



BUILDING ACTIVITY

NORTHERN TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 2 MAY 2001

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES	Dec qtr 00	Sep qtr 00 to Dec qtr 00 % change	Dec qtr 99 to Dec qtr 00 % change
Value of work done(a) (\$m)	72.3	-18.1	-23.5
New residential building (\$m)	30.8	-27.2	-42.4
Alterations and additions(b) (\$m)	6.2	10.5	-29.5
Non-residential building (\$m)	35.2	-12.4	9.7
Total dwelling units commenced (no.)	199	-41.2	-50.5
New private sector houses (no.)	91	-26.1	-53.3

(a) Chain volume measures, reference year 1998-99. (b) To residential buildings.

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS

VALUE OF WORK DONE, VOLUME TERMS

- Total building work done fell 18.1% in the December quarter 2000 to \$72.3m, the lowest since the March quarter 1993.
- Work done on new residential buildings fell 27.2% to \$30.8m. New houses fell 17.8% to \$18.9m, the lowest for 9 years and new other residential buildings fell 38.3% to \$12.0m.
- Work done on non-residential buildings fell 12.4% to \$35.2m, but was still 9.7% above the level of a year ago.

VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED, VOLUME TERMS

- Total building work commenced fell 53.9% in the December quarter to \$52.1m, the lowest since the September quarter 1991.
- Commencements of new residential buildings fell 52.2% to \$22.5m, the lowest since the March quarter 1991. New houses fell for the sixth successive quarter, by 39.9% to \$15.4m and new other residential buildings fell 66.9% to \$7.1m. On the other hand, alterations and additions rose 27.4% to \$6.0m.
- Non-residential commencements fell 61.5% from the September quarters' relatively high level to \$23.6m.

NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED

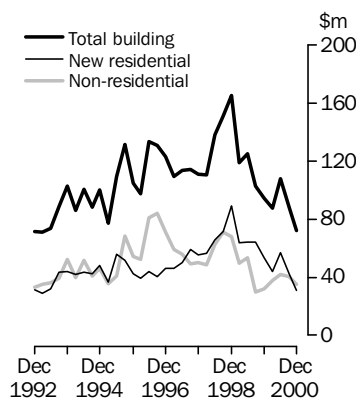
- The number of new private sector houses commenced fell 26.1% in the December quarter to 91. The total number of dwellings commenced fell 41.2% to 199, the lowest number since the March quarter 1991.

VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE

- Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of December 2000 fell by 23.5% to \$67.8m. This was 0.90 times the value of work done for the quarter (0.72 for residential building and 1.11 for non-residential).

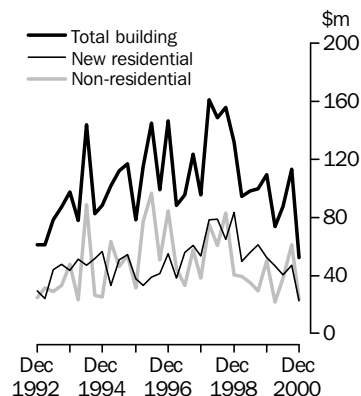
Value of work done

Volume terms



Value of work commenced

Volume terms



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Tony Bammann on Adelaide 08 8237 7316, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (QUARTER)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
March 2001	1 August 2001
June 2001	25 October 2001



DATA NOTES

A non-residential building job valued at \$5.5m and commenced in the December quarter 2000 has been inadvertently included in the 'Educational' category in tables 3, 5, 9 and 11. These December quarter 2000 figures will be amended in the March quarter 2001 issue of this publication which will include this job in the 'Miscellaneous' category.

Treatment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

ABS statistical series are being impacted to varying degrees as a result of The New Tax System (TNTS), introduced in Australia from 1 July 2000.

This and future issues of this publication will show current price estimates of residential building data for the September quarter 2000 onwards on a GST inclusive basis and non-residential building data on a GST exclusive basis. The conceptual basis for this treatment is that the value of work done is net of deductible GST. An explanation of the treatment is given in paragraphs 8 to 11 in the Explanatory Notes.

Users should note that for current price estimates of residential building, although there is no GST in the value of work done or work completed series up to and including the June quarter 2000, there will be some GST components included in the value of work commenced, under construction and work yet to be done series for those quarters. This is due to projects spanning periods before and after 1 July 2000 attracting some GST.

Users should exercise caution in analysing movements in the series as they may be affected by the 'bringing forward' of building activity to before 1 July 2000.

Chain volume measures enable data comparisons by removing the effects of price changes. Changes in pricing resulting from the introduction of the GST are removed from the volume estimates in table 1.

