

**BUILDING ACTIVITY, VICTORIA  
JUNE QUARTER 1996**

*Changes in this issue*

*The number of 'Conversions, etc.' are now included separately and/or as part of total dwelling units in the tables rather than as a footnote — see paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes. In addition, tables 4, 5 and 10 have been deleted and others have been redesigned and reordered.*

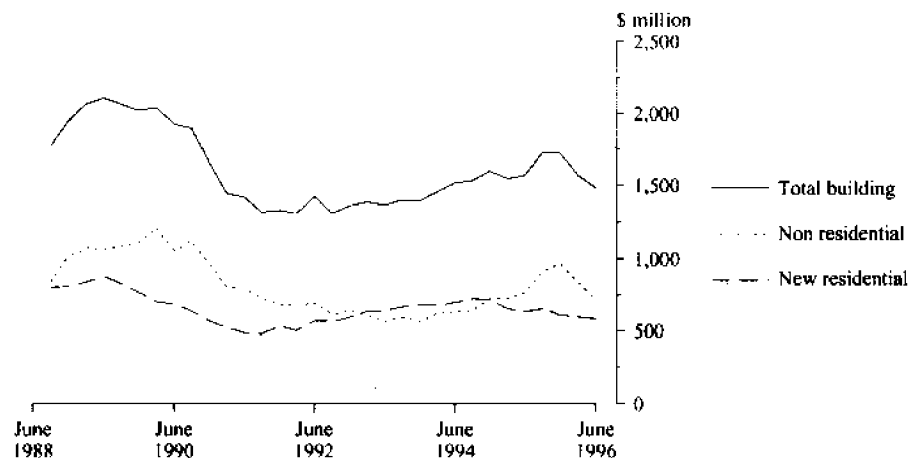
**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

**Value of building work done at average 1989–90 prices, seasonally adjusted**

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1996	June quarter 1995
New residential building	-3.1	-8.7
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	11.6	9.1
Non-residential building	-13.4	-5.7
<b>Total building</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-5.5</b>

- In seasonally adjusted average 1989–90 prices, the value of new residential building work done during the June quarter was down 3.1% to \$580.3 million. This figure is 20.2% lower than the recent peak in the September quarter 1994. While work done on new houses fell a further 5.6% in the June quarter, work done on other residential buildings rose slightly to yet another high of \$158.4 million. Work done on alterations and additions also increased — by 11.6% to \$158.7 million.
- Work done on non-residential building fell 13.4% to \$724.9 million and was 5.7% less than for the June quarter 1995.
- The total value of building work done during the quarter fell by 5.6% to \$1,485.9 million and follows a fall of 8.8% for the March quarter.

**VALUE OF WORK DONE  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**



**INQUIRIES**

- for more information about statistics contained in this publication, the availability of related unpublished statistics and other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Inquiries on Melbourne (03) 9615 7755 (fax (03) 9615 7798), call at 485 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne or write to Information Inquiries, ABS GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne Vic 3001 or any ABS State office.
- for more detailed information about these statistics, contact Rex Porter on Adelaide (08) 8237 7496 or any ABS State office.

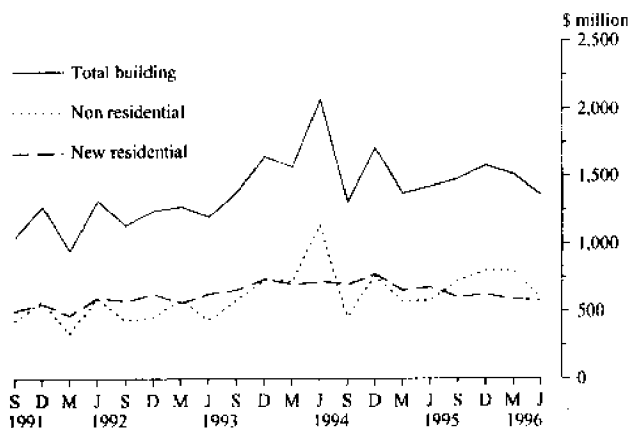
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS — continued

## Value of building work commenced at average 1989–90 prices

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1996	June quarter 1995
New residential building	-1.3	-15.1
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	46.1	13.5
Non-residential building	25.1	3.4
<b>Total building</b>	<b>-9.9</b>	<b>-4.3</b>

- In average 1989–90 prices, the value of new residential building work commenced during the June quarter was \$577.1 million, down marginally from the previous quarter but 25.5% below the recent peak in the December quarter 1994.
- Commencements of alterations and additions to residential buildings rose 46.1% for the quarter to \$185.2 million, the second highest figure on record. However, it includes projects involving the conversion of buildings to dwelling units, which partly accounted for the increase. These projects resulted in a record number of dwelling units classified as 'conversions, etc' being commenced during the June quarter.
- Although non-residential commencements fell by 25.1% to \$602.0 million, this level is still 3.4% above the June quarter 1995.
- The total value of all building work commenced during the quarter fell by 9.9% to \$1,364.3 million.

VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES

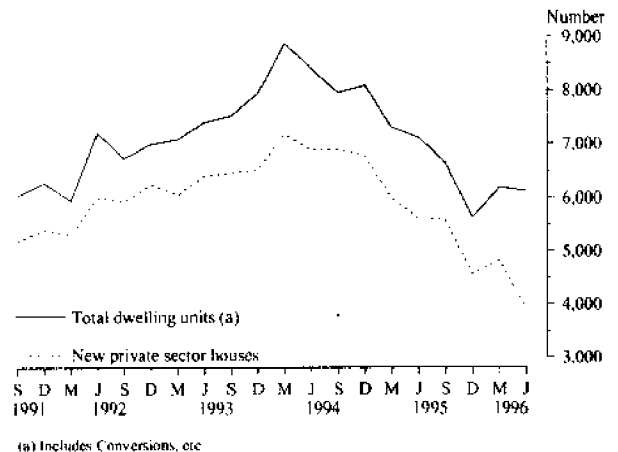


## Number of dwelling units commenced, seasonally adjusted

	% change on	
	Mar. quarter 1996	June quarter 1995
New private sector houses	-18.6	-30.0
Private sector dwelling units	-1.8	-15.9
<b>Total dwelling units</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-14.0</b>

- In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced during the June quarter was 6,119, little different from the previous quarter. Although this figure was 14.0% fewer than a year earlier, it was 10.0% more than the recent low of 5,623 recorded for the December quarter 1995.
- However, the number of new private sector houses commenced resumed its downward path in the latest quarter, falling by 18.6% to 3,923. This number was 30.0% less than for the June quarter 1995, and compares with the previous trough 5 years earlier when 4,606 were commenced.

