



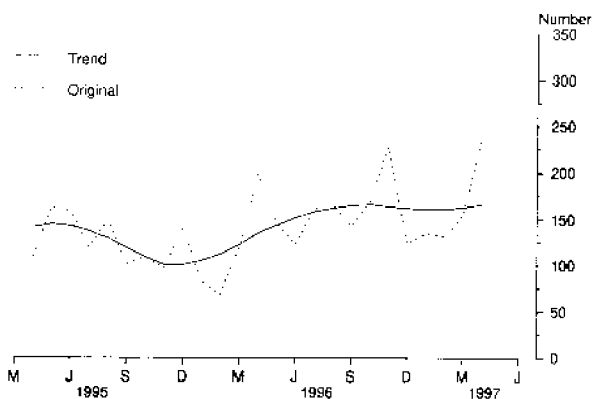
**BUILDING APPROVALS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, APRIL 1997**

**MAIN FEATURES**

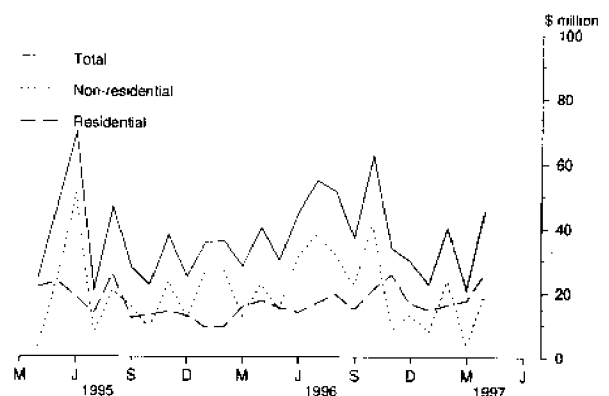
**NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS APPROVED**

	April 1996	March 1997	April 1997	April 1996 to April 1997 change	March 1997 to April 1997 change
Original series	198	154	234	18.2%	51.9%
Trend estimate	135	163	166	23.0%	1.8%

**TOTAL DWELLING UNITS APPROVED**



**VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED**



**Residential building**

- The number of dwelling units approved increased by 80 (51.9%) to 234 in April the highest level since August 1994. One large job involving 83 dwelling units accounted for most of the increase.
- The total for April included 89 new houses and 142 other residential dwellings. There were 45 new houses approved in Palmerston-East Arm, 21 in Darwin Rural Areas and 106 other residential dwelling units in Darwin City.
- The trend for the total number of dwelling units approved in April increased by 1.8%.
- The value of new residential building approved was \$23.1 million and the value of residential alterations and additions was \$2.6 million.
- Expressed as average 1989-90 prices, the value of new residential building work for the March quarter 1997 was \$32.4 million, a decrease of 23.4% on the previous quarter but a 55.0% increase on the March quarter 1996.

**Non-residential building**

- The value of non-residential building approved in April was \$19.9 million. Of the total, public sector education accounted for \$7.7 million, followed by \$3.3 million in private sector other business premises.
- The value of non-residential work, when expressed as average 1989-90 prices was \$40.8 million for the March quarter, a decrease of 51.4% on the previous quarter and a 33.1% decrease on the March quarter 1996.

**Total building**

- For the month of April, there was 1 project valued over \$5.0 million and 9 projects valued at \$1.0 million to \$5.0 million.

**INQUIRIES**

- *for more information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact John Radimissis on Adelaide (08) 8237 7590 or any ABS State Office.*

*for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication*

TABLE 1. DWELLING UNITS APPROVED (a)

