

BUILDING ACTIVITY NORTHERN TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 29 APR 1998

DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES (a)	Dec qtr 97 \$m	Sep qtr 97 to Dec qtr 97 % change	Dec qtr 96 to Dec qtr 97 % change
Value of work done	86.6	-3.2	-13.1
New residential building	40.7	-4.9	20.1
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	3.5	-14.6	-10.3
Non-residential building	42.4	-0.5	-31.4

(a) At average 1989-90 prices.

DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS**VALUE OF WORK DONE****ORIGINAL ESTIMATES AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES**

- The value of new residential building work done during the December quarter 1997 fell by 4.9% to \$40.7m, but was still 20.1% above the December quarter 1996. While work done on new other residential dwellings rose by 4.2% during the latest quarter to \$17.4m, work done on new houses fell by 10.7% to \$23.3m.
- Work done on non-residential building fell only marginally to \$42.4m during the December quarter, but was 31.4% below the December quarter 1996.
- The total value of building work done fell by 3.2% to \$86.6m.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

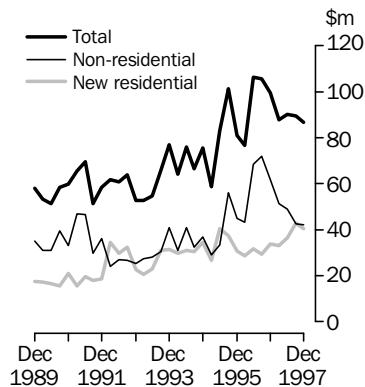
- Work done during the quarter fell by 3.9% to \$109.7m, with total residential building falling by 6.5% to \$60.8m and non-residential building falling by 0.6% to \$49.0m.

VALUE OF WORK YET TO BE DONE**ORIGINAL ESTIMATES**

- Work yet to be done on jobs under construction at the end of December 1997 fell by 15.7% to \$93.0m. This was 0.85 times the value of work done for the quarter.

Value of work done

At average 1989-90 prices



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Martin Yard on Adelaide 08 8237 7494, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

RELEASE DATE

March 1998

31 July 1998

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There have been some changes to the layout of the publication, however the tables are unchanged.

SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS THIS ISSUE

The total number of dwelling units commenced during the September quarter 1997 has been revised upwards by 77 (18.6%).

The total value of residential building work commenced during the quarter has been revised upwards by \$8.1m (13.9%).

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

— nil or rounded to zero

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

Dan Black
Acting Regional Director
Northern Territory

VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED

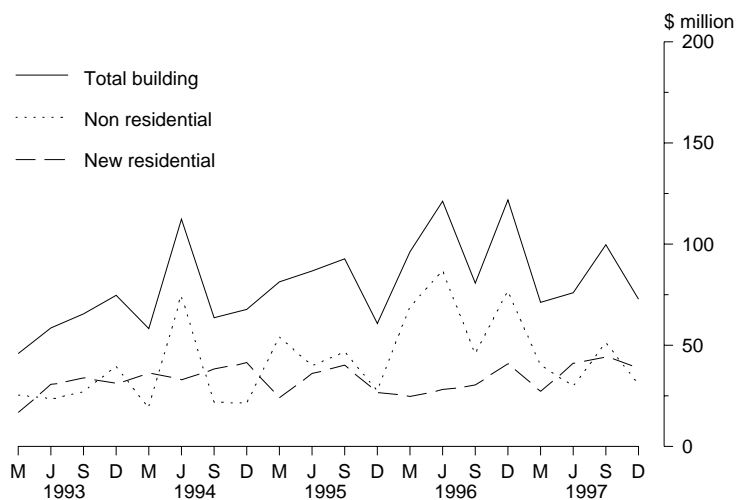
AVERAGE 1989–90 PRICES, ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Dec qtr 97 \$m	Change	Change
		Sep qtr 97 to Dec qtr 97 %	Dec qtr 96 to Dec qtr 97 %
Value of work commenced(a)	72.8	-27.1	-40.4
New residential building	38.9	-12.8	-4.9
Alterations and additions to residential buildings	3.0	-21.1	-30.2
Non-residential building	30.9	-40.0	-59.8

(a) At average 1989–90 prices.

- The value of new residential building work commenced during the December quarter fell by 12.8% to \$38.9m. New houses fell by 16.8% to \$22.3m and other residential buildings fell by 6.7% to \$16.6m.
- Commencements of non-residential buildings fell by 40.0% to \$30.9m, following a rise of 72.8% in the September quarter.
- The total value of all building work commenced during the quarter fell by 27.1% to \$72.8m.

Value of work commenced at average 1989–90 prices



ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- The total value of building work commenced during the December quarter fell by 26.3% to \$92.4m. Total residential building fell by 14.4% to \$56.7m and non-residential building fell by 39.6% to \$35.7m.

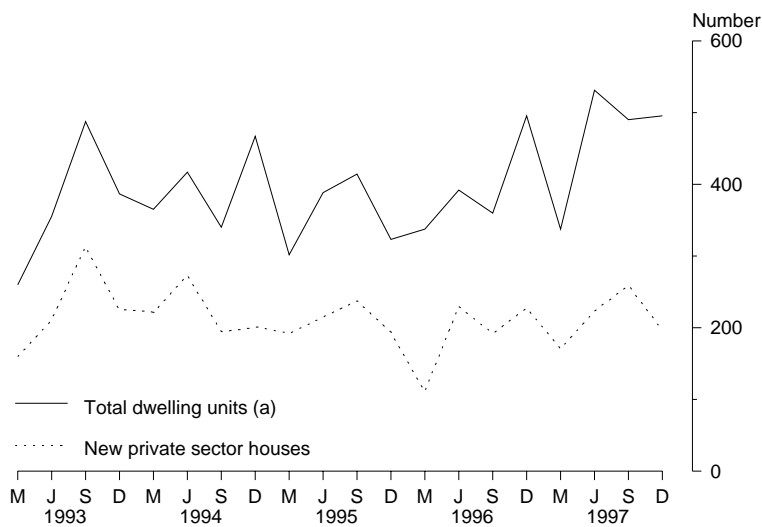
NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Dec qtr 97 no.	Change	
		Sep qtr 97 to Dec qtr 97	Dec qtr 96 to Dec qtr 97
		%	%
Total dwelling units commenced	496	1.0	0.0
New private sector houses	197	-23.9	-13.6
Private sector dwelling units	406	2.3	-9.6

