

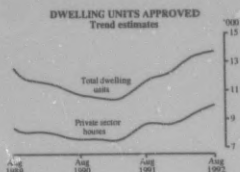
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 8 October 1992

The week in statistics ...

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Housing trend up, despite August fall



Trend estimates, which largely remove seasonal and irregular effects, are a better indicator of the underlying behaviour of this series than the somewhat volatile seasonally adjusted figures. The provisional trend series for total dwelling unit approvals to August continues to grow. However, there would need to be an increase of 4.0 per cent or more in seasonally adjusted total dwelling unit approvals in September for this growth to continue.

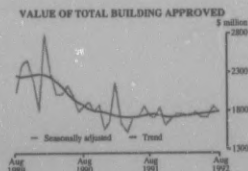
The provisional trend series for private sector house approvals is still growing strongly to August. There would need to be a fall in the order of 7.0 per cent in seasonally adjusted private sector house approvals in September for this trend to flatten out.

The total number of dwelling units approved (seasonally adjusted) fell 3.4 per cent in August 1992 to 13,374, following a 2.5 per cent increase in July. Private sector house approvals fell 2.4 per cent to 9,908, following a 6.0 per cent increase in July. Despite this fall, the August estimate for private sector house approvals is the second highest recorded since May 1989.

The recent 18 month period (since April 1991) of sustained growth in the trend series for both private sector house approvals and total dwelling unit approvals has seen increases in the trend estimates of about 30 per cent. This recovery can be compared with the last period of sustained growth in these series which occurred between April 1987 and September 1988 (also 18 months), where the increases in the trend estimates were about 60 per cent. Whether or not the current period of growth will continue, it is evident that its rate of growth has so far been significantly slower than that of the previous growth period.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, AUGUST 1992
Percentage change

	Number	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Original	9,853	-9.2	8.1
Seasonally adjusted	9,908	-2.4	12.5
Total dwelling units			
Original	13,528	-6.9	10.1
Seasonally adjusted	13,374	-3.4	14.1



Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimates for the value of total building approved continue to display slow growth to August 1992. However, a fall of around three per cent in the seasonally adjusted estimate in September will see the trend flatten out. The new residential building component trend series is growing steadily.

The trend series for the value of non-residential building approved is falling to May 1992 and is likely to continue to do so on the basis of approvals in recent months.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, AUGUST 1992
Percentage change

	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building			
Original	1,088.8	-8.4	11.7
Seasonally adjusted	1,107.7	-2.2	15.9
Total building			
Original	1,762.3	-6.9	-1.5
Seasonally adjusted	1,781.9	-4.1	2.6

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

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. The number of job vacancies is now 9.4 per cent higher than it was a year ago.

In original terms, August 1992 vacancies were estimated at 28,000, a rise of 15.3 per cent from May 1992. There were 20,100 private sector vacancies — an increase of 29.3 per cent since May 1992. In contrast the public sector vacancies were 7,900 — a decrease from the May 1992 estimate of 8,700.

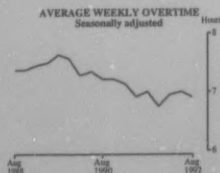
The job vacancy rate (the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of the number of employees plus job vacancies) for Australia rose to 0.49 per cent compared with 0.42 per cent for May 1992 and 0.44 per cent for August 1991.

Overtime

In seasonally adjusted terms for Australia, the proportion of employees working overtime in August 1992, was 16.04 per cent, up from 15.70 per cent in May 1992, but little changed from August 1991.

For employees working overtime the estimated average weekly overtime was 6.91 hours per employee in August 1992 (seasonally adjusted), a decrease of 1.3 per cent from May 1992 (7.00 hours) and a decrease of 1.2 per cent from August 1991.

For further information, order the publication *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0), or contact Ben Isaacs (06) 252 5946.



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.

In the same period, total employment grew by only 0.3 per cent.

In March 1992, some 307,900 employed people were employed at home — that is, they had jobs in which they work more hours at home than away from home. These workers represent four per cent of all employed people.

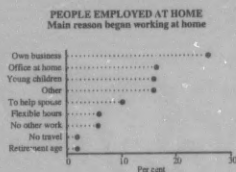
In April 1989, 266,600 people were employed at home (3.5% of all employed persons).

Of all employed people, the number of females employed at home (206,700) was more than double the number of males employed at home (101,200). Those in older age groups were more likely to be employed at home than younger persons, with eight per cent of employed persons aged 55 and over employed at home and less than one per cent of employed persons aged 15 to 24 employed at home.

The most common reason for working at home was to open or operate own family business. The two most common reasons for females being employed at home were to open or operate own family business (26% of all females employed at home), and because children were too young or they preferred to look after them (23%).

The largest occupation group was clerks (39%), with 94 per cent being women. There were more males than females employed at home in the occupation groups managers and administrators, professionals and tradespersons.

Between April 1989 and March 1992, the number of people employed at home as professionals increased from 45,300 to 59,800. The number of people employed at home as clerks also increased, from 107,900 persons in April 1989 to 121,000 persons in March 1992.

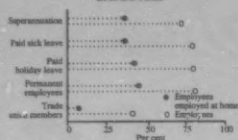


PERSONS EMPLOYED AT HOME
'000

Occupation	April 1989			March 1992		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Managers and administrators	16.0	10.2	26.2	16.4	11.2	27.6
Professionals	25.3	19.9	45.3	34.5	25.3	59.8
Para-professionals	4.7	2.7	7.4	1.9	1.7	3.6
Tradespersons	18.7	12.6	31.4	20.5	14.0	34.5
Clerks	3.0	104.9	107.9	7.6	113.4	121.0
Salespersons and personal service workers	7.1	20.3	27.4	10.6	26.7	37.2
Plant and machine operators and drivers	1.7	7.6	9.3	3.3	6.5	9.8
Labourers and related workers	3.7	8.0	11.7	6.5	8.0	14.4

Some 63 per cent (193,300) of all persons employed at home were employers or self-employed. The remaining 112,400 were employees.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPLOYEES



Of employees employed at home:

- ☐ 36 per cent were covered by superannuation provided by their current employer, compared with 72 per cent of all employees
- ☐ 44 per cent were permanent employees, compared with 82 per cent of all employees
- ☐ 7 per cent were members of a trade union, compared with 41 per cent of all employees.

For further information, order the publication *Persons Employed at Home, Australia* (6275.0), or contact Jenny Poulton on (06) 252 6661.

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. The purpose of the review is to maintain the relevance of the national standard for occupation statistics by reflecting changes in the occupation structure of Australia's labour force. This will involve revising the classification structure, the occupation definitions, and the related documentation.

In addition, to provide current users with the benefits of improved index coverage and of developments in coding methodology, ABS has now published the revised edition of *ASCO Manual Coding System: Unit Group Level* (1225.0). This publication specifies the procedures and provides the indexes necessary for accurate coding of occupation title and task information to the 282 categories at the unit group level.

Another recently published ASCO product is *ASCO Keyword Index to Occupation Definitions* (1229.0). This keyword index is listed in alphabetical order and assists users with information about tasks performed to locate the relevant ASCO occupation.

A comprehensive introduction to ASCO and its many uses may be found in the *ASCO Information paper — Australian Standard Classification of Occupations* (1221.0).

For further information, contact Wendy Piper on (06) 252 5757.

In brief ...

☐ Interstate freight movement

Total interstate freight moved by road in 1990-91 (estimated at 17,034,000 tonnes) was 8.0 per cent lower than in 1989-90 (estimated at 18,515,000 tonnes).

Total interstate freight moved by sea in 1990-91 (28,182,000 tonnes) was 5.2 per cent lower than in 1989-90 (29,737,000 tonnes).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
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- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Vic. (03) 615 7000
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SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 432 111

Total interstate freight moved by air in 1990-91 (107,000 tonnes) was 35.4 per cent higher than in 1989-90 (79,000 tonnes) largely as a result of the airline pilot's dispute in 1989-90.

Total interstate freight moved by rail in 1990-91 (8,443,000 tonnes) was 7.4 per cent lower than in 1989-90 (9,114,000 tonnes).

