

Work on hand and work done P5042

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ABRIDGEMENT OF RELEASE

Due to budget constraints, the survey in respect of Work on hand and Work done has been terminated. The usefulness of the information was discussed with users. To accommodate users, a limited number of important questions regarding 'work on hand' and 'work done' were incorporated in the quarterly financial questionnaire. The results regarding 'work on hand' and 'work done' are published in this release. Therefore, detailed information regarding residential and 'other buildings' and 'other construction and works' is no longer available.

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WORK ON HAND FOR CONSTRUCTION FIRMS DECREASED AT THE END OF THE FOURTH QUARTER 1998

The seasonally adjusted value of work on hand at the end of the fourth quarter of 1998 decreased by 7,6% (-R1 201,0 million) to R14 647,0 million compared with the end of the third quarter of 1998. However, the seasonally adjusted value of work done during the fourth quarter of 1998 remained at the same level as for the previous quarter of 1998.

The **actual value of work on hand** at the end of the fourth quarter of 1998 amounted to R14 619,9 million. This represents a decrease of 3,8% or R573,6 million compared with the end of the third quarter of 1998. Building contractors reported a substantial decrease of 7,1% or R537,0 million, while the actual value of work on hand for civil engineering and other contractors decreased by only 0,5% (-R36,6 million) during the above-mentioned period.

The **actual value of work done** during the fourth quarter of 1998 decreased by 6,4% (-R494,5 million) to R7 281,6 million compared with the third quarter of 1998. Decreases were reported by building contractors (-7,6% or R317,9 million) as well as by civil engineering and other contractors (-4,9% or R176,7 million).

Building contractors contributed 52,8% or R3 841,7 million and civil engineering and other contractors contributed 47,2% or R3 439,9 million to the total value of work done.

2. EXPLANATORY NOTES

2.1 GENERAL

This statistical release contains estimates in respect of work on hand and work done by private construction firms. The estimates are based on quarterly data collected from a representative sample of construction firms.

The 1991 Construction Census provided the frame for the selection of a revised sample which was implemented as from December 1995. Establishments which commenced operations after the date of the census have also been taken into account. The raising factors are calculated on basis of work done as reported in the 1991 Construction Census.

The value of work on hand and work done were calculated by raising the sample data to represent the total of the industry.

Historical data for the period January 1985 to December 1995 regarding work on hand and work done by construction firms was published in a separate statistical release P5042.1 (entitled **Construction: work on hand and work done, January 1985 to December 1995**).

The information of the former TBVC states is included in this statistical release for the period covered in this release. Information available to Stats SA indicates that the total value of construction activities of the states for December 1995 amounted to approximately 1,9% of the total.

In order to improve timeliness, some information for the current quarter may have been estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised as soon as better information is available.

2.2 NOTES TO TABLES

Revaluations resulting from contract price adjustment provisions in contracts have been taken into account.

Ordinary repair and maintenance work is excluded, but reconstruction work of a capital nature is included.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Client/Employer is a person or authority for whom building, construction, demolition, excavation or installation work is done/must be done.

3.2 An establishment acts as a contractor or principal contractor if it executes or handles the contract for the client/employer directly.

3.3 An establishment acts as a subcontractor if it performs activities directly for or under the direct control of the principal contractor. Subcontractors also include nominated subcontractors and selected (non-nominated)

subcontractors.

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