



BITRE STATISTICAL ALERT

Engineering Construction Activity (ABS cat. 8762.0)
March quarter 2019

26 June 2019

Overview

On 26 June, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the March quarter 2019 edition of Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (ABS cat. 8762.0).

This alert summarises Australian engineering construction activity (all construction activity other than houses and buildings) which is the best available indicator of infrastructure investment in Australia. Of particular interest is infrastructure investment related to transport, water, mining and electricity.

All figures presented in this alert are in real terms, adjusted for price changes using a deflator calculated by dividing the current value of total engineering construction for each quarter by the equivalent chain volume measure. Unless otherwise indicated, the values here are not seasonally adjusted or trend figures.

The [Infrastructure Construction Dashboard](#) includes more information on this ABS release.

Summary

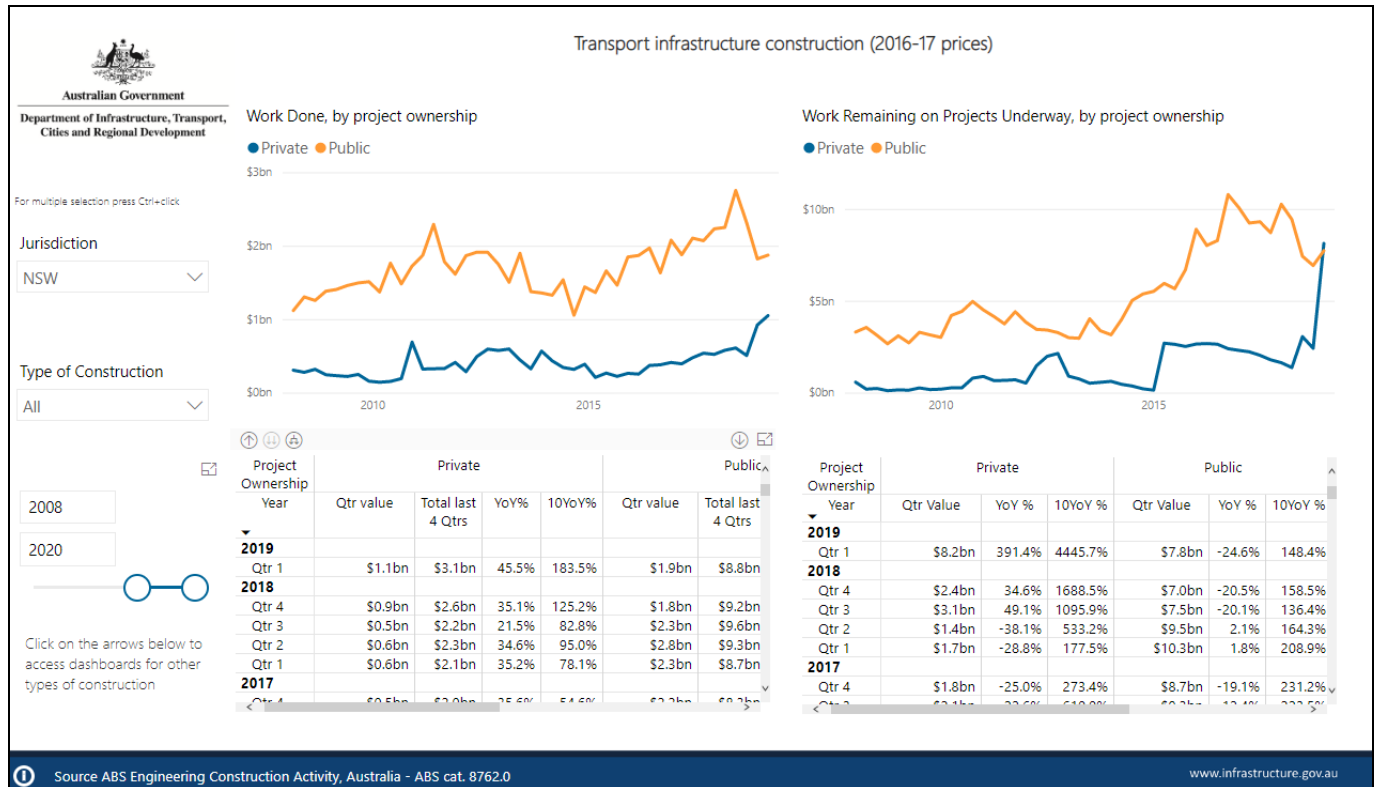
	Value (\$billion)	Total percentage change (%)		
	Mar quarter 2019	From Dec quarter 2018	From Mar quarter 2018	From Mar quarter 2009
Engineering construction work done	19.7	-12.0	-13.7	-0.4
Engineering construction work commenced (a)	23.0	16.2	-24.1	39.8
Engineering construction work yet to be done (b)	66.8	9.2	14.9	17.8
Transport engineering construction work done	6.8	-1.1	-11.6	4.3
Transport engineering construction work commenced (a)	11.4	162.9	-34.3	113.1
Transport engineering construction work yet to be done (b)	32.2	21.7	1.2	78.4

Notes: (a) Engineering construction work commenced is a short-term indicator of the future construction pipeline.

(b) Work yet to be done is a longer-term indicator of the future construction pipeline (outlook). Also, work yet to be done is a stock while work done and work commenced are flows. For large projects the work yet to be done may be done over a number of years.

Some notable results in this edition:

In the March quarter 2019, the value of engineering construction work yet to be done on private transport infrastructure increased by 66% to \$13.3 billion. This was driven largely by a \$5.8 billion increase in the value of work yet to be done on privately owned transport projects in New South Wales (shown in dashboard screenshot below).



Source ABS Engineering Construction Activity, Australia - ABS cat. 8762.0

www.infrastructure.gov.au

See [Infrastructure Construction Dashboard](#) for more detailed data.

Glossary

Engineering construction	<p>Value of engineering construction includes work done on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roads, highways and subdivisions and airport runways,• Bridges• Railways and tramways• Harbours• Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage• Electricity generation, transmission and distribution• Pipelines (other than water)• Recreation• Telecommunications• Heavy industry
Building construction	<p>A building is a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock.</p>
Chain Volume Measures	<p>Measures that have been adjusted to take into account price variations.</p>
Resources sector	<p>Oil, gas, coal and other materials – includes construction of production, storage and distribution of facilities, refineries, pumping stations and construction of mines.</p>
Value of work done	<p>This value only includes work carried out during the quarter.</p>
Value of work commenced	<p>A project is regarded as having commenced when the site works begin, with some exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some public sector authorities are unable to report on this basis. In such cases, the authorities report the value of their annual works budget in December quarter each year.• For very large projects, where a significant amount of work is done off-site, the project may be commenced before the site works begin.
Value of work yet to be done	<p>The value of work yet to be done on all projects underway at the end of the quarter. Cost variations can lead to increases or decreases in the value of work yet to be done.</p>

Next scheduled release

25 September 2019 - Engineering Construction Activity, Australia - ABS cat. 8762.0 (June quarter 2019)

Related ABS releases

2 August 2019 - Producer Price Indexes, Australia - ABS cat. 6427.0 (June quarter 2019)

28 August 2019 - Construction Work Done, Australia- ABS cat. 8755.0 (June quarter 2019)

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Acknowledgement

The Australian Bureau of Statistics releases the data summarised in this alert.

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