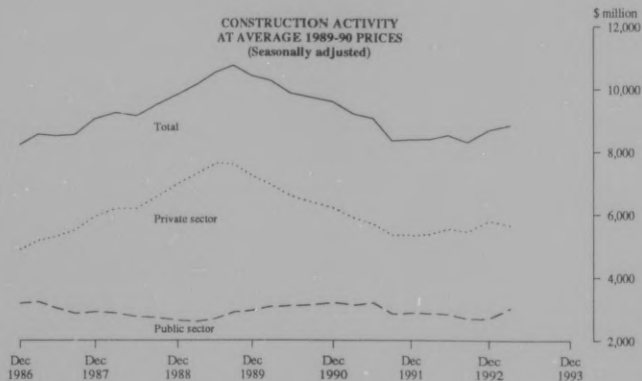


**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA
MARCH QUARTER 1993**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



Quarterly Construction Activity - Seasonally adjusted, at average 1989-90 prices

Total construction activity rose by 1.9 per cent in the March quarter 1993, following a rise of 4.7 per cent in the December quarter 1992. Construction activity has now been rising continuously since the September quarter 1991, apart from a 2.6 per cent fall in the September quarter 1992. However, over that period the growth has been slow to the extent that total activity is just over 6 per cent above that of the September quarter 1991. The increase in the March quarter 1993 was solely due to a 12.3 per cent rise in public sector activity. Private sector work fell by 2.6 per cent.

All three components of construction activity (residential building, non-residential building and engineering construction) recorded increases in the March quarter 1993, and all were the result of growth in public sector activity.

Residential building activity continued to grow in the March quarter 1993, as it has done continuously since the September quarter 1991. However, activity only rose by a marginal 0.1 per cent, suggesting that the rate of growth is slowing. Nevertheless, the current levels of residential building activity are only 6.1 per cent below the last peak recorded in the June quarter 1989.

Non-residential building activity recorded an increase of 1.7 per cent during the March quarter 1993, following a 3.8 per cent increase in the December quarter 1992. The two consecutive quarters of growth follows three years of almost continual decline. Non-residential building activity remains 40.3 per cent below the peak of activity recorded in the September quarter 1989.

Engineering construction activity rose by 4.8 per cent in the March quarter 1993, following a 6.5 per cent increase in the December quarter 1992, and has recovered the ground lost by the sharp decline in activity in the September quarter 1992.

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- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office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 activity

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, private sector construction activity declined by 2.6 per cent in the March quarter 1993. This was mainly due to a 8.6 per cent fall in the value of non-residential building activity, which has now reached its lowest level since the December quarter 1984. Both private sector residential building and engineering construction activity remained relatively flat in the March quarter 1993.

Total private sector construction activity in the March quarter 1993 remained 5.3 per cent above the level recorded twelve months ago, with a 18.9 per cent rise in residential building activity more than offsetting falls of 13.3 per cent and 8.4 per cent in non-residential building and engineering construction activity respectively.

Private sector construction activity continues to be sustained by residential building activity, which accounted for almost two thirds of total activity in the March quarter 1993. This contrasts with the period between the June quarter 1989 and the December quarter 1990 when non-residential construction predominated.

Public sector activity

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, public sector construction activity rose by 12.3 per cent in the March quarter 1993. Residential building activity (by far the smallest component) rose by 13.4 per cent, while non-residential building activity rose by 25.1 per cent. Engineering construction activity, which accounts for about two thirds of all total public sector construction activity, rose by 7.0 per cent during the March quarter 1993.

