## BUILDING ACTIVITY

## Value of work done <br> Volume terms <br>  <br>  <br> 19901992199419961998

Value of work commenced Volume terms


- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Roger Mableson on Adelaide 088237 7494, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.


## DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

| ORIGINAL ESTIMATES | Dec qtr 98 | Sep qtr 98 to Dec qtr 98 <br> \% change | Dec qtr 97 to <br> Dec qtr 98 <br> \% change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Value of work done(a) (\$m) | 154.8 | 7.9 | 43.2 |
| New residential building (\$m) | 83.0 | 23.2 | 54.6 |
| Alterations and additions(b) (\$m) | 7.5 | -1.1 | 44.2 |
| Non-residential building (\$m) | 64.2 | -6.2 | 30.5 |
| Total dwelling units commenced (no.) | 645 | 29.8 | 28.7 |
| New private sector houses (no.) | 256 | 15.8 | 28.0 |

## DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

## VALUE OF WORK DONE, VOLUME TERMS

- Total building work done increased by $7.9 \%$ in the December quarter to $\$ 154.8 \mathrm{~m}$, which surpasses the peak of last quarter which had been the highest for 13 years.
- Work done on new residential building increased by $23.1 \%$ to $\$ 83.0 \mathrm{~m}$, which also surpasses the peak of last quarter. Houses increased by $24.8 \%$ and other residential building by $19.2 \%$.

■ Work done on non-residential building decreased by $6.2 \%$ to $\$ 64.2 \mathrm{~m}$ but was $30.5 \%$ above the level of a year ago

## VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED, VOLUME TERMS

■ Total building work commenced fell by $15.5 \%$ to $\$ 126.4 \mathrm{~m}$.

- The fall was due to a decrease in non-residential building commenced, down $52.3 \%$ to $\$ 38.0 \mathrm{~m}$.
- New residential building commenced rose by $28.6 \%$ to $\$ 80.5 \mathrm{~m}$, the highest since the December quarter 1976. Houses rose by $21.4 \%$ to $\$ 62.4 \mathrm{~m}$, the highest since June 1977.


## NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED

- The total number of dwelling units commenced during the December quarter increased by $29.8 \%$ to 645 . Houses in the private sector increased by $15.8 \%$ and in the public sector by $26.8 \%$.


## VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE

- Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of December 1998 decreased by $19.3 \%$ to $\$ 126.9 \mathrm{~m}$. This was 0.77 times the value of work done for the quarter ( 0.73 for residential building and 0.83 for non-residential).


## NOTES

| FORTHCOMING ISSUES | ISSUE (QUARTER) | RELEASE DATE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | March 1999 | 2 August 1999 |
|  | June 1999 | 27 October 1999 |

## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE There are no changes in this issue.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
USAGES

- nil or rounded to zero

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

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ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

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

| (\$ million) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | New residential building |  |  | Alterations and additions to residential buildings | Non-residential building |  |  |
| Period | Houses | Other residential buildings | Total |  | Private Sector | Total | Total building |
| COMMENCED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 102.9 | 56.9 | 159.9 | 28.8 | 145.8 | 259.6 | 448.1 |
| 1996-97 | 124.8 | 61.8 | 186.6 | 23.8 | 114.1 | 217.8 | 428.0 |
| 1997-98 | 152.2 | 111.0 | 263.6 | 25.7 | 97.0 | 229.8 | 518.0 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 38.2 | 21.0 | 59.3 | 5.4 | 20.9 | 58.0 | 122.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 32.2 | 19.5 | 51.8 | 4.2 | 17.3 | 38.1 | 93.9 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 36.8 | 38.9 | 75.8 | 7.4 | 33.9 | 74.5 | 157.3 |
| June qtr | 45.0 | 31.6 | 76.7 | 8.7 | 24.9 | 59.2 | 144.3 |
| Sept. qtr | 51.4 | 11.1 | 62.6 | 7.7 | 22.8 | 79.6 | 149.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 62.4 | 18.0 | 80.5 | 8.3 | 25.8 | 38.0 | 126.4 |

VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD

| 1995-96 | 113.3 | 59.2 | 171.9 | 32.5 | 130.2 | 242.6 | 447.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1996-97 | 121.2 | 57.2 | 178.2 | 22.9 | 142.5 | 267.0 | 468.0 |
| 1997-98 | 140.9 | 88.5 | 229.7 | 25.3 | 105.1 | 206.4 | 461.4 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 38.2 | 20.0 | 58.3 | 6.0 | 26.0 | 48.4 | 112.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 33.0 | 20.6 | 53.7 | 5.2 | 22.8 | 49.2 | 108.1 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 31.9 | 23.0 | 54.9 | 5.2 | 22.3 | 47.6 | 107.7 |
| June qtr | 37.8 | 24.9 | 62.8 | 8.9 | 34.0 | 61.2 | 133.0 |
| Sept. qtr | 47.1 | 20.3 | 67.4 | 7.6 | 30.1 | 68.4 | 143.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 58.8 | 24.2 | 83.0 | 7.5 | 20.7 | 64.2 | 154.8 |

