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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

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Building permits

May 1998

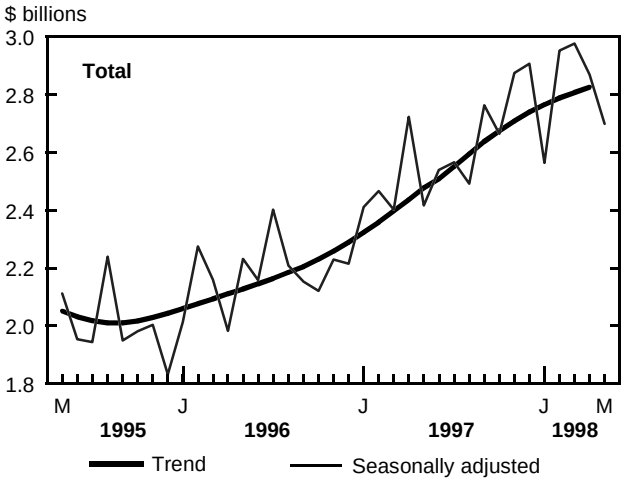
In May, the total value of building permits declined for the second consecutive month. Construction intentions fell in all areas except the industrial sector, where they increased 10.3%.

Overall in May, municipalities issued $2.7 billion in building permits, down 5.9% from April. The residential sector accounted for about three-quarters of the decline. However, total permits issued during the first five months of 1998 were still 13.2% above the level during the same period in 1997.

In the housing sector, municipalities issued $1.4 billion in building permits in May, down 8.6% from April. The value of permits for both single- and multi-family dwellings has declined for two consecutive months.

In the non-residential sector, construction intentions fell for a third consecutive month in May, declining 2.8% from April to $1.3 billion. Declines in planned commercial and institutional projects more than offset the increase in industrial intentions.

The rising trend of permits slows down in May



Residential: most of the decline is in multi-family intentions

Most of the decline in residential permits in May resulted from an 18.6% reduction in multi-family construction intentions to $389 million. Permits for single-family housing fell 4.1% to $1.0 billion.

Note to readers

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

The Building and demolitions permits monthly survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

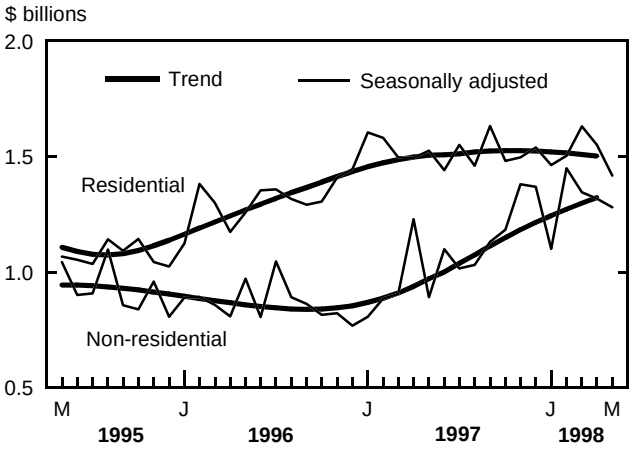
The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

It was the second consecutive monthly decline in the value of permits for the single-family component, which represents about 70.0% of the total residential sector. The value of single-family permits has declined during four out of the first five months of 1998. As a result, the five-month total for single-family intentions in May was down 5.5% from the first five months of 1997. However, the sustained performance of permits for multi-family dwellings has almost balanced most of the negative effects of a slowdown in single-housing projects. As a result, the first five months of 1998 in the housing sector as a whole compare favourably with 1997, lagging by only 1.7%.

Furthermore, housing indicators remain encouraging. The resale market for new and existing houses was up 3.0% over April. High consumer confidence, combined with stable new housing prices and low mortgage rates, also bode well for the remainder of 1998.

Provincially in May, the highest monthly increases occurred in Nova Scotia (+65.6% to $33 million) and Saskatchewan (+21.6% to $25 million). In both cases, single-family housing led the way. The largest declines were in Ontario (-10.5% to $645 million) and British Columbia (-13.3% to $229 million).

Both sectors are easing off



Non-residential growth still strong

Despite the overall decline in May, the non-residential sector remains strong compared with 1997. The total value of building permits for the January-to-May period was 37.6% higher than for the same period in 1997.

The industrial component was the only one to increase in May, rising 10.3% from April to $381 million, the second straight monthly increase. Permits for industrial construction during the first five months of 1998 were 31.9% over the same period in 1997, due mainly to investment projects in the primary and manufacturing industries.

The most significant decline in May was in the institutional component, where the value of permits fell 14.7% to $266 million — a result in part of a slowdown in construction intentions for educational building. However, the decline in educational projects came after a strong increase in April. Despite the decline in May, institutional permits issued between January and May this year were 48.8% above the same period in 1997, due to investment in the caregiving, health and educational sectors.

