

ECONOMIC INDICATORS, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1994

MAIN FEATURES

- The latest indicators of economic activity in Queensland signal continued growth in most sectors. Although growth has been strong over the last year, it has slowed recently.
- Queensland's GSP in trend estimate terms for December quarter 1993 was \$17,088m, continuing the steady rate of growth shown for the previous 2 quarters. Growth over the June, September and December quarters of 1993 was slightly below the rate for Australia, following a period of significantly higher growth than Australia during 1992 and 1993.
- The Queensland provisional trend estimate unemployment rate for March 1994 was 9.8%, the lowest estimate since September 1991. The trend estimate of the number of employed persons has increased steadily over the 12 months ending March 1994 and increased 3.9% to 1.4 million persons from March 1993 to March 1994. The number of job vacancies in Queensland rose 30.6% over the same period.
- The construction industry has shown strong growth. Although residential dwelling unit approvals in trend estimate terms fell slightly (0.9%) from January 1994 to February 1994, they have increased substantially (8.3%) since January 1993.
- Approvals of new other residential buildings (townhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings, etc.) continue to increase, and rose 58.2% for the year ending February 1994. New secured housing finance for owner occupation decreased 20.0% from December 1993 to January 1994, but increased 21.2% from January 1993.
- Employment statistics for the construction industry show growth in the industry. The number of persons employed in the construction industry increased for the seventh consecutive month, reaching 129,400 persons in February 1994. This is a 13.5% increase from the February 1993 total and is the highest figure since the beginning of the series in 1978.
- Retail trade turnover has recorded continual growth, however, the rate of growth has slowed since September 1993. Growth in September 1993 was 1.0% compared with 0.5% in January 1994.
- The demand for credit in Queensland remains strong. Total personal finance commitments for January 1994 were 57.4% higher than in January 1993. Lease finance commitments increased by 15.2% and total commercial finance commitments increased by 15.0% during the same period.

Statistics shown in this publication are the latest available at the date of preparation. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues. Reference should therefore always be made to the latest issue, or to the statistical publication on the specific subject when figures are not shown.

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and *Products* (1101.0). The ABS also issues the *Publications Advice* (1105.0) on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both the *Catalogue* and the *Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific publications which are listed in the February issue.

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19 April 1994

INQUIRIES

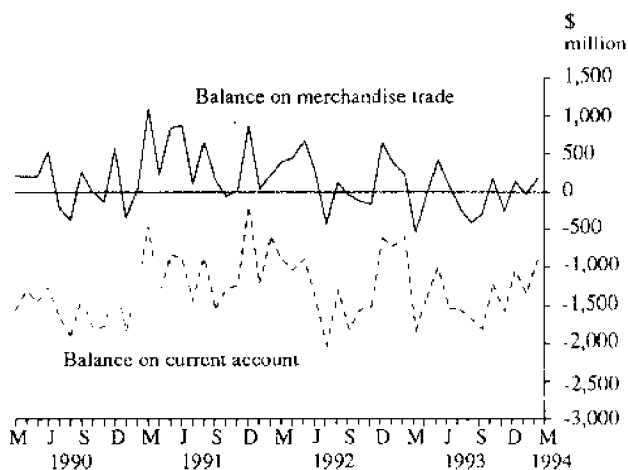
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AGGREGATE INDICATORS

