

The cidb
Quarterly Monitor:
October 2008



THE ECONOMICS
OF CONSTRUCTION
IN SOUTH AFRICA

Acknowledgements:

In addition to information obtained from the **cidb** Construction registers, the **cidb** Quarterly Monitor draws on the following external information sources:

the Industry Insight Projects Database
the BER Building Confidence Index; and
the FNB/BER Civil Confidence Index

Their support is gratefully acknowledged.



CIDB QUARTERLY MONITOR ; OCTOBER 2008

1. Introduction

The National Contractor Development Programme (NCDP) is a sector-specific intervention within the framework of South Africa's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (AsgiSA). Led by the Minister of Public Works and the Provincial MECs, it is committed to the accelerated growth of the construction industry to meet rising national demand. Specifically, the NCDP is geared to address enhancing capacity and equity ownership across the different contracting categories and grades, as well as improved skills and performance in the delivery of capital works and maintenance across the public sector.

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 NCDP. This Quarterly Monitor covering the 4th quarter 2007 to the 3rd quarter 2008 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 now 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).

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

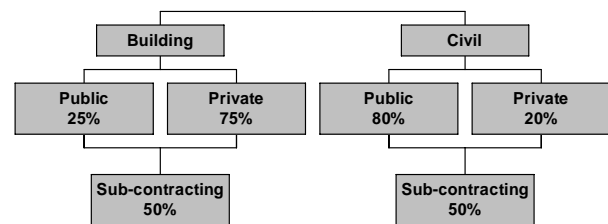
The background and assumptions used in developing and in interpreting the **cidb** Quarterly Monitor are highlighted below:

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.

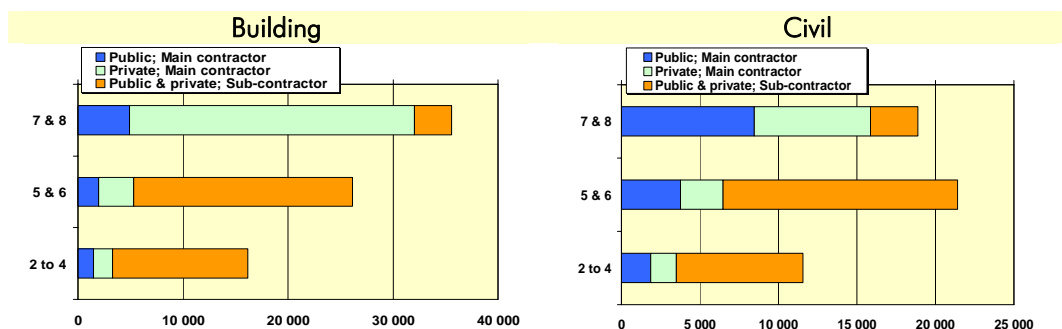
Class of Works	% Public Sector Spend
General Building (GB)	25%
Civil Engineering (CE)	80%

iii) **Sub-contracting:** Much of the work of contractors in Grades 2 to 6 is through obtained 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) **Annual Turnover of Contractor Enterprises:** Although very dependent on the nature of work (e.g. roads, water supply and excavations), an important indicator in interpreting the cidb Quarterly Monitor in order to assess the sustainability of contractors is the ratio of the available work to the turnover per contractor – taking into account both public and private sector opportunities and sub-contracting opportunities. The average annual turnover of contractors per Grade is given in the adjacent table.

Contractor Grade	Average Annual Turnover (Rm pa)
7 & 8	98
5 & 6	13
2 to 4	2.8

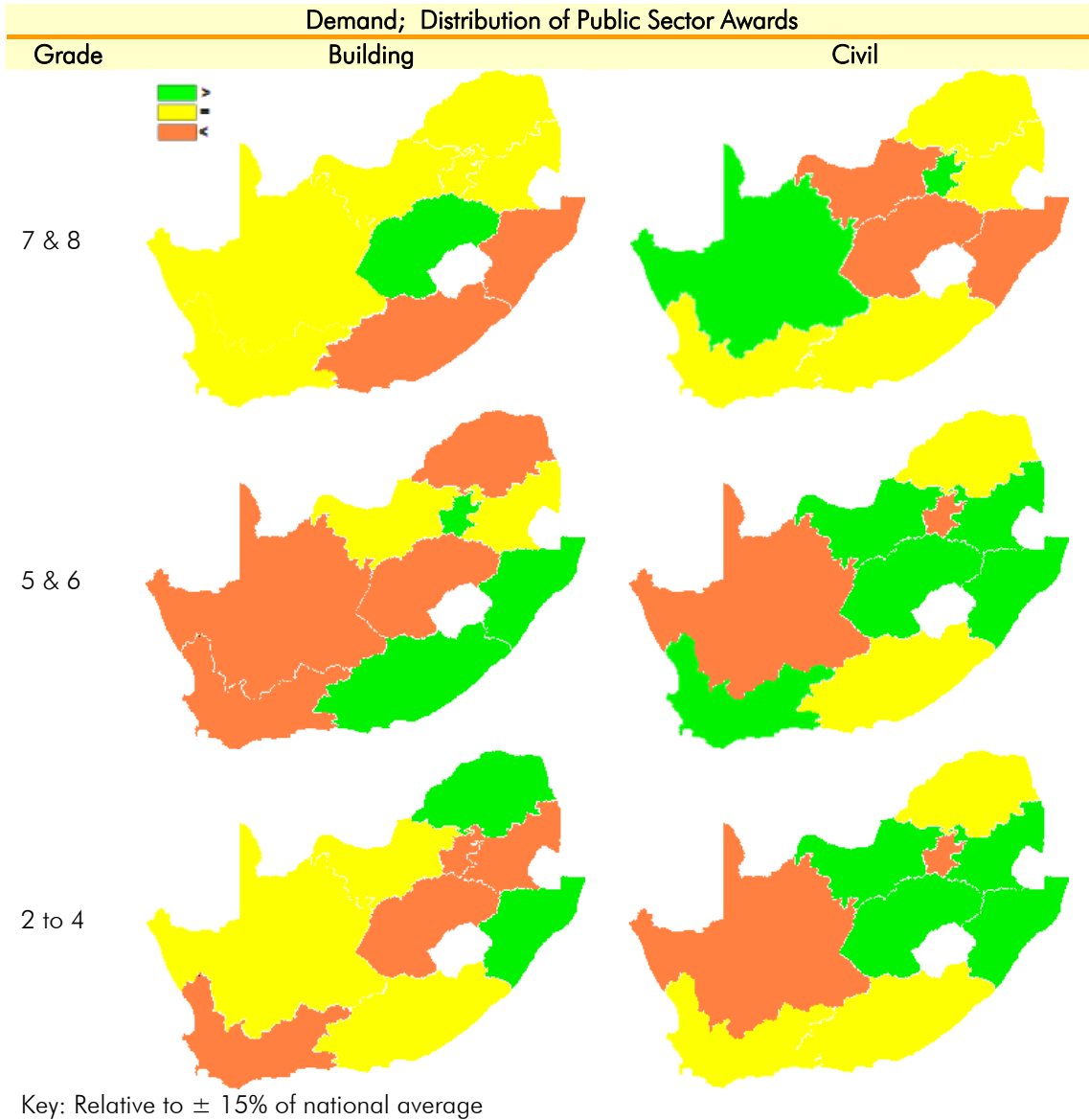
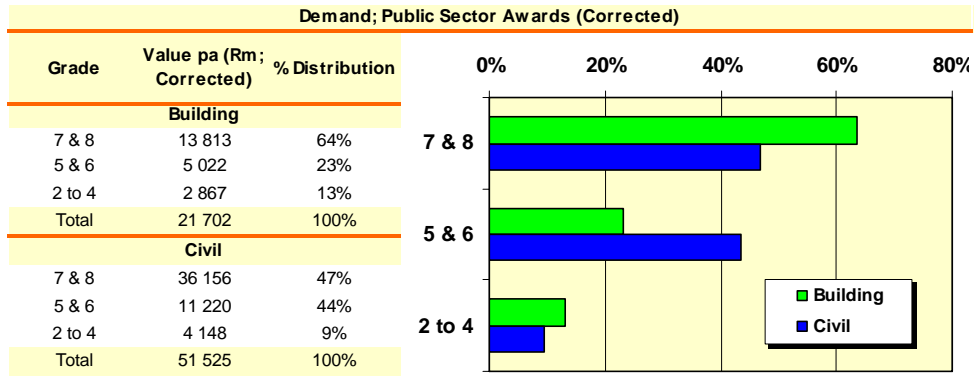
- vi) **Competition / sustainability:** The cidb Quarterly Monitor then presents a “turnover ratio”, calculated as the average annual public sector awards per contractor normalised by the average annual turnover of the contractor (per class of works and per contractor grade per contractor). A turnover ratio of 1 (or 100%) would imply that a contractor could, on average, derive its total annual turnover only from public sector main contracts. A low turnover ratio indicates a highly competitive environment – which is likely to be an unsustainable environment.

The cidb Quarterly Monitor also presents this information per province relative to the average turnover ratio (or competitiveness) for South Africa as a whole.

- vii) **Business Confidence:** The cidb Quarterly Monitor also presents the FNB/BER Building Confidence Index and the FNB/BER Civil Confidence Index for the country as a whole and covering public and private sector work is presented below. The Confidence Index represents the percentage of respondents rating the business conditions as satisfactory.
- viii) **Contractor Development:** This cidb Quarterly Monitor has been extended to include information on new registrations as well as contractors that have upgraded during the preceding 12 months. The information on upgrades considers only “compliant” applications (i.e. where the full financial and track record information has been provided), and also excludes new business enterprises (i.e. who do not have a previous track record at time of registration).

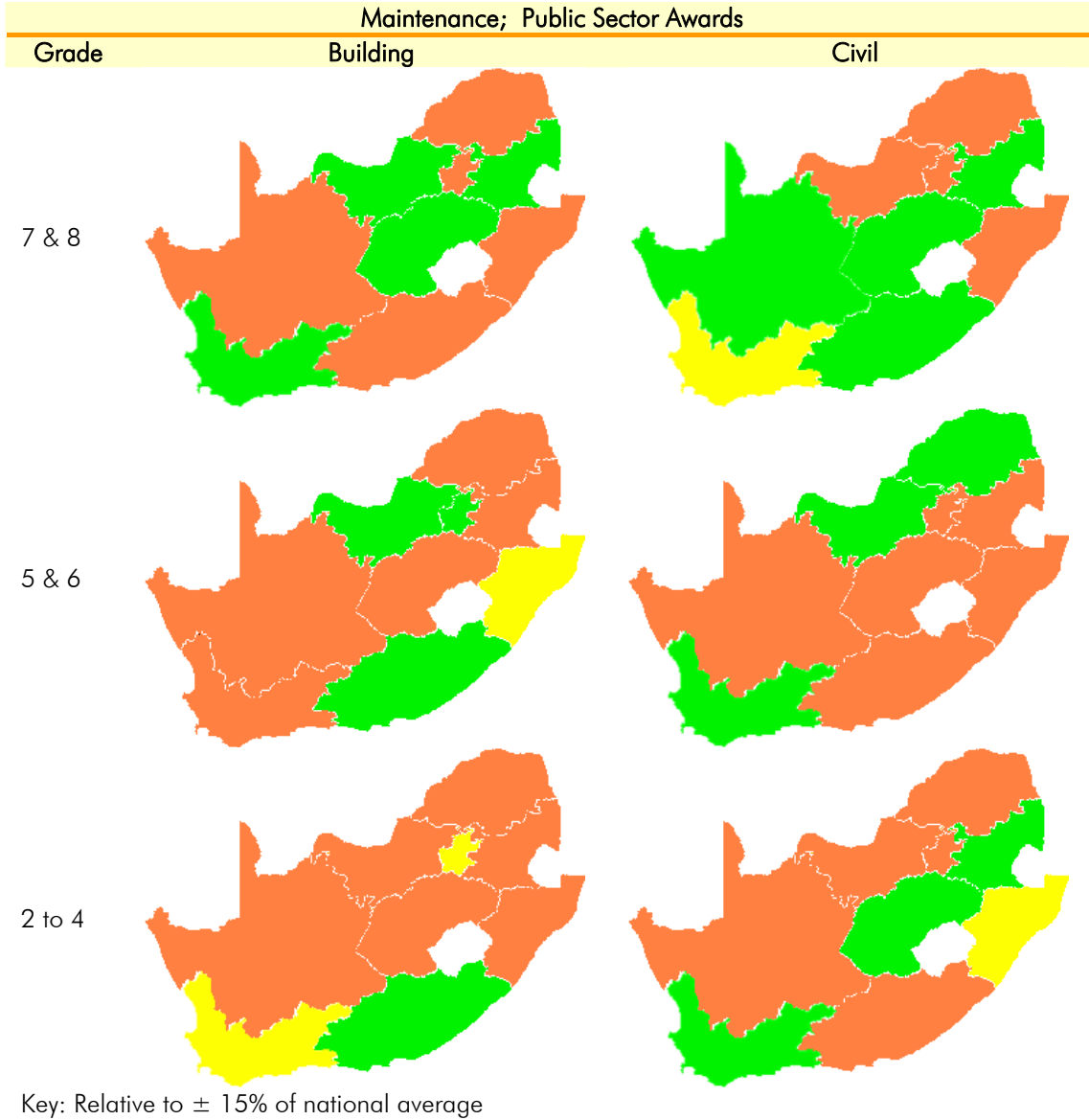
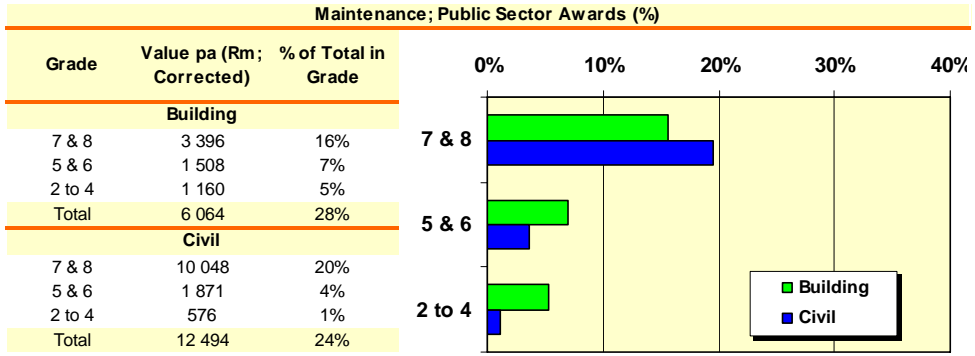
3. South Africa

Demand: The value and distribution of public sector contracts awarded in South Africa in Grades 2 to 8 is shown in the adjacent table and figure. The distribution in the public sector contracts awarded between the grades clearly reflects the infrastructure requirements of South Africa, but also reflects the opportunities for public sector procurement to influence contractor development.



