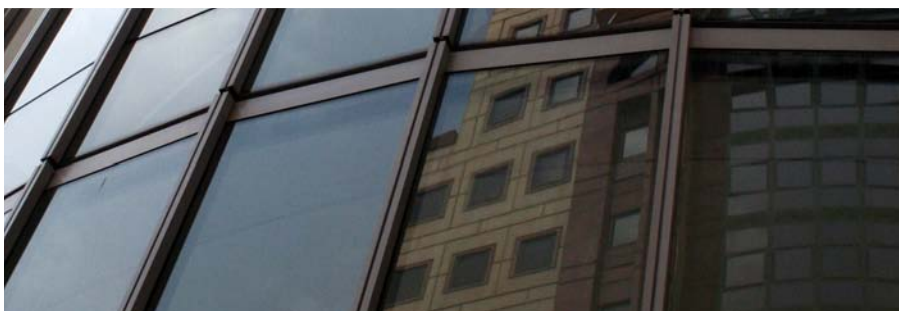


The cidb  
Quarterly Monitor:  
April 2009



THE ECONOMICS  
OF CONSTRUCTION  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

Acknowledgements: The support of Industry Insight in providing details of contracts awarded is gratefully acknowledged.



## CIDB QUARTERLY MONITOR ; APRIL 2009

### 1. Introduction

The cidb Quarterly Monitor provides an overview of the state of contractor development in South Africa as input to developing targeted development intervention strategies in support of the National Contractor Development Programme (NCDP). This Quarterly Monitor is covering the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009 – focuses on public sector supply and demand at a provincial level, and deals only with the General Building (GB) and Civil Engineering (CE) cidb Class of Works.

The cidb Quarterly Monitor also includes an overview of contracts awarded on maintenance, refurbishment, renovations, etc., which provides an indication of public spending in line with the National Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy (NIMS). Furthermore, the cidb Quarterly Monitor includes perceptions of the confidence in business conditions and perceptions in insufficient demand for work obtained from the recently introduced cidb BER SME Business Conditions Survey.

The cidb Quarterly Monitor must only be seen as a guide to assist in developing targeted intervention strategies. Specifically, the cidb Quarterly Monitor should be seen as a tool for interrogating existing intervention strategies.

## 2. Background and Assumptions

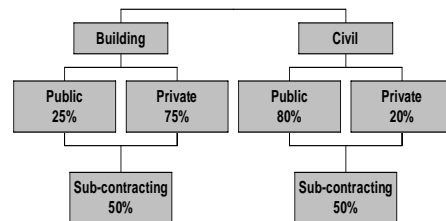
The background and assumptions used in developing and in interpreting the **cidb** Quarterly Monitor are highlighted below:

i) **Contracts Awarded:** Details of contracts awarded is obtained from the **cidb iTender Register** of Projects supported by the *Industry Insight* Project Database. The *Industry Insight* Project Database is considered to be about 60% or more accurate (and is constantly being improved). This data has then been scaled up to reflect total construction spend as reflected from Reserve Bank data. (The support of *Industry Insight* in providing this information is gratefully acknowledged.)

ii) **Public vs. Private Sector Demand:** The **cidb** Quarterly Monitor only presents information on public sector contracts for General Building (GB) and Civil Engineering (CE) **cidb** Class of Works. Most contractors would however target both public and private sector opportunities. Currently, public sector spend accounts for about 25% of total General Building activity and about 80% of Civil Engineering activity, although lower grade contractors, and in particular emerging contractors, would be more dependent of public sector contracts.

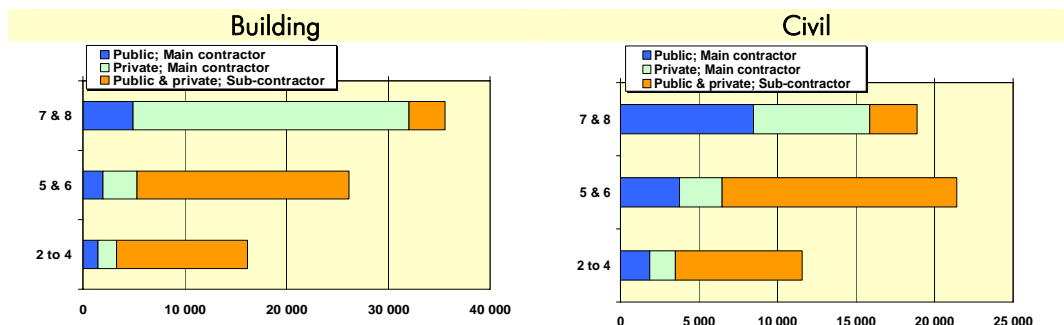
Class of Works	% Public Sector Spend
General Building (GB)	25%
Civil Engineering (CE)	80%

iii) **Sub-contracting:** Much of the work of contractors in Grades 2 to 6 is obtained through sub-contracting to higher level contractors, and not as main contractors. Typically, around 50% of work is sub-contracted to lower Grade or to speciality contractors.



The impact of sub-contracting is illustrated in the adjacent table and following figures, using an assumed distribution of work between the grades. Typically, direct public sector contracts to contractors in Grades 2 to 6 accounts for about 10% of total turnover in General Building and about 20% in Civil Engineering.

Class of Works	Public Sector Main Contracts as % of Total
General Building (GB)	10%
Civil Engineering (CE)	20%



iv) **Supply:** Contractor information is obtained from the cidb Register of Contractors, and considers only:

- contractors registered in Grades 2 to 8; and
- General Building (GB) and Civil Engineering (CE) Class of Works.

The data is then aggregated into the following categories:

- Grades 2 to 4; typically established and developing contractors that operate at a local level;
  - Grades 5 and 6; typically contractors in transition from operating at a local to a regional / provincial level; and
  - Grades 7 and 8; typically contractors that operate a regional / provincial level.
- | Grade  | Characteristics       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 7 & 8  | provincial / regional |
| 5 & 6  | local / regional      |
| 2 to 4 | local                 |

Grade 9 contractors are excluded from the analysis as these typically operate at a national / international level.

v) **Business Conditions:** The cidb Quarterly Monitor includes perceptions of the confidence in business conditions and insufficient demand for work obtained from the recently introduced cidb SME Business Conditions Survey. The cidb Survey is undertaken by the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) for the cidb, and measures business conditions at a provincial level and in various contractor grades. The full results of the survey are available on the cidb web.

The Confidence Index represents the percentage of respondents rating the business conditions as satisfactory, while the index for demand for work is obtained by formula  $(0,67 * seriously + 0,33 * slightly)$  scaled up to 100 to give a % index.

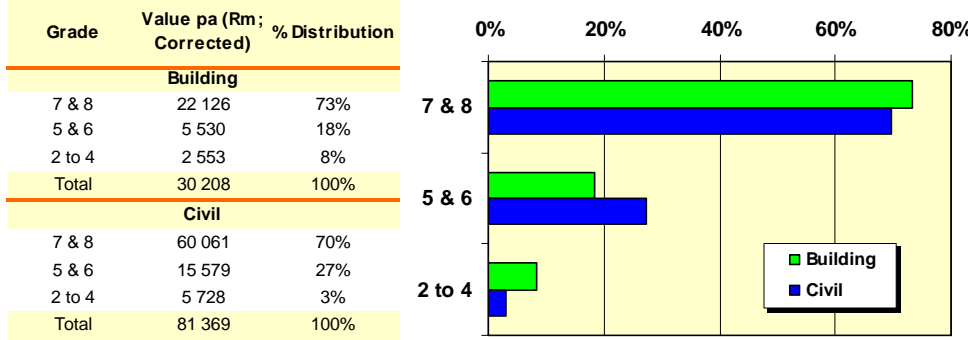
vi) **Contractor Development:** This cidb Quarterly Monitor includes information on new upgrades per contractor grade and new registrations during the preceding 12 months. The method of evaluating upgrades in the cidb Quarterly Monitor has been changed from previous editions of the cidb Quarterly Monitor. Previously, only upgrades were considered for “compliant” applications (i.e. where the full financial and track record information has been provided), and new business enterprises (i.e. who do not have a previous track record at time of registration) were also excluded. The present method excludes non-compliant applications, but includes new entrants.

### 3. South Africa

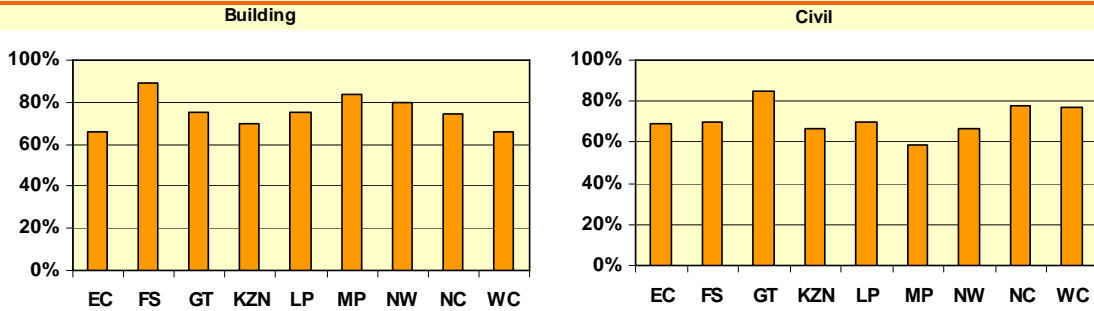
**Demand:** The value and distribution of public sector contracts awarded in South Africa in Grades 2 to 8 is shown. The distribution in the public sector contracts awarded between the grades clearly reflects the infrastructure requirements of South Africa, but it is noticeable that from the available data for the four quarters under review that:

- in General Building, the distribution of public sector contracts awarded in the Free State remains skewed towards Grades 7 and 8 as compared to other provinces;
- in Civil Engineering, the distribution of public sector contracts awarded in Gauteng is skewed towards Grades 7 and 8 as compared to other provinces; and
- in relative terms, the lowest allocation of work to Grades 2 to 4 in General Building occurs in the Free State, Gauteng and Mpumalanga, and in Civil Engineering in the Free State and Gauteng – while the highest allocation of contracts in Grades 2 to 4 occurs in Mpumalanga in Civil Engineering.

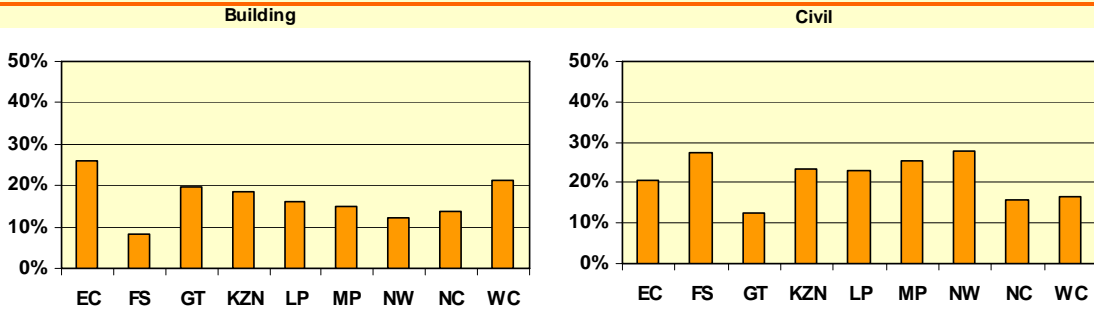
**Demand; Public Sector Awards (Corrected)**



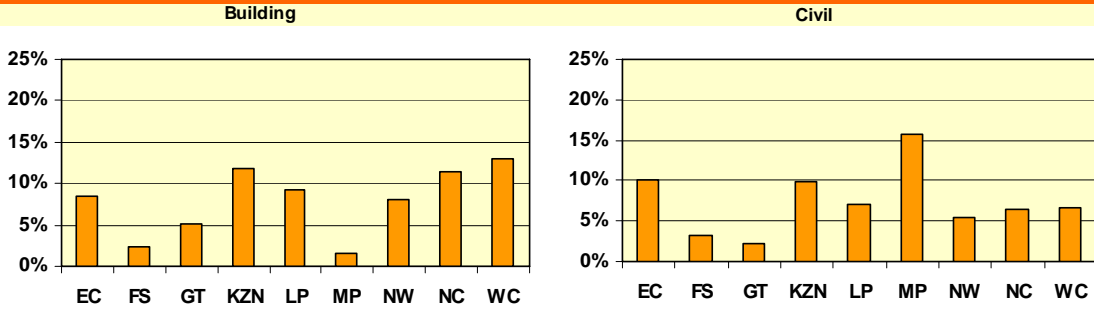
**Grades 7 & 8**



**Grades 5 & 6**



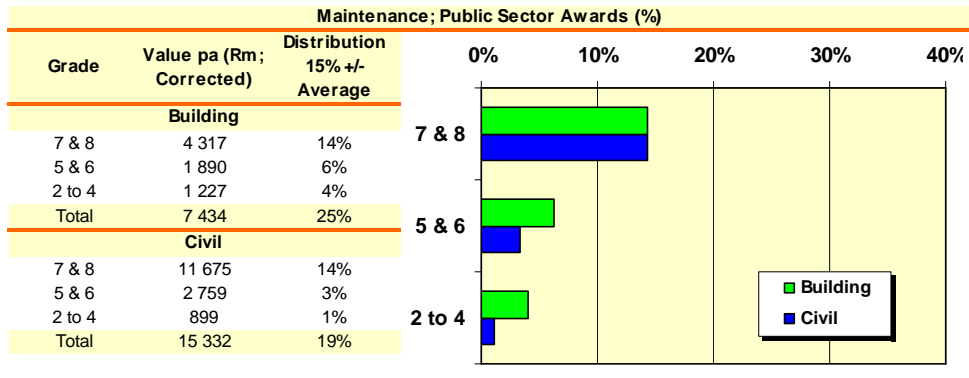
**Grades 2 to 4**



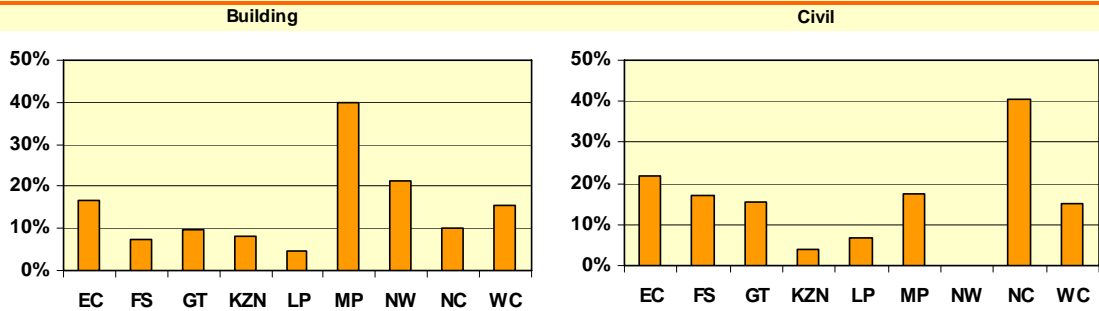
**Maintenance:** The value and distribution of public sector maintenance contracts (including refurbishment, renovations, etc.) awarded in South Africa in Grades 2 to 8 is shown in the table. Overall, about 25% of public sector contracts in General Building and around 20% of contracts in Civil Engineering are for maintenance – which is somewhat encouraging given the state of infrastructure in South Africa.

