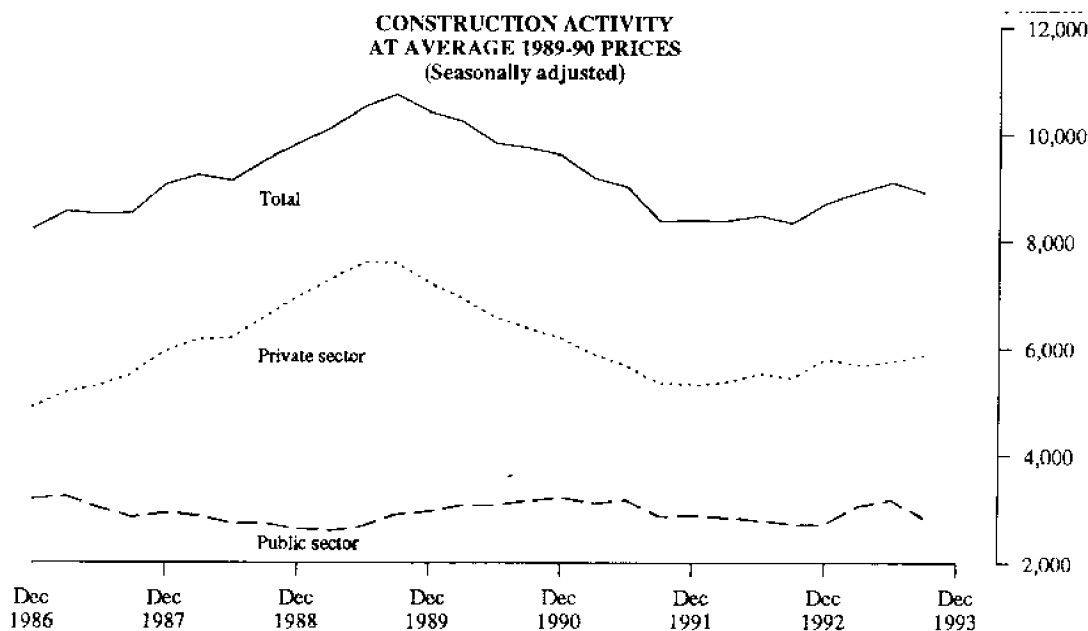


**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA  
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**



**Quarterly Construction Activity — Seasonally adjusted, at average 1989-90 prices**

Total construction activity decreased by 2.2 per cent in the September quarter 1993, following three consecutive quarters of growth. The fall in the September quarter 1993 was attributable to a decline in public sector construction activity, which fell by 10.6 per cent. Private sector construction activity rose by 2.3 per cent.

Residential building activity grew by 4.5 per cent in the September quarter 1993. This series has increased in every quarter since the September quarter 1991 and over that period has grown by 35.4 per cent. Current levels of residential building activity are now only one per cent below the June quarter 1989 estimate, the highest quarterly estimate since the start of the building activity survey in the September quarter 1976. In addition, residential building comprised 45.2 per cent of total

construction activity in the September quarter 1993, the highest proportion since the compilation of a total construction series began in the September quarter 1986.

Non-residential building activity recorded a 0.3 per cent decrease in the September quarter 1993, following a 9.0 per cent decline in the June quarter 1993. Non-residential building activity in the September quarter 1993, was 2.8 per cent below the September quarter 1992 level and 45 per cent below the peak of activity recorded in the September quarter 1989.

Engineering construction activity fell by 12.0 per cent in the September quarter 1993, following a 14.5 per cent growth to record levels in the June quarter 1993. Despite this, engineering construction in the September quarter 1993 remained 11.8 per cent above the level of activity recorded twelve months earlier.

**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Paul Seville on Canberra (06) 252 6067 or any ABS State Office
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

**Private sector activity**

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989-90 prices, private sector construction activity increased by 2.3 per cent in the September quarter 1993. A 4.9 per cent rise in residential building activity more than offset falls of 2.6 per cent in non-residential building activity and 0.8 per cent in engineering construction activity. Total private sector construction activity in the September quarter 1993 was 8.1 per cent above the level of activity recorded twelve months earlier.

**Public sector activity**

In seasonally adjusted terms, at average 1989-90 prices, public sector construction activity fell by 10.6 per cent in the September quarter 1993. Engineering construction activity, which generally accounts for about two thirds of all total public sector construction activity, fell by 15.7 per cent during the September quarter 1993. Non-residential building activity rose by 5.5 per cent in the September quarter 1993, while residential building activity (by far the smallest component) fell by 10.2 per cent. Total public sector construction activity in the September quarter 1993 remained 4.6 per cent above the level of activity recorded twelve months earlier.