Period	New houses			New other residential buildings			Conversions, etc.	Total (b)			Trend estimate
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total		Private sector	Public sector	Total	
1993-94	922	171	1,093	464	14	478	6	1,392	185	1,577	..
1994-95	868	161	1,029	554	58	612	20	1,442	219	1,661	..
1995-96	835	96	931	386	119	505	16	1,234	218	1,452	..
1995-96											
July-April	656	95	751	300	119	419	14	968	216	1,184	..
1996-97											
July-April	695	168	863	717	26	743	39	1,439	206	1,645	..
1996—											
February	49	10	59	6	2	8	1	56	12	68	112
March	82	10	92	25	2	27	—	107	12	119	122
April	67	4	71	21	106	127	—	88	110	198	135
May	87	—	87	58	—	58	1	145	1	146	144
June	92	1	93	28	—	28	1	121	1	122	152
July	56	14	70	91	—	91	1	148	14	162	158
August	66	15	81	82	2	84	1	149	17	166	162
September	70	3	73	68	—	68	2	140	3	143	165
October	94	16	110	59	—	59	—	153	16	169	166
November	76	25	101	119	7	126	1	196	32	228	164
December	69	30	99	11	—	11	13	81	42	123	162
1997—											
January	63	14	77	39	2	41	17	119	16	135	161
February	59	13	72	58	—	58	1	118	13	131	161
March	69	22	91	53	10	63	—	122	32	154	163
April	73	16	89	137	5	142	3	213	21	234	166

(a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector. (b) Includes Conversions, etc. See paragraphs 10-12 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED (\$'000)

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					
1993-94	84,997	29,312	114,309	40,105	1,038	41,144	125,102	30,350	155,452	17,307	68,342	158,946	210,026	331,706
1994-95	84,947	29,137	114,085	63,327	10,319	73,645	148,274	39,456	187,730	29,958	98,145	184,496	268,058	402,184
1995-96	83,369	15,473	98,841	38,318	7,640	45,958	121,687	23,113	144,800	27,426	112,754	222,043	255,839	394,269
1995-96														
July-April	64,821	15,388	80,209	31,641	7,640	39,281	96,463	23,028	119,490	23,566	96,205	176,042	210,564	319,098
1996-97														
July-April	82,470	24,418	106,888	59,797	2,337	62,134	142,267	26,755	169,022	19,576	134,780	209,632	293,807	398,230
1996—														
February	4,901	1,783	6,685	435	510	945	5,336	2,293	7,630	1,658	16,666	26,556	23,609	35,843
March	8,048	2,110	10,158	1,290	116	1,406	9,338	2,226	11,564	3,934	3,735	12,620	15,994	28,118
April	6,977	498	7,475	1,920	6,080	8,000	8,897	6,578	15,475	1,961	11,999	22,699	22,842	40,135
May	8,931	—	8,931	4,656	—	4,656	13,587	—	13,587	1,746	8,277	14,705	23,265	30,038
June	9,616	85	9,701	2,021	—	2,021	11,637	85	11,722	2,115	8,272	31,296	22,009	45,133
July	6,475	2,479	8,954	6,231	—	6,231	12,706	2,479	15,185	1,611	37,303	37,807	51,620	54,603
August	7,681	1,867	9,548	7,864	400	8,264	15,545	2,267	17,813	1,738	12,661	31,802	29,933	51,353
September	7,511	690	8,201	5,421	—	5,421	12,931	690	13,621	1,355	16,106	22,138	30,392	37,114
October	10,401	2,571	12,972	5,294	—	5,294	15,695	2,571	18,266	2,500	40,352	41,732	57,985	62,497
November	8,246	3,329	11,575	11,257	654	11,911	19,503	3,983	23,486	2,024	6,342	8,367	27,366	33,878
December	8,585	4,806	13,391	820	—	820	9,405	4,806	14,211	2,365	4,111	13,161	15,467	29,737
1997—														
January	7,532	2,205	9,736	2,845	250	3,095	10,377	2,455	12,831	1,815	5,088	7,790	17,279	22,435
February	7,245	2,318	9,563	5,244	—	5,244	12,489	2,318	14,807	1,493	3,849	23,702	17,619	40,002
March	9,241	2,160	11,401	3,649	580	4,229	12,890	2,740	15,630	2,038	2,736	3,234	16,943	20,902
April	9,554	1,992	11,546	11,173	453	11,626	20,726	2,445	23,172	2,638	6,233	19,898	29,204	45,708

**TABLE 3. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, (a) BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND OWNERSHIP  
(\$'000)**

