

Thursday, 28 July 1994



*The week in statistics ...*

- Stronger dollar offsets impact of oil  
hike on import prices 2
- Vehicle sales in overdrive 2
- Manufacturing materials index pushed  
up by world oil prices 3
- Manufacturing production in June 4
- Cooperative divorce on the rise 5
- Labour force projected to reach  
10.6 million by the year 2011 6
- Rates of pay in brief ... 7
- Expected releases over the fortnight  
to 9 August 7
- Selected releases: 20 to 26 July 7
- The latest ...  
— key national/State indicators 8

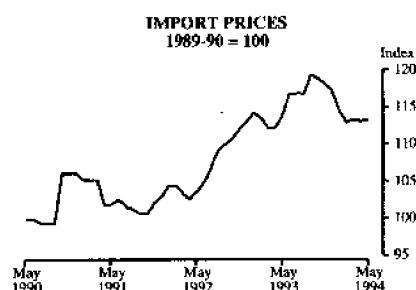
## Stronger dollar offsets impact of oil hike on import prices

The import price index rose by 0.2 per cent in May 1994.

A large increase of 10 per cent in world oil prices was the main contributor to the rise in May.

A slight strengthening of the Australian dollar relative to the US dollar and the Japanese yen led to small price falls in a range of items, in particular machinery and transport equipment and some manufactured goods. These falls partially offset the effect of the crude petroleum price increases on the index.

Between May 1993 and May 1994 the index fell by 0.4 per cent.



**IMPORT PRICES, MAY 1994**  
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Crude materials	0.6	6.7
Machinery and transport equipment	-0.3	1.6
Food and live animals	0.3	-0.2
Commodities and transactions	0.2	-0.3
Manufactured goods	-0.5	-1.3
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-0.4	-2.4
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	2.2	-4.3
Mineral fuels, etc.	10.0	-4.7
Chemical products	0.6	-5.0
Beverages and tobacco	-0.3	-14.7
<i>All groups</i>	0.2	-0.4

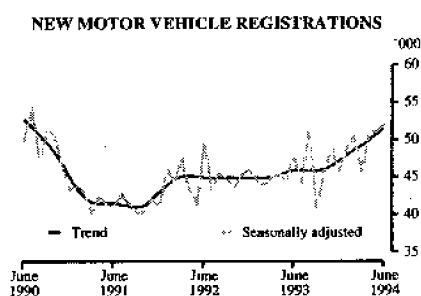
For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

## Vehicle sales in overdrive

Another strong performance by commercial vehicles has the trend estimate of total new motor vehicle registrations rapidly approaching its highest level for more than four years.

Sustained increases since September 1993 have lifted the June 1994 provisional trend estimate to 12.2 per cent above the level of June 1993. A continuation of the current trend over the next two months would see the April 1990 peak exceeded. Passenger vehicles are 8.8 per cent higher while strong rises over the last six months have lifted the trend estimate for other vehicles to 28.9 per cent above the level of June 1993.

In seasonally adjusted terms, a big rise of 14.7 per cent in other vehicle registrations for June 1994 more than offset the small fall in passenger vehicles of less than one per cent, to show a rise of 2.2 per cent in total vehicle registrations. The seasonally adjusted estimate for other vehicle registrations is 18.4 per cent higher than for June 1993.



Unadjusted total new motor vehicle registrations for June 1994 showed a rise for the second consecutive month with 57,950 new registrations, a rise of 4,752 vehicles (or 8.9%) over the previous month. This figure represents the highest number of vehicles recorded since the May 1990 peak of 60,356 registrations. The record month for total new motor vehicle registrations was April 1975, with 62,799 vehicles.

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

## Manufacturing materials index pushed up by world oil prices

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries rose by 1.2 per cent in May, the largest monthly increase since June 1993.

Prices of imported materials rose by 1.9 per cent while prices of home produced materials increased by 0.8 per cent.

Higher world prices for crude petroleum and condensates were the main contributors to the increase in both the imported and the home produced materials indexes. In May, prices for imported crude petroleum and condensates were up 10.6 per cent, while home produced crude prices rose by 4.2 per cent.

The overall increase in the home produced materials index was lower than that for the imported index mainly because of offsetting price falls for live animals. Lower export demand led to a price slump for cattle and calves during May (down 3.6%), following price increases over the past few months.

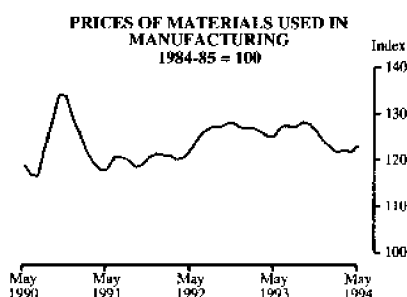
Between May 1993 and May 1994 the price index of manufacturing materials fell by 1.7 per cent.