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1996-97. See paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

| Period | Number of dwelling units |  |  |  | Value (\$m) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { New } \\ \text { houses } \end{gathered}$ | New other residential building |  | Total dwelling units | New houses | New other residential building | New <br> residential building | Alterations and additions to residential buildings | Total residential building | Total non-residential building | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Total } \\ \text { building } \end{array}$ |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 773 | 455 | 9 | 1,237 | 80.0 | 48.2 | 128.2 | 21.6 | 149.8 | 143.9 | 293.7 |
| 1996-97 | 815 | 685 | 28 | 1,528 | 99.5 | 60.2 | 159.6 | 20.7 | 180.3 | 114.2 | 294.5 |
| 1997-98 | 949 | 877 | 14 | 1,840 | 120.0 | 106.7 | 226.7 | 17.8 | 244.4 | 100.2 | 344.6 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 259 | 134 | 4 | 397 | 31.9 | 17.1 | 48.9 | 5.0 | 53.9 | 21.3 | 75.2 |
| Dec. qtr | 200 | 209 | 2 | 411 | 24.7 | 18.2 | 43.0 | 3.6 | 46.5 | 17.8 | 64.3 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 195 | 299 | 2 | 496 | 23.3 | 39.3 | 62.6 | 4.4 | 67.0 | 35.1 | 102.1 |
| June qtr | 295 | 235 | 6 | 536 | 40.1 | 32.0 | 72.2 | 4.8 | 77.0 | 26.0 | 103.0 |
| Sept. qtr | 221 | 106 | 3 | 330 | 29.7 | 10.5 | 40.2 | 6.7 | 46.8 | 23.9 | 70.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 256 | 187 | 4 | 447 | 35.1 | 18.4 | 53.5 | 6.1 | 59.6 | 27.3 | 87.0 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 112 | 117 | 3 | 232 | 18.9 | 7.7 | 26.6 | 6.1 | 32.7 | 111.7 | 144.4 |
| 1996-97 | 170 | 16 | 12 | 198 | 25.2 | 1.6 | 26.9 | 3.1 | 30.0 | 103.5 | 133.5 |
| 1997-98 | 270 | 75 | - | 345 | 36.7 | 7.7 | 44.4 | 8.6 | 52.9 | 136.7 | 189.6 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 56 | 38 | - | 94 | 7.4 | 4.3 | 11.7 | 0.5 | 12.3 | 37.8 | 50.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 70 | 20 | - | 90 | 8.5 | 1.7 | 10.3 | 0.8 | 11.1 | 21.3 | 32.3 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 95 | 10 | - | 105 | 14.6 | 0.8 | 15.4 | 3.2 | 18.6 | 41.9 | 60.5 |
| June qtr | 49 | 7 | - | 56 | 6.1 | 0.8 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 11.0 | 35.7 | 46.7 |
| Sept. qtr | 153 | 14 | - | 167 | 23.1 | 1.1 | 24.3 | 1.2 | 25.4 | 59.6 | 85.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 194 | 4 | - | 198 | 29.0 | 0.5 | 29.6 | 2.4 | 32.0 | 12.8 | 44.8 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 885 | 572 | 12 | 1,469 | 98.9 | 55.9 | 154.8 | 27.7 | 182.6 | 255.6 | 438.2 |
| 1996-97 | 985 | 701 | 40 | 1,726 | 124.7 | 61.8 | 186.5 | 23.8 | 210.3 | 217.7 | 428.0 |
| 1997-98 | 1,219 | 952 | 14 | 2,185 | 156.7 | 114.4 | 271.0 | 26.3 | 297.3 | 236.9 | 534.3 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 315 | 172 | 4 | 491 | 39.3 | 21.4 | 60.7 | 5.6 | 66.2 | 59.1 | 125.3 |
| Dec. qtr | 270 | 229 | 2 | 501 | 33.3 | 20.0 | 53.3 | 4.3 | 57.6 | 39.1 | 96.7 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 290 | 309 | 2 | 601 | 37.9 | 40.1 | 78.0 | 7.5 | 85.6 | 77.0 | 162.6 |
| June qtr | 344 | 242 | 6 | 592 | 46.2 | 32.9 | 79.1 | 8.9 | 88.0 | 61.7 | 149.7 |
| Sept. qtr | 374 | 120 | 3 | 497 | 52.8 | 11.6 | 64.4 | 7.8 | 72.3 | 83.6 | 155.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 450 | 191 | 4 | 645 | 64.2 | 18.9 | 83.1 | 8.5 | 91.6 | 40.1 | 131.7 |

