



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

**Construction Activity at
Constant Prices
Australia
March Quarter 1995**

Catalogue No. 8782.0.40.001

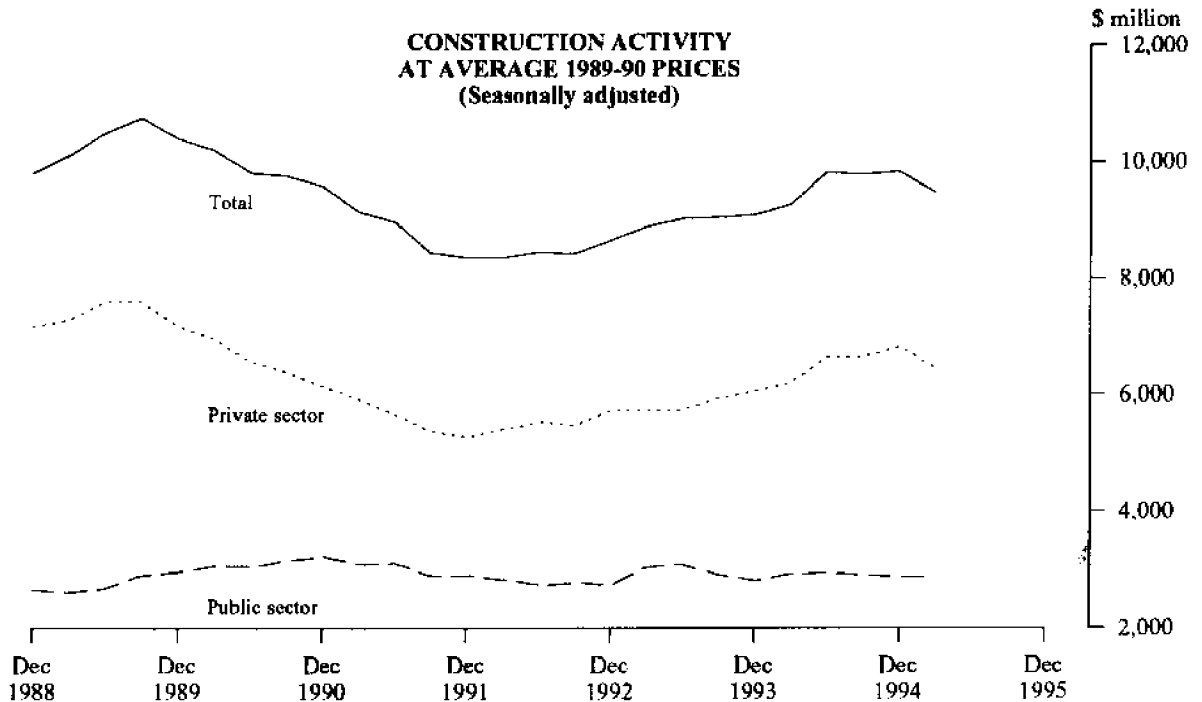
4 AUGUST 1995

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



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

Total Construction Activity fell by 4.7 per cent in the March quarter 1995, following a rise of 1.6 per cent in the December quarter 1994 and a fall of 0.5 per cent in the September quarter 1994. All categories of construction activity: residential building, non-residential building and engineering construction recorded falls in the March quarter 1995.

Residential building activity fell by 5.7 per cent in the March quarter, from the high December quarter 1994 estimate. However, the March 1995 estimate is still 3.6 per cent above the March quarter 1994 estimate.

Non-residential building activity decreased by 5.8 per cent in the March quarter 1995 from the high December quarter 1994 estimate, following a rise of 3.9 per cent in the December quarter 1994. However, the March quarter 1995 estimate remains 7.8 per cent above the level recorded twelve months earlier.

Engineering construction activity fell by 2.1 per cent during the March quarter 1995, and is now 3.5 per cent below the level recorded in the March quarter 1994.

Construction activity fell in the private sector (down 5.6%) but rose marginally in the public sector (up 0.5%) in the March quarter 1995.

