

BUILDING APPROVALS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

April 1996

MAIN FEATURES

The number of houses approved in April 1996 decreased by 16.3 per cent when compared with March 1996 and decreased by 3.2 per cent when compared with April 1995.

The number of total dwelling units approved in April 1996 decreased by 22.1 per cent when compared with March 1996 and decreased by 0.9 per cent when compared with April 1995.

Comparisons with previous periods are:

Month to month

	<i>April 1996</i>	<i>March 1996</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>April 1995</i>	<i>% change</i>
Houses	922	1,101	-16.3	952	-3.2
Total dwelling units	1,169	1,501	-22.1	1,180	-0.9

Three month moving average

	<i>April 1996</i>	<i>March 1996</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>April 1995</i>	<i>% change</i>
Houses	1,046	1,014	3.2	1,135	-7.8
Total dwelling units	1,384	1,408	-1.7	1,509	-8.3

The provisional trend for new private houses rose 1.4 per cent in April 1996, following a 1.9 per cent rise in March 1996. This trend will continue to grow unless there is a fall of more than 2.8 per cent in the May 1996 seasonally adjusted figure. The historical average monthly movement of this series regardless of sign is 7.0 per cent.

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Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
and Government Statistician

PHONE INQUIRIES

Contact Mr Neil Griffin on (09) 360 5247 for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics. Other inquiries, including copies of publications, contact Information Services on (09) 360 5140.

MAIL INQUIRIES

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ELECTRONIC SERVICES

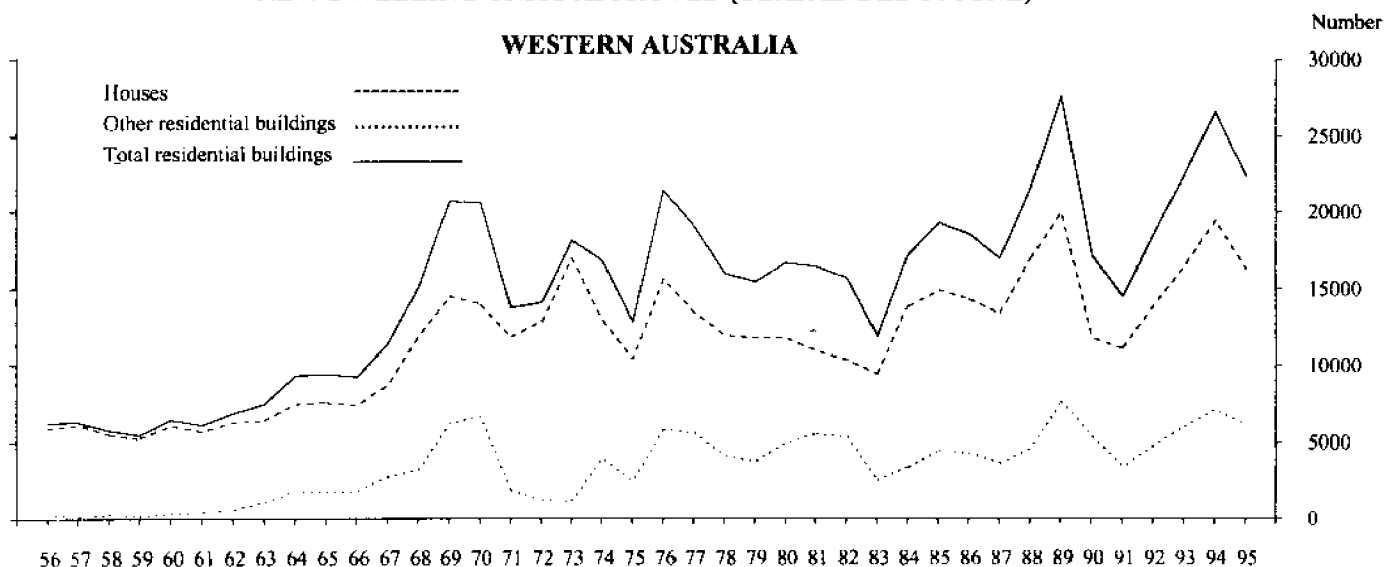
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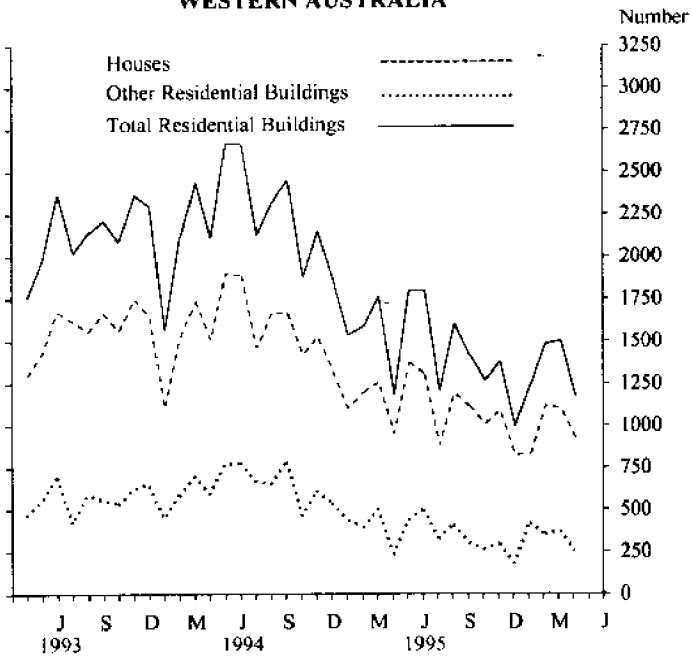
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NEW DWELLING UNITS APPROVED (YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE)

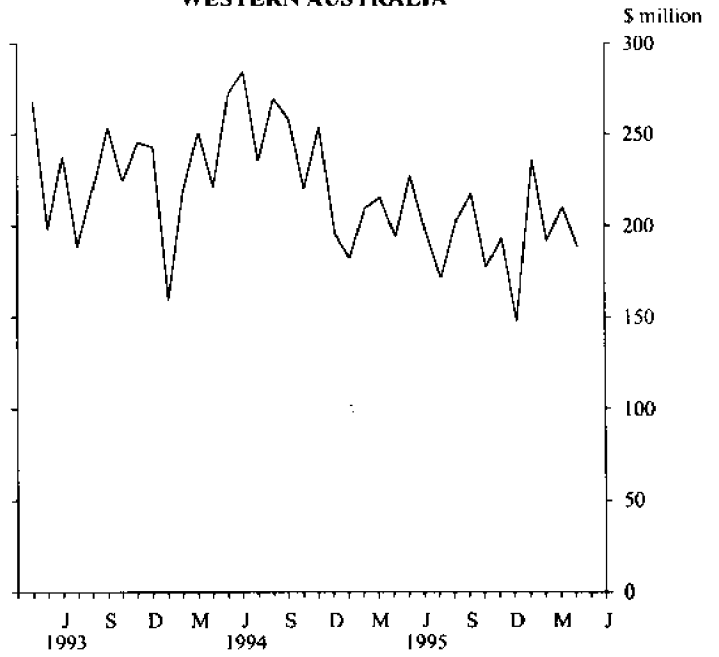
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



