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INDICATORS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1986

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, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), G.P.O. Box 1160, Brisbane, Q. 4001.
DIAL-A-STATISTIC SERVICE	For the latest Consumer Price Index, unemployment, and average weekly earnings statistics telephone 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			
1986								
Resident population							%	
Estimated at end of period ..	'000 persons	June qr *	2,546.4	2,536.8	2,526.4	2,516.8	2,507.0	+1.6
Total increase ..	'000 persons	June qr *	9.7	10.4	9.5	9.8	8.8	..
Natural increase (births less deaths)	persons	Dec. qr *	5,257	4,510	6,273	5,773	5,099	..
Employment and wages								
Persons in the labour force (b)	.. '000	February	1,181.2	1,156.5	1,184.1	1,172.3	1,132.8	+4.3
Employed persons ..	.. '000	February	1,059.4	1,045.8	1,079.0	1,075.5	1,004.6	+5.5
Unemployed persons ..	.. '000	February	121.8	110.7	105.1	96.8	128.2	-5.0
Overtime hours worked per employee (c)	.. No.	February	1.13	1.33	1.18	1.14	0.94	+27.2
Job vacancies (c)	.. '000	February	8.0	7.0	6.8	4.7	6.8	+17.6
Average weekly earnings								
Males ..	.. \$	November*	384.80	377.20	370.30	367.80	370.90	+3.7
Females ..	.. \$	November*	245.40	243.40	241.20	237.60	237.50	+3.3
Employed wage and salary earners								
Private sector ..	.. '000	September*	536.7	535.1	529.3	537.5	510.6	+5.1
Government sector ..	.. '000	September*	257.5	255.8	256.8	258.9	256.1	+0.5
Indexes of weekly award rates (d)	.. numbers							
Wage earners: Male ..	..	February	219.9	219.9	219.9	219.9	207.7	+5.9
Female ..	..	February	214.3	214.3	214.3	214.3	200.9	+6.7
Wage and salary earners: Male ..	..	February	218.1	218.1	218.1	218.1	205.6	+6.1
Female ..	..	February	213.0	213.0	213.0	213.0	199.7	+6.7
Prices								
Consumer Price Index, Brisbane	.. numbers							
Food (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	143.4	139.9	137.5	136.3	133.6	+7.3
Clothing (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	139.2	133.8	132.0	129.1	128.7	+8.2
Housing (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	149.5	147.5	145.6	144.3	143.1	+4.5
Household equipment and operation (e)	..	Dec. qr *	151.0	146.3	141.9	139.2	137.1	+10.1
Transportation (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	157.4	156.2	150.7	145.9	143.2	+9.9
Tobacco and alcohol (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	154.1	151.6	147.1	145.0	143.9	+7.1
Health and personal care (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	130.3	128.8	125.1	123.4	121.1	+7.6
Recreation and education (f) ..	..	Dec. qr *	128.2	126.1	121.9	120.0	117.4	+9.2
All groups (e) ..	..	Dec. qr *	147.5	144.7	141.1	138.7	136.5	+8.1
Building Price Indexes, Brisbane, monthly - All groups ..	.. numbers							
Materials used in house building (g) ..	..	January	543.5	540.2	539.8	539.4	513.3	+5.9
Materials used in other building (h) ..	..	January	170.0	169.5	168.7	167.8	158.7	+7.1
Building								
Dwelling units approved								
New houses ..	.. No.	February	1,508	1,626	1,670	1,906	1,757	-14.2
New other residential buildings ..	.. No.	February	452	433	462	464	533	-15.2
Value of all building approved (i)	.. \$m	February	177.3	165.3	226.6	290.2	239.7	-26.0
Dwelling units commenced								
New houses ..	.. No.	Dec. qr *	5,760	6,800	5,830	5,250	6,390	-9.9
New other residential buildings ..	.. No.	Dec. qr *	1,549	1,655	1,598	1,180	1,645	-5.8
Value of building commenced								
New houses ..	.. \$m	Dec. qr *	286.9	334.6	271.8	238.6	287.3	-0.1
New other residential buildings ..	.. \$m	Dec. qr *	58.6	61.1	59.7	44.1	60.2	-2.7
Non-residential building (j) ..	.. \$m	Dec. qr *	456.5	367.2	361.3	367.2	320.2	+42.6
Value of work done in period (i)	.. \$m	Dec. qr *	882.9	813.7	671.3	606.1	693.3	+27.3

