# HOUSING NOW

# Thunder Bay CMA



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

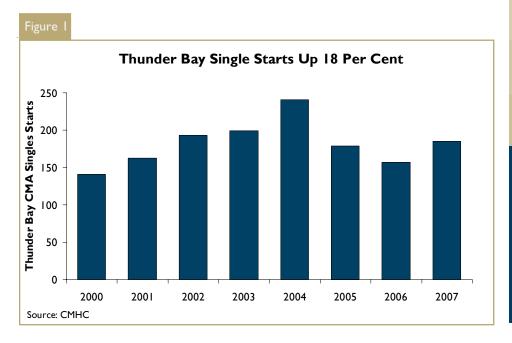
Date Released: First Quarter 2008

## **New Home Market**

# Fourth Quarter Boosts Thunder Bay's Starts

After a weaker year in 2006, Thunder Bay's home starts have rebounded in 2007 partially due to fourth quarter strength. Certainly, the backdrop of the area's struggling forest products industry has provided challenges to the local market.

The fourth quarter's 59 single-detached home starts were the strongest since 2004 and bode well for the year ahead. Employment levels did improve in 2007 after troughing in 2006 but have yet to improve to match the recent peak in 2005. Demand for new single-detached homes, has increased, especially since the supply of existing home listings is drying up. Whether this continues to remain a problem



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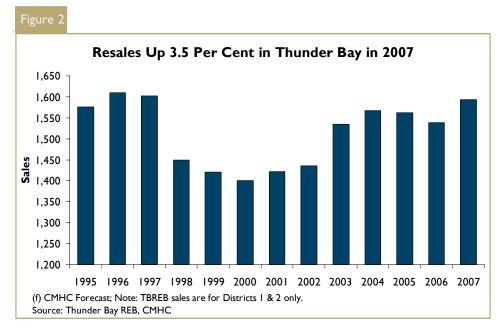
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in 2008 remains to be seen but active listings were off as much as 30 per cent in 2007 leaving the sales to new listings ratio surprisingly high.

Multiple family starts did pick up in Thunder Bay in 2007 with 64 units commencing. One apartment condominium project and scattered small apartments and semi-detached units comprised the activity seen last year.

Rising construction costs and demand for larger units with more amenities are contributing to an upward shift in new home prices. Table 4 presents new construction absorption information by volume and by price range. Average prices for absorbed new single-detached units hit \$240,000 in 2007 up from \$227,000 in 2006 with the bulk of absorptions taking place in the \$200,000 - \$250,000 price range in Thunder Bay.

## **Resale Market**

## Thunder Bay Resale Market Posts Strong Volumes and Modest Price Gains

Sales volumes tracked by the Thunder Bay Real Estate Board hit their highest level since 1997 growing 3.5 per cent in 2007 over 2006. The slight employment boost noted in the service sector of the economy helped stimulate the first time homebuyer market. Aging baby boomers are still active buying and selling houses as employment gains in the 45-64 age group left them fairly insulated from the problems elsewhere in the economy. Mortgage rates were not a major deterrent to people looking to buy a resale home. Furthermore, immigration from the

hinterlands around Thunder Bay continues, albeit, net migration has gone negative in 2005-06.

Despite third quarter weakness, sales recovered in the fourth quarter to finish the year merely 3.5 per cent ahead of 2006 levels. Residential MLS sales in the fourth quarter were also off, but only slightly (2.2 per cent) from 2006. As it was, fourth quarter sales were the second highest since 2001 and third highest since 1995.

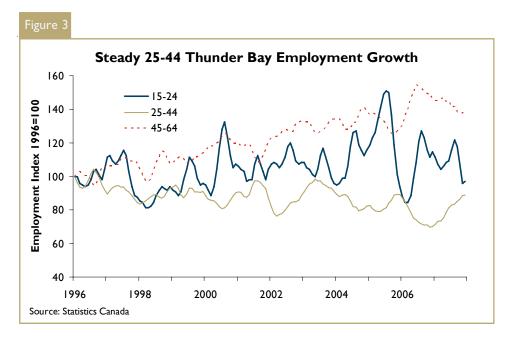
New listings fell 18 per cent in the fourth quarter, to finish the year 11.5 per cent behind 2006. 2007 marked the lowest level of new listings in Thunder Bay since 1988.

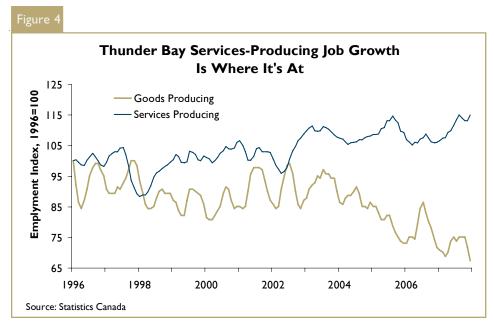
With increase in demand and tightening of supply, prices inched up by 1.8 per cent in 2007, to \$129,734. All in all, the sales to new listings ratio suggests that the resale market is in a strong balanced state.

## **Local Economy**

# Thunder Bay Labour Market Stabilizing

The fourth quarter in Thunder Bay marked the fifth straight year-over-year quarterly increase in employment. Employment concluded the year up 2.3 per cent compared to last year. This employment growth that took place is despite high energy costs, low commodity prices and the surging Canadian dollar





which are hampering Northwestern Ontario's economy and by extension, Thunder Bay's.

