

# BUILDING ACTIVITY

AUSTRALIAN  
CAPITAL  
TERRITORY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 31 JUL 2003

## MARCH QTR KEY FIGURES

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Mar qtr 03	Dec qtr 02 to Mar qtr 03 % change	Mar qtr 02 to Mar qtr 03 % change
Value of work done(a) (\$m)	273.7	36.3	62.0
New residential building (\$m)	143.5	25.8	86.1
Alterations and additions(b) (\$m)	19.6	-1.8	-3.9
Non-residential building (\$m)	110.6	65.6	54.7
Total dwelling units commenced (no.)	670	-13.6	72.7
New private sector houses (no.)	394	-12.1	56.7

(a) Chain volume measures, reference year 2000-01. (b) To residential buildings.

## MARCH QTR KEY POINTS

### VALUE OF WORK DONE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, VOLUME TERMS

- In seasonally adjusted terms, total building work done rose 36.3% in the March quarter 2003 to \$273.7m, the highest level since the June quarter 1988.
- New residential work done rose for the seventh successive quarter, up by 25.8% to a record \$143.5m. New houses rose 15.7% to \$72.4m, the highest level since the June quarter 1992, and new other residential buildings rose 38.1% to a record \$71.1m. Alterations and additions fell 1.8% to \$19.6m.
- Non-residential building work jumped by more than 65% to \$110.6m, the highest level for four years.

### VALUE OF WORK COMMENCED, ORIGINAL, VOLUME TERMS

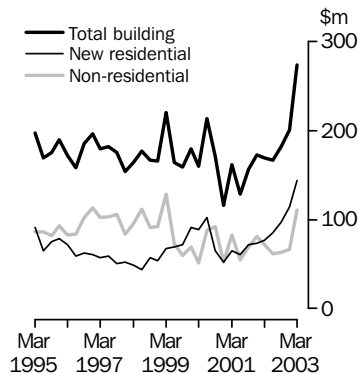
- Total building work commenced fell 9.0% in the March quarter to \$237.1m, but the previous quarter was the highest level for nine years.
- New residential commencements fell 29.5% to \$99.7m, still 53.1% above the level of a year earlier. New houses fell 38.3% to \$56.1m, down from the previous quarter's highest level for 17 years. New other residential buildings fell 13.8% to \$43.6m. Alterations and additions fell 27.7% to \$16.2m, to be 17.8% below the level of a year earlier.
- Non-residential commencements rose for the fourth successive quarter, up by 25.4% to \$121.2m, the highest level since the June quarter 2000.

### NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

- In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwellings commenced fell 13.6% to 670, still 72.7% above the relatively low number commenced a year earlier. Commencements of new private sector houses fell 12.1% to 394, following four successive quarterly increases.

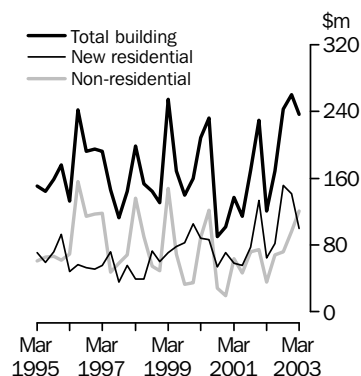
### Value of work done

Volume terms  
Seasonally adjusted



### Value of work commenced

Volume terms  
Original



## INQUIRIES

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

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE (Quarter)</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 2003	24 October 2003



### ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This publication contains the first detailed estimates for the Australian Capital Territory from the quarterly Building Activity Survey. The data are subject to revision when returns from the following quarter are processed and final data for the March quarter 2003 will be released in *Building Activity, Australian Capital Territory* (cat. no. 8752.8) on 24 October 2003.

**The June quarter 2003 issue will be the final issue of this publication.** However, the March quarter 2003 issue of *Building Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8752.0), released on 17 July 2003, has been revised and contains additional territory data, including territory 'trend' series.

All territory data in this publication (8752.8) will continue to be available from other products, and the ABS will further notify subscribers of the alternative means of obtaining data currently included in this publication.

Users will also note that the March quarter 2003 issue of 8752.0 classifies non-residential building work done (and commenced) to the new 2000 Functional Classification of Buildings (FCB), while this publication continues to use the 1986 FCB. Historical data is available on the new basis, commencing with the September quarter 2001. For more details, refer to the March quarter 2003 issue of 8752.0 and to *ABS Functional Classification of Buildings* (cat. no. 1268.0.55.001) which is available on the ABS website by selecting the 'About Statistics' link and following the links to 'Concepts and Classifications' and 'ABS Classifications'.

Tracy Stewart  
Regional Director  
Australian Capital Territory

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**TABLE 1. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK COMMENCED, CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(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	
1999-2000	243.4	119.1	362.3	97.5	161.0	279.4	740.6
2000-2001	158.3	80.4	238.7	46.8	87.6	158.6	444.0
2001-2002	182.6	175.4	357.9	80.5	156.2	250.9	689.4
2001 Dec. qtr	42.9	90.7	133.6	21.7	50.1	74.3	229.6
2002 Mar. qtr	41.8	23.2	65.1	19.7	18.6	36.2	121.0
Jun qtr	55.3	27.1	82.3	18.2	28.6	68.6	169.1
Sep. qtr	68.1	83.8	151.9	19.9	55.5	71.8	243.6
Dec. qtr	90.9	50.6	141.5	22.4	42.7	96.7	260.5
2003 Mar. qtr	56.1	43.6	99.7	16.2	65.0	121.2	237.1

