

BUILDING ACTIVITY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 2 AUG 1999

MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (a)	Mar qtr 99	Dec qtr 98 to Mar qtr 99 % change	Mar qtr 98 to Mar qtr 99 % change
Value of work done(a) (\$m)	350.2	0.7	-2.0
New residential building (\$m)	170.2	-2.4	10.7
Alterations and additions(b) (\$m)	37.1	9.8	4.1
Non-residential building (\$m)	143.0	2.4	-14.9
Total dwelling units commenced (no.)	1 775	-1.3	-0.7
New private sector houses (no.)	1 434	-6.6	-8.3

(a) Chain volume measures, reference year 1996-97. (b) To residential buildings.

MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

VALUE OF WORK DONE, VOLUME TERMS

- In seasonally adjusted terms, total building work done rose by 0.7% in the March quarter to \$350.2m.
- Work done on new residential building fell by 2.4% to \$170.2m, but was still 10.7% above the level of a year ago. New other residential building fell in the March quarter, by 25.1% to \$24.3m, but was still 50.0% above the level of a year ago.
- Work done on non-residential building rose by 2.4% to \$143.0m.

VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED, VOLUME TERMS

- Total building work commenced rose by 7.6% to \$412.5m, the highest since the June quarter 1992.
- The rise was due to an increase of 70.4% in non-residential commencements to \$219.2m. Commencements in the Shops and Educational categories recorded the biggest increases.
- New residential building fell by 26.7% to \$162.5m. The previous quarter was the highest since the September quarter 1994. Although new other residential building fell by 39.7% to \$34.0m, the December quarter was the highest since the March quarter 1990.

NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED

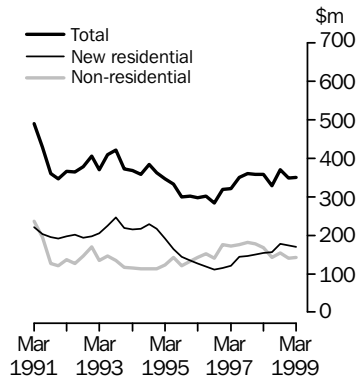
- In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced fell by 1.3% to 1,775. This was marginally fewer than for a year ago.

VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE

- Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of March 1999 rose by 32.1% to \$440.4m. This was 1.31 times the value of work done for the quarter (1.00 for residential building and 1.81 for non-residential).

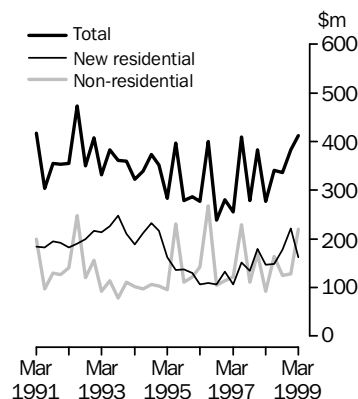
Value of work done

Volume terms
Seasonally adjusted



Value of work commenced

Volume terms



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Roger Mableson on Adelaide 08 8237 7494, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (Quarter)

RELEASE DATE

June 1999

27 October 1999

September 1999

2 February 2000

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

n.a. not available

RSE relative standard error

SE standard error

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero

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

Ian Crettenden
Regional Director
South Australia

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TABLE 1. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK COMMENCED, CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(a)
(\$ million)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential building	Total		Private sector	Total	
1995-96	418.8	65.0	482.6	117.6	460.0	641.6	1,242.5
1996-97	449.4	47.1	496.3	116.8	423.3	568.7	1,181.9
1997-98	538.5	72.0	610.7	132.5	415.8	536.8	1,280.0
1997 Dec. qtr	146.0	34.0	180.0	33.1	136.4	170.4	383.5
1998 Mar. qtr	132.1	14.9	147.1	37.7	66.2	92.5	277.3
June qtr	134.4	14.2	148.6	29.3	129.8	163.2	341.1
Sept. qtr	147.6	30.3	177.9	33.5	85.9	125.7	337.1
Dec. qtr	165.3	56.5	221.8	32.9	90.3	128.6	383.3
1999 Mar. qtr	128.4	34.0	162.5	30.9	133.8	219.2	412.5

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97. See paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(a)
(\$ million)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential building	Total		Private sector	Total	
ORIGINAL							
1995-96	447.7	75.3	522.2	127.0	314.5	547.6	1,199.4
1996-97	438.8	51.6	490.5	122.2	444.1	663.2	1,275.9
1997-98	537.2	68.1	605.4	131.9	526.2	668.8	1,406.2
1997 Dec. qtr	139.3	19.0	158.3	36.6	154.2	193.4	388.3
1998 Mar. qtr	131.2	16.7	148.0	30.9	115.9	145.3	324.1
June qtr	136.8	18.5	155.3	30.5	108.5	146.3	332.2
Sept. qtr	151.3	24.0	175.4	38.7	129.7	155.9	369.9
Dec. qtr	150.1	33.0	183.1	39.0	115.6	152.5	374.6
1999 Mar. qtr	139.0	25.1	164.2	32.0	80.2	123.5	319.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED							
1997 Dec. qtr	131.8	18.6	150.4	31.7	137.4	177.3	359.4
1998 Mar. qtr	137.6	16.2	153.8	35.7	139.7	168.1	357.5
June qtr	136.0	19.5	155.5	30.3	99.7	142.2	328.1
Sept. qtr	154.0	24.0	178.0	39.0	131.3	154.2	371.2
Dec. qtr	142.0	32.4	174.4	33.8	103.5	139.6	347.8
1999 Mar. qtr	145.9	24.3	170.2	37.1	97.2	143.0	350.2

