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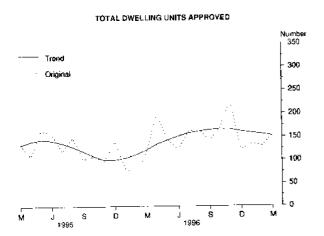
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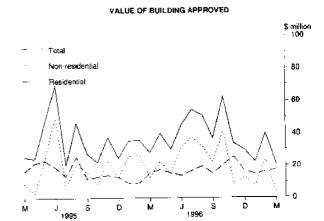
# **BUILDING APPROVALS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, MARCH 1997**

#### MAIN FEATURES

## NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

	March 1996	February 1997	March 1997	March 1996 to March 1997 change	February 1997 to March 1997 change
Original series Trend estimate	119	131	154	29.4%	17.6%
	122	156	152	24.6%	-2.6%





## Residential building

- The number of dwelling units approved increased by 17.6% in March to 154.
- The trend for the total number of dwelling units continues to fall, recording a 2.6% decline on February's figure and it is 9.0% below the recent peak in October 1996.
- Of the 91 houses approved in March, 41 were in Palmerston-East Arm.

The value of new residential building approved was \$15.6 million and the value of residential alterations and additions was \$2.0 million.

# Non-residential building

 The value of non-residential building approved in March was \$3.2 million, the lowest since April 1995 when the figure was \$2.9 million.

## INQUIRIES

- for more information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact John Radimissis on Adelaide (08) 8237 7590 or any ABS State Office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication.

TABLE 1. DWELLING UNITS APPROVED (a)

	N	lew houses		New other i	residential buil	dings			Total (i	b)	
Period	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Conv- = ersions, etc.	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Trend estimate
1993-94	922	171	1.093	464	14	478	6	1,392	185	1,577	
1994-95	868	161	1,029	554	58	612	20	1,442	219	1,661	
1995-96	835	96	931	386	119	505	16	1,234	218	1,452	
1995-96											
July-March	589	91	680	279	13	292	14	880	106	986	
1996-97											
July-March	622	152	774	580	21	601	36	1,226	185	1,411	
1996											
January	24	16	40	33	7	40	2	58	24	82	105
February	49	10	59	6	2	B	Į.	56	12	68	112
March	82	10	92	25	2	27	-	107	12	119	122
April	67	4	71	21	106	127		88	110	198	135
May	<b>X</b> 7		87	58	_	58	1	145	1	146	144
Fune	92	1	93	28		28	1	121	1	122	152
fuly	56	14	70	91	_	91	1	148	14	162	158
August	66	15	81	82	2	84	1	149	17	166	162
September	70	3	73	68		68	2	140	3	143	165
October	94	16	110	59		59	_	153	16	169	167
November	76	25	101	119	7	126	l	196	32	228	166
December	69	30	99	11	_	11	13	81	42	123	162
1997—											
January	63	14	77	39	2	41	17	119	16	135	159
February	59	13	72	58		58	1	118	13	131	156
March	69	22	91	53	10	63	_	122	32	154	152

<sup>(</sup>a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector. (b) Includes Conversions, etc. See paragraphs 10-12 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED (\$'000)

