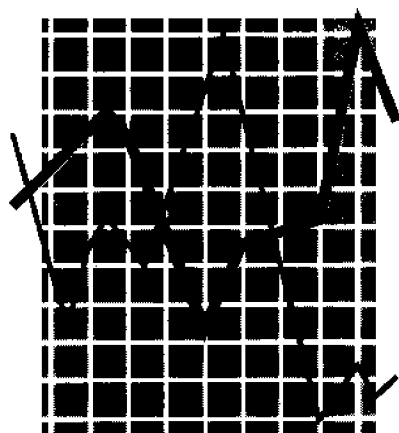


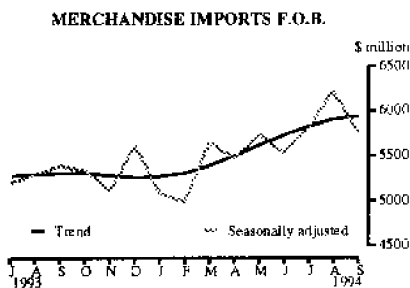
Thursday, 27 October 1994



## *The week in statistics ...*

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*statistics*



## Imports maintain upward trend

The figures in this article come from a new ABS publication *Merchandise Imports (Balance of Payments Basis), Australia* (ABS Catalogue No. 5320.0) which was released on 20 October 1994. In the future, the ABS aims to release this publication 13 working days after the month to which it refers, thus making it the first publication to carry merchandise imports statistics for any month. In the past, merchandise imports statistics were first released in *Balance of Payments, Australia* (ABS Catalogue No. 5301.0).

Despite a decrease in merchandise imports on a seasonally adjusted basis, the provisional trend estimate for September 1994 was \$5,934 million, up \$31 million, or 1 per cent, on the corresponding August estimate. It was the ninth successive increase in this estimate.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, merchandise imports for September 1994 fell \$454 million, or 7 per cent, to \$5,764 million. Consumption goods rose \$52 million, or 3 per cent, to \$1,612 million. Capital goods fell \$300 million, or 19 per cent, to \$1,302 million. Intermediate and other goods fell \$206 million, or 7 per cent, to \$2,850 million.

In original terms, imports fell \$631 million, or 9 per cent, to \$6,061 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, fell \$16 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,711 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- textiles, clothing and footwear, down \$26 million or 10 per cent;
- toys, books and leisure goods, down \$24 million or 9 per cent; and
- consumption goods nes, down \$27 million or 6 per cent;

The largest increase was recorded in non-industrial transport equipment, up \$48 million or 13 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of passenger motor cars).

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, fell \$351 million, or 20 per cent, to \$1,388 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- civil aircraft, down \$243 million or 95 per cent on the August figure which included two Qantas aircraft valued at \$248 million;
- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$69 million or 10 per cent;
- industrial transport equipment nes, down \$42 million or 21 per cent; and
- capital goods nes, down \$35 million or 16 per cent.

The most significant increase was recorded in ADP equipment, up \$33 million or 14 per cent.

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, fell \$264 million, or 8 per cent, to \$2,962 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups except non-monetary gold, which rose \$6 million or 11 per cent.

The largest decreases were recorded in:

- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$45 million or 6 per cent;
- organic and inorganic chemicals, down \$43 million or 22 per cent; and
- 'other' goods, down \$54 million or 68 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of military equipment).

In the three months to September 1994 merchandise imports (in original terms) were valued at \$18,728 million, an increase of \$1,862 million, or 11 per cent on the same period last year.

*For further information, order the publication Merchandise Imports (Balance of Payments Basis), Australia (5320.0), or contact Graeme Groves on (06) 252 6012.*

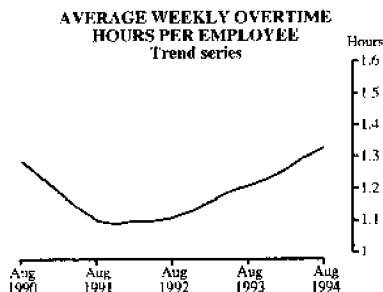
## Job vacancies and overtime continue to rise

### Job vacancies



The trend estimate of job vacancies in August 1994 was 60,300, a rise of 11.7 per cent from May 1994. This is the largest quarterly increase in the number of job vacancies since February 1985, and continues the trend that began when the series turned upwards from the trough of 25,100 recorded in August 1991. The trend series is now only 15.1 per cent below the peak of 71,000 recorded in February 1989.

