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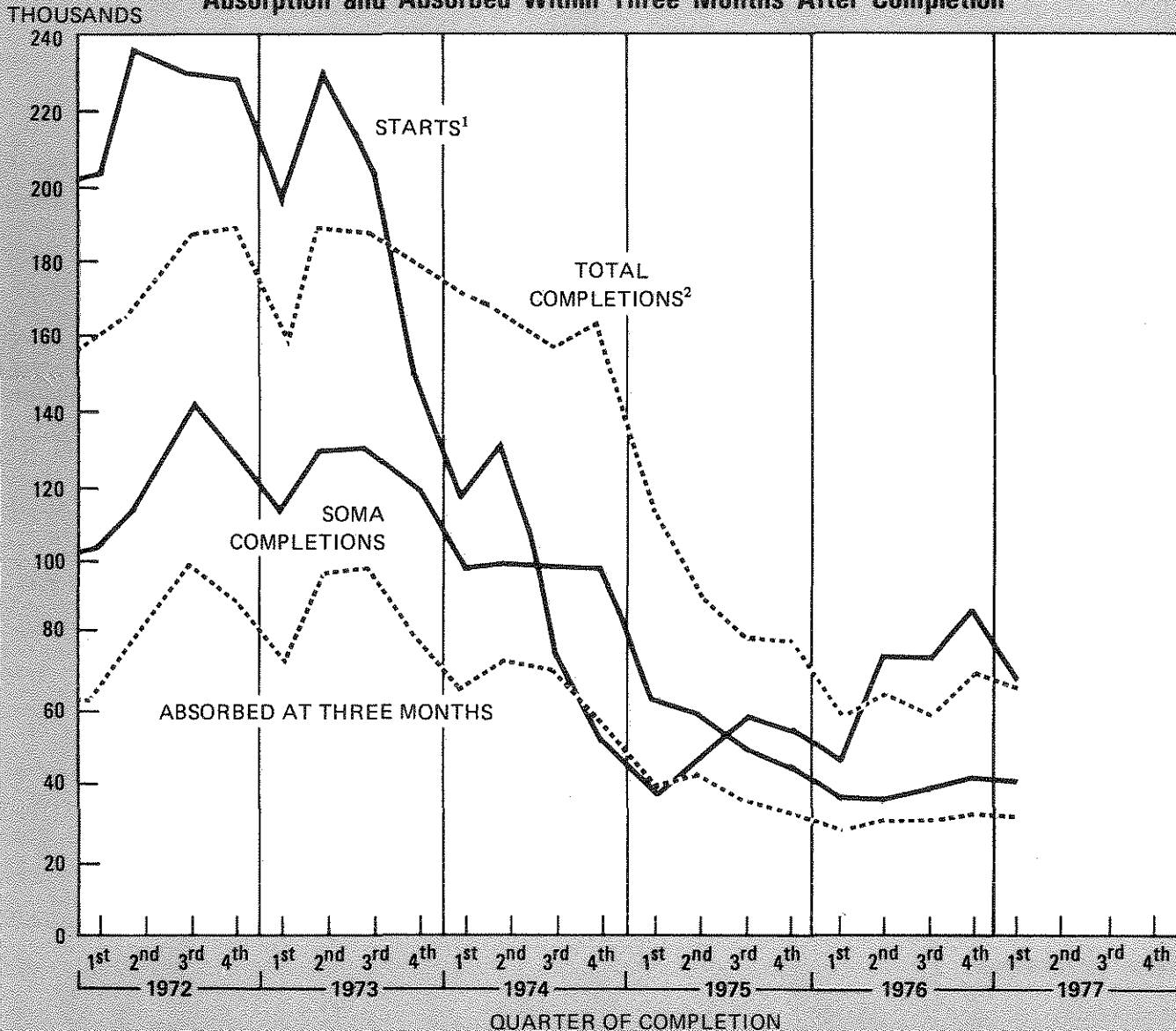
Market Absorption of Apartments

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Second Quarter 1977 Absorptions
(Completions in First Quarter 1977)

H-130-77-Q2
Issued September 1977

Figure 1. Units in Apartment Buildings Started, Completed, in Survey of Market Absorption and Absorbed Within Three Months After Completion



Note: Limited to buildings with 5 units or more in permit issuing places

1. Source: Construction Report, C-20-77-5 (May 1977) Table 3.

2. Source: Construction Report, C-22-77-5 (May 1977) Table 1.

Privately financed apartments completed during the January-March 1977 quarter were absorbed after 3 months following completion at an estimated seasonally adjusted rate of 82 percent. During this same period last year, the seasonally adjusted rate was about the same—85 percent (See table 3). The nonseasonally adjusted rate of 78 percent does not differ significantly from the seasonally adjusted rate. The median asking rent was \$228 for these units. Apartments which have been on the market for 9 months (those completed during July-September 1976) were 96 percent rented.

