

CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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Statistical Note - June 2024

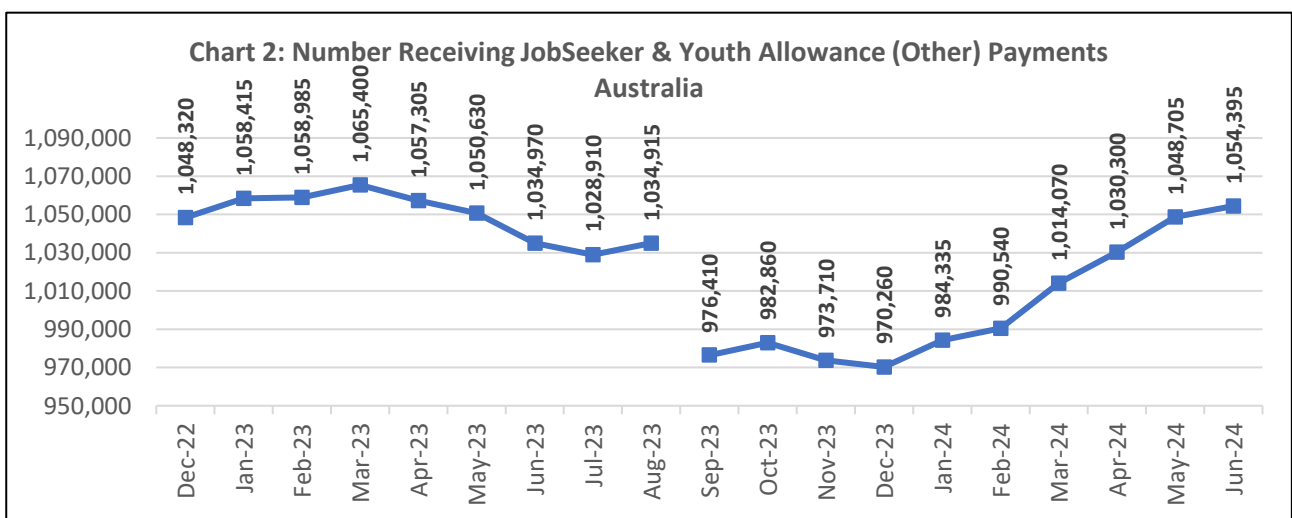
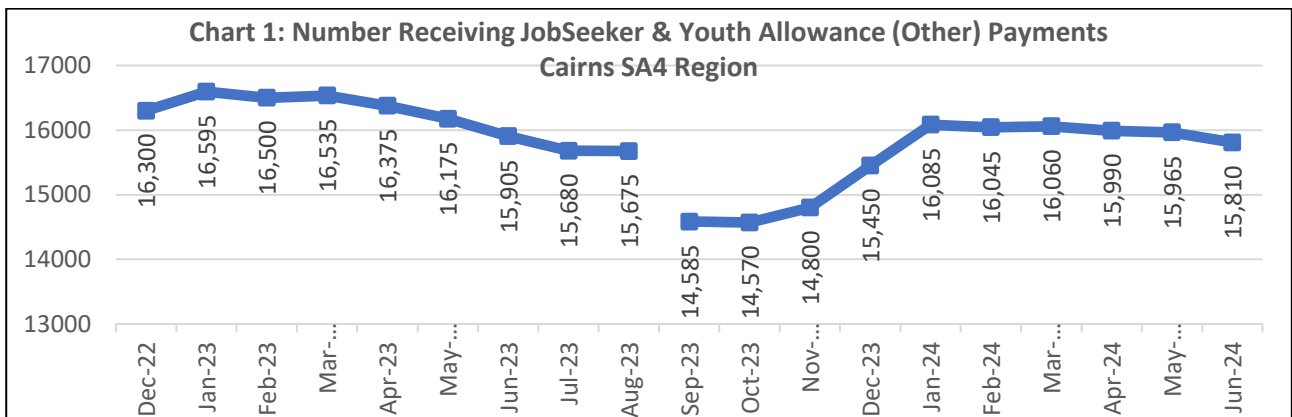
ECONOMIC TRENDS CAIRNS REGION

DAMPENING TO CONTINUE

Latest inflation figures indicate that Reserve Bank efforts to dampen the economy are likely to continue throughout the rest of this year and into the next with consequences for the domestic tourism market and building approvals.

NUMBERS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DOWN SLIGHTLY

The following charts indicate that at national level, numbers registered for unemployment benefits (JobSeeker) are continuing to rise, but that at Cairns regional (SA4) level have trended down slightly after shooting up strongly following the cyclone Jasper flooding late December. This downward movement could be expected due to seasonal conditions. The rise in the Cairns region compared with September 2023 at 8.4% is now about the same as the rise at national level of 8.0%.

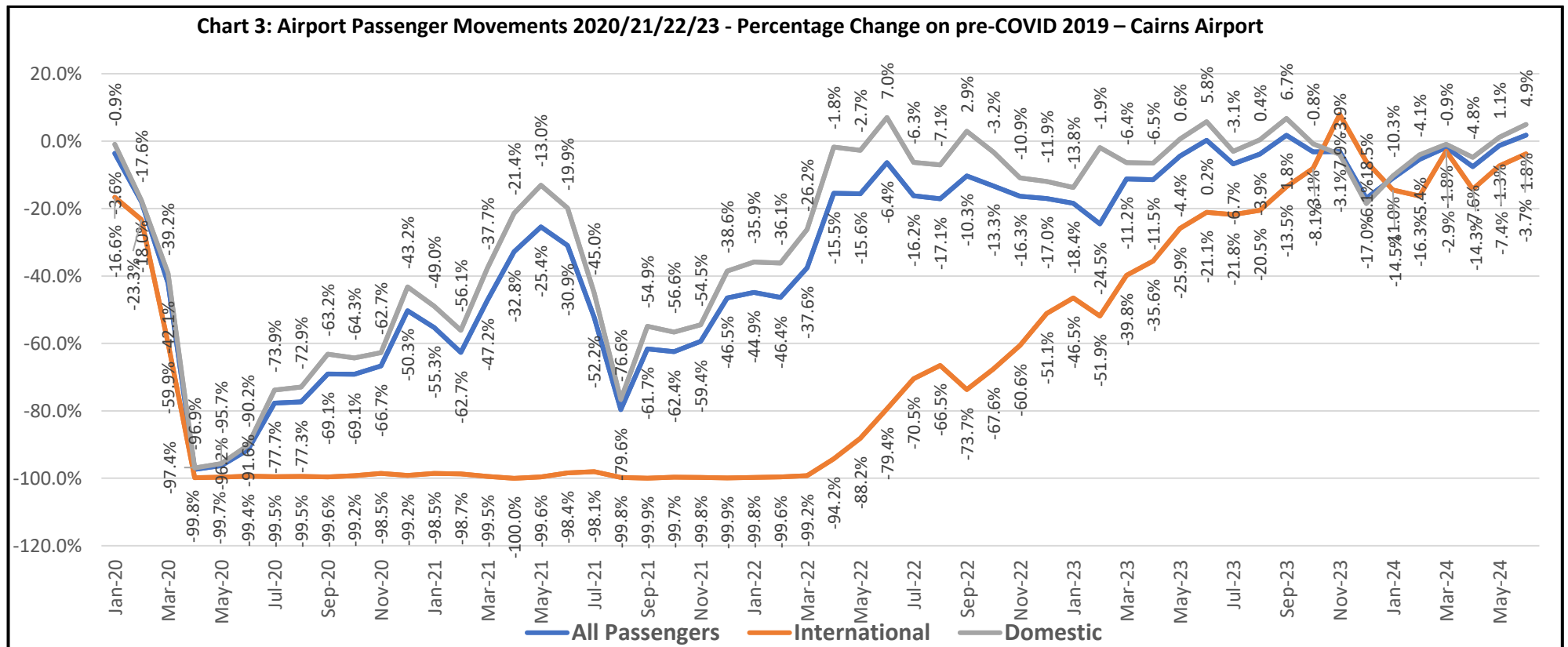


Source: Cummings Economics from Dept of Social Services data.