However, the breakdown of maintenance contracts across the provinces is variable, with Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo allocating much lower proportions to maintenance in General Building, and KwaZulu-Natal and North West in Civil Engineering.

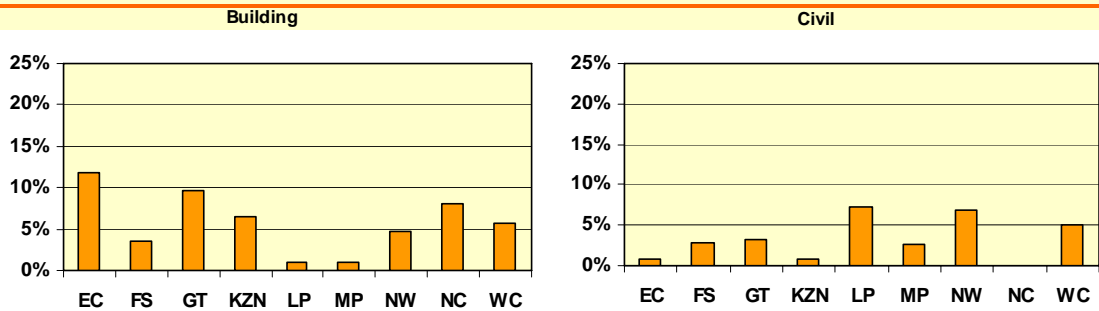




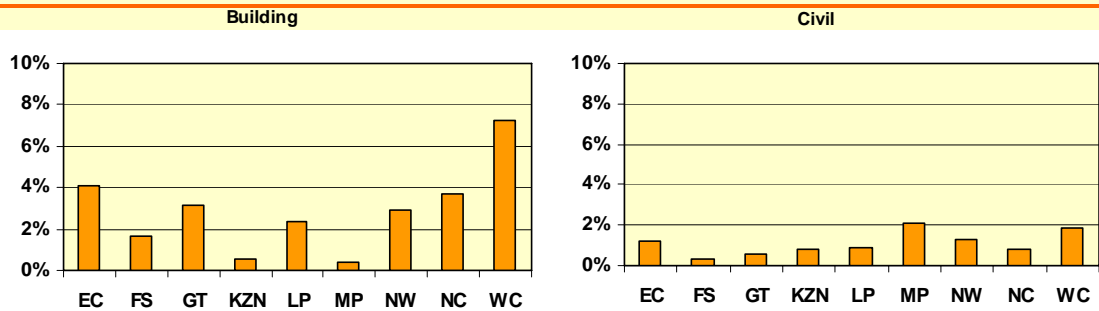
**Grades 7 & 8**



**Grades 5 & 6**



**Grades 2 to 4**

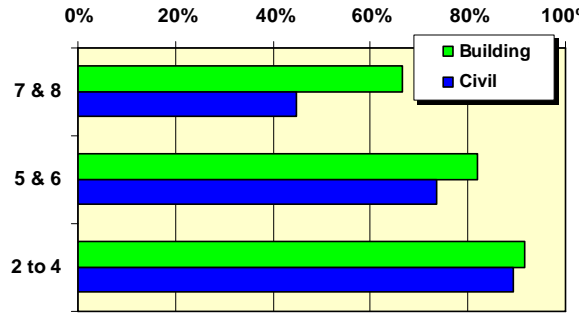


**Supply; Black Ownership:** For South Africa as a whole (and in fact for every province in South Africa other than the Northern Cape), more than 80% of cidb registered Grade 2 to 4 building and civil contractors are black owned (defined as more than 50% ownership control). Furthermore, more than 60% of all Grade 5 and 6 General Building and Civil Engineering contractors are black owned, while around 60% of all Grade 7 and 8 building contractors are black owned.

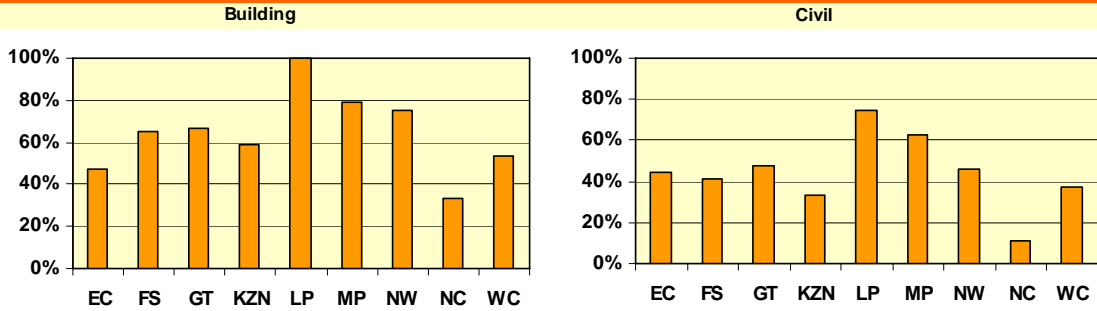
While the high proportion of black owned contractors is encouraging, the sustainability and growth of contractors should be the end goal – which is examined later in this cidb Quarterly Monitor.

Supply; Black Ownership

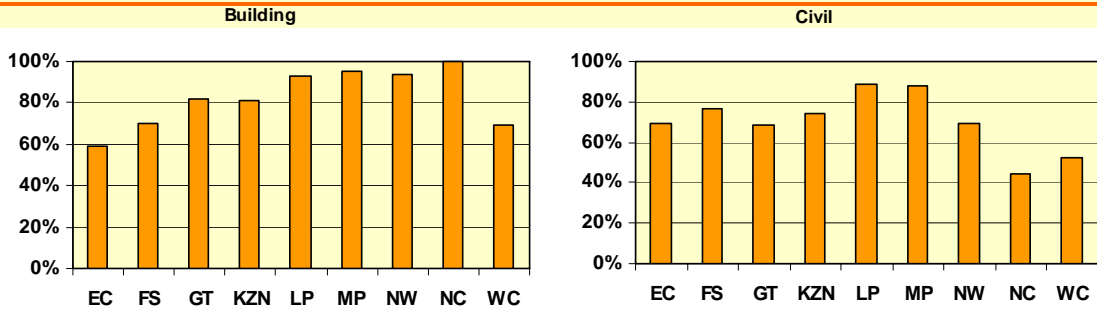
Grade	Number of Contractors	Number Black Contractors	% Black Owned
<b>Building</b>			
7 & 8	261	174	40% to 80%
5 & 6	784	643	>80%
2 to 4	3 954	3 627	>80%
Total	4 999	4 444	>80%
<b>Civil</b>			
7 & 8	329	147	40% to 80%
5 & 6	994	731	40% to 80%
2 to 4	2 933	2 622	>80%
Total	4 256	3 500	>80%



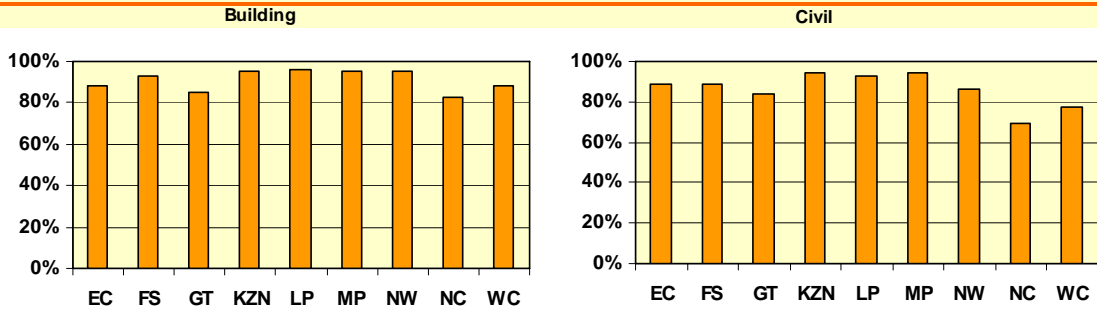
Grade 7 & 8



Grade 4 & 5



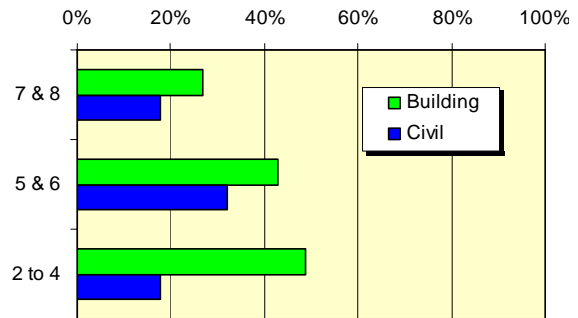
Grade 2 to 4



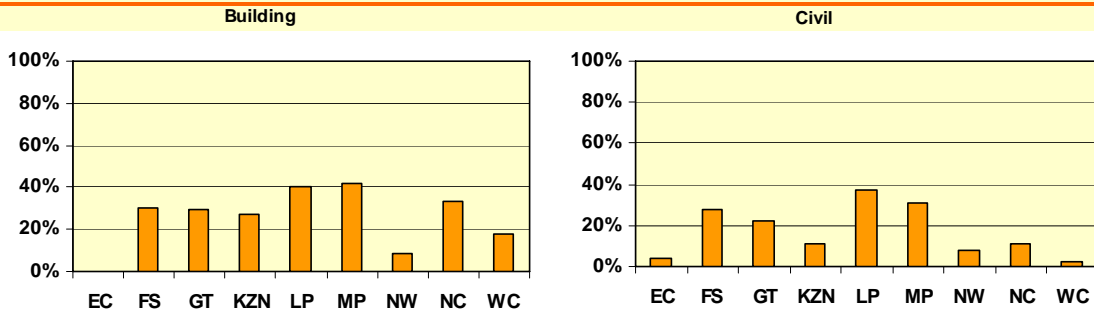
**Supply; Women Ownership:** On average, around 40% of all Grade 2 to 4 contractors are women owned – with the highest ownership in Limpopo (which probably reflects tender preferencing in this province), followed by Mpumalanga. However, women ownership varies significantly from province to province, and across the Grades. From Grades 5 and 6 and above, women ownership is typically less than 30% in the civil sector, when in the building sector it is around 30 to 50%.

Supply; Women Ownership

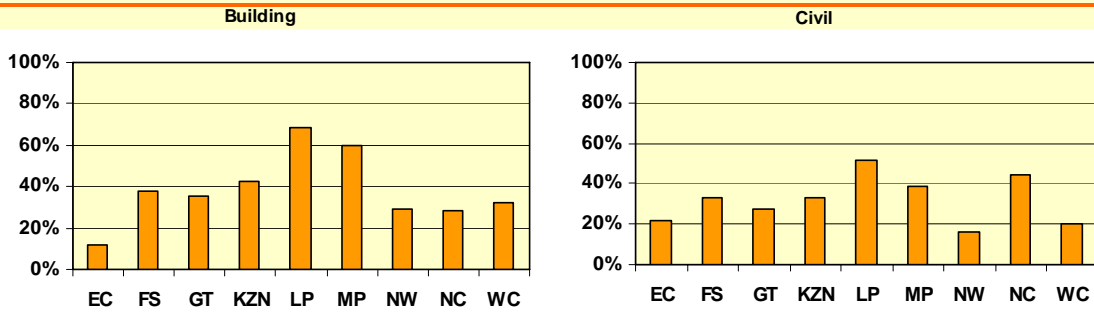
Grade	Number of Contractors	Number of Women Contractors	% Women Owned
<b>Building</b>			
7 & 8	261	70	<30%
5 & 6	784	335	30% to 50%
2 to 4	3 954	1 924	30% to 50%
Total	4 999	2 329	30% to 50%
<b>Civil</b>			
7 & 8	329	58	<30%
5 & 6	994	319	30% to 50%
2 to 4	2 933	524	<30%
Total	4 256	901	<30%