				New res	idential t	ndlding								
		Houses			Other residential buildings		Total			Alterations and additions	Non-residential building		Total b <b>uilding</b>	
Period	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total	to residential huildings	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
1993-94	84,997	29,312	114,309	40,105	1,038	41,144	125,102	30,350	155,452	17,307	68,342	158,946	210,026	331,706
1994-95	84,947	29,137	114,085	63,327	10,319	73,645	148,274	39.456	187.730	29,958	98,145	184,496	268,058	402,184
1995-96	83,369	15,473	98,841	38,318	7,640	45.958	121,687	23.113	144.800	27,426	112.754	222.043	255,839	394,269
1995-96														
July-March 1996-97	57,844	14,890	72,734	29,721	1.560	31,281	87.565	16,450	104,015	21,605	84,206	153,343	187,722	278,963
July-March	72,916	22,425	95,342	48,624	1,884	50,508	121,541	24,310	145,850	16,939	128,548	189,734	264,603	352,522
1996														
January	2,211	2,825	5,036	2,564	540	3,104	4.775	3,365	8,140	1.064	25,801	26,191	31,220	35,394
February	4.901	1,783	6.685	435	510	945	5,336	2,293	7,630	1,658	16,666	26,556	23,609	35,843
March	8.048	2,110	10.158	1,290	116	1,406	9,338	2,226	11,564	3,934	3,735	12,620	15,994	28,118
April	6.977	498	7.475	1,920	6,080	8,000	8,897	6,578	15,475	1,961	11,999	22,699	22,842	40.135
May	8,931	_	8,931	4,656		4,656	13,587		13,587	1,746	8,277	14,705	23,265	30,038
June	9,616	85	9.701	2,021		2.021	11.637	85	11,722	2.115	8,272	31,296	22,009	45,133
July	6,475	2,479	8.954	6,231	_	6.231	12,706	2,479	15,185	1,611	37,303	37,807	51,620	54,603
August	7.681	1,867	9,548	7,864	400	8,264	15,545	2,267	17,813	1.738	12,661	31,802	29,933	51,353
September	7,511	690	8,201	5,421		5.421	12,931	690	13,621	1,355	16,106	22,138	30,392	37,114
October	10,401	2.571	12,972	5.294	_	5.294	15,695	2,571	18,265	2.500	40,352	41,732	57,985	62,497
November	8,246	3.329	11,575	11.257	654	11,911	19,503	3,983	23,486	2.024	6,342	8,367	27,366	33,878
December	8,585	4,806	13,391	820		820	9,405	4,806	14,211	2,365	4,111	13,161	15,467	29,737
1997														
January	7,532	2,205	9,736	2,845	250	3,095	10,377	2,455	12.831	1,815	5,088	7,790	17,279	22,435
February	7,245	2,318	9,563	5,244	_	5,244	12,489	2,318	14,807	1,493	3,849	23,702	17,619	40.002
March	9,241	2,160	11,401	3,649	580	4,229	12,890	2,740	15.630	2,038	2,736	3,234	16,943	20,902

TABLE 3. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, (a) BY CLASS OF BUILDING AND OWNERSHIP

			July-March			1997	<del></del> -
luss of hullding	1994-95	1995-96	1995 <u>-96</u>	1996-97	<u>Ja</u> nuary	February	March
		PRIVATE SE	CTOR				
				70.016	7 6 7 3	7,245	9,241
iew houses	84,947	83,369	57,844	72,916	7,532	5,244	3,649
lew other residential buildings	63,327	38,318	29,721	48,624	2,845	12,489	12,890
otal new residential building	148,274	121,687	87,565	[21,54]	10,377	12,409	12,000
<u> </u>							
Alterations and additions to		21.700	15.951	14,515	1,815	1,281	1,317
esidential buildings	21,640	21,398	15.531	17,510	1,000		
	75 604	38,821	37,560	22,380		_	_
Totels, etc.	25,584	14,599	10,959	63,164	1,472	2.062	694
Shops	37,862	3,212	2.589	3,936	1,786	286	
Factories	3,940		3,838	16,987	189	402	250
Offices	6.261	13,302	12,404	13.039	1.009	1,099	879
Other business premises	10,489	19,837	3,235	3,291	-		_
Educational	3,922	5,255	609	180	180		_
Religious		609		373	373	_	
Health	1,027	3,210	3,150	1.374	-	_	203
Entertainment and recreational	3,536	10,216	7,214	3,824	80		710
Miscellaneous	5,524	3,693	2,648		5,088	3,849	2,736
Total non-residential building	<b>98,14</b> 5	112,754	84,206	128,548	2,1700	0,075	
	268,058	255,839	187,722	264,603	17,279	17,619	16,943
Total	20010-74	PUBLIC SE	CTOR				
<del>_</del>		. ODDIO BE		<u></u>			2 * / 2
** - t	29.137	15,473	14,890	22,425	2,205	2,318	2,160
New houses	10,319	7.640	1,560	1,884	250	_	580
New other residential buildings	39,456	23,113	16,450	24,310	2,455	2,318	2,740
Total new residential huilding	37,430	,					
Alterations and additions to			E / E 1	2,424	_	212	721
residential buildings	8,318	6,028	5,654	2,424	_		
_				1,395	_		
Hotels, etc.			4 7 46	2,816	100	_	_
Shops	1,762	4,246	4,246	12,601	_	_	
Factories	11,706	1,824	324			316	_
Offices	3,466	13,412	9,341	7,272	350	417	
Other business premises	2,354	14,147	5.967	5,205	50	12,699	170
Educational	28,985	26,037	10,857	17.512		12,077	
Religious	_	2,361	2,361		_	_	
Health	1,631	1.433	1,378	2,195	_	55	
Entertainment and recreational	2.016	11,551	9,065	1,532			329
Miscellaneous	34,431	34.279	25,600	10,657	2.201	6,366	498
Total non-residential building	86,351	109,290	69,138	61,186	2,701	19,853	430
TOTAL ISON TEMBERS	. 24.175	1 20 420	91,241	87,919	5,156	22,383	3,960
Total	134,125	138,430					
		TOTA	<u></u>				
<b>ST</b> 1	114.085	98,841	72,734	95,342	9,736	9,563	11,40
New houses	73,645	45,958	31.281	50,508	3,095	5,244	4,229
New other residential buildings	187,730	144,800	104,015	145,850	12,831	14,807	15,63
Total new residential huilding	147,730	,					
Alterations and additions to		27.427	21,605	16,939	1,815	1,493	2,03
residential buildings	29,958	27,426	21,000	10,732	•••		
Illusta ata	25,584	38,821	37,560	23,775			69-
Hotels, etc.	39,624	18,845	15,205	65,979	1,572	2,062	
Shops	15,646	5,036	2,913	16,536	1,786	286	-
Factories	9,727	26,715	13,179	24,259	189	718	25
Offices	12,844	33,984	18,371	18,245	1,359	1,516	87
Other business premises		31,293	14,093	20,804	50	12,699	17
Educational	32,907	2,969	2,969	180	180		
Religious	 2 (160		4,528	2,568	373	_	_
Health	2,658	4,643		2,906		55	20
Entertainment and recreational	5,552	21,767	16,278		2,281	6,366	1,03
Miscellaneous	39,955	37,972	28,248	14,481	7,790	23,792	3,23
Total non-residential building	184,496	232,043	153,343	189,734	7,770	20	-1
	402,184	394,269	278,963	352,522	22,435	40,002	20,90