Class of building	1994-95	1995-96	July-April		1997		
			1995-96	1996-97	February	March	April
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>							
New houses	84,947	83,369	64,821	82,470	7,245	9,241	9,554
New other residential buildings	63,327	38,318	31,641	59,797	5,244	3,649	11,173
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>148,274</i>	<i>121,687</i>	<i>96,463</i>	<i>142,267</i>	<i>12,489</i>	<i>12,890</i>	<i>20,726</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	21,640	21,398	17,897	16,759	1,281	1,317	2,245
Hotels, etc.	25,584	38,821	37,560	22,380	—	—	—
Shops	37,862	14,599	12,854	64,087	2,062	694	924
Factories	3,940	3,212	3,022	3,936	286	—	—
Offices	6,261	13,302	9,358	16,987	402	250	—
Other business premises	10,489	19,837	14,754	16,377	1,099	879	3,338
Educational	3,922	5,255	4,261	4,846	—	—	1,535
Religious	—	609	609	180	—	—	—
Health	1,027	3,210	3,150	373	—	—	—
Entertainment and recreational	3,536	10,216	7,214	1,374	—	203	—
Miscellaneous	5,524	3,693	3,423	4,240	—	710	416
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>98,145</i>	<i>112,754</i>	<i>96,205</i>	<i>134,780</i>	<i>3,849</i>	<i>2,736</i>	<i>6,233</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,058</b>	<b>255,839</b>	<b>210,564</b>	<b>293,807</b>	<b>17,619</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>29,204</b>
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>							
New houses	29,137	15,473	15,388	24,418	2,318	2,160	1,992
New other residential buildings	10,319	7,640	7,640	2,337	—	580	453
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>39,456</i>	<i>23,113</i>	<i>23,028</i>	<i>26,755</i>	<i>2,318</i>	<i>2,740</i>	<i>2,445</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	8,318	6,028	5,669	2,817	212	721	393
Hotels, etc.	—	—	—	1,395	—	—	—
Shops	1,762	4,246	4,246	3,369	—	—	553
Factories	11,706	1,824	324	12,691	—	—	90
Offices	3,466	13,412	9,396	7,642	316	—	370
Other business premises	2,354	14,147	14,147	5,294	417	—	89
Educational	28,985	26,037	11,817	25,240	12,699	170	7,728
Religious	—	2,361	2,361	—	—	—	—
Health	1,631	1,433	1,378	2,460	—	—	265
Entertainment and recreational	2,016	11,551	9,155	4,458	55	—	2,926
Miscellaneous	34,431	34,279	27,015	12,303	6,366	329	1,645
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>86,351</i>	<i>109,290</i>	<i>79,838</i>	<i>74,852</i>	<i>19,853</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>13,666</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,125</b>	<b>138,430</b>	<b>108,534</b>	<b>104,423</b>	<b>22,383</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>16,504</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							
New houses	114,085	98,841	80,209	106,888	9,563	11,401	11,546
New other residential buildings	73,645	45,958	39,281	62,134	5,244	4,229	11,626
<i>Total new residential building</i>	<i>187,730</i>	<i>144,800</i>	<i>119,490</i>	<i>169,022</i>	<i>14,807</i>	<i>15,630</i>	<i>23,172</i>
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	29,958	27,426	23,566	19,576	1,493	2,038	2,638
Hotels, etc.	25,584	38,821	37,560	23,775	—	—	—
Shops	39,624	18,845	17,100	67,456	2,062	694	1,477
Factories	15,646	5,036	3,346	16,626	286	—	90
Offices	9,727	26,715	18,754	24,629	718	250	370
Other business premises	12,844	33,984	28,901	21,672	1,516	879	3,427
Educational	32,907	31,293	16,079	30,086	12,699	170	9,283
Religious	—	2,969	2,969	180	—	—	—
Health	2,658	4,643	4,528	2,833	—	—	265
Entertainment and recreational	5,552	21,767	16,368	5,832	55	203	2,926
Miscellaneous	39,955	37,972	30,438	16,542	6,366	1,039	2,061
<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>184,496</i>	<i>222,043</i>	<i>176,042</i>	<i>209,632</i>	<i>23,702</i>	<i>3,234</i>	<i>19,898</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,184</b>	<b>394,269</b>	<b>319,098</b>	<b>398,230</b>	<b>40,002</b>	<b>20,902</b>	<b>45,708</b>

(a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector.