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627 or any ABS State Office
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

Private sector activity

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989–90 prices, private sector construction activity decreased by 5.6 per cent during the March quarter 1995. The fall was caused by a decline in all categories. Residential building activity recorded a fall of 5.3 per cent, non-residential building activity a fall of 3.7 per cent and engineering construction activity fell 10.2 per cent. However, private sector construction activity in the March quarter 1995 remains 4.2 per cent above the level recorded twelve months earlier.

Public sector activity

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989–90 prices, public sector construction activity increased slightly, by 0.5 per cent in the March quarter 1995. This rise was entirely due to the 1.8 per cent rise in engineering construction activity (the principal component, which accounts for more than two thirds of total public sector activity). Residential building activity fell 15.8 per cent in the March quarter 1995, while non-residential building remained static. Public sector construction activity in the March quarter 1995 is now 1.6 per cent below the level recorded twelve months earlier.

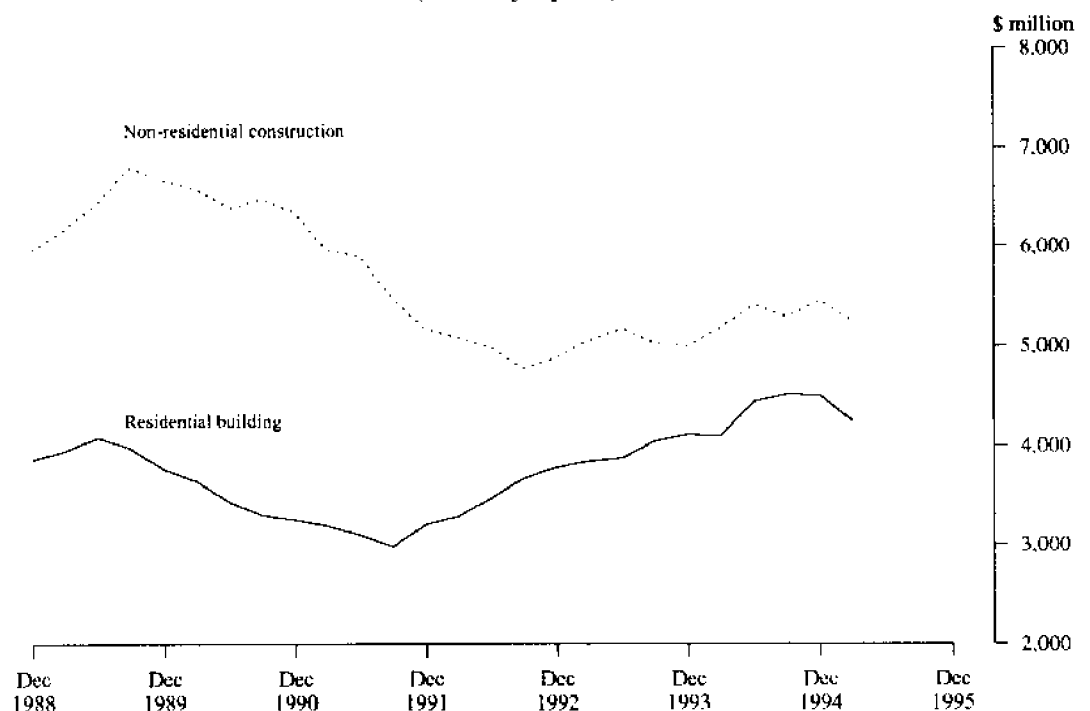
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989–90 PRICES
MARCH QUARTER 1995
 (Seasonally adjusted)

<i>Construction activity</i>	<i>% changes from previous quarter</i>		
	<i>Private sector construction</i>	<i>Public sector construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
Building			
Residential	5.3	15.8	5.7
Non-residential	3.7	0.1	5.8
<i>Total building</i>	5.3	4.0	-6.1
Engineering construction	-10.2	1.8	-2.1
<i>Total non-residential construction</i>	-6.0	1.4	-3.8
Total construction	-5.6	0.5	-4.7

TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
AUSTRALIA

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	3,875	2,223	6,087	2,942	5,165	9,040
Sept. qtr	4,044	2,246	6,306	2,774	5,020	9,064
Dec. qtr	4,109	2,265	6,379	2,731	4,996	9,104
1994 Mar. qtr	4,093	2,180	6,262	3,000	5,179	9,272
June qtr	4,433	2,411	6,828	2,996	5,408	9,840
Sept. qtr	4,504	2,400	6,920	2,891	5,291	9,794
Dec. qtr	4,500	2,495	7,004	2,957	5,452	9,951
1995 Mar. qtr	4,242	2,349	6,581	2,895	5,244	9,487
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	0.9	-7.9	2.5	11.3	2.2	1.6
Sept. qtr	4.4	1.0	3.6	-5.7	2.8	0.3
Dec. qtr	1.6	0.8	1.2	1.6	0.5	0.4
1994 Mar. qtr	-0.4	3.8	-1.8	9.9	3.7	1.8
June qtr	8.3	10.6	9.0	-0.1	4.4	6.1
Sept. qtr	1.6	0.5	1.3	-3.5	2.2	-0.5
Dec. qtr	0.1	3.9	1.2	2.3	3.0	1.6
1995 Mar. qtr	5.7	-5.8	6.1	-2.1	-3.8	-4.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	11.7	-9.4	2.8	16.1	3.6	6.9
Sept. qtr	10.2	2.6	5.3	12.6	5.3	7.4
Dec. qtr	8.7	-3.4	4.1	7.6	2.3	5.1
1994 Mar. qtr	6.6	-9.7	0.3	13.5	2.4	4.2
June qtr	14.4	8.5	12.2	1.8	4.7	8.8
Sept. qtr	11.4	6.9	9.8	4.2	5.4	8.1
Dec. qtr	9.5	10.1	9.8	8.3	9.1	9.3
1995 Mar. qtr	3.6	7.8	5.1	-3.5	1.3	2.3

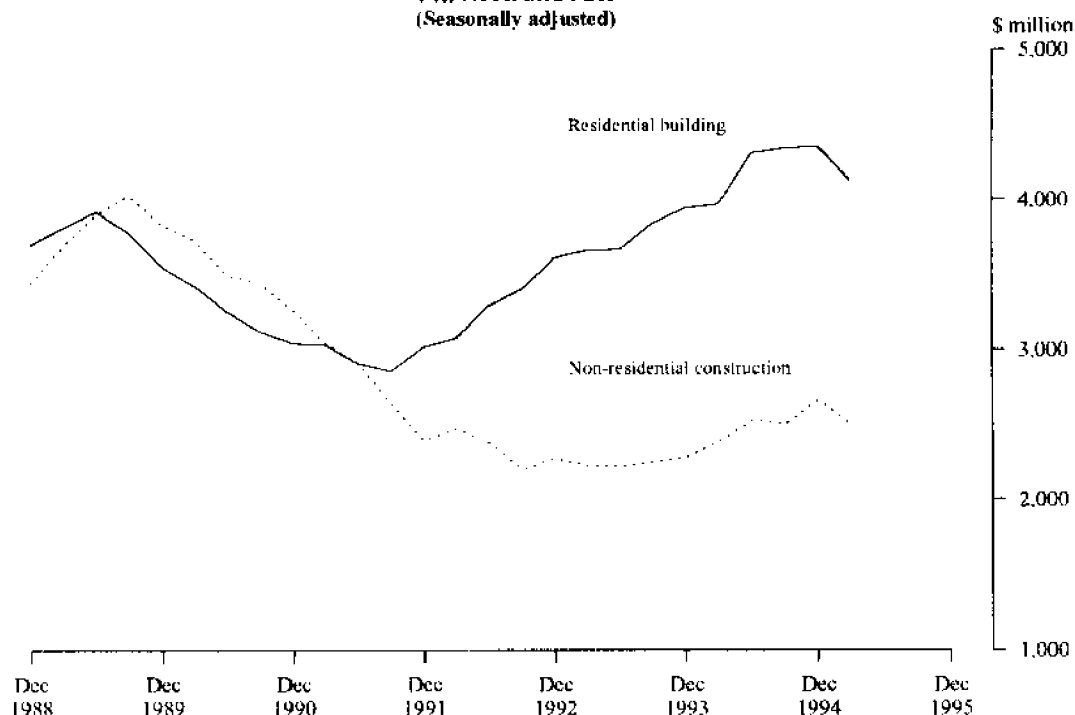
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES
(Seasonally adjusted)



