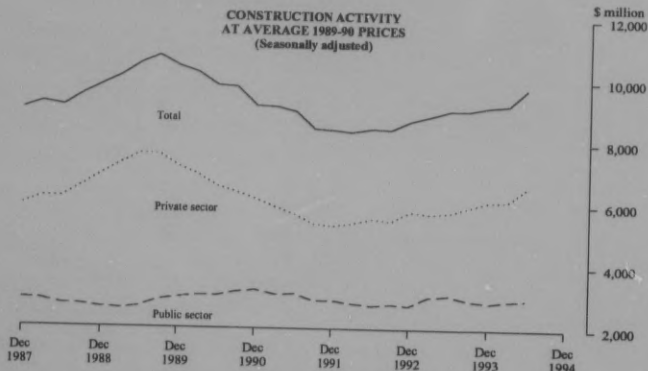




CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA
JUNE QUARTER 1994

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



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

Total Construction Activity rose by 5.7 per cent in the June quarter 1994, following rises of 0.7 per cent in the March quarter 1994 and 1.3 per cent in the December quarter 1993. Most of the growth in the June quarter 1994 was attributable to growth in private sector construction activity, which rose by 7.1 per cent. Public sector construction activity rose slightly (0.9%). Total construction activity has increased in each of the last seven quarters.

Residential building activity increased by 9.6 per cent in the June quarter 1994 and is now the highest quarterly estimate since the start of the building activity survey in

the September quarter 1976. This follows a 1.7 per cent decrease in the March quarter 1994 (from the then record high December quarter 1993 estimate) and is now 14.9 per cent above the June quarter 1993 estimate. Prior to the fall in the March quarter 1994, the estimate for residential building construction activity had risen in every quarter since the September quarter 1991.

Non-residential building activity increased by 7.1 per cent in the June quarter 1994, over the low March quarter 1994 estimate and is 4.4 per cent above the level of activity recorded twelve months earlier.

Engineering construction activity fell slightly by 0.5 per cent during the June quarter 1994, but remains 1.4 per cent above the level recorded twelve months earlier.

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- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office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 terms, at average 1989-90 prices, private sector construction activity increased by 7.1 per cent during the June quarter 1994. A 9.7 per cent rise in residential building activity, coupled with a 8.6 per cent rise in non-residential building activity, more than offset a fall of 5.7 per cent in engineering construction activity. Private sector construction activity is 14.4 per cent above the level recorded twelve months earlier.

Public sector activity

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989-90 prices, public sector construction activity increased slightly by 0.9 per cent in the June quarter 1994, mainly as a result of a 1.9 per cent rise in engineering construction activity. A 7.9 per cent rise in residential building construction (by far the smallest component) was counterbalanced by a 2.7 per cent fall in non-residential building with the result that total building activity remained unchanged from the previous quarter.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
JUNE QUARTER 1994 (Seasonally adjusted)

Construction activity	% changes from previous quarter		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building			
Residential	9.7	7.9	9.6
Non-residential	8.6	-2.7	7.1
Total building	9.1	0.0	8.1
Engineering construction	-5.7	1.9	-0.5
Total non-residential construction	2.8	0.6	2.7
Total construction	7.1	0.9	5.7

Construction Activity in 1993-94 at average 1989-90 prices

Total construction activity for 1993-94 (\$37,253m) was 6.2 per cent above the level recorded in 1992-93 and 10.8 per cent above the level of 1991-92. It was however still 9.8 per cent below the peak level attained in 1989-90. During 1993-94, residential building activity and engineering construction activity rose by 10.1 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively, while non-residential building activity fell by 2.9 per cent.

Private sector activity

Private sector construction activity for 1993-94 (\$25,392m) was 9.3 per cent above the level recorded in

1992-93. Private sector residential building activity and engineering construction activity rose by 12.1 per cent and 24.6 per cent respectively during 1993-94, whereas non-residential building activity fell by 4.2 per cent.

Public sector activity

Public sector construction activity for 1993-94 (\$11,862m) increased marginally by 0.1 per cent over 1992-93. Public sector engineering construction activity (the largest component) rose by 2.8 per cent during 1993-94, offsetting falls in residential building activity (-24.2%) and non-residential building activity (-0.3%).

TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 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)						
1992 Sept. qtr	3,670	2,291	5,981	2,463	4,754	8,424
Dec. qtr	3,796	2,366	6,136	2,540	4,906	8,701
1993 Mar. qtr	3,820	2,403	6,235	2,649	5,052	8,872
June qtr	3,874	2,229	6,092	2,946	5,175	9,049
Sept. qtr	4,050	2,227	6,305	2,779	5,006	9,055
Dec. qtr	4,131	2,285	6,387	2,756	5,041	9,172
1994 Mar. qtr	4,062	2,173	6,251	3,002	5,175	9,237
June qtr	4,451	2,327	6,758	2,987	5,314	9,765
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	5.9	-6.7	1.0	-2.6	-4.6	-0.3
Dec. qtr	3.4	3.3	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.3
1993 Mar. qtr	0.6	1.6	1.6	4.3	3.0	2.0
June qtr	1.4	-7.2	-2.3	11.2	2.4	2.0
Sept. qtr	4.5	-0.1	3.5	-5.7	-3.3	0.1
Dec. qtr	2.0	2.6	1.3	-0.8	0.7	1.3
1994 Mar. qtr	-1.7	-4.9	-2.1	9.0	2.7	0.7
June qtr	9.6	7.1	8.1	-0.5	2.7	5.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	23.1	-19.9	2.3	-5.1	-12.9	-0.2
Dec. qtr	18.2	-6.7	7.2	-3.9	-5.3	3.7
1993 Mar. qtr	16.8	-4.7	7.6	4.4	-0.2	6.5
June qtr	11.8	-9.2	2.8	16.5	3.8	7.1
Sept. qtr	10.3	-2.8	5.4	12.8	5.3	7.5
Dec. qtr	8.8	-3.4	4.1	8.5	2.8	5.4
1994 Mar. qtr	6.3	-9.6	0.3	13.3	2.4	4.1
June qtr	14.9	4.4	10.9	1.4	2.7	7.9

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

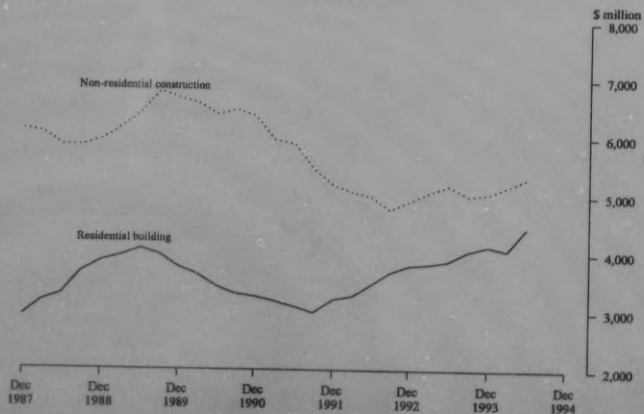


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Sept. qtr	3,400	1,544	4,940	645	2,189	5,589
Dec. qtr	3,627	1,613	5,238	674	2,288	5,915
1993 Mar. qtr	3,642	1,506	5,149	690	2,196	5,838
June qtr	3,668	1,487	5,150	744	2,231	5,899
Sept. qtr	3,848	1,469	5,325	768	2,237	6,085
Dec. qtr	3,964	1,479	5,438	826	2,305	6,269
1994 Mar. qtr	3,940	1,414	5,357	948	2,362	6,302
June qtr	4,322	1,535	5,847	894	2,429	6,751
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	3.4	-7.2	0.0	-9.4	-7.8	-1.3
Dec. qtr	6.7	4.5	5.8	4.6	4.5	5.8
1993 Mar. qtr	0.4	-6.6	-1.7	2.3	-4.0	-1.3
June qtr	0.7	-1.3	0.0	7.9	1.6	1.1
Sept. qtr	4.9	-1.2	3.4	3.2	0.2	3.1
Dec. qtr	3.0	0.7	2.1	7.5	3.0	3.0
1994 Mar. qtr	-0.6	-4.4	-1.5	14.8	2.5	0.5
June qtr	9.7	8.6	9.1	-5.7	2.8	7.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	19.0	-17.7	4.4	-14.3	-16.7	1.9
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.5	11.6	-8.5	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	18.9	-12.7	7.6	-4.1	-10.2	6.0
June qtr	11.5	-10.6	4.0	4.5	-6.1	4.1
Sept. qtr	13.2	-4.9	7.6	19.1	2.2	8.9
Dec. qtr	9.3	-8.3	3.8	22.4	0.8	6.9
1994 Mar. qtr	8.2	-6.1	4.0	37.5	7.6	8.0
June qtr	17.8	3.2	13.5	20.1	8.9	14.4