Robyn Elliott
Regional Director
Northern Territory

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

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total		Private Sector	Total	
COMMENCED							
1997-1998	156.9	113.3	270.9	26.5	97.5	231.1	528.6
1998-1999	196.3	56.7	253.0	29.6	95.3	197.6	480.2
1999-2000	129.2	70.9	200.1	31.6	77.1	139.3	370.9
1999 Sep. qtr	39.9	21.3	61.2	9.4	16.0	29.3	99.9
Dec. qtr	35.1	17.3	52.4	7.0	27.6	50.2	109.5
2000 Mar. qtr	27.7	18.7	46.4	5.8	14.3	21.7	73.8
Jun qtr	26.5	13.6	40.1	9.4	19.2	38.1	87.7
Sep. qtr	25.6	21.4	47.0	4.7	16.7	61.4	113.1
Dec. qtr	15.4	7.1	22.5	6.0	13.8	23.6	52.1
VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD							
1997-1998	146.6	90.5	237.0	26.5	107.2	210.6	474.2
1998-1999	199.0	89.9	288.8	29.8	102.1	241.7	560.5
1999-2000	146.2	72.9	219.1	31.8	86.4	141.7	392.9
1999 Sep. qtr	46.1	18.4	64.5	8.2	20.1	29.8	102.6
Dec. qtr	34.5	19.0	53.5	8.8	19.2	32.1	94.5
2000 Mar. qtr	29.6	14.4	44.0	5.9	21.8	37.8	87.8
Jun qtr	36.0	21.1	57.1	8.9	25.3	42.0	108.0
Sep. qtr	22.9	19.4	42.3	5.6	17.2	40.2	88.2
Dec. qtr	18.9	12.0	30.8	6.2	16.3	35.2	72.3

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 1998-99. See paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMMENCED(a): 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											
1997-1998	949	877	14	1,840	120.0	106.7	226.7	17.8	244.4	100.2	344.6
1998-1999	933	485	15	1,433	123.6	51.7	175.3	23.0	198.3	95.4	293.7
1999-2000	732	523	27	1,282	102.5	63.7	166.2	26.6	192.8	76.7	269.6
1999 Sep. qtr	197	178	4	379	27.8	21.4	49.2	7.9	57.1	15.9	73.1
Dec. qtr	195	112	1	308	28.4	12.3	40.6	6.3	46.9	27.5	74.4
2000 Mar. qtr	180	128	17	325	23.0	17.3	40.3	5.1	45.4	14.2	59.5
Jun qtr	160	105	5	270	23.4	12.7	36.1	7.3	43.4	19.1	62.5
Sep. qtr	124	129	2	255	20.4	20.3	40.7	4.7	45.4	16.7	62.1
Dec. qtr	91	44	—	136	13.3	4.4	17.6	5.9	23.6	13.8	37.4
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	270	75	—	345	36.7	7.7	44.4	8.6	52.9	136.7	189.6
1998-1999	494	47	—	541	72.7	5.0	77.7	6.6	84.3	102.2	186.5
1999-2000	204	71	—	275	30.2	8.9	39.1	5.9	45.0	61.9	106.9
1999 Sep. qtr	82	—	—	82	12.7	—	12.7	1.7	14.4	13.2	27.6
Dec. qtr	54	40	—	94	7.6	5.1	12.7	0.9	13.5	22.5	36.0
2000 Mar. qtr	37	10	—	47	5.7	2.1	7.7	0.9	8.6	7.4	16.0
Jun qtr	31	21	—	52	4.2	1.8	6.0	2.5	8.5	18.9	27.4
Sep. qtr	55	28	—	83	8.6	3.3	11.9	0.7	12.6	44.4	57.0
Dec. qtr	28	35	—	63	4.1	3.5	7.6	0.9	8.5	9.8	18.2
TOTAL											
1997-1998	1,219	952	14	2,185	156.7	114.4	271.0	26.3	297.3	236.9	534.3
1998-1999	1,427	532	15	1,974	196.4	56.7	253.1	29.6	282.6	197.5	480.2
1999-2000	936	594	27	1,557	132.7	72.6	205.3	32.6	237.9	138.6	376.5
1999 Sep. qtr	279	178	4	461	40.5	21.4	61.9	9.6	71.5	29.1	100.6
Dec. qtr	249	152	1	402	36.0	17.4	53.3	7.1	60.5	50.0	110.4
2000 Mar. qtr	217	138	17	372	28.6	19.3	48.0	6.0	54.0	21.6	75.5
Jun qtr	191	126	5	322	27.6	14.5	42.1	9.8	51.9	38.0	89.9
Sep. qtr	179	157	2	338	29.0	23.6	52.6	5.3	58.0	61.1	119.1
Dec. qtr	119	79	—	199	17.3	7.9	25.2	6.8	32.0	23.6	55.7