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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	3,669	1,481	5,138	746	2,228	5,896
Sept. qtr	3,842	1,478	5,345	769	2,247	6,089
Dec. qtr	3,943	1,455	5,403	829	2,284	6,227
1994 Mar. qtr	3,969	1,438	5,387	950	2,387	6,357
June qtr	4,306	1,610	5,899	914	2,523	6,829
Sept. qtr	4,338	1,665	6,034	832	2,497	6,835
Dec. qtr	4,352	1,704	6,064	958	2,663	7,015
1995 Mar. qtr	4,123	1,642	5,741	860	2,502	6,625
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	0.2	3.1	-0.6	7.8	0.3	0.3
Sept. qtr	4.7	-0.2	4.0	3.1	0.9	3.3
Dec. qtr	2.6	1.5	1.1	7.8	1.7	2.3
1994 Mar. qtr	0.7	-1.2	0.3	14.6	4.5	2.1
June qtr	8.5	12.0	9.5	-3.8	5.7	7.4
Sept. qtr	0.7	3.5	2.3	9.0	1.0	0.1
Dec. qtr	0.3	2.3	0.5	15.2	6.6	2.6
1995 Mar. qtr	5.3	-3.7	5.3	-10.2	-6.0	5.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	11.4	-10.8	3.9	4.3	-6.2	4.0
Sept. qtr	13.1	4.8	7.6	18.6	2.1	8.8
Dec. qtr	9.2	8.5	3.7	22.2	0.7	5.9
1994 Mar. qtr	8.4	-6.0	4.2	37.2	7.5	8.1
June qtr	17.4	8.7	14.8	22.4	13.3	15.8
Sept. qtr	12.9	12.7	12.9	8.1	11.1	12.3
Dec. qtr	10.4	17.1	12.2	15.6	16.6	12.6
1995 Mar. qtr	3.9	14.2	6.6	9.4	4.8	4.2

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



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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	207	729	935	2,196	2,925	3,132
Sept. qtr	191	760	956	2,005	2,764	2,955
Dec. qtr	167	788	958	1,901	2,690	2,857
1994 Mar. qtr	130	794	914	2,050	2,844	2,974
June qtr	127	786	918	2,083	2,869	2,996
Sept. qtr	155	723	881	2,059	2,782	2,937
Dec. qtr	150	764	917	1,998	2,762	2,912
1995 Mar. qtr	126	765	881	2,035	2,800	2,926
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	10.5	-22.4	16.2	12.6	1.2	1.8
Sept. qtr	-8.0	4.3	2.3	-8.7	-5.5	-5.7
Dec. qtr	-12.5	3.8	0.2	5.1	-2.7	3.3
1994 Mar. qtr	-22.1	0.7	-4.6	7.8	5.7	4.1
June qtr	2.3	-1.0	0.5	1.6	0.9	0.7
Sept. qtr	22.0	-8.0	4.1	-1.1	3.0	-2.0
Dec. qtr	3.5	5.6	4.1	2.9	0.7	0.9
1995 Mar. qtr	-15.8	0.1	4.0	1.8	1.4	0.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	16.8	-6.5	2.4	20.7	12.5	12.8
Sept. qtr	-26.3	1.7	-5.8	10.5	7.9	4.8
Dec. qtr	0.4	7.5	6.1	2.3	3.8	3.5
1994 Mar. qtr	-30.7	-15.4	-18.1	5.1	1.6	3.4
June qtr	38.7	7.9	-1.8	5.2	1.9	4.3
Sept. qtr	-18.7	4.8	7.9	2.7	0.7	-0.6
Dec. qtr	10.4	-3.1	-4.3	5.1	2.7	1.9
1995 Mar. qtr	-3.1	3.7	-3.6	-0.7	-1.5	1.6