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

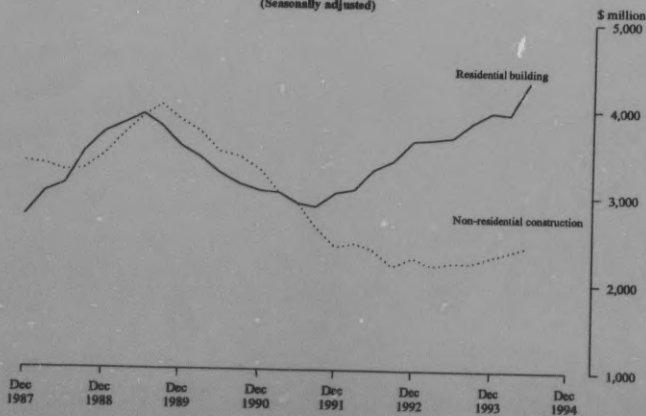


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Sept. qtr	272	739	1,016	1,819	2,557	2,829
Dec. qtr	168	741	892	1,866	2,606	2,774
1993 Mar. qtr	175	941	1,119	1,960	2,901	3,076
June qtr	208	729	944	2,202	2,931	3,138
Sept. qtr	204	748	957	2,011	2,759	2,963
Dec. qtr	166	795	944	1,930	2,725	2,891
1994 Mar. qtr	120	799	919	2,054	2,853	2,973
June qtr	130	777	919	2,093	2,871	3,001
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	52.1	-5.2	5.1	9.1	-1.5	2.0
Dec. qtr	-38.2	0.3	-12.2	2.6	1.9	-1.9
1993 Mar. qtr	4.4	27.1	25.4	5.0	11.3	10.9
June qtr	18.3	-22.6	-15.6	12.4	1.0	2.0
Sept. qtr	-1.7	2.7	1.4	-8.7	-5.9	-5.6
Dec. qtr	-18.5	6.2	-1.4	-4.0	-1.2	-2.4
1994 Mar. qtr	-27.7	0.5	-2.6	6.5	4.7	2.8
June qtr	7.9	-2.7	0.0	1.9	0.6	0.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	122.5	-24.3	-7.9	-1.4	-9.3	-3.9
Dec. qtr	-11.8	-13.0	-12.9	-2.2	-5.5	-5.9
1993 Mar. qtr	-14.3	12.7	7.2	7.8	9.3	7.6
June qtr	16.1	-6.5	-2.4	21.2	12.9	13.1
Sept. qtr	-24.9	1.3	-5.8	10.6	7.9	4.8
Dec. qtr	-1.0	7.3	5.7	3.4	4.6	4.2
1994 Mar. qtr	-31.4	-15.2	-17.8	4.8	-1.7	-3.4
June qtr	-37.5	6.6	-2.6	-4.9	-2.1	-4.4