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 adjacent table and figure. Overall, about 24% of public sector building contracts and around 28% of civil contracts are for maintenance – which is somewhat encouraging given the state of infrastructure in South Africa.

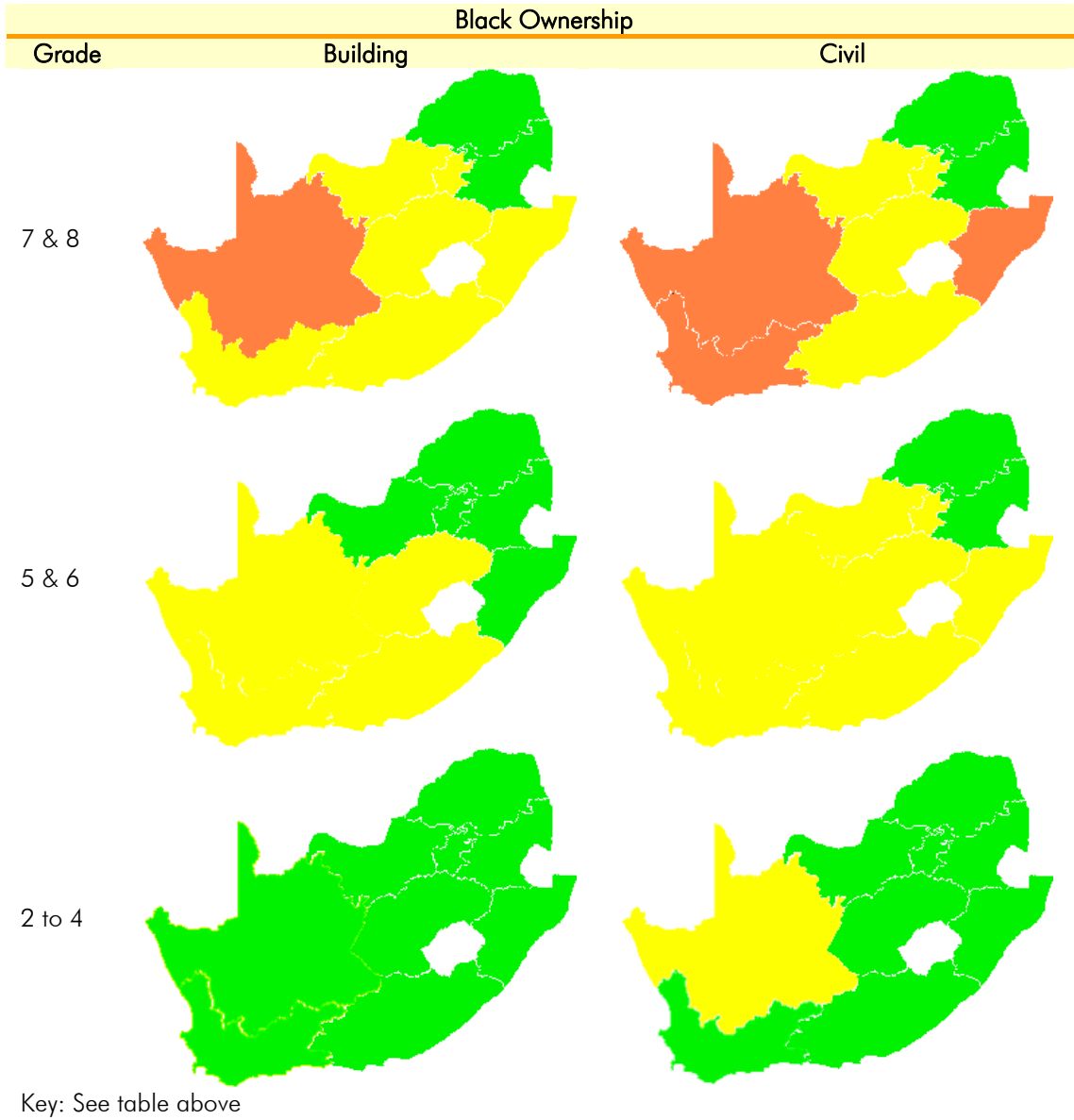
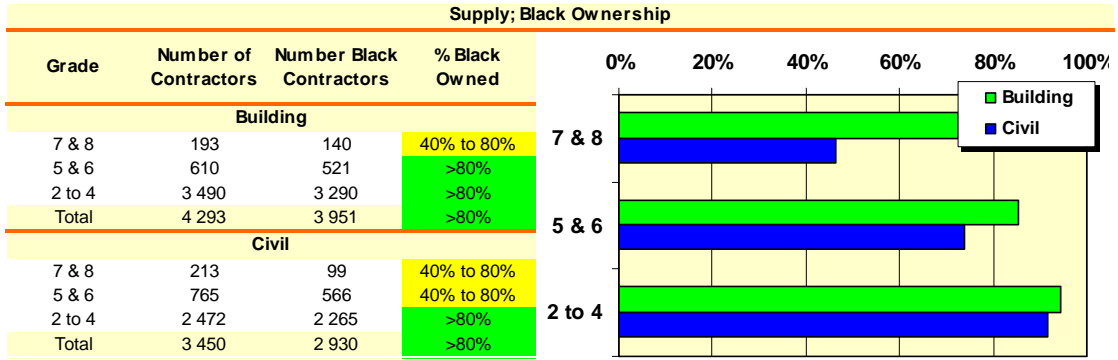
However, the breakdown of maintenance contracts across the provinces is variable, with KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo and Northern Cape allocating much lower proportions to maintenance – in particular within Grades 2 to 6.



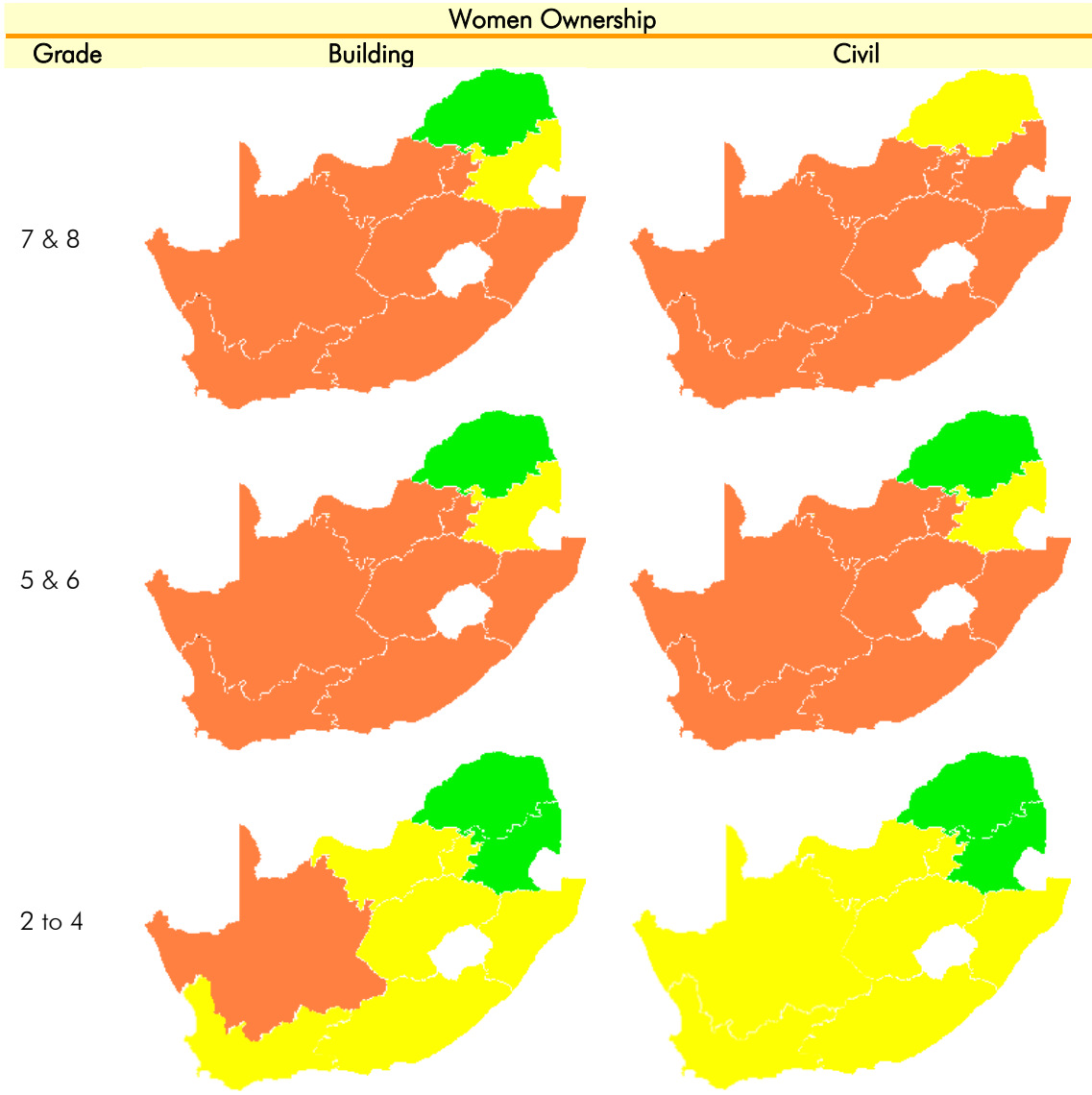
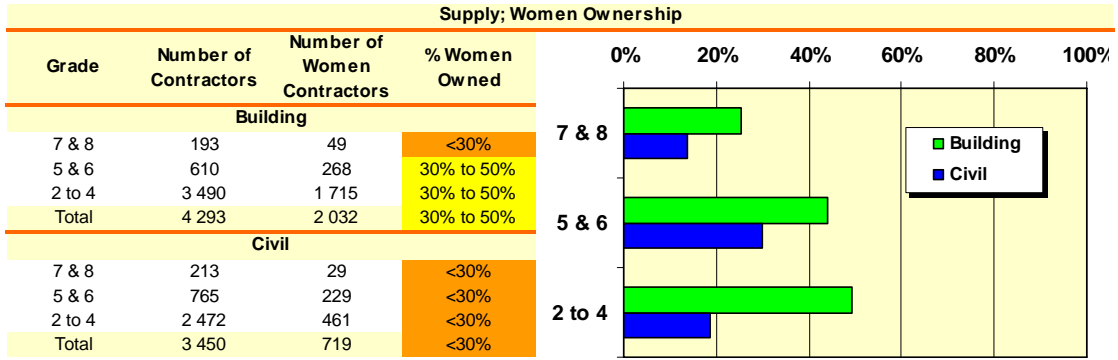
Supply; Black Ownership: For South Africa as a whole (and in fact for every province in South Africa), more than 80% of cidb registered Grade 2 to 4 building and civil contractors are black owned (defined as more than 50% ownership control). Furthermore, more than 80% of all Grade 5 and 6 building contractors are black owned, while around 70% of all Grade 5 and 6 civil contractors are black owned.

On a provincial basis, KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga have the highest proportion of black contractors across all grades and all classes of works (typically exceeding 80% black ownership).

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.



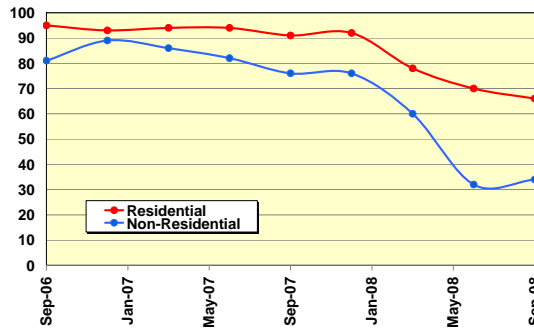
Supply; Women Ownership: On average, around 40% of all Grade 3 and 4 contractors are women owned – with the highest ownership in Limpopo (which probably reflects tender preferencing in this province), followed by Mpumalanga. However, women ownership varies significantly from province to province, and across the Grades. From Grades 5 and 6 and above, women ownership is typically less than 30%.



