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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 5, 2011
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

New products and studies

Releases

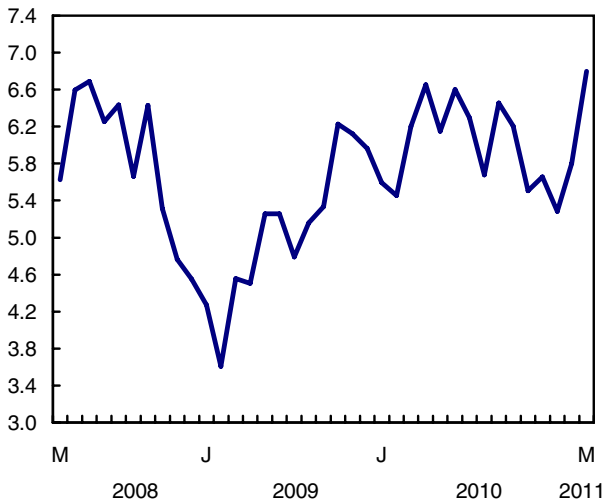
Building permits

March 2011

Municipalities issued building permits worth $6.8 billion in March, a 17.2% increase from February and a level not seen since June 2007. The gain was mostly the result of advances in the residential and non-residential sectors in Ontario.

Total value of permits

$ billions



After two consecutive monthly decreases, the value of residential permits increased 33.9% to $4.0 billion in March, the highest level since March 2010. Ontario posted the largest increase in both single and multi-family permits. In March, six other provinces also recorded gains in the residential sector.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits edged down 0.4% to $2.8 billion, following a 72.7% increase in February. Lower construction intentions for industrial and commercial permits more than offset a record high value for institutional permits.

The total value of permits increased in eight provinces. Alberta recorded the largest drop in March as a result of a decline in the non-residential sector, after a significant increase in February.

Note to readers

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

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 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 (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Gatineau part and Ottawa part.

Revision

Preliminary data are provided for the current reference month. Revised data, based on late responses, are updated for the previous month.

Residential sector: Intentions up for both multi-family and single-family dwellings

The value of permits for multi-family dwellings more than doubled in March to $1.9 billion, following two consecutive monthly decreases. The increase was mainly the result of higher construction intentions in eight provinces, led by Ontario, Quebec and Alberta.

Municipalities issued $2.1 billion worth of permits for single-family dwellings in March, up 2.5% from February. Higher construction intentions, particularly in Ontario and Alberta, offset declines in other provinces.

Nationally, municipalities approved 17,141 new dwellings in March, up 26.7% from February. The increase came from multi-family dwellings, which rose 55.5% to 10,469 units. The number of single-family dwellings declined 1.9% to 6,672 units.

Non-residential sector: Increase in the institutional component

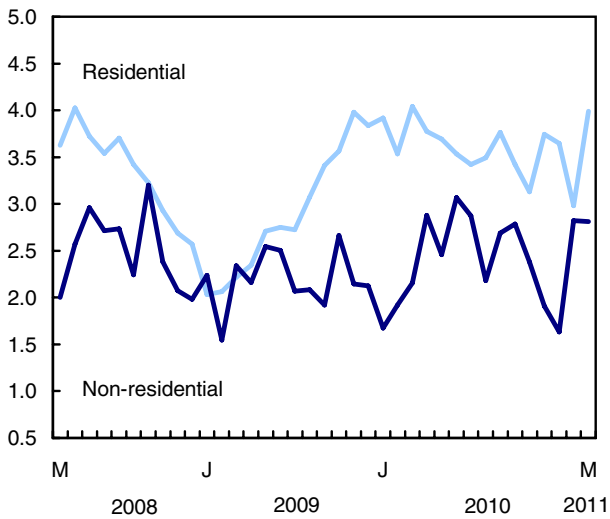
The value of permits in the institutional component increased 83.1% in March after doubling in February. Institutional intentions hit a record high of $1.3 billion, as a result of increases in all provinces and territories. Ontario, which posted the largest gain, reported higher construction intentions for educational and medical buildings.