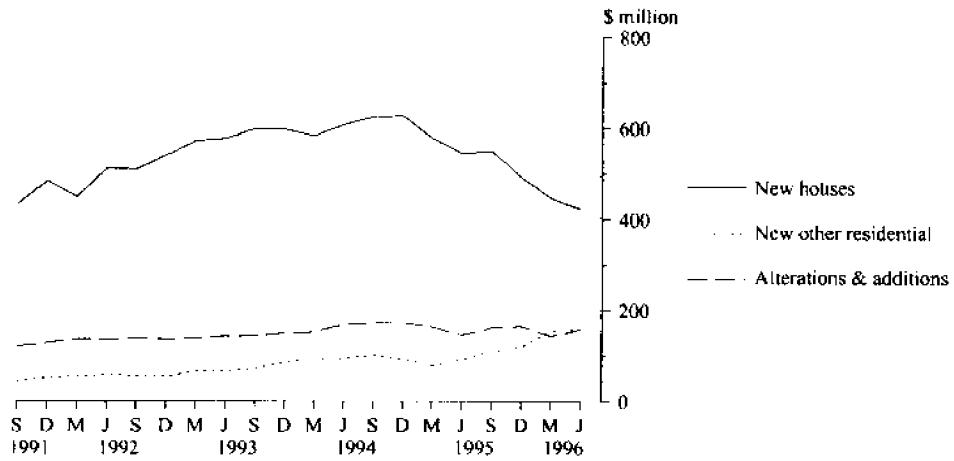
DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



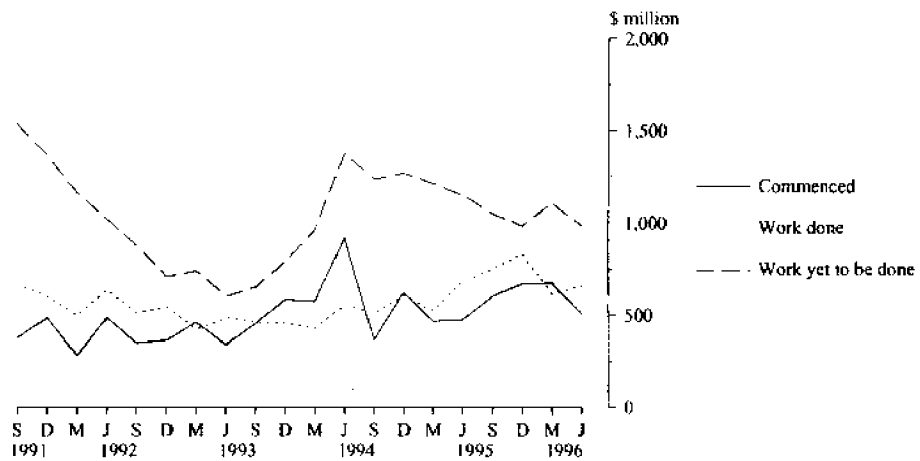
## Original data

- The total value of building work commenced during the June quarter 1996 fell by 7.5% to \$1,302.8 million. Non-residential building commenced was down 24.6% to \$506.9 million. However, residential building rose by 8.1% to \$795.9 million, of which \$593.7 million was for 5,481 new dwelling units.
- The total value of work done increased by 7.9% to \$1,440.1 million, with increases of 8.5% in the residential sector and 7.3% in the non-residential sector. Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of June 1996 was down 5.4% to \$1,771.3 million.
- For the year 1995–96, the total value of work commenced rose 1.5% to \$5,604.5 million. An increase of 26.4% in the non-residential sector was largely offset by a decrease of 12.0% in the residential sector.

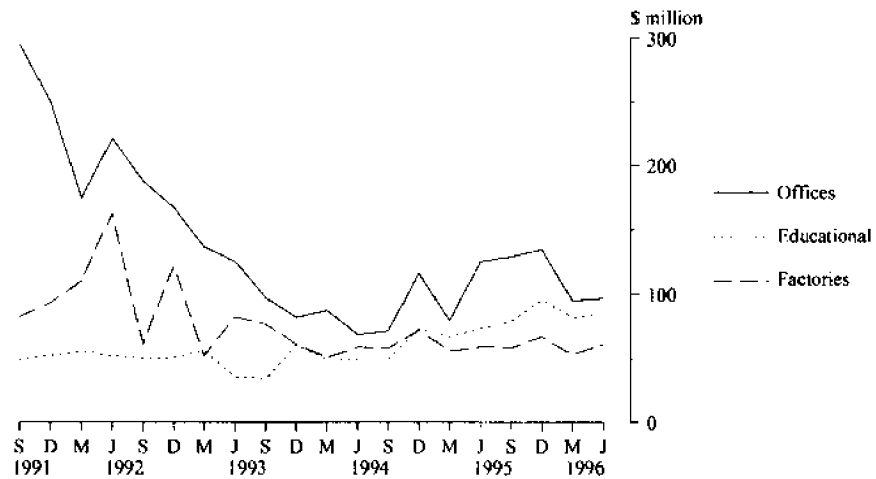
**VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL WORK DONE  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**



**VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING**



**VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL WORK DONE**



**TABLE 1. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK COMMENCED, AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a)**  
(**\$ million**)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential building	Total		Private sector	Total	
1993-94	2,435.7	385.3	2,821.0	668.1	2,386.2	3,182.4	6,671.5
1994-95	2,295.1	516.3	2,811.4	631.9	1,571.0	2,378.0	5,821.3
1995-96	1,823.8	563.0	2,386.8	619.3	2,173.2	2,936.9	5,943.0
1995 Mar. qtr	481.9	174.0	655.9	145.5	391.7	574.6	1,376.0
June qtr	523.3	156.3	679.6	163.1	399.5	582.2	1,424.9
Sept. qtr	529.9	71.5	601.4	152.7	575.2	727.0	1,481.1
Dec. qtr	485.3	138.5	623.8	154.6	608.9	804.2	1,582.6
1996 Mar. qtr r	402.5	182.0	584.5	126.8	558.5	803.7	1,515.0
June qtr	406.1	171.0	577.1	185.2	430.6	602.0	1,364.3

(a) See paragraphs 24 and 25 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 2. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES (a): ORIGINAL AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES**  
(**\$ million**)

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential building	Total		Private sector	Total	
<b>ORIGINAL</b>							
1993-94	2,382.8	349.1	2,731.9	614.9	1,731.6	2,411.1	5,757.9
1994-95	2,373.7	365.5	2,739.2	652.4	1,979.9	2,870.4	6,262.0
1995-96	1,912.5	536.8	2,449.3	630.0	2,528.2	3,442.8	6,522.1
1995 Mar. qtr	535.7	71.6	607.3	149.9	433.7	644.6	1,401.8
June qtr	545.8	92.9	638.7	148.3	573.7	837.5	1,624.5
Sept. qtr	551.8	112.5	664.3	158.6	671.8	910.8	1,733.7
Dec. qtr	524.1	123.6	647.7	179.4	710.0	1,004.2	1,831.3
1996 Mar. qtr r	414.0	141.0	555.0	130.1	537.5	739.3	1,424.4
June qtr	422.6	159.7	582.3	161.9	608.9	788.5	1,532.7
<b>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>							
1995 Mar. qtr	577.3	78.2	654.9	163.7	493.1	730.3	1,549.3
June qtr	543.3	92.0	635.8	145.4	523.0	768.6	1,572.7
Sept. qtr	548.9	110.3	659.5	162.2	665.6	916.4	1,729.4
Dec. qtr	492.5	117.0	609.4	165.1	699.7	970.4	1,725.9
1996 Mar. qtr r	446.4	154.0	598.8	142.2	610.9	836.6	1,573.3
June qtr	421.2	158.4	580.3	158.7	555.5	724.9	1,485.9

