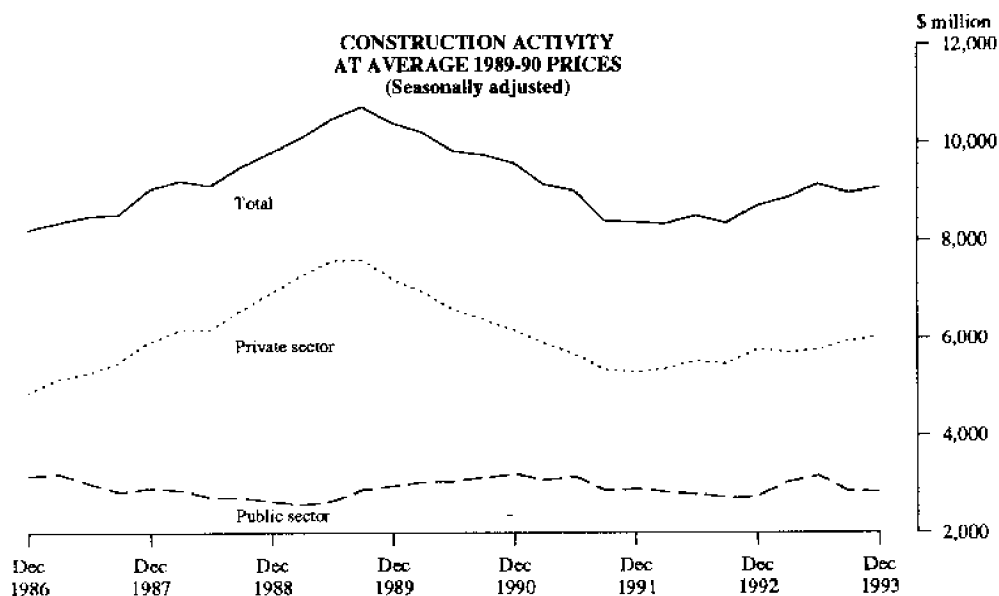


**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1993**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**



**Quarterly Construction Activity — Seasonally adjusted, at average 1989-90 prices**

Total Construction Activity increased by 1.1 per cent in the December quarter 1993. This small rise was attributable to a 1.8 per cent increase in private sector construction activity, more than offsetting a 0.5 per cent fall in public sector construction activity. Construction activity has increased in four of the last five quarters and is now 4.2 per cent higher than in the December quarter 1992.

The value of total building work done in the December quarter 1993 remained virtually unchanged from the September quarter 1993 estimate. An increase of 1.4 per cent in the value of residential work done was offset by a 0.1 per cent decrease in the value of work done on non-residential buildings. Engineering construction activity rose by 1.5 per cent over the same period.

Residential building activity has increased in every quarter since the September quarter 1991, and the December 1993 estimate is the highest quarterly estimate since the start of

the building activity survey in the September quarter 1976. In the December quarter, residential building comprised 65.2 per cent of total building and 45.3 per cent of total construction, the highest proportions since the compilation of a total construction series began in the September quarter 1986.

Non-residential building recorded a 0.1 per cent decrease in the December quarter 1993, following falls of 0.1 per cent and 7.2 per cent in the September and June quarters respectively. Non-residential building activity was 6.0 per cent below the December quarter 1992 estimate and is now at the lowest level since the December quarter 1984.

Engineering construction activity rose by 1.5 per cent in the December quarter 1993, following a fall of 11.4 per cent in the September quarter 1993 and a 14.5 per cent increase in the June quarter. The increase in engineering construction activity in the December quarter was due to a 5.6 per cent rise in work undertaken for the private sector. Engineering construction remains 7.7 per cent above the level of activity 12 months earlier.

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Brendan Brady on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

**Private sector activity**

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989-90 prices, private sector construction activity increased by 1.8 per cent in the December quarter 1993, the third consecutive quarter of growth. Rises of 2.4 per cent in residential building activity and 5.6 per cent in engineering construction activity more than offset a decline of 2.0 per cent in non-residential building activity. Private sector construction is 4.8 per cent above the level of activity recorded 12 months earlier.

**Public sector activity**

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989-90 prices, there was a small decrease of 0.5 per cent in public sector construction activity in the December quarter 1993. This decline was attributable to a 18.4 per cent fall in residential building activity (by far the smallest of the three components). Non-residential building activity increased by 3.5 per cent in the December quarter 1993, while public sector engineering construction activity remained virtually unchanged. Public sector construction has now fallen for the last two quarters but remains 3.1 per cent above the level of activity 12 months earlier.