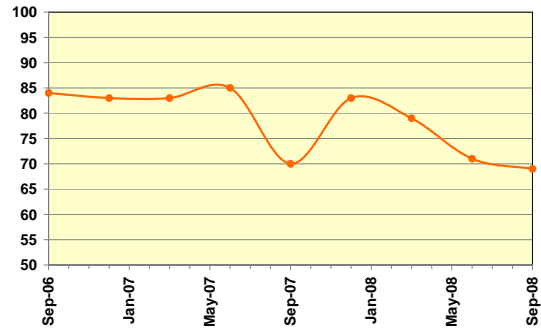
Competition / Sustainability: An indicator of competitiveness is the Business Confidence Index. The BER Building Confidence Index and the FNB/BER Civil Confidence Index for the country as a whole and covering public and private sector work is presented below, where the index represents the percentage of respondents rating the business conditions as satisfactory.

It can be seen that business confidence in the building sector has again dropped sharply over the last two quarters – suggesting increasing competitiveness between contractors. (Note however that the public sector is not a major player in the residential sector.) Business confidence in the civil sector again dropped slightly in the last quarter.

FNB / BER Building BCI



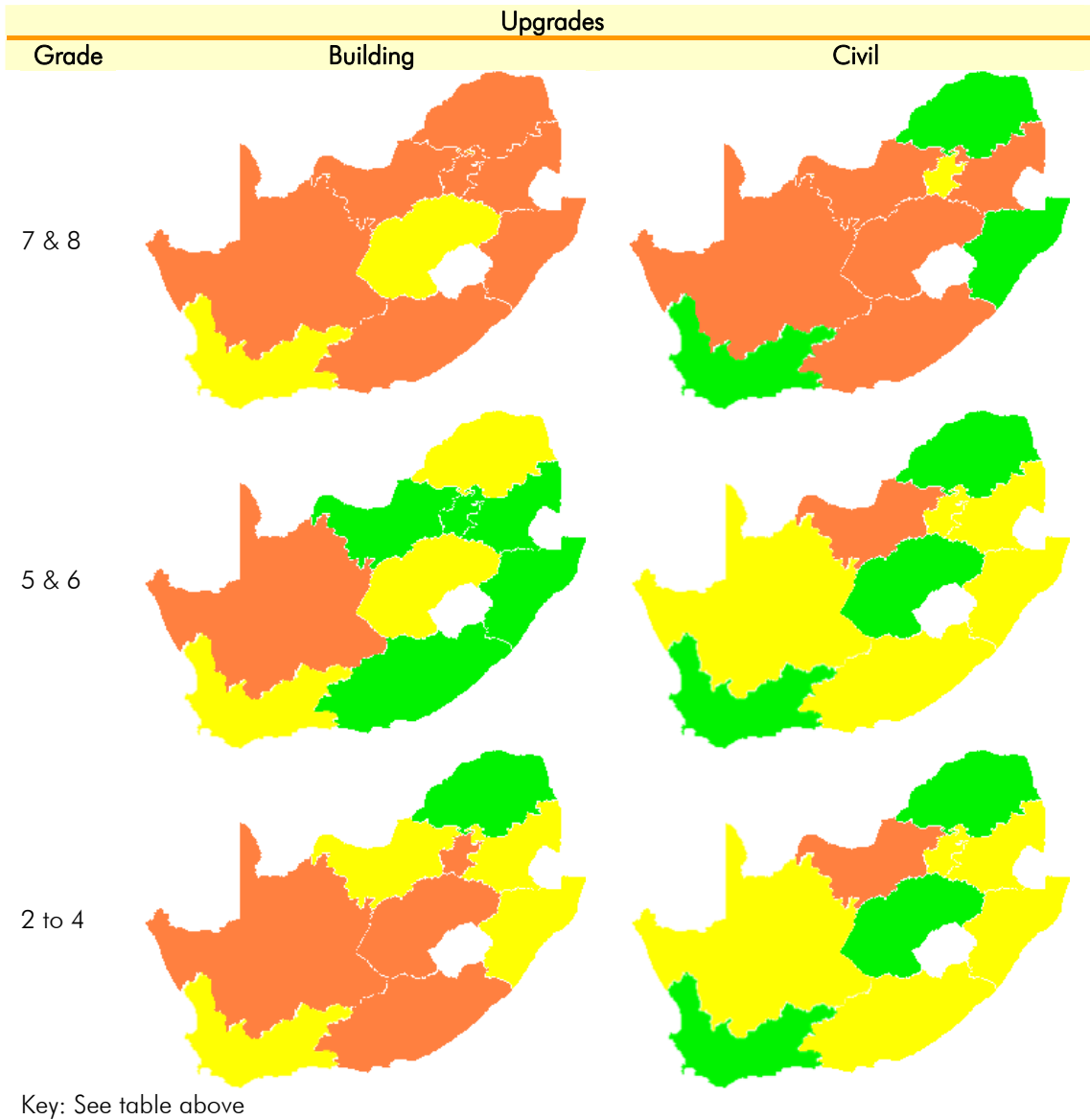
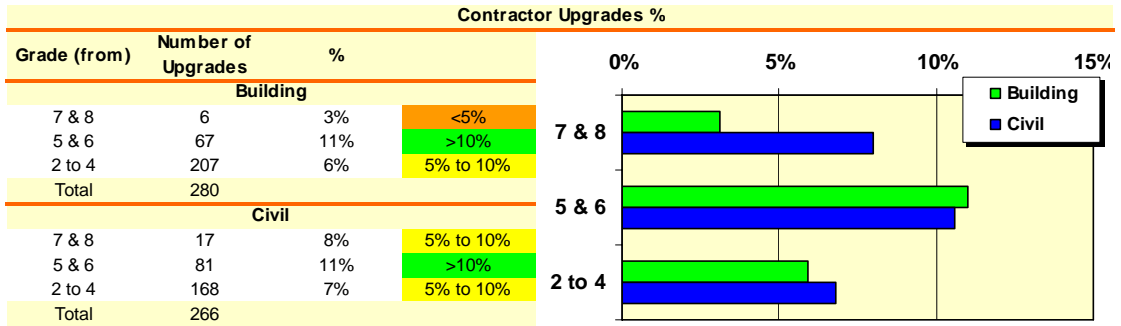
FNB / BER Civil BCI



Source: Bureau for Economic Research; <http://www.ber.ac.za>

Contractor Development: Details of the upgrading of contractors in the building and civil sectors within the past four quarters is shown in the adjacent figure. On average, around 5% of Grade 2 to 4 contractors are upgrading per year, and around 10% in Grades 5 and 6 within the building sector.

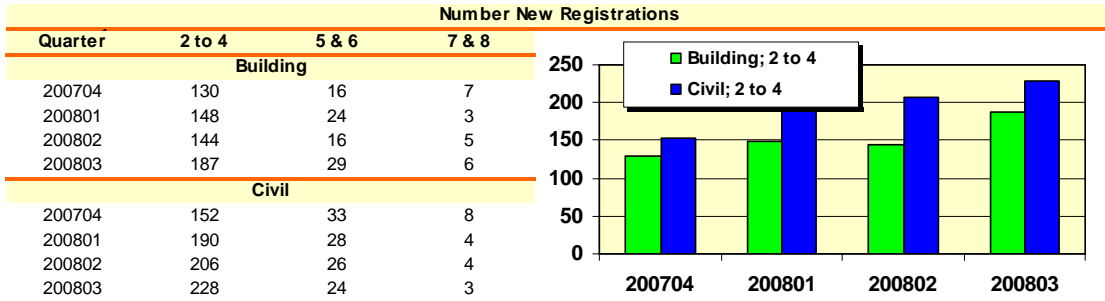
An overview of contractor upgrading per province is given in the adjacent figures – and again it is seen that (broadly speaking), the highest upgrading of contractors is taking place in Grades 5 and 6. Compared with the previous Quarterly Monitor, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of upgrades in Grades 2 to 4 in the building sector – from 185 upgrades for the four quarters ending June 2008 to 207 upgrades for the four quarters ending September 2008. Notwithstanding this, only one province has more than 10% of contractors upgrading in Grades 2 to four over the past four quarters, namely Limpopo.



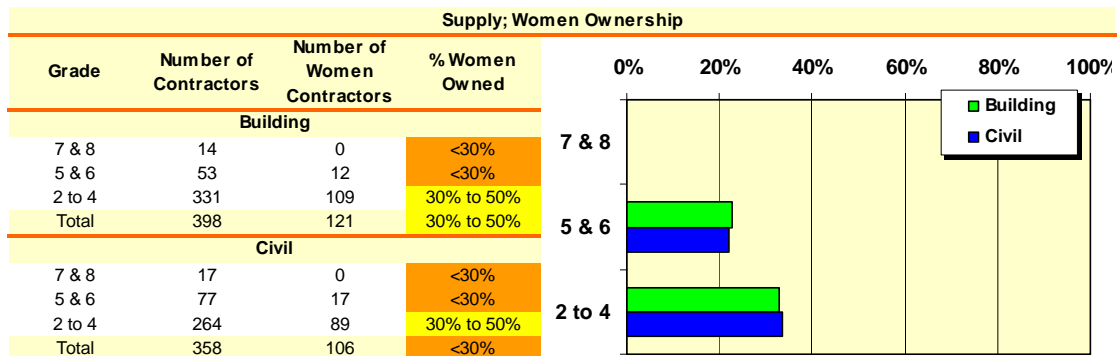
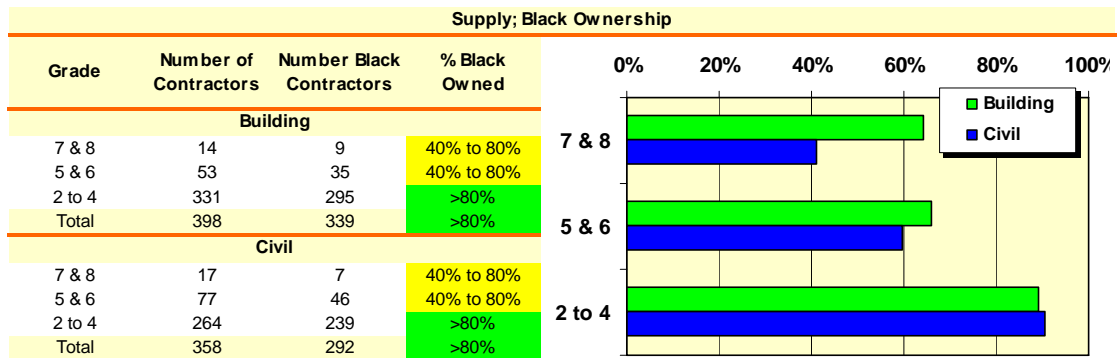
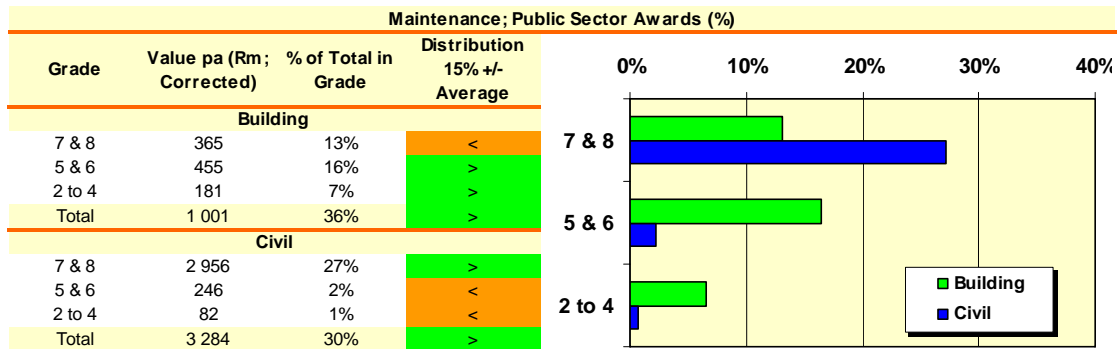
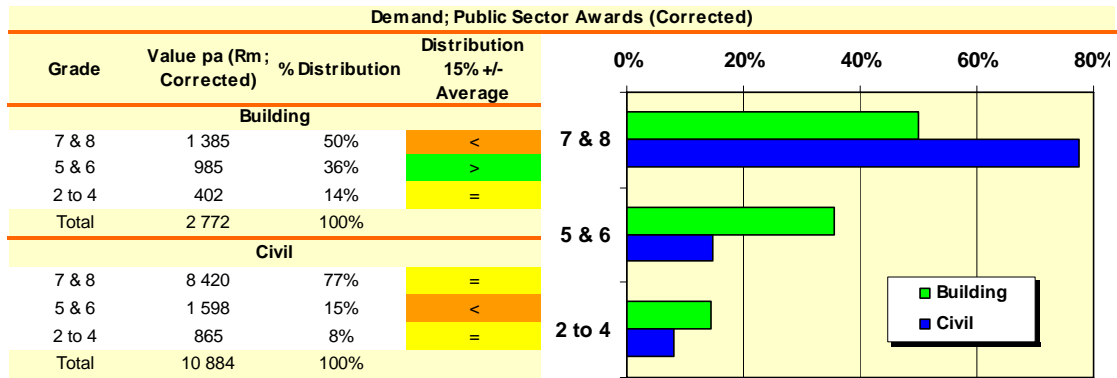
Contractor Development (continued): A comparison between the number of upgrades and the number of new registrations over the past four quarters is given in the adjacent table. Of interest is that the number of upgrades in Grades 5 & 6 and in 7 & 8 in both the building and civil sectors typically exceeds the number of new registrations. However, in Grades 2 to 4 the number of new registrations far exceeds the number of upgrades taking place – suggesting an unsustainable situation.