**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES,  
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993 (Seasonally adjusted)**

	<i>% Changes from previous quarter</i>		
	<i>Private sector construction</i>	<i>Public sector construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
<i>Construction activity</i>			
<b>Building</b>			
Residential	4.9	-10.2	4.5
Non-residential	-2.6	5.5	-0.3
<i>Total building</i>	3.5	3.8	3.1
Engineering constructio	-0.8	-15.7	-12.0
<i>Total non-residential construction</i>	-2.0	-10.6	-7.1
<b>Total construction</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

TABLE 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	3,226	2,530	5,738	2,630	5,160	8,386
1992 Mar. qtr	3,269	2,558	5,804	2,544	5,102	8,371
June qtr	3,453	2,445	5,915	2,589	5,034	8,487
Sept. qtr	3,667	2,277	5,967	2,391	4,668	8,335
Dec. qtr	3,815	2,362	6,155	2,536	4,898	8,713
1993 Mar. qtr	3,820	2,439	6,245	2,653	5,092	8,912
June qtr	3,854	2,219	6,082	3,037	5,255	9,110
Sept. qtr	4,028	2,212	6,268	2,672	4,884	8,912
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	8.4	-11.0	-1.7	3.0	-4.4	0.2
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	1.1	1.2	-3.2	-1.1	-0.2
June qtr	5.6	-4.4	1.9	1.8	-1.3	1.4
Sept. qtr	6.2	-6.9	0.9	-7.6	-7.3	-1.8
Dec. qtr	4.0	3.8	3.2	6.0	4.9	4.5
1993 Mar. qtr	0.1	3.3	1.5	4.6	4.0	2.3
June qtr	0.9	-9.0	-2.6	14.5	3.2	2.2
Sept. qtr	4.5	-0.3	3.1	-12.0	-7.1	-2.2
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-1.2	-28.8	-15.6	-5.5	-18.6	-12.7
1992 Mar. qtr	2.6	-21.7	-10.2	-6.7	-14.9	-8.8
June qtr	12.0	-22.1	-4.6	-7.1	-15.0	-5.8
Sept. qtr	23.2	-19.9	2.2	-6.4	-13.5	-0.4
Dec. qtr	18.2	-6.6	7.3	-3.6	-5.1	3.9
1993 Mar. qtr	16.9	-4.6	7.6	4.3	-0.2	6.5
June qtr	11.6	-9.3	2.8	17.3	4.4	7.3
Sept. qtr	9.8	-2.8	5.0	11.7	4.6	6.9

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
(Seasonally adjusted)

