



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 4, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, October 2003** 2
 The value of building permits for the first 10 months of 2003 was still well ahead of last year's level, despite declines in intentions in October in both the residential and the non-residential sectors. Builders took out a total of \$4.3 billion worth of permits in October, down 4.9% from September.

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NEW PRODUCTS

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

2001 Census Federal Electoral District Profile (2003 Representation Order)

Now available free of charge on the Internet is additional information within the 2001 Federal Electoral District Profile Model. The 2001 Federal Electoral District Model has been updated to include data for the 2003 Representation Order (308 Federal Electoral Districts).

For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

October 2003

The value of building permits for the first 10 months of 2003 was still well ahead of last year's level, despite declines in intentions in October in both the residential and the non-residential sectors.

Builders took out a total of \$4.3 billion worth of permits in October, down 4.9% from September.

Housing permits fell 3.3% from September's record level to \$2.8 billion, the result of a drop in intentions for both single- and multi-family dwellings.

The value of non-residential permits declined 7.7% to \$1.5 billion, their lowest level since March. This was a result of decreases for industrial and institutional projects.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,350 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (such as waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

the result of feverish demand for new housing. The metropolitan areas of Oshawa, Québec and Winnipeg have also posted sizable gains.

Both single- and multi-family permits pull down residential sector

Municipalities issued \$1.93 billion in permits for single-family dwellings in October, down 2.1% from the record \$1.97 billion set in September. Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings followed a similar path, declining 5.9% to \$885 million.

However, intentions in both sectors remained well above 2003's average monthly value.

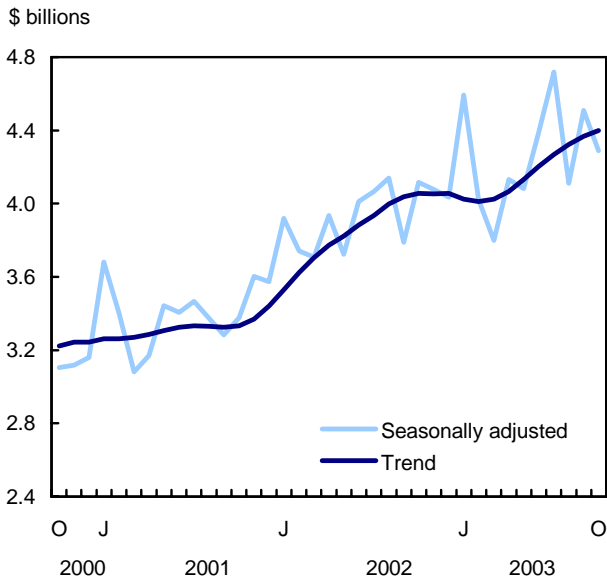
Several conditions favour the new housing market this year, including advantageous mortgage rates, growth in employment, the low stock of available dwellings on the market and a high level of consumer confidence.

Provincially, the largest drop in October occurred in Ontario (-9.6% to \$1.2 billion), as the value for both single- and multi-family permits retreated. This decline was partly offset by strong gains in Quebec and Alberta. The value of housing permits in Alberta hit its highest level since January.

From January to October this year, the value of single-family permits has totalled \$18.3 billion, up 3.8% from the same period of 2002. Despite this gain, 102,375 new single-family dwelling units have been authorized since the beginning of the year, 4,475 fewer than in the same period of 2002.

For multi-family permits, the value of intentions so far this year has reached \$8.2 billion, up a substantial 15.8% from the first 10 months of 2002. So far this year, 85,500 multi-family units have been authorized, up 12,625. For this type of dwelling, the increase in demand was the driving force behind the gain.

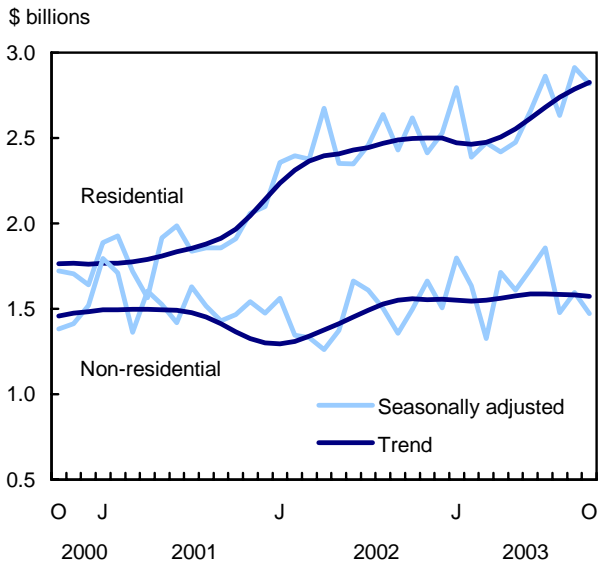
Total value of permits declines in October



However, prospects are good for an exceptional year. On a year-to-date basis, total intentions were up 8.9% from the first 10 months of 2002 to \$42.6 billion. Municipalities have issued \$26.4 billion worth of housing permits, up 7.2%, while the value of non-residential permits has increased 11.8% to \$16.2 billion.