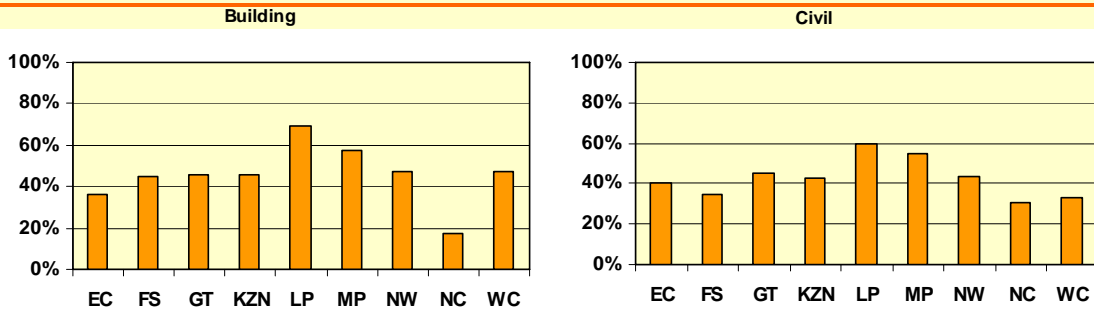
Grades 7 & 8



Grades 5 & 6

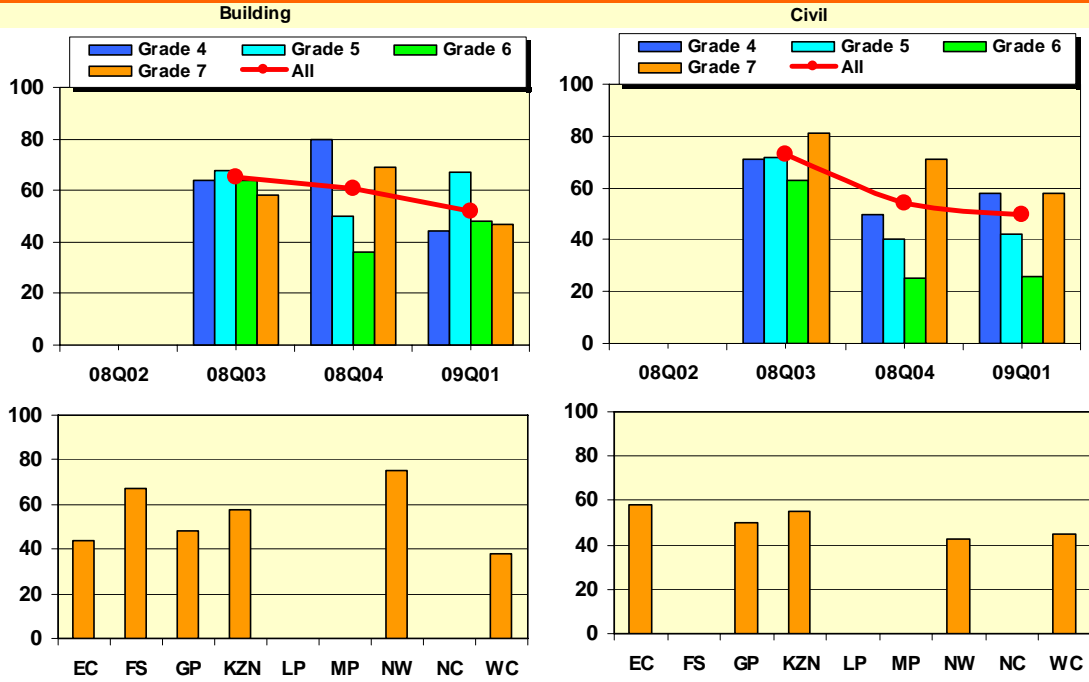


Grades 2 to 4

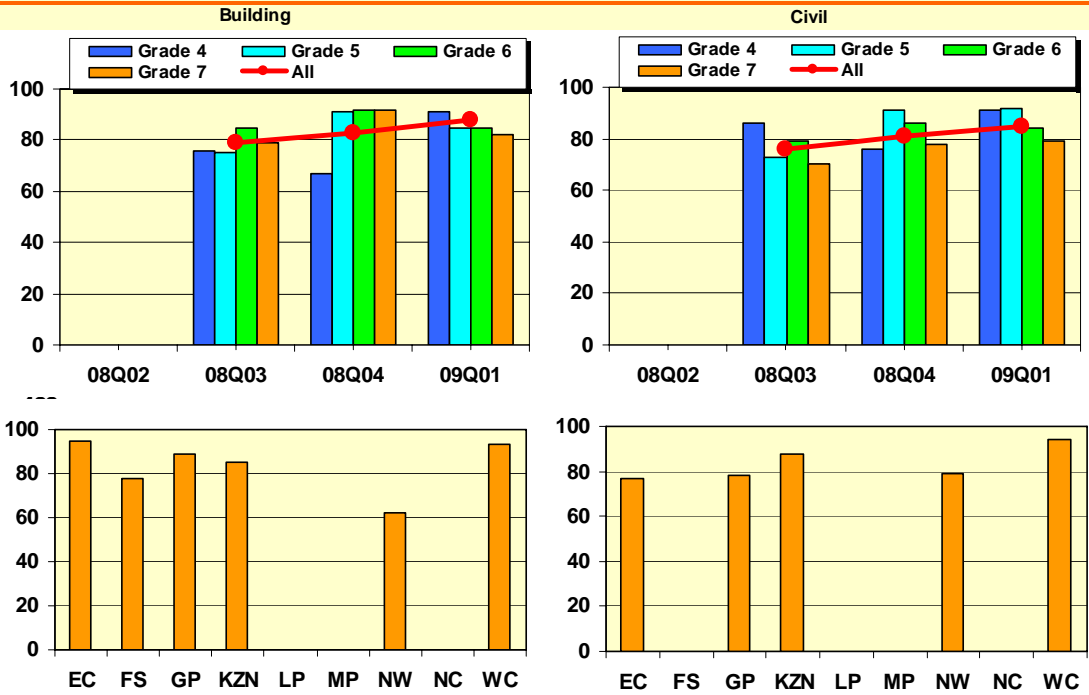


**Business Conditions:** The cidb/BER SME Business Confidence Index and Index of Insufficient Demand for Work is given in the adjacent figures. Overall, business confidence in the building sector has continued to drop over the last quarter – suggesting increasing competitiveness between contractors. Insufficient demand for work has increased in both the building and civil contractors over the past quarter.

Business Confidence



Insufficient Demand for Work

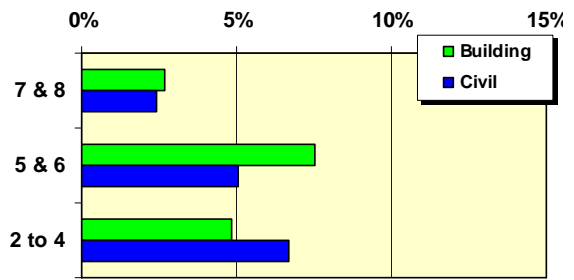


**Contractor Development:** Details of the upgrading of contractors in the building and civil sectors within the past four quarters is shown in the table. On average, around 6% of Grade 2 to 4 contractors are upgrading per year, around 7% within Grades 5 and 6, and around 3% in Grades 7 and 8.

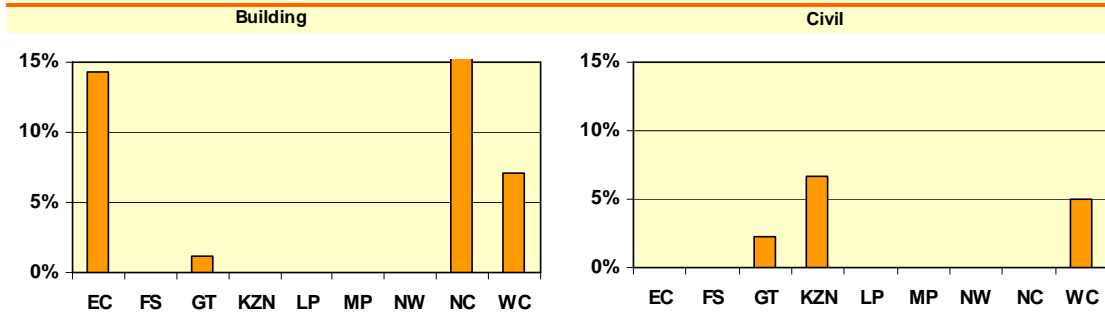


**Contractor Upgrades %**

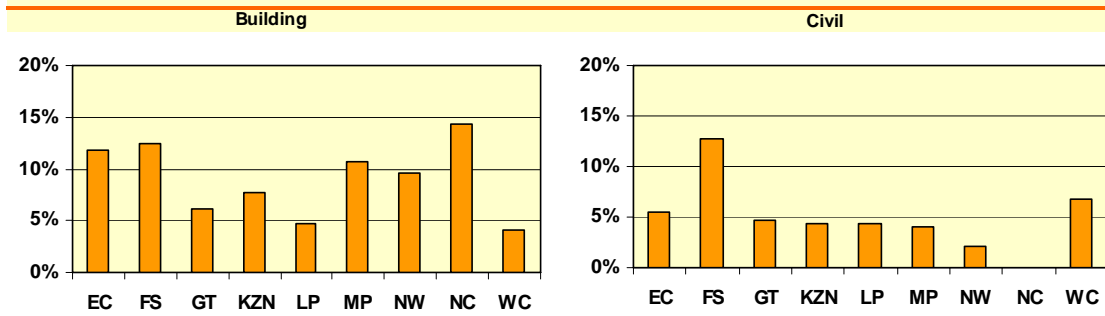
Grade (from)	Number of Upgrades	%	
<b>Building</b>			
7 & 8	7	3%	<5%
5 & 6	59	8%	5% to 10%
2 to 4	191	5%	<5%
Total	257		
<b>Civil</b>			
7 & 8	8	2%	<5%
5 & 6	50	5%	5% to 10%
2 to 4	196	7%	5% to 10%
Total	254		



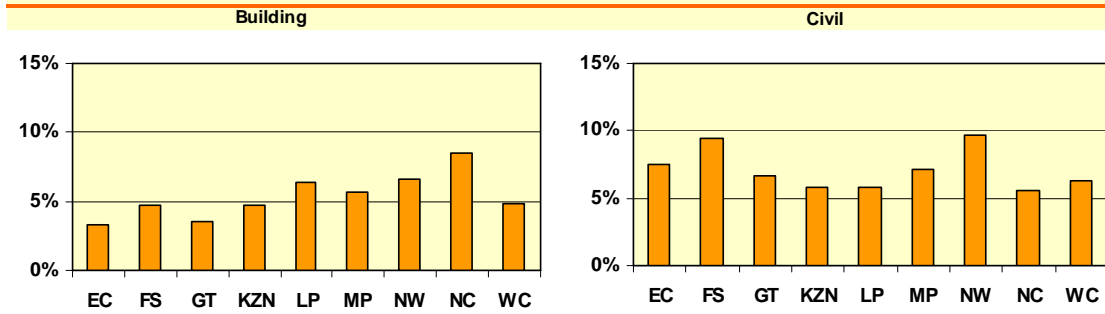
**Grades 7 & 8**



**Grades 5 & 6**



**Grades 2 to 4**

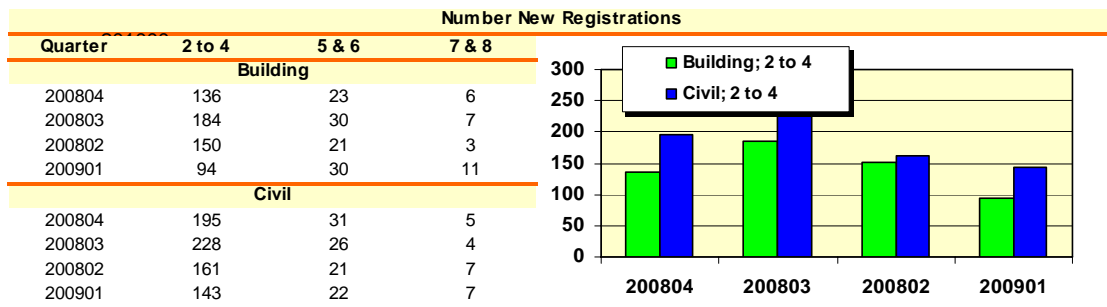


**Contractor Development (continued):** A comparison between the number of upgrades and the number of new registrations over the past four quarters is given in the table. Of interest is that the number of new entrants within Grades 2 to 4 over the past few quarters far exceeds the number of upgrades – suggesting an unsustainable situation. However, the number of new registrations per quarter in Grades 2 to 4 shows a noticeable decrease over the past three quarters.

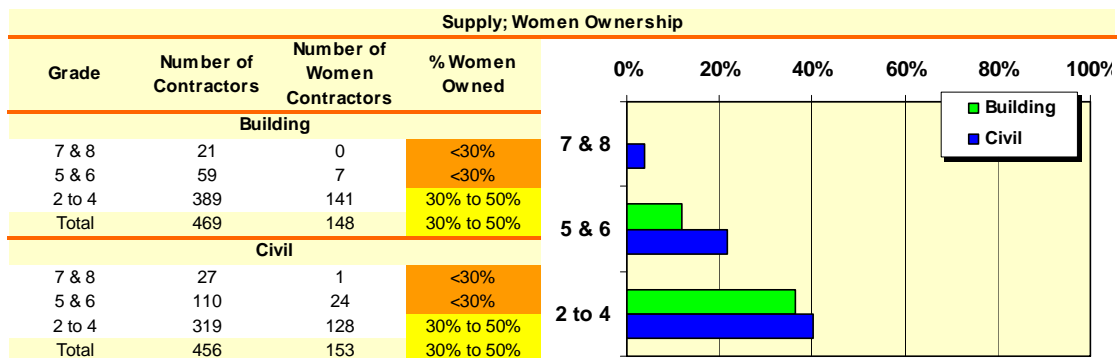
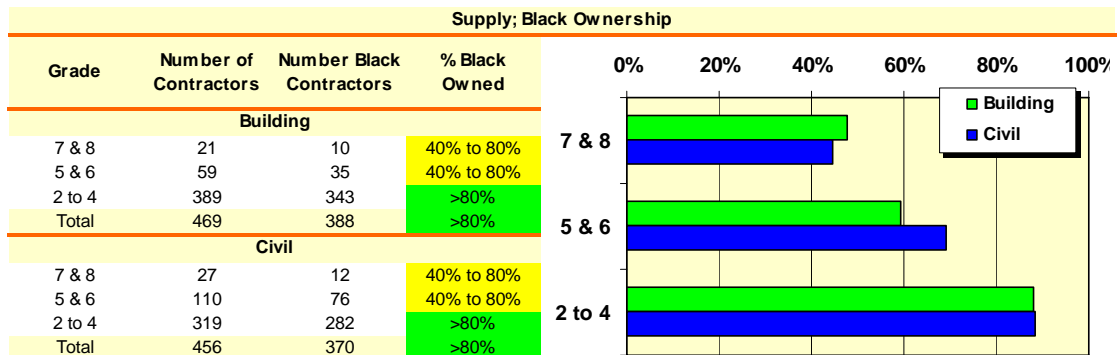
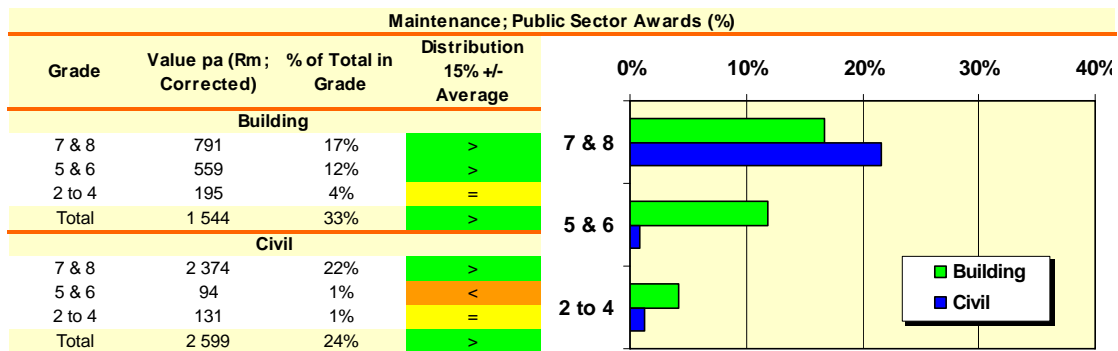
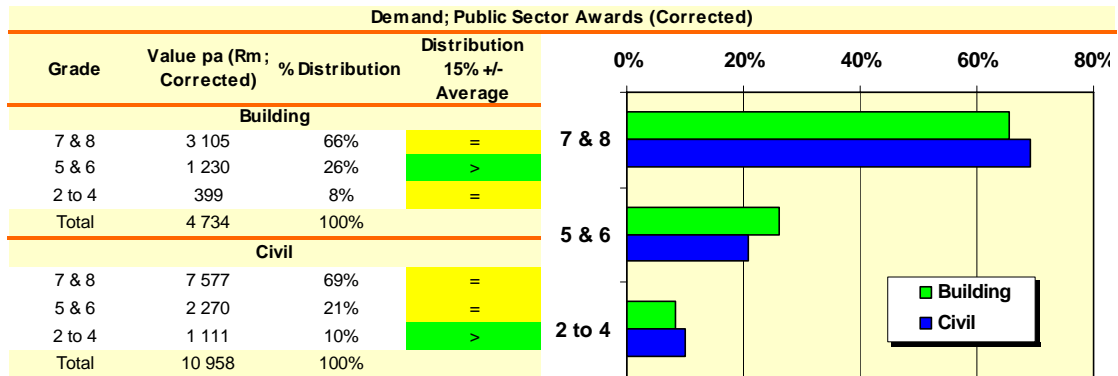
Furthermore, it is noticeable that in most of the provinces (e.g. other than Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape for General Building), there has been limited new registrations in Grades 7 and 8 in General Building and in Civil Engineering.