Total public sector construction activity in the March quarter 1993 was 6.2 per cent above the March quarter 1992 estimate, and at its highest level since the June quarter 1991.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (Seasonally adjusted)

Construction activity	% Changes between Dec. qtr 92 and Mar. qtr 93		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	-0.2	13.4	0.1
Non-residential	-8.6	25.1	1.7
Total building	-2.3	22.5	0.8
Engineering construction	-1.1	7.0	4.8
Total non-residential construction	-6.4	12.2	3.3
Total construction	-2.6	12.3	1.9

TABLE I. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

<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>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 June qtr	3,082	3,139	6,204	2,823	5,961	9,043
Sept. qtr	2,976	2,843	5,836	2,523	5,366	8,341
Dec. qtr	3,226	2,530	5,738	2,612	5,142	8,368
1992 Mar. qtr	3,269	2,558	5,804	2,562	5,119	8,388
June qtr	3,453	2,445	5,915	2,624	5,069	8,522
Sept. qtr	3,667	2,277	5,967	2,357	4,634	8,301
Dec. qtr	3,816	2,362	6,156	2,511	4,873	8,689
1993 Mar. qtr	3,819	2,402	6,207	2,633	5,034	8,853
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	-3.2	-3.9	-4.1	2.9	-0.8	-1.6
Sept. qtr	-3.4	-9.4	-5.9	-10.6	-10.0	-7.8
Dec. qtr	8.4	-11.0	-1.7	3.5	-4.2	0.3
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	1.1	1.2	-1.9	-0.4	0.2
June qtr	5.6	-4.4	1.9	2.4	-1.0	1.6
Sept. qtr	6.2	-6.9	0.9	-10.2	-8.6	-2.6
Dec. qtr	4.1	3.8	3.2	6.5	5.2	4.7
1993 Mar. qtr	0.1	1.7	0.8	4.8	3.3	1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1991 June qtr	-10.0	-14.4	-13.0	2.1	-7.3	-8.2
Sept. qtr	-9.7	-21.0	-15.6	-10.4	-16.4	-14.1
Dec. qtr	-1.2	-28.8	-15.6	-5.5	-18.6	-12.7
1992 Mar. qtr	2.6	-21.7	-10.2	-6.6	-14.8	-8.8
June qtr	12.0	-22.1	-4.6	-7.0	-15.0	-5.8
Sept. qtr	23.2	-19.9	2.2	-6.6	-13.6	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.3	-6.6	7.3	-3.9	-5.2	3.8
1993 Mar. qtr	16.8	-6.1	6.9	2.8	-1.7	5.5

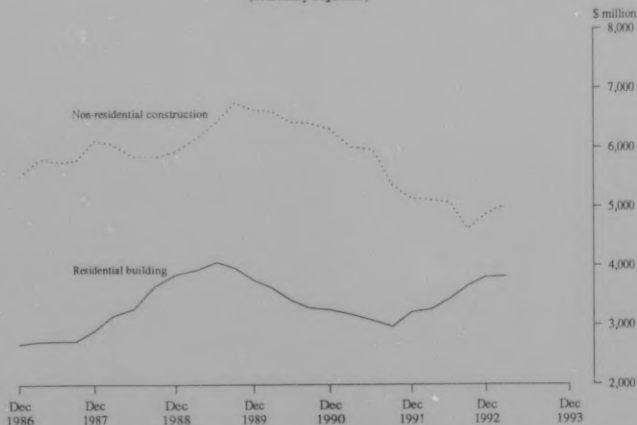
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
(Seasonally adjusted)

TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 June qtr	2,892	2,145	5,023	777	2,922	5,815
Sept. qtr	2,853	1,870	4,737	745	2,615	5,468
Dec. qtr	3,036	1,683	4,710	733	2,415	5,451
1992 Mar. qtr	3,061	1,714	4,786	722	2,436	5,498
June qtr	3,276	1,671	4,929	723	2,394	5,671
Sept. qtr	3,397	1,536	4,948	639	2,175	5,572
Dec. qtr	3,647	1,626	5,263	669	2,295	5,943
1993 Mar. qtr	3,640	1,486	5,143	662	2,148	5,789
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	-4.3	-5.7	-5.3	5.9	-2.9	-3.6
Sept. qtr	-1.4	-12.8	-5.7	-4.1	-10.5	-6.0
Dec. qtr	6.4	-10.0	-0.6	-1.7	-7.6	-0.3
1992 Mar. qtr	0.9	1.9	1.6	-1.4	0.9	0.9
June qtr	7.0	-2.5	3.0	0.1	-1.7	3.1
Sept. qtr	3.7	-8.1	0.4	-11.6	-9.1	-1.7
Dec. qtr	7.4	5.8	6.4	4.7	5.5	6.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-0.2	-8.6	-2.3	-1.1	-6.4	-2.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1991 June qtr	-10.8	-22.5	-16.2	5.8	-16.5	-13.8
Sept. qtr	-8.3	-30.0	-18.3	-0.6	-23.5	-16.3
Dec. qtr	-0.6	-34.3	-16.0	0.6	-26.6	-14.1
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	-24.7	-9.8	-1.6	-19.1	-8.8
June qtr	13.3	-22.1	-1.9	-6.9	-18.1	-2.5
Sept. qtr	19.1	-17.8	4.5	-14.2	-16.8	1.9
Dec. qtr	20.2	-3.4	11.7	-8.6	-5.0	9.0
1993 Mar. qtr	18.9	-13.3	7.4	-8.4	-11.8	5.3

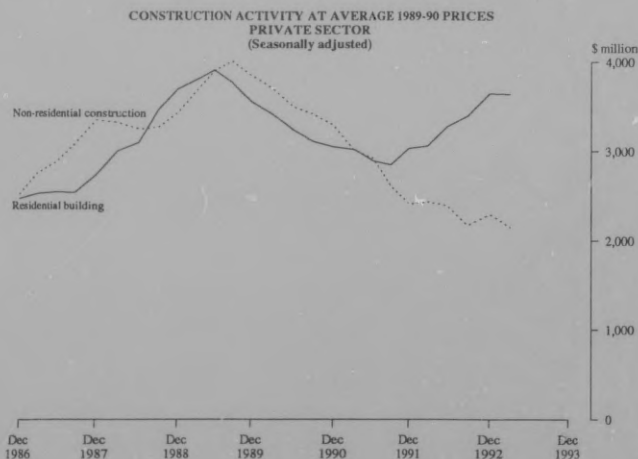


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1991 June qtr	202	988	1,186	2,046	3,034	3,236
Sept. qtr	120	980	1,105	1,778	2,758	2,878
Dec. qtr	180	848	1,029	1,879	2,727	2,908
1992 Mar. qtr	210	844	1,052	1,839	2,683	2,894
June qtr	189	771	954	1,901	2,672	2,861
Sept. qtr	266	744	1,020	1,718	2,462	2,728
Dec. qtr	159	737	896	1,842	2,578	2,737
1993 Mar. qtr	180	922	1,098	1,971	2,892	3,073
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	21.5	0.3	3.4	1.8	1.3	2.3
Sept. qtr	-40.5	-0.8	-6.8	-13.1	-9.1	-11.1
Dec. qtr	49.9	-13.5	-6.9	5.7	-1.1	1.0
1992 Mar. qtr	16.6	-0.5	2.3	-2.1	-1.6	-0.5
June qtr	-10.2	-8.6	-9.3	3.3	-0.4	-1.1
Sept. qtr	40.8	-3.5	6.9	-9.6	-7.9	-4.6
Dec. qtr	-40.2	-1.0	-12.1	7.2	4.7	0.3
1993 Mar. qtr	13.4	25.1	22.5	7.0	12.2	12.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1991 June qtr	5.6	9.1	8.7	0.8	3.3	3.5
Sept. qtr	-32.2	5.2	-1.2	-14.0	-8.0	-9.4
Dec. qtr	-11.1	-14.6	-14.0	-7.7	-10.0	-10.1
1992 Mar. qtr	26.3	-14.4	-8.3	-8.5	-10.4	-8.5
June qtr	-6.6	-22.0	-19.6	-7.1	-11.9	-11.6
Sept. qtr	121.0	-24.1	-7.7	-3.4	-10.7	-5.2
Dec. qtr	-11.8	-13.1	-12.9	-2.0	-5.5	-5.9
1993 Mar. qtr	-14.2	9.2	4.4	7.1	7.8	6.2