**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1993 (Seasonally adjusted)**

<i>Construction activity</i>	<i>% changes from previous quarter</i>		
	<i>Private sector construction</i>	<i>Public sector construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
<b>Building</b>			
Residential	2.4	-18.4	1.4
Non-residential	-2.0	3.5	-0.1
<i>Total building</i>	0.9	-3.5	0.0
Engineering construction	5.6	-0.1	1.5
<i>Total non-residential construction</i>	0.6	0.9	0.8
<b>Total construction</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>

TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
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>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	3,269	2,523	5,793	2,544	5,067	8,336
June qtr	3,466	2,456	5,925	2,589	5,045	8,511
Sept. qtr	3,670	2,291	5,981	2,391	4,682	8,352
Dec. qtr	3,796	2,366	6,136	2,536	4,902	8,697
1993 Mar. qtr	3,820	2,403	6,235	2,653	5,056	8,876
June qtr	3,874	2,229	6,092	3,038	5,267	9,141
Sept. qtr	4,050	2,227	6,306	2,690	4,917	8,967
Dec. qtr	4,108	2,224	6,303	2,731	4,956	9,063
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	1.8	-0.5	1.2	-3.2	-1.9	-0.5
June qtr	6.0	-2.7	2.3	1.8	-0.4	2.1
Sept. qtr	5.9	-6.7	1.0	-7.6	-7.2	-1.9
Dec. qtr	3.4	3.3	2.6	6.0	4.7	4.1
1993 Mar. qtr	0.6	1.6	1.6	4.6	3.1	2.1
June qtr	1.4	-7.2	-2.3	14.5	4.2	3.0
Sept. qtr	4.5	-0.1	3.5	-11.4	-6.6	-1.9
Dec. qtr	1.4	-0.1	0.0	1.5	0.8	1.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	2.6	-21.9	-10.3	-6.7	-15.0	-8.8
June qtr	12.2	-22.0	-4.6	-7.1	-15.0	-5.7
Sept. qtr	23.1	-19.9	2.3	-6.4	-13.5	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.2	-6.7	7.2	-3.6	-5.1	3.8
1993 Mar. qtr	16.8	-4.7	7.6	4.3	-0.2	6.5
June qtr	11.8	-9.2	2.8	17.3	4.4	7.4
Sept. qtr	10.4	-2.8	5.4	12.5	5.0	7.4
Dec. qtr	8.2	-6.0	2.7	7.7	1.1	4.2

