

OUSING NOW

YOUR LINK TO THE HOUSING MARKET

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

New Homebuilding Strong in 2006

March 2006 Released April 2006

Victoria homebuilding robust in March

- March's strong results pushed Victoria homebuilding to a **7% increase** from **2005 levels on a year-to-date** basis. Both single detached house and multiple unit construction are showing gains from last year.
- Twenty apartment condos got underway in March but 120 units completed, marking the second consecutive month of declining levels of units under construction.
- The new apartment condo market moved into balance as 115 absorptions were recorded: largely pre-sales of the 120 newly completed suites.

- Rising costs for construction materials and labour are causing delays in a handful of anticipated condo projects. Skilled trade constraints and rising costs mean developers are taking time to ensure contracts and schedules are well-defined before construction begins.
- ◆ No new townhouses started but 23 completed construction. The new townhouse market remained undersupplied as 19 townhouses sold while 11 remained in inventory.
- The median single-detached **house price dipped** in March. Prices will rise again this spring due to increased costs for lots, skilled labour and building supplies.

Victoria CMA - Housing Starts 900 Singles Muliples -800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 2003 200 002 90 2005 CMHC Victoria (250) 363-8040 • First quarter 2006 homebuilding 7% ahead of first quarter 2005.

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CMHC Victoria Noticeboard

- Housing Market Outlook -Spring 2006 edition available in May. Subscribe to this and other local housing market info via website
- www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/homain
- CMHC piloting New Home Sales Survey in Victoria during 2006 CMHC is contacting builders and developers to test feasibility of a new home sales survey. Questions? (250) 363-8045, pprill@cmhc.ca
- Builders will be busy this spring CMHC keeps on top of market trends by tracking housing starts next release May 8. (250) 363-8045, pprill@cmhc.ca





Nanaimo homebuilding double March 05 level

- Homebuilding is up 35% so far this year in Nanaimo, boosted by strong March results. **New single and semi detached houses are seeing strong growth**, while no new townhouses or apartment condos have started in 2006.
- Nanaimo **new house prices** edged down in March but **are forecast to rise this year** due to escalating costs for building supplies and higher lot prices.
- Sales of new single and semidetached houses outpaced

completions, putting the brakes on rising inventories.

• No new townhouses and eight new condo apartments sold in March. Robust presales continue for projects under construction or in preparation phases.

Other Van. Island Markets see fewer starts

- Courtenay CA, Duncan CA and Parksville-Qualicum each saw less homebuilding in first quarter 2006 as compared with last year.
- No new apartment condos have broken ground yet this year outside of Metro Victoria. On the other hand,

2006 single detached house starts are stronger than last year.

Van. Island leads province in 06 employment growth

• BC employment is up 3.5% from 2005 levels, and the Vancouver Island/Coast Region has the lion's share of job growth this year. Job growth is a leading indicator of housing starts; 2006's strong showing will buoy Vancouver Island homebuilding this year.

Resale Market Trends

- Rising prices and slower sales have characterized Metro Victoria's MLS® markets during first quarter 2006.
 Buyer demand is strong but less frenetic this year than in early 2005 for all housing types (houses, townhouses, condo apartments).
- Together with fewer sales, the rising number of listings is putting less upward pressure on prices. However, **prices are still escalating**, partly due to a small surge in high-end sales seen in March.
- Sales-to-active listings ratios edged up in March, but only in the case of townhouses are they higher than last

year's level. Little movement in the ratio means market conditions still favour sellers in Victoria.

- People purchasing second homes, real estate investors, retirees and people relocating to work on Vancouver Island are driving home sales in 2006. Job growth and rising wage levels mean more local buyers as well.
- In Nanaimo markets, prices were also on the rise for all housing types in first quarter 2006 compared to 2005 levels. Sales of condo apartments and single detached houses were down slightly from last
- year but townhouse sales surpassed first quarter 2005 levels. Strong demand and a lean supply (listings are comparable to last year) will put upward pressure on prices this spring.
- Other Vancouver Island markets followed the Nanaimo pattern, with most markets favouring sellers as demand remained robust.
- Increasingly, homebuyers are searching for less expensive options as prices rise further: many are turning to markets outside of major centres or to smaller condo apartments in 2006.



