

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 5 November 1992

The week in statistics ...

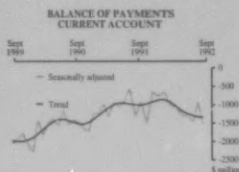
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Record imports lift September current account deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for September 1992 rose \$576 million (62%) to \$1,512 million.

The increase in the deficit was mainly caused by a turnaround of \$356 million (from a surplus to a deficit) in the merchandise trade balance. Both exports and imports reached their highest recorded monthly levels in September. Merchandise exports rose strongly (11%) but there was an even stronger rise of 20 per cent in imports.

Increases of \$59 million (or 26%) in the net services deficit, and \$173 million (or 15%) in the net income deficit also contributed to the rise in the overall deficit.



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

	August 1992		September 1992	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	145	329	-111	-27
Net services	-280	-230	-437	-289
Balance on goods and services	-135	99	-548	-316
Net income	-1,172	-1,178	-1,345	-1,351
Net unrequited transfers	172	143	175	155
Balance on current account	-1,135	-936	-1,718	-1,512

Details of the balance on merchandise trade:

In original terms merchandise exports rose \$500 million, or 11 per cent in September, to \$5,170 million. There was a rise of \$308 million (or 9%) in non-rural exports with the largest rises in this category being in:

- ☐ 'other' metals, mainly aluminium, nickel, lead, copper, iron and steel, up \$114 million or 30 per cent;
- ☐ 'other' mineral fuels, mainly crude petroleum, up \$77 million or 28 per cent; and
- ☐ 'other' manufactures, up \$66 million or 14 per cent.

The only fall in this category was in machinery, which fell \$9 million or 3 per cent.

Rural exports rose \$192 million (or 16%) with the largest rises recorded in wool, up \$120 million or 60 per cent, and meat up \$47 million or 17 per cent.

Sugar was the only commodity to record a fall in this category, falling \$17 million or 14 per cent.

Merchandise imports rose \$756 million, or 17 per cent to \$5,281 million. The largest increases were in:

- civil aircraft, up \$397 million reflecting the import of two Qantas aircraft (valued at \$300 million) and two Australian Airlines aircraft (valued at \$97 million). There were no imports of civil aircraft in August.
- machinery, mainly office machines, ADP and telecommunications equipment, up \$126 million or 10 per cent;
- other manufactures, up \$59 million or 5 per cent;
- fuels, up \$45 million or 15 per cent; and
- chemicals, up \$40 million or 8 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 6689 or Peter Morrow on (06) 252 5540.

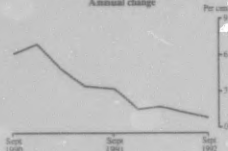
CPI rise near zero again

Consumer prices rose by 0.8 per cent between the September quarters of 1991 and 1992 — the lowest annual increase since 1963. Between the June and September quarters 1992, the 'All Groups' Consumer Price Index rose by just 0.1 per cent, with rises and falls for individual items virtually cancelling each other out.

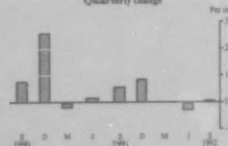
Contributing most to the overall increase this quarter were cigarette and tobacco prices (up 9.0% — mainly due to increases in State government fees and Commonwealth excise), petrol prices (up 4.3%), motor vehicle prices (up 1.1%), and electricity charges (up 2.1%).

Largely offsetting those rises were falls in mortgage interest charges (down 4.2% — mainly due to falls in interest rates), fresh vegetable prices (down 19.4%), consumer credit charges (down 3.4%), furniture prices (down 1.9%), and the cost of pharmaceuticals (down 4.9% — mainly due to the PBS safety net scheme).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Annual change



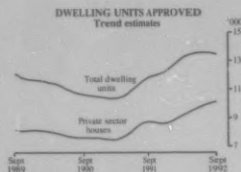
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Quarterly change



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992
Weighted average of eight capital cities
Percentage change

Group	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Tobacco and alcohol	3.2	5.8
Health and personal care	-0.2	4.6
Transportation	1.8	3.1
Recreation and education	0.5	1.3
Food	-0.4	1.0
Clothing	-0.2	0.6
Household equipment and operation	-0.6	0.4
Housing	-1.7	-6.2
All groups	0.1	0.8
All groups excluding housing	0.5	2.0
All groups excluding transportation	-0.2	0.3

Housing approvals slow as public sector declines



The availability of September 1992 data has seen the provisional trend estimates for total dwelling unit approvals flatten out following a period of steady growth since April 1991. An increase in excess of 6 per cent in seasonally adjusted dwelling unit approvals (2% in original terms) in October would cause the trend to continue to grow.