- The total number of dwelling units commenced during the December quarter increased by 1.0% to 496. New houses fell by 15.2% to 267, while new other residential dwelling units rose by 32.0% to 227.
- Within the private sector, total dwelling units commenced rose by 2.3% to 406, with new other residential dwelling units increasing by 54.5% to 207. New houses fell by 23.9% to 197.

Dwelling units commenced



(a) Includes Conversions, etc

LIST OF TABLES

Page

AVERAGE 1989–90 PRICES

1	Value of building activity, original	6
---	--------------------------------------	---

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

2	Number and value of building commenced	7
3	Value of non-residential building commenced	8
4	Number and value of building under construction	9
5	Value of non-residential building under construction	10
6	Number and value of building completed	11
7	Value of non-residential building completed	12
8	Value of building work done	13
9	Value of non-residential building work done	14
10	Value of building work yet to be done	15
11	Value of non-residential building work yet to be done	16

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

Period	New residential building			Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building		Total building
	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total		Private Sector	Total	
COMMENCED							
1994-95	80.4	59.9	140.3	21.9	64.3	137.8	300.0
1995-96	72.0	48.0	120.0	20.6	129.8	230.8	371.4
1996-97	87.6	52.4	140.0	17.0	101.7	193.4	350.4
1996 Sept. qtr	19.4	11.0	30.4	4.4	35.5	46.2	81.0
Dec. qtr	22.7	18.2	40.9	4.3	47.3	76.9	122.1
1997 Mar. qtr	20.9	6.4	27.3	3.5	8.7	40.5	71.3
June qtr	24.6	16.8	41.4	4.8	10.2	29.8	76.0
Sept. qtr	26.8	17.8	44.6	3.8	18.6	51.5	99.9
Dec. qtr	22.3	16.6	38.9	3.0	15.2	30.9	72.8
VALUE OF WORK DONE DURING PERIOD							
1994-95	85.2	47.3	132.5	19.4	46.4	132.1	284.0
1995-96	79.6	49.5	129.1	22.9	114.2	212.9	364.9
1996-97	85.0	47.8	132.8	16.2	125.1	234.2	383.2
1996 Sept. qtr	17.7	11.7	29.4	4.4	46.6	72.0	105.8
Dec. qtr	20.6	13.3	33.9	3.9	35.5	61.8	99.6
1997 Mar. qtr	21.5	11.6	33.1	3.0	25.1	51.5	87.6
June qtr	25.2	11.2	36.4	4.9	17.9	48.9	90.2
Sept. qtr	26.1	16.7	42.8	4.1	22.9	42.6	89.5
Dec. qtr	23.3	17.4	40.7	3.5	20.1	42.4	86.6

(a) See paragraphs 21 and 22 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. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMMENCED: ORIGINAL

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	804	522	11	1,337	80.3	65.9	146.3	20.6	166.8	69.8	236.7
1995-96	773	455	9	1,237	80.0	48.2	128.2	21.6	149.8	143.9	293.7
1996-97	815	685	28	1,528	99.5	60.2	159.6	20.7	180.3	114.2	294.5
1996 Sept. qtr	192	132	3	327	22.5	12.5	35.0	6.0	40.9	39.6	80.6
Dec. qtr	228	219	2	449	25.9	20.8	46.7	5.0	51.7	53.1	104.9
1997 Mar. qtr	171	80	19	270	21.0	7.3	28.3	4.4	32.7	9.8	42.5
June qtr	224	254	4	482	30.0	19.6	49.6	5.3	54.9	11.6	66.6
Sept. qtr	259	134	4	397	31.9	17.1	48.9	5.0	53.9	21.3	75.2
Dec. qtr	197	207	2	406	24.3	18.1	42.3	3.4	45.7	17.6	63.3
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	143	19	—	162	25.8	2.0	27.7	7.7	35.5	79.7	115.2
1995-96	112	117	3	232	18.9	7.7	26.6	6.1	32.7	111.7	144.4
1996-97	170	16	12	198	25.2	1.6	26.9	3.1	30.0	103.5	133.5
1996 Sept. qtr	31	2	—	33	4.4	0.4	4.8	—	4.9	12.0	16.9
Dec. qtr	40	7	—	47	6.2	0.6	6.8	1.0	7.8	33.2	40.9
1997 Mar. qtr	54	2	12	68	9.0	0.2	9.3	0.6	9.8	36.0	45.8
June qtr	45	5	—	50	5.6	0.5	6.0	1.5	7.5	22.3	29.9
Sept. qtr	56	38	—	94	7.4	4.3	11.7	0.5	12.3	37.8	50.1
Dec. qtr	70	20	—	90	8.5	1.7	10.3	0.8	11.1	18.1	29.1
TOTAL											
1994-95	947	541	11	1,499	106.1	67.9	174.0	28.3	202.3	149.5	351.8
1995-96	885	572	12	1,469	98.9	56.0	154.8	27.7	182.6	255.6	438.2
1996-97	985	701	40	1,726	124.7	61.8	186.5	23.8	210.3	217.7	428.0
1996 Sept. qtr	223	134	3	360	26.9	12.9	39.8	6.0	45.8	51.7	97.5
Dec. qtr	268	226	2	496	32.1	21.4	53.5	6.0	59.5	86.3	145.8
1997 Mar. qtr	225	82	31	338	30.1	7.5	37.6	5.0	42.5	45.8	88.3
June qtr	269	259	4	532	35.6	20.0	55.6	6.8	62.5	33.9	96.4
Sept. qtr	315	172	4	491	39.3	21.4	60.7	5.6	66.2	59.1	125.3
Dec. qtr	267	227	2	496	32.8	19.8	52.6	4.1	56.7	35.7	92.4