In the commercial component, the value of permits decreased 1.7% to $1.2 billion in March following a 22.3% increase in February. The largest drops were in Alberta and Quebec, the result of lower intentions for a wide variety of commercial buildings, such as hotels, offices and warehouses. However, commercial intentions rose in half the provinces. The largest increases occurred in office buildings in British Columbia and in the hotels and restaurants category in Ontario.

Following a strong gain in February, municipalities issued $309 million in permits for industrial buildings in March, down 65.1%. The largest decrease was for utilities and transportation buildings in Alberta and for manufacturing plants in Ontario.

Residential and non-residential sectors

$ billions



Strong intentions in Ontario

The value of building permits was up in eight provinces. Ontario posted the largest advance following two consecutive monthly declines. The increase in Ontario came mostly from multi-family and institutional permits.

In British Columbia, the increase was mainly a result of commercial and multi-family permits. In Quebec, the combined increase in multi-family and industrial permits more than offset a decline in commercial permits.

In contrast, Alberta recorded the largest decrease as a result of lower intentions for industrial and commercial components. The only other province to register a drop was Newfoundland and Labrador, as a result of declines in single-family dwellings and commercial buildings.

Permits up in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits increased in 22 of the 34 census metropolitan areas in March.

The largest increases occurred in Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. In Toronto, the increase came mostly from multi-family dwellings after a decline in February. Most of the increase in Vancouver originated in the commercial component. Montréal posted gains in all components, except single-family dwellings.

In contrast, the largest declines occurred in Calgary, Ottawa and Hamilton. The decline in Calgary came primarily from industrial and commercial buildings while in Ottawa and Hamilton, it came mostly from commercial and single-family permits.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The March 2011 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will be available soon.

The April building permit data will be released on June 6.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; *bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada

	March 2010	January 2011	February 2011[r]	March 2011[p]	February to March 2011	March 2010 to March 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Total	**6,199.4**	**5,283.2**	**5,801.7**	**6,798.0**	**17.2**	**9.7**
Residential	4,043.3	3,648.7	2,979.5	3,988.1	33.9	-1.4
Single[1]	2,588.4	2,287.6	2,083.1	2,134.3	2.5	-17.5
Multiple	1,454.8	1,361.1	896.4	1,853.8	106.8	27.4
Non-residential	2,156.2	1,634.5	2,822.2	2,809.9	-0.4	30.3
Industrial	442.8	278.9	883.6	308.5	-65.1	-30.3
Commercial	1,178.3	1,011.0	1,236.8	1,216.2	-1.7	3.2
Institutional	535.0	344.5	701.9	1,285.1	83.1	140.2
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	**18,935**	**17,888**	**13,529**	**17,141**	**26.7**	**-9.5**
Single[1]	9,055	7,333	6,798	6,672	-1.9	-26.3
Multiple	9,880	10,555	6,731	10,469	55.5	6.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	March 2010	January 2011	February 2011[r]	March 2011[p]	February to March 2011	March 2010 to March 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Canada	**6,199.4**	**5,283.2**	**5,801.7**	**6,798.0**	**17.2**	**9.7**
Residential	**4,043.3**	**3,648.7**	**2,979.5**	**3,988.1**	**33.9**	**-1.4**
Non-residential	**2,156.2**	**1,634.5**	**2,822.2**	**2,809.9**	**-0.4**	**30.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	80.4	88.6	85.2	67.8	-20.5	-15.8
Residential	69.3	76.1	67.6	55.5	-18.0	-20.0
Non-residential	11.1	12.4	17.6	12.3	-30.1	10.7
Prince Edward Island	24.3	15.1	17.0	22.3	31.5	-8.1
Residential	11.4	7.3	8.9	10.9	21.7	-4.9
Non-residential	12.9	7.8	8.1	11.5	42.3	-11.0
Nova Scotia	106.9	102.3	109.7	129.2	17.8	20.8
Residential	74.6	62.4	88.2	75.5	-14.4	1.2
Non-residential	32.4	39.9	21.5	53.7	149.6	65.8
New Brunswick	83.6	53.2	43.8	85.5	95.4	2.2
Residential	62.7	29.3	33.1	39.1	18.0	-37.6
Non-residential	21.0	24.0	10.6	46.4	336.9	121.5
Quebec	1,294.8	1,334.8	1,121.0	1,187.1	5.9	-8.3
Residential	898.2	1,034.8	806.9	875.0	8.4	-2.6
Non-residential	396.6	300.0	314.1	312.2	-0.6	-21.3
Ontario	2,358.7	2,092.3	2,001.7	3,235.8	61.7	37.2
Residential	1,468.4	1,304.0	888.4	1,711.3	92.6	16.5
Non-residential	890.4	788.3	1,113.2	1,524.5	36.9	71.2
Manitoba	139.2	128.2	134.1	143.4	6.9	3.0
Residential	87.3	113.4	98.2	87.8	-10.5	0.7
Non-residential	52.0	14.9	35.9	55.5	54.5	6.8
Saskatchewan	201.5	194.1	172.9	190.7	10.2	-5.4
Residential	122.0	105.4	99.6	102.2	2.6	-16.2
Non-residential	79.5	88.7	73.3	88.4	20.6	11.3
Alberta	1,001.4	697.1	1,483.2	867.9	-41.5	-13.3
Residential	591.3	458.3	439.4	560.4	27.5	-5.2
Non-residential	410.1	238.8	1,043.8	307.5	-70.5	-25.0
British Columbia	875.1	567.3	626.7	851.7	35.9	-2.7
Residential	653.3	449.1	444.2	458.4	3.2	-29.8
Non-residential	221.8	118.2	182.5	393.3	115.5	77.3
Yukon	22.9	9.6	3.9	8.0	103.4	-65.0
Residential	3.6	8.5	3.5	3.9	9.9	7.6
Non-residential	19.3	1.2	0.4	4.2	858.8	-78.5
Northwest Territories	6.2	0.4	1.9	0.7	-66.1	-89.3
Residential	1.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	-73.0	-81.6
Non-residential	4.9	0.2	1.1	0.4	-60.8	-91.2
Nunavut	4.3	0.0	0.6	8.0	1,233.3	87.8
Residential	0.0	0.0	0.6	8.0	1,233.3	...
Non-residential	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	-100.0