The main contributing factor to the slowdown has been the very low level of public sector approvals for the three months ended September 1992. In original terms, these were 64.1 per cent lower than the high level recorded in the previous three months and 23.8 per cent lower than the three months ended September 1991.

The provisional trend series for private sector houses has continued to grow to September, although the rate of growth has tapered off slightly over the last five months. There would need to be a fall of just over 8 per cent in seasonally adjusted private house approvals in October (about twice the average monthly movement in this series) for the trend to level out.

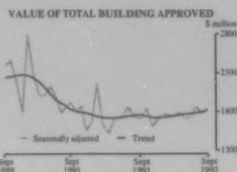
In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved fell by 1.2 per cent in September 1992 to 13,220, following a 3.4 per cent decline in August 1992. However, private sector house approvals rose by 2.7 per cent to 10,178, the highest seasonally adjusted estimate since May 1989. This followed a 2.4 per cent fall in August.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, SEPTEMBER 1992
Percentage change

	Number	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Original	10,666	8.3	21.7
Seasonally adjusted	10,178	2.7	17.0
Trend	10,133	1.3	16.2
Total dwelling units			
Original	14,249	5.3	17.4
Seasonally adjusted	13,220	-1.2	9.5
Trend	13,452	-0.7	13.7

Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimates for the value of total building approved continue to display gradual growth to September 1992. The provisional trend for the value of new residential approvals has slowed somewhat in recent months, consistent with the slow down in the trend for the number of dwelling units.



The provisional trend estimates for the value of non-residential building approved are declining to June 1992, but the rate of decline has eased. Because of the extreme volatility of monthly non-residential approvals, it is difficult to draw conclusions as to whether the current easing will be sustained, following almost three years of decline.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, SEPTEMBER 1992
Percentage change

	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building			
Original	1,154.7	6.1	20.4
Seasonally adjusted	1,088.7	-1.7	12.3
Trend	1,112.2	0.5	15.6
Total building			
Original	1,910.3	8.4	11.3
Seasonally adjusted	1,834.5	3.0	7.3
Trend	1,818.0	0.9	3.5

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Minimal decrease in deaths in 1991

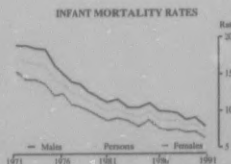
In 1991, there were 119,146 deaths registered in Australia, a decrease of 0.8 per cent compared with 1990 (120,062). The crude death rate decreased to 6.9 per 1,000 population from 7.0 in 1990.

Age specific death rates in 1991 have shown little change from 1990. However, the longer term trend shows a marked decrease in all age specific death rates for both males and females, especially in the youngest and oldest age groups.

Life expectancy has continued to increase. Males and females born in 1991 could expect to live until they are 74.4 years and 80.3 years respectively. The difference in expectation of life between males and females is also gradually reducing. In 1986 females were expected to live 6.3 years longer than males while in 1991 the difference is 5.9 years.

There were 1,836 infant deaths recorded in Australia in 1991, which is 14 per cent less than in 1990 (2,145). The Northern Territory recorded the highest infant mortality rate in 1991 at 14.2 per 1,000 live births, twice the rate for Australia as a whole. South Australia recorded the lowest rate at 5.5 per 1,000 live births.

For the second consecutive year for males and the first year for females, the major cause of death recorded in Australia in 1991 was malignant neoplasms (see separate item on page 6).



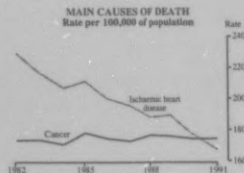
For the first time in more than fifty years, male deaths from suicide have exceeded those caused by motor vehicle traffic accidents. The number of deaths from suicide in 1991 was 1,847 for males and 513 for females — both showing increases compared with 1990 (1,735 and 426 respectively). In 1991, motor vehicle traffic accidents resulted in 1,570 male deaths and 651 female deaths, both continuing the recent downward trends in deaths from this cause.