<sup>(</sup>a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector.

TABLE 4. BUILDING APPROVED (a) IN SELECTED AREAS, MARCH 1997

	··· ·		New								
	Houses				Other residential buildings				Alterations and additions		
-	Private sector		Public sector		Private sector		Public sector		to	Non- residential	T
Selected statistical areas	Number	Value (\$ '000)	Number	Value (\$ '000)	Number	Value (\$ '000)	Number	Value (\$ '000)	residential huildings (\$ 000)	bid ding (\$ 000)	Total huilding (\$'000)
Darwin City (SSD)	9	1,463	_		_			_	972	1,868	4,303
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	40	5,843	1	195	43	3,045	10	580	24	263	9,950
Darwin (SD)	49	7,306	1	195	43	3.045	10	580	996	2,131	14,253
Alice Springs (T)	7	929	_		2	143		_	49	357	1,477
Katherine (T)	1	30						_	50	_	80
Tennant Creek (T)		_	_				-	_	11	_	11
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	12	977		_			_	_	222	675	1,873
Remainder of Balance (SD)	_		21	1,965	8	461		_	710	72	3,207
Northern Territory Balance (SD)	20	1,936	21	1,965	10	60 <b>4</b>	_	-	1,042	1,103	6,649
Northern Territory	69	9,241	22	2,160	53	3,649	10	580	2,038	3,234	20,902

<sup>(</sup>a) Buildings for Aboriginal Communities are included in the Private Sector. However, if the building is owned by a Community Government Council it will be included in the Public Sector. (b) Excludes Conversions, etc.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES (a) APPROVED BY MATERIAL OF OUTER WALLS IN SELECTED AREAS MARCH 1997

	Material of outer walls										
Selected statistical areas	Double brick(ti)	Brick veneer	Fibre cement	Timber	Metal clud and other	Not stated	Total				
Darwin (SD)	41	1	3	_	5	_	50				
Alice Springs (T)	3	3				1	7				
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	3		l		8	_	12				
Northern Territory	58	4	7	-	19	3	91				

<sup>(</sup>a) Excludes Conversions, etc. (b) Includes houses constructed with outer walls of stone or concrete.