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
... *not applicable*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	March 2010	January 2011	February 2011[r]	March 2011[p]	February to March 2011	March 2010 to March 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Total: Census metropolitan area	**4,364.8**	**3,937.4**	**4,482.2**	**5,415.9**	**20.8**	**24.1**
St. John's	50.6	59.0	30.3	41.1	35.5	-18.9
Halifax	53.2	44.9	66.7	61.1	-8.4	14.9
Moncton	23.7	11.3	6.1	43.6	619.4	84.1
Saint John	21.4	12.3	8.9	13.6	53.6	-36.3
Saguenay	26.8	11.5	18.6	28.6	53.3	6.8
Québec	185.4	125.6	116.6	131.4	12.8	-29.1
Sherbrooke	47.1	35.0	43.5	33.3	-23.4	-29.3
Trois-Rivières	28.7	9.1	15.3	24.5	60.0	-14.7
Montréal	522.4	706.5	506.2	564.5	11.5	8.0
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	201.4	288.7	200.8	135.6	-32.5	-32.7
Gatineau part	38.4	55.3	46.6	43.3	-7.0	12.7
Ottawa part	163.0	233.4	154.2	92.3	-40.2	-43.4
Kingston	12.6	7.5	8.9	11.8	32.4	-6.2
Peterborough	26.9	2.2	7.1	14.6	104.1	-45.8
Oshawa	55.2	50.4	41.2	61.1	48.4	10.7
Toronto	1,043.9	1,045.8	943.5	2,132.5	126.0	104.3
Hamilton	107.5	117.3	123.4	89.2	-27.7	-17.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	54.4	30.7	53.6	65.8	22.8	21.1
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	139.9	142.3	198.1	206.8	4.4	47.8
Brantford	12.5	7.4	16.4	4.9	-70.2	-61.1
Guelph	68.1	12.1	18.9	25.8	36.7	-62.1
London	105.6	48.0	118.1	98.8	-16.3	-6.4
Windsor	17.2	9.3	13.8	24.2	74.9	40.3
Barrie	16.0	7.1	13.4	39.2	192.8	145.8
Greater Sudbury	7.4	23.7	9.0	17.8	98.0	141.1
Thunder Bay	23.6	6.0	7.3	13.4	84.2	-43.4
Winnipeg	96.0	93.8	102.0	104.0	2.0	8.3
Regina	58.7	108.8	28.2	66.5	135.5	13.3
Saskatoon	62.0	63.0	66.9	66.8	0.0	7.7
Calgary	405.0	181.7	947.7	342.6	-63.8	-15.4
Edmonton	255.8	235.5	287.5	286.1	-0.5	11.9
Kelowna	57.5	14.0	14.6	49.5	238.9	-13.8
Abbotsford–Mission	13.9	6.4	20.6	15.2	-26.2	9.3
Vancouver	499.0	375.6	379.4	562.6	48.3	12.7
Victoria	65.7	45.3	49.8	39.5	-20.7	-39.9

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

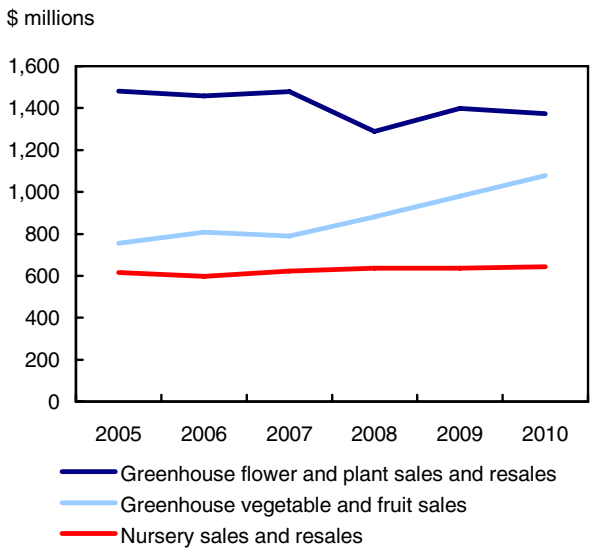
■

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries
2010

Sales of greenhouse products in Canada rose 3.0% to nearly $2.5 billion in 2010, the second consecutive annual increase after a decline in 2008.

The increase in 2010 was mostly the result of a 10.0% gain in sales of greenhouse vegetables and fruits, which surpassed one billion dollars ($1.1 billion) for the first time.

Sales of greenhouse and nursery products



Sales and resales of flowers and plants fell 1.8% to just under $1.4 billion in 2010, while sales of nursery products rose 1.2% to $644 million.

Canada had 3,285 greenhouse operations in 2010, down from 3,335 in 2009. However, total greenhouse area increased from about 22.4 million square metres to nearly 22.9 million square metres. Most of this expansion was in greenhouse vegetable production.

Greenhouse vegetable producers, who are less sensitive to weather conditions than field vegetable producers, continued their expansion. For a fourth consecutive year, the value of greenhouse vegetable sales exceeded sales of field vegetables (including potatoes).