For further information, order the publication *Deaths, Australia (3302.0)*, or contact Glen Heyen on (06) 252 7566.

Cancer becomes Australia's largest killer

Cancer and ischaemic heart disease were the two leading causes of death in 1991. Together they accounted for approximately 52 per cent of the 119,146 deaths registered in Australia in 1991.

The number of deaths from ischaemic heart disease has continued to decline, from 31,174 in 1990 to 30,323 in 1991 and is now exceeded by the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms (cancers). Cancer deaths increased by 821 to 31,285 and now represent 26.3 per cent of all deaths (25.4% in 1990). Cancer deaths are now the leading cause for both males (17,576 deaths) and females (13,709 deaths).



MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 1991

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death rate per 100,000 population	Percentage of total deaths
Cancer	31,285	174	26.3
Ischaemic heart disease	30,323	167	25.5
Stroke	11,883	65	10.0
Major respiratory diseases	6,012	33	5.0
Accidents	4,797	27	4.0
Motor vehicle traffic accidents	2,221	13	1.9
Diseases of arteries	2,981	16	2.5
Suicide	2,360	13	2.0
Diabetes mellitus	2,288	13	1.9
Pneumonia and influenza	1,807	10	1.5
Hereditary diseases of the nervous system	1,721	9	1.4
Other causes	23,689	132	19.9
All causes	119,146	662	100.0

There were 588 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) related deaths registered in 1991, of which 401 deaths were directly attributed to AIDS and 187 where AIDS was a condition mentioned on the medical certificate of death. The incidence of AIDS is significantly predominant for males, who accounted for 96 per cent of total AIDS related deaths in 1991.

SIDS DEATHS 1982 to 1991 AGGREGATED
Children under 1 year of age



For children under two years old, approximately 18 per cent of deaths were attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in 1991. Approximately 70 per cent of SIDS deaths under one year of age occur within the first four months of life.

In 1991, there were 2,490 perinatal deaths (2,712 in 1990) recorded in Australia, of which 1,478 were foetal deaths (stillbirths) and 1,012 were neonatal deaths (children born alive who died within 28 days of birth). Compared with 1990, only Queensland and Tasmania recorded increases in perinatal deaths.

For further information, order the publications *Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0) and *Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (3304.0), or contact Peter Petryk on (06) 252 6310.

Synopsis of articles, October 1992

1 October 1992

Sharp drop in imports lowers August current account deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for August 1992 fell \$572 million or 39 per cent to \$903 million.

Home lending falls but trend still up

Seasonally adjusted, funds were committed to finance 35,707 dwelling units for owner occupation in July 1992, 1,951 dwelling units (5.2%) less than in June 1992 but 3,720 dwelling units (11.6%) more than in July 1991.

Manufacturing production in August

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-five seasonally adjusted). 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*.

Older males worst hit by long-term unemployment

Long-term unemployment (i.e. people unemployed for 52 weeks or more) increased markedly in the twelve months to August 1992.

Life in a changing Australia

If you need to keep up with emerging trends in all major aspects of Australian society, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' report *Social Indicators* is for you.

Established house prices steady

The Australian index for established house prices rose 0.2 per cent between the March and June quarters 1992.

New car sales marking time

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations continued to be flat for August 1992, with a rise of only 0.2 per cent from July.

8 October 1992

Housing trend up, despite August fall

The provisional trend series for private sector house approvals is still growing strongly to August.

Job vacancies increase in the private sector

The estimated number of job vacancies increased by 10.9 per cent to 27,500 (seasonally adjusted) in the three months to August 1992.

More Australians work at home

The number of Australian workers employed at home has risen by 15 per cent in the three years since 1989, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics survey conducted in March 1992.

Review of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations

A review of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) is to be undertaken jointly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Department of Employment, Education and Training, and will be completed in time for implementation in the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

15 October 1992

Full-time employment steady but participation rate falls sharply

Full-time employment (seasonally adjusted) was steady in September 1992 but both part-time employment and the participation rate fell sharply.