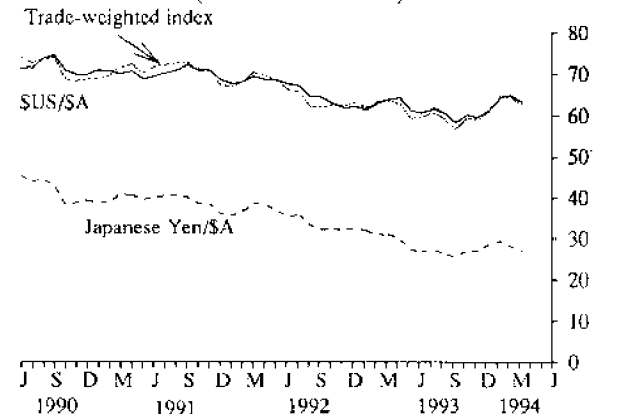
Indicator		Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year
				One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago		
1994								%
Balance of payments, Australia								
Exports	\$m	February	4,811	4,761	5,441	5,444	4,663	+3.2
Imports	\$m	February	4,616	4,794	5,297	5,697	4,425	+4.3
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	February	195	-33	144	-253	238	..
Balance on goods and services	\$m	February	406	-34	129	-259	387	..
Net income and unrequited transfers	\$m	February	-1,290	-1,320	-1,156	-1,322	-984	..
Balance on current account	\$m	February	-884	-1,354	-1,027	-1,581	-597	..
Trade and foreign investment								
Foreign trade, <i>Queensland</i>								
Imports	\$m	January 1993	477.2	563.2	640.9	599.4	424.2	+12.5
Exports	\$m	December	985.5	1,091.7	1,247.4	977.8	1,090.2	-9.6
Foreign investment in <i>Australia</i>								
Official	\$m	Dec. qtr	4,344	2,297	5,461	-945	1,690	..
Non-official	\$m	Dec. qtr	419	4,958	3,961	1,031	585	..
1994								
Export Price Index: All groups (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)	Index No.	January	90.9	93.1	93.5	93.4	95.7	-5.0
Import Price Index: All groups (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)	Index No.	January	114.4	117.1	118.2	118.9	114.2	+0.2
National accounts, Australia, (current prices, trend)								
Final consumption expenditure								
Private	\$m	Dec. qtr	66,152	65,238	64,425	63,759	63,180	+4.7
Government	\$m	Dec. qtr	18,612	18,770	18,837	18,714	18,402	+1.1
Gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	Dec. qtr	19,889	19,895	19,996	20,042	19,799	+0.5
Exports of goods and services	\$m	Dec. qtr	20,292	19,746	19,279	18,923	18,621	+9.0
Imports of goods and services	\$m	Dec. qtr	20,687	20,302	19,897	19,520	19,133	+8.1
Gross Domestic Product (Income)	\$m	Dec. qtr	106,555	105,231	103,751	102,190	100,588	+5.9
State accounts, Queensland, (current prices, trend)								
Final consumption expenditure	\$m	Dec. qtr	13,680	13,527	13,375	13,232	13,062	+4.7
Gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	Dec. qtr	3,923	3,871	3,830	3,805	3,764	+4.2
State final demand	\$m	Dec. qtr	17,603	17,398	17,206	17,037	16,827	+4.6
Gross State Product (Income)	\$m	Dec. qtr	17,088	16,864	16,656	16,473	16,189	+5.6
1994								
Exchange rate levels at end of period (a)								
\$US/\$A		March	0.7008	0.7178	0.7112	0.6771	0.7058	-0.7
Yen/\$A		March	72.04	74.67	78.11	75.80	81.51	-11.6
Trade-weighted index of value of \$A (Base: May 1970 = 100.0)		March	52.1	53.6	54.0	50.8	52.9	-1.5

(a) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. .. not applicable

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AUSTRALIA



MOVEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR AGAINST SELECTED CURRENCIES AND IN THE TRADE-WEIGHTED INDEX (Base: Dec. 1979=100)

