



# BITRE STATISTICAL ALERT

Construction Work Done, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8755.0)  
June Quarter 2019

28 August 2019

## Overview

On 28 August, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the June quarter 2019 edition of Construction Work Done, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8755.0). This release presents preliminary estimates of building and engineering construction work done during the quarter derived from the quarterly Building Activity Survey and the quarterly Engineering Construction Survey. Please note that more comprehensive and updated engineering construction results will be available on 25 September 2019 with the release of Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0).

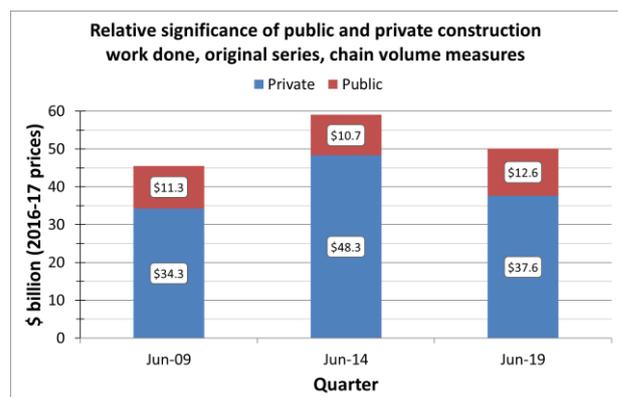
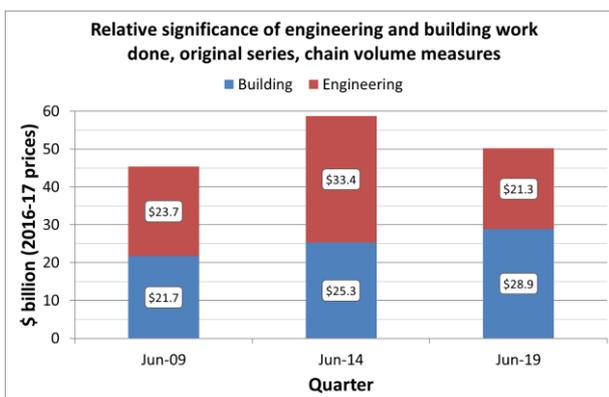
In real terms, overall changes in the construction work done (original data) in the June quarter 2019 relative to the previous quarter were:

- The total value of construction work done increased by 5.8 per cent to \$50.2 billion.
- Building construction work done increased by 3.3 per cent to \$28.9 billion and engineering construction work increased by 9.4 per cent to \$21.3 billion.
- The value of private sector engineering work done increased by 1.7 per cent to \$11.9 billion while public sector engineering work increased by 21.2 per cent to \$9.4 billion.

While the original data increased quarterly, there was a quarterly decrease of 3.8 per cent in the total seasonally adjusted construction work done and a decrease of 2.7 per cent in the total trend construction work done.

Year-on-year, relative to the June quarter 2018, the value of total construction work (original data) done in the June quarter 2019 decreased by 11.0 per cent, driven by a 15.3 per cent fall in engineering construction work done and a 7.5 per cent fall in building construction activity. Engineering construction work done in the June quarter 2019 is 10.3 per cent lower than ten years ago, in the June quarter 2009.

The charts below show how selected elements of construction work done have changed over the past five and ten years. They show engineering construction work done (mainly private) increasing with the resource construction boom and then falling. They also show the large increase in building construction work done between 2009 and 2014. The private sector makes up around 80 per cent of construction work done.



### Value of construction work done by data type

The ABS releases three data series: original, seasonally adjusted, and trend. The original data set is unadjusted, except for price. The seasonally adjusted series takes into account normal seasonal factors, the varying numbers of working days in a quarter and the varying date of Easter. As a result, seasonally adjusted statistics reflect both irregular and trend movements. Trend estimates are derived from the seasonally adjusted series, which is smoothed to reduce the impact of irregular changes.