Even though pulp and newsprint prices rose marginally through the fourth quarter, forest sector commodity indicators were struggling.

Lumber prices, meanwhile, were essentially flat. Thunder Bay Fine Papers mill in Thunder Bay continues its plans to re-open after a protracted shutdown.

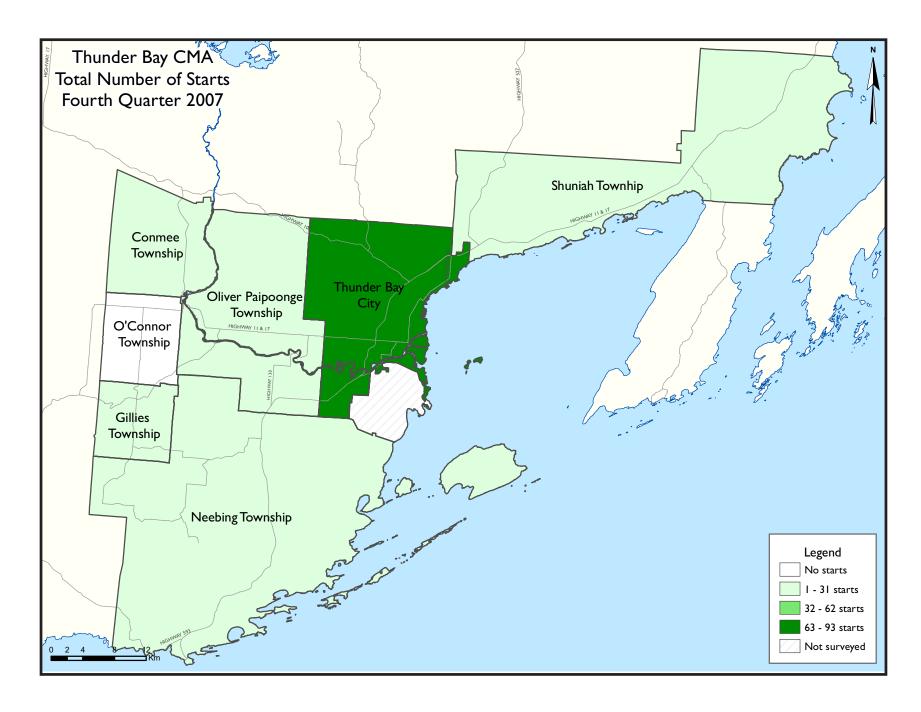
In fourth quarter news highlights, a Conference Board of Canada report

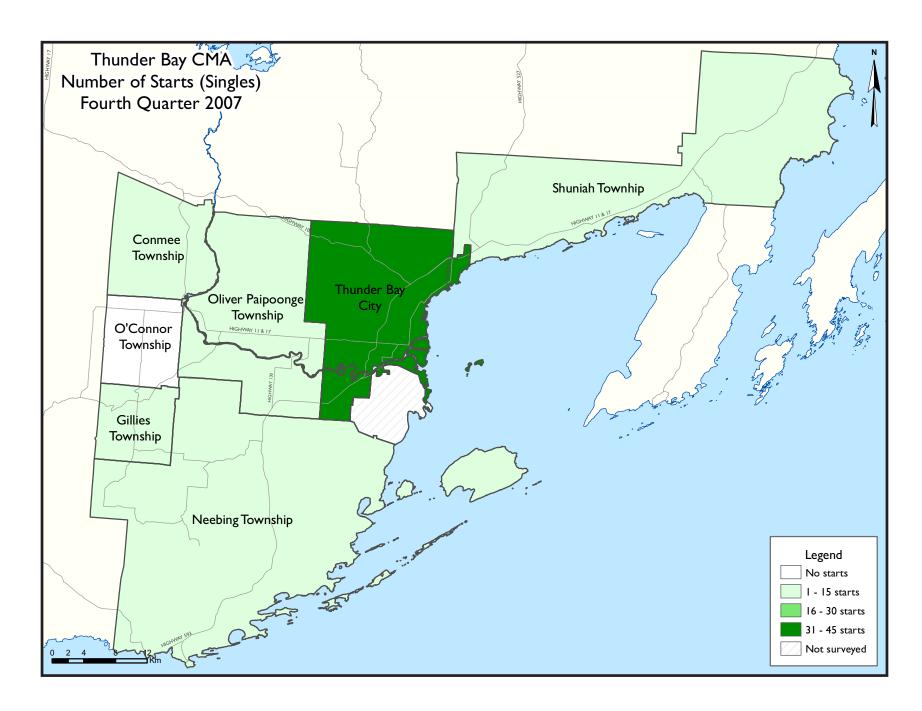
placed Thunder Bay 27th out of 27 Census Metropolitan Areas causing much angst in the community. With significant challenges being faced in forest products, coupled with the relative isolation of Thunder Bay, the Conference Board ranking was not a surprise. On more positive news, there is a fair amount of optimism about Thunder Bay solidifying its place as the predominant regional service centre in the Northwestern Ontario economy.