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97. See paragraphs 25 to 27 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES
(\$ million)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential building	Total		Private sector	Total	
1997 Dec. qtr	130.3	19.0	148.1	31.5	141.5	181.1	359.1
1998 Mar. qtr	139.3	16.6	157.8	36.4	144.7	172.5	366.5
June qtr	138.5	20.2	158.3	31.1	104.2	147.2	332.4
Sept. qtr	158.5	25.1	183.5	40.2	137.4	161.0	390.6
Dec. qtr	146.6	34.2	178.8	35.0	109.0	146.7	357.7
1999 Mar. qtr	151.9	25.7	180.4	38.7	102.7	150.6	372.3

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED AND COMPLETED: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

Period	New houses				Total dwelling units (includes conversions etc)			
	Private sector		Total		Private sector		Total	
	Commenced	Completed (a)	Commenced	Completed (a)	Commenced	Completed (a)	Commenced	Completed (a)
1997 Dec. qtr	1,432	n.a.	1,515	n.a.	1,711	n.a.	1,748	n.a.
1998 Mar. qtr	1,563	n.a.	1,588	n.a.	1,724	n.a.	1,788	n.a.
June qtr	1,349	n.a.	1,432	n.a.	1,582	n.a.	1,645	n.a.
Sept. qtr	1,504	n.a.	1,503	n.a.	1,845	n.a.	1,906	n.a.
Dec. qtr	1,536	n.a.	1,620	n.a.	1,755	n.a.	1,798	n.a.
1999 Mar. qtr	1,434	n.a.	1,464	n.a.	1,711	n.a.	1,775	n.a.

(a) Seasonally adjusted estimates for the number of dwelling units completed are suspended following strong evidence of a recent and sudden change to the seasonal pattern. Seasonally adjusted estimates will be reinstated as soon as the new seasonal pattern can be identified.

TABLE 5. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMMENCED: ORIGINAL

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	4,837	800	55	5,691	415.1	61.9	477.0	120.7	597.7	452.8	1,050.5
1996-97	5,057	647	23	5,727	444.9	46.7	491.6	114.8	606.5	423.4	1,029.8
1997-98	5,628	720	89	6,437	525.5	72.4	597.9	133.2	731.0	426.4	1,157.4
1997 Dec. qtr	1,531	304	6	1,841	140.7	34.1	174.8	33.0	207.8	139.2	347.0
1998 Mar. qtr	1,409	141	67	1,617	132.6	15.1	147.7	38.6	186.3	68.1	254.4
June qtr	1,334	149	7	1,490	133.6	14.5	148.0	30.4	178.4	134.5	312.9
Sept. qtr	1,563	332	32	1,927	149.4	31.5	180.9	34.4	215.3	89.5	304.8
Dec. qtr	1,644	244	3	1,891	167.7	58.0	225.7	33.7	259.4	94.6	354.0
1999 Mar. qtr	1,292	295	16	1,603	131.9	35.9	167.8	32.5	200.4	140.6	341.0
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	234	35	—	269	17.2	2.3	19.5	1.0	20.5	179.0	199.5
1996-97	55	4	3	62	4.4	0.3	4.7	2.1	6.7	145.4	152.1
1997-98	195	21	—	216	15.2	1.6	16.8	1.4	18.2	124.3	142.5
1997 Dec. qtr	57	8	—	65	4.4	0.7	5.0	0.9	5.9	34.8	40.7
1998 Mar. qtr	27	4	—	31	2.1	0.3	2.3	0.1	2.5	27.0	29.5
June qtr	63	5	—	68	4.5	0.3	4.8	—	4.9	34.7	39.5
Sept. qtr	47	4	2	53	3.5	0.3	3.8	0.6	4.4	41.5	45.9
Dec. qtr	55	19	—	74	4.0	1.5	5.4	0.5	5.9	40.2	46.1
1999 Mar. qtr	33	—	—	33	2.6	—	2.6	0.2	2.7	89.9	92.7
TOTAL											
1995-96	5,071	835	55	5,960	432.4	64.1	496.5	121.7	618.2	631.8	1,250.0
1996-97	5,112	651	26	5,789	449.3	47.0	496.3	116.9	613.2	568.7	1,181.9
1997-98	5,823	741	89	6,653	540.7	74.0	614.7	134.5	749.2	550.7	1,299.9
1997 Dec. qtr	1,588	312	6	1,906	145.1	34.8	179.8	33.8	213.7	174.1	387.7
1998 Mar. qtr	1,436	145	67	1,648	134.7	15.4	150.1	38.7	188.8	95.2	284.0
June qtr	1,397	154	7	1,558	138.1	14.8	152.9	30.4	183.3	169.1	352.4
Sept. qtr	1,610	336	34	1,980	152.9	31.7	184.7	35.0	219.6	131.1	350.7
Dec. qtr	1,699	263	3	1,965	171.7	59.4	231.1	34.3	265.4	134.8	400.2
1999 Mar. qtr	1,325	295	16	1,636	134.4	35.9	170.4	32.7	203.1	230.6	433.6

