

Statistics Weekly

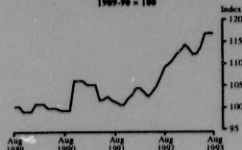
Thursday, 28 October 1993

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Small fall in import prices 2
- ☐ Cheaper imports keep manufacturing materials prices down 2
- ☐ New vehicle registrations turn down after mid-year hump 3
- ☐ September manufacturing production 4
- ☐ Labour force status of families 5
- ☐ In brief ... 6
- ☐ Expected releases over the fortnight to 9 November 7
- ☐ Selected releases: 20 to 26 October 7
- ☐ The latest ...
— key national/State indicators 8

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

IMPORT PRICES
1989=100



Small fall in import prices

The Import Price Index fell by 0.2 per cent in August 1993.

Falls in world prices for some commodities, such as mineral fuels and chemicals, were offset by a significant fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the Japanese Yen during August.

Between August 1992 and August 1993 the index increased by 6.9 per cent, the smallest annual increase since July 1992.

Price changes for selected items are shown below.

IMPORT PRICES, AUGUST 1993
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Crude materials	-3.5	19.8
Commodities and transactions	-5.0	17.1
Machinery and transport equipment	0.8	10.3
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.3	5.7
Manufactured goods	-0.4	4.8
Food and live animals	-0.6	3.9
Beverages and tobacco	0.3	1.5
Chemical products	-2.1	-0.6
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	-3.6	-4.0
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-1.7	-7.3
<i>All groups</i>	-0.2	6.9

For further information, order the publication Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Cheaper imports keep manufacturing materials prices down

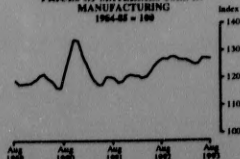
The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 0.1 per cent between July and August 1993.

While prices for home produced materials rose by 0.4 per cent in August, imported materials prices fell by 0.9 per cent.

Lower world prices for imported commodities such as crude petroleum and chemicals during August were the main contributors to the fall in the imported materials index.

Higher prices for live animals were partly offset by lower prices for metal ores and concentrates in the home produced materials index.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN
MANUFACTURING
1984=100



The price index of manufacturing materials for August 1993 of 127.1 is the same as the index for August 1992, resulting in a zero annual change.

The table below summarises the price movements.

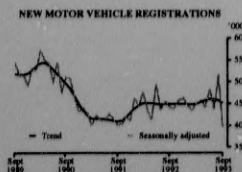
PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
AUGUST 1993
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-0.9	3.0
Home produced	0.4	-1.6
All manufacturing	-0.1	0.0

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

New vehicle registrations turn down after mid-year hump

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations for September 1993 appears to have returned to the flat monthly levels of the period June 1992 to March 1993. The slight rise and subsequent fall in the trend series between March and September 1993 was caused by the substantial rises in seasonally adjusted registrations in June and August, associated with end of financial year and pre-Budget purchases, offset by a 23.4 per cent fall in September.



In unadjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for September 1993 fell by 18.9 per cent, from 52 451 in August to 42 545 vehicles. Passenger vehicles fell by 20.9 per cent, from 45 126 to 35 699 vehicles. 'Other' vehicles recorded a fall of 6.5 per cent, from 7 325 vehicles in August to 6 846 in September.

All States and Territories recorded large falls in total registrations, except for the Northern Territory where there was a small rise of 1.9 per cent. The largest decrease of 24.2 per cent was recorded in Tasmania, followed by New South Wales (22.7%), Queensland (22.1%), Western Australia (15.2%), Victoria (14.9%), the Australian Capital Territory (14.0%) and South Australia (11.5%).

For further information, order the publication *Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

September manufacturing production

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-one with up-to-date trend estimates). 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.

In the table below, fourteen items showed an increase in trend over production levels twelve months earlier. However, of the fourteen items, six showed currently declining production trends. They included cotton yarn and iron and steel and basic iron products. Cotton yarn production was over 25 per cent higher than levels measured twelve months ago but there has been a recent flattening of the production trend. Similarly, iron and steel and basic iron products production has declined significantly in recent months.

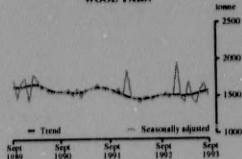
Trend production of clothes washing machines grew moderately to September 1993 and is now over 16 per cent up on production levels in September 1992. Clay brick trend production is also well above that measured twelve months ago having increased fairly consistently over that period.

The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the quarterly publications.