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

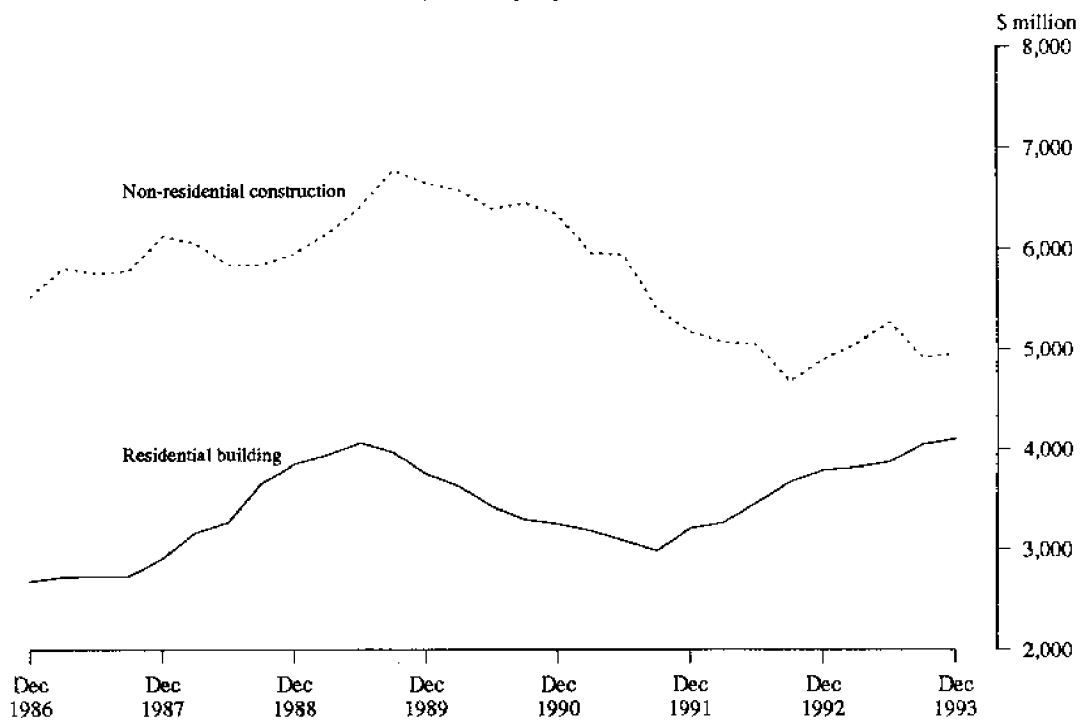


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	3,062	1,726	4,783	721	2,448	5,510
June qtr	3,289	1,663	4,952	717	2,379	5,669
Sept. qtr	3,400	1,544	4,949	645	2,189	5,589
Dec. qtr	3,627	1,613	5,238	669	2,282	5,910
1993 Mar. qtr	3,642	1,506	5,149	692	2,199	5,840
June qtr	3,668	1,487	5,150	751	2,238	5,906
Sept. qtr	3,848	1,469	5,326	768	2,236	6,084
Dec. qtr	3,941	1,439	5,374	811	2,250	6,191
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	3.3	1.9	-1.4	1.9	1.6
June qtr	7.4	-3.7	3.5	-0.6	-2.8	2.9
Sept. qtr	3.4	-7.2	0.0	-10.0	-8.0	-1.4
Dec. qtr	6.7	4.5	5.8	3.7	4.3	5.7
1993 Mar. qtr	0.4	-6.6	-1.7	3.5	-3.7	-1.2
June qtr	0.7	-1.3	0.0	8.4	1.8	1.1
Sept. qtr	4.9	-1.2	3.4	2.3	-0.1	3.0
Dec. qtr	2.4	-2.0	0.9	5.6	0.6	1.8
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	-24.5	-9.7	-1.4	-18.9	-8.8
June qtr	13.5	-22.3	-1.8	-7.0	-18.2	-2.4
Sept. qtr	19.0	-17.7	4.4	-14.3	-16.7	1.9
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.5	11.6	-8.5	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	18.9	-12.7	7.6	-4.0	-10.2	6.0
June qtr	11.5	-10.6	4.0	4.8	-6.0	4.2
Sept. qtr	13.2	-4.9	7.6	19.0	2.2	8.9
Dec. qtr	8.6	-10.8	2.6	21.2	-1.4	4.8