(a) See paragraphs 24 to 26 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 3. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES**  
(*\$ million*)

<i>Period</i>	<i>New residential building</i>			<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>		<i>Total building</i>
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Other residential building</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Private sector</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1995 Mar. qtr	628.8	64.3	692.7	178.2	399.5	591.6	1,467.3
June qtr	593.8	76.4	670.5	159.0	426.7	627.1	1,470.7
Sept. qtr	602.6	92.2	694.8	178.1	548.5	755.0	1,620.3
Dec. qtr	543.2	98.3	641.7	182.2	578.7	802.6	1,612.0
1996 Mar. qtr	493.7	130.0	622.4	157.2	507.0	694.4	1,473.9
June qtr	465.7	134.2	600.6	175.5	463.8	605.2	1,396.1

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>New houses</i>				<i>Total dwelling units (includes conversions etc)</i>			
	<i>Private sector</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Private sector</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Commenced</i>	<i>Completed</i>
1995 Mar. qtr	5,992	6,719	6,063	6,909	6,935	7,709	7,302	7,936
June qtr	5,602	5,903	5,724	6,027	6,859	6,400	7,113	6,763
Sept. qtr	5,574	6,110	5,804	6,208	6,114	6,861	6,648	7,168
Dec. qtr	4,570	5,976	4,673	6,230	5,250	6,911	5,623	7,371
1996 Mar. qtr	4,817	4,849	4,834	4,996	5,877	5,718	6,186	6,084
June qtr	3,923	4,154	4,049	4,253	5,770	4,602	6,119	4,863

TABLE 5. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMMENCED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	26,970	3,130	1,195	31,295	2,509.3	275.2	2,784.5	695.9	3,480.4	1,897.3	5,377.7
1994-95	25,338	3,077	1,044	29,459	2,445.1	389.5	2,834.6	675.6	3,510.3	1,279.7	4,790.0
1995-96	18,869	3,209	884	22,962	1,961.7	395.8	2,357.5	637.6	2,995.1	1,811.1	4,806.3
1995 Mar. qtr	5,360	722	362	6,444	513.8	128.3	642.0	156.6	798.6	320.0	1,118.6
June qtr	5,627	926	323	6,876	561.8	119.5	681.4	174.1	855.4	328.4	1,183.9
Sept. qtr	5,638	380	54	6,072	562.9	37.6	600.6	156.1	756.7	475.7	1,232.3
Dec. qtr	4,989	640	15	5,644	523.8	94.2	617.9	158.6	776.6	506.0	1,282.5
1996 Mar. qtr	4,300	980	179	5,459	437.0	138.5	575.5	130.2	705.7	466.9	1,172.6
June qtr	3,942	1,209	636	5,787	438.1	125.4	563.5	192.7	756.2	362.6	1,118.8
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	934	432	3	1,369	58.8	33.2	91.9	4.1	96.1	632.0	728.1
1994-95	508	535	7	1,050	36.3	36.7	73.0	3.0	76.0	657.2	733.2
1995-96	484	1,065	21	1,570	43.0	80.6	123.6	37.6	161.2	637.1	798.3
1995 Mar. qtr	134	207	—	341	9.1	15.6	24.7	0.2	24.9	149.4	174.3
June qtr	107	141	7	255	8.6	10.7	19.3	1.8	21.2	150.2	171.4
Sept. qtr	198	333	—	531	16.3	22.3	38.6	9.4	48.0	125.5	173.5
Dec. qtr	99	303	—	402	10.0	22.3	32.3	10.4	42.8	162.3	205.1
1996 Mar. qtr	73	213	1	287	6.9	15.5	22.4	8.2	30.6	205.0	235.6
June qtr	114	216	20	350	9.8	20.5	30.3	9.5	39.8	144.3	184.1
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	27,904	3,562	1,198	32,664	2,568.0	308.4	2,876.5	700.0	3,576.5	2,529.3	6,105.7
1994-95	25,846	3,612	1,051	30,509	2,481.4	426.3	2,907.7	678.6	3,586.3	1,936.9	5,523.2
1995-96	19,353	4,274	905	24,532	2,004.7	476.4	2,481.1	675.2	3,156.3	2,448.2	5,604.5
1995 Mar. qtr	5,494	929	362	6,785	522.9	143.8	666.7	156.8	823.5	469.4	1,292.9
June qtr	5,734	1,067	330	7,131	570.4	130.3	700.7	175.9	876.6	478.7	1,355.3
Sept. qtr	5,836	713	54	6,603	579.2	59.9	639.2	165.5	804.7	601.2	1,405.9
Dec. qtr	5,088	943	15	6,046	533.8	116.5	650.3	169.1	819.3	668.3	1,487.6
1996 Mar. qtr	4,373	1,193	180	5,746	443.9	154.0	597.9	138.4	736.3	671.9	1,408.2
June qtr	4,056	1,425	656	6,137	447.8	145.9	593.7	202.2	795.9	506.9	1,302.8

TABLE 6. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMMENCED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: ORIGINAL  
(S million)

Period	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Entertain- ment and recreational	Miscel- laneous	Total non-resi- dential building
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	185.3	453.0	182.0	213.9	262.2	98.5	16.3	128.0	305.4	52.9	1,897.3
1994-95	58.9	315.7	200.5	256.7	148.8	88.6	16.0	66.2	87.6	40.7	1,279.7
1995-96	157.2	418.1	244.6	281.2	280.8	82.8	10.6	56.9	163.4	115.6	1,811.1
1995 Mar. qtr	21.8	110.8	36.8	63.9	32.4	15.9	3.6	9.0	19.7	6.1	320.0
June qtr	20.1	62.9	50.3	82.2	29.9	32.7	2.5	10.8	23.4	13.7	328.4
Sept. qtr	9.7	160.4	50.7	68.5	45.3	23.7	1.6	13.2	93.3	9.2	475.7
Dec. qtr	12.4	91.9	64.5	101.3	93.1	18.7	3.0	16.9	38.3	66.0	506.0
1996 Mar. qtr r	121.6	73.6	64.1	53.2	78.5	24.2	3.4	9.4	16.0	22.9	466.9
June qtr	13.6	92.1	65.3	58.2	63.9	16.3	2.6	17.4	15.8	17.4	362.6
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	7.1	3.6	45.1	59.6	131.2	112.8	—	112.1	75.2	85.3	632.0
1994-95	0.5	7.7	10.9	127.5	50.8	204.7	—	74.6	161.6	19.0	657.2
1995-96	1.8	9.1	3.0	115.5	66.0	247.1	—	47.5	98.7	48.4	637.1
1995 Mar. qtr	0.3	0.5	0.1	54.7	32.0	33.4	—	21.4	5.7	1.4	149.4
June qtr	0.1	0.7	0.5	28.3	9.6	61.9	—	20.9	21.3	6.9	150.2
Sept. qtr	0.5	2.3	1.7	32.4	4.6	32.6	—	6.1	23.1	22.2	125.5
Dec. qtr	0.3	1.2	0.8	27.0	3.9	90.8	—	17.0	16.8	4.5	162.3
1996 Mar. qtr r	1.0	4.8	0.2	26.9	55.5	43.8	—	10.7	54.7	7.3	205.0
June qtr	0.1	0.8	0.3	29.1	1.8	79.9	—	13.8	4.0	14.4	144.3
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	192.4	456.6	227.1	273.6	393.3	211.2	16.3	240.0	380.5	138.2	2,529.3
1994-95	59.4	323.4	211.4	384.2	199.6	293.3	16.0	140.8	249.2	59.6	1,936.9
1995-96	159.1	427.2	247.6	396.7	346.7	329.9	10.6	104.4	262.0	163.9	2,448.2
1995 Mar. qtr	22.1	111.3	36.9	118.6	64.4	49.3	3.6	30.4	25.4	7.5	469.4
June qtr	20.2	63.6	50.8	110.5	39.6	94.6	2.5	31.7	44.7	20.6	478.7
Sept. qtr	10.2	162.7	52.4	101.0	49.9	56.3	1.6	19.3	116.3	31.4	601.2
Dec. qtr	12.7	93.2	65.2	128.4	97.0	109.4	3.0	33.8	55.1	70.5	668.3
1996 Mar. qtr r	122.5	78.4	64.3	80.1	134.1	68.0	3.4	20.1	70.7	30.3	671.9
June qtr	13.6	92.9	65.6	87.2	65.7	96.1	2.6	31.3	19.9	31.8	506.9