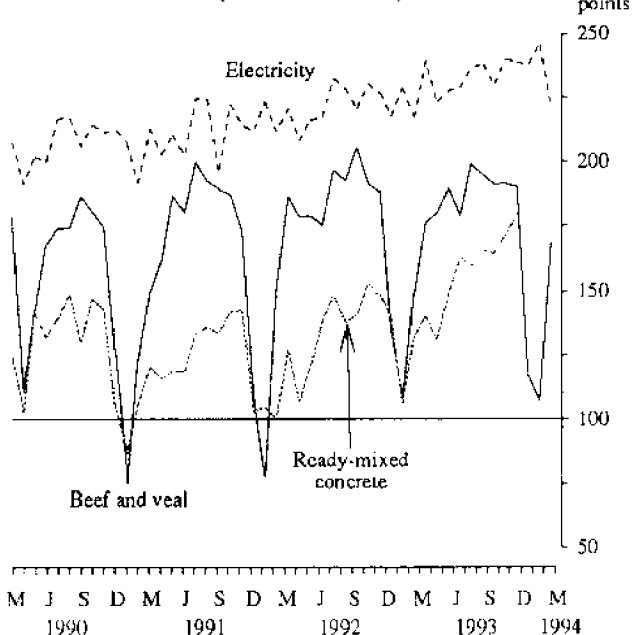


PRODUCTION

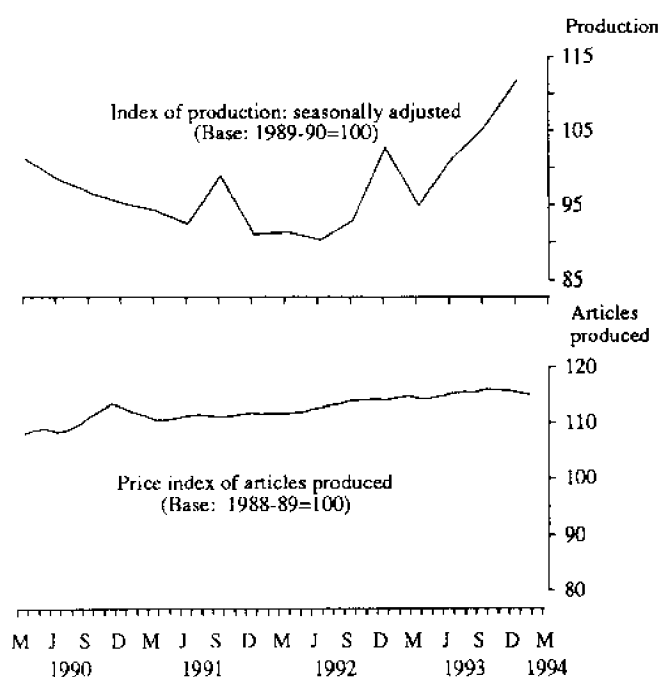
Indicator		Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year
				One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago		
1993								
Selected production statistics, Queensland								
Ready-mixed concrete	'000 cu m	November	426.7	406.5	390.8	392.9	352.9	+20.9
Black coal (saleable) (a)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qtr	21,763	22,408	20,162	21,904	21,055	+3.3
Log timber processed (b)	'000 cu m	Dec. qtr	414.7	454.5	410.2	371.4	368.6	+12.5
1994								
Wheaten flour	tonnes	January	17,062	18,776	18,723	17,802	17,319	-1.5
Electricity generated	m kWh	February	2,471.8	2,753.3	2,662.0	2,668.9	2,429.9	+1.7
Clay bricks	'000	February	28,809	22,106	25,330	30,586	25,429	+13.3
Beef and veal	'000 tonnes	February	61.0	38.7	42.3	68.8	53.6	+13.7
1993								
Quarterly index of manufacturing production, Australia (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)								
Food, beverages and tobacco	Index No.	Dec. qtr	125.3	116.0	112.8	106.6	119.9	+4.5
Chemicals, petroleum and coal products	Index No.	Dec. qtr	113.5	111.9	103.7	104.8	105.1	+8.0
Basic metal products	Index No.	Dec. qtr	130.2	113.5	112.5	99.1	104.0	+25.2
Transport equipment	Index No.	Dec. qtr	97.9	104.1	96.9	83.3	86.2	+13.6
Total manufacturing	Index No.	Dec. qtr	111.9	105.5	101.2	94.9	102.7	+9.0
1994								
Price indexes of articles produced by manufacturing industry, Australia (Base: 1988-89 = 100.0)								
Food, beverages and tobacco	Index No.	January	120.3	120.4	120.6	120.6	116.6	+3.2
Basic metal products	Index No.	January	99.6	99.9	100.1	99.9	100.9	-1.3
Transport equipment	Index No.	January	119.3	118.9	118.6	118.8	115.8	+3.0
Other machinery and equipment	Index No.	January	110.0	110.0	109.8	109.9	110.0	—
All groups	Index No.	January	115.0	115.4	115.8	115.9	114.5	+0.4
Price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industry, Australia (Base: 1984-85 = 100.0)								
Imported	Index No.	January	130.7	133.6	135.2	135.8	131.8	-0.8
Home produced	Index No.	January	118.4	119.0	121.1	123.2	124.0	-4.5
All materials	Index No.	January	122.7	124.0	126.0	127.6	126.7	-3.2

(a) Source: Queensland Coal Board. Periods vary: March and September quarters, 12 weeks; June and December quarters, 14 weeks. (b) Source: Queensland Forestry Service. — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

INDEX OF VOLUME PRODUCED: SELECTED PRODUCTS, QUEENSLAND
(Base: 1980-81=100)



