

# AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A BUILDING INDEX FOR BOTSWANA

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*Without cost information, project planning is difficult for clients just as pricing of tenders is difficult for construction firms. No agency or organisation in Botswana has endeavoured to collect, compile and analyse construction data with a view to establish a cost/price database and a subsequent building index. This paper reports an investigation into the possibility of establishing a building index and a related cost database of building items. It is based on previous studies in Botswana, which indicated that no such information exists anywhere in the public domain and many firms have a tough time during the planning of projects and pricing of project tenders. By producing a price database of common building and a building index the study shows the possibility of establishing a fully-fledged data bank for both items. Recommendations are made on how to improve the current situation and the results of the study.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The gathering, analysis and use of cost or price information are a very important aspect of all sectors of the construction industry including its clients. Without data, clients cannot plan for projects nor decide on a competitive bid. Contractors cannot also successfully tender for jobs, just as budgeting and cost control may become a nightmare for them.

The above situation prompted this study. A contractor who had just started a construction firm wanted cost information to tender for a construction job. The entrepreneur approached the authors for the possibility of providing or locating possible sources of data in order to price his tender. No organisation in the country, including the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) had such data. The older firms would not divulge their cost information, as the new firm was a competitor. The entrepreneur was left stranded with no cost data! Similarly, many clients of the, face similar difficulties when they are planning for their projects.

This background story is a classical case of a situation whereby if a firm does not have data, its survival, let alone success, is in jeopardy. A firm without information is like a car that has no lights cruising on a dark road. Information and for that matter, cost information, is a crucial ingredient in making key decisions, such as, pricing and costing.

Therefore, this study was a response to an information gap experienced by both clients and contractors in establishing building prices. However, before discussing the results of the study, distinguishing the terms, cost and price data and consequently building index, is important.

## 2 BUILDING PRICES AND INDICES

### 2.1 Building Costs and Prices

Building costs (or factor costs) are incurred by contractors in the course of offering their services and may include labour, materials, plant and overheads.

Building prices are prices offered to clients by a contractor to erect building structures. The prices inevitably include building costs (as defined above) and a profit for the contractor. They also, take into account other conditions like [1], [2]

- (i) market conditions prevalent at the time of the tender, in terms of whether it is boom or bust,
- (ii) type of project,
- (iii) location of project, particularly in relation to accessibility of resources and the topology of the site,
- (iv) intensity of competition on the project,
- (v) project duration in relation to the need to cater for inflation,
- (vi) the need to cater for up-front cashflow and the desire to front load the first payments
- (vii) type of client, in case of a large client, the prices may be bloated.
- (viii) size and hence the value of the project—normally large projects have thin profit margins as compared to smaller projects

The data used in this study is based on building prices and not on building costs. The reason for the choice is explained later in the methodology section.

### 2.2 Building Index

A building index (BI) measures the price movement of building elements over time. The building elements are a group of related products, which

economists may call 'a basket of goods' [3]. The basket of goods concept is used to define inflation or the cost of living index by measuring the price movements of commonly consumed household goods - the basket of consumer goods. Like the retail price index (RPI), which measures price movements of commonly consumed household goods, the BI measures price movements of commonly used building elements.

### 2.3 Types of Indices

There are basically three broad types of indices related to construction namely output, cost and price indices.

Output indices are used to deflate value-added construction output from current prices to constant prices (based on a base year). They are used in official statistics to provide information on the changes on the construction sector's output, in real terms [4].

Building cost and price indices refer to indices constructed out of building costs and prices as already defined above. Both are a convenient way of representing times series to demonstrate relative, proportional changes from the base [5].

The output indices are useful to the macro economic studies while the cost and price indices are more relevant to the construction industry as discussed below.

### 2.4 Use of Building Indices

A building price index is useful to many stakeholders in the construction industry including contractors, consultants (architects, quantity surveyors and consulting engineers), planners in government departments and other clients. Some of the uses of indices are [6]:

- i) Cost planning - a client who wishes to pursue a project similar to one already constructed may use indices to estimate the likely future price per square metre (or some other cost planning unit). It is the index that will link the past and the future prices or expenditures in terms of time.
- ii) Establishing the price level of individual tenders,
- iii) Pricing- BoQ's may be priced using indices to adjust rates of individual items due to difference in time,
- iv) Variation of price clauses - where there is a contractual allowance to vary the prices, then indices become a handy tool in adjusting the prices.

