

CATALOGUE NO. 8752.8

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 20 OCTOBER 1995

**BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
JUNE QUARTER 1995**

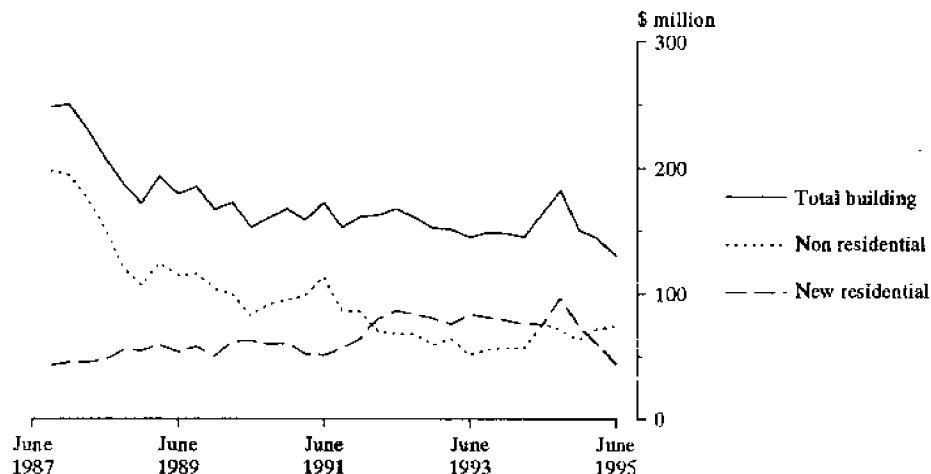
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Value of building work done at average 1989-90 prices, seasonally adjusted

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1995	June quarter 1994
New residential building	-27.5	-41.8
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	-9.4	-17.7
Non-residential building	3.6	-1.2
Total building	-9.8	-20.9

- In seasonally adjusted average 1989-90 prices, the total value of building work done during the quarter was down a further 9.8% to \$130.1 million, the lowest for more than 11 years.
- The decline was again attributable to the new residential sector, for which work done fell to its lowest since the September quarter 1987. It fell 27.5% to \$43.8 million, mainly because of a continuing decline in other residential buildings.
- Work done on non-residential buildings rose 3.6% to \$74.3 million, just below the level of a year earlier but 45.1% up on the recent low established two years ago.

**VALUE OF WORK DONE
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**



INQUIRIES

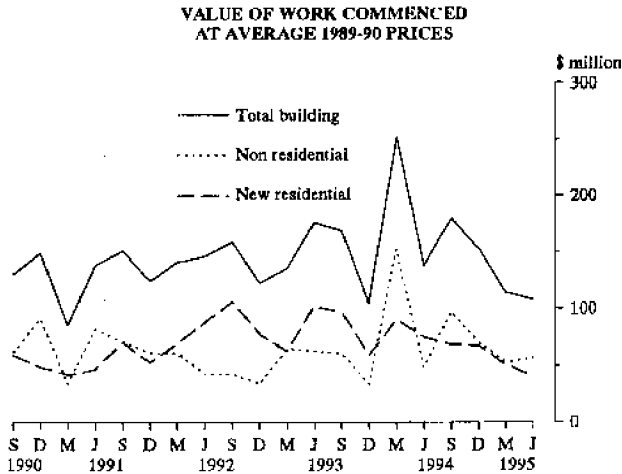
- for more information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Rex Porter on Adelaide (08) 237 7496 or any ABS State Office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 207 0326, call at FAI House, London Circuit, Civic, or write to Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – continued

Value of building work commenced at average 1989–90 prices

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1995	June quarter 1994
New residential building	-21.1	-46.4
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	5.0	-30.7
Non-residential building	7.9	19.4
Total building	-5.3	-21.8

- In average 1989–90 prices, the total value of all building work commenced during the quarter was down 5.3% to \$107.8 million, the third successive quarterly decline.
- The value of new residential buildings commenced during the quarter was down 21.1% to \$40.0 million, the fifth successive quarterly decline and the lowest level for more than 11 years. As for the March quarter 1995, the main reason for the decline was that commencements of other residential buildings fell again. Commencements of \$12.8 million for the quarter were the lowest since the March quarter 1990.
- Commencements of non-residential buildings showed some recovery, rising 7.9% to \$57.2 million.

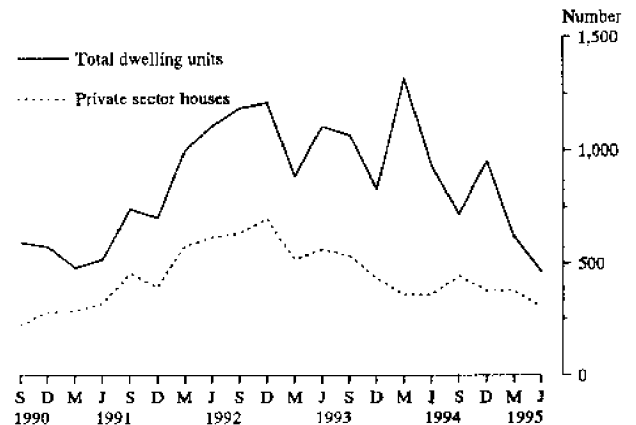


Number of dwelling units commenced, seasonally adjusted

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1995	June quarter 1994
Private sector houses	-18.7	-15.3
Private sector dwelling units	-27.3	-53.9
Total dwelling units	-25.0	-49.9

- In seasonally adjusted terms, the estimate of the total number of dwelling units commenced during the quarter was 464. This was down 25.0% and was the lowest for 8 years.
- The number of private sector houses commenced was estimated at 305, a decrease of 18.7% and the lowest since the March quarter 1991. However, as for the March quarter 1995, there was an even larger decrease in commencements of private sector other dwelling units.