Contractor Upgrades				
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			6	1
5 & 6		30	29	0
2 to 4	117	69	5	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			5	3
5 & 6		31	17	2
2 to 4	94	99	3	0

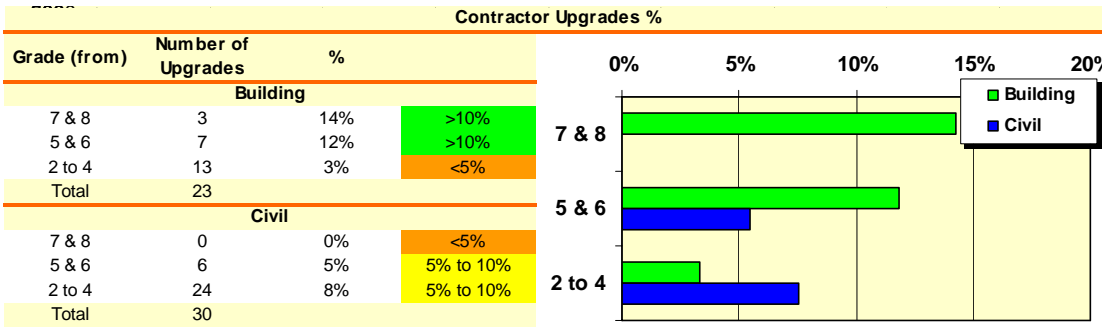
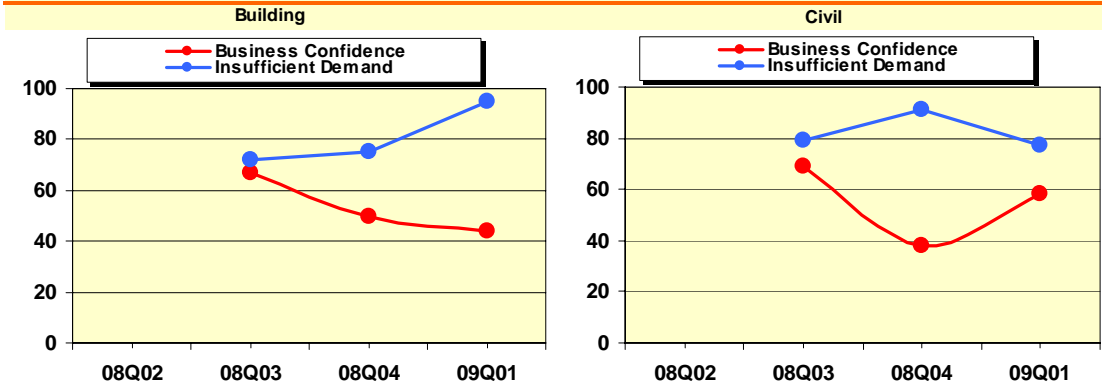
Upgrades & New Registrations			
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	117	99	40
New Reg.	564	104	27
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	94	130	25
New Reg.	727	100	23



#### 4. Eastern Cape



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)

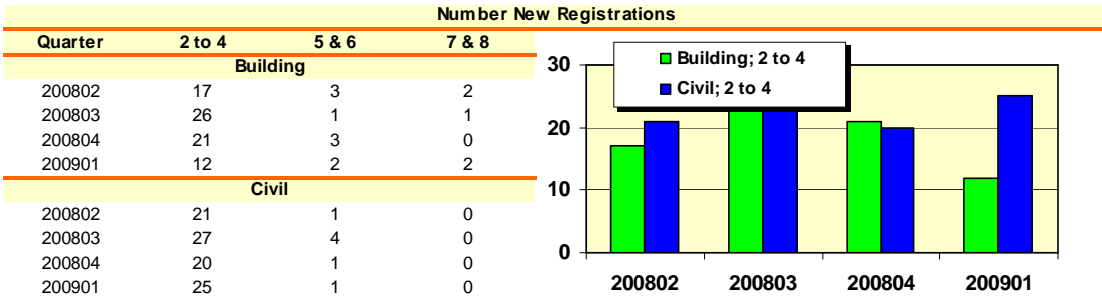


**Contractor Upgrades**

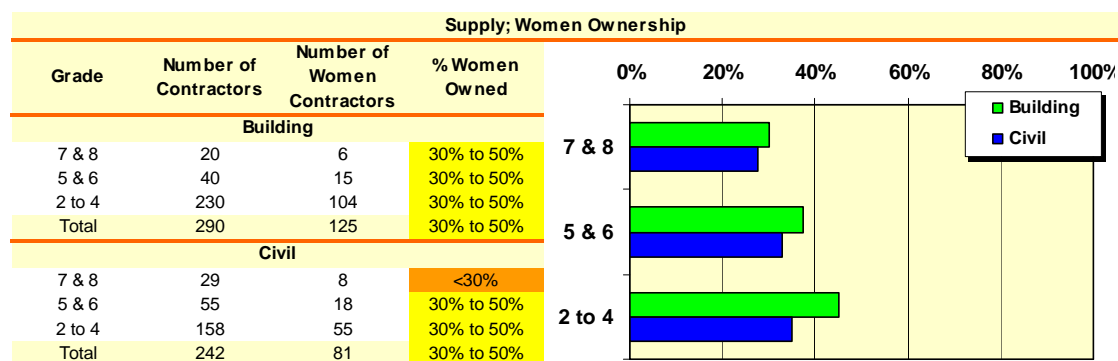
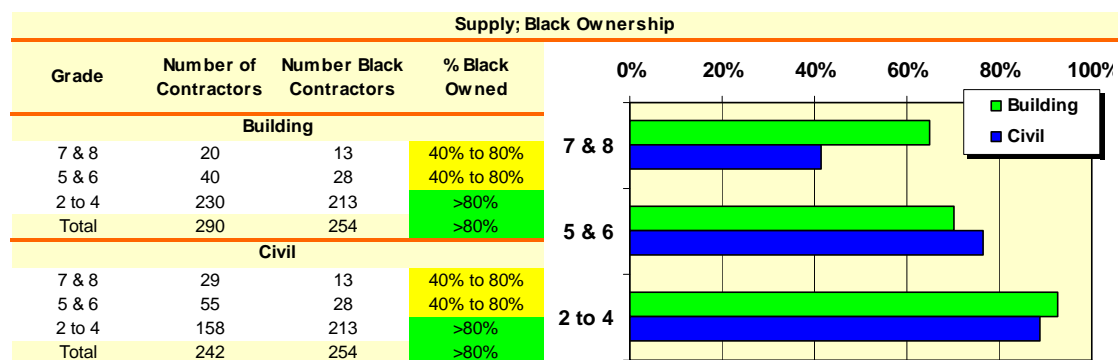
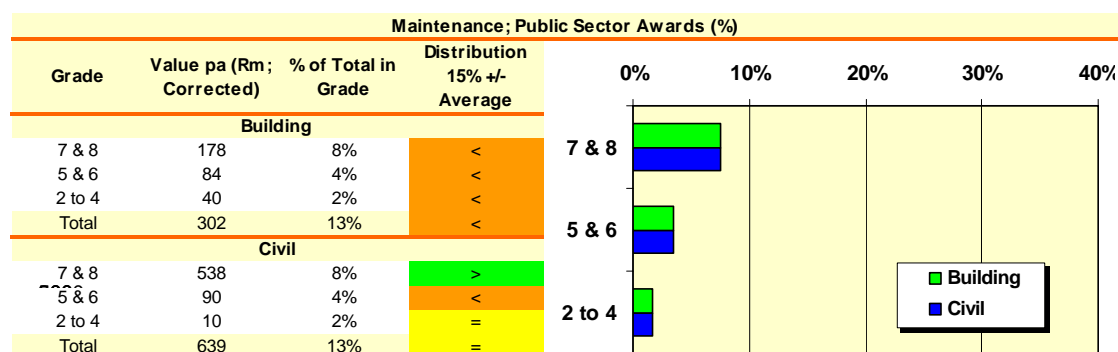
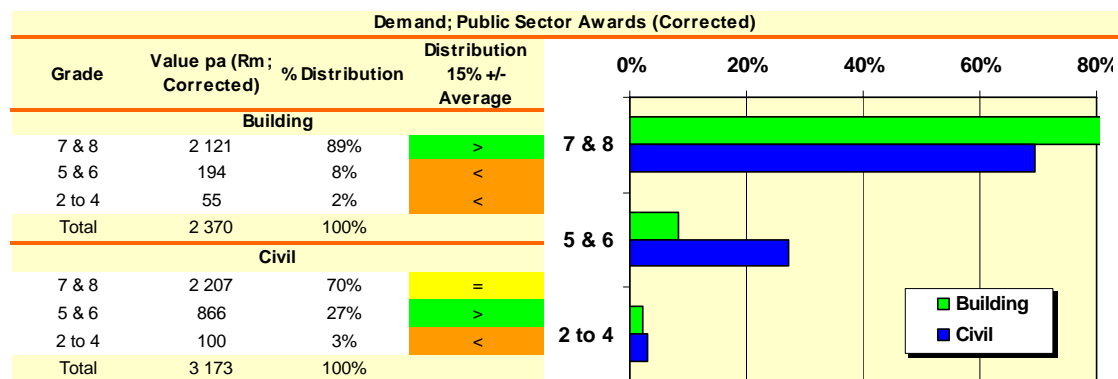
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			3	0
5 & 6		2	5	0
2 to 4	8	4	1	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		3	2	1
2 to 4	14	10	0	0

**Upgrades & New Registrations**

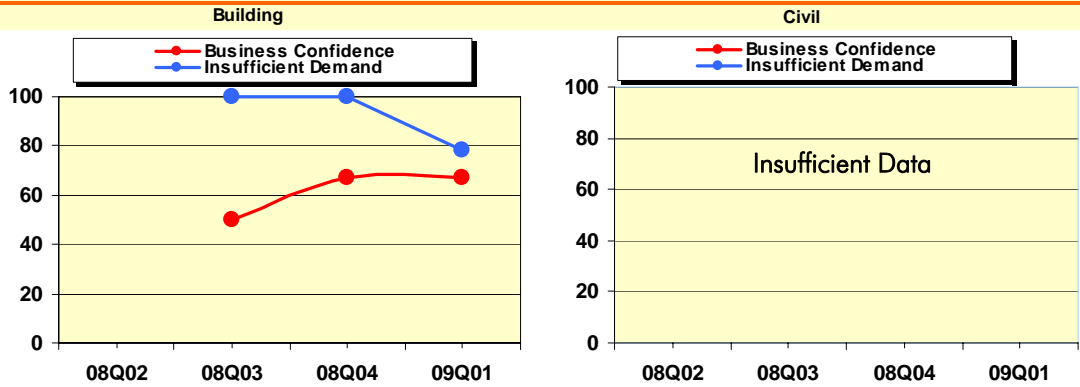
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	8	6	9
New Reg.	76	9	5
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	14	13	2
New Reg.	93	7	0



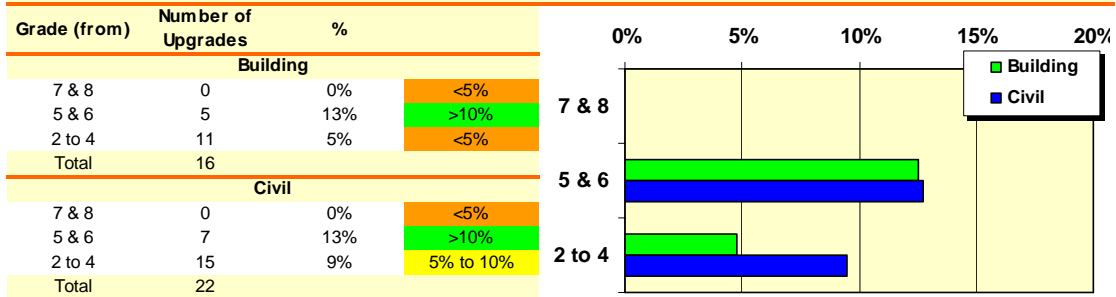
## 5. Free State



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)



Contractor Upgrades %



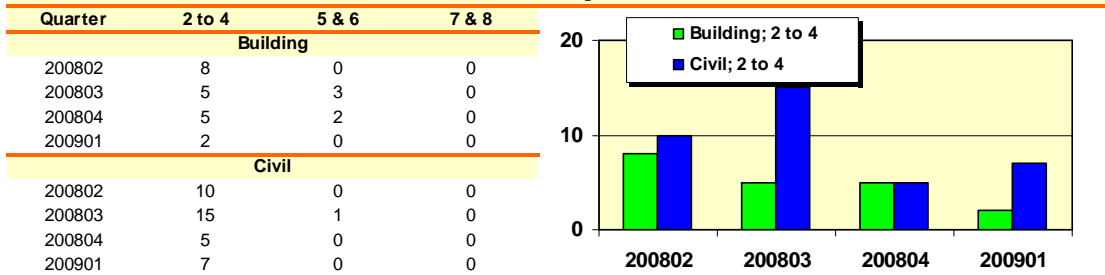
Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			1	0
5 & 6		7	5	0
2 to 4	19		1	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			2	1
5 & 6		7	5	0
2 to 4	12	24	2	0