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000–2001. See paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 2. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES(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	
ORIGINAL							
1999-2000	240.0	113.1	353.3	103.6	159.7	267.5	712.8
2000-2001	170.2	72.3	242.5	54.3	118.6	281.6	578.4
2001-2002	181.8	125.3	307.1	75.7	185.6	283.3	666.0
2001 Dec. qtr	46.5	27.7	74.2	21.0	67.3	95.6	190.9
2002 Mar. qtr	36.3	27.3	63.6	17.5	38.5	58.9	139.9
Jun qtr	54.9	41.8	96.7	20.4	39.0	60.6	177.7
Sep. qtr	54.1	44.7	98.8	21.3	40.9	64.4	184.6
Dec. qtr	63.8	51.5	115.3	21.9	49.8	81.5	218.7
2003 Mar. qtr	65.6	52.7	118.4	16.9	49.0	93.8	229.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED							
2001 Dec. qtr	45.9	27.4	73.3	19.1	52.4	81.0	173.3
2002 Mar. qtr	40.4	36.7	77.1	20.4	49.1	71.5	169.0
Jun qtr	50.4	34.9	85.3	19.5	41.3	61.8	166.5
Sep. qtr	55.1	41.8	96.9	21.2	41.3	63.6	181.7
Dec. qtr	62.6	51.5	114.1	19.9	36.2	66.8	200.8
2003 Mar. qtr	72.4	71.1	143.5	19.6	58.3	110.6	273.7

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2000–2001. See paragraphs 29 to 31 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 3. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE(a):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>Total</i>			
2001 Dec. qtr	47.7	75.4	20.0	81.0	176.4
2002 Mar. qtr	42.4	80.2	21.6	71.7	173.5
Jun. qtr	53.5	89.7	20.9	62.5	173.2
Sep. qtr	59.9	103.6	23.1	67.4	194.1
Dec. qtr	68.9	123.1	21.9	71.5	216.6
2003 Mar. qtr	81.0	157.1	21.9	119.9	298.9

(a) From the September quarter 2000, data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

**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>
2001 Dec. qtr	243	254	269	290	688	361	726	402
2002 Mar. qtr	252	280	267	306	350	504	388	551
Jun. qtr	344	298	341	295	706	456	676	520
Sep. qtr	424	276	460	273	915	366	941	376
Dec. qtr	448	274	501	290	673	550	775	508
2003 Mar. qtr	394	434	394	473	637	724	670	787

**TABLE 5. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMMENCED(a): ORIGINAL**

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	1,430	898	71	2,399	205.4	105.3	310.7	78.8	389.4	159.8	549.3
2000-2001	973	562	1	1,536	153.0	71.1	224.1	46.8	270.8	87.6	358.5
2001-2002	1,141	1,156	9	2,306	184.1	176.7	360.7	84.0	444.8	160.7	605.4
2001 Dec. qtr	262	564	—	826	41.0	91.4	132.4	22.7	155.1	51.6	206.7
2002 Mar. qtr	232	117	7	356	40.7	22.6	63.3	20.8	84.1	19.3	103.4
Jun qtr	365	212	1	578	59.1	27.9	87.0	19.6	106.6	30.0	136.6
Sep. qtr	399	473	—	872	69.7	89.1	158.7	21.6	180.3	58.8	239.1
Dec. qtr	483	330	—	813	86.8	43.8	130.6	24.5	155.0	45.4	200.5
2003 Mar. qtr	362	283	—	645	62.1	47.2	109.3	18.1	127.4	69.4	196.8
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	30	50	—	80	3.7	4.5	8.2	4.4	12.6	117.7	130.3
2000-2001	38	72	—	110	5.2	9.4	14.6	—	14.6	70.9	85.6
2001-2002	50	30	—	80	7.8	3.7	11.5	0.5	12.0	98.4	110.4
2001 Dec. qtr	29	20	—	49	3.8	1.7	5.5	—	5.5	24.9	30.4
2002 Mar. qtr	16	6	—	22	3.5	1.5	5.0	—	5.0	18.3	23.3
Jun qtr	—	4	—	4	—	0.5	0.5	—	0.5	42.0	42.4
Sep. qtr	24	—	—	24	4.2	—	4.2	—	4.2	17.2	21.4
Dec. qtr	59	68	—	127	12.8	10.6	23.4	0.1	23.5	57.5	81.0
2003 Mar. qtr	3	—	—	3	0.5	—	0.5	—	0.5	60.1	60.6
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	1,460	948	71	2,479	209.0	109.8	318.8	83.2	402.0	277.5	679.6
2000-2001	1,011	634	1	1,646	158.3	80.4	238.7	46.8	285.5	158.6	444.0
2001-2002	1,191	1,186	9	2,386	191.9	180.3	372.2	84.6	456.8	259.1	715.8
2001 Dec. qtr	291	584	—	875	44.8	93.1	137.9	22.7	160.6	76.5	237.1
2002 Mar. qtr	248	123	7	378	44.2	24.1	68.3	20.8	89.1	37.6	126.7
Jun qtr	365	216	1	582	59.1	28.3	87.4	19.6	107.0	72.0	179.0
Sep. qtr	423	473	—	896	73.8	89.1	162.9	21.6	184.5	75.9	260.4
Dec. qtr	542	398	—	940	99.7	54.3	154.0	24.5	178.5	102.9	281.4
2003 Mar. qtr	365	283	—	648	62.6	47.2	109.8	18.1	127.9	129.5	257.4