The table below summarises the price movements.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, MAY 1994  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	1.9	-1.0
Home produced	0.8	-2.2
All manufacturing	1.2	-1.7

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.

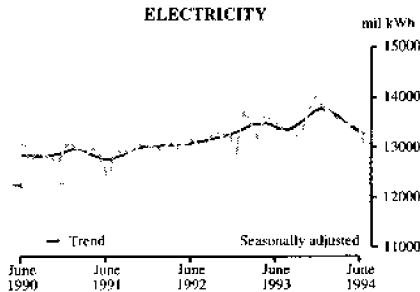
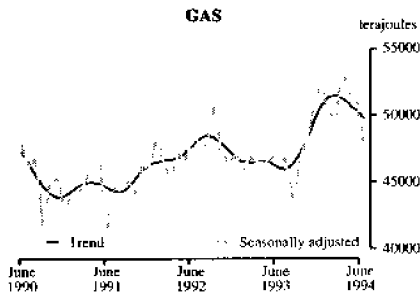


## Manufacturing production in June

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of 26 major indicators of production (22 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 10 *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the table below, 15 items show an increase in trend over production levels in June 1993, although only six show trend growth over the last few months to June 1994. The trend in production of cars and station wagons has fallen since February 1994 after rising from its last trough in June 1993 and the trend in production of electric motors has risen strongly since its last trough in August 1993. Gas and electricity production trends have declined from peaks in February 1994 and December 1993 respectively. Consistent with the recent strong activity in the construction of new residential dwellings, production of cement, bricks, particle board, textile floor coverings, televisions and washing machines are all above production levels observed 12 months ago.

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 monthly publication.



MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, JUNE 1994  
Percentage change in trend

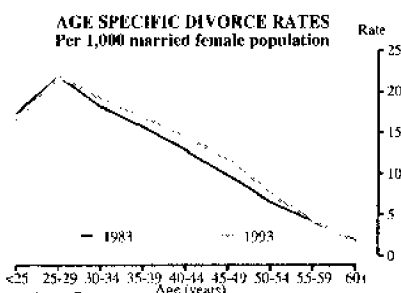
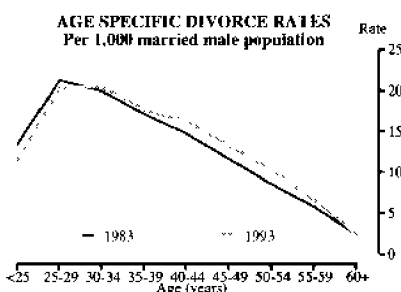
Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Wool yarn	0.0	29.8
Textile floor coverings	-0.2	21.7
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	2.6	19.9
Electric motors	2.1	19.2
Blooms and slabs	1.7	17.2
Particle board and similar boards	3.4	13.4
Television sets	-0.8	10.8
Cotton yarn	-0.4	10.4
Plastics in primary forms	-0.8	8.3
Gas available for issue through mains	-1.2	7.9
Portland cement	2.0	7.0
Cars and station wagons	-2.0	6.5
Other confectionery	-0.2	2.3
Clay bricks	0.2	2.2
Domestic clothes washing machines	1.4	1.5
Electricity	-0.5	-0.9
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-1.7	-0.9
Sulphuric acid; oleum	1.4	-1.1
Woven man-made fibre fabric	0.5	-5.0
Beer	-1.1	-5.4
Chocolate based confectionery	-2.5	-7.8
Cigarettes and tobacco	0.1	-8.4

## Cooperative divorce on the rise

There has been a dramatic increase over the last decade in the number of divorces granted in Australia on the joint application of the husband and wife.

In 1993, 15.8 per cent of all divorces granted followed joint applications, with 48.9 per cent being on the wife's application and 35.3 per cent on the husband's application. In 1984 (the first year joint applications were allowed) just 0.4 per cent of all divorces were on joint applications, with 58.5 per cent by the wife and 41 per cent sought by the husband.

Divorce details in 1993 include, for the first time, divorce data on a State and Territory of usual residence basis. The table shows that Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory share the highest crude divorce rate at 3.0 divorces per 1,000 population. The relatively low rate in the Northern Territory partly reflects the Territory's low marriage rate, estimated at 4.7 per 1,000 in 1993 compared with the national average of 6.4 per 1,000.