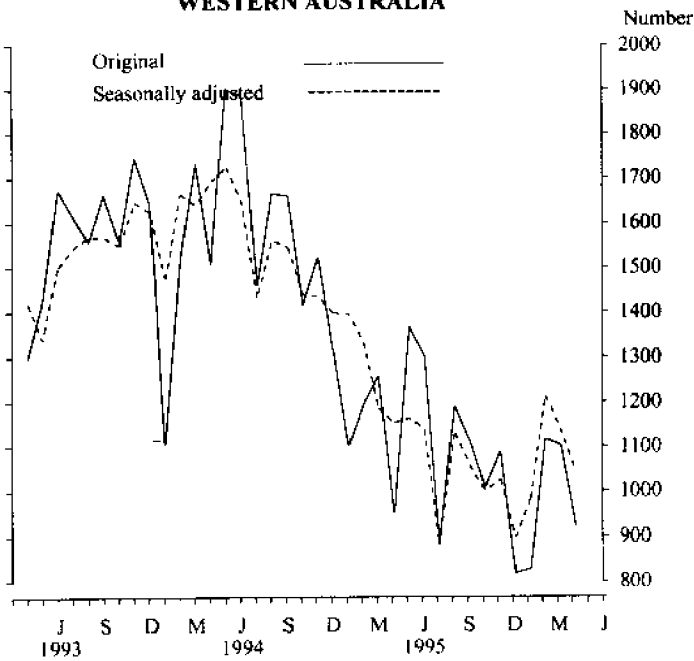
**NEW DWELLING UNITS APPROVED
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**TOTAL VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**NEW HOUSES APPROVED
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**NEW HOUSES APPROVED
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

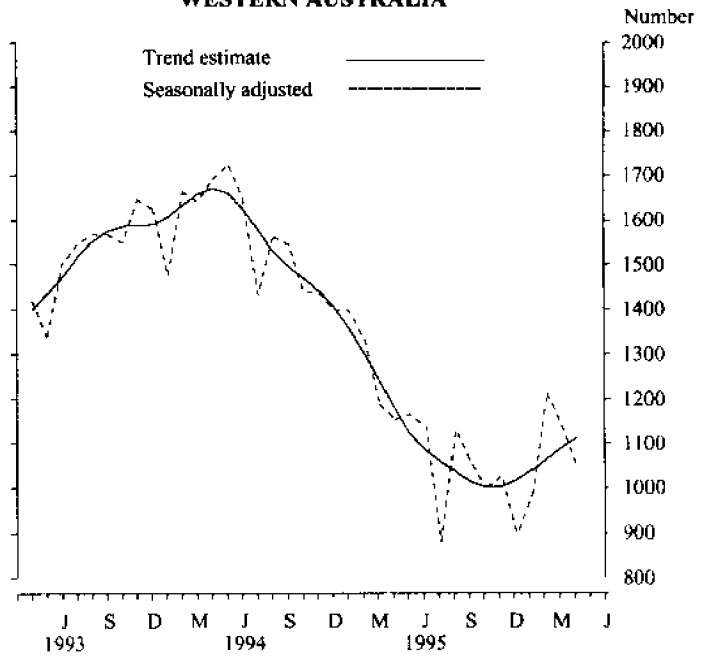


TABLE 1. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

Period	New houses		New other residential buildings			Conversions, etc.	Total (a)		Total	
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector		Private sector	Public sector		
PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION										
1992-93	11,618	285	11,903	3,448	1,540	4,988	60	15,126	1,825	16,951
1993-94	13,899	321	14,220	4,924	929	5,853	177	18,986	1,264	20,250
1994-95	11,238	255	11,493	4,430	509	4,939	98	15,765	765	16,530
1994-95										
July-April	9,444	203	9,647	3,930	336	4,266	94	13,467	540	14,007
1995-96										
July-April	6,769	125	6,894	2,126	379	2,505	71	8,966	504	9,470
1995										
February	794	41	835	258	29	287	6	1,058	70	1,128
March	790	36	826	364	33	397	6	1,160	69	1,229
April	625	15	640	169	5	174	4	798	20	818
May	947	35	982	297	54	351	1	1,245	89	1,334
June	847	17	864	203	119	322	3	1,053	136	1,189
July	493	6	499	269	—	269	4	766	6	772
August	835	20	855	317	15	332	8	1,160	35	1,195
September	772	17	789	200	19	219	5	977	36	1,013
October	691	2	693	157	51	208	3	851	53	904
November	750	2	752	212	18	230	5	967	20	987
December	538	13	551	129	2	131	6	673	15	688
1996—										
January	579	10	589	224	115	339	4	807	125	932
February	737	40	777	245	38	283	23	1,005	78	1,083
March	731	1	732	256	60	316	10	997	61	1,058
April	643	14	657	117	61	178	3	763	75	838
WESTERN AUSTRALIA										
1992-93	16,036	449	16,485	4,081	1,913	5,994	89	20,206	2,362	22,568
1993-94	18,966	471	19,437	5,938	1,206	7,144	195	25,085	1,691	26,776
1994-95	15,783	424	16,207	5,297	808	6,105	115	21,194	1,233	22,427
1994-95										
July-April	13,231	308	13,539	4,698	490	5,188	111	18,039	799	18,838
1995-96										
July-April	9,869	193	10,062	2,601	474	3,075	103	12,573	667	13,240
1995—										
February	1,142	53	1,195	324	59	383	8	1,474	112	1,586
March	1,201	57	1,258	445	51	496	7	1,653	108	1,761
April	920	32	952	198	24	222	6	1,124	56	1,180
May	1,317	50	1,367	352	74	426	1	1,670	124	1,794
June	1,235	66	1,301	247	244	491	3	1,485	310	1,795
July	872	11	883	316	—	316	4	1,192	11	1,203
August	1,166	23	1,189	377	22	399	8	1,551	45	1,596
September	1,089	22	1,111	264	29	293	6	1,359	51	1,410
October	999	9	1,008	194	59	253	4	1,197	68	1,265
November	1,076	11	1,087	262	24	286	5	1,343	35	1,378
December	804	15	819	168	2	170	6	978	17	995
1996—										
January	815	12	827	291	119	410	4	1,110	131	1,241
February	1,070	45	1,115	298	44	342	25	1,393	89	1,482
March	1,074	27	1,101	286	76	362	38	1,398	103	1,501
April	904	18	922	145	99	244	3	1,052	117	1,169

(a) Includes Conversions, etc. See paragraphs 9-11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED
(\$ million)