Flat August result for retailers

Estimated turnover of retail and selected service establishments rose by just 0.1 per cent in August in seasonally adjusted terms. The slight increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate has resulted in a very weak growth rate in the trend estimates, averaging 0.1 per cent per month over the last three months. The annual growth rate (August 1992 over August 1991) is now 3.9 per cent.

Upper end boosts tourist accommodation market

Four star establishments led the way as the Australian tourist accommodation industry enjoyed significant growth in the year to June 1992.

Women at work — a new perspective

Neither systematic discrimination nor family situations such as caring for young children are behind the significant difference between women's workforce attainments and those of men, according to an academic analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data.

22 October 1992

Home lending growth eases slightly in August

Trend growth in housing finance commitments eased slightly again in August, but still recorded a healthy 2.4 per cent increase in value over July.

Building materials up slightly

Prices of building materials increased by 0.2 per cent in August 1992, with materials used in both housing and other forms of building recording the same increase.

Export prices rise

Export prices rose by 1.1 per cent between July and August 1992.

Australia's changing dietary habits

Australians are eating far more vegetables, rice and breakfast foods than they were in the mid-1980s while consumption of eggs and egg products, oils and fats and sugar have all shown a steady decline.

Migrants in Australia's workforce

A research project undertaken by an officer of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has thrown new light on the difficulties faced by migrants in finding jobs suitable to their qualifications.

29 October 1992

Manufacturing prices in August

While the prices of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose by just 2.2 per cent in the year to August, prices of materials used in manufacturing rose by 6.0 per cent over the same period.

Exchange rate raises import prices

The Import Price Index rose by 2.1 per cent in August 1992 mainly as a result of the continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of its major trading partners.

Manufacturing production in September

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-five seasonally adjusted).

New vehicle registrations still on plateau

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations remained flat, with all month to month movements being less than 1.0 per cent since April 1992.

Immunisation short of the mark

Just over half (53%) of children aged six years or less were fully immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles and mumps in 1989-90.

Testing for discrimination in the labour market

Indirect discrimination related to sex or ancestry differences are the main causes of unequal labour market achievement by women and migrants, according to Professor Jones' study recently published by the ABS.

More Australians on medications as skin treatment, pain killers rise

About 70 per cent of the Australian population used at least one type of medication in the two weeks prior to interview and nearly 30 per cent consulted a health professional, according to results of the 1989-90 National Health Survey.

Cancer screening measured

In the 1989-90 National Health Survey, some 91 per cent of women aged 18 to 64 years reported having had some type of breast examination to screen for breast cancer.

This week in brief ...

❑ Overseas arrivals and departures

The total number of overseas movements in August 1992 was 809,300, a 3 per cent increase on the number in August 1991 (783,000). There were 403,500 arrivals, an increase of 4 per cent compared with August 1991 (388,000) and 405,800 departures, 3 per cent more than in August 1991 (395,000).

In August 1992, 7,940 settlers arrived in Australia, 27 per cent less than in August 1991 (10,900). Settler arrivals from the Americas (340) were 53 per cent lower than August 1991, while those from Northeast Asia (1,470) and Southeast Asia (1,390) decreased 45 and 34 per cent respectively. The only group to increase were settler arrivals from Oceania and Antarctica (870), an increase of 9 per cent.

Source: Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, August 1992 (3401.0).

❑ Livestock products

Red meat production in original terms rose in all categories, except veal which fell 6.9 per cent in September 1992 compared with August 1992. In seasonally adjusted terms, however, total red meat production fell 5.4 per cent with mutton production decreasing by 19.8 per cent. The trend estimate series shows that total red meat production has been decreasing since May 1992.

The number of live sheep exported in July 1992 fell 46.9 per cent compared with June 1992 and by 42.7 per cent when compared with July 1991. This resulted in a fall in gross value of 41.9 per cent to \$5,158 million. However, unit values have continued to improve this year, increasing by 9.4 per cent compared with June 1992 and 48.7 per cent compared with July 1991.

Chicken slaughtering for September 1992 increased 5.1 per cent and chicken meat production by 8 per cent compared with August 1992. For the three months ended September 1992 chicken slaughtering have risen 2.7 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1991.

Source: Livestock Products, Australia, September 1992 (7215.0).