Regionally, the largest advance in the value of construction intentions so far this year occurred in Toronto, where gains came from industrial and commercial projects. Montréal was close behind,

Both the residential and the non-residential sectors were down



At the provincial level, the largest growth by far on a cumulative basis occurred in Quebec, where the total value of residential projects (\$5.4 billion) was more than \$1 billion higher than in the first 10 months of 2002. British Columbia also showed substantial gains.

Industrial, institutional permits suffer declines

Builders took out fewer institutional and industrial permits in October, while the value of commercial permits held steady.

Institutional permits fell 19.5% to \$421 million, their lowest level in seven months. This was largely the result of a decline in demand for education and social service buildings in British Columbia. Institutional permits in this province plunged 71.5% to \$27 million, the largest drop among the provinces.

The industrial component fell 8.8% to \$232 million, the third consecutive monthly decline. This was the lowest level since March 2002. Lower demand for permits associated with utilities and manufacturing buildings in Ontario precipitated this drop.

Permits for the commercial sector showed continuing strength, holding steady at \$821 million. This was the highest level since the record set in January this year. Demand for commercial permits in Ontario was particularly strong (+33.3% to \$444 million), as construction intentions for trade and services buildings increased.

Among the provinces, Ontario showed the greatest gains in non-residential permits in October (+11.8% to \$803 million). It was the province's highest monthly

value for non-residential intentions since February. Increased demand for commercial permits more than offset declines in the industrial and institutional sectors. The strongest decline occurred in British Columbia (-50.1% to \$122 million).

Seventeen of 28 census metropolitan areas recorded monthly declines in the value of non-residential permits. Toronto experienced the greatest monthly growth, the result of the highest monthly value of permits for trade buildings issued since August 1989. Oshawa recorded the strongest declines.

For the first 10 months of 2003, the commercial sector has experienced the greatest gain, increasing 9.5% from the same period of 2002 to \$8.0 billion. Permits for institutional projects have risen 11.6% to \$5.1 billion, while intentions in the industrial sector are up 18.4% to \$3.2 billion.

The non-residential sector has seen mixed signals from recent economic indicators. The US economy is growing at its fastest pace since the first quarter of 1984. However, Canadian merchandise exports slipped 1.4% in the first nine months of 2003 compared with the same period of 2002. October's Business Conditions Survey noted that manufacturers were generally positive about fourth-quarter prospects, although they had misgivings over high product inventories and low levels of unfilled orders.

On a year-to-date basis, Ontario recorded the biggest growth in non-residential permits (in dollars), rising 9.4% to \$7.7 billion. The gain was mainly the result of rising industrial intentions. Strong growth in all three non-residential sectors propelled Quebec to the second highest gain (+15.5% to \$3.2 billion).