INDICATORS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, QUEENSLAND, APRIL 1986 (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			
Retail sales (excl. motor vehicles etc.) (j)		1986						%	
Original series									
Current prices	.. ..	\$m	January	721.6	925.3	725.0	710.9	620.5	+15.2
Current prices	.. ..	\$m	Sept. qr*	1,989.6	1,893.1	1,790.4	2,087.9	1,799.1	+10.6
Average 1979-80 prices	.. ..	\$m	Sept. qr*	1,326.3	1,290.1	1,231.0	1,470.0	1,272.0	+4.3
Seasonally adjusted series									
Current prices	.. ..	\$m	Sept. qr*	2,014.7	1,952.0	1,925.4	1,878.9	1,834.2	+5.8
Average 1979-80 prices	.. ..	\$m	Sept. qr*	1,344.9	1,331.9	1,331.0	1,315.5	1,299.0	+3.5
New motor vehicle registrations (k)									
Cars and station wagons	.. ..	No.	February	4,996	4,932	6,403	7,063	6,448	-22.5
Other motor vehicles (incl. motor cycles)	.. ..	No.	February	2,363	2,165	2,357	2,681	2,769	-14.7
Housing finance									
Lending commitments to individuals (l)	.. ..	\$m	January	100.5	120.6	149.3	166.4	177.6	-43.4
Savings banks	.. ..	\$m	January	35.5	44.2	49.9	62.2	72.1	-50.8
Trading banks	.. ..	\$m	January	13.7	15.1	16.4	17.9	18.6	-26.3
Permanent building societies	.. ..	\$m	January	26.2	41.6	58.2	60.3	62.6	-59.1
Other lenders	.. ..	\$m	January	25.0	19.7	24.8	26.0	24.2	+3.3
Trading banks									
Deposits (m)	.. ..	\$m	January	7,381	7,371	7,246	7,031	6,673	+10.6
Advances (n)	.. ..	\$m	January	6,523	6,522	6,484	6,416	5,426	+20.2
Debits to customers' accounts (n)	.. ..	\$m	January	5,384	6,945	6,420	6,190	5,038	+6.9
Savings banks									
Depositors' balances at end of period	.. ..	\$m	February	4,957	5,031	5,190	5,134	4,944	-0.3
External trade (o)									
Foreign imports	.. ..	\$m	January	246.4	221.6	247.4	230.1	231.1	+6.6
Foreign exports	.. ..	\$m	January	659.9	590.7	625.9	630.9	443.4	+48.8
Cereal grains	.. ..	\$m	January	68.2	48.3	35.0	30.5	22.9	+197.8
Meat	.. ..	\$m	January	43.8	57.4	71.3	67.7	37.7	+16.2
Sugar	.. ..	\$m	January	58.9	7.2	62.0	65.0	36.9	+59.6
Wool	.. ..	\$m	January	16.7	10.8	19.1	10.7	19.0	-12.1
Coal	.. ..	\$m	January	298.2	284.1	238.7	267.3	209.3	+42.5
Non-ferrous metals	.. ..	\$m	January	0.2	25.4	24.2	29.1	1.6	-89.9
Production									
Electricity generated	 m kwh	February	1,616.0	1,765.7	1,718.5	1,725.2	1,321.1	+22.3	
Beef and veal	 '000 tonnes	February	41.4	32.0	27.1	34.9	29.9	+38.6	
Clay bricks (q)	 million	February	20.0	16.1	17.4	22.6	17.8	+12.1	
Ready-mixed concrete	 '000 cu m	February	250.3	213.7	212.0	287.7	217.5	+15.1	
Log timber processed (gross volume)	 '000 cu m	Dec. qr*	330.4	348.5	336.5	260.8	313.8	+5.3	
Bauxite (beneficiated) (s)	 '000 tonnes	Sept. qr*	1,421	1,970	1,810	2,059	2,277	-37.6	
Coal (s)(t)	 '000 tonnes	Sept. qr*	16,150	17,520	9,958	14,208	12,604	+28.1	
Copper (s)	 '000 tonnes	Sept. qr*	(u) 57.8	47.4	40.9	47.4	(u) 44.5	+29.8	
Lead (s)	 '000 tonnes	Sept. qr*	(u) 67.8	50.2	41.3	47.3	(u) 54.4	+24.7	
Zinc (s)	 '000 tonnes	Sept. qr*	(u) 71.1	56.1	52.4	51.0	(u) 64.3	+10.5	
Wool									
Received into store (v)	 '000 bales	March	29.1	24.1	20.1	18.7	32.7	-10.9	
Value of sales	 \$m	March	23.6	2.8	18.1	21.3	21.1	+11.5	
Average price per kilogram	 cents	March	325.58	312.39	359.94	347.94	349.24	-6.8	

(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. Excluding non-merchandise trade. (p) Excluding bricks for other than structural purposes, e.g. pavers. (q) Source: Queensland Mines Department. (r) 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. * 1985.

D. N. ALLEN
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN