

**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA  
JUNE QUARTER 1990**

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**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES  
(Seasonally adjusted)**



Total construction activity fell in seasonally adjusted terms during the June quarter 1990. The figure of \$6,474 million at average 1984-85 prices was down 5.3 per cent on the previous quarter and down 7.6 per cent on June quarter 1989. Falls were recorded in residential and non-residential building of 8.0 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively.

Separate seasonally adjusted estimates are not available for total engineering construction activity. However, analysis of previous original estimates of engineering construction activity shows a pattern of increase in activity between March and June quarters. The increase for June quarter 1989 was 15.2 per cent, while the increase for June quarter 1990 was 12.0 per cent.

*% Changes between*

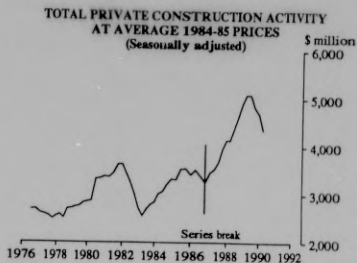
	Mar. 90 and Jun. 90	Jun. 89 and Jun. 90
<b>Construction activity</b>		
<b>Building —</b>		
Residential	-8.0	-15.6
Non-residential	-7.2	-10.1
<b>Total building</b>	-7.5	-12.8
Engineering construction	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Total non-residential construction</b>	-3.8	-3.0
<b>Total</b>	-5.3	-7.6

### Private sector

Seasonally adjusted, all categories of private sector construction declined in June quarter 1990 compared with March quarter 1990. Total private sector construction activity fell by 6.9 per cent to \$4,355 million. Engineering construction dropped by 0.7 per cent to \$544 million. Private residential building fell 7.1 per cent, and non-residential building by 8.4 per cent, to \$2,019 million and \$1,792 million respectively.

Private sector construction activity in June quarter 1990 also fell when compared with levels recorded in June quarter 1989. The greatest fall from June quarter 1989 was in residential building, down \$415 million (16.9 per cent). Non-residential building fell \$275 million (13.2 per cent), resulting in a fall in total private sector building of \$689 million (15.2 per cent). Engineering construction fell by 7.4 per cent and overall private sector construction was down 14.3 per cent from June quarter 1989.

In original terms, total private sector construction activity for 1989-90 at \$18,981 million increased slightly over 1988-89 (\$18,946 million).



% Changes between

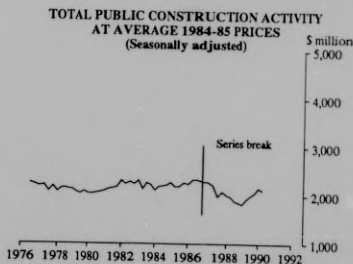
	Mar. 90 and Jun. 90	Jun. 89 and Jun. 90
Private sector construction		
Building —		
Residential	-7.1	-16.9
Non-residential	-8.4	-13.2
Total building	-7.7	-15.2
Engineering construction	-0.7	-7.4
Total non-residential construction	-6.7	-11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-14.3</b>

### Public sector

Total public sector construction activity, in seasonally adjusted terms, decreased in the June quarter 1990 for the first time since March quarter 1989. At \$2,119 million, June quarter public sector activity fell by \$44 million (-1.9 per cent) from March quarter 1990. Residential building and non-residential building fell by 20.9 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively.

Non-residential construction fell by 0.3 per cent. Although not available in seasonally adjusted terms, public sector engineering construction activity, in original terms, increased by 18.0 per cent in the June quarter 1990. This compares with an increase of 23.8 per cent for the same period in 1989.

In original terms, total public sector construction activity for 1989-90 at \$8,323 million, increased by 10.7 per cent over 1988-89 (\$7,516 million).