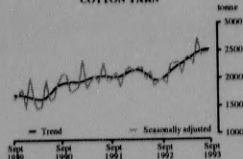
MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, AUGUST 1993
Percentage change in trend

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cotton yarn	-0.1	25.6
Domestic clothes washing machines	2.9	16.6
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	-1.4	12.6
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-2.1	8.9
Clay bricks	0.3	8.7
Portland cement	-0.7	8.0
Cigarettes and tobacco	1.2	4.4
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-1.6	4.3
Cars and station wagons	0.9	4.2
Wool yarn	0.6	3.8
Textile floor coverings	0.9	3.1
Television sets	3.9	2.5
Beer	0.7	0.6
Electricity	-0.3	0.6
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-1.6	0.0
Chocolate based confectionery	1.0	-0.8
Gas available for issue through mains	-0.4	-5.2
Electric motors	-3.4	-5.2
Other confectionery	-1.3	-6.4
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-1.3	-8.1
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-4.1	-41.7

WOOL YARN



COTTON YARN



Labour force status of families

Of the 4 638 100 families in Australia in June 1993, 1 296 100 (28%) families had one family member employed and 2 173 200 (47%) families had two or more family members employed. There were a further 1 168 800 (25%) families with no family member employed and in 262 100 (22%) of these families, one or more family members were unemployed. These estimates were compiled from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' June Labour Force Survey.

ALL FAMILIES: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF FAMILY MEMBERS, JUNE 1993
(⁰⁰⁰)

	None employed	One employed	Two or more employed	Total
None unemployed	906.7	1 091.2	2 049.3	4 047.2
One or more unemployed	262.1	204.9	123.9	590.9
Total	1 168.8	1 296.1	2 173.2	4 638.1

Married-couple families

In June 1993, there were 3 928 800 married-couple families of which 1 990 500 (51%) had dependant children or students present. Some 1 990 200 (51%) married-couple families had both partners in the labour force and 1 128 100 (29%) had only one partner in the labour force. Of the married-couple families with only one partner in the labour force, that person was the husband in 710 100 (95%) families with dependants and 316 600 (83%) families without dependants.

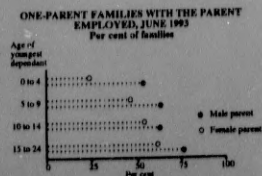
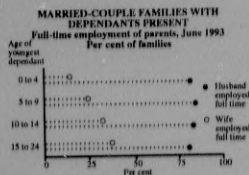
Of the married-couple families with dependants, the husband was employed full time in 83 per cent of families and the wife was employed full time in 24 per cent of families. The percentage of such families with the wife employed full time increased as the age of the youngest dependant present increased.

After increasing by 148 700 between 1989 and 1992, the number of married-couple families with one or both partners unemployed has risen to 327 500 in June this year, an increase of 2 800 on the corresponding period in 1992. Of these families, the number with dependants present has risen by 98 000 (85%) since June 1989 to 213 400 in June 1993 and there were 433 000 dependants present in such families.

One-parent families

In June 1993, there were 416 200 one-parent families, of which 368 400 (89%) had a female parent. The parent was employed in 188 500 (45%) families, unemployed in 39 400 (9%) families and not in the labour force in 188 200 (45%) one-parent families. The percentage of one-parent families with the parent employed increased as the age of youngest dependant present increased.

An estimated 351 000 dependants aged 0 to 14 years were in one-parent families where the parent was either unemployed or not in the labour force.



Persons who were not members of a family

Of the 1 325 100 persons who were not members of a family and were living alone, 513 200 (39%) were employed. There were a further 825 000 persons who were not members of a family and were not living alone. Of these persons, 581 800 (71%) were employed.

For further information, order the publication Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (6224.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6018.

In brief ...

□ Personal finance

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for August 1993 was \$1 786.8 million, up \$24.2 million (1.3%) on July 1993, and \$55.8 million (3.1%) on August 1992. This was made up of a \$16.6 million (1.5%) increase in commitments made under fixed loan facilities and a \$7.7 million (1.2%) increase in commitments made under revolving credit facilities.

□ Business finance

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for August 1993 was \$7 353.2 million, a decrease of \$151.1 million (2.0%) on July 1993 and a fall of \$113.8 million (1.5%) on August 1992.

The August 1993 provisional trend estimate for commitments under fixed loan facilities was down 0.5 per cent while the estimate for commitments under revolving credit facilities was down 1.5 per cent. The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for August 1993 was \$467.4 million, an increase of 2.2 per cent on July 1993, and up 16.1 per cent on August 1992.

The previous two products are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7117.

□ International investment

At 30 June 1992, Australia had net foreign liabilities of \$198 650 million. This compares with net foreign liabilities of \$38 575 million a decade earlier.

The ratio of net foreign liabilities to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 24 per cent in 1981-82, while the net debt ratio stood at 10 per cent and net equity and other investment at 14 per cent. Following the abolition of exchange controls and financial market deregulation in Australia, the ratio of net foreign liabilities to GDP increased and then accelerated during the years 1984-85 to 1986-87. By 1986-87 the ratio had risen to 44 per cent and remained relatively stable until 1989-90. Over the past two years however the ratio has risen 6 percentage points to reach 51 per cent of GDP by 30 June 1992.

The ratio of net foreign debt to GDP at 30 June 1992 was 40 per cent with net equity and other investment accounting for the remaining 12 per cent. This growth in Australia's net foreign liabilities as a proportion of GDP largely reflects the high balance of payments current account deficits over the decade and, over the past two years, the sluggish growth in GDP.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO Box 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 432 111

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 above.

Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
28 October 1993

There has been a rapid change in the composition of Australia's net foreign liabilities since 1981-82. That year saw the foreign debt component of Australia's net foreign liabilities increase by 17 percentage points to 43 per cent (and a resultant drop in the percentage share of net equities and other liabilities to 57%). This trend continued until 1985-86 when net foreign debt reached 78 per cent of net foreign liabilities.

Source: International Investment Position, Australia, 1991-92 (5305.0).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 9 November

October

- 27** Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1993 (6401.0; \$11.70)
- 28** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1993, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.70)

November

- 1** Balance of Payments, Australia, September 1993 (5301.0; \$16.30)
Building Approvals, Australia, September 1993 (8731.0; \$13.30)
- 3** Retail Trade, Australia, September 1993 (8501.0; \$10.70)

Selected releases: 20 to 26 October

General

ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ), 1993 (1262.0; \$30.60)
ABS Classification of Qualifications — Manual Coding System, 1993 (1265.0; \$30.60)
Economic Indicators, Qld, October 1993 (1307.3; \$6.60)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, October 1993 (1303.6; \$9.70)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, October 1993 (1307.7; \$7.50)

Demography

Marriages, Aust., 1992 (3306.0; \$12.70)
Estimated Resident Population and Components of Change in Population of Statistical Local Areas in NSW, 1986 to 1991 (3208.1; \$12.00)
Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas, NSW, June 1991 and 1992, Preliminary (3210.1; \$10.70)

Social statistics

Victoria's Young People, August 1991 (4123.2; \$12.50) — *new issue*

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

International Investment Position, Aust., 1991-92 (5305.0; \$40.80)

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

Manufacturing Industry, NSW, 1990-91 (8221.1; \$16.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	95 250	1.2	3.3
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	August 93	\$m	-1 689	-1 397	-29	-18
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-426	-153	—	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-727	-379	—	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 162	5 187	-4	10
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5 588	-5 340	2	17
Net foreign debt	30 June 93	\$m	172 325	n.a.	7.5	12.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	222 964	n.a.	7.2	12.2
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	August 93	\$m	7 660	8 155	-0.2	3.2
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	no.	5,605	5,385	-1.3	-2.7
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	September 93	no.	42,545	39,636	-23.4	-10.0
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	34 296	34 540	0.9	1.2
Dwelling unit approvals	August 93	no.	15 231	14 556	-4.2	7.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 277	2 248	7.2	23.8
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	6,023	6,044	-3.1	2.2
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	109.3	n.a.	0.4	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	August 93	1988-89 = 100.0	113.4	n.a.	-0.1	1.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries (e)	August 93	1984-85 = 100.0	127.1	n.a.	-0.1	0.0
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	September 93	'000	7 843.9	7 755.0	3.4	1.1
Participation rate †	"	%	63.2	62.7	1.9	0.0
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.7	10.9	0.0	0.0
Job vacancies	August qtr 93	'000	39.0	37.3	18.0	38.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.15	1.19	-0.5	8.3
Estimated resident population	December qtr 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	July 93	'000	247	244	-1.6	11.7
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 93	\$m	3 978	4 435	-1.8	33.6
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May qtr 93	\$	597.80	n.a.	0.7	1.8
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)		% per annum	4.75	n.a.	-0.20	-1.15
90-day bank bills †	August 93	%	6.65	n.a.	-0.25	-2.30
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	per \$A	0.6785	n.a.	—	—
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	"					

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) 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. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday 20 October 1993. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 21 October 1993.

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

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year									
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	
New capital expenditure*	March qtr 93	-0.1	4.7	-9.3	16.8	38.7	20.3	n.a.	n.a.	6.3	
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	August 93	-1.8	5.5	2.5	4.2	11.3	-0.7	n.a.	6.0	2.9	
New motor vehicle registrations	September 93	-9.6	-2.1	-23.1	-10.0	-5.8	-20.8	7.9	21.0	-10.0	
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	August 93	1.7	-0.2	8.1	18.9	21.6	6.0	92.0	-3.4	7.7	
Value of total building work done	June qtr 93	-5.0	-6.1	18.6	13.0	31.3	-17.3	-6.7	-11.2	2.8	
Employed persons*	September 93	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.4	4.8	0.4	0.1	3.4	1.1	
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 93	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9	
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May qtr 93	0.1	2.2	5.0	1.7	-0.1	2.0	2.5	4.2	1.8	
Population	Dec. qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	7.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1	
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 93	4.6	3.6	12.2	-0.6	8.3	6.0	13.3	-7.1	6.4	

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

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). 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. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.