

Thursday, 5 May 1994

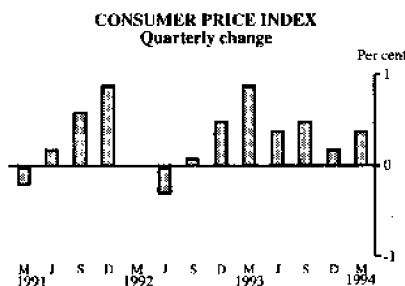
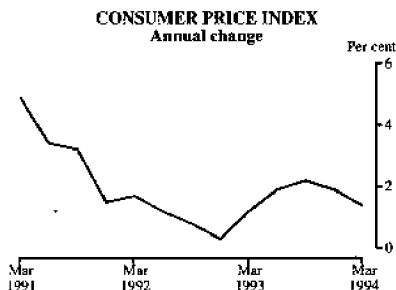
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statistics

Consumer price inflation in check in March quarter



The Consumer Price Index increased 0.4 per cent between the December quarter 1993 and the March quarter 1994, resulting in an annual increase (March quarter 1994 on March quarter 1993) of 1.4 per cent.

The most significant price rises in the March quarter were for pharmaceuticals (up 14.3%), cigarettes and tobacco (up 2.4%), fresh vegetables (up 12.0%), hospital and medical services (up 1.9%), vehicle insurance (up 2.9%), and motor vehicles (up 1.4%).

Partially offsetting those rises were falls in petrol prices (down 4.2%), the cost of overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 7.2%), consumer credit charges (down 2.9%), and take away food (down 1.3%).

Contributing most to the annual increase in consumer prices were prices of cigarettes and tobacco (up 12.7%), local government rates and charges (up 8.2%), motor vehicle prices (up 4.4%), and the cost of hospital and medical services (up 5.2%), with significant off-sets being provided by mortgage interest charges (down 6.6%), consumer credit charges (down 9.6%), petrol (down 2.3%), prices of fresh fruit (down 11.1%) and vegetables (down 6.4%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MARCH QUARTER 1994

Weighted average of eight capital cities

Percentage change

Group	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Tobacco and alcohol	1.1	6.7
Health and personal care	2.9	4.1
Recreation and education	0.2	2.1
Transportation	-0.3	1.7
Household equipment and operation	0.5	0.9
Food	0.3	0.7
Housing	0.1	-0.7
Clothing	-0.5	-1.1
<i>All groups</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.4</i>
<i>All groups excluding housing</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.8</i>
<i>All groups excluding tobacco and alcohol</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>

As the table shows, housing costs continue to have a major moderating effect on the annual rate of increase in the index. The marginal rise in housing costs in the March quarter was caused by higher house insurance costs, and a rise in water rates in Sydney, partially offset by another fall in mortgage interest charges and a fall in repair prices.

Manufacturing production in March

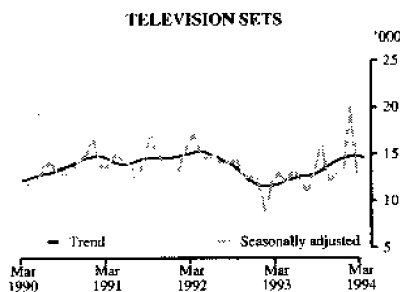
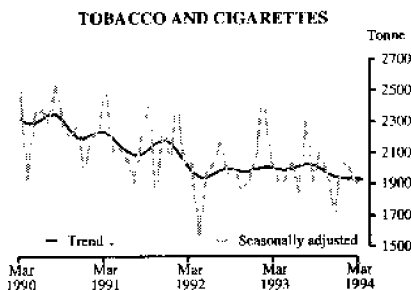
The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-three with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation 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, sixteen items show an increase in trend over production levels for March 1993. Of these four show a falling trend between February 1994 and March 1994 and three are largely stable. The trend in television sets production has levelled off in recent months after showing a rising trend since January 1993. Basic iron and iron and steel production increased and remain well above production levels observed twelve months ago. Cotton yarn and woollen yarn trend production have both grown strongly over the last twelve months and continued to grow to March 1994. Production of clay bricks and portland cement is well up on those reported a year ago although the current trend production is beginning to level off.