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
PUBLIC SECTOR
(Seasonally adjusted)

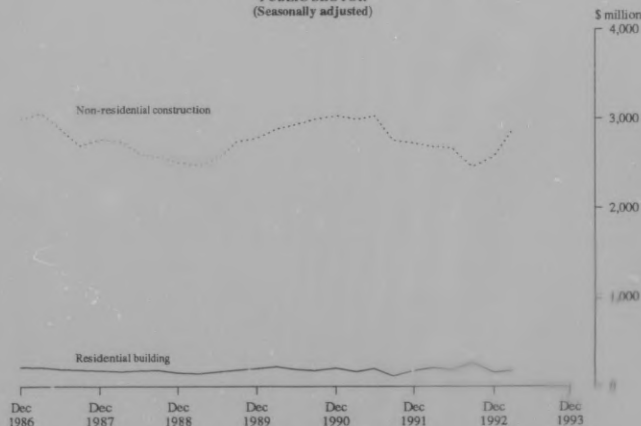


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, AUSTRALIA ^r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering & construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1980-81	13 397	8 671	22 068	10 556	19 226	32 624
1981-82	13 034	8 494	21 528	12 680	21 174	34 207
1982-83	9 940	7 219	17 158	13 131	20 350	30 289
1983-84	11 091	7 914	19 006	10 921	18 835	29 927
1984-85	12 568	9 213	21 780	10 642	19 854	32 422
1985-86	12 449	11 175	23 623	10 703	21 878	34 327
1986-87	10 966	12 128	23 094	(a)10 700	(a)22 828	(a)33 794
1987-88	12 071	13 906	25 977	9 883	23 788	35 859
1988-89	15 511	14 590	30 101	9 799	24 388	39 899
1989-90	14 802	15 548	30 350	10 927	26 476	41 278
1990-91	12 835	13 588	26 423	11 141	24 728	37 563
1991-92	12 909	10 386	23 295	10 332	20 718	33 627
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	14.6	7.9	11.9	11.2	9.7	11.7
1981-82	-2.7	-2.0	-2.4	20.1	10.1	4.9
1982-83	-23.7	-15.0	-20.3	3.6	-3.9	-11.5
1983-84	11.6	9.6	10.8	-16.8	-7.4	-1.2
1984-85	13.3	16.4	14.6	-2.6	5.4	8.3
1985-86	-0.9	21.3	8.5	0.6	10.2	5.9
1986-87	-11.9	8.5	-2.2	0.0	4.3	-1.6
1987-88	10.1	14.7	12.5	-7.6	4.2	6.1
1988-89	28.5	4.9	15.9	-0.9	2.5	11.3
1989-90	-4.6	6.6	0.8	11.5	8.6	3.5
1990-91	-13.3	-12.6	-12.9	1.9	-6.6	-9.0
1991-92	0.6	-23.6	-11.8	-7.3	-16.2	-10.5
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 June qtr	3,052	3,173	6,224	2,964	6,137	9,188
Sept. qtr	3,066	2,936	6,002	2,518	5,454	8,520
Dec. qtr	3,387	2,638	6,025	2,679	5,317	8,704
1992 Mar. qtr	3,040	2,335	5,375	2,388	4,723	7,763
June qtr	3,416	2,476	5,892	2,747	5,224	8,640
Sept. qtr	3,782	2,346	6,128	2,349	4,695	8,476
Dec. qtr	4,003	2,462	6,465	2,564	5,027	9,029
1993 Mar. qtr	3,555	2,193	5,748	2,457	4,650	8,205
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	3.1	6.4	4.8	16.2	10.9	8.2
Sept. qtr	0.5	-7.5	-3.6	-15.0	-11.1	-7.3
Dec. qtr	10.4	-10.1	0.4	6.4	-2.5	2.2
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.2	-11.5	-10.8	-10.9	-11.2	-10.8
June qtr	12.4	6.0	9.6	15.1	10.6	11.3
Sept. qtr	10.7	-5.3	4.0	-14.5	-10.1	-1.9
Dec. qtr	5.8	5.0	5.5	9.2	7.1	6.5
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.2	-10.9	-11.1	-4.2	-7.5	-9.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1991 June qtr	-10.2	-14.0	-12.2	1.1	-7.3	-8.3
Sept. qtr	-9.6	-21.3	-15.7	-9.8	-16.3	-14.0
Dec. qtr	-1.4	-28.8	-15.6	-5.5	-18.7	-12.7
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.5	-6.4	-14.6	-8.6
June qtr	11.9	-21.9	-5.3	-7.3	-14.9	-6.0
Sept. qtr	23.3	-20.1	2.1	-6.7	-13.9	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.2	-6.7	7.3	-4.3	-5.5	3.7
1993 Mar. qtr	16.9	-6.1	6.9	2.9	-1.5	5.7

