



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 4, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, September 1999 and third quarter 1999** 2
The total value of building permits issued by municipalities declined for the second consecutive month in September to \$2.9 billion, down 1.9% from August. Gains in non-residential construction intentions failed to offset losses in the residential sector.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

September 1999 and third quarter 1999

In September, the total value of building permits issued by municipalities declined for the second consecutive month to \$2.9 billion, down 1.9% from August. Gains in non-residential construction intentions failed to offset losses in the residential sector.

Housing sector permits decreased 7.2% to \$1.6 billion. This was mostly due to lower construction intentions for single-family dwelling. However, the non-residential sector increased 5.2% to \$1.3 billion, supported by strength in the industrial and institutional components.

On a quarterly basis, municipalities issued \$9.0 billion in permits during the third quarter — the highest level since the first quarter of 1990. The 2.4% increase from the preceding three months was the third consecutive quarterly gain. The non-residential sector contributed most to this performance, rising 4.5% from the second quarter to \$4.0 billion. On the other hand, the housing sector increased only 0.8% to \$5.0 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 in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, and culverts) and land.

Data for the territory of Nunavut were introduced starting with the release of April 1999 figures. At the same time, this affected the geographical coverage and data of the Northwest Territories.

last year. The non-residential sector increased slightly (+0.1%) to \$11.7 billion. For both sectors, this was the best performance for a January-to-September period since 1989.

Residential: Both single- and multi-family dwelling intentions fell in September

Construction intentions in the residential sector declined for the second month in a row in September. Single-family intentions fell 6.9% to \$1.2 billion, while multi-family dwelling intentions decreased 8.1% to \$399 million, the second consecutive monthly decline for this category.

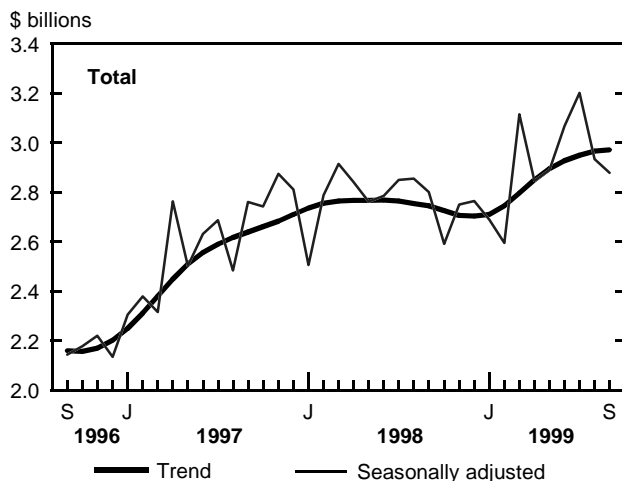
Provincially, the major declines (in dollars) occurred in Quebec (-15.5% to \$239 million), Ontario (-5.3% to \$768 million) and British Columbia (-12.0% to \$189 million). In Quebec, where the setback followed four months of gains, both multi- and single-family dwelling intentions declined. In Ontario, the losses were solely in the single-family sector.

In Manitoba, the situation improved in September, with a 24.6% increase to \$36 million, followed by Newfoundland where construction intentions rose 11.4% to \$13 million.

Both residential components increased in the third quarter — single-family permits reached \$3.6 billion, up 1.0% from the second quarter, while multi-family permits rose 0.3% to \$1.4 billion.

Housing intentions have performed strongly during the first nine months of 1999, as have housing starts and resales, which have been buoyed by sustained

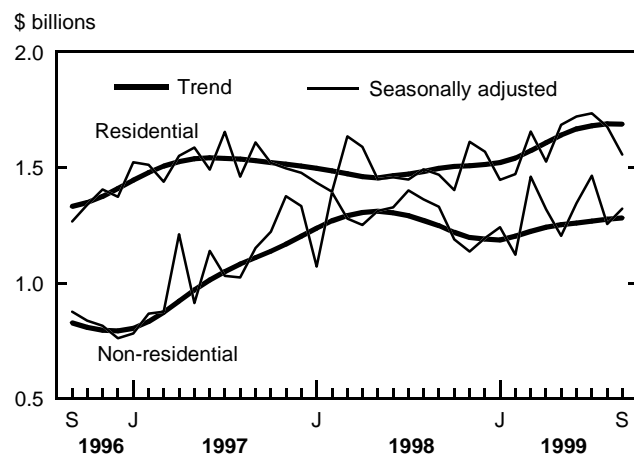
Total value of permits declined



So far in 1999, construction intentions have recorded their strongest performance of the decade as municipalities issued \$26.2 billion in building permits, 4.4% above the level for the first nine months of 1998. The housing sector had the bigger share, rising 8.2% to \$14.5 billion over the first nine months of

economic growth, gains in full-time employment and strong consumer confidence. Despite recent increases in mortgage rates, housing affordability remains positive. All these factors point to an active housing market in the coming months.