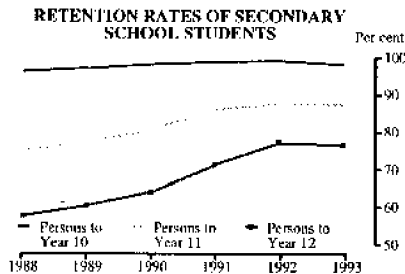
The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the monthly publications.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, MARCH 1994
Percentage change in trend

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cotton yarn	4.0	24.8
Television sets	-0.8	23.1
Wool yarn	2.0	18.8
Plastics in primary forms	3.2	17.3
Textile floor coverings	2.2	17.2
Cars and station wagons	0.7	12.4
Gas available for issue through mains	0.6	11.9
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	2.5	11.2
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	0.8	7.2
Clay bricks	0.5	5.9
Chocolate based confectionery	-3.6	6.4
Other confectionery	-1.1	4.0
Portland cement	-0.2	2.7
Electricity	-0.4	1.2
Beer	1.0	0.9
Particle board and similar boards	-2.5	0.4
Electric motors	0.5	-0.9
Woven man-made fibre fabric	0.0	-1.3
Cigarettes and tobacco	-0.5	-3.5
Domestic clothes washing machines	-2.9	-6.5
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-5.8	-9.5
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	2.6	-9.7
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	0.1	-25.9



Fewer schools, but student numbers are steady



Final figures from the 1993 annual schools census show that the number of students in Australia's schools fell marginally, from 3 098 966 in 1992 to 3 098 375 in 1993. Student numbers at government schools fell by 6 027 (0.3%) to 2 228 056, while at non-government schools, student numbers rose by 5 436 (0.6%) to 870 319.

The number of schools in Australia totalled 9 865, a fall of 92 or 0.9 per cent since the previous year's collection. Government schools fell from 7 448 to 7 366, while non-government schools fell from 2 509 to 2 499.

The schools census also shows a levelling off in the apparent retention rate of students remaining to Year 12. After significant rises in recent years, the 1993 rate of 76.6 per cent is a slight fall from the 77.1 per cent recorded in 1992. As has been the case for some years now, the apparent retention rate of students to Year 12 was greater for females (81%) than males (72%).

The number of full-time and part-time teaching staff at government and non-government schools in July 1993 totalled 217 853 persons, representing 201 911 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff units.

There was the equivalent of 146 637 full-time teaching staff in government schools in July 1993, a fall of 0.8 per cent (1 208) from the 147 845 in 1992, while teaching staff in non-government schools totalled 55 274 full-time equivalent units, an increase of 1.9 per cent (1 053). Three-quarters of teaching staff in primary schools were female, compared with just over half in secondary schools. This was the case in both government and non-government schools.

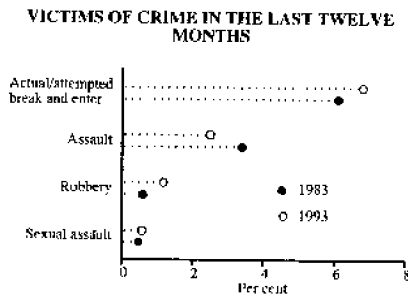
The schools census also revealed that student/teaching staff ratios ranged from 14 students per teacher in the Northern Territory, to 16 in New South Wales, with the average for Australia being 15.

The annual schools census is the result of cooperation between the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Commonwealth, State and Territory education authorities through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs' Task Force on School Statistics.

SCHOOLS, JULY 1993

	Government schools	Non-government schools	All schools
Schools	7 366	2 499	9 865
Students	2 228 056	870 319	3 098 375
Teaching staff (FTE)	146 637	55 274	201 911
Non-teaching staff (FTE)	34 434	15 138	49 572

A profile of crime and safety in Australian households



The third national household survey of crime and safety has found that 6.8 per cent of all households in Australia were victims of at least one break and enter or attempted break and enter offence in the year to April 1993. The rate was slightly higher than the corresponding estimate of 6.1 per cent in 1983.

The survey also found that 489 200 or 3.7 per cent of people over 15 in Australia were victims of at least one robbery, assault or sexual assault in the year to April 1993. Compared with 1983, the victimisation rate was up for robbery, down for assault and about the same for sexual assault.

VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, APRIL 1993
Per cent

Type of offence	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Households									
Actual/attempted break and enter	5.7	5.4	7.5	8.1	11.0	5.6	10.6	8.9	6.8
Motor vehicle theft	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.7
Total household victims	7.5	7.0	8.6	9.7	12.8	6.6	11.3	9.7	8.3
Persons									
Robbery	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.7	1.7	1.2
Assault	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.8	3.6	3.5	2.5
Sexual assault	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.6
Total personal victims	3.9	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.7	5.2	4.9	3.7

The survey, which counts crimes whether reported to police or not, found that 93.7 per cent of all motor vehicle thefts were in fact reported to police, while only about 25 per cent of sexual assault cases were reported. (The latter figure is based on a sample small enough to create the possibility of a significant sampling error.)

Privacy concerns and fear of reprisal were the two main reasons why victims of sexual assault did not report the offence to police, but some 20 per cent of victims gave as their main reason the belief that the police either would not or could not do anything.

For assault, the victimisation rate in 1993 was 2.5 per cent of the adult population, down from 3.4 per cent in 1983. The proportion of male victims of assault fell from 4.9 to 3.3 per cent between the two surveys, while the female rate dropped only marginally to 1.8 per cent. In cases where assault occurred inside the home, the proportion of female victims was 0.6 per cent, significantly higher than male victims, at 0.2 per cent.

The survey identified a number of variables which affected an individual's chances of being a victim of the types of crime surveyed. For example, households consisting of a single parent or guardian with unmarried children had the highest victimisation rate at 12.2 per cent, while the lowest, at 5.7 per cent was among married couples with no children in the household.

The risk of becoming a victim of personal crimes (assault, sexual assault, robbery) was highest in the 15 to 24 years age group at 7.9 per cent, and tended to decrease with age.

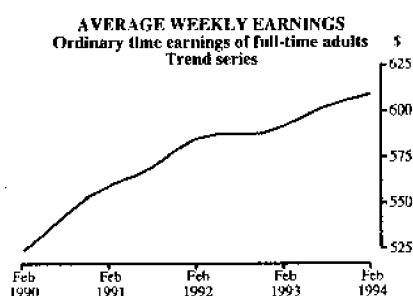
For further information, order the publication *Crime and Safety, Australia (4509.0)*, or contact Bernard Wong on (02) 268 4238.

Earnings stay ahead of prices

The trend estimate of average weekly total earnings for full-time adults rose by 3.2 per cent in the year to February following a modest 0.6 per cent rise in the three months from November 1993, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Ordinary time earnings rose 0.5 per cent in the quarter producing an annual increase of 2.9 per cent.

The movement in trend estimates for all categories of earnings have shown a steady growth since November 1992. The graph at left illustrates this trend for full-time adult ordinary time earnings.



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FEBRUARY 1994

	Average weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	Feb. 93	Nov. 93
Full-time adults — trend					
Ordinary time	645.50	542.00	608.90	2.9	0.5
Total	696.10	555.40	646.10	3.2	0.6
All employees	621.30	411.30	523.40	2.1	0.1
Full-time adults — original					
Ordinary time	648.50	546.80	612.30	3.1	1.3
Total	697.90	560.00	648.90	3.3	1.0
All employees	625.60	417.20	529.10	2.1	1.5

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary (6301.0)*, or contact Reg Gauld on (09) 323 5304.

Arrivals and departures in brief ...

For January 1994 the trend estimate for arrivals of overseas visitors remained much the same as in December 1993 with a decrease of 0.2 per cent.

In the period from July 1993 to January 1994 more than 1.85 million overseas visitors entered Australia, 13 per cent more than in the period from July 1992 to January 1993 (1.64 million).

In January 1994 the trend estimate of resident departures remained virtually unchanged from December 1993.

In the seven months from July 1993, 1.36 million resident departures were recorded, a slight decrease compared with the period from July 1992 to January 1993 (1.39 million).