Private sector job vacancies rose 11.9 per cent to 48,600 in the three months to August 1994, while public sector vacancies rose by 11.1 per cent to 11,700, the highest level since February 1991.

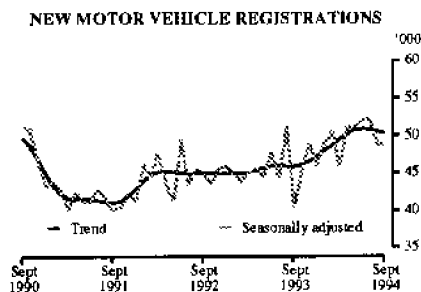


### Overtime

The trend estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee in August 1994 was 1.33, a rise of 2.6 per cent from May 1994 and 10.5 per cent from August 1993. This continues the trend evident since November 1991.

The trend estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime rose slightly to 7.35 hours in August 1994 from 7.33 hours in May 1994, and recorded a rise of 0.5 per cent in the twelve months from August 1993.

The trend estimate for the proportion of employees working overtime in August 1994 was 18.17 per cent, up 2.6 per cent from May 1994 and up 10.2 per cent from August 1993.



## New car market remains flat

The trend for total new vehicle registrations has fallen marginally in each of the three months to September following sustained rises since September 1993. The trend for passenger vehicles has been essentially flat in recent months, whereas the trend for other vehicles has been falling since the June peak.

Seasonally adjusted, the marginal decline in passenger vehicles was more than offset by the rise in other vehicles to show a small increase in total vehicles for September 1994. The seasonally adjusted estimate of other vehicle registrations is 20.8 per cent higher than for September 1993.

In original terms total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 5.1 per cent to 50,233 vehicles from August 1994. Only South Australia and the Northern Territory recorded increased registrations in the original series.

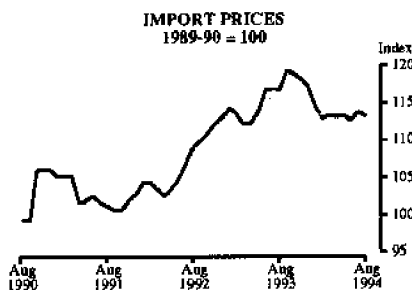
For further information, order the publication *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, September 1994 (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

## Rising dollar curbs import prices

The Import price index fell by 0.4 per cent in August 1994.

An increase in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies contributed to price falls in a wide range of items in August. The most significant price falls were for machinery and transport equipment, mostly due to the exchange rate effect on road vehicle prices. These falls were partly offset by increased world oil and coffee prices.

Between August 1993 and August 1994 the index fell by 3.0 per cent.

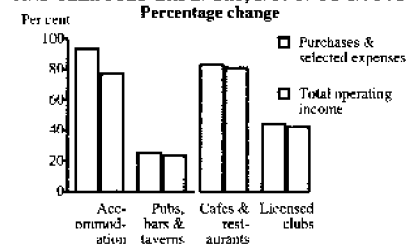


**IMPORT PRICES, AUGUST 1994**  
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Mineral fuels, etc.	1.1	2.4
Food and live animals	1.4	0.9
Crude materials	-0.1	-0.2
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	2.8	-1.9
Manufactured goods, by material	-0.3	-2.9
Chemical products	0.2	-3.0
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.9	-3.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-0.4	-5.0
Commodities n.e.s.	-2.4	-7.0
Beverages and tobacco	0.0	-13.5
<i>All groups</i>	-0.4	-3.0

## Hospitality industries pulled in \$19,000 million income in 1991-92

**TOTAL OPERATING INCOME AND PURCHASES AND SELECTED EXPENSES, 1986-87 TO 1991-92**



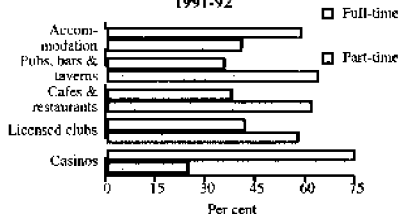
Australia's 21,221 hospitality businesses generated \$19,000 million in income in 1991-92. One-third of businesses incurred a loss during the 1991-92 financial year.