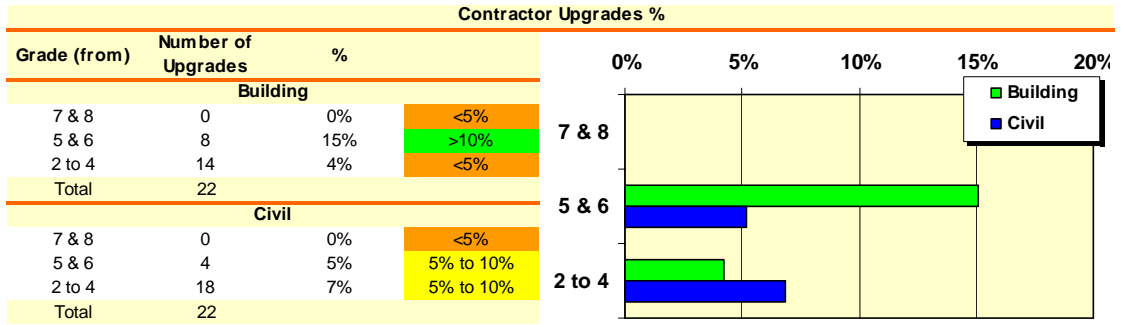
The number of new registrations per quarter in Grades 2 to 4 is also shown adjacent, which shows a constant flow of around 150 to 200 or more new registrations per quarter in the building and civil sectors.

Upgrades & New Registrations			
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	76	147	55
New Reg.	609	85	21
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	59	143	58
New Reg.	776	111	19



4. Eastern Cape



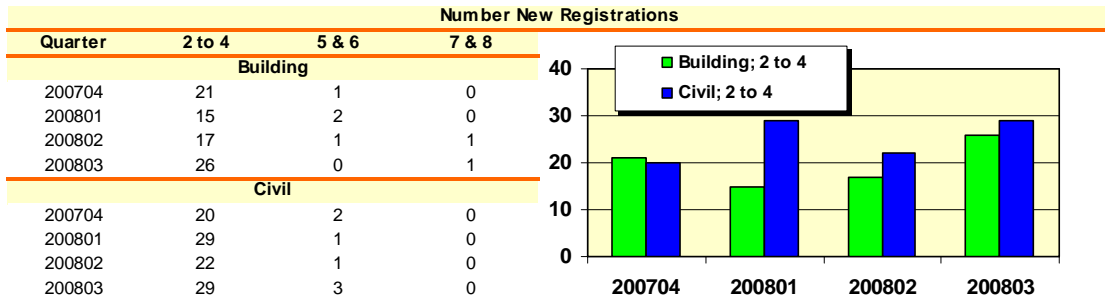


Contractor Upgrades

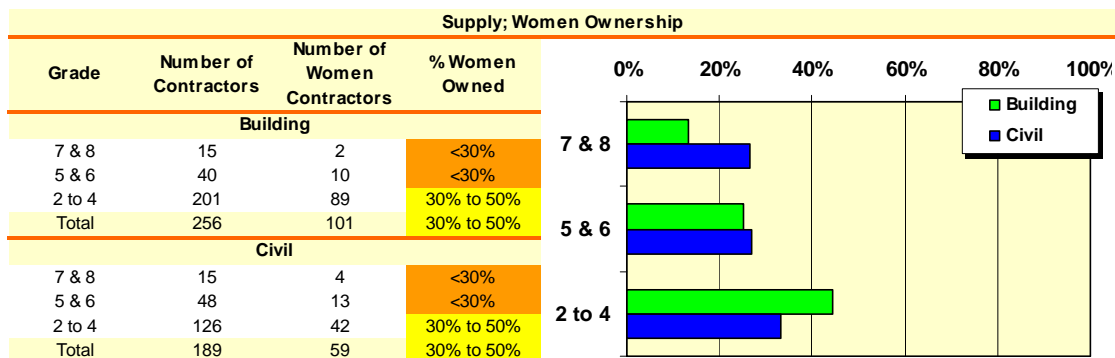
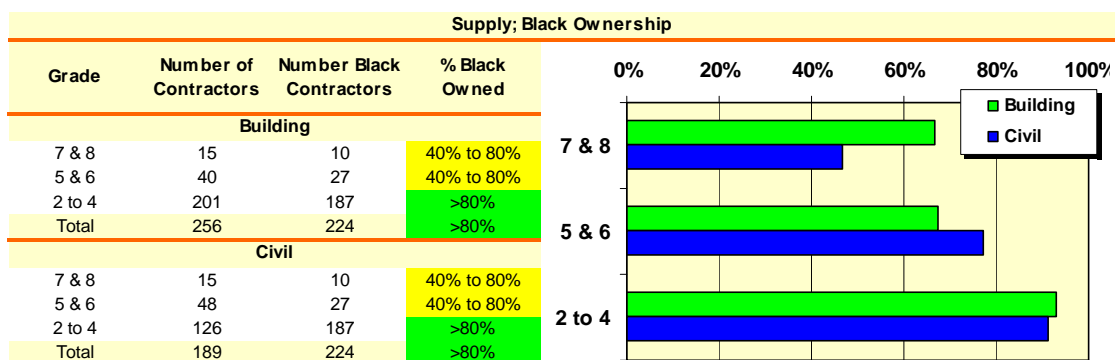
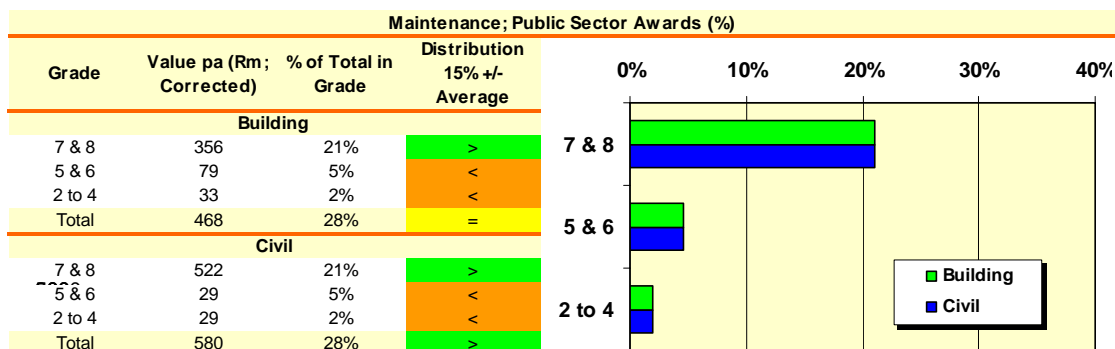
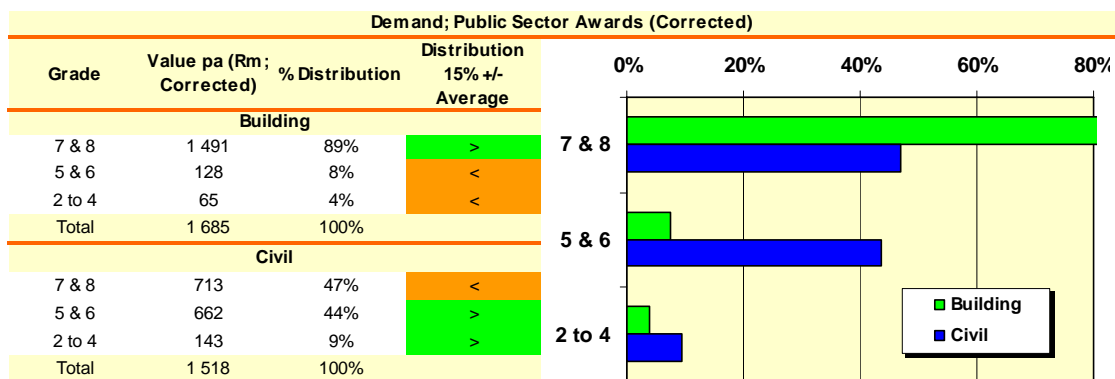
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		2	6	0
2 to 4	4	10	0	0
Civil				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		2	2	0
2 to 4	6	11	1	0

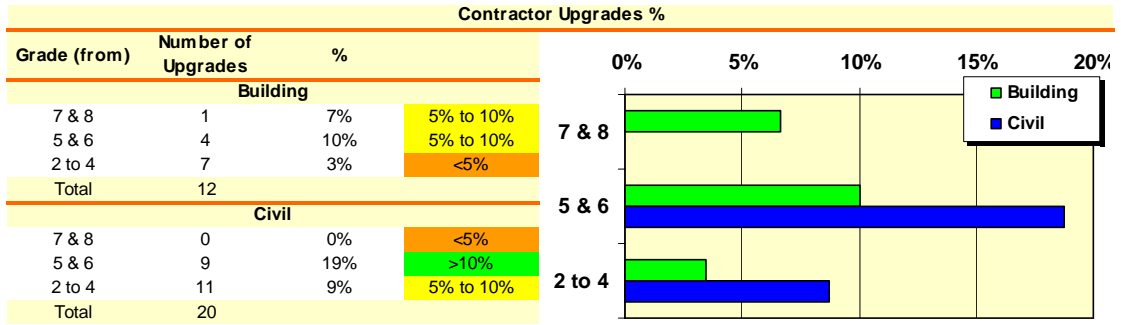
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	4	12	6
New Reg.	79	4	2
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	6	13	3
New Reg.	100	7	0