Among provinces, only Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick have failed to surpass year-to-date values from 2002.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The October 2003 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The November 2003 building permit estimate will be released on January 12, 2004.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-4646; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	September 2003 ^r	October 2003 ^p	September to October 2003	January to October 2002	January to October 2003	January-October 2002 to January-October 2003
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	4,510.5	4,289.7	-4.9	39,151.4	42,646.6	8.9
Residential	2,914.1	2,816.7	-3.3	24,644.2	26,427.4	7.2
Non-residential	1,596.4	1,473.0	-7.7	14,507.2	16,219.2	11.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	40.7	41.1	1.1	326.3	332.2	1.8
Residential	30.4	28.9	-5.1	210.6	229.0	8.7
Non-residential	10.2	12.2	19.6	115.7	103.3	-10.7
Prince Edward Island	10.5	12.8	22.1	125.6	154.0	22.6
Residential	9.2	10.2	10.7	81.4	78.4	-3.7
Non-residential	1.3	2.6	105.7	44.2	75.7	71.3
Nova Scotia	82.0	74.0	-9.8	701.9	842.6	20.1
Residential	53.8	48.7	-9.6	489.4	532.7	8.9
Non-residential	28.1	25.3	-10.1	212.5	309.9	45.9
New Brunswick	73.5	61.7	-16.1	564.1	581.1	3.0
Residential	32.3	30.7	-5.0	307.9	331.1	7.6
Non-residential	41.2	31.0	-24.9	256.2	250.0	-2.4
Quebec	845.5	851.1	0.7	7,083.7	8,526.0	20.4
Residential	564.4	622.9	10.4	4,352.0	5,370.3	23.4
Non-residential	281.1	228.2	-18.8	2,731.7	3,155.6	15.5
Ontario	2,038.0	1,996.7	-2.0	18,594.8	19,461.2	4.7
Residential	1,320.0	1,193.9	-9.6	11,598.4	11,804.5	1.8
Non-residential	717.9	802.8	11.8	6,996.4	7,656.7	9.4
Manitoba	83.0	71.2	-14.3	761.8	929.0	21.9
Residential	48.1	48.3	0.4	370.4	447.0	20.7
Non-residential	34.9	22.9	-34.4	391.4	482.0	23.1
Saskatchewan	64.0	50.1	-21.7	565.1	676.0	19.6
Residential	31.1	28.8	-7.6	233.0	304.5	30.7
Non-residential	32.9	21.4	-35.0	332.0	371.5	11.9
Alberta	561.0	591.9	5.5	5,647.0	5,631.4	-0.3
Residential	361.2	389.2	7.8	3,761.7	3,535.2	-6.0
Non-residential	199.9	202.7	1.4	1,885.3	2,096.2	11.2
British Columbia	691.7	525.2	-24.1	4,619.2	5,319.5	15.2
Residential	447.3	403.1	-9.9	3,142.1	3,725.7	18.6
Non-residential	244.4	122.0	-50.1	1,477.1	1,593.9	7.9
Yukon	7.0	1.4	-80.3	25.5	42.5	66.7
Residential	4.6	1.2	-74.0	17.5	20.3	15.8
Non-residential	2.4	0.2	-92.5	8.0	22.3	178.2
Northwest Territories	11.2	12.2	9.6	86.4	70.0	-18.9
Residential	9.9	10.5	6.0	49.5	41.1	-16.9
Non-residential	1.2	1.7	38.3	36.9	28.9	-21.7
Nunavut	2.4	0.4	-81.7	50.2	80.9	60.9
Residential	1.7	0.3	-80.0	30.4	7.5	-75.3
Non-residential	0.7	0.1	-85.6	19.8	73.3	270.3

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area

	September 2003 ^r	October 2003 ^p	September to October 2003	January to October 2002	January to October 2003	January-October 2002 to January-October 2003
	seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	27.8	29.0	4.3	210.4	230.5	9.5
Halifax	43.7	35.3	-19.3	362.0	473.7	30.8
Saint John	16.7	15.6	-6.4	86.2	103.3	19.8
Saguenay	12.8	8.4	-34.9	151.4	114.8	-24.2
Québec	102.5	63.0	-38.5	682.0	901.8	32.2
Sherbrooke	20.8	15.1	-27.4	164.2	188.9	15.0
Trois-Rivières	21.7	13.8	-36.5	134.2	172.1	28.2
Montréal	433.1	464.4	7.2	3,662.2	4,339.1	18.5
Gatineau	49.8	54.0	8.4	415.6	435.3	4.7
Ottawa	174.1	142.5	-18.2	1,443.3	1,458.1	1.0
Kingston	30.8	14.3	-53.6	237.7	180.0	-24.2
Oshawa	164.1	106.3	-35.2	619.9	985.5	59.0
Toronto	902.0	963.1	6.8	8,770.4	9,546.1	8.8
Hamilton	90.8	79.6	-12.4	931.5	921.6	-1.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	42.3	61.1	44.4	598.9	423.8	-29.2
Kitchener	68.6	96.0	40.0	844.6	809.3	-4.2
London	71.7	62.7	-12.6	568.9	639.5	12.4
Windsor	56.4	54.9	-2.5	599.8	525.1	-12.5
Sudbury	10.9	12.3	13.5	138.1	88.7	-35.8
Thunder Bay	13.8	7.5	-45.4	165.2	97.1	-41.2
Winnipeg	52.0	43.2	-16.9	391.6	597.6	52.6
Regina	18.3	13.8	-24.7	131.2	243.7	85.6
Saskatoon	16.9	22.3	31.8	252.6	219.3	-13.2
Calgary	214.1	220.5	3.0	2,212.9	2,393.9	8.2
Edmonton	154.0	146.0	-5.2	1,431.7	1,467.7	2.5
Abbotsford	9.9	16.4	66.1	157.3	145.9	-7.2
Vancouver	402.4	320.2	-20.4	2,879.2	3,059.3	6.3
Victoria	73.8	31.2	-57.7	383.1	468.8	22.4

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.



OTHER RELEASES

Labour statistics consistent with the System of National Accounts

1997–2002 (revised)

The Productivity Measures Program publishes today revised estimates to labour and hours worked covering the entire Canadian economy, by province and territory, for the 1997–2002. These revised estimates replace preliminary estimates published in *The Daily* of April 28, 2003 as part of the release titled "Provincial and territorial gross domestic product."

