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INDICATORS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, QUEENSLAND, JUNE 1985

PHONE INQUIRIES	For more information about these statistics and for other inquiries, including copies of publications, please contact Information Services on Brisbane (07) 222 6351.
MAIL INQUIRIES	Please write to Information Services, ABS, Statistics House, 345 Ann Street, Brisbane, Q. 4000.
DIAL-A-STATISTIC SERVICE	For the latest Consumer Price Index, Unemployment, and Average Weekly Earnings statistics phone Brisbane (07) 222 6059.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide the latest available information for a wide range of economic indicators. A more extensive time series is available for many of the indicators in the ABS publication "Monthly Summary of Statistics" (Catalogue No. 1304.3), but this abridged form permits earlier publication.

The periods shown are not constant, but are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, the figures shown are provisional only and may be revised in subsequent issues.

Indicator	Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year (a)
			One period	Two periods	Three periods		
	1985						%
Resident population							
Estimated at end of period '000 persons	Dec. qr*	2,524.6	2,515.1	2,505.3	2,497.8	2,488.0	+1.5
Total increase '000 persons	Dec. qr*	9.5	9.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	..
Natural increase (births less deaths) persons	March qr	5,732	5,104	5,099	6,450	6,392	..
Employment and wages							
Persons in the labour force (b) '000	May	1,144.6	1,129.6	1,151.9	1,132.8	1,131.4	+1.2
Employed persons '000	May	1,031.4	1,012.0	1,027.8	1,004.6	1,023.0	+0.8
Unemployed persons '000	May	113.2	117.6	124.1	128.2	108.4	+4.4
Overtime hours worked per employee (c) No.	February	0.94	1.01	1.00	1.10	0.89	+5.6
Job vacancies (c) '000	February	6.8	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.5	+51.1
Average weekly earnings							
Males $	Dec. qr*	370.90	366.50	372.70	353.60	348.40	+6.5
Females $	Dec. qr*	237.50	244.30	251.60	239.90	233.80	+1.6
Employed wage and salary earners							
Private sector '000	December*	516.7	519.0	517.2	510.6	499.5	+3.4
Government sector '000	December*	252.2	254.4	253.7	256.1	239.8	+5.2
Indexes of weekly award rates (d) numbers							
Wage earners: Male	April	211.9	207.7	207.7	207.7	207.2	+2.3
Female	April	206.2	201.0	201.0	201.0	200.9	+2.6
Wage and salary earners: Male	April	209.9	205.5	205.5	205.5	204.9	+2.4
Female	April	204.9	199.8	199.8	199.8	199.7	+2.6
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, Brisbane numbers							
Food (e)	March qr	136.3	133.6	132.1	129.6	129.9	+4.9
Clothing (e)	March qr	129.1	128.7	125.6	125.6	123.0	+5.0
Housing (e)	March qr	144.3	143.1	141.5	138.1	137.2	+5.2
Household equipment and operation (e)	March qr	139.2	137.1	137.0	133.9	132.2	+5.3
Transportation (e)	March qr	145.9	143.2	143.2	141.8	137.7	+6.0
Tobacco and alcohol (e)	March qr	145.0	143.9	142.0	140.5	136.5	+6.2
Health and personal care (e)	March qr	123.4	121.1	117.8	118.4	127.9	-3.5
Recreation and education (f)	March qr	120.0	117.4	116.1	114.4	114.3	+5.0
All groups (e)	March qr	138.7	136.5	135.2	133.3	132.3	+4.8
Wholesale price index, Brisbane, monthly - All groups numbers							
Materials used in house building (g)	March	519.4	515.9	513.3	512.7	495.5	+4.8
Materials used in other building (h)	March	160.3	159.4	158.7	158.3	154.1	+4.0
Building							
New houses approved No.	April	2,022	2,044	1,757	1,797	1,952	+3.6
New other dwelling units approved No.	April	582	741	533	470	517	+12.6
Value of all building approved (i) $m	April	204.3	322.9	239.7	145.3	206.8	-1.2
New houses commenced No.	Dec. qr*	6,380	6,470	6,930	6,120	6,260	+1.9
Value of new houses commenced $m	Dec. qr*	286.9	290.4	306.6	258.9	273.9	+4.7
New other dwelling units commenced No.	Dec. qr*	1,890	1,729	1,785	1,354	1,536	+23.0
Value of new other dwelling units commenced $m	Dec. qr*	87.8	66.1	80.7	53.7	49.7	+76.7
Value of other buildings commenced (i) $m	Dec. qr*	333.7	207.4	396.2	262.7	329.7	+1.2
Value of work done in period (i) $m	Dec. qr*	713.0	643.8	637.0	538.0	604.9	+17.9
Retail sales (excl. motor vehicles etc.) (j)							
Original series							
Current prices $m	March	616.4	549.5	630.1	817.4	555.2	+11.0
Current prices $m	June qr*	1,686.4	1,614.6	1,915.9	1,651.4	1,583.1	+6.5
Average 1979-80 prices $m	June qr*	1,208.0	1,160.8	1,400.5	1,223.5	1,182.5	+2.2

INDICATORS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, QUEENSLAND, JUNE 1985 (continued)