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 6. 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	10.2	19.5	8.4	83.6	6.4	3.0	0.9	2.1	24.9	0.8	159.8
2000-2001	10.1	17.0	1.5	38.5	8.0	5.1	0.7	0.6	3.1	3.0	87.6
2001-2002	3.2	35.5	1.1	59.8	16.6	12.5	7.4	0.5	23.8	0.3	160.7
2001 Dec. qtr	0.7	26.3	0.5	14.9	6.6	1.4	—	—	1.1	0.1	51.6
2002 Mar. qtr	0.9	2.1	0.6	1.8	1.6	2.1	4.1	0.3	5.9	—	19.3
Jun qtr	1.6	4.3	—	9.0	7.1	6.3	—	—	1.7	—	30.0
Sep. qtr	0.2	2.5	—	25.7	3.6	2.1	0.9	1.7	21.4	0.7	58.8
Dec. qtr	—	6.3	0.7	25.8	0.2	4.9	—	0.4	6.3	1.0	45.4
2003 Mar. qtr	1.0	6.4	0.1	38.5	9.9	10.4	0.4	0.2	1.1	1.4	69.4
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	—	0.7	—	51.8	3.6	53.9	—	3.5	4.1	0.1	117.7
2000-2001	—	0.1	—	37.1	0.2	18.2	—	8.1	6.6	0.6	70.9
2001-2002	—	1.7	—	52.6	5.9	21.4	—	15.6	0.3	0.8	98.4
2001 Dec. qtr	—	—	—	12.8	1.9	4.4	—	5.7	—	0.2	24.9
2002 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	1.5	—	10.1	—	6.2	0.3	0.1	18.3
Jun qtr	—	—	—	35.7	0.4	2.9	—	2.5	—	0.6	42.0
Sep. qtr	—	0.2	—	6.7	0.2	6.0	—	1.3	—	2.9	17.2
Dec. qtr	—	0.1	—	31.4	0.2	23.9	—	1.8	—	—	57.5
2003 Mar. qtr	—	0.2	—	10.1	2.3	41.3	—	0.9	2.2	3.1	60.1
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	10.2	20.2	8.4	135.4	10.0	56.8	0.9	5.6	29.0	0.9	277.5
2000-2001	10.1	17.1	1.5	75.6	8.2	23.3	0.7	8.8	9.7	3.6	158.6
2001-2002	3.2	37.2	1.1	112.4	22.5	33.9	7.4	16.1	24.1	1.2	259.1
2001 Dec. qtr	0.7	26.3	0.5	27.6	8.5	5.7	—	5.7	1.1	0.3	76.5
2002 Mar. qtr	0.9	2.1	0.6	3.3	1.6	12.3	4.1	6.5	6.2	0.1	37.6
Jun qtr	1.6	4.3	—	44.7	7.5	9.1	—	2.5	1.7	0.6	72.0
Sep. qtr	0.2	2.7	—	32.4	3.8	8.1	0.9	2.9	21.4	3.7	75.9
Dec. qtr	—	6.3	0.7	57.2	0.4	28.8	—	2.2	6.3	1.0	102.9
2003 Mar. qtr	1.0	6.6	0.1	48.6	12.2	51.7	0.4	1.1	3.3	4.5	129.5

**TABLE 7. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD(a): ORIGINAL**

	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>				<i>Value (\$m)</i>						
	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>Con-versions 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>											
1999-2000	579	617	68	1,264	89.4	71.5	160.9	30.4	191.3	124.4	315.7
2000-2001	345	462	—	807	63.2	59.2	122.4	18.7	141.1	118.9	260.0
2001-2002	372	996	3	1,371	73.1	158.3	231.3	31.1	262.4	112.1	374.5
2001 Dec. qtr	329	945	1	1,275	61.5	142.5	204.1	23.9	227.9	110.0	337.9
2002 Mar. qtr	321	949	2	1,272	63.3	151.6	214.9	28.0	242.8	103.7	346.6
Jun qtr	372	996	3	1,371	73.1	158.3	231.3	31.1	262.4	112.1	374.5
Sep. qtr	510	1,355	1	1,866	101.5	231.6	333.1	35.4	368.5	136.7	505.2
Dec. qtr	666	1,335	—	2,001	130.0	228.4	358.4	32.8	391.2	141.9	533.1
2003 Mar. qtr	670	1,475	—	2,145	136.2	259.7	395.9	34.3	430.1	175.3	605.4
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	3	16	—	19	0.3	1.5	1.8	3.1	4.9	189.7	194.7
2000-2001	11	63	—	74	1.6	8.4	9.9	—	9.9	113.6	123.6
2001-2002	—	6	—	6	—	1.5	1.5	—	1.5	73.7	75.2
2001 Dec. qtr	17	12	—	29	2.1	1.4	3.5	0.5	4.1	99.1	103.1
2002 Mar. qtr	16	6	—	22	3.5	1.5	5.0	0.5	5.5	104.0	109.5
Jun qtr	—	6	—	6	—	1.5	1.5	—	1.5	73.7	75.2
Sep. qtr	24	—	—	24	4.2	—	4.2	—	4.2	90.1	94.2
Dec. qtr	81	68	—	149	16.9	10.6	27.5	—	27.5	132.3	159.8
2003 Mar. qtr	60	50	—	110	12.6	9.4	21.9	—	21.9	164.2	186.1
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	582	633	68	1,283	89.7	73.0	162.7	33.5	196.2	314.1	510.3
2000-2001	356	525	—	881	64.8	67.6	132.4	18.7	151.0	232.6	383.6
2001-2002	372	1,002	3	1,377	73.1	159.8	232.8	31.1	263.9	185.8	449.7
2001 Dec. qtr	346	957	1	1,304	63.6	144.0	207.6	24.4	232.0	209.1	441.1
2002 Mar. qtr	337	955	2	1,294	66.8	153.1	219.9	28.5	248.4	207.7	456.1
Jun qtr	372	1,002	3	1,377	73.1	159.8	232.8	31.1	263.9	185.8	449.7
Sep. qtr	534	1,355	1	1,890	105.7	231.6	337.3	35.4	372.7	226.8	599.5
Dec. qtr	747	1,403	—	2,150	147.0	238.9	385.9	32.8	418.7	274.2	692.9
2003 Mar. qtr	730	1,525	—	2,255	148.7	269.0	417.8	34.3	452.1	339.5	791.6

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.