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	25.2	13.9	3.0	5.1	7.3	3.3	—	0.7	4.4	6.8	69.8
1995-96	62.7	26.5	3.9	12.6	17.2	5.4	0.6	4.1	9.0	2.0	143.9
1996-97	1.4	53.8	4.0	20.2	19.7	7.4	0.2	0.4	1.9	5.1	114.2
1996 Sept. qtr	0.9	6.1	0.4	16.0	7.2	5.9	—	0.1	0.6	2.6	39.6
Dec. qtr	0.3	39.6	1.6	3.0	6.2	0.2	—	—	1.1	1.1	53.1
1997 Mar. qtr	—	3.8	0.5	0.7	2.7	1.3	0.2	0.4	—	0.3	9.8
June qtr	0.1	4.4	1.6	0.5	3.7	—	—	—	0.2	1.2	11.6
Sept. qtr	0.6	7.3	2.4	3.5	4.6	1.5	0.1	—	1.3	0.1	21.3
Dec. qtr	—	3.9	0.4	1.5	6.4	1.3	—	0.3	3.5	0.4	17.6
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	—	0.1	0.8	2.2	2.2	32.2	—	0.7	3.4	38.1	79.7
1995-96	—	4.9	1.1	14.9	17.3	27.4	2.4	1.9	11.4	30.5	111.7
1996-97	1.2	5.1	21.7	8.0	5.5	37.2	—	3.3	4.4	19.0	103.5
1996 Sept. qtr	—	1.8	1.6	0.8	4.0	1.1	—	1.1	—	3.5	12.0
Dec. qtr	—	2.6	20.0	4.8	0.1	3.3	—	1.1	1.3	—	33.2
1997 Mar. qtr	1.0	0.2	—	1.0	1.1	15.5	—	0.9	3.1	13.2	36.0
June qtr	0.1	0.5	0.1	1.5	0.3	17.2	—	0.3	—	2.3	22.3
Sept. qtr	—	—	—	2.0	24.0	7.3	—	—	—	4.5	37.8
Dec. qtr	—	0.1	—	12.3	—	0.2	—	0.7	0.1	4.6	18.1
TOTAL											
1994-95	25.2	14.1	3.8	7.4	9.5	35.5	—	1.4	7.8	44.9	149.5
1995-96	62.7	31.3	5.0	27.5	34.5	32.8	3.0	6.1	20.3	32.5	255.6
1996-97	2.6	57.1	25.7	28.2	25.2	44.6	0.2	3.8	6.2	24.0	217.7
1996 Sept. qtr	0.9	6.1	2.0	16.8	11.2	7.0	—	1.1	0.6	6.0	51.7
Dec. qtr	0.3	42.2	21.6	7.8	6.2	3.5	—	1.1	2.3	1.1	86.3
1997 Mar. qtr	1.0	3.9	0.5	1.7	3.8	16.8	0.2	1.3	3.1	13.4	45.8
June qtr	0.3	4.9	1.6	2.0	4.0	17.2	—	0.3	0.2	3.5	33.9
Sept. qtr	0.6	7.3	2.4	5.5	28.6	8.9	0.1	—	1.3	4.6	59.1
Dec. qtr	—	4.0	0.4	13.8	6.4	1.5	—	1.0	3.6	5.0	35.7

TABLE 4. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL

	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>				<i>Value (\$m)</i>						
	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>Conversions etc.</i>	<i>Total dwelling units</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	417	283	5	705	41.9	40.7	82.6	10.9	93.4	69.9	163.4
1995-96	354	264	4	622	37.5	30.6	68.1	9.5	77.6	115.2	192.8
1996-97	338	450	9	797	42.1	38.5	80.7	10.3	91.0	57.3	148.3
1996 Sept. qtr	335	305	6	646	38.4	26.5	65.0	10.8	75.8	131.5	207.3
Dec. qtr	350	341	5	696	40.2	33.0	73.1	10.0	83.1	131.9	215.0
1997 Mar. qtr	354	314	9	677	42.1	29.8	71.9	10.0	82.0	84.4	166.4
June qtr	338	450	9	797	42.1	38.5	80.7	10.3	91.0	57.3	148.3
Sept. qtr	337	296	9	642	44.4	30.3	74.7	10.2	84.9	64.1	149.0
Dec. qtr	294	382	8	684	38.2	38.3	76.5	8.3	84.7	65.4	150.1
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	75	12	—	87	15.0	1.2	16.3	4.1	20.3	76.6	96.9
1995-96	9	108	2	119	1.0	6.6	7.6	0.2	7.8	104.4	112.1
1996-97	52	5	—	57	6.3	0.5	6.8	1.5	8.3	72.0	80.3
1996 Sept. qtr	33	108	—	141	4.6	6.7	11.3	0.1	11.5	66.1	77.5
Dec. qtr	46	7	—	53	6.5	0.6	7.1	0.8	7.8	79.3	87.1
1997 Mar. qtr	66	7	—	73	10.2	0.6	10.8	0.7	11.5	81.0	92.5
June qtr	52	5	—	57	6.3	0.5	6.8	1.5	8.3	72.0	80.3
Sept. qtr	52	38	—	90	6.9	4.3	11.2	0.6	11.7	84.9	96.6
Dec. qtr	54	58	—	112	7.4	6.0	13.5	0.5	13.9	58.6	72.5
TOTAL											
1994-95	492	295	5	792	57.0	41.9	98.9	14.9	113.8	146.5	260.3
1995-96	363	372	6	741	38.6	37.2	75.8	9.6	85.4	219.5	304.9
1996-97	390	455	9	854	48.4	39.0	87.5	11.8	99.3	129.3	228.6
1996 Sept. qtr	368	413	6	787	43.0	33.2	76.3	10.9	87.2	197.6	284.8
Dec. qtr	396	348	5	749	46.7	33.5	80.2	10.7	91.0	211.1	302.1
1997 Mar. qtr	420	321	9	750	52.3	30.4	82.8	10.7	93.5	165.5	258.9
June qtr	390	455	9	854	48.4	39.0	87.5	11.8	99.3	129.3	228.6
Sept. qtr	389	334	9	732	51.3	34.6	85.9	10.8	96.7	149.0	245.7
Dec. qtr	348	440	8	796	45.6	44.3	89.9	8.7	98.6	124.0	222.6

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

	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health recreational</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	25.0	29.4	0.9	1.3	4.4	2.7	—	0.4	1.2	4.6	69.9
1995-96	59.6	36.9	1.0	7.3	6.4	0.7	0.1	—	2.5	0.6	115.2
1996-97	0.6	40.1	1.1	6.5	7.9	—	0.2	—	0.1	0.7	57.3
1996 Sept. qtr	53.9	40.2	0.5	20.7	8.0	5.8	—	—	0.1	2.3	131.5
Dec. qtr	49.7	45.5	1.6	19.2	8.4	4.5	—	—	0.1	2.7	131.9
1997 Mar. qtr	18.1	47.2	1.3	6.6	8.5	1.3	0.2	—	0.1	1.0	84.4
June qtr	0.6	40.1	1.1	6.5	7.9	—	0.2	—	0.1	0.7	57.3
Sept. qtr	1.2	41.7	3.0	7.4	6.8	1.5	0.2	—	1.4	0.7	64.1
Dec. qtr	0.9	42.4	1.8	7.6	8.0	0.7	—	—	3.6	0.4	65.4
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	—	—	3.6	3.8	6.9	20.0	—	0.4	0.4	41.6	76.6
1995-96	—	4.9	—	12.9	16.3	36.5	—	0.5	4.8	28.5	104.4
1996-97	0.1	0.2	20.1	0.8	0.6	33.5	—	0.4	3.3	13.1	72.0
1996 Sept. qtr	—	4.4	1.6	0.4	13.5	16.3	—	1.1	1.8	27.0	66.1
Dec. qtr	—	2.6	20.0	3.8	10.9	16.5	—	1.2	2.9	21.2	79.3
1997 Mar. qtr	1.0	1.9	20.0	0.4	1.1	23.4	—	1.5	3.8	29.8	81.0
June qtr	0.1	0.2	20.1	0.8	0.6	33.5	—	0.4	3.3	13.1	72.0
Sept. qtr	0.1	0.3	21.0	2.8	24.4	24.3	—	0.1	0.4	11.6	84.9
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	14.3	24.3	12.0	—	0.7	0.4	6.9	58.6
TOTAL											
1994-95	25.0	29.4	4.5	5.1	11.3	22.6	—	0.7	1.6	46.1	146.5
1995-96	59.6	41.7	1.0	20.2	22.7	37.2	0.1	0.5	7.3	29.1	219.5
1996-97	0.8	40.3	21.2	7.3	8.5	33.5	0.2	0.4	3.4	13.8	129.3
1996 Sept. qtr	53.9	44.6	2.2	21.1	21.5	22.2	—	1.1	1.9	29.3	197.6
Dec. qtr	49.7	48.1	21.6	22.9	19.4	21.1	—	1.2	3.1	23.9	211.1
1997 Mar. qtr	19.2	47.2	21.3	7.0	9.6	24.8	0.2	1.5	3.9	30.8	165.5
June qtr	0.8	40.3	21.2	7.3	8.5	33.5	0.2	0.4	3.4	13.8	129.3
Sept. qtr	1.4	42.0	24.0	10.2	31.2	25.8	0.2	0.1	1.8	12.3	149.0
Dec. qtr	0.9	42.4	1.8	21.9	32.3	12.7	—	0.7	4.0	7.3	124.0