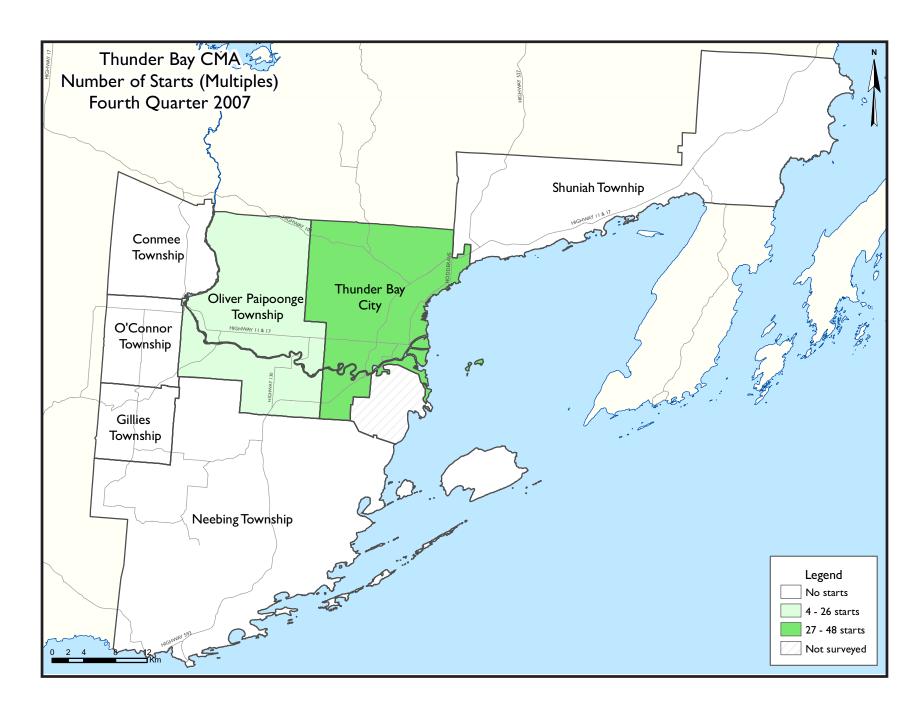
The unemployment rate is falling since labour force increases are not keeping up with employment increases. The unemployment rate has averaged 6.9 per cent so far this year compared to eight per cent last year.

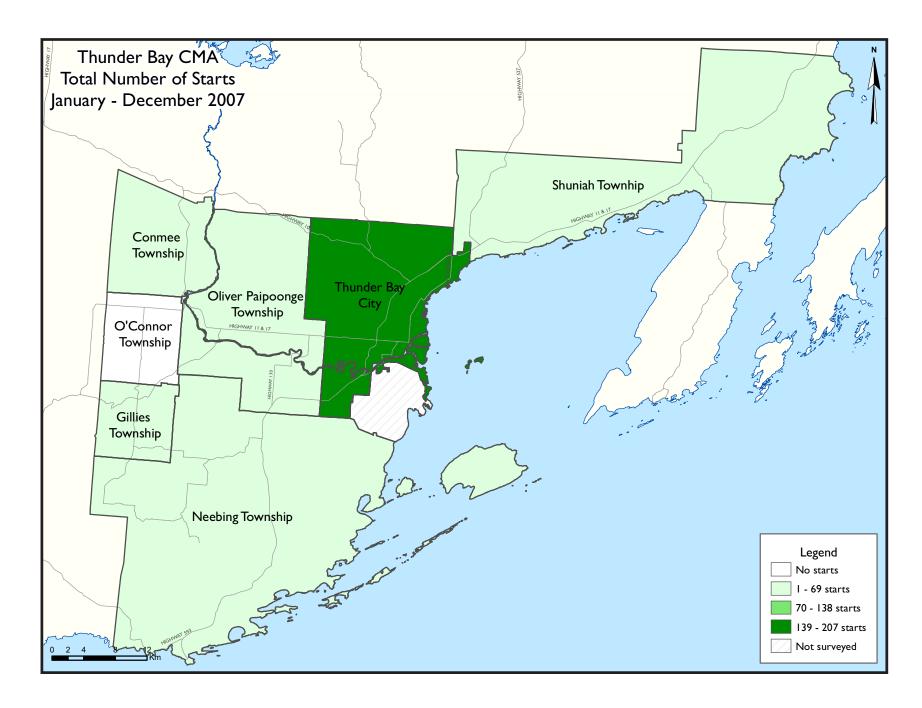
# Thunder Bay Net Migration Stays Negative