Period	New residential building									Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building	
	Houses			Other residential buildings			Total				Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total					
PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION														
1992-93	822.1	17.7	839.7	188.9	92.3	281.2	1,010.9	109.9	1,120.9	113.3	463.2	715.9	1,585.3	1,950.1
1993-94	1,067.8	19.2	1,087.0	319.3	58.6	377.9	1,387.1	77.8	1,464.8	122.0	388.1	492.4	1,896.8	2,079.3
1994-95	928.5	17.9	946.4	302.5	31.6	334.1	1,231.0	49.5	1,280.6	126.1	438.5	555.5	1,795.5	1,962.2
1994-95 July-April	780.6	14.2	794.8	261.2	20.5	281.7	1,041.8	34.7	1,076.5	107.2	368.6	477.6	1,517.5	1,661.3
1995-96 July-April	642.6	9.0	651.6	169.9	29.2	199.1	812.6	38.1	850.7	109.8	367.4	433.1	1,289.7	1,393.7
1995—														
February	68.8	2.6	71.4	17.0	2.2	19.1	85.7	4.8	90.5	9.7	21.5	54.0	116.8	154.2
March	71.7	2.9	74.5	28.5	2.2	30.7	100.2	5.0	105.2	12.0	29.7	29.8	141.9	147.0
April	52.1	1.0	53.2	12.1	0.4	12.5	64.2	1.4	65.6	8.0	53.9	65.1	126.1	138.8
May	79.4	2.3	81.7	25.3	4.4	29.7	104.7	6.7	111.4	10.0	39.6	45.8	154.2	167.2
June	68.5	1.4	69.9	16.0	6.8	22.8	84.5	8.2	92.7	8.9	30.4	32.2	123.8	133.7
July	45.9	0.6	46.5	20.0		20.0	65.9	0.6	66.5	8.9	25.4	28.7	100.2	104.1
August	76.0	1.3	77.3	25.7	0.8	26.5	101.7	2.0	103.8	11.4	36.8	38.9	149.9	154.1
September	70.0	1.0	71.0	16.4	1.2	17.6	86.4	2.2	88.6	13.6	49.4	55.2	149.4	157.4
October	67.1	0.2	67.3	13.8	2.4	16.2	80.9	2.6	83.5	9.9	31.0	32.3	121.8	125.7
November	69.4	0.2	69.6	15.5	2.8	18.3	85.0	3.0	88.0	13.5	30.3	32.7	128.8	134.2
December	54.2	0.8	55.0	9.7	0.1	9.9	63.9	0.9	64.8	9.8	18.9	23.9	92.6	98.4
1996—														
January	57.6	0.7	58.3	16.3	11.8	28.1	73.9	12.5	86.4	9.9	72.7	92.5	156.5	188.7
February	70.4	3.2	73.7	17.9	2.1	20.0	88.3	5.3	93.7	9.9	28.2	35.5	126.5	139.1
March	67.9	0.1	67.9	25.4	4.7	30.2	93.3	4.8	98.1	11.6	26.9	41.8	131.8	151.5
April	64.2	0.9	65.0	9.1	3.2	12.3	73.2	4.1	77.4	11.4	47.7	51.6	132.3	140.4
WESTERN AUSTRALIA														
1992-93	1,138.8	34.9	1,173.7	227.6	118.1	345.7	1,366.4	153.0	1,519.4	137.1	591.3	889.6	2,091.8	2,546.1
1993-94	1,469.3	34.4	1,503.7	382.5	78.5	461.0	1,851.8	112.9	1,964.7	150.0	513.1	667.0	2,513.8	2,781.7
1994-95	1,319.8	34.5	1,354.3	366.3	54.0	420.3	1,686.1	88.5	1,774.6	156.2	580.9	728.2	2,422.9	2,659.0
1994-95 July-April	1,105.4	24.7	1,130.1	317.3	31.9	349.3	1,422.7	56.6	1,479.3	132.1	487.7	623.3	2,042.3	2,234.7
1995-96 July-April	922.2	17.9	940.1	205.6	36.7	242.2	1,127.7	54.6	1,182.3	139.8	526.5	613.5	1,793.6	1,935.7
1995—														
February	97.9	4.1	102.0	22.6	4.2	26.8	120.5	8.3	128.8	12.5	34.2	68.3	167.1	209.6
March	106.7	4.7	111.4	35.5	3.6	39.0	142.2	8.3	150.4	14.9	48.2	50.1	205.3	215.5
April	79.1	2.7	81.7	14.0	2.2	16.1	93.0	4.8	97.9	10.3	73.6	85.8	176.9	193.9
May	111.5	3.7	115.2	29.5	6.2	35.7	141.0	9.9	151.0	12.9	54.7	63.3	208.6	227.2
June	102.9	6.1	109.0	19.4	15.9	35.3	122.3	22.0	144.3	11.2	38.5	41.6	172.0	197.1
July	76.8	1.1	77.8	23.1	—	23.1	99.9	1.1	100.9	15.8	51.9	55.1	167.5	171.9
August	103.1	1.6	104.8	29.3	1.3	30.6	132.4	3.0	135.4	14.0	51.0	53.2	197.5	202.6
September	97.5	1.8	99.2	21.2	1.7	22.9	118.6	3.5	122.1	16.2	72.2	79.0	207.0	217.4
October	95.4	1.2	96.6	17.0	3.3	20.4	112.5	4.5	117.0	11.9	47.1	48.5	171.3	177.4
November	97.6	1.5	99.1	19.5	3.2	22.7	117.1	4.7	121.8	16.5	51.2	54.7	184.8	192.9
December	78.5	1.0	79.5	12.8	0.1	12.9	91.3	1.1	92.4	12.2	28.7	42.9	132.2	147.5
1996—														
January	81.7	0.9	82.5	21.1	12.0	33.2	102.8	12.9	115.7	12.3	86.9	108.2	201.9	236.2
February	101.3	3.8	105.1	22.8	2.7	25.5	124.1	6.5	130.6	12.4	41.3	48.6	177.7	191.6
March	100.8	3.7	104.5	27.6	6.1	33.7	128.4	9.9	138.2	14.8	35.5	56.9	178.7	210.0
April	89.5	1.4	90.9	11.2	6.1	17.3	100.7	7.5	108.1	13.6	60.8	66.5	175.1	188.2

**TABLE 3. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS (a) APPROVED
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES (b)**

Period	Houses				Total			
	Private sector		Total		Private sector		Total	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
<i>1995—</i>								
February	1,271	1,267	1,332	1,299	1,664	1,662	1,781	1,739
March	1,136	1,202	1,186	1,239	1,506	1,553	1,659	1,629
April	1,107	1,138	1,153	1,177	1,398	1,459	1,386	1,537
May	1,129	1,082	1,163	1,121	1,440	1,384	1,510	1,467
June	1,118	1,045	1,139	1,082	1,320	1,335	1,510	1,426
July	841	1,023	879	1,057	1,238	1,302	1,245	1,400
August	1,094	1,005	1,129	1,035	1,387	1,271	1,510	1,370
September	1,032	988	1,056	1,013	1,218	1,244	1,327	1,338
October r	970	981	1,000	1,001	1,213	1,235	1,323	1,319
November r	1,012	989	1,026	1,003	1,302	1,249	1,387	1,323
December r	884	1,006	898	1,018	1,075	1,278	1,081	1,349
<i>1996—</i>								
January r	1,016	1,025	983	1,039	1,347	1,308	1,395	1,382
February r	1,163	1,047	1,211	1,065	1,537	1,333	1,642	1,413
March r	1,102	1,067	1,134	1,091	1,363	1,348	1,517	1,436
April	1,010	1,083	1,042	1,112	1,201	1,349	1,259	1,444

(a) Includes Conversions, etc. See paragraphs 9-11 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Seasonally adjusted series smoothed by application of a 13-term Henderson moving average. Trend estimates for the most recent months are provisional and can be revised as data for additional months become available. See Explanatory Notes for a more detailed explanation.