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

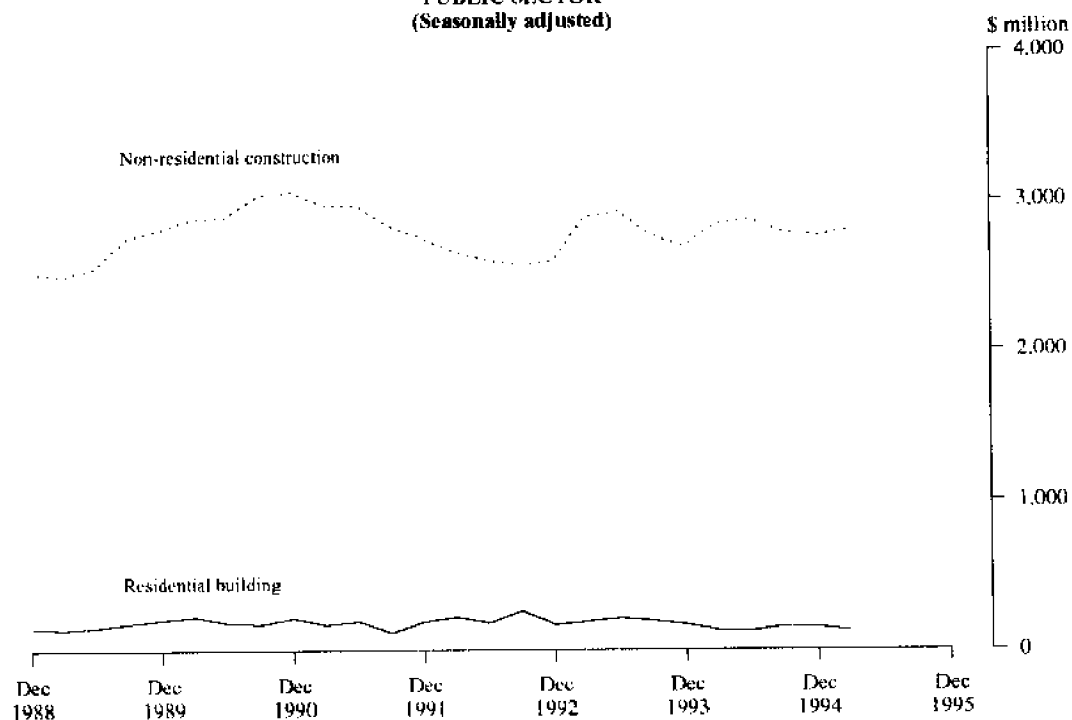


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, AUSTRALIA ^r

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1982-83	9,941	7,219	17,160	13,131	20,350	30,289
1983-84	11,094	7,914	19,008	10,921	18,835	29,927
1984-85	12,570	9,213	21,783	10,642	19,854	32,422
1985-86	12,452	11,175	23,627	10,703	21,878	34,327
1986-87	10,970	12,128	23,097	(a)10,735	(a)22,863	(a)33,832
1987-88	12,074	13,906	25,980	9,947	23,852	35,927
1988-89	15,515	14,590	30,105	9,843	24,433	39,948
1989-90	14,803	15,548	30,351	10,925	26,473	41,277
1990-91	12,835	13,588	26,423	11,128	24,716	37,551
1991-92	12,910	10,386	23,296	10,341	20,727	33,637
1992-93	15,148	9,285	24,433	10,634	19,920	35,068
1993-94	16,668	9,112	25,780	11,520	20,631	37,300
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1982-83	-23.7	15.0	20.3	3.6	-3.9	-11.5
1983-84	11.6	9.6	10.8	-16.8	7.4	-1.2
1984-85	13.3	16.4	14.6	2.6	5.4	8.3
1985-86	0.9	21.3	8.5	0.6	10.2	5.9
1986-87	11.9	8.5	2.2	0.3	4.5	-1.4
1987-88	10.1	14.7	12.5	7.3	4.3	6.2
1988-89	28.5	4.9	15.9	-1.0	2.4	11.2
1989-90	4.6	6.6	0.8	11.0	8.4	3.3
1990-91	13.3	12.6	12.9	1.9	-6.6	9.0
