

BACKGROUND

The ABS releases final building activity data on a quarterly basis approximately four months after the reference period. The release includes data on a variety of key building indicators, including dwelling commencements, dwelling units in the pipeline and the value of construction work done.

This brief covers the final data on construction activity from the ABS *Building Activity, Australia* publication and *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia*.

Building approvals are published monthly and reported in detail in a separate brief.

Note: for some indicators, preliminary data for the latest quarter has already been published in [Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary](#).

DWELLING COMMENCEMENTS

During the March quarter 2026, the number of dwelling unit commencements:

- fell by 6.2% in South Australia, but were 1.6% higher than a year earlier. Nationally, dwelling unit commencements fell by 11% but were 0.2% higher than a year earlier (seasonally adjusted terms).

Table 1: **Total Dwelling Unit Commencements**
(% changes, seasonally adjusted)

	Mar qtr 26 (no.)	Mar qtr 26 v Dec qtr 25 (%)	Mar qtr 26 v Mar qtr 25 (%)
NSW	11,841	-28.7	-10.8
VIC	13,972	2.8	-9.4
QLD	10,861	-7.3	20.5
SA	3,791	-6.2	1.6
WA	5,923	-7.9	3.7
TAS	646	-3.3	8.4
NT	178	-9.6	-21.6
ACT	1,488	71.8	239.7
AUS	48,012	-11.2	0.2

DWELLING COMPLETIONS

- During the March quarter 2026, the number of dwelling completions in South Australia was 3,727.
- Since the beginning of the September quarter 2024 the cumulative number of dwelling completions is 23,388.

Chart 1: **Quarterly Dwelling Unit Commencements**
(‘000, seas adj.)

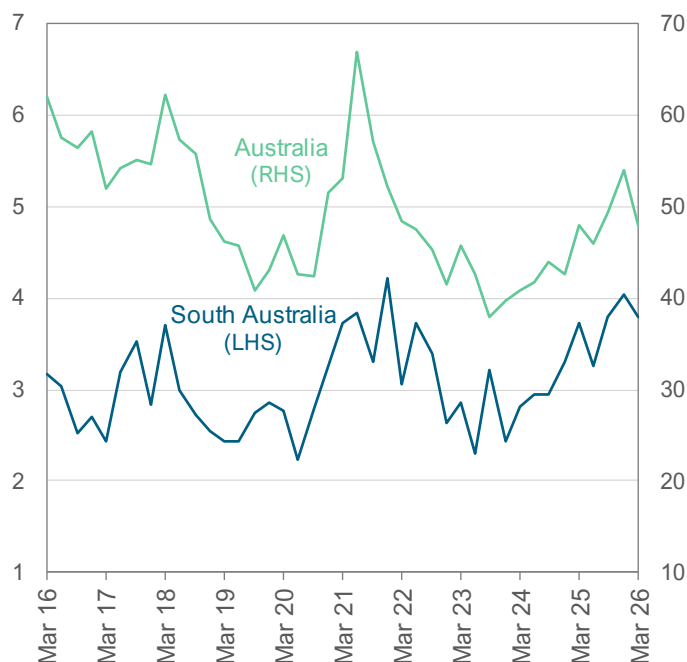
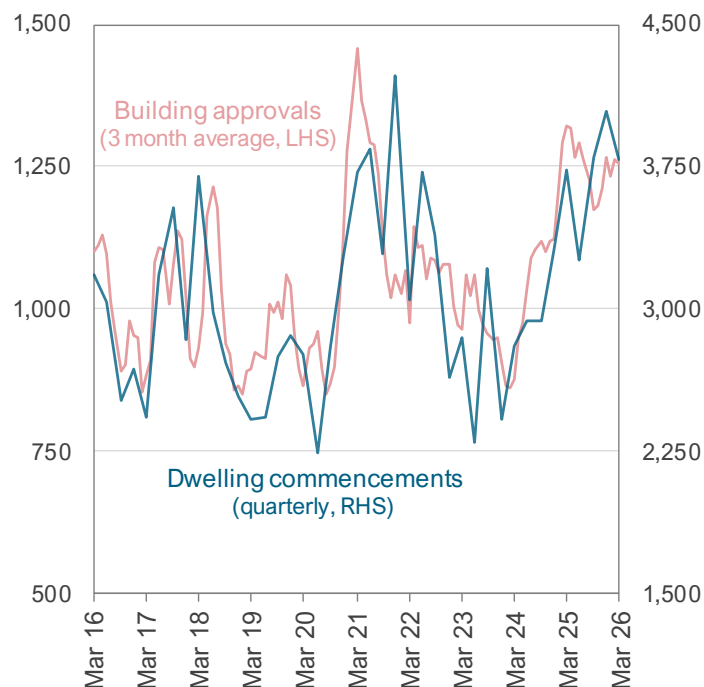