- v) Related to above, the indices allow the client to adjust cashflow projections in order to plan for periodic payments.
- vi) Forecasting in general as in (i) and (iv) above.
- vii) Contractors may use indices to calculate the time value of money on staggered progressive payments.
- viii) For those starting a construction business without historic data, indices may be the first 'data stop over'. However, some adjustment has to be done to skim off the profit element on the rates derived from the BI. This, of course, is due to the fact that costs are normally less than building prices. However, care must be taken as Fleming [4] noted that building costs rise faster than building prices in periods of depressions and vice versa .

## 3 DEVELOPING A BUILDING INDEX

Before a building index is developed there are few considerations that need to be made which include the use for which the index is being developed, choice of the base year, choice of items and choice of weights. Also, the choice has to be made as to the most suitable method of constructing an index, between Laspeyres and Paache index

### 3.1 Factors considered in developing an index

The purpose for which the index is developed is clearly seen from what was described as building costs and prices. One measures the movement of costs to the contractor while the other measures the price the client has to pay for the services of the contractor. (However, the words are normally used interchangeably mainly to refer to the fact that the price offered by the contractor is a cost to the client).

The base year should be as near as possible to current year so that index maintains its relevancy. Secondly, the period from which the index is constructed, should be relatively stable such that there is no extraordinary fluctuation of prices or activity to distort the index.

The basket of items should be based on how frequently items are used in building projects. A group of 30 to 50 items may be an adequate number to constitute a basket of items [2],[3]. Another way of deciding on the number of items is to use Pareto's principle (20/80) where 20 items that constitute 80% of the total value of a bill are selected.

Just using 'frequency of use' without weighting the items to show their relative importance in terms of expenditure level (quantity times price) would give a distorted result. Therefore, the choice of, and inclusion of weights is equally important in the construction of an index.

### 3.2 Forms of Indices

Building indices can be arrived at in a variety of ways but there are two common ways namely, using Laspeyres' or Paasche's method.

Laspeyres weighted aggregate index involves using weights based on the base period as given in Equation 1

$$Laspeyres = \frac{\sum X_{it}W_{io}}{\sum X_{io}W_{io}} \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation 1}$$

where subscripts  $i = 1, n$ , is the number of items in the basket,  $o$  and  $t$  represent the base period and the current period under review, respectively.  $X_{io}$  and  $X_{it}$  denote a set of prices for different building items at the base period and the subsequent periods, respectively.  $W_{io}$  denotes a set of weights appropriate to each selected item in the base period.  $\sum X_{io}W_{io}$  is the expenditure on a particular item.

Paasche weighted aggregate index involves using weights appropriate to the current period as given in Equation 2.

$$Paasche = \frac{\sum X_{it}W_{it}}{\sum X_{io}W_{it}} \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation 2}$$

where subscripts  $i, o, t$ ,  $X_{io}$  and  $X_{it}$  carry the same meaning as in Equation 1.  $W_{it}$  denotes a set of weights appropriate to each selected item in the period under review.

While a full discussion of the theory of Laspeyres and Paasche indices may be found in a number of textbooks, such as those by Ashworth, Fleming and Fellows [1],[4],[5], there is one important observation to make on the two methods.

Paasche's index requires calculating new weights every year, which is laborious. However, it may be an advantage in that should there be new materials, designs or methods of construction or a change in weights of items, the change would be incorporated in the index. Laspeyres index may be easy to manage in that weights are calculated once, in the base year, but may not reflect contemporary changes in the building process.

This study is however, centred on Laspeyres method to construct a building index.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

A number of decisions were made relating to the period of study, number of BOQ's and the number of building items to include in the study.

### 4.1 Period of study

The period of study was taken as 1995-99. The reason being, firstly, that the period saw the construction industry in Botswana stabilise from the 1987-92 boom and the 1992-94 bust. The graph in Figure 1 shows the construction GDP ratio for the last two decades. It illustrates the performance of the construction industry between 1979 and 1999. The graph also shows that the GDP ratio stabilised around the 5.0% mark during the study period of 1995-99. Therefore, the indices obtained during this period were not unduly influenced by extreme cycles in the construction industry.



(Source: [7])

Figure 1 Construction Sector's GDP ratio

Another reason for taking the 1995-99 period is the completeness of the data from the BoQ's. It was difficult to find BoQ's with complete data for years before 1995. Furthermore, recent data is more relevant to the practical use of a building index than past data.