TABLE 6. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMMENCED: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	9.4	133.6	22.6	65.4	108.3	19.3	2.3	52.2	28.0	11.6	452.8
1996-97	37.3	91.1	40.6	53.2	79.8	17.3	1.0	40.4	27.5	35.2	423.4
1997-98	9.5	89.7	44.5	78.0	96.9	16.8	7.0	19.4	49.9	14.7	426.4
1997 Dec. qtr	2.5	32.6	6.4	54.8	12.6	7.8	3.7	2.1	12.3	4.4	139.2
1998 Mar. qtr	3.0	17.8	10.5	4.5	9.6	3.5	0.5	4.8	10.7	3.3	68.1
June qtr	1.9	23.3	4.9	7.4	67.3	3.4	0.6	4.9	14.7	6.1	134.5
Sept. qtr	15.4	13.1	23.2	10.7	12.0	7.6	0.2	2.0	2.2	3.0	89.5
Dec. qtr	4.9	21.4	11.6	17.3	20.7	3.4	0.8	11.0	2.8	0.7	94.6
1999 Mar. qtr	0.5	74.4	2.9	6.4	21.4	9.5	0.7	7.1	15.8	1.8	140.6
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	—	8.4	1.7	47.2	15.4	43.6	—	14.0	3.9	44.7	179.0
1996-97	0.9	2.3	1.9	33.8	9.6	48.8	1.1	11.1	22.3	13.5	145.4
1997-98	0.5	2.8	0.5	18.1	3.9	51.1	—	25.7	13.3	8.4	124.3
1997 Dec. qtr	0.4	0.6	—	3.5	0.2	19.1	—	8.7	1.6	0.6	34.8
1998 Mar. qtr	—	1.2	0.1	2.8	0.7	13.0	—	4.5	0.9	3.9	27.0
June qtr	—	0.2	0.1	9.2	1.0	12.6	—	1.6	7.7	2.3	34.7
Sept. qtr	0.3	0.6	0.1	2.4	7.8	18.6	—	6.6	3.3	1.7	41.5
Dec. qtr	0.7	1.2	—	2.9	5.2	21.6	—	6.3	2.0	0.5	40.2
1999 Mar. qtr	—	0.6	0.5	4.4	0.3	64.0	—	1.0	4.0	15.2	89.9
TOTAL											
1995-96	9.4	142.0	24.3	112.7	123.7	62.9	2.3	66.2	31.9	56.3	631.8
1996-97	38.2	93.4	42.5	87.0	89.3	66.1	2.1	51.5	49.8	48.7	568.7
1997-98	10.0	92.4	45.0	96.1	100.7	67.9	7.0	45.1	63.2	23.2	550.7
1997 Dec. qtr	3.0	33.1	6.4	58.3	12.8	27.0	3.7	10.8	14.0	5.0	174.1
1998 Mar. qtr	3.0	19.0	10.6	7.3	10.2	16.5	0.5	9.3	11.6	7.2	95.2
June qtr	1.9	23.5	5.0	16.6	68.3	16.0	0.6	6.6	22.4	8.4	169.1
Sept. qtr	15.7	13.7	23.4	13.2	19.8	26.2	0.2	8.6	5.5	4.7	131.1
Dec. qtr	5.6	22.6	11.6	20.2	25.9	25.0	0.8	17.2	4.8	1.2	134.8
1999 Mar. qtr	0.5	75.0	3.4	10.8	21.7	73.5	0.7	8.1	19.9	17.0	230.6

TABLE 7. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL

	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>				<i>Value (\$m)</i>						
	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>Conversions etc.</i>	<i>Total dwelling units</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	1,745	435	24	2,204	170.4	36.4	206.7	47.8	254.5	297.2	551.8
1996-97	2,181	427	37	2,645	215.3	35.0	250.3	47.9	298.2	424.7	723.0
1997-98	2,191	471	75	2,737	239.8	53.7	293.5	62.9	356.4	319.1	675.5
1997 Dec. qtr	2,034	461	12	2,507	209.1	47.7	256.8	42.9	299.6	290.1	589.7
1998 Mar. qtr	2,214	462	75	2,751	229.1	49.3	278.4	55.5	333.9	283.4	617.3
June qtr	2,191	471	75	2,737	239.8	53.7	293.5	62.9	356.4	319.1	675.5
Sept. qtr	2,241	647	74	2,962	244.0	72.8	316.8	64.2	381.0	345.9	726.9
Dec. qtr	2,282	629	5	2,916	246.3	105.9	352.2	50.4	402.6	275.0	677.6
1999 Mar. qtr	2,109	651	20	2,780	236.1	108.6	344.8	48.4	393.2	256.8	650.0
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	36	11	—	47	2.6	0.8	3.4	—	3.4	222.0	225.4
1996-97	18	13	—	31	1.7	1.0	2.7	0.3	3.0	117.7	120.7
1997-98	92	5	—	97	6.3	0.3	6.7	—	6.7	75.8	82.5
1997 Dec. qtr	61	19	—	80	4.8	1.4	6.2	—	6.2	91.3	97.5
1998 Mar. qtr	61	15	—	76	4.5	1.1	5.6	0.1	5.7	77.1	82.8
June qtr	92	5	—	97	6.3	0.3	6.7	—	6.7	75.8	82.5
Sept. qtr	79	4	—	83	5.6	0.3	5.8	0.2	6.0	82.0	88.0
Dec. qtr	51	21	—	72	3.8	1.6	5.4	0.3	5.7	95.0	100.6
1999 Mar. qtr	54	13	—	67	3.8	1.1	5.0	0.1	5.1	143.0	148.1
TOTAL											
1995-96	1,781	446	24	2,251	173.0	37.2	210.1	47.8	257.9	519.3	777.2
1996-97	2,199	440	37	2,676	217.0	36.0	253.0	48.2	301.2	542.4	843.7
1997-98	2,283	476	75	2,834	246.1	54.0	300.1	62.9	363.1	394.9	757.9
1997 Dec. qtr	2,095	480	12	2,587	213.9	49.1	263.0	42.9	305.9	381.3	687.2
1998 Mar. qtr	2,275	477	75	2,827	233.6	50.4	284.0	55.6	339.6	360.5	700.1
June qtr	2,283	476	75	2,834	246.1	54.0	300.1	62.9	363.1	394.9	757.9
Sept. qtr	2,320	651	74	3,045	249.6	73.0	322.6	64.3	387.0	428.0	814.9
Dec. qtr	2,333	650	5	2,988	250.0	107.5	357.6	50.7	408.2	370.0	778.2
1999 Mar. qtr	2,163	664	20	2,847	240.0	109.8	349.7	48.5	398.3	399.9	798.1