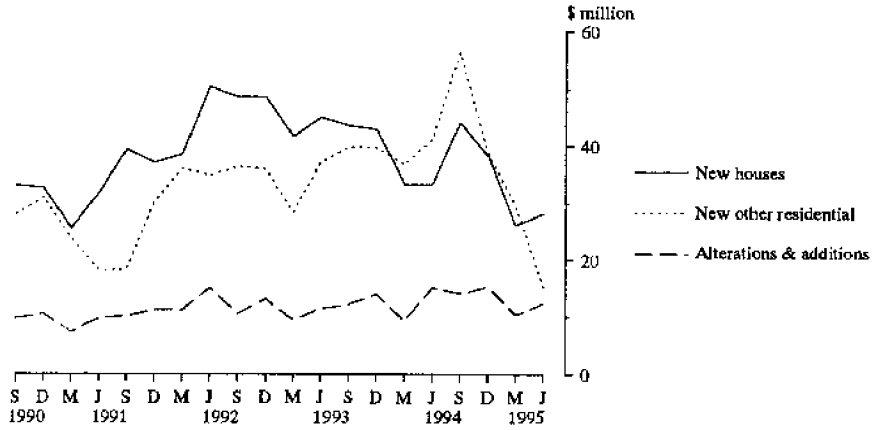
NEW DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



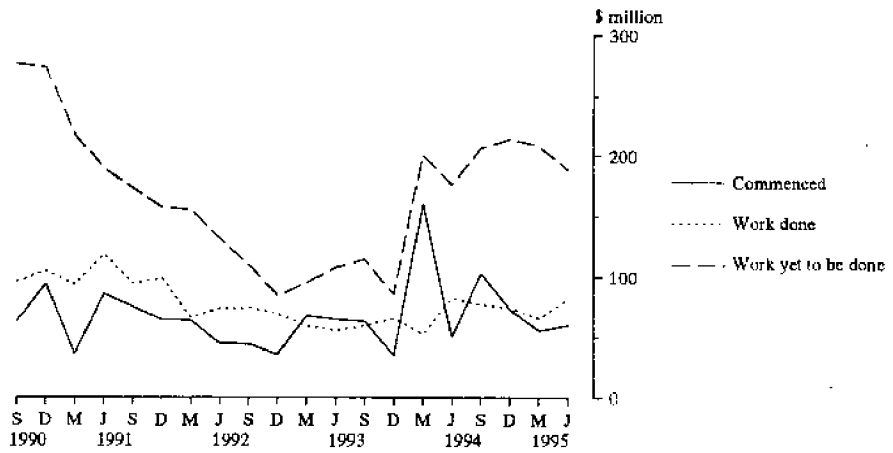
Original data

- The total value of all building work commenced during the quarter was down 5.4% to \$123.3 million. Of this, \$49.5 million was for new residential building resulting in 475 dwelling units. While the number of houses commenced was down only 15 to 314, commencements of other dwelling units was down by 78 to 161.
- The total value of work done was up a relatively small 3.6% to \$150.9 million, despite a 23.4% increase to \$81.2 million in the non-residential sector. Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of June was down \$25.8 million to \$257.8 million.
- For the year 1994–95, the total value of work commenced was down 16.3% to \$633.0 million. The non-residential sector was down only 5.5%, but the residential sector was down 23.7% to \$341.9 million.

VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL WORK DONE
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES



VALUE OF NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING



VALUE OF NON RESIDENTIAL WORK DONE

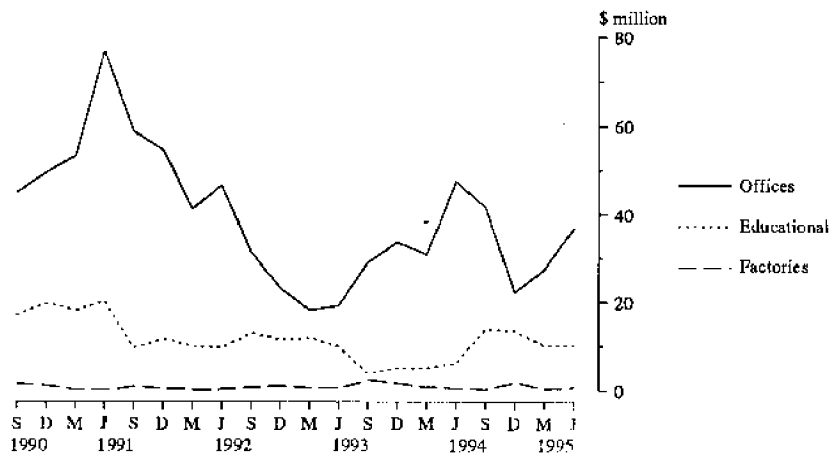


TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Period	New residential building				Non-residential building											Total building							
	Houses				Other residential buildings			Total				Value (\$m)											
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Alterations and additions to residential buildings (\$m)	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Enter-tainment and recrea-tional		Miscel-laneous	Total					
COMMENCED																							
1992-93	2,417	252.4	1,993	165.5	4,410	417.9	56.0	2.6	9.8	3.0	108.8	21.9	27.1	1.2	15.8	14.6	7.7	212.5	686.3				
1993-94	1,764	200.1	2,383	182.6	4,147	382.7	65.3	0.3	14.5	4.7	167.2	12.5	34.2	2.6	27.8	24.4	20.1	308.1	756.2				
1994-95	1,523	170.3	1,194	104.3	2,717	274.6	67.3	4.6	15.7	2.8	137.2	20.9	33.9	0.7	8.1	28.6	38.5	291.1	633.0				
1994 Mar. qtr	371	40.5	835	63.6	1,206	104.1	12.7	—	0.7	0.1	108.1	0.9	15.5	0.8	24.4	6.6	2.8	159.8	276.7				
June qtr	368	43.3	578	45.1	946	88.4	20.5	—	5.8	0.7	16.4	7.7	9.3	1.0	0.1	0.1	8.1	50.2	159.1				
Sept. qtr	508	53.4	352	30.2	860	83.6	19.0	0.2	4.3	—	65.8	6.1	13.9	0.3	2.3	0.2	9.2	102.4	205.0				
Dec. qtr	373	42.4	442	37.7	815	80.1	21.0	3.5	5.4	1.7	27.4	5.6	2.3	0.3	0.2	6.7	20.0	73.3	174.4				
1995 Mar. qtr	329	38.7	239	22.8	568	61.5	13.3	0.9	2.0	0.4	25.1	7.5	11.5	—	0.6	1.9	5.8	55.5	130.3				
June qtr	314	35.9	161	13.6	475	49.5	13.9	0.1	4.0	0.7	18.8	1.7	6.2	—	5.0	19.9	3.5	59.9	123.3				
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD																							
1992-93	727	97.1	1,159	109.0	1,886	206.2	25.9	1.0	1.8	2.5	95.2	13.9	20.5	1.8	57.6	17.0	5.3	216.5	448.6				
1993-94	647	89.1	1,821	152.5	2,468	241.6	26.2	1.0	4.0	0.7	218.6	6.8	34.3	2.1	76.5	19.0	13.8	376.8	644.5				
1994-95	527	71.1	627	56.3	1,154	127.5	25.3	1.0	2.5	1.3	185.6	9.8	35.4	1.0	24.0	21.5	35.2	317.2	470.0				
1994 Mar. qtr	684	90.5	1,516	131.1	2,200	221.6	23.6	1.0	4.6	0.1	208.8	1.0	29.8	1.7	75.6	21.1	8.4	353.2	598.3				
June qtr	647	89.1	1,821	152.5	2,468	241.6	26.2	1.0	4.0	0.7	218.6	6.8	34.3	2.1	76.5	19.0	13.8	376.8	644.5				
Sept. qtr	705	93.1	1,392	120.5	2,097	213.6	27.6	1.2	6.5	0.4	211.5	11.8	43.9	2.2	29.3	4.5	22.8	334.1	575.3				
Dec. qtr	442	65.0	904	74.0	1,346	139.0	28.8	3.5	6.5	—	173.0	12.7	28.5	1.5	29.2	10.7	32.3	298.0	465.8				
1995 Mar. qtr	505	72.1	712	64.4	1,217	136.6	28.1	1.7	6.2	0.4	175.9	12.7	32.9	0.8	26.7	8.5	37.8	303.6	468.3				
June qtr	527	71.1	627	56.3	1,154	127.5	25.3	1.0	2.5	1.3	185.6	9.8	35.4	1.0	24.0	21.5	35.2	317.2	470.0				
COMPLETED																							
1992-93	2,467	249.3	1,705	165.4	4,172	414.7	61.1	3.6	9.3	1.2	219.1	19.5	45.5	0.6	8.4	31.9	11.0	349.9	825.7				
1993-94	1,840	208.0	1,721	141.3	3,561	349.3	67.1	0.3	13.2	6.5	51.2	20.6	26.6	2.2	9.5	25.7	12.2	168.0	584.4				
1994-95	1,639	190.0	2,388	197.7	4,027	387.7	68.9	4.7	19.2	2.5	184.3	17.6	33.5	1.9	60.8	25.9	17.3	367.7	824.4				
1994 Mar. qtr	372	46.1	370	29.1	742	75.2	14.1	—	1.4	3.7	9.1	6.1	4.0	0.6	3.1	5.8	3.8	33.8	123.1				
June qtr	405	46.0	273	23.6	678	69.5	18.0	—	6.4	0.1	12.9	2.0	4.8	0.5	—	4.4	2.8	33.9	121.4				
Sept. qtr	448	49.5	781	61.3	1,229	110.8	17.8	—	1.8	0.3	78.7	1.3	3.2	0.2	49.4	14.4	0.2	149.6	278.2				
Dec. qtr	635	70.8	930	82.7	1,565	153.5	20.1	1.2	5.4	2.1	73.2	4.4	19.5	1.1	0.3	0.6	10.4	118.1	291.7				
1995 Mar. qtr	266	32.1	431	32.5	697	64.5	14.3	2.7	4.1	—	22.3	7.3	8.0	0.6	3.0	4.0	0.3	52.3	131.2				
June qtr	291	37.6	246	21.3	537	58.9	16.7	0.8	7.9	0.1	10.0	4.6	2.8	—	8.1	7.0	6.5	47.7	123.4				

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—continued.

Period	New residential building				Non-residential building											Total building		
	Houses		Other residential buildings		Total		Value (\$m)											
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health		Entertainment and recreational	Miscellaneous
VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD																		
1992-93	..	242.3	..	146.2	..	388.5	59.1	2.0	9.5	2.7	92.1	20.3	46.1	0.7	39.9	34.2	10.3	257.8
1993-94	..	205.8	..	167.5	..	373.4	67.7	0.6	14.0	5.1	141.0	15.4	20.3	1.6	17.9	26.2	18.0	260.1
1994-95	..	182.5	..	149.5	..	331.9	69.3	5.0	18.2	2.9	128.2	21.9	47.6	2.2	23.4	19.2	29.5	298.0
1994 Mar. qtr	..	44.8	..	39.0	..	83.8	12.4	—	2.6	0.7	30.8	1.4	5.2	0.4	2.9	5.5	2.9	52.4
June qtr	..	44.7	..	44.0	..	88.7	20.1	0.2	4.8	0.5	47.6	2.8	6.2	0.6	2.3	7.6	9.5	82.1
Sept. qtr	..	60.5	..	60.2	..	120.7	19.3	0.4	3.9	0.2	41.7	4.6	13.9	1.0	6.1	0.9	4.2	76.8
Dec. qtr	..	50.4	..	41.3	..	91.7	20.0	2.1	6.9	1.8	22.2	7.4	13.4	0.8	8.8	3.5	7.2	185.9
1995 Mar. qtr	..	34.5	..	31.6	..	66.1	13.8	1.8	3.7	0.3	27.4	5.3	10.2	0.2	4.4	3.6	8.7	145.7
June qtr	..	37.1	..	16.3	..	53.4	16.3	0.7	3.7	0.6	36.8	4.7	10.1	0.1	4.0	11.2	9.3	150.9
VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE																		
1992-93	..	48.2	..	59.2	..	107.3	9.6	0.7	1.1	0.7	71.1	7.2	5.7	0.7	15.0	3.2	2.7	108.0
1993-94	..	42.6	..	76.3	..	119.0	9.2	0.4	2.4	0.3	104.7	5.3	25.9	1.6	25.6	4.7	5.4	176.3
1994-95	..	32.3	..	28.5	..	60.8	8.6	0.1	1.9	0.5	129.6	4.0	12.9	0.3	10.5	13.8	14.6	188.3
1994 Mar. qtr	..	42.7	..	75.5	..	118.2	8.7	0.6	1.5	—	130.7	0.4	22.6	1.3	27.0	10.0	6.7	200.7
June qtr	..	42.6	..	76.3	..	119.0	9.2	0.4	2.4	0.3	104.7	5.3	25.9	1.6	25.6	4.7	5.4	176.3
Sept. qtr	..	35.7	..	45.5	..	81.1	9.2	0.3	2.8	0.1	134.6	7.1	24.9	1.0	21.7	3.6	10.3	206.3
Dec. qtr	..	28.0	..	40.3	..	68.4	11.0	1.7	1.4	—	147.1	4.9	15.5	0.5	13.1	6.9	23.1	214.1
1995 Mar. qtr	..	32.8	..	31.7	..	64.4	11.0	0.7	1.4	0.1	146.7	7.0	17.7	0.3	9.1	5.1	20.1	208.2
June qtr	..	32.3	..	28.5	..	60.8	8.6	0.1	1.9	0.5	129.6	4.0	12.9	0.3	10.5	13.8	14.6	188.3

NOTE: The number of self-contained dwelling units commenced as part of the construction of non-residential building and alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units) are excluded from this table. There were 4 such dwelling unit commenced in the June quarter 1995.