**TABLE 4. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a)
(\$ million)**

Period	New residential building				Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building	
	Houses		Other residential buildings	Total		Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
	Private sector	Total							
1992-93	1,261.4	1,300.1	341.2	1,641.4	151.7	579.6	872.0	2,207.3	2,665.1
1993-94	1,580.5	1,617.4	453.3	2,070.7	161.4	501.0	651.3	2,613.2	2,883.4
1994-95	1,356.8	1,391.9	407.6	1,799.5	160.5	559.2	701.2	2,427.5	2,661.3
<i>1994—</i>									
Dec. qtr.	359.5	363.9	102.3	466.2	42.8	129.9	164.3	623.7	673.3
<i>1995—</i>									
Mar. qtr.	300.3	311.7	88.6	400.3	39.7	118.0	166.5	535.3	606.4
June qtr.	298.6	311.3	83.8	395.1	35.0	159.5	182.3	552.6	612.4
Sept. qtr.	281.0	285.5	73.3	358.8	46.6	166.6	178.2	563.4	583.6
Dec. qtr.	271.3	274.9	53.4	328.3	40.6	120.5	138.5	478.3	507.4
<i>1996—</i>									
Mar. qtr.	285.2	293.7	87.7	381.4	39.7	154.6	202.0	546.4	623.1

(a) See paragraphs 22-27 of the Explanatory Notes. Constant price estimates are subject to revision each quarter as more up to date information on prices and commodity compositions becomes available.

TABLE 5. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND OWNERSHIP
(\$ million)

Class of building	1993-94	1994-95	July-April		1996		
			1994-95	1995-96	February	March	April
PRIVATE SECTOR							
New houses	1,469.3	1,319.8	1,105.4	922.2	101.3	100.8	89.5
New other residential buildings	382.5	366.3	317.3	205.6	22.8	27.6	11.2
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>1,851.8</i>	<i>1,686.1</i>	<i>1,422.7</i>	<i>1,127.7</i>	<i>124.1</i>	<i>128.4</i>	<i>100.7</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	148.9	155.9	131.8	139.4	12.4	14.8	13.6
Hotels, etc.	30.3	46.9	37.8	96.2	4.3	1.3	3.5
Shops	151.3	131.8	111.2	62.8	7.3	7.0	6.8
Factories	55.4	79.5	70.1	65.1	5.2	5.3	12.2
Offices	53.7	85.1	70.7	61.0	1.6	4.8	11.7
Other business premises	89.9	90.8	74.7	81.4	9.3	5.0	5.2
Educational	41.0	30.2	29.7	38.8	2.0	2.5	2.3
Religious	9.1	5.7	3.0	3.4	0.5	0.2	0.5
Health	28.8	32.2	27.7	16.7	1.7	1.0	1.4
Entertainment and recreational	25.7	28.3	26.1	22.9	6.6	9.5	0.8
Miscellaneous	27.9	50.2	36.6	78.1	2.8	7.9	16.5
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>513.1</i>	<i>580.9</i>	<i>487.7</i>	<i>526.5</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>60.8</i>
Total	2,513.8	2,422.9	2,042.3	1,793.6	177.7	178.7	175.1
PUBLIC SECTOR							
New houses	34.4	34.5	24.7	17.9	3.8	3.7	1.4
New other residential buildings	78.5	54.0	31.9	36.7	2.7	6.1	6.1
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>112.9</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>56.6</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>7.5</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	—	0.1	—
Hotels, etc.	—	1.6	1.5	—	—	—	—
Shops	1.8	4.4	4.0	0.5	—	—	—
Factories	1.3	0.7	0.1	—	—	—	—
Offices	27.7	30.9	28.7	22.7	2.9	1.8	3.8
Other business premises	17.4	6.8	6.5	3.8	—	—	—
Educational	61.0	52.1	49.6	34.1	2.2	11.7	—
Religious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health	23.4	3.8	3.8	1.2	—	0.2	0.3
Entertainment and recreational	13.7	7.7	4.7	10.5	0.3	2.7	1.2
Miscellaneous	7.6	39.3	36.5	14.2	2.0	5.0	0.3
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>153.9</i>	<i>147.3</i>	<i>135.6</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>5.7</i>
Total	267.9	236.1	192.4	142.0	13.9	31.4	13.1
TOTAL							
New houses	1,503.7	1,354.3	1,130.1	940.1	105.1	104.5	90.9
New other residential buildings	461.0	420.3	349.3	242.2	25.5	33.7	17.3
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>1,964.7</i>	<i>1,774.6</i>	<i>1,479.3</i>	<i>1,182.3</i>	<i>130.6</i>	<i>138.2</i>	<i>108.1</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	150.0	156.2	132.1	139.8	12.4	14.8	13.6
Hotels, etc.	30.3	48.5	39.3	96.2	4.3	1.3	3.5
Shops	153.1	136.2	115.3	63.3	7.3	7.0	6.8
Factories	56.7	80.3	70.2	65.1	5.2	5.3	12.2
Offices	81.3	116.0	99.4	83.7	4.5	6.7	15.5
Other business premises	107.3	97.7	81.2	85.2	9.3	5.0	5.2
Educational	102.1	82.3	79.4	72.9	4.3	14.2	2.3
Religious	9.1	5.7	3.0	3.4	0.5	0.2	0.5
Health	52.2	36.0	31.5	17.9	1.7	1.2	1.7
Entertainment and recreational	39.5	36.0	30.7	33.4	6.8	3.1	2.0
Miscellaneous	35.5	89.5	73.1	92.3	4.8	12.9	16.8
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>667.0</i>	<i>728.2</i>	<i>623.3</i>	<i>613.5</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>56.9</i>	<i>66.5</i>
Total	2,781.7	2,659.0	2,234.7	1,935.7	191.6	210.0	188.2

TABLE 6. NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING JOBS APPROVED, BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND VALUE SIZE GROUPS