<https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/jobseeker-payment-and-youth-allowance-recipients-monthly-profile>

AIRPORT FIGURES COMPARED WITH SAME MONTH 2019 (PRE COVID)

The following chart illustrates that passenger numbers for June have crept back over the same month in 2019 by about 2% with Domestic Terminal up almost 5% and the International Terminal continuing its long recovery path to be down only 3.71% on the same month 2019. The chart indicates that Domestic Terminal numbers bounced back strongly in 2022 but since then have been struggling to exceed 2019 figures in the face of declining 'real' incomes at national level and return of opportunities to travel overseas. The decision by Virgin to withdraw from flights to Japan will be a negative for the return of numbers through the International Terminal to above 2019 figures (see separate Statistical Note re Japanese Yen). However, Cathay seasonal flights and new services to New Zealand and Bali will be a positive.

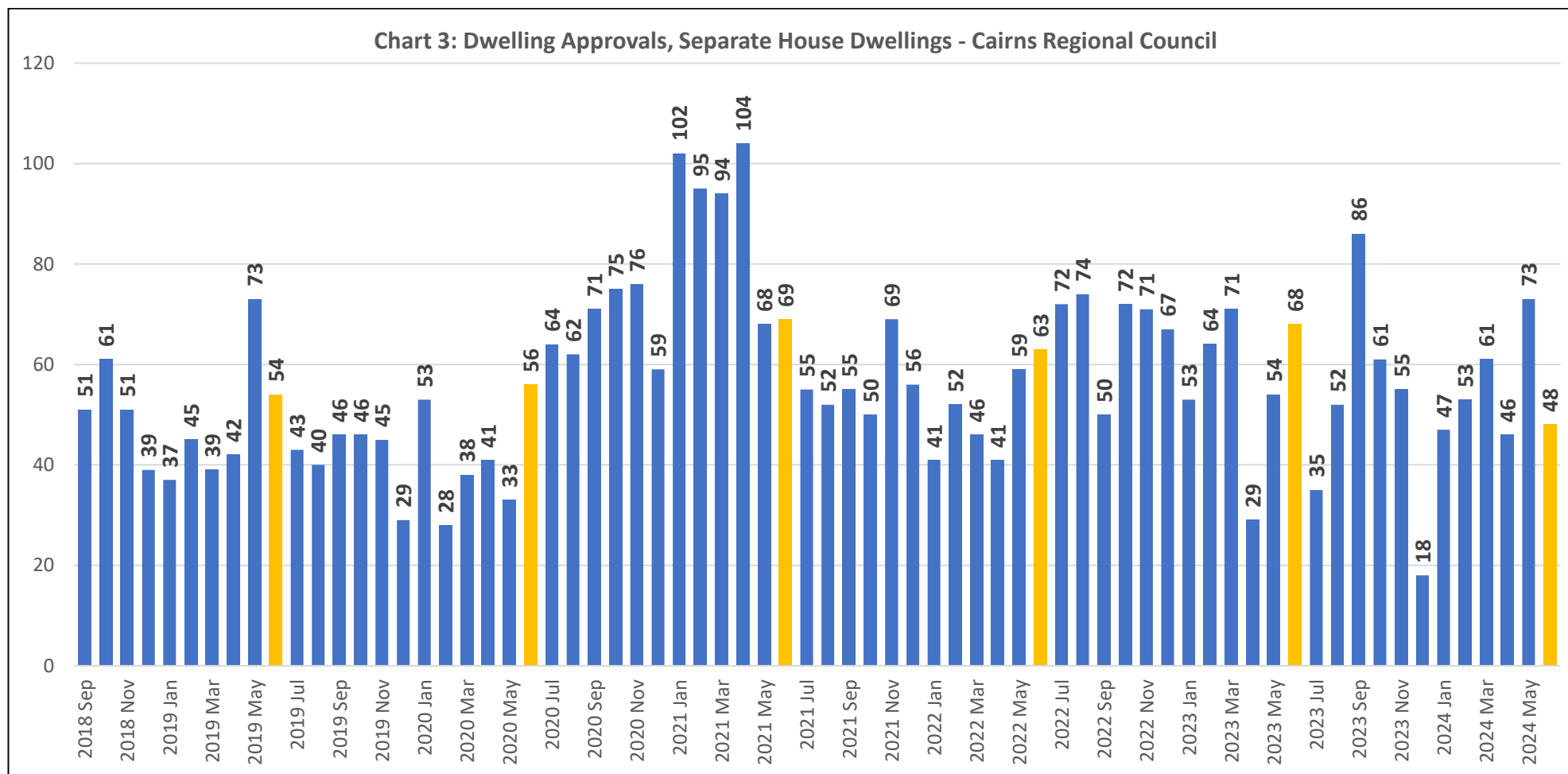


Source: Cummings Economics from Cairns Airport.



