Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, May 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 6

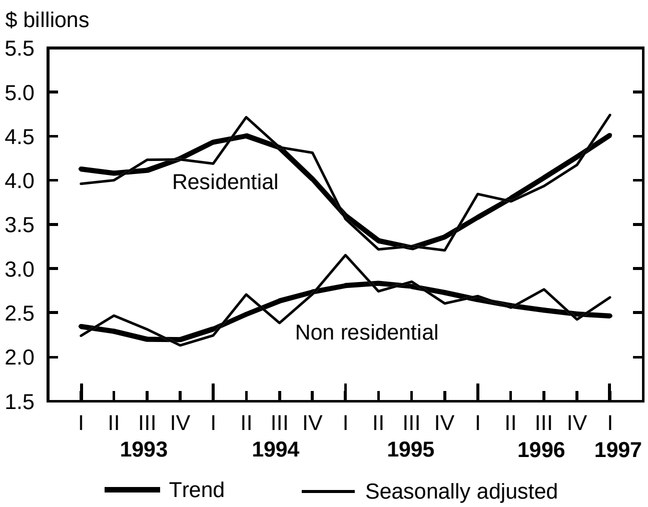
MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

First quarter and March 1997

The housing sector maintained its momentum in the first quarter of 1997, assisted by favourable prices and low mortgage rates.The value of residential building permits rose for the third straight quarter to the highest level since the first quarter of 1990.

Housing constructions intentions still rising



Municipalities issued $4.7 billion in building permits for new housing between January and March, up 13.5% from the last quarter of 1996, due mainly to an increase in the value of permits for single-family dwellings.

Renewed consumer confidence and more affordable housing make the short-term outlook for new housing construction positive — especially if mortgage rates and housing prices remain relatively stable.

Led by the industrial and institutional sectors, non-residential construction intentions rose 10.4% to $2.7 billion in the first quarter. These gains were partly offset by a decline in commercial construction permits.

Note to readers

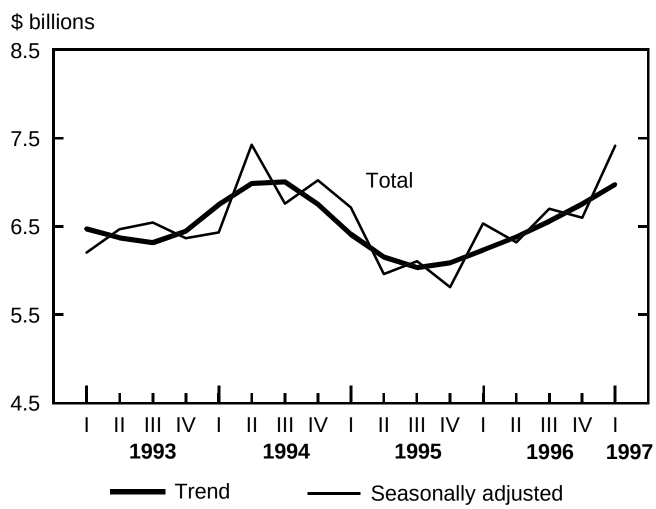
The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 7% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

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

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

The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

Total quaterly construction intentions up 12.4%



On a monthly basis, municipalities issued $2.4 billion in permits in March, down 5.0% from February. Housing construction intentions dropped 9.5% to $1.5 billion, the first decline this year. Non-residential permits rose 3.1% to $0.9 billion, the third straight monthly increase.

Single-family dwellings drive residential sector gain

First-quarter gains in residential construction intentions were due primarily to an 18.5% increase in plans for single-family dwellings to $3.6 billion — an exceptionally high level. At the same time, permits for multi-family dwellings edged up 0.8% to $1.2 billion.

The encouraging sign for 1997 is that the single-family component, which represents more than 70% of the total residential value, led the advance.

Overall, the housing market has shown signs of improvement since the beginning of the year. The year-to-date resale housing market was 25.7% stronger than in the same period a year earlier. The stronger demand for housing has translated into more permits.