### 4.2 Bills of Quantities and Building Items

In order to get reasonably consistent BoQ's over the period of study, the Department of Architecture and Building Services (DABS) was taken as the source of data. DABS is a Government department charged with the overseeing of the design and supervision of public sector building projects (in form of schools, police and prison facilities, courts clinics, hospitals and other social buildings - military and local authority projects are not in the jurisdiction of DABS). The other point considered was that the

government is the biggest client of the construction industry providing over 80% by value of the construction jobs. Therefore, its weight in the prices needs to be recognised. The down side, is that sometimes contractors may under price projects in order to get government projects or may overprice having the perception that the government is a 'rich' client. Whichever view may distort the prices artificially.

BoQ's of winning tenders were scrutinised at DABS. It is assumed that the winning tenders represented the 'correct' prices of items at the time. However, the 'correct price', may be distorted by the government's 2.5% preference scheme. The price preference scheme is a preferential policy used in the evaluation of tenders for public building projects. It is aimed at favouring citizen contractors, with a strategic aim of increasing their capacity and experience in construction business. It presupposes that a citizen contractor's tender price may be accepted even if it is 2.5% above the lowest foreign contractor's tender [8], [9]. Inevitably, this will increase the prices.

In each of study of study it was found out that the BoQ's ranged from 10 to 24. In order to standardise the data for each year, only 10 (ten) BoQ's were selected and 30 (thirty) building items were considered. The list of the 30 items is given in Table 1 (presented after the references). The list is made of up of a typical list of building items such as, earth works, concrete, reinforcement, brickwork, plastering, sundries to brickwork, painting, water proofing, skirting, formwork, expansion joints, carpentry and joinery and metal work. The approach of using Pareto's (20/80) principle was not used, as it is more appropriate if Paasche's method were to be used [10].

It is also important to note that the list mentioned above did not include preliminaries, which may vary in extent from project to project.

## 5 RESULTS

Rates and quantities were compiled for the 30 selected items from the 10 BoQ's for the years 1995-99. The data appears in Table 2 (Item 1 -30). Two indices were then calculated (those of individual selected items and an overall building index) as follows.

### 5.1 Price Database and the Index of items

The individual indices are arrived at, purposely, in two steps, which is equivalent to using Equation 1. Firstly, the prices from each bill are multiplied by

the respective quantity to obtain the expenditure of each item in the bill. The weighted average price (w. a. p) is obtained using the formula in Equation 3.

$$w . a . p = \frac{\sum WX}{\sum W} \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation 3}$$

W is the quantity of the item in the bill and provides the weighting and X is the price of the item in the bill.  $\sum WX$  is sum of the expenditure and  $\sum W$  is the sum of the weights. Therefore, in 1995, the weighted average price for Item 1 was P7.96 This computation appears in Table 2. All other items are calculated similarly and for all the years, 1995-99. The compilation is presented in Table 3, which constitutes the study's price database.

Dividing the respective weighted average price for each year by the base prices for each item, individual indices of the selected items are obtained. The resulting indices appear in Table 4.

Although, the reasons for the differential movements of indices are beyond the scope of this paper, it may be noted:

- i) Item 30 has the lowest index reaching 149.19 indicating that the item's price changed on average by 49% in the five years.
- ii) Item 12 has highest index reaching 261.24%, with the item's average price changing by an average of 161% in the five years.
- iii) As a group, Items 7-12 (reinforcement) have the highest indices and these are mainly imported items.

### 5.2 Building index

From the data already compiled, a building index is constructed by finding the weights of the individual items in base year of 1995, after which they are multiplied by individual indices.

The latter is already available in Table 4. The former is constructed in two stages. Firstly, the total annual value of the quantities of each item in the ten bills is compiled from Table 2. Secondly, the annual sum of the expenditures of all the items is calculated and is given in Table 5. The total expenditure on the 30 items in 1995 is P6 107 594.19. Next, the weights are calculated by simply dividing the value of each item by the total annual expenditure. For Item 1, for example, whose total expenditure in 1995 is P28 211.52 has a weight of 0.462%. The rest of the items are calculated similarly and appear in Table 5.