TABLE 4. BUILDING APPROVED (a) IN SELECTED AREAS, APRIL 1997

Selected statistical areas	New residential building (b)								Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$'000)	Non-residential building (\$'000)	Total building (\$'000)
	Houses				Other residential buildings						
	Private sector		Public sector		Private sector		Public sector				
	Number	Value (\$'000)	Number	Value (\$'000)	Number	Value (\$'000)	Number	Value (\$'000)			
Darwin City (SSD)	5	1,794	—	—	106	9,198	—	—	1,444	5,726	18,162
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	44	5,364	1	100	20	1,500	—	—	90	5,257	12,311
Darwin (SD)	49	7,158	1	100	126	10,698	—	—	1,534	10,983	30,473
Alice Springs (T)	2	230	—	—	2	160	—	—	112	463	965
Katherine (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	3,946	3,961
Tennant Creek (T)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	370	370
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	21	1,965	—	—	9	315	—	—	977	581	3,838
Remainder of Balance (SD)	1	200	15	1,892	—	—	5	453	—	3,556	6,101
Northern Territory Balance (SD)	24	2,395	15	1,892	11	475	5	453	1,104	8,915	15,235
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>9,554</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>11,173</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>19,898</b>	<b>45,708</b>

(a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector. (b) Excludes Conversions, etc.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES (a) APPROVED BY MATERIAL OF OUTER WALLS IN SELECTED AREAS APRIL 1997

Selected statistical areas	Material of outer walls						Total
	Double brick(b)	Brick veneer	Fibre cement	Timber	Metal clad and other	Not stated	
Darwin (SD)	46	—	—	—	3	1	50
Alice Springs (T)	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	5	—	1	—	9	6	21
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>89</b>

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

TABLE 6. 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							
1993-94	70.1	94.1	36.7	130.7	14.3	64.1	149.0	184.6	294.0
1994-95	65.9	88.3	64.9	153.2	23.1	90.3	169.9	230.4	346.1
1995-96	61.9	73.4	39.5	112.9	20.3	101.7	200.6	214.5	333.8
<b>1995—</b>									
Dec. qtr.	16.0	17.1	8.2	25.3	5.6	22.7	40.3	50.1	71.2
<b>1996—</b>									
Mar. qtr.	11.2	16.2	4.7	20.9	4.9	41.7	59.0	61.0	84.8
June qtr.	18.8	19.2	12.5	31.8	4.3	25.6	61.8	56.3	97.8
Sept. qtr.	15.9	19.6	17.0	36.6	3.4	59.2	82.2	95.7	122.2
Dec. qtr.	19.4	27.0	15.3	42.3	4.9	45.4	56.5	84.0	103.7
<b>1997—</b>									
Mar. qtr.	17.0	21.8	10.7	32.4	3.8	10.4	30.8	40.8	67.0

(a) See paragraphs 16-18 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 7. NEW DWELLING UNITS (a) APPROVED IN SELECTED AREAS, BY TYPE  
APRIL 1997

Selected statistical area	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	Total		
NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS										
Darwin City (SSD)	5	—	8	8	9	—	89	98	106	111
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	45	20	—	20	—	—	—	—	20	65
<i>Darwin (SD)</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>176</i>
Alice Springs (T)	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	4
Katherine (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennant Creek (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	21	—	—	—	9	—	—	9	9	30
Remainder of Balance (SD)	16	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	5	21
<i>Northern Territory Balance (SD)</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>55</i>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>231</b>
VALUE (\$'000)										
Darwin City (SSD)	1,794	—	1,080	1,080	583	—	7,535	8,118	9,198	10,992
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	5,464	1,500	—	1,500	—	—	—	—	1,500	6,964
<i>Darwin (SD)</i>	<i>7,258</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>2,580</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7,535</i>	<i>8,118</i>	<i>10,698</i>	<i>17,956</i>
Alice Springs (T)	230	—	—	—	160	—	—	160	160	390
Katherine (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennant Creek (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	1,965	—	—	—	315	—	—	315	315	2,280
Remainder of Balance (SD)	2,092	453	—	453	—	—	—	—	453	2,545
<i>Northern Territory Balance (SD)</i>	<i>4,287</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>928</i>	<i>5,215</i>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>11,546</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,535</b>	<b>8,593</b>	<b>11,626</b>	<b>23,172</b>

(a) Excludes Conversions, etc.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains monthly details of building work approved.