DIVORCES, 1993

	Divorces granted	Crude divorce rate	Median duration of marriage (years)	Applicant		
				Husband	Wife	Joint
NSW	16 358	2.7	10.3	5 851	8 092	2 415
Vic.	10 935	2.4	10.6	4 085	5 151	1 699
Qld	8 501	2.7	11.0	3 151	4 439	911
SA	3 939	2.7	11.3	1 328	2 063	548
WA	4 620	2.8	11.5	1 264	1 869	1 487
Tas.	1 425	3.0	11.1	478	804	143
NT	390	2.3	10.6	113	192	85
ACT	887	3.0	11.1	276	402	209
Other (incl. Christmas & Cocos Keeling or not stated)	1 269	—	10.1	533	605	131
<b>Australia</b>	<b>48 324</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>17 079</b>	<b>23 617</b>	<b>7 628</b>

The 48,324 divorces granted in 1993 was the highest total since 1976 — the year the Family Law Act came into operation — when 63,230 divorces were granted.

Although the number of divorces granted in 1993 was 11 per cent higher than the number granted in 1983, it should be noted that there has also been an increase of 12 per cent in the married population over that time. Thus the divorce rate among the married population is much the same as it was ten years ago.

The national crude divorce rate (divorces per 1,000 of the total population) was 2.7. The latest available United Nations figures suggest that this is near the middle of the range of divorce rates internationally. The United States has the highest rate at 4.7, while Brazil, Chile, Italy and Turkey share the lowest rate at 0.5 per 1,000 population.

Back in Australia the 1993 data found that there has been a noticeable increase in divorce rates among middle-aged people, especially men aged 50 to 54 and women aged 45 to 49. For the first time since the introduction of the Family Law Act the peak divorce rate for men moved from the 25 to 29 age group to the 30 to 34 age group. The peak rate for women remained with the 25 to 29 age range.

For further information, order the publication *Divorces, Australia, 1993*, or contact Michael Nunn on (06) 252 6755.

## Labour force projected to reach 10.6 million by the year 2011

Australia's civilian labour force is projected to reach 10.6 million persons by the year 2011, an increase of 2 million compared with the labour force in mid-1993.

The average annual growth rate for the male labour force is projected to be 0.8 per cent between 1993 and 2011, and for females, 1.7 per cent over the same period. Based on these projections, females would comprise 46 per cent of the labour force by the year 2011, compared with 42 per cent in 1993.

These labour force projections, prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, are illustrations of growth and change in the age-sex structure of the labour force if certain stated demographic, social and economic assumptions apply. The projections are not intended to be predictions or forecasts.

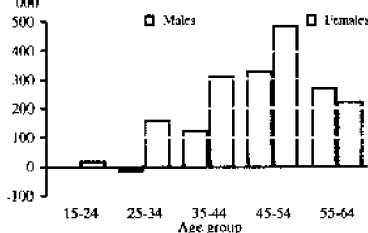
The projections show a changing age structure for the labour force. Persons aged 15-24 represent a declining proportion of the total labour force, falling from 21.8 per cent in 1993 to 17.8 per cent in 2011. For the same period the 45-54 age group is projected to grow from 18.5 per cent to 22.9 per cent, and the 55-64 age group from 7.4 per cent to 10.8 per cent.

The male labour force participation rate is projected to decline from 73.7 per cent in 1993 to 69.2 per cent in 2011, reflecting a marked fall in the proportion of males aged 45-59. For females, participation rates for the 20-64 age group are projected to rise, resulting in an increase in the overall participation rate from 51.8 per cent in 1993 to 56.8 per cent in 2011.

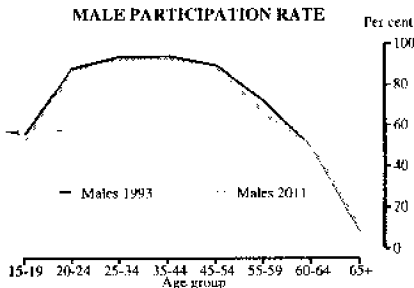
LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS  
('000)

	Males	Females	Persons
1993	4 994.6	3 624.2	8 618.8
1995	5 165.5	3 835.6	9 001.0
2001	5 439.3	4 296.8	9 736.1
2006	5 622.3	4 616.3	10 238.6
2011	5 761.2	4 870.7	10 631.9

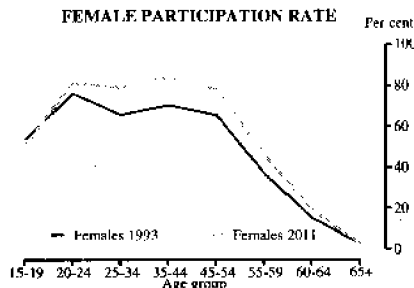
PROJECTED GAINS IN THE LABOUR FORCE  
1993 TO 2011



MALE PARTICIPATION RATE



FEMALE PARTICIPATION RATE



## 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) 360 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111  
ACT (06) 207 0326

### 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 July 1994

## Rates of pay in brief ...

Over the 12 months to May 1994, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 1.1 per cent. For both full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 1.1 per cent.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult females and males occurred in the recreation, personal and other services industry (2.5% and 2.2% respectively), and in the wholesale and retail trade industry (2.2% and 2.4% respectively).