**TABLE 8. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)**

	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	9.1	105.2	9.6	11.8	72.5	7.7	0.8	49.8	22.5	8.3	297.2
1996-97	33.6	143.7	30.1	16.1	67.4	10.7	1.3	55.8	26.8	39.1	424.7
1997-98	5.2	67.5	24.6	51.4	71.6	7.0	7.1	46.5	29.8	8.3	319.1
1997 Dec. qtr	32.3	58.2	40.1	53.4	15.4	10.5	5.5	46.3	22.8	5.5	290.1
1998 Mar. qtr	34.3	65.4	31.6	50.1	15.0	11.1	5.4	48.9	15.9	5.5	283.4
June qtr	5.2	67.5	24.6	51.4	71.6	7.0	7.1	46.5	29.8	8.3	319.1
Sept. qtr	19.1	58.6	41.3	57.1	69.9	11.9	5.5	43.9	28.8	10.0	345.9
Dec. qtr	21.0	54.9	52.5	11.4	49.8	11.7	6.1	51.2	11.3	5.0	275.0
1999 Mar. qtr	20.4	115.4	30.7	8.8	23.6	10.9	2.1	18.6	23.3	2.9	256.8
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	—	5.6	0.6	72.8	15.6	87.6	—	11.0	2.1	26.8	222.0
1996-97	—	0.7	—	26.3	1.6	29.0	1.1	9.3	14.3	35.4	117.7
1997-98	—	1.2	—	8.3	1.0	30.7	—	23.2	6.8	4.6	75.8
1997 Dec. qtr	0.4	0.8	—	18.0	0.1	32.9	—	23.0	6.8	9.3	91.3
1998 Mar. qtr	0.4	1.2	—	8.3	0.3	30.9	—	26.3	0.6	9.1	77.1
June qtr	—	1.2	—	8.3	1.0	30.7	—	23.2	6.8	4.6	75.8
Sept. qtr	—	1.2	—	4.6	8.6	36.7	—	15.6	10.2	5.1	82.0
Dec. qtr	—	1.1	—	4.7	13.5	46.8	—	18.5	5.5	4.8	95.0
1999 Mar. qtr	—	—	0.5	5.9	5.2	98.4	—	12.6	4.8	15.5	143.0
TOTAL											
1995-96	9.1	110.8	10.2	84.5	88.1	95.3	0.8	60.8	24.6	35.1	519.3
1996-97	33.6	144.3	30.1	42.5	69.0	39.7	2.4	65.1	41.1	74.5	542.4
1997-98	5.2	68.7	24.6	59.7	72.6	37.7	7.1	69.7	36.6	12.9	394.9
1997 Dec. qtr	32.7	59.0	40.1	71.4	15.5	43.4	5.5	69.2	29.6	14.8	381.3
1998 Mar. qtr	34.8	66.6	31.6	58.3	15.3	42.1	5.4	75.3	16.5	14.6	360.5
June qtr	5.2	68.7	24.6	59.7	72.6	37.7	7.1	69.7	36.6	12.9	394.9
Sept. qtr	19.1	59.8	41.3	61.6	78.5	48.6	5.5	59.4	39.0	15.1	428.0
Dec. qtr	21.0	56.0	52.5	16.1	63.3	58.6	6.1	69.7	16.8	9.8	370.0
1999 Mar. qtr	20.4	115.4	31.1	14.8	28.9	109.4	2.1	31.2	28.1	18.5	399.9

TABLE 9. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED: ORIGINAL

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	5,268	887	43	6,198	459.9	70.9	530.9	130.2	661.0	292.8	953.9
1996-97	4,551	648	10	5,209	408.9	52.9	461.8	121.9	583.7	328.2	911.8
1997-98	5,572	676	46	6,294	504.1	57.7	561.8	123.3	685.1	571.2	1,256.3
1997 Dec. qtr	1,657	234	4	1,895	148.3	20.6	168.9	38.3	207.2	310.5	517.7
1998 Mar. qtr	1,210	140	4	1,354	112.2	14.2	126.4	26.9	153.3	81.7	235.0
June qtr	1,352	140	7	1,499	125.3	10.7	136.0	24.5	160.5	110.1	270.6
Sept. qtr	1,507	156	33	1,696	148.1	13.0	161.1	35.6	196.7	68.2	264.9
Dec. qtr	1,594	180	72	1,846	168.4	21.8	190.2	49.0	239.1	174.9	414.1
1999 Mar. qtr	1,466	273	1	1,740	144.4	34.9	179.3	36.0	215.4	160.3	375.7
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	297	65	—	362	21.8	3.9	25.7	1.8	27.5	201.6	229.1
1996-97	73	2	3	78	5.1	0.1	5.3	1.8	7.0	256.2	263.2
1997-98	121	29	—	150	10.6	2.3	12.9	1.7	14.6	172.8	187.4
1997 Dec. qtr	39	6	—	45	3.3	0.6	3.9	0.9	4.8	58.7	63.5
1998 Mar. qtr	27	8	—	35	2.4	0.6	3.0	—	3.0	42.5	45.5
June qtr	32	15	—	47	2.8	1.1	3.8	0.1	4.0	37.9	41.9
Sept. qtr	60	5	2	67	4.4	0.3	4.7	0.4	5.2	38.6	43.7
Dec. qtr	83	4	—	87	5.7	0.2	5.9	0.4	6.3	28.4	34.6
1999 Mar. qtr	30	8	—	38	2.5	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.2	43.4	46.6
TOTAL											
1995-96	5,565	952	43	6,560	481.8	74.8	556.5	132.0	688.6	494.4	1,183.0
1996-97	4,624	650	13	5,287	414.1	53.0	467.1	123.6	590.7	584.3	1,175.0
1997-98	5,693	705	46	6,444	514.7	59.9	574.7	125.0	699.7	744.0	1,443.7
1997 Dec. qtr	1,696	240	4	1,940	151.6	21.2	172.8	39.2	212.1	369.2	581.2
1998 Mar. qtr	1,237	148	4	1,389	114.5	14.8	129.3	26.9	156.3	124.3	280.5
June qtr	1,384	155	7	1,546	128.1	11.8	139.8	24.6	164.4	148.0	312.5
Sept. qtr	1,567	161	35	1,763	152.4	13.4	165.8	36.1	201.9	106.7	308.6
Dec. qtr	1,677	184	72	1,933	174.1	22.0	196.1	49.3	245.4	203.3	448.7
1999 Mar. qtr	1,496	281	1	1,778	146.9	35.4	182.3	36.3	218.6	203.7	422.3

