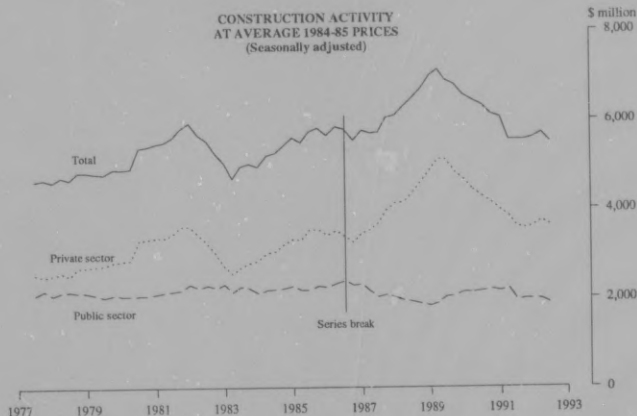


CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



Quarterly Construction Activity — Seasonally
adjusted, at constant prices

Total construction activity fell in the September quarter 1992, following three quarters of relative stability. An increase in residential building activity was more than offset by falls in non-residential building and engineering construction. Total construction activity in the September quarter 1992 (\$5,500 million), was 3.6 per cent lower than the June quarter 1992 estimate and 0.9 per cent below the activity levels experienced a year ago. Both private sector and public sector activity fell in the September quarter.

Residential building activity recorded its fourth consecutive quarterly increase following the downturn between September quarter 1989 and September quarter 1991, rising 6.8 per cent over the June quarter 1992 estimate. Overall, residential building activity in the September quarter 1992 was 22.8 per cent above the level of activity recorded twelve months ago.

Non-residential building activity continued the decline evident since the September quarter 1989 (apart from a small increase in the March quarter 1992), falling a further 10.1 per cent in the September quarter 1992 and is now 21.2 per cent below the September quarter 1991 estimate and the lowest level of activity measured since the September quarter 1984.

Engineering construction activity fell by 10.1 per cent during the September quarter 1992, following a 3.1 per cent rise in June quarter 1992 and is now 4.8 per cent below the level of activity experienced twelve months ago. The September quarter 1992 estimate represents the lowest level of activity in any quarter since the Engineering Construction Survey was introduced in September 1986.

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- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office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 fell by 2.7 per cent during the September quarter 1992, following increases of 2.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively in the previous two quarters. Residential building activity rose by 4.3 per cent in the September quarter 1992 (the fourth consecutive quarterly increase), while non-residential building activity fell by 11.2 per cent and engineering construction fell by 11.8 per cent.

Total private sector construction activity in the September quarter 1992, at \$3,626 million, was 0.9 per cent above the level recorded twelve months ago, with an 18.7 per cent rise in residential building activity (the largest component) just offsetting 19.0 per cent and 13.4 per cent falls in non-residential building and engineering construction respectively.

Public sector

In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, public sector construction activity fell by 4.8 per cent in the September quarter 1992. Residential building activity (the smallest component), rose by 44.8 per cent while non-residential building activity fell by 4.2 per cent. Engineering construction activity, which accounts for nearly two thirds of total public sector construction activity, fell by 9.3 per cent during the September quarter 1992, and has now reached its lowest point since the March quarter 1989.

Total public sector construction activity in the September quarter 1992, at \$1,876 million, was 4.5 per cent lower than the September quarter 1991 estimate, and is also at its lowest level since the March quarter 1989.

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

Construction activity	% Changes between Jun. qtr 92 and Sep. qtr 92		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	4.3	44.8	6.8
Non-residential	-11.2	-4.2	-10.1
Total building	-1.1	7.3	-0.1
Engineering construction	-11.8	-9.3	-10.1
Total non-residential construction	-11.4	-7.9	-10.1
Total construction	-2.7	-4.8	-3.6

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)						
1990 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	1,784	3,651	5,548
Dec. qtr	2,050	1,650	3,697	1,848	3,498	5,548
1992 Mar. qtr	2,082	1,687	3,776	1,832	3,519	5,601
June qtr	2,181	1,636	3,808	1,888	3,524	5,705
Sept. qtr	2,331	1,471	3,805	1,698	3,169	5,500
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 Dec. qtr	-0.9	-2.0	-1.7	-1.6	-1.8	-1.5
1991 Mar. qtr	-2.3	-6.8	-4.6	-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	-11.1	-8.4
Dec. qtr	8.0	-11.6	-1.9	3.6	-4.2	0.0
1992 Mar. qtr	1.5	2.2	2.1	-0.9	0.6	0.9
June qtr	4.8	-3.0	0.8	3.1	0.1	1.9
Sept. qtr	6.8	-10.1	-0.1	-10.1	-10.1	-3.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	-13.7
Dec. qtr	-1.3	-28.7	-15.8	-4.9	-17.8	-12.4
1992 Mar. qtr	2.6	-21.7	-9.8	-5.5	-14.0	-8.5
June qtr	11.9	-22.2	-5.8	-5.9	-14.2	-5.8
Sept. qtr	22.8	-21.2	0.9	-4.8	-13.2	-0.9