From the weights and the individual indices calculated earlier (Table 4 and 5), the BI is

calculated using a similar formula to that given in Equation 1 but modified as:

$$B.I = \frac{\sum WI}{\sum W} \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation 4}$$

W is the weight of the individual item in the base year, I is the individual indices of the item over the years, 1995-99. Therefore,  $\sum WI$  is sum of the product of weights and the indices and  $\sum W$  is the sum of the weights of the base year.

The overall BI for the years 1995-99, is calculated, to the nearest whole number, and appears in Table 6 and reproduced in Table 7, below. The base year, 1995, is given Index 100.

**Table 7** Building Index

Year	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99
Interval	1	2	3	4	5
BI	100	113	135	146	165

**5.3 Forecasting Using the BI**

One of the possible uses of a BI is to forecast the future movement of building prices. A forecasting model may be obtained using a statistical technique of a time series. As name implies, the BI is modelled as a function of time. Various models are possible, including linear ( $y= a+bx$ ), power ( $y=ab^x$ ), exponential ( $y=ae^{bx}$ ), logarithmic ( $y=a+b\log_e x$ ) and polynomial ( $y=a+bx+cx^2$ ), where y is the BI, x is the time interval from the base year, a, b and c are constants.

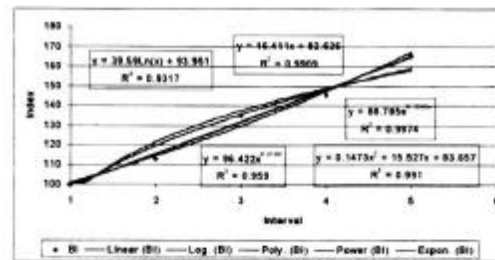
MS Excel software was used to plot a scatter graph using results in Table 7. However, in order to model a logarithmic and power function, a small adjustment had to be made to avoid log of zero, which is infinity. The base year, 1995, had to be assigned interval 1 instead of 0.

After plotting the scatter graph, trend lines, were fitted. The best model is the one, which gives the highest coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ). The coefficient of determination, determines the proportion of variation explained by the line. The complement probability or percentage is due to random or residual factors. Should two models have the approximately the same  $R^2$  value, a simpler model is selected [11].

The results are as follows (see also Figure 2):

- i) Linear:  $y=82.626+16.411x$  and  $R^2=0.9909$
- ii) Logarithmic:  $93.951+39.59\log_e x$  and  $R^2 = 0.9317$
- iii) Exponential:  $y = 88.785.0e^{0.1265x}$  and

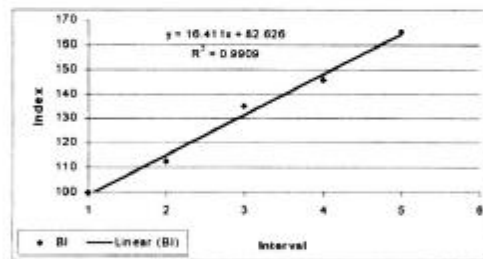
- iv)  $R^2=0.9874$
- v) Polynomial:  $y=83.657+15.527x+0.1473x^2$  and  $R^2=0.991$
- vi) Power:  $y=96.442x^{0.3102}$  and  $R^2 = 0.959$



**Figure 2** BI Models

The polynomial model has the highest  $R^2$  value, of 0.991, followed by linear, exponential, power and logarithmic with  $R^2$  values of 0.9909, 0.9874, 0.959 and 0.9317, respectively. Despite the accuracy of the polynomial model as judged by its  $R^2$  value, the linear model was chosen because of its simplicity. The model is given in Equation 5 and the resultant linear model is illustrated in Figure 3.

$$BI= 82.626+ 16.411x\dots\dots\dots\text{Equation 5}$$



**Figure 3** Linear model of BI

Substituting 6 for x in Equation 5, we obtain the 2000 index as 181. The same could be done for subsequent intervals representing future periods.

**5.4 Accuracy of the BI**

Apart from the factors already mentioned, such as the appropriateness of the choice of the base period, selection of weights and selection of items, there are other factors that may affect the accuracy of a building index. The first being the unique nature of construction jobs. No two construction jobs are the same, whereas the index has a basic premise that prices on similar items, on similar projects, should be the same. If they are not, then they are separated by time for which the index is the link. New

construction jobs, for which indices are supposed to be applied, vary considerably in location, size, design, client, specification, site conditions, complexity and methods of construction [12], [13], [14]. Furthermore, there was no differentiation between single storeyed and multi-storeyed buildings during the compilation of the price data from the BoQ's

## 6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Conclusion

This study has underscored the need for price data and the associated indices as way of aiding various stakeholders of the construction industry.