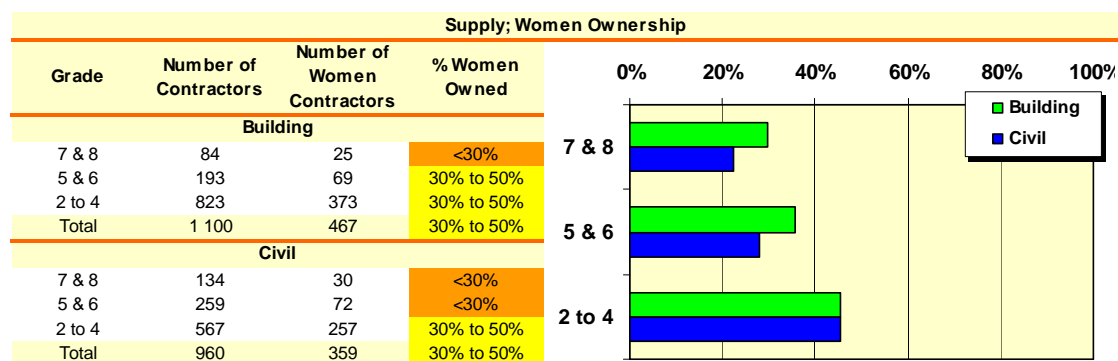
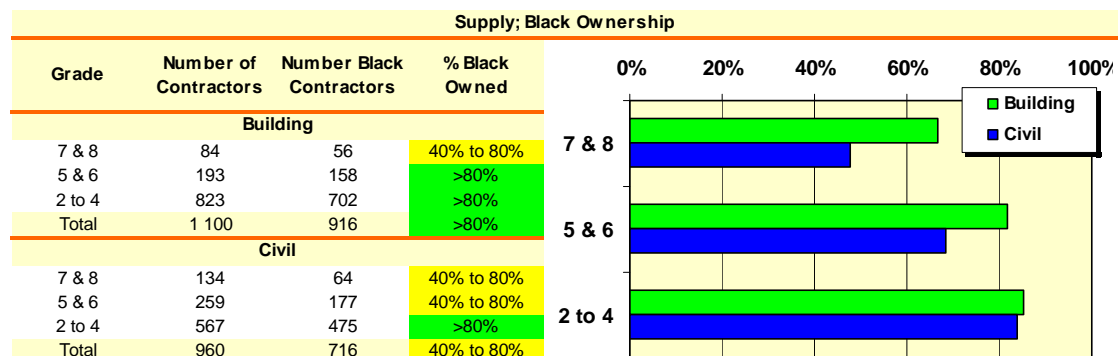
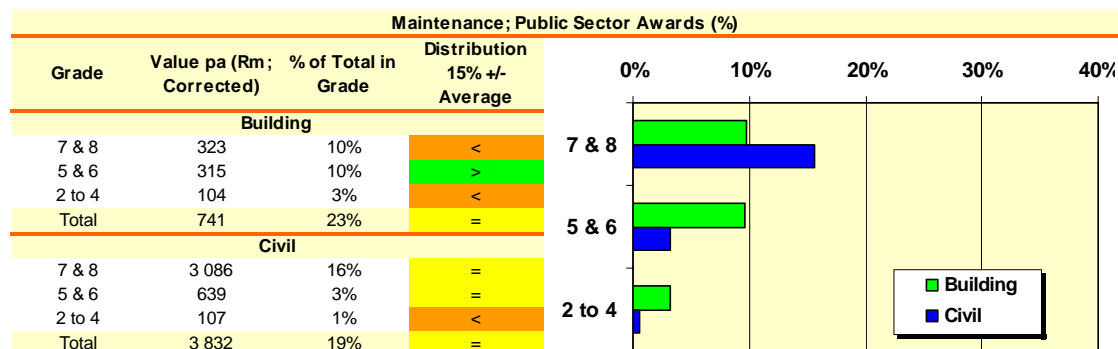
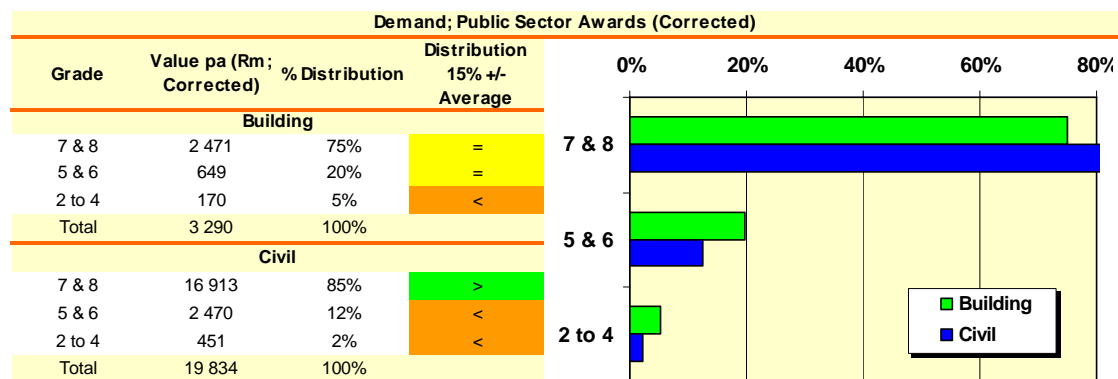
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	19	16	7
New Reg.	20	5	0
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	12	31	9
New Reg.	37	1	0

Number New Registrations

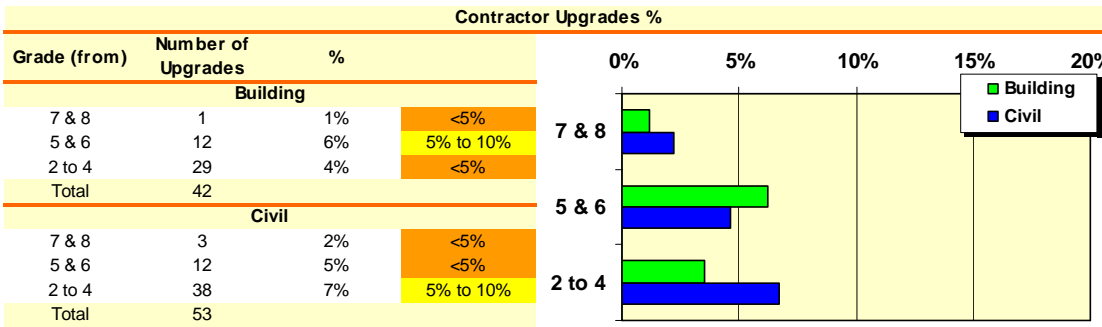
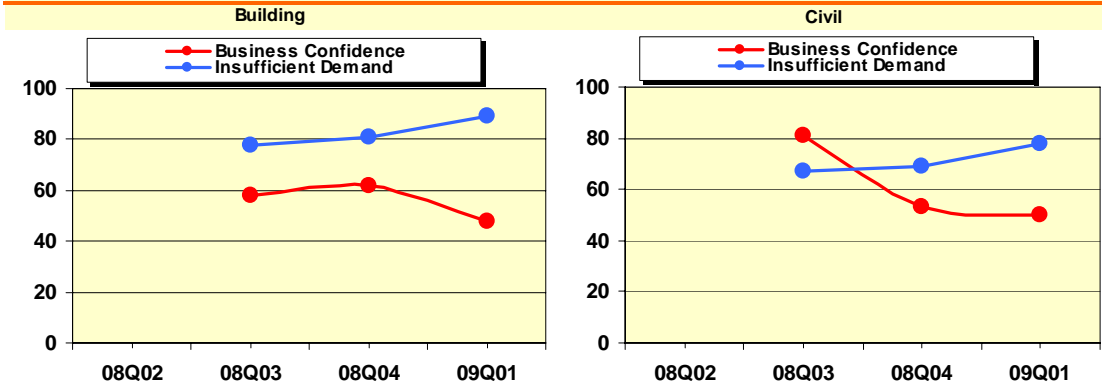


## 6. Gauteng





**Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)**

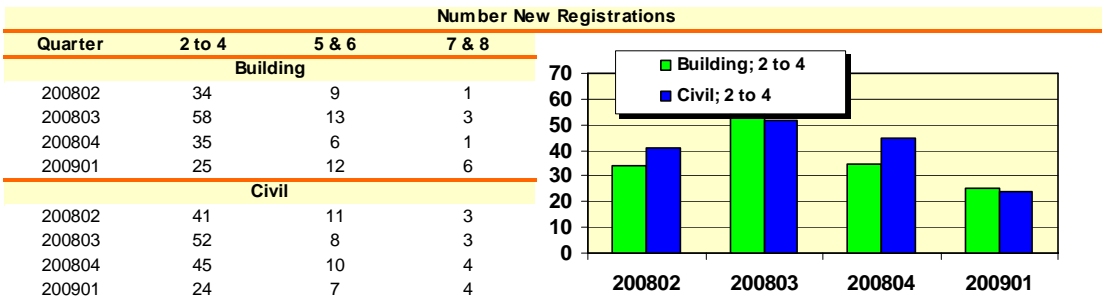


**Contractor Upgrades**

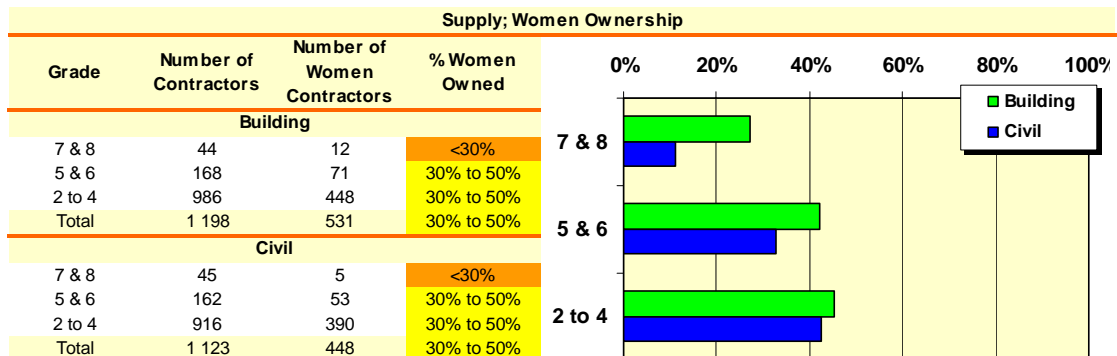
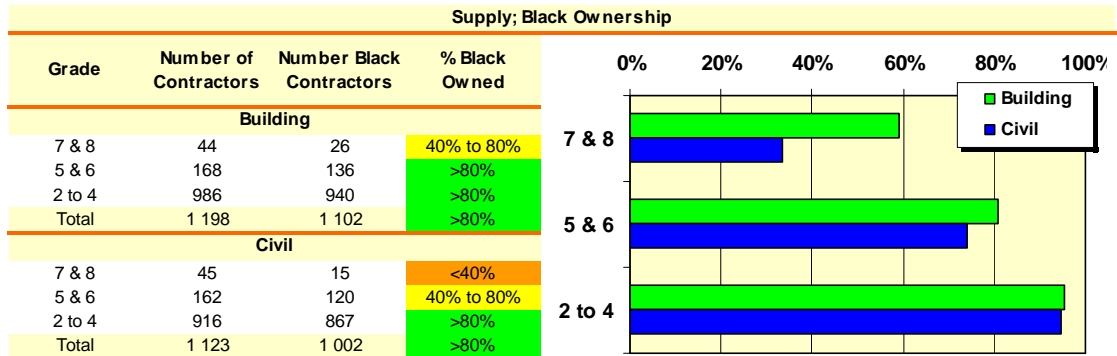
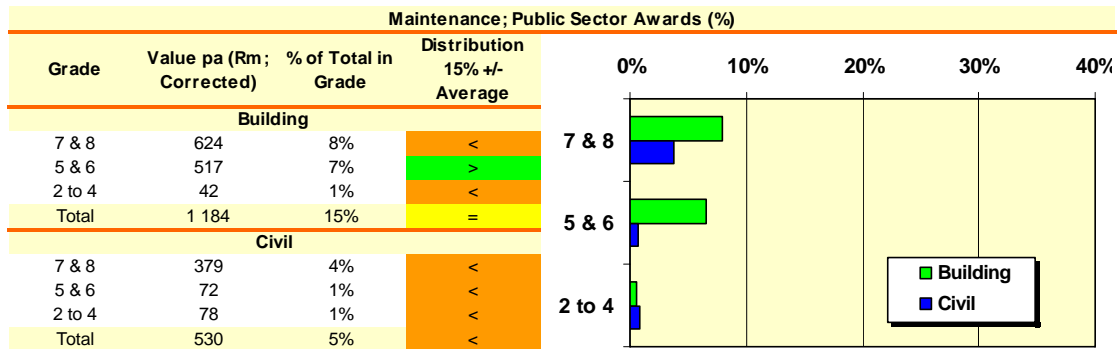
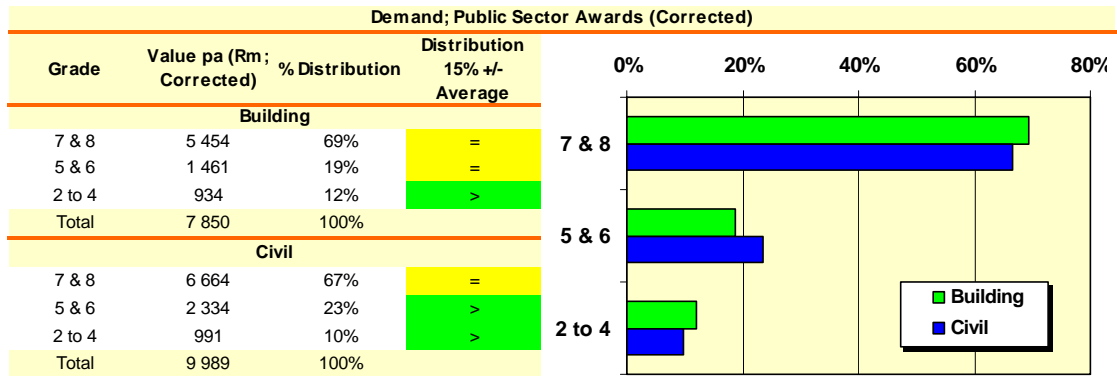
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			1	0
5 & 6		7	5	0
2 to 4	19	9	1	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			2	1
5 & 6		7	5	0
2 to 4	12	24	2	0

**Upgrades & New Registrations**

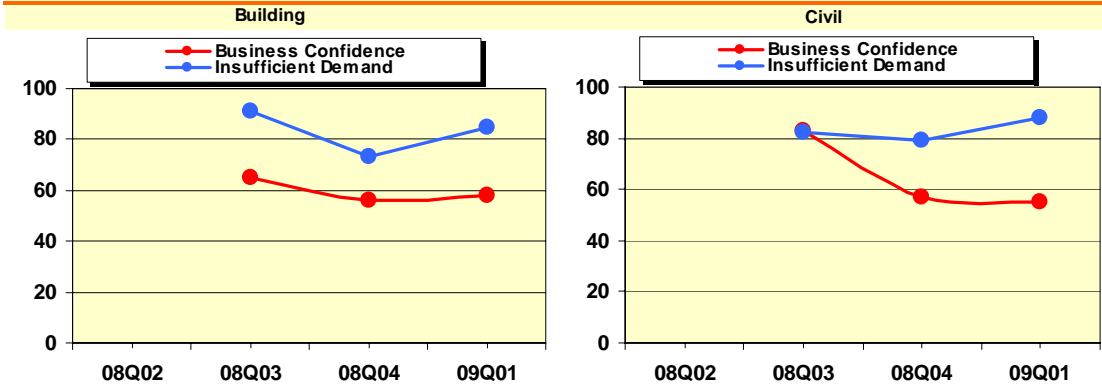
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	19	16	7
New Reg.	152	40	11
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	12	31	9
New Reg.	162	36	14



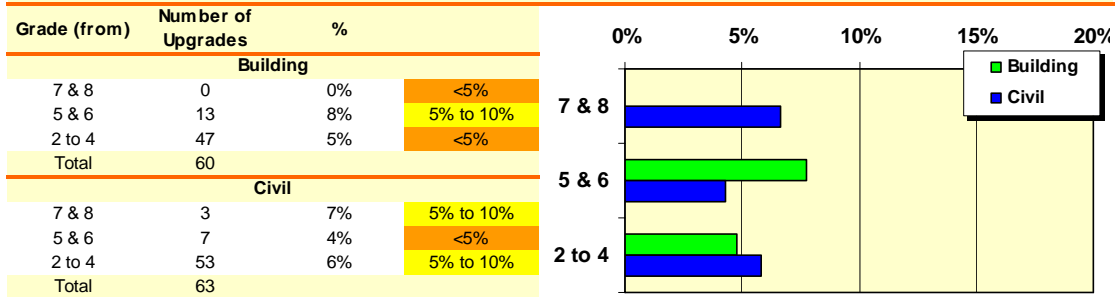
## 7. KwaZulu Natal



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)