TABLE 6. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED: ORIGINAL

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	888	368	7	1,263	89.7	33.6	123.2	20.3	143.6	30.6	174.2
1995-96	833	467	11	1,311	85.2	61.6	146.8	23.2	170.0	97.4	267.4
1996-97	823	504	23	1,350	95.2	50.2	145.3	20.0	165.3	171.4	336.7
1996 Sept. qtr	208	91	1	300	21.3	14.0	35.3	4.9	40.2	23.3	63.5
Dec. qtr	210	188	3	401	24.1	14.9	39.0	5.7	44.8	51.7	96.4
1997 Mar. qtr	167	107	15	289	19.3	10.4	29.7	4.2	34.0	57.2	91.2
June qtr	238	118	4	360	30.4	10.9	41.3	5.1	46.4	39.2	85.6
Sept. qtr	254	288	4	546	29.2	24.8	54.0	5.3	59.3	14.7	74.0
Dec. qtr	239	121	3	363	31.0	10.1	41.1	5.4	46.5	18.6	65.1
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	182	19	—	201	32.1	1.7	33.8	3.8	37.6	183.9	221.4
1995-96	178	21	1	200	33.5	2.4	35.9	10.0	46.0	86.5	132.4
1996-97	125	119	14	258	19.8	8.0	27.8	1.8	29.5	135.2	164.7
1996 Sept. qtr	7	2	2	11	0.8	0.5	1.4	0.1	1.4	50.6	52.1
Dec. qtr	25	108	—	133	4.1	6.7	10.8	0.4	11.2	21.4	32.6
1997 Mar. qtr	34	2	12	48	5.4	0.2	5.5	0.6	6.2	34.1	40.2
June qtr	59	7	—	66	9.5	0.6	10.1	0.7	10.8	29.0	39.8
Sept. qtr	56	5	—	61	6.9	0.4	7.3	1.5	8.8	25.9	34.8
Dec. qtr	68	—	—	68	8.0	—	8.0	0.9	8.9	40.7	49.5
TOTAL											
1994-95	1,070	387	7	1,464	121.8	35.3	157.1	24.1	181.2	214.5	395.6
1995-96	1,011	488	12	1,511	118.7	64.0	182.7	33.2	215.9	183.9	399.8
1996-97	948	623	37	1,608	114.9	58.2	173.1	21.7	194.8	306.6	501.4
1996 Sept. qtr	215	93	3	311	22.2	14.5	36.7	4.9	41.6	74.0	115.6
Dec. qtr	235	296	3	534	28.2	21.6	49.8	6.1	55.9	73.1	129.0
1997 Mar. qtr	201	109	27	337	24.7	10.6	35.3	4.9	40.2	91.3	131.4
June qtr	297	125	4	426	39.9	11.5	51.4	5.8	57.2	68.3	125.4
Sept. qtr	310	293	4	607	36.1	25.2	61.3	6.8	68.1	40.7	108.8
Dec. qtr	307	121	3	431	39.0	10.1	49.1	6.3	55.3	59.2	114.6

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health recreational</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	0.4	8.0	2.3	5.1	4.9	1.5	—	0.3	4.2	3.8	30.6
1995-96	26.8	19.2	3.9	6.5	15.4	7.4	0.5	4.2	7.6	5.9	97.4
1996-97	60.9	49.4	4.0	20.9	18.4	8.0	0.1	0.4	4.2	5.0	171.4
1996 Sept. qtr	6.7	2.8	0.8	2.6	5.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	3.0	0.9	23.3
Dec. qtr	5.5	32.3	0.5	4.5	5.7	1.4	—	—	1.1	0.7	51.7
1997 Mar. qtr	31.1	2.4	0.9	13.2	2.8	4.5	—	0.4	—	1.9	57.2
June qtr	17.6	11.9	1.8	0.6	4.3	1.3	—	—	0.2	1.5	39.2
Sept. qtr	—	5.5	0.5	2.6	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	14.7
Dec. qtr	0.3	5.4	1.6	1.3	5.2	2.3	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.7	18.6
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	—	0.1	0.9	114.2	12.0	29.8	—	10.3	5.1	11.2	183.9
1995-96	—	—	4.7	5.9	7.9	11.7	2.4	2.0	7.1	44.8	86.5
1996-97	1.0	7.7	1.6	20.2	22.1	40.8	—	3.6	5.9	32.3	135.2
1996 Sept. qtr	—	0.5	—	13.3	6.7	21.4	—	0.5	3.0	5.2	50.6
Dec. qtr	—	4.4	1.6	1.5	3.6	3.5	—	1.0	0.1	5.7	21.4
1997 Mar. qtr	—	2.5	—	4.4	10.9	8.7	—	0.7	2.2	4.6	34.1
June qtr	1.0	0.3	—	1.1	0.8	7.1	—	1.5	0.5	16.7	29.0
Sept. qtr	—	—	0.1	—	0.2	16.5	—	0.3	2.9	6.0	25.9
Dec. qtr	0.1	0.3	21.0	0.8	0.1	8.3	—	0.1	0.1	9.8	40.7
TOTAL											
1994-95	0.4	8.2	3.3	119.3	17.0	31.4	—	10.7	9.3	15.0	214.5
1995-96	26.8	19.2	8.6	12.5	23.3	19.1	2.8	6.3	14.7	50.6	183.9
1996-97	61.9	57.1	5.6	41.1	40.5	48.8	0.1	4.0	10.1	37.3	306.6
1996 Sept. qtr	6.7	3.2	0.8	15.9	12.4	22.2	0.1	0.6	6.0	6.1	74.0
Dec. qtr	5.5	36.7	2.1	6.0	9.3	4.9	—	1.0	1.2	6.4	73.1
1997 Mar. qtr	31.1	4.9	0.9	17.6	13.7	13.2	—	1.0	2.2	6.6	91.3
June qtr	18.7	12.2	1.8	1.7	5.1	8.4	—	1.5	0.7	18.3	68.3
Sept. qtr	—	5.5	0.6	2.6	6.2	16.5	—	0.3	2.9	6.1	40.7
Dec. qtr	0.5	5.7	22.6	2.0	5.3	10.6	0.2	0.3	1.4	10.5	59.2