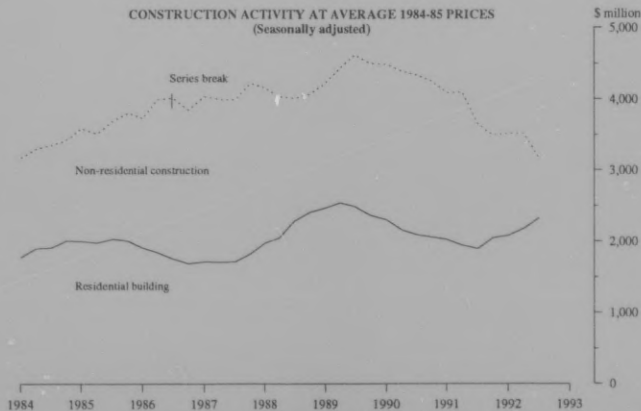


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1990 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	1,948	1,135	3,082	542	1,676	3,625
June qtr	2,068	1,113	3,180	546	1,659	3,727
Sept. qtr	2,156	989	3,145	481	1,470	3,626
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	1.0	3.9	2.0	0.2	2.7	1.8
June qtr	6.2	-1.9	3.2	0.7	-1.0	2.8
Sept. qtr	4.3	-11.2	-1.1	-11.8	-11.4	-2.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	-34.3	-16.2	1.0	-25.7	-13.9
1992 Mar. qtr	1.4	-24.6	-10.0	0.0	-18.1	-8.7
June qtr	13.2	-22.4	-2.3	-5.5	-17.3	-2.9
Sept. qtr	18.7	-19.0	3.4	-13.4	-17.3	0.9

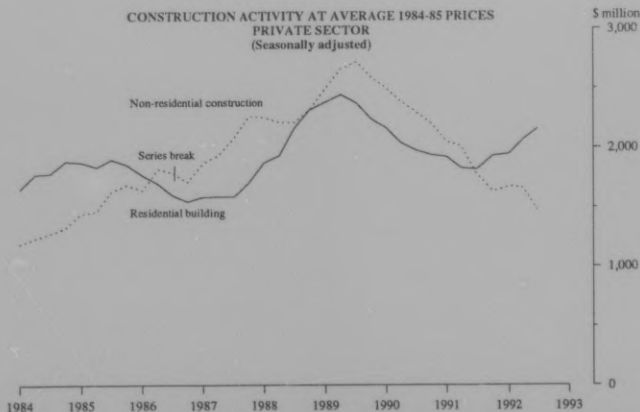


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 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	1,229	1,886	1,964
Dec. qtr	119	556	671	1,307	1,864	1,982
1992 Mar. qtr	139	556	696	1,291	1,847	1,986
June qtr	116	513	625	1,343	1,855	1,971
Sept. qtr	168	491	670	1,217	1,708	1,876
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	-14.0	-9.5	-11.1
Dec. qtr	53.5	-15.3	-9.2	6.4	-1.2	1.0
1992 Mar. qtr	17.6	-0.1	3.8	-1.3	-0.9	0.2
June qtr	-16.9	-7.8	-10.3	4.0	0.5	-0.7
Sept. qtr	44.8	-4.2	7.3	-9.3	-7.9	-4.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	25.2	-14.8	-8.9	-7.6	-9.9	-8.1
June qtr	-7.0	-21.7	-19.5	-6.0	-11.0	-10.7
Sept. qtr	117.3	-25.3	-9.3	-1.0	-9.4	-4.5