Both sets of information are necessary, in order to enhance the performance of stakeholders in the construction industry. However, this study has provided a starting point in providing price data of selected items (Table 3) and a building index (Table 7).

### 6.2 Recommendations

Several issues arose during the study that could not be solved given the scope of the study. The following aspects could be investigated further:

- (i) To strengthen validity and reliability of the price data and the building index the study needs to be carried out on a wider scale to include parastatal organisations, particularly Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC), local authorities and private sector clients.
- (ii) The value of the index would be significantly improved if it is updated at least three times a year.
- (iii) To attain (i) and (ii) above more resources (human, finance and time) need to be made available.
- (iv) Most firms, which have price data, consider the information sensitive and hence may not be willing to participate in the study. It will be important to bring them on board by educating them on the importance of such information to their firms and the industry as a whole.

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**Table 3 : WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS (1995-99)**

Item No.	Item Description	Units	1995 (P)	1996 (P)	1997 (P)	1998 (P)	1999 (P)
1	Excavate in earth not exceeding 2 m deep for trenches and holes	m <sup>3</sup>	7.96	10.74	11.05	11.40	12.78
2	Risk of collapse 1.5 m deep from the ground level	m <sup>3</sup>	0.88	0.99	1.19	1.24	1.67
3	Provide cube moulds and cast a set of three 150X150X150 mm concrete test cubes	sets	32.18	35.17	42.62	46.47	49.35
4	50mm thick surface blinding under footings and bases	m <sup>2</sup>	228.27	263.52	306.33	321.91	353.41
5	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) cast against excavated	m <sup>3</sup>	192.74	225.48	291.77	318.66	352.84
6	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) in thickening	m <sup>3</sup>	220.08	241.62	293.73	297.45	354.54
7	Welded square mesh fabric reinforcement, laid in concrete surface bed or apron slab with min. of 300 laps	m <sup>2</sup>	10.18	13.55	17.97	20.39	24.28
8	8 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	1.89	2.21	2.99	3.12	3.30
9	10 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	1.95	2.84	4.05	4.57	4.81
10	10 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	1.96	2.65	3.97	4.66	5.08
11	12 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	2.25	3.01	4.12	5.00	5.89
12	20 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	2.24	3.34	4.02	4.60	5.41
13	Piers (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a minimum compressive strength of 10 Mpa )	m <sup>2</sup>	344.31	356.44	419.79	522.76	578.18
14	Half brick wall (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a min. compressive strength - 10 Mpa )	m <sup>2</sup>	34.53	38.23	42.01	45.09	53.40
15	One brick wall	m <sup>2</sup>	70.43	76.07	85.13	94.78	105.95
16	15 mm thick one coat plaster with steel troweled finish walls	m <sup>2</sup>	8.10	8.93	9.58	10.74	12.93
17	Cement and sand (1:3) steel troweled smooth 40 mm thick floors and landings	m <sup>2</sup>	7.90	8.63	11.20	13.80	14.21
18	Steel wire brick reinforcing fabric 75 mm wide built in horizontally	m	0.20	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.43
19	Prepare and apply one coat of alkali resisting primer and two coats of acrylic PVA emulsion paint on soffit and 1	m <sup>2</sup>	5.83	6.61	7.11	8.08	9.02
20	Prepare and apply one coat of acrylic filler coat and two coats of acrylic PVA emulsion paint on walls	m <sup>2</sup>	6.11	6.93	7.55	8.35	9.32
21	375 microns thick polyethylene embossed damp proof course	m <sup>2</sup>	2.26	3.18	3.86	4.63	5.60
22	375 microns thick polyethylene embossed damp proof sheeting	m <sup>2</sup>	1.11	1.61	1.89	2.10	2.63
23	19 X 75 mm angle rounded skirting secured to walls	m	6.06	7.38	8.56	9.53	10.81
24	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of strip footing not exceeding 300 mm high	m	5.15	7.57	8.91	9.47	10.26
25	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of walls and beams including soft over openings	m <sup>2</sup>	41.07	44.83	49.88	68.92	89.37
26	12mm thick soft board in expansion joint 150 mm high between brickwork and concrete	m	3.25	4.42	5.33	6.25	6.88
27	12mm thick soft board joint 230 mm wide between brickwork and concrete	m	3.33	4.67	5.30	6.32	7.08
28	43 mm thick semi-solid core flush door - 813 x 2032 mm with exterior quality masonry both sides	No.	161.49	179.16	190.83	228.24	251.12
29	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 mm thick doors - 813 x 2032mm high	No.	133.30	150.89	166.14	187.04	214.47
30	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 mm thick doors - 813 x 2032mm high with	No.	140.22	152.04	179.96	190.98	209.19