Apartments renting for less than \$150 accounted for 5 percent of the first quarter completions. Apartments renting for \$250 or more accounted for 31 percent of the completions.

The data are based on a sample survey and consequently the figures cited above are subject to sampling variability. As shown in table 3, the 82 and 96 percent figures are subject to sampling errors (i.e., standard errors) of 2.4 and 1.2 percentage points, respectively. This means that there are about 2 chances out of 3 that a complete count would be in the range of 82 ± 2.4

percentage points and 96 ± 1.2 percentage points. Sampling errors for the figures that follow are indicated in parentheses.¹

A total of 66,400 ($\pm 1,660$) apartments were completed during the first quarter of 1977. From this total, some 41,876 ($\pm 1,730$) or 63 percent (± 2.4) were of the type covered by the Survey of Market Absorption (SOMA), i.e., privately financed, unfurnished rental units built without Federal subsidy in buildings with 5 or more apartments.

Of the remaining 37 percent (± 2.4), cooperatives and condominiums account for 16 percent (± 1.8) of the total with a 3-month absorption rate of 74 percent (± 5.4)—see Table 4. Furnished rental units account for 5 percent (± 1.1). Also excluded from the survey are units in federally subsidized properties built under these programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: Senior Citizens Housing direct loans (Section 202), FHA below market interest rate

¹ See Reliability of Estimates on page 4.

Table 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF APARTMENTS COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 AND RENTED WITHIN 3 MONTHS

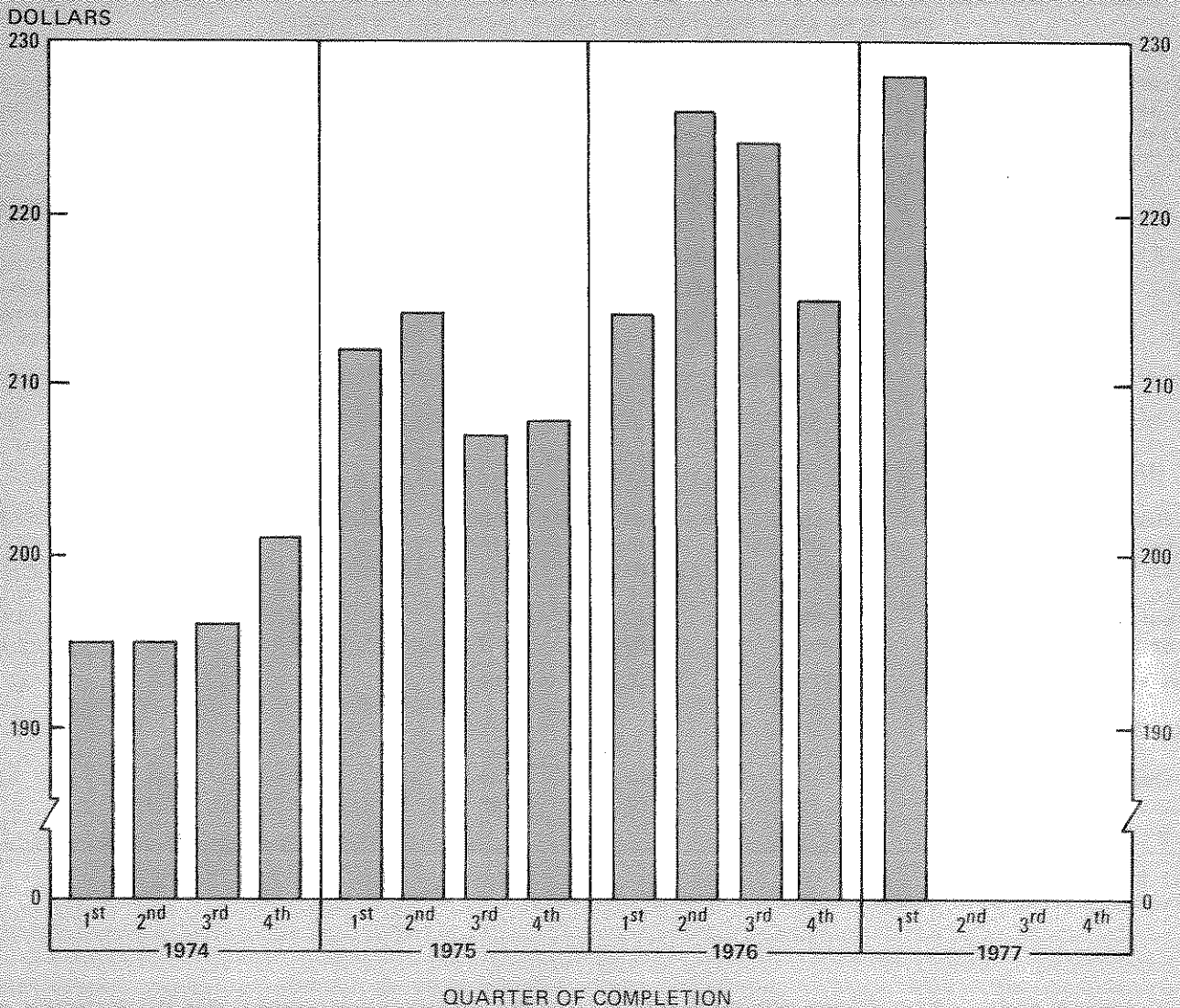
(Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking rent are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Item	Total units completed		Percent of total units		Percent rented within 3 months	
	Number	Sampling error*	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)
Total.....	41,876	1,730	100	(X)	78	2.5
RENT CLASSES						
Less than \$150.....	1,930	550	5	1.3	78	11.8
\$150 to \$174.....	2,856	660	7	1.6	64	11.3
\$175 to \$199.....	6,075	950	15	2.2	85	5.8
\$200 to \$249.....	17,919	1,500	43	3.0	82	3.6
\$250 to \$299.....	9,312	1,150	22	2.5	72	5.8
\$300 or more.....	3,785	760	9	1.8	70	9.4
Median asking rent.....	\$228	\$2.64	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS						
Less than 2.....	18,480	1,520	44	3.0	84	3.4
2.....	21,960	1,600	52	3.1	74	3.7
3 or more.....	1,436	470	3	1.0	74	14.5