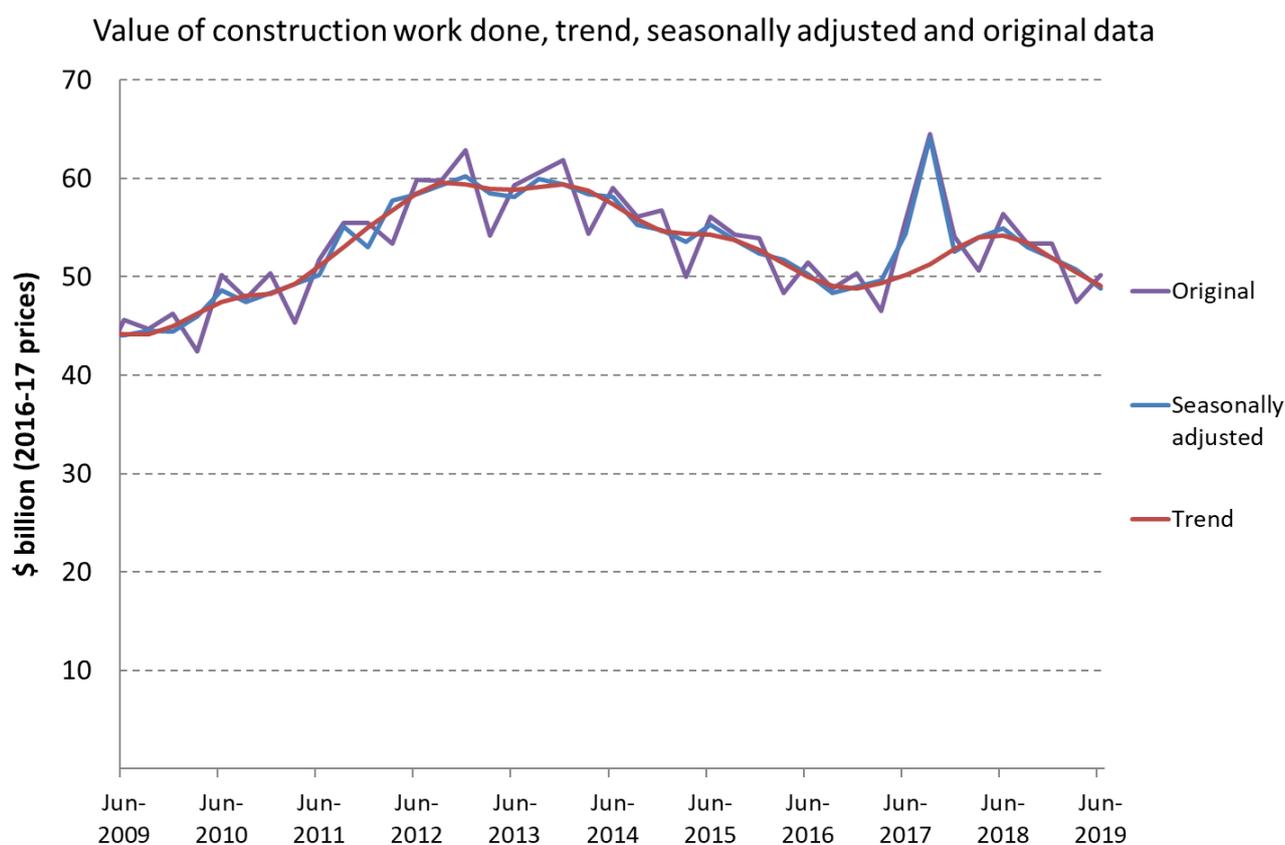
All the data in this statistical alert uses chain volume estimates in 2016–17 dollars. This measure reflects changes in value after the direct effects of price changes have been removed.

The value of construction work done (original data) in the June quarter 2019 was \$50.2 billion, an increase of 5.8 per cent from the previous quarter and a decrease of 11.0 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2018.