Non-residential sector shows a gain



Non-residential: Industrial and institutional permits led the gain

Large gains in industrial and institutional projects led the 5.2% increase in non-residential construction intentions in September. Overall, during the first nine months of 1999, the total value of permits in the non-residential sector reached \$11.7 billion. Despite three straight quarterly increases in 1999, this was a modest 0.1% increase compared with the same period in 1998.

Institutional intentions registered the largest monthly increase, up 27.5% to \$386 million, with the largest contribution coming from educational building projects. During the first nine months of 1999, municipalities issued \$2.8 billion in institutional permits, up 10.0% from the same period last year.

Institutions were the only component to register such a year-over-year increase, doing so on the strength of three straight quarterly increases in 1999.

Industrial construction intentions increased 24.6% to \$301 million in September following a 41.3% decrease in August. All categories of industrial buildings contributed to this increase. However, despite a third-quarter gain of 22.0% in industrial permits, their level of \$2.8 billion for the first nine months of 1999 was still 6.9% below the same nine-month period last year.

Permits in the commercial component declined 10.8% to \$635 million in September, a second straight monthly decline. Hotel, restaurant and recreation building projects had the biggest drops. A slight third quarter decrease of 1.1% to \$2.1 billion brought the cumulative value for the first nine months of 1999 to \$6.1 billion, down 0.7% over the same period in 1998.

On a provincial basis, the most significant increases in September (in dollars) were in Alberta (+42.0% to \$204 million), Ontario (+7.0% to \$583 million) and Quebec (+15.9% to \$230 million).

The largest decreases occurred in British Columbia (-27.1% to \$153 million) and Nova Scotia (-58.9% to \$19 million). In British Columbia, all three components declined. Despite the overall decline in Nova Scotia, the commercial component went up.

In the third quarter of 1999, Alberta and Ontario reported the most significant increases (in dollar amount) for the non-residential sector compared with the second quarter. In contrast, British Columbia showed the largest loss.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The September 1999 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The October 1999 building permit estimate will be released on December 6.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For analytical information,

contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-2025; sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	Aug. 1999 ^r	Sept. 1999 ^p	Aug. to Sept. 1999	Second quarter 1999	Third quarter 1999	Second to third quarter 1999
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	2,933.1	2,877.6	-1.9	8,800.1	9,010.3	2.4
Residential	1,677.0	1,555.9	-7.2	4,930.3	4,968.3	0.8
Non-residential	1,256.1	1,321.7	5.2	3,869.8	4,042.1	4.5
Newfoundland	17.1	21.7	27.0	66.5	79.6	19.7
Residential	11.3	12.6	11.4	40.3	34.3	-15.1
Non-residential	5.8	9.1	57.6	26.2	45.3	73.2
Prince Edward Island	16.6	12.9	-22.4	38.2	37.9	-0.8
Residential	7.3	4.8	-34.0	19.2	16.8	-12.4
Non-residential	9.2	8.0	-13.2	19.0	21.1	10.9
Nova Scotia	77.5	47.5	-38.7	243.8	208.2	-14.6
Residential	31.0	28.4	-8.3	133.4	94.0	-29.6
Non-residential	46.5	19.1	-58.9	110.4	114.2	3.4
New Brunswick	30.5	36.4	19.2	140.2	111.4	-20.5
Residential	21.2	18.7	-11.6	76.2	60.1	-21.1
Non-residential	9.4	17.7	88.8	64.0	51.3	-19.9
Quebec	481.5	469.1	-2.6	1,337.1	1,437.1	7.5
Residential	282.8	238.9	-15.5	720.4	775.5	7.7
Non-residential	198.6	230.1	15.9	616.7	661.6	7.3
Ontario	1,355.9	1,351.1	-0.4	4,039.0	4,165.2	3.1
Residential	811.5	768.3	-5.3	2,431.8	2,467.2	1.5
Non-residential	544.4	582.8	7.0	1,607.2	1,698.0	5.7
Manitoba	69.9	88.5	26.8	218.6	232.5	6.3
Residential	28.6	35.6	24.6	87.2	97.5	11.8
Non-residential	41.3	53.0	28.3	131.4	135.0	2.8
Saskatchewan	65.6	59.2	-9.6	180.0	223.0	23.9
Residential	26.0	18.8	-27.9	73.2	69.8	-4.7
Non-residential	39.5	40.5	2.4	106.8	153.3	43.5
Alberta	381.2	441.0	15.7	1,126.7	1,281.1	13.7
Residential	237.4	236.9	-0.2	662.4	713.7	7.7
Non-residential	143.8	204.1	42.0	464.3	567.4	22.2
British Columbia	424.5	342.0	-19.4	1,355.3	1,200.5	-11.4
Residential	214.7	189.1	-12.0	667.1	621.3	-6.9
Non-residential	209.8	152.9	-27.1	688.3	579.2	-15.8
Yukon	6.6	4.4	-33.7	16.5	13.9	-15.6
Residential	1.3	1.5	13.0	3.9	4.3	9.9
Non-residential	5.3	2.9	-45.4	12.6	9.6	-23.5
Northwest Territories	2.1	1.4	-34.9	8.0	6.8	-15.2
Residential	0.6	0.6	-9.7	1.6	3.2	101.0
Non-residential	1.4	0.8	-46.3	6.4	3.6	-44.2
Nunavut	4.1	2.3	-42.7	30.2	13.1	-56.5
Residential	3.2	1.7	-46.7	13.6	10.5	-22.7
Non-residential	0.9	0.6	-28.7	16.6	2.6	-84.1

