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## Modest improvement - but a long run decline

The Australian Bureau of Statistic has confirmed a modest increase in building approvals of 6.8 per cent for the month of September. This figure was strongly influenced by approvals for apartments.

HIA Chief Economist, Harley Dale said, "The figures need to be viewed over the longer term. There is now a record downward trend that has been going for almost five years".

HIA has argued strongly for the need to increase supply particularly in the affordable housing segment.

"The ABS figures for the month of September show that building approvals for apartments were up by 18 per cent with detached housing approvals up by a more modest 2.2 per cent" said Mr Dale.

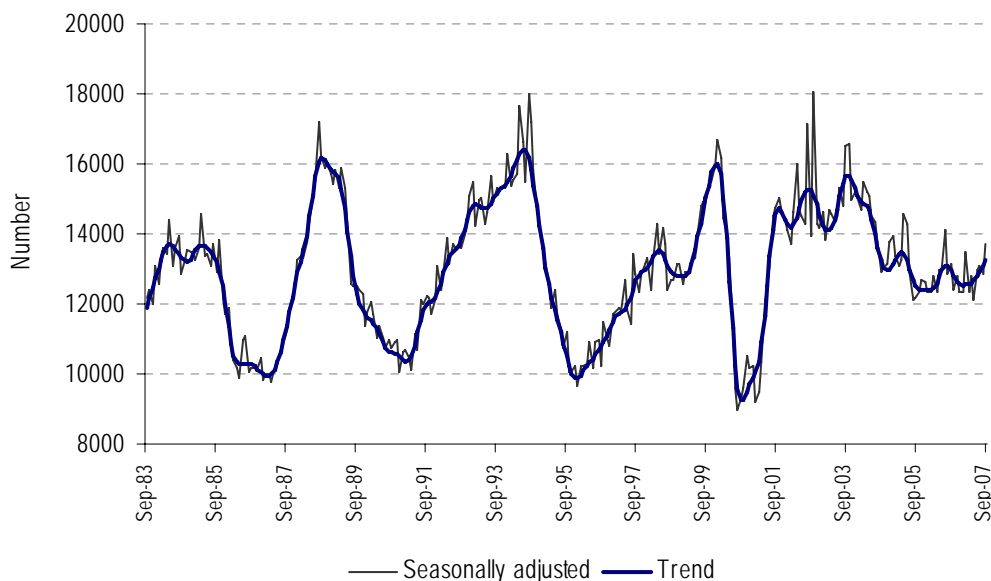
HIA has identified infrastructure costs and onerous and expensive red tape as two of the major obstacles constraining the supply of affordable housing.

"Supply is simply not matching demand and this is putting further pressure on house prices and private rents," said Mr Dale

To assist aspiring home buyers HIA is calling for reforms to superannuation that would allow for individual Home Super Saver Accounts this measure will provide greater rewards to save for a home deposit.

On a state by state basis the trend in building approvals in September increased by 4.4 per cent in Victoria and was up by 3 per cent in South Australia, 1 per cent in Queensland, and 0.1 per cent in New South Wales. The trend in building approvals was down by 11.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory and fell by 3.8 per cent in the Northern Territory, 1.9 per cent in Tasmania, and 0.9 per cent in Western Australia.

Building Approvals - Australia



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