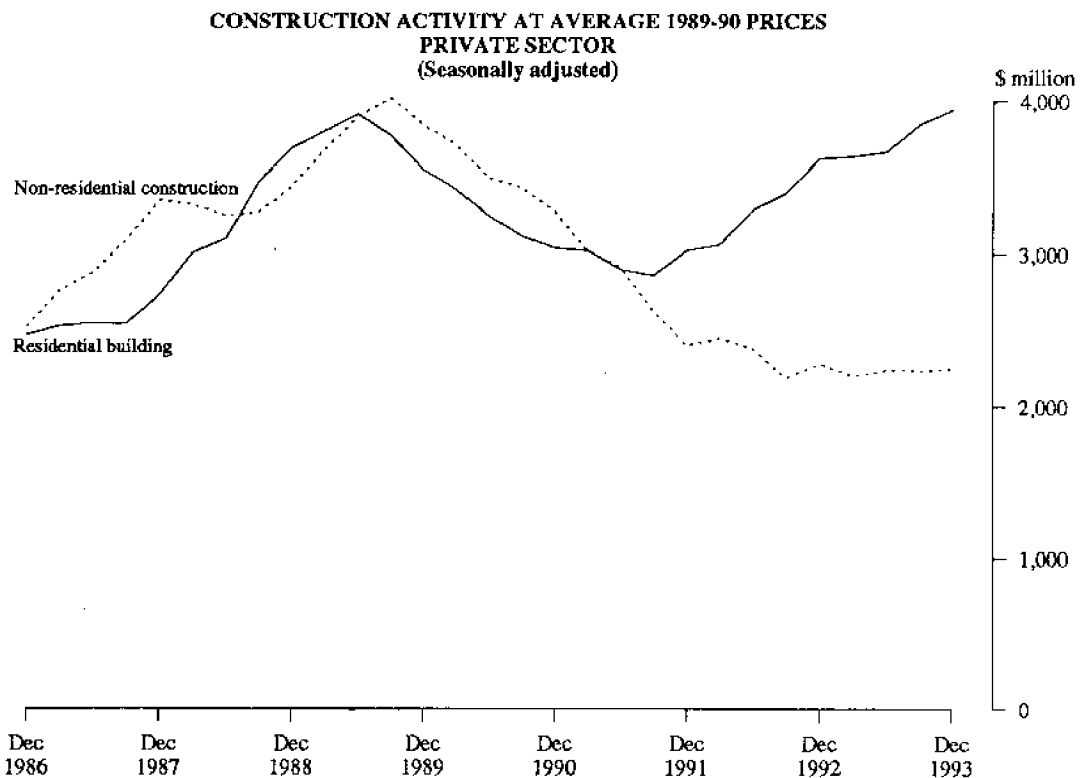


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	205	835	1,044	1,823	2,658	2,863
June qtr	179	779	967	1,872	2,652	2,830
Sept. qtr	272	739	1,016	1,746	2,485	2,756
Dec. qtr	168	741	892	1,867	2,607	2,775
1993 Mar. qtr	175	941	1,119	1,960	2,902	3,077
June qtr	208	729	944	2,287	3,016	3,223
Sept. qtr	204	748	957	1,922	2,671	2,875
Dec. qtr	167	774	924	1,920	2,695	2,861
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	7.5	-1.9	1.9	-3.9	-3.3	-2.6
June qtr	-12.7	-6.7	-7.3	2.7	-0.3	-1.1
Sept. qtr	52.1	-5.2	5.1	-6.7	-6.3	-2.6
Dec. qtr	-38.2	0.3	-12.2	6.9	4.9	0.7
1993 Mar. qtr	4.4	27.1	25.4	5.0	11.3	10.9
June qtr	18.3	-22.6	-15.6	16.7	3.9	4.8
Sept. qtr	-1.6	2.7	1.4	-15.9	-11.4	-10.8
Dec. qtr	-18.4	3.5	-3.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	25.9	-14.7	-8.5	-8.7	-10.6	-8.8
June qtr	-7.4	-21.6	-19.3	-7.1	-11.9	-11.7
Sept. qtr	122.5	-24.3	-7.9	-3.1	-10.5	-4.9
Dec. qtr	-11.8	-13.0	-12.9	-1.6	-5.2	-5.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-14.3	12.7	7.2	7.5	9.2	7.5
June qtr	16.1	-6.5	-2.4	22.1	13.7	13.9
Sept. qtr	-24.8	1.3	-5.8	10.1	7.5	4.3
Dec. qtr	-0.8	4.6	3.5	2.9	3.3	3.1