TABLE 10. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMPLETED: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	4.7	73.6	23.7	64.6	56.6	16.5	6.0	13.5	15.2	18.4	292.8
1996-97	12.8	58.6	21.0	52.8	87.6	14.2	0.6	44.0	24.2	12.3	328.2
1997-98	40.4	184.9	58.1	43.5	90.8	20.7	2.5	33.2	50.8	46.4	571.2
1997 Dec. qtr	3.5	126.3	11.2	10.8	61.4	4.5	1.1	22.0	31.3	38.5	310.5
1998 Mar. qtr	2.4	13.7	20.5	8.1	9.9	3.2	0.6	2.2	17.7	3.4	81.7
June qtr	31.1	25.8	17.8	6.2	10.9	8.0	—	6.1	0.8	3.3	110.1
Sept. qtr	1.4	22.8	8.1	4.9	15.5	3.0	2.6	5.0	3.4	1.4	68.2
Dec. qtr	2.9	27.5	2.1	63.9	44.4	3.7	0.1	4.1	20.5	5.6	174.9
1999 Mar. qtr	1.9	14.6	25.2	8.8	47.1	10.2	4.8	39.7	4.2	4.0	160.3
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	0.3	5.9	4.6	33.2	9.3	100.1	—	11.2	6.8	30.3	201.6
1996-97	0.9	8.3	2.6	81.5	23.7	111.2	—	13.0	10.1	4.8	256.2
1997-98	0.5	2.3	0.5	38.7	4.4	51.6	0.9	13.3	20.5	40.2	172.8
1997 Dec. qtr	0.1	1.2	0.3	2.7	2.6	11.0	0.9	5.0	7.9	27.0	58.7
1998 Mar. qtr	—	0.8	0.1	12.5	0.5	16.9	—	1.0	6.3	4.4	42.5
June qtr	0.4	0.2	0.1	9.1	0.3	13.0	—	6.3	1.6	6.9	37.9
Sept. qtr	0.3	0.6	0.1	7.9	0.2	12.7	—	14.3	1.4	1.0	38.6
Dec. qtr	0.7	1.3	—	2.7	0.3	12.8	—	3.3	6.4	0.9	28.4
1999 Mar. qtr	—	1.7	—	3.4	8.9	13.0	—	6.9	5.1	4.4	43.4
TOTAL											
1995-96	5.0	79.5	28.3	97.8	65.9	116.6	6.0	24.7	22.0	48.7	494.4
1996-97	13.7	67.0	23.6	134.3	111.3	125.4	0.6	57.0	34.3	17.1	584.3
1997-98	40.9	187.2	58.6	82.1	95.3	72.3	3.4	46.5	71.2	86.7	744.0
1997 Dec. qtr	3.5	127.5	11.5	13.5	64.0	15.4	2.0	27.0	39.2	65.5	369.2
1998 Mar. qtr	2.4	14.5	20.6	20.6	10.4	20.1	0.6	3.2	24.0	7.9	124.3
June qtr	31.6	26.0	17.9	15.3	11.2	21.0	—	12.5	2.4	10.2	148.0
Sept. qtr	1.7	23.4	8.2	12.8	15.7	15.7	2.6	19.3	4.8	2.5	106.7
Dec. qtr	3.6	28.8	2.1	66.6	44.7	16.5	0.1	7.5	26.9	6.5	203.3
1999 Mar. qtr	1.9	16.3	25.2	12.2	55.9	23.2	4.8	46.6	9.2	8.4	203.7

