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QUEENSLAND

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INDICATORS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, QUEENSLAND, MARCH 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	Percent- age change over year (a)
				One period	Two periods	Three periods		
1984								
Resident population								
Estimated at end of period ..	'000 persons	June qr	2,505.1	2,497.9	2,488.0	2,480.5	2,471.6	+1.4
Total increase ..	'000 persons	Dec. qr	7.2	10.0	7.5	8.8	11.2	..
Natural increase (births less deaths)	persons	Dec. qr	5,064	5,035	6,454	6,396	5,340	..
Employment and wages								
Persons in the labour force (b)	.. '000	January*	1,109.4	1,120.3	1,110.7	1,114.9	1,102.9	+0.6
Employed persons	.. '000	January*	986.3	1,008.7	1,006.1	1,012.6	985.1	+0.1
Unemployed persons	.. '000	January*	123.1	111.5	104.6	102.3	117.8	+4.5
Overtime hours worked per employee (c)	.. No.	November	1.01	1.00	1.10	0.89	0.97	+4.1
Job vacancies (c)	.. '000	November	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.1	+4.9
Average weekly earnings								
Males	.. \$	Sept. qr	366.50	372.70	353.60	348.40	337.20	+8.7
Females	.. \$	Sept. qr	244.30	251.60	239.90	233.80	227.10	+7.6
Employed wage and salary earners								
Private sector ..	.. '000	September	510.6	512.0	507.8	500.2	496.5	+2.8
Government sector ..	.. '000	September	256.1	255.6	254.4	256.5	246.8	+3.8
Indexes of weekly award rates (d)	.. numbers							
Wage earners: Male	..	January*	207.7	207.7	207.7	207.7	197.9	+5.0
Female	..	January*	201.0	201.0	200.9	200.9	193.0	+4.1
Wage and salary earners: Male	..	January*	205.5	205.5	205.5	205.5	196.0	+4.8
Female	..	January*	195.8	199.8	199.7	199.7	191.9	+4.1
Prices								
Consumer Price Index, Brisbane	.. numbers							
Food (e)	..	Dec. qr	133.6	132.1	129.6	129.9	128.3	+4.1
Clothing (e)	..	Dec. qr	128.7	125.6	125.6	123.0	122.2	+5.3
Housing (e)	..	Dec. qr	143.1	141.5	138.1	137.2	135.8	+5.4
Household equipment and operation (e)	..	Dec. qr	137.1	137.0	133.9	132.2	130.4	+5.1
Transportation (e)	..	Dec. qr	143.2	143.2	141.8	137.7	137.6	+4.1
Tobacco and alcohol (e)	..	Dec. qr	143.9	142.0	140.5	136.5	134.4	+7.1
Health and personal care (e)	..	Dec. qr	121.1	117.8	118.4	127.9	144.4	-16.1
Recreation and education (f)	..	Dec. qr	117.4	116.1	114.4	114.3	112.8	+4.1
All groups (e)	..	Dec. qr	136.5	135.2	133.3	132.3	132.0	+3.4
Wholesale price index, Brisbane, monthly - All groups	.. numbers							
Materials used in house building (g)	..	October	509.7	509.3	509.0	501.5	470.0	+8.4
Materials used in other building (h)	..	November	158.0	157.5	157.1	156.6	150.9	+4.8
Building								
New houses approved	.. No.	January*	1,797	1,852	2,245	2,226	1,912	-6.0
New other dwelling units approved	.. No.	January*	470	642	671	510	399	+17.8
Value of all building approved (i)	.. \$m	January*	145.3	322.7	245.1	178.4	160.5	-9.5
New houses commenced	.. No.	Sept. qr	6,470	6,930	6,120	6,260	5,450	+18.7
Value of new houses commenced	.. \$m	Sept. qr	290.4	306.6	258.9	273.9	239.4	+21.3
New other dwelling units commenced	.. No.	Sept. qr	1,735	1,785	1,354	1,536	1,727	+0.5
Value of new other dwelling units commenced	.. \$m	Sept. qr	66.5	80.7	53.7	49.7	58.8	+13.1
Value of other buildings commenced (i)	.. \$m	Sept. qr	207.9	396.2	262.7	329.7	227.0	-8.4
Value of work done in period (i)	.. \$m	Sept. qr	640.9	637.0	538.0	604.9	564.7	+13.5
Retail sales (excl. motor vehicles etc.) (j)								
Original series								
Current prices ..	.. \$m	December	817.4	651.4	621.0	597.0	767.3	+6.5
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, MARCH 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			
1984									
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.	January*	6,017	6,567	6,218	6,913	5,283	+13.9
Other motor vehicles (incl. motor cycles)	..	No.	January*	2,499	2,801	2,848	3,108	2,448	+2.1
Housing finance									
Lending commitments to individuals (l)	..	\$m	December	156.4	183.6	195.4	163.4		..