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

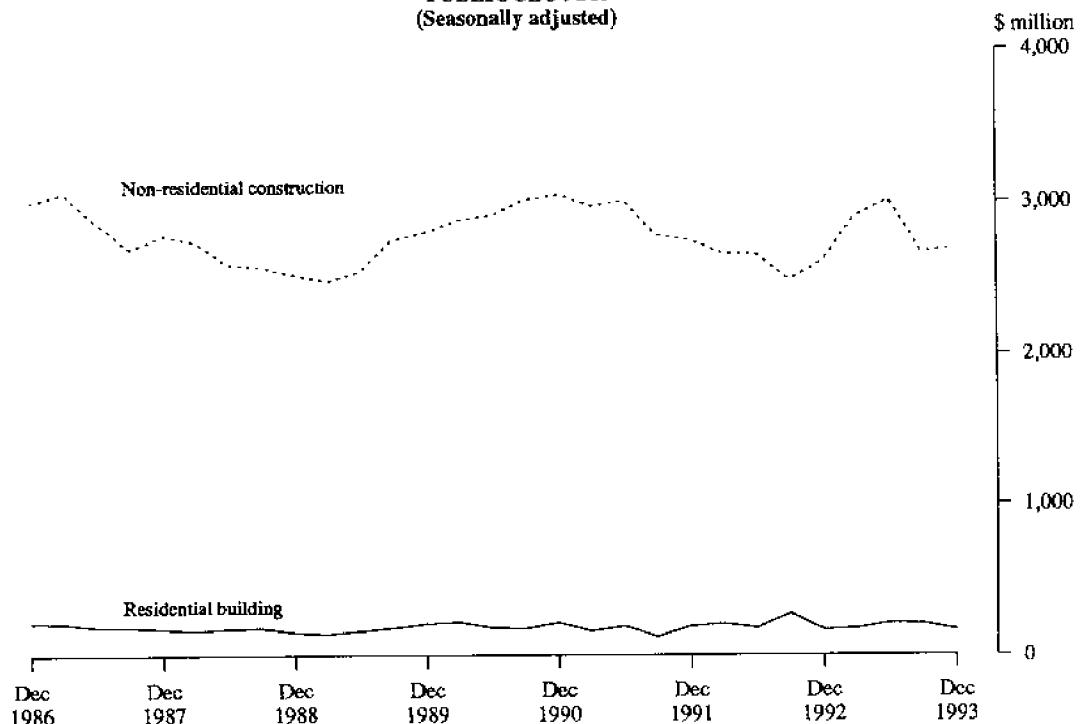


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, AUSTRALIA <sup>r</sup>

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	13,034	8,494	21,528	12,680	21,174	34,207
1982-83	9,940	7,219	17,158	13,131	20,350	30,289
1983-84	11,091	7,914	19,006	10,921	18,835	29,927
1984-85	12,568	9,213	21,780	10,642	19,854	32,422
1985-86	12,449	11,175	23,623	10,703	21,878	34,327
1986-87	10,966	12,128	23,094	(a)10,698	(a)22,826	(a)33,792
1987-88	12,071	13,906	25,977	9,884	23,790	35,861
1988-89	15,511	14,590	30,101	9,798	24,388	39,899
1989-90	14,802	15,548	30,350	10,928	26,477	41,279
1990-91	12,835	13,588	26,423	11,136	24,724	37,559
1991-92	12,909	10,386	23,295	10,328	20,714	33,623
1992-93	15,151	9,285	24,436	10,651	19,936	35,088
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-2.7	-2.0	-2.4	20.1	10.1	4.9
1982-83	-23.7	-15.0	-20.3	3.6	-3.9	-11.5
1983-84	11.6	9.6	10.8	-16.8	-7.4	-1.2
1984-85	13.3	16.4	14.6	-2.6	5.4	8.3
1985-86	-0.9	21.3	8.5	0.6	10.2	5.9
1986-87	-11.9	8.5	-2.2	0.0	4.3	-1.6
1987-88	10.1	14.7	12.5	-7.6	4.2	6.1
1988-89	28.5	4.9	15.9	-0.9	2.5	11.3
1989-90	-4.6	6.6	0.8	11.5	8.6	3.5
1990-91	-13.3	-12.6	-12.9	1.9	-6.6	-9.0
1991-92	0.6	-23.6	-11.8	-7.3	-16.2	-10.5
1992-93	17.4	-10.6	4.9	3.1	-3.8	4.4
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	3,040	2,335	5,375	2,388	4,723	7,763
June qtr	3,416	2,476	5,892	2,745	5,222	8,638
Sept. qtr	3,782	2,346	6,128	2,347	4,693	8,474
Dec. qtr	4,001	2,462	6,463	2,574	5,036	9,037
1993 Mar. qtr	3,556	2,228	5,783	2,495	4,723	8,278
June qtr	3,813	2,249	6,062	3,236	5,485	9,298
Sept. qtr	4,177	2,278	6,454	2,646	4,924	9,101
Dec. qtr	4,328	2,315	6,643	2,782	5,097	9,425
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.2	-11.5	-10.8	-10.8	-11.1	-10.8
June qtr	12.4	6.0	9.6	15.0	10.6	11.3
Sept. qtr	10.7	-5.3	4.0	-14.5	-10.1	-1.9
Dec. qtr	5.8	5.0	5.5	9.7	7.3	6.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.1	-9.5	-10.5	-3.0	-6.2	-8.4
June qtr	7.2	1.0	4.8	29.7	16.1	12.3
Sept. qtr	9.5	1.3	6.5	-18.2	-10.2	-2.1
Dec. qtr	3.6	1.6	2.9	5.1	3.5	3.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.5	-6.4	-14.6	-8.6
June qtr	11.9	-21.9	-5.3	-7.3	-14.9	-6.0
Sept. qtr	23.3	-20.1	2.1	-6.8	-14.0	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.1	-6.7	7.3	-3.9	-5.3	3.8
1993 Mar. qtr	17.0	-4.6	7.6	4.5	0.0	6.6
June qtr	11.6	-9.2	2.9	17.9	5.0	7.6
Sept. qtr	10.4	-2.9	5.3	12.8	4.9	7.4
Dec. qtr	8.2	-6.0	2.8	8.1	1.2	4.3