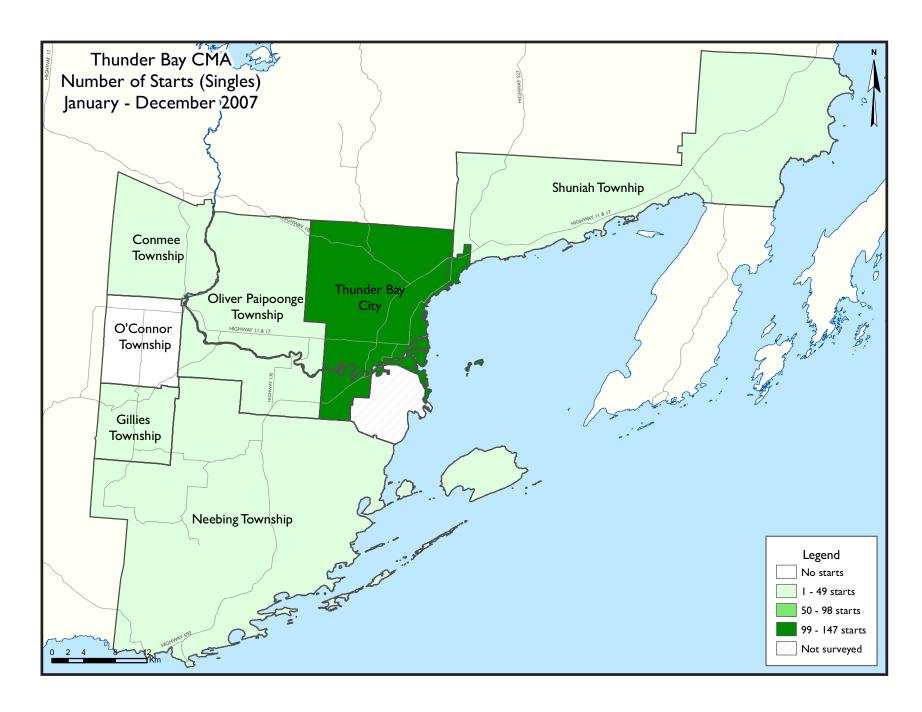
For the second consecutive year, migration numbers for Thunder Bay were negative according to Statistics Canada. The 2005-06 numbers at 747 out-migrants were the highest since 1999-2000. The recent negative trend of out-migration is a reflection of an economy in transition. Much will depend on how the forest products industry weathers the spate of bad news in this key sector of the Thunder Bay economy. As is the case in many other Northern Ontario centres, net natural increase is teetering on zero with deaths equaling births in recent years, so positive in-migration is vital to future population growth.











### HOUSING NOW REPORT TABLES

#### Available in ALL reports:

- I Housing Activity Summary of CMA
- 2 Starts by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Current Month or Quarter
- 2.1 Starts by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Year-to-Date
- 3 Completions by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Current Month or Quarter
- 3.1 Completions by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Year-to-Date
- 4 Absorbed Single-Detached Units by Price Range
- 5 MLS® Residential Activity
- 6 Economic Indicators

### **Available in SELECTED Reports:**

- 1.1 Housing Activity Summary by Submarket
- 1.2 History of Housing Activity (once a year)
- 2.2 Starts by Submarket, by Dwelling Type and by Intended Market Current Month or Quarter
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- 3.5 Completions by Submarket and by Intended Market Year-to-Date
- 4.1 Average Price (\$) of Absorbed Single-Detached Units

#### **SYMBOLS**

- n/a Not applicable
- \* Totals may not add up due to co-operatives and unknown market types
- \*\* Percent change > 200%
- Nil
- -- Amount too small to be expressed
- SA Monthly figures are adjusted to remove normal seasonal variation

Table I: Housing Activity Summary of Thunder Bay CMA  Fourth Quarter 2007												
		Fou			<u>/                                      </u>							
			Owne	•			Ren	tal				
		Freehold		С	ondominium	1			Total*			
	Single	Semi	Row, Apt. & Other	Single	Row and Semi	Apt. & Other	Single, Semi, and Row	Apt. & Other	i otai"			
STARTS												
Q4 2007	59	0	0	0	20	22	0	10	111			
Q4 2006	45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	47			
% Change	31.1	-100.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	136.2			
Year-to-date 2007	185	8	0	0	20	22	4	10	249			
Year-to-date 2006	155	4	0	2	4	0	0	0	165			
% Change	19.4	100.0	n/a	-100.0	**	n/a	n/a	n/a	50.9			
UNDER CONSTRUCTION												
Q4 2007	108	8	0	0	11	32	5	0	164			
Q4 2006	78	6	0	0	4	30	5	0	123			
% Change	38.5	33.3	n/a	n/a	175.0	6.7	0.0	n/a	33.3			
COMPLETIONS												
Q4 2007	51	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	53			
Q4 2006	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56			
% Change	-8.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-5.4			
Year-to-date 2007	153	6	0	0	4	30	4	0	197			
Year-to-date 2006	165	2	0	0	0	0	0	14	181			
% Change	-7.3	200.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100.0	8.8			
COMPLETED & NOT ABSOR	BED											
Q4 2007	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6			
Q4 2006	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7			
% Change	-42.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-14.3			
ABSORBED												
Q4 2007	49	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	51			
Q4 2006	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55			
% Change	-10.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-7.3			
Year-to-date 2007	156	6	0	0	2	30	4	0	198			
Year-to-date 2006	159	2	0	0	0	5	0	14	180			
% Change	-1.9	200.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	**	n/a	-100.0	10.0			

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey, Market Absorption Survey)