The seasonally adjusted value of construction work done in the June quarter 2019 was \$48.8 billion, a decrease of 3.8 per cent from the previous quarter and a decrease of 11.1 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2018.

The trend value of construction work done in the June quarter 2019 was \$49.1 billion, a decrease of 2.7 per cent from the previous quarter and a decrease of 9.4 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2018.

The remainder of this release uses original data (only adjusted for inflation) to capture the impact of seasonal variations and individual projects.

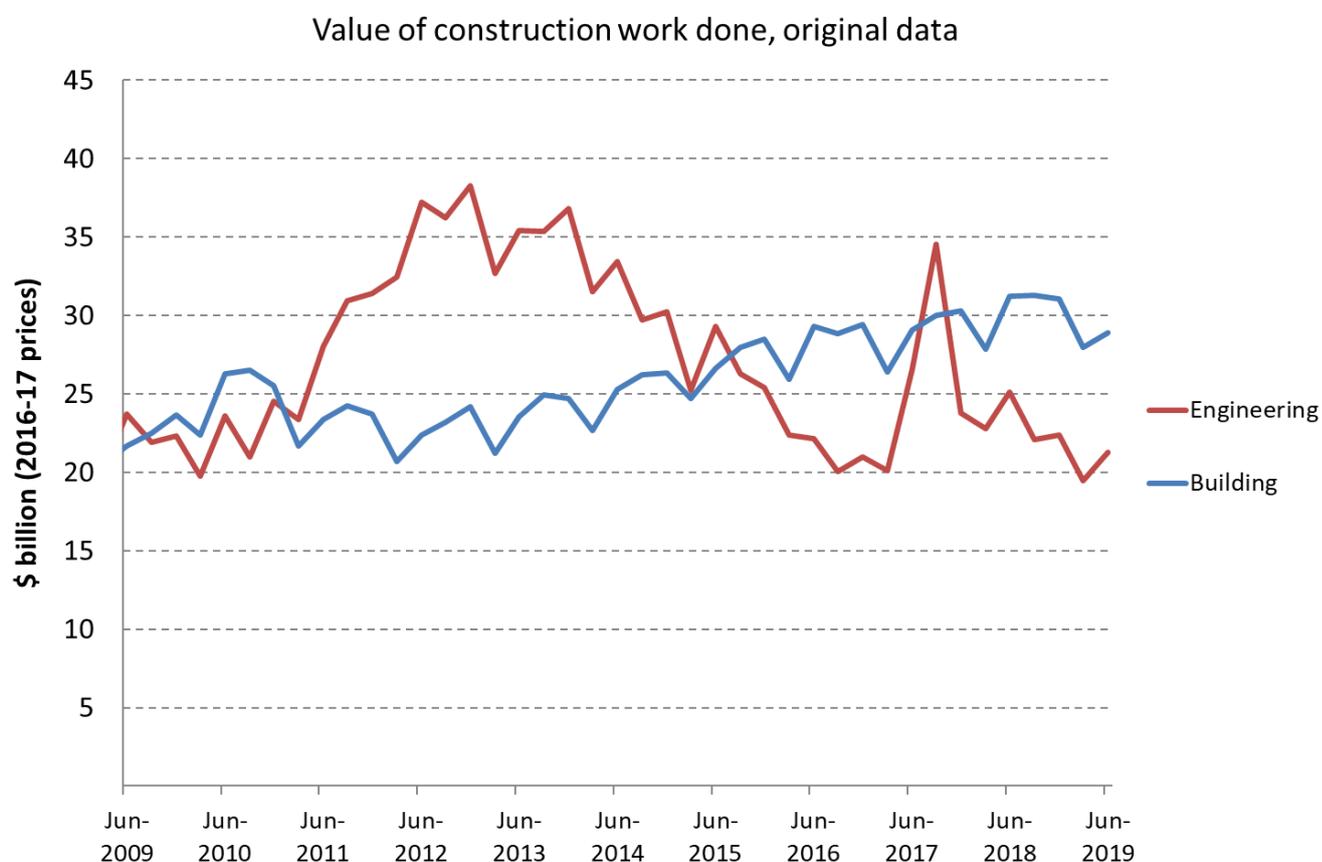


Note: Chain volume measures.