Permits in the commercial sector have declined for three straight months. In May, they fell 4.1% to $634 million. Declines were noted in all building types except hotels and laboratories. However, intentions during the first five months of 1998 were still 35.7% above the same period last year in the wake of increased activity in retail, wholesale and service industries. This activity was fuelled in part by strong consumer confidence and steady increases in personal expenditures on goods and services since the third quarter of 1996.

At the provincial level, the most significant increase was noted in Manitoba (+141.3% to $155 million) due to an important project in the food industry. In contrast, the most important decreases were reported in Ontario (-23.0% to $389 million) and Quebec (-13.2% to $198 million). In Ontario, the decline came on the heels of a reduction in the commercial and institutional components. In Quebec, all three components fell.

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

The May 1998 issue of *Building permits* will be released in July 1998 and will be available via the Internet (64-001-XIB, $19/$186).

The June 1998 building permits estimate will be released on August 4, 1998. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; *burejoa@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, contact Alain Paquet (613-951-2025; *paquala@statcan.ca*), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	April 1998[r]	May 1998[p]	April to May 1998	May 1997 to May 1998
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions		% change	
Canada	**2,869.6**	**2,699.0**	**-5.9**	**11.7**
Residential	1,551.3	1,418.0	-8.6	-7.0
Non-residential	1,318.2	1,281.1	-2.8	43.7
Newfoundland	15.6	14.8	-5.3	-20.5
Residential	11.0	9.3	-15.1	-5.8
Non-residential	4.6	5.4	17.9	-37.3
Prince Edward Island	10.4	8.0	-23.3	-44.5
Residential	4.8	4.3	-9.6	-22.8
Non-residential	5.6	3.6	-35.2	-58.5
Nova Scotia	40.5	60.8	50.1	20.8
Residential	19.8	32.8	65.6	-1.3
Non-residential	20.7	28.0	35.3	63.7
New Brunswick	40.4	32.6	-19.1	-3.7
Residential	20.6	19.6	-4.7	1.0
Non-residential	19.8	13.0	-34.2	-9.9
Quebec	436.4	401.0	-8.1	-1.6
Residential	208.3	203.0	-2.5	-9.3
Non-residential	228.2	198.0	-13.2	7.8
Ontario	1,225.3	1,033.4	-15.7	8.3
Residential	720.8	644.8	-10.5	1.8
Non-residential	504.5	388.6	-23.0	21.2
Manitoba	103.5	180.0	74.0	221.8
Residential	39.3	25.2	-36.0	4.6
Non-residential	64.2	154.9	141.3	385.7
Saskatchewan	67.9	76.4	12.5	74.7
Residential	20.6	25.0	21.6	31.7
Non-residential	47.3	51.4	8.6	107.7
Alberta	514.3	488.1	-5.1	54.3
Residential	238.2	216.9	-9.0	6.7
Non-residential	276.1	271.2	-1.7	139.9
British Columbia	410.0	381.2	-7.0	-26.2
Residential	264.2	229.2	-13.3	-34.5
Non-residential	145.9	152.0	4.2	-8.9
Yukon	2.4	5.1	116.2	37.2
Residential	1.2	1.0	-13.4	-60.5
Non-residential	1.2	4.1	249.7	271.6
Northwest Territories	3.0	17.6	495.4	678.2
Residential	2.7	6.8	153.7	357.5
Non-residential	0.3	10.8	3,687.1	1,286.8

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Survey on Financial Statistics of Universities and Colleges

1996/97

University revenue from government grants and contracts declined again in 1996/97. Revenue from government sources fell 6.9% from a year earlier and 14.1% over the previous five years. These declines were partially offset by both increased revenue from student fees and bequests, donations and non-government grants. Overall, however, university revenue fell by 1.4% in 1996/97.

Reduced revenue has meant reduced expenditure. Salary and benefits expenditures fell 3.4% in one year and 5.2% over five years. In 1992/93, salary costs represented 66.1% of expenditures. In 1996/97, this proportion was 64.2%.

At a time when students are facing tuition fee increases, they have benefitted from increased expenditure on scholarships and bursaries. Although this is a relatively small expenditure category, scholarship and bursary expenditures increased 7.1% in one year and 30.4% over five years, reaching $262.6 million dollars in 1996/97.

For further information on this release, contact Brigitte Bouchard (613-951-9167; *boucbri@statcan.ca*.). To obtain tables or make general inquiries, contact Daniel Perrier (613-951-1503; *perrdan@statcan.ca)*, Centre for Education Statistics.

