

**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA  
JUNE QUARTER 1992**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**



**Quarterly Construction Activity - Seasonally adjusted, at constant prices**

Total construction activity rose marginally in the June quarter 1992 with decreases in non-residential building activity being more than offset by increased activity in residential building and, to a lesser extent, in engineering construction. Total construction activity in the June quarter 1992 (\$5,637 million), was 0.6 per cent higher than the March quarter 1992 estimate but 6.9 per cent below the level experienced a year ago.

Residential building activity recorded its third consecutive quarterly increase, rising 4.1 per cent in the June quarter 1992 on top of a 1.6 per cent rise in the March quarter 1992 and an 8.0 per cent rise in the December quarter

1991. Overall, residential building activity in the June quarter 1992 was 11.2 per cent above the level of activity recorded 12 months ago.

Non-residential building activity continued the decline evident since September quarter 1989 (apart from a small increase in the March quarter 1992), falling 4.8 per cent in the June quarter 1992 and is now 23.6 per cent below the June quarter 1991 estimate.

Engineering construction activity rose by 1.7 per cent during the June quarter 1992, following a marginal fall (-0.9%) in the March quarter 1992. However, it was 7.2 per cent below the June quarter 1991 estimate.

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

### Private sector

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, private sector construction activity rose by 1.4 per cent during the June quarter 1992, following a 1.8 per cent rise in the March quarter 1992. Residential building activity rose by 5.4 per cent in the June quarter 1992, while non-residential building activity fell by 3.3 per cent and engineering construction fell by 2.8 per cent.

Total private sector construction activity in the June quarter 1992, at \$3,678 million, was 4.2 per cent below the level recorded twelve months ago.

### Public sector

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, public sector construction activity fell by 1.7 per cent in the June quarter 1992. Residential building (a small component) fell by 16.8 per cent while non-residential building activity fell by 10.1 per cent. Engineering construction activity, which accounts for approximately two thirds of total public sector construction, rose by 3.5 per cent during the June quarter 1992.

Total public sector construction activity in the June quarter 1992, at \$1,952 million, was 11.6 per cent lower than the June quarter 1991 estimate, and at its lowest level since the June quarter 1989.

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

Construction activity	% Changes between Mar. qtr 92 and Jun. qtr 92		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	5.4	-16.8	4.1
Non-residential	-3.3	-10.1	-4.8
Total building	2.5	-12.1	-0.3
Engineering construction	-2.8	3.5	1.7
Total non-residential construction	-3.2	-0.6	-1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>

### Annual Construction Activity - Original, at constant prices

Total construction activity for 1991-92 at \$22,354 million, was 10.4 per cent below the level recorded in 1990-91 and was the lowest level of annual activity since 1986-87. Residential building activity for 1991-92 rose marginally (0.5%) over 1990-91. However, this rise was more than offset by falls in non-residential building (-23.8%), and engineering construction (-6.7%) during 1991-92.

### Private sector

Private sector construction activity for 1991-92 (\$14,469 million) was 10.9 per cent below the level for 1990-91.

While private sector residential building activity rose by 1.0 per cent, non-residential building fell by 28.6 per cent and engineering construction activity fell by 1.8 per cent during 1991-92.

### Public sector

Public sector construction activity for 1991-92 (\$7,885 million), decreased by 9.6 per cent from 1990-91. Public sector residential building activity fell by 8.2 per cent; non-residential building activity fell by 12.1 per cent and engineering construction activity fell by 8.6 per cent from 1990-91.