TABLE 6. VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a)
(\$ million)

		New residentia	al building		Atterations	Non-residen huilding		Total building	
	Houses		Other		and — additions to		-		
Period	Private sector	Total	residential buildings	Total	residential huildings	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
1993-94	70.1	94.1	36.7	130.7	14.3	64.1	149.0	184.6	294.0
1994-95	65.9	88.3	54.9	153.2	23.1	90.3	169.9	230.4	346.1
1995-96	61.9	73.4	39.5	112.9	20.3	101.7	200.6	214.5	333.8
1995									
Sept. qtr.	15.9	20.9	14.0	34.9	5.5	11.7	39.5	47.1	80.0
Dec. qtr.	16.0	17.1	8.2	25.3	5.6	22.7	40.3	50.1	71.2
1996—									_
Mar. qtr.	11.2	16.2	4.7	20.9	4.9	41,7	59.0	<b>6</b> 1. <b>0</b>	84.8
June otr.	18.8	19.2	12.5	31.8	4.3	25.6	61.8	56.3	97.8
Sept. qtr.	15.9	19.6	16.9	36.6	3.4	59.3	82.3	95,8	122.3
Dec. qtr.	19.4	27.0	15.3	42.3	4.9	45.5	56.7	84.1	103.9

<sup>(</sup>a) See paragraphs 16-18 of the Explanatory Notes. Constant price estimates are subject to revision each quarter as more up to date information on prices and commodity compositions becomes available.

TABLE 7. NEW DWELLING UNITS (a) APPROVED IN SELECTED AREAS, BY TYPE MARCH 1997

		New other residential building									
	Semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses, etc. of			Flats, u	: of		Total new				
Selected statistical area	New houses	1 storey	2 or more storeys	Total	1-2 storeys	3 storeys	4 or more storeys	Total	Tatal	residential building	
			NU	MBER OF I	OWELLING UN	NTTS					
- 1 GI (GGT)	9					_		_		9	
Darwin City (SSD)	,										
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	41		10	10	29	_	14	43	53	94	
Darwin (SD)	50	_	10	10	29		14	43	53	103	
Darwin Jaby										9	
Alice Springs (T)	7	_		·-	2		_	2	2	1	
Katherine (T)	i	_	-	-	_	_	_	_	_		
Tennant Creek (T)	_		_	_	<del></del>	_		_			
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	12	_		_	_	-	_		_	12	
Remainder of Balance (SD)	21	2		2	6		_	6	8	29	
Northern Territory Balance (SD)	41	2		2	8		_	8	10	51	
Northern Territory	91	2	10	12	37		14	51	63	154	
			· <u></u>	VAL	UE (\$*000)					<u> </u>	
Darwin City (SSD)	1,463					_	_		_	1,463	
Palmerston-East	,						1,179	3,045	3,625	9,663	
Arm (SSD)	6,038	-	580	580	1,866	_	1,179	3,045	3,625	11,126	
Darwin (SD)	7, <b>5</b> 01	_	580	58 <b>0</b>	1.866		1,177	5,545	2,024		
	222				143			143	143	1,072	
Alice Springs (T)	929	_		_				_		30	
Katherine (T)	30	_			_				_	_	
Tennant Creek (T)		_	_								
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	977		_	•		-			_	977	
Remainder of Balance (SD)	1,965	280		280	181	_	_	181	461	2,426	
Northern Territory Balance (SD)	3,901	280		280	324			324	60 <b>4</b>	4,504	
Northern Territory	11,401	280	580	860	2,190	_	1,179	3,369	4,229	15,630	

<sup>(</sup>a) Excludes Conversions, etc.

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

#### Introduction

This publication contains monthly details of building work approved.

2. For purposes of comparison, it should be noted that statistics of building approvals are affected from month to month by large projects (e.g. blocks of flats, multi-storey office buildings) approved in particular months and also by the administrative arrangements of government authorities.

#### Scope and Coverage

- 3. Statistics of building work approved are compiled from:
  - (a) permits issued by licensed Private Building Certifiers or the Building Branch, Northern Territory Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, in areas subject to building control by those authorities;
  - (b) contracts let or day labour work authorised by Commonwealth, State, semi-government and local government authorities;
  - (c) major building activity which takes place in areas not subject to the normal administrative approval processes (e.g. buildings on remote mine sites).
- 4. 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 from this publication, but can be found in the ABS publication *Engineering Construction Survey* (8762.0).
- 5. In relation to work carried out on existing buildings, the statistics include details of non-structural renovation and refurbishment work and the installation of integral building fixtures for which building approval was obtained.
- 6. From July 1990, the statistics cover:
  - (a) all approved new residential building jobs valued at \$10,000 or more (previously \$5,000 or more)
  - approved alterations and additions to residential buildings valued at \$10,000 or more
  - (c) all approved non-residential building jobs valued at \$50,000 or more (previously \$30,000 or more).