### Value of engineering and building construction work done by sector

In the June quarter 2019, the value of engineering construction work done increased by 9.4 per cent relative to the previous quarter<sup>1</sup> to \$21.3 billion. Compared to the June quarter 2018, the value of engineering construction work done decreased by 15.3 per cent in the June quarter 2019 and relative to the same quarter 10 years ago, the value of engineering construction work is down by 10.3 per cent.

In the June quarter 2019, the value of building construction work done increased by 3.3 per cent relative to the previous quarter to \$28.9 billion. Compared to the June quarter 2018, the value of building construction work done decreased by 7.5 per cent in the June quarter 2019 and relative to the same quarter 10 years ago, the value of building construction work done is up by 33.2 per cent.



Note: Chain volume measures.

<sup>1</sup> Note that quarter on quarter variations for engineering and building construction work done are volatile.

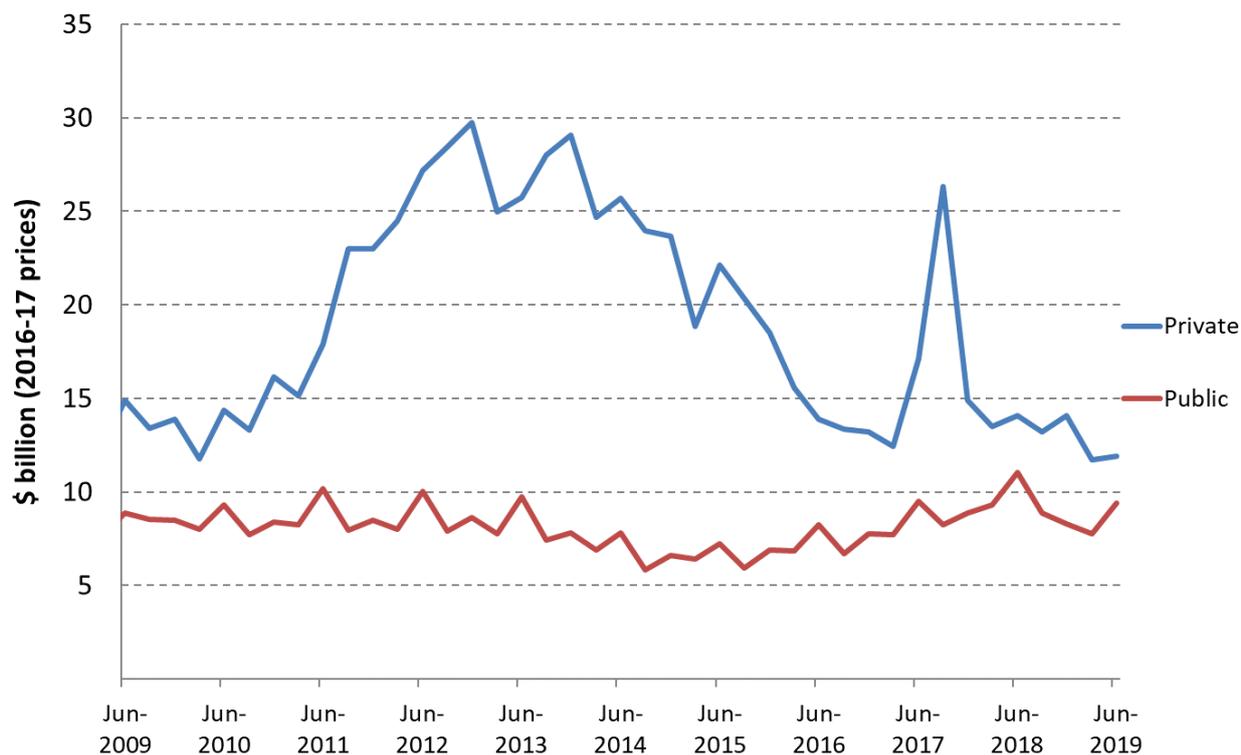
### Value of engineering construction by sector

