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

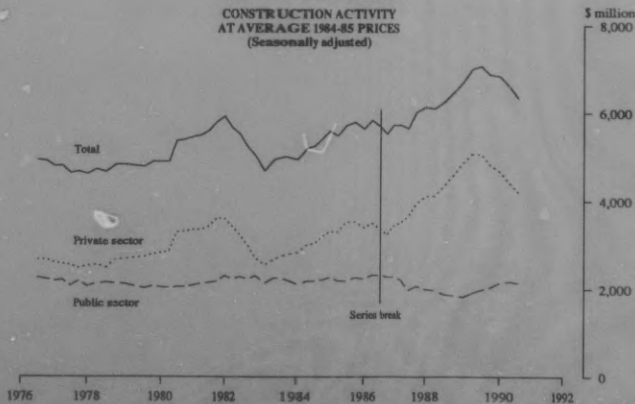
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NOTE: This issue introduces a new cut-off for non-residential building activity which from September quarter 1990, excludes those jobs with an approval value of less than \$50,000 (previously \$30,000). See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and Appendix Table A for more details. In summary, the new cut-off limits have the following impact on constant price construction activity data (expressed as percentage differences between aggregates on the old and new bases in June quarter 1990):

<i>Work done</i>	<i>Non-residential building activity</i>	<i>Total building activity</i>	<i>Non-residential construction activity</i>	<i>Total construction activity</i>
	%	%	%	%
Private Sector	-1.7	-0.8	-1.3	-0.7
Public Sector	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2
Total	-1.5	-0.8	-0.8	-0.5

Since the impact of the revised cut-offs is relatively small, estimates up to June quarter 1990 in this publication have not been revised to make them strictly comparable with September quarter 1990 data. However, the comments and tables in the Summary of Findings regarding percentage movements between June and September quarters, for non-residential building activity, total building activity, non-residential construction activity and total construction activity, are based on June quarter estimates adjusted to take account of the new cut-off. Estimates for residential building and engineering construction activity are not affected by the new cut-offs.

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



Total construction activity

Total construction activity fell in seasonally adjusted terms during the September quarter 1990. The figure of \$6,343 million at average 1984-85 prices was down 3.5 per cent on the previous quarter. Total construction activity has now fallen in each of the last four quarters and is thus well down on the activity levels recorded twelve months ago. Falls were recorded in residential and non-residential building of 3.5 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. Residential building activity has declined in each of the last five quarters, and the September quarter 1990 estimate is 16.3 per cent lower than that recorded for September quarter 1989.

Separate seasonally adjusted estimates are not available for total engineering construction activity. However, in original terms, total engineering construction activity decreased in the September quarter 1990 by 6.7 per cent from the June quarter 1990. Engineering construction activity in September quarter 1990 is consistent with the levels recorded in September quarter 1989, the only component of total construction activity which has not recorded a substantial decline over the last twelve months.

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

Private sector

Seasonally adjusted, all categories of private sector construction declined in September quarter 1990 compared with June quarter 1990. Total private sector construction activity fell by 4.2 per cent, to \$4,203 million. Engineering construction dropped by 3.3 per cent to \$539 million. Private residential building fell 3.2 per cent, and non-residential building by 5.7 per cent, to \$1,970 million and \$1,695 million respectively.

Private sector construction activity in September quarter 1990 was significantly lower than that recorded in September quarter 1989. All components of private sector construction activity were well down, with residential building down \$401 million or 16.9 per cent from activity levels twelve months ago.

Public sector

Total public sector construction activity, in seasonally adjusted terms, decreased in the September quarter 1990 to \$2,140 million, a fall of 1.8 per cent from June quarter 1990. Residential building fell by 9.1 per cent, which was largely offset by a 1.8 per cent increase in non-residential building activity.

While public sector construction activity fell between June and September 1990 quarters, this was the first quarterly fall since March quarter 1989, and public sector non-residential building and engineering construction activity in September quarter 1990 remain above the levels recorded twelve months previously.

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

Construction activity	% Changes between Jun. 90 and Sep. 90		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	-3.2	-9.1	-3.5
Non-residential	-5.7	1.8	-3.8
Total building	-4.4	0.1	-3.7
Engineering construction	-3.3	n.a.	n.a.
Total non-residential construction	-5.2	-1.5	-3.5
Total	-4.2	-1.8	-3.5

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)						
1988 Dec. qtr	2,407	2,299	4,706	n.a.	4,069	6,483
1989 Mar. qtr	2,495	2,455	4,949	n.a.	4,229	6,724
June qtr	2,536	2,627	5,164	n.a.	4,482	7,015
Sept. qtr	2,483	2,633	5,118	n.a.	4,602	7,084
Dec. qtr	2,365	2,623	4,987	n.a.	4,507	6,881
1990 Mar. qtr	2,333	2,539	4,870	n.a.	4,514	6,845
June qtr	2,154	2,432	4,586	n.a.	4,458	6,605
Sept. qtr	2,078	(a)2,304	(a)4,383	n.a.	(a)4,268	(a)6,343
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	5.6	1.8	3.7	n.a.	2.0	3.4
1989 Mar. qtr	3.6	6.8	5.2	n.a.	3.9	3.7
June qtr	1.7	7.0	4.4	n.a.	6.0	4.3
Sept. qtr	-2.1	0.2	-0.9	n.a.	2.7	1.0
Dec. qtr	-4.8	-0.4	-2.6	n.a.	-2.1	-2.9
1990 Mar. qtr	-1.4	-3.2	-2.4	n.a.	0.1	-0.5
June qtr	-7.7	-4.2	-5.8	n.a.	-1.2	-3.5
Sept. qtr	-3.5	(a)-5.3	(a)-4.4	n.a.	(a)-4.3	(a)-4.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	32.3	-3.9	11.7	n.a.	-3.5	7.3
1989 Mar. qtr	24.9	3.0	13.0	n.a.	1.9	9.4
June qtr	24.0	18.6	21.2	n.a.	9.9	14.6
Sept. qtr	9.0	16.6	12.8	n.a.	15.4	13.0
Dec. qtr	-1.7	14.1	6.0	n.a.	10.8	6.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.5	3.4	-1.6	n.a.	6.7	1.8
June qtr	-15.1	-7.4	-11.2	n.a.	-0.5	-5.8
Sept. qtr	-16.3	(a)-12.5	(a)-14.4	n.a.	(a)-7.3	(a)-10.5

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building — see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the heading to the Summary of Findings.

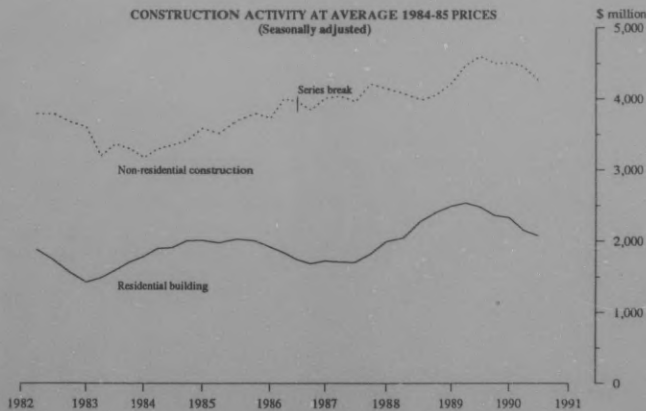


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,
AUSTRALIA τ

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Dec. qtr	2,306	1,770	4,076	547	2,317	4,623
1989 Mar. qtr	2,398	1,913	4,310	584	2,496	4,894
June qtr	2,434	2,067	4,500	588	2,655	5,089
Sept. qtr	2,371	2,081	4,452	637	2,718	5,089
Dec. qtr	2,231	2,010	4,241	588	2,599	4,830
1990 Mar. qtr	2,182	1,958	4,140	549	2,506	4,688
June qtr	2,035	1,830	3,865	557	2,387	4,421
Sept. qtr	1,970	(a)1,695	(a)3,664	539	(a)2,233	(a)4,203
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	6.5	5.1	5.9	4.1	4.8	5.7
1989 Mar. qtr	4.0	8.1	5.7	6.6	7.7	5.8
June qtr	1.5	8.1	4.4	0.8	6.4	4.0
Sept. qtr	-2.6	0.7	-1.1	8.2	2.4	0.0
Dec. qtr	-5.9	-3.4	-4.7	-7.6	-4.4	-5.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-2.2	-2.6	-2.4	-6.7	-3.6	-2.9
June qtr	-6.8	-6.5	-6.6	1.5	-4.8	-5.7
Sept. qtr	-3.2	(a)-7.4	(a)-5.2	-3.3	(a)-6.4	(a)-4.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	35.5	2.9	19.1	1.4	2.6	16.7
1989 Mar. qtr	27.2	11.7	19.8	8.1	10.8	18.3
June qtr	26.0	25.5	25.8	4.7	20.2	22.9
Sept. qtr	9.5	23.5	15.7	21.1	22.9	16.3
Dec. qtr	-3.3	13.6	4.1	7.5	12.1	4.5
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.4	-4.0	-6.0	0.4	-4.2
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-5.4	-10.1	-13.1
Sept. qtr	-16.9	(a)-18.6	(a)-17.7	-15.4	(a)-17.8	(a)-17.4

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building — see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the headnote to the Summary of Findings.

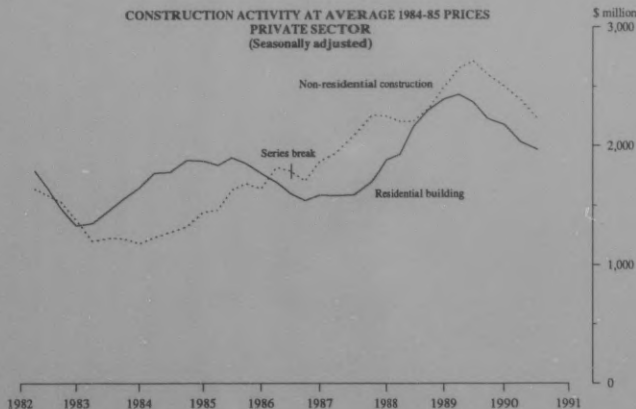


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,
AUSTRALIA ^r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Dec. qtr	101	529	630	n.a.	1,752	1,860
1989 Mar. qtr	97	542	639	n.a.	1,733	1,830
June qtr	103	560	664	n.a.	1,827	1,924
Sept. qtr	112	552	666	n.a.	1,884	1,995
Dec. qtr	135	613	746	n.a.	1,909	2,051
1990 Mar. qtr	151	581	730	n.a.	2,008	2,157
June qtr	119	60 ^a	721	n.a.	2,071	2,184
Sept. qtr	108	(a)609	(a)718	n.a.	(a)2,035	(a)2,140
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	-11.3	-7.7	-8.7	n.a.	-1.5	-1.7
1989 Mar. qtr	-4.2	2.5	1.4	n.a.	-1.1	-1.6
June qtr	5.9	3.3	3.9	n.a.	5.4	5.1
Sept. qtr	9.3	-1.5	0.4	n.a.	3.2	3.7
Dec. qtr	19.8	11.0	12.0	n.a.	1.3	2.8
1990 Mar. qtr	12.2	-5.1	-2.1	n.a.	5.2	5.1
June qtr	-21.2	3.5	-1.3	n.a.	3.2	1.3
Sept. qtr	-9.1	(a)1.2	(a)-0.4	n.a.	(a)-1.8	(a)-2.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	-14.0	-21.5	-20.3	n.a.	-10.5	-10.6
1989 Mar. qtr	-13.8	-19.1	-18.4	n.a.	-8.7	-9.0
June qtr	-10.6	-1.5	-2.9	n.a.	-2.3	-2.8
Sept. qtr	-1.6	-3.8	-3.4	n.a.	5.9	5.4
Dec. qtr	32.9	15.7	18.5	n.a.	8.9	10.3
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	7.2	14.4	n.a.	15.8	17.9
June qtr	15.9	7.4	8.7	n.a.	13.4	13.5
Sept. qtr	-3.7	(a)10.4	(a)7.9	n.a.	(a)8.0	(a)7.3

(a) New cut-offs for non-residential building — see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the headline in the Summary of Findings.