These changes in coverage do not have a statistically significant effect on broad building approvals aggregate data. However, care should be taken in interpreting data for specific classes of non-residential building.

#### **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 buildings' approved.

- 9. A residential building is defined as a building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. Residential buildings can be either houses or other residential buildings.
  - (a) A house is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. Thus detached granny flats and detached dwelling units such as caretaker's residences associated with non-residential buildings are defined as houses for the purpose of these statistics.
  - (b) An other residential building is defined as a building which is predominantly used for long term residential purposes and which contains (or has attached to it) more than one dwelling unit (e.g. includes townhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings etc.).
- 10. From the January 1995 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units approved 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 1 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, from the January 1995 issue, the trend estimates for the number of dwelling units approved, shown in Table 1, includes these conversions, etc. Previously, only dwelling units approved as part of the construction of new residential buildings were included in these estimates.
- 12. The value of new residential building approved continues to exclude the value of dwelling units approved 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. Approved building work represented by these conversions, etc. jobs continues to be included in the value of alterations and additions to residential buildings or in the value of non-residential building as appropriate.
- 13. Value data are derived by aggregation of the estimated value (when completed) of building work (excluding value of land and landscaping but including site preparation) as reported on approval documents. For 'houses', these estimates are usually a reliable indicator of the completed value of the building. However, for 'other residential buildings' and 'non-residential buildings' these estimates can differ significantly from the completed value of the building.

#### **Building Classification**

- 14. 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.
- 15. 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 e.g. a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.

### **Estimates at Constant Prices**

- 16. Estimates of the quarterly value of building approvals at average 1989-90 prices are presented in Table 6. (Note: monthly value data at constant prices are not available.)
- 17. Constant price estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwelling and non-dwelling construction components of the national accounts aggregate 'Gross fixed capital expenditure'.
- 18. Estimates at constant prices are subject to a number of approximations and assumptions. Further information on the nature and concepts of constant price estimates is contained in Chapter 4 of Australian National Accounts: Concepts. Sources and Methods (5216.0).

#### **Trend Estimates**

- 19. Table 1 shows trend estimates for total dwellings. These are obtained by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months of the respective seasonally adjusted series except the last six months. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted time series. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview (1348.0).
- 20. While the smoothing technique described in paragraph 19 enables trend estimates to be produced for the latest few months, it does result in revisions to the trend estimates as new data become available. Generally, revisions become smaller over time and, after three months, usually have a negligible impact on the series. Revisions to the original data and re-analysis of seasonal factors may also lead to revisions to the trend.

# Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

21. Area statistics are now being classified to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 1996 Edition (1216.0), effective from 1 July 1996, and ASGC terminology has been adopted in the presentation of building statistics.

#### Further details are:

- (a) The boundaries of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) of Alice Springs (T) and Sandover Balance were amended by the transfer of part of Sandover—Balance to Alice Springs (T).
- (b) The boundaries of the SLAs of Katherine (T) and Elsey Balance were amended by the transfer of part of Katherine (T) to Elsey Balance.
- (c) The LGA/SLA of Alice Springs (T) has been split into five SLAs. These new SLAs are: Alice Springs (T) – Charles, Alice Springs (T) – Heavitree, Alice Springs (T) – Larapinta, Alice Springs (T) – Ross, Alice Springs (T) - Stuart.

# Unpublished Data and Related Publications

- 22. The ABS can also make available certain building approvals data which are not published. Where it is not practicable to provide the required information by telephone, data can be provided in the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, computer printout and clerically extracted tabulation. A charge may be made for providing unpublished information in these forms.
- 23. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0) – issued monthly Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0) – issued quarterly Building Activity. Northern Territory (8752.7) – issued quarterly

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

## Symbols and Other Usages

SD Statistical Division SSD Statistical Subdivision

(T) town

nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

figure or series revised since previous issue

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

ZIA ABBASI Regional Director

# For more information . . .

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