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. 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>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1997-1998	0.6	34.5	5.6	14.5	20.9	3.9	0.1	0.5	15.5	4.0	100.2
1998-1999	9.4	20.0	5.7	12.4	17.1	2.8	0.5	1.9	23.7	1.9	95.4
1999-2000	6.9	14.6	2.2	18.2	19.7	4.7	1.2	0.1	2.0	7.1	76.7
1999 Sep. qtr	3.1	2.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	2.6	0.5	—	0.6	1.6	15.9
Dec. qtr	2.3	3.3	—	9.7	9.6	1.5	0.1	—	0.9	—	27.5
2000 Mar. qtr	0.5	4.9	0.4	1.4	4.4	0.6	0.6	—	—	1.4	14.2
Jun qtr	0.9	3.7	0.4	5.3	4.0	—	—	0.1	0.6	4.1	19.1
Sep. qtr	0.2	9.0	0.2	1.6	4.3	—	—	—	1.0	0.5	16.7
Dec. qtr	—	2.9	0.4	2.8	4.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.1	1.8	13.8
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	—	0.2	0.1	18.2	47.3	20.9	—	6.3	0.5	43.2	136.7
1998-1999	0.1	0.6	0.3	38.7	7.4	13.4	—	14.2	1.3	26.2	102.2
1999-2000	—	0.6	0.1	5.2	7.8	18.1	—	5.4	1.4	23.3	61.9
1999 Sep. qtr	—	—	—	1.2	—	4.2	—	2.4	—	5.4	13.2
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	1.8	0.8	2.6	—	1.9	0.5	14.8	22.5
2000 Mar. qtr	—	0.6	—	1.3	0.8	2.2	—	—	0.9	1.6	7.4
Jun qtr	—	—	0.1	0.9	6.2	9.1	—	1.1	0.1	1.5	18.9
Sep. qtr	—	0.3	—	1.0	—	2.3	—	39.5	0.8	0.3	44.4
Dec. qtr	—	0.2	—	0.7	0.1	6.5	—	0.3	0.1	1.9	9.8
TOTAL											
1997-1998	0.6	34.7	5.7	32.8	68.2	24.9	0.1	6.8	16.0	47.2	236.9
1998-1999	9.6	20.6	6.0	51.0	24.4	16.2	0.5	16.1	25.0	28.1	197.5
1999-2000	6.9	15.2	2.2	23.4	27.6	22.8	1.2	5.4	3.4	30.4	138.6
1999 Sep. qtr	3.1	2.7	1.4	3.0	1.6	6.8	0.5	2.4	0.6	7.0	29.1
Dec. qtr	2.3	3.3	—	11.6	10.5	4.1	0.1	1.9	1.3	14.8	50.0
2000 Mar. qtr	0.5	5.4	0.4	2.7	5.2	2.8	0.6	—	0.9	3.0	21.6
Jun qtr	0.9	3.7	0.4	6.2	10.2	9.1	—	1.2	0.7	5.6	38.0
Sep. qtr	0.2	9.3	0.2	2.6	4.3	2.3	—	39.5	1.9	0.8	61.1
Dec. qtr	—	3.1	0.4	3.4	4.6	6.9	0.3	0.8	0.2	3.7	23.6

TABLE 4. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD(a): 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											
1997-1998	383	531	4	918	52.7	70.2	122.9	7.2	130.1	45.1	175.2
1998-1999	367	273	6	646	51.6	40.3	91.9	8.1	100.0	35.9	136.0
1999-2000	234	182	8	424	34.6	25.0	59.6	9.3	68.9	26.1	95.0
1999 Sep. qtr	329	270	5	604	45.9	40.6	86.5	10.6	97.1	21.3	118.4
Dec. qtr	307	172	5	484	43.4	21.3	64.7	8.8	73.6	36.8	110.4
2000 Mar. qtr	302	237	21	560	42.7	30.8	73.5	8.9	82.5	31.2	113.7
Jun qtr	234	182	8	424	34.6	25.0	59.6	9.3	68.9	26.1	95.0
Sep. qtr	203	199	5	407	32.1	30.4	62.4	7.9	70.3	28.3	98.6
Dec. qtr	141	161	3	306	23.4	23.9	47.2	8.1	55.3	33.8	89.2
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	74	17	—	91	10.6	1.6	12.3	4.1	16.4	102.7	119.0
1998-1999	125	20	—	145	19.3	2.6	21.8	2.2	24.0	67.4	91.5
1999-2000	74	57	—	131	10.8	6.6	17.4	2.7	20.1	43.0	63.1
1999 Sep. qtr	88	—	—	88	13.5	—	13.5	2.3	15.8	54.5	70.3
Dec. qtr	80	40	—	120	12.0	5.1	17.1	0.9	18.0	48.6	66.6
2000 Mar. qtr	76	48	—	124	12.3	6.7	19.0	0.9	19.9	40.0	59.9
Jun qtr	74	57	—	131	10.8	6.6	17.4	2.7	20.1	43.0	63.1
Sep. qtr	75	45	—	120	11.9	4.7	16.6	2.4	19.0	75.3	94.3
Dec. qtr	72	59	—	131	11.2	6.3	17.4	1.2	18.6	61.1	79.7
TOTAL											
1997-1998	457	548	4	1,009	63.4	71.8	135.2	11.3	146.5	147.8	294.3
1998-1999	492	293	6	791	70.9	42.9	113.8	10.3	124.1	103.4	227.4
1999-2000	308	239	8	555	45.4	31.6	77.0	12.0	89.1	69.1	158.1
1999 Sep. qtr	417	270	5	692	59.4	40.6	100.0	12.9	112.9	75.8	188.7
Dec. qtr	387	212	5	604	55.5	26.4	81.8	9.7	91.5	85.4	176.9
2000 Mar. qtr	378	285	21	684	55.0	37.5	92.5	9.9	102.4	71.2	173.6
Jun qtr	308	239	8	555	45.4	31.6	77.0	12.0	89.1	69.1	158.1
Sep. qtr	278	244	5	527	44.0	35.1	79.0	10.3	89.3	103.6	193.0
Dec. qtr	213	220	3	437	34.5	30.1	64.7	9.3	74.0	94.9	168.9

