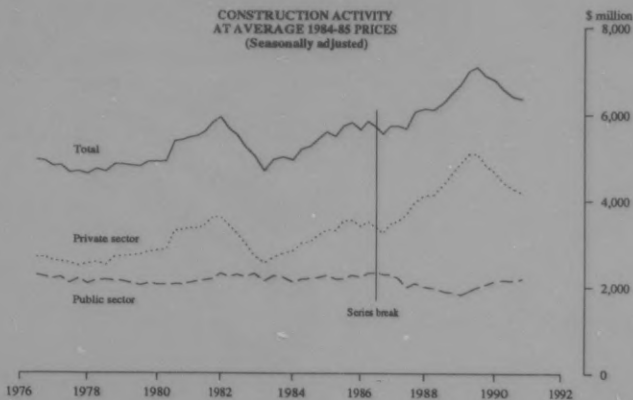


**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA
DECEMBER QUARTER 1990**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



Total construction activity

Total construction activity fell marginally during December quarter 1990, in seasonally adjusted terms and at 1984-85 prices. The figure of \$6,366 million was down 0.7 per cent on the September quarter 1990. Total construction activity has now fallen in each of the last five quarters and is more than 7 per cent down on activity levels recorded twelve months ago. The fall in total construction activity in the December quarter 1990 resulted from falls in residential building (down 0.9 per cent) and non-residential construction (down 0.8 per cent). Residential building activity has declined in each of the last six quarters, and the December quarter 1990 estimate is 13.0 per cent lower than that recorded for December quarter 1989. Non-residential building has also been declining over the last three quarters.

Seasonally adjusted estimates are not available for engineering construction activity separately. However, in original terms, engineering construction activity in the December quarter 1990 remained at the same level as in the September quarter 1990. While all the other components of total construction activity have declined over the last year, engineering construction has held up and is 0.8 per cent above the level observed in December quarter 1989.

The fall in total construction activity over the last fifteen months has been dominated by declining private sector activity, which has more than offset increased public sector construction activity over the same period.

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* for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office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

Seasonally adjusted, all categories of private sector construction declined in December quarter 1990 compared with September quarter 1990. Total private sector construction activity fell by 2.3 per cent to \$4,173 million. Engineering construction dropped by 6.0 per cent to \$521 million. Private residential building fell by 2.3 per cent to \$1,928 million, and non-residential building by 1.0 per cent to \$1,723 million.

Private sector construction activity in December quarter 1990 remained significantly lower (nearly 14 per cent) than that recorded in December quarter 1989. All components of private sector construction activity were well down.

Public sector

Total public sector construction activity, in seasonally adjusted terms, increased in the December quarter 1990 to \$2,193 million, a rise of 2.3 per cent over the September quarter estimate.

The increase in public sector activity over the December quarter 1990 continued the pattern established over the last seven quarters which have seen growth in each quarter with the exception of the small fall recorded in September quarter 1990.

All components of public sector construction activity in the December quarter 1990 remained significantly above the levels recorded 12 months ago.

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

Construction activity	% Changes between Sep. 90 and Dec. 90		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	-2.3	23.7	-0.9
Non-residential	-1.0	7.5	1.2
<i>Total building</i>	<i>-1.7</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Engineering construction	-6.0	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total non-residential construction</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Total	-2.3	2.3	-0.7