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR							
1994-95	86.5	52.4	138.9	21.0	159.9	50.9	210.9
1995-96	83.4	51.9	135.3	22.8	158.1	128.6	286.7
1996-97	98.2	53.8	151.9	20.2	172.1	142.6	314.7
1996 Sept. qtr	22.2	11.9	34.0	5.9	39.9	52.9	92.8
Dec. qtr	23.8	15.2	39.0	4.8	43.8	40.4	84.2
1997 Mar. qtr	21.8	13.5	35.4	3.9	39.3	28.6	67.9
June qtr	30.3	13.2	43.5	5.6	49.1	20.6	69.7
Sept. qtr	30.2	18.6	48.8	5.4	54.1	26.5	80.6
Dec. qtr	26.7	18.8	45.5	4.5	50.0	23.2	73.3
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1994-95	26.8	2.0	28.8	4.9	33.7	93.8	127.4
1995-96	27.2	6.5	33.7	9.0	42.7	110.7	153.4
1996-97	22.9	3.3	26.3	2.7	29.0	124.4	153.4
1996 Sept. qtr	2.4	2.0	4.4	0.1	4.5	28.8	33.3
Dec. qtr	5.1	0.7	5.8	0.7	6.4	29.9	36.3
1997 Mar. qtr	9.5	0.3	9.8	0.5	10.3	30.1	40.5
June qtr	6.0	0.3	6.3	1.4	7.7	35.6	43.3
Sept. qtr	8.4	1.7	10.1	0.7	10.8	22.8	33.6
Dec. qtr	7.8	2.1	9.9	0.8	10.7	25.7	36.5
TOTAL							
1994-95	113.3	54.4	167.7	26.0	193.6	144.7	338.3
1995-96	110.6	58.4	169.0	31.8	200.8	239.3	440.1
1996-97	121.1	57.1	178.2	22.9	201.1	267.0	468.1
1996 Sept. qtr	24.5	13.9	38.4	6.0	44.4	81.7	126.1
Dec. qtr	28.9	15.9	44.8	5.5	50.3	70.3	120.6
1997 Mar. qtr	31.3	13.8	45.2	4.5	49.6	58.8	108.4
June qtr	36.4	13.5	49.8	7.0	56.8	56.2	113.0
Sept. qtr	38.6	20.4	58.9	6.0	65.0	49.3	114.2
Dec. qtr	34.4	21.0	55.4	5.3	60.8	49.0	109.7

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	11.3	11.2	2.7	5.6	7.1	1.5	—	0.6	4.4	6.4	50.9
1995-96	45.0	33.0	4.1	7.1	15.7	7.3	0.5	4.0	9.0	2.9	128.6
1996-97	30.8	50.9	4.2	21.1	20.0	7.5	0.2	0.4	2.1	5.2	142.6
1996 Sept. qtr	15.4	14.4	0.4	12.4	6.5	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.2	52.9
Dec. qtr	8.7	11.6	1.3	6.2	6.0	4.1	—	—	1.1	1.4	40.4
1997 Mar. qtr	6.5	12.9	0.7	2.0	3.5	1.7	—	0.4	—	1.0	28.6
June qtr	0.2	12.0	1.9	0.5	4.0	0.1	0.1	—	0.2	1.6	20.6
Sept. qtr	0.3	14.8	2.0	3.5	4.2	0.8	0.1	—	0.7	0.2	26.5
Dec. qtr	0.1	10.3	0.7	1.6	6.2	1.9	—	0.3	1.8	0.3	23.2
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	—	0.1	3.5	12.6	14.9	23.3	—	8.2	2.5	28.7	93.8
1995-96	—	2.1	1.8	15.0	9.6	29.1	2.4	2.3	10.3	38.2	110.7
1996-97	1.0	5.6	19.6	8.7	14.4	37.9	—	3.4	5.0	28.8	124.4
1996 Sept. qtr	—	0.8	1.0	1.8	5.6	5.8	—	0.8	0.9	12.1	28.8
Dec. qtr	—	3.3	0.9	4.4	5.7	8.7	—	0.9	0.5	5.6	29.9
1997 Mar. qtr	0.8	1.2	4.2	1.3	2.6	12.6	—	1.4	2.2	3.9	30.1
June qtr	0.2	0.4	13.5	1.3	0.5	10.8	—	0.4	1.4	7.1	35.6
Sept. qtr	0.1	0.2	2.1	0.8	3.0	10.2	—	0.1	0.4	5.8	22.8
Dec. qtr	—	0.1	1.0	2.1	8.2	9.0	—	0.7	0.2	4.4	25.7
TOTAL											
1994-95	11.3	11.3	6.2	18.2	22.0	24.8	—	8.8	6.9	35.2	144.7
1995-96	45.0	35.1	6.0	22.1	25.3	36.4	2.9	6.2	19.4	41.1	239.3
1996-97	31.8	56.6	23.8	29.8	34.4	45.4	0.2	3.9	7.1	34.0	267.0
1996 Sept. qtr	15.4	15.3	1.4	14.1	12.1	7.5	0.1	0.8	1.8	13.3	81.7
Dec. qtr	8.7	14.9	2.2	10.6	11.7	12.7	—	0.9	1.6	7.0	70.3
1997 Mar. qtr	7.3	14.1	4.9	3.2	6.2	14.3	—	1.7	2.2	4.9	58.8
June qtr	0.4	12.3	15.4	1.9	4.5	10.9	0.1	0.4	1.5	8.7	56.2
Sept. qtr	0.4	15.1	4.1	4.3	7.1	11.0	0.1	0.1	1.1	6.0	49.3
Dec. qtr	0.1	10.4	1.7	3.6	14.4	11.0	—	1.0	2.0	4.8	49.0

