



CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1  
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## ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES AUGUST 1996

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### MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,788,100 in July 1996, a decrease of 0.2% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.1% over the same period.
UNEMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 238,500 in July 1996, a rise of 2.6% on the previous month and a rise of 6.1% over the previous year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July 1996 was 7.9% in NSW and 8.5% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	Seasonally adjusted, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 35.2% from 16,586 in May 1996 to 22,427 in June 1996.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in June 1996 was 3,321, a decrease of 15.2% on the previous month and 6.9% lower than in June 1995.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in June 1996 fell by 10.3% from May 1996 and 4.0% from June 1995.

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### NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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Gregory W. Bray  
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

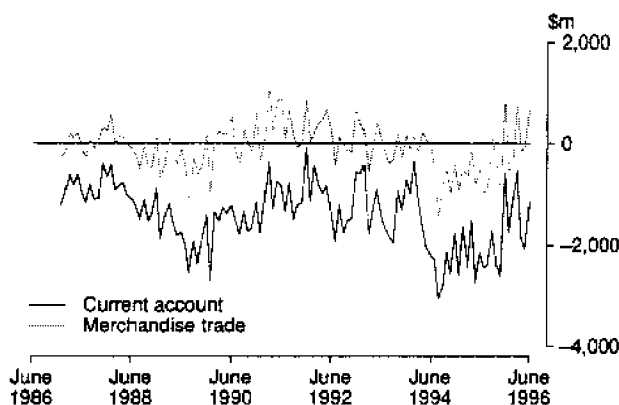
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- INQUIRIES:
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 9268 4376 or any ABS office.
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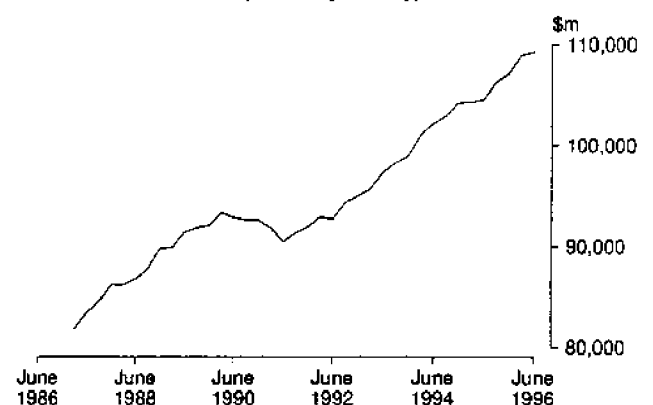
## NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
<b>National accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—</b>							
Gross non-farm product	%	June qtr 96	0.4	3.8			
Gross domestic product	%	June qtr 96	0.3	4.5			
<i>Figures for preceding periods</i>							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
<b>Balance of payments—</b>							
Merchandise exports	\$m	June 96	6 269	6 619	6 173	6 849	5 709
Merchandise imports	\$m	June 96	-5 572	-6 705	-6 312	-6 098	-6 221
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	June 96	697	-86	-139	751	-512
Balance on goods and services	\$m	June 96	516	-299	-182	905	-851
Balance on current account	\$m	June 96	-1 141	-2 055	-1 844	-570	-2 146
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	June 96	-1 291	-2 203	-2 011	-1 310	-2 034
<b>Terms of trade for goods and services—</b>							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		June qtr 96	97.8	95.9	94.0	94.0	93.0
<b>Exchange Rates at end of period—</b>							
\$US/\$A		June 96	0.7890	0.7983	0.7854	0.7793	0.7086
Trade weighted index of value \$A May 1970 = 100		June 96	58.1	58.7	57.1	56.8	48.4
<b>Indicator Lending Rate—</b>							
Bank loans to large businesses (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	July 1996	10.80	10.80	10.80	10.80	10.70