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

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

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OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending October 30, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending October 30, 1999 totalled 290 566 tonnes, down 5.2% from the week-earlier 306 615 tonnes and up 5.2% from the year-earlier 276 101 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 13 365 836 tonnes, virtually unchanged from 13 367 741 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending October 14, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending October 14, 1999 increased 9.4% to 4.7 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 10.0%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 342 000 tonnes, a 2.5% increase from the same period of 1998. The year-to-date figures increased 13.3%.

Total traffic increased 8.9% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 199.5 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.2% from 1998.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

September 1999

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 4 182 086 metric bundles in September, a 6.7% increase from 3 921 414 metric bundles produced a year earlier.

Year-to-date production amounted to 33 724 846 metric bundles, a 3.2% increase from 32 696 118 metric bundles produced over the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).

The September 1999 issue of *Asphalt roofing* (45-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Manufacturing industries: Primary product specialization and coverage ratios

1997

Primary product specialization and coverage ratios are now available for the manufacturing industries in an extended time-series table. This table, *Manufacturing industries of Canada: Primary product specialization and coverage ratios*, covers the period from 1987 to 1997 at the four-digit level of the Standard Industrial Classification.

Primary product specialization ratios measure the homogeneity of industries categorized under the Standard Industrial Classification system, while coverage ratios measure the completeness of those industries. More specifically, the primary product specialization ratio measures the extent to which the establishments classified to an industry specialize in making the defining products of that industry. The primary product coverage ratio measures the extent to which the defining products of an industry are made by the establishments classified to that industry.

The time-series table, *Manufacturing industries of Canada: Primary product specialization and coverage ratios*, is available in print (31F0002XPB, \$50) or electronic format (31F0002XDB, \$50).

For more information, or to order the table, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing Disclosure and Dissemination Section. To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Daniela Ravindra (613-951-3514), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1999

Catalogue number 31-001-XPB

(Canada: \$20/\$196; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$196).

Asphalt roofing, September 1999

Catalogue number 45-001-XIB

(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Surface and marine transport: service bulletin,
vol. 15, no. 5

Catalogue number 50-002-XIB

(Canada: \$10/\$62).

Aviation: service bulletin, vol. 31, no. 10

Catalogue number 51-004-XIB

(Canada: \$8/\$82).

Road motor vehicles, registrations, 1998

Catalogue number 53-219-XIB

(Canada: \$21).

Capital expenditures by type of asset, 1997

Catalogue number 61-223-XIB

(Canada: \$32).

Exports by commodity, August 1999

Catalogue number 65-004-XMB

(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, August 1999

Catalogue number 65-004-XPB

(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Labour force information, week ending
October 16, 1999

Catalogue number 71-001-PPB

(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

Available at 7 a.m. on Friday, November 5.

All prices exclude sales tax.

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• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow modest growth during the year.	4
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