Та	able I.I: I		Activity orth Qua			omarket			
		100	Owne		<u>'</u>				
		Freehold		C	ondominium	1	Ren	ital	
	Single	Semi	Row, Apt. & Other	Single	Row and Semi	Apt. & Other	Single, Semi, and Row	Apt. & Other	Total*
STARTS							ROW		
Thunder Bay CMA									
Q4 2007	59	0	0	0	20	22	0	10	111
Q4 2006	45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Kenora									
Q4 2007	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Q4 2006	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
UNDER CONSTRUCTION	·						·		
Thunder Bay CMA									
Q4 2007	108	8	0	0	11	32	5	0	164
Q4 2006	78	6	0	0	4	30	5	0	123
Kenora									
Q4 2007	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Q4 2006	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
COMPLETIONS	Ť						Ť		
Thunder Bay CMA									
Q4 2007	51	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Q4 2006	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
Kenora									
Q4 2007	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Q4 2006	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	38
<b>COMPLETED &amp; NOT ABSOR</b>	BED			ľ					
Thunder Bay CMA									
Q4 2007	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6
Q4 2006	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Kenora									
Q4 2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q4 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ABSORBED				·					
Thunder Bay CMA									
Q4 2007	49	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Q4 2006	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Kenora									
Q4 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q4 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey, Market Absorption Survey)

Table 1.2: History of Housing Starts												
		Tł	nunder B	ay CMA								
			1998 - 2	2007								
			Owne	ership			D	1				
		Freehold		C	Condominiun	า	Ren	itai				
	Single	Semi	Row, Apt. & Other	Single	Row and Semi	Apt. & Other	Single, Semi, and Row	Apt. & Other	Total*			
2007	185	8	0	0	20	22	4	10	249			
% Change	19.4	100.0	n/a	-100.0	**	n/a	n/a	n/a	50.9			
2006	155	4	0	2	4	0	0	0	165			
% Change	-13.4	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100.0	n/a	n/a	-27.3			
2005	179	4	0	0	0	44	0	0	227			
% Change	-25.7	-60.0	-100.0	n/a	n/a	41.9	n/a	n/a	-20.9			
2004	241	10	5	0	0	31	0	0	287			
% Change	21.7	-16.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.0			
2003	198	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	211			
% Change	2.6	200.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.1			
2002	193	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	197			
% Change	18.4	-33.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100.0	-100.0	n/a	-6.6			
2001	163	6	0	0	0	38	4	0	211			
% Change	15.6	-25.0	-100.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	37.0			
2000	141	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	154			
% Change	-26.6	100.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100.0	n/a	n/a	-33.6			
1999	192	4	0	0	0	36	0	0	232			
% Change	19.3	-71.4	-100.0	n/a	n/a	0.0	n/a	-100.0	3.6			
1998	161	14	5	0	0	36	0	8	224			

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 2: Starts by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Fourth Quarter 2007													
	Sin	Single		Semi		Row		Apt. & Other		Total			
Submarket	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	% Change								
Thunder Bay CMA	59	45	0	2	20	0	32	0	111	47	136.2		
Thunder Bay City	45	38	0	2	16	0	32	0	93	40	132.5		
Conmee Township	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- 1	0	n/a		
Gillies Township	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- 1	0	n/a		
Neebing Township	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	-33.3		
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a		
Oliver Paipoonge Township	8	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	12	3	**		
Shuniah Township	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	- 1	100.0		
Kenora	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	-42.9		

Table 2.1: Starts by Submarket and by Dwelling Type  January - December 2007													
	Sing	gle	Sei	ni	Ro	w	Apt. &	Other		Total			
Submarket	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	%								
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	Change		
Thunder Bay CMA	185	157	8	4	24	4	32	0	249	165	50.9		
Thunder Bay City	147	108	8	4	20	0	32	0	207	112	84.8		
Conmee Township	2	- 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	I	100.0		
Gillies Township	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	I	0	n/a		
Neebing Township	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	-66.7		
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0		
Oliver Paipoonge Township	20	21	0	0	4	4	0	0	24	25	-4.0		
Shuniah Township	12	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16	-25.0		
Kenora	15	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	17	-11.8		

 $Source: CM\,HC \ (Starts \ and \ Completions \ Survey)$ 

Table 2.2: Sta	Table 2.2: Starts by Submarket, by Dwelling Type and by Intended Market Fourth Quarter 2007													
		Ro	w			Apt. &	Other							
Submarket		old and Rental Freehold and Rental Condominium				tal								
	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006						
Thunder Bay CMA	20	0	0	0	22	0	10	0						
Thunder Bay City	16	0	0	0	22	0	10	0						
Conmee Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Neebing Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Oliver Paipoonge Township	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Shuniah Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						

Table 2.3: Starts by Submarket, by Dwelling Type and by Intended Market  January - December 2007													
		Ro	w			Apt. &	Other						
Submarket	Freeho Condor		Rental Freehold and R										
	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006					
Thunder Bay CMA	20	4	4	0	22	0	10	0					
Thunder Bay City	16	0	4	0	22	0	10	0					
Conmee Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Neebing Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Oliver Paipoonge Township	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Shuniah Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 2.4: Starts by Submarket and by Intended Market Fourth Quarter 2007												
Submarket	Free	hold	Condor	ninium	Rer	ntal	Tot	al*				
Submarket	Q4 2007	Q4 2006										
Thunder Bay CMA	59	47	42	0	10	0	111	47				
Thunder Bay City	45	40	38	0	10	0	93	40				
Conmee Township	I	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				
Gillies Township	I	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				
Neebing Township	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	3				
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Oliver Paipoonge Township	8	3	4	0	0	0	12	3				
Shuniah Township	2	- 1	0	0	0	0	2	I				
Kenora	4	7	0	0	0	0	4	7				

