

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 31 March 1994

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There will be no *Statistics Weekly* next week.  
The next issue will be released on  
Thursday, 14 April 1994.

## Manufacturing 1991-92: turnover, employment down, productivity up

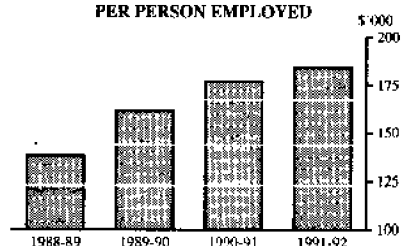
Final results from the 1991-92 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Manufacturing Census showed that turnover at current prices for Australia's manufacturing industry fell compared with the previous year for the first time since 1968-69 (when the ABS started collecting statistics on the present basis). Employment in Australia's manufacturing industry also fell, continuing the decline evident since June 1989.

### Manufacturing turnover and employment

Turnover at current prices was \$168 019 million in 1991-92, a fall of \$3 226 million or 1.9 per cent from 1990-91. Employment fell by 54 700 persons (5.7%) between June 1991 and June 1992 to 906 900 persons.

Of the 12 industry subdivisions within manufacturing, nine recorded decreases in turnover at current prices and three recorded increases. Food, beverages and tobacco (up 3.1%) and Textiles (up 1.7%) recorded the only significant increases, whilst Transport equipment (down 9.5%) and Fabricated metal products (down 6.0%) were the subdivisions most severely affected by decreases in turnover.

MANUFACTURING TURNOVER  
PER PERSON EMPLOYED



EMPLOYMENT AND TURNOVER, 1991-92

Industry subdivision	Employment at end of June ('000)	Turnover (\$m)
Food, beverages and tobacco	166.0	35 768.1
Textiles	26.2	4 120.9
Clothing and footwear	49.8	4 846.6
Wood, wood products and furniture	71.7	7 638.3
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	100.3	14 332.0
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	50.5	23 462.4
Non-metallic mineral products	37.6	7 318.6
Basic metal products	62.1	20 520.7
Fabricated metal products	88.8	11 554.5
Transport equipment	81.6	14 153.2
Other machinery and equipment	114.2	15 901.6
Miscellaneous manufacturing	58.2	8 401.9
<i>Total manufacturing</i>	<i>906.9</i>	<i>168 018.7</i>

While both employment and turnover declined, there was evidence of significant productivity growth in the manufacturing industry. Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the ratio of turnover per person employed grew by 4.0 per cent, while the three years between 1988-89 and 1991-92 saw this ratio grow by 32.7 per cent.

## Manufacturing gross product

In constant price terms (average 1989–90 prices), manufacturing gross product at factor cost fell for the third year in a row. Gross product fell by 2.1 per cent in 1991–92 to be 5.4 per cent below the peak recorded in 1988–89.

Nine of the 12 industry subdivisions recorded a decrease over the period 1990–91 to 1991–92 and three recorded an increase. The largest percentage decreases were recorded by Transport equipment (down 8.6%) and Fabricated metal products (down 6.1%). Increases over this period were recorded by Textiles (up 2.9%), Basic metal products (up 1.3%) and Food, beverages and tobacco (up 1.2%).

## Environmental issues

Overall, 22 per cent of all manufacturing establishments permitted and/or encouraged the return of their own containers or packaging, whilst 5 per cent reported conducting environmental impact assessments or audits in 1991–92. These activities were much more prevalent among larger establishments.

The census also showed that total current expenditure in 1991–92 by manufacturing establishments on environmental protection was \$523.6 million, equivalent to 0.3 per cent of the turnover. Reported total capital expenditure to abate pollution was \$505.4 million. Of these amounts, 49.0 and 69.4 per cent (respectively) was spent by manufacturers in just two of the 12 manufacturing industries — Chemical, petroleum and coal products and Basic metal products. The table below shows details for all industry subdivisions.