Indicator		Latest period	Latest figure	Figures for preceding three periods			Figure one year ago	Percentage change over year (a)
				One period	Two periods	Three periods		
		1985						%
Retail sales (excl. motor vehicles etc.) (j) (continued)								
Seasonally adjusted series								
Current prices	$m	June qr*	1,726.9	1,723.3	1,721.7	1,667.9	1,621.3	+6.5
Average 1979-80 prices	$m	June qr*	1,235.8	1,244.3	1,261.8	1,229.1	1,210.0	+2.1
New motor vehicle registrations (k)								
Cars and station wagons	No.	April	6,946	7,874	6,448	6,017	5,758	+20.6
Other motor vehicles (incl. motor cycles)	No.	April	3,313	3,551	2,769	2,499	2,794	+18.6
Housing finance								
Lending commitments to individuals (l)	$m	March	175.3	178.7	177.6	156.4	#	..
Savings banks	$m	March	65.6	68.1	72.1	60.4	#	..
Trading banks	$m	March	15.7	20.2	18.6	18.4	#	..
Permanent building societies	$m	March	70.6	69.7	62.6	53.7	#	..
Other lenders	$m	March	23.4	20.7	24.2	24.0	#	..
Trading banks								
Deposits (m)	$m	April	6,824	6,719	6,723	6,673	5,914	+15.4
Advances (m)	$m	April	5,904	5,683	5,529	5,426	4,839	+22.0
Debits to customers' accounts (n)	$m	April	5,359	5,939	5,560	5,038	4,506	+18.9
Savings banks								
Depositors' balances at end of period	$m	April	4,822	4,910	4,944	4,912	4,566	+5.6
External trade (o)								
Overseas imports	$m	March	215.3	156.3	231.1	155.5	156.1	+37.9
Overseas exports	$m	March	390.1	459.1	439.6	406.6	393.1	-0.8
Cereal grains	$m	March	29.5	29.6	19.0	30.3	41.5	-28.9
Meat	$m	March	46.7	27.3	37.9	38.0	45.9	+1.7
Sugar	$m	March	22.7	23.3	41.0	10.0	15.2	+49.3
Wool	$m	March	8.8	18.9	18.2	9.5	6.5	+35.4
Coal	$m	March	161.0	189.7	209.3	173.2	158.4	+1.6
Non-ferrous metals	$m	March	21.5	29.8	1.6	26.6	27.5	-21.8
Production								
Electricity generated	m kWh	April	1,632.8	1,692.9	1,321.1	1,722.6	1,526.0	+7.0
Beef and veal	'000 tonnes	April	55.8	51.0	29.8	26.4	42.6	+31.0
Clay bricks (q)	million	April	20.0	23.1	17.8	13.2	19.9	+0.5
Ready-mixed concrete	'000 cu m	April	227.6	244.7	217.5	203.2	199.0	+14.3
Log timber processed (gross volume)	'000 cu m	Dec. qr*	313.8	323.4	319.6	277.1	291.6	+7.6
Bauxite (beneficiated) (s)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qr*	2,059	2,277	2,374	1,994	2,148	-4.2
Coal (s)(t)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qr*	14,205	12,604	13,630	10,609	10,215	+39.1
Copper (s)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qr*	47.4	(u)44.5	29.6	39.6	32.9	+44.1
Lead (s)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qr*	47.3	(u)54.4	46.7	45.0	43.3	+9.2
Zinc (s)	'000 tonnes	Dec. qr*	51.0	(u)64.3	50.6	49.1	51.3	-0.6
Wool								
Received into store (v)	'000 bales	May	34.5	29.9	33.1	20.3	30.2	+14.2
Value of sales	$m	May	32.0	-	21.1	14.8	24.2	+32.2
Average price per kilogram	cents	May	345.38	-	349.24	319.71	272.15	+26.9

(a) Latest figure compared with the figure one year ago. (b) Estimates derived from monthly labour force surveys. (c) Average number of overtime hours worked per person employed and number of job vacancies as recorded in a quarterly survey conducted in February, May, August, and November. (d) Weighted average of award rates for a normal week's work (excluding overtime). Base of index: June 1976 = 100.0. (e) Base of index: year 1980-81 = 100.0. (f) Base of index: March quarter 1982 = 100.0. (g) Base of index: year 1966-67 = 100.0. (h) Base of index: year 1979-80 = 100.0. (i) New work, including alterations and additions over $10,000. (j) Series based on 1979-80 Retail Census. (k) Source: Main Roads Department. (l) For the construction or purchase of dwellings for owner occupation and for alterations and additions to dwellings. (m) Averages at close of business on Wednesdays during period. (n) Averages of weekly figures, excluding debits to Commonwealth Government accounts at capital city branches. (o) Statistics are compiled from documentation submitted by exporters and importers, or their agents, to the Australian Customs Service. The month in which documents are lodged and cleared may differ from the month of shipment. (q) From July 1984, excluding bricks for other than structural purposes, e.g. pavers. (s) Source: Queensland Mines Department. (t) Periods vary: March quarter and September quarter, 12 weeks; June quarter and December quarter, 14 weeks. (u) Including 4 four-week work periods instead of the normal 3 periods. (v) Queensland wool, excluding wool for re-sale. .. Not applicable. # Figure not comparable due to a break in the series. - Nil or less than half the final digit shown. * 1984.

Statistics House,
345 Ann Street,
BRISBANE 4000

17 June 1985

D. N. ALLEN
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN