

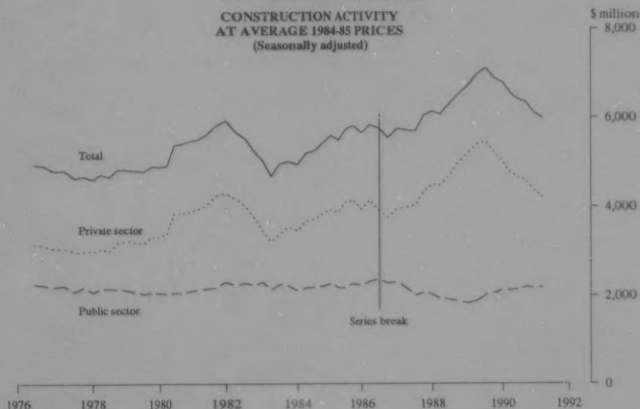
CATALOGUE NO. 8782.0
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**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA
JUNE QUARTER 1991**

Note: This issue introduces seasonally adjusted estimates for public sector and total engineering construction activity. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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



Total construction activity

Construction activity continued to fall in the June quarter 1991. In seasonally adjusted constant price terms, total construction activity fell by 1.9 per cent during the June quarter 1991 to \$5,993 million. Construction activity has now declined in each quarter since September 1989 and is more than 8 per cent below the levels recorded twelve months ago, and 17 per cent below the 1989 peak in activity. Residential building activity, which has declined in each quarter since the June quarter 1989, fell a further 4.7 per cent in the June quarter 1991, following on from modest falls in the December quarter 1990 (-0.7 per cent) and March quarter 1991 (-2.2 per cent). Non-residential building continued the decline evident since the September quarter 1989, falling a further 4.5 per cent in the June quarter 1991. In contrast to building activity, engineering construction activity which has remained fairly steady over the past twelve months, rose by 3.8 per cent in the June quarter 1991.

Total construction activity for 1990-91 was 9.0 per cent lower than 1989-90 and at \$24,901 million, the lowest level since 1987-88. Residential and non-residential building activity estimates for 1990-91 were both about 13 per cent lower than activity levels for 1989-90. On the other hand, engineering construction activity for 1990-91 rose slightly (by 1.0 per cent) above the 1989-90 level.

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- * for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office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, except engineering construction, declined in the June quarter 1991. Total private sector construction activity fell by 4.4 per cent to \$3,781 million. Private sector construction activity has fallen by more than 25 per cent since the September quarter 1989. Private residential building fell by 5.7 per cent in the June quarter 1991 to \$1,816 million, and non-residential building by 6.9 per cent to \$1,390 million. Engineering construction activity rose by 7.1 per cent to \$576 million.

Private sector construction activity for 1990-91 was 15.0 per cent below the level for 1989-90. Private sector residential building activity fell by 13.2 per cent, non-residential building activity by 19.9 per cent and engineering construction activity by 5.1 per cent in 1990-91.

Public sector

Seasonally adjusted, total public sector construction activity increased by 1.5 per cent in the June quarter 1991 to \$2,200 million. This was due mainly to a 2.6 per cent increase in engineering construction activity in this quarter.

Public sector construction activity for 1990-91 was \$8,722 million, 4.5 per cent above the level recorded in 1989-90 and the highest level since the peak in 1986-87. Public sector residential building activity (\$486 million) fell by 5.2 per cent but non-residential building activity (\$2,557 million) rose by 8.9 per cent and engineering construction activity (\$5,680 million) increased by 3.6 per cent during 1990-91.

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

Construction activity	% Changes between Mar. 91 and Jun. 91		
	Private sector construction	Public sector construction	Total construction
Building —			
Residential	-5.7	9.1	-4.7
Non-residential	-6.9	-2.1	-4.5
Total building	-5.7	0.1	-4.7
Engineering construction	7.1	2.6	3.8
Total non-residential construction	-3.2	1.1	-0.6
Total	-4.4	1.5	-1.9

TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1989 Sept. qtr	2,491	2,648	5,141	1,974	4,622	7,113
Dec. qtr	2,375	2,618	4,999	1,901	4,519	6,894
1990 Mar. qtr	2,310	2,529	4,837	1,958	4,486	6,796
June qtr	2,153	2,435	4,580	1,958	4,392	6,546
Sept. qtr	2,092	(a)2,352	(a)4,447	1,977	(a)4,329	(a)6,421
Dec. qtr	2,079	2,331	4,418	1,943	4,274	6,352
1991 Mar. qtr	2,032	2,137	4,167	1,943	4,079	6,112
June qtr	1,937	2,040	3,970	2,017	4,057	5,993
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Sept. qtr	-1.8	1.0	-0.1	8.8	4.2	2.0
Dec. qtr	-4.7	-1.1	-2.8	-3.7	-2.2	-3.1
1990 Mar. qtr	-2.8	-3.4	-3.2	3.0	-0.7	-1.4
June qtr	-6.8	-3.7	-5.3	0.0	-2.1	-3.7
Sept. qtr	-2.8	(a)-3.4	(a)-2.9	1.0	(a)-1.4	(a)-3.9
Dec. qtr	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6	-1.8	-1.3	-1.1
1991 Mar. qtr	-2.2	-8.3	-5.7	0.0	-4.6	-3.8
June qtr	-4.7	-4.5	-4.7	3.8	-0.6	-1.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Sept. qtr	9.0	16.8	12.9	13.2	15.3	13.0
Dec. qtr	-1.8	14.0	6.0	5.9	10.4	5.9
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.7	3.3	-1.9	9.9	6.1	1.4
June qtr	-15.1	-7.1	-11.0	7.9	-1.0	-6.1
Sept. qtr	-16.0	(a)-11.2	(a)-13.5	0.2	(a)-6.3	(a)-9.7
Dec. qtr	-12.5	-11.0	-11.6	2.2	-5.4	-7.9
1991 Mar. qtr	-12.0	-15.5	-13.9	-0.8	-9.1	-10.1
June qtr	-10.1	-16.2	-13.3	3.0	-7.6	-8.4

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

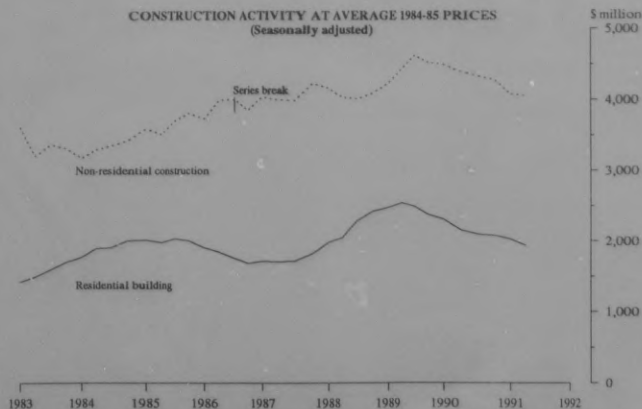


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES
AUSTRALIA *r*

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Sept. qtr	2,368	2,088	4,464	632	2,719	5,088
Dec. qtr	2,241	2,013	4,256	586	2,999	4,840
1990 Mar. qtr	2,170	1,948	4,104	543	2,491	4,661
June qtr	2,036	1,830	3,868	550	2,379	4,415
Sept. qtr	1,974	(a)1,742	(a)3,721	552	(a)2,294	(a)4,267
Dec. qtr	1,941	1,675	3,620	535	2,210	4,150
1991 Mar. qtr	1,926	1,492	3,405	537	2,030	3,955
June qtr	1,816	1,390	3,210	576	1,965	3,781
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Sept. qtr	-2.7	1.1	-0.8	7.3	2.5	0.0
Dec. qtr	-5.4	-3.6	-4.7	-7.3	-4.4	-4.9
1990 Mar. qtr	-3.2	-3.2	-3.6	-7.2	-4.1	-3.7
June qtr	-6.2	-6.0	-5.8	1.1	-4.5	-5.3
Sept. qtr	-3.1	(a)-4.8	(a)-3.8	0.5	(a)-3.6	(a)-3.4
Dec. qtr	-1.7	-3.8	-2.7	-3.2	-3.7	-2.7
1991 Mar. qtr	-0.8	-10.9	-5.9	0.5	-8.2	-4.7
June qtr	-5.7	-6.9	-5.7	7.1	-3.2	-4.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Sept. qtr	9.5	23.8	15.8	20.5	23.0	16.3
Dec. qtr	-3.3	13.5	4.1	6.8	11.9	4.3
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.2	-4.2	-7.0	0.1	-4.4
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-6.6	-10.3	-13.2
Sept. qtr	-16.7	(a)-16.6	(a)-16.6	-12.5	(a)-15.6	(a)-16.1
Dec. qtr	-13.4	-16.8	-14.9	-8.7	-15.0	-14.2
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.2	-23.4	-17.0	-1.1	-18.5	-15.1
June qtr	-10.8	-24.1	-17.0	4.7	-17.4	-14.4

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

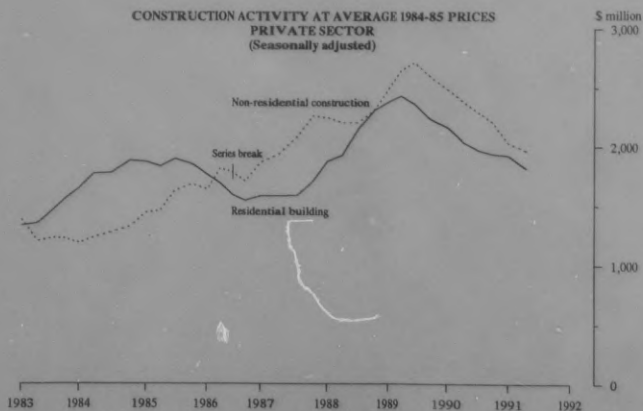


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES
AUSTRALIA $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Sept. qtr	114	559	679	1,342	1,901	2,016
Dec. qtr	133	609	738	1,315	1,924	2,057
1990 Mar. qtr	148	579	724	1,414	1,994	2,142
June qtr	120	599	720	1,408	2,008	2,127
Sept. qtr	111	(a)613	(a)729	1,425	(a)2,038	(a)2,149
Dec. qtr	138	661	793	1,408	2,068	2,206
1991 Mar. qtr	113	649	759	1,405	2,054	2,167
June qtr	123	635	760	1,441	2,076	2,200
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Sept. qtr	10.6	0.3	2.5	9.4	6.6	6.8
Dec. qtr	16.2	8.9	8.7	-2.0	1.2	2.1
1990 Mar. qtr	11.5	-4.9	-1.8	7.5	3.6	4.1
June qtr	-19.3	3.5	-0.6	-0.4	0.7	-0.7
Sept. qtr	-7.4	(a)2.3	(a)1.4	1.2	(a)1.5	(a)1.0
Dec. qtr	24.1	7.7	8.8	-1.2	1.5	2.6
1991 Mar. qtr	-17.7	-1.8	-4.3	-0.2	-0.7	-1.8
June qtr	9.1	-2.1	0.1	2.6	1.1	1.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (a)						
1989 Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.7	-3.2	10.1	5.6	5.2
Dec. qtr	32.8	15.6	18.3	5.5	8.5	9.8
1990 Mar. qtr	55.6	7.1	14.2	18.2	14.7	16.9
June qtr	15.7	7.5	8.7	14.8	12.5	12.7
Sept. qtr	-3.2	(a)9.7	(a)7.4	6.2	(a)7.2	(a)6.6
Dec. qtr	3.4	8.5	7.6	7.0	7.5	7.2
1991 Mar. qtr	-23.7	12.0	4.8	-0.6	3.0	1.2
June qtr	3.1	6.0	5.5	2.3	3.4	3.4

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

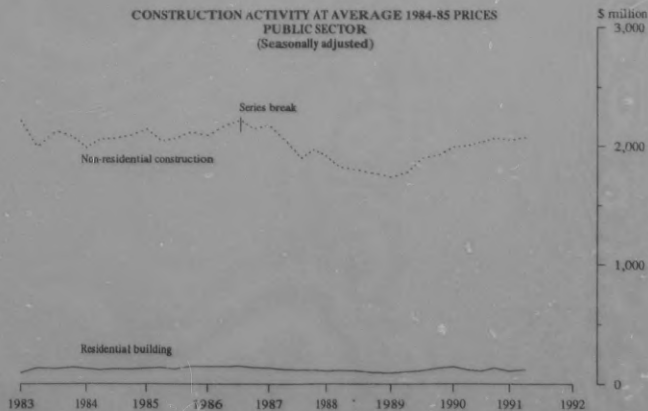


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1979-80	7,206	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	5,615	13,792	9,207	14,820	22,999
1982-83	6,256	4,775	11,031	9,325	14,299	20,556
1983-84	6,970	5,236	12,206	7,833	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	7,799	18,038	27,374
1990-91	8,145	8,878	17,023	7,878	16,756	24,901
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
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	9.3	7.7	3.4
1990-91	-12.8	-13.3	-13.0	1.0	-7.1	-9.0
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 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	7,180
1990 Mar. qtr	2,137	2,317	4,454	1,811	4,128	6,205
June qtr	2,150	2,423	4,572	2,072	4,494	6,644
Sept. qtr	2,151	(b)2,451	(b)4,602	1,960	(b)4,411	(b)6,562
Dec. qtr	2,179	2,440	4,619	1,995	4,434	6,613
1991 Mar. qtr	1,882	1,959	3,840	1,803	3,761	5,643
June qtr	1,933	2,029	3,963	2,120	4,149	6,083
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 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	-7.4	-12.0	-12.7
June qtr	0.6	4.6	2.7	14.4	8.9	6.0
Sept. qtr	0.1	(b)1.2	(b)0.6	-5.4	(b)-1.8	(b)-1.2
Dec. qtr	1.3	-0.5	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.8
1991 Mar. qtr	-13.7	-19.7	-16.9	-9.6	-15.2	-14.7
June qtr	2.7	3.6	3.2	17.6	10.3	7.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 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	6.0
1990 Mar. qtr	-6.6	3.4	-1.7	9.5	6.0	1.3
June qtr	-15.2	-7.1	-11.1	8.7	-0.4	-5.7
Sept. qtr	-16.0	(b)-11.3	(b)-13.6	0.0	(b)-6.6	(b)-9.9
Dec. qtr	-12.4	-10.9	-11.6	2.0	-5.5	-7.9
1991 Mar. qtr	-12.0	-15.4	-13.8	-0.5	-8.9	-9.9
June qtr	-10.1	-16.2	-13.3	2.3	-7.7	-8.4

(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 \$**

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
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	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	8,824	7,891	16,715	2,316	10,207	19,031
1990-91	7,659	6,322	13,981	2,198	8,520	16,179
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
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
1987-83	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
1990-91	-13.2	-19.9	-16.4	-5.1	-16.5	-15.0
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1989 Sept. qtr	2,436	2,191	4,627	654	2,845	5,281
Dec. qtr	2,348	2,106	4,454	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	514	2,306	4,339
Sept. qtr	2,029	(b)1,825	(b)3,854	571	(b)2,397	(b)4,426
Dec. qtr	2,035	1,754	3,789	575	2,329	4,364
1991 Mar. qtr	1,783	1,382	3,165	513	1,873	3,677
June qtr	1,813	1,360	3,173	539	1,899	3,712
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Sept. qtr	0.1	8.4	3.9	18.8	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	-0.9	-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	-3.9	-1.7	0.6	-2.8	-1.4
1991 Mar. qtr	-12.4	-21.2	-16.5	-10.8	-18.6	-15.7
June qtr	1.7	-1.6	0.3	5.1	0.2	0.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 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	4.4
1990 Mar. qtr	-9.0	2.3	-4.0	-7.1	0.1	-4.4
June qtr	-16.4	-11.4	-14.1	-6.5	-10.3	-13.3
Sept. qtr	-16.7	(b)-16.7	(b)-16.7	-12.6	(b)-15.7	(b)-16.2
Dec. qtr	-13.3	-16.7	-14.9	-8.6	-14.9	-14.1
1991 Mar. qtr	-11.2	23.3	-16.9	-1.2	-18.4	-15.1
June qtr	-10.8	-24.1	-17.0	4.8	-17.6	-14.4

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Now 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 $\text{\$}$

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1979-80	400	2,092	2,491	5,730	7,822	8,222
1980-81	421	1,852	2,273	6,106	8,533	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	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)9,135
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	5,483	7,831	8,343
1990-91	486	2,557	3,042	5,680	8,237	8,722
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
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	-3.8	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	12.1	10.3	11.0
1990-91	-5.2	8.9	6.4	3.6	5.2	4.5
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES ($\text{\$m}$)						
1989 Sept. qtr	126	571	697	1,307	1,878	2,005
Dec. qtr	139	632	771	1,326	1,958	2,097
1990 Mar. qtr	130	514	644	1,292	1,806	1,936
June qtr	117	631	748	1,557	2,188	2,306
Sept. qtr	122	(b)626	(b)748	1,389	(b)2,015	(b)2,137
Dec. qtr	144	685	829	1,420	2,105	2,249
1991 Mar. qtr	99	577	676	1,290	1,867	1,966
June qtr	121	669	790	1,581	2,250	2,371
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 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	-2.5	-7.7	-7.7
June qtr	-9.7	22.8	16.2	20.5	21.2	19.1
Sept. qtr	4.3	(b) 0.9	(b) -0.1	-10.8	(b) -7.9	(b) -7.3
Dec. qtr	17.9	9.6	10.9	2.2	4.5	5.3
1991 Mar. qtr	-31.2	-15.9	-18.5	-9.2	-11.3	-12.6
June qtr	21.9	16.0	16.9	22.6	20.5	20.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR (b)						
1989 Sept. qtr	-0.9	-3.9	-3.4	10.2	5.5	5.1
Dec. qtr	32.7	15.6	18.3	5.6	8.7	10.0
1990 Mar. qtr	55.7	7.3	14.5	18.0	14.8	16.8
June qtr	15.6	7.5	8.7	14.9	12.6	12.8
Sept. qtr	-3.2	(b)9.5	(b)7.2	6.3	(b)7.3	(b)6.6
Dec. qtr	3.4	8.5	7.6	7.1	7.5	7.3
1991 Mar. qtr	-23.7	12.2	5.0	-0.2	3.3	1.5
June qtr	3.1	6.0	5.5	1.5	2.8	2.8

(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 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA π

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
	(1984-85 equals 100.0)					
1989 Sept. qtr	154.8	148.3	151.6	135.6	150.1	151.9
Dec. qtr	157.6	151.5	154.6	138.8	153.0	154.7
1990 Mar. qtr	158.9	153.4	156.3	141.8	154.1	155.9
June qtr	160.7	154.3	157.5	144.1	154.1	156.4
Sept. qtr	161.6	154.6	158.2	147.1	156.3	158.3
Dec. qtr	162.4	154.7	158.7	149.0	155.2	157.9
1991 Mar. qtr	162.6	153.8	158.5	149.0	154.7	157.6
June qtr	162.6	152.3	157.8	148.6	152.7	156.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1989 Sept. qtr	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.8	2.6
Dec. qtr	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.8
1990 Mar. qtr	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.2	0.7	0.8
June qtr	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.3
Sept. qtr	0.6	0.2	0.4	2.1	1.4	1.2
Dec. qtr	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.3	-0.7	-0.3
1991 Mar. qtr	0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.2
June qtr	0.0	-1.0	-0.4	-0.3	-1.3	-1.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1989 Sept. qtr	16.0	8.5	12.1	6.3	7.9	10.8
Dec. qtr	12.9	8.4	10.6	7.8	7.7	9.5
1990 Mar. qtr	9.0	7.6	8.3	8.2	6.1	7.1
June qtr	6.4	6.1	6.1	8.3	5.5	5.7
Sept. qtr	4.4	4.2	4.4	8.5	4.1	4.2
Dec. qtr	3.0	2.1	2.7	7.3	1.4	2.1
1991 Mar. qtr	2.3	0.3	1.4	5.1	0.4	1.1
June qtr	1.2	-1.3	0.2	3.1	-0.9	-0.2

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:

- (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.

18. This issue introduces seasonally adjusted estimates for public sector and total engineering construction activity compiled from the results of the ECS. Regular subscribers can obtain a complimentary copy of the complete new series on request.

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 Activity, 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.

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- 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.

W. McLENNAN
Acting Australian Statistician



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