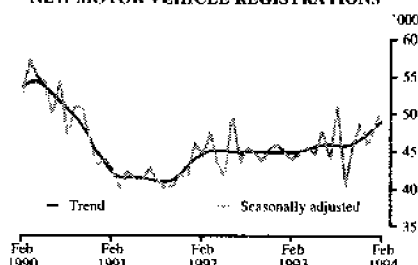
EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, 1991–92

<i>Industry subdivision</i>	<i>Current expenditure on environmental protection (\$'000)</i>	<i>Capital expenditure to abate pollution (\$'000)</i>
Food, beverages and tobacco	70 221	76 464
Textiles	10 141	3 434
Clothing and footwear	3 171	1 712
Wood, wood products and furniture	16 767	6 296
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	46 954	21 220
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	131 979	108 723
Non-metallic mineral products	37 698	10 303
Basic metal products	124 447	242 309
Fabricated metal products	19 595	6 806
Transport equipment	12 738	10 282
Other machinery and equipment	20 487	8 722
Miscellaneous manufacturing	29 365	9 179
<i>Total manufacturing</i>	<i>523 563</i>	<i>505 450</i>

For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (8221.0), or contact Mark Wise on (02) 268 4541.



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



## Recovery confirmed for new motor vehicle sales

The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations is now showing sustained growth with rises in excess of 1.0 per cent recorded in each of the four months to February 1994.

New motor vehicle registrations in seasonally adjusted terms rose by 3.5 per cent over January 1994, following a 6.3 per cent increase in January over December 1993.

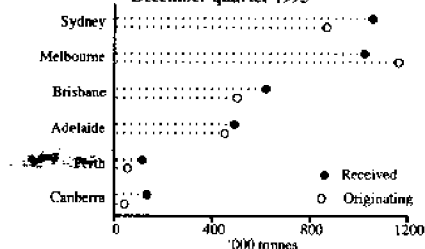
Unadjusted total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1994 rose by 25.3 per cent to 45 946 from the previous month's total. Similar increases were recorded for both passenger vehicles, which rose 25.5 per cent to 38 870; and other vehicles, up 24.2 per cent to 7 076.

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

## Increase in road freight movements

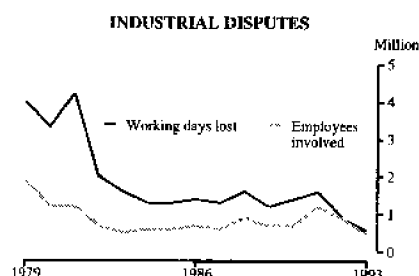
Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during the December quarter 1993 (4 658 000 tonnes) was 4.5 per cent higher than in the September quarter 1993 (4 458 000 tonnes). This increase is in line with recent years, where the December quarter figures typically were higher than those reported in the immediately preceding September quarter.

A large number of enterprises indicated that seasonal factors affected their volume of freight moved, particularly cartage of grains and fresh produce. In addition, a number of enterprises reported that increased economic activity resulted in an increase in their volume of freight moved.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT  
December quarter 1993INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT FOR SELECTED MAJOR CENTRES  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1993

	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	874	4.7	1 058	5.3
Melbourne	1 167	1.4	1 027	4.2
Geelong	29	-5.0	80	4.8
Brisbane	507	14.9	623	7.2
Adelaide	456	2.3	494	-0.8
Perth	60	-15.6	116	-9.4
Tasmania	2	3.0	9	22.1
Darwin	10	30.6	41	3.8
Canberra	47	-38.2	136	2.6
Total	4 658	4.5	4 658	4.5

## Industrial disputes at lowest level since World War II



There were 610 disputes reported in the 1993 calendar year, down from 728 in 1992. This continued the trend of annual decreases in the number of disputes since 1984 and is the lowest figure recorded for a calendar year since 1942 (602).

The number of employees involved in industrial disputes decreased considerably, falling from 871 500 in 1992 to 489 600 in 1993. The number of working days lost also declined, from 941 200 to 635 800 over the same period.