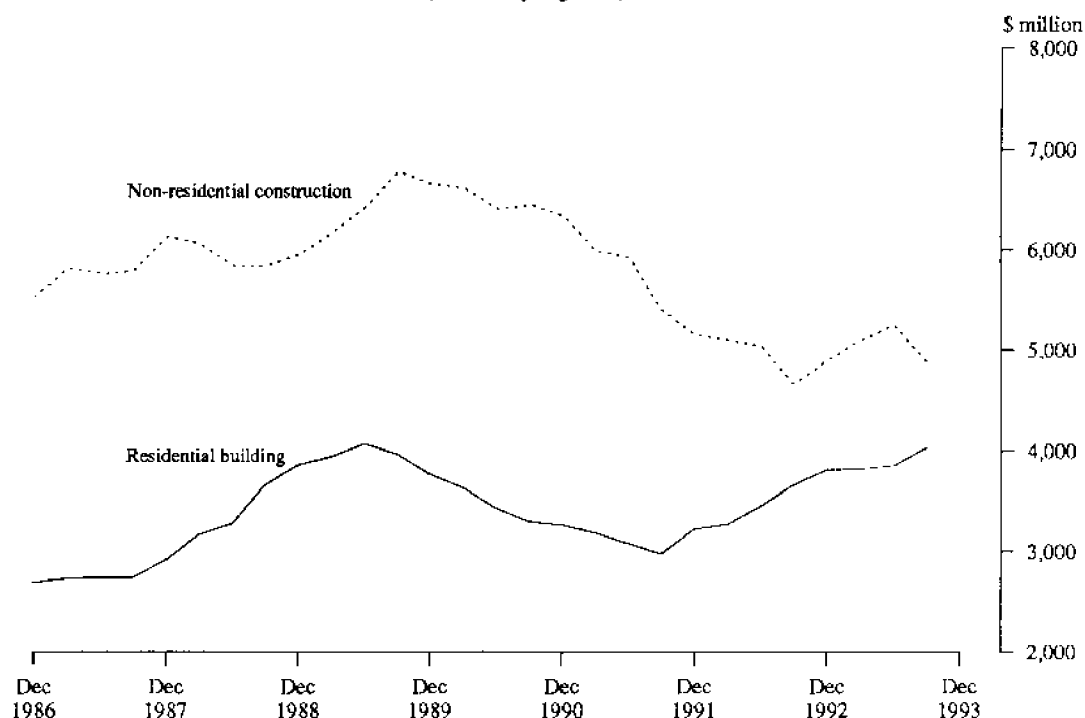


TABLE 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	3,036	1,683	4,710	732	2,414	5,450
1992 Mar. qtr	3,061	1,714	4,786	721	2,435	5,496
June qtr	3,276	1,671	4,929	717	2,388	5,664
Sept. qtr	3,397	1,536	4,948	645	2,181	5,578
Dec. qtr	3,646	1,626	5,262	669	2,295	5,941
1993 Mar. qtr	3,641	1,494	5,151	692	2,186	5,828
June qtr	3,650	1,496	5,124	750	2,246	5,896
Sept. qtr	3,828	1,457	5,302	745	2,201	6,029
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	6.4	-10.0	-0.6	-2.8	-7.9	-0.5
1992 Mar. qtr	0.9	1.9	1.6	-1.4	0.9	0.9
June qtr	7.0	-2.5	3.0	-0.6	-1.9	3.1
Sept. qtr	3.7	-8.1	0.4	-10.0	-8.7	-1.5
Dec. qtr	7.3	5.8	6.3	3.7	5.2	6.5
1993 Mar. qtr	-0.1	-8.1	-2.1	3.5	-4.7	-1.9
June qtr	0.2	0.1	-0.5	8.4	2.7	1.2
Sept. qtr	4.9	-2.6	3.5	-0.8	-2.0	2.3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-0.6	-34.3	-16.0	0.5	-26.6	-14.1
1992 Mar. qtr	1.3	-24.7	-9.8	-1.4	-19.0	-8.8
June qtr	13.3	-22.1	-1.9	-7.0	-18.1	-2.5
Sept. qtr	19.1	-17.8	4.5	-14.3	-16.8	1.9
Dec. qtr	20.1	-3.4	11.7	-8.5	-4.9	9.0
1993 Mar. qtr	18.9	-12.8	7.6	-4.0	-10.2	6.0
June qtr	11.4	-10.5	3.9	4.7	-5.9	4.1
Sept. qtr	12.7	-5.2	7.1	15.5	0.9	8.1