Engineering construction includes work done on transport infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways and tramways and non-transport infrastructure such as sewerage and drainage, electricity, and telecommunications (For a full list of what engineering construction captures, see the glossary on page 7).

In the June quarter 2019, the value of public sector engineering work done increased by 21.2 per cent relative to the previous quarter to \$9.4 billion. However, the value of public sector engineering work done in the June quarter 2019 was 15.1 per cent lower than a year ago in the June quarter 2018 but still 6.0 per cent higher than in the same quarter a decade ago.

Relative to the previous quarter, the value of private sector engineering construction work done increased by 1.7 per cent in the June quarter 2019 to \$11.9 billion. However, the value of private sector engineering construction work done in the June quarter 2019 was 15.5 per cent lower than a year ago in the June quarter 2018 and 20.1 per cent lower than the same quarter a decade ago.

Value of engineering construction work done, by infrastructure owner, original data



Note: Chain volume measures.

### Value of all engineering construction by state/territory

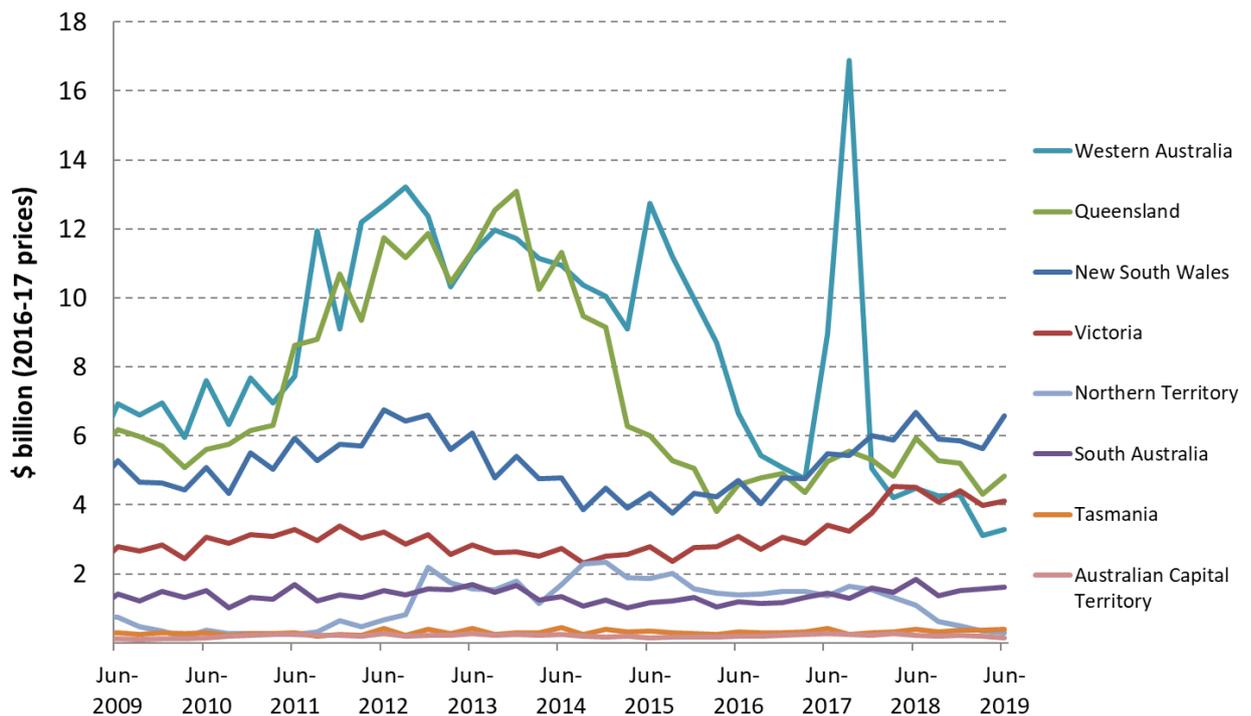
The largest values of engineering construction work done in the June quarter 2019 were in New South Wales (\$6.6 billion), Queensland (\$4.8 billion) and Victoria (\$4.1 billion).