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 5. 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											
1997-1998	0.9	14.9	2.0	6.6	5.7	0.7	—	—	10.8	3.4	45.1
1998-1999	9.2	4.7	3.3	1.3	8.0	0.9	0.3	1.9	6.0	0.3	35.9
1999-2000	0.9	4.4	0.4	8.0	6.3	0.7	0.1	—	0.6	4.6	26.1
1999 Sep. qtr	3.7	1.9	1.7	1.6	4.1	2.7	0.6	2.2	1.1	1.8	21.3
Dec. qtr	5.2	1.9	—	10.4	10.6	3.1	0.4	2.2	1.1	1.8	36.8
2000 Mar. qtr	3.8	5.0	0.4	8.1	7.9	2.2	0.1	2.2	—	1.5	31.2
Jun qtr	0.9	4.4	0.4	8.0	6.3	0.7	0.1	—	0.6	4.6	26.1
Sep. qtr	0.8	11.2	0.3	0.5	5.1	0.7	0.1	—	—	9.6	28.3
Dec. qtr	0.6	11.9	0.5	2.5	5.8	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.1	11.3	33.8
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	—	0.2	—	10.6	42.5	8.9	—	5.1	—	35.3	102.7
1998-1999	—	—	0.3	37.0	9.2	0.1	—	10.0	—	11.0	67.4
1999-2000	—	—	0.1	0.6	13.8	9.0	—	3.1	0.9	15.6	43.0
1999 Sep. qtr	—	—	0.3	24.1	7.9	4.2	—	12.4	—	5.6	54.5
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	1.8	7.2	4.9	—	14.2	0.5	20.0	48.6
2000 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	1.3	8.8	4.4	—	2.5	1.4	21.6	40.0
Jun qtr	—	—	0.1	0.6	13.8	9.0	—	3.1	0.9	15.6	43.0
Sep. qtr	—	0.3	—	0.7	13.2	5.1	—	42.0	—	14.1	75.3
Dec. qtr	—	0.3	—	0.6	5.6	8.9	—	32.4	0.1	13.2	61.1
TOTAL											
1997-1998	0.9	15.1	2.0	17.3	48.3	9.6	—	5.1	10.8	38.8	147.8
1998-1999	9.2	4.7	3.6	38.3	17.2	1.0	0.3	11.9	6.0	11.2	103.4
1999-2000	0.9	4.4	0.5	8.6	20.1	9.8	0.1	3.1	1.5	20.2	69.1
1999 Sep. qtr	3.7	1.9	1.9	25.7	12.0	6.9	0.6	14.6	1.1	7.4	75.8
Dec. qtr	5.2	1.9	—	12.2	17.8	8.0	0.4	16.4	1.5	21.8	85.4
2000 Mar. qtr	3.8	5.0	0.4	9.4	16.7	6.6	0.1	4.8	1.4	23.1	71.2
Jun qtr	0.9	4.4	0.5	8.6	20.1	9.8	0.1	3.1	1.5	20.2	69.1
Sep. qtr	0.8	11.5	0.3	1.2	18.2	5.8	0.1	42.0	—	23.7	103.6
Dec. qtr	0.6	12.2	0.5	3.0	11.4	9.7	0.1	32.7	0.2	24.5	94.9