**Table 4: INDIVIDUAL INDICES FOR THE SELECTED ITEMS (1995-99)**

Item No.	Item Description	Units	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1	Excavate in earth not exceeding 2 m deep for trenches and holes	m <sup>3</sup>	100.00	134.84	138.79	143.17	160.54
2	Risk of collapse 1.5 m deep from the ground level	m <sup>3</sup>	100.00	112.65	135.88	140.74	189.98
3	Provide cube moulds and cast a set of three 150X150X150 mm concrete test cubes	sets	100.00	109.28	132.47	144.41	153.35
4	50mm thick surface blinding under footings and bases	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	115.44	134.20	141.02	154.82
5	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) cast against excavated	m <sup>3</sup>	100.00	116.99	151.38	165.33	183.07
6	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) in thickening	m <sup>3</sup>	100.00	109.52	133.47	135.16	161.10
7	Welded square mesh fabric reinforcement, laid in concrete surface bed or apron slab with min. of 300 laps	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	133.05	176.54	200.31	238.53
8	8 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	100.00	117.04	158.70	165.20	175.05
9	10 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	100.00	146.18	208.39	234.81	247.19
10	10 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	100.00	135.02	202.38	237.68	259.22
11	12 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	100.00	135.89	183.00	221.83	261.24
12	20 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	100.00	148.98	179.44	205.01	231.32
13	Piers (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a minimum compressive strength of 10 Mpa )	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	103.52	121.92	151.83	167.93
14	Half brick wall (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a min. compressive strength - 10 Mpa )	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	110.73	121.68	130.58	154.66
15	One brick wall	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	108.00	120.87	134.57	150.43
16	15 mm thick one coat plaster with steel troweled finish walls	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	110.29	118.24	132.61	159.61
17	Cement and sand (1:3) steel troweled smooth 40 mm thick floors and landings	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	109.17	141.71	174.61	179.76
18	Steel wire brick reinforcing fabric 75 mm wide built in horizontally	m	100.00	144.29	167.31	197.90	217.47
19	Prepare and apply one coat of alkali resisting primer and two coats of acrylic PVA emulsion paint on soffit and 1	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	113.42	122.04	138.61	154.87
20	Prepare and apply one coat of acrylic filler coat and two coats of acrylic PVA emulsion paint on walls	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	113.47	123.53	136.68	152.58
21	375 microns thick polyethylene embossed damp proof course	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	141.00	171.22	205.32	248.35
22	375 microns thick polyethylene embossed damp proof sheeting	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	145.33	170.44	190.06	237.61
23	19 X 75 mm angle rounded skirting secured to walls	m	100.00	125.14	141.26	157.20	178.43
24	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of strip footing not exceeding 300 mm high	m	100.00	147.00	173.05	183.90	199.26
25	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of walls and beams including soft over openings	m <sup>2</sup>	100.00	109.15	121.44	167.80	217.59
26	12mm thick soft board in expansion joint 150 mm high between brickwork and concrete	m	100.00	136.03	165.82	192.19	211.87
27	12mm thick soft board joint 230 mm wide between brickwork and concrete	m	100.00	140.20	159.21	189.68	212.61
28	43 mm thick semi-solid core flush door - 813 x 2032 mm with exterior quality masonry both sides	No.	100.00	110.94	118.17	141.33	155.50
29	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 mm thick doors - 813 x 2032mm high	No.	100.00	113.13	124.64	140.31	160.89
30	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 mm thick doors - 813 x 2032mm high with	No.	100.00	108.43	128.34	136.20	149.19