TABLE 3. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMMENCED: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | (\$ million) |  |


|  | Number of dwelling units |  |  |  | Value (\$m) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { New } \\ \text { houses } \end{gathered}$ | New other residential building | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Con- } \\ & \text { versions } \\ & \text { etc. } \end{aligned}$ | 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 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Total } \\ \text { building } \end{array}$ |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 354 | 264 | 4 | 622 | 37.5 | 30.6 | 68.1 | 9.5 | 77.6 | 115.2 | 192.8 |
| 1996-97 | 338 | 450 | 9 | 797 | 42.1 | 38.5 | 80.7 | 10.3 | 91.0 | 57.3 | 148.3 |
| 1997-98 | 383 | 531 | 4 | 918 | 52.7 | 70.2 | 122.9 | 7.2 | 130.1 | 45.1 | 175.2 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 337 | 296 | 9 | 642 | 44.4 | 30.3 | 74.7 | 10.2 | 84.9 | 64.1 | 149.0 |
| Dec. qtr | 290 | 378 | 7 | 675 | 37.9 | 37.4 | 75.2 | 8.0 | 83.2 | 64.5 | 147.7 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 285 | 500 | 3 | 788 | 37.6 | 63.0 | 100.6 | 7.5 | 108.0 | 99.9 | 207.9 |
| June qtr | 383 | 531 | 4 | 918 | 52.7 | 70.2 | 122.9 | 7.2 | 130.1 | 45.1 | 175.2 |
| Sept. qtr | 379 | 450 | 5 | 834 | 53.6 | 65.1 | 118.8 | 9.2 | 128.0 | 39.0 | 167.0 |
| Dec. qtr | 377 | 403 | 5 | 785 | 54.4 | 55.7 | 110.0 | 8.0 | 118.1 | 33.0 | 151.1 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 9 | 108 | 2 | 119 | 1.0 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 0.2 | 7.8 | 104.4 | 112.1 |
| 1996-97 | 52 | 5 | - | 57 | 6.3 | 0.5 | 6.8 | 1.5 | 8.3 | 72.0 | 80.3 |
| 1997-98 | 74 | 17 | - | 91 | 10.6 | 1.6 | 12.3 | 4.1 | 16.4 | 102.7 | 119.0 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 52 | 38 | - | 90 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 11.2 | 0.6 | 11.7 | 84.9 | 96.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 54 | 58 | - | 112 | 7.4 | 6.0 | 13.5 | 0.5 | 13.9 | 53.8 | 67.7 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 109 | 12 | - | 121 | 16.6 | 1.0 | 17.6 | 3.3 | 20.9 | 81.9 | 102.8 |
| June qtr | 74 | 17 | - | 91 | 10.6 | 1.6 | 12.3 | 4.1 | 16.4 | 102.7 | 119.0 |
| Sept. qtr | 143 | 21 | - | 164 | 22.2 | 2.0 | 24.2 | 1.4 | 25.6 | 134.1 | 159.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 169 | 23 | - | 192 | 26.0 | 2.2 | 28.2 | 2.5 | 30.7 | 127.8 | 158.6 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 363 | 372 | 6 | 741 | 38.6 | 37.2 | 75.8 | 9.6 | 85.4 | 219.5 | 304.9 |
| 1996-97 | 390 | 455 | 9 | 854 | 48.4 | 39.0 | 87.5 | 11.8 | 99.3 | 129.3 | 228.6 |
| 1997-98 | 457 | 548 | 4 | 1,009 | 63.4 | 71.8 | 135.2 | 11.3 | 146.5 | 147.8 | 294.3 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 389 | 334 | 9 | 732 | 51.3 | 34.6 | 85.9 | 10.8 | 96.7 | 149.0 | 245.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 344 | 436 | 7 | 787 | 45.3 | 43.4 | 88.7 | 8.4 | 97.1 | 118.3 | 215.5 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 394 | 512 | 3 | 909 | 54.2 | 64.0 | 118.2 | 10.8 | 129.0 | 181.8 | 310.7 |
| June qtr | 457 | 548 | 4 | 1,009 | 63.4 | 71.8 | 135.2 | 11.3 | 146.5 | 147.8 | 294.3 |
| Sept. qtr | 522 | 471 | 5 | 998 | 75.9 | 67.1 | 142.9 | 10.7 | 153.6 | 173.1 | 326.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 546 | 426 | 5 | 977 | 80.4 | 57.9 | 138.2 | 10.6 | 148.8 | 160.8 | 309.6 |