Period	\$50,000 to less than \$200,000		\$200,000 to less than \$500,000		\$500,000 to less than \$1m		\$1m to less than \$5m		\$5m and over		Total	
	No.	Value (\$m)	No.	Value (\$m)	No.	Value (\$m)	No.	Value (\$m)	No.	Value (\$m)	No.	Value (\$m)
HOTELS, ETC.												
1996 February	12	1.0	3	0.9	1	0.5	1	1.9	—	—	17	4.3
March	5	0.4	1	0.2	1	0.7	—	—	—	—	7	1.3
April	2	0.2	3	1.1	—	—	1	2.2	—	—	6	3.5
SHOPS												
1996 February	9	0.8	1	0.3	4	2.5	3	3.6	—	—	17	7.3
March	9	0.6	2	0.5	2	1.2	3	4.7	—	—	16	7.0
April	21	1.7	6	1.6	1	0.9	2	2.6	—	—	30	6.8
FACTORIES												
1996 February	11	1.3	8	2.2	3	1.7	—	—	—	—	22	5.2
March	12	1.3	10	2.8	2	1.2	—	—	—	—	24	5.3
April	11	1.5	5	1.4	3	2.1	3	7.2	—	—	22	12.2
OFFICES												
1996 February	5	0.4	6	1.9	—	—	1	2.1	—	—	12	4.5
March	18	2.0	5	1.4	1	0.8	2	2.5	—	—	26	6.7
April	12	1.2	7	2.0	1	0.5	2	6.9	1	5.0	23	15.5
OTHER BUSINESS PREMISES												
1996 February	13	1.4	12	3.6	2	1.3	2	3.0	—	—	29	9.3
March	9	1.0	8	2.7	2	1.3	—	—	—	—	19	5.0
April	16	1.6	6	1.6	4	2.1	—	—	—	—	26	5.2
EDUCATIONAL												
1996 February	4	0.5	—	—	—	—	2	3.7	—	—	6	4.3
March	7	0.9	—	—	1	0.5	6	12.7	—	—	14	14.2
April	2	0.2	—	—	1	0.5	1	1.6	—	—	4	2.3
RELIGIOUS												
1996 February	2	0.3	1	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.5
March	2	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.2
April	1	0.1	1	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.5
HEALTH												
1996 February	2	0.2	1	0.4	—	—	1	1.1	—	—	4	1.7
March	1	0.1	2	0.5	1	0.6	—	—	—	—	4	1.2
April	3	0.3	4	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1.7
ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATIONAL												
1996 February	4	0.4	1	0.2	—	—	2	6.2	—	—	7	6.8
March	3	0.3	1	0.2	—	—	1	2.6	—	—	5	3.1
April	3	0.4	5	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2.0
MISCELLANEOUS												
1996 February	12	1.3	2	0.8	1	0.7	1	2.0	—	—	16	4.8
March	21	2.0	11	3.2	2	1.2	2	6.5	—	—	36	12.9
April	18	2.1	6	1.9	2	1.2	3	5.6	1	6.1	30	16.8
TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING												
1996 February	74	7.7	35	10.5	11	6.7	13	23.7	—	—	133	48.6
March	87	9.0	40	11.6	12	7.4	14	29.0	—	—	153	56.9
April	89	9.2	43	12.9	12	7.2	12	26.1	2	11.1	158	66.5

TABLE 7. BUILDING APPROVALS BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS (a), APRIL 1996

Statistical local area, statistical subdivision and statistical division	New residential building (b)						Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$'000)	Non-residential building		Total building (\$'000)
	Houses			Other residential buildings				Private sector (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)	
	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)				
PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Cambridge (T)	2	—	494	2	—	120	502	—	—	1,116
Claremont (T)	2	—	125	—	13	609	74	50	344	1,152
Cottesloe (T)	4	—	1,200	2	—	170	369	—	—	1,739
Mosman Park (T)	5	—	2,114	6	—	373	688	—	—	3,175
Nedlands (C)	12	—	3,128	—	—	—	497	—	—	3,625
Peppermint Grove (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perth (C) — Inner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,210	5,210	5,210
Perth (C) — Remainder	1	—	220	—	—	—	37	871	871	1,128
Subiaco (C)	4	—	580	—	—	—	507	497	497	1,583
Victoria Park (T)	8	—	734	—	—	—	199	280	280	1,213
Vincent (T)	2	—	200	2	—	120	273	80	258	851
Central Metropolitan (SSD)	40	—	8,796	12	13	1,391	3,146	6,987	7,460	20,793
Bassendean (T)	2	—	234	—	—	—	295	1,509	1,509	2,038
Bayswater (C)	9	—	631	8	—	360	322	780	780	2,094
Kalamunda (S)	13	—	1,520	4	—	182	295	235	235	2,233
Mundaring (S)	17	—	1,788	—	—	—	352	125	125	2,266
Swan (S)	74	—	5,460	4	—	420	162	6,934	6,934	12,976
East Metropolitan (SSD)	115	—	9,634	16	—	963	1,426	9,583	9,583	21,606
Stirling (C) — Central	17	—	2,092	11	20	1,723	602	1,350	4,020	8,437
Stirling (C) — West	5	—	716	14	2	1,096	784	50	50	2,646
Stirling (C) — South-Eastern	2	—	138	5	—	330	454	—	—	921
Wanneroo (C)	186	4	16,084	18	12	2,468	1,403	5,029	5,029	24,984
North Metropolitan (SSD)	210	4	19,030	48	34	5,617	3,243	6,429	9,099	36,989
Cockburn (C)	54	—	5,514	4	—	242	313	2,535	2,853	8,921
East Fremantle (T)	1	—	100	—	—	—	196	115	115	411
Fremantle (C) — Inner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	400	400
Fremantle (C) — Remainder	4	—	402	—	—	—	215	790	790	1,407
Kwinana (T)	15	—	1,470	—	—	—	—	6,250	6,250	7,720
Melville (C)	27	—	3,404	10	9	1,432	749	281	281	5,866
Rockingham (C)	64	—	4,709	4	—	400	210	960	960	6,279
South West Metropolitan (SSD)	165	—	15,599	18	9	2,074	1,683	11,031	11,648	31,004
Armadale (C)	13	—	1,913	—	2	140	207	—	125	2,385
Belmont (C)	8	—	781	5	—	399	198	—	—	1,378
Canning (C)	27	2	2,553	3	—	170	636	5,980	6,032	9,391
Gosnells (C)	53	8	4,875	—	3	203	367	7,670	7,670	13,115
Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S)	6	—	575	—	—	—	122	—	—	697
South Perth (C)	6	—	1,274	15	—	1,372	360	—	—	3,005
South East Metropolitan (SSD)	113	10	11,971	23	5	2,284	1,889	13,650	13,827	29,971
Total	643	14	65,030	117	61	12,329	11,387	47,680	51,617	140,364
SOUTH WEST STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Boddington (S)	1	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Mandurah (C)	40	—	3,944	2	—	120	120	150	955	5,139
Murray (S)	13	—	1,079	—	—	—	25	110	110	1,214
Waroona (S)	2	—	141	—	—	—	31	340	340	492
Dale (SSD)	56	—	5,192	2	—	120	156	600	1,405	6,873
Bunbury (C)	11	—	1,225	—	10	537	148	250	250	2,160
Capel (S)	10	—	869	—	—	—	—	—	—	869
Collie (S)	1	—	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
Dardanup (S)	13	—	1,055	—	—	—	11	—	—	1,066
Donnybrook-Balingup (S)	5	—	637	—	—	—	—	50	50	687
Harvey (S)	12	—	1,083	—	—	—	119	1,597	1,597	2,799
Preston (SSD)	52	—	4,940	—	10	537	278	1,897	1,897	7,653

For footnote, see end of table.