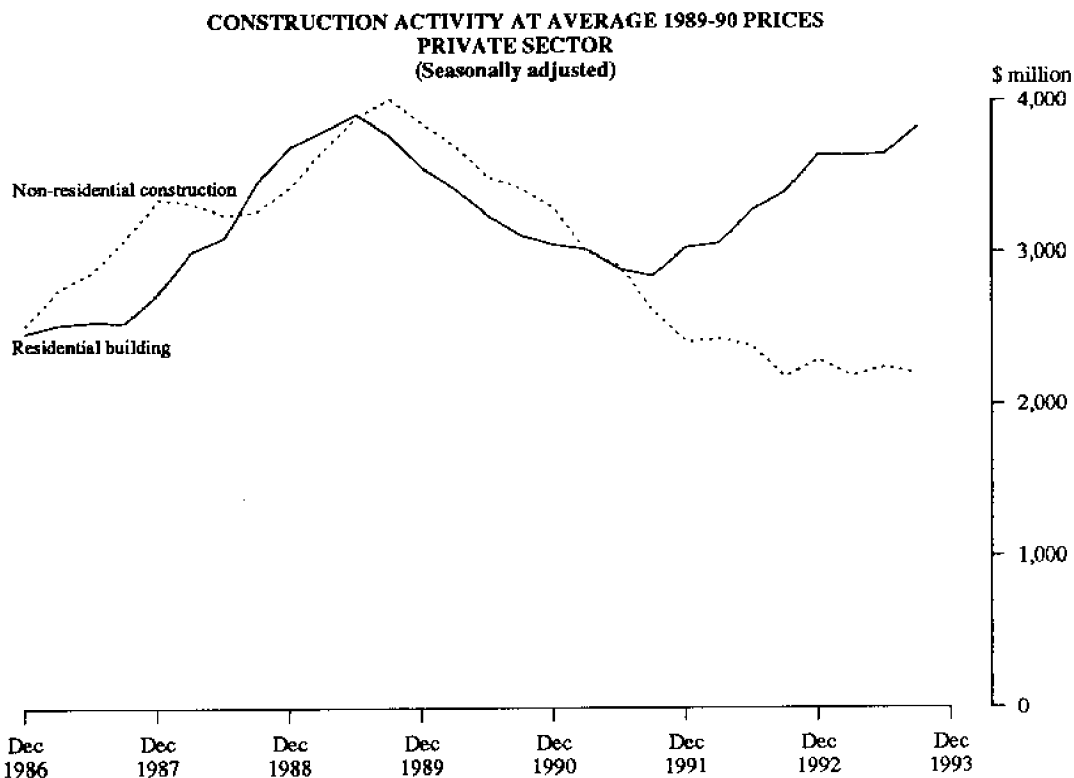


TABLE 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA  $\text{r}$

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	180	848	1,029	1,898	2,746	2,926
1992 Mar. qtr	210	844	1,052	1,823	2,667	2,877
June qtr	189	771	954	1,872	2,644	2,833
Sept. qtr	266	744	1,020	1,746	2,490	2,756
Dec. qtr	159	737	896	1,867	2,603	2,762
1993 Mar. qtr	181	953	1,129	1,960	2,913	3,094
June qtr	220	719	928	2,286	3,006	3,226
Sept. qtr	198	759	964	1,927	2,686	2,884
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	49.9	-13.5	-6.9	5.4	-1.3	0.8
1992 Mar. qtr	16.6	-0.5	2.3	-3.9	-2.9	-1.7
June qtr	-10.2	-8.6	-9.3	2.7	-0.9	-1.6
Sept. qtr	40.8	-3.5	6.9	-6.7	-5.8	-2.7
Dec. qtr	-40.2	-1.0	-12.1	6.9	4.5	0.2
1993 Mar. qtr	13.5	29.3	25.9	5.0	11.9	12.0
June qtr	22.0	-24.5	-17.7	16.6	3.2	4.3
Sept. qtr	-10.2	5.5	3.8	-15.7	-10.6	-10.6
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-11.1	-14.6	-14.0	-7.6	-9.9	-10.0
1992 Mar. qtr	26.3	-14.4	-8.3	-8.7	-10.5	-8.6
June qtr	-6.6	-22.0	-19.6	-7.1	-12.0	-11.7
Sept. qtr	121.0	-24.1	-7.7	-3.1	-10.5	-5.0
Dec. qtr	-11.8	-13.1	-12.9	-1.6	-5.2	-5.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-14.2	12.9	7.3	7.5	9.2	7.5
June qtr	16.5	-6.7	-2.6	22.1	13.7	13.9
Sept. qtr	-25.6	2.1	-5.5	10.4	7.9	4.6

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
PUBLIC SECTOR  
(Seasonally adjusted)