Contractor Upgrades %



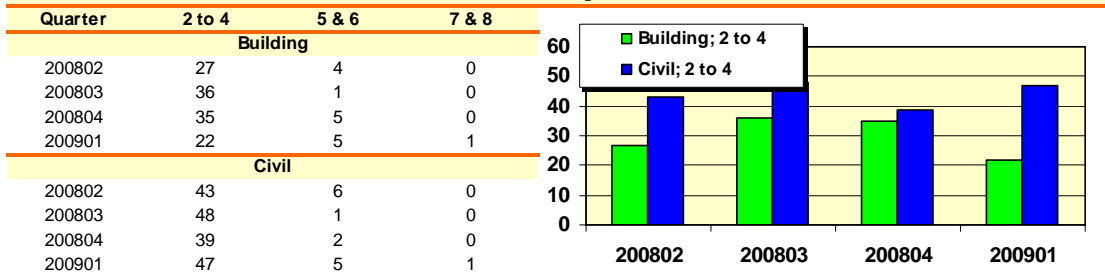
Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		6	7	0
2 to 4	29	16	2	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			2	1
5 & 6		5	1	1
2 to 4	37	16	0	0

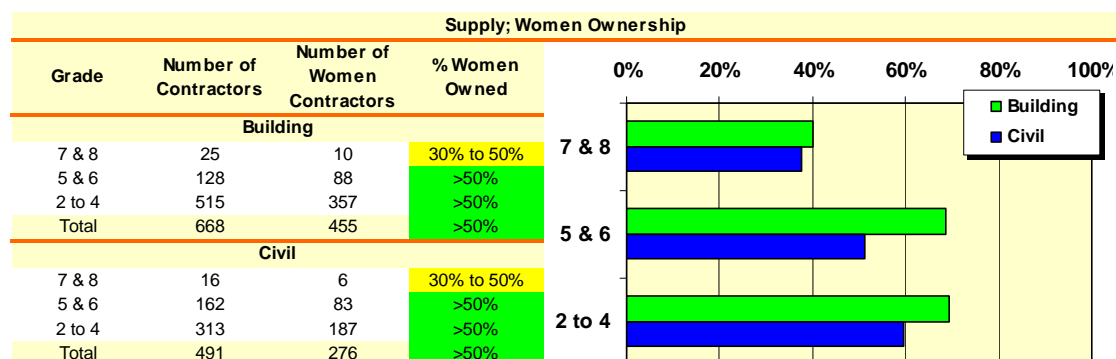
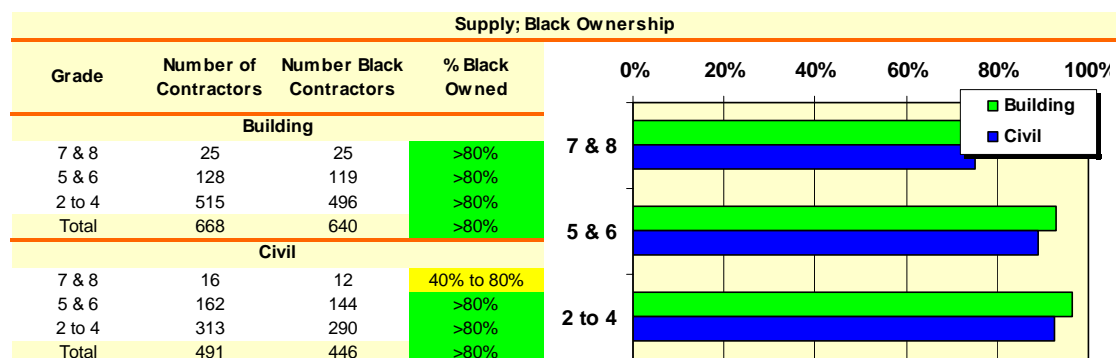
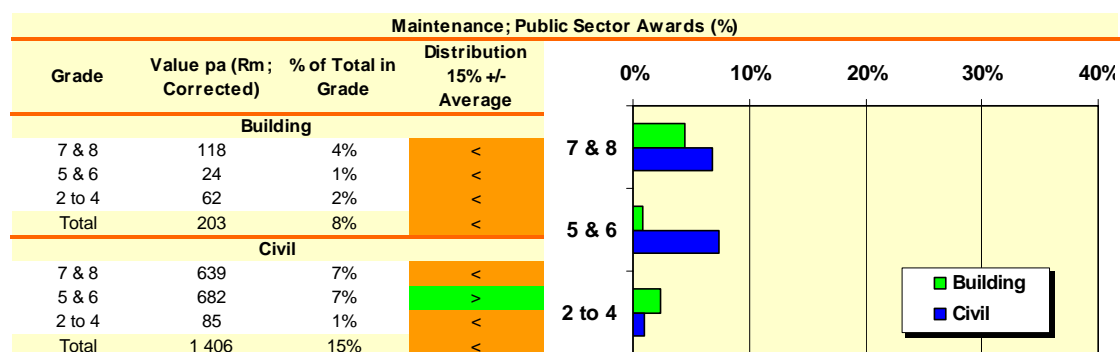
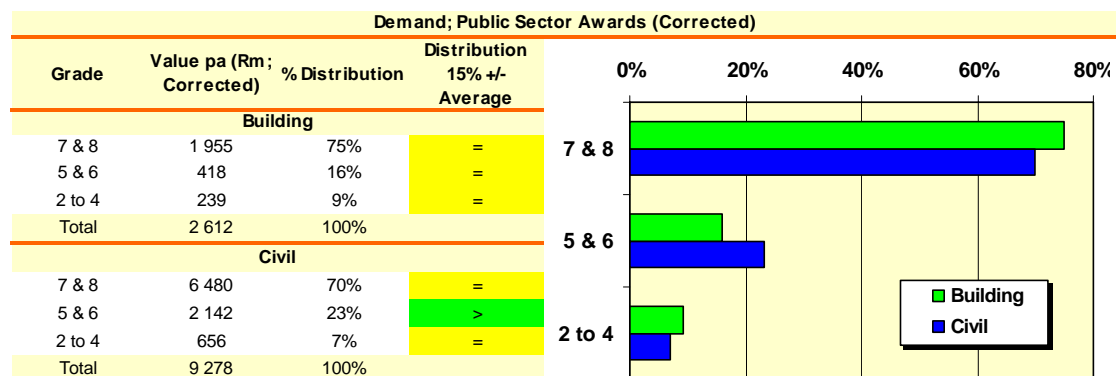
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	29	22	9
New Reg.	120	15	1
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	37	21	3
New Reg.	177	14	1

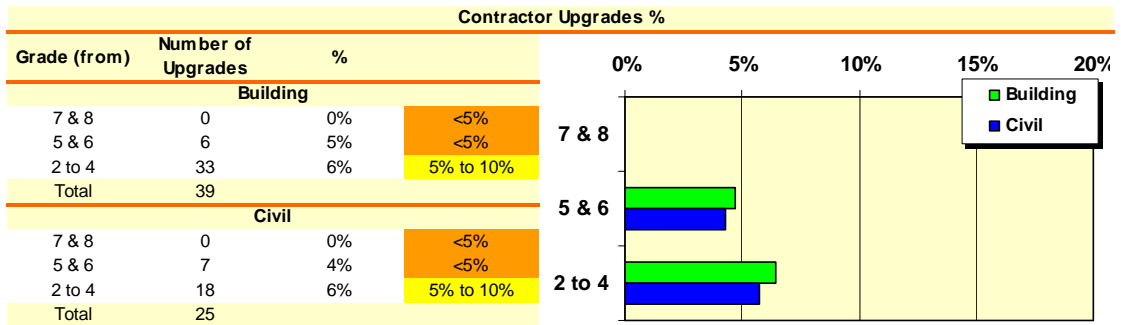
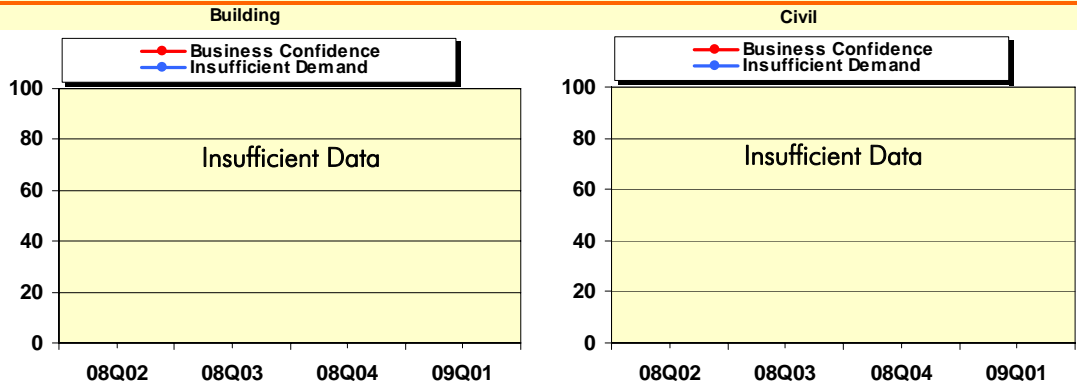
Number New Registrations



## 8. Limpopo



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)

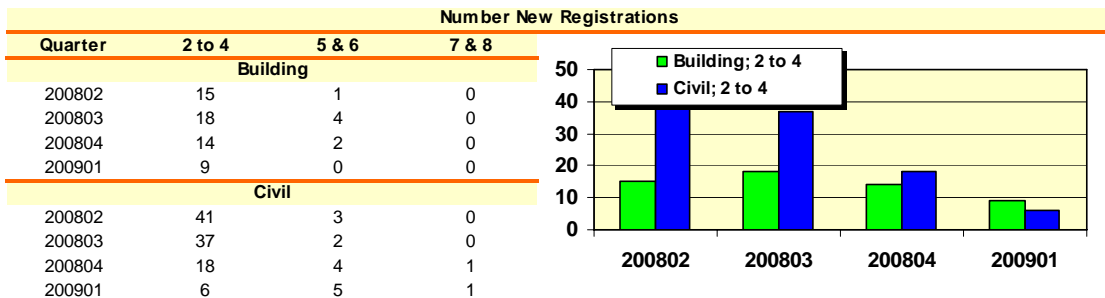


**Contractor Upgrades**

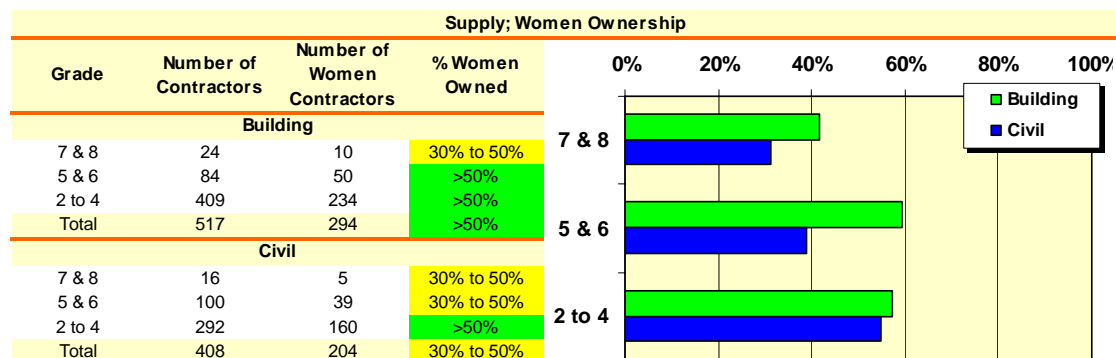
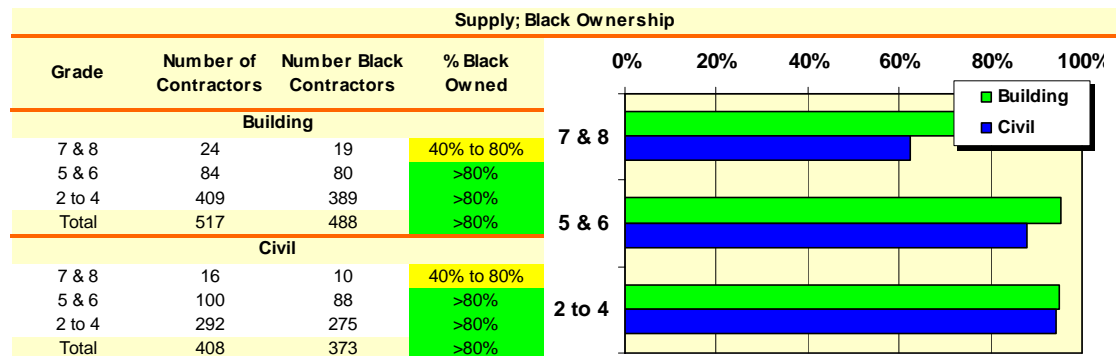
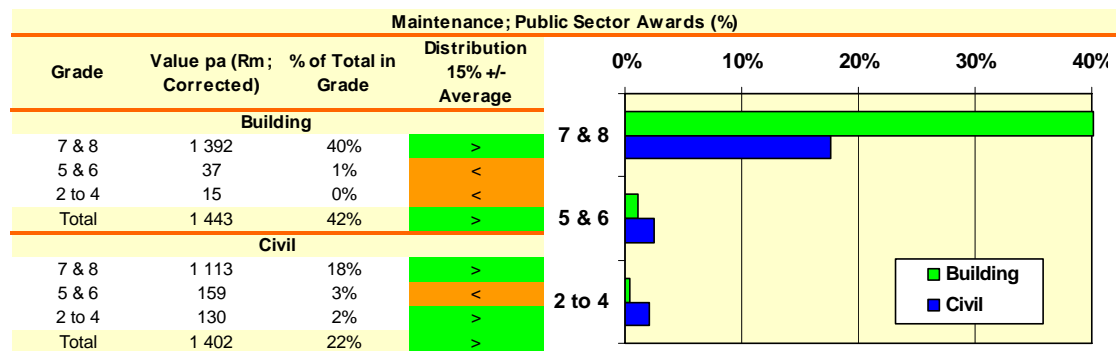
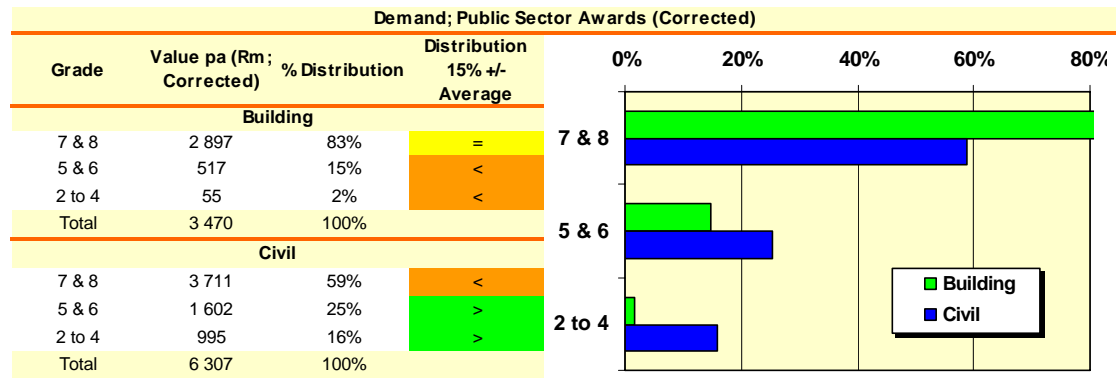
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		4	2	0
2 to 4	18	15	0	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		5	2	0
2 to 4	4	14	0	0