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

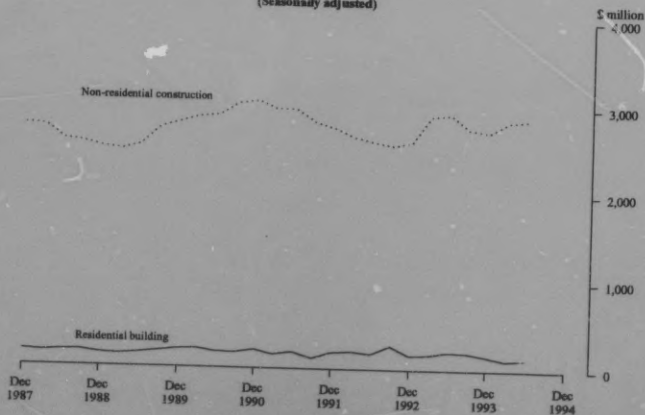


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, AUSTRALIA ^a

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
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)10,608	(a)22,826	(a)33,792
1987-88	12,071	13,906	25,977	9,884	23,790	35,861
1988-89	15,511	14,590	30,101	9,798	24,388	39,899
1989-90	14,802	15,548	30,350	10,928	26,477	41,279
1990-91	12,835	13,588	26,423	11,136	24,724	37,559
1991-92	12,909	10,386	23,295	10,328	20,713	33,622
1992-93	15,151	9,285	24,436	10,648	19,933	35,084
1993-94	16,688	9,020	25,708	11,546	20,565	37,253
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
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	6.8	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
1992-93	17.4	-10.6	4.9	3.1	-3.8	4.3
1993-94	10.1	-2.9	5.2	8.4	3.2	6.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Sept. qtr	5,141	2,346	6,128	2,346	4,692	8,474
Dec. qtr	4,001	2,462	6,463	2,572	5,034	9,035
1993 Mar. qtr	3,556	2,228	5,781	2,494	4,722	8,277
June qtr	3,813	2,249	6,062	3,235	5,484	9,297
Sept. qtr	4,176	2,278	6,454	2,646	4,924	9,101
Dec. qtr	4,353	2,379	6,731	2,800	5,179	9,531
1994 Mar. qtr	3,782	2,015	5,797	2,833	4,848	8,630
June qtr	4,377	2,348	6,725	3,266	5,615	9,992
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	10.7	-5.3	4.0	-14.5	-10.1	-1.9
Dec. qtr	5.8	5.0	5.5	9.6	7.3	6.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.1	-9.5	-10.5	-3.0	-6.2	-8.4
June qtr	7.2	1.0	4.8	29.7	16.2	12.3
Sept. qtr	9.5	1.3	6.5	-18.2	-10.2	-2.1
Dec. qtr	4.2	4.4	4.3	5.8	5.2	4.7
1994 Mar. qtr	-13.1	-15.3	-13.9	1.2	-6.4	-9.5
June qtr	15.7	16.5	16.0	15.3	15.8	15.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	23.3	-20.1	2.1	-6.8	-14.0	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.1	-6.7	7.3	-3.9	-5.3	3.8
1993 Mar. qtr	17.0	-4.6	7.6	4.5	0.0	6.6
June qtr	11.6	-9.2	2.9	17.9	5.0	7.6
Sept. qtr	10.4	-2.9	5.3	12.8	4.9	7.4
Dec. qtr	8.8	-3.4	4.1	8.9	2.9	5.5
1994 Mar. qtr	6.4	-9.5	0.2	13.6	2.7	4.3
June qtr	14.8	4.4	10.9	1.0	2.4	7.5

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

**TABLE 1. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA \$**

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
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	1,962	8,126	19,879
1985-86	11,562	7,803	19,364	2,209	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	2,929	13,809	24,369
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	2,923	9,868	22,083
1992-93	14,326	6,159	20,485	2,750	8,909	23,235
1993-94	16,063	5,902	21,965	3,427	9,329	25,392
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1982-83	-25.5	-17.7	-23.0	6.4	-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	-8.6	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
1992-93	17.3	-11.3	6.9	-5.9	-9.7	5.2
1993-94	12.1	-4.2	7.2	24.6	4.7	9.3
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Sept. qtr	3,502	1,592	5,094	661	2,253	5,755
Dec. qtr	3,825	1,692	5,517	717	2,410	6,235
1993 Mar. qtr	3,389	1,387	4,776	655	2,042	5,431
June qtr	3,610	1,488	5,098	717	2,205	5,815
Sept. qtr	3,967	1,511	5,478	787	2,298	6,265
Dec. qtr	4,178	1,552	5,730	878	2,430	6,608
1994 Mar. qtr	3,667	1,302	4,969	900	2,201	5,869
June qtr	4,251	1,537	5,788	863	2,400	6,650
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	8.0	-4.2	3.9	-3.4	-3.9	3.0
Dec. qtr	9.2	6.3	8.3	8.5	7.0	8.3
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.4	-18.0	-13.4	-8.8	-15.3	-12.9
June qtr	6.5	7.3	6.7	9.5	8.0	7.1
Sept. qtr	9.9	1.5	7.5	9.7	4.2	7.7
Dec. qtr	5.3	2.7	4.6	11.6	5.8	5.5
1994 Mar. qtr	-12.2	-16.1	-13.3	2.5	-9.4	-11.2
June qtr	15.9	18.1	16.5	-4.1	9.0	13.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	19.1	-18.0	4.4	-14.2	-17.0	1.8
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.4	11.7	-8.6	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	19.1	-12.8	7.6	-4.2	-10.2	6.1
June qtr	11.4	-10.4	4.0	4.8	-6.0	4.1
Sept. qtr	13.3	-5.1	7.5	19.0	2.0	8.9
Dec. qtr	9.2	-8.3	3.9	22.3	0.8	6.0
1994 Mar. qtr	8.2	-6.1	4.0	37.4	7.8	8.1
June qtr	17.7	3.3	13.5	20.3	8.8	14.4