NANAIMO

Average House Price Trend Jan. 1993 - Mar. 2006
thousands

\$375
\$325
\$275

NEW HOUSE PRICE TREND
HOUSE PRICE TREND (MLSØ)

\$175
\$125

NOTE: Price trends calculated as 3 month moving average.
CMHC Market Analysis (250) 363-8040 DATA: Vancouver Island Real Estate Board, CMHC

◆ Nanaimo MLS® prices continue uptrend.

METROPOLITAN VICTORIA

Starts/Completions/Under Construction

March 2006

			S	TAR	T S					COM	PLET	T I O N	S		ι	JNDI	ER C	ONS	TRU	CTIO	N
	Single	Semi	Row Condo	Row Rental	Apt Condo	Apt Rental	TOTAL	Single	Semi	Row Condo	Row Rental	Apt Condo		TOTAL	Single	Semi	Row Condo	Row Rental	Apt Condo	Apt Rental	TOTAL
Victoria City	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	1	2	4	0	0	0	7	20	24	37	0	703	0	784
Oak Bay	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	1	0	0	0	0	19
Esquimalt	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	14	0	0	155	0	179
Saanich	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	15	0	0	0	104	0	119	135	0	0	0	108	0	243
C. Saanich	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	8	23	3	4	0	0	0	30
N. Saanich	2	0	0	0	20	0	22	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	36	0	0	0	20	0	56
Sidney	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	16	0	19	7	7	0	0	58	0	72
View Royal	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	12	0	0	0	16	33	2	0	0	0	0	35
RDA H	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	47	2	0	0	0	0	49
Highlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Langford	28	0	0	0	0	0	28	35	2	0	0	0	0	37	211	6	0	0	214	0	431
Colwood	12	4	0	0	0	0	16	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	73	16	0	0	0	0	89
Metchosin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Sooke	11	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	11	73	0	0	0	0	0	73
MONTH TOTAL	75	10	0	0	20	0	105	74	9	23	0	120	0	226	711	75	41	0	1258	0	2085
YEAR-TO-DATE	239	22	8	0	203	0	472	186	24	35	0	251	20	516							

NOTE: Rental category includes private rental, assisted and co-op housing.

METROPOLITAN VICTORIA

Inventory and Absorptions by Municipality

March 2006 AND YEAR-TO-DATE 2005 & 2006

		INVE	NTORY	OF NE	W HOI	MES				ABSO	RPTIO	N OF NE	W HO	MES	
	Apt Condo	Apt Rental	Row Condo	Row Rental	Multi. Total	Single & Semi	Grand Total		Apt Condo	Apt Rental	Row Condo	Row Rental	Multi. Total	Single & Semi	Grand Tota
Victoria City	10	0	0	0	10	8	18	Victoria City	0	0	4	0	4	2	6
Oak Bay	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Oak Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esquimalt	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	Esquimalt	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Saanich	12	0	2	0	14	20	34	Saanich	100	0	1	0	101	13	114
C. Saanich	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	C. Saanich	0	0	7	0	7	1	8
N. Saanich	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	N. Saanich	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Sidney	2	0	0	0	2	6	8	Sidney	14	0	0	0	14	2	16
View Royal	0	0	5	0	5	1	6	View Royal	0	0	7	0	7	7	14
RDA H	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	RDA H	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Highlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Highlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Langford	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	Langford	0	0	0	0	0	31	31
Colwood	0	0	3	0	3	8	11	Colwood	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Metchosin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Metchosin	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Sooke	0	0	1	0	1	3	4	Sooke	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
MONTH TOTAL	25	0	11	0	36	75	111	MONTH TOTAL	115	0	19	0	134	81	215
Y.T.D. AVG. 2006	19	7	9	0	35	71	106	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2006	239	20	33	0	292	191	483
Y.T.D. AVG. 2005	35	0	21	0	56	65	121	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2005	214	1	45	0	260	279	539

Note I): Absorptions are measured at project completion and do **not** include presales.

