



Trades Report



A quarterly update on the change in the price & availability of building trades

March 2007

TRADE SHORTAGES REMAIN PREVALENT

Trades continue to remain in short supply, as trade availability declined again in the March 2007 quarter. Despite the fall, trade prices remained relatively unchanged throughout the quarter with only a slight increase in trade prices overall.

In the March 2007 quarter trade availability was lower in 7 of the 13 trades surveyed. Trade shortages were most prevalent in plumbing (-0.80), site preparation (-0.75) and electrical (-0.70) all of which experienced a deterioration in availability.

A comparison of the regions shows that Regional QLD was the most severely affected during the March quarter.

Despite an improvement in the availability of trades in Western Australia over the March quarter, trades remained in short supply in Perth and Regional WA.

Trades also remained in short supply in Regional SA, and Brisbane.

Overall, trade prices exhibited little change over the March 2007 quarter, up 0.4 per cent from the previous quarter. Price pressures are, however, still evident with trade prices increasing at above the annual rate of inflation, with an increase of 3.4 per cent.

The most significant increase in trade prices over the quarter was for other trades, up 7.2 per cent. bricklaying, which increased 5.1 per cent, followed by joinery, which rose 4.9 per cent.

Regionally, trade price increases were greatest in regional QLD, up 6.8 per cent, Regional Victoria, which rose 5.7 per cent and Regional NSW, which increased 5.2 per cent.

HIA Trade Contractor Price Index - by Trade

(Sep 02 All Trades, All Regions = 100)

	Mar-05	Jun-05	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Qtly Change	Annual Change
Bricklaying	105.4	106.9	109.6	110.4	109.7	105.5	110.7	113.3	119.1	5.1%	8.6%
Carpentry	105.2	102.2	105.8	104.5	112.3	112.8	112.0	110.7	109.3	-1.3%	-2.6%
Ceramic Tiling	109.4	108.4	113.2	116.1	112.9	120.5	128.2	130.9	124.7	-4.7%	10.4%
Electrical	142.3	141.6	146.6	148.8	150.9	148.8	150.1	147.9	149.2	0.9%	-1.1%
General Building	110.2	114.2	114.4	116.1	116.3	120.7	120.0	117.8	116.4	-1.2%	0.1%
Joinery	118.6	125.4	129.0	127.5	129.0	119.0	120.2	117.5	123.2	4.9%	-4.5%
Landscaping	111.9	115.5	110.4	111.4	114.6	121.3	110.0	112.7	114.1	1.3%	-0.4%
Other Trades	129.1	123.8	122.0	124.0	122.1	125.7	126.9	124.6	133.6	7.2%	9.5%
Painting	95.3	101.7	94.7	97.3	105.7	100.5	109.2	115.4	109.3	-5.3%	3.4%
Plastering	107.7	99.2	102.3	104.2	108.3	103.4	111.6	114.4	117.1	2.4%	8.2%
Plumbing	151.3	155.3	147.3	142.6	139.9	146.4	138.1	141.1	137.4	-2.6%	-1.8%
Roofing	121.6	135.5	123.8	119.1	118.4	122.1	133.3	134.5	130.1	-3.2%	9.9%
Site Preparation	121.6	124.0	117.7	114.1	119.7	124.8	123.4	125.7	120.9	-3.8%	1.0%
All trades	118.1	118.8	120.2	119.9	120.5	120.4	122.6	124.1	124.5	0.4%	3.4%

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