1991-92	0.6	23.6	-11.8	-7.1	16.1	-10.4
1992-93	17.3	10.6	4.9	2.8	-3.9	4.3
1993-94	10.0	-1.9	5.5	8.3	3.6	6.4
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	3,811	2,249	6,060	3,231	5,480	9,291
Sept. qtr	4,174	2,278	6,452	2,642	4,920	9,094
Dec. qtr	4,353	2,379	6,731	2,775	5,154	9,507
1994 Mar. qtr	3,784	2,015	5,799	2,831	4,846	8,630
June qtr	4,358	2,440	6,798	3,271	5,711	10,069
Sept. qtr	4,652	2,430	7,082	2,742	5,172	9,823
Dec. qtr	4,772	2,620	7,392	3,007	5,627	10,399
1995 Mar. qtr	3,920	2,174	6,094	2,729	4,902	8,822
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	7.2	1.0	4.8	29.8	16.2	12.3
Sept. qtr	9.5	1.3	6.5	-18.2	10.2	-2.1
Dec. qtr	4.3	4.4	4.3	5.0	4.8	4.5
1994 Mar. qtr	13.1	-15.3	13.8	2.0	-6.0	-9.2
June qtr	15.2	21.1	17.2	15.6	17.9	16.7
Sept. qtr	6.7	0.4	4.2	16.2	-9.5	2.4
Dec. qtr	2.6	7.8	4.4	9.7	8.8	5.9
1995 Mar. qtr	17.9	-17.0	17.6	-9.3	12.9	-15.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	11.5	-9.2	2.8	17.4	4.8	7.5
Sept. qtr	10.4	-2.9	5.3	12.6	4.8	7.3
Dec. qtr	8.8	3.4	4.1	8.0	2.4	5.3
1994 Mar. qtr	6.5	-9.5	0.3	13.8	2.8	4.3
June qtr	14.4	8.5	12.2	1.3	4.2	8.4
Sept. qtr	11.4	6.7	9.8	3.8	5.1	8.0
Dec. qtr	9.6	10.1	9.8	8.4	9.2	9.4
1995 Mar. qtr	3.6	7.9	5.1	-3.6	1.2	2.2

