



the voice of the industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NT's Dwelling Starts Take a Nosedive

The Housing Industry Association, the voice of Australia's residential building industry, said that ABS figures released today showed that dwelling commencements in the Northern Territory dropped sharply in the June quarter 2011.

HIA Executive Director, Northern Territory, Mr Robert Harding said that in the June 2011 quarter the Northern Territory's seasonally adjusted dwelling commencements fell by 69.5 per cent, although this result did follow a strong March quarter result. Overall, housing starts in 2010-11 were up by a modest 1.6 per cent on the levels of 2009-10.

The June 2011 quarter, with only 146 starts, sets a new low point in the Territory's recent home-building history.

"The June quarter result of a mere 146 housing starts means that we have to look back more than a decade to find a lower quarterly result for the Northern Territory," said Robert Harding.

The result is due largely to a substantial fall in the volatile 'other dwelling' (or multi-unit) segment of the market, although detached housing is also down significantly.

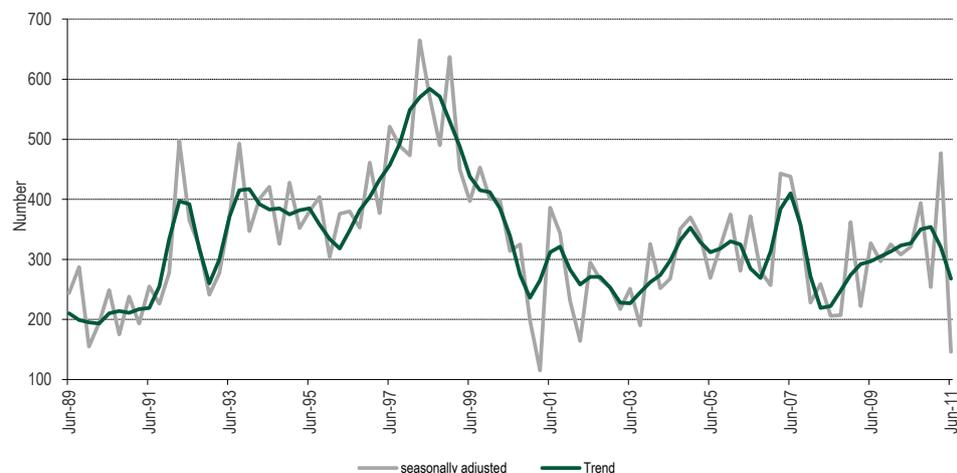
"The March quarter increase in housing starts was welcomed, but unfortunately the June result more than unwinds that positive news. In the March quarter we saw home starts rise by 223 starts but this quarter sees us down by 331 starts," said Robert Harding.

Detached house commencements are down by 35.0 per cent in the June 2011 quarter on the same period a year prior. The volatile 'other dwelling' market segment is down by 69.2 per cent on the June quarter of 2010.

"Today's numbers again highlight the need for a cut in interest rates and renewed efforts to reform the supply side of the Northern Territory's housing market," said Mr Harding.

Total Dwelling Starts – Northern Territory

Source: ABS 8750.0



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