Table 2.5: Starts by Submarket and by Intended Market  January - December 2007												
Submarket	Free	hold	Condo	minium	Rer	ntal	Total*					
Submarket	YTD 2007	YTD 2006										
Thunder Bay CMA	193	159	42	6	14	0	249	165				
Thunder Bay City	155	112	38	0	14	0	207	112				
Conmee Township	2	I	0	0	0	0	2	I				
Gillies Township	I	0	0	0	0	0	I	0				
Neebing Township	3	9	0	0	0	0	3	9				
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2				
Oliver Paipoonge Township	20	21	4	4	0	0	24	25				
Shuniah Township	12	14	0	2	0	0	12	16				
Kenora	15	17	0	0	0	0	15	17				

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 3: Completions by Submarket and by Dwelling Type Fourth Quarter 2007													
	Sin	Single		mi	Ro	w	Apt. & Other		Total				
Submarket	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	% Change		
Thunder Bay CMA	51	56	2	0	0	0	0	0	53	56	-5.4		
Thunder Bay City	41	39	2	0	0	0	0	0	43	39	10.3		
Conmee Township	2	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	I	100.0		
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a		
Neebing Township	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-100.0		
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0		
Oliver Paipoonge Township	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	-14.3		
Shuniah Township	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	-33.3		
Kenora	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	33	7	38	-81.6		

Table 3.1: Completions by Submarket and by Dwelling Type  January - December 2007													
	Single		Sei	Semi		Row		Other					
Submarket	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	%		
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	Change		
Thunder Bay CMA	153	165	6	2	8	0	30	14	197	181	8.8		
Thunder Bay City	126	122	6	2	4	0	30	14	166	138	20.3		
Conmee Township	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.0		
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a		
Neebing Township	6	- 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	П	-45.5		
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0		
Oliver Paipoonge Township	13	19	0	0	4	0	0	0	17	19	-10.5		
Shuniah Township	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	-33.3		
Kenora	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	33	18	53	-66.0		

Source: CMHC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 3.2: Completions by Submarket, by Dwelling Type and by Intended Market Fourth Quarter 2007													
		Ro	w			Apt. &	Other						
Submarket	Freeho Condor		Rer	ntal	Freeho Condor		Rer	ital					
	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006					
Thunder Bay CMA	0	0 0 0 0 0 0											
Thunder Bay City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Conmee Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Neebing Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Oliver Paipoonge Township	0	0	0	0	0								
Shuniah Township	0 0 0 0 0 0							0					
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33					

Table 3.3: Completions by Submarket, by Dwelling Type and by Intended Market  January - December 2007												
Submarket		Ro	w		Apt. & Other							
	Freehold and Condominium		Rer	ntal	Freeho Condoi		Rental					
	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	YTD 2006				
Thunder Bay CMA	4	0	4	0	30	0	0	14				
Thunder Bay City	0	0	4	0	30	0	0	14				
Conmee Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Neebing Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
O'Connor Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Oliver Paipoonge Township	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Shuniah Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Kenora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33				

Source: CM HC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 3.4: Completions by Submarket and by Intended Market Fourth Quarter 2007												
Submarket	Freehold		Condo	minium	Rer	ntal	Total*					
	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006	Q4 2007	Q4 2006				
Thunder Bay CMA	53	56	0	0	0	0	53	56				
Thunder Bay City	43	39	0	0	0	0	43	39				
Conmee Township	2	- 1	0	0	0	0	2	1				
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Neebing Township	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4				
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2				
Oliver Paipoonge Township	6	7	0	0	0	0	6	7				
Shuniah Township	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	3				
Kenora	7	5	0	0	0	33	7	38				

Table 3.5: Completions by Submarket and by Intended Market  January - December 2007												
Submarket	Freehold		Condo	minium	Rer	ntal	Total*					
	YTD 2007	YTD 2006										
Thunder Bay CMA	159	167	34	0	4	14	197	181				
Thunder Bay City	132	124	30	0	4	14	166	138				
Conmee Township	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2				
Gillies Township	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Neebing Township	6	11	0	0	0	0	6	11				
O'Connor Township	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2				
Oliver Paipoonge Township	13	19	4	0	0	0	17	19				
Shuniah Township	6	9	0	0	0	0	6	9				
Kenora	18	20	0	0	0	33	18	53				

Source: CMHC (Starts and Completions Survey)

Table 4: Absorbed Single-Detached Units by Price Range Fourth Quarter 2007													
					Price F	Ranges							
Submarket	< \$150,000			,		,000 - 9,999	,		\$300.00		Total	Median Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)
	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)		11166 (Ψ)	ε ε (Ψ)
Thunder Bay CMA													
Q4 2007	- 1	2.0	5	10.2	25	51.0	14	28.6	4	8.2	49	229,900	241,253
Q4 2006	- 1	1.8	20	36.4	20	36.4	7	12.7	7	12.7	55	210,000	225,960
Year-to-date 2007	5	3.2	32	20.5	55	35.3	45	28.8	19	12.2	156	230,000	239,933
Year-to-date 2006	7	4.4	51	32.1	46	28.9	35	22.0	20	12.6	159	215,000	226,633