**TABLE 7. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD,  
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	11,893	1,898	900	14,691	1,220.8	187.0	1,407.8	357.1	1,764.9	1,514.8	3,279.7
1994-95	10,381	2,261	1,058	13,700	1,109.3	282.9	1,392.2	349.7	1,741.9	1,664.1	3,406.1
1995-96	7,989	3,121	1,230	12,340	947.9	456.3	1,404.2	353.4	1,757.6	1,750.2	3,507.8
1995 Mar. qtr	10,778	1,994	952	13,724	1,128.8	274.1	1,402.9	348.7	1,751.6	1,567.7	3,319.3
June qtr	10,381	2,261	1,058	13,700	1,109.3	282.9	1,392.2	349.7	1,741.9	1,664.1	3,406.1
Sept. qtr	9,842	2,120	796	12,758	1,083.3	282.5	1,365.7	327.2	1,692.9	1,596.8	3,289.7
Dec. qtr	8,442	1,922	554	10,918	974.5	286.2	1,260.7	282.7	1,543.4	1,625.2	3,168.5
1996 Mar. qtr	8,249	2,367	653	11,269	949.7	376.4	1,326.1	288.9	1,614.9	1,857.8	3,472.8
June qtr	7,989	3,121	1,230	12,340	947.9	456.3	1,404.2	353.4	1,757.6	1,750.2	3,507.8
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	469	457	3	929	27.0	40.0	67.0	3.5	70.5	841.8	912.3
1994-95	287	504	7	798	19.9	38.7	58.6	4.6	63.2	762.1	825.3
1995-96	160	791	20	971	13.1	65.3	78.5	11.9	90.3	497.0	587.3
1995 Mar. qtr	302	612	—	914	19.0	44.1	63.1	3.7	66.8	742.1	809.0
June qtr	287	504	7	798	19.9	38.7	58.6	4.6	63.2	762.1	825.3
Sept. qtr	348	666	6	1,020	27.3	48.0	75.3	7.9	83.1	745.9	829.0
Dec. qtr	178	747	—	925	15.1	57.6	72.7	8.3	81.0	671.6	752.6
1996 Mar. qtr	143	744	—	887	12.6	57.0	69.7	9.3	79.0	719.2	798.2
June qtr	160	791	20	971	13.1	65.3	78.5	11.9	90.3	497.0	587.3
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	12,362	2,355	903	15,620	1,247.9	226.9	1,474.8	360.6	1,835.4	2,356.7	4,192.0
1994-95	10,668	2,765	1,065	14,498	1,129.2	321.6	1,450.8	354.3	1,805.1	2,426.3	4,231.4
1995-96	8,149	3,912	1,250	13,311	961.1	521.6	1,482.7	365.3	1,847.9	2,247.2	4,095.1
1995 Mar. qtr	11,080	2,606	952	14,638	1,147.8	318.2	1,466.0	352.4	1,818.4	2,309.9	4,128.3
June qtr	10,668	2,765	1,065	14,498	1,129.2	321.6	1,450.8	354.3	1,805.1	2,426.3	4,231.4
Sept. qtr	10,190	2,786	802	13,778	1,110.6	330.4	1,441.0	335.0	1,776.0	2,342.7	4,118.7
Dec. qtr	8,620	2,669	554	11,843	989.6	343.8	1,333.4	291.0	1,624.4	2,296.8	3,921.1
1996 Mar. qtr	8,392	3,111	653	12,156	962.3	433.4	1,395.7	298.2	1,693.9	2,577.0	4,270.9
June qtr	8,149	3,912	1,250	13,311	961.1	521.6	1,482.7	365.3	1,847.9	2,247.2	4,095.1



TABLE 8. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD,  
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	171.8	414.6	124.0	118.0	176.3	45.9	14.1	133.8	257.8	58.6	1,514.8
1994-95	189.1	476.8	91.6	182.8	160.7	52.0	18.0	108.6	358.6	26.0	1,664.1
1995-96	289.1	225.6	140.0	76.9	257.8	49.4	11.9	82.0	533.8	83.6	1,750.2
1995 Mar. qtr	193.0	469.5	94.0	162.9	161.1	32.8	17.4	115.1	296.6	25.4	1,567.7
June qtr	189.1	476.8	91.6	182.8	160.7	52.0	18.0	108.6	358.6	26.0	1,664.1
Sept. qtr	204.6	333.2	92.7	165.8	168.9	61.6	12.0	100.7	433.2	24.1	1,596.8
Dec. qtr	179.6	318.4	108.3	116.8	220.1	47.4	10.9	81.0	463.2	79.4	1,625.2
1996 Mar. qtr r	290.3	344.7	135.8	86.2	255.7	49.5	12.1	76.1	523.1	84.3	1,857.8
June qtr	289.1	225.6	140.0	76.9	257.8	49.4	11.9	82.0	533.8	83.6	1,750.2
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	6.5	1.1	41.1	22.8	122.5	98.5	—	406.1	62.0	81.2	841.8
1994-95	0.5	3.8	51.4	59.1	149.6	165.3	—	142.4	157.8	32.2	762.1
1995-96	—	0.4	0.4	70.9	48.7	202.6	—	42.3	72.8	58.9	497.0
1995 Mar. qtr	0.5	3.2	59.8	58.9	151.2	139.0	—	153.1	147.8	28.6	742.1
June qtr	0.5	3.8	51.4	59.1	149.6	165.3	—	142.4	157.8	32.2	762.1
Sept. qtr	0.6	2.5	52.3	85.0	150.1	185.9	—	50.7	170.6	48.0	745.9
Dec. qtr	0.8	1.1	1.8	64.1	142.3	196.2	—	46.8	169.6	48.7	671.6
1996 Mar. qtr r	0.6	0.5	0.1	63.6	179.7	172.5	—	47.3	201.5	53.3	719.2
June qtr	—	0.4	0.4	70.9	48.7	202.6	—	42.3	72.8	58.9	497.0
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	178.3	415.7	165.1	140.7	298.8	144.4	14.1	539.9	319.9	139.8	2,356.7
1994-95	189.6	480.6	142.9	241.9	310.4	217.3	18.0	251.0	516.4	58.2	2,426.3
1995-96	289.1	226.1	140.4	147.8	306.4	252.0	11.9	124.3	606.6	142.5	2,247.2
1995 Mar. qtr	193.5	472.8	153.7	221.8	312.2	171.9	17.4	268.2	444.3	54.0	2,309.9
June qtr	189.6	480.6	142.9	241.9	310.4	217.3	18.0	251.0	516.4	58.2	2,426.3
Sept. qtr	205.2	335.7	145.1	250.8	319.0	247.5	12.0	151.5	603.8	72.1	2,342.7
Dec. qtr	180.4	319.6	110.1	180.9	362.5	243.7	10.9	127.8	632.8	128.1	2,296.8
1996 Mar. qtr r	290.9	345.2	136.0	149.8	435.4	222.0	12.1	123.4	724.5	137.6	2,577.0
June qtr	289.1	226.1	140.4	147.8	306.4	252.0	11.9	124.3	606.6	142.5	2,247.2