The value of engineering construction work done increased quarter-on-quarter in all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory where it fell 12.8 per cent and the Australian Capital Territory where it fell 23.2 per cent. The biggest percentage increases quarter-on-quarter were in New South Wales (17.1 per cent), Queensland (12.1 per cent) and Tasmania (11.2 per cent).

Compared to the June quarter 2018 however, engineering work done fell in every jurisdiction except Tasmania with the biggest percentage falls in the Northern Territory (-73.0 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (-37.3 per cent), Western Australia (-26.3 per cent), and Queensland (-18.7 per cent).

Compared to ten years ago (the June quarter 2009), the quarterly engineering work done is up in Victoria (47.5 per cent), Tasmania (31.2 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (29.1 per cent), New South Wales (24.7 per cent), and South Australia (14.6 per cent).

Value of all engineering construction work done, by state/territory, original data



Note: Chain volume measures.

### Value of all building construction by state/territory

A building is a rigid, fixed and permanent structure that has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock. Note that the quarterly value of building construction work done is influenced by seasonal factors.

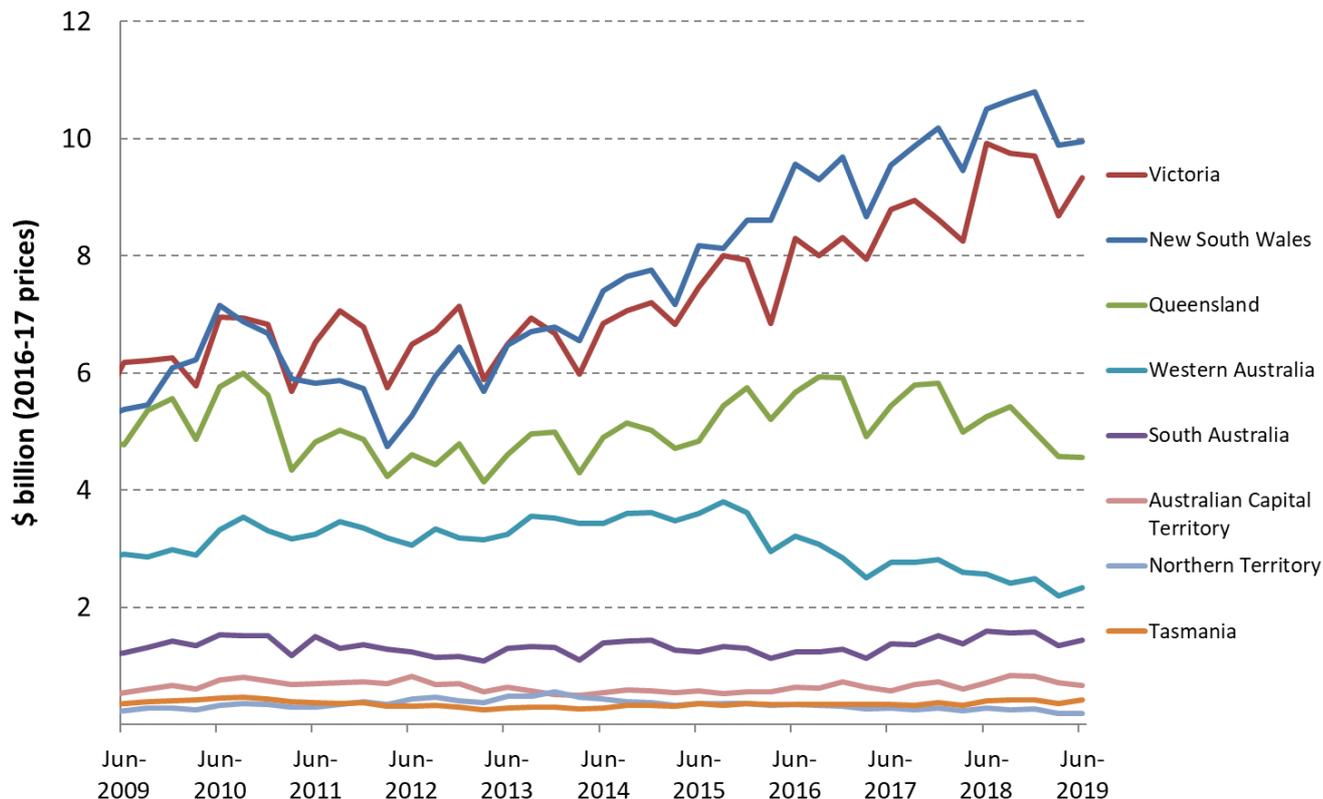
In the June quarter 2019 the largest values of building construction work done were in New South Wales (\$9.9 billion), Victoria (\$9.3 billion) and Queensland (\$4.6 billion).