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

### Scope and Coverage

3. Statistics of building work approved are compiled from:

- (a) permits issued by licensed Private Building Certifiers or the Building Branch, Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, in areas subject to building control by those authorities;
- (b) contracts let or day labour work authorised by Commonwealth, State, semi-government and local government authorities;
- (c) major building activity which takes place in areas not subject to the normal administrative approval processes (e.g. buildings on remote mine sites).

4. 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 from this publication, but can be found in the ABS publication *Engineering Construction Survey* (8762.0).

5. 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.

6. From July 1990, the statistics cover:

- (a) all approved new residential building jobs valued at \$10,000 or more (previously \$5,000 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 (previously \$30,000 or more).

These changes in coverage 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

7. 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 persons.

8. 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 buildings' approved.

9. 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.

- (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 town-houses, duplexes, apartment buildings etc.).

10. From the January 1995 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units approved as part of alterations and additions to or conversions of existing residential or non-residential buildings and as part of the construction of non-residential building is shown separately in Tables 1 under the heading of 'Conversions, etc.', and is included in the total number of dwelling units shown in these tables. Previously, such dwellings were only included as a footnote.

11. In addition, from the January 1995 issue, the trend estimates for the number of dwelling units approved, shown in Table 1, includes these conversions, etc. Previously, only dwelling units approved as part of the construction of new residential buildings were included in these estimates.

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

13. Value 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 differ significantly from the completed value of the building.

### Building Classification

14. *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.

15. *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 the treatment of group accommodation buildings e.g. a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.

### Estimates at Constant Prices

16. Estimates of the quarterly value of building approvals at average 1989-90 prices are presented in Table 6. (Note: monthly value data at constant prices are not available.)

17. 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 are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwelling and non-dwelling construction components of the national accounts aggregate 'Gross fixed capital expenditure'.

18. 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).

### Trend Estimates

19. Table 1 shows trend estimates for total dwellings. These are obtained by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months of the respective seasonally adjusted series except the last six months. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted time series. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview* (1348.0).

20. While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 19 enables trend estimates to be produced for the latest few months, it does result in revisions to the trend estimates as new data become available. Generally, revisions become smaller over time and, after three months, usually have a negligible impact on the series. Revisions to the original data and re-analysis of seasonal factors may also lead to revisions to the trend.

### Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

21. Area statistics are now being classified to the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 1996 Edition* (1216.0), effective from 1 July 1996, and ASGC terminology has been adopted in the presentation of building statistics.

Further details are:

- (a) The boundaries of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) of Alice Springs (T) and Sandover - Balance were amended by the transfer of part of Sandover - Balance to Alice Springs (T).
- (b) The boundaries of the SLAs of Katherine (T) and Elsey - Balance were amended by the transfer of part of Katherine (T) to Elsey - Balance.
- (c) The LGA/SLA of Alice Springs (T) has been split into five SLAs. These new SLAs are: Alice Springs (T) - Charles, Alice Springs (T) - Heavitree, Alice Springs (T) - Larapinta, Alice Springs (T) - Ross, Alice Springs (T) - Stuart.

### Unpublished Data and Related Publications

22. The ABS can also make 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.

23. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0) - issued monthly  
*Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0) - issued quarterly  
*Building Activity, Northern Territory* (8752.7) - 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 Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and Other Usages

SD Statistical Division  
 SSD Statistical Subdivision  
 (T) town  
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)  
 r figure or series revised since previous issue

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

**ZIA ABBASI**  
 Regional Director

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