

The growth of the construction sector is procyclical, since it tends to grow with the economy as a whole but at more pronounced rates. This sector decreased by 10.3% in 1986, at the time of the economic crisis, then recovered by 2.8% in 1987, remained the same in 1988 and grew by 2.1% in 1989. In 1990, it grew at increasingly high rates to reach a global growth of 7.7%, placing itself as the most dynamic sector of the economy during that year. This growth was basically the response to a 9% increase in public investment and 5.4% in private investment.

According to the Secretariat for Programming and Budgeting (SPP), as cited in the 1991 CIHAC construction catalog, in 1990, total gross formation of fixed capital amounted to approximately \$34 billion. The construction industry accounted for 56% of this total (or \$19 billion) and can itself be divided as follows: 50% in residential buildings, 24% in non residential construction, and 26% in self-construction. Additionally, total fixed capital formation by the construction industry can be divided into private construction (60%), of which close to 80% corresponds to residential construction, and public construction (37%), mostly in buildings, for the petroleum industry, transportation infrastructure, electricity and communications.

Private investment in construction has increased from \$11.9 billion in 1988 to \$15.4 in 1990 and another 8.5% in 1991, to \$16.7 million, while public construction fell from \$3.7 billion in 1988 to \$3.6 billion and then grew to \$4.4 billion in 1990.

Total construction of housing is estimated at approximately 675,000 units in 1991, with an estimated annual increase of 3.8% per annum. Of this total, CIHAC considers 381,200 acceptable constructions, while the rest is considered deficient, in particular due to the use of improper materials. Of total acceptable housing, 53% is social interest housing, or subsidized housing built by the formal sector (companies registered with the National Construction Industry Chamber), including mostly public sector institutions. The remaining 47% is built by the informal sector and corresponds mostly to middle class housing and economic housing without financing.

According to data from the 1980 census, the materials most commonly used in the construction of the 12 million private homes then visited were as follows:

On floors:	Cement or concrete	46%
	Earth	26%
	Mosaic & other coverings	26%
	Non specified floors	2%