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

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1982-83	9,296	4,986	14,282	3,357	8,339	17,635
1983-84	10,279	5,025	15,304	2,147	7,169	17,448
1984-85	11,755	6,164	17,919	1,962	8,123	19,878
1985-86	11,564	7,803	19,367	2,209	10,008	21,572
1986-87	10,114	8,164	18,278	(a)2,622	(a)10,786	(a)20,900
1987-88	11,362	10,081	21,443	2,934	13,015	24,377
1988-89	14,870	11,254	26,123	3,010	14,264	29,134
1989-90	14,011	12,000	26,011	3,107	15,107	29,118
1990-91	12,085	9,689	21,774	2,991	12,680	24,765
1991-92	12,216	6,945	19,161	2,936	9,881	22,097
1992-93	14,324	6,159	20,482	2,763	8,922	23,245
1993-94	16,046	5,985	22,031	3,452	9,437	25,483
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1982-83	-25.5	17.7	23.0	6.4	-9.4	-18.7
1983-84	10.6	0.8	7.2	36.0	14.0	-1.1
1984-85	14.4	22.7	17.1	-8.6	13.3	13.9
1985-86	-1.6	26.6	8.1	12.6	23.2	8.5
1986-87	-12.5	4.6	-5.6	18.7	7.8	3.1
1987-88	12.3	23.5	17.3	11.9	20.7	16.6
1988-89	30.9	11.6	21.8	2.6	9.6	19.5
1989-90	5.8	6.6	-0.4	3.2	5.9	-0.1
1990-91	13.7	-19.3	-16.3	-3.7	-16.1	-14.9
1991-92	1.1	28.3	-12.0	-1.8	-22.1	-10.8
1992-93	17.2	11.3	6.9	-5.9	9.7	5.2
1993-94	12.0	-2.8	7.6	24.9	5.8	9.6
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	3,608	1,488	5,096	719	2,207	5,815
Sept. qtr	3,965	1,511	5,476	788	2,299	6,264
Dec. qtr	4,178	1,552	5,730	881	2,433	6,611
1994 Mar. qtr	3,669	1,302	4,971	901	2,203	5,872
June qtr	4,234	1,620	5,854	881	2,502	6,735
Sept. qtr	4,480	1,700	6,180	852	2,552	7,032
Dec. qtr	4,616	1,820	6,436	1,018	2,838	7,454
1995 Mar. qtr	3,809	1,485	5,294	816	2,302	6,111
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	6.5	7.3	6.7	9.4	8.0	7.1
Sept. qtr	9.9	1.5	7.4	9.6	4.2	7.7
Dec. qtr	5.4	2.7	4.6	11.8	5.8	5.5
1994 Mar. qtr	-12.2	-16.1	13.3	2.3	-9.5	-11.2
June qtr	15.4	24.5	17.8	-2.2	13.5	14.7
Sept. qtr	5.8	4.9	5.6	-3.4	2.0	4.4
Dec. qtr	3.0	7.0	4.1	19.5	11.2	6.0
1995 Mar. qtr	17.5	18.4	-17.7	-19.8	-18.9	-18.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	11.3	-10.4	3.9	4.6	6.0	4.0
Sept. qtr	13.2	5.1	7.5	18.5	1.9	8.8
Dec. qtr	9.2	-8.3	3.9	22.1	0.8	6.0
1994 Mar. qtr	8.3	-6.1	4.1	37.2	7.8	8.1
June qtr	17.3	8.9	14.9	22.6	13.4	15.8
Sept. qtr	13.0	12.5	12.9	8.1	11.0	12.3
Dec. qtr	10.5	17.2	12.3	15.5	16.6	12.7
1995 Mar. qtr	3.8	14.1	6.5	9.4	4.5	4.1