Note 2): Tenure is defined as intended market at completion. Inventory refers to unsold or unrented units

METROPOLITAN VICTORIA ABSORBED NEW HOUSE PRICES

	NO. OF	UNITS	A	VERAGE PRIC	E	ME	DIAN PRI	CE
	2005	2006	2005	2006	% Chg	2005	2006	% Chg
January	63	39	\$482,247	\$585,528	21.4	\$450,000	\$549,900	22.2
February	72	56	480,806	591,323	23.0	433,450	512,400	18.2
March	81	70	488,360	504,746	3.4	419,900	429,900	2.4
April	58		458,350			395,950		
May	85		475,354			459,900		
June	74		501,696			483,500		
July	82		524,561			493,700		
August	73		488,153			489,900		
September	68		546,007			499,900		
October	86		546,067			497,500		
November	66		536,200			487,900		
December	88		532,416			519,950		

NANAIMO CA

ABSORBED NEW HOUSE PRICES

	NO.	OF UNITS	Α	VERAGE PRIC	E	ME	DIAN PRI	CE
	2005	2006	2005	2006	% Chg	2005	2006	% Chg
January	33	49	\$330,330	\$351,255	6.3	\$316,700	\$349,900	10.5
February	35	31	353,569	372,003	5.2	349,900	369,900	5.7
March	38	37	321,282	363,751	13.2	322,400	369,900	14.7
April	37		343,43 l			312,900		
May	51		346,055			307,000		
June	42		333,431			331,400		
July	27		364,022			343,900		
August	39		363,797			345,900		
September	50		353,184			349,900		
October	36		361,583			343,900		
November	55		399,625			375,000		
December	26		395,358			389,900		

VANCOUVER ISLAND

STARTS/COMPLETIONS SUMMARY

2005 & 2006 Year-to-Date

		S T	AR	TS			S T	AR	TS		C	Э М Р	LE	TIO	NS	C	O M F	LE	TIO	NS
		Jan	Mar. 20	006			Jan	Mar. 20	005			Jan.	-Mar. 2	.006			Jan.	-Mar. 2	.005	
	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	TOTAL	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	TOTAL	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	TOTAL	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	TOTAL
Campbell River *	53	16	8	0	77	41	2	4	28	75	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Courtenay	70	14	29	0	113	89	16	15	59	179	76	16	17	0	109	97	6	7	0	110
Parksville/Qualicum	47	14	9	0	70	46	2	3	29	80	52	16	6	4	78	55	24	21	0	100
Nanaimo	158	23	0	0	181	124	10	0	0	134	116	14	0	53	183	118	12	3	0	133
Duncan	43	12	0	0	55	33	24	10	0	67	40	16	0	0	56	37	2	0	7	46
Port Alberni *	15	2	0	0	17	14	0	0	0	14	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	239	22	8	203	472	216	18	35	173	442	186	24	35	271	516	243	41	42	243	569
Total	625	103	54	203	985	563	72	67	289	991	470	86	58	328	942	550	85	73	250	958

^{*} updated quarterly

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Starts/Completions/Under Construction