Chart 2: **South Australian Dwelling Approvals**



DWELLING UNITS IN THE PIPELINE

The number of dwelling units under construction:

- in South Australia rose by 3.9% in the March quarter 2026 (from 15,016 to 15,605) to be 4.9% higher than a year earlier. 61% of these were detached houses (up from an average of 49% in the year to March 2020).
- nationally, rose by 2.6% in the March quarter (from 237,739 to 243,864) to be 11% higher than a year earlier.

The number of dwelling units approved but not yet commenced:

- in South Australia fell by 12% in the March quarter 2026 (from 3,751 to 3,308) to be 12% lower than a year earlier. 63% of these were detached houses (up from an average of 50% in the year to March 2020).
- nationally, fell by 4.7% in the March quarter (from 31,421 to 29,936) to be 12% lower than a year earlier.

The total number of dwelling units in the pipeline (both under construction, and approved but not yet commenced):

- in South Australia rose by 0.8% in the March quarter 2026 (from 18,767 to 18,913) to be 1.4% higher than a year earlier.
- nationally, rose by 1.7% in the March quarter (from 269,160 to 273,800) to be 7.7% higher than a year earlier.

In 2024-25, the average completion time for new houses:

- in South Australia was 3.38 quarters, down from 4.04 quarters in 2023-24.
- nationally, was 3.07 quarters, down from 3.47 quarters in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the average completion time for new townhouses:

- in South Australia was 5.03 quarters, down from 5.32 quarters in 2023-24.
- nationally, was 3.91 quarters, down from 4.30 quarters in 2023-24.

(Average completion times are published annually in the June quarter release.)

Chart 3: South Australian Dwelling Units in the Pipeline ('000 original)