❑ Lease finance

The value of goods under new lease finance commitments for August 1992 (excluding leveraged leases) totalled \$336.9 million, a decrease of \$113.7 million (25.2%) on July 1992 and a decrease of \$10.1 million (2.9%) on August 1991.

With the exception of money market corporations, which recorded a small increase, all other types of lending institutions recorded decreases, the largest being for banks, which were down 35.5 per cent compared with July 1992. It should be noted that August 1992 was a four week reporting period for some banks whereas July 1992 was a five week reporting period.

Small increases in commitments were recorded for transport equipment, other than motor vehicles, manufacturing equipment, and for electronic data processing equipment while all other types of goods recorded decreases in August 1992. The largest decrease was in commitments for new motor cars and station wagons, down \$25.6 million.

Source: Lease Finance, Australia, August 1992 (5644.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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

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All the week's releases: 28 October to 3 November

General

Publications Advice, 30 October 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Publications Advice, 3 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Statistics Weekly, 29 October 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Australian Economic Indicators, October 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, October 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., October 1992 (1303.2; \$10.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, October 1992 (1304.3; \$9.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, October 1992 (1305.5; \$10.50)
Economic Indicators, Victoria, October 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)
Economic Indicators, WA, October 1992 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, October 1992 (1303.4; \$9.50)

Demography

Deaths, Aust., 1991 (3302.0; \$18.00)
Causes of Death, Aust., 1991 (3303.0; \$17.00)
Perinatal Deaths, Aust., 1991 (3304.0; \$14.50)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., August 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)
Education, Tas., 1991 (4206.6; \$12.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., September 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
Lease Finance, Aust., August 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., September 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)
Consumer Price Index, September Qtr 1992 (6401.0; \$11.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., September 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)

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

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, August 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, August 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, August 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, August 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, August 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, Aust., September 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)
Building Approvals, Vic., September 1992 (8731.2; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, Qld, September 1992 (8731.3; \$10.50)
Building Approvals: Small Area Statistics, Qld, 1991-92 (8733.3; \$10.50) — final issue
Building Approvals, WA, September 1992 (8731.5; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, SA, September 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, August 1992 (8741.4; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, NT, September 1992 (8731.7; \$7.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, September 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

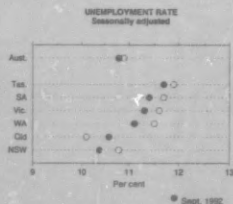
Expected releases over the fortnight to 10 November 1992

November

- 9** Retail Trade, Australia, September 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 12** The Labour Force, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1992, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.50)
- 16** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
3 November 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Aug. 92) (trend estimate)	3.6	2.9	6.9	-3.6	6.5	6.0	n.a.	4.5	3.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 92)†	2.6	7.7	22.6	8.5	26.4	12.9	42.3	-14.9	9.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 92)†	6.4	11.9	10.6	9.8	19.9	12.3	-20.1	121.5	9.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Sept. 92)*	-0.3	-1.8	2.7	0.5	0.9	-2.9	-2.1	1.3	-0.1
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 3 November 1992

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices			4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	July 92	7,361	7,973	0.6	4.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Sept. 92	47,651	43,651	-3.8	9.8
Dwelling unit approvals	no.	Sept. 92	14,249	13,220	-1.2	9.5
Value of all building approvals	\$m		1,910	1,835	3.0	7.3
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8
— 1984-85 prices	"		3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices	"		24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Sept. 92	7,759.9	7,687.7	-0.6	-0.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	10.8	-0.1	0.6
Participation rate †	"	"	63.2	62.7	-0.5	-0.6
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		Aug. 92	127.1	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		Aug. 92	113.6	n.a.	0.4	2.2
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Sept. 92	5.95	n.a.	0.05	0.4
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.95	n.a.	0.0	-1.35
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Sept. 92	5,170	5,222	11.2	15.8
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,281	-5,249	20.2	22.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-111	-27	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-548	-316	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,718	-1,512	61.5	15.7
Terms of trade (d) 1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per A\$	Sept. 92	0.7225	n.a.	-0.5	-8.9
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.8	-14.8
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Aug. 92	199	212	-5.0	2.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) 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. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

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.

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