TABLE 6. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED(a): 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											
1997-1998	894	796	18	1,708	110.0	74.9	184.9	21.2	206.0	114.0	320.0
1998-1999	941	749	13	1,703	125.5	84.5	209.9	22.4	232.4	104.8	337.2
1999-2000	865	614	25	1,504	120.8	78.5	199.3	25.8	225.1	86.5	311.5
1999 Sep. qtr	235	181	5	421	33.9	20.9	54.7	5.7	60.4	30.5	90.9
Dec. qtr	217	210	1	428	31.0	31.7	62.7	8.1	70.8	11.9	82.7
2000 Mar. qtr	185	63	1	249	23.8	8.0	31.8	4.9	36.7	20.2	56.9
Jun qtr	228	160	18	406	32.1	17.9	50.0	7.1	57.1	24.0	81.1
Sep. qtr	155	112	4	271	23.2	13.9	37.1	6.3	43.4	19.7	63.1
Dec. qtr	151	82	2	235	21.6	11.5	33.0	5.7	38.7	9.0	47.7
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	248	63	—	311	32.4	6.5	38.9	6.0	44.9	99.3	144.1
1998-1999	443	44	—	487	65.4	4.1	69.4	8.3	77.7	140.0	217.7
1999-2000	255	34	—	289	38.9	4.9	43.8	5.4	49.2	77.9	127.1
1999 Sep. qtr	119	20	—	139	18.6	2.5	21.1	1.5	22.7	26.1	48.8
Dec. qtr	62	—	—	62	9.0	—	9.0	2.3	11.3	28.4	39.7
2000 Mar. qtr	41	2	—	43	5.6	0.4	6.0	0.9	6.9	7.1	14.0
Jun qtr	33	12	—	45	5.7	1.9	7.6	0.7	8.3	16.3	24.6
Sep. qtr	54	40	—	94	7.5	5.2	12.7	1.0	13.7	10.8	24.5
Dec. qtr	31	21	—	52	4.8	2.0	6.8	2.1	8.9	21.3	30.2
TOTAL											
1997-1998	1,142	859	18	2,019	142.4	81.3	223.7	27.1	250.9	213.2	464.1
1998-1999	1,384	793	13	2,190	190.8	88.5	279.4	30.8	310.1	244.8	554.9
1999-2000	1,120	648	25	1,793	159.7	83.4	243.1	31.2	274.3	164.3	438.6
1999 Sep. qtr	354	201	5	560	52.5	23.4	75.9	7.2	83.1	56.5	139.6
Dec. qtr	279	210	1	490	40.1	31.7	71.8	10.4	82.2	40.2	122.4
2000 Mar. qtr	226	65	1	292	29.4	8.4	37.9	5.8	43.6	27.3	70.9
Jun qtr	261	172	18	451	37.8	19.8	57.6	7.8	65.4	40.3	105.7
Sep. qtr	209	152	4	365	30.8	19.1	49.9	7.3	57.2	30.5	87.6
Dec. qtr	182	103	2	287	26.4	13.5	39.9	7.7	47.6	30.4	78.0

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 7. 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 recreational</i>	<i>Entertainment and</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1997-1998	0.3	60.9	4.8	14.3	22.9	3.3	0.3	0.5	5.2	1.6	114.0
1998-1999	0.9	29.7	4.4	18.0	15.3	2.6	0.3	—	28.8	5.0	104.8
1999-2000	15.5	14.4	5.3	11.3	21.5	4.9	1.4	2.0	7.4	2.8	86.5
1999 Sep. qtr	8.7	5.5	3.0	1.5	5.2	0.8	0.1	—	5.4	0.1	30.5
Dec. qtr	0.8	3.0	1.8	0.8	3.2	1.1	0.3	—	0.9	—	11.9
2000 Mar. qtr	2.2	1.8	0.1	3.5	7.4	1.5	1.0	—	1.1	1.7	20.2
Jun qtr	3.8	4.1	0.4	5.5	5.7	1.5	—	2.0	—	1.0	24.0
Sep. qtr	0.2	2.2	0.3	8.9	5.5	—	—	—	1.6	1.1	19.7
Dec. qtr	0.2	2.7	0.2	0.9	3.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	—	0.6	9.0
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	0.1	0.3	21.2	4.2	6.2	40.2	—	1.5	3.8	21.8	99.3
1998-1999	0.1	0.8	—	13.6	42.1	22.0	—	9.7	1.3	50.3	140.0
1999-2000	—	0.6	0.3	41.5	4.1	9.2	—	2.2	0.5	19.5	77.9
1999 Sep. qtr	—	—	—	14.0	1.3	0.1	—	—	—	10.8	26.1
Dec. qtr	—	—	0.3	24.2	1.5	1.9	—	0.1	—	0.4	28.4
2000 Mar. qtr	—	0.6	—	1.8	0.1	2.7	—	1.6	—	0.4	7.1
Jun qtr	—	—	—	1.6	1.2	4.5	—	0.6	0.5	7.9	16.3
Sep. qtr	—	—	0.1	0.9	—	6.1	—	0.7	1.7	1.4	10.8
Dec. qtr	—	0.2	—	0.8	7.7	2.9	—	9.5	—	0.2	21.3
TOTAL											
1997-1998	0.5	61.2	25.9	18.5	29.0	43.5	0.3	2.0	9.0	23.4	213.2
1998-1999	1.0	30.4	4.4	31.6	57.4	24.6	0.3	9.7	30.1	55.3	244.8
1999-2000	15.5	15.0	5.5	52.8	25.6	14.0	1.4	4.2	7.9	22.3	164.3
1999 Sep. qtr	8.7	5.5	3.0	15.5	6.5	0.8	0.1	—	5.4	10.9	56.5
Dec. qtr	0.8	3.0	2.0	25.0	4.7	3.0	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.4	40.2
2000 Mar. qtr	2.2	2.3	0.1	5.2	7.4	4.2	1.0	1.6	1.1	2.1	27.3
Jun qtr	3.8	4.1	0.4	7.1	7.0	6.0	—	2.6	0.5	8.8	40.3
Sep. qtr	0.2	2.2	0.4	9.8	5.5	6.1	—	0.7	3.3	2.4	30.5
Dec. qtr	0.2	2.9	0.2	1.7	11.4	3.1	0.3	9.7	—	0.8	30.4