% Changes between

	Mar. 90 and Jun. 90	Jun. 89 and Jun. 90
Public sector construction		
Building —		
Residential	-20.9	16.2
Non-residential	-3.3	1.3
Total building	-6.6	3.5
Engineering construction	n.a.	n.a.
Total non-residential construction	-0.3	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>

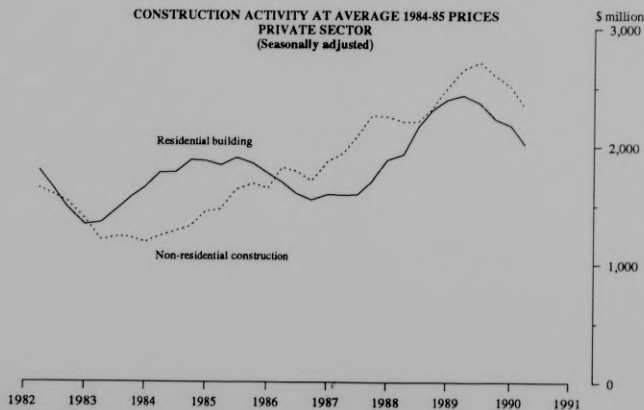
TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,  
AUSTRALIA  $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	2,279	2,258	4,539	n.a.	3,989	6,268
Dec. qtr	2,407	2,299	4,706	n.a.	4,069	6,483
1989 Mar. qtr	2,495	2,455	4,949	n.a.	4,229	6,724
June qtr	2,537	2,627	5,164	n.a.	4,482	7,013
Sept. qtr	2,484	2,633	5,118	n.a.	4,602	7,084
Dec. qtr	2,365	2,623	4,987	n.a.	4,507	6,881
1990 Mar. qtr	2,326	2,545	4,870	n.a.	4,521	6,845
June qtr	2,138	2,360	4,498	n.a.	4,343	6,474
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	11.4	1.9	6.5	n.a.	-2.1	2.4
Dec. qtr	5.6	1.8	3.7	n.a.	2.0	3.4
1989 Mar. qtr	3.6	6.8	5.2	n.a.	3.9	3.7
June qtr	1.7	7.0	4.4	n.a.	6.0	4.3
Sept. qtr	-2.0	0.2	-0.8	n.a.	2.7	1.0
Dec. qtr	-4.7	-0.3	-2.5	n.a.	-2.0	-2.8
1990 Mar. qtr	-1.6	-2.9	-2.3	n.a.	0.3	-0.4
June qtr	-8.0	-7.2	-7.5	n.a.	-3.8	-5.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	33.4	0.8	14.9	n.a.	0.7	10.5
Dec. qtr	32.3	-3.8	11.7	n.a.	-3.4	7.3
1989 Mar. qtr	24.9	3.0	13.0	n.a.	1.9	9.4
June qtr	24.0	18.6	21.2	n.a.	9.9	14.6
Sept. qtr	9.0	16.6	12.8	n.a.	15.4	13.0
Dec. qtr	-1.6	14.1	6.0	n.a.	10.8	6.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.6	3.7	-1.5	n.a.	6.9	1.8
June qtr	-15.6	-10.1	-12.8	n.a.	-3.0	-7.6



TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA \$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	2,165	1,685	3,849	526	2,210	4,375
Dec. qtr	2,306	1,770	4,076	547	2,317	4,623
1989 Mar. qtr	2,398	1,913	4,310	584	2,496	4,894
June qtr	2,434	2,067	4,500	588	2,655	5,089
Sept. qtr	2,371	2,081	4,452	637	2,718	5,089
Dec. qtr	2,231	2,010	4,241	588	2,599	4,830
1990 Mar. qtr	2,175	1,958	4,133	549	2,507	4,682
June qtr	2,019	1,792	3,811	544	2,336	4,355
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	12.1	2.3	7.6	-6.3	0.1	5.7
Dec. qtr	6.5	5.1	5.9	4.1	4.8	5.7
1989 Mar. qtr	4.0	8.1	5.7	6.6	7.7	5.8
June qtr	1.5	8.1	4.4	0.8	6.4	4.0
Sept. qtr	-2.5	0.7	-1.0	8.2	2.4	0.0
Dec. qtr	-5.8	-3.3	-4.6	-7.5	-4.3	-5.0
1990 Mar. qtr	-2.4	-2.5	-2.5	-6.6	-3.4	-3.0
June qtr	-7.1	-8.4	-7.7	-0.7	-6.7	-6.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	36.2	5.0	20.5	8.2	5.7	18.9
Dec. qtr	35.5	2.9	19.1	1.4	2.6	16.7
1989 Mar. qtr	27.2	11.7	19.8	8.1	10.8	18.3
June qtr	26.0	25.5	25.8	4.7	20.2	22.9
Sept. qtr	9.5	23.5	15.7	21.1	22.9	16.3
Dec. qtr	-3.2	13.6	4.1	7.5	12.1	4.5
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.2	2.4	-4.0	-5.8	0.4	-4.2
June qtr	-16.9	-13.2	-15.2	-7.4	-11.9	-14.3



**TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA  $\text{r}$** 

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	114	573	689	n.a.	1,779	1,893
Dec. qtr	101	529	630	n.a.	1,752	1,860
1988 Mar. qtr	97	542	639	n.a.	1,733	1,830
June qtr	103	560	664	n.a.	1,827	1,924
Sept. qtr	112	552	666	n.a.	1,884	1,995
Dec. qtr	135	613	746	n.a.	1,909	2,051
1990 Mar. qtr	151	588	736	n.a.	2,014	2,163
June qtr	119	568	687	n.a.	2,006	2,119
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	-0.6	0.9	0.8	n.a.	-4.8	-4.2
Dec. qtr	-11.2	-7.6	-8.6	n.a.	-1.4	-1.6
1989 Mar. qtr	-4.1	2.5	1.4	n.a.	-1.0	-1.5
June qtr	5.9	3.3	3.9	n.a.	5.4	5.1
Sept. qtr	9.3	-1.4	0.4	n.a.	3.2	3.7
Dec. qtr	19.8	11.0	12.0	n.a.	1.3	2.8
1990 Mar. qtr	12.2	-4.0	-1.2	n.a.	5.5	5.5
June qtr	-20.9	-3.3	-6.6	n.a.	-0.3	-1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	-3.3	-9.7	-8.6	n.a.	-4.9	-4.8
Dec. qtr	-13.9	-21.4	-20.2	n.a.	-10.4	-10.5
1989 Mar. qtr	-13.7	-19.0	-18.3	n.a.	-8.6	-8.9
June qtr	-10.5	-1.4	-2.8	n.a.	-2.2	-2.7
Sept. qtr	-1.5	-3.7	-3.3	n.a.	5.9	5.4
Dec. qtr	32.9	15.7	18.5	n.a.	9.0	10.3
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	8.3	15.3	n.a.	16.2	18.2
June qtr	16.2	1.3	3.5	n.a.	9.8	10.1



TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA <sup>a</sup>

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	6,650	5,110	11,760	6,940	12,049	18,699
1978-79	6,565	5,324	11,889	7,266	12,590	19,155
1979-80	7,296	5,299	12,595	6,913	12,212	19,509
1980-81	8,251	5,715	14,066	7,679	13,393	21,744
1981-82	8,179	5,613	13,792	9,207	14,820	22,999
1982-83	6,256	4,775	11,031	9,525	14,299	20,556
1983-84	6,970	5,236	12,206	7,933	13,871	20,139
1984-85	7,909	6,108	14,016	7,763	13,169	21,779
1985-86	7,814	7,425	15,239	7,823	15,249	23,063
1986-87	6,880	8,045	14,925	(a)7,828	(a)15,873	(a)22,753
1987-88	7,556	9,224	16,780	7,183	16,407	23,663
1988-89	9,709	9,620	19,329	7,132	16,752	26,462
1989-90	9,316	10,171	19,487	7,817	17,988	27,304
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	-1.2	4.2	1.1	4.7	4.5	2.4
1979-80	11.1	-0.4	5.9	-4.8	-2.9	1.8
1980-81	14.5	7.8	11.7	11.1	9.7	11.5
1981-82	-2.0	-1.7	-1.8	19.9	10.7	5.8
1982-83	-23.4	-14.8	-19.9	3.4	-3.4	-10.5
1983-84	11.4	9.7	10.6	-16.6	-7.4	-1.9
1984-85	13.5	16.6	14.8	-2.0	5.3	8.1
1985-86	-1.1	21.6	8.7	0.8	9.9	5.9
1986-87	-11.9	8.3	-2.0	0.1	4.1	-1.2
1987-88	9.8	14.7	12.4	-8.1	3.4	5.3
1988-89	28.5	4.3	15.2	-0.6	2.1	10.4
1989-90	-4.0	5.7	0.8	9.6	7.4	3.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	2,355	2,371	4,726	1,729	4,100	6,435
Dec. qtr	2,531	2,460	4,991	1,844	4,244	6,775
1989 Mar. qtr	2,289	2,261	4,550	1,654	3,894	6,183
June qtr	2,534	2,609	5,143	1,905	4,514	7,048
Sept. qtr	2,562	2,762	5,324	1,968	4,730	7,292
Dec. qtr	2,487	2,738	5,225	1,966	4,704	7,191
1990 Mar. qtr	2,131	2,322	4,453	1,832	4,154	6,285
June qtr	2,135	2,349	4,484	2,052	4,401	6,556
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	15.3	7.6	11.3	-9.4	-0.3	4.8
Dec. qtr	7.5	1.2	4.3	6.7	3.5	5.0
1989 Mar. qtr	-9.5	-6.5	-8.0	-10.2	-8.1	-8.6
June qtr	10.7	16.4	13.5	15.2	15.9	14.0
Sept. qtr	1.1	5.9	3.5	3.3	4.8	3.5
Dec. qtr	-2.8	-0.8	-1.8	0.0	-0.4	-1.3
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.2	-15.1	-14.7	-6.7	-11.6	-12.5
June qtr	0.2	1.2	0.7	12.0	5.9	4.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	33.1	0.7	14.6	0.3	0.5	10.4
Dec. qtr	32.2	-3.7	11.8	-2.5	-3.2	7.5
1989 Mar. qtr	25.2	3.3	13.3	-0.1	1.8	9.4
June qtr	24.1	18.3	21.1	-0.2	9.7	14.5
Sept. qtr	8.8	16.5	12.7	13.8	15.4	13.0
Dec. qtr	-1.6	14.1	6.0	6.6	10.8	6.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.8	3.6	-1.6	10.8	6.7	1.6
June qtr	-15.6	-9.9	-12.7	7.7	-2.4	-7.2