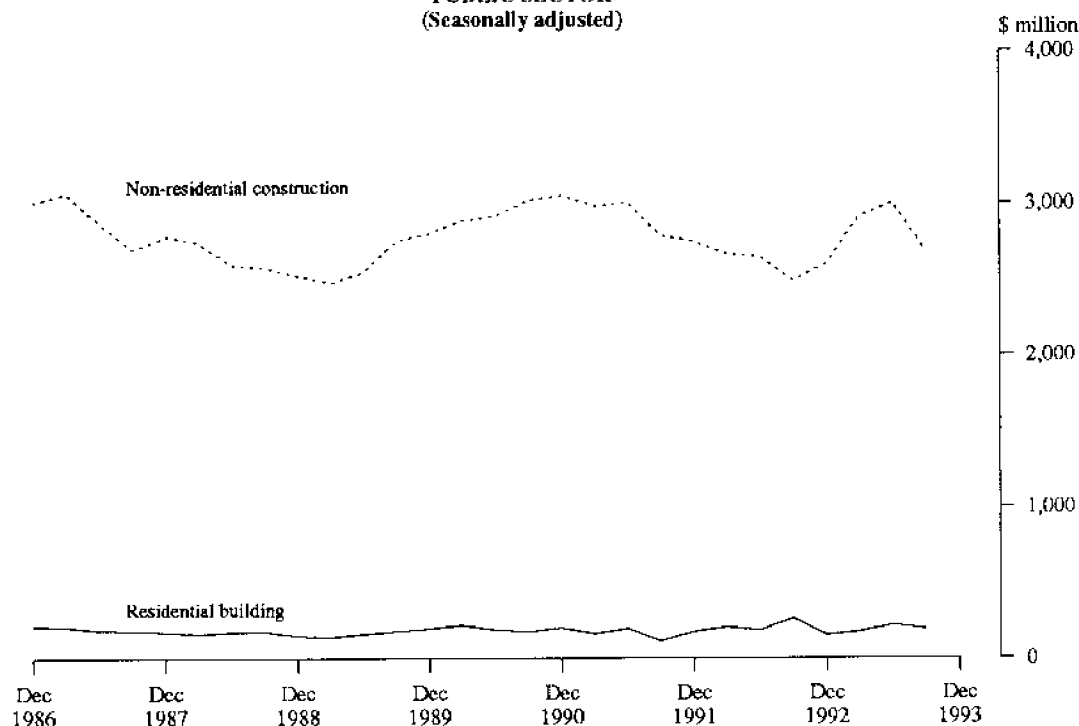


TABLE 4. ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, AUSTRALIA r

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	13,034	8,494	21,528	12,683	21,177	34,211
1982-83	9,940	7,219	17,158	13,130	20,349	30,288
1983-84	11,091	7,914	19,006	10,920	18,835	29,926
1984-85	12,568	9,213	21,780	10,643	19,856	32,423
1985-86	12,449	11,175	23,623	10,706	21,881	34,330
1986-87	10,966	12,128	23,094	(a)10,699	(a)22,826	(a)33,792
1987-88	12,071	13,906	25,977	9,884	23,790	35,861
1988-89	15,511	14,590	30,101	9,798	24,388	39,899
1989-90	14,802	15,548	30,350	10,929	26,477	41,279
1990-91	12,835	13,588	26,423	11,137	24,725	37,559
1991-92	12,909	10,386	23,295	10,329	20,714	33,623
1992-93	15,150	9,285	24,435	10,651	19,936	35,086
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-2.7	-2.0	-2.4	20.2	10.1	4.9
1982-83	-23.7	-15.0	-20.3	3.5	-3.9	-11.5
1983-84	11.6	9.6	10.8	-16.8	-7.4	-1.2
1984-85	13.3	16.4	14.6	-2.5	5.4	8.3
1985-86	-0.9	21.3	8.5	0.6	10.2	5.9
1986-87	-11.9	8.5	-2.2	-0.1	4.3	-1.6
1987-88	10.1	14.7	12.5	-7.6	4.2	6.1
1988-89	28.5	4.9	15.9	-0.9	2.5	11.3
1989-90	-4.6	6.6	0.8	11.5	8.6	3.5
1990-91	-13.3	-12.6	-12.9	1.9	-6.6	-9.0
1991-92	0.6	-23.6	-11.8	-7.3	-16.2	-10.5
1992-93	17.4	-10.6	4.9	3.1	-3.8	4.3
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	3,387	2,638	6,025	2,678	5,316	8,702
1992 Mar. qtr	3,040	2,335	5,375	2,388	4,723	7,763
June qtr	3,416	2,476	5,892	2,746	5,222	8,638
Sept. qtr	3,782	2,346	6,128	2,347	4,693	8,475
Dec. qtr	4,001	2,462	6,463	2,574	5,036	9,037
1993 Mar. qtr	3,556	2,228	5,783	2,495	4,723	8,279
June qtr	3,812	2,249	6,061	3,235	5,484	9,296
Sept. qtr	4,155	2,277	6,433	2,627	4,905	9,060
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	10.4	-10.1	0.4	6.3	-2.5	2.1
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.2	-11.5	-10.8	-10.8	-11.1	-10.8
June qtr	12.4	6.0	9.6	15.0	10.6	11.3
Sept. qtr	10.7	-5.3	4.0	-14.5	-10.1	-1.9
Dec. qtr	5.8	5.0	5.5	9.7	7.3	6.6
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.1	-9.5	-10.5	-3.0	-6.2	-8.4
June qtr	7.2	1.0	4.8	29.6	16.1	12.3
Sept. qtr	9.0	1.3	6.1	-18.8	-10.6	-2.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-1.4	-28.8	-15.6	-5.5	-18.7	-12.7
1992 Mar. qtr	2.7	-21.7	-9.5	-6.4	-14.6	-8.6
June qtr	11.9	-21.9	-5.3	-7.3	-14.9	-6.0
Sept. qtr	23.3	-20.1	2.1	-6.8	-14.0	-0.5
Dec. qtr	18.1	-6.7	7.3	-3.9	-5.3	3.8
1993 Mar. qtr	17.0	-4.6	7.6	4.5	0.0	6.6
June qtr	11.6	-9.2	2.9	17.8	5.0	7.6
Sept. qtr	9.9	-2.9	5.0	12.0	4.5	6.9

(a) For explanatory of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 5. ORIGINAL PRIVATE SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA ₣