March 2006

	UNDER CONSTR: FEB. 2006				S	TARTS				COM	PLETIC	NS		UND	ER CO	NSTR:	MAR.	2006		
	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	Total	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	Total	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	Total	Single	Semi	Row	Apt	Total
Comox Town	12	2	20	22	56	5	0	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	17	2	24	22	65
Courtenay City	91	28	32	128	279	15	10	6	0	31	13	8	7	0	28	93	30	31	128	282
Cumberland	10	4	0	0	14	5	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	2	13	4	0	0	17
Comox Strath RDA A	22	0	0	0	22	4	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	0	25
Comox Strath RDA B	27	2	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	23	2	0	0	25
Courtenay CA	162	36	52	150	400	29	10	10	0	49	20	8	7	0	35	171	38	55	150	414
Parksville City	43	38	6	0	87	3	0	6	0	9	5	2	3	0	10	41	36	9	0	86
Qualicum Beach Town	19	2	0	16	37	I	0	0	0	I	2	0	0	0	2	18	2	0	16	36
Nanaimo RDA G	69	2	0	0	71	5	0	0	0	5	16	0	0	0	16	58	2	0	0	60
Parksville-Qualicum	131	42	6	16	195	9	0	6	0	15	23	2	3	0	28	117	40	9	16	182
Nanaimo City	224	62	- 11	222	519	66	6	0	0	72	26	7	0	0	33	264	61	11	222	558
Lantzville	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Nanaimo RDA A	17	0	0	0	17	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20
Nanaimo RDA C	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Nanaimo RDA D	2	0	0	0	2	I	0	0	0	I	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Nanaimo CA	245	62	11	222	540	82	6	0	0	88	26	7	0	0	33	301	61	11	222	595
North Cowichan	89	28	18	24	159	9	4	0	0	13	14	6	0	0	20	84	26	18	24	152
Duncan City	2	14	0	22	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	0	22	38
Cowich. Valley RDA D	10	0	12	0	22	I	0	0	0	I	1	0	0	0	ı	10	0	12	0	22
Cowich. Valley RDA E	12	0	0	0	12	I	0	0	0	I	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	13
Duncan CA	113	42	30	46	23 I	- 11	4	0	0	15		6	0	0	21	109	40	30	46	225
TOTAL	65 I	182	99	434	1366	131	20	16	0	167	84	23	10	0	117	698	179	105	434	1416

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NANAIMO CA

Inventory and Absorptions by Municipality

March 2006 AND YEAR-TO-DATE 2005 & 2006

		INVE	NTORY	OF NE	W HC	MES				ABSOF	RPTION	OF N	EW HC	MES	
	Apt	Apt	Row	Row	Multi.	Single &	Grand		Apt	Apt	Row	Row	Multi. S	ingle &	Grand
	Condo	Rental	Condo	Rental	Total	Semi	Total		Condo	Rental	Condo	Rental	Total	Semi	Total
Nanaimo City	56	0	0	0	56	21	77	Nanaimo	8	0	0	0	8	48	56
Lantzville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lantzville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nanaimo A,C,D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Nanaimo A,C,D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MONTH TOTAL	56	0	0	0	56	21	77	MONTH TOTAL	8	0	0	0	8	48	56
Y.T.D. AVG. 2006	50	0	0	0	50	30	80	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2006	28	0	ı	0	29	146	175
Y.T.D. AVG. 2005		0	0	0		24	25	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2005	0	0	3	0	3	130	133

COURTENAY CA

Inventory and Absorptions by Municipality

March 2006 AND YEAR-TO-DATE 2005 & 2006

		INVE	NTORY	OF NE	W HC	OMES				ABSOF	RPTION	OF N	EW HC	MES	
	Apt	Apt	Row	Row	Multi.	Single &	Grand		Apt	Apt	Row	Row	Multi. S	Single &	Grand
	Condo	Rental	Condo	Rental	Total	Semi	Total		Condo	Rental	Condo	Rental	Total	Semi	Total
Comox Town	0	0	0	0	0	1	I	Comox Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Courtenay	7	0	12	0	19	24	43	Courtenay	0	0	3	0	3	18	21
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	I	1
Comox Strath A,B	27	0	0	0	27	0	27	Comox Strath A,B	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
MONTH TOTAL	34	0	12	0	46	27	73	MONTH TOTAL	0	0	3	0	3	24	27
Y.T.D. AVG. 2006	35	0	9	0	44	24	68	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2006	3	0	15	0	18	79	97
Y.T.D. AVG. 2005	I	0	I	0	2	21	23	Y.T.D. TOTAL 2005	0	0	5	4	9	88	97

Note 1): Absorptions are measured at projection completion and do **not** include presales.

Note 2): Tenure is defined as intended market at completion. Inventory refers to unsold or unrented units

CMHC Market Watch

VICTORIA AND NANAIMO New Ownership Construction MARCH 2006

METRO VICTORIA

	need	to
	k n o	w
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	Completed & Unoccupied ¹	Under Construction	Total Supply	Monthly Absorption Forecast ²	Duration of Supply (Months)	Surplus/ Shortfall ³ (Months)	Market Classification⁴
Single & Semi	75	765	840	95	8.8	1.8	Balanced.
Row Condo	11	41	52	7	7.4	-2.6	Undersupplied.
Apt Condo	25	1258	1283	83	15.5	1.5	Balanced.