TABLE 7. BUILDING APPROVALS BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS (a), APRIL 1996—continued

Statistical local area, statistical subdivision and statistical division	New residential building (b)						Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$'000)	Non-residential building		Total building (\$'000)
	Houses			Other residential buildings				Private sector (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)	
	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)				
SOUTH WEST STATISTICAL DIVISION (continued)										
Augusta-Margaret River (S)	25	—	1,957	3	—	290	141	3,045	3,045	5,433
Bussehon (S)	18	—	1,957	4	7	882	98	490	490	3,428
Vasse (SSD)	43	—	3,914	7	7	1,172	239	3,535	3,535	8,861
Boyup Brook (S)	1	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Bridgetown-Greenbushes (S)	3	—	244	—	—	—	—	—	—	244
Manjimup (S)	4	—	417	—	—	—	29	—	—	446
Nannup (S)	1	—	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Blackwood (SSD)	9	—	761	—	—	—	29	—	—	790
Total	160	—	14,808	9	17	1,829	703	6,032	6,837	24,177
LOWER GREAT SOUTHERN STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Broomehill (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnowangerup (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jerramungup (S)	2	—	163	—	—	—	75	—	—	238
Katanning (S)	—	—	—	—	4	315	—	—	—	315
Kent (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kojonup (S)	1	—	90	—	—	—	—	98	98	188
Tambellup (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woodanilling (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pallinup (SSD)	3	—	253	—	4	315	75	98	98	741
Albany (T)	7	1	745	—	3	252	96	120	120	1,214
Albany (S)	6	—	576	—	—	—	135	50	50	761
Cranbrook (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark (S)	5	—	451	—	—	—	10	120	120	581
Plantagenet (S)	3	—	254	—	—	—	91	57	57	402
King (SSD)	21	1	2,027	—	3	252	332	347	347	2,958
Total	24	1	2,279	—	7	567	407	445	445	3,698
UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Brookton (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuballing (S)	1	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Dumbleyung (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Narrogin (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Narrogin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pingelly (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wagin (S)	—	—	—	—	6	399	43	—	—	441
Wandering (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Arthur (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wickepin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Williams (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoitham (SSD)	1	—	26	—	6	399	43	—	—	467
Corrigin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kondinin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kulin (S)	1	—	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	137
Lake Grace (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakes (SSD)	1	—	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	137
Total	2	—	163	—	6	399	43	—	—	604

For footnote, see end of table.

TABLE 7. BUILDING APPROVALS BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS (a), APRIL 1996—continued

Statistical local area, statistical subdivision and statistical division	New residential building (b)						Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$'000)	Non-residential building		Total building (\$'000)
	Houses			Other residential buildings				Private sector (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)	
	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)				
MIDLANDS STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Chittering (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dandaragan (S)	4	—	544	—	—	—	52	—	—	596
Gingin (S)	9	—	694	2	—	106	20	—	—	820
Moora (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victoria Plains (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moore (SSD)	13	—	1,238	2	—	106	72	—	—	1,416
Beverley (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cunderdin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dalwallinu (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dowerin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goomalling (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knorda (S)	1	—	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	83
Northam (T)	3	—	250	—	—	—	20	—	—	270
Northam (S)	4	—	178	—	—	—	—	217	217	395
Quairading (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tammin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toodyay (S)	4	—	359	—	—	—	—	—	—	359
Wongan-Ballidu (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wyalkatchem (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
York (S)	3	—	212	—	—	—	—	450	450	662
Avon (SSD)	15	—	1,082	—	—	—	20	667	667	1,769
Bruce Rock (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kellerberrin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merredin (S)	1	—	298	—	—	—	—	—	—	298
Mount Marshall (S)	2	—	155	—	—	—	22	—	—	177
Mukinbudin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Narembeen (S)	1	—	300	—	—	—	18	—	709	1,027
Nungarin (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trayning (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westonia (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yilgarn (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	62	62
Campton (SSD)	4	—	753	—	—	—	40	62	771	1,564
Total	32	—	3,073	2	—	106	132	729	1,438	4,749
SOUTH EASTERN STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Coolgardie (S)	—	—	—	2	—	180	30	520	520	730
Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C)	14	1	2,034	7	—	456	379	1,062	1,062	3,931
Laverton (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leonora (S)	1	—	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
Menzies (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lefroy (SSD)	15	1	2,104	9	—	636	409	1,582	1,582	4,731
Dundas (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Esperance (S)	3	—	357	—	—	—	12	96	96	465
Ravensthorpe (S)	3	—	188	—	—	—	—	—	—	188
Johnston (SSD)	6	—	545	—	—	—	12	96	96	653
Total	21	1	2,649	9	—	636	421	1,678	1,678	5,384

For footnote, see end of table.

TABLE 7. BUILDING APPROVALS BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS (a), APRIL 1996—continued

Statistical local area, statistical subdivision and statistical division	New residential building (b)						Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$'000)	Non-residential building		
	Houses			Other residential buildings				Private sector (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)	Total building (\$'000)
	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)	Private sector (number)	Public sector (number)	Total value (\$'000)				
CENTRAL STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Carnarvon (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	360	360	400
Exmouth (S)	1	—	135	—	8	704	—	—	—	839
Shark Bay (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	20
Upper Gascoyne (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gascoyne (SSD)	1	—	135	—	8	704	60	360	360	1,259
Cue (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meekatharra (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Magnet (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murchison (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ngaanyatjarraku (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sandstone (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiluna (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yalgoo (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carnegie (SSD)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carnamah (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chapman Valley (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	82	—	—	82
Coorow (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Geraldton (C)	3	—	276	—	—	—	114	1,080	1,080	1,470
Greenough (S)	12	—	1,566	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,566
Irwin (S)	2	—	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	77
Mingenew (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morawa (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mullewa (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	44
Northampton (S)	1	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	96
Perenjori (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Three Springs (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenough River (SSD)	18	—	2,015	—	—	—	240	1,080	1,080	3,335
Total	19	—	2,151	—	8	704	300	1,440	1,440	4,594
PILBARA STATISTICAL DIVISION										
East Pilbara (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Port Hedland (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	1,843	1,843	1,867
De Grey (SSD)	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	1,843	1,843	1,867
Ashburton (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roebourne (S)	2	—	300	—	—	—	32	—	—	332
Fortescue (SSD)	2	—	300	—	—	—	32	—	—	332
Total	2	—	300	—	—	—	56	1,843	1,843	2,199
KIMBERLEY STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Halls Creek (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	—	2	312	2	—	105	60	400	610	1,087
Ord (SSD)	—	2	312	2	—	105	60	400	610	1,087
Broome (S)	1	—	100	6	—	603	71	557	557	1,331
Derby-West Kimberley (S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fitzroy (SSD)	1	—	100	6	—	603	71	557	557	1,331
Total	1	2	412	8	—	708	131	957	1,167	2,418
WESTERN AUSTRALIA										
Western Australia	904	18	90,864	145	99	17,278	13,579	60,804	66,464	188,186

(a) City councils are marked (C), Town councils (T), Shire councils (S), and Statistical Subdivisions (SSD). (b) Excludes Conversions, etc.