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

TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	12,480	6,055	18,535	3,154	9,209	21,689
1982-83	9,294	4,986	14,280	3,357	8,343	17,637
1983-84	10,277	5,025	15,302	2,147	7,172	17,449
1984-85	11,753	6,164	17,917	1,962	8,126	19,879
1985-86	11,562	7,803	19,364	2,209	10,011	21,573
1986-87	10,111	8,164	18,275	(a)2,623	(a)10,787	(a)20,898
1987-88	11,359	10,081	21,440	2,929	13,009	24,369
1988-89	14,865	11,254	26,119	3,011	14,264	29,129
1989-90	14,010	12,000	26,010	3,107	15,107	29,116
1990-91	12,084	9,689	21,773	2,986	12,675	24,759
1991-92	12,215	6,945	19,160	2,923	9,868	22,083
1992-93	14,326	6,159	20,485	2,751	8,910	23,236
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-2.1	3.4	-0.4	45.4	14.7	4.4
1982-83	-25.5	-17.7	-23.0	6.4	-9.4	-18.7
1983-84	10.6	0.8	7.2	-36.0	-14.0	-1.1
1984-85	14.4	22.7	17.1	-8.6	13.3	13.9
1985-86	-1.6	26.6	8.1	12.6	23.2	8.5
1986-87	-12.5	4.6	-5.6	18.8	7.8	-3.1
1987-88	12.3	23.5	17.3	11.6	20.6	16.6
1988-89	30.9	11.6	21.8	2.8	9.6	19.5
1989-90	-5.8	6.6	-0.4	3.2	5.9	0.0
1990-91	-13.7	-19.3	-16.3	-3.9	-16.1	-15.0
1991-92	1.1	-28.3	-12.0	-2.1	-22.1	-10.8
1992-93	17.3	-11.3	6.9	-5.9	-9.7	5.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	2,846	1,590	4,437	683	2,274	5,120
June qtr	3,242	1,661	4,902	684	2,345	5,587
Sept. qtr	3,502	1,592	5,094	661	2,253	5,755
Dec. qtr	3,825	1,692	5,517	718	2,410	6,235
1993 Mar. qtr	3,389	1,387	4,776	655	2,042	5,431
June qtr	3,610	1,488	5,098	717	2,205	5,815
Sept. qtr	3,967	1,511	5,478	787	2,298	6,265
Dec. qtr	4,153	1,510	5,663	870	2,380	6,533
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.7	-9.2	-10.2	-12.9	-10.4	-10.6
June qtr	13.9	4.4	10.5	0.1	3.1	9.1
Sept. qtr	8.0	-4.2	3.9	-3.4	-3.9	3.0
Dec. qtr	9.2	6.3	8.3	8.6	7.0	8.3
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.4	-18.0	-13.4	-8.7	-15.3	-12.9
June qtr	6.5	7.3	6.7	9.5	8.0	7.1
Sept. qtr	9.9	1.5	7.5	9.7	4.2	7.7
Dec. qtr	4.7	0.0	3.4	10.6	3.6	4.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	1.4	-24.6	-9.8	-1.5	-18.9	-8.7
June qtr	13.2	-22.0	-1.8	-6.9	-18.1	-2.5
Sept. qtr	19.1	-18.0	4.4	-14.2	-17.0	1.8
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.4	11.7	-8.6	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	19.1	-12.8	7.6	-4.2	-10.2	6.1
June qtr	11.4	-10.4	4.0	4.8	-6.0	4.1
Sept. qtr	13.3	-5.1	7.5	19.0	2.0	8.9
Dec. qtr	8.6	-10.8	2.6	21.2	-1.2	4.8