INDEXES OF MANUFACTURING, AUSTRALIA

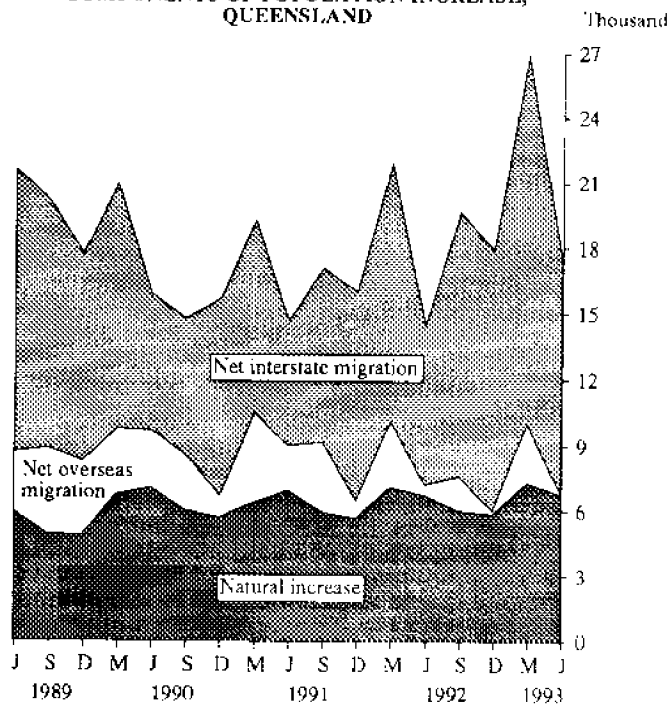


POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR STATISTICS, QUEENSLAND

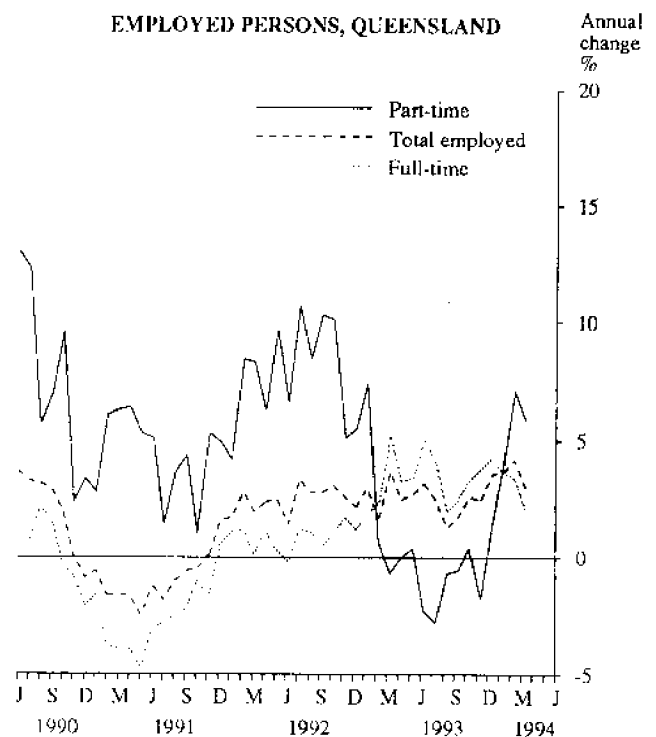
Indicator		Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year
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<i>1993</i>								
Estimated resident population at end of period	'000	June qtr	3,112.6	3,095.0	3,068.1	3,050.2	3,030.5	+2.7
Population increase during period								
Natural increase	No.	June qtr	6,775	7,314	5,880	6,040	6,731	+0.7
Net estimated interstate migration	No.	June qtr	10,781	16,876	11,890	12,079	7,260	+48.5
Net estimated overseas migration	No.	June qtr	34	2,727	156	1,589	499	-93.2
Total	No.	June qtr	17,590	26,917	17,926	19,708	14,490	+21.4
Short-term overseas movement								
Arrivals	'000	December	115.7	109.7	105.3	93.1	98.7	+17.3
Departures	'000	December	113.6	103.3	90.3	103.8	103.7	+9.6
<i>1994</i>								
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	March	2,453.0	2,447.3	2,441.5	2,435.8	2,386.2	+2.8
Persons in the labour force	'000	March	1,575.5	1,568.6	1,556.0	1,576.2	1,539.8	+2.3
<i>Employed persons</i>								
<i>Full-time</i>								
Males	'000	March	721.8	719.8	722.8	733.9	704.0	+2.5
Females	'000	March	345.1	342.0	349.6	355.2	341.1	+1.2
<i>Part-time</i>								
Males	'000	March	90.0	89.7	90.6	81.4	83.5	+7.8
Females	'000	March	251.4	244.4	224.4	247.1	239.0	+5.2
<i>Unemployed persons</i>								
Males	'000	March	167.2	172.6	168.6	158.7	172.2	-2.9
Females	'000	March	96.6	99.9	101.6	92.4	104.5	-7.6
Unemployment rate								
Males	%	March	10.6	11.0	11.1	10.2	11.7	..
Females	%	March	10.6	11.0	10.4	9.9	10.5	..
Persons	%	March	10.6	11.0	10.8	10.1	11.2	..
Persons aged 15 to 19 years	%	March	27.5	27.0	24.6	24.8	25.2	..