NANAIMO CA



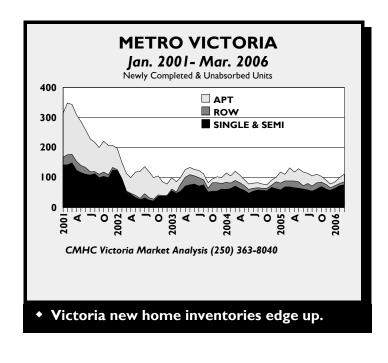
	Completed & Unoccupied ¹	Under Construction	Total Supply	Monthly Absorption Forecast ²	Duration of Supply (Months)	Surplus/ Shortfall ³ (Months)	Market Classification⁴
Single & Semi	21	321	342	49	7.0	-0.0	Balanced.
Row Condo	0	11	11	2	5.5	-5.5	Undersupplied.
Apt Condo	56	197	253	22	11.5	-1.5	Balanced.

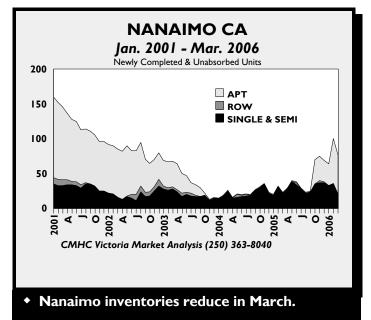
Refer to CMHC Definitions insert.

VICTORIA AND NANAIMO

New Housing Inventory

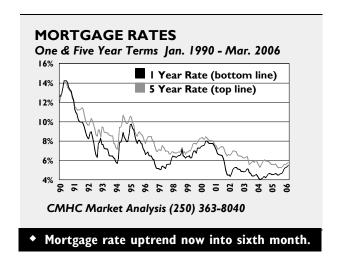
JANUARY 2001 to MARCH 2006

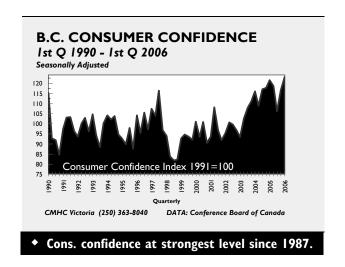




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KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS





Vancouver Island Housing Markets MLS ® Table

MLS® SALES	March 2006				January-March 2006			
SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED	Sales Mar. 2006	% Change Mar. 2005	Avg Price Mar. 2006	% Change Mar. 2005	Sales Y.T.D.	% Chg. Y.T.D. 05-06	Avg Price Y.T.D.	% Chg. Y.T.D. 05-06
Metro Victoria	413	-11%	\$565,217	30%	991	-1%	\$519,489	22%
Nanaimo	165	-2%	\$303,279	23%	368	-1%	\$291,712	21%
Duncan-Cowichan Valley	86	10%	\$312,315	39%	213	24%	\$297,439	26%
Port Alberni*	43	30%	\$171,788	16%	90	25%	\$167,597	26%
Parksville-Qualicum Beach	78	11%	\$339,143	24%	163	4%	\$335,365	24%
Comox Valley	81	-5%	\$291,410	29%	209	9%	\$289,162	24%
Campbell River	50	-24%	\$284,247	36%	138	13%	\$258,717	29%

^{*} **Note**: MLS[®] data represents a smaller portion of total sales in Port Alberni.

MLS® - Multiple Listing Service® is a registered trademark owned by The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA). Data courtesy of the Victoria Real Estate Board and the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board.

CMHC - HOME TO CANADIANS

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years.

Together with other housing stakeholders, we help ensure that Canada maintains one of the best housing systems in the world. We are committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country.

For more information, visit our website at www.cmhc.ca

You can also reach us by phone at 1 800 668-2642 or by fax at 1 800 245-9274.

Outside Canada call (613) 748-2003 or fax to (613) 748-2016.

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