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

TABLE 6. ORIGINAL PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	554	2,439	2,993	9,527	11,966	12,520
1982-83	645	2,233	2,878	9,774	12,007	12,652
1983-84	815	2,889	3,704	8,774	11,663	12,477
1984-85	815	3,049	3,864	8,681	11,730	12,545
1985-86	887	3,372	4,259	8,495	11,867	12,754
1986-87	856	3,963	4,819	(a)8,075	(a)12,038	(a)12,894
1987-88	712	3,825	4,537	6,955	10,780	11,492
1988-89	645	3,337	3,982	6,787	10,124	10,769
1989-90	793	3,548	4,341	7,822	11,370	12,162
1990-91	751	3,899	4,650	8,151	12,050	12,800
1991-92	694	3,441	4,135	7,405	10,846	11,540
1992-93	825	3,126	3,951	7,900	11,027	11,851
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-14.7	-13.3	-13.6	13.6	6.8	5.7
1982-83	16.5	-8.4	-3.8	2.6	0.3	1.1
1983-84	26.2	29.4	28.7	-10.2	-2.9	-1.4
1984-85	0.0	5.5	4.3	-1.1	0.6	0.5
1985-86	8.9	10.6	10.2	-2.1	1.2	1.7
1986-87	-3.6	17.5	13.1	-4.9	1.4	1.1
1987-88	-16.8	-3.5	-5.8	-13.9	-10.4	-10.9
1988-89	-9.4	-12.8	-12.2	-2.4	-6.1	-6.3
1989-90	22.8	6.3	9.0	15.2	12.3	12.9
1990-91	-5.3	9.9	7.1	4.2	6.0	5.2
1991-92	-7.6	-11.7	-11.1	-9.2	-10.0	-9.8
1992-93	18.8	-9.1	-4.4	6.7	1.7	2.7
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1992 Mar. qtr	194	745	939	1,704	2,449	2,643
June qtr	174	816	990	2,061	2,877	3,051
Sept. qtr	280	754	1,034	1,686	2,440	2,720
Dec. qtr	176	770	946	1,856	2,626	2,802
1993 Mar. qtr	167	841	1,007	1,840	2,681	2,847
June qtr	202	761	964	2,519	3,280	3,482
Sept. qtr	209	767	976	1,859	2,626	2,836
Dec. qtr	175	805	980	1,912	2,717	2,892
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	-2.8	-15.9	-13.5	-9.9	-11.9	-11.2
June qtr	-10.0	9.5	5.5	20.9	17.5	15.4
Sept. qtr	60.5	-7.5	4.5	-18.2	-15.2	-10.9
Dec. qtr	-37.1	2.1	-8.5	10.1	7.6	3.0
1993 Mar. qtr	-5.3	9.1	6.4	-0.8	2.1	1.6
June qtr	21.4	-9.4	-4.3	36.9	22.4	22.3
Sept. qtr	3.4	0.7	1.3	-26.2	-19.9	-18.6
Dec. qtr	-16.5	5.0	0.4	2.8	3.4	2.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	27.1	-14.5	-8.3	-8.2	-10.2	-8.2
June qtr	-7.1	-21.9	-19.7	-7.5	-12.1	-11.8
Sept. qtr	120.2	-24.1	-7.8	-3.5	-11.0	-5.2
Dec. qtr	-11.6	-13.1	-12.8	-1.9	-5.5	-5.9
1993 Mar. qtr	-13.9	12.8	7.3	8.0	9.5	7.7
June qtr	16.2	-6.7	-2.6	22.2	14.0	14.1
Sept. qtr	-25.1	1.7	-5.6	10.3	7.6	4.3
Dec. qtr	-0.7	4.5	3.6	3.0	3.5	3.2

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



TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA <sup>r</sup>

<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>
(1989-90 equals 100.0)						
1992 Mar. qtr	103.1	94.5	99.6	107.6	101.1	102.1
June qtr	103.0	93.4	99.2	107.7	100.9	101.9
Sept. qtr	102.5	94.4	99.7	107.8	101.1	101.9
Dec. qtr	103.2	94.1	99.9	108.0	101.2	102.2
1993 Mar. qtr	103.1	93.6	99.7	108.3	101.4	102.3
June qtr	103.3	93.0	99.7	108.6	102.2	102.8
Sept. qtr	103.5	93.7	100.2	108.2	101.5	102.6
Dec. qtr	104.1	94.4	101.0	107.9	101.8	103.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.2	-0.6	-0.5
June qtr	-0.1	-1.2	-0.4	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Sept. qtr	-0.5	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.0
Dec. qtr	0.7	-0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
1993 Mar. qtr	-0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
June qtr	0.2	-0.6	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.5
Sept. qtr	0.2	0.8	0.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.2
Dec. qtr	0.6	0.7	0.8	-0.3	0.3	0.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.6	-6.4	-2.8	2.1	-1.8	-1.2
June qtr	-1.0	-6.0	-2.6	1.9	-1.6	-1.1
Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.5	-1.4	0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Dec. qtr	-0.3	-2.0	-0.5	0.6	-0.5	-0.4
1993 Mar. qtr	0.0	-1.0	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2
June qtr	0.3	-0.4	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.9
Sept. qtr	1.0	-0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7
Dec. qtr	0.9	0.3	1.1	-0.1	0.6	0.8

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains constant price estimates of the level of construction activity in Australia. It also contains implicit price deflators derived from these estimates. The estimates provide a measure (in 'real' terms) of residential building, non-residential building, total building, engineering construction, non-residential construction and total construction activity for the private and public sectors.