TABLE I. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 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)						
1989 Mar. qtr	2,481	2,446	4,925	n.s.	4,221	6,700
June qtr	2,539	2,622	5,161	n.s.	4,461	7,000
Sept. qtr	2,483	2,647	5,135	n.s.	4,607	7,089
Dec. qtr	2,375	2,622	4,992	n.s.	4,515	6,894
1990 Mar. qtr	2,318	2,527	4,841	n.s.	4,484	6,798
June qtr	2,156	2,429	4,586	n.s.	4,420	6,576
Sept. qtr	2,085	(a)2,155	(a)4,445	n.s.	(a)4,330	(a)6,413
Dec. qtr	2,065	2,383	4,443	n.s.	4,296	6,366
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	2.6	6.4	4.5	n.s.	3.3	3.0
June qtr	2.3	7.2	4.6	n.s.	5.7	4.5
Sept. qtr	-2.2	1.0	-0.5	n.s.	3.3	1.3
Dec. qtr	-4.4	-0.9	-2.8	n.s.	-2.0	-2.8
1990 Mar. qtr	-2.4	-3.6	-3.0	n.s.	-0.7	-1.4
June qtr	-7.0	-3.9	-5.3	n.s.	-1.4	-3.3
Sept. qtr	-3.3	(a)-3.1	(a)-3.1	n.s.	(a)-2.0	(a)-2.5
Dec. qtr	-0.9	1.2	0.0	n.s.	-0.8	-0.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Mar. qtr	24.7	3.0	12.9	n.s.	1.9	9.3
June qtr	24.0	18.5	21.2	n.s.	9.8	14.6
Sept. qtr	9.0	16.7	12.8	n.s.	15.3	13.0
Dec. qtr	-1.8	14.0	5.9	n.s.	10.5	6.0
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.6	3.3	-1.7	n.s.	6.2	1.5
June qtr	-15.1	-7.3	-11.2	n.s.	-0.9	-6.1
Sept. qtr	-16.0	-11.0	-13.4	n.s.	-6.0	-9.5
Dec. qtr	-13.0	-9.1	-11.0	n.s.	-4.9	-7.7

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

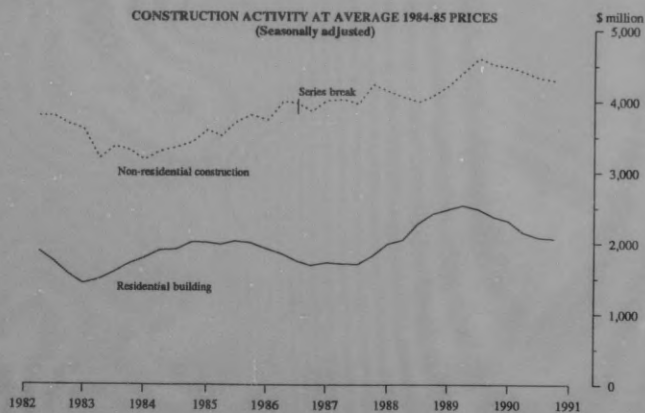


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Mar. qtr	2,385	1,905	4,291	584	2,489	4,874
June qtr	2,435	2,064	4,499	588	2,653	5,088
Sept. qtr	2,368	2,088	4,456	634	2,722	5,090
Dec. qtr	2,241	2,013	4,254	584	2,597	4,839
1990 Mar. qtr	2,170	1,948	4,117	543	2,490	4,660
June qtr	2,036	1,830	3,866	550	2,380	4,416
Sept. qtr	1,974	(a)1,741	(a)3,715	554	(a)2,296	(a)4,269
Dec. qtr	1,928	1,723	3,652	521	2,244	4,173
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	2.9	7.4	4.9	6.6	7.2	5.1
June qtr	2.1	8.3	4.9	0.8	6.6	4.4
Sept. qtr	-2.7	1.1	-1.0	7.8	2.6	0.0
Dec. qtr	-5.4	-3.6	-4.5	-7.8	-4.6	-4.9
1990 Mar. qtr	-3.2	-3.2	-3.2	-7.2	-4.1	-3.7
June qtr	-6.2	-6.0	-6.1	1.4	-4.4	-5.2
Sept. qtr	-3.1	(a)-4.8	(a)-3.9	0.8	(a)-3.5	(a)-3.3
Dec. qtr	-2.3	-1.0	-1.7	-6.0	-2.2	-2.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Mar. qtr	27.0	11.6	19.7	8.1	10.8	18.1
June qtr	26.1	25.4	25.8	4.7	20.1	22.9
Sept. qtr	9.5	23.8	15.8	20.6	23.0	16.3
Dec. qtr	-3.3	13.5	4.0	6.8	11.9	4.3
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.2	-4.0	-7.0	0.0	-4.4
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-6.5	-10.3	-13.2
Sept. qtr	-16.7	-16.6	-16.6	-12.6	-15.7	-16.1
Dec. qtr	-14.0	-14.4	-14.2	-10.8	-13.6	-13.8