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,  
AUSTRALIA  $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	6,076	2,839	8,915	1,262	4,101	10,177
1978-79	6,098	3,137	9,235	1,406	4,543	10,641
1979-80	6,897	3,207	10,104	1,183	4,390	11,287
1980-81	7,930	3,863	11,793	1,572	5,435	13,365
1981-82	7,815	4,001	11,816	2,286	6,287	14,102
1982-83	5,835	3,295	9,131	2,434	5,730	11,565
1983-84	6,442	3,328	9,771	1,556	4,885	11,327
1984-85	7,377	4,083	11,460	1,422	5,505	12,882
1985-86	7,238	5,171	12,409	1,601	6,772	14,010
1986-87	6,322	5,404	11,726	(a)1,893	(a)7,297	(a)13,618
1987-88	7,093	6,681	13,774	2,124	8,805	15,898
1988-89	9,293	7,413	16,705	2,241	9,653	18,946
1989-90	8,803	7,854	16,657	2,324	10,178	18,981
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	0.4	10.5	3.6	11.4	10.8	4.6
1979-80	13.1	2.3	9.4	-15.8	-3.3	6.1
1980-81	15.0	20.4	16.7	32.9	23.8	18.4
1981-82	-1.3	3.6	0.2	45.4	15.7	5.5
1982-83	-25.2	-17.5	-22.6	6.5	-8.8	-17.9
1983-84	10.4	1.0	7.0	-36.0	-14.6	-2.0
1984-85	14.5	22.7	17.3	-8.5	12.7	13.7
1985-86	-1.8	26.6	8.3	12.6	23.0	8.8
1986-87	-12.6	4.5	-5.4	18.2	7.8	-2.7
1987-88	12.2	23.6	17.5	12.2	20.7	16.7
1988-89	31.0	11.0	21.3	5.5	9.6	19.2
1989-90	-5.2	5.9	-0.2	3.7	5.4	0.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	2,228	1,777	4,005	543	2,320	4,547
Dec. qtr	2,426	1,853	4,279	589	2,442	4,868
1989 Mar. qtr	2,206	1,762	3,968	559	2,320	4,526
June qtr	2,433	2,021	4,454	550	2,572	5,004
Sept. qtr	2,436	2,191	4,627	656	2,847	5,283
Dec. qtr	2,348	2,106	4,454	633	2,740	5,088
1990 Mar. qtr	2,001	1,803	3,804	525	2,328	4,329
June qtr	2,018	1,754	3,772	510	2,263	4,281
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	15.5	10.5	13.2	3.5	8.8	12.0
Dec. qtr	8.9	4.3	6.9	8.5	5.3	7.1
1989 Mar. qtr	-9.0	-4.8	-7.2	-5.0	-4.9	-6.9
June qtr	10.3	14.7	12.3	-1.4	10.8	10.6
Sept. qtr	0.1	8.4	3.9	19.3	10.7	5.6
Dec. qtr	-3.5	-3.8	-3.6	-3.4	-3.7	-3.6
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.7	-14.3	-14.5	-17.0	-14.9	-14.8
June qtr	0.8	-2.6	-0.7	-2.9	-2.7	-1.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	35.9	4.8	20.1	8.2	5.5	18.5
Dec. qtr	35.3	3.1	19.2	1.4	2.7	16.7
1989 Mar. qtr	27.3	11.6	19.8	7.9	10.7	18.2
June qtr	26.2	25.7	25.9	4.9	20.6	23.2
Sept. qtr	9.4	23.3	15.5	20.9	22.7	16.2
Dec. qtr	-3.1	13.7	4.1	7.5	12.2	4.5
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.2	2.3	-4.0	-5.9	0.3	-4.3
June qtr	-16.9	-13.1	-15.2	-7.3	-11.9	-14.3

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. ORIGINAL PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,  
AUSTRALIA *r*

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	574	2,270	2,844	5,678	7,948	8,522
1978-79	467	2,187	2,654	5,860	8,047	8,514
1979-80	400	2,092	2,491	5,730	7,822	8,222
1980-81	421	1,852	2,273	6,106	7,958	8,379
1981-82	364	1,612	1,976	6,921	8,533	8,897
1983-84	421	1,480	1,901	7,090	8,570	8,991
1984-85	528	1,908	2,435	6,377	8,284	8,812
1985-86	531	2,025	2,556	6,241	8,366	8,897
1986-87	576	2,254	2,831	(a)5,935	(a)8,576	9,053
1987-88	559	2,641	3,200	7,601	7,601	(a)9,135
1987-88	464	2,543	3,006	5,059	7,099	8,065
1988-89	417	2,207	2,624	4,892	7,099	7,516
1989-90	512	2,318	2,830	5,493	7,811	8,323
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	-18.6	-3.6	-6.6	3.2	1.2	0.0
1979-80	-14.3	-4.3	-6.0	-2.1	-2.7	-3.3
1980-81	5.3	-11.4	-8.7	6.6	1.7	1.9
1982-83	-13.6	-12.8	-13.0	13.3	7.2	6.2
1983-84	15.8	-8.1	-3.7	2.4	0.4	1.1
1984-85	0.7	6.1	28.1	-10.0	-3.2	-1.9
1985-86	8.5	11.3	10.7	-0.5	1.0	1.0
1986-87	-3.0	17.2	13.0	-1.8	1.3	1.8
1987-88	-16.9	-3.6	-5.9	-14.7	-4.5	0.9
1988-89	-10.0	-13.1	-12.6	-3.2	-6.5	-11.6
1989-90	22.9	5.0	7.9	12.3	10.0	10.7
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Sept. qtr	127	594	722	1,186	1,781	1,908
Dec. qtr	105	547	652	1,255	1,802	1,907
1989 Mar. qtr	83	479	562	1,095	1,574	1,657
June qtr	101	587	689	1,355	1,943	2,044
Sept. qtr	126	571	697	1,311	1,882	2,009
Dec. qtr	139	632	771	1,333	1,965	2,104
1990 Mar. qtr	130	520	649	1,307	1,826	1,956
June qtr	117	595	713	1,542	2,137	2,255
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	11.8	-0.2	1.7	-14.3	-10.1	-8.9
Dec. qtr	-17.5	-7.9	-9.6	5.8	1.2	0.0
1989 Mar. qtr	-20.5	-12.3	-13.6	-12.7	-12.6	-13.0
June qtr	21.6	22.6	22.5	23.8	23.4	23.3
Sept. qtr	24.5	-2.7	1.2	-3.1	-3.0	-1.6
Dec. qtr	10.4	10.6	10.6	1.6	4.4	4.7
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.7	-17.7	-15.7	-1.8	-6.9	-6.9
June qtr	-9.4	14.6	9.8	18.0	17.0	15.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	2.5	-9.7	-8.5	-2.8	-5.2	-5.0
Dec. qtr	-14.1	-21.6	-20.4	-4.2	-10.2	-10.5
1989 Mar. qtr	-13.7	-18.8	-18.1	-3.7	-8.9	-9.1
June qtr	-11.0	-1.3	-2.9	-2.1	-1.9	-2.4
Sept. qtr	-0.8	-3.8	-3.3	10.5	5.7	5.3
Dec. qtr	32.7	15.6	18.3	6.2	9.0	10.3
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	8.5	15.5	19.4	16.1	18.0
June qtr	15.9	1.3	3.5	13.8	10.0	10.3