TABLE I. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 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)						
1990 Sept. qtr	2,095	(a)2,361	(a)4,463	1,976	(a)4,337	(a)6,432
Dec. qtr	2,076	2,313	4,389	1,944	4,257	6,333
1991 Mar. qtr	2,028	2,155	4,187	1,938	4,093	6,121
June qtr	1,949	2,102	4,042	2,007	4,108	6,058
Sept. qtr	1,898	1,866	3,770	1,783	3,650	5,547
Dec. qtr	2,050	1,650	3,697	1,849	3,499	5,549
1992 Mar. qtr	2,083	1,687	3,778	1,833	3,519	5,602
June qtr	2,168	1,606	3,765	1,863	3,469	5,637
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	-3.0	(a)-3.1	(a)-2.7	1.0	(a)-1.3	(a)-1.9
Dec. qtr	-0.9	-2.0	-1.7	-1.6	-1.8	-1.5
1991 Mar. qtr	-2.3	-6.8	-4*	-0.3	-3.9	-3.4
June qtr	-3.9	-2.5	-3.5	3.5	0.4	-1.0
Sept. qtr	-2.7	-11.2	-6.7	-11.1	-11.2	-8.4
Dec. qtr	8.0	-11.6	-1.9	3.7	-4.1	0.0
1992 Mar. qtr	1.6	2.2	2.2	-0.9	0.6	1.0
June qtr	4.1	-4.8	-0.3	1.7	-1.4	0.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-16.0	(a)-11.0	(a)-13.4	0.1	(a)-6.3	(a)-9.7
Dec. qtr	-12.5	-11.1	-11.7	2.2	-5.5	-7.9
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.9	-15.0	-13.5	-0.7	-8.8	-9.9
June qtr	-9.7	-13.8	-11.9	2.6	-6.5	-7.6
Sept. qtr	-9.4	-21.0	-15.5	-9.7	-15.8	-13.8
Dec. qtr	-1.3	-28.7	-15.8	-4.9	-17.8	-12.4
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.8	-5.4	-14.0	-8.5
June qtr	11.2	-23.6	-6.8	-7.2	-15.6	-6.9

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

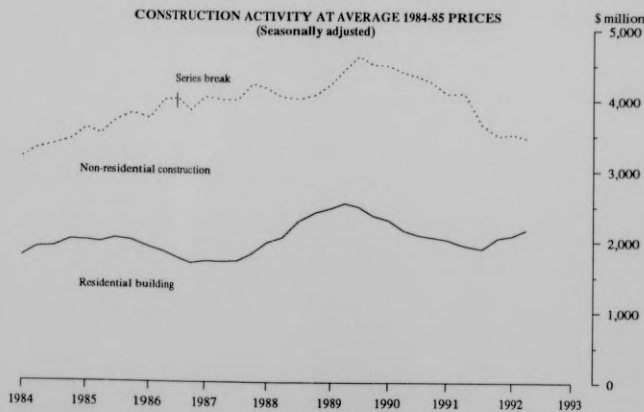


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA  $\text{r}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 Sept. qtr	1,976	(a)1,744	(a)3,729	552	(a)2,296	(a)4,272
Dec. qtr	1,938	1,662	3,606	535	2,198	4,136
1991 Mar. qtr	1,922	1,505	3,424	542	2,047	3,969
June qtr	1,828	1,435	3,255	577	2,012	3,840
Sept. qtr	1,817	1,222	3,043	555	1,777	3,594
Dec. qtr	1,929	1,092	3,022	541	1,633	3,561
1992 Mar. qtr	1,949	1,135	3,083	542	1,677	3,626
June qtr	2,055	1,097	3,160	527	1,623	3,678
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	-3.2	(a)-5.2	(a)-3.7	1.5	(a)-3.6	(a)-3.5
Dec. qtr	-1.9	-4.7	-3.3	-3.1	-4.3	-3.2
1991 Mar. qtr	-0.9	-9.5	-5.0	1.3	-6.9	-4.1
June qtr	-4.9	-4.6	-4.9	6.5	-1.7	-3.2
Sept. qtr	-0.6	-14.8	-6.5	-3.8	-11.7	-6.4
Dec. qtr	6.2	-10.6	-0.7	-2.6	-8.1	-0.9
1992 Mar. qtr	1.1	3.9	2.0	0.2	2.7	1.8
June qtr	5.4	-3.3	2.5	-2.8	-3.2	1.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-16.6	(a)-16.5	(a)-16.6	-12.5	(a)-15.6	(a)-16.1
Dec. qtr	-13.4	-16.9	-15.0	-8.7	-15.0	-14.3
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.2	-22.9	-16.7	-0.9	-18.1	-14.9
June qtr	-10.5	-22.0	-15.9	6.1	-15.6	-13.2
Sept. qtr	-8.0	-29.9	-18.4	0.5	-22.6	-15.9
Dec. qtr	-0.5	-34	-16.2	1.0	-25.7	-13.9
1992 Mar. qtr	1.4	-24.6	-9.9	0.0	-18.1	-8.6
June qtr	12.4	-23.6	-2.9	-8.8	-19.3	-4.2

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.



TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 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
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 Sept. qtr	114	(a)624	(a)744	1,424	(a)2,048	(a)2,161
Dec. qtr	135	649	779	1,409	2,058	2,193
1991 Mar. qtr	111	653	765	1,396	2,049	2,160
June qtr	125	655	776	1,429	2,084	2,208
Sept. qtr	77	657	739	1,228	1,885	1,963
Dec. qtr	119	556	671	1,308	1,864	1,983
1992 Mar. qtr	140	556	696	1,291	1,847	1,986
June qtr	116	500	612	1,336	1,836	1,952
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	-5.7	(a)4.3	(a)4.0	0.9	(a)1.9	(a)1.4
Dec. qtr	18.7	3.9	4.7	-1.0	0.5	1.4
1991 Mar. qtr	-17.4	0.6	-1.9	-0.9	-0.4	-1.5
June qtr	11.9	0.3	1.5	2.4	1.7	2.2
Sept. qtr	-38.0	0.4	-4.8	-14.1	-9.5	-11.1
Dec. qtr	53.5	-15.3	-9.2	6.5	-1.1	1.0
1992 Mar. qtr	17.7	-0.1	3.8	-1.3	-0.9	0.2
June qtr	-16.8	-10.1	-12.1	3.5	-0.6	-1.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-2.6	(a)10.0	(a)8.0	6.1	(a)7.3	(a)6.7
Dec. qtr	2.9	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.1
1991 Mar. qtr	-23.8	12.6	5.3	-0.7	3.2	1.4
June qtr	3.4	9.4	8.4	1.2	3.7	3.7
Sept. qtr	-32.0	5.3	-0.7	-13.7	-7.9	-9.2
Dec. qtr	-12.1	-14.2	-13.9	-7.2	-9.4	-9.6
1992 Mar. qtr	25.3	-14.8	-8.9	-7.5	-9.8	-8.0
June qtr	-7.8	-23.6	-21.1	-6.5	-11.9	-11.6