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF PRIVATE SECTOR BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Period	New residential building										Non-residential building														
	Houses					Other residential buildings					Total					Other residential building					Total				
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Alterations to and additions to residential buildings	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Entertainment and recreational	Miscellaneous	Total building					
COMMENCED																									
1992-93	2,408	251.3	1,849	151.9	4,257	403.3	55.5	2.6	9.3	2.9	22.8	14.4	3.7	1.2	2.9	11.2	1.6	72.6	531.4						
1993-94	1,703	195.5	2,326	177.9	4,029	373.4	65.3	0.3	14.2	4.7	45.3	3.6	5.5	2.6	8.1	19.6	5.9	109.7	548.4						
1994-95	1,512	169.3	1,072	94.6	2,584	263.8	65.0	4.6	14.5	2.8	29.3	12.1	2.3	0.7	0.8	23.9	0.8	91.9	420.7						
1994 Mar. qtr	316	36.4	799	60.7	1,115	97.1	12.7	—	0.7	0.1	8.3	0.5	0.4	0.8	5.3	4.0	0.6	20.6	130.4						
June qtr	368	43.3	578	45.1	946	88.4	20.5	—	5.6	0.7	9.7	2.1	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.1	5.2	25.2	134.0						
Sept. qtr	508	53.4	308	26.6	816	79.9	19.0	0.2	3.6	—	9.0	5.2	—	0.3	—	0.2	0.4	18.9	117.9						
Dec. qtr	364	41.6	422	36.3	786	77.9	19.3	3.5	5.4	1.7	12.2	4.5	1.1	0.3	0.2	3.9	0.1	33.1	130.3						
1995 Mar. qtr	328	38.6	217	20.9	545	59.5	13.2	0.9	2.0	0.4	3.0	1.5	0.8	—	0.6	1.1	—	10.2	82.8						
June qtr	313	35.7	125	10.8	438	46.5	13.6	0.1	3.5	0.7	5.1	0.9	0.4	—	—	18.7	0.3	29.7	89.8						
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD																									
1992-93	727	97.1	1,066	100.7	1,793	197.9	22.8	1.0	1.7	2.5	9.5	7.3	2.8	1.8	—	13.9	2.3	42.7	263.4						
1993-94	600	85.6	1,785	149.6	2,385	235.1	26.2	1.0	4.0	0.7	36.0	1.2	—	2.1	8.1	18.9	5.3	77.3	338.7						
1994-95	524	70.7	559	50.9	1,083	121.6	23.3	1.0	2.5	1.3	14.5	3.0	0.5	1.0	—	19.6	0.4	43.7	188.7						
1994 Mar. qtr	626	86.1	1,459	126.4	2,085	212.5	23.6	1.0	4.6	0.1	32.5	0.6	2.6	1.7	7.6	18.2	0.6	69.5	305.6						
June qtr	600	85.6	1,785	149.6	2,385	235.1	26.2	1.0	4.0	0.7	36.0	1.2	—	2.1	8.1	18.9	5.3	77.3	338.7						
Sept. qtr	678	90.9	1,348	116.9	2,026	207.8	27.6	1.2	5.9	0.4	16.9	5.6	—	2.2	5.3	4.5	5.7	47.7	283.0						
Dec. qtr	409	62.3	840	69.0	1,249	131.3	27.1	3.5	6.5	—	17.7	7.3	1.1	1.5	5.3	7.9	5.3	56.2	214.5						
1995 Mar. qtr	484	70.4	634	58.2	1,118	128.6	26.2	1.7	6.2	0.4	12.6	6.5	1.7	0.8	5.8	7.8	—	48.8	203.7						
June qtr	524	70.7	559	50.9	1,083	121.6	23.3	1.0	2.5	1.3	14.5	3.0	0.5	1.0	—	19.6	0.4	43.7	188.7						
COMPLETED																									
1992-93	2,457	247.9	1,564	153.0	4,021	409.9	56.3	1.6	8.8	1.1	74.4	18.6	1.6	0.6	2.9	16.7	5.7	132.0	589.2						
1993-94	1,826	207.0	1,607	131.8	3,433	338.7	63.9	0.3	12.8	6.5	20.9	10.5	7.8	2.2	—	18.1	2.9	82.0	484.7						
1994-95	1,587	185.8	2,298	190.5	3,885	376.4	68.6	4.7	18.0	2.5	49.6	9.7	1.8	1.9	9.4	23.0	5.7	126.3	571.3						
1994 Mar. qtr	369	45.9	322	25.6	691	71.5	14.1	—	1.4	3.7	1.6	2.5	1.9	0.6	—	0.8	0.1	12.6	98.2						
June qtr	394	45.1	252	21.8	646	66.9	18.0	—	6.2	0.1	6.3	1.5	3.0	0.5	—	1.9	0.5	19.9	104.8						
Sept. qtr	431	48.1	745	58.4	1,176	106.5	17.8	—	1.6	0.3	25.6	0.8	—	0.2	2.8	14.2	—	45.6	169.9						
Dec. qtr	632	70.5	930	82.7	1,562	153.2	20.1	1.2	4.9	2.1	12.7	2.4	—	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	25.8	199.0						
1995 Mar. qtr	253	31.1	423	31.8	676	62.9	14.3	2.7	4.1	—	8.1	2.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	1.2	—	19.1	96.2						
June qtr	272	36.1	200	17.7	472	53.8	16.4	0.8	7.4	0.1	3.2	4.4	1.6	—	6.2	7.0	5.2	35.9	106.2						