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

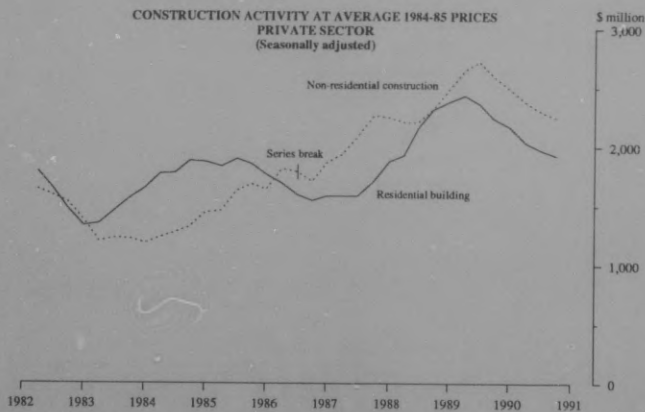


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,
AUSTRALIA ^r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Mar. qtr	95	541	634	n.a.	1,732	1,826
June qtr	104	557	662	n.a.	1,809	1,912
Sept. qtr	114	559	679	n.a.	1,885	1,999
Dec. qtr	133	609	738	n.a.	1,918	2,055
1990 Mar. qtr	148	579	724	n.a.	1,994	2,139
June qtr	120	599	720	n.a.	2,040	2,160
Sept. qtr	111	(a)613	(a)730	n.a.	(a)2,034	(a)2,143
Dec. qtr	137	659	792	n.a.	2,052	2,193
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	-4.8	2.8	1.7	n.a.	-1.8	-2.2
June qtr	8.6	3.0	4.4	n.a.	4.4	4.7
Sept. qtr	10.6	0.3	2.5	n.a.	4.2	4.5
Dec. qtr	16.2	8.9	8.7	n.a.	1.7	2.8
1990 Mar. qtr	11.5	-4.9	-1.8	n.a.	4.0	4.1
June qtr	-19.3	3.5	-0.6	n.a.	2.3	1.0
Sept. qtr	-7.4	(a)2.3	(a)1.4	n.a.	(a)-0.3	(a)-0.8
Dec. qtr	23.7	7.5	8.5	n.a.	0.9	2.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Mar. qtr	-14.1	-19.1	-18.4	n.a.	-8.7	-9.0
June qtr	-10.4	-1.5	-2.9	n.a.	-2.5	-2.9
Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.7	-3.2	n.a.	5.8	5.3
Dec. qtr	32.8	15.6	18.3	n.a.	8.7	10.0
1990 Mar. qtr	55.6	7.1	14.2	n.a.	15.1	17.1
June qtr	15.7	7.5	8.7	n.a.	12.8	12.9
Sept. qtr	-3.1	9.7	7.5	n.a.	7.9	7.2
Dec. qtr	3.1	8.3	7.3	n.a.	7.0	6.7