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

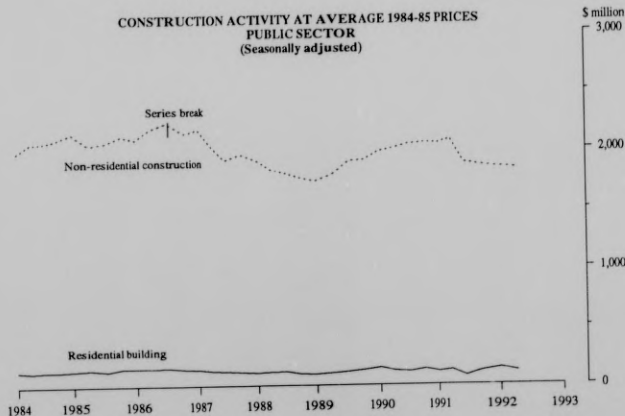


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA  $\text{\$}$ 

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES ( $\text{\$m}$ )						
1980-81	8,351	5,715	14,066	7,679	13,383	21,744
1981-82	8,179	5,613	13,792	9,207	14,830	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	13,169	20,139
1984-85	7,909	6,108	14,016	7,763	13,871	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	7,184	16,407	23,964
1988-89	9,709	9,620	19,329	7,132	16,753	26,462
1989-90	9,336	10,239	19,576	7,797	18,036	27,372
1990-91	8,154	8,948	17,102	7,861	16,809	24,963
1991-92	8,192	6,815	15,006	7,337	14,162	22,354
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	14.5	7.8	11.7	11.1	9.7	11.5
1981-82	-2.1	-1.8	-1.9	19.9	10.7	5.8
1982-83	-23.5	-14.9	-20.0	3.4	-3.5	-10.6
1983-84	11.4	9.7	10.6	-16.7	-7.9	-2.0
1984-85	13.5	16.6	14.8	-2.1	5.3	8.1
1985-86	-1.2	21.6	8.7	0.8	9.9	5.9
1986-87	-12.0	8.3	-2.1	0.1	4.1	-1.3
1987-88	9.8	14.6	12.4	-8.2	3.4	5.3
1988-89	28.5	4.3	15.2	-0.7	2.1	10.4
1989-90	-3.8	6.4	1.3	9.3	7.7	3.4
1990-91	-12.7	-12.6	-12.6	0.8	-6.8	-8.8
1991-92	0.5	-23.8	-12.3	-6.7	-15.7	-10.4
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ( $\text{\$m}$ )						
1990 Sept. qtr	2,151	(b)2,451	(b)4,602	1,959	(b)4,410	(b)6,561
Dec. qtr	2,180	2,440	4,619	1,993	4,433	6,613
1991 Mar. qtr	1,883	1,968	3,851	1,803	3,771	5,654
June qtr	1,940	2,090	4,029	2,106	4,195	6,135
Sept. qtr	1,949	1,935	3,884	1,780	3,716	5,664
Dec. qtr	2,152	1,742	3,894	1,896	3,638	5,790
1992 Mar. qtr	1,934	1,540	3,475	1,710	3,250	5,184
June qtr	2,157	1,597	3,754	1,952	3,559	5,717
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	0.1	(b)1.2	(b)0.6	-5.4	(b)-1.9	(b)-1.2
Dec. qtr	1.3	-0.5	0.4	1.7	0.5	0.8
1991 Mar. qtr	-13.6	-19.3	-16.6	-9.5	-14.9	-14.5
June qtr	3.0	6.2	4.6	16.8	11.2	8.5
Sept. qtr	0.4	-7.4	-3.6	-15.5	-11.4	-7.7
Dec. qtr	10.4	-10.0	0.3	6.5	-2.1	2.2
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.1	-11.6	-10.8	-9.8	-10.7	-10.5
June qtr	11.5	3.7	8.1	14.2	9.5	10.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-16.0	(b)-11.3	(b)-13.6	-0.1	(b)-6.6	(b)-9.9
Dec. qtr	-12.4	-10.9	-11.6	2.0	-5.5	-7.9
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.9	-15.0	-13.5	-0.4	-8.6	-9.7
June qtr	-9.8	-13.8	-11.9	1.7	-6.6	-7.6
Sept. qtr	-9.4	-21.0	-15.6	-9.1	-15.7	-13.7
Dec. qtr	-1.3	-28.6	-15.7	-4.9	-17.9	-12.4
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.8	-5.2	-13.8	-8.3
June qtr	11.2	-23.6	-6.8	-7.3	-15.2	-6.8