Period	Residential building	Non-residential building	Total building	Engineering construction	Non-residential construction	Total construction
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	12,480	6,055	18,535	3,154	9,209	21,689
1982-83	9,294	4,986	14,280	3,357	8,343	17,637
1983-84	10,277	5,025	15,302	2,147	7,172	17,449
1984-85	11,753	6,164	17,917	1,962	8,126	19,879
1985-86	11,562	7,803	19,364	2,209	10,011	21,573
1986-87	10,111	8,164	18,275	(a)2,623	(a)10,787	(a)20,898
1987-88	11,359	10,081	21,440	2,929	13,009	24,369
1988-89	14,865	11,254	26,119	3,011	14,264	29,129
1989-90	14,010	12,000	26,010	3,107	15,107	29,116
1990-91	12,084	9,689	21,773	2,986	12,675	24,759
1991-92	12,215	6,945	19,160	2,923	9,868	22,083
1992-93	14,326	6,159	20,484	2,751	8,910	23,235
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-2.1	3.4	-0.4	45.4	14.7	4.4
1982-83	-25.5	-17.7	-23.0	6.4	-9.4	-18.7
1983-84	10.6	0.8	7.2	-36.0	-14.0	-1.1
1984-85	14.4	22.7	17.1	-8.6	13.3	13.9
1985-86	-1.6	26.6	8.1	12.6	23.2	8.5
1986-87	-12.5	4.6	-5.6	18.8	7.8	-3.1
1987-88	12.3	23.5	17.3	11.6	20.6	16.6
1988-89	30.9	11.6	21.8	2.8	9.6	19.5
1989-90	-5.8	6.6	-0.4	3.2	5.9	0.0
1990-91	-13.7	-19.3	-16.3	-3.9	-16.1	-15.0
1991-92	1.1	-28.3	-12.0	-2.1	-22.1	-10.8
1992-93	17.3	-11.3	6.9	-5.9	-9.7	5.2
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	3,188	1,752	4,940	785	2,537	5,725
1992 Mar. qtr	2,846	1,590	4,437	683	2,274	5,120
June qtr	3,242	1,661	4,902	684	2,345	5,587
Sept. qtr	3,502	1,592	5,094	661	2,253	5,755
Dec. qtr	3,825	1,692	5,517	718	2,410	6,235
1993 Mar. qtr	3,389	1,387	4,776	655	2,042	5,431
June qtr	3,609	1,488	5,097	717	2,205	5,814
Sept. qtr	3,948	1,508	5,455	763	2,271	6,219
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	8.4	-9.8	1.2	1.8	-6.5	1.3
1992 Mar. qtr	-10.7	-9.2	-10.2	-12.9	-10.4	-10.6
June qtr	13.9	4.4	10.5	0.1	3.1	9.1
Sept. qtr	8.0	-4.2	3.9	-3.4	-3.9	3.0
Dec. qtr	9.2	6.3	8.3	8.6	7.0	8.3
1993 Mar. qtr	-11.4	-18.0	-13.4	-8.7	-15.3	-12.9
June qtr	6.5	7.3	6.7	9.4	8.0	7.1
Sept. qtr	9.4	1.3	7.0	6.5	3.0	7.0
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-0.7	-34.4	-16.0	0.5	-26.5	-14.1
1992 Mar. qtr	1.4	-24.6	-9.8	-1.5	-18.9	-8.7
June qtr	13.2	-22.0	-1.8	-6.9	-18.1	-2.5
Sept. qtr	19.1	-18.0	4.4	-14.2	-17.0	1.8
Dec. qtr	20.0	-3.4	11.7	-8.6	-5.0	8.9
1993 Mar. qtr	19.1	-12.8	7.6	-4.2	-10.2	6.1
June qtr	11.3	-10.4	4.0	4.8	-6.0	4.1
Sept. qtr	12.7	-5.3	7.1	15.5	0.8	8.1

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. ORIGINAL PUBLIC SECTOR ESTIMATES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES  
AUSTRALIA r