The industries employed 338,056 persons at the end of June 1992 with employment growth between 1986-87 and 1991-92 (excluding casinos), reaching 22 per cent, well above the 9.3 per cent rate of growth of total Australian employment.

The hospitality industries comprise businesses whose primary activities are the provision of accommodation, selling of alcohol beverages for consumption on the premises, provision of food and entertainment. The group of hospitality industries included in this publication are accommodation, pubs, bars and taverns, cafes and restaurants, licensed clubs and casinos.

Employment size groupings by industry show that more than half of the businesses in all industries (except casinos) employed less than 10 persons.

**INDUSTRY PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT, 1991-92**



**SELECTED DATA ITEMS, AUSTRALIA, 1979-80, 1986-87 AND 1991-92**

Items		1979-80	1986-87	1991-92
<b>Hospitality industries (excluding casinos)</b>				
Businesses at end June	no.	16 806	19 776	21 213
Employment at end June	no.	227 971	270 574	328 838
Wages and salaries	\$m	1 413.5	2 741.8	4 392.8
Total operating income	\$m	6 022.7	11 989.4	18 087.0
Purchases and selected expenses	\$m	3 127.6	7 734.1	11 779.0
Operating profit before tax	\$m	n.a.	557.2	104.8

Between June 1987 and June 1992 pubs, bars and taverns was the only hospitality industry that had a decrease in the number of businesses and employment.

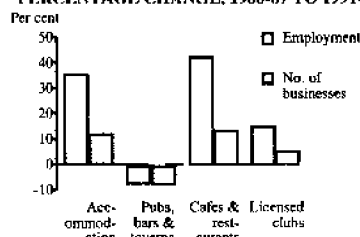
At the end of June 1992, 37 per cent of all hospitality businesses operated in New South Wales. Businesses in this State accounted for 41 per cent of net income, and 39 per cent of total employment in the hospitality businesses.

Hospitality businesses in Queensland accounted for 20 per cent of selected income compared with 19 per cent in Victoria.

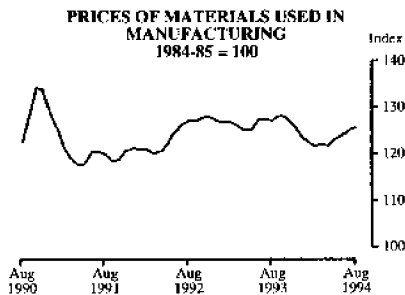
Twenty-five per cent of hospitality businesses provided live entertainment, with live performers being paid \$190 million for some 394,000 performances.

Information is also available on request on the licensed clubs industries in respect of access facilities for people with disabilities.

**NUMBER OF BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1986-87 TO 1991-92**



## Imported oil and drought push up manufacturing materials prices



The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries rose by 0.4 per cent in August 1994.

Prices of imported materials rose by 0.8 per cent, mostly as a result of higher prices for crude petroleum and condensates (reflecting world oil price increases).

Prices for home produced materials rose by 0.2 per cent in August. The main contributors to the increase were wheat and other agricultural crops. Drought feed demand and continuing supply shortages pushed wheat prices up a further 14.7 per cent during August.

Between August 1993 and August 1994 the price index of manufacturing materials fell by 1.2 per cent. Home produced materials fell by 1.5 per cent and imported materials fell by 0.8 per cent.

The table below summarises the price movements.

**PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, AUGUST 1994**  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.8	-0.8
Home Produced	0.2	-1.5
All manufacturing	0.4	-1.2

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.

## Industrial disputes in brief ...

In July 1994 there were 55 disputes involving 15,700 employees and the loss of 35,600 working days. This represents a 109 per cent increase from the previous month in the number of employees involved, and a 25 per cent increase in the number of working days lost. The number of disputes also increased by 12 per cent from the previous month.

In the twelve months ended July 1994, there were 531 disputes reported involving 293,800 employees and the loss of 518,000 working days. This is a 71 per cent decrease in total employees involved from the 12 months ended July 1993 and a 51 per cent decrease in the number of working days lost in the same period.