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA  $r$ 

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
(1984-85 equals 100.0)						
1988 Sept. qtr	133.5	136.7	135.2	127.6	139.1	137.1
Dec. qtr	139.6	139.7	139.8	128.8	142.1	141.3
1989 Mar. qtr	145.8	142.5	144.3	131.0	145.2	145.6
June qtr	151.1	145.4	148.4	133.1	146.0	148.0
Sept. qtr	154.8	148.3	151.6	135.2	149.9	151.7
Dec. qtr	157.6	151.5	154.6	138.0	152.6	154.5
1990 Mar. qtr	159.0	153.4	156.3	140.6	153.3	155.4
June qtr	160.7	154.2	157.5	143.1	153.2	155.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Sept. qtr	4.3	2.0	3.0	1.4	3.2	3.4
Dec. qtr	4.6	2.2	3.4	0.9	2.2	3.1
1989 Mar. qtr	4.4	2.0	3.2	1.7	2.2	3.0
June qtr	3.6	2.0	2.8	1.6	0.6	1.6
Sept. qtr	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.6	2.7	1.6
Dec. qtr	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.5
1990 Mar. qtr	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.9	0.5	0.6
June qtr	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.8	0.0	0.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Sept. qtr	11.4	7.7	9.2	7.7	9.4	9.8
Dec. qtr	14.6	7.7	10.8	6.9	8.2	10.0
1989 Mar. qtr	17.3	8.3	12.5	5.5	9.0	11.7
June qtr	18.0	8.5	13.1	5.7	8.3	11.6
Sept. qtr	16.0	8.5	12.1	6.0	7.8	10.6
Dec. qtr	12.9	8.4	10.6	7.1	7.4	9.3
1990 Mar. qtr	9.1	7.6	8.3	7.3	5.6	6.7
June qtr	6.4	6.1	6.1	7.5	4.9	5.3

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

This publication contains constant price estimates of the level of construction activity in Australia. It also contains implicit price deflators derived from these estimates. The estimates provide a measure (in 'real' terms) of residential building, non-residential building, total building, engineering construction, non-residential construction and total construction activity for the private and public sectors.

2. The estimates are compiled from results of the ABS surveys of Building Activity (BACS), Construction Other than Building (COTB), Engineering Construction (ECS) and from government finance data.