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

TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA ^a

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1980-81	12,748	5,857	18,605	2,169	8,026	20,774
1981-82	12,480	6,055	18,535	3,153	9,208	21,688
1982-83	9,294	4,986	14,280	3,357	8,343	17,637
1983-84	10,277	5,025	15,302	2,147	7,172	17,449
1984-85	11,753	6,164	17,917	1,961	8,125	19,878
1985-86	11,562	7,803	19,364	2,208	10,011	21,573
1986-87	10,111	8,164	18,275	(a)2,623	(a)10,787	(a)20,898
1987-88	11,359	10,081	21,440	2,928	13,099	24,368
1988-89	14,865	11,254	26,119	3,011	14,264	29,129
1989-90	14,010	12,000	26,010	3,107	15,107	29,116
1990-91	12,084	9,689	21,773	2,986	12,675	24,759
1991-92	12,215	6,945	19,160	2,925	9,869	22,084
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	15.2	20.3	16.7	32.9	23.5	18.3
1981-82	-2.1	3.4	-0.4	45.4	14.7	4.4
1982-83	-25.5	-17.7	-23.0	6.5	-9.4	-18.7
1983-84	10.6	0.8	7.2	-36.0	-14.0	-1.1
1984-85	14.4	22.7	17.1	-8.7	13.3	13.9
1985-86	-1.6	26.6	8.1	12.6	23.2	8.5
1986-87	-12.5	4.6	-5.6	18.8	7.8	-3.1
1987-88	12.3	23.5	17.3	11.6	20.6	16.6
1988-89	30.9	11.6	21.8	2.8	9.6	19.5
1989-90	-5.8	6.6	-0.4	3.2	5.9	0.0
1990-91	-13.7	-19.3	-16.3	-3.9	-16.1	-15.0
1991-92	1.1	-28.3	-12.0	-2.1	-22.1	-10.8
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 June qtr	2,864	2,128	4,992	735	2,863	5,727
Sept. qtr	2,939	1,942	4,881	771	2,713	5,652
Dec. qtr	3,188	1,752	4,940	786	2,538	5,725
1992 Mar. qtr	2,846	1,590	4,437	683	2,274	5,120
June qtr	3,242	1,661	4,902	684	2,345	5,587
Sept. qtr	3,502	1,592	5,094	662	2,253	5,756
Dec. qtr	3,827	1,692	5,519	718	2,410	6,236
1993 Mar. qtr	3,388	1,380	4,768	626	2,006	5,394
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	2.1	0.9	1.5	5.8	2.1	2.1
Sept. qtr	2.6	-8.8	-2.2	4.9	-5.3	-1.3
Dec. qtr	8.4	-9.8	1.2	2.0	-6.4	1.3
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.7	-9.2	-10.2	-13.0	-10.4	-10.6
June qtr	13.9	4.4	10.5	0.1	3.1	9.1
Sept. qtr	8.0	-4.2	3.9	-3.3	-3.9	3.0
Dec. qtr	9.3	6.3	8.3	8.5	6.9	8.4
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.5	-18.5	-13.6	-12.8	-16.8	-13.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1991 June qtr	-11.0	-22.2	-16.1	5.9	-16.5	-13.8
Sept. qtr	-8.2	-30.2	-18.4	-0.6	-23.7	-16.4
Dec. qtr	-0.7	-34.4	-16.0	0.6	-26.4	-14.0
1992 Mar. qtr	1.4	-24.6	-9.2	-1.7	-18.9	-8.8
June qtr	13.2	-22.0	-1.8	-6.9	-19.1	-2.5
Sept. qtr	19.1	-18.0	4.4	-14.2	-16.9	1.8
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.4	11.7	-8.7	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	19.0	-13.2	7.5	-8.4	-11.8	5.4