TABLE 9. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	25,955	2,713	349	29,017	2,402.3	215.2	2,617.5	600.6	3,218.2	2,061.7	5,279.8
1994-95	26,693	2,412	884	29,989	2,566.3	234.9	2,801.2	707.8	3,509.0	1,255.7	4,764.7
1995-96	21,158	2,302	709	24,169	2,133.9	239.0	2,372.9	654.2	3,027.1	1,906.6	4,933.7
1995 Mar. qtr	6,178	512	152	6,842	616.7	47.6	664.3	154.7	819.0	256.3	1,075.4
June qtr	5,957	366	216	6,539	571.8	40.4	612.2	178.2	790.4	348.9	1,139.3
Sept. qtr	6,130	475	315	6,920	591.6	42.7	634.3	178.4	812.6	585.6	1,398.3
Dec. qtr	6,371	838	255	7,464	636.9	102.5	739.4	205.1	944.4	535.9	1,480.4
1996 Mar. qtr r	4,474	535	80	5,089	460.7	50.2	510.9	134.9	645.8	297.5	943.3
June qtr	4,183	454	59	4,696	444.7	43.6	488.3	135.8	624.1	487.6	1,111.7
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	1,163	496	—	1,659	72.9	34.7	107.6	0.7	108.3	433.6	541.8
1994-95	687	480	3	1,170	44.3	37.0	81.3	1.9	83.2	739.4	822.6
1995-96	611	778	8	1,397	50.1	54.2	104.3	30.0	134.3	937.7	1,072.0
1995 Mar. qtr	133	68	—	201	10.0	3.9	13.9	0.2	14.2	170.2	184.3
June qtr	122	249	—	371	7.7	16.1	23.9	1.0	24.9	134.6	159.5
Sept. qtr	137	171	1	309	9.0	13.4	22.4	6.2	28.6	151.0	179.6
Dec. qtr	269	222	6	497	22.2	12.9	35.1	9.9	45.0	250.2	295.3
1996 Mar. qtr r	108	216	1	325	9.5	16.6	26.1	6.8	32.9	164.6	197.5
June qtr	97	169	—	266	9.3	11.3	20.6	7.1	27.7	371.9	399.5
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	27,118	3,209	349	30,676	2,475.3	249.9	2,725.1	601.3	3,326.4	2,495.2	5,821.7
1994-95	27,380	2,892	887	31,159	2,610.6	271.9	2,882.5	709.8	3,592.3	1,995.0	5,587.3
1995-96	21,769	3,080	717	25,566	2,183.9	293.2	2,477.2	684.2	3,161.3	2,844.3	6,005.6
1995 Mar. qtr	6,311	580	152	7,043	626.7	51.5	678.2	155.0	833.2	426.5	1,259.7
June qtr	6,079	615	216	6,910	579.5	56.6	636.1	179.2	815.2	483.5	1,298.7
Sept. qtr	6,267	646	316	7,229	600.6	56.1	656.7	184.6	841.3	736.6	1,577.9
Dec. qtr	6,640	1,060	261	7,961	659.1	115.4	774.5	215.0	989.5	786.2	1,775.6
1996 Mar. qtr r	4,582	751	81	5,414	470.2	66.8	537.1	141.7	678.8	462.0	1,140.8
June qtr	4,280	623	59	4,962	454.0	54.9	509.0	142.9	651.8	859.5	1,511.3

TABLE 10. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMPLETED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	32.5	178.2	401.6	948.9	158.2	81.5	19.8	80.0	84.6	76.2	2,061.7
1994-95	23.7	308.4	237.1	202.1	184.2	86.7	12.1	87.7	40.9	72.7	1,255.7
1995-96	79.1	701.7	195.2	391.7	217.1	84.6	15.5	83.2	83.0	55.4	1,906.6
1995 Mar. qtr	7.9	29.9	57.3	55.2	52.5	19.3	3.0	10.4	6.2	14.7	256.3
June qtr	5.2	116.7	55.7	64.9	43.0	14.8	2.0	19.0	14.5	13.1	348.9
Sept. qtr	7.1	319.1	48.6	85.0	54.9	14.4	6.3	22.1	17.6	10.5	585.6
Dec. qtr	46.5	116.4	49.9	150.5	55.2	31.2	4.1	34.7	35.4	12.0	535.9
1996 Mar. qtr r	10.3	50.5	37.4	86.1	43.8	22.4	2.1	14.4	16.9	13.7	297.5
June qtr	15.2	215.8	59.4	70.0	63.2	16.6	3.0	12.1	13.0	19.3	487.6
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	2.7	4.2	22.4	107.8	64.0	119.5	—	33.3	55.8	23.9	433.6
1994-95	6.7	5.2	16.0	88.6	29.6	142.2	-	299.5	83.5	68.1	739.4
1995-96	2.3	12.5	54.0	117.0	168.5	214.3	—	147.4	194.2	27.4	937.7
1995 Mar. qtr	0.4	2.6	1.3	7.0	11.5	40.9	—	38.3	19.5	48.6	170.2
June qtr	0.1	0.2	9.0	26.2	11.2	38.8	—	29.1	16.2	3.8	134.6
Sept. qtr	0.4	3.6	0.7	10.9	3.9	13.8	—	100.0	10.5	7.2	151.0
Dec. qtr	0.1	2.6	51.3	49.3	13.2	83.1	—	21.3	24.1	5.3	250.2
1996 Mar. qtr r	1.3	5.4	1.9	34.2	18.1	64.4	—	8.4	25.3	5.6	164.6
June qtr	0.6	0.9	0.1	22.6	133.3	53.0	—	17.8	134.3	9.3	371.9
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	35.2	182.5	424.0	1,056.7	222.3	201.0	19.8	113.3	140.4	100.1	2,495.2
1994-95	30.3	313.6	253.1	290.7	213.9	228.8	12.1	387.3	124.4	140.9	1,995.0
1995-96	81.5	714.2	249.3	508.7	385.6	298.9	15.5	230.7	277.2	82.8	2,844.3
1995 Mar. qtr	8.3	32.5	58.6	62.2	64.0	60.2	3.0	48.8	25.7	63.3	426.5
June qtr	5.3	116.9	64.7	91.2	54.2	53.6	2.0	48.1	30.7	16.8	483.5
Sept. qtr	7.6	322.7	49.3	95.9	58.8	28.2	6.3	122.1	28.1	17.7	736.6
Dec. qtr	46.5	119.0	101.2	199.8	68.4	114.3	4.1	56.0	59.6	17.3	786.2
1996 Mar. qtr r	11.6	55.9	39.3	120.3	61.9	86.8	2.1	22.7	42.2	19.3	462.0
June qtr	15.8	216.7	59.4	92.6	196.5	69.6	3.0	29.9	147.3	28.6	859.5