**Table 5: ANNUAL EXPENDITURES ON ITEMS AND ASSOCIATED WEIGHTS**

Item No.	Item Description	Units	1995	
			(P)	(%)
1	Excavate in earth not exceeding 2 m deep for trenches and holes	m <sup>3</sup>	28,211.52	0.462
2	Risk of collapse 1.5 m deep from the ground level	m <sup>3</sup>	808.40	0.013
3	Provide cube moulds and cast a set of three 150X150X150 mm concrete	sets	3,507.39	0.057
4	50mm thick surface blinding underfootings and bases	m <sup>3</sup>	712,662.17	11.668
5	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) cast against excavated	m <sup>3</sup>	1,696,691.94	27.780
6	Vibrated reinforced concrete (class 30/20) in thickening	m <sup>3</sup>	1,343,580.96	21.999
7	Welded square mesh fabric reinforcement, laid in concrete surface bed	m <sup>2</sup>	26,623.36	0.436
8	8 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	1,137.09	0.019
9	10 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	4,245.24	0.070
10	10 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	5,259.22	0.086
11	12 mm diameter plain mild steel bar reinforcement	Kg	9,782.64	0.160
12	20 mm high tensile steel bar reinforcement	Kg	24,416.15	0.400
13	Piers (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a minimum co	m <sup>3</sup>	5,508.89	0.090
14	Half brick wall (brick work in concrete or burnt clay bricks having a m	m <sup>2</sup>	467,854.98	7.660
15	One brick wall	m <sup>2</sup>	1,141,608.71	18.692
16	15 mm thick one coat plaster with steel troweled finish walls	m <sup>2</sup>	173,173.28	2.835
17	Cement and sand (1:3) steel trowled smooth: 40 mm thick floors and la	m <sup>2</sup>	137,175.98	2.246
18	Steel wire brick reinforcing fabric 75 mm wide built in horizontally	m	3,964.20	0.065
19	Prepare and apply one coat of alkali resisting primer and two coats of a	m <sup>2</sup>	101,099.39	1.655
20	Prepare and apply one coat of acrylic filler coat and two coats of acrylic	m <sup>2</sup>	157,707.07	2.582
21	375 microns thick polyethylene embosses damp proof course	m <sup>2</sup>	962.92	0.016
22	375 microns thick polyethylene embosses damp proof sheeting	m <sup>2</sup>	753.65	0.012
23	19 X 75 mm angle rounded skirting secured to walls	m	4,126.19	0.068
24	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of strip	m	545.63	0.009
25	Formwork including propping not exceeding 3.5m high to sides of wall	m <sup>2</sup>	43,905.66	0.719
26	12mm thick soft board in expansion joint 150 mm high between brickw	m	312.08	0.005
27	12mm thick soft board joint 230 mm wide between brickwork and conc	m	572.69	0.009
28	43 mm thick semi-solid core flush door: 813 x 2032 mm with exterior c	No.	5,329.08	0.087
29	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 m	No.	4,665.55	0.076
30	Double rebated pressed steel door linings in half brick wall to suit 43 m	No.	1,402.16	0.023
			<b>6,107,594.19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 6: BUILDING INDEX (BI)**