This demand was partly reflected in a recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) survey, which reported a sixth consecutive quarterly increase in housing starts. The CMHC has reported 155,200 starts so far this year, up 20.0% over the same period last year.

During the first quarter, the value of residential building permits increased in every province and territory except British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon.

Ontario posted the best quarterly performance (+20.4%), issuing $2.0 billion in residential permits, mainly due to its single-family component. A sharp rise in Alberta’s residential sector (+32.5%), the result of increases in both single- and multiple-family dwellings, was also an important contributor to the total quarterly increase.

In contrast, British Columbia reported the most significant quarterly residential decrease (-4.5%), due to a decline in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings and, to a lesser extent, for single-family dwellings.

Institutional, industrial projects spur non-residential sector

Non-residential construction intentions (industrial, commercial and institutional) rose 10.4% in the first quarter to $2.7 billion, continuing the fluctuations recorded since the beginning of 1996.

The first quarter increase was largely attributable to the institutional component, which increased 36.2% to $0.6 billion — the highest quarterly value since the fourth quarter of 1995.

Proposed construction projects in the educational sector and a surge in small institutional projects were major contributors to the substantial growth in the institutional component.

The value of permits in the industrial component also improved, rising 18.7% to $0.7 billion, mainly due to new construction in the manufacturing industry.

The commercial component fell 1.9% to $1.4 billion, a second consecutive quarterly decrease. The latest decline was mainly due to a lack of construction intentions in the trade and services sector.

The non-residential sector as a whole, excluding machinery and equipment and engineering projects, has shown signs of slowing since May 1995. Although it is still too early to tell, the recent results suggest that the non-residential construction decline might have bottomed out.

Ontario was the largest contributor to the quarterly increase in the non-residential sector with a 34.8% rise. The push in Ontario came mainly from institutional projects, which reached $313 million, and to a lesser extent from industrial ($308 million) and commercial ($466 million) projects.

Also notable were the quarterly gains in non-residential construction intentions in Manitoba (+39.5% to $90 million), a level last seen in the second quarter of 1994.

By contrast, British Columbia (-14.1%) and Nova Scotia (-44.7%) reported the most significant decreases in the non-residential sector, the result of declines in all three components.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22 and 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The March 1997 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XPB, $25/$248) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The April 1997 building permits estimate will be released on June 3. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; Internet: *burejoa@statcan.ca)*. For analytical information, contact Sylvain Cloutier (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997 to Mar. 1997	Fourth quarter 1996	First quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**2,560**	**2,431**	**-5.0**	**6,598**	**7,415**	**12.4**
Residential	1,650	1,493	-9.5	4,174	4,739	13.5
Non-residential	910	938	3.1	2,424	2,675	10.4
Newfoundland	27	12	-54.5	62	75	20.9
Residential	21	4	-80.7	46	55	19.2
Non-residential	6	8	29.8	16	20	25.8
Prince Edward Island	3	7	143.0	25	25	1.0
Residential	2	6	229.0	16	15	-11.4
Non-residential	1	1	2.0	9	11	24.9
Nova Scotia	82	47	-42.5	213	204	-4.5
Residential	67	40	-40.1	153	171	11.2
Non-residential	15	7	-53.3	60	33	-44.7
New Brunswick	49	52	5.9	112	135	20.4
Residential	36	13	-62.1	69	71	2.6
Non-residential	13	38	189.3	42	63	49.5
Quebec	455	388	-14.6	1,185	1,260	6.3
Residential	235	206	-12.3	614	680	10.7
Non-residential	219	182	-17.1	571	580	1.6
Ontario	1,057	978	-7.4	2,437	3,050	25.2
Residential	687	596	-13.2	1,630	1,963	20.4
Non-residential	370	382	3.3	807	1,087	34.8
Manitoba	69	57	-17.8	142	187	32.1
Residential	33	32	-4.4	77	97	25.8
Non-residential	36	25	-30.3	65	90	39.5
Saskatchewan	38	54	40.9	123	132	8.1
Residential	21	18	-16.8	58	60	2.9
Non-residential	17	36	113.4	65	73	12.8
Alberta	352	311	-11.6	848	1,009	19.0
Residential	239	198	-17.3	505	669	32.5
Non-residential	112	113	0.5	343	340	-0.9
British Columbia	424	521	23.0	1,430	1,323	-7.4
Residential	306	376	23.2	992	947	-4.5
Non-residential	118	144	22.3	438	376	-14.1
Yukon	3	2	-31.0	14	7	-46.5
Residential	2	2	-19.9	8	6	-32.3
Non-residential	1	0	-68.1	5	2	-69.3
Northwest Territories	2	2	28.8	8	7	-22.8
Residential	2	2	14.9	4	6	40.6
Non-residential	0	1	123.9	5	1	-78.0

Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

For-hire motor carriers of freight

1995

Operating revenues for an estimated 2,144 for-hire motor carriers of freight, earning at least $1 million annually, totalled $12.1 billion in 1995. Operating expenses totalled $11.6 billion for an operating ratio of 0.95 (any ratio over 1.00 represents an operating loss). The net profit of for-hire carriers of freight in 1995 ($270 million) was similar to 1994. The operating profit margin was the highest in the last six years (+4.6%).

Financial statistics on the for-hire motor carriers of freight industry are available from the annual supplement to the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey. This supplement survey provides aggregate measurements and other financial ratios based on a sample of 548 carriers.

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517), or Robert Masse (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products, quarter ended March 1997
Catalogue number 25-002-XPB
(Canada: $8/$25; outside Canada: US$8/US$25).

Asphalt roofing, March 1997
Catalogue number 45-001-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

Gas utilities, January 1997
Catalogue number 55-002-XPB
(Canada: $17/$165; outside Canada: US$17/US$165).

All prices exclude sales tax.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with *Statistics Canada Catalogue*, 1994 (11-204E, $15; United States: US$18; other countries: US$21). Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order *The Daily* and other publications by phone:
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

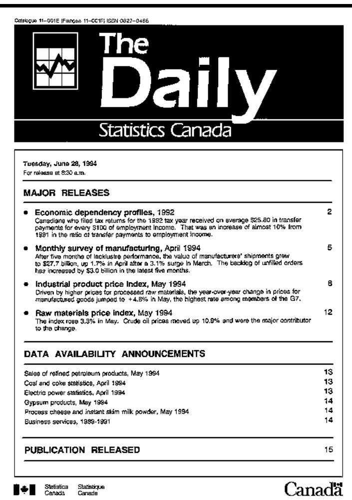
In Canada and the United States call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call: **1-613-951-7277**
Or fax your order to us: **1-613-951-1584**

For address changes: Please refer to your customer account number.

To order a publication by mail write: Sales and Service, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.
Include a cheque or money order payable to Receiver General of Canada/Publications. Canadian customers add 7% GST.

Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of the Agency's products and services.
For the reference centre nearest you, check the blue pages or your telephone directory under Statistics Canada.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 28, 1994
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Economic dependency profiles,** 1992 — 2
Canadians who filed tax returns for the 1992 tax year received on average $25.80 in transfer payments for every $100 of employment income. That was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the ratio of transfer payments to employment income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing,** April 1994 — 5
After five months of lacklustre performance, the value of manufacturers' shipments grew to $27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 3.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by $3.0 billion in the latest five months.
- **Industrial product price index,** May 1994 — 8
Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufactured goods jumped to +4.8% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7.
- **Raw materials price index,** May 1994 — 12
The index rose 3.3% in May. Crude oil prices moved up 10.9% and were the major contributor to the change.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sales of refined petroleum products, May 1994	13
Coal and coke statistics, April 1994	13
Electric power statistics, April 1994	13
Gypsum products, May 1994	14
Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994	14
Business services, 1989-1991	14

PUBLICATION RELEASED — 15

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada
Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103)
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088)