(X) Not applicable.

*Standard error with range about 2 chances out of 3.

Figure 2. Median Rent of Apartments Completed in the United States: 1974 to 1977



Note: Limited to buildings with 5 units or more in permit issuing places.

mortgages (Section 236), and all units in buildings containing apartments in the FHA rent supplement program, which together account for 12 percent (± 1.6). The remainder are excluded for other reasons including turnkey housing (privately built and sold to local public housing authorities subsequent to completion). The data, however, include privately-owned housing subsidized by State and local governments.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The Market Absorption Survey (SOMA) is designed to provide data concerning the rate at which nonsubsidized and unfurnished privately financed units in buildings with 5 or more units are rented (or absorbed). In addition, data on characteristics of the units, such as rent and number of bedrooms, are collected.

In each quarter, a sample of about 2,000 buildings with 5 or more units completed during that quarter, is selected. The sample is selected from buildings reported as completed in a sample of building permits in the Census Bureau's Housing Starts Survey.² Buildings completed in nonpermit-issuing areas are excluded from consideration in this survey.

Information is obtained for the units in the buildings selected in a given quarter in each of the next four quarters on the proportion of units occupied, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months after completion.

² See "Housing Starts," Construction Reports Series C20, for the details of this survey.

Table 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF APARTMENTS COMPLETED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1976 AND RENTED WITHIN 3 MONTHS (REVISED)

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking rent are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data are not seasonally adjusted)

Item	Total units completed		Percent of total units		Percent rented within 3 months	
	Number	Sampling error*	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)
Total.....	42,528	1,760	100	(X)	78	2.5
RENT CLASSES						
Less than \$150.....	1,954	550	5	1.3	76	12.1
\$150 to \$174.....	4,092	790	10	1.8	77	8.3
\$175 to \$199.....	10,399	1,210	24	2.6	82	4.7
\$200 to \$249.....	15,963	1,440	38	3.0	75	4.3
\$250 to \$299.....	7,088	1,020	17	2.3	83	5.6
\$300 or more.....	3,033	680	7	1.6	70	10.5
Median asking rent.....	\$215	\$2.31	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS						
Less than 2.....	20,864	1,590	49	3.0	84	3.2
2.....	20,233	1,570	48	3.0	73	3.9
3 or more.....	1,431	470	3	1.0	57	16.4

(X) Not applicable.

*Standard error with range about 2 chances out of 3.

An improved tabulating method effective with the data for year 1973 now permits the revision of the data for previous quarters of completion. Each quarter the absorption data for some buildings are received too late for inclusion in the report. With the new technique it is now possible to revise the data for the previous quarter to reflect these buildings (see table 2).