**TABLE 8. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF PERIOD: ORIGINAL  
(\$ million)**

	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertain- ment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total non-resi- dential building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	9.9	10.8	6.6	76.6	8.1	0.7	2.3	0.5	8.5	0.3	124.4
2000-2001	12.5	8.8	—	90.9	2.2	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.4	2.0	118.9
2001-2002	1.6	25.5	—	43.9	12.3	6.0	7.3	0.4	15.1	—	112.1
2001 Dec. qtr	7.0	31.1	—	46.6	6.7	3.1	3.7	0.4	11.2	0.1	110.0
2002 Mar. qtr	0.9	24.6	0.6	42.9	6.0	4.0	7.6	0.7	16.3	0.2	103.7
Jun qtr	1.6	25.5	—	43.9	12.3	6.0	7.3	0.4	15.1	—	112.1
Sep. qtr	—	21.1	—	68.0	11.5	7.5	4.5	1.9	21.4	0.7	136.7
Dec. qtr	—	39.2	0.7	54.0	6.6	10.4	3.9	2.5	24.5	—	141.9
2003 Mar. qtr	1.0	39.5	0.8	82.2	15.2	8.8	4.3	2.3	20.8	0.4	175.3
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	—	—	—	46.6	—	129.4	—	9.7	4.0	—	189.7
2000-2001	—	—	—	71.9	0.2	28.2	—	13.3	—	—	113.6
2001-2002	—	—	—	38.5	—	12.1	—	22.7	—	0.3	73.7
2001 Dec. qtr	—	1.4	—	67.5	1.7	11.5	—	16.8	—	0.2	99.1
2002 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	67.0	—	15.7	—	21.0	—	0.3	104.0
Jun qtr	—	—	—	38.5	—	12.1	—	22.7	—	0.3	73.7
Sep. qtr	—	—	—	57.1	—	14.4	—	15.7	—	2.8	90.1
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	81.2	0.2	30.6	—	17.4	—	2.8	132.3
2003 Mar. qtr	—	0.1	—	76.2	2.3	66.2	—	15.4	1.2	3.0	164.2
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	9.9	10.8	6.6	123.3	8.1	130.1	2.3	10.3	12.5	0.3	314.1
2000-2001	12.5	8.8	—	162.8	2.4	28.7	1.1	13.8	0.4	2.0	232.6
2001-2002	1.6	25.5	—	82.5	12.3	18.1	7.3	23.1	15.1	0.3	185.8
2001 Dec. qtr	7.0	32.5	—	114.1	8.5	14.7	3.7	17.2	11.2	0.3	209.1
2002 Mar. qtr	0.9	24.6	0.6	109.8	6.0	19.7	7.6	21.7	16.3	0.4	207.7
Jun qtr	1.6	25.5	—	82.5	12.3	18.1	7.3	23.1	15.1	0.3	185.8
Sep. qtr	—	21.1	—	125.2	11.5	21.9	4.5	17.7	21.4	3.5	226.8
Dec. qtr	—	39.2	0.7	135.2	6.8	41.1	3.9	20.0	24.5	2.8	274.2
2003 Mar. qtr	1.0	39.5	0.8	158.4	17.5	75.0	4.3	17.7	22.0	3.4	339.5

**TABLE 9. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUILDING COMPLETED(a): ORIGINAL**

Period	Number of dwelling units				Value (\$m)						
	New houses	New other residential building	Conversions etc.	Total dwelling units	New houses	New other residential building	New residential building	Alterations and additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total non-residential building	Total building
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	1,287	679	136	2,102	181.4	74.4	255.8	83.1	338.9	230.2	569.1
2000-2001	1,206	717	69	1,992	181.4	87.8	269.2	60.4	329.7	97.1	426.8
2001-2002	1,102	622	6	1,730	177.3	79.3	256.6	72.6	329.2	173.5	502.6
2001 Dec. qtr	302	142	—	444	48.2	17.9	66.1	19.7	85.8	83.5	169.3
2002 Mar. qtr	232	113	6	351	38.9	14.1	53.0	17.1	70.1	34.2	104.3
Jun qtr	313	165	—	478	50.1	20.8	70.9	18.2	89.1	21.6	110.7
Sep. qtr	257	114	2	373	41.7	15.4	57.1	18.5	75.7	35.6	111.2
Dec. qtr	326	350	1	677	60.3	46.8	107.1	27.5	134.6	55.4	190.0
2003 Mar. qtr	359	143	—	502	58.5	22.0	80.5	17.4	97.8	36.2	134.0
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	84	38	—	122	8.3	3.6	12.0	1.2	13.1	77.8	91.0
2000-2001	30	25	—	55	4.1	2.6	6.7	3.1	9.8	154.0	163.8
2001-2002	61	87	—	148	9.3	10.6	19.9	0.6	20.5	146.8	167.3
2001 Dec. qtr	25	71	—	96	3.4	8.7	12.1	—	12.1	29.6	41.7
2002 Mar. qtr	17	12	—	29	2.1	1.4	3.5	—	3.5	14.5	18.0
Jun qtr	16	4	—	20	3.5	0.5	4.0	0.6	4.6	73.1	77.6
Sep. qtr	—	6	—	6	—	1.5	1.5	—	1.5	14.4	15.9
Dec. qtr	2	—	—	2	0.4	—	0.4	0.1	0.4	14.7	15.1
2003 Mar. qtr	24	18	—	42	4.6	1.2	5.8	—	5.8	28.1	34.0
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	1,371	717	136	2,224	189.7	78.1	267.8	84.3	352.0	308.0	660.0
2000-2001	1,236	742	69	2,047	185.5	90.4	275.9	63.6	339.5	251.2	590.7
2001-2002	1,163	709	6	1,878	186.7	89.9	276.5	73.2	349.7	320.3	670.0
2001 Dec. qtr	327	213	—	540	51.7	26.6	78.2	19.7	97.9	113.1	211.0
2002 Mar. qtr	249	125	6	380	41.0	15.5	56.5	17.1	73.6	48.6	122.2
Jun qtr	329	169	—	498	53.6	21.3	74.9	18.8	93.7	94.7	188.4
Sep. qtr	257	120	2	379	41.7	16.9	58.6	18.6	77.2	50.0	127.1
Dec. qtr	328	350	1	679	60.7	46.8	107.4	27.6	135.0	70.1	205.1
2003 Mar. qtr	383	161	—	544	63.1	23.2	86.3	17.4	103.7	64.4	168.0