5. Free State



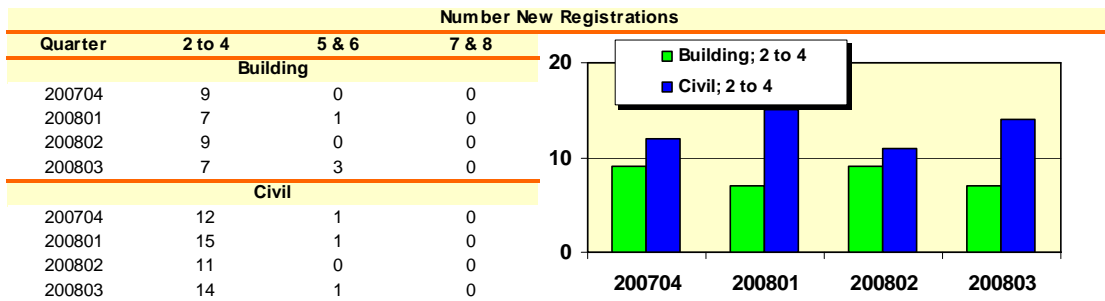


Contractor Upgrades

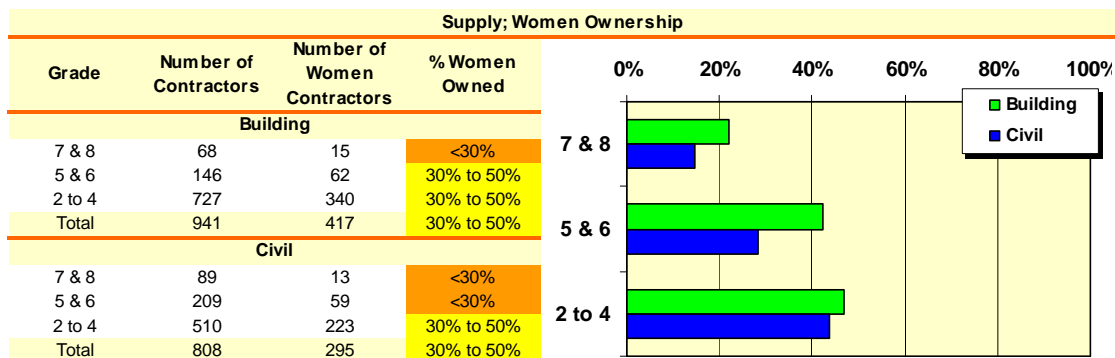
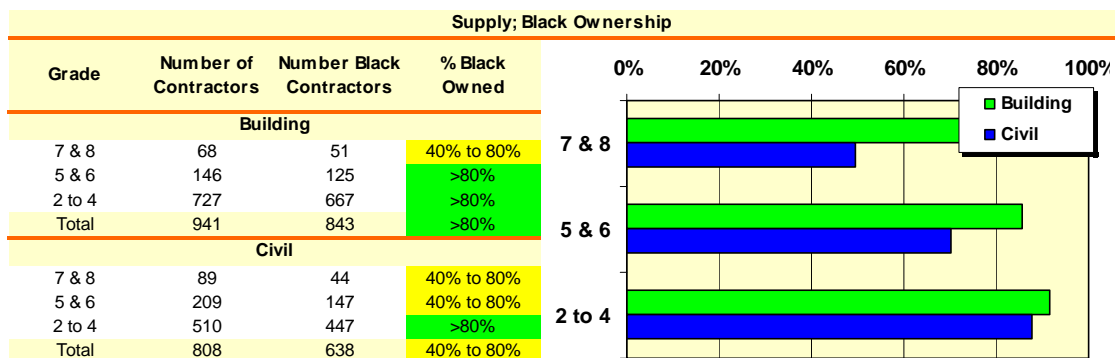
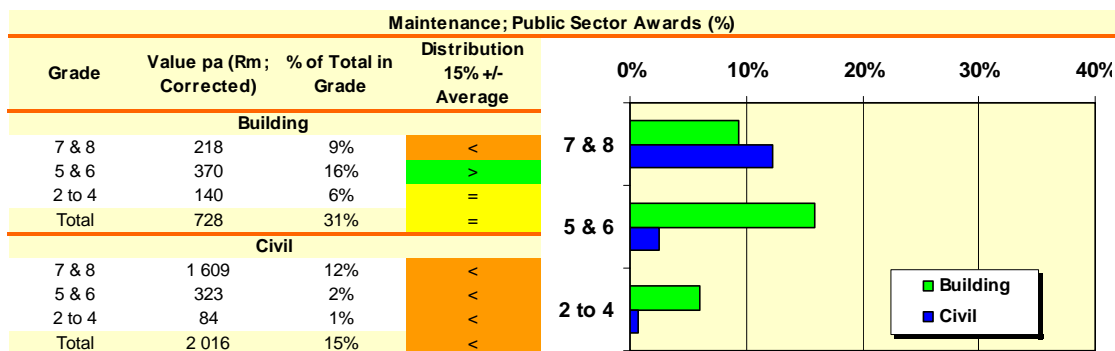
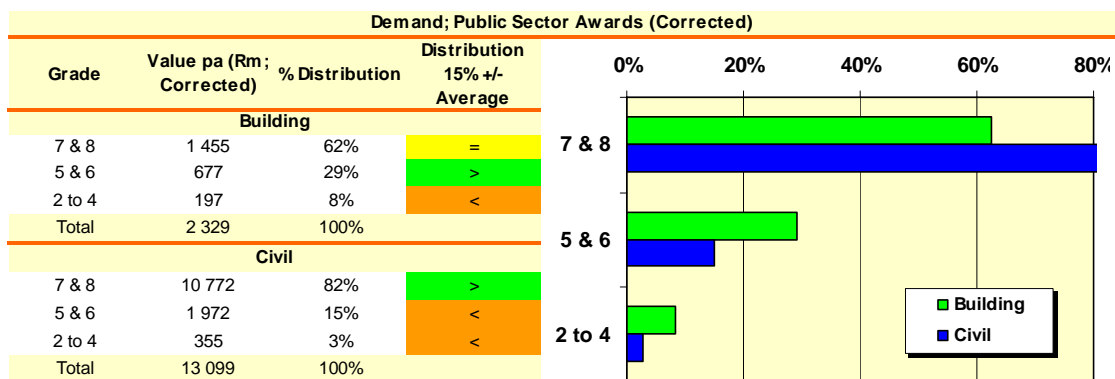
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			2	1
5 & 6		7	8	0
2 to 4	11	20	5	0
Civil				
7 & 8			4	2
5 & 6		6	14	0
2 to 4	4	21	3	0

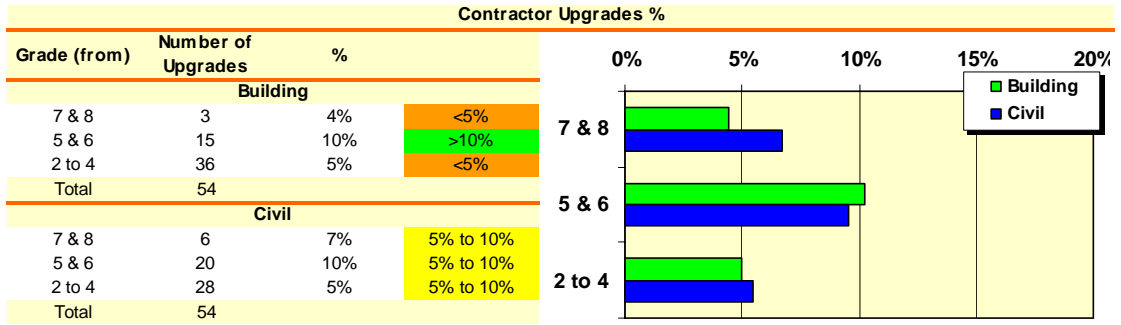
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	11	27	15
New Reg.	32	4	0
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	4	27	21
New Reg.	52	3	0



6. Gauteng



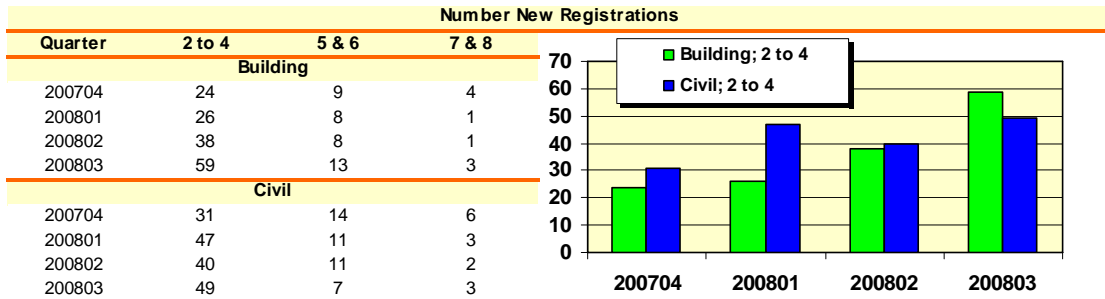


Contractor Upgrades

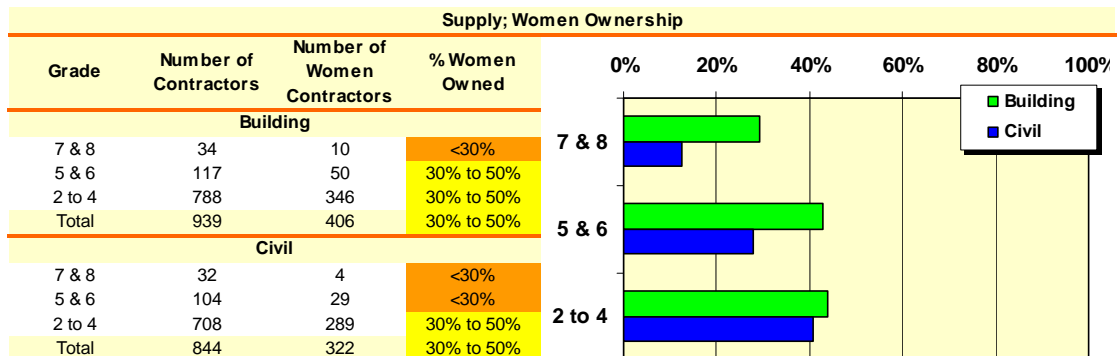
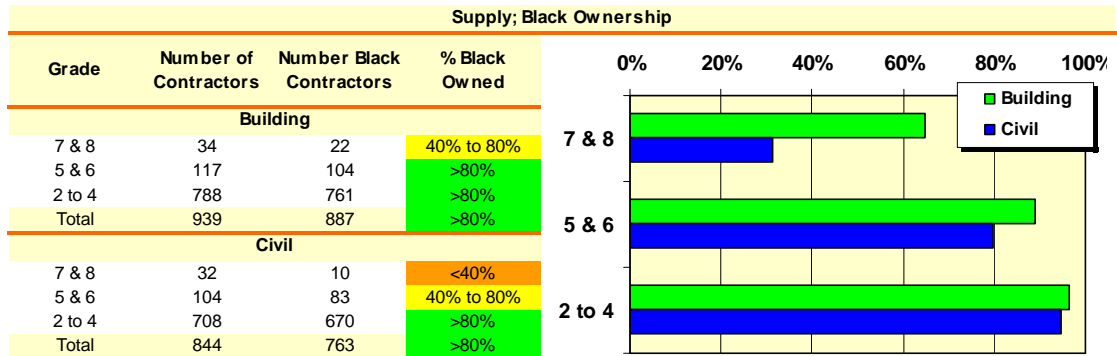
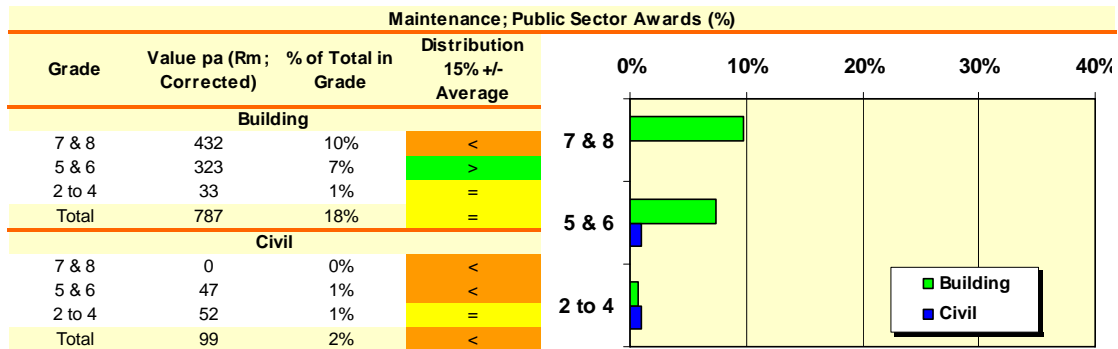
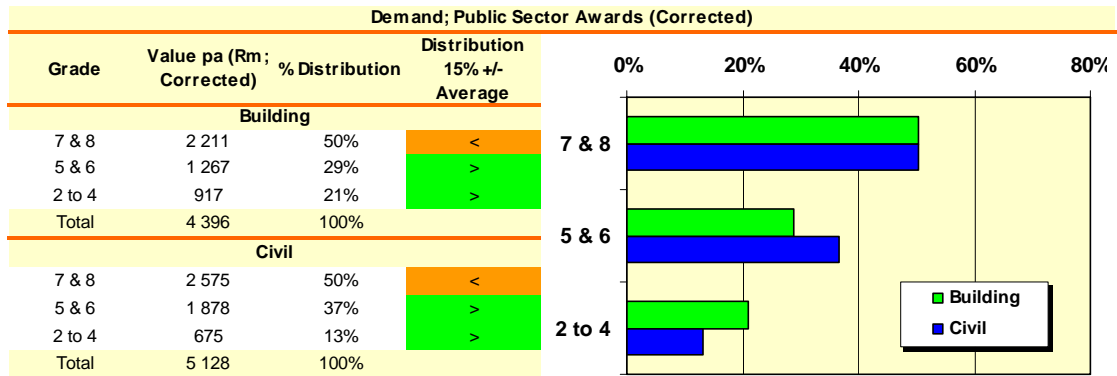
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			2	1
5 & 6		7	8	0
2 to 4	11	20	5	0
Civil				
7 & 8			4	2
5 & 6		6	14	0
2 to 4	4	21	3	0

Upgrades & New Registrations

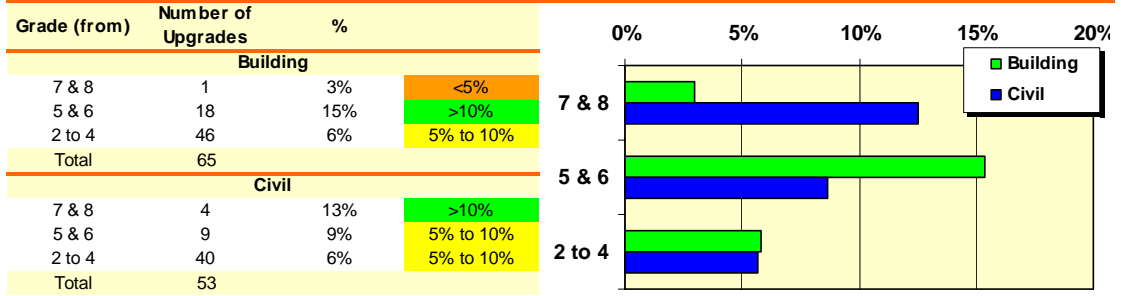
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	11	27	15
New Reg.	147	38	9
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	4	27	21
New Reg.	167	43	14



7. KwaZulu Natal



Contractor Upgrades %



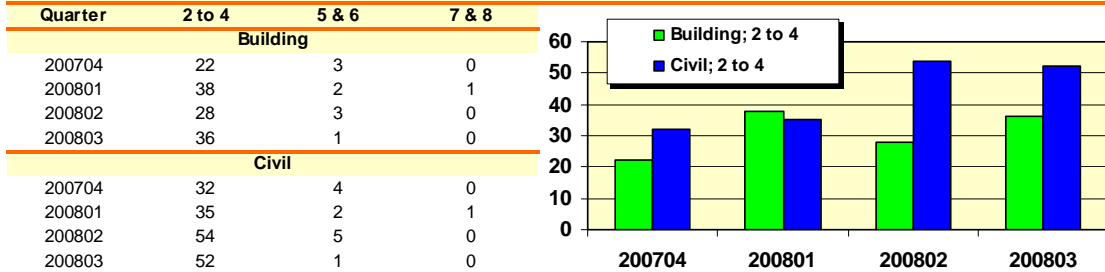
Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			1	0
5 & 6		7	11	0
2 to 4	17	27	2	0
Civil				
7 & 8			3	1
5 & 6		4	5	0
2 to 4	20	20	0	0