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	14,320	22,999
1982-83	6,256	4,775	11,031	9,525	14,299	20,556
1983-84	6,970	5,224	12,206	7,933	13,169	20,139
1984-85	7,909	6,108	14,016	7,763	13,871	21,779
1985-86	7,814	7,425	15,239	7,823	15,249	23,063
1986-87	6,880	8,045	14,925	(a)7,828	(a)15,873	(a)22,753
1987-88	7,556	9,224	16,780	7,183	16,407	23,963
1988-89	9,709	9,620	19,329	7,132	16,752	26,462
1989-90	9,337	10,239	19,576	7,861	18,100	27,437
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	-7.8	-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	10.2	8.0	3.7
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Dec. qtr	2,531	2,400	4,931	1,844	4,244	6,775
1989 Mar. qtr	2,289	2,241	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	1,968	4,730	7,292
1990 Dec. qtr	2,487	2,738	5,225	1,966	4,704	7,191
Mar. qtr	2,137	2,317	4,454	1,831	4,148	6,285
June qtr	2,151	2,623	4,773	2,096	4,519	6,569
Sept. qtr	2,144	(b)2,412	(b)4,556	1,956	(b)4,368	(b)6,512
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	7.5	1.2	4.3	6.7	3.5	5.0
1989 Mar. qtr	-9.6	-4.6	-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	3.3	4.8	3.5
1990 Dec. qtr	-2.9	-0.9	-1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-1.4
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.1	-15.4	-14.8	-6.8	-11.8	-12.6
June qtr	0.6	4.6	2.7	14.5	8.9	6.1
Sept. qtr	-0.3	(b)-0.4	(b)-0.4	-6.7	(b)-3.3	(b)-2.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	32.2	-3.8	11.8	-2.6	2.8	7.5
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	16.3	12.7	13.8	15.3	13.0
1990 Dec. qtr	-1.7	14.1	6.0	6.6	10.8	6.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.6	3.4	-1.7	10.8	6.5	1.6
June qtr	-15.1	7.1	-11.1	10.0	0.1	-5.4
Sept. qtr	-16.3	(b)-12.7	(b)-14.4	-0.6	(b)-7.6	(b)-10.7

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building — see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the footnote to the Summary of Findings.

TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES,
AUSTRALIA \$

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	7,830	3,863	11,793	1,572	5,435	13,265
1981-82	7,815	4,001	11,816	2,286	6,287	14,102
1982-83	5,835	3,295	9,131	2,434	5,730	11,565
1983-84	6,442	3,328	9,771	1,556	4,885	11,327
1984-85	7,377	4,083	11,460	1,422	5,505	12,882
1985-86	7,238	5,171	12,409	1,601	6,772	14,010
1986-87	6,322	5,404	11,726	(a)1,893	(a)7,297	(a)13,618
1987-88	7,093	6,681	13,774	2,124	8,805	15,898
1988-89	9,293	7,413	16,705	2,241	9,653	18,946
1989-90	8,825	7,891	16,716	2,336	10,227	19,052
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	7.3	-2.8
1987-88	12.2	23.6	17.5	12.2	20.7	16.7
1988-89	31.0	11.0	21.3	3.5	9.6	19.2
1989-90	-5.0	6.4	0.1	4.2	5.9	0.6
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Dec. qtr	2,436	1,853	4,279	589	2,442	4,868
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	656	2,847	5,283
Dec. qtr	2,348	2,106	4,454	633	2,740	5,088
1990 Mar. qtr	2,008	1,803	3,810	525	2,327	4,335
June qtr	2,034	1,791	3,825	521	2,312	4,346
Sept. qtr	2,022	(b)1,782	(b)3,804	555	(b)2,337	(b)4,359
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	8.9	4.3	6.9	8.5	5.3	7.1
1989 Mar. qtr	-9.1	-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	19.3	10.7	5.6
Dec. qtr	-3.6	-3.9	-3.7	-3.5	-3.8	-3.7
1990 Mar. qtr	-14.5	-14.4	-14.5	-17.1	-15.0	-14.8
June qtr	1.3	-0.6	0.4	-0.7	-0.6	0.3
Sept. qtr	-0.6	(b)-0.5	(b)-0.5	6.5	(b)1.1	(b)0.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	35.3	3.1	19.2	1.4	2.7	16.7
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	20.9	22.7	16.2
Dec. qtr	-3.2	13.7	4.1	7.5	12.2	4.5
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.3	-4.0	-6.0	0.3	-4.2
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-5.3	-10.1	-13.2
Sept. qtr	-17.0	(b)-18.7	(b)-17.8	-15.4	(b)-17.9	(b)-17.5

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building—see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the headnote to the Summary of Findings.