**TABLE 8. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES (a) APPROVED BY MATERIAL OF OUTER WALLS, FLOOR AREA AND VALUE PER SQUARE METRE BY STATISTICAL DIVISION
APRIL 1996**

Statistical division	Material of outer walls					Total	Floor area (sq m)	Average floor area (sq m)	Average value per square metre (\$)
	Double brick(b)	Brick veneer	Fibre cement	Timber	Other and not stated				
Perth	647	—	1	2	6	657	147,214	230	432
South-West	125	8	9	11	7	160	33,120	221	419
Lower Great Southern	12	8	3	—	2	25	5,049	220	416
Upper Great Southern	1	1	—	—	—	2	349	175	466
Midlands	14	2	13	2	1	32	6,866	221	440
South-Eastern	6	14	1	—	1	22	5,347	255	475
Central	16	2	—	—	1	19	4,299	226	500
Pilbara	2	—	—	—	—	2	698	349	430
Kimberley	3	—	—	—	—	3	614	205	671
Western Australia	826	35	27	15	18	922	203,556	228	433

(a) Excludes Conversions, etc. (b) Includes houses constructed with outer walls of stone and concrete.

**TABLE 9. NEW DWELLING UNITS (a) APPROVED, BY TYPE AND STATISTICAL DIVISION
APRIL 1996**

Statistical division	New other residential building								Total new residential building	
	New houses	Semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses, etc. of			Flats, units or apartments in a building of			Total		
		1 storey	2 or more storeys	Total	1-2 storeys	3 storeys	4 or more storeys			
NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS										
Perth	657	159	19	178	—	—	—	—	178	835
South West	160	26	—	26	—	—	—	—	26	186
Lower Great Southern	25	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	7	32
Upper Great Southern	2	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	8
Midlands	32	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	34
South Eastern	22	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	9	31
Central	19	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	27
Pilbara	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Kimberley	3	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	11
Western Australia	922	225	19	244	—	—	—	—	244	1,166
VALUE (\$'000)										
Perth	65,030	10,503	1,826	12,329	—	—	—	—	12,329	77,359
South West	14,808	1,829	—	1,829	—	—	—	—	1,829	16,637
Lower Great Southern	2,279	567	—	567	—	—	—	—	567	2,846
Upper Great Southern	163	399	—	399	—	—	—	—	399	561
Midlands	3,073	106	—	106	—	—	—	—	106	3,179
South Eastern	2,649	636	—	636	—	—	—	—	636	3,285
Central	2,151	704	—	704	—	—	—	—	704	2,854
Pilbara	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
Kimberley	412	708	—	708	—	—	—	—	708	1,120
Western Australia	90,864	15,452	1,826	17,278	—	—	—	—	17,278	108,143

(a) Excludes Conversions, etc.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly details of building work approved. Statistics of building work approved are compiled from:

- (a) permits issued by local government authorities in areas subject to building control by those authorities;
- (b) approvals issued by the Rural Housing Authority in areas not subject to building control by local government authorities;
- (c) contracts let or day labour work authorised by Commonwealth, State, semi-government and local government authorities.

Major building activity which takes place in areas not subject to the normal administrative approval processes (e.g. buildings on remote mine sites) is also included.

Factors affecting comparability

2. For purposes of comparison, it should be borne in mind that statistics of building approvals are affected from month to month by the number of large projects (such as blocks of flats and multi storey office buildings), approved in particular months and also by the administrative arrangements of government authorities.

Scope and coverage

3. The statistics relate to building activity which includes construction of new buildings and alterations and additions to existing buildings. Construction activity not defined as building (e.g. construction of roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc.) is excluded.

4. In relation to work carried out on existing buildings, the statistics include details of non-structural renovation and refurbishment work and the installation of integral building fixtures, for which building approval was obtained.

5. From July 1990, the statistics cover:

- (a) all approved new residential building jobs valued at \$10,000 or more;
- (b) approved alterations and additions to residential buildings valued at \$10,000 or more;
- (c) all approved non-residential building jobs valued at \$50,000 or more.

From July 1988 to June 1990, the statistics covered:

- (d) all approved new residential building jobs valued at \$5,000 or more (previously all new residential building jobs were included regardless of value);
- (e) approved alterations and additions to residential buildings valued at \$10,000 or more;
- (f) all approved non-residential building jobs valued at \$30,000 or more (previously \$10,000 or more).

These changes in scope mainly affect non-residential building data and do not have a statistically significant effect on broad building approvals aggregate data. However, care should be taken in interpreting data for specific classes of non-residential building.

Definitions

6. 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. An integral feature of a building's design, to satisfy its intended use, is the provision for regular access by humans.

7. A *dwelling unit* is defined as a self contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities and 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. The value of units of this type is included in the appropriate category of *non-residential building* approved.

8. A *residential building* is defined as a building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. Residential buildings can be either *houses* or *other residential buildings* as follows:

- (a) A *house* is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. Thus detached 'granny flats' and detached dwelling units (such as caretaker's residences) associated with non-residential buildings are defined as houses for the purpose of these statistics.
- (b) An *other residential building* is defined as a building which is predominantly used for long term residential purposes and which contains (or has attached to it) more than one dwelling unit (e.g. includes flats, home units, townhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings, etc.).

9. From the January 1995 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units approved as part of alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions of non-residential buildings to dwelling units) and as part of the construction of non-residential building is shown separately in Table 1 under the heading of "Conversions, etc.", and is included in the total number of dwelling units shown in the table. Previously, such dwellings were only included as a footnote.

10. In addition, from the January 1995 issue, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for the number of dwelling units approved, shown in Table 3, include these conversions, etc. Previously, only dwelling units approved as part of the construction of new residential buildings were included in these estimates.

11. The value of new residential building approved continues to exclude the value of dwelling units created as conversions of (residential and) non-residential buildings, and the value of dwelling units erected as part of the construction of new non-residential building. Approved building work represented by these conversions, etc. continues to be included in the value of alterations and additions to residential buildings or in the value of non-residential building as appropriate.