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

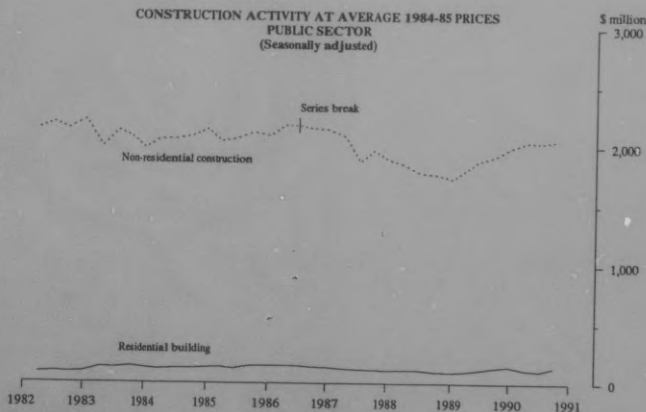


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA ^r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	6,650	5,110	11,760	6,940	12,049	18,699
1978-79	6,565	5,324	11,889	7,266	12,590	19,155
1979-80	7,296	5,299	12,595	6,913	12,212	19,509
1980-81	8,351	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	14,209	20,556
1983-84	6,970	5,256	12,226	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	7,183	16,407	23,963
1988-89	9,709	9,620	19,329	7,132	16,752	26,462
1989-90	9,336	10,239	19,576	7,810	18,049	27,385
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	-1.3	4.2	1.1	4.7	4.5	2.4
1979-80	11.1	-0.5	5.9	-4.9	-3.0	1.8
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	9.5	7.7	3.5
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Mar. qtr	2,289	2,341	4,530	1,654	3,894	6,183
June qtr	2,534	2,609	5,143	1,905	4,514	7,048
Sept. qtr	2,562	2,762	5,324	1,961	4,723	7,285
Dec. qtr	2,487	2,738	5,225	1,955	4,693	7,181
1990 Mar. qtr	2,137	2,317	4,454	1,815	4,132	6,269
June qtr	2,150	2,423	4,572	2,078	4,501	6,651
Sept. qtr	2,151	(b)2,451	(b)4,602	1,971	(b)4,421	(b)6,573
Dec. qtr	2,166	2,489	4,654	1,971	4,460	6,626
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	-9.6	-6.6	-8.1	-10.3	-8.2	-8.7
June qtr	10.7	16.4	13.5	15.2	15.9	14.0
Sept. qtr	1.1	5.9	3.5	2.9	4.6	3.4
Dec. qtr	-2.9	-0.9	-1.9	-0.3	-0.6	-1.4
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.1	-15.4	-14.8	-7.1	-12.0	-12.7
June qtr	0.6	4.6	2.7	14.5	8.9	6.1
Sept. qtr	0.1	(b)1.2	(b)0.6	-5.2	(b)-1.8	(b)-1.2
Dec. qtr	0.7	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 Mar. qtr	25.2	3.3	13.3	-0.2	1.8	9.4
June qtr	24.1	18.3	21.1	-0.3	9.7	14.5
Sept. qtr	8.8	16.5	12.7	13.4	15.2	12.9
Dec. qtr	-1.7	14.1	6.0	6.0	10.6	8.0
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.6	3.4	-1.7	9.8	6.1	1.4
June qtr	-15.2	-7.1	-11.1	9.1	-0.3	-3.6
Sept. qtr	-16.0	-11.3	-13.6	0.5	-6.4	-9.8
Dec. qtr	-12.9	-8.1	-10.9	0.8	-5.0	-2.7

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

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	6,076	2,839	8,915	1,262	4,101	10,177
1978-79	6,098	3,137	9,235	1,406	4,543	10,641
1979-80	6,897	3,207	10,104	1,183	4,390	11,287
1980-81	7,930	3,863	11,793	1,572	5,435	13,365
1981-82	7,815	4,001	11,816	1,286	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	9,633	18,946
1989-90	8,824	7,891	16,715	2,317	10,208	19,032
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	0.4	10.5	3.6	11.4	10.8	4.6
1979-80	13.1	2.3	9.4	-15.9	-3.4	6.1
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	0.5
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Mar. qtr	2,206	1,762	3,968	559	2,320	4,526
June qtr	2,433	2,021	4,454	550	2,572	5,004
Sept. qtr	2,436	2,191	4,627	654	2,845	5,281
Dec. qtr	2,344	2,106	4,450	629	2,735	5,083
1990 Mar. qtr	2,008	1,803	3,810	519	2,322	4,329
June qtr	2,033	1,791	3,824	515	2,306	4,339
Sept. qtr	2,029	(b)1,825	(b)3,854	571	(b)2,397	(b)4,426
Dec. qtr	2,022	1,805	3,827	561	2,366	4,388
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	-8.1	-4.9	-7.3	-5.1	-5.0	-7.0
June qtr	10.3	14.7	12.3	-1.5	10.8	10.6
Sept. qtr	0.1	8.4	3.9	18.3	10.6	5.5
Dec. qtr	-3.6	-3.9	-3.7	-3.8	-3.8	-3.7
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.5	-14.4	-14.5	-17.5	-15.1	-14.8
June qtr	1.3	-0.6	0.4	-0.8	-0.7	0.2
Sept. qtr	-0.2	(b)1.9	(b)0.8	11.0	(b)3.9	(b)2.0
Dec. qtr	-0.3	-1.1	-0.7	-1.8	-1.3	-0.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 Mar. qtr	27.3	11.6	19.8	7.9	10.7	18.2
June qtr	26.2	25.7	25.9	4.9	20.6	23.2
Sept. qtr	9.4	23.3	15.5	20.4	22.6	16.1
Dec. qtr	-3.2	13.7	4.1	6.8	12.0	6.4
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.3	-4.0	-7.1	0.1	-4.4
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-6.4	-10.3	-13.3
Sept. qtr	-16.7	-16.7	-16.7	-12.6	-15.8	-16.2
Dec. qtr	-13.9	-14.3	-14.1	-10.8	-13.5	-13.7