2. The estimates are compiled from results of the ABS surveys of Building Activity (BACS), Construction Other than Building (COTB), Engineering Construction (ECS) and from government finance data.

3. The engineering construction estimates for quarters back to and including September 1986 were compiled from the ECS which covers both the private and public sectors. For earlier quarters, activity for the private sector has been extrapolated backwards using the results from the COTB which was limited to jobs valued at \$100,000 or more undertaken by private contractors. However, no equivalent extrapolation could be done for work undertaken by the public sector, and it was necessary to use government finance data. Hence there is a break in the continuity of the series.

### Scope and coverage

4. The estimates relate to construction activity which includes construction of new buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings and engineering construction activity (roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc). The estimates measure total activity on construction rather than the output of the Construction industry (i.e. the value of construction activity undertaken by businesses classified to industries other than Construction is included and non-construction activity of businesses in the Construction industry is excluded).

5. The building estimates relate to:

- (a) construction of new residential buildings and all alterations and additions to residential buildings with an approval value of \$10,000 or more; and
- (b) all non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 or more.

6. From the September quarter 1990, only non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 (previously \$30,000) or more are included. For more details on the effect of the new cut-offs on specific classes of non-residential building (in current price terms) please refer to *Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) for the September quarter 1990.

7. The engineering construction estimates relate to engineering construction work undertaken in Australia.

8. The cost of land is excluded. Repair and maintenance activity is excluded.

### Definitions

9. A *building* is defined as a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock, with provision for regular access by persons.

10. *Residential building* is defined as building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. A dwelling unit is defined as a self-contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities, intended for long term residential use. Units (whether self-contained or not) within buildings offering institutional care, such as hospitals, or temporary accommodation such as motels, hostels and holiday apartments, are not defined as dwelling units, but are included in non-residential building.

11. *Non-residential building* is defined as building other than residential building and includes hotels, shops, factories, offices etc.

12. *Engineering construction* is defined as construction other than building and includes roads, bridges, railways, harbours, water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage, electricity generation, pipelines, telecommunications etc.

13. *Non-residential construction* is the sum of non-residential building and engineering construction.

### Valuation of jobs

14. Value of work done during the period represents the estimated value of building or engineering construction work actually carried out during the quarter on jobs which have commenced.

### Classification

15. *Ownership*. The ownership of construction work is classified as either public sector or private sector according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed work as evident at the time of approval. Residential buildings being constructed by private sector builders under government housing authority schemes whereby the authority has contracted, or intends to contract, to purchase the buildings on or before completion, are classified as public sector.

### Seasonal adjustment

16. Details of methods used in seasonally adjusting original series are available on request.

17. Large fluctuations in series as a result of irregular influences are not removed by seasonal adjustment, and particular care should be taken in interpreting individual quarter-to-quarter movements.

### Estimates at constant prices

18. Constant price estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates in this publication are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwellings and non-dwelling construction components of the National Accounts aggregate 'Private gross fixed capital expenditure'.

19. Estimates at constant prices are subject to a number of approximations and assumptions. Further information on the nature and concepts of constant price estimates is contained in Section 4 of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

### Implicit price deflators

20. Implicit price deflators provide an estimate of the price change between the base period of the relevant constant price estimate (currently 1989-90) and any other period, and use the quantity weights of this latter period. An implicit price deflator is obtained by dividing a current price value by its corresponding constant price value. Thus implicit price deflators are derived measures (hence the term 'implicit') and at the level of published aggregates are not normally the direct measure of price changes by which components of current price estimates are converted to estimates at constant prices.

### Interpretation and analysis

21. Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter-to-quarter movements in the estimates as short term movements do not necessarily indicate a change in trend.

22. Estimates for financial years are simple aggregates of quarterly estimates. All estimates for the current quarter and preceding quarter are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary from time to time to revise estimates for earlier periods.

### Related publications

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

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

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0) — issued monthly.

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

*Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) — issued quarterly.

*Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (8762.0) — issued quarterly.

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesday and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### 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)

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

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Australian Statistician



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