The value of building construction work done increased in the June quarter 2019 relative to the previous quarter in most jurisdictions with the largest percentage increases in Tasmania (13.9 per cent), Victoria (7.5 per cent), South Australia (7.4 per cent), and Western Australia (6.5 per cent). The two jurisdictions with a quarterly decline in building construction done was the Australian Capital Territory (-7.2 per cent) and Queensland (-0.3 per cent).

However compared to a year ago in the June quarter 2018, the building construction work done fell in every jurisdiction except Tasmania. The biggest percentage falls were in the Northern Territory (-33.5 per cent), Queensland (-13.0 per cent), South Australia (-9.7 per cent) and Western Australia (-8.8 per cent).

Compared to ten years ago in the June quarter 2009, the quarterly building construction work done in the June quarter 2019 is up by 85.2 per cent in New South Wales, 51.0 per cent in Victoria, 22.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory and 17.2 per cent in South Australia. The quarterly building activity however is down in the Northern Territory (-21.1 per cent), Western Australia (-19.7 per cent) and Queensland (-4.5 per cent).

Value of all building construction work done, by state/territory, original data



Note: Chain volume measures.

## Glossary

Chain Volume Measures	Measures that have been adjusted to take account of price variations. The current reference year is 2016-17.
Building construction	A building is a rigid, fixed and permanent structure that has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock.
Engineering construction	Value of engineering construction includes work done on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roads, highways and subdivisions, airport runways</li><li>• Bridges</li><li>• Railways and tramways</li><li>• Harbours</li><li>• Water storage and supply</li><li>• Sewerage and drainage</li><li>• Electricity generation, transmission and distribution</li><li>• Pipelines (other than water)</li><li>• Recreation</li><li>• Telecommunications</li><li>• Heavy Industry</li></ul>
Value of work done	This value only includes work carried out during the quarter. The value of work done for the private sector consists of the value of work done on prime contracts, plus speculative contracts, plus work done on own account. The value of work done for the public sector is the work done by the private organisation's own workforce and subcontractors.

**Next scheduled release**

27 November 2019 - Construction Work Done, Australia - ABS cat. 8755.0 (June quarter 2019)

**Related releases**

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

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

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ISSN 2206-3358

August 2019

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This publication should be attributed in the following way; Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Statistical Alert, Construction Work Done, Australia - ABS cat. 8755.0, June quarter 2019, BITRE, Canberra.

**Acknowledgement**

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

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