TABLE 5. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL (\$ million)

| (\$ million) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hotels etc. | Shops | Factories | Offices |  | Educational | Religious | Health | Entertainment and recreational | Miscellaneous | Total non-residential building |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 59.6 | 36.9 | 1.0 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 0.7 | 0.1 | - | 2.5 | 0.6 | 115.2 |
| 1996-97 | 0.6 | 40.1 | 1.1 | 6.5 | 7.9 | - | 0.2 | - | 0.1 | 0.7 | 57.3 |
| 1997-98 | 0.9 | 14.9 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 0.7 | - | - | 10.8 | 3.4 | 45.1 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 1.2 | 41.7 | 3.0 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 1.5 | 0.2 | - | 1.4 | 0.7 | 64.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.9 | 42.6 | 1.1 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 0.7 | - | - | 3.6 | 0.4 | 64.5 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 0.9 | 67.0 | 1.0 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 0.5 | - | 0.2 | 14.5 | 0.5 | 99.9 |
| June qtr | 0.9 | 14.9 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 0.7 | - | - | 10.8 | 3.4 | 45.1 |
| Sept. qtr | 0.9 | 9.7 | 1.6 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | - | 10.9 | 3.6 | 39.0 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.6 | 6.0 | 0.3 | 5.5 | 4.5 | - | - | - | 15.7 | 0.5 | 33.0 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | - | 4.9 | - | 12.9 | 16.3 | 36.5 | - | 0.5 | 4.8 | 28.5 | 104.4 |
| 1996-97 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 20.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 33.5 | - | 0.4 | 3.3 | 13.1 | 72.0 |
| 1997-98 | - | 0.2 | - | 10.6 | 42.5 | 8.9 | - | 5.1 | - | 35.3 | 102.7 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 0.1 | 0.3 | 21.0 | 2.8 | 24.4 | 24.3 | - | 0.1 | 0.4 | 11.6 | 84.9 |
| Dec. qtr | - | - | - | 14.3 | 24.3 | 7.2 | - | 0.7 | 0.4 | 6.9 | 53.8 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | - | 0.1 | 7.9 | 31.5 | 11.2 | - | 0.3 | 0.3 | 30.5 | 81.9 |
| June qtr | - | 0.2 | - | 10.6 | 42.5 | 8.9 | - | 5.1 | - | 35.3 | 102.7 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 0.3 | - | 38.7 | 42.6 | 10.1 | - | 5.9 | 0.4 | 36.1 | 134.1 |
| Dec. qtr | - | 0.4 | - | 38.7 | 40.8 | 2.3 | - | 7.0 | - | 38.6 | 127.8 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 59.6 | 41.7 | 1.0 | 20.2 | 22.7 | 37.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 7.3 | 29.1 | 219.5 |
| 1996-97 | 0.8 | 40.3 | 21.2 | 7.3 | 8.5 | 33.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 3.4 | 13.8 | 129.3 |
| 1997-98 | 0.9 | 15.1 | 2.0 | 17.3 | 48.3 | 9.6 | - | 5.1 | 10.8 | 38.8 | 147.8 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 1.4 | 42.0 | 24.0 | 10.2 | 31.2 | 25.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 12.3 | 149.0 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.9 | 42.6 | 1.1 | 21.9 | 31.9 | 7.9 | - | 0.7 | 4.0 | 7.3 | 118.3 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 0.9 | 67.0 | 1.1 | 14.9 | 39.8 | 11.8 | - | 0.5 | 14.8 | 31.0 | 181.8 |
| June qtr | 0.9 | 15.1 | 2.0 | 17.3 | 48.3 | 9.6 | - | 5.1 | 10.8 | 38.8 | 147.8 |
| Sept. qtr | 0.9 | 10.0 | 1.6 | 44.2 | 49.2 | 10.1 | 0.1 | 5.9 | 11.3 | 39.8 | 173.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.6 | 6.4 | 0.3 | 44.1 | 45.2 | 2.3 | - | 7.0 | 15.7 | 39.1 | 160.8 |

