



Thursday, 20th August 2015

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Local businesses advertise more jobs

During the year to March, 2015, WSD's median house price grew by 10.1% to \$505,000 with total sales increasing by 1.9% to 3,721. The median price paid for units in this region increased by 9.5% (to \$405,000) with 1,694 sales (down 14.9%).

Overall, a net 7.2% of local firms experienced positive trading conditions, a 13.9% point improvement on the previous June quarter. Looking ahead, a net 14.5% of local firms are predicting improved trading conditions during the September, 2015 quarter, down by 1.4% points on the previous quarter expectation level and 3.5% points above the long term September expectation average.

The March quarter saw a 14.4% increase in the number of jobs advertised in the Illawarra Statistical District, to 882.

16.0 Million Tonnes of coal was produced, down by 1.5% from 16.2 Million tonnes the previous year. Meanwhile, average employment contracted to 2,859 persons (down 15.2%). Productivity climbed to 5.6 thousand tonnes per employee during this period (up 16.2%).

Non-residential approvals fell by 60.4% to \$250.0 Million. The private sector weakened by 32.7% to \$182.4 Million, while an 81.2% decline was seen in the public sector, to \$67.7 Million.

The Illawarra SD saw dwelling approvals total 2,647 during the 12 months to March (up 28.0%). This consisted of 993 unit approvals (up 83.2%) and 1,654 house approvals, (up 8.4%).

Mixed conditions surrounded the Illawarra labour market during the twelve months to March. On average, 134,100 persons were employed across the Illawarra SD, up by 3.4% compared to the previous year. The average yearly ISD participation rate remained on par with the previous year at 58.3%. The unemployment rate saw a 0.9% point decrease, falling to 5.8% in average yearly terms. There was a 4.2% point decline in the average yearly youth unemployment rate, to 13.8%, down from 17.9% during the previous year.

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