Source: *Interstate Freight Movement, Australia, 1990-91* (9212.0).

☐ Overseas arrivals and departures

The total number of overseas movements in July 1992 was 882,600, a 9 per cent increase on the number in July 1991 (808,200). There were 462,400 arrivals, an increase of 8 per cent compared with July 1991 (427,600) and 420,200 departures, 10 per cent more than in July 1991 (380,600). In July 1992 8,320 settlers arrived in Australia, 26 per cent less than in July 1991 (11,290).

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

All the week's releases: 30 September to 6 October

General

Publications Advice, 2 October 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Publications Advice, 6 October 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Statistics Weekly, 1 October 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, September 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)
Economic Indicators, NSW, September 1992 (1307.1; \$5.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, September 1992 (1304.3; \$9.50)
Economic Indicators, WA, September 1992 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, September 1992 (1303.4; \$9.50)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., July 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)

Social statistics

Social Indicators, Aust., 1992 (4101.0; \$55.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Personal Finance, Aust., July 1992 (\$642.0; \$6.00)
Public Unit Trusts, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (\$645.0; \$10.50)
Common Funds, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (\$657.0; \$10.50)
Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (\$660.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., August 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
The Labour Force, Qld, August 1992 (6201.3; \$16.00)

Agriculture

Agriculture and Fishing, NT, 1990-91 Season (7113.7; \$10.50)

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

Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (\$412.0; \$10.00)
Building Approvals, Aust., August 1992 (8731.0; \$23.00)

Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

Suggestions

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

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Building Approvals, NSW, August 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, April 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Vic., June Qtr 1992 (8635.2; \$20.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., July 1992 (8741.2; \$10.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Qld, June Qtr 1992 (8635.3; \$20.00)
Building Approvals, Qld, August 1992 (8731.3; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, WA, August 1992 (8731.5; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, July 1992 (8741.4; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, NT, August 1992 (8731.7; \$7.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., August 1992 (9303.6; \$5.50)

Calendar of key releases

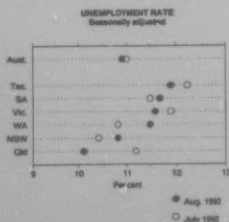
Expected releases over the fortnight to 20 October 1992

October

- 8** The Labour Force, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- 12** Retail Trade, Australia, August 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 14** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, August 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
- 16** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 19** Export Price Index, Australia, August 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 6 October 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 (July 92) (trend estimate)	4.5	3.9	8.7	-2.8	6.9	5.1	n.a.	5.4	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Aug. 92)†	-0.3	24.8	20.1	2.1	16.8	8.0	16.9	-33.3	10.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Aug. 92)*	2.0	22.8	22.6	-2.2	21.5	-6.4	11.9	47.4	18.0
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (Aug. 92)*	-0.4	-1.0	2.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.8	0.8	0.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
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. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	34.6	2.4	4.0

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

Key national indicators – consolidated to 6 October 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			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	7,861	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.	Aug. 92	44,556	45,365	4.7	10.2
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Aug. 92	13,528	13,374	-3.4	14.1
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,762	1,782	-4.1	2.6
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
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 (e)	'000	Aug. 92	7,679.3	7,731.6	-0.2	0.1
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	10.6	10.9	-0.1	1.1
Participation rate † (e)	"	"	62.6	63.2	-0.3	-0.1
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
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	June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	July 92	126.2	n.a.	1.3	4.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	July 92	113.2	n.a.	0.4	1.6
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	July 92	5.55	n.a.	-0.85	-4.55
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.30	n.a.	-0.60	-2.70
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Aug. 92	4,679	4,706	-2.2	1.6
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-4,525	-4,368	-11.1	15.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-154	338	n.a.	-60.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-125	110	n.a.	-84.4
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,104	-903	-38.8	-61.8
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	Aug. 92	0.7258	n.a.	-2.6	-7.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	53.1	n.a.	-2.9	-12.1
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	July 92	219	223	3.0	6.0

(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. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 8 October 1992.

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 6).

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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