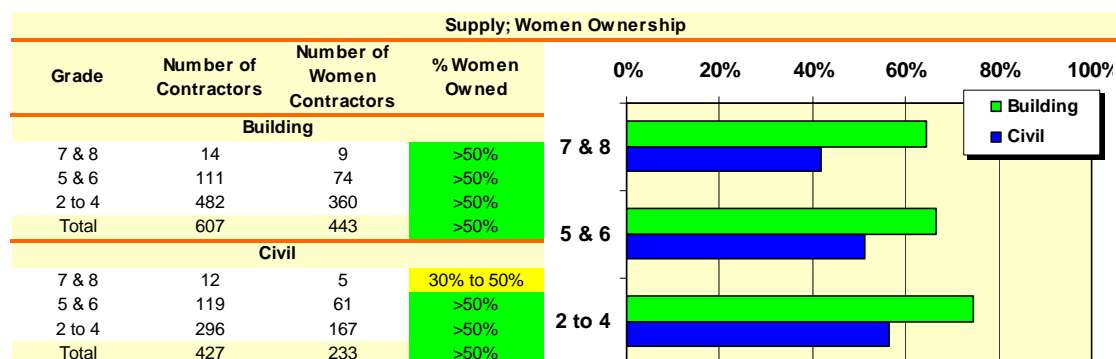
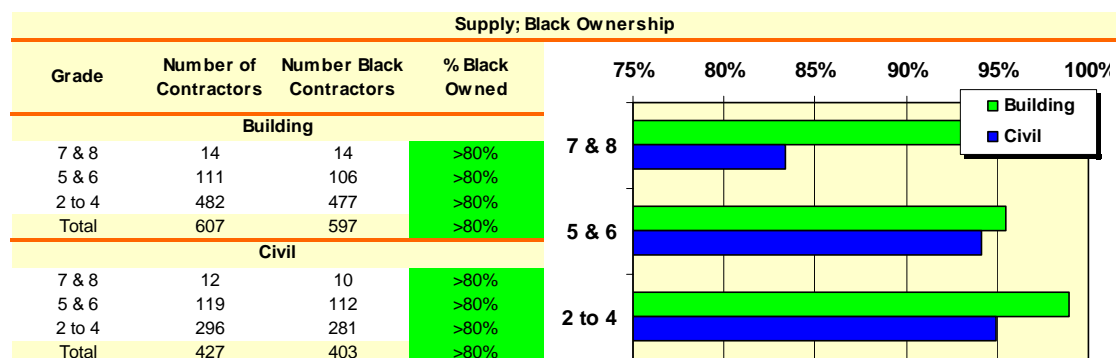
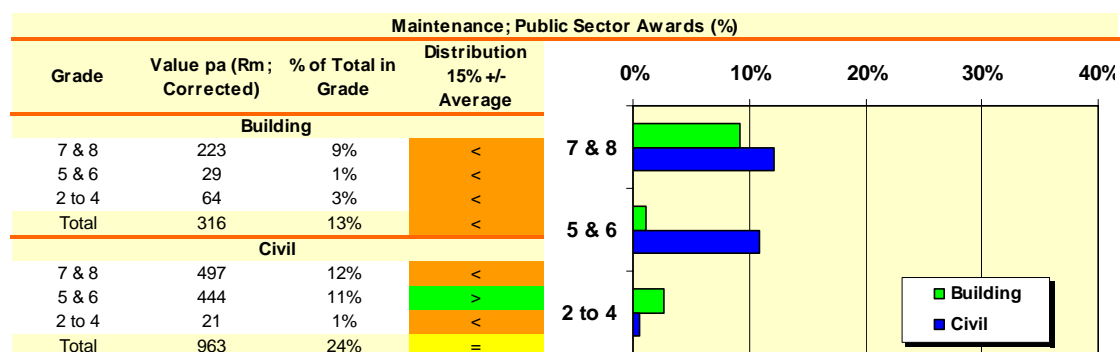
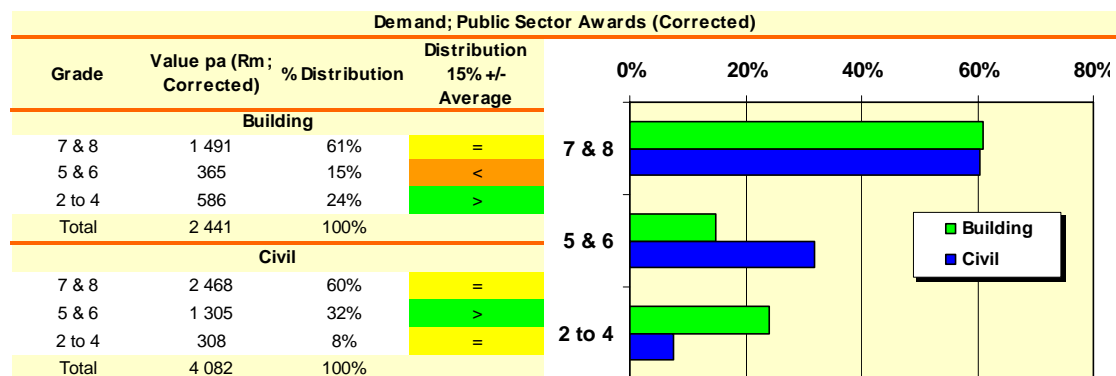
Upgrades & New Registrations

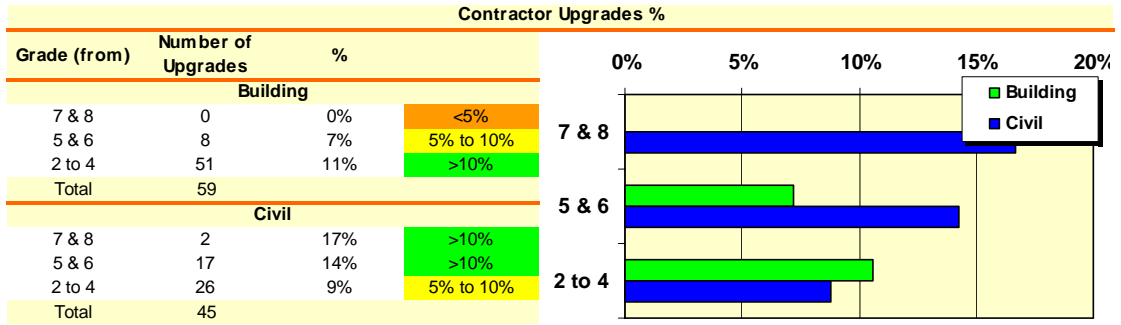
	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	17	34	14
New Reg.	124	9	1
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	20	24	8
New Reg.	173	12	1

Number New Registrations



8. Limpopo



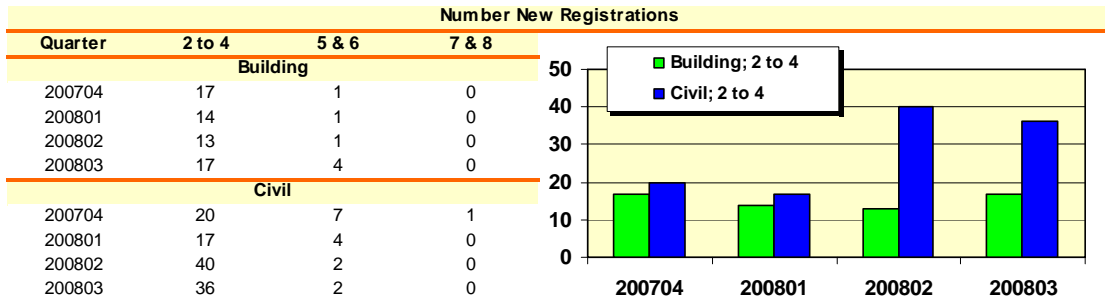


Contractor Upgrades

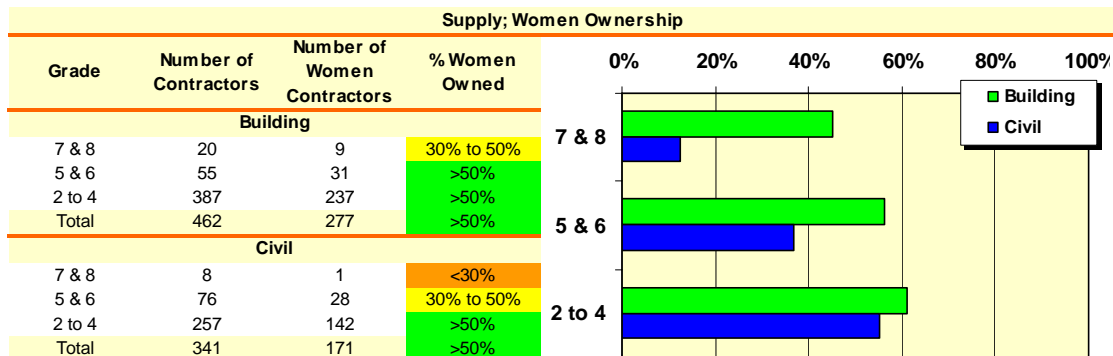
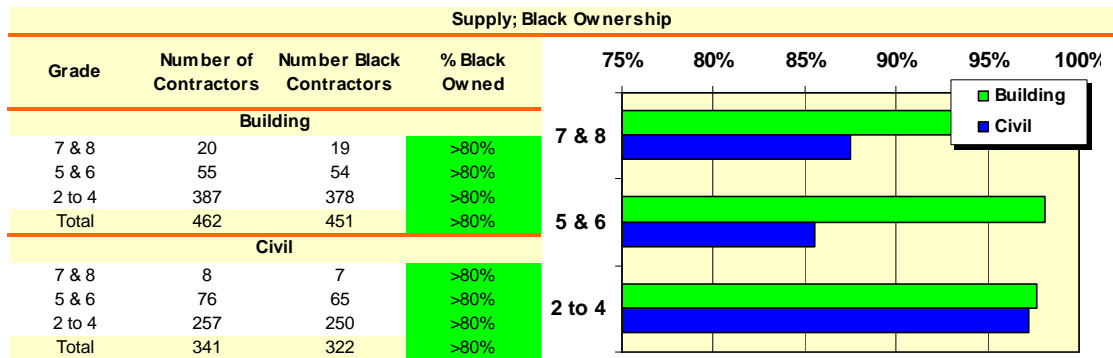
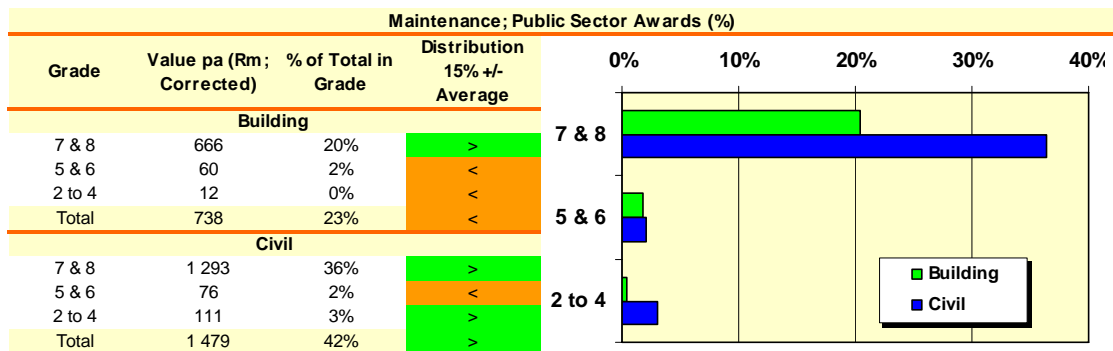
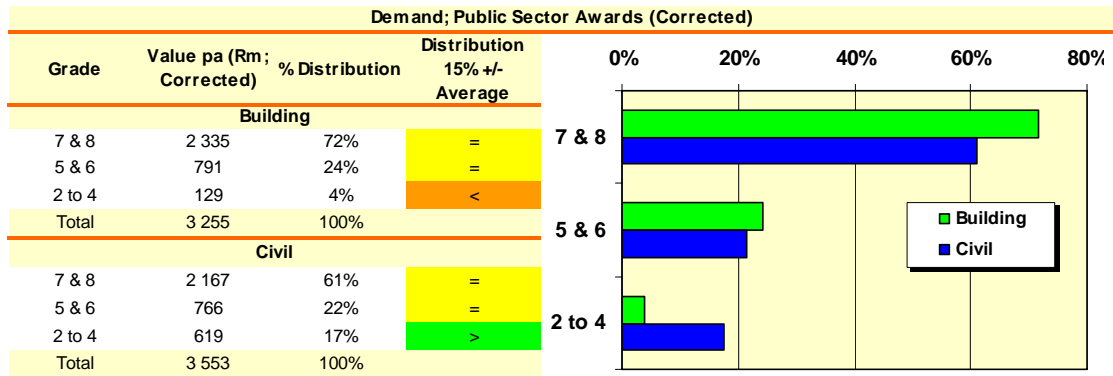
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		4	4	0
2 to 4	13	36	2	0
Civil				
7 & 8			1	1
5 & 6		11	6	0
2 to 4	8	18	0	0