TABLE 11. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

<i>Period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR							
1995-96	441.4	71.6	512.9	128.9	641.9	311.4	953.2
1996-97	433.9	51.3	485.2	120.4	605.6	444.2	1,049.8
1997-98	522.9	67.5	590.4	130.0	720.4	538.9	1,259.3
1997 Dec. qtr	134.0	18.3	152.3	35.3	187.5	157.7	345.2
1998 Mar. qtr	130.5	16.9	147.4	31.3	178.6	119.1	297.7
June qtr	135.9	18.6	154.5	31.1	185.6	112.3	297.9
Sept. qtr	150.9	24.9	175.8	39.2	215.0	135.5	350.5
Dec. qtr	151.4	34.2	185.6	39.9	225.5	121.5	347.0
1999 Mar. qtr	142.3	26.1	168.4	33.1	201.5	84.5	286.1
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1995-96	19.1	2.8	21.9	1.7	23.5	230.8	254.3
1996-97	5.0	0.2	5.2	1.9	7.1	219.0	226.1
1997-98	12.8	2.2	15.0	1.6	16.6	146.1	162.7
1997 Dec. qtr	3.7	1.1	4.8	0.9	5.7	40.1	45.8
1998 Mar. qtr	2.4	0.2	2.6	0.1	2.7	30.1	32.8
June qtr	3.5	0.5	4.0	—	4.1	39.1	43.2
Sept. qtr	5.0	0.1	5.1	0.6	5.7	27.4	33.1
Dec. qtr	3.7	0.5	4.2	0.4	4.6	38.9	43.5
1999 Mar. qtr	2.5	0.5	3.0	0.2	3.2	45.8	48.9
TOTAL							
1995-96	460.5	74.3	534.8	130.6	665.4	542.1	1,207.5
1996-97	438.9	51.6	490.4	122.3	612.7	663.2	1,275.9
1997-98	535.7	69.8	605.4	131.6	737.0	685.0	1,422.0
1997 Dec. qtr	137.7	19.4	157.1	36.2	193.3	197.7	391.0
1998 Mar. qtr	132.8	17.1	149.9	31.4	181.3	149.2	330.4
June qtr	139.4	19.1	158.5	31.2	189.7	151.5	341.1
Sept. qtr	155.8	25.1	180.9	39.8	220.7	162.9	383.6
Dec. qtr	155.1	34.8	189.9	40.3	230.1	160.4	390.6
1999 Mar. qtr	144.8	26.6	171.4	33.3	204.7	130.3	335.0

TABLE 12. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK DONE: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	10.4	64.2	23.5	61.1	77.4	18.3	3.8	22.7	16.3	13.5	311.4
1996-97	13.1	117.8	23.5	59.0	100.4	15.0	0.8	49.5	26.4	38.6	444.2
1997-98	35.0	161.2	68.2	56.5	74.1	20.2	7.8	43.8	51.1	20.9	538.9
1997 Dec. qtr	13.3	52.4	21.5	15.4	12.8	5.4	1.6	10.1	20.8	4.4	157.7
1998 Mar. qtr	8.4	36.1	22.5	11.4	12.5	5.3	1.9	12.7	4.7	3.5	119.1
June qtr	3.0	26.4	9.8	16.6	29.5	4.9	2.4	8.5	6.9	4.4	112.3
Sept. qtr	4.8	22.0	15.8	20.6	40.0	4.8	1.8	11.8	11.2	2.7	135.5
Dec. qtr	7.1	22.1	9.5	29.2	31.1	4.9	0.1	7.3	7.6	2.6	121.5
1999 Mar. qtr	6.7	14.2	13.1	8.2	16.7	9.1	0.4	6.1	6.5	3.7	84.5
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	0.2	5.6	1.7	61.9	16.2	98.5	—	13.4	6.7	26.7	230.8
1996-97	0.9	6.8	2.5	57.1	16.0	77.6	0.5	11.6	18.2	27.8	219.0
1997-98	0.5	3.1	0.5	26.5	4.2	53.5	0.4	28.6	14.3	14.4	146.1
1997 Dec. qtr	0.1	0.9	0.1	8.8	1.0	15.9	0.1	6.0	3.6	3.6	40.1
1998 Mar. qtr	0.2	0.7	0.1	4.7	0.6	12.0	—	9.7	1.1	1.1	30.1
June qtr	0.2	1.0	0.1	5.5	0.5	16.9	—	7.8	4.5	2.7	39.1
Sept. qtr	0.3	0.7	0.1	7.7	2.0	8.0	—	2.3	4.3	1.9	27.4
Dec. qtr	0.7	0.6	—	3.4	6.1	16.4	—	4.9	4.9	2.1	38.9
1999 Mar. qtr	—	1.2	0.4	2.7	5.6	22.7	—	6.1	4.6	2.4	45.8
TOTAL											
1995-96	10.6	69.8	25.1	123.0	93.6	116.8	3.8	36.1	23.0	40.3	542.1
1996-97	14.0	124.6	26.0	116.1	116.5	92.6	1.3	61.1	44.6	66.5	663.2
1997-98	35.5	164.4	68.7	83.0	78.3	73.7	8.1	72.5	65.4	35.3	685.0
1997 Dec. qtr	13.4	53.3	21.6	24.2	13.8	21.3	1.7	16.2	24.4	8.0	197.7
1998 Mar. qtr	8.6	36.8	22.6	16.1	13.1	17.3	1.9	22.3	5.8	4.5	149.2
June qtr	3.2	27.4	9.8	22.1	30.0	21.8	2.4	16.3	11.3	7.1	151.5
Sept. qtr	5.1	22.7	15.9	28.3	42.0	12.8	1.8	14.1	15.4	4.6	162.9
Dec. qtr	7.8	22.8	9.5	32.6	37.2	21.2	0.1	12.2	12.4	4.6	160.4
1999 Mar. qtr	6.7	15.4	13.5	11.0	22.3	31.8	0.4	12.2	11.0	6.0	130.3