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Period	New residential building										Non-residential building														
	Houses					Other residential buildings					Total					Alterations and additions to residential buildings					Total				
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Houses etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Enter-tainment and recrea-tional	Miscel-laneous	Total				
COMMENCED																									
1992-93	9	1.1	144	13.5	153	14.6	0.5	—	0.5	0.1	86.0	7.5	23.3	—	12.9	3.4	6.1	139.9	155.0						
1993-94	61	4.6	57	4.7	118	9.3	—	0.3	—	121.8	8.9	28.7	—	19.7	4.8	14.2	207.8	207.8							
1994-95	11	1.1	122	9.7	133	10.8	2.2	—	1.2	—	107.8	8.8	31.7	—	7.3	4.7	37.7	199.2	212.3						
1994 Mar. qtr	55	4.1	36	2.9	91	7.0	—	—	—	99.7	0.4	15.1	—	19.2	2.6	2.2	139.2	146.3							
June qtr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	6.8	5.7	8.9	—	0.5	—	2.9	25.0	25.0							
Sept. qtr	—	—	44	3.6	44	3.6	—	0.7	—	56.8	0.9	13.9	—	2.3	—	8.8	83.4	87.1							
Dec. qtr	9	0.8	20	1.4	29	2.2	1.7	—	—	15.2	1.1	1.2	—	—	2.8	19.9	40.2	44.1							
1995 Mar. qtr	1	0.1	22	1.9	23	2.0	0.1	—	—	22.1	6.0	10.7	—	—	0.7	5.8	45.4	47.5							
June qtr	1	0.2	36	2.8	37	3.0	0.3	—	0.5	—	13.7	0.8	5.8	—	5.0	1.2	30.3	33.6							
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD																									
1992-93	—	—	93	8.3	93	8.3	3.1	—	0.1	—	85.7	6.6	17.7	—	57.6	3.1	3.0	173.8	185.1						
1993-94	47	3.5	36	2.9	83	6.4	—	—	—	182.6	5.6	34.3	—	68.5	0.1	8.4	299.5	305.9							
1994-95	3	0.4	68	5.4	71	5.8	2.0	—	—	171.1	6.8	34.9	—	24.0	1.9	34.8	273.5	281.4							
1994 Mar. qtr	58	4.4	57	4.7	115	9.1	—	—	—	177.3	0.4	27.1	—	68.0	2.9	7.8	283.6	292.7							
June qtr	47	3.5	36	2.9	83	6.4	—	—	—	182.6	5.6	34.3	—	68.5	0.1	8.4	299.5	305.9							
Sept. qtr	27	2.2	44	3.6	71	5.9	—	0.5	—	194.7	6.2	43.9	—	24.0	—	17.0	286.4	292.3							
Dec. qtr	33	2.7	64	5.1	97	7.7	1.7	—	—	155.3	5.3	27.4	—	24.0	2.8	27.0	241.8	251.3							
1995 Mar. qtr	21	1.7	78	6.3	99	8.0	1.9	—	—	163.3	6.2	31.2	—	20.8	0.7	32.5	254.8	264.6							
June qtr	3	0.4	68	5.4	71	5.8	2.0	—	—	171.1	6.8	34.9	—	24.0	1.9	34.8	273.5	281.4							
COMPLETED																									
1992-93	10	1.4	141	12.4	151	13.8	4.8	2.0	0.5	0.1	144.7	0.9	43.9	—	5.5	15.2	5.2	217.9	236.5						
1993-94	14	1.0	114	9.5	128	10.6	3.1	—	0.4	—	30.3	10.1	18.8	—	9.5	7.5	9.4	86.0	99.7						
1994-95	52	4.2	90	7.2	142	11.4	0.3	—	1.2	—	134.6	7.9	31.7	—	51.5	2.9	11.5	241.4	253.1						
1994 Mar. qtr	3	0.2	48	3.5	51	3.7	—	—	—	7.5	3.6	2.1	—	—	2.4	5.6	21.2	24.9							
June qtr	11	0.8	21	1.8	32	2.7	—	—	0.1	—	6.6	0.5	1.8	—	2.6	2.3	14.0	16.7							
Sept. qtr	17	1.4	36	2.9	53	4.3	—	—	0.2	—	53.1	0.5	3.2	—	46.6	0.1	0.2	104.0	108.2						
Dec. qtr	3	0.3	—	—	3	0.3	—	—	0.5	—	60.5	2.0	19.5	—	0.1	—	9.8	92.3	92.7						
1995 Mar. qtr	13	0.9	8	0.7	21	1.7	—	—	—	14.2	5.2	7.9	—	2.9	2.8	0.3	33.3	34.9							
June qtr	19	1.5	46	3.6	65	5.1	0.3	—	0.5	—	6.8	0.2	1.2	—	1.9	—	1.3	11.8	17.2						

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—continued

Period	New residential building										Non-residential building																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	Houses					Other residential buildings					Total					Alterations and additions to residential buildings etc.					Other business premises					Educational					Religious					Health					Recreational					Miscellaneous					Total building																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$m)	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Recreational	Miscellaneous	Total building	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Recreational	Miscellaneous	Total building																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
1992-93	..	1.2	..	13.7	..	14.9	4.8	..	0.5	0.1	39.2	2.8	42.5	..	37.0	11.9	4.8	138.9	158.6	1993-94	..	2.8	..	7.0	..	9.8	0.3	..	101.8	9.2	14.7	..	14.2	5.5	15.8	161.6	171.7	1994-95	..	2.6	..	7.0	..	9.6	1.2	..	93.4	10.3	45.5	..	17.7	3.1	24.5	195.6	206.5	1994 Mar. qtr	..	1.3	..	1.5	..	2.8	22.8	1.0	3.2	..	1.6	2.5	2.7	33.7	36.6	June qtr	..	1.2	..	1.3	..	2.6	33.4	1.1	5.7	..	0.5	0.1	8.2	49.0	51.6	Sept. qtr	..	0.9	..	1.9	..	2.8	26.9	2.6	13.9	..	4.0	0.1	2.2	50.3	53.2	Dec. qtr	..	0.7	..	1.8	..	2.4	0.5	..	14.7	3.4	13.1	..	6.3	0.5	5.2	43.2	46.1	1995 Mar. qtr r	..	0.8	..	2.0	..	2.9	0.3	..	21.4	1.5	9.2	..	3.7	2.3	8.0	46.0	49.2	June qtr	..	0.2	..	1.3	..	1.5	0.5	..	30.4	2.9	9.3	..	3.6	0.2	9.1	56.1	58.0	1992-93	3.7	0.3	67.3	4.7	5.1	..	15.0	1.0	2.1	95.1	99.1	1993-94	..	1.7	..	0.8	..	2.6	92.6	4.6	25.9	..	21.1	0.1	1.1	145.4	148.0	1994-95	..	0.2	..	3.6	1.0	124.1	3.5	12.8	..	10.5	1.7	14.5	167.0	171.8	1994 Mar. qtr	..	3.0	..	2.2	..	5.1	114.1	0.1	22.4	..	21.2	0.4	6.3	164.4	169.5	June qtr	..	1.7	..	0.8	..	2.6	92.6	4.6	25.9	..	21.1	0.1	1.1	145.4	148.0	Sept. qtr	..	0.9	..	2.6	..	3.4	130.8	3.2	24.9	..	19.3	..	7.7	186.0	189.4	Dec. qtr	..	1.0	..	2.2	1.2	137.3	1.0	14.7	..	13.0	2.3	22.3	190.5	195.0	1995 Mar. qtr r	..	0.2	..	2.1	1.1	140.0	5.6	17.1	..	9.1	0.7	20.0	192.5	195.9	June qtr	..	0.2	..	3.6	1.0	124.1	3.5	12.8	..	10.5	1.7	14.5	167.0	171.8

VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE

VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD

**TABLE 4. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS BY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES**

Period	<i>Houses</i>				<i>Total</i>			
	<i>Private sector</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Private sector</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>
1994 Mar. qtr	359	454	411	457	1,206	846	1,317	889
June qtr	360	414	365	421	926	722	927	765
Sept. qtr	445	380	441	398	685	974	716	1,036
Dec. qtr	379	575	399	579	920	1,447	951	1,432
1995 Mar. qtr	375	310	365	326	587	823	619	830
June qtr	305	287	311	303	427	531	464	611

**TABLE 5. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES
(\$ million)**

Period	<i>New residential building</i>		<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Total</i>			
1994 Mar. qtr	50.4	90.7	15.2	60.6	167.1
June qtr	43.3	89.5	18.8	80.1	188.3
Sept. qtr	57.3	116.5	19.3	75.5	211.4
Dec. qtr	49.2	87.4	17.8	67.5	172.9
1995 Mar. qtr	38.9	71.6	17.0	76.5	164.4
June qtr	35.9	53.9	15.2	79.2	148.7

TABLE 6. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK COMMENCED, AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a), AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
(**\$ million**)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total		Private sector	Total	
1992-93	190.7	157.8	348.5	42.2	69.4	203.0	593.7
1993-94	147.2	173.5	320.7	48.4	104.8	294.2	663.3
1994-95	127.5	98.6	226.1	50.7	87.6	277.7	554.5
1994 Mar. qtr	29.7	60.4	90.1	9.4	19.7	152.5	252.0
June qtr	31.9	42.7	74.6	15.3	24.0	47.9	137.8
Sept. qtr	39.6	28.6	68.2	14.2	18.0	97.6	180.0
Dec. qtr	31.6	35.6	67.2	15.8	31.6	69.9	152.9
1995 Mar. qtr r	29.1	21.6	50.7	10.1	9.7	53.0	113.8
June qtr	27.2	12.8	40.0	10.6	28.3	57.2	107.8

(a) See paragraphs 24 and 25 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. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a), AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ORIGINAL AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES
(**\$ million**)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total		Private sector	Total	
ORIGINAL							
1992-93	183.9	137.9	321.8	44.6	111.6	241.8	608.2
1993-94	153.1	157.6	310.7	50.4	92.6	244.4	605.5
1994-95	136.7	140.0	276.7	52.1	96.1	279.6	608.4
1994 Mar. qtr	33.3	36.7	70.0	9.2	17.6	49.3	128.5
June qtr	33.3	41.3	74.6	15.0	31.0	77.0	166.6
Sept. qtr	44.1	56.4	100.5	14.1	24.9	72.1	186.7
Dec. qtr	38.3	38.8	77.1	15.2	29.1	69.6	161.9
1995 Mar. qtr r	26.1	29.6	55.7	10.4	18.5	61.7	127.8
June qtr	28.2	15.2	43.4	12.4	23.6	76.2	132.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED							
1994 Mar. qtr	37.5	n.a.	75.7	11.3	n.a.	57.1	144.5
June qtr	32.2	n.a.	75.3	14.1	n.a.	75.2	164.4
Sept. qtr	41.8	n.a.	97.0	14.1	n.a.	70.9	182.0
Dec. qtr	37.4	n.a.	73.4	13.6	n.a.	63.4	150.6
1995 Mar. qtr r	29.4	n.a.	60.4	12.8	n.a.	71.7	144.2
June qtr	27.3	n.a.	43.8	11.6	n.a.	74.3	130.1

(a) See paragraphs 24 to 26 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 8. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS BY OWNERSHIP,
CLASS OF BUILDER AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION,
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Period	Private sector					Public sector			Total		
	Houses			Other residential buildings	Total	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total
	Contractor-built	Other	Total								
COMMENCED											
1992-93	2,241	167	2,408	1,849	4,257	9	144	153	2,417	1,993	4,410
1993-94	1,607	96	1,703	2,326	4,029	61	57	118	1,764	2,383	4,147
1994-95	1,463	49	1,512	1,072	2,584	11	122	133	1,523	1,194	2,717
1994 Mar. qtr	297	20	316	799	1,115	55	36	91	371	835	1,206
June qtr	353	15	368	578	946	—	—	—	368	578	946
Sept. qtr	505	3	508	308	816	—	44	44	508	352	860
Dec. qtr	345	19	364	422	786	9	20	29	373	442	815
1995 Mar. qtr	317	10	328	217	545	1	22	23	329	239	568
June qtr	296	17	313	125	438	1	36	37	314	161	475
UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD											
1992-93	599	128	727	1,066	1,793	—	93	93	727	1,159	1,886
1993-94	523	77	600	1,785	2,385	47	36	83	647	1,821	2,468
1994-95	461	64	524	559	1,083	3	68	71	527	627	1,154
1994 Mar. qtr	519	108	626	1,459	2,085	58	57	115	684	1,516	2,200
June qtr	523	77	600	1,785	2,385	47	36	83	647	1,821	2,468
Sept. qtr	617	61	678	1,348	2,026	27	44	71	705	1,392	2,097
Dec. qtr	345	65	409	840	1,249	33	64	97	442	904	1,346
1995 Mar. qtr	427	57	484	634	1,118	21	78	99	505	712	1,217
June qtr	461	64	524	559	1,083	3	68	71	527	627	1,154
COMPLETED											
1992-93	2,309	147	2,457	1,564	4,021	10	141	151	2,467	1,705	4,172
1993-94	1,678	148	1,826	1,607	3,433	14	114	128	1,840	1,721	3,561
1994-95	1,518	70	1,587	2,298	3,885	52	90	142	1,639	2,388	4,027
1994 Mar. qtr	333	36	369	322	691	3	48	51	372	370	742
June qtr	348	46	394	252	646	11	21	32	405	273	678
Sept. qtr	416	15	431	745	1,176	17	36	53	448	781	1,229
Dec. qtr	602	30	632	930	1,562	3	—	3	635	930	1,565
1995 Mar. qtr	238	14	253	423	676	13	8	21	266	431	697
June qtr	262	10	272	200	472	19	46	65	291	246	537