**TABLE 11. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>							
1993-94	2,450.7	249.6	2,700.3	649.6	3,349.9	1,366.2	4,716.1
1994-95	2,535.3	258.1	2,793.4	702.4	3,495.8	1,601.4	5,097.3
1995-96	2,062.5	387.6	2,450.1	662.9	3,113.0	2,095.2	5,208.2
1995 Mar. qtr	576.1	50.2	626.3	162.1	788.4	351.3	1,139.7
June qtr	586.9	63.9	650.8	160.2	811.0	468.1	1,279.1
Sept. qtr	591.9	79.4	671.3	167.3	838.6	553.6	1,392.2
Dec. qtr	564.5	89.1	653.6	189.4	843.1	587.2	1,430.3
1996 Mar. qtr	447.6	101.6	549.2	136.0	685.3	446.1	1,131.4
June qtr	458.5	117.5	576.0	170.1	746.1	508.4	1,254.4
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>							
1993-94	70.1	28.8	98.9	1.4	100.2	536.0	636.3
1994-95	38.6	41.9	80.6	5.1	85.7	720.6	806.3
1995-96	46.7	64.6	111.3	32.1	143.4	757.6	901.1
1995 Mar. qtr	7.3	8.7	16.1	1.1	17.1	170.8	188.0
June qtr	9.6	13.2	22.8	1.9	24.7	215.3	240.0
Sept. qtr	13.9	14.7	28.6	6.8	35.4	196.9	232.2
Dec. qtr	13.6	14.7	28.3	8.5	36.8	243.3	280.1
1996 Mar. qtr	10.3	17.4	27.7	7.8	35.5	167.5	203.1
June qtr	8.9	17.9	26.7	9.0	35.7	150.0	185.6
<b>TOTAL</b>							
1993-94	2,520.8	278.4	2,799.2	651.0	3,450.1	1,902.2	5,352.3
1994-95	2,573.9	300.0	2,874.0	707.5	3,581.5	2,322.0	5,903.5
1995-96	2,109.2	452.2	2,561.4	695.0	3,256.4	2,852.9	6,109.3
1995 Mar. qtr	583.4	58.9	642.3	163.2	805.5	522.2	1,327.7
June qtr	596.5	77.1	673.6	162.1	835.7	683.4	1,519.1
Sept. qtr	605.8	94.0	699.9	174.1	874.0	750.4	1,624.4
Dec. qtr	578.1	103.8	681.9	198.0	879.9	830.5	1,710.4
1996 Mar. qtr	457.9	119.0	576.9	143.9	720.8	613.7	1,334.4
June qtr	467.3	135.4	602.7	179.1	781.8	658.3	1,440.1

TABLE 12. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK DONE, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: ORIGINAL  
(S million)

Period	Hotels etc.	Shops	Factories	Offices	Other business premises	Educational	Religious	Health	Entertain- ment and recreational	Miscel- laneous	Total non-resi- dential building
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	33.1	326.7	228.4	263.0	166.6	88.2	16.5	102.8	83.7	57.2	1,366.2
1994-95	48.9	457.0	205.8	291.2	262.6	85.8	16.3	97.4	84.2	52.2	1,601.4
1995-96	156.0	468.3	221.0	320.7	275.7	92.0	11.3	76.3	383.9	90.0	2,095.2
1995 Mar. qtr	13.0	93.2	47.1	67.2	57.5	20.0	5.1	24.1	13.8	10.4	351.3
June qtr	16.5	152.3	49.5	84.0	74.4	18.9	4.2	26.0	31.0	11.4	468.1
Sept. qtr	24.6	182.2	52.1	91.8	64.0	25.0	1.7	25.7	74.9	11.6	553.6
Dec. qtr	65.9	119.8	55.7	96.9	66.3	25.8	4.2	23.2	107.2	22.3	587.2
1996 Mar. qtr	33.5	84.5	52.2	61.6	71.9	20.0	3.2	12.2	81.9	25.0	446.1
June qtr	32.0	81.8	61.1	70.4	73.5	21.2	2.2	15.1	119.9	31.1	508.4
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	5.6	4.1	19.0	72.8	31.7	105.2	—	169.2	73.9	54.5	536.0
1994-95	2.9	7.0	39.6	101.8	92.4	177.4	—	112.1	135.5	52.0	720.6
1995-96	2.0	10.3	18.4	135.4	104.7	249.4	—	60.0	129.4	48.1	757.6
1995 Mar. qtr	0.3	1.6	8.8	12.2	37.6	46.9	—	22.5	33.4	7.5	170.8
June qtr	0.1	1.1	9.8	41.6	31.2	54.9	—	21.0	44.3	11.3	215.3
Sept. qtr	0.6	2.0	6.3	37.3	22.7	54.0	—	14.4	48.7	11.0	196.9
Dec. qtr	0.2	1.9	11.1	37.9	48.0	69.9	—	18.4	45.1	10.8	243.3
1996 Mar. qtr	0.9	5.5	0.8	33.8	21.6	61.9	—	12.2	17.4	13.4	167.5
June qtr	0.3	0.9	0.2	26.4	12.3	63.6	—	15.0	18.2	13.0	150.0
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	38.7	330.7	247.4	335.7	198.4	193.4	16.5	272.1	157.6	111.7	1,902.2
1994-95	51.8	464.0	245.4	393.1	354.9	263.2	16.3	209.5	219.7	104.2	2,322.0
1995-96	157.9	478.6	239.4	456.2	380.4	341.3	11.3	136.2	513.3	138.2	2,852.9
1995 Mar. qtr	13.4	94.8	55.9	79.4	95.1	66.9	5.1	46.6	47.2	17.9	522.2
June qtr	16.6	153.4	59.3	125.6	105.6	73.8	4.2	47.0	75.3	22.7	683.4
Sept. qtr	25.2	184.2	58.4	129.1	86.7	79.0	1.7	40.2	123.6	22.5	750.4
Dec. qtr	66.1	121.7	66.7	134.8	114.3	95.7	4.2	41.5	152.3	33.1	830.5
1996 Mar. qtr	34.4	90.0	53.0	95.4	93.6	81.9	3.2	24.4	99.3	38.4	613.7
June qtr	32.3	82.7	61.3	96.8	85.8	84.8	2.2	30.1	138.1	44.1	658.3