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 10. 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</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	22.5	117.3	2.0	46.9	7.2	2.3	—	2.8	21.7	7.6	230.2
2000-2001	8.3	18.3	9.7	27.5	12.7	5.6	1.9	0.6	11.2	1.3	97.1
2001-2002	14.0	23.6	1.1	105.1	6.5	7.3	1.3	0.9	10.5	3.1	173.5
2001 Dec. qtr	6.1	3.1	0.5	62.5	1.3	1.5	0.7	—	6.0	1.7	83.5
2002 Mar. qtr	7.0	14.0	—	7.9	2.3	1.3	0.1	—	1.6	—	34.2
Jun qtr	0.9	3.8	0.6	8.0	0.9	3.7	0.3	0.3	2.9	0.2	21.6
Sep. qtr	1.9	7.6	—	1.7	4.4	0.6	3.5	0.1	15.8	—	35.6
Dec. qtr	—	4.1	—	39.8	4.7	2.0	0.5	—	2.6	1.8	55.4
2003 Mar. qtr	—	8.3	—	11.3	1.4	8.9	—	0.4	4.9	1.0	36.2
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	—	0.7	—	33.4	3.7	35.5	—	3.4	0.2	0.8	77.8
2000-2001	—	0.1	—	11.0	—	129.0	—	5.4	7.9	0.7	154.0
2001-2002	—	1.7	—	93.6	5.7	37.5	—	7.6	0.3	0.5	146.8
2001 Dec. qtr	—	—	—	22.6	3.6	1.2	—	2.2	—	—	29.6
2002 Mar. qtr	—	1.4	—	3.1	1.7	6.0	—	2.0	0.3	—	14.5
Jun qtr	—	—	—	64.3	0.4	7.1	—	0.8	—	0.5	73.1
Sep. qtr	—	0.2	—	1.3	0.2	3.9	—	8.3	—	0.5	14.4
Dec. qtr	—	0.1	—	7.6	0.1	7.0	—	—	—	—	14.7
2003 Mar. qtr	—	0.2	—	15.6	0.2	5.2	—	3.1	1.0	3.0	28.1
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	22.5	118.0	2.0	80.3	10.9	37.8	—	6.2	21.9	8.5	308.0
2000-2001	8.3	18.3	9.7	38.5	12.7	134.6	1.9	6.0	19.1	2.0	251.2
2001-2002	14.0	25.3	1.1	198.7	12.2	44.8	1.3	8.5	10.8	3.6	320.3
2001 Dec. qtr	6.1	3.1	0.5	85.1	4.9	2.7	0.7	2.2	6.0	1.7	113.1
2002 Mar. qtr	7.0	15.4	—	11.0	4.0	7.3	0.1	2.0	1.9	—	48.6
Jun qtr	0.9	3.8	0.6	72.4	1.2	10.8	0.3	1.1	2.9	0.7	94.7
Sep. qtr	1.9	7.8	—	3.0	4.6	4.5	3.5	8.4	15.8	0.5	50.0
Dec. qtr	—	4.2	—	47.4	4.7	9.0	0.5	—	2.6	1.8	70.1
2003 Mar. qtr	—	8.5	—	27.0	1.5	14.1	—	3.4	5.9	4.0	64.4