TABLE 9. NUMBER AND VALUE OF NEW HOUSES BUILT BY CONTRACT BUILDERS FOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, BY COMPLETION VALUE RANGE AND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Period	Commenced				Under construction at end of period				Completed			
	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$59,999	\$60,000 and over	Total	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$59,999	\$60,000 and over	Total	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$59,999	\$60,000 and over	Total
	NUMBER											
1992-93	5	320	1,916	2,241	—	52	547	599	12	297	2,000	2,309
1993-94	4	67	1,536	1,607	—	11	512	523	4	101	1,573	1,678
1994-95	—	114	1,349	1,463	2	37	422	461	—	88	1,430	1,518
1994 Mar. qtr	—	4	293	297	—	—	519	519	—	4	329	333
June qtr	4	15	335	353	—	11	512	523	4	4	341	348
Sept. qtr	—	47	458	505	2	27	588	617	—	34	381	416
Dec. qtr	—	19	327	345	2	—	343	345	—	42	559	602
1995 Mar. qtr	—	15	302	317	2	11	414	427	—	4	235	238
June qtr	—	33	262	296	2	37	422	461	—	7	254	262
VALUE (\$m)												
1992-93	0.2	17.4	211.1	228.7	—	2.9	76.1	79.0	0.4	16.1	211.6	228.1
1993-94	0.1	3.8	178.9	182.8	—	0.6	71.5	72.2	0.1	5.5	182.1	187.8
1994-95	—	6.4	156.1	162.5	0.1	2.2	58.1	60.3	—	4.8	169.3	174.1
1994 Mar. qtr	—	0.2	33.4	33.6	—	—	69.7	69.7	—	0.2	40.5	40.7
June qtr	0.1	0.9	39.8	40.8	—	0.6	71.5	72.2	0.1	0.2	39.0	39.4
Sept. qtr	—	2.6	50.1	52.7	0.1	1.5	77.8	79.3	—	1.9	43.7	45.6
Dec. qtr	—	1.0	39.0	40.0	0.1	—	52.3	52.4	—	2.3	62.5	64.8
1995 Mar. qtr	—	0.8	35.8	36.6	0.1	0.6	60.0	60.6	—	0.2	29.3	29.5
June qtr	—	1.9	31.3	33.2	0.1	2.2	58.1	60.3	—	0.4	33.8	34.2

TABLE 10. SUMMARY OF BUILDING ACTIVITY, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS (PER CENT) JUNE QUARTER 1995

Ownership and stage of construction	New residential building				Value	
	Houses		Total		Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total building
	Number	Value	Number of dwelling units	Value		
PRIVATE SECTOR						
Commenced	4.9	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.0	1.9
Under construction at end of period	4.8	4.5	2.3	2.6	3.8	1.8
Completed	8.3	7.7	4.8	5.1	4.9	2.7
Value of work done	..	4.8	..	3.4	2.9	2.0
Value of work yet to be done	..	5.4	..	3.1	5.8	2.1
TOTAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS						
Commenced	4.9	4.6	3.3	3.3	2.9	1.4
Under construction at end of period	4.7	4.5	2.2	2.5	3.5	0.7
Completed	7.8	7.4	4.2	4.7	4.8	2.3
Value of work done	..	4.8	..	3.3	2.8	1.2
Value of work yet to be done	..	5.4	..	2.9	5.1	0.7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains detailed results from the quarterly Building Activity Survey. Users should note that data for the latest quarter is subject to revision.

2. The statistics are compiled on the basis of returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity. The quarterly survey consists of two components.

- (a) A sample survey of private sector house building activity involving new house construction or alterations and additions valued at \$10,000 or more to houses.
- (b) A complete enumeration of jobs involving construction of new residential buildings other than private sector houses, all alterations and additions to residential buildings (other than private sector houses) with an approval value of \$10,000 or more, and all non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 or more.

3. Prior to the September quarter 1990, the cut-off for inclusion of non-residential building jobs (both new and alterations and additions) was \$30,000 or more and prior to the September quarter 1985 it was \$10,000 or more. Care should be taken in interpreting data for specific classes of non-residential building.

4. The use of sample survey techniques in the Building Activity Survey means that reliable estimates of private sector house building activity, including alterations and additions to houses, are available only at the State/Territory and Australia levels with the exception of the Northern Territory. However, dwelling unit commencement data for regions below State level are shown in the monthly series of dwelling unit commencements compiled by State offices of the ABS. Data from this series, unlike those compiled from the Building Activity Survey, are based on information reported by local and other government authorities.

Scope and coverage

5. 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.

6. Building jobs included in each quarter in the Building Activity Survey comprise those building jobs selected in previous quarters which have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter and those building jobs newly selected in the current quarter. The population list from which building jobs are selected for inclusion comprises all approved building jobs which were notified to the ABS up to but not including the last month of the reference quarter (e.g. up to the end of August in respect of the September quarter survey). This introduces a lag to the statistics in respect of those building jobs notified and commenced in the last month of the reference quarter (e.g. for the month of September in respect of the September quarter survey). For example, building jobs which were notified as approved in the month of June and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the September quarter. Similarly, building jobs which were notified in the month of September and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the December quarter.