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AUSTRALIA (Monthly)**



**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)**

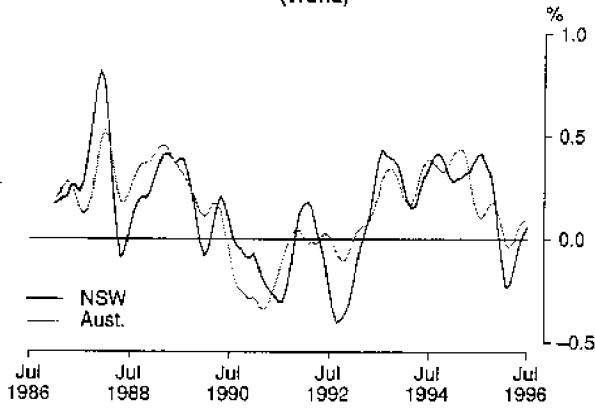


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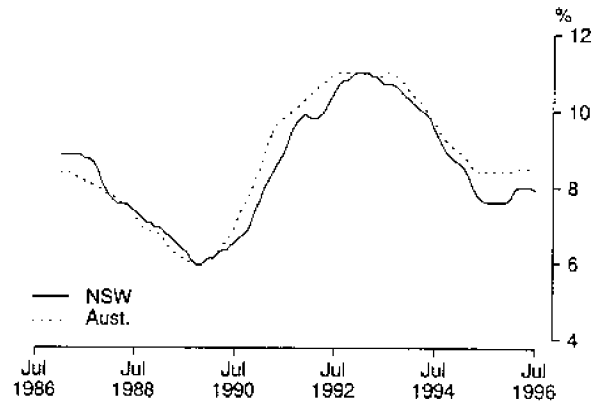
## NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	July 96	7.9	8.6	9.0	9.2	7.6	11.2	8.5
<b>Percentage change from previous year —</b>								
Employed persons	July 96	1.1	0.4	1.8	1.0	1.6	-0.3	1.0
Consumer price index: all groups	June qtr 96	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.1
<b>Average weekly employee earnings:</b>								
full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	May qtr 96	3.9	3.9	2.4	3.2	6.4	4.4	3.8
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	June 96	7.4	3.1	2.8	1.9	5.1	5.3	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations	June 96	14.0	-7.9	37.7	-6.0	-8.1	-18.1	6.5
Dwelling units approved	June 96	-13.0	-19.3	-20.8	-32.5	-33.4	-6.7	-20.8
Value of non-residential building approved	June 96	-10.4	-5.4	-48.7	-43.7	73.5	-22.4	-19.1
Value of all buildings approved	June 96	-10.3	-10.8	-34.6	-33.0	-1.9	-7.6	-16.9
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar. qtr 96	11.9	2.0	2.9	26.6	56.5	54.7	14.2
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Mar. qtr 96	3.9	3.2	-1.2	3.2	0.5	-1.6	1.5
Actual private new capital expenditure	Mar. qtr 96	9.8	11.8	5.1	-15.9	3.9	-20.0	6.9

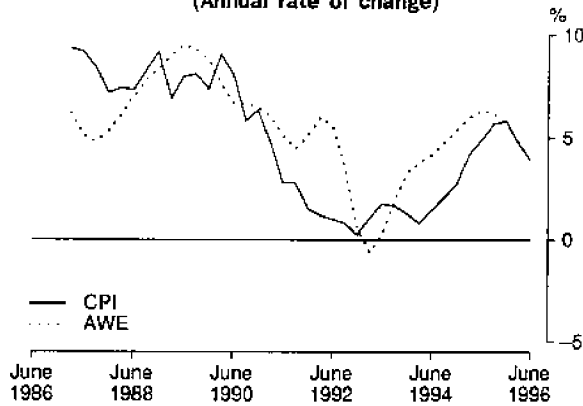
**MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED (Trend)**



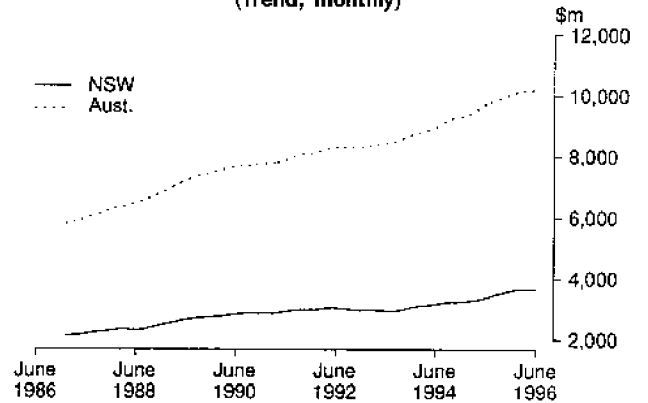
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Trend)**



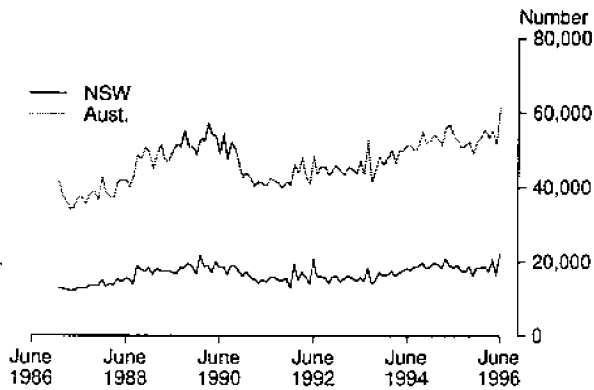
**PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW (Annual rate of change)**



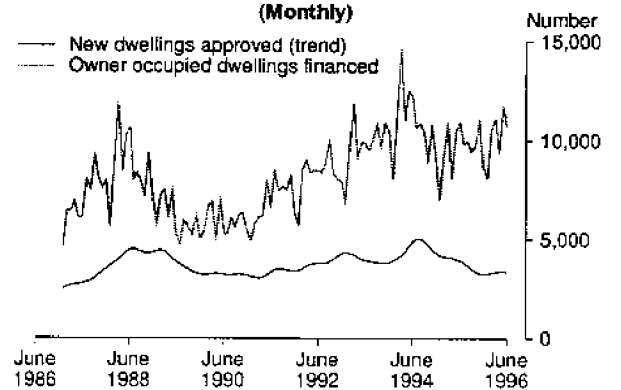
**RETAIL TURNOVER (Trend, monthly)**



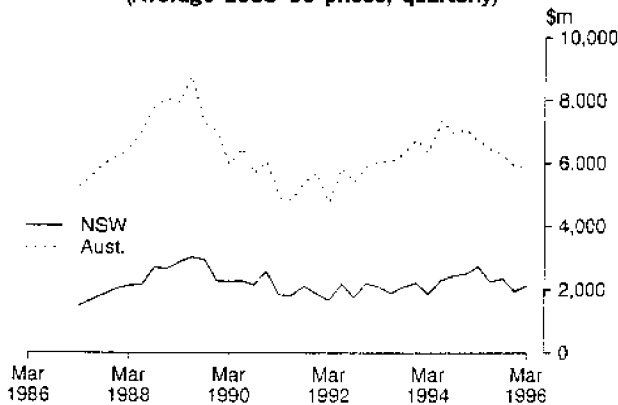
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED (Monthly)**



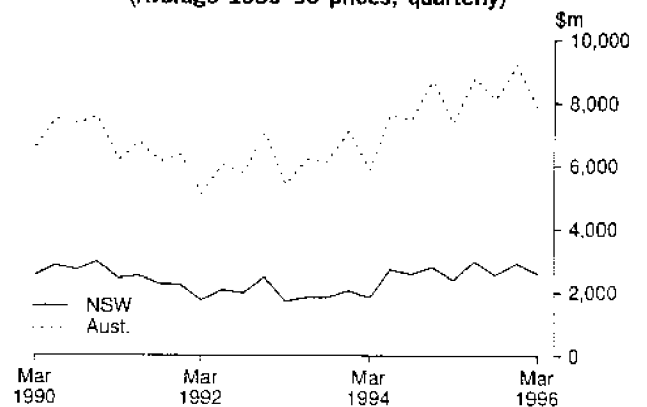
**NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW (Monthly)**



**VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia			
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Latest figure	Change from prior period		
			%	%	%	%		
<b>Population</b>								
Estimated resident population	'000	Dec. qtr 95	6 155	0.33	1.26	18 174	0.33	1.35
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	July 96	4 871	0.15	1.44	14 363	0.15	1.58
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	July 96	2 153	1.8	0.4	6 329	1.4	0.9
—total (original series)	'000	July 96	2 801	0.1	1.1	8 380	0.3	1.0
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	July 96	2 788	-0.2	1.1	8 343	0.1	1.0
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	July 96	224	-0.8	5.9	732	0.1	3.1
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	July 96	238	2.6	6.1	772	2.0	3.3
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	July 96	3 027	0.0	1.5	9 116	0.3	1.2
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	July 96	62.1	-0.2	0.0	63.5	0.1	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	July 96	7.9	2.6	4.6	8.5	1.8	2.1
Job vacancies	'000	May qtr 96	25	-8.6	2.5	54	-16.1	-0.2
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	May qtr 96	7.6	4.3	6.9	7.3	2.4	2.0
<b>Average Weekly Employee Earnings</b>								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	May qtr 96	700.20	0.7	3.9	670.70	0.8	3.8
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	May qtr 96	600.00	1.3	4.6	564.60	0.9	3.0
<b>Industrial Disputes—Working days lost</b>								
	'000	May 96	64.7	7.2	545.5	164.0	138.9	85.1
<b>Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100</b>								
		June qtr 96	119.9	0.7	3.9	119.8	0.7	3.1
<b>Retail Turnover (trend estimates)</b>								
	\$m	June 96	3 652	-0.2	7.4	10 188	0.1	4.8
<b>New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adj.)</b>								
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	June 96	22 427	35.2	21.2	61 547	18.5	13.7
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	June 96	2 953	22.3	-2.0	9 654	12.5	-0.3
<b>Production</b>								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	June 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	117	3.1	-20.8
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	June 96	4 924	-3.1	0.5	13 888	0.3	0.3
Gas (seasonally adjusted)	terajoules	June 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	49 188	-3.3	-3.8
<b>Overseas Trade</b>								
Imports	\$m	July 96	2 951	12.5	-4.6	6 846	17.5	-0.3
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	June 96	1 305	-16.3	-0.5	6 002	-7.2	10.0
<b>Tourism</b>								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	May 96	109	-27.2	6.0	262	-21.5	6.8
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	May 96	87	7.3	3.8	216	4.1	7.0
<b>Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—</b>								
Guest nights	'000	Mar. qtr 96	5 663.1	1.6	6.4	16 092.9	-0.5	4.0
Room occupancy rate	%	Mar. qtr 96	61.1	1.7	3.9	59.0	-1.2	1.5
<b>Building</b>								
<b>Approvals—</b>								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	June 96	3 321	-15.2	-6.9	9 758	-7.9	-14.8
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	June 96	313	-30.3	-8.7	925	-17.7	-13.2
Value of non-residential building	\$m	June 96	272	-9.9	-10.4	850	-24.1	-19.1
Value of all building	\$m	June 96	665	-25.8	-10.3	1 936	-25.4	-16.9
<b>Commencements—</b>								
New dwelling units	No.	Mar. qtr 96	9 564	2.9	-15.7	27 964	-6.8	-20.8
Value of new residential buildings (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	1 052	15.8	-13.1	2 761	-0.6	-16.1
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	907	8.4	-31.6	2 665	3.2	-9.5
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 164	9.6	-21.0	5 886	-0.5	-12.4
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 029	-16.4	-4.6	5 608	-18.9	-10.0
<b>Engineering Construction</b>								
<b>Private contractors—</b>								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	504	42.7	6.6	3 265	82.6	77.0
Value of work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	531	-20.8	-1.7	1 862	-13.0	16.9
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	981	-5.5	-30.4	5 036	36.7	37.5
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	688	11.3	25.3	1 584	-2.7	11.2
<b>Finance</b>								
<b>Housing finance for owner occupation—secured</b>								
commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	June 96	1 521	-10.3	-4.0	3 789	-13.3	-6.3
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	June 96	1 011	-3.1	-5.1	2 827	-6.4	-8.7
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	June 96	6 770	21.1	35.9	14 524	13.1	20.9
<b>Savings balances at end of month—</b>								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	June 96	128 171	2.4	(e)	283 777	1.5	11.2
Building societies	\$m	June 96	3 814	1.2	11.2	11 897	1.5	-2.7
Credit unions	\$m	June 96	5 997	0.5	10.7	13 633	0.7	10.9
<b>Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)</b>								
New buildings and structures	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 793	-9.8	9.8	8 343	-14.4	6.9
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	646	-17.3	15.6	2 209	-29.9	1.7
	\$m	Mar. qtr 96	2 148	-7.3	8.2	6 134	-6.9	8.9

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises



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