University revenue by source

	Revenue			Share of revenue		
	1996/1997	1995/1996[1]	1992/1993[1]	1996/1997	1995/1996	1992/1993
	$ thousands	% change		% share of total		
Government grants and contracts	6,708,607	-6.9	-14.1	57.7	61.1	66.2
Fees	2,129,097	7.6	28.4	18.3	16.8	14.0
Bequests, donations and Non-government grants	1,026,244	10.8	26.4	8.8	7.9	6.9
Sales of services and products	1,020,773	-0.5	7.3	8.8	8.7	8.1
Investment income	407,154	2.1	21.3	3.5	3.4	2.8
Other	340,651	30.5	42.4	2.9	2.2	2.0
Total revenue	**11,632,526**	**-1.4**	**-1.5**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

[1] *In constant 1997 dollars.*

University expenditures by type

	Expenditures			Share of expenditures		
	1996/1997	1995/1996[1]	1992/1993[1]	1996/1997	1995/1996	1992/1993
	$ thousands	% change		% share of total		
Salaries, wages and benefits	7,353,298	-3.4	-5.2	64.2	64.4	66.1
Operational supplies and expenses	1,047,194	2.6	0.0	9.1	8.6	8.9
Furniture and equipment	588,602	-2.1	-5.4	5.1	5.1	5.3
Scholar., bursaries and prizes	262,566	7.1	30.4	2.3	2.1	1.7
Externally contracted services	273,568	-1.8	1.6	2.4	2.4	2.3
Cost of goods sold	318,288	-4.3	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6
Other	1,616,658	-6.2	6.0	14.1	14.6	13.0
Total expenditures	**11,460,174**	**-3.0**	**-2.3**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

[1] *In constant 1997 dollars.*

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Railway carloadings
May 1998

Carload freight (excluding intermodal traffic) loaded by railways in Canada totalled 19.9 million tonnes in May, down 7.3% from May 1997. The carriers received an additional 2.0 million tonnes from United States connections during May.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage reached 1.5 million tonnes, down 0.8% from the same month in 1997. The year-to-date figures were down 4.4%.

Total traffic, consisting of carload freight and intermodal traffic, fell 6.8% during the reference month bringing the year-to-date total to 108.0 million tonnes, up 1.4% from 1997. Receipts from United States connections increased 7.4% during the same period.

Cumulative data for 1998 and 1997 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.

The May 1998 issue of *Railway carloadings* (52-001-XPB, $11/$103) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Construction type plywood
April 1998

Canadian firms produced 144 582 cubic metres of construction type plywood during April 1998, down 12.1% from the 164 395 cubic metres produced during April 1997.

January to April 1998 production totalled 625 192 cubic metres, up 1.5% from the 615 694 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The April 1998 issue of the *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XPB, $7/$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information on this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Survey of Users of Advanced Materials
1997

Data are now available from the Survey of Users of Advanced Materials.

For further information on this release, contact Michel Cormier (613-951-3239), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

International scheduled air passenger origin and destination statistics
1996 (preliminary estimates)

A record 21.2 million passengers travelled between Canada and a foreign country on a scheduled flight in 1996, up 18.5% from 1995. This followed an 11.7% increase in 1995 and a 1.5% gain in 1994.

The largest market increase in terms of both percentage and passenger numbers was Canada-United States, with a gain of 24.7% or 2,505,000 passengers between 1995 and 1996. Five of the six regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the United States) showed an increase in passenger volume both to and from Canada. The only decrease was in the Canada-Pacific market, which lost 7,000 passengers for a decline of 2.9%.

In 1996, the United States was still by far Canada's most important international market, with 59.6% of all international scheduled passengers. Europe was the second largest international market (19.1% of international traffic), while Asia (at 13.5%) was the third largest market for scheduled traffic.

The data on international scheduled air passenger origin and destination will appear in the July 1998 issue of *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, $8/$82), which is published monthly on the Internet. A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price. It can be ordered directly from *www.statcan.ca*, or by calling 1 800 267-6677.

For further information on this release, contact Lisa Di Piétro (613-951-0146), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, April 1998
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: $15/$149; outside Canada: US$15/US$149).

Production and disposition of tobacco products, May 1998
Catalogue number 32-022-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

Canada's international transactions in securities, April 1998
Catalogue number 67-002-XPB
(Canada: $18/$176; outside Canada: US$18/US$176).

Quarterly demographic statistics, January-March 1998
Catalogue number 91-002-XIB
(Canada: $8/$25; outside Canada: US$8/US$25).

Quarterly demographic statistics, January-March 1998
Catalogue number 91-002-XPB
(Canada: $10/$33; outside Canada: US$10/US$33).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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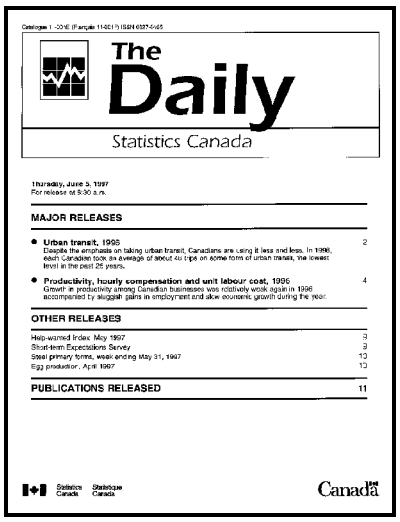

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