	-4.9	10.1
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000s	Dec. qtr 95	5 576.6	-1.3	3.1	16 175.9	-0.6	2.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec. qtr 95	60.1	-0.2	2.2	59.7	-0.3	1.2
Building								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar. 96	3 296	-8.1	-16.7	10 424	-0.7	-19.1
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	Mar. 96	310	-10.0	-28.6	945	-4.5	-20.1
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Mar. 96	269	-27.9	4.1	759	-30.2	3.0
Value of all building	\$m	Mar. 96	675	-12.8	-15.5	1 895	-14.6	-13.8
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Dec. qtr 95	9 248	-17.2	-30.2	30 089	-10.8	-34.2
Value of new residential buildings (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	902	-28.3	-35.7	2 787	-12.7	-31.9
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	817	-5.5	7.2	2 457	-3.3	5.2
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	1 942	-18.0	-22.3	5 788	-7.9	-18.5
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	2 402	-6.3	-2.7	6 846	-2.6	-7.5
Engineering Construction								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	306	-42.7	-72.1	1 673	-17.1	-20.5
Value of work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	660	-12.2	5.6	2 154	15.5	21.8
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	990	-19.1	-34.8	3 618	3.1	6.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	643	28.9	9.4	1 649	16.5	8.4
Finance								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured								
commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Mar. 96	1 628	10.8	3.2	4 404	4.7	6.3
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar. 96	870	0.4	-4.2	2 639	0.6	-3.1
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar. 96	5 490	17.4	12.2	11 977	14.7	22.9
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Mar. 96	123 905	0.6	(e)	278 822	0.3	9.6
Building societies	\$m	Mar. 96	3 695	0.7	10.8	11 556	0.6	-2.9
Credit unions	\$m	Mar. 96	5 925	0.5	14.6	13 408	0.4	13.8
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	3 128	14.7	4.8	9 758	13.3	5.6
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	792	32.0	37.6	3 131	26.4	38.0
	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	2 336	9.9	-3.1	6 627	8.0	-4.9

(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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