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

	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR							
1994-95	18.0	16.2	34.2	4.5	38.7	44.3	83.0
1995-96	15.4	16.2	31.5	3.5	35.0	57.5	92.5
1996-97	17.5	20.4	37.9	4.2	42.1	28.4	70.5
1996 Sept. qtr	15.5	14.2	29.8	3.8	33.6	44.2	77.8
Dec. qtr	17.9	20.3	38.1	4.0	42.1	55.9	98.0
1997 Mar. qtr	17.3	14.0	31.3	4.4	35.7	36.9	72.6
June qtr	17.5	20.4	37.9	4.2	42.1	28.4	70.5
Sept. qtr	19.4	18.4	37.8	4.0	41.8	23.5	65.2
Dec. qtr	17.5	17.6	35.1	3.0	38.1	20.1	58.2
PUBLIC SECTOR							
1994-95	8.1	0.5	8.7	2.9	11.6	41.4	52.9
1995-96	0.4	1.8	2.2	—	2.3	44.9	47.2
1996-97	2.6	0.4	2.9	0.4	3.4	24.1	27.5
1996 Sept. qtr	2.5	0.4	2.9	—	2.9	28.5	31.4
Dec. qtr	3.5	0.3	3.8	0.3	4.1	33.2	37.3
1997 Mar. qtr	3.0	0.2	3.2	0.3	3.6	38.9	42.5
June qtr	2.6	0.4	2.9	0.4	3.4	24.1	27.5
Sept. qtr	1.6	2.9	4.5	0.3	4.8	40.2	45.0
Dec. qtr	2.4	2.5	4.9	0.3	5.2	29.6	34.8
TOTAL							
1994-95	26.1	16.8	42.9	7.4	50.2	85.7	135.9
1995-96	15.8	18.0	33.8	3.5	37.3	102.4	139.7
1996-97	20.1	20.8	40.9	4.6	45.5	52.5	98.0
1996 Sept. qtr	18.0	14.6	32.6	3.8	36.5	72.7	109.2
Dec. qtr	21.4	20.5	41.9	4.3	46.2	89.1	135.3
1997 Mar. qtr	20.4	14.2	34.6	4.7	39.3	75.9	115.1
June qtr	20.1	20.8	40.9	4.6	45.5	52.5	98.0
Sept. qtr	21.0	21.3	42.3	4.3	46.6	63.6	110.3
Dec. qtr	19.9	20.1	40.0	3.2	43.2	49.7	93.0

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

	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
PRIVATE SECTOR											
1994-95	14.1	24.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	2.1	—	0.1	0.4	1.2	44.3
1995-96	29.5	18.3	0.3	5.8	2.8	0.2	0.1	—	0.3	0.2	57.5
1996-97	0.6	19.9	0.3	4.8	2.5	—	—	—	—	0.1	28.4
1996 Sept. qtr	15.0	9.9	0.3	9.4	3.4	4.4	—	—	—	1.7	44.2
Dec. qtr	7.7	35.9	0.6	6.2	3.7	0.5	—	—	—	1.3	55.9
1997 Mar. qtr	0.6	27.1	0.5	4.9	2.9	0.2	0.2	—	—	0.6	36.9
June qtr	0.6	19.9	0.3	4.8	2.5	—	—	—	—	0.1	28.4
Sept. qtr	1.0	12.2	0.7	4.8	3.3	0.8	—	—	0.6	0.1	23.5
Dec. qtr	0.8	7.9	0.4	4.7	3.5	0.3	—	—	2.3	0.2	20.1
PUBLIC SECTOR											
1994-95	—	—	0.7	1.0	0.5	16.5	—	0.3	0.1	22.3	41.4
1995-96	—	2.7	—	1.2	8.2	15.8	—	0.1	1.2	15.8	44.9
1996-97	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.5	0.2	15.7	—	0.1	0.6	4.6	24.1
1996 Sept. qtr	—	1.9	0.6	0.2	6.6	11.2	—	0.4	0.3	7.3	28.5
Dec. qtr	—	1.3	19.7	0.7	1.9	6.2	—	0.7	1.1	1.7	33.2
1997 Mar. qtr	0.3	—	15.5	0.4	0.4	9.2	—	0.2	2.0	10.9	38.9
June qtr	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.5	0.2	15.7	—	0.1	0.6	4.6	24.1
Sept. qtr	—	—	1.0	1.7	21.3	12.7	—	—	0.2	3.3	40.2
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	12.0	13.0	0.5	—	—	0.2	3.9	29.6
TOTAL											
1994-95	14.1	24.6	1.2	1.4	1.5	18.6	—	0.4	0.5	23.5	85.7
1995-96	29.5	21.0	0.3	7.0	10.9	16.0	0.1	0.1	1.5	16.0	102.4
1996-97	0.8	20.0	2.4	5.3	2.8	15.7	—	0.1	0.7	4.8	52.5
1996 Sept. qtr	15.0	11.8	0.9	9.6	10.0	15.6	—	0.4	0.3	9.0	72.7
Dec. qtr	7.7	37.1	20.3	6.8	5.6	6.7	—	0.7	1.1	3.0	89.1
1997 Mar. qtr	0.9	27.1	16.0	5.3	3.3	9.4	0.2	0.2	2.0	11.5	75.9
June qtr	0.8	20.0	2.4	5.3	2.8	15.7	—	0.1	0.7	4.8	52.5
Sept. qtr	1.0	12.2	1.7	6.5	24.6	13.4	—	—	0.8	3.3	63.6
Dec. qtr	0.8	7.9	0.4	16.7	16.5	0.8	—	—	2.4	4.1	49.7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains detailed results from the quarterly Building Activity Survey. Each issue includes revisions to the previous quarter. Therefore data for the latest quarter should be considered to be preliminary only.

2 The statistics are compiled on the basis of returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity. The quarterly survey consists of two components:

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

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

4 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, while 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.