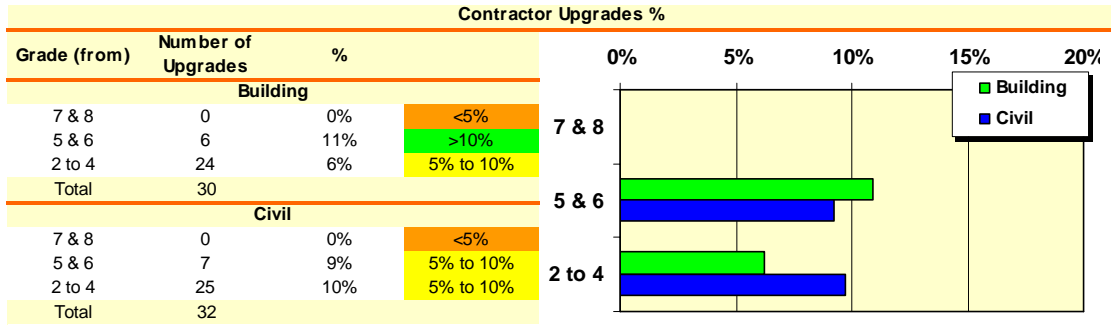
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	13	40	6
New Reg.	61	7	0
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	8	29	7
New Reg.	113	15	1



9. Mpumalanga



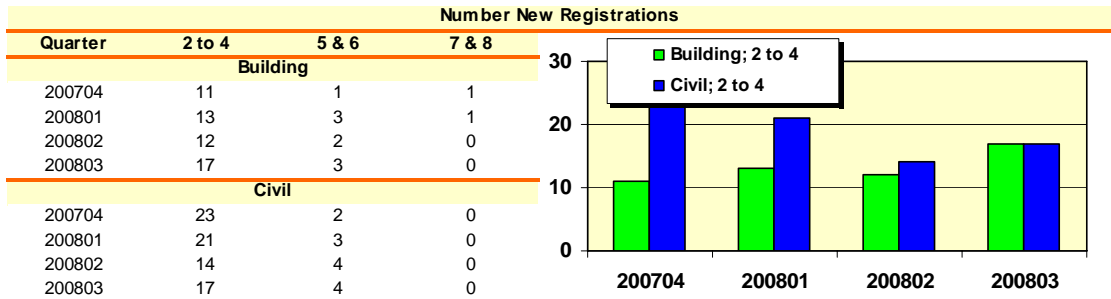


Contractor Upgrades

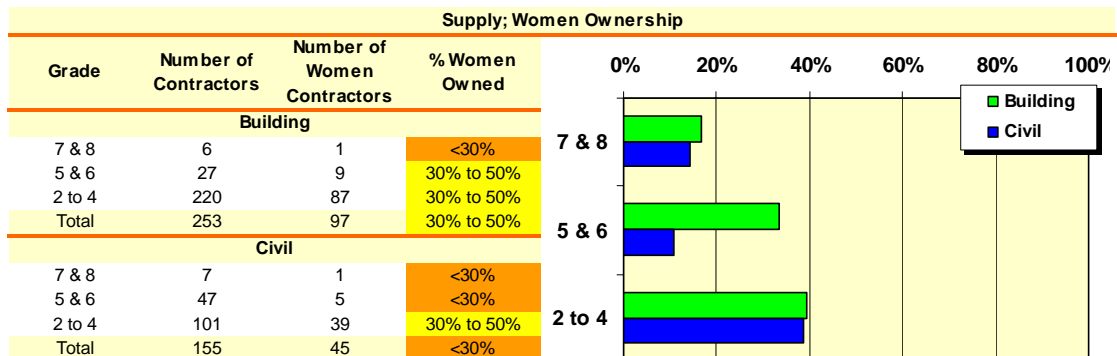
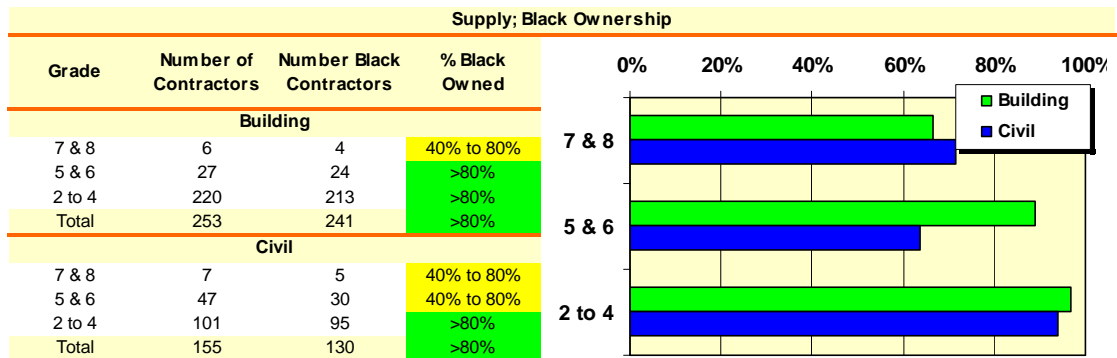
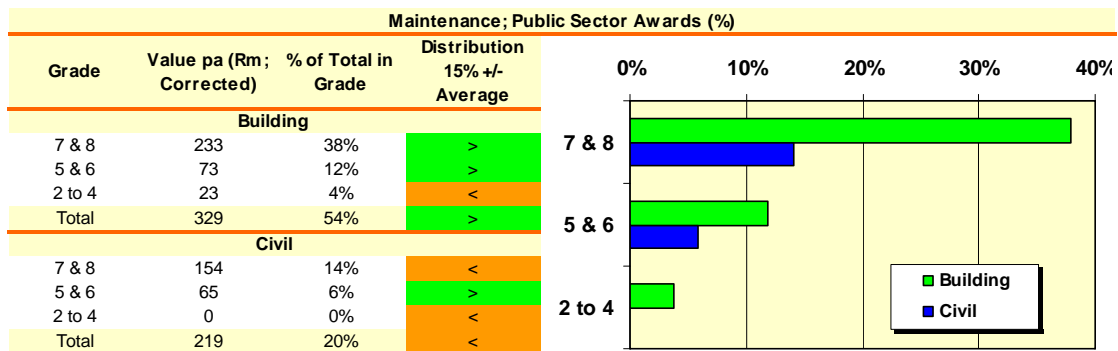
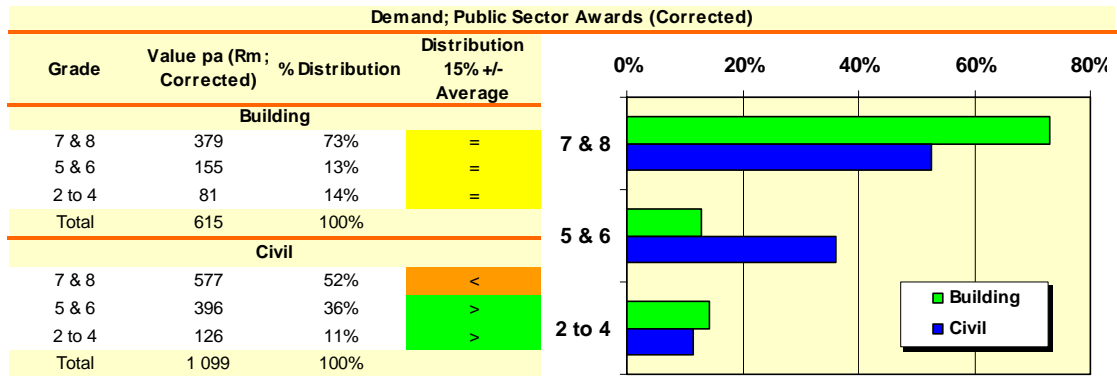
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		2	4	0
2 to 4	10	13	1	0
Civil				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		6	1	0
2 to 4	12	12	1	0

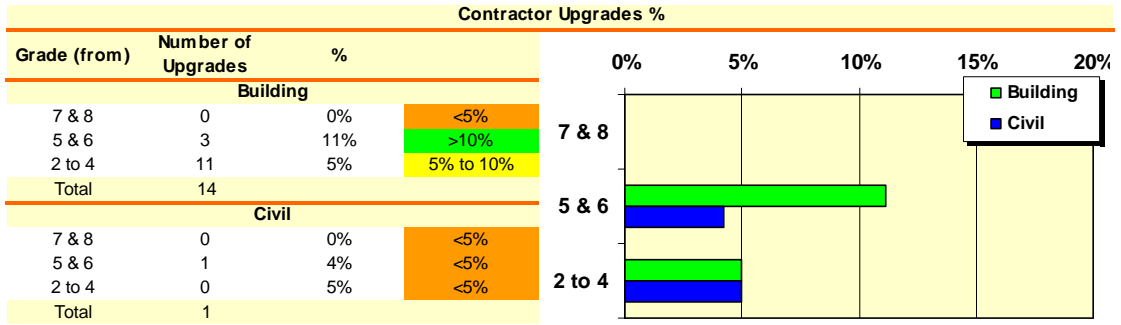
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	10	15	5
New Reg.	53	9	2
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	12	18	2
New Reg.	75	13	0



10. North West



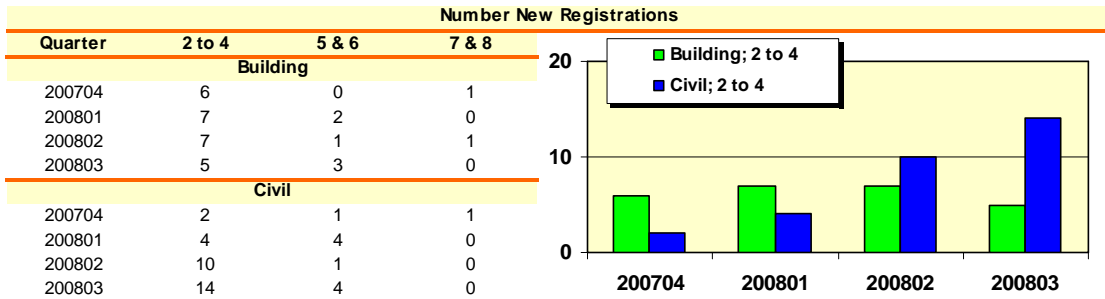


Contractor Upgrades

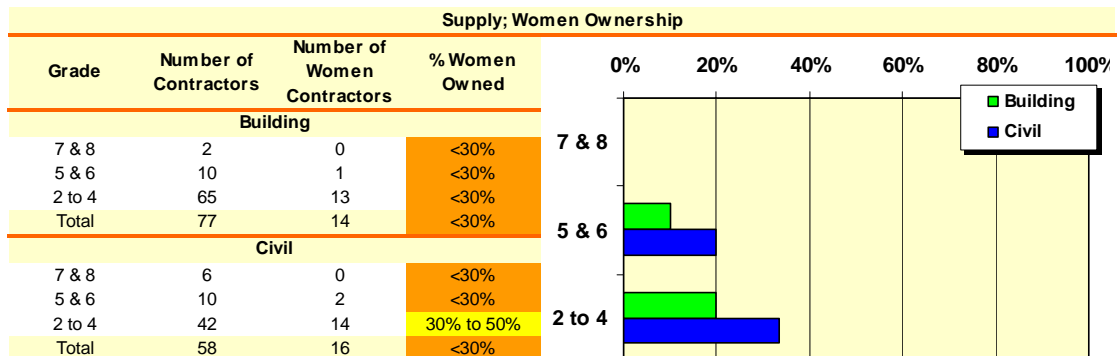
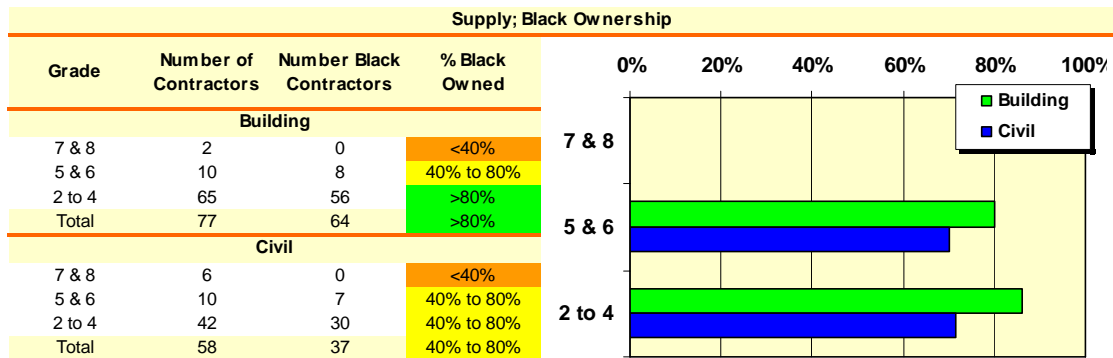
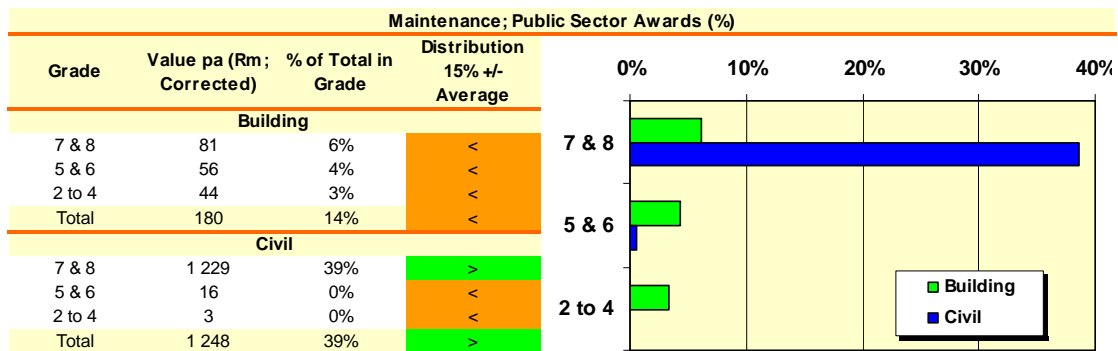
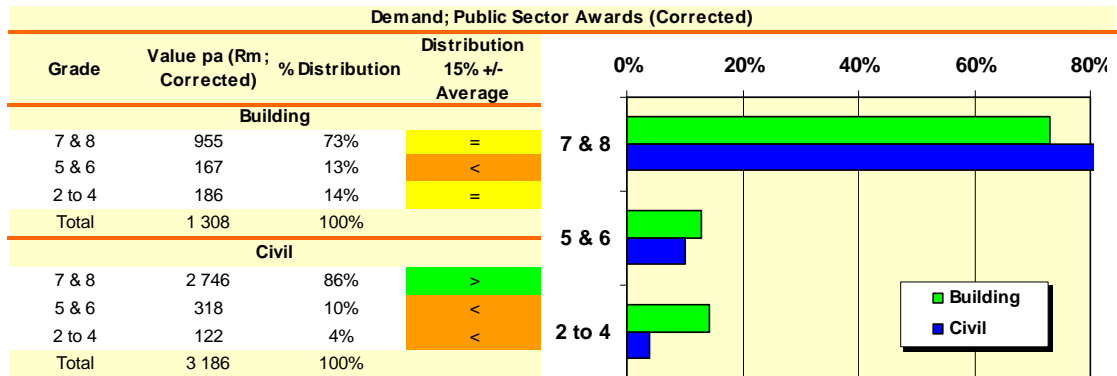
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		1	2	0
2 to 4	6	4	1	0
Civil				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		1	0	0
2 to 4	0	0	0	0