TABLE 8. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE(a): 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							
1997-1998	112.4	83.5	195.9	19.3	215.2	108.2	323.4
1998-1999	128.5	85.3	213.7	22.7	236.4	102.1	338.5
1999-2000	113.9	65.9	179.8	26.7	206.5	84.3	290.8
1999 Sep. qtr	32.1	17.4	49.5	6.8	56.3	19.6	76.0
Dec. qtr	26.7	18.9	45.6	7.3	52.9	18.7	71.6
2000 Mar. qtr	25.9	11.8	37.6	5.2	42.8	21.3	64.1
Jun qtr	29.3	17.8	47.1	7.4	54.4	24.7	79.1
Sep. qtr	19.7	16.5	36.2	5.3	41.5	16.8	58.3
Dec. qtr	15.8	10.5	26.4	6.0	32.3	15.9	48.3
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1997-1998	34.1	7.4	41.5	7.1	48.6	104.1	152.7
1998-1999	70.5	4.7	75.1	7.2	82.3	139.6	221.9
1999-2000	36.0	6.8	42.8	6.0	48.9	54.1	103.0
1999 Sep. qtr	14.6	0.9	15.5	1.5	17.0	9.5	26.5
Dec. qtr	8.6	0.1	8.7	1.7	10.4	12.6	23.0
2000 Mar. qtr	4.7	2.6	7.3	0.9	8.2	15.6	23.9
Jun qtr	8.1	3.2	11.3	1.9	13.2	16.4	29.6
Sep. qtr	6.2	4.9	11.0	1.1	12.1	22.4	34.5
Dec. qtr	5.4	2.6	8.0	1.0	9.0	18.4	27.4
TOTAL							
1997-1998	146.5	90.9	237.4	26.4	263.9	212.3	476.1
1998-1999	198.9	89.9	288.9	29.9	318.8	241.7	560.4
1999-2000	149.9	72.7	222.6	32.8	255.4	138.4	393.8
1999 Sep. qtr	46.7	18.3	65.0	8.3	73.3	29.1	102.5
Dec. qtr	35.3	19.0	54.3	9.0	63.3	31.3	94.6
2000 Mar. qtr	30.6	14.4	45.0	6.1	51.1	36.9	88.0
Jun qtr	37.4	21.0	58.4	9.3	67.7	41.1	108.7
Sep. qtr	25.9	21.3	47.2	6.4	53.6	39.2	92.8
Dec. qtr	21.2	13.1	34.3	7.0	41.3	34.3	75.6