ESTIMATION

The estimation procedure used in the survey involves, as a final step, the inflation of the weighted sample results to the quarterly estimates of housing completions obtained from the Housing Completions Survey. As the Housing Completions Survey is based on a larger sample than the Market Absorption Survey, it provides a more stable set of controls for estimates which can be obtained from both surveys. In addition to reducing the sampling variability of the estimates of totals from the Market Absorption Survey, the ratio estimation procedure, as a useful byproduct, produces estimates of the units completed in a given quarter which are consistent with the published figures from the Housing Completions series.³

The absorption rates assume that the absorption rates of units not included in the interviewed group or not accounted for are identical to rates for units where data were obtained. The noninterviewed and not accounted for cases comprise less than 2 percent of the sample housing units in this survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The sample used for this survey is only one of a large number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the same sample design, sample selection, and measurement procedures. Estimates derived from these samples would differ from each other.

The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples and is, therefore, a measure of the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of certain nonsampling errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. Bias is the difference, averaged over all possible samples, be-

³ See "Housing Completions," Construction Reports, Series C22.

Table 3. ABSORPTION RATES OF PRIVATELY FINANCED, NONSUBSIDIZED,
AND UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS: 1974 TO 1977

(Structures with 5 or more units)

Quarter of completion	Total units completed		Seasonally adjusted rented within 3 months		Not seasonally adjusted - rented within--							
					3 months		6 months		9 months		12 months	
	Number	Sampling error*	Per cent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Per cent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Per cent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Per cent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Per cent	Sampling error* (percentage points)
1974												
January-March.....	98,934	2,850	72	2.1	67	2.1	86	1.5	92	1.3	95	1.0
April-June.....	99,489	2,840	69	2.2	73	2.0	86	1.6	91	1.4	94	1.1
July-September.....	96,682	2,740	67	2.2	72	2.0	85	1.6	90	1.4	95	1.0
October-December...	96,631	2,750	65	2.3	60	2.3	78	2.0	88	1.5	93	1.2
1975												
January-March.....	63,604	2,270	66	2.8	61	2.8	80	2.3	90	1.7	93	1.5
April-June.....	59,103	1,900	68	2.8	72	2.7	86	2.1	91	1.7	94	1.2
July-September.....	48,327	1,850	69	3.1	75	2.8	86	2.3	92	1.5	97	1.0
October-December...	44,163	1,900	81	2.3	75	2.5	91	1.7	96	1.1	98	0.8
1976												
January-March.....	35,513	1,660	85	2.4	79	2.7	92	1.8	96	1.3	97	1.1
April-June.....	37,056	1,730	81	2.6	86	2.3	96	1.3	98	0.9	99	0.6
July-September.....	39,799	1,610	75	2.7	79	2.6	92	1.7	96	1.2	(NA)	(NA)
October-December...	42,528	1,760	84	2.2	78	2.5	92	1.7	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1977												
January-March.....	41,876	1,730	82	2.4	78	2.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
April-June.....												
July-September.....												
October-December...												

(NA) Not available. ^rRevised.

*Standard error with range about 2 chances out of 3.

tween the estimate and the desired value. The accuracy of a survey result depends upon the sampling and nonsampling errors, measured by the standard error, and the bias and other types of nonsampling error, not measured by the standard error.

The estimate and its associated standard error may be used to construct a confidence interval, that is, if all possible samples were selected, each of these surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and an estimate and its estimated standard error were calculated from each sample, then approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate would include the average value of all possible samples.

The average value of all possible samples may or may not be contained in any particular computed interval. But for a particular sample, one can say with specified confidence that

the average of all possible samples is included in the constructed interval. Similarly, the chances are about two out of three that the survey estimate will differ from the average result of all possible samples by less than one standard error, and 99 out of 100 that the survey estimate will differ from the average result by less than 2½ times the standard error. For example, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the number of two-bedroom apartments (21,960) would be no lower than 18,760 or no higher than 25,160 if the data were collected in a complete census. The conclusion stated in this report are considered significant at the 95 percent confidence level.

In addition to sampling error, sample surveys are subject to response and processing errors similar to those experienced in censuses. The data in this report are preliminary and subject to slight changes in the annual report.