TABLE 13. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD,  
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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-resi- dential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>							
1993-94	537.2	93.4	630.7	149.8	780.4	1,012.0	1,792.4
1994-95	473.5	170.0	643.5	149.3	792.8	824.8	1,617.6
1995-96	401.3	196.6	597.9	147.0	744.9	743.9	1,488.7
1995 Mar. qtr	504.0	183.7	687.7	130.2	817.9	845.9	1,663.8
June qtr	473.5	170.0	643.5	149.3	792.8	824.8	1,617.6
Sept. qtr	456.7	134.7	591.4	138.5	729.9	788.9	1,518.7
Dec. qtr	424.2	151.8	576.1	110.7	686.8	785.7	1,472.5
1996 Mar. qtr r	415.7	190.6	606.3	116.4	722.6	870.3	1,592.9
June qtr	401.3	196.6	597.9	147.0	744.9	743.9	1,488.7
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>							
1993-94	9.9	22.8	32.7	2.8	35.5	361.1	396.6
1994-95	8.5	16.8	25.3	0.7	26.0	321.1	347.1
1995-96	5.2	33.1	38.3	5.9	44.2	238.3	282.5
1995 Mar. qtr	9.5	19.3	28.8	0.7	29.5	364.4	393.9
June qtr	8.5	16.8	25.3	0.7	26.0	321.1	347.1
Sept. qtr	11.1	24.7	35.8	3.4	39.3	259.5	298.8
Dec. qtr	7.5	32.5	40.0	5.3	45.3	193.4	238.7
1996 Mar. qtr r	4.2	31.4	35.5	5.3	40.9	238.4	279.2
June qtr	5.2	33.1	38.3	5.9	44.2	238.3	282.5
<b>TOTAL</b>							
1993-94	547.1	116.2	663.4	152.5	815.9	1,373.1	2,189.0
1994-95	482.0	186.8	668.8	150.0	818.8	1,145.9	1,964.7
1995-96	406.5	229.7	636.1	152.9	789.1	982.2	1,771.3
1995 Mar. qtr	513.5	203.0	716.5	130.9	847.4	1,210.3	2,057.7
June qtr	482.0	186.8	668.8	150.0	818.8	1,145.9	1,964.7
Sept. qtr	467.8	159.4	627.2	141.9	769.1	1,048.4	1,817.5
Dec. qtr	431.7	184.4	616.1	116.0	732.1	979.1	1,711.2
1996 Mar. qtr r	419.9	222.0	641.8	121.7	763.5	1,108.7	1,872.2
June qtr	406.5	229.7	636.1	152.9	789.1	982.2	1,771.3

TABLE 14. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD,  
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR: 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	162.6	226.0	46.3	79.4	135.1	20.4	7.2	68.5	243.0	23.6	1,012.0
1994-95	154.5	141.4	46.1	56.8	41.3	28.2	7.5	35.6	301.5	11.9	824.8
1995-96	177.8	123.9	69.7	22.0	80.2	22.0	5.7	16.4	191.4	35.0	743.9
1995 Mar. qtr	169.7	169.6	42.0	55.8	72.9	13.0	9.0	48.7	255.8	9.4	845.9
June qtr	154.5	141.4	46.1	56.8	41.3	28.2	7.5	35.6	301.5	11.9	824.8
Sept. qtr	152.6	134.8	42.6	33.1	40.4	27.1	6.0	24.2	319.2	8.9	788.9
Dec. qtr	108.2	116.6	52.7	37.7	80.8	22.1	4.9	16.3	292.4	54.0	785.7
1996 Mar. qtr r	195.7	108.9	65.5	31.7	88.4	26.6	5.1	13.5	287.4	47.6	870.3
June qtr	177.8	123.9	69.7	22.0	80.2	22.0	5.7	16.4	191.4	35.0	743.9
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1993-94	2.2	0.4	28.9	8.1	108.2	45.8	—	100.4	25.7	41.4	361.1
1994-95	0.1	1.3	15.6	32.5	72.6	94.4	—	26.5	69.7	8.5	321.1
1995-96	—	0.1	0.2	25.9	35.4	96.9	—	14.6	50.9	14.4	238.3
1995 Mar. qtr	0.1	1.6	24.7	46.7	94.2	68.0	—	29.0	87.7	12.5	364.4
June qtr	0.1	1.3	15.6	32.5	72.6	94.4	—	26.5	69.7	8.5	321.1
Sept. qtr	—	1.6	10.9	32.0	54.3	74.9	—	20.9	44.4	20.5	259.5
Dec. qtr	0.1	0.9	0.6	22.5	11.6	98.5	—	19.9	23.5	15.7	193.4
1996 Mar. qtr r	0.2	0.2	0.1	22.4	45.5	77.2	—	16.8	63.4	12.5	238.4
June qtr	—	0.1	0.2	25.9	35.4	96.9	—	14.6	50.9	14.4	238.3
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1993-94	164.8	226.4	75.3	87.5	243.2	66.2	7.2	168.8	268.7	65.1	1,373.1
1994-95	154.6	142.6	61.7	89.3	113.9	122.5	7.5	62.1	371.2	20.4	1,145.9
1995-96	177.8	124.0	69.9	47.9	115.6	118.8	5.7	30.9	242.3	49.4	982.2
1995 Mar. qtr	169.8	171.1	66.8	102.5	167.1	81.0	9.0	77.7	343.5	21.8	1,210.3
June qtr	154.6	142.6	61.7	89.3	113.9	122.5	7.5	62.1	371.2	20.4	1,145.9
Sept. qtr	152.6	136.4	53.5	65.1	94.7	102.0	6.0	45.1	363.6	29.4	1,048.4
Dec. qtr	108.4	117.5	53.3	60.2	92.4	120.6	4.9	36.2	316.0	69.7	979.1
1996 Mar. qtr r	196.0	109.0	65.6	54.1	133.9	103.8	5.1	30.3	350.8	60.0	1,108.7
June qtr	177.8	124.0	69.9	47.9	115.6	118.8	5.7	30.9	242.3	49.4	982.2

**TABLE 15. BUILDING ACTIVITY RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS, JUNE QUARTER 1996  
(Percentage)**

<i>Ownership and stage of construction</i>	<i>New residential building</i>				<i>Value</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total building</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>	<i>Value</i>		
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>						
Commenced	3.1	3.5	2.4	2.7	2.8	1.4
Under construction at end of period	3.4	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.8	1.0
Completed	5.1	5.6	4.6	5.1	5.3	2.3
Value of work done	..	3.2	..	2.6	2.9	1.2
Value of work yet to be done	..	4.4	..	3.0	3.0	1.2
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS</b>						
Commenced	3.0	3.4	2.3	2.6	2.6	1.2
Under construction at end of period	3.4	3.4	2.3	2.2	2.7	0.8
Completed	5.0	5.4	4.4	4.9	5.0	1.7
Value of work done	..	3.1	..	2.4	2.7	1.1
Value of work yet to be done	..	4.4	..	2.8	2.9	1.0



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains detailed results from the quarterly Building Activity Survey. Users should note that data for the latest quarter is subject to revision.

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) A sample survey of private sector house building activity involving new house construction or alterations and additions valued at \$10,000 or more to houses.
- (b) A complete enumeration of jobs involving construction of new residential buildings other than private sector houses, all alterations and additions to residential buildings (other than private sector houses) with an approval value of \$10,000 or more, and all non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 or more.