.. not applicable

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION INCREASE, QUEENSLAND



EMPLOYED PERSONS, QUEENSLAND

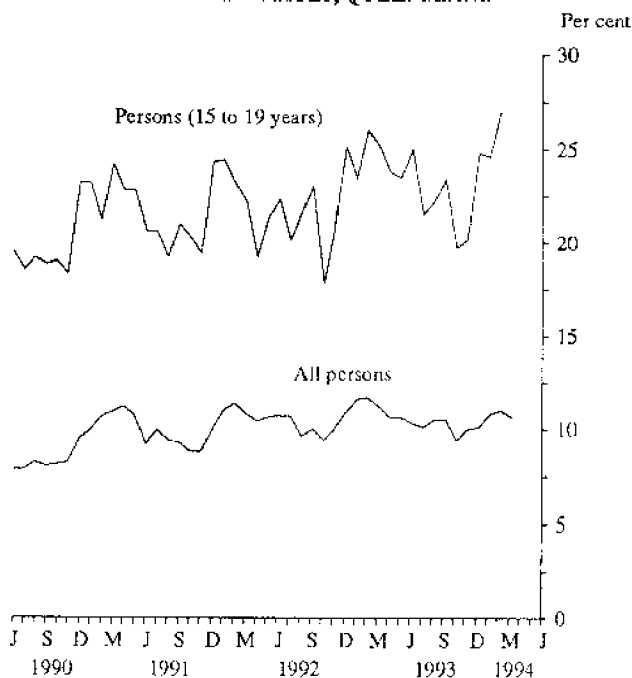


LABOUR STATISTICS, QUEENSLAND—continued

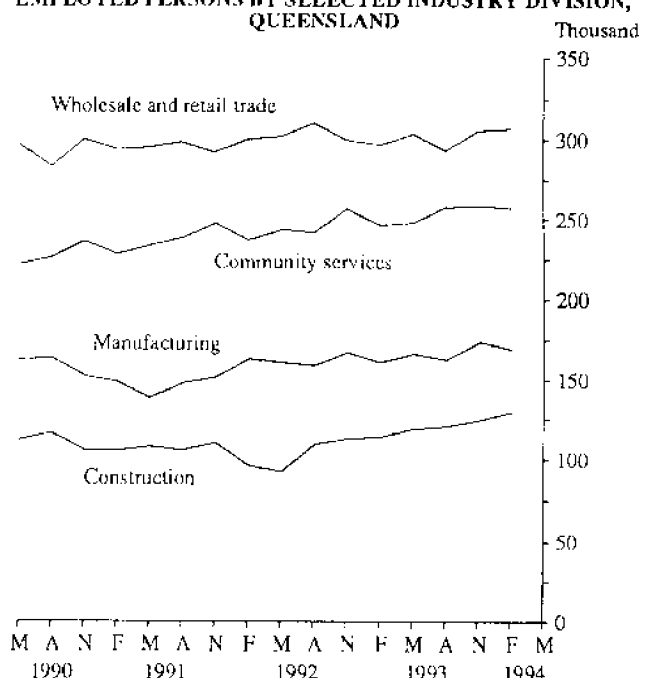
Indicator	Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year	
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	1994							
Labour participation rate							%	
Males	%	March	74.8	75.1	75.7	75.3	75.6	..
Females	%	March	53.8	53.3	52.0	54.3	53.7	..
Persons	%	March	64.2	64.1	63.7	64.7	64.5	..
Industry of employed persons (a)								
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	'000	February	78.4	86.9	82.5	80.4	82.4	-4.9
Mining	'000	February	17.3	16.2	15.1	19.0	17.9	-3.4
Manufacturing	'000	February	169.2	173.6	162.9	166.4	161.1	+5.0
Electricity, gas and water	'000	February	12.5	13.8	13.9	13.4	13.1	-4.6
Construction	'000	February	129.4	124.1	120.6	119.1	114.0	+13.5
Wholesale and retail trade	'000	February	306.8	305.4	293.3	303.5	296.9	+3.3
Transport and storage	'000	February	71.5	72.8	74.7	75.0	71.1	+0.6
Communication	'000	February	21.5	16.9	15.0	16.7	16.0	+34.4
Finance, property and business services	'000	February	149.5	136.5	128.5	130.5	141.4	+5.7
Public administration and defence	'000	February	57.5	65.2	68.5	54.8	59.5	-3.4
Community services	'000	February	257.5	258.5	257.7	248.0	246.6	+4.4
Recreation, personal and other services	'000	February	124.9	113.7	121.2	129.6	119.2	+4.8
Total	'000	February	1,396.0	1,383.5	1,353.7	1,356.4	1,339.3	+4.2
	1993							
Employed wage and salary earners								
Private	'000	September	652.1	657.6	649.9	660.5	650.0	+0.3
Government	'000	September	276.2	276.2	274.4	282.1	271.4	+1.8
Commonwealth	'000	September	46.1	46.3	46.7	46.8	46.6	-1.1
State	'000	September	196.4	195.9	193.3	199.8	193.0	+1.8
Local	'000	September	33.6	34.0	34.4	35.5	31.9	+5.3
	1994							
Job vacancies (a)	'000	February	6.4	6.2	7.0	5.0	4.9	+30.6
Overtime, average hours per employee (a)	No.	February	0.96	1.21	1.02	1.17	0.98	-2.0
	1993							
Industrial disputes: Working days lost	'000	December	5.3	4.8	6.6	32.9	3.6	..

