



Illawarra Regional Information Service

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Consumer sentiment remains flat

The latest edition of the *IRIS Research Consumer Sentiment Monitor* has shown that consumer confidence in the Illawarra experienced a minor decrease in the three months to June. The *Illawarra Consumer Sentiment Index* dropped by 2 pts to 79 pts, 7 pts below the long term June quarter average.

There was a 2 pt drop in the relative financial position of local households during the three months to June, as the *Current Financial Position Index* weakened to 98 pts. This result is 2 pts above the average level of this index for a June quarter. At the same time, a net 3.3% of local residents reported having more debt this quarter, an increase of 1.6% pts on the December quarter result.

Looking ahead to the next twelve months, Illawarra households are less optimistic about their financial situation. The *Future Financial Position Index* lost 3 pts to sit at 102 pts. This result falls 6 pts below the average level of 108 pts for a June quarter.

There was a decline in spending towards recreation as money outlaid on household furniture and equipment continued to grow during the June quarter. In terms of purchasing, 34.3% of locals enjoyed recreation & travel activities, 6.5% pts higher than the average for a June quarter.

Sentiment about job availability showed no signs of improvement as the *Perceived Job Availability Index* lost 3 pts to sit at 52 pts, 19 pts weaker than the long term June quarter average.

Motor vehicles were purchased by 12.1% of respondents, up 3.0% pts in comparison to the previous survey. With this positive purchasing result, confidence towards the motor vehicle market increased. The *Vehicle Purchase Index* experienced a 4 pt rise to 98 pts, 3 pts above the long term June quarter average.

Further comment:

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Media Release

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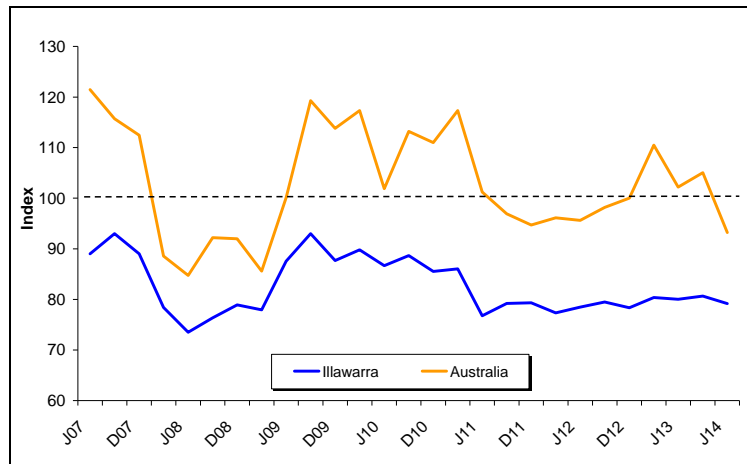
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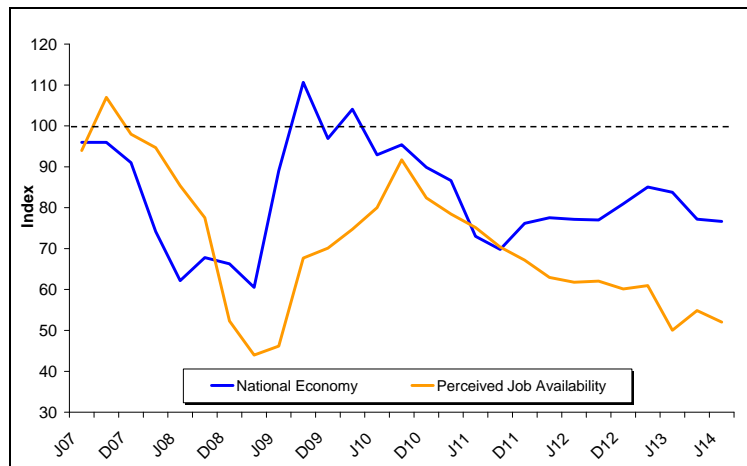
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CONSUMER SENTIMENT INDEX



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



CONDITIONS FOR BUYING A PROPERTY