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

TABLE 6. ORIGINAL PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA ^a

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1980-81	649	2,814	3,463	8,387	11,200	11,850
1981-82	554	2,439	2,993	9,527	11,966	12,520
1982-83	645	2,233	2,878	9,774	12,007	12,652
1983-84	815	2,889	3,704	8,774	11,663	12,477
1984-85	815	3,049	3,864	8,681	11,730	12,545
1985-86	887	3,372	4,259	8,495	11,867	12,754
1986-87	856	3,963	4,819	(a)18,077	(a)12,040	(a)12,896
1987-88	712	3,825	4,537	6,954	10,779	11,491
1988-89	645	3,337	3,982	6,788	10,124	10,770
1989-90	793	3,548	4,341	7,821	11,369	12,162
1990-91	751	3,899	4,650	8,154	12,053	12,804
1991-92	694	3,441	4,135	7,408	10,849	11,542
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1980-81	4.9	-11.2	-8.6	6.7	1.6	1.7
1981-82	-14.7	-13.3	-13.6	13.6	6.8	5.7
1982-83	16.5	-8.4	-3.8	2.6	0.3	1.1
1983-84	26.2	29.4	28.7	-10.2	-2.9	-1.4
1984-85	0.0	5.5	4.3	-1.1	0.6	0.5
1985-86	8.9	10.6	10.2	-2.1	1.2	1.7
1986-87	-3.6	17.5	13.1	-4.9	1.5	1.1
1987-88	-16.8	-3.5	-5.8	-13.9	-10.5	-10.9
1988-89	-9.4	-12.8	-12.2	-2.4	-6.1	-6.3
1989-90	22.8	6.3	9.0	15.2	12.3	12.9
1990-91	-5.3	9.9	7.1	4.3	6.0	5.3
1991-92	-7.6	-11.7	-11.1	-9.2	-10.0	-9.9
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 June qtr	188	1,044	1,232	2,229	3,273	3,461
Sept. qtr	127	994	1,121	1,747	2,741	2,868
Dec. qtr	199	886	1,085	1,893	2,779	2,978
1992 Mar. qtr	194	745	939	1,705	2,450	2,643
June qtr	174	816	990	2,063	2,879	3,053
Sept. qtr	280	754	1,034	1,687	2,441	2,721
Dec. qtr	176	770	946	1,846	2,617	2,793
1993 Mar. qtr	167	813	980	1,831	2,644	2,811
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	23.2	19.8	20.3	20.0	20.0	20.1
Sept. qtr	-32.3	-4.8	-9.0	-21.6	-16.3	-17.1
Dec. qtr	56.8	-10.9	-3.2	8.3	1.4	3.8
1992 Mar. qtr	-2.8	-15.9	-13.5	-9.9	-11.9	-11.2
June qtr	-10.0	9.5	5.5	21.0	17.5	15.5
Sept. qtr	60.5	-7.5	4.5	-18.2	-15.2	-10.9
Dec. qtr	-37.1	2.1	-8.5	9.5	7.2	2.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-5.3	5.6	3.5	-0.8	1.1	0.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1991 June qtr	4.3	9.2	8.4	-0.4	2.5	2.6
Sept. qtr	-32.5	5.1	-1.2	-13.3	-7.4	-8.9
Dec. qtr	-10.6	-14.5	-13.9	-7.8	-10.1	-10.1
1992 Mar. qtr	27.1	-14.5	-8.3	-8.2	-10.2	-8.2
June qtr	-7.1	-21.9	-19.7	-7.5	-12.1	-11.8
Sept. qtr	120.2	-24.1	-7.8	-3.5	-10.9	-5.1
Dec. qtr	-11.6	-13.1	-12.8	-2.5	-5.8	-6.2
1993 Mar. qtr	-13.9	9.2	4.4	7.4	8.0	6.3