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 building.

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 caretakers' 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. The number of dwelling units created by alterations and additions to existing buildings, and through the construction of new non-residential buildings, is not included in the tables but is shown as a footnote to Table 1.

11. *Commenced*. A building job is regarded as commenced when the first physical building activity has been performed on site in the form of materials fixed in place and/or labour expended (this includes site preparation but excludes delivery of building materials, the drawing of plans and specifications and the construction of non-building infrastructures such as roads).

12. *Under construction*. A building job is regarded as being under construction at the end of a period if it has been commenced but has not been completed, and work on it has not been abandoned.

13. *Completed*. A building job is regarded as completed when building activity has progressed to the stage when the building can fulfil its intended function. In practice, the ABS regards buildings as completed when notified as such by respondents to the survey.

Valuation of building jobs

14. The value series in this publication are derived from estimates reported on survey returns as follows.

- (a) *Value of building commenced or under construction* represents the anticipated completion value based, where practicable, on estimated market or contract price of building jobs excluding the value of land and landscaping. Site preparation costs are included. Where building jobs proceed over several quarters, the

anticipated completion value reported on the return for the first (commencement) quarter may be amended on returns for subsequent (under construction) quarters as the job nears completion.

- (b) *Value of building completed* represents the actual completion value based, where practicable, on the market or contract price of building jobs including site preparation costs but excluding the value of land and landscaping.
- (c) *Value of building work done during the period* represents the estimated value of building work actually carried out during the quarter on building jobs which have commenced.
- (d) *Value of building work yet to be done* represents the difference between the anticipated completion value and the estimated value of work done up to the end of the period on building jobs commenced but not completed.

Building classification

15. *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.

16. *Builder type.* Houses are classified according to the type of builder as follows.

- (a) *Contractor-built houses* are those constructed by a private recognised building contractor, either under contract, or in anticipation of sale or rental.
- (b) *Houses built by other than contract builders* are those constructed by an owner (other than a recognised building contractor) or under the owner's direction, without the services of a single contractor responsible for the whole job. Houses built by businesses (other than recognised building contractors) and public sector organisations are also included in this category.

17. *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 where, for example, a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.

18. Examples of the types of buildings included under each main functional heading are shown in the following list.

- (a) *Houses.* Includes cottages, bungalows, detached caretakers'/managers' cottages, rectories.
- (b) *Other residential buildings.* Includes blocks of flats, home units, attached townhouses, villa units, terrace houses, semi-detached houses, maisonettes.
- (c) *Hotels, etc.* Includes motels, hostels, boarding houses, guesthouses, holiday apartment buildings.

- (d) *Shops.* Includes retail shops, restaurants, cafes, taverns, dry cleaners, laundromats, hair salons, shopping arcades.
- (e) *Factories.* Includes paper mills, oil refinery buildings, brickworks, foundries, powerhouses, manufacturing laboratories, workshops as part of a manufacturing process.
- (f) *Offices.* Includes banks, post offices, council chambers, head and regional offices.
- (g) *Other business premises.* Includes warehouses, storage depots, service stations, transport depots and terminals, electricity substation buildings, pumping station buildings, telephone exchanges, mail sorting centres, broadcasting stations, film studios.
- (h) *Educational.* Includes schools, colleges, kindergartens, libraries, museums, art galleries, research and teaching laboratories, theological colleges.
- (i) *Religious.* Includes churches, chapels, temples.
- (j) *Health.* Includes hospitals, nursing homes, surgeries, clinics, medical centres.
- (k) *Entertainment and recreational.* Includes clubs, theatres, cinemas, public halls, gymnasiums, grandstands, squash courts, sports and recreation centres.
- (l) *Miscellaneous.* Includes law courts, homes for the aged (where medical care is not provided as a normal service), orphanages, gaols, barracks, mine buildings, glasshouses, livestock sheds, shearing sheds, fruit and skin drying sheds, public toilets, and ambulance, fire and police stations.

Reliability of the estimates

19. Since the figures for private sector house building activity (including alterations and additions) are derived from information obtained from a sample of approved building jobs, they are subject to sampling error; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if information for all approved jobs for the relevant period had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of approved jobs was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all approved jobs had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of sampling variability is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard errors of estimates provide an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and are shown in Table 10.

20. An example of the use of relative standard errors is as follows. Assume that the estimate of the number of new private sector houses commenced during the latest quarter is 2,000 (for actual estimate see Table 2) and that the associated relative standard error is 2.5 per cent (for actual percentage see Table 10). There would then be about two chances in three that the number which would have been obtained if information had been collected about all approved private sector house jobs would have been within the range 1,950 to 2,050 (2.5 per cent of 2,000 is 50) and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number would have been within the range 1,900 to 2,100.

21. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the relative standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of inadequacies in the source of building approval information, imperfections in reporting by respondents, and errors made in the coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by the careful design of questionnaires, efforts to obtain responses for all selected building jobs, and efficient operating procedures.

Seasonal adjustment

22. Seasonally adjusted building statistics are shown in Tables 4, 5 and 7. In the seasonally adjusted 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 quarter) and the effect of the movement in the date of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different quarters. Further information about seasonal adjustment can be obtained from the Assistant Director of Time Series Analysis, Canberra, on (06) 252 6345.

23. Since seasonally adjusted statistics reflect both irregular and trend movements, an upward or downward movement in a seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily indicate a change of trend. Particular care should therefore be taken in interpreting individual quarter to quarter movements. 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.

Estimates at constant prices

24. Estimates of the value of commencements and work done at average 1989-90 prices are shown in Tables 6 and 7. 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'.

25. 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).

26. The factors used to seasonally adjust the constant price series are identical to those used to adjust the corresponding current price series.

Unpublished data and related publications

27. The ABS can also make available certain building approvals and activity 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, floppy disk and clerically extracted tabulation. Inquiries should be made to the contact shown at the front of this publication.

28. Users may also wish to refer to the following building and construction publications which are available on request:

Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0) – monthly (\$13.50)
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0) – quarterly (\$11.00)
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (8762.0) – quarterly (\$11.00)

29. 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

n.a. not available
 .. not applicable
 — nil or rounded to zero
 r figure or series revised since previous issue

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

DALMA JACOBS
 Australian Capital Territory Statistician