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE 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
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
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	9,654	18,046
1989-90	8,824	7,891	16,715	2,316	10,207	19,031
1990-91	7,668	6,368	14,035	2,205	8,573	16,240
1991-92	7,746	4,548	12,304	2,166	6,724	14,469
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	15.0	20.4	16.7	32.9	23.8	18.4
1981-82	-1.4	3.6	0.2	45.4	15.7	5.5
1982-83	-25.3	-17.6	-22.7	6.5	-8.9	-18.0
1983-84	10.4	1.0	7.0	-36.1	-14.7	-2.1
1984-85	14.5	22.7	17.3	-8.6	12.7	13.7
1985-86	-1.9	26.6	8.3	12.6	23.0	8.8
1986-87	-12.7	4.5	-5.5	18.2	7.8	-2.8
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	-5.0	6.5	0.1	3.4	5.7	0.4
1990-91	-13.1	-19.3	-16.0	-4.8	-16.0	-14.7
1991-92	1.0	-28.6	-12.3	-1.8	-21.6	-10.9
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 Sept. qtr	2,029	(b)1,825	(b)3,854	571	(b)2,396	(b)4,425
Dec. qtr	2,036	1,754	3,790	575	2,329	4,365
1991 Mar. qtr	1,784	1,389	3,173	513	1,903	3,687
June qtr	1,819	1,399	3,218	546	1,945	3,764
Sept. qtr	1,866	1,278	3,144	575	1,852	3,718
Dec. qtr	2,025	1,153	3,178	580	1,733	3,758
1992 Mar. qtr	1,810	1,047	2,857	513	1,560	3,370
June qtr	2,045	1,070	3,125	499	1,579	3,623
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	-0.2	(b)1.9	(b)0.8	11.0	(b)3.9	(b)2.0
Dec. qtr	0.4	-3.9	-1.7	0.6	-2.8	-1.4
1991 Mar. qtr	-12.4	-20.8	-16.3	-10.7	-18.3	-15.5
June qtr	2.0	0.7	1.4	6.4	2.2	2.1
Sept. qtr	2.6	-8.7	-2.3	5.2	-4.8	-1.2
Dec. qtr	8.5	-9.8	1.1	1.0	-6.4	1.1
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.6	-9.2	-10.1	-11.6	-10.0	-10.3
June qtr	13.0	2.1	9.4	-2.8	1.2	7.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-16.7	(b)-16.7	(b)-16.7	-12.6	(b)-15.8	(b)-16.2
Dec. qtr	-13.3	-16.7	-14.9	-8.6	-14.9	-14.1
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.1	-22.9	-16.7	-1.1	-18.0	-14.8
June qtr	-10.5	-21.9	-15.9	6.2	-15.6	-13.2
Sept. qtr	-8.0	-30.0	-18.4	0.6	-22.7	-16.0
Dec. qtr	-0.5	-34.3	-16.1	1.0	-25.6	-13.9
1992 Mar. qtr	1.5	-24.6	-10.0	-0.1	-18.0	-8.6
June qtr	12.4	-23.5	-2.9	-8.7	-18.8	-3.7

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. ORIGINAL PUBLIC 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 ( $\text{\$m}$ )						
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
1982-83	421	1,480	1,901	7,090	8,570	8,991
1983-84	528	1,908	2,435	6,377	8,284	8,812
1984-85	531	2,025	2,556	6,341	8,366	8,897
1985-86	576	2,254	2,831	6,223	(a)8,576	(a)9,135
1986-87	559	2,641	3,200	(a)5,935	7,602	8,065
1987-88	464	2,543	3,006	5,059	7,602	7,516
1988-89	417	2,207	2,624	4,892	7,099	7,516
1989-90	512	2,348	2,860	5,481	7,829	8,341
1990-91	486	2,580	3,066	5,656	8,236	8,722
1991-92	446	2,267	2,713	5,171	7,438	7,885
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	5.3	-11.5	-8.8	6.6	1.7	1.9
1981-82	-13.7	-12.9	-13.1	13.3	7.2	6.2
1982-83	15.8	-8.2	-3.8	2.4	0.4	1.1
1983-84	25.3	28.9	28.1	-10.1	-3.3	-2.0
1984-85	0.7	6.1	5.0	-0.6	1.0	1.0
1985-86	8.5	11.3	10.7	-1.9	1.3	1.8
1986-87	-3.1	17.2	13.0	-4.6	1.2	0.9
1987-88	-17.0	-3.7	-6.0	-14.8	-11.4	-11.7
1988-89	-10.1	-13.2	-12.7	-3.3	-6.6	-6.8
1989-90	22.9	6.4	9.0	12.0	10.3	11.0
1990-91	-5.1	9.9	7.2	3.3	5.2	4.6
1991-92	-8.2	-12.1	-11.5	-8.6	-9.7	-9.6
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ( $\text{\$m}$ )						
1990 Sept. qtr	122	(b)626	(b)748	1,388	(b)2,014	(b)2,136
Dec. qtr	144	685	829	1,419	2,104	2,248
1991 Mar. qtr	99	579	678	1,290	1,869	1,968
June qtr	121	691	812	1,560	2,250	2,371
Sept. qtr	83	658	740	1,206	1,863	1,946
Dec. qtr	127	589	715	1,316	1,905	2,031
1992 Mar. qtr	124	493	617	1,197	1,690	1,814
June qtr	113	528	640	1,453	1,981	2,094
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	4.3	(b)-0.9	(b)-0.1	-10.8	(b)-8.0	(b)-7.3
Dec. qtr	17.8	9.6	10.9	2.2	4.5	5.2
1991 Mar. qtr	-31.1	-15.6	-18.3	-9.1	-11.2	-12.5
June qtr	22.1	19.4	19.8	20.9	20.4	20.5
Sept. qtr	-31.7	-4.8	-8.8	-22.7	-17.2	-17.9
Dec. qtr	53.1	-10.5	-3.4	9.1	2.2	4.4
1992 Mar. qtr	-1.8	-16.3	-13.7	-9.0	-11.3	-10.7
June qtr	-9.3	7.1	3.8	21.4	17.2	15.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1990 Sept. qtr	-3.2	(b)9.5	(b)7.2	6.2	(b)7.2	(b)6.5
Dec. qtr	3.3	8.5	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.2
1991 Mar. qtr	-23.6	12.6	5.3	-0.1	3.5	1.7
June qtr	3.3	9.4	8.5	0.2	2.9	2.9
Sept. qtr	-32.3	5.1	-1.0	-13.1	-7.5	-8.9
Dec. qtr	-12.0	-14.1	-13.7	-7.2	-9.5	-9.6
1992 Mar. qtr	25.4	-14.8	-8.9	-7.2	-9.6	-7.8
June qtr	-6.9	-23.6	-21.1	-6.8	-12.0	-11.7