CONSTRUCTION – SEPARATE HOUSE BUILDING APPROVALS DOWN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR

Despite all the concern about shortages of housing, separate house dwellings recorded by Cairns Regional Council declined over the past financial year 2023/24 by 11% compared with the previous year.

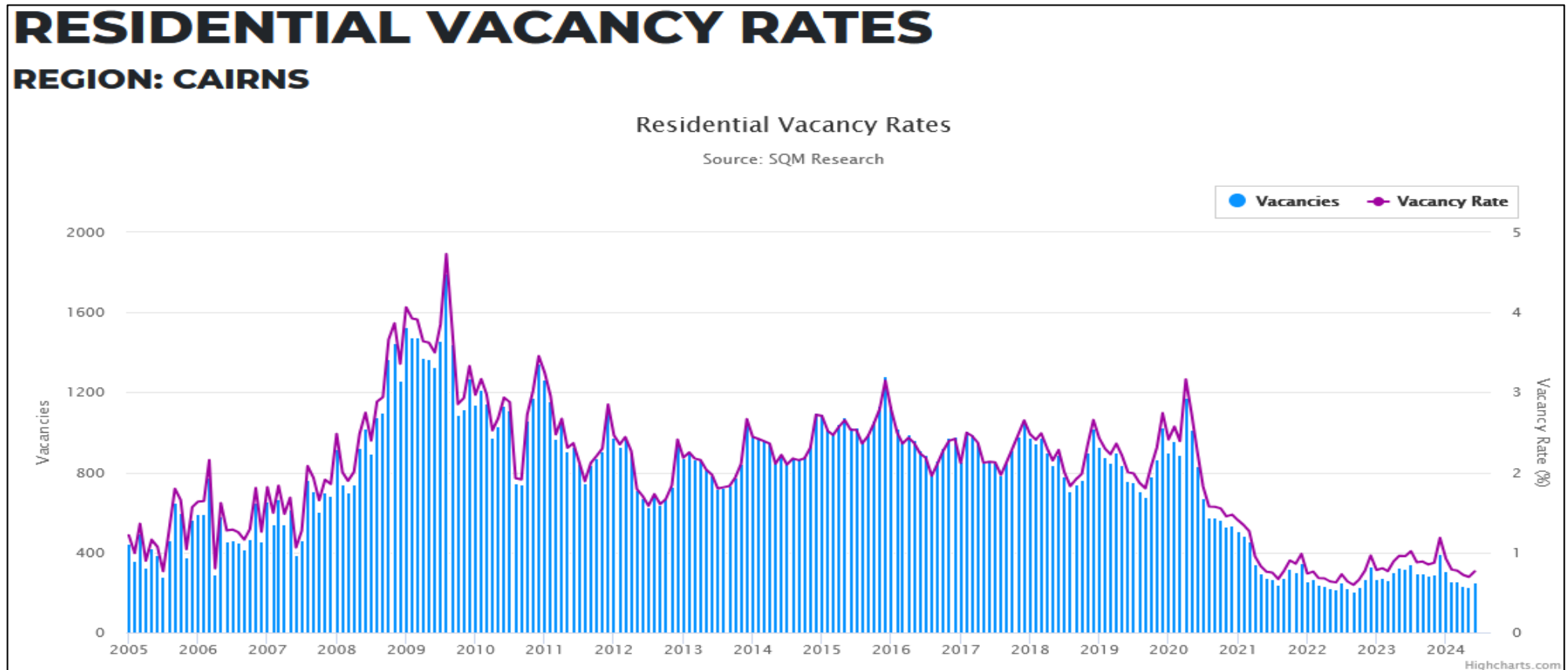


Source: Cummings Economics from Cairns Regional Council.



RESIDENTIAL VACANCY RATES

Residential vacancy rates remain low with no major improvements in sight.



Source: SQM Research

https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?region=qld-Cairns&type=r&t=1

<https://sqmresearch.com.au/>

WS (Bill) Cummings, BEcon (UQ), HonDEcon (CQU)
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