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	8,756	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	9,015
1987-88	464	2,543	3,006	5,059	7,041	8,065
1988-89	417	2,207	2,624	4,892	7,099	7,516
1989-90	512	2,348	2,860	5,525	7,874	8,386
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	15.4	-8.2	-3.8	2.4	0.4	1.1
1983-84	25.3	28.9	28.1	-10.1	-3.3	-2.0
1984-85	0.7	6.1	5.0	-0.6	1.0	1.0
1985-86	8.5	11.3	10.7	-1.9	1.3	1.8
1986-87	-3.1	17.2	13.0	-4.6	1.2	0.9
1987-88	-17.0	-3.7	-6.0	-14.8	-11.4	-11.7
1988-89	-10.1	-13.2	-12.7	-3.3	-6.6	-6.8
1989-90	22.9	6.4	9.0	13.0	10.9	11.6
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1988 Dec. qtr	105	547	652	1,255	1,802	1,907
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	1,311	1,882	2,008
1990 Dec. qtr	139	632	771	1,333	1,964	2,104
Mar. qtr	130	514	644	1,306	1,821	1,950
June qtr	117	631	748	1,575	2,206	2,323
Sept. qtr	122	(b)630	(b)752	1,401	(b)2,031	(b)2,153
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	-17.6	-8.0	-9.7	5.8	1.2	-0.1
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	-3.2	-3.1	-1.7
1990 Dec. qtr	10.4	10.6	10.6	1.6	4.4	4.7
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.8	-18.6	-16.5	-2.0	-7.3	-7.3
June qtr	-9.7	22.8	16.2	20.6	21.2	19.1
Sept. qtr	4.1	(b)-0.2	(b)0.5	-11.1	(b)-7.9	(b)-7.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	-14.2	-21.7	-20.5	-4.3	-10.3	-10.6
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	10.5	5.7	5.3
1990 Dec. qtr	32.7	15.6	18.3	6.2	9.0	10.3
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	7.3	14.5	19.3	15.7	17.7
June qtr	15.6	7.5	8.7	16.2	13.6	13.7
Sept. qtr	-3.3	(b)10.3	(b)7.9	6.8	(b)7.9	(b)7.2

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) New cut-offs for non-residential building — see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes and the headnote to the Summary of Findings.

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA ^r

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
(1984-85 equals 100.0)						
1988 Dec. qtr	139.6	139.7	139.8	128.8	142.1	141.3
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	135.2	149.9	151.7
Dec. qtr	157.6	151.5	154.6	138.0	152.6	154.5
1990 Mar. qtr	158.9	153.4	156.3	140.7	153.3	155.4
June qtr	160.6	154.3	157.5	143.2	153.3	155.9
Sept. qtr	161.6	154.9	158.3	145.9	154.9	157.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1988 Dec. qtr	4.6	2.2	3.4	0.9	2.2	3.1
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	1.6	2.7	2.5
Dec. qtr	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8
1990 Mar. qtr	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.0	0.5	0.6
June qtr	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.3
Sept. qtr	0.6	0.4	0.5	2.0	1.0	0.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1988 Dec. qtr	14.6	7.7	10.8	6.9	8.2	10.0
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	6.0	7.8	10.6
Dec. qtr	12.9	8.4	10.6	7.1	7.4	9.3
1990 Mar. qtr	9.0	7.6	8.3	7.4	5.6	6.7
June qtr	6.3	6.1	6.1	7.4	5.0	5.3
Sept. qtr	4.4	4.4	4.4	7.9	3.3	3.7

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. This issue introduces a change of scope in respect of non-residential building activity. 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.

Electronic services

DISCOVERY. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on the ABS on-line service. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (06) 252 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides:

- foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements. Further information is available on (06) 252 5404.
- text and tables for selected Main Economic Indicator publications. Further information is available on (06) 252 5405.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (06) 252 6684.

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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