(a) From the September quarter 2000, data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 9. 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											
1997-1998	0.3	50.3	5.6	15.0	21.2	3.8	0.1	0.5	9.9	1.5	108.2
1998-1999	7.9	23.1	3.9	16.3	16.2	2.8	0.3	0.3	26.5	4.8	102.1
1999-2000	8.6	13.8	4.2	17.0	21.0	4.3	1.5	1.6	5.5	6.7	84.3
1999 Sep. qtr	2.8	3.4	2.8	1.7	2.8	0.9	0.3	0.8	3.6	0.5	19.6
Dec. qtr	1.3	3.3	0.8	2.9	6.1	1.7	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.7	18.7
2000 Mar. qtr	3.5	2.4	0.4	4.9	6.8	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.9	21.3
Jun qtr	1.0	4.7	0.2	7.5	5.2	0.6	—	0.4	0.6	4.5	24.7
Sep. qtr	0.2	3.6	0.3	2.8	4.8	—	—	—	1.0	4.0	16.8
Dec. qtr	0.2	6.6	0.2	1.3	3.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	3.1	15.9
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	0.1	0.4	3.1	11.0	32.0	25.4	—	1.8	1.1	29.2	104.1
1998-1999	0.1	0.6	—	40.5	24.1	19.9	—	10.2	1.3	42.7	139.6
1999-2000	—	0.6	0.3	7.9	3.8	13.6	—	5.2	1.3	21.4	54.1
1999 Sep. qtr	—	—	0.2	3.1	0.8	1.0	—	0.9	—	3.5	9.5
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	2.5	0.7	3.9	—	1.6	0.3	3.6	12.6
2000 Mar. qtr	—	0.6	—	1.4	1.1	2.8	—	1.9	0.4	7.5	15.6
Jun qtr	—	—	0.1	0.9	1.3	5.9	—	0.8	0.7	6.8	16.4
Sep. qtr	—	—	—	1.0	0.7	4.7	—	13.9	1.0	1.2	22.4
Dec. qtr	—	0.2	—	0.7	2.8	3.1	—	9.3	0.1	2.2	18.4
TOTAL											
1997-1998	0.5	50.7	8.8	26.0	53.1	29.2	0.1	2.2	11.0	30.6	212.3
1998-1999	8.1	23.7	3.9	56.8	40.3	22.7	0.3	10.6	27.8	47.5	241.7
1999-2000	8.6	14.3	4.5	25.0	24.8	17.9	1.5	6.8	6.8	28.1	138.4
1999 Sep. qtr	2.8	3.4	3.0	4.8	3.6	1.9	0.3	1.7	3.6	4.0	29.1
Dec. qtr	1.3	3.3	0.9	5.4	6.9	5.6	0.4	1.8	1.4	4.4	31.3
2000 Mar. qtr	3.5	3.0	0.4	6.4	7.9	4.1	0.7	2.1	0.6	8.4	36.9
Jun qtr	1.0	4.7	0.3	8.4	6.5	6.4	—	1.1	1.3	11.4	41.1
Sep. qtr	0.2	3.6	0.3	3.8	5.4	4.7	—	13.9	2.0	5.3	39.2
Dec. qtr	0.2	6.9	0.2	2.1	6.2	3.5	0.3	9.5	0.2	5.3	34.3

TABLE 10. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD(a): 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							
1997-1998	26.6	43.4	70.0	3.1	73.1	22.0	95.1
1998-1999	22.8	12.8	35.6	3.8	39.5	15.7	55.1
1999-2000	12.7	10.1	22.8	4.1	26.9	8.0	34.9
1999 Sep. qtr	18.9	16.6	35.5	5.1	40.6	11.9	52.5
Dec. qtr	20.7	10.1	30.8	4.1	34.9	20.6	55.5
2000 Mar. qtr	18.0	15.8	33.8	3.9	37.7	13.8	51.5
Jun qtr	12.7	10.1	22.8	4.1	26.9	8.0	34.9
Sep. qtr	13.7	13.0	26.7	3.7	30.4	13.2	43.6
Dec. qtr	10.9	7.7	18.7	3.6	22.3	12.2	34.5
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1997-1998	5.2	0.6	5.8	1.9	7.7	50.9	58.6
1998-1999	8.8	0.9	9.7	1.1	10.8	16.0	26.9
1999-2000	3.3	3.0	6.3	1.0	7.3	16.6	23.9
1999 Sep. qtr	7.0	—	7.0	1.3	8.3	19.7	27.9
Dec. qtr	6.0	4.9	11.0	0.5	11.4	29.5	40.9
2000 Mar. qtr	7.2	4.4	11.6	0.5	12.1	13.7	25.7
Jun qtr	3.3	3.0	6.3	1.0	7.3	16.6	23.9
Sep. qtr	5.8	1.4	7.2	0.6	7.8	37.2	45.0
Dec. qtr	4.5	2.4	6.9	0.5	7.4	26.0	33.4
TOTAL							
1997-1998	31.8	44.0	75.8	5.0	80.8	72.9	153.7
1998-1999	31.6	13.7	45.4	4.9	50.3	31.7	82.0
1999-2000	16.1	13.1	29.1	5.1	34.2	24.6	58.8
1999 Sep. qtr	25.9	16.6	42.5	6.4	48.9	31.5	80.4
Dec. qtr	26.8	15.0	41.8	4.6	46.3	50.0	96.4
2000 Mar. qtr	25.2	20.2	45.4	4.4	49.8	27.5	77.2
Jun qtr	16.1	13.1	29.1	5.1	34.2	24.6	58.8
Sep. qtr	19.5	14.4	33.9	4.3	38.2	50.4	88.6
Dec. qtr	15.4	10.1	25.5	4.1	29.7	38.2	67.8