(a) Figures collected in a quarterly survey conducted in February, May, August and November. .. not applicable

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, QUEENSLAND



EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SELECTED INDUSTRY DIVISION, QUEENSLAND

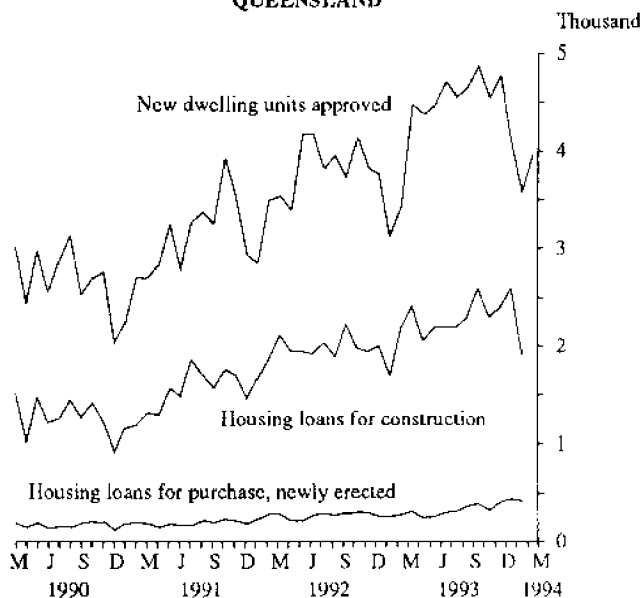


BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

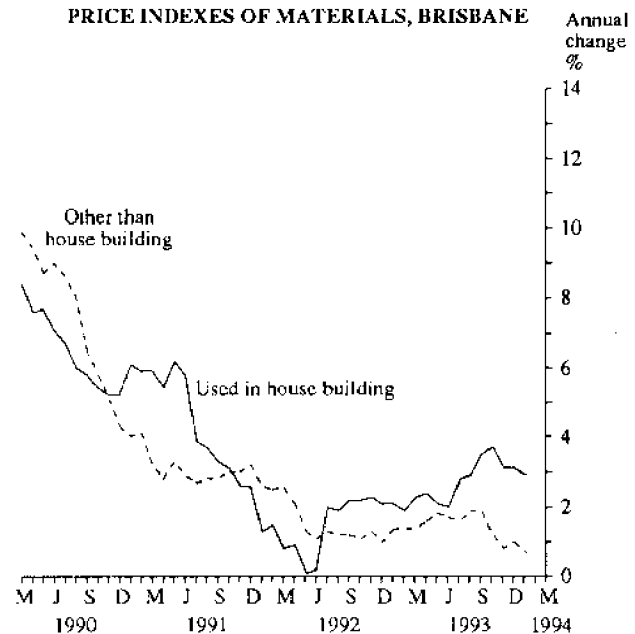
Indicator		Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year
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1994								
Selected building statistics, Queensland								
Value of all building approved	\$m	February	456.3	367.8	664.6	508.9	374.7	+21.8
Dwelling units approved								
New houses	No.	February	2,567	2,520	2,780	3,047	2,541	+1.0
New other residential buildings	No.	February	1,386	1,045	1,310	1,733	876	+58.2
Total dwelling units	No.	February	3,953	3,565	4,090	4,780	3,417	+15.7
Total dwelling units (trend estimate)	No.	February	4,370	4,408	4,448	4,477	4,034	+8.3
1993								
Dwelling units commenced								
New houses	No.	Sept. qtr	9,329	8,629	7,497	8,908	8,482	+10.0
New other residential buildings	No.	Sept. qtr	4,760	4,463	2,909	2,574	3,523	+35.1
Value of all building commenced	\$m	Sept. qtr	1,124.2	1,075.0	852.4	923.6	977.6	+15.0
1994								
Housing finance for owner occupation								
All banks	\$m	January	532.9	665.9	631.8	597.9	414.6	+28.5
Permanent building societies	\$m	January	92.0	121.9	123.1	108.3	89.3	+3.0
Other lenders	\$m	January	21.1	19.4	16.4	17.7	29.6	-29.0
Total	\$m	January	645.9	807.2	771.3	723.8	533.5	+21.1
Interest rates on new housing loans:								
All banks (a)	%	February	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	10.00	..
Price indexes, Brisbane								
Materials used in house building (Base: 1985-86 = 100.0)								
All groups	Index No.	January	152.2	152.0	151.8	152.4	147.9	+2.9
Materials used in building other than house building (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)								
Ready-mixed concrete	Index No.	January	114.2	113.7	113.4	114.1	119.5	-4.4
Structural steel	Index No.	January	117.8	117.8	116.4	115.6	112.2	+5.0
All groups	Index No.	January	109.9	109.9	109.7	109.8	109.1	+0.7