**TABLE 11. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE(a): ORIGINAL  
(\$ million)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>							
1999-2000	199.6	95.8	295.3	85.0	380.3	158.0	538.3
2000-2001	166.2	70.2	236.4	54.0	290.4	118.6	409.0
2001-2002	181.8	115.8	297.6	78.9	376.4	187.3	563.8
2001 Dec. qtr	44.5	23.3	67.7	21.7	89.4	67.6	157.0
2002 Mar. qtr	36.4	26.8	63.2	18.3	81.5	39.0	120.5
Jun qtr	56.7	41.9	98.7	21.7	120.4	40.0	160.4
Sep. qtr	57.3	46.5	103.8	23.1	126.9	42.3	169.3
Dec. qtr	65.7	50.6	116.3	23.9	140.2	52.2	192.4
2003 Mar. qtr	68.1	53.3	121.4	18.8	140.2	52.0	192.2
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>							
1999-2000	6.5	4.6	11.1	4.0	15.0	106.7	121.7
2000-2001	4.0	2.1	6.0	0.4	6.4	163.0	169.4
2001-2002	9.2	11.4	20.6	0.6	21.2	98.7	119.8
2001 Dec. qtr	4.1	4.6	8.7	0.3	8.9	28.5	37.4
2002 Mar. qtr	1.9	1.1	3.0	0.1	3.2	20.6	23.8
Jun qtr	2.0	1.2	3.2	0.1	3.3	22.2	25.5
Sep. qtr	1.4	0.1	1.5	—	1.5	24.4	25.9
Dec. qtr	4.3	3.6	7.9	0.1	8.0	33.2	41.2
2003 Mar. qtr	5.1	3.0	8.1	—	8.1	47.5	55.6
<b>TOTAL</b>							
1999-2000	206.0	100.4	306.4	88.9	395.3	264.7	660.0
2000-2001	170.2	72.3	242.5	54.3	296.8	281.6	578.4
2001-2002	190.9	127.2	318.1	79.5	397.6	286.0	683.6
2001 Dec. qtr	48.5	27.8	76.4	21.9	98.3	96.1	194.4
2002 Mar. qtr	38.3	27.9	66.2	18.5	84.7	59.7	144.3
Jun qtr	58.7	43.1	101.8	21.8	123.7	62.2	185.9
Sep. qtr	58.7	46.6	105.3	23.1	128.4	66.8	195.2
Dec. qtr	70.0	54.2	124.2	24.0	148.2	85.4	233.5
2003 Mar. qtr	73.2	56.4	129.6	18.8	148.4	99.4	247.8

(a) From the September quarter 2000, data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 12. VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING WORK DONE: ORIGINAL**  
(\$ million)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hotels etc.</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Entertainment and recreational</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	19.9	57.0	4.4	30.5	10.5	2.7	0.8	2.5	25.9	3.8	158.0
2000-2001	13.3	13.2	7.7	63.8	7.4	5.7	0.9	0.6	4.3	1.8	118.6
2001-2002	7.4	41.4	1.1	87.4	11.5	8.2	4.4	0.8	22.6	2.5	187.3
2001 Dec. qtr	1.6	16.5	0.5	37.8	2.7	2.0	0.6	—	5.1	0.9	67.6
2002 Mar. qtr	1.7	13.9	0.4	11.0	2.7	2.5	0.8	0.2	5.7	0.1	39.0
Jun. qtr	1.0	6.2	0.2	17.1	4.7	2.4	2.4	0.1	5.9	—	40.0
Sep. qtr	1.1	4.0	—	22.4	3.5	2.7	1.8	0.4	6.2	0.4	42.3
Dec. qtr	—	22.8	0.1	14.0	1.8	3.4	0.2	0.8	7.8	1.3	52.2
2003 Mar. qtr	—	8.8	0.6	25.3	3.8	6.2	0.1	1.1	5.0	1.1	52.0
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	—	0.7	—	33.3	3.7	59.7	—	7.1	1.7	0.6	106.7
2000-2001	—	0.1	—	48.2	0.1	93.1	—	10.4	10.4	0.7	163.0
2001-2002	—	1.7	—	52.0	5.6	25.3	—	12.9	0.3	0.9	98.7
2001 Dec. qtr	—	0.5	—	22.2	0.3	2.8	—	2.6	—	—	28.5
2002 Mar. qtr	—	0.5	—	4.9	1.6	9.4	—	4.0	0.3	—	20.6
Jun. qtr	—	—	—	13.3	0.4	4.8	—	2.8	—	0.8	22.2
Sep. qtr	—	0.2	—	13.8	0.2	4.0	—	3.8	—	2.5	24.4
Dec. qtr	—	0.1	—	20.2	0.2	10.0	—	2.6	—	0.1	33.2
2003 Mar. qtr	—	0.2	—	27.9	0.2	11.8	—	2.3	2.0	3.0	47.5
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	19.9	57.7	4.4	63.8	14.1	62.3	0.8	9.6	27.6	4.4	264.7
2000-2001	13.3	13.3	7.7	112.0	7.5	98.8	0.9	10.9	14.6	2.5	281.6
2001-2002	7.4	43.1	1.1	139.4	17.0	33.6	4.4	13.7	22.8	3.4	286.0
2001 Dec. qtr	1.6	16.9	0.5	60.0	3.1	4.9	0.6	2.6	5.1	0.9	96.1
2002 Mar. qtr	1.7	14.3	0.4	15.9	4.2	11.9	0.8	4.2	6.0	0.1	59.7
Jun. qtr	1.0	6.2	0.2	30.5	5.1	7.3	2.4	2.9	5.9	0.9	62.2
Sep. qtr	1.1	4.2	—	36.1	3.7	6.7	1.8	4.2	6.2	2.9	66.8
Dec. qtr	—	22.9	0.1	34.2	2.0	13.5	0.2	3.4	7.8	1.5	85.4
2003 Mar. qtr	—	9.0	0.6	53.2	3.9	18.0	0.1	3.4	7.0	4.1	99.4