TABLE 6. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED: ORIGINAL

| Period | Number of dwelling units |  |  |  | Value (\$m) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { New } \\ \text { houses } \end{gathered}$ | New other residential building | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Con- } \\ & \text { versions } \\ & \text { etc. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Total } \\ \text { dwelling } \\ \text { units } \end{array}$ | New houses | $\begin{array}{r} \text { New } \\ \text { other } \\ \text { residential } \\ \text { building } \end{array}$ | New residential building | Alterations and additions to residential buildings | Total residential building | Total non-residential building | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Total } \\ \text { building } \end{array}$ |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 833 | 467 | 11 | 1,311 | 85.2 | 61.6 | 146.8 | 23.2 | 170.0 | 97.4 | 267.4 |
| 1996-97 | 823 | 504 | 23 | 1,350 | 95.2 | 50.2 | 145.3 | 20.0 | 165.3 | 171.4 | 336.7 |
| 1997-98 | 894 | 796 | 18 | 1,708 | 110.0 | 74.9 | 184.9 | 21.2 | 206.0 | 114.0 | 320.0 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 254 | 288 | 4 | 546 | 29.2 | 24.8 | 54.0 | 5.3 | 59.3 | 14.7 | 74.0 |
| Dec. qtr | 246 | 127 | 3 | 376 | 31.7 | 11.0 | 42.7 | 5.7 | 48.4 | 19.3 | 67.8 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 197 | 177 | 6 | 380 | 23.7 | 15.0 | 38.7 | 4.9 | 43.6 | 12.2 | 55.7 |
| June qtr | 197 | 204 | 5 | 406 | 25.4 | 24.1 | 49.5 | 5.3 | 54.8 | 67.7 | 122.5 |
| Sept. qtr | 223 | 195 | 2 | 420 | 28.5 | 16.1 | 44.6 | 4.9 | 49.5 | 29.1 | 78.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 255 | 234 | 4 | 493 | 34.2 | 28.9 | 63.1 | 7.4 | 70.5 | 33.0 | 103.6 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 178 | 21 | 1 | 200 | 33.5 | 2.4 | 35.9 | 10.0 | 46.0 | 86.5 | 132.4 |
| 1996-97 | 125 | 119 | 14 | 258 | 19.8 | 8.0 | 27.8 | 1.8 | 29.5 | 135.1 | 164.7 |
| 1997-98 | 248 | 63 | - | 311 | 32.4 | 6.5 | 38.9 | 6.0 | 44.9 | 99.3 | 144.1 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 56 | 5 | - | 61 | 6.9 | 0.4 | 7.3 | 1.5 | 8.8 | 25.9 | 34.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 68 | - | - | 68 | 8.0 | - | 8.0 | 0.9 | 8.9 | 47.2 | 56.0 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 40 | 56 | - | 96 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 11.6 | 10.1 | 21.7 |
| June qtr | 84 | 2 | - | 86 | 12.1 | 0.1 | 12.2 | 3.3 | 15.6 | 16.1 | 31.7 |
| Sept. qtr | 84 | 10 | - | 94 | 11.8 | 0.8 | 12.6 | 3.8 | 16.4 | 27.5 | 43.9 |
| Dec. qtr | 168 | 2 | - | 170 | 25.3 | 0.3 | 25.6 | 1.3 | 26.9 | 20.3 | 47.1 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 1,011 | 488 | 12 | 1,511 | 118.7 | 64.0 | 182.7 | 33.2 | 215.9 | 183.9 | 399.8 |
| 1996-97 | 948 | 623 | 37 | 1,608 | 114.9 | 58.2 | 173.1 | 21.7 | 194.8 | 306.6 | 501.4 |
| 1997-98 | 1,142 | 859 | 18 | 2,019 | 142.4 | 81.3 | 223.7 | 27.1 | 250.9 | 213.2 | 464.1 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 310 | 293 | 4 | 607 | 36.1 | 25.2 | 61.3 | 6.8 | 68.1 | 40.7 | 108.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 314 | 127 | 3 | 444 | 39.7 | 11.0 | 50.7 | 6.6 | 57.3 | 66.5 | 123.8 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 237 | 233 | 6 | 476 | 29.1 | 20.9 | 50.0 | 5.2 | 55.1 | 22.3 | 77.4 |
| June qtr | 281 | 206 | 5 | 492 | 37.5 | 24.3 | 61.8 | 8.6 | 70.4 | 83.8 | 154.2 |
| Sept. qtr | 307 | 205 | 2 | 514 | 40.3 | 16.9 | 57.3 | 8.7 | 65.9 | 56.7 | 122.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 423 | 236 | 4 | 663 | 59.5 | 29.2 | 88.7 | 8.7 | 97.4 | 53.3 | 150.7 |

TABLE 7. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMPLETED: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