Of the States, Victoria recorded a significant fall in working days lost, from 586 400 in 1992 to 257 200 in 1993, but disputes in Victoria still accounted for 40 per cent of working days lost in Australia during 1993. Queensland recorded the largest increase in working days lost between 1992 and 1993 (66 300 to 128 400).

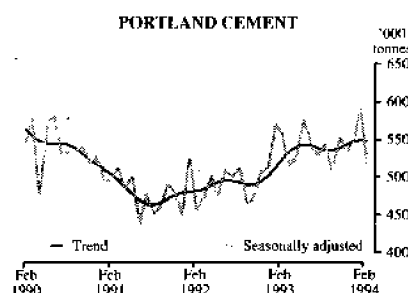
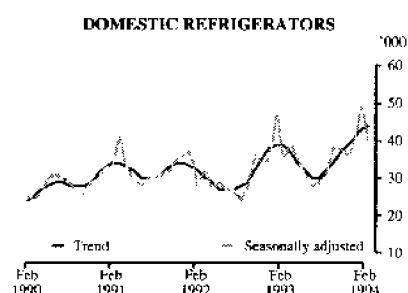
Most industries recorded a significant decrease in working days lost in 1993 compared with 1992. The community services industry recorded the largest decrease, from 238 900 in 1992 to 147 500 in 1993, followed by the manufacturing (other than metal products, machinery and equipment) industry, down from 154 600 to 77 700. The mining (other than coal) industry recorded 14 400 working days lost, the lowest reported for this industry for a calendar year since 1967 (10 600).

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD

Calendar year	Number of disputes	Employees involved (directly and indirectly) ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
1985	1 895	570.5	1 256.2
1986	1 754	691.7	1 390.7
1987	1 517	608.8	1 311.9
1988	1 508	894.4	1 641.4
1989	1 402	709.8	1 202.4
1990	1 193	729.9	1 376.5
1991	1 036	1 181.6	1 610.6
1992	728	871.5	941.2
1993	610	489.6	635.8

For further information, order the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6321.0), or contact Laurie Mann on (06) 252 6572.

## Manufacturing production in February



The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* 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, seventeen items are showing an increase in trend over production levels from the corresponding month in 1993. Of these all but two are also showing current trend growth to February 1994, in particular wool yarn, cotton yarn, and electric motors have strong current trend growth. Clay bricks production trend is showing growth from its last trough in September 1993 while the trend in production of domestic clothes washing machines is showing a gradual decline from its last peak in October 1993.

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, FEBRUARY 1994**  
Percentage change in trend

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Television sets	1.3	30.7
Chocolate based confectionery	0.4	19.2
Cotton yarn	3.2	18.3
Wool yarn	3.1	16.7
Cars and station wagons	1.8	14.2
Clay bricks	1.8	12.0
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	1.6	10.9
Particle board and similar boards	-1.5	10.2
Other confectionery	1.8	9.6
Textile floor coverings	0.8	9.2
Gas available for issue through mains	0.7	9.2
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	0.5	9.0
Plastics in primary forms	1.6	8.7
Portland cement	-0.1	4.6
Electric motors	2.8	4.4
Woven man-made fibre fabric	1.1	3.0
Electricity	—	2.8
Beer	0.5	-0.6
Domestic clothes washing machines	-2.7	-2.2
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-1.7	-2.5
Cigarettes and tobacco	1.0	-3.0
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	0.8	-20.1
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-0.6	-28.9

## 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

PO Box 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

(06) 252 6627  
(06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
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WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
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**Statistics Weekly**  
**31 March 1994**

## Pilot survey — labour demand

Preliminary results from a pilot Survey of Labour Demand conducted in 1993 are now available. This survey collected information from a sample of 5 000 employers across Australia about 'on-demand' and 'difficult-to-fill' job vacancies classified by occupation. Other information relating to these vacancies, such as recruitment methods used and reasons why vacancies were difficult to fill, was also collected.

The survey showed that, during the 12 months to May 1993, about 2.6 per cent of employers had at least one 'difficult-to-fill' vacancy. It also showed that there were approximately 78 900 'on demand' vacancies during a 4-week period in May/June 1993.