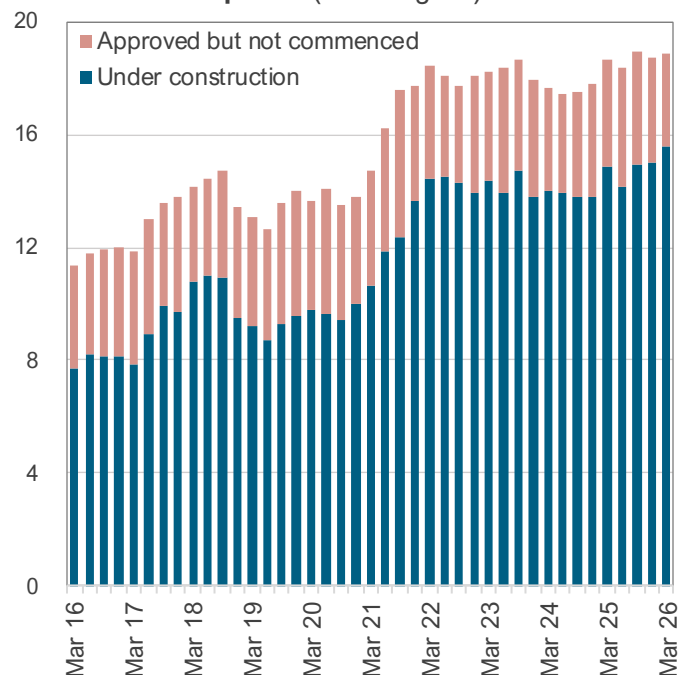
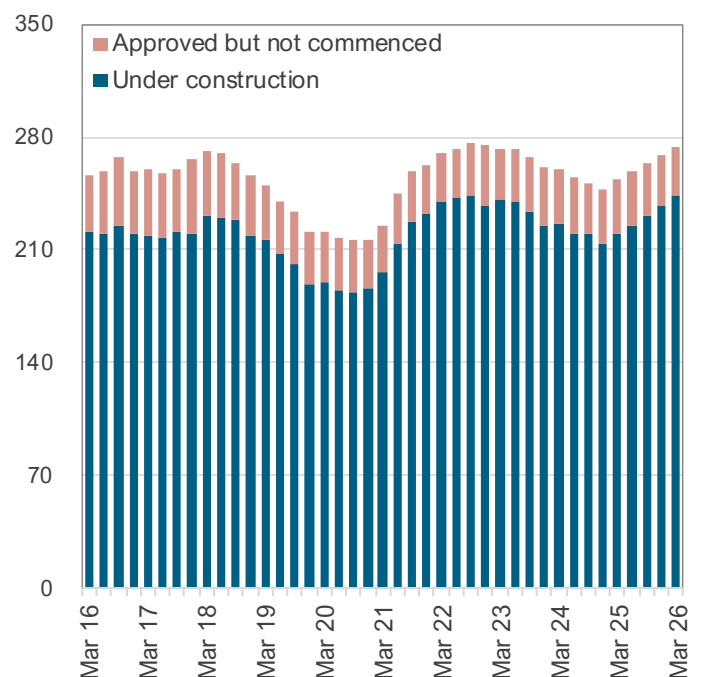


Chart 4: Australian Dwelling Units in the Pipeline ('000 original)



CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE

(Quarterly, **seasonally adjusted** value)

The value of total construction work done:

In South Australia fell by 0.3% in the March quarter 2026 but was 12% higher than a year earlier. The total fall in the quarter reflects:

- a rise of 3.0% (\$80m) in engineering;
- a fall of 0.6% (\$6.4m) in non-residential; and
- a fall of 5.6% (\$92m) in residential.

Nationally, total construction rose by 3.6% in the March quarter to be 6.8% higher than a year earlier.

Chart 5: **South Australian Construction Work Done**
(\$b, real, seas adj.)

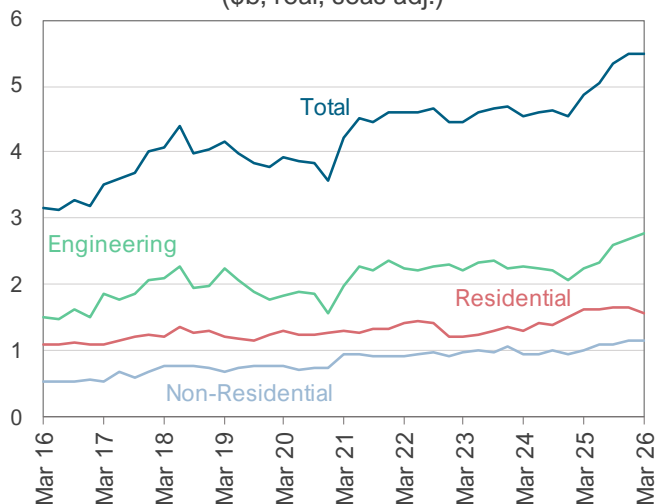
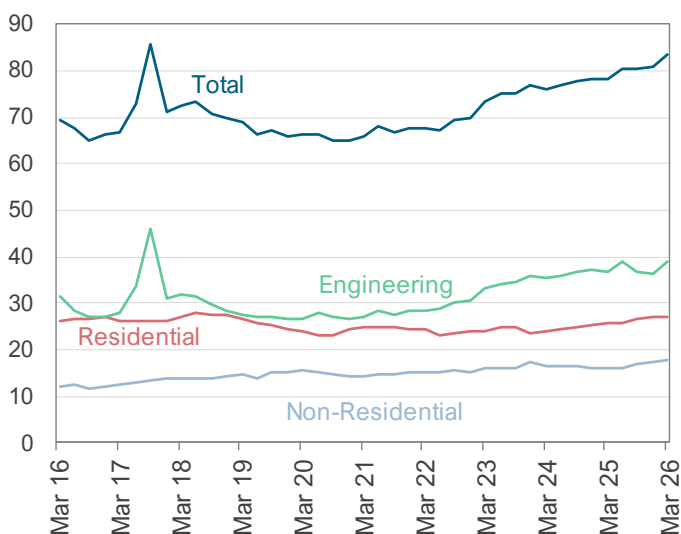