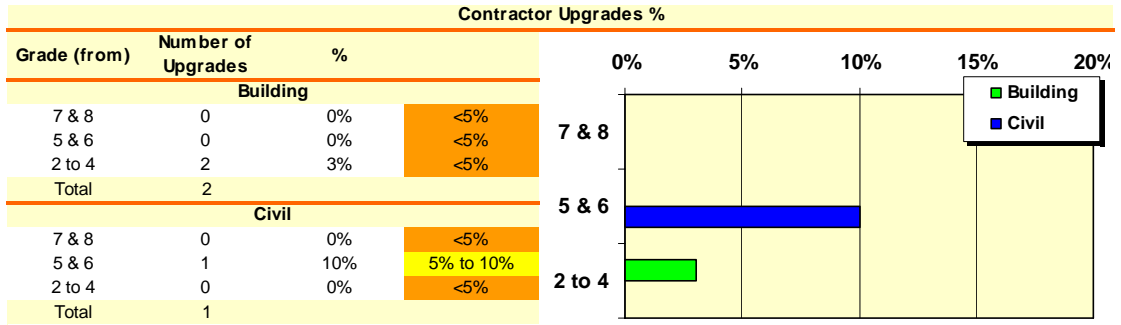
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	6	5	3
New Reg.	25	6	2
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	0	1	0
New Reg.	30	10	1



10. Northern Cape



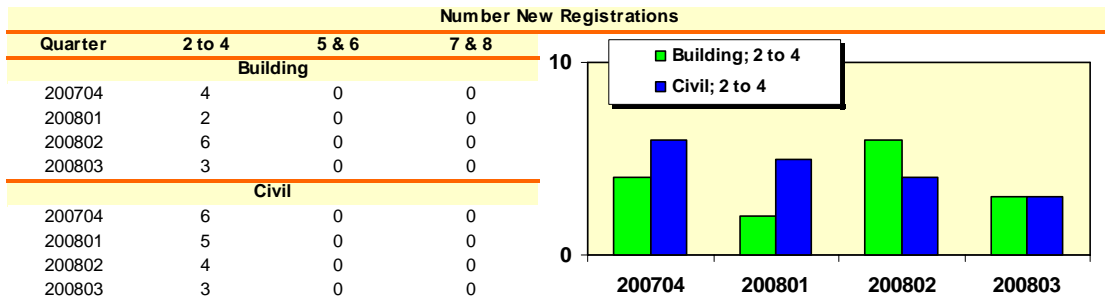


Contractor Upgrades

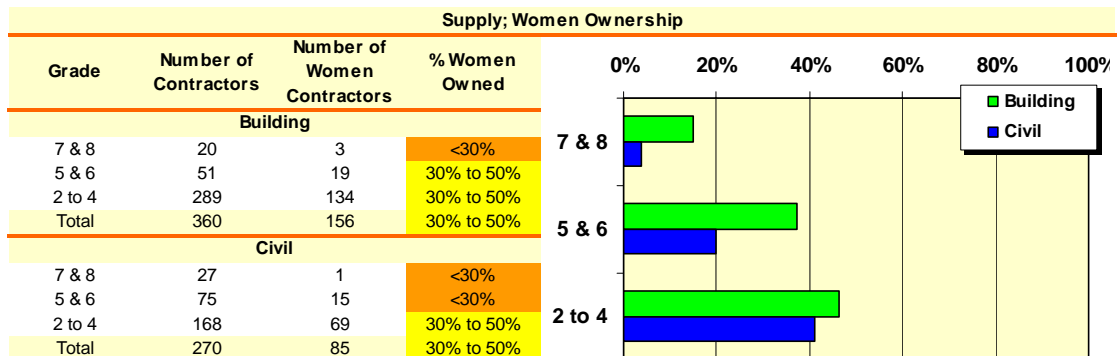
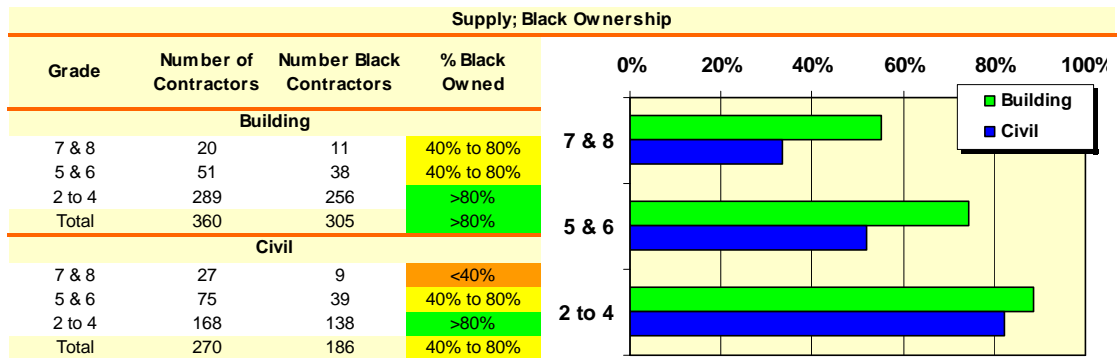
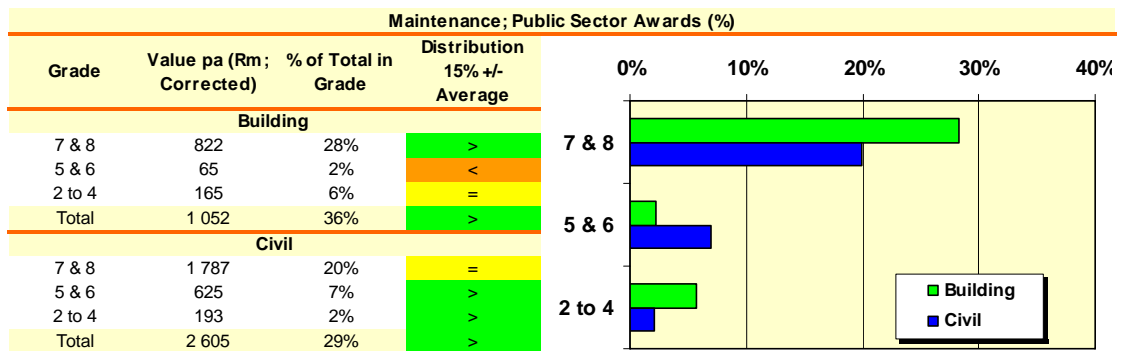
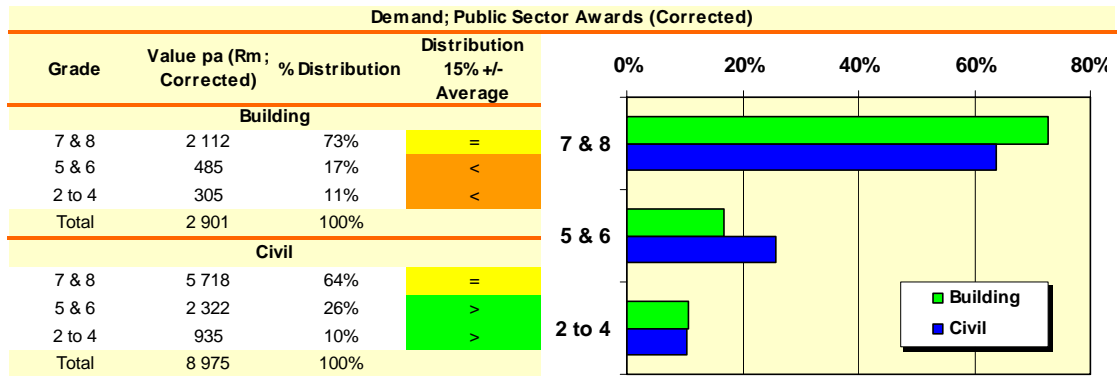
From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		0	0	0
2 to 4	2	0	0	0
Civil				
7 & 8			0	0
5 & 6		1	0	0
2 to 4	0	0	0	0

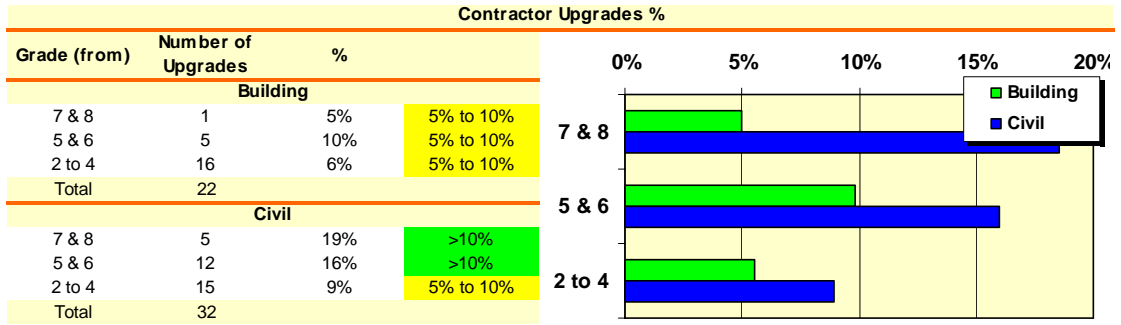
Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	2	0	0
New Reg.	15	0	0
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	0	1	0
New Reg.	18	0	0



11. Western Cape



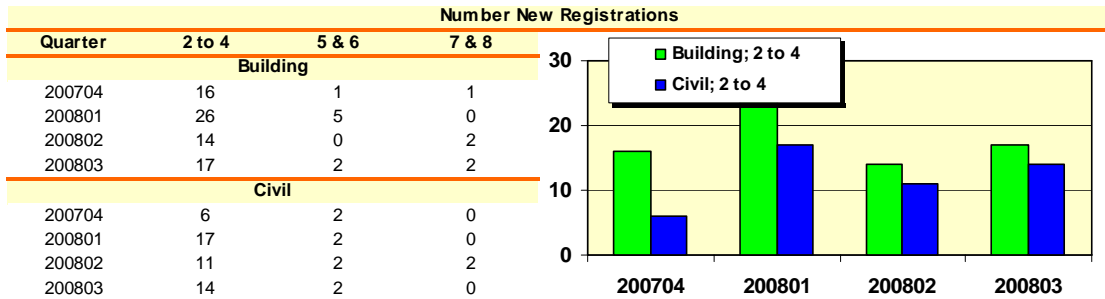


Contractor Upgrades

From/To	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8	9
Building				
7 & 8			0	1
5 & 6		3	2	0
2 to 4	12	4	0	0
Civil				
7 & 8			3	2
5 & 6		7	5	0
2 to 4	5	10	0	0

Upgrades & New Registrations

	2 to 4	5 & 6	7 & 8
Building			
Upgrades (to)	12	7	2
New Reg.	73	8	5
Civil			
Upgrades (to)	5	17	8
New Reg.	48	8	2



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