| (\$ million) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Period | Hotels etc. | Shops | Factories | Offices | Other business premises | Educational | Religious | Health | Entertainment and recreational | Miscellaneous | Total non-residential building |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 26.8 | 19.2 | 3.9 | 6.5 | 15.4 | 7.4 | 0.5 | 4.2 | 7.6 | 5.9 | 97.4 |
| 1996-97 | 60.9 | 49.4 | 4.0 | 20.9 | 18.4 | 8.0 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 171.4 |
| 1997-98 | 0.3 | 60.9 | 4.8 | 14.3 | 22.9 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 5.2 | 1.6 | 114.0 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | - | 5.5 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 6.0 | - | - | - | - | - | 14.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.3 | 5.4 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 5.3 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 19.3 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | 3.4 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 0.7 | - | - | 0.2 | 0.2 | 12.2 |
| June qtr | - | 46.6 | 0.5 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 0.3 | - | 0.2 | 3.7 | 0.6 | 67.7 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 16.1 | 2.1 | 5.6 | 4.4 | 0.7 | - | - | 0.1 | - | 29.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.2 | 5.7 | 1.3 | 3.4 | 6.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | - | 11.4 | 4.0 | 33.0 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | - | - | 4.7 | 5.9 | 7.9 | 11.7 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 7.1 | 44.8 | 86.5 |
| 1996-97 | 1.0 | 7.7 | 1.6 | 20.2 | 22.1 | 40.8 | - | 3.6 | 5.9 | 32.3 | 135.1 |
| 1997-98 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 21.2 | 4.2 | 6.2 | 40.2 | - | 1.5 | 3.8 | 21.8 | 99.3 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | - | - | 0.1 | - | 0.2 | 16.5 | - | 0.3 | 2.9 | 6.0 | 25.9 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.1 | 0.3 | 21.0 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 11.6 | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | 11.5 | 47.2 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | - | - | 3.2 | - | 5.7 | - | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 10.1 |
| June qtr | - | - | 0.1 | 0.2 | 4.4 | 6.4 | - | 0.4 | 0.5 | 4.2 | 16.1 |
| Sept. qtr | - | - | - | 8.4 | - | 5.7 | - | 0.4 | - | 13.0 | 27.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.1 | 0.3 | - | 0.6 | 4.6 | 10.6 | - | 1.1 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 20.3 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 26.8 | 19.2 | 8.6 | 12.5 | 23.3 | 19.1 | 2.8 | 6.3 | 14.7 | 50.6 | 183.9 |
| 1996-97 | 61.9 | 57.1 | 5.6 | 41.1 | 40.5 | 48.8 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 10.1 | 37.3 | 306.6 |
| 1997-98 | 0.5 | 61.2 | 25.9 | 18.5 | 29.0 | 43.5 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 9.0 | 23.4 | 213.2 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | - | 5.5 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 6.2 | 16.5 | - | 0.3 | 2.9 | 6.1 | 40.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.5 | 5.7 | 23.2 | 2.1 | 6.9 | 13.9 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 12.2 | 66.5 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | 3.4 | 1.5 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 6.5 | - | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 22.3 |
| June qtr | - | 46.6 | 0.6 | 7.8 | 12.5 | 6.6 | - | 0.7 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 83.8 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 16.1 | 2.1 | 14.1 | 4.4 | 6.4 | - | 0.4 | 0.1 | 13.0 | 56.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.4 | 6.0 | 1.3 | 4.0 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 12.1 | 6.1 | 53.3 |

TABLE 8. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

| (\$ million) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Period | New houses | New other residential building | New residential building | Alterations <br> and additions to residential buildings | Total residential building | Total non-residential building | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Total } \\ \text { building } \end{array}$ |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 83.4 | 51.9 | 135.3 | 22.8 | 158.1 | 128.6 | 286.7 |
| 1996-97 | 98.2 | 53.8 | 151.9 | 20.2 | 172.1 | 142.6 | 314.7 |
| 1997-98 | 112.4 | 83.5 | 195.9 | 19.3 | 215.2 | 108.2 | 323.4 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 30.2 | 18.6 | 48.8 | 5.4 | 54.1 | 26.5 | 80.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 26.9 | 19.0 | 45.9 | 4.6 | 50.5 | 23.4 | 73.9 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 25.3 | 21.0 | 46.3 | 4.6 | 50.9 | 23.0 | 73.9 |
| June qtr | 30.1 | 24.9 | 55.0 | 4.7 | 59.7 | 35.3 | 95.0 |
| Sept. qtr | 32.1 | 20.8 | 52.9 | 6.2 | 59.1 | 31.6 | 90.7 |
| Dec. qtr | 36.3 | 24.2 | 60.6 | 6.1 | 66.7 | 21.9 | 88.5 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 27.2 | 6.5 | 33.7 | 9.0 | 42.7 | 110.7 | 153.4 |
| 1996-97 | 22.9 | 3.3 | 26.3 | 2.7 | 29.0 | 124.4 | 153.4 |
| 1997-98 | 34.1 | 7.4 | 41.5 | 7.1 | 48.6 | 104.1 | 152.7 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 8.4 | 1.8 | 10.1 | 0.7 | 10.8 | 22.8 | 33.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 7.8 | 2.1 | 9.9 | 0.8 | 10.7 | 27.1 | 37.8 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 8.0 | 2.6 | 10.6 | 0.9 | 11.5 | 26.0 | 37.5 |
| June qtr | 9.9 | 1.0 | 10.8 | 4.8 | 15.6 | 28.2 | 43.8 |
| Sept. qtr | 18.2 | 0.4 | 18.6 | 2.0 | 20.6 | 40.2 | 60.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 26.5 | 1.3 | 27.8 | 2.0 | 29.7 | 45.9 | 75.7 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 110.6 | 58.4 | 169.0 | 31.8 | 200.8 | 239.3 | 440.1 |
| 1996-97 | 121.1 | 57.1 | 178.2 | 22.9 | 201.1 | 267.0 | 468.1 |
| 1997-98 | 146.5 | 90.9 | 237.4 | 26.4 | 263.9 | 212.3 | 476.1 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 38.6 | 20.4 | 58.9 | 6.0 | 65.0 | 49.3 | 114.2 |
| Dec. qtr | 34.6 | 21.1 | 55.8 | 5.4 | 61.2 | 50.5 | 111.7 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 33.3 | 23.6 | 56.9 | 5.5 | 62.4 | 49.0 | 111.3 |
| June qtr | 40.0 | 25.8 | 65.8 | 9.5 | 75.3 | 63.6 | 138.9 |
| Sept. qtr | 50.3 | 21.2 | 71.6 | 8.2 | 79.8 | 71.8 | 151.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 62.8 | 25.5 | 88.3 | 8.1 | 96.4 | 67.8 | 164.2 |