Chart 6: **Australian Construction Work Done**
(\$b, real, seas adj.)



CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE PIPELINE

(Quarterly, **original** value)

The value of total construction work in the pipeline:

In South Australia fell by 2.0% in the March quarter 2026 but was 44% higher than a year earlier. The total fall in the quarter reflects:

- a fall of 6.7% (\$680m) in engineering;
- a rise of 3.1% (\$174m) in residential; and
- a rise of 0.4% (\$36m) in non-residential.

Nationally, total pipeline value rose by 0.9% in the March quarter to be 5.6% higher than a year earlier.

Chart 7: **South Australian Construction Work in the Pipeline** (\$b, original)

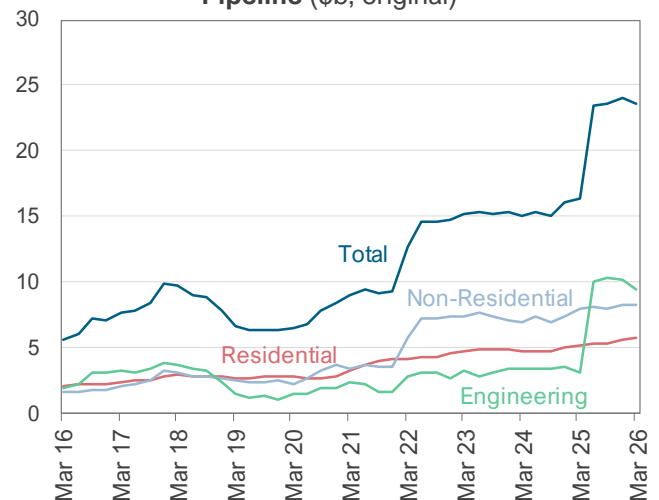
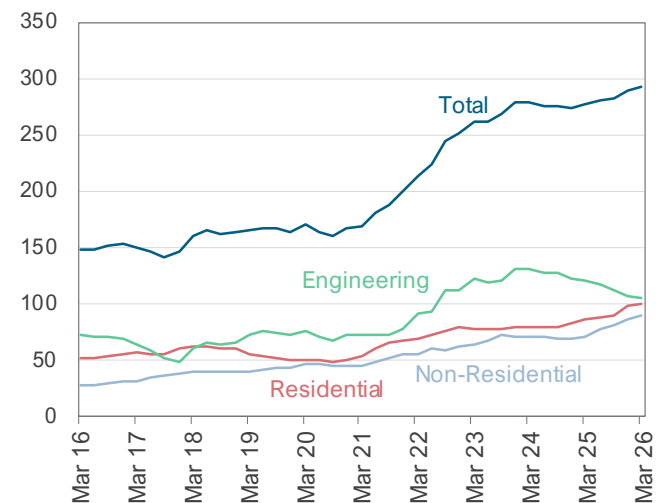


Chart 8: **Australian Construction Work in the Pipeline**
(\$b, original)



Next release of [ABS Building Activity](#) is 7 October 2026.