In terms of occupation groups, the largest increases for full-time adult females were for tradespersons (1.9%), and for plant and machine operators, and drivers (1.8%). For full-time adult males the largest increases were for salespersons and personal service workers (1.8%), and for labourers and related workers (1.5%).

Source: *Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, May 1994* (6312.0).

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 9 August

#### July

- 27 Consumer Price Index, June Quarter 1994 (6401.0; \$12.00)
- 28 Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 1994, Preliminary (6301.0; \$11.00)
- 29 Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)  
Building Approvals, Australia, June 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)

#### August

- 3 Retail Trade, Australia, July 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)

### Selected releases: 20 to 26 July

#### General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., July 1994 (1304.0; \$20.50)

#### Demography

Trends In Mortality, 1971-92 (3313.0; \$20.00) — *new issue*

#### Social statistics

NSW Families: A Profile, 1993 (4426.1; \$20.00) — *new issue*

#### Labour statistics

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., May 1994 (replacement) (6312.0; \$13.00)

#### Agriculture

Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Aust., 1992-93 (7507.0; \$27.50)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, March 1994 (8741.1; \$11.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	95 551	100 244	1.9	5.0
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	May 94	\$m	-1 418	-1 707	-3	-23
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	85	-295	—	-340
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-124	-424	3	-102
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 725	5 456	5	6
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5 640	-5 751	5	11
Net foreign debt	March qtr 94	\$m	167 264	n.a.	-2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	233 967	n.a.	-0.8	11.0
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	May 94	\$m	8 326	8 626	2.2	5.0
New capital expenditure at current prices	March qtr 94	"	5 728	6 397	-5	-2
New motor vehicle registrations	June 94	no.	57 950	52 133	2.2	9.3
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	May 94	no.	18 641	16 883	10.4	19.9
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 447.5	2 085.4	-7.8	10.2
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	"	5 783	6 236	-2.4	0.0
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index (d)	March qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	110.4	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	May 94	1988-89 = 100.0	115.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Materials used in manufacturing industries	May 94	1984-85 = 100.0	123.2	n.a.	1.2	-1.7
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	June 94	'000	7 892.7	7 882.0	0.2	2.8
Participation rate †	"	%	62.7	62.9	0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.6	10.0	0.2	-1.1
Job vacancies	May qtr 93	'000	49.4	53.0	18.5	64.1
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.31	1.33	7.5	11.1
Estimated resident population	December qtr 94	million	17.7	n.a.	0.2	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	April 94	'000	255	271	-10.6	12.1
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	March qtr 94	\$m	5 150	6 545	34.1	41.7
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time (e)	February 94	\$	612.30	609.50	0.9	3.1
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	June 94	% per annum	5.45	n.a.	0.6	0.2
10-year Treasury bonds †	June 94	"	9.65	n.a.	0.85	2.3
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	May 94	per \$A	0.7240	n.a.	1	4

(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, 27 July 1994. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 28 July 1994.

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*	December qtr 93	-20.0	30.3	-20.4	-27.3	26.8	-39.5	n.a.	n.a.	-1.5
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	May 94	6.5	4.1	6.0	4.3	6.9	5.3	n.a.	3.8	5.7
New motor vehicle registrations†	June 94	15.0	15.2	-6.8	13.5	4.5	15.5	5.1	25.7	9.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	May 94	25.0	14.6	19.5	4.1	30.8	10.3	-8.8	-4.0	19.9
Value of total building work done	March qtr 94	-8.2	5.6	4.6	0.7	20.6	4.6	20.3	-4.7	1.4
Employed persons*	June 94	2.8	2.8	4.7	-0.2	2.5	1.3	1.6	2.4	2.8
Capital city consumer price index	March qtr 94	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	February 94	4.5	1.6	3.8	2.1	1.9	4.0	-0.5	4.0	3.1
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	March qtr 94	7.3	5.4	6.3	5.4	9.5	3.9	16.6	1.5	6.7

\* 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.