TABLE 13. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR							
1995-96	74.1	15.5	89.6	17.4	107.0	204.2	311.2
1996-97	95.1	16.0	111.1	19.2	130.2	216.1	346.3
1997-98	102.0	24.9	126.9	27.7	154.5	143.2	297.7
1997 Dec. qtr	99.1	29.3	128.4	18.5	147.0	153.3	300.3
1998 Mar. qtr	101.6	28.4	129.9	26.8	156.8	109.4	266.2
June qtr	102.0	24.9	126.9	27.7	154.5	143.2	297.7
Sept. qtr	103.5	32.0	135.5	25.3	160.9	102.5	263.3
Dec. qtr	123.4	52.9	176.3	20.6	197.0	84.8	281.8
1999 Mar. qtr	115.3	64.5	179.8	21.6	201.4	142.4	343.8
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1995-96	1.6	0.6	2.1	—	2.1	110.1	112.3
1996-97	0.8	0.6	1.5	0.2	1.7	42.9	44.6
1997-98	3.3	—	3.3	—	3.3	28.3	31.7
1997 Dec. qtr	2.5	0.2	2.7	—	2.7	31.9	34.6
1998 Mar. qtr	2.2	0.3	2.4	—	2.5	30.9	33.4
June qtr	3.3	—	3.3	—	3.3	28.3	31.7
Sept. qtr	1.9	0.1	2.1	0.1	2.1	45.7	47.8
Dec. qtr	2.2	1.1	3.2	0.2	3.4	48.1	51.5
1999 Mar. qtr	2.2	0.5	2.8	0.1	2.9	93.7	96.6
TOTAL							
1995-96	75.6	16.1	91.7	17.4	109.1	314.4	423.5
1996-97	95.9	16.6	112.5	19.4	131.9	259.0	390.9
1997-98	105.3	24.9	130.2	27.7	157.8	171.5	329.4
1997 Dec. qtr	101.6	29.6	131.1	18.5	149.7	185.3	334.9
1998 Mar. qtr	103.8	28.6	132.4	26.9	159.2	140.3	299.5
June qtr	105.3	24.9	130.2	27.7	157.8	171.5	329.4
Sept. qtr	105.4	32.2	137.6	25.4	163.0	148.2	311.2
Dec. qtr	125.5	54.0	179.6	20.8	200.4	132.9	333.3
1999 Mar. qtr	117.5	65.0	182.6	21.7	204.3	236.2	440.4

**TABLE 14. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)**

	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1995-96	1.7	89.3	4.3	6.5	41.5	3.7	0.4	36.5	15.7	4.8	204.2
1996-97	26.0	68.8	22.4	4.7	23.6	6.0	0.6	36.9	17.9	9.2	216.1
1997-98	3.0	16.6	6.8	26.8	44.5	2.8	1.1	17.2	20.5	3.9	143.2
1997 Dec. qtr	7.9	30.1	16.2	42.6	9.5	5.3	3.3	29.7	6.6	2.2	153.3
1998 Mar. qtr	3.9	15.0	5.7	35.9	6.6	3.7	1.8	21.8	12.7	2.2	109.4
June qtr	3.0	16.6	6.8	26.8	44.5	2.8	1.1	17.2	20.5	3.9	143.2
Sept. qtr	13.4	8.4	15.7	16.9	18.1	5.8	0.3	7.8	11.7	4.3	102.5
Dec. qtr	11.2	9.9	19.5	5.9	11.3	4.5	1.0	11.9	7.1	2.4	84.8
1999 Mar. qtr	5.8	70.9	9.8	4.0	15.6	4.9	1.2	12.9	16.7	0.7	142.4
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1995-96	—	3.9	0.5	33.3	7.3	37.0	—	5.1	0.4	22.7	110.1
1996-97	—	0.6	—	11.2	1.0	11.9	0.6	4.9	4.4	8.3	42.9
1997-98	—	0.2	—	5.4	0.7	11.7	—	3.4	3.7	3.3	28.3
1997 Dec. qtr	0.4	0.5	—	3.6	—	12.9	—	13.3	0.8	0.5	31.9
1998 Mar. qtr	0.2	1.0	—	1.7	0.1	15.8	—	8.0	0.5	3.6	30.9
June qtr	—	0.2	—	5.4	0.7	11.7	—	3.4	3.7	3.3	28.3
Sept. qtr	—	—	—	1.8	6.5	22.5	—	7.7	4.3	2.9	45.7
Dec. qtr	—	0.6	—	1.3	5.6	28.9	—	9.1	1.2	1.4	48.1
1999 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	3.1	0.6	70.8	—	3.9	1.0	14.2	93.7
TOTAL											
1995-96	1.7	93.2	4.8	39.7	48.8	40.6	0.4	41.6	16.0	27.4	314.4
1996-97	26.0	69.4	22.4	15.9	24.6	17.9	1.3	41.8	22.2	17.5	259.0
1997-98	3.0	16.8	6.8	32.2	45.2	14.5	1.1	20.6	24.2	7.2	171.5
1997 Dec. qtr	8.4	30.6	16.2	46.2	9.5	18.2	3.3	42.9	7.3	2.7	185.3
1998 Mar. qtr	4.1	16.0	5.7	37.6	6.7	19.6	1.8	29.8	13.1	5.8	140.3
June qtr	3.0	16.8	6.8	32.2	45.2	14.5	1.1	20.6	24.2	7.2	171.5
Sept. qtr	13.4	8.5	15.7	18.7	24.6	28.3	0.3	15.5	16.0	7.2	148.2
Dec. qtr	11.2	10.5	19.5	7.2	16.9	33.4	1.0	21.0	8.3	3.8	132.9
1999 Mar. qtr	5.8	70.9	9.8	7.1	16.2	75.7	1.2	16.9	17.7	14.9	236.2

TABLE 15. BUILDING ACTIVITY RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS, MARCH QUARTER 1999
(Percentage)

<i>Ownership and stage of construction</i>	<i>New residential building</i>				<i>Value</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total building</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>	<i>Value</i>		
TOTAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS						
Commenced	3.6	3.7	2.9	2.9	5.9	1.2
Under construction at end of period	3.3	3.4	2.6	2.3	6.4	1.1
Completed	4.5	4.8	3.8	3.9	7.5	1.8
Value of work done	..	2.8	..	2.3	5.2	1.3
Value of work yet to be done	..	3.8	..	2.4	7.2	1.1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains detailed results from the quarterly Building Activity Survey. Each issue includes revisions to the previous quarter. Therefore data for the latest quarter should be considered to be preliminary only.