Table 4. COOPERATIVE AND CONDOMINIUM APARTMENTS: TOTAL COMPLETED, PERCENT OF ALL 5+ UNITS AND ABSORBED WITHIN 3 MONTHS: 1974 TO 1977

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized apartments in buildings with 5 or more units.
Data are not seasonally adjusted)

Quarter of completion	Total units completed		Percent of all 5+ units		Absorbed within 3 months--	
	Number	Sampling error*	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)	Percent	Sampling error* (percentage points)
1974						
January-March.....	40,700	2,230	25	1.6	64	3.5
April-June.....	36,997	2,150	22	1.5	64	3.7
July-September.....	35,538	2,110	23	1.6	58	3.7
October-December.....	39,820	2,220	24	1.6	41	3.6
1975						
January-March.....	29,577	1,880	26	1.9	40	4.2
April-June.....	16,567	1,440	19	1.9	46	5.6
July-September.....	21,737	1,590	26	2.3	49	5.1
October-December.....	14,400	1,330	19	2.1	41	6.0
1976						
January-March.....	13,989	1,340	23	2.1	56	5.2
April-June.....	10,694	1,210	17	1.8	53	6.0
July-September.....	9,103	1,130	15	1.8	48	6.6
October-December ^r	11,646	1,270	17	1.8	54	5.8
1977						
January-March.....	10,411	1,210	16	1.8	74	5.4
April-June.....						
July-September.....						
October-December.....						

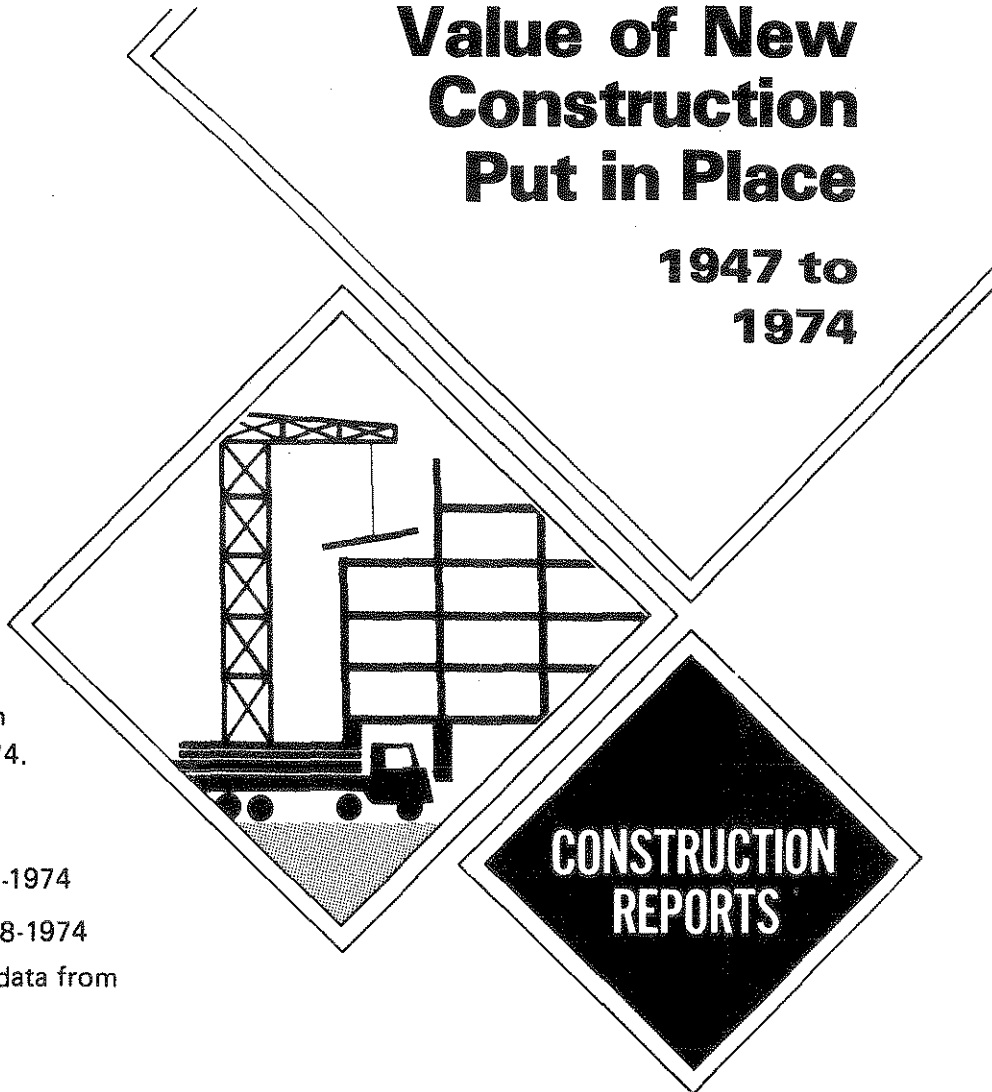
(NA) Not available. ^r Revised.

*Standard error with range about 2 chances out of 3.

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