Managerial policy was reported as the main cause of 59 per cent of all disputes for the year. Disputes lasting for one day or less represented 55 per cent of all disputes. Resumting without negotiation was reported as the method of settlement for 54 per cent of all disputes.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

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- ☎ (06) 252 6627
- FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

- ☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
- Vic. (03) 615 7000
- Qld (07) 222 6351
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### Editor

- Rad Leovic
- (06) 252 6104

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over fortnight to 8 November

#### October

- 26 Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1994 (6401.0; \$12.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Australia, September 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)

#### November

- 1 Balance of Payments, Australia, September 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)
- Building Approvals, Australia, September 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)

### Selected releases: 19 to 25 October

#### General

- Publications Advice, 21 October 1994 (1105.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 25 October 1994 (1105.0; free)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., October 1994 (1304.0; \$20.50)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, October 1994 (1307.3; \$6.50)
- Australian Capital Territory Business Indicators, October 1994 (1303.8; \$7.50)

#### Demography

- Deaths, Aust., 1993 (3302.0; \$18.50)

#### Social statistics

- Focus on Families — A Statistical Series: Education and Employment, 1994 (4421.0; \$30.00)

#### National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

- Merchandise Imports, Aust.: Balance of Payments Basis, September 1994 (5320.0; \$10.00)

#### Labour statistics and Prices

- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., August 1994 (6312.0; \$13.00)
- Industrial Disputes, Aust., July 1994 (6321.0; \$11.00)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., August 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
- Import Price Index, Aust., August 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)

#### Agriculture

- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, August 1994 (7204.3; \$5.00)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Motor Vehicle Hire Industry, Aust., 1991-92 (8652.0; \$12.50)
- Hospitality Industries, Aust., 1991-92 (8674.0; \$25.00)
- Building Activity, NSW, June Qtr 1994 (8752.1; \$11.00)

#### Transport

- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., September 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., September 1994 (9303.2; \$11.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 94	\$m	99 058	100 666	0.9	4.3
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	August 94	\$m	-2 708	-2 139	-18	-61
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-1 390	-869	-50	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-1 608	-1 007	-62	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 306	5 353	2	2
Merchandise imports	"	"	-6 696	-6 222	7	17
Net foreign debt	June qtr 94	\$m	161 524	n.a.	-1.9	-4.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	232 698	n.a.	-0.2	5.2
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	August 94	\$m	8 625.5	9 016.8	2.1	10.7
New capital expenditure at current prices	June qtr 94	"	7 284	6 994	7	11.0
New motor vehicle registrations	September 94	no.	50 233	48 841	0.1	20.8
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	August 94	no.	18 778	17 396	13.4	18.3
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 905.3	2 744.4	19.4	22.9
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	"	5 783	6 236	-2.4	—
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index (d)	June qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	August 94	1988-89 = 100.0	116.2	n.a.	0.0	0.7
Materials used in manufacturing industries	" 94	1984-85 = 100.0	125.6	n.a.	0.4	-1.2
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	September 94	'000	8 087.4	8 009.9	1.0	3.9
Participation rate †	"	%	63.8	63.3	0.5	0.7
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.3	9.5	0.0	-1.4
Job vacancies (d)	August qtr 94	'000	68.7	65.2	23.0	75.2
Average weekly overtime per employee (d)	"	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	July 94	'000	275	271	-2.8	11.3
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 94	\$m	5 410	6 115	-2.5	33.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May 94	\$	617.50	618.20	1.4	3.3
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	August 94	% per annum	5.70	n.a.	0.3	0.95
10-year Treasury bonds †	August 94	"	9.35	n.a.	-0.2	2.45
Exchange rate — SUS (c)	August 94	per \$A	0.7404	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 Wednesday, 26 October 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*	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)	August 94	9.2	7.4	8.3	5.6	6.3	3.8	n.a.	3.8	8.1	
New motor vehicle registrations†	September 94	30.4	17.4	17.8	15.8	11.2	27.6	25.9	-10.5	20.8	
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	August 94	60.7	17.2	10.0	-14.0	2.0	28.5	58.5	-50.8	18.3	
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*	September 94	4.5	2.9	6.1	2.2	3.2	2.1	1.5	1.8	3.9	
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)	May 94	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.8	3.0	3.2	1.2	2.6	3.5	
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.