Source: CM HC (Market Absorption Survey)

	Table 5: MLS <sup>®</sup> Residential Activity for Thunder Bay Fourth Quarter 2007												
		Number of Sales	Yr/Yr %	Sales SA	Number of New Listings	New Listings SA	Sales-to- New Listings SA	Average Price (\$)	Yr/Yr %	Average Price (\$) SA			
2006	January	91	12.3	149	205	250	59.6	114,867	12.4	123,606			
	February	81	-24.3	107	210	251	42.6	128,088	10.6	130,959			
	March	95	-19.5	108	265	270	40.0	110,752	-4.9	114,827			
	April	171	20.4	151	282	227	66.5	134,037	14.7	137,199			
	May	124	-26.2	95	324	248	38.2	124,347	-7.2	118,357			
	June	153	-17.3	113	338	255	44.5	131,997	-1.0	126,556			
	July	176	10.7	141	321	269	52.6	130,776	-0.5	127,302			
	August	193	13.5	147	280	255	57.8	119,631	-5.7	119,931			
	September	138	-9.2	129	244	237	54.4	134,355	10.8	131,917			
	October	118	-14.5	119	253	252	47.3	131,922	-0.2	128,473			
	November	127	27.0	150	175	242	61.8	134,694	0.6	133,208			
	December	72	71.4	139	118	265	52.4	124,503	5.1	126,668			
2007	January	75	-17.6	125	191	236	53.2	120,043	4.5	129,474			
	February	96	18.5	129	164	197	65.4	130,608	2.0	132,861			
	March	121	27.4	140	224	229	61.1	139,935	26.3	146,229			
	April	142	-17.0	128	295	240	53.2	124,173	-7.4	127,904			
	May	189	52.4	144	303	231	62.3	136,982	10.2	130,163			
	June	197	28.8	145	308	231	63.0	126,314	-4.3	121,176			
	July	173	-1.7	138	260	217	63.4	124,234	-5.0	121,162			
	August	163	-15.5	123	220	201	61.3	126,169	5.5	126,811			
	September	127	-8.0	119	219	213	55.8	137,127	2.1	133,984			
	October	135	14.4	136	215	212	64.2	134,997	2.3	131,494			
	November	111	-12.6	129	150	207	62.5	120,165	-10.8	118,072			
	December	64	-11.1	124	82	185	66.9	136,708	9.8	139,142			
	Q4 2006	317	13.2		546			131,347	0.5				
	Q4 2007	310	-2.2		447			130,039	-1.0				
	YTD 2006	1,539	-1.5		3,015			127,464	1.7				
	YTD 2007	1,593	3.5		2,631			129,733	1.8				

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Source: Thunder Bay Sales are taken from Districts 1 and 2 of the Thunder Bay Real Estate Board, while New Listings are for the whole Board territory

			Ta	ıble 6:	Economic	Indica	ators					
				Four	th Quarte	er 2007	7					
		Inter	est Rates		NHPI Total % chg		Thunder Bay Labour Market					
		P & I Per \$100,000	Mortage (% I Yr. Term		Thunder Bay/Greater Sudbury 1997=100	CPI, 2002 =100	Employment SA (,000)	Unemployment Rate (%) SA	Participation Rate (%) SA	Average Weekly Earnings (\$)		
2007	January	658	5.80	6.30	100.60	106.60	62	6.8	63.5	717		
	February	667	5.85	6.45	101.10	106.20	62	7.2	63.8	727		
	March	667	6.05	6.45	101.10	107.10	61	7.5	63.7	727		
	April	685	6.25	6.75	101.50	107.40	62	7.9	64.2	725		
	May	685	6.25	6.75	101.40	107.80	62	7.8	64.3	728		
	June	697	6.60	6.95	101.10	107.60	62	7.7	64.6	733		
	July	697	6.60	6.95	101.30	107.20	62	7.6	64.4	730		
	August	691	6.40	6.85	102.10	107.20	62	8.3	64.6	724		
	September	682	6.40	6.70	102.10	106.60	62	8.2	64.2	721		
	October	688	6.40	6.80	102.50	106.40	61	8.0	63.7	716		
	November	673	6.40	6.55	102.90	106.60	61	7.2	63.0	708		
	December	667	6.30	6.45	102.70	106.60	61	6.9	62.5	700		
2008	January	679	6.50	6.65	102.30	106.20	61	6.7	62.8	695		
	February	679	6.50	6.65	104.00	107.30	62	6.8	63.3	694		
	March	669	6.40	6.49	104.20	108.30	62	6.9	63.5	694		
	April	678	6.60	6.64	105.10	108.40	63	6.6	64.2	698		
	May	709	6.85	7.14	106.20	108.80	63	6.7	64.5	705		
	June	715	7.05	7.24	106.30	108.30	63	6.5	64.8	715		
	July	715	7.05	7.24	105.90	108.60	63	6.8	65.0	727		
	August	715	7.05	7.24	106.30	108.30	64	6.6	65.3	735		
	September	712	7.05	7.19	107.30	108.30	64	6.5	65.5	744		
	October	728	7.25	7.44	107.80	107.90	64	7.0	66.0	755		
	November	725	7.20	7.39	108.70	108.20	64	7.0	66.2	759		
	December	734	7.35	7.54		108.10	64	6.8	66.3	754		