(a) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. .. not applicable

NEW DWELLINGS AND LOANS APPROVED, QUEENSLAND



PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS, BRISBANE

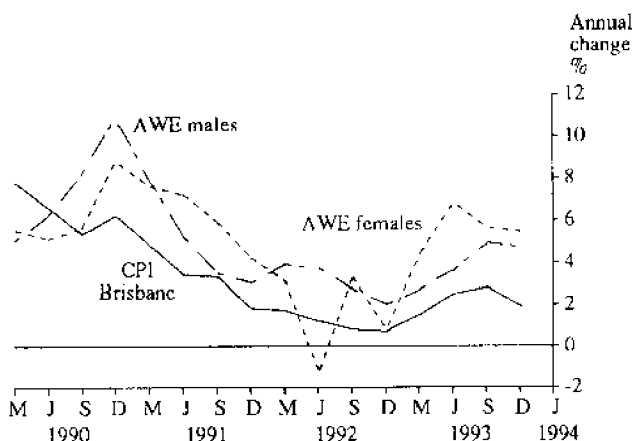


PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING

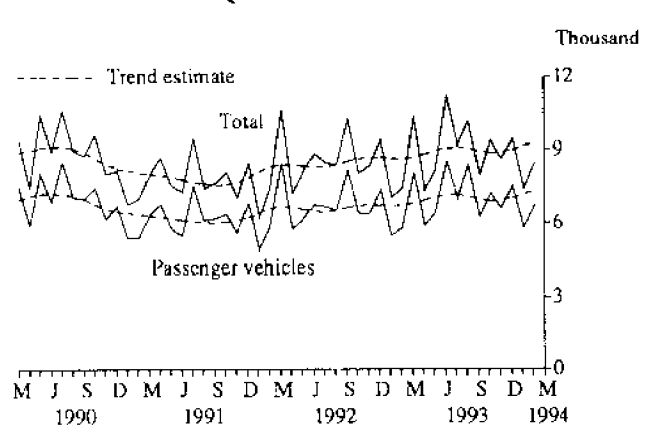
Indicator			Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year	
	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago			
1993								
Consumer Price Index, Brisbane (Base: 1989-90 = 100.0)								
Food	Index No.	Dec. qtr	110.1	109.4	108.7	109.4	107.2	+2.7
Housing	Index No.	Dec. qtr	99.8	100.4	100.5	100.0	99.0	+0.8
Transportation	Index No.	Dec. qtr	112.3	111.8	111.4	110.6	110.1	+2.0
All groups (a)	Index No.	Dec. qtr	110.2	109.9	109.7	109.1	108.1	+1.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time), Queensland (b)								
Males	\$	November	613.50	603.40	601.90	590.80	586.20	+4.7
Females	\$	November	509.70	511.90	501.40	502.90	483.70	+5.4
1994								
Index of weekly award rates of pay, Queensland (Base: June 1985 = 100.0)								
Full-time adult employees								
Males	Index No.	January	140.4	140.4	140.0	139.9	138.9	+1.1
Females	Index No.	January	141.8	141.8	141.6	141.1	139.3	+1.8
Retail trade, Queensland								
Current prices								
Original series	\$m	February	1,304.2	1,429.0	2,008.5	1,521.8	1,249.1	+4.4
Trend estimate	\$m	February	1,503.4	1,502.0	1,498.0	1,490.8	1,434.9	+4.8
Short-term accommodation, Queensland								
Licensed hotels, motels, etc. with facilities (c)								
Rooms available	'000	Dec. qtr	40.1	40.0	40.0	39.9	39.8	+0.9
Room nights occupied	'000	Dec. qtr	2,311	2,419	2,076	2,013	2,104	+9.8
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec. qtr	62.6	65.7	57.1	56.0	57.6	..
Takings from accommodation	\$m	Dec. qtr	203.4	195.5	167.3	167.0	176.6	+15.2
Self-contained units, flats and houses								
Units available	'000	Dec. qtr	16.6	16.2	15.8	15.8	15.7	+5.6
Unit nights occupied	'000	Dec. qtr	902	1,063	727	811	853	+5.8
Unit occupancy rate	%	Dec. qtr	59.1	71.3	50.5	57.0	59.0	..
Takings from accommodation	\$m	Dec. qtr	54.1	57.5	38.2	49.5	47.7	+13.3
New motor vehicle registrations, Queensland								
1994								
Passenger vehicles (d)	No.	February	6,712	5,779	7,495	6,608	5,796	+15.8
Total (e)	No.	February	8,456	7,373	9,421	8,585	7,414	+14.1
Seasonally adjusted								
Passenger vehicles (d)	No.	February	7,520	7,687	6,420	7,017	6,491	+15.9
Total (e)	No.	February	9,417	9,788	8,318	8,971	8,245	+14.2