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
ANNUAL ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1981-82	554	2,439	2,993	9,529	11,968	12,522
1982-83	645	2,233	2,878	9,773	12,006	12,651
1983-84	815	2,889	3,704	8,773	11,662	12,477
1984-85	815	3,049	3,864	8,681	11,730	12,545
1985-86	887	3,372	4,259	8,498	11,870	12,757
1986-87	856	3,963	4,819	(a)8,075	(a)12,039	(a)12,894
1987-88	712	3,825	4,537	6,956	10,781	11,493
1988-89	645	3,337	3,982	6,788	10,124	10,770
1989-90	793	3,548	4,341	7,822	11,370	12,163
1990-91	751	3,899	4,650	8,151	12,050	12,801
1991-92	694	3,441	4,135	7,405	10,846	11,540
1992-93	825	3,126	3,951	7,900	11,026	11,851
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR						
1981-82	-14.7	-13.3	-13.6	13.6	6.9	5.7
1982-83	16.5	-8.4	-3.8	2.6	0.3	1.0
1983-84	26.2	29.4	28.7	-10.2	-2.9	-1.4
1984-85	0.0	5.5	4.3	-1.1	0.6	0.5
1985-86	8.9	10.6	10.2	-2.1	1.2	1.7
1986-87	-3.6	17.5	13.1	-5.0	1.4	1.1
1987-88	-16.8	-3.5	-5.8	-13.9	-10.4	-10.9
1988-89	-9.4	-12.8	-12.2	-2.4	-6.1	-6.3
1989-90	22.8	6.3	9.0	15.2	12.3	12.9
1990-91	-5.3	9.9	7.1	4.2	6.0	5.2
1991-92	-7.6	-11.7	-11.1	-9.2	-10.0	-9.8
1992-93	18.8	-9.1	-4.4	6.7	1.7	2.7
QUARTERLY ESTIMATES (\$m)						
1991 Dec. qtr	199	886	1,085	1,893	2,779	2,978
1992 Mar. qtr	194	745	939	1,704	2,449	2,643
June qtr	174	816	990	2,061	2,877	3,051
Sept. qtr	280	754	1,034	1,686	2,440	2,720
Dec. qtr	176	770	946	1,856	2,626	2,802
1993 Mar. qtr	167	841	1,007	1,840	2,681	2,848
June qtr	202	761	964	2,518	3,279	3,482
Sept. qtr	208	770	977	1,864	2,634	2,841
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	56.8	-10.9	-3.2	8.3	1.4	3.8
1992 Mar. qtr	-2.8	-15.9	-13.5	-9.9	-11.9	-11.2
June qtr	10.0	9.5	5.5	20.9	17.5	15.4
Sept. qtr	60.5	-7.5	4.5	-18.2	-15.2	-10.9
Dec. qtr	-37.1	2.1	-8.5	10.1	7.6	3.0
1993 Mar. qtr	-5.3	9.1	6.4	-0.8	2.1	1.6
June qtr	21.4	-9.4	-4.3	36.8	22.3	22.3
Sept. qtr	2.5	1.1	1.4	-26.0	-19.7	-18.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	-10.6	-14.5	-13.9	-7.7	-10.0	-10.1
1992 Mar. qtr	27.1	-14.5	-8.3	-8.2	-10.2	-8.2
June qtr	-7.1	-21.9	-19.7	-7.5	-12.1	-11.8
Sept. qtr	120.2	-24.1	-7.8	-3.5	-11.0	-5.2
Dec. qtr	-11.6	-13.1	-12.8	-1.9	-5.5	-5.9
1993 Mar. qtr	-13.9	12.8	7.3	8.0	9.5	7.7
June qtr	16.2	6.7	-2.6	22.2	14.0	14.1
Sept. qtr	-25.8	2.0	-5.5	10.6	7.9	4.5

(a) For explanation of series break, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.



TABLE 7. IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATORS, AUSTRALIA r

<i>Period</i>	<i>Residential building</i>	<i>Non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>	<i>Engineering construction</i>	<i>Non-residential construction</i>	<i>Total construction</i>
(1989-90 equals 100.0)						
1991 Dec. qtr	103.5	96.0	100.4	107.4	104.1	104.0
1992 Mar. qtr	103.1	94.5	99.6	107.6	104.4	104.0
June qtr	103.0	93.4	99.2	107.7	102.2	102.7
Sept. qtr	102.5	94.4	99.7	107.8	103.4	103.2
Dec. qtr	103.2	94.1	99.9	108.0	104.2	103.9
1993 Mar. qtr	103.1	93.6	99.7	108.3	101.3	102.2
June qtr	103.4	93.0	99.7	108.6	100.3	101.7
Sept. qtr	103.5	93.7	100.2	108.2	101.1	102.4
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS QUARTER						
1991 Dec. qtr	-0.5	-1.8	-0.7	0.6	-0.2	-0.3
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.4	-1.6	-0.8	0.2	0.3	0.0
June qtr	-0.1	-1.2	-0.4	0.1	-2.1	-1.3
Sept. qtr	-0.5	1.1	0.5	0.1	1.2	0.5
Dec. qtr	0.7	-0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.7
1993 Mar. qtr	-0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.3	-2.8	-1.6
June qtr	0.3	-0.6	0.0	0.3	-1.0	-0.5
Sept. qtr	0.1	0.8	0.5	-0.4	0.8	0.7
PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER SAME QUARTER OF PREVIOUS YEAR						
1991 Dec. qtr	0.0	-5.7	-2.2	2.4	-1.1	-0.7
1992 Mar. qtr	-0.6	-6.4	-2.8	2.1	-0.8	-0.7
June qtr	-1.0	-6.0	-2.6	1.9	-2.0	-1.5
Sept. qtr	-1.4	-3.5	-1.4	0.9	-0.9	-1.1
Dec. qtr	-0.3	-2.0	-0.5	0.6	0.1	-0.1
1993 Mar. qtr	0.0	-1.0	0.1	0.7	-3.0	-1.7
June qtr	0.4	-0.4	0.5	0.8	-1.9	-1.0
Sept. qtr	1.0	-0.7	0.5	0.4	-2.2	-0.8