Growers in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec accounted for 95.4% of greenhouse vegetable and fruit sales in 2010. Ontario alone represented 60.9%.

Sales of tomatoes, the most valuable crop, rose 10.9% to $509 million. Sales of peppers increased 14.9% to $270 million, while sales of cucumbers were up 3.1% to $254 million.

Sales and resales of greenhouse flowers and plants amounted to $1.4 billion in 2010, down 1.8% from 2009. The main factor in the decline was a 17.0% drop in the resale of flowers and plants.

On the other hand, sales of grown flowers and plants increased, especially potted plants (+4.7%) and vegetable bedding plants for transplanting (+4.7%). Floriculture represented 56.0% of total greenhouse product sales in 2010.

The expansion of total greenhouse area was accompanied by a 2.9% increase in total operating expenses. Labour costs, which rose 8.4% to $604 million, accounted for more than one-quarter of total expenses. The total number of seasonal and permanent greenhouse workers fell 1.5% to 36,915.

On the nursery side, total area remained stable at about 20,000 hectares. Costs for nursery operators grew 2.3% to $577 million in 2010. Of this total, labour costs accounted for almost 40%. Nurseries employed 14,400 people, nearly three-quarters of whom were seasonal employees.

In 2010, total area for sod rose 4.4% to 24,123 hectares, while sod sales rose 2.4% to $147 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0006 and 001-0046 to 001-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3416.

The 2010 issue of *Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Industries* (22-202-X, free) is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rita Athwal (613-951-5022; *rita.athwal@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Farm product prices
March 2011

Prices received by farmers in March for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The March Ontario grain corn price was $225.31 per tonne, down 0.4% from February, but up 38.2% from March 2010 when the price was $163.09.

The March feeder cattle price for Alberta was $114.33 per hundredweight, up 7.3% from February and 32.5% higher than in March 2010 when the price was $86.28.

Note: Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; *nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Quarterly Trucking Survey
Fourth quarter 2010

The operating profit of trucking companies improved 19% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter in 2009, as operating revenue (+10%) increased more than operating expenses (+9%). Fourth quarter profit reached $1.2 billion on revenue of $10.8 billion and expenses of $9.6 billion.

Salaries and wages expenses increased 3% to $2.5 billion in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter in 2009. Vehicle fuel expenses rose more rapidly (+14%) but, at $1.9 billion, remained a smaller component of total expenses. Most of the increase in fuel expenses was a result of higher prices, as fuel consumption rose 5%.

During 2010, trucking companies experienced year-over-year increases in quarterly profits averaging 26%, reflecting the general economic upturn. Quarterly revenue increased 12%, on average, and outgrew expenses in each of the four quarters.

Note: Revisions have been made to the estimates from the Quarterly Trucking Survey for all quarters of 2009 and the first three quarters of 2010. Also, data tables by province and territory, industry group and revenue size are now available on CANSIM.

Available on CANSIM: tables 403-0005 to 403-0007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, data tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

New products and studies

Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Industries, 2010
Catalogue number 22-202-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations: Annual Report (TP 577), 2010
Catalogue number 51-209-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

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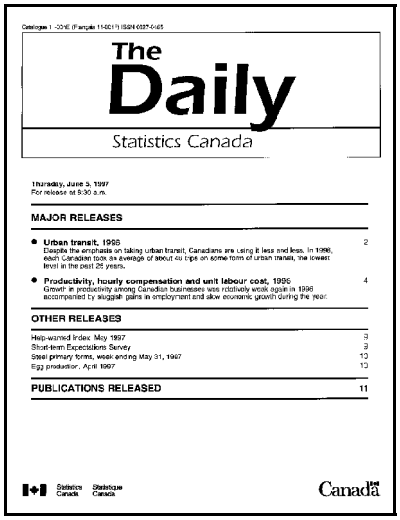
Catalogue 11-001E (Pamphlet 11-001F) ISSN 0037-0401

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 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.

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