Item No.	Units	1995			1996			1997			1998			1999			
		Weight (W)	Index (I)	(W/I)	Weight (W)	Index (I)	(W/I)	Weight (W)	Index (I)	(W/I)	Weight (W)	Index (I)	(W/I)	Weight (W)	Index (I)	(W/I)	
1	m <sup>3</sup>	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000	0.462	100.000
2	m <sup>3</sup>	0.013	100.000	1.324	0.013	112.655	1.491	0.013	135.881	1.700	0.013	140.739	1.863	0.013	189.977	2.515	
3	sets	0.057	100.000	5.743	0.057	109.203	6.276	0.057	132.466	7.607	0.057	144.415	8.293	0.057	153.551	8.806	
4	m <sup>3</sup>	11.668	100.000	11.668	115.480	1347.096	11.668	134.195	1565.853	11.668	141.020	1667.483	11.668	154.821	1896.524		
5	m <sup>3</sup>	27.780	100.000	27.780	116.987	3249.905	27.780	151.378	4205.283	27.780	165.329	4592.851	27.780	181.066	5085.591		
6	m <sup>3</sup>	21.999	100.000	21.999	109.516	2406.181	21.999	133.468	2936.097	21.999	135.157	2973.263	21.999	161.001	3545.861		
7	m <sup>2</sup>	0.436	100.000	43.591	0.436	113.649	57.997	0.436	176.538	76.954	0.436	200.312	87.317	0.436	248.326	103.973	
8	Kg	0.019	100.000	1.862	0.019	117.645	2.179	0.019	158.701	2.495	0.019	165.204	2.676	0.019	175.052	1.259	
9	Kg	0.070	100.000	6.951	0.070	116.175	10.160	0.070	208.186	14.181	0.070	254.813	16.321	0.070	247.191	17.182	
10	Kg	0.086	100.000	8.611	0.086	135.017	11.626	0.086	202.185	17.427	0.086	237.682	20.447	0.086	239.221	22.322	
11	Kg	0.160	100.000	16.017	0.160	133.498	21.382	0.160	185.004	29.312	0.160	221.829	35.531	0.160	261.240	41.841	
12	Kg	0.400	100.000	39.977	0.400	148.976	59.536	0.400	179.435	71.732	0.400	205.008	81.956	0.400	241.819	96.472	
13	m <sup>2</sup>	0.090	100.000	9.020	0.090	103.526	9.138	0.090	121.923	10.697	0.090	151.850	13.685	0.090	167.926	15.146	
14	m <sup>2</sup>	7.660	100.000	766.022	7.660	110.726	848.182	7.660	121.682	932.109	7.660	130.584	1006.503	7.660	154.059	1184.723	
15	m <sup>2</sup>	18.692	100.000	1869.163	18.692	108.904	2018.770	18.692	120.869	2259.246	18.692	134.568	2515.293	18.692	159.427	2811.717	
16	m <sup>2</sup>	2.835	100.000	283.538	2.835	110.295	312.728	2.835	118.237	335.246	2.835	132.908	375.994	2.835	159.611	452.556	
17	m <sup>2</sup>	2.246	100.000	224.599	2.246	109.166	245.187	2.246	111.711	248.281	2.246	124.610	292.172	2.246	179.787	408.793	
18	m	0.065	100.000	6.091	0.065	114.287	9.365	0.065	187.314	10.860	0.065	197.898	12.845	0.065	217.470	14.115	
19	m <sup>2</sup>	1.655	100.000	165.531	1.655	113.422	187.748	1.655	122.043	202.018	1.655	136.966	229.835	1.655	154.910	256.358	
20	m <sup>2</sup>	2.582	100.000	258.215	2.582	113.468	292.962	2.582	123.533	318.981	2.582	136.485	352.940	2.582	152.577	393.977	
21	m <sup>2</sup>	0.016	100.000	1.577	0.016	141.005	2.223	0.016	171.217	2.899	0.016	205.318	3.237	0.016	248.359	3.916	
22	m <sup>2</sup>	0.012	100.000	1.234	0.012	145.355	1.793	0.012	179.435	2.103	0.012	190.968	2.345	0.012	217.605	2.932	
23	m	0.068	100.000	6.756	0.068	125.138	8.454	0.068	141.263	9.543	0.068	157.204	10.620	0.068	178.432	12.035	
24	m	0.009	100.000	0.893	0.009	147.904	1.315	0.009	173.047	1.546	0.009	183.898	1.643	0.009	199.259	1.780	
25	m <sup>2</sup>	0.719	100.000	71.887	0.719	109.154	78.468	0.719	121.437	87.297	0.719	167.800	120.627	0.719	217.592	156.420	
26	m	0.005	100.000	0.511	0.005	116.025	0.695	0.005	163.818	0.837	0.005	192.193	0.982	0.005	211.566	1.081	
27	m	0.009	100.000	0.938	0.009	140.201	1.315	0.009	159.238	1.493	0.009	189.982	1.779	0.009	212.610	1.994	
28	No.	0.087	100.000	8.725	0.087	110.945	9.680	0.087	118.367	10.311	0.087	141.334	12.532	0.087	155.562	15.568	
29	No.	0.076	100.000	7.639	0.076	113.125	8.642	0.076	125.638	9.521	0.076	140.313	10.718	0.076	160.890	12.290	
30	No.	0.023	100.000	2.296	0.023	108.430	2.489	0.023	128.342	2.946	0.023	136.204	3.127	0.023	149.191	3.423	
<b>BI (Year Index)</b>			<b>100</b>		<b>113</b>		<b>125</b>		<b>146</b>		<b>165</b>		<b>185</b>		<b>215</b>		
<b>Time Interval</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		
<b>Standard deviation</b>			<b>0</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>33</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>55</b>		<b>68</b>		