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication contains constant price estimates of the level of construction activity in Australia. It also contains implicit price deflators derived from these estimates. The estimates provide a measure (in 'real' terms) of residential building, non-residential building, total building, engineering construction, non-residential construction and total construction activity for the private and public sectors.

2. The estimates are compiled from results of the ABS surveys of Building Activity (BACS), Construction Other than Building (COTB), Engineering Construction (ECS) and from government finance data.

3. The engineering construction estimates for quarters back to and including September 1986 were compiled from the ECS which covers both the private and public sectors. For earlier quarters, activity for the private sector has been extrapolated backwards using the results from the COTB which was limited to jobs valued at \$100,000 or more undertaken by private contractors. However, no equivalent extrapolation could be done for work undertaken by the public sector, and it was necessary to use government finance data. Hence there is a break in the continuity of the series.

### Scope and coverage

4. The estimates relate to construction activity which includes construction of new buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings and engineering construction activity (roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc). The estimates measure total activity on construction rather than the output of the Construction industry (i.e. the value of construction activity undertaken by businesses classified to industries other than Construction is included and non-construction activity of businesses in the Construction industry is excluded).

5. The building estimates relate to:

- (a) construction of new residential buildings and all alterations and additions to residential buildings with an approval value of \$10,000 or more; and
- (b) all non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 or more.

6. From the September quarter 1990, only non-residential building jobs with an approval value of \$50,000 (previously \$30,000) or more are included. For more details on the effect of the new cut-offs on specific classes of non-residential building (in current price terms) please refer to *Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) for the September quarter 1990.

7. The engineering construction estimates relate to engineering construction work undertaken in Australia.

8. The cost of land is excluded. Repair and maintenance activity is excluded.

### Definitions

9. 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, with provision for regular access by persons.

10. *Residential building* is defined as building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. A dwelling unit is defined as a self-contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities, 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, but are included in non-residential building.

11. *Non-residential building* is defined as building other than residential building and includes hotels, shops, factories, offices etc.

12. *Engineering construction* is defined as construction other than building and includes roads, bridges, railways, harbours, water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage, electricity generation, pipelines, telecommunications etc.

13. *Non-residential construction* is the sum of non-residential building and engineering construction.

### Valuation of jobs

14. Value of work done during the period represents the estimated value of building or engineering construction work actually carried out during the quarter on jobs which have commenced.

### Classification

15. *Ownership*. The ownership of construction work is classified as either public sector or private sector according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed work 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.

### Seasonal adjustment

16. Details of methods used in seasonally adjusting original series are available on request.

17. Large fluctuations in series as a result of irregular influences are not removed by seasonal adjustment, and particular care should be taken in interpreting individual quarter-to-quarter movements.

### Estimates at constant prices

18. 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 'Private gross fixed capital expenditure'.

19. 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 Section 4 of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

### Implicit price deflators

20. Implicit price deflators provide an estimate of the price change between the base period of the relevant constant price estimate (currently 1989-90) and any other period, and use the quantity weights of this latter period. An implicit price deflator is obtained by dividing a current price value by its corresponding constant price value. Thus implicit price deflators are derived measures (hence the term 'implicit') and at the level of published aggregates are not normally the direct measure of price changes by which components of current price estimates are converted to estimates at constant prices.

### Interpretation and analysis

21. Care should be exercised when interpreting quarter-to-quarter movements in the estimates as short term movements do not necessarily indicate a change in trend.

22. Estimates for financial years are simple aggregates of quarterly estimates. All estimates for the current quarter and preceding quarter are preliminary and subject to revision. However, it may be necessary from time to time to revise estimates for earlier periods.

### Related publications

23. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which contain statistics relating to building and construction:

*Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (5206.0) — issued quarterly.

*Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0) — issued monthly.

*Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0) — issued quarterly.

*Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0) — issued quarterly.

*Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (8762.0) — 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 Tuesday and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

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- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- . . not applicable
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- break in continuity of series (where drawn between two consecutive figures in the same column)

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

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