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

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1982-83	646	2,233	2,879	9,774	12,007	12,652
1983-84	815	2,889	3,704	8,774	11,663	12,477
1984-85	815	3,049	3,864	8,681	11,730	12,545
1985-86	888	3,372	4,259	8,495	11,867	12,754
1986-87	856	3,963	4,819	(a)8,113	(a)12,076	(a)12,932
1987-88	712	3,825	4,537	7,012	10,838	11,550
1988-89	645	3,337	3,982	6,832	10,169	10,814
1989-90	793	3,548	4,341	7,818	11,366	12,159
1990-91	751	3,899	4,650	8,137	12,036	12,787
1991-92	694	3,441	4,135	7,405	10,846	11,540
1992-93	825	3,126	3,951	7,872	10,998	11,823
1993-94	622	3,127	3,749	8,068	11,194	11,817
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1982-83	16.5	-8.4	-3.8	2.6	0.3	1.1
1983-84	26.2	29.4	28.7	-10.2	-2.9	1.4
1984-85	0.0	5.5	4.3	-1.1	0.6	0.5
1985-86	8.9	10.6	10.2	2.1	1.2	1.7
1986-87	3.6	17.5	13.1	4.5	1.8	1.4
1987-88	16.8	-3.5	-5.9	-13.6	-10.3	-10.7
1988-89	9.4	-12.8	-12.2	-2.6	-6.2	-6.4
1989-90	22.8	6.3	9.0	14.4	11.8	12.4
1990-91	5.3	9.9	7.1	4.1	5.9	5.2
1991-92	7.6	11.7	11.1	9.0	9.9	9.8
1992-93	18.8	9.1	-4.4	6.3	1.4	2.4
1993-94	-24.5	0.0	-5.1	2.5	1.8	0.0
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1993 June qtr	202	761	964	2,512	3,273	3,475
Sept. qtr	209	767	976	1,854	2,621	2,830
Dec. qtr	174	827	1,001	1,894	2,721	2,895
1994 Mar. qtr	115	713	828	1,929	2,643	2,757
June qtr	124	820	944	2,390	3,210	3,334
Sept. qtr	171	730	901	1,890	2,620	2,791
Dec. qtr	156	800	956	1,989	2,789	2,945
1995 Mar. qtr	111	689	799	1,912	2,601	2,712
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	21.5	9.4	-4.3	37.1	22.5	22.4
Sept. qtr	3.4	0.7	1.3	-26.2	-19.9	-18.6
Dec. qtr	-16.6	7.8	2.5	2.2	3.8	2.3
1994 Mar. qtr	34.2	13.7	17.3	1.8	2.9	-4.8
June qtr	8.2	14.9	14.0	23.9	21.5	20.9
Sept. qtr	38.0	11.0	4.5	20.9	18.4	-16.3
Dec. qtr	9.0	9.6	6.1	5.2	6.5	5.5
1995 Mar. qtr	28.9	14.0	-16.4	-3.9	6.8	-7.9
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	16.2	6.7	-2.6	21.7	13.7	13.8
Sept. qtr	25.2	1.7	-5.6	10.3	7.6	4.2
Dec. qtr	-0.9	7.3	5.8	2.5	3.9	3.6
1994 Mar. qtr	31.2	-15.1	17.8	5.3	-1.1	-2.9
June qtr	-38.7	7.7	-2.0	-4.8	-1.9	-4.1
Sept. qtr	18.1	4.8	7.7	1.9	0.0	1.4
Dec. qtr	-10.6	-3.2	-4.5	5.0	2.5	1.7
1995 Mar. qtr	3.4	-3.5	-3.5	-0.9	-1.6	-1.7

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

TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA ^r

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
(1989-90 equals 100.0)						
1993 June qtr	103.4	93.0	99.8	108.8	102.3	102.9
Sept. qtr	103.5	93.7	100.3	108.4	101.6	102.6
Dec. qtr	104.0	94.1	100.8	108.0	101.6	102.9
1994 Mar. qtr	104.3	93.9	101.0	108.2	102.3	103.4
June qtr	104.7	94.0	101.2	108.7	102.4	103.6
Sept. qtr	105.5	95.0	102.2	108.7	102.3	104.0
Dec. qtr	106.3	95.1	102.7	109.9	103.0	104.8
1995 Mar. qtr	106.2	95.2	102.6	110.7	103.8	105.1
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1993 June qtr	0.2	-0.6	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.5
Sept. qtr	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.7	-0.3
Dec. qtr	0.5	0.4	0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.3
1994 Mar. qtr	0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.5
June qtr	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
Sept. qtr	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.0	-0.1	0.4
Dec. qtr	0.8	0.1	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.8
1995 Mar. qtr	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.7	0.8	0.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1993 June qtr	0.4	-0.4	0.6	1.2	1.5	1.1
Sept. qtr	1.0	-0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7
Dec. qtr	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.6
1994 Mar. qtr	1.1	0.3	1.3	-0.4	0.8	1.0
June qtr	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.7
Sept. qtr	1.9	1.4	1.9	0.3	0.7	1.4
Dec. qtr	2.2	1.1	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.8
1995 Mar. qtr	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.3	1.5	1.6

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

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

Scope and coverage

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

5. The building estimates relate to:

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

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

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

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

Valuation of jobs

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

Classification

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

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

Estimates at constant prices

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

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

Implicit price deflators

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

Interpretation and analysis

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

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

Related publications

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

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

Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0) — issued monthly.

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

Building Activity, Australia (8752.0) — issued quarterly.

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

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

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

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician



For more information ...

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