3. Prior to the September quarter 1990, the cut-off for inclusion of non-residential building jobs (both new and alterations and additions) was \$30,000 or more and prior to the September quarter 1985 it was \$10,000 or more. Care should be taken in interpreting data for specific classes of non-residential building.

4. The use of sample survey techniques in the Building Activity Survey means that reliable estimates of private sector house building activity, including alterations and additions to houses, are available only at the State/Territory and Australia levels with the exception of the Northern Territory. However, dwelling unit commencement data for regions below State level are shown in the monthly series of dwelling unit commencements compiled by State offices of the ABS. Data from this series, unlike those compiled from the Building Activity Survey, are based on information reported by local and other government authorities.

### Scope and coverage

5. The statistics relate to *building* activity which includes construction of new buildings and alterations and additions to existing buildings. Construction activity not defined as building (e.g. construction of roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc.) is excluded.

6. Building jobs included in each quarter in the Building Activity Survey comprise those building jobs selected in previous quarters which have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter and those building jobs newly selected in the current quarter. The population list from which building jobs are selected for inclusion comprises all approved building jobs which were notified to the ABS 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 building 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, building jobs which were notified as approved in the month of June and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the September quarter. Similarly, building jobs which were notified in the month of September and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the December quarter.

### Definitions

7. A *building* is defined as a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock. An integral feature of a building's design, to satisfy its intended use, is the provision for regular access by persons.

8. A *dwelling unit* is defined as a self-contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities and intended for *long-term* residential use. Units (whether self-contained or not) within buildings offering institutional care, such as hospitals, or temporary accommodation such as motels, hostels and holiday apartments, are not defined as dwelling units. The value of units of this type is included in the appropriate category of non-residential building.

9. A *residential building* is defined as a building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. Residential buildings can be either *houses* or *other residential buildings*.

- (a) 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.

- (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 June quarter 1996 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units created as part of alterations and additions to or conversions of existing residential or non-residential buildings and as part of the construction of non-residential building is shown separately in Tables 5, 7, and 9 under the heading of 'Conversions, etc.', and is included in the total number of dwelling units shown in these tables. Previously, such dwellings were only included as a footnote.

11. In addition, the seasonally adjusted estimates for the total number of dwelling units commenced and completed, shown in Table 4, include these conversions, etc. Previously, only dwelling units created as part of the construction of new residential buildings were included in these estimates.

12. *Commenced*. A building job is regarded as commenced when the first physical building activity has been performed on site in the form of materials fixed in place and/or labour expended (this includes site preparation but excludes delivery of building materials, the drawing of plans and specifications and the construction of non-building infrastructures such as roads).

13. *Under construction*. A building job is regarded as being under construction at the end of a period if it has been commenced but has not been completed, and work on it has not been abandoned.

14. *Completed*. A building job is 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

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

- (a) *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.
- (b) *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.
- (c) *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.
- (d) *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

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

17. *Functional classification of buildings.* A building is classified according to its intended major function. Hence, a building which is ancillary to other buildings or forms a part of a group of related buildings is classified to the function of the building and not to the function of the group as a whole. An example of this can be seen in the treatment of building work approved for a factory complex. In this case a detached administration building would be classified to Offices, a detached cafeteria building to Shops, while factory buildings would be classified to Factories. An exception to this rule is the treatment of group accommodation buildings where, for example, a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.

18. Examples of the types of buildings included under each main functional heading are shown in the following list.

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

- (e) *Factories.* Includes paper mills, oil refinery buildings, brickworks, foundries, powerhouses, manufacturing laboratories, workshops as part of a manufacturing process.
- (f) *Offices.* Includes banks, post offices, council chambers, head and regional offices.
- (g) *Other business premises.* Includes warehouses, storage depots, service stations, transport depots and terminals, electricity sub-station buildings, pumping station buildings, telephone exchanges, mail sorting centres, broadcasting stations, film studios.
- (h) *Educational.* Includes schools, colleges, kindergartens, libraries, museums, art galleries, research and teaching laboratories, theological colleges.
- (i) *Religious.* Includes churches, chapels, temples.
- (j) *Health.* Includes hospitals, nursing homes, surgeries, clinics, medical centres.
- (k) *Entertainment and recreational.* Includes clubs, theatres, cinemas, public halls, gymnasiums, grandstands, squash courts, sports and recreation centres.
- (l) *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) are derived from information obtained from a sample of approved building jobs, they are subject to sampling error; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if information for all approved jobs for the relevant period had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of approved jobs was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all approved jobs had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of sampling variability is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard errors of estimates provide an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and are shown in Table 15.

20. An example of the use of relative standard errors is as follows. Assume that the estimate of the number of new private sector houses commenced during the latest quarter is 2,000 (for actual estimate see Table 5) and that the associated relative standard error is 2.5 per cent (for actual percentage see Table 15). There would then be about two chances in three that the number which would have been obtained if information had been collected about all approved private sector house jobs would have been within the range 1,950 to 2,050 (2.5 per cent of 2,000 is 50) and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number would have been within the range 1,900 to 2,100.

21. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the relative standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of inadequacies in the source of building approval information, imperfections in reporting by respondents, and errors made in the coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as

non-sampling error, and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by the careful design of questionnaires, efforts to obtain responses for all selected building jobs, and efficient operating procedures.

### Seasonal adjustment

22. Seasonally adjusted building statistics are shown in Tables 2 to 4. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and trading day effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the quarter) and the effect of the movement in the date of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different quarters. Further information about seasonal adjustment can be obtained from the Assistant Director of Time Series Analysis, Canberra, on (06) 252 6345.

23. Since seasonally adjusted statistics reflect both irregular and trend movements, an upward or downward movement in a seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily indicate a change of trend. Particular care should therefore be taken in interpreting individual quarter to quarter movements. Each of the component series shown has been seasonally adjusted independently. As a consequence, while the unadjusted components in the original series shown add to the totals, the adjusted components may not add to the adjusted totals. Further, the difference between independently seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily produce series which are optimal or even adequate adjustments of the similarly derived original series. Thus the figures which can be derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted private sector dwelling units from the seasonally adjusted total should not be used to represent seasonally adjusted public sector dwelling units.

### Estimates at constant prices

24. Estimates of the value of commencements and work done at average 1989-90 prices are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Constant price estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates in this publication are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwellings and non-dwelling construction components of the national accounts aggregate 'Gross fixed capital expenditure'.

25. 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).

26. The factors used to seasonally adjust the constant price series are identical to those used to adjust the corresponding current price series.

### Unpublished data and related publications

27. 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, data can be provided in the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, computer printout, floppy disk and clerically extracted tabulation. Inquiries should be made to Information Inquiries on Melbourne (03) 9615 7755 or any ABS State office.

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

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0) – issued monthly  
*Building Approvals, Victoria* (8731.2) – issued monthly  
*Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Victoria* (8741.2) – issued monthly  
*Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0) – issued quarterly  
*Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) – issued quarterly  
*Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0) – issued monthly

29. 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

.. not applicable  
 — nil or rounded to zero  
 r figure or series revised since previous issue

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

**STUART JACKSON**  
 Regional Director

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