Due to the relatively high levels of sampling error associated with much of the data, only limited results from the survey are available.

For further information on this survey, contact Rosalie Butler on (06) 252 5496.

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 12 April

- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, February 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)  
Building Approvals, Australia, February 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)
- 31** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, February 1994  
(6354.0; \$13.00)

### April

- 5** Retail Trade, Australia, February 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)
- 7** The Labour Force, Australia, March 1994, Preliminary  
(6202.0; \$11.00)

## Selected releases: 23 to 29 March

### General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., March 1994 (1304.0; \$20.50)  
South Aust. at a Glance, 1994 (1306.4; \$1.00)  
Australian Capital Territory Business Indicators, March 1994 (1303.8; \$5.00)

### National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables, 1989-90 (5209.0; \$50.00)

### Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, Qld, 1992-93 (7120.3; \$16.50)  
Fruit, Qld, 1992-93 (7322.3; \$13.00)  
Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, Qld, 1992-93 (7411.3; \$13.00)

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

Tourist Accommodation, Aust., December Qtr 1993 (8635.0; \$25.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, December Qtr 1993 (8635.1; \$25.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, Qld, December Qtr 1993 (8635.3; \$25.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, WA, December Qtr 1993 (8635.5; \$25.00)

### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic, February 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	December qtr 93	\$m	105 897	98 581	1.7	4.0
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b) (d)	January 94	\$m	- 1 395	- 1 265	21	- 63
Balance on merchandise trade (b) (d)	"	"	- 33	152	—	- 62
Balance on goods and services (b) (d)	"	"	- 60	- 10	98	—
Merchandise exports (d)	"	"	4 761	5 322	4	5
Merchandise imports (d)	"	"	- 4 794	- 5 170	- 5	11
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
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices (e)	January 94	\$m	8 015	8 463	1.5	4.9
New capital expenditure at current prices	December qtr 93	"	7 209	6 695	3.2	- 2.5
New motor vehicle registrations	February 94	no.	45 946	50 487	3.5	15.2
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	\$m	38 567	36 863	3.1	9.4
Dwelling unit approvals (d)	January 94	no.	12 774	16 166	6.1	8.4
Building approvals (d)	January 94	\$m	1 805	2 015	- 10.6	- 10.7
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 93	"	6 433	6 268	3.1	5.0
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	December qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	110.0	n.a.	0.2	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	January 94	1988-89 = 100.0	115.0	n.a.	- 0.3	0.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	December 93	1984-85 = 100.0	124.0	n.a.	- 1.6	- 2.4
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons (f)	February 94	'000	7 752.1	7 819.7	0.2	2.9
Participation rate † (f)	"	%	63.1	62.9	0.0	0.6
Unemployment rate † (f)	"	"	11.5	10.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Job vacancies (g)	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee (g)	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population (g)	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	December 93	'000	345	253	- 2.5	12.5
<b>Incomes</b>						
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	November 93	\$	604.20	603.40	- 0.3	3.0
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	February 94	% per annum	4.80	n.a.	0.0	- 1.00
10-year Treasury bonds †	February 94	"	7.05	n.a.	0.7	- 0.95
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	January 94	per \$A	0.6956	n.a.	3	3

(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, 30 March 1994. (e) Later figures expected to be released Tuesday, 5 April 1994. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 7 April 1994. (g) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 31 March 1994. 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*	September qtr 93	- 8.1	25.5	- 4.0	27.3	16.9	7.5	n.a.	n.a.	6.9
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†	February 94	14.0	15.6	14.2	20.1	15.9	23.0	19.2	12.3	15.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	January 94	- 1.3	3.3	16.2	- 15.3	- 1.5	11.7	153.3	158.5	8.4
Value of total building work done	September qtr 93	0.4	4.1	9.2	10.3	20.9	13.3	1.1	- 6.9	5.6
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	December qtr 93	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
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.

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.