**TABLE 13. VALUE OF BUILDING WORK YET TO BE DONE AT END OF PERIOD(a): ORIGINAL  
(\$ million)**

	<i>New houses</i>	<i>New other residential building</i>	<i>New residential building</i>	<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Total residential building</i>	<i>Total non-residential building</i>	<i>Total building</i>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>							
1999-2000	39.6	25.3	64.9	11.8	76.6	84.3	160.9
2000-2001	28.6	30.2	58.8	6.4	65.2	59.1	124.3
2001-2002	34.7	92.5	127.2	12.6	139.7	36.2	175.9
2001 Dec. qtr	26.5	110.6	137.1	10.1	147.3	58.4	205.7
2002 Mar. qtr	31.4	107.0	138.3	13.0	151.3	46.1	197.4
Jun qtr	34.7	92.5	127.2	12.6	139.7	36.2	175.9
Sep. qtr	47.4	135.0	182.4	12.4	194.8	53.9	248.7
Dec. qtr	70.4	128.0	198.4	13.4	211.8	62.8	274.6
2003 Mar. qtr	67.1	127.9	195.0	13.7	208.7	80.7	289.4
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>							
1999-2000	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	112.3	113.1
2000-2001	1.4	7.7	9.1	—	9.1	31.7	40.8
2001-2002	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	39.1	39.2
2001 Dec. qtr	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.0	20.1	21.1
2002 Mar. qtr	2.0	0.8	2.8	—	2.8	18.3	21.2
Jun qtr	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	39.1	39.2
Sep. qtr	2.8	—	2.8	—	2.8	45.3	48.1
Dec. qtr	11.6	6.9	18.6	—	18.6	69.2	87.8
2003 Mar. qtr	6.8	3.9	10.7	—	10.7	81.8	92.5
<b>TOTAL</b>							
1999-2000	39.6	25.7	65.3	12.1	77.4	196.6	274.0
2000-2001	30.0	37.9	67.9	6.4	74.4	90.8	165.1
2001-2002	34.7	92.6	127.3	12.6	139.8	75.3	215.1
2001 Dec. qtr	27.0	111.0	137.9	10.3	148.3	78.5	226.8
2002 Mar. qtr	33.4	107.8	141.1	13.1	154.2	64.4	218.6
Jun qtr	34.7	92.6	127.3	12.6	139.8	75.3	215.1
Sep. qtr	50.1	135.0	185.1	12.4	197.6	99.2	296.8
Dec. qtr	82.1	134.9	217.0	13.4	230.4	132.0	362.4
2003 Mar. qtr	73.9	131.9	205.7	13.7	219.4	162.4	381.8

(a) Data is inclusive of non-deductible GST payable on residential buildings. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 14. 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>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	7.7	2.4	4.1	66.0	1.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.2	84.3
2000-2001	5.3	5.4	—	45.3	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.4	59.1
2001-2002	0.8	3.8	—	14.9	6.1	4.6	3.2	0.3	2.4	—	36.2
2001 Dec. qtr	1.0	12.4	—	29.9	4.8	1.7	2.3	0.3	5.9	0.1	58.4
2002 Mar. qtr	0.2	5.3	0.2	23.0	3.7	1.3	5.6	0.4	6.5	—	46.1
Jun qtr	0.8	3.8	—	14.9	6.1	4.6	3.2	0.3	2.4	—	36.2
Sep. qtr	—	2.9	—	18.4	6.2	4.1	2.2	1.6	18.3	0.3	53.9
Dec. qtr	—	2.4	0.6	30.4	4.2	5.5	2.0	1.4	16.3	—	62.8
2003 Mar. qtr	0.9	2.2	0.1	44.6	10.4	6.9	2.3	0.4	12.5	0.3	80.7
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>											
1999-2000	—	—	—	32.3	—	73.4	—	4.2	2.5	—	112.3
2000-2001	—	—	—	20.7	0.1	8.1	—	2.7	—	—	31.7
2001-2002	—	—	—	28.2	—	4.0	—	6.9	—	—	39.1
2001 Dec. qtr	—	0.5	—	8.3	1.6	4.6	—	4.9	—	0.1	20.1
2002 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	5.5	—	5.4	—	7.2	—	0.2	18.3
Jun qtr	—	—	—	28.2	—	4.0	—	6.9	—	—	39.1
Sep. qtr	—	—	—	34.4	—	6.1	—	4.4	—	0.5	45.3
Dec. qtr	—	—	—	45.9	—	19.5	—	3.5	—	0.3	69.2
2003 Mar. qtr	—	—	—	28.5	2.1	48.3	—	2.2	0.1	0.4	81.8
<b>TOTAL</b>											
1999-2000	7.7	2.4	4.1	98.3	1.6	73.7	0.4	4.5	3.8	0.2	196.6
2000-2001	5.3	5.4	—	66.0	1.1	8.2	0.2	3.1	0.1	1.4	90.8
2001-2002	0.8	3.8	—	43.2	6.1	8.6	3.2	7.2	2.4	—	75.3
2001 Dec. qtr	1.0	12.8	—	38.3	6.3	6.3	2.3	5.2	5.9	0.3	78.5
2002 Mar. qtr	0.2	5.3	0.2	28.5	3.7	6.7	5.6	7.6	6.5	0.2	64.4
Jun qtr	0.8	3.8	—	43.2	6.1	8.6	3.2	7.2	2.4	—	75.3
Sep. qtr	—	2.9	—	52.7	6.2	10.1	2.2	6.0	18.3	0.8	99.2
Dec. qtr	—	2.4	0.6	76.2	4.2	25.0	2.0	4.9	16.3	0.3	132.0
2003 Mar. qtr	0.9	2.2	0.1	73.1	12.5	55.2	2.3	2.7	12.6	0.7	162.4

**TABLE 15. BUILDING ACTIVITY RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS, MARCH QUARTER 2003  
(Percentage)**

<i>Stage of construction</i>	<i>New residential building</i>						<i>Value</i>		
	<i>Houses</i>		<i>Other residential</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Alterations and additions to residential buildings</i>	<i>Non-residential</i>	<i>Total building</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of dwelling units</i>	<i>Value</i>			
Commenced	3.8	5.6	—	—	2.1	3.2	6.4	0.4	1.5
Under construction at end of period	3.8	4.0	—	—	1.2	1.4	6.1	0.2	0.8
Completed	6.8	7.0	—	—	4.8	5.1	9.8	1.4	2.9
Value of work done	..	3.5	..	—	..	2.0	6.1	0.7	1.2
Value of work yet to be done	..	5.3	..	—	..	1.9	6.6	0.2	1.0