(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 ^a

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1977-78	574	2,270	2,844	5,678	7,948	8,522
1978-79	467	2,187	2,654	5,860	8,047	8,514
1979-80	400	2,092	2,491	5,730	7,822	8,222
1980-81	421	1,852	2,273	6,106	7,958	8,379
1981-82	364	1,612	1,976	6,921	8,533	8,897
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	376	2,254	2,631	6,223	8,477	9,053
1986-87	559	2,661	3,200	(a)5,935	(a)8,576	(a)9,135
1987-88	464	2,543	3,006	5,059	7,601	8,065
1988-89	417	2,207	2,624	4,892	7,099	7,516
1989-90	512	2,348	2,860	5,493	7,841	8,354
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1978-79	-18.7	-3.7	-6.7	3.2	1.2	-0.1
1979-80	-14.4	-4.4	-6.1	-2.2	-2.8	-3.4
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	-3.6	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	12.3	10.5	11.1
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Mar. qtr	83	479	562	1,095	1,574	1,657
June qtr	101	587	689	1,355	1,943	2,044
Sept. qtr	126	571	697	1,307	1,879	2,005
Dec. qtr	139	632	771	1,326	1,958	2,097
1990 Mar. qtr	130	514	644	1,296	1,810	1,940
June qtr	117	631	748	1,563	2,195	2,312
Sept. qtr	122	(b)626	(b)748	1,399	(b)2,025	(b)2,147
Dec. qtr	144	684	828	1,410	2,094	2,238
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	-20.6	-12.4	-13.7	-12.8	-12.7	-13.1
June qtr	21.6	22.6	22.5	23.8	23.4	23.3
Sept. qtr	24.5	-2.8	1.2	-3.5	-3.3	-1.9
Dec. qtr	10.4	10.6	10.6	1.4	4.2	4.6
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.8	-18.6	-16.5	-2.3	-7.5	-7.5
June qtr	-9.7	22.8	16.2	20.6	21.2	19.1
Sept. qtr	4.4	(b)-0.9	(b)-0.1	-10.5	(b)-7.7	(b)-7.1
Dec. qtr	17.4	9.4	10.7	0.8	3.4	4.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 Mar. qtr	-13.8	-18.9	-18.2	-3.8	-9.0	-9.2
June qtr	-11.1	-1.4	-3.0	-2.2	-2.0	-2.5
Sept. qtr	-0.9	-3.9	-3.4	10.2	5.5	5.1
Dec. qtr	32.7	15.6	18.3	5.7	8.7	10.0
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	7.3	14.5	18.4	15.0	17.1
June qtr	15.6	7.3	8.7	13.0	13.0	13.1
Sept. qtr	-3.1	9.5	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.1
Dec. qtr	3.1	8.3	7.3	6.3	7.0	6.7

