

SA's biggest home builder

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Hickinbotham Group managing director Michael Hickinbotham.

HICKINBOTHAM Group has extended its lead as the state's biggest home builder following a 5 per cent increase in the number of new homes it started work on last financial year.

The Housing Industry Association's annual HIA-Colorbond Steel Housing 100 report ranks Hickinbotham as the 15th biggest home builder in the country, with 1349 new homes in the year to June.

With housing starts across the state up 8 per cent to 10,878, it's the equivalent of building one in every eight new homes across SA.

Rivergum retained its position as the state's second biggest builder despite a flat result of 395 new homes, while Longridge Group and Metricon also held onto their positions in the top five.

Rossdale Homes jumped from sixth to fourth after increasing its pipeline from 188 new homes to 282, while NSW-based MJH Group made its first appearance on the

list as the seventh biggest builder after taking over Weeks Building Group earlier this year.

Several large home builders choose not to participate in the survey, which is conducted each year by the HIA.

The state's top 10 builders maintained a 32 per cent share of the total housing market, overseeing work on 3492 new homes, up 7 per cent from the previous year.

HIA chief economist Tim Reardon said the figures did not capture the full extent of COVID-19, which was having the biggest effect on small home builders. "The COVID-19 shock has compounded what was already expected to be a difficult year," he said. "The market share of the Housing 100 builders also increased from 35 per cent in 2018-19 to 40 per cent in 2019-20.

"This is the highest market share for the Housing 100 since 2013-14 and is consistent with previous trends where volume home builders are able to gain market share in a contracting market.

Hickinbotham Group managing director Michael Hickinbotham said the state's home building industry would be critical to reviving the state's economy following the COVID-19 pandemic. "Within this environment, South Australia can expect to continue to benefit from its well respected lifestyle and new home affordability profile," he said.

Meanwhile, Metricon Homes was ranked as the country's biggest residential builder for a fifth consecutive year, with 4473 new home starts across Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

Hutchies, Multiplex and other apartment builders climbed the rankings as the number of units constructed by the largest 100 builders rose by 11 per cent, compared to detached homes, which contracted by 1 per cent.