(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 r**

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
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	3,063	3,919	(a)18,075	(a)12,038	(a)12,894
1987-88	712	3,825	4,537	6,955	10,780	11,492
1988-89	645	3,337	3,982	6,787	10,124	10,769
1989-90	793	3,548	4,341	7,822	11,370	12,162
1990-91	751	3,899	4,650	8,151	12,050	12,800
1991-92	694	3,441	4,135	7,404	10,845	11,539
1992-93	825	3,126	3,951	7,898	11,024	11,849
1993-94	625	3,118	3,742	8,119	11,237	11,862
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
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	1.4	1.1
1987-88	-16.8	-3.5	-5.8	-13.9	-10.4	-10.9
1988-89	-9.4	-12.8	-12.2	-7.4	-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	4.2	6.0	5.2
1991-92	-7.6	-11.7	-11.1	-9.2	-10.0	-9.9
1992-93	18.8	-9.1	-4.4	6.7	1.7	2.7
1993-94	-24.2	-0.3	-5.3	2.8	1.9	0.1
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Sept. qtr	280	754	1,034	1,685	2,440	2,719
Dec. qtr	176	770	946	1,854	2,625	2,801
1993 Mar. qtr	167	841	1,007	1,840	2,680	2,847
June qtr	202	761	964	2,518	3,279	3,482
Sept. qtr	209	767	976	1,860	2,627	2,836
Dec. qtr	174	827	1,001	1,923	2,749	2,923
1994 Mar. qtr	115	713	828	1,933	2,647	2,761
June qtr	127	811	937	2,404	3,215	3,341
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	60.5	-7.5	4.5	-18.2	-15.2	-10.8
Dec. qtr	-37.1	2.1	-8.5	10.0	7.6	3.0
1993 Mar. qtr	-5.3	9.1	6.4	-0.8	2.1	1.6
June qtr	21.4	-9.4	-4.3	36.9	22.4	22.3
Sept. qtr	3.4	0.7	1.3	-26.1	-19.9	-18.6
Dec. qtr	-16.6	7.8	2.5	3.4	4.7	3.1
1994 Mar. qtr	-34.3	-13.7	-17.3	0.6	-3.7	-5.5
June qtr	10.5	13.7	13.2	24.3	21.5	21.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	120.2	-24.1	-7.8	-3.5	-11.0	-5.2
Dec. qtr	-11.6	-13.1	-12.8	-2.0	-5.5	-5.9
1993 Mar. qtr	-13.9	12.8	7.3	7.9	9.4	7.7
June qtr	16.2	-6.7	-2.6	22.2	14.0	14.1
Sept. qtr	-25.2	1.7	-5.6	10.3	7.7	4.3
Dec. qtr	-8.9	7.3	5.8	3.7	4.7	4.4
1994 Mar. qtr	-31.3	-15.1	-17.8	5.1	-4.2	-3.0
June qtr	-37.5	6.5	-2.7	-4.5	-2.0	-4.0

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

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA ^r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
(1989-90 equals 100.0)						
1992 Sept. qtr	102.5	94.4	99.7	107.8	101.1	101.9
Dec. qtr	103.2	94.1	99.9	108.1	101.2	102.3
1993 Mar. qtr	103.1	93.6	99.7	108.4	101.4	102.3
June qtr	103.3	93.0	99.7	108.6	102.2	102.8
Sept. qtr	103.5	93.7	100.2	108.2	101.5	102.6
Dec. qtr	104.0	94.1	100.8	107.9	101.6	102.9
1994 Mar. qtr	104.4	93.9	101.0	108.1	102.2	103.4
June qtr	104.8	93.9	101.3	108.6	102.5	103.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Sept. qtr	-0.5	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0
Dec. qtr	0.7	-0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4
1993 Mar. qtr	-0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0
June qtr	0.2	-0.6	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.5
Sept. qtr	0.2	0.8	0.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.2
Dec. qtr	0.5	0.4	0.6	-0.3	0.1	0.3
1994 Mar. qtr	0.4	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5
June qtr	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.5	-1.4	0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Dec. qtr	-0.3	-2.0	-0.5	0.7	-0.5	-0.3
1993 Mar. qtr	0.0	-1.0	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2
June qtr	0.3	-0.4	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.9
Sept. qtr	1.0	-0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7
Dec. qtr	0.8	0.0	0.9	-0.2	0.4	0.6
1994 Mar. qtr	1.3	0.3	1.3	-0.3	0.8	1.1
June qtr	1.5	1.0	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.9

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.

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- .. not applicable
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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).

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