TABLE 9. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK DONE: ORIGINAL
(\$ million)

| Period | Hotels etc. | Shops | Factories | Offices | Other business premises | Educational | Religious | Health | Entertainment and recreational | Miscellaneous | Total non-residential building |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 45.0 | 33.0 | 4.1 | 7.1 | 15.7 | 7.3 | 0.5 | 4.0 | 9.0 | 2.9 | 128.6 |
| 1996-97 | 30.8 | 50.9 | 4.2 | 21.1 | 20.0 | 7.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 2.1 | 5.2 | 142.6 |
| 1997-98 | 0.3 | 50.3 | 5.6 | 15.0 | 21.2 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 9.9 | 1.5 | 108.2 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 0.3 | 14.8 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 0.8 | 0.1 | - | 0.7 | 0.2 | 26.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.1 | 10.3 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 6.2 | 1.8 | - | 0.3 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 23.4 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | 9.2 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 4.2 | 0.5 | - | 0.1 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 23.0 |
| June qtr | - | 15.9 | 1.6 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 0.7 | - | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 35.3 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 13.0 | 1.2 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 | - | 4.2 | 2.7 | 31.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.2 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | - | 5.6 | 1.1 | 21.9 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | - | 2.1 | 1.8 | 15.0 | 9.6 | 29.1 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 10.3 | 38.2 | 110.7 |
| 1996-97 | 1.0 | 5.6 | 19.6 | 8.7 | 14.4 | 37.9 | - | 3.4 | 5.0 | 28.8 | 124.4 |
| 1997-98 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 11.0 | 32.0 | 25.4 | - | 1.8 | 1.1 | 29.2 | 104.1 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 0.1 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.8 | 3.0 | 10.2 | - | 0.1 | 0.4 | 5.8 | 22.8 |
| Dec. qtr | - | 0.1 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 9.7 | 7.6 | - | 0.7 | 0.2 | 6.1 | 27.1 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | - | 0.1 | 4.3 | 10.4 | 5.0 | - | 0.2 | 0.1 | 5.9 | 26.0 |
| June qtr | - | 0.1 | - | 4.2 | 8.8 | 2.6 | - | 0.7 | 0.4 | 11.4 | 28.2 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 0.1 | - | 6.5 | 9.0 | 10.7 | - | 1.6 | 0.1 | 12.2 | 40.2 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.1 | 0.3 | - | 12.1 | 5.8 | 4.9 | - | 4.3 | 0.6 | 17.6 | 45.9 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 45.0 | 35.1 | 6.0 | 22.1 | 25.3 | 36.4 | 2.9 | 6.2 | 19.4 | 41.1 | 239.3 |
| 1996-97 | 31.8 | 56.6 | 23.8 | 29.8 | 34.4 | 45.4 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 7.1 | 34.0 | 267.0 |
| 1997-98 | 0.5 | 50.7 | 8.8 | 26.0 | 53.1 | 29.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 11.0 | 30.6 | 212.3 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 0.4 | 15.1 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 7.1 | 11.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 6.0 | 49.3 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.1 | 10.4 | 1.7 | 3.4 | 15.9 | 9.4 | - | 1.0 | 2.2 | 6.4 | 50.5 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | 9.2 | 1.5 | 6.7 | 14.6 | 5.4 | - | 0.4 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 49.0 |
| June qtr | - | 16.1 | 1.6 | 11.6 | 15.5 | 3.3 | - | 0.8 | 2.7 | 12.0 | 63.6 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 13.1 | 1.2 | 12.1 | 13.5 | 11.0 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 4.3 | 14.9 | 71.8 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.4 | 4.5 | 0.7 | 17.1 | 10.4 | 5.2 | 0.2 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 18.7 | 67.8 |


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TABLE 10. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL (\$ million)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  | (\$ million) |  |