Savings banks ..	..	\$m	December	60.4	74.2	86.5	67.7		..
Trading banks ..	..	\$m	December	18.4	23.2	24.8	23.0		..
Permanent building societies	..	\$m	December	53.7	57.7	55.6	47.4		..
Other lenders ..	..	\$m	December	24.0	28.5	28.4	25.3		..
Finance companies, including finance for housing									
Amount financed ..	..	\$m	November	305.8	288.4	291.0	313.4	247.1	+23.8
Cash collections and other liquidations ..	..	\$m	November	340.0	355.9	292.3	338.9	316.9	+7.3
Instalment credit for retail sales (m)									
Amount financed ..	..	\$m	November	35.3	32.7	28.6	32.8	33.8	+4.4
Cash collections and other liquidations ..	..	\$m	November	45.1	46.5	39.2	49.2	47.9	-5.8
Trading banks									
Deposits (n) ..	..	\$m	January*	6,673	6,595	6,615	6,563	5,847	+14.1
Advances (n) ..	..	\$m	January*	5,426	5,340	5,262	5,205	4,435	+22.3
Debits to customers' accounts (o)	..	\$m	January*	5,038	6,153	5,690	5,819	4,521	+11.4
Savings banks									
Depositors' balances at end of period	..	\$m	December	4,947	4,832	4,819	4,760	4,639	+6.6
External trade (q)									
Overseas imports ..	..	\$m	January*	231.1	155.5	184.0	241.0	145.4	+58.9
Overseas exports ..	..	\$m	December	398.6	597.3	528.7	562.9	438.7	-9.1
Cereal grains ..	..	\$m	December	29.4	38.2	39.4	53.6	45.4	-35.2
Meat ..	..	\$m	December	38.0	45.6	56.2	68.5	47.8	-20.5
Sugar ..	..	\$m	December	9.9	34.6	55.9	82.9	58.8	-83.2
Wool ..	..	\$m	December	9.5	5.7	6.4	10.9	8.6	+10.5
Coal ..	..	\$m	December	166.3	286.3	183.5	204.7	155.4	+7.0
Non-ferrous metals	..	\$m	December	26.6	29.3	30.4	29.8	3.8	+600.0
Production									
Electricity generated	..	m kWh	December	1,654.9	1,669.3	1,702.4	1,675.9	1,500.9	+10.3
Beef and veal ..	..	'000 tonnes	January*	26.4	22.2	35.4	39.7	25.8	+2.4
Clay bricks (s) ..	..	million	January*	13.2	15.6	24.3	24.7	11.1	+19.0
Ready-mixed concrete	..	'000 cu m	January*	203.2	212.7	283.8	258.3	191.9	+5.9
Log timber processed (gross volume)	..	'000 cu m	Sept. qr	323.3	319.6	277.1	291.6	298.9	+8.1
Bauxite (beneficiated) (t)	..	'000 tonnes	Sept. qr	2,277	2,374	1,994	2,148	1,483	+53.6
Coal (t,u) ..	..	'000 tonnes	Sept. qr	12,604	13,630	10,609	10,215	9,851	+27.9
Copper (t) ..	..	'000 tonnes	Sept. qr	(v) 44.5	29.6	39.6	32.9	(v) 57.7	-22.8
Lead (t) ..	..	'000 tonnes	Sept. qr	(v) 54.4	46.7	45.0	43.3	(v) 61.3	-11.3
Zinc (t) ..	..	'000 tonnes	Sept. qr	(v) 64.3	50.6	49.1	51.3	(v) 61.0	+5.4
Wool									
Received into store (w)	..	'000 bales	February*	20.3	27.1	18.2	31.6	23.1	-12.0
Value of sales ..	..	\$m	February*	14.8	5.7	22.4	37.6	14.5	+2.5
Average price per kilogram	..	cents	February*	319.71	313.36	309.32	326.42	291.80	+9.6

(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. (m) Comprising hire purchase and other instalment credit. (n) Averages at close of business on Wednesdays during period. (o) Averages of weekly figures, excluding debits to Australian Government accounts at capital city branches. (p) 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, including bricks for other than structural purposes, e.g. pavers. (r) Source: Queensland Mines Department. (s) 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. (w) Not applicable. * 1985.