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

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA π

<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>
(1989-90 equals 100.0)						
1991 June qtr	104.0	99.4	101.8	105.7	104.3	104.2
Sept. qtr	104.0	97.8	101.1	106.8	104.3	104.3
Dec. qtr	103.5	96.0	100.4	107.3	104.1	104.0
1992 Mar. qtr	103.1	94.5	99.6	107.6	104.4	104.0
June qtr	103.0	93.4	99.2	107.7	102.2	102.7
Sept. qtr	102.5	94.4	99.7	107.7	103.4	103.2
Dec. qtr	103.1	94.1	99.9	108.0	104.2	103.9
1993 Mar. qtr	103.3	94.4	100.1	108.3	101.2	102.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 June qtr	0.3	-1.6	-0.7	0.4	-0.8	-0.5
Sept. qtr	0.0	-1.6	-0.7	1.0	0.0	0.1
Dec. qtr	-0.5	-1.8	-0.7	0.5	-0.2	-0.3
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.3	0.3	0.0
June qtr	-0.1	-1.2	-0.4	0.1	-2.1	-1.3
Sept. qtr	-0.5	1.1	0.5	0.0	1.2	0.5
Dec. qtr	0.6	-0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.7
1993 Mar. qtr	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	-2.9	-1.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 June qtr	2.0	-1.8	0.2	3.8	-0.3	0.5
Sept. qtr	1.2	-3.7	-1.1	3.4	-1.4	-0.5
Dec. qtr	0.0	-5.7	-2.2	2.3	-1.1	-0.7
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.6	-6.4	-2.8	2.2	-0.7	-0.7
June qtr	-1.0	-6.0	-2.6	1.9	-2.0	-1.4
Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.5	-1.4	0.8	-0.9	-1.1
Dec. qtr	-0.4	-2.0	-0.5	0.7	0.1	-0.1
1993 Mar. qtr	0.2	-0.1	0.5	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. 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'.

19. 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

20. Implicit price deflators provide an estimate of the price change between the base period of the relevant constant price estimate (currently 1989-90) 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

21. 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.

22. 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

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

Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (5206.0) — 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.

24. 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)

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

RICHARD MADDEN
Acting Australian Statistician



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

Electronic Data Services

A wide range of ABS data are available on electronic media. Selections of most frequently requested statistics are available, updated daily, on DISCOVERY (Key *656#). The ABS PC TELESTATS service delivers major economic indicator main features ready to download into personal computers on the day of release. The PC AUSSTATS service enables on-line access to a data base of thousands of up-to-date time series. Selected datasets are also available on diskette or CD-ROM. For more details on electronic data services available, contact Information Services in any of the ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

Bookshops and Subscriptions

There are over 500 titles of various publications available from ABS bookshops in all ABS Offices (see below Bookshop Sales for contact details). The ABS also provides a subscription service through which nominated publications are provided by mail on a regular basis at no additional cost (telephone Publications Subscription Service toll free on 008 02 0608 Australia wide).

Sales and Inquiries

	Information Inquiries	Bookshop Sales
Regional Offices		
SYDNEY (02)	268 4611	268 4620
MELBOURNE (03)	615 7000	615 7829
BRISBANE (07)	222 6351	222 6350
PERTH (09)	323 5140	323 5307
ADELAIDE (08)	237 7100	237 7582
HOBART (002)	205 800	205 800
CANBERRA (06)	207 0315	207 0315
DARWIN (089)	432 111	432 111
National Office		
ACT (06)	252 6007	252 5979



Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

