



Illawarra Regional Information Service

Monday, 8th February 2010

Ph: 02 4285 4446
Fax: 02 4285 4448

Media Release

Port Kembla Harbour busier than ever

Port Kembla Harbour experienced growth in trade activity, according to the December edition of the IRIS *Profile Illawarra*. Exports out of Port Kembla grew 26.0% over the twelve months to September. The volume of exports recorded for the year to September 2009 was 19.4 Million tonnes, the highest level since the series began ten years ago.

The IRIS *Profile Illawarra* also revealed that Illawarra accommodation establishments experienced a 2.4% increase in revenue to \$75.0 Million in the twelve months to September. The number of domestic visitor nights decreased 8.3% to 2.1 Million nights. However, international overnight tourists collectively spent 1.6 Million nights in the region, up 10.6%, helping stimulate the growth in revenue.

Despite strong quarterly growth, the volume of job advertisements published in the Saturday edition of the Illawarra Mercury decreased substantially over the year to September. There were 5,782 job advertisements, which represents a 36.9% decline. However, in quarterly terms, there was a 32.7% increase in full time positions advertised during the three months to September, leading to a 13.0% improvement for the quarter.

The property market appears to have been influenced by the boosted First Home Owner's Grant, with strong sales at the lower end of the spectrum. In Wollongong Statistical District, the volume of house sales increased by 14.2% to 3,349 sales over the year to September 2009. The number of medium density property sales rose 13.9% to 1,481, and the number of land lots sold improved by 4.1% to 358 properties.

In the year to September, Southern Mines coal production grew by 21.5% to 13.9 Million tonnes, and productivity per employee improved by 6.4% to 4.8 Thousand tonnes per person.

Further comment:
Simon Pomfret
Executive Director
simon_pomfret@iris.org.au
Tel: 02 4285 4446

Data enquiries:
Melissa Dabinett
Assistant Research Analyst
melissa_dabinett@iris.org.au
Tel: 02 4285 4446