These estimates are based on the integration of various labour market statistics sources, in order to produce a labour input database consistent with the concepts of the Canadian System of National Accounts as well as with the input–output industrial coding. These data are available for the business, non-business and total economy sectors.

Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0009 and 383-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1402.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-5403; maynard@statcan.ca), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products

Third quarter 2003

Data on production and shipments of solid fuel burning heating products are now available for the third quarter.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.

The third quarter 2003 issue of *Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products*, Vol. 22, no. 3 (25-002-XIB, \$7/\$21) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

October 2003 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 448 600 cubic metres in October, up 98 100 cubic metres or 1.2% from October 2002. Sales increased in five of the seven major product groups, led by motor gasoline, which registered the largest volumetric increase, up 83 100 cubic metres or 2.4%. Petro-chemical feedstocks increased 23 200 cubic metres or 6.3%.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	October 2002 ^r	October 2003 ^p	October 2002 to October 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	8 350.5	8 448.6	1.2
Motor gasoline	3 412.1	3 495.2	2.4
Diesel fuel oil	2 131.6	2 153.6	1.0
Light fuel oil	411.1	375.8	-8.6
Heavy fuel oil	562.6	570.1	1.3
Aviation turbo fuels	526.9	504.2	-4.3
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	366.8	390.0	6.3
All other refined products	939.4	959.7	2.2

	Jan. to Oct. 2002 ^r	Jan. to Oct. 2003 ^p	Jan.-Oct. 2002 to Jan.-Oct. 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	78 237.3	81 445.0	4.1
Motor gasoline	33 095.7	33 542.2	1.3
Diesel fuel oil	18 950.7	19 798.8	4.5
Light fuel oil	3 806.6	4 158.7	9.3
Heavy fuel oil	5 253.4	6 792.9	29.3
Aviation turbo fuels	5 049.2	4 949.2	-2.0
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	3 850.2	3 709.5	-3.7
All other refined products	8 231.7	8 493.5	3.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline advanced (+2.0%), but sales of mid-grade (-11.3%) and premium (-3.0%) fell from October 2002.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products totalled 81 445 000 cubic metres, up 3 207 700 cubic metres or 4.1% from the same period of 2002. Sales rose in five of seven major petroleum product groups,

with the largest volumetric increase in heavy fuel oils, up 1 539 500 cubic metres or 29.3%. Year-to-date sales of motor gasoline increased 446 500 cubic metres or 1.3% from the same period of 2002.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas September 2003 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 12.0 million cubic metres in September, up 8.1% from September 2002. This increase is mainly attributable to the start up of new oil sands projects in Alberta. Exports, which accounted for 60.1% of total production, grew 3.7% over September 2002.

Year-to-date production of crude oil increased 5.7% over the same period of 2002; crude oil exports were also on the rise, up 4.8%.

Marketable natural gas production totalled 12.8 billion cubic metres, down 6.6% from September 2002. Domestic sales and exports declined 0.6% and 8.5% respectively.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas fell 2.3% from the same period of 2002. Canadian domestic sales rose 2.9% and exports of natural gas were up 0.2%.

Crude oil and natural gas

	September 2002	September 2003	September 2002 to September 2003 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	11 103.8	12 000.3	8.1
Exports	6 951.8	7 210.7	3.7
Imports ²	4 287.1	3 803.1	-11.3
Refinery receipts	8 892.1	8 064.8	-9.3
millions of cubic metres			
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 756.4	12 849.7	-6.6
Exports	8 955.6	8 194.9	-8.5
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	4 153.8	4 127.5	-0.6
	Jan. to Sept. 2002	Jan. to Sept. 2003	Jan.-Sept. 2002 to Jan.-Sept. 2003
thousands of cubic metres			
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	101 217.3	106 936.9	5.7
Exports	62 270.8	65 281.7	4.8
Imports ²	37 832.4	38 808.4	2.6
Refinery receipts	77 556.7	78 796.6	1.6
millions of cubic metres			
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	127 845.6	124 938.4	-2.3
Exports	79 402.9	79 591.9	0.2
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	51 340.8	52 812.2	2.9

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

Provincial data on the supply of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons are now available for September 2003. Provincial disposition data will be available at a later date.

Note: Alberta Bitumen production volumes have been revised for April-August 2003.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

September 2003

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for September.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2106, 2116 and 2184.

The September 2003 issue of *Primary iron and steel*, Vol 58, no 9 (41-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products,
Third quarter 2003, Vol. 22, no. 3
Catalogue number **25-002-XIB** (\$7/\$21).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Primary iron and steel, September 2003, Vol. 58, no. 9
Catalogue number **41-001-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit, Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 60 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone enquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services — from seminars to consultations — are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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