**Upgrades & New Registrations**

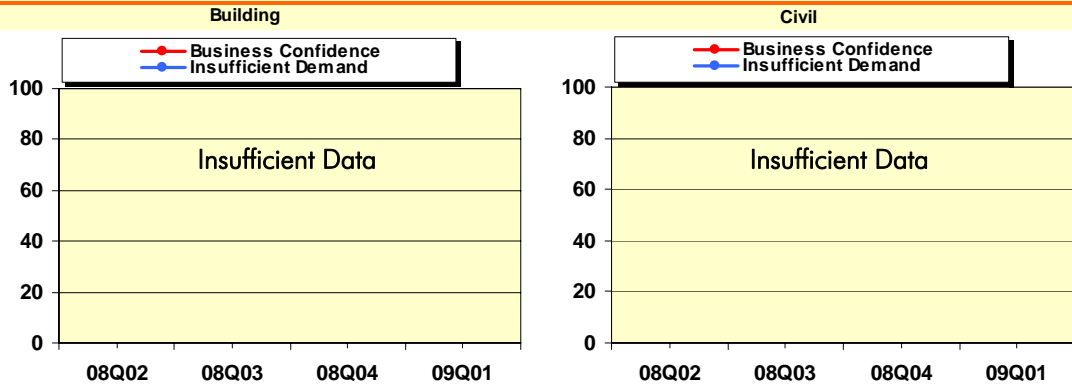
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	18	19	2
New Reg.	56	7	0
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	4	19	2
New Reg.	102	14	2



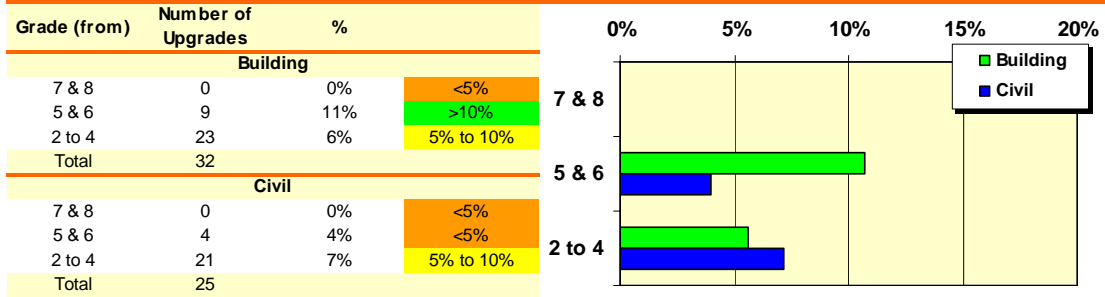
## 9. Mpumalanga



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)



Contractor Upgrades %



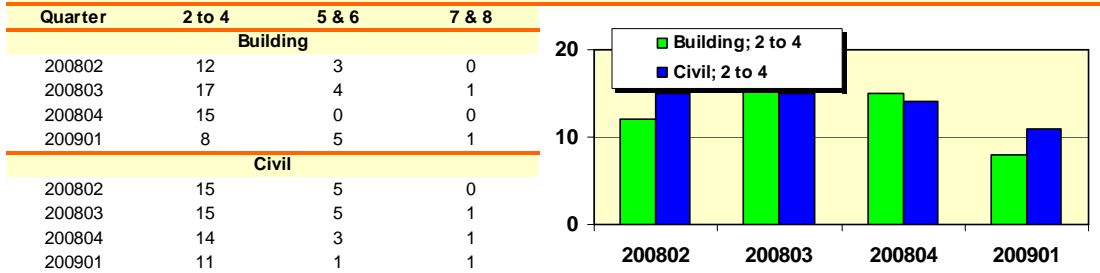
Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		4	5	0
2 to 4	9	13	1	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		3	1	0
2 to 4	8	13	0	0

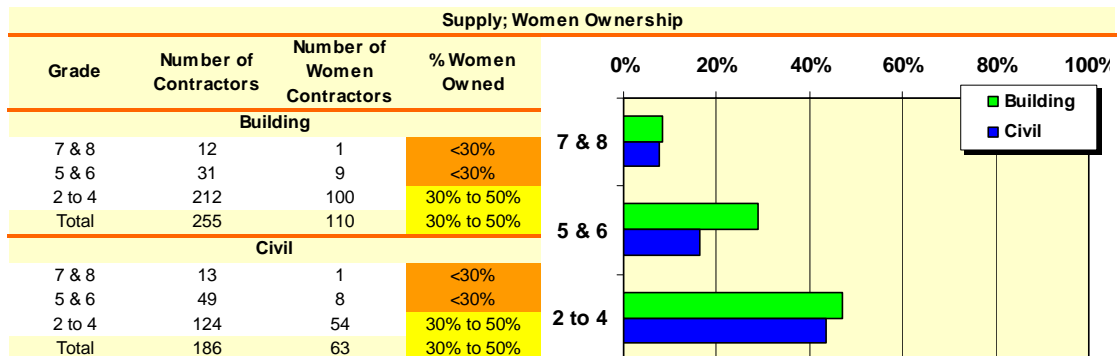
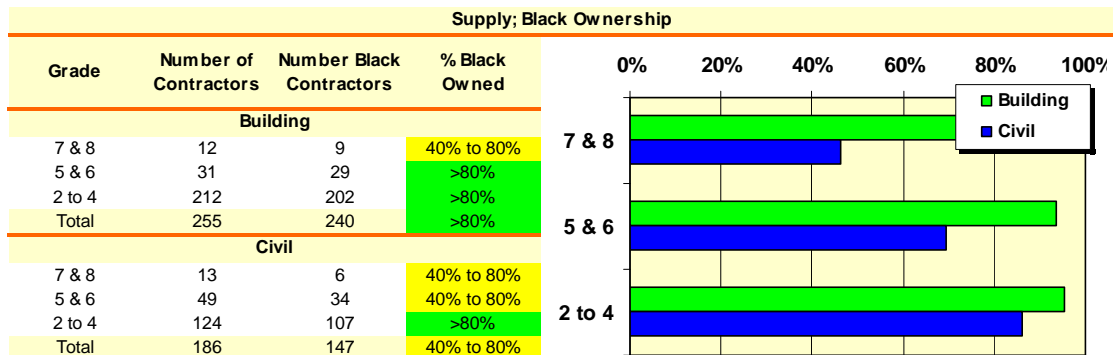
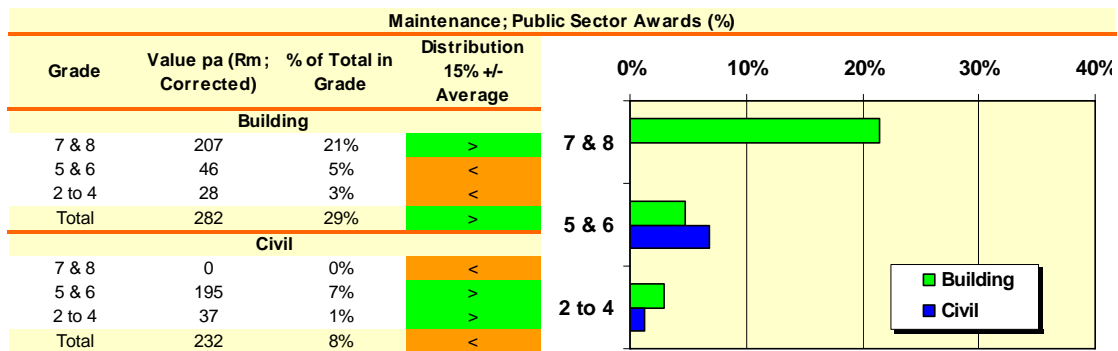
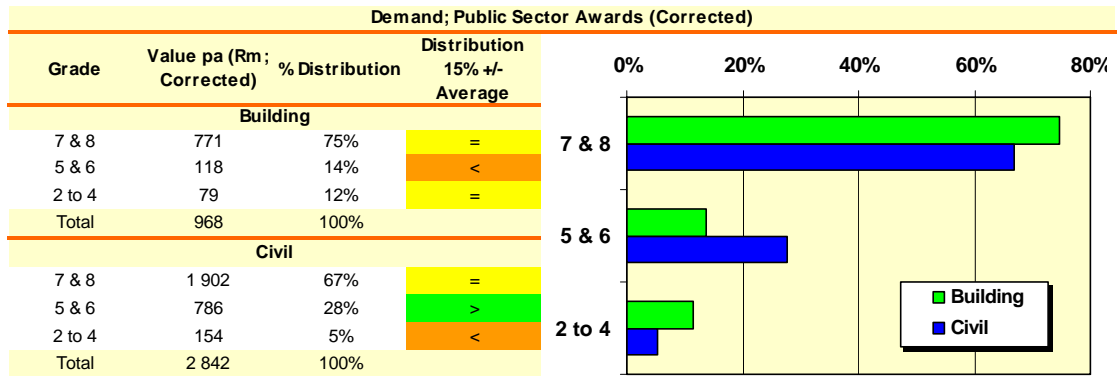
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	9	17	6
New Reg.	52	12	2
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	8	16	1
New Reg.	55	14	3

Number New Registrations

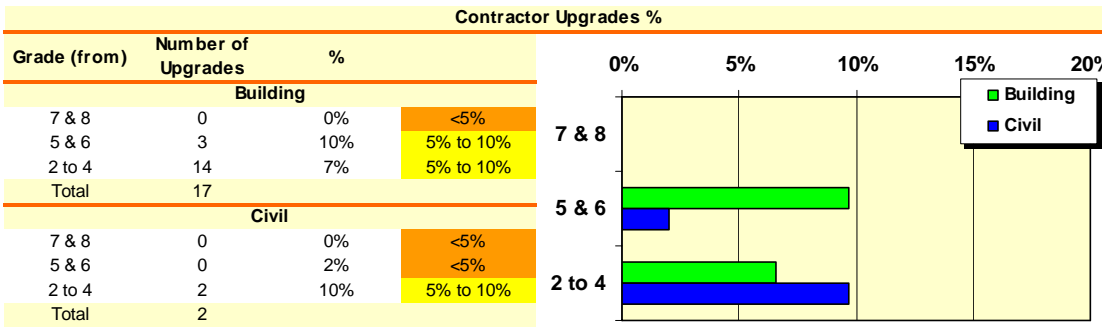
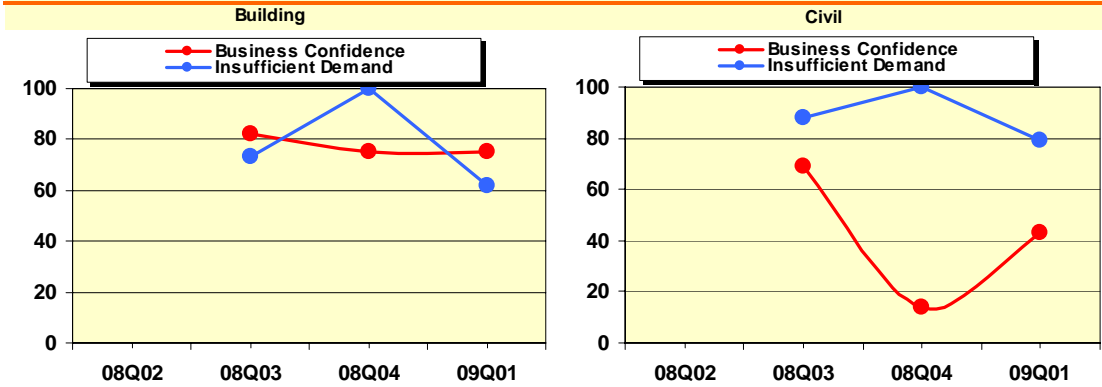


## 10. North West





Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)