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building from September quarter 1990 - see paragraph 6 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)						
1990 Sept. qtr	161.6	154.6	158.2	147.2	156.4	158.3
Dec. qtr	162.4	154.7	158.7	149.1	155.3	157.9
1991 Mar. qtr	162.4	153.1	158.0	149.0	154.3	157.2
June qtr	163.0	150.9	157.2	148.7	152.5	156.1
Sept. qtr	163.1	148.4	156.2	151.0	153.2	156.9
Dec. qtr	162.5	145.4	155.4	151.7	152.1	156.3
1992 Mar. qtr	161.7	143.2	154.1	150.3	151.7	155.8
June qtr	161.7	142.2	153.9	149.8	147.8	153.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Sept. qtr	0.6	0.2	0.4	2.1	1.4	1.1
Dec. qtr	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.3	-0.7	-0.3
1991 Mar. qtr	0.0	-1.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4
June qtr	0.4	-1.4	-0.5	-0.2	-1.2	-0.7
Sept. qtr	0.1	-1.7	-0.6	1.5	0.5	0.5
Dec. qtr	-0.4	-2.0	-0.5	0.5	-0.7	-0.4
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.5	-1.5	-0.8	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3
June qtr	0.0	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	-2.6	-1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 Sept. qtr	4.4	4.2	4.4	8.6	4.2	4.2
Dec. qtr	3.0	2.1	2.7	7.4	1.5	2.1
1991 Mar. qtr	2.2	-0.2	1.1	5.0	0.1	0.8
June qtr	1.4	-2.2	-0.2	3.1	-1.1	-0.3
Sept. qtr	0.9	-4.0	-1.3	2.6	-2.0	-0.9
Dec. qtr	0.1	-6.0	-2.1	1.7	-2.1	-1.0
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.4	-6.5	-2.5	0.9	-1.7	-0.9
June qtr	-0.8	-5.8	-2.1	0.7	-3.1	-1.7

## 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 \$50,000 or more.

6. From the September quarter 1990, only non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 (previously \$30,000) or more are included. For more details on the effect of the new cut-offs on specific classes of non-residential building (in current price terms) please refer to *Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) for the September quarter 1990.

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

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

**Definitions**

9. 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.

10. *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.

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

12. *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.

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

**Valuation of jobs**

14. 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**

15. *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**

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

17. 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.

### 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 Activity, 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.

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