(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

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
(1984-85 equals 100.0)						
1989 Mar. qtr	145.8	142.5	144.3	131.0	145.2	145.6
June qtr	151.1	145.4	148.4	133.1	146.0	148.0
Sept. qtr	154.8	148.3	151.6	135.6	150.1	151.9
Dec. qtr	157.6	151.5	154.6	138.7	153.0	154.7
1990 Mar. qtr	158.9	153.4	156.3	141.9	153.9	155.8
June qtr	160.7	154.3	157.5	144.2	153.9	156.3
Sept. qtr	161.6	154.6	158.2	147.4	156.0	158.0
Dec. qtr	162.5	154.8	158.8	149.7	155.5	158.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Mar. qtr	4.4	2.0	3.2	1.7	2.2	3.0
June qtr	3.6	2.0	2.8	1.6	0.6	1.6
Sept. qtr	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.8	2.6
Dec. qtr	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.8
1990 Mar. qtr	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.3	0.6	0.7
June qtr	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.3
Sept. qtr	0.6	0.2	0.4	2.2	1.4	1.1
Dec. qtr	0.6	0.1	0.4	1.6	-0.3	0.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1989 Mar. qtr	17.3	8.3	12.5	5.5	9.0	11.7
June qtr	18.0	8.5	13.1	5.7	8.3	11.6
Sept. qtr	16.0	8.5	12.1	6.3	7.9	10.8
Dec. qtr	12.9	8.4	10.6	7.7	7.7	9.5
1990 Mar. qtr	9.0	7.6	8.3	8.3	6.0	7.0
June qtr	6.4	6.1	6.1	8.3	5.4	5.6
Sept. qtr	4.4	4.2	4.4	8.7	3.9	4.0
Dec. qtr	3.1	2.2	2.7	7.9	1.6	2.2

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:

- construction of new residential buildings and all alterations and additions to residential buildings with an approval value of \$10,000 or more; and
- 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. Appendix Table A shows details of non-residential building activity, total building activity, non-residential construction activity and total construction activity based on the old and new cut-off values, in original and seasonally adjusted constant price terms, for the June quarter 1990. 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.

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

Estimates at constant prices

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

20. 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'.

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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.

24. 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

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

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

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

Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0) — issued monthly.

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

Building Activity, Australia (8752.0) — issued quarterly.

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

26. 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)

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

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

APPENDIX TABLE A. NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY BY OWNERSHIP,
 AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA, JUNE QUARTER 1990
 COMPARISON USING \$30,000 AND \$50,000 CUT-OFF LIMITS

Sector of ownership	Value (\$m)							
	Non-residential building		Total building		Non-residential construction		Total construction	
	\$30,000 and over	\$50,000 and over	\$30,000 and over	\$50,000 and over	\$30,000 and over	\$50,000 and over	\$30,000 and over	\$50,000 and over
	ORIGINAL							
Private sector	1,791	1,760	3,825	3,794	2,312	2,281	4,346	4,315
Public sector	631	627	748	744	2,206	2,202	2,323	2,319
Total	2,423	2,387	4,573	4,538	4,519	4,483	6,669	6,634
	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED							
Private sector	1,830	1,798	3,865	3,834	2,387	2,355	4,421	4,389
Public sector	602	598	721	717	2,071	2,067	2,184	2,180
Total	2,432	2,396	4,586	4,551	4,458	4,422	6,605	6,570



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Special tables or in-depth data investigations are provided by the ABS Information Consultancy Service in each of our Offices (see below for contact details).

Electronic Data Services

A growing range of our data are available on electronic media. Selections of the most frequently requested data are available, updated daily, on DISCOVERY (Key *656#). Our TELESTATS service delivers major economic indicator publications ready to download into your computer on the day of release. Our 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 our electronic data services, contact Information Services in any of our Offices on the numbers below.

Bookshops and Subscriptions

There are over 500 titles available from the ABS Bookshops in each of our Offices. You can also receive any of our publications on a regular basis. Join our subscription mailing service and have your publications mailed to you in Australia at no additional cost. Telephone our Publications Subscription Service toll free on 008 02 06 08 Australia wide.

Sales and Inquiries



SYDNEY (02) 268 4611
MELBOURNE (03) 615 7000
BRISBANE (07) 222 6351
PERTH (09) 323 5140

ADELAIDE (08) 237 7100
HOBART (002) 20 5800
DARWIN (089) 81 3456
CANBERRA (06) 252 6627



Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616
or any ABS State office.