5 The use of sample survey techniques in the Building Activity Survey means that reliable estimates of private sector house building activity, including alterations and additions to houses are only available at the State, Territory and Australia levels, except for the Northern Territory. However, estimates for capital city Statistical Divisions can be made available. Also, data for regions below State and Territory level are available from the building approvals series and from the monthly series of dwelling unit commencements compiled for South Australia and Western Australia by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Unlike data in this publication compiled from the Building Activity Survey, the series for smaller geographic areas are based on information reported by local and other government authorities.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

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

7 Building jobs included in each quarter in the Building Activity Survey comprise those 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).

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE *continued*

8 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

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. An integral feature of a building's design, to satisfy its intended use, is the provision for regular access by persons.

10 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.

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

- A *house* is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long-term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. Thus, detached 'granny flats' and detached dwelling units (such as caretakers' residences) associated with non-residential buildings are defined as houses for the purpose of these statistics.
- 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.).

12 From the June quarter 1996 issue of this publication, the number of dwelling units created as part of alterations and additions to, or conversions of, existing residential or non-residential buildings, and as part of the construction of non-residential building is shown separately in tables 2, 4 and 6 under the heading of 'Conversions, etc.', and is included in the total number of dwelling units shown in these tables. Previously, such dwellings were only included as a footnote.

13 *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).

14 *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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DEFINITIONS *continued*

15 *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

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

- *Value of building commenced or under construction* represents the anticipated completion value based, where practicable, on estimated market or contract price of building jobs excluding the value of land and landscaping. Site preparation costs are included. Where building jobs proceed over several quarters, the anticipated completion value reported on the return for the first (commencement) quarter may be amended on returns for subsequent (under construction) quarters as the job nears completion.
- *Value of building completed* represents the actual completion value based, where practicable, on the market or contract price of building jobs including site preparation costs but excluding the value of land and landscaping.
- *Value of building work done* during the period represents the estimated value of building work actually carried out during the quarter on building jobs which have commenced.
- *Value of building work yet to be done* represents the difference between the anticipated completion value and the estimated value of work done up to the end of the period on building jobs commenced but not completed.

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

17 *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.

18 *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.

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

- *Houses.* Includes cottages, bungalows, detached caretakers'/managers' cottages, rectories.
- *Other residential buildings.* Includes blocks of flats, home units, attached townhouses, villa units, terrace houses, semi-detached houses, maisonettes.
- *Hotels, etc.* Includes motels, hostels, boarding houses, guesthouses, holiday apartment buildings.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

BUILDING CLASSIFICATION *continued*

- *Shops*. Includes retail shops, restaurants, cafes, taverns, dry cleaners, laundromats, hair salons, shopping arcades.
- *Factories*. Includes paper mills, oil refinery buildings, brickworks, foundries, powerhouses, manufacturing laboratories, workshops as part of a manufacturing process.
- *Offices*. Includes banks, post offices, council chambers, head and regional offices.
- *Other business premises*. Includes warehouses, storage depots, service stations, transport depots and terminals, electricity substation buildings, pumping station buildings, telephone exchanges, mail sorting centres, broadcasting stations, film studios.
- *Educational*. Includes schools, colleges, kindergartens, libraries, museums, art galleries, research and teaching laboratories, theological colleges.
- *Religious*. Includes churches, chapels, temples.
- *Health*. Includes hospitals, nursing homes, surgeries, clinics, medical centres.
- *Entertainment and recreational*. Includes clubs, theatres, cinemas, public halls, gymnasiums, grandstands, squash courts, sports and recreation centres.
- *Miscellaneous*. Includes law courts, homes for the aged (where medical care is not provided as a normal service), orphanages, gaols, barracks, mine buildings, glasshouses, livestock sheds, shearing sheds, fruit and skin drying sheds, public toilets, and ambulance, fire and police stations.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

20 Since the figures for private sector house building activity (including alterations and additions) are derived from information obtained from a complete enumeration of approved building jobs they are not subject to sampling error, as may be found in sample surveys. Prior to the June quarter 1991, private sector housing activity was measured by a sample survey and there is a small residual proportion of these sampled jobs which are still under construction included in the survey. The effect of this small number of sampled jobs on these estimates and those that would have been obtained if information for all approved jobs for the relevant period had been included in the survey is not considered to be significant.

21 Despite the precise nature of complete enumeration, inaccuracies may occur because of inadequacies in the source of building approval information, imperfections in reporting by respondents, and errors made in the coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by the careful design of questionnaires, efforts to obtain responses for all selected building jobs, and efficient operating procedures.

ESTIMATES AT CONSTANT PRICES

22 Estimates of the value of commencements and work done at average 1989–90 prices are shown in table 1. 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'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

ESTIMATES AT CONSTANT PRICES *continued*

23 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* (Cat. no. 5216.0).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

24 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

UNPUBLISHED DATA AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS

25 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: photocopy, computer printout, floppy disk and clerically extracted tabulation. Inquiries should be made to Information Inquiries on Darwin 08 8943 2111 or any ABS State office.

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

Building Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 8752.0) — issued quarterly

Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (Cat. no. 8750.0) — issued quarterly

Building Approvals, Australia (Cat. no. 8731.0) — issued monthly

Building Approvals, Northern Territory (Cat. no. 8731.7) — issued monthly

27 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

PHONE Call 1900 986 400 for the latest statistics on CPI, Labour Force, Earnings, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and other topics. (Call cost is 75c per minute)

INTERNET <http://www.abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

PHONE +61 1300 366 323

FAX +61 3 9615 7848

CONTACTING THE ABS

ABS provides a range of services, including: a telephone inquiry service; information consultancy tailored to your needs; survey, sample and questionnaire design; survey evaluation and methodological reviews; and statistical training.

<i>INQUIRIES</i>	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
Canberra	02 6252 6627	02 6253 1404
Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 8283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Darwin	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

POST Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au



2875270012972

ISSN 0729-2031

RRP \$16.00