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 11. 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											
1997-1998	0.8	5.3	0.3	4.3	2.1	0.2	—	—	6.0	3.0	22.0
1998-1999	2.1	1.8	2.0	0.6	3.5	0.2	0.3	1.6	3.5	—	15.7
1999-2000	0.7	2.2	0.2	1.6	2.3	0.5	—	—	—	0.5	8.0
1999 Sep. qtr	2.5	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.9	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.2	11.9
Dec. qtr	3.5	0.7	—	7.5	5.4	1.7	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.5	20.6
2000 Mar. qtr	0.8	3.2	—	3.8	3.3	1.1	—	0.6	—	0.9	13.8
Jun. qtr	0.7	2.2	0.2	1.6	2.3	0.5	—	—	—	0.5	8.0
Sep. qtr	0.6	7.5	0.1	0.2	1.8	0.5	—	—	—	2.5	13.2
Dec. qtr	0.4	4.2	0.3	1.8	3.1	0.4	—	0.3	—	1.7	12.2
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1997-1998	—	—	—	3.6	16.4	6.7	—	4.7	—	19.5	50.9
1998-1999	—	—	0.3	3.1	1.0	—	—	9.0	—	2.7	16.0
1999-2000	—	—	—	0.3	5.8	4.6	—	0.4	0.1	5.4	16.6
1999 Sep. qtr	—	—	—	1.0	0.2	3.2	—	10.4	—	4.7	19.7
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	0.4	0.4	1.9	—	10.7	0.2	15.9	29.5
2000 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	0.3	0.9	1.3	—	—	0.7	10.4	13.7
Jun. qtr	—	—	—	0.3	5.8	4.6	—	0.4	0.1	5.4	16.6
Sep. qtr	—	0.3	—	0.3	4.5	2.1	—	26.0	—	4.0	37.2
Dec. qtr	—	0.3	—	0.2	1.8	5.6	—	16.7	—	1.3	26.0
TOTAL											
1997-1998	0.8	5.3	0.3	7.9	18.5	6.9	—	4.7	6.0	22.5	72.9
1998-1999	2.1	1.8	2.3	3.7	4.4	0.2	0.3	10.6	3.5	2.8	31.7
1999-2000	0.7	2.2	0.2	1.9	8.1	5.1	—	0.4	0.1	5.9	24.6
1999 Sep. qtr	2.5	1.1	0.7	1.7	2.1	5.1	0.4	11.5	0.5	5.9	31.5
Dec. qtr	3.5	0.7	—	7.9	5.8	3.6	0.1	11.5	0.4	16.3	50.0
2000 Mar. qtr	0.8	3.2	—	4.0	4.2	2.4	—	0.6	0.7	11.3	27.5
Jun. qtr	0.7	2.2	0.2	1.9	8.1	5.1	—	0.4	0.1	5.9	24.6
Sep. qtr	0.6	7.8	0.1	0.5	6.3	2.5	—	26.0	—	6.6	50.4
Dec. qtr	0.4	4.4	0.3	2.0	4.9	6.0	—	17.0	0.1	2.9	38.2

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 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.

TREATMENT OF GST

8 Statistics on value of building work (current prices) show residential building on a GST inclusive basis and non-residential building on a GST exclusive basis. This approach is consistent with that adopted in the Australian National Accounts which is based on the conceptual framework described in the 1993 edition of the international statistical standard *System of National Accounts* (SNA93).

9 SNA93 requires value added taxes (VAT), such as the GST, to be recorded on a net basis where:

- (a) both outputs of goods and services and imports are valued excluding invoiced VAT;
- (b) purchases of goods and services are recorded including non-deductible VAT.

Under the net system, VAT is recorded as being payable by purchasers, not sellers, and then only by those purchasers who are not able to deduct it. Almost all VAT is therefore recorded in the SNA93 as being paid on final uses—mainly on household consumption. Small amounts of VAT, may however, be paid by businesses in respect of certain kinds of purchases on which VAT may not be deductible.

10 Within building activity statistics, purchasers of residential structures are unable to deduct GST from the purchase price. For non-residential structures, the reverse is true. While the ABS collects all building activity data on a GST inclusive basis, it publishes value data inclusive of GST in respect of residential construction and exclusive of GST in respect of non-residential construction.

11 It is appropriate to add the residential and non-residential components to derive total building activity. Valuation of the components of the total is consistent, since, for both components, the value data is recorded inclusive of non-deductible GST paid by the purchaser. As such, total building activity includes the non-deductible GST payable on residential building.

DEFINITIONS

12 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.

13 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.

14 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DEFINITIONS *continued*

- 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.).

15 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.

16 *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).

17 *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.

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

VALUATION OF BUILDING JOBS

19 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.

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

20 *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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION *continued*

21 *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.

22 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

23 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES *continued*

24 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

25 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 direct impact of the GST is a price change, and hence is removed from chain volume estimates. 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 new other building 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 1998–99). The reference year is 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 which are based upon the current reference year (i.e. 1998–99). 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

27 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

28 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

29 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 quarterly from March 2000

Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8762.0)—issued quarterly

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (Cat. no. 5609.0)—issued monthly

30 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.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

— nil or rounded to zero

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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2875270012002
ISSN 0729-2031

RRP \$18.00

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