 $<sup>&</sup>quot;P \& I" means \ Principal \ and \ Interest \ (assumes \$ 100,000 \ mortgage \ amortized \ over 25 \ years \ using \ current \ 5 \ year \ interest \ rate)$ 

 $Source: CM\,HC, adapted from \,\, Statistics \,\, Canada \,\, (CANSIM), CREA \,\, (MLS^{@}), \, Statistics \,\, Canada \,\, (CANSIM)$ 

<sup>&</sup>quot;NHPI" means New Housing Price Index

<sup>&</sup>quot;CPI" means Consumer Price Index

<sup>&</sup>quot;SA" means Seasonally Adjusted

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### Starts & Completions Survey Methodology

The Starts and Completions Survey is conducted by way of site visits which are used to confirm that new units have reached set stages in the construction process. Since most municipalities in the country issue building permits, these are used as an indication of where construction is likely to take place. In areas where there are no permits, reliance has to be placed either on local sources or searching procedures.

The Starts and Completions Survey is carried out monthly in urban areas with population in excess of 50,000, as defined by the 2001 Census. In urban areas with populations of 10,000 to 49,999, all Starts are enumerated in the last month of the quarter (i.e. four times a year, in March, June, September and December). In these centres with quarterly enumeration, Completion activity is modelled based on historical patterns. Monthly Starts and Completions activity in these quarterly locations are statistically estimated at a provincial level for single and multi categories. Centres with populations below 10,000 are enumerated on a sample basis, also in the last month of each quarter (i.e. four times a year, in March, June, September and December).

The Starts and Completions Survey enumerates dwelling units in new structures only, designed for non-transient and year-round occupancy.

Mobile homes are included in the surveys. A mobile home is a type of manufactured house that is completely assembled in a factory and then moved to a foundation before it is occupied.

Trailers or any other movable dwelling (the larger often referred to as a mobile home) with no permanent foundation are excluded from the survey.

Conversions and/or alterations within an existing structure are excluded from the surveys as are seasonal dwellings, such as: summer cottages, hunting and ski cabins, trailers and boat houses; and hostel accommodations, such as: hospitals, nursing homes, penal institutions, convents, monasteries, military and industrial camps, and collective types of accommodation such as: hotels, clubs, and lodging homes.

#### Market Absorption Survey Methodology

The Market Absorption Survey is carried out in conjunction with the Starts and Completions Survey in urban areas with populations in excess of 50,000. When a structure is recorded as completed, an update is also made as units are sold or rented. The dwellings are then enumerated each month until such time as full absorption occurs.

# STARTS AND COMPLETIONS SURVEY AND MARKET ABSORPTION SURVEY DEFINITIONS

A "dwelling unit", for purposes of the Starts and Completions Survey, is defined as a structurally separate set of self-contained living premises with a private entrance from outside the building or from a common hall, lobby, or stairway inside the building. Such an entrance must be one that can be used without passing through another separate dwelling unit.

A "**start**", for purposes of the Starts and Completions Survey, is defined as the beginning of construction work on a building, usually when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure, or an equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure.

The number of units "under construction" as at the end of the period shown, takes into account certain adjustments which are necessary for various reasons. For example, after a start on a dwelling has commenced construction may cease, or a structure, when completed, may contain more or fewer dwelling units than were reported at start.

A "completion", for purposes of the Starts and Completions Survey, is defined as the stage at which all the proposed construction work on a dwelling unit has been performed, although under some circumstances a dwelling may be counted as completed where up to 10 per cent of the proposed work remains to be done.

The term "absorbed" means that a housing unit is no longer on the market (i.e. has been sold or rented). This usually happens when a binding contract is secured by a non-refundable deposit and has been signed by a qualified purchaser. The purpose of the Market Absorption Survey is to measure the rate at which units are sold or rented after they are completed, as well as collect prices.

### **DWELLING TYPES:**

A "Single-Detached" dwelling (also referred to as "Single") is a building containing only one dwelling unit, which is completely separated on all sides from any other dwelling or structure. Includes link homes, where two units may share a common basement wall but are separated above grade. Also includes cluster-single developments.

A "Semi-Detached (Double)" dwelling (also referred to as "Semi") is one of two dwellings located side-by-side in a building, adjoining no other structure and separated by a common or party wall extending from ground to roof.

A "Row (Townhouse)" dwelling is a one family dwelling unit in a row of three or more attached dwellings separated by a common or party wall extending from ground to roof.

The term "Apartment and other" includes all dwellings other than those described above, including structures commonly known as stacked townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, double duplexes and row duplexes.

### **INTENDED MARKET:**

The "intended market" is the tenure in which the unit is being marketed. This includes the following categories:

Freehold: A residence where the owner owns the dwelling and lot outright.

**Condominium (including Strata-Titled):** An individual dwelling which is privately owned, but where the building and/or the land are collectively owned by all dwelling unit owners. A condominium is a form of ownership rather than a type of house.

Rental: Dwelling constructed for rental purposes regardless of who finances the structure.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS:**

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree on integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

A "Rural" area, for the purposes of this publication, is a centre with a population less than 10,000.

All data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 Census area definitions.

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