Trend estimate								
Passenger vehicles (d)	No.	February	7,280	7,172	7,021	6,916	6,705	+8.6
Total (e)	No.	February	9,266	9,146	8,976	8,852	8,589	+7.9

(a) Including also: clothing; household equipment and operation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care and recreation and education. (b) The last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the month shown. (c) From December quarter 1993, hotel, motel and guest house establishments with fewer than five rooms have been formally excluded from the scope of this statistical collection. (d) Formerly 'Cars and station wagons'. (e) Excluding motor cycles, plant, equipment and trailers. .. not applicable

PRICES AND EARNINGS, QUEENSLAND



NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED, QUEENSLAND



BANKING AND FINANCE, QUEENSLAND

Indicator	Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year	
			One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago			
	1994							
All banks (a)							%	
Total deposits	\$m	January	30,063	30,032	29,664	29,388	28,048	+7.2
Term deposits (b)	\$m	January	13,514	13,436	13,445	13,244	13,041	+3.6
Other deposits	\$m	January	16,548	16,595	16,219	16,144	15,008	+10.3
Other lending (c)	\$m	January	34,109	33,858	33,449	32,708	27,758	-22.9
Building societies								
Lending operations								
Loans advanced	\$m	January	108.4	157.7	136.6	132.1	97.9	+10.7
Lending commitments unused	\$m	January	195.5	192.9	205.5	190.8	159.3	+22.7
Borrowing operations								
Receipts	\$m	January	1,520.1	1,800.0	1,623.6	1,629.7	1,404.0	+8.3
Withdrawals	\$m	January	1,491.6	1,758.3	1,511.9	1,574.0	1,368.4	+9.0
Personal finance commitments								
All banks	\$m	January	295.1	289.4	244.3	261.3	159.3	+85.3
Credit cooperatives	\$m	January	29.6	35.3	34.4	31.0	27.0	+9.5
Finance companies	\$m	January	86.0	83.8	94.0	82.1	72.5	+18.6
Other	\$m	January	9.5	11.5	10.0	14.6	8.2	+16.7
Total	\$m	January	420.2	420.0	382.8	389.1	267.0	+57.4
Commercial finance commitments								
All banks	\$m	January	543.2	899.7	768.6	699.0	459.7	+18.2
Finance companies	\$m	January	96.6	162.6	125.7	95.1	98.3	-1.8
Other	\$m	January	37.2	56.5	56.9	57.5	30.6	+21.5
Total	\$m	January	677.0	1,118.8	951.1	851.6	588.6	+15.0
Lease finance commitments	\$m	January	80.7	102.6	101.6	91.0	70.1	+15.2

(a) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (b) Including certificates of deposit. (c) Excluding public sector securities held by banks and commercial lending through intermediaries.