TABLE 11. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL (\$ million)

| (\$ milion) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hotels etc. | Shops | Factories | Offices | Other business premises | Educational | Religious | Health | Entertainment and recreational | Miscellaneous | Total non-residential building |
| PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 29.5 | 18.3 | 0.3 | 5.8 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | - | 0.3 | 0.2 | 57.5 |
| 1996-97 | 0.6 | 19.9 | 0.3 | 4.8 | 2.5 | - | - | - | - | 0.1 | 28.4 |
| 1997-98 | 0.8 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 0.2 | - | - | 6.0 | 3.0 | 22.0 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 1.0 | 12.2 | 0.7 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 0.8 | - | - | 0.6 | 0.1 | 23.5 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.8 | 8.1 | 0.4 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 0.4 | - | - | 2.1 | 0.2 | 19.8 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 0.8 | 26.7 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 0.5 | - | - | 8.3 | 0.1 | 44.4 |
| June qtr | 0.8 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 0.2 | - | - | 6.0 | 3.0 | 22.0 |
| Sept. qtr | 0.8 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 | - | - | - | 2.1 | 0.5 | 13.4 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 2.4 | - | - | - | 12.7 | 0.2 | 18.6 |
| PUBLIC SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | - | 2.7 | - | 1.2 | 8.2 | 15.8 | - | 0.1 | 1.2 | 15.8 | 44.9 |
| 1996-97 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 15.7 | - | 0.1 | 0.6 | 4.6 | 24.1 |
| 1997-98 | - | - | - | 3.6 | 16.4 | 6.7 | - | 4.7 | - | 19.5 | 50.9 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | - | - | 1.0 | 1.7 | 21.3 | 12.7 | - | - | 0.2 | 3.3 | 40.2 |
| Dec. qtr | - | - | - | 12.4 | 13.0 | 0.5 | - | - | 0.2 | 3.9 | 30.1 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | - | - | - | 4.9 | 9.8 | 5.3 | - | 0.1 | 0.2 | 21.8 | 42.2 |
| June qtr | - | - | - | 3.6 | 16.4 | 6.7 | - | 4.7 | - | 19.5 | 50.9 |
| Sept. qtr | - | 0.1 | - | 33.6 | 7.5 | 2.9 | - | 4.4 | 0.2 | 21.1 | 69.7 |
| Dec. qtr | - | 0.2 | - | 22.0 | 4.4 | 0.7 | - | 2.2 | - | 8.1 | 37.7 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995-96 | 29.5 | 21.0 | 0.3 | 7.0 | 10.9 | 16.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 16.0 | 102.4 |
| 1996-97 | 0.8 | 20.0 | 2.4 | 5.3 | 2.8 | 15.7 | - | 0.1 | 0.7 | 4.8 | 52.5 |
| 1997-98 | 0.8 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 7.9 | 18.5 | 6.9 | - | 4.7 | 6.0 | 22.5 | 72.9 |
| 1997 Sept. qtr | 1.0 | 12.2 | 1.7 | 6.5 | 24.6 | 13.4 | - | - | 0.8 | 3.3 | 63.6 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.8 | 8.1 | 0.4 | 17.1 | 16.2 | 0.9 | - | - | 2.2 | 4.1 | 49.9 |
| 1998 Mar. qtr | 0.8 | 26.7 | 0.4 | 9.3 | 12.9 | 5.8 | - | 0.1 | 8.6 | 21.9 | 86.6 |
| June qtr | 0.8 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 7.9 | 18.5 | 6.9 | - | 4.7 | 6.0 | 22.5 | 72.9 |
| Sept. qtr | 0.8 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 36.8 | 10.3 | 2.9 | - | 4.4 | 2.3 | 21.6 | 83.1 |
| Dec. qtr | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 23.7 | 6.9 | 0.7 | - | 2.2 | 12.7 | 8.3 | 56.3 |

$\qquad$

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 complete enumeration of new residential building construction or alterations and additions valued at $\$ 10,000$ or more to residential buildings; and
- a complete enumeration of all non-residential building jobs, including alterations and additions, with an approval value of $\$ 50,000$ or more.

3 Prior to the June quarter 1991, private sector housing activity was measured by a sample survey. Due to the relatively small size of the total building industry in the Northern Territory the differences resulting between the two survey methods is minimal. The change from a sample survey to a complete enumeration has allowed the collection of accurate small area data, available on request in unpublished form.

4 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.

5 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
6 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.

7 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.

8 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.
9 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.

10 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 bouse 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.).
11 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 2,4 and 6 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.

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 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.

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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 individual building jobs 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.
- 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 complete enumeration of approved building jobs, they are not subject to sampling error, as may be found in sample surveys.

20 Despite the precise nature of complete enumeration, inaccuracies 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.

CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES
21 Chain volume estimates of the value of commencements and work done are shown in table 1 . 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'.

22 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).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

23 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

24 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 Darwin 0889432111 or any ABS State office.

25 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0) - issued quarterly
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (Cat. no. 8750.0) - issued quarterly
Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary (Cat. no. 8755.0) - issued quarterly
Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0) — issued monthly
Building Approvals, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8731.7) — issued monthly
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8762.0) issued quarterly
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0) issued monthly

26 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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