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Editor

- Rad Leovic
- (06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
5 May 1994

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Expected releases over the fortnight to 17 May

- 4 Balance of Payments, Australia, March 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)
Building Approvals, Australia, March 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)
- 9 Retail Trade, Australia, March 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)
- 12 The Labour Force, Australia, April 1994, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)
- 16 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six Capital Cities and Canberra, March 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, March 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, March 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)

Selected releases: 27 April to 3 May

General

- Directory of Transport Statistics, 1993 (1132.0; \$30.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., April 1994 (1304.0; \$20.50)
- Australian Economic Indicators, May 1994 (1350.0; \$26.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, May 1994 (1304.3; \$10.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, April 1994 (1305.5; \$11.00)
- Australian Capital Territory Business Indicators, April 1994 (1303.8; \$7.50)

Demography

- Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, WA, 30 June 1993, Preliminary (3204.5; \$20.00)

Social statistics

- Crime and Safety, Aust., April 1993 (4509.0; \$18.50) — *new issue*

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

- Cash Management Trusts, Aust., March 1994 (5635.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and Prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., March 1994 (6203.0; \$16.50)
- The Labour Force, Vic., February Qtr 1994 (6202.2; \$16.50)

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- Livestock Products, Aust., March 1994 (7215.0; \$8.00)
- Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, Vic., 1992-93 (7411.2; \$16.50)
- Agriculture, Tas. at a Glance, 1994 (7113.6; \$1.00)

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

- Building Activity, Qld, December Qtr 1993 (8752.3; \$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	December qtr 93	\$m	105 897	98 581	1.7	4.0
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b) (d)	February 94	\$m	- 884	- 1 256	- 3	- 42
Balance on merchandise trade (b) (d)	"	"	195	273	80	- 14
Balance on goods and services (b) (d)	"	"	- 406	- 113	—	- 7
Merchandise exports (d)	"	"	4 811	5 256	- 1	3
Merchandise imports (d)	"	"	- 4 616	- 4 983	- 4	4
Net foreign debt	December qtr 93	\$m	171 980	n.a.	- 1.3	5.2
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	244 540	n.a.	3.7	16.9
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	January 94	\$m	8 015	8 463	1.5	4.9
New capital expenditure at current prices	December qtr 93	"	7 277	6 759	4.0	- 2.0
New motor vehicle registrations	March 94	no.	52 687	45 755	- 9.4	1.7
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	\$m	38 567	36 863	3.1	9.4
Dwelling unit approvals	February 94	no.	13 884	15 047	- 6.9	3.6
Building approvals (d)	"	\$m	2 136	2 401	19.1	13.3
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	"	6 643	6 303	—	2.7
Prices						
Consumer price index	March qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	110.4	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	February 94	1988-89 = 100.0	114.8	n.a.	- 0.2	0.0
Materials used in manufacturing industries	February 94	1984-85 = 100.0	121.7	n.a.	- 0.8	- 3.9
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	February 94	'000	7 752.1	7 819.7	0.2	2.9
Participation rate †	"	%	63.1	62.9	0.0	0.6
Unemployment rate †	"	"	11.5	10.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Job vacancies	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	January 94	'000	251	252	- 0.6	6.2
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	December qtr 93	\$m	6 618	5 255	2.5	33.5
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	February 94	\$	612.30	609.50	0.9	3.1
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	March 94	% per annum	4.95	n.a.	0.15	- 0.4
10-year Treasury bonds †	March 94	"	7.95	n.a.	0.9	0.15
Exchange rate — \$US (c) (d)	February 94	per \$A	0.7161	n.a.	3	5

(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, 4 May 1993.

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*	December qtr 93	-19.5	30.3	-20.4	-27.2	26.7	-39.5	n.a.	n.a.	-1.5
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	January 94	4.5	3.3	5.2	7.1	10.5	3.8	n.a.	7.4	5.0
New motor vehicle registrations†	March 94	-1.2	14.4	-12.4	5.9	10.3	-13.1	5.7	6.8	1.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	February 94	-9.7	16.0	15.3	-21.5	28.0	59.5	41.2	-24.2	3.6
Value of total building work done	December qtr 93	-1.3	-0.4	9.1	-6.1	23.8	14.2	42.9	-2.7	3.9
Employed persons*	February 94	3.2	1.4	4.2	-0.4	5.8	3.6	-1.9	2.3	2.9
Capital city consumer price index	March qtr 94	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	November 93	2.5	2.2	5.0	2.5	3.3	4.2	0.5	3.7	3.0
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.	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.

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