12. *Values* data are derived by aggregation of the estimated value (when completed) of building work

(excluding value of land and landscaping but including site preparation) as reported on approval documents. For houses, these estimates are usually a reliable indicator of the completed value of the building. However, for other residential buildings and non-residential buildings these estimates can, and often do, differ significantly from the completed value of the building.

Building classification

13. *Ownership.* The ownership of a building is classified as either *public sector* or *private sector* according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed building 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.

14. *Functional classification of buildings.* A building is classified according to its intended major function. Hence a building which is ancillary to other buildings or forms a part of a group of related buildings is classified to the function of the building and not to the function of the group as a whole. An example of this can be seen in the treatment of building work approved for a factory complex. In this case a detached administration building would be classified to *offices*, a detached cafeteria building to *shops*, while factory buildings would be classified to *factories*. An exception to this rule is in the treatment of group accommodation buildings where, for example, a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.

15. From July 1992, an expanded functional classification of buildings based on the *Dwelling Structure Classification (DSC)* has been introduced by the ABS to provide more detailed information on residential building approvals.

16. The DSC has been developed by the ABS to provide a standard classification of the different types of dwelling structures (houses, flats, townhouses, etc.). The DSC will be implemented across all major collections of housing data in the ABS. The DSC has the same overall scope as the classification used in previous collections but provides more detail than previously available to reflect the current interest in medium to high density housing.

17. In particular, for Building Approvals, DSC allows new *other residential building* to be classified as follows:

- (a) *Semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses, etc.* (dwellings having their own private grounds and no other dwellings above or below) with
 - one storey;
 - two or more storeys.
- (b) *Flats, units or apartments, etc.* (dwellings not having their own private grounds and usually sharing a common entrance, foyer or stairwell) in a building of:
 - one or two storeys;
 - three storeys;
 - four or more storeys.

18. More details on the DSC are contained in the ABS Information Paper, *Dwelling Structure Classification (DSC)* (1296.0).

Seasonal adjustment

19. Seasonally adjusted dwelling unit statistics are shown in Table 3. In these series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month) and the effect of movement in the date of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different months. Revision of figures results from annual re-analysis, details of which, together with information regarding the methods used in seasonally adjusting the series, are available on request.

20. Each of the component series shown has been seasonally adjusted independently. As a consequence, while the unadjusted components in the original series shown add to the totals, the adjusted components may not add to the adjusted totals. Further, the difference between independently seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily produce series which are optimal or even adequate adjustments of the similarly derived original series. Thus the figures which can be derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted private sector dwelling units from the seasonally adjusted total should not be used to represent seasonally adjusted public sector dwelling units.

21. Seasonal adjustment may be carried out by various methods and the results may vary slightly according to the procedure adopted. Accordingly, seasonally adjusted statistics should not be regarded as in any way definitive. In interpreting particular seasonally adjusted statistics it is important to bear in mind the methods by which they have been derived and the limitations to which the methods used are subject.

22. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series may be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment procedures do not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month, such as the effect of the approval of large projects or as a consequence of the administrative arrangements of approving authorities. Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

23. The seasonally adjusted series can, however, be smoothed to reduce the impact of the irregular component in the adjusted series. This smoothed seasonally adjusted series is called a trend estimate. There are a number of ways of accomplishing this, depending on the intended uses of the trend estimate. If importance is attached to measuring the underlying change in the most recent periods, moving averages employing appropriate weighting patterns should be adopted; the choice of averaging technique will determine in part the degree of smoothness of the derived series. For example, a 23-term moving average will generally even out more of the short term fluctuation in a series (and therefore appear 'smoother') than will a 13-term moving average. However, the longer the term of the moving average the longer the time series affected by revisions resulting from more recent data. In order to ensure that the underlying trend-cycle of a series is reflected in the trend estimate, the degree of smoothness alone cannot always be used as the

sole criterion in determining which moving average is appropriate.

24. Trend estimates of dwelling unit statistics are shown in Table 3. The trend estimates (often referred to as trend-cycle estimates) have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the series.

25. While this technique enables trend estimates for the latest period to be produced, it does result in revisions to the trend estimates for the most recent months as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions as a result of changes in the original data, and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. Details of other trend-cycle weighting patterns can be found in *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series - Estimates of 'Trend'* (1316.0).

Estimates at constant prices

26. The base year of constant price estimates of building approvals, contained in this issue, has been changed to 1989-90.

27. Periodic rebasing of constant price estimates is necessary to take account of changed price relativities and structural relationships in the economy. The choice of the base year influences the movement in the constant price series and the usefulness of such series is diminished if the relative price weights of the base year differ significantly from the price relationships in the other periods included in the series. The more remote a base year is from the current period, the less likely that its relative prices will reflect the current situation.

28. A more detailed discussion of the need for rebasing constant price estimates and factors affecting the choice of base year is contained in the information paper *Change in Base Year of Constant Price Estimates from 1984-85 to 1989-90* (5227.0) released on 10 December 1992.

29. Estimates of the quarterly value of building approvals at average 1989-90 prices are presented in Table 4. (Note: monthly value data at constant prices are not available).

30. 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 'Gross fixed capital expenditure'.

31. 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 Chapter 4 of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

Australian Standard Geographical Classification

32. Area statistics are classified according to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. Figures previously published for local government areas and statistical divisions are directly comparable with this

classification except for the cities of Perth, Fremantle and Stirling which are obtained by aggregating the component statistical local areas.

Perth City Council Re-structure

33. From July 1994, Perth City Council has been split. Although there are still five SLA's, only two retain the same boundaries. The new Town of Shepperton (renamed Victoria Park on 2 November 1994) comprises the whole of the SLA previously known as Perth(C) South. The City of Perth is now comprised of two SLAs: Perth(C) Inner and Perth(C) Remainder. Perth(C) Inner boundaries have not changed. Perth(C) Remainder comprises the majority of Perth(C) Outer. The new Town of Vincent comprises the major part of Perth(C) North and a small part of Perth(C) Outer. The new Town of Cambridge comprises the remainder of Perth(C) North as well as all of Perth(C) Wembley-Coastal. For maps showing the new SLA boundaries, please contact the relevant councils.

Unpublished data and related publications

34. The ABS also makes available certain building approvals data which are not published. Where it is not practicable to provide the required information by telephone, data can be provided in the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, computer printout and clerically extracted tabulation. A charge may be made for providing unpublished information in these forms.

35. Users may also wish to refer to the following related publications which are available on request:

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Catalogue No.

Building Approvals - Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division (monthly)	8732.5
Building Activity (quarterly)	8752.5
Dwelling Unit Commencements (monthly)	8741.5

AUSTRALIA

Building Approvals (monthly)	8731.0
Building Activity (quarterly)	8752.0
Engineering Construction Survey (quarterly)	8762.0
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation: Australia	5609.0

36. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office.

Symbols and other usages

37. The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:

—	nil, or rounded to zero
r	figure or series revised since previous issue.

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

P.C.KELLY
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