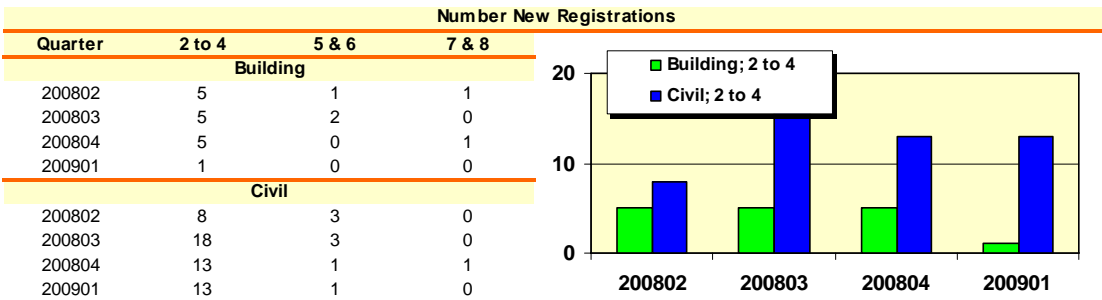


**Contractor Upgrades**

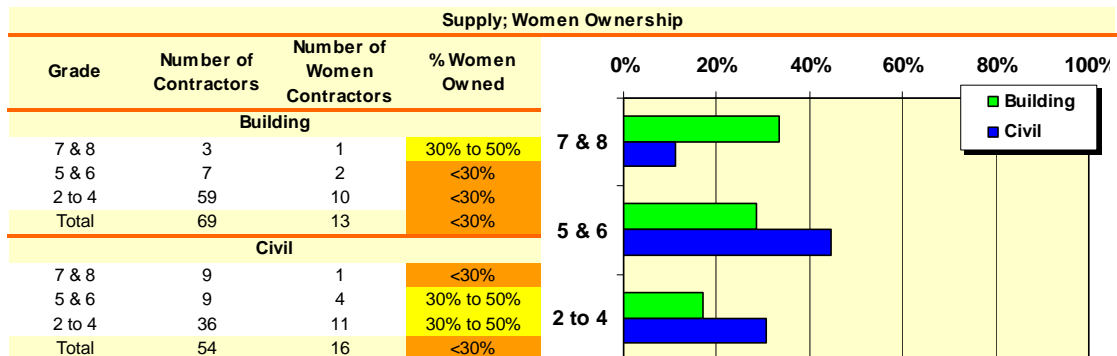
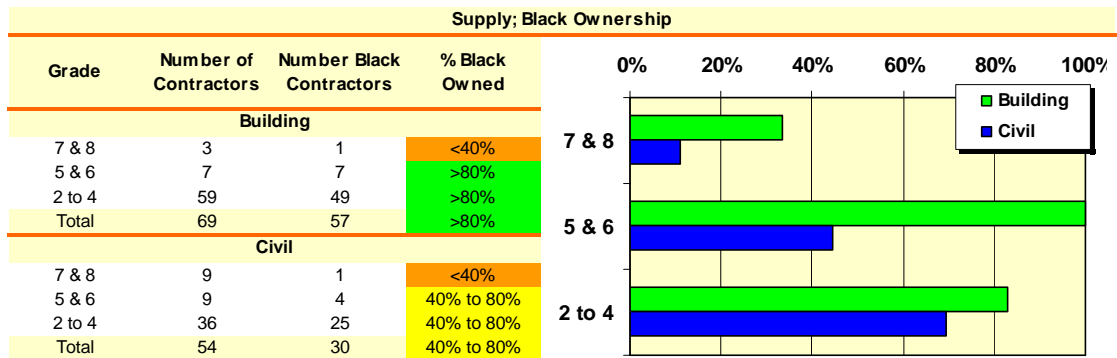
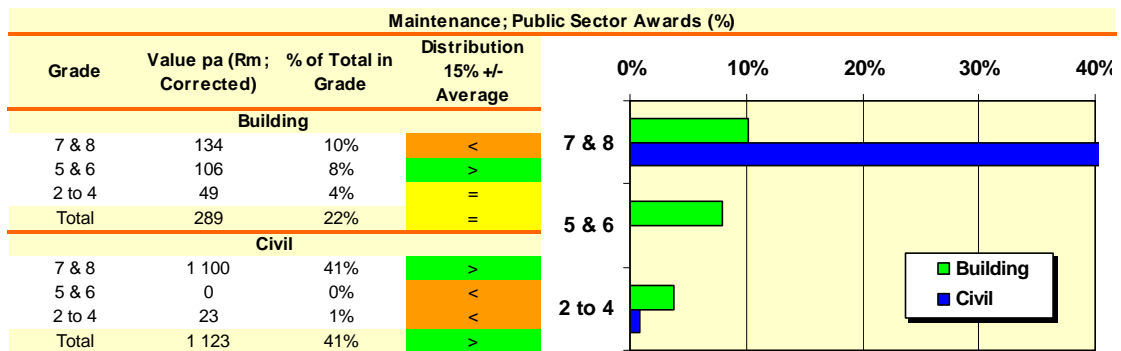
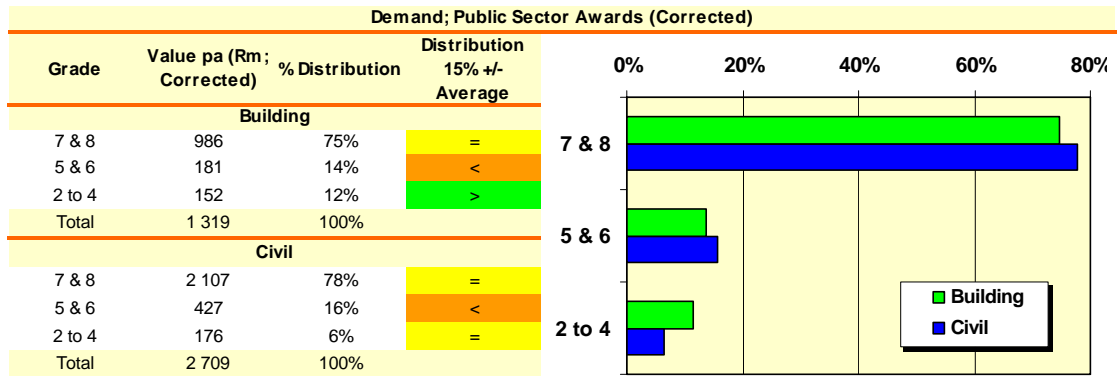
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		3	0	0
2 to 4	11	3	0	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		0	0	0
2 to 4	0	2	0	0

**Upgrades & New Registrations**

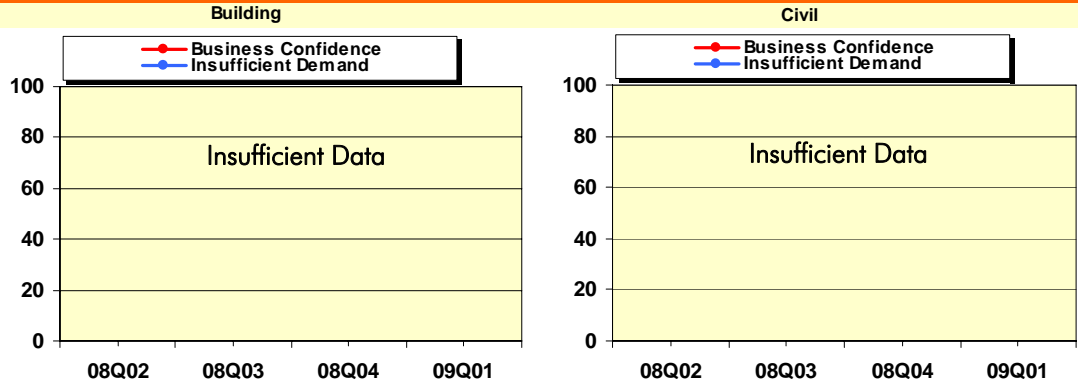
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	11	6	0
New Reg.	16	3	2
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	0	2	0
New Reg.	52	8	1



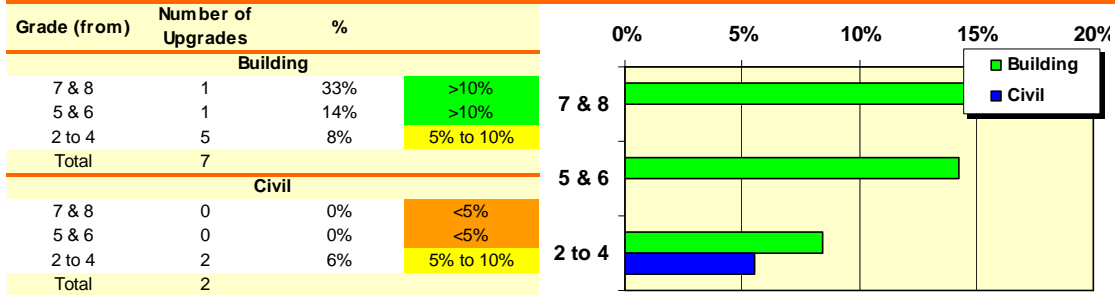
## 10. Northern Cape



**Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)**



**Contractor Upgrades %**



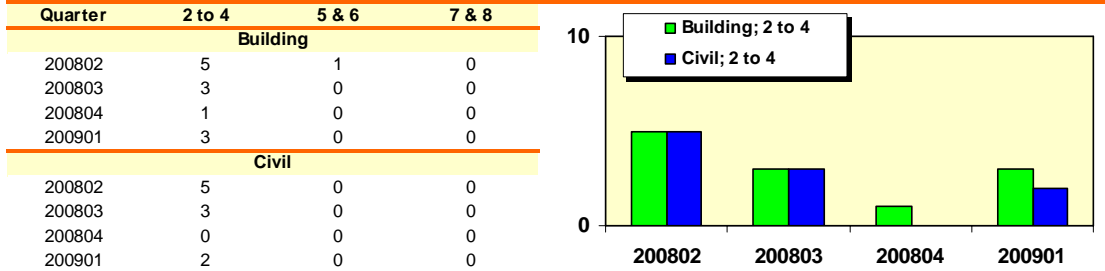
**Contractor Upgrades**

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			1	0
5 & 6		1	0	0
2 to 4	3	2	0	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		0	0	0
2 to 4	0	2	0	0

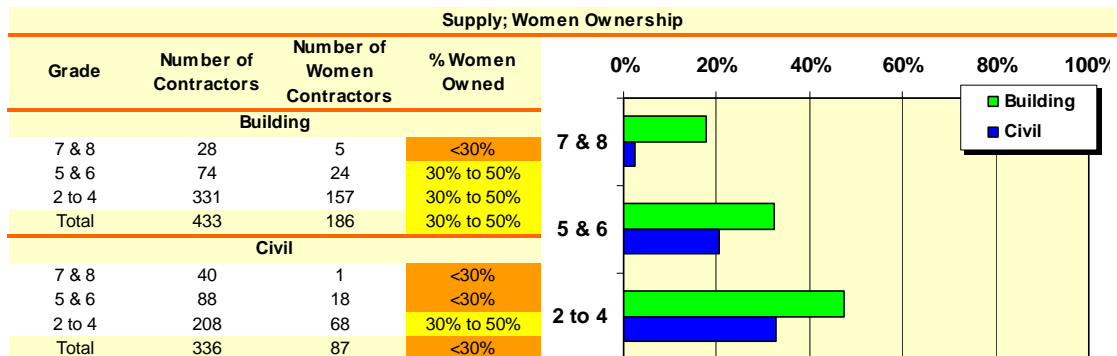
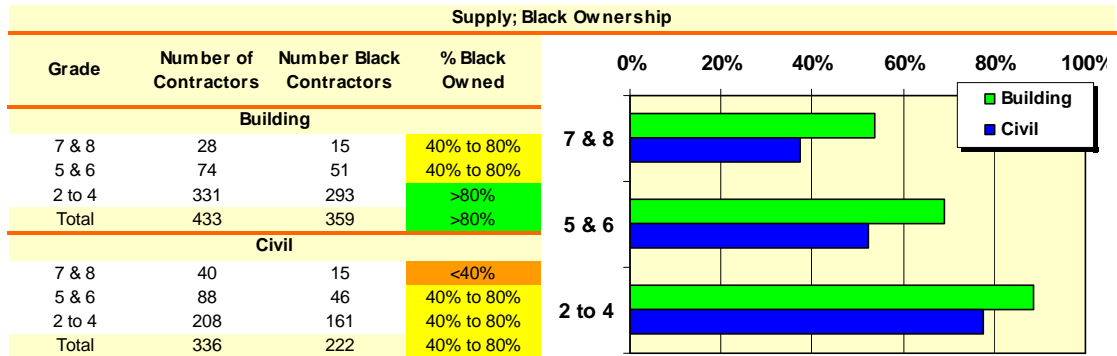
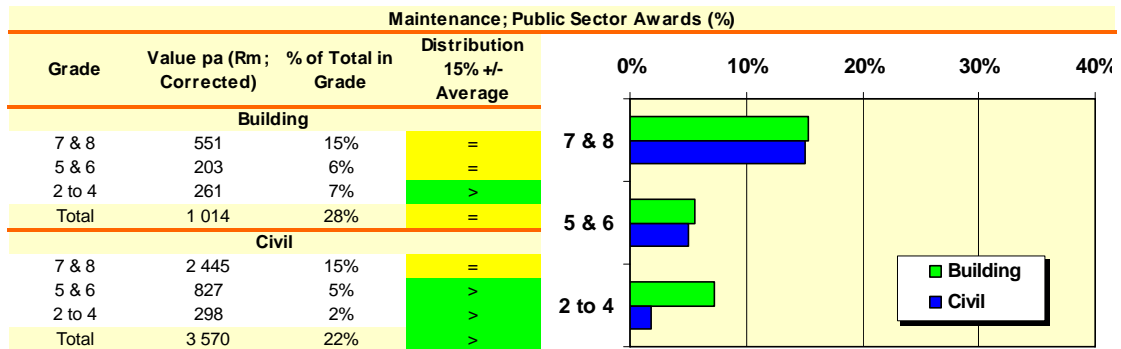
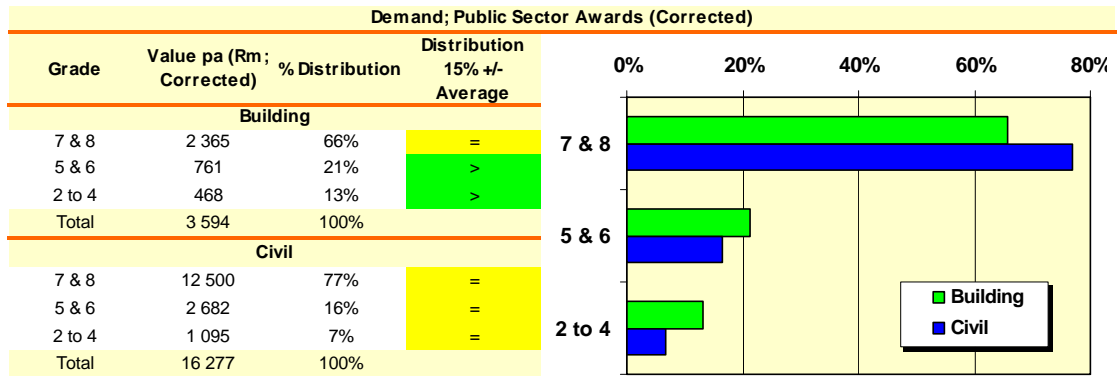
**Upgrades & New Registrations**

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	3	3	1
New Reg.	12	1	0
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	0	2	0
New Reg.	10	0	0

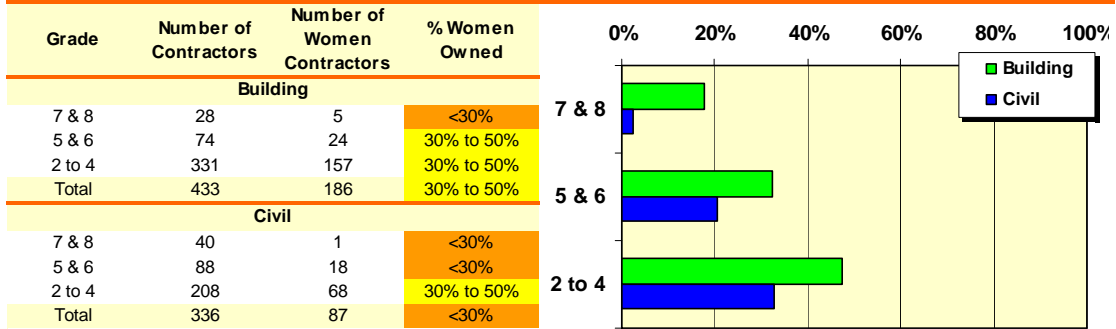
**Number New Registrations**



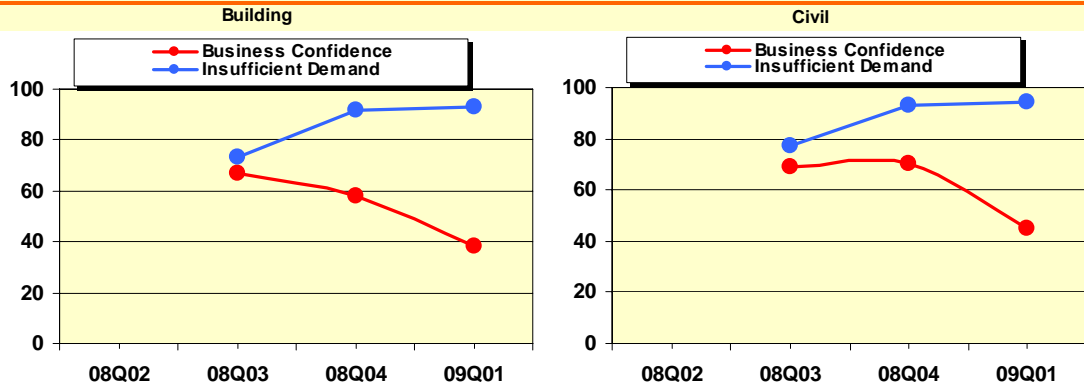
## 11. Western Cape



Supply; Women Ownership



Insufficient Demand for Work per Grade / Business Confidence Index (BCI)



Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
<b>Building</b>				
7 & 8			1	1
5 & 6		1	2	0
2 to 4	12	4	0	0
<b>Civil</b>				
7 & 8			1	1
5 & 6		5	1	0
2 to 4	7	6	0	0

Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
<b>Building</b>			
Upgrades (to)	12	5	3
New Reg.	60	12	6
<b>Civil</b>			
Upgrades (to)	7	11	2
New Reg.	39	6	2

Number New Registrations