3. The engineering construction estimates for quarters back to and including September 1986 were compiled from the ECS which covers both the private and public sectors. For earlier quarters, activity for the private sector has been extrapolated backwards using the results from the COTB which was limited to jobs valued at \$100,000 or more undertaken by private contractors. However, no equivalent extrapolation could be done for work undertaken by the public sector, and it was necessary to use government finance data. Hence there is a break in the continuity of the series.

**Scope and coverage**

4. The estimates relate to construction activity which includes construction of new buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings and engineering construction activity (roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc). The estimates measure total activity on construction rather than the output of the Construction industry (i.e. the value of construction activity undertaken by businesses classified to industries other than Construction is included and non-construction activity of businesses in the Construction industry is excluded).

5. The building estimates relate to:

- (a) construction of new residential buildings and all alterations and additions to residential buildings with an approval value of \$10,000 or more; and
- (b) all non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$30,000 or more.

6. The engineering construction estimates relate to engineering construction work undertaken in Australia.

7. The cost of land is excluded. Repair and maintenance activity is excluded.

**Definitions**

8. A *building* is defined as a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock, with provision for regular access by persons.

9. *Residential building* is defined as building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. A *dwelling unit* is defined as a self-contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities, intended for long term residential use. Units (whether self-contained or not) within buildings offering institutional care, such as hospitals, or temporary accommodation such as motels, hostels and holiday apartments, are not defined as dwelling units, but are included in non-residential building.

10. *Non-residential building* is defined as building other than residential building and includes hotels, shops, factories, offices etc.

11. *Engineering construction* is defined as construction other than building and includes roads, bridges, railways, harbours, water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage, electricity generation, pipelines, telecommunications etc.

12. *Non-residential construction* is the sum of non-residential building and engineering construction.

**Valuation of jobs**

13. Value of work done during the period represents the estimated value of building or engineering construction work actually carried out during the quarter on jobs which have commenced.

**Classification**

14. *Ownership*. The ownership of construction work is classified as either public sector or private sector according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed work as evident at the time of approval. Residential buildings being constructed by private sector builders under government housing authority schemes whereby the authority has contracted, or intends to contract, to purchase the buildings on or before completion, are classified as public sector.

**Seasonal adjustment**

15. Details of methods used in seasonally adjusting original series are available on request.

16. Large fluctuations in series as a result of irregular influences are not removed by seasonal adjustment, and particular care should be taken in interpreting individual quarter-to-quarter movements.

17. Seasonally adjusted public sector and total engineering construction activity estimates can not yet be compiled from the results of the ECS, because there are insufficient observations to determine the seasonal pattern.

**Estimates at constant prices**

18. The base year of constant price estimates of construction activity in this issue is 1984-85.

19. Constant price estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates in this publication are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwellings and non-dwelling construction components of the National Accounts aggregate 'Private gross fixed capital expenditure'.

20. Estimates at constant prices are subject to a number of approximations and assumptions. Further information on the nature and concepts of constant price estimates is contained in Section 4 of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

#### Implicit price deflators

21. Implicit price deflators provide an estimate of the price change between the base period of the relevant constant price estimate (currently 1984-85) and any other period, and use the quantity weights of this latter period. An implicit price deflator is obtained by dividing a current price value by its corresponding constant price value. Thus implicit price deflators are derived measures (hence the term 'implicit') and at the level of published aggregates are not normally the direct measure of price changes by which components of current price estimates are converted to estimates at constant prices.

#### Interpretation and analysis

22. Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter-to-quarter movements in the estimates as short term movements do not necessarily indicate a change in trend.

23. Estimates for financial years are simple aggregates of quarterly estimates. All estimates for the current quarter and preceding quarter are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary from time to time to revise estimates for earlier periods.

#### Related publications

24. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which contain statistics relating to building and construction:

*Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure* (5206.0) — issued quarterly.

*Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked* (5222.0) — issued quarterly.

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0) — issued monthly.

*Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0) — issued quarterly.

*Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) — issued quarterly.

*Engineering Construction Survey, Australia* (8762.0) — issued quarterly.

25. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesday and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The *Catalogue and Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- .. not applicable
- nil or rounded down to zero
- n.a. not available
- break in continuity of series (where drawn between two consecutive figures in the same column)

26. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

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