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 sample survey of private sector house building activity involving new house construction or alterations and additions valued at \$10,000 or more to houses; and
- 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 From the September quarter 1990, only non-residential building jobs (both new and alterations and additions) with an approval value of \$50,000 (previously \$30,000) or more are included in the survey.

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 generally only available at the State, Territory and Australia levels. The Northern Territory has been completely enumerated since the June quarter 1991 and small area data are available on request. Also, data for regions below State and Territory level are available from the building approvals series compiled by the ABS and based on information reported by local government and other reporting 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 jobs selected in previous quarters which have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter and those jobs newly selected in the current quarter. The population list from which jobs are selected for inclusion comprises all approved building jobs which were notified to the ABS (refer paragraph 2) 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 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, 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 *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.
- 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 townhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings, etc.).

10 From the June quarter 1996 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units created 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 5, 7, and 9 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, the seasonally adjusted estimates for the total number of dwelling units commenced and completed, shown in table 4, include these conversions, etc. Previously, only dwelling units created as part of the construction of new residential buildings were included in these estimates.

12 *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).

13 *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.

14 *Completed*. A building job is defined as completed when building activity has progressed to the stage where 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 BUILDINGS JOBS

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

- *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 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.
- *Value of building completed* represents the actual completion value based, where practicable, on the market or contract price of jobs including site preparation costs but excluding the value of land and landscaping.
- *Value of building work done during the period* represents the estimated value of building work actually carried out during the quarter on jobs which have commenced.
- *Value of building work yet to be done* represents the difference between the anticipated completion value and the estimated value of work done on jobs up to the end of the period.

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

16 *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.

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:

- *Houses*. Includes cottages, bungalows, detached caretakers'/managers' cottages, rectories.
- *Other residential buildings*. Includes blocks of flats, home units, attached townhouses, villa units, terrace houses, semi-detached houses, maisonettes.
- *Hotels, etc.* Includes motels, hostels, boarding houses, guest houses, holiday apartment buildings.
- *Shops*. Includes retail shops, restaurants, cafes, taverns, dry cleaners, laundromats, hair salons, shopping arcades.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION *continued*

- *Factories*. Includes paper mills, oil refinery buildings, brickworks, foundries, powerhouses, manufacturing laboratories, workshops as part of a manufacturing process.
- *Offices*. Includes banks, post offices, council chambers, head and regional offices.
- *Other business premises*. Includes warehouses, storage depots, service stations, transport depots and terminals, car parks, electricity substation buildings, pumping station buildings, telephone exchanges, mail sorting centres, broadcasting stations, film studios.
- *Educational*. Includes schools, colleges, universities, kindergartens, libraries, museums, art galleries, research and teaching laboratories, theological colleges.
- *Religious*. Includes churches, chapels, temples.
- *Health*. Includes hospitals, nursing homes, surgeries, clinics, medical centres.
- *Entertainment and recreational*. Includes clubs, theatres, cinemas, public halls, gymnasiums, grandstands, squash courts, sports and recreation centres;
- *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 to private sector houses) 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 (SE), 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 SE 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 SEs. Another measure of sampling variability is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSEs of estimates provide an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and are shown in table 15.

20 An example of the use of RSEs 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 5) and that the associated RSE is 2.5 per cent (for actual percentage see table 15). 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES *continued*

21 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the RSE, 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 jobs, and efficient operating procedures.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

22 Seasonally adjusted building statistics are shown in tables 2–4. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and the effect of 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 on Canberra 02 6252 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.

24 As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's data. For the Building Activity Survey, the results of the latest review are shown in the December quarter issue each year.

CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

25 Chain volume estimates of the value of commencements and work done are shown in tables 1 and 2. While current price estimates of the value of commencements and work done reflect both price and volume changes, chain volume estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated and therefore only reflect volume changes. 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 formation'.

26 The chain volume measures of commencements and work done appearing in this publication are annually reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to current price values in a chosen reference year (currently 1996–97). The reference year will be updated annually in the June quarter publication. Each year's data in the value of commencements and work done series are based on the prices of the previous year, except for the quarters of the latest incomplete year (i.e. for the 1998–99 financial year) which are based upon the current reference year (i.e. 1996–97). Comparability with previous years is achieved by linking (or chaining) the series together to form a continuous time series. Further information on the nature and concepts of chain volume measures is contained in the *ABS Information Paper: Introduction of Chain Volume Measures in the Australian National Accounts* (Cat. no. 5248.0).

27 The factors used to seasonally adjust the chain volume measures are identical to those used to adjust the corresponding current price series.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

28 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

UNPUBLISHED DATA AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS

29 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, it can be provided via fax, photocopy, computer printout, floppy disk and email. A charge may be made for providing unpublished information in these forms. Inquiries should be made to Information Inquiries on Adelaide 08 8237 7400 or any ABS State office.

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

Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0) — issued quarterly

Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary
(Cat. no. 8755.0) — issued quarterly

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Building Approvals, South Australia (Cat. no. 8731.4) — issued monthly

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31 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

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