**TABLE 16. BUILDING ACTIVITY RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS, NON-RESIDENTIAL: MARCH QUARTER 2003  
(Percentage)**

<i>State of construction</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>
Value of work commenced	—	7.7	—	1.3	—	0.4	—	12.5	3.5	7.2	0.4
Value of work under construction	—	1.8	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.8	—	9.6	0.2
Value of work completed	—	7.0	—	2.2	—	4.8	—	—	1.9	—	1.4
Value of work done	—	6.1	—	1.1	—	2.5	—	3.3	1.6	1.3	0.7
Value of work yet to be done	—	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	0.9	—	37.4	0.2



# EXPLANATORY NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains detailed estimates 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 were compiled on the basis of returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity. From the March quarter 2002, the quarterly survey consists of:

- a sample survey of private sector jobs involving residential building jobs valued at \$10,000 or more and non-residential building jobs valued at \$50,000 or more; and
- a complete enumeration of all such public sector building jobs.

**3** From the September quarter 1990, only non-residential building jobs (both new and alterations and additions) with an approval value of \$50,000 (previously \$30,000) or more are included in the survey.

**4** The use of sample survey techniques in the Building Activity Survey means that reliable estimates of private sector building activity are generally available only at state, territory and Australia levels. Although subject to higher relative standard errors (refer to paragraphs 23–25), a range of sub-state estimates of building activity may be available. For further information on the availability of Building Activity estimates, contact the ABS in Adelaide on 08 8237 7316. Detailed data on building approvals, based on information reported by local government and other reporting authorities, are available for regions below state and territory level from the Building Approvals series compiled by the ABS.

## 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 compiled from the ABS Engineering Construction Survey (ECS). Results from the Building Activity Survey, together with estimates from the ECS, provide a complete quarter picture of building and construction.

**6** Building jobs included in each quarter in the Building Activity Survey comprise those jobs selected in previous quarters which have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter and those jobs newly selected in the current quarter. The population list from which jobs are selected for inclusion comprises all approved jobs which were notified to the ABS (refer to paragraph 2) up to but not including the last month of the reference quarter (e.g. up to the end of August in respect of the September quarter survey). This introduces a lag to the statistics in respect of those jobs notified *and* commenced in the last month of the reference quarter (e.g. for the month of September in respect of the September quarter survey). For example, jobs which were notified as approved in the month of June and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the September quarter. Similarly, building jobs which were notified in the month of September and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the December quarter.

## TREATMENT OF GST

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

### TREATMENT OF GST *continued*

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

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

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

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

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

### DEFINITIONS

**11** 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.

**12** 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.

**13** 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.).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### DEFINITIONS *continued*

**14** 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.

**15** 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.

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

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

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

### VALUATION OF BUILDING JOBS

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

- *Value of building commenced or under construction* represents the anticipated completion value based, where practicable, on estimated market or contract price of building jobs excluding the value of land and landscaping. Site preparation costs are included. Where 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 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 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 jobs commenced but not completed.

### BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

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

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

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

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**23** Since the figures for private sector 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 (SE), 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 SE 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 SEs. Another measure of sampling variability is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSEs of estimates provide an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and are shown in tables 15 and 16.

**24** An example of the use of RSEs 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 RSE is 2.5% (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% 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.

**25** The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the RSE, 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 jobs, and efficient operating procedures.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

**26** 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 the effect of 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 on Canberra 02 6252 6076.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT *continued*

**27** 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. Some of the component series shown have 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. Therefore, figures should not be derived using the adjusted totals. (For example, seasonally adjusted public sector dwelling units should not be derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted private sector dwellings units from the seasonally adjusted total). In table 3, the components of the current price value series have, however, been seasonally adjusted dependently, and the seasonally adjusted components of series in that table add to the seasonally adjusted total.

**28** As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's data. For the Building Activity Survey, the results of the latest review are shown in the December quarter issue each year.

### CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

**29** Chain volume estimates of the value of commencements and work done are shown in tables 1 and 2. While current price estimates of the value of commencements and work done reflect both price and volume changes, chain volume estimates measure changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated and therefore only reflect volume changes. The direct impact of the GST is a price change, and hence is removed from chain volume estimates. The deflators used to revalue the current price estimates in this publication are derived from the same price data underlying the deflators compiled for the dwellings and new other building components of the national accounts aggregate 'Gross fixed capital formation'.

**30** The chain volume measures of commencements and work done appearing in this publication are annually reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to current price values in a chosen reference year (currently 2000–01). The reference year is updated annually in the June quarter publication. Each year's data in the value of commencements and work done series are based on the prices of the previous year, except for the quarters of the latest incomplete year which are based upon the current reference year (i.e. 2000–01). Comparability with previous years is achieved by linking (or chaining) the series together to form a continuous time series. Further information on the nature and concepts of chain volume measures is contained in the ABS *Information Paper: Introduction of Chain Volume Measures in the Australian National Accounts* (cat. no. 5248.0).

**31** The factors used to seasonally adjust the chain volume series are identical to those used to adjust the corresponding current price series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**32** 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*.

### RELATED PRODUCTS

**33** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

*Building Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8752.0) Quarterly

*Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 8755.0) Quarterly

*Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary*  
(cat. no. 8750.0) Quarterly

*Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0) Monthly

*Building Approvals, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory*  
(cat. no. 8731.1) Quarterly

*Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 8762.0) Quarterly

*Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (cat. no. 5609.0) Monthly.

**34** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

### ABA DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**35** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

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

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