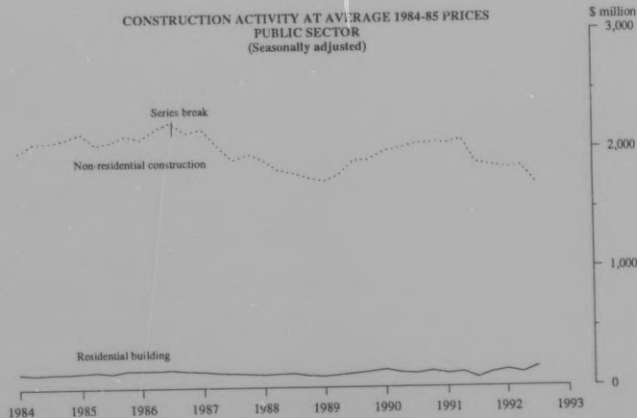


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA ^a

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1980-81	8,351	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	13,169	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)7,827	(a)15,872	(a)22,752
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	8,204	6,844	15,048	7,362	14,206	22,410
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	0.6	-23.5	-12.0	-6.3	-15.5	-10.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 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	1,781	3,716	5,665
Dec. qtr	2,152	1,742	3,894	1,896	3,637	5,789
1992 Mar. qtr	1,933	1,540	3,473	1,709	3,249	5,183
June qtr	2,171	1,627	3,797	1,976	3,603	5,773
Sept. qtr	2,394	1,525	3,919	1,692	3,217	5,611
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	-15.4	-11.4	-7.7
Dec. qtr	10.4	-10.0	0.3	6.4	-2.1	2.2
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.2	-11.6	-10.8	-9.8	-10.7	-10.5
June qtr	12.3	5.6	9.3	15.6	10.9	11.4
Sept. qtr	10.3	-6.3	3.2	-14.4	-19.7	-2.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	-11.6	-9.1	-15.7	-13.7
Dec. qtr	-1.3	-28.6	-15.7	-4.9	-17.9	-12.5
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.8	-5.2	-13.8	-8.3
June qtr	11.9	-22.1	-5.3	-6.2	-14.1	-5.9
Sept. qtr	22.9	-21.2	0.9	-5.0	-13.5	-1.0

(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)						
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	15,888
1988-89	9,293	7,413	16,705	2,241	9,654	18,946
1989-90	8,324	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	7,758	4,564	12,322	2,184	6,748	14,506
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	1.2	-28.3	-12.2	-1.0	-21.3	-10.7
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1990 Dec. qtr	2,036	1,754	3,790	575	2,329	4,365
1991 Mar. qtr	1,784	1,589	3,173	513	1,903	3,687
June qtr	1,819	1,999	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	1,809	1,047	2,856	513	1,560	3,369
June qtr	2,058	1,086	3,144	517	1,602	3,660
Sept. qtr	2,215	1,034	3,248	498	1,532	3,746
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	-10.7	-9.2	-10.1	-11.6	-10.0	-10.4
June qtr	13.8	3.7	10.1	0.7	2.7	8.6
Sept. qtr	7.6	-4.8	3.3	-3.6	-4.4	2.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	1.4	-24.6	-10.0	-0.1	-18.0	-8.6
June qtr	13.1	-22.4	-2.3	-5.4	-17.6	-2.8
Sept. qtr	18.7	-19.1	3.3	-13.3	-17.3	0.8

(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 $\text{\$}$

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	8,891
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	8,477	9,053
1986-87	559	2,641	3,200	(a)5,935	(a)8,576	(a)9,134
1987-88	464	2,543	3,006	5,059	7,602	8,065
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	2,280	2,726	5,178	7,458	7,904
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	4.2	-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	3.2	5.2	4.6
1991-92	-8.2	-11.6	-11.1	-8.4	-9.4	-9.4
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1990 Dec. qtr	144	685	a29	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	1,207	1,864	1,947
Dec. qtr	127	589	715	1,315	1,904	2,031
1992 Mar. qtr	124	493	617	1,197	1,689	1,814
June qtr	113	541	654	1,460	2,001	2,113
Sept. qtr	179	491	670	1,194	1,685	1,864
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	-22.6	-17.2	-17.9
Dec. qtr	53.1	-10.5	-3.4	9.0	2.1	4.3
1992 Mar. qtr	-1.9	-16.3	-13.7	-9.0	-11.3	-10.7
June qtr	-9.4	9.8	5.9	22.0	18.4	16.5
Sept. qtr	59.5	-9.3	2.6	-18.2	-15.8	-11.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	-7.4	-8.8
Dec. qtr	-12.0	-14.1	-13.7	-7.3	-9.5	-9.7
1992 Mar. qtr	25.3	-14.8	-9.0	-7.2	-9.6	-7.8
June qtr	-7.0	-21.7	-19.5	-6.4	-11.1	-10.9
Sept. qtr	116.9	-25.3	-9.5	-1.1	-9.6	-4.3

(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>
(1984-85 equals 100.0)						
1990 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	153.1	156.9
Dec. qtr	162.5	145.4	155.4	151.7	152.1	156.3
1992 Mar. qtr	161.8	143.2	154.1	150.3	151.7	155.8
June qtr	161.9	142.1	154.0	149.7	148.2	153.7
Sept. qtr	161.3	143.0	154.8	150.8	150.3	155.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1990 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	0.4	0.5
Dec. qtr	-0.4	-2.0	-0.5	0.5	-0.7	-0.4
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.4	-1.5	0.8	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3
June qtr	0.1	-0.8	-0.1	-0.4	-2.3	-1.3
Sept. qtr	-0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1990 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	-2.1	-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	-0.7	-5.8	-2.0	0.7	-2.8	-1.5
Sept. qtr	-1.1	-3.6	-0.9	-0.1	-1.8	-1.0

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.

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- r figure or series revised since previous issue
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26. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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