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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, January 12, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

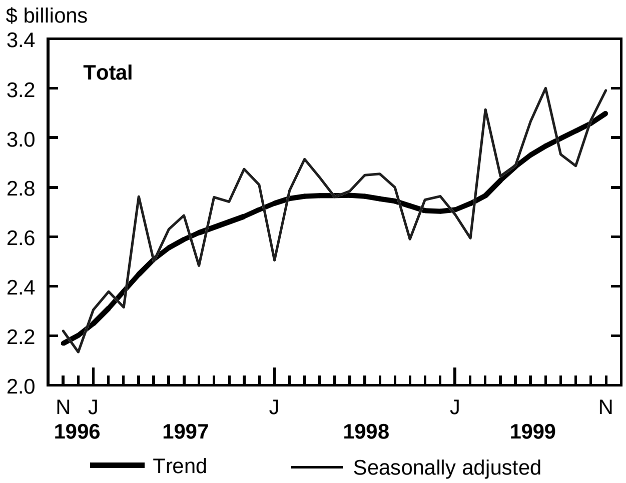
November 1999

The value of building permits increased for the second straight month in November. Municipalities issued permits worth $3.2 billion, a 4.0% monthly increase attributable mostly to the non-residential sector.

The non-residential sector rose 8.1% to $1.4 billion on the strength of commercial and institutional intentions. The residential sector also helped to push up the overall value, with a slight 1.0% rise to $1.8 billion, the highest monthly figure since the early 1990s.

As a result, on a year-to-date basis, overall construction intentions are running well ahead of their pace in 1998. Between January and November 1999, municipalities issued $32.5 billion in building permits, up 6.7% from the same period in 1998. This is just short of the $33.2 billion overall total for 1998, which was the highest level in the 1990s.

Second straight increase in total value of permits



Single-family intentions boosted the residential sector

November's increase in the residential sector was solely due to a rise in single-family dwellings, where permits went up 5.1% to $1.3 billion, the best monthly result of 1999. Permits for multi-family dwellings declined 8.1% in November to $513 million.

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 and culverts) and land.

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

From January to November 1999, municipalities issued $18.1 billion in residential permits, up 10.2% from the same period in 1998. Permits for the residential sector for 1999 are on track to hit an annual level surpassing the 1997 total, which was the highest in a decade.

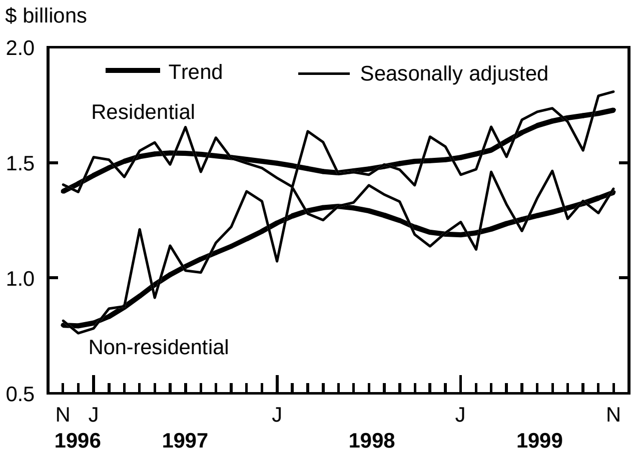
Intentions for both single- and multi-family dwellings increased compared with the same period last year. Single-family dwelling intentions reached $13.0 billion during the first 11 months of 1999, up 9.8% from the same period a year earlier, while the multi-family component increased 11.5% to $5.1 billion.

Many economic factors currently point to an active housing market. The outstanding performance of the housing resale market, the upward trend in employment levels, and sustained economic growth all support growth in housing activity. These factors, together with the stability of mortgage rates, should mean that the housing market will remain strong in the coming months.

Provincially, the largest gains (in dollars) occurred in Ontario (+4.8% to $918 million), Alberta (+8.9% to $239 million) and Manitoba (+30.7% to $40 million). Both single- and multi-family dwelling components increased in these three provinces. The largest loss was recorded by British Columbia (-18.7% to $215 million), followed by New Brunswick (-16.1% to $21 million) and Nova Scotia (-3.0% to $47 million).

So far in 1999, all provinces from Manitoba east to Newfoundland have recorded increases compared with the same 11-month period of 1998. The largest gains occurred in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In contrast, British Colombia and Alberta registered the largest declines.

Both residential and non-residential sectors went up in November



Commercial, institutional components led non-residential gain

The value of permits in the non-residential sector improved 8.1% to $1.4 billion in November, led by the commercial and institutional components. During the first 11 months of 1999, municipalities issued $14.4 billion in non-residential permits (industrial, institutional and commercial), up 2.6% from the same period in 1998.

In November, commercial intentions increased 18.9% to $767 million, the highest monthly value for 1999. The office building category contributed most to this increase. During the first 11 months of 1999, commercial permits reached $7.5 billion, up 1.8% compared with the same period in 1998.

Institutional intentions increased 31.6% to $335 million in November after a sharp decline the previous month, with the most significant gain occurring in the education category. Between January and November 1999, the total value of institutional building permits ($3.4 billion) surpassed the level for all of 1998.

Permits in the industrial component fell 25.8% to $283 million, with the factories/plants category showing the most significant losses. Industrial permits for the January-to-November period declined 5.4% to $3.5 billion compared with the same period in 1998.

Provincially, the most significant monthly gains (in dollars) in non-residential permits occurred in Ontario (+16.6% to $599 million) and British Columbia (+30.6% to $185 million). In Ontario, the institutional sector contributed the most to the increase after declining the month before. The largest decreases occurred in Saskatchewan (-28.0% to $21 million) and Quebec (-3.0% to $238 million). The institutional sector in Quebec declined 42.1% to $28 million.

On a year-to-date basis, Ontario (+10.2% to $6.1 billion) recorded the largest increase in non-residential permits, while Alberta (-19.2% to $1.9 billion) recorded the largest decline.

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

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

The December 1999 building permits estimates will be released on February 4.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods 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

	October 1999[r]	November 1999[p]	October to November 1999	November 1998 to November 1999
	seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions		% change	
Canada	**3,070.3**	**3,192.3**	**4.0**	**16.1**
Residential	1,789.1	1,806.8	1.0	12.1
Non-residential	1,281.2	1,385.5	8.1	21.9
Newfoundland	26.8	20.1	-24.7	5.0
Residential	11.7	10.7	-8.7	16.7
Non-residential	15.1	9.5	-37.2	-5.7
Prince Edward Island	14.3	19.1	33.4	108.7
Residential	6.1	6.3	3.7	40.0
Non-residential	8.2	12.8	55.6	175.9
Nova Scotia	95.1	98.0	3.0	49.8
Residential	47.9	46.5	-3.0	9.9
Non-residential	47.2	51.5	9.1	122.6
New Brunswick	46.0	36.6	-20.4	12.4
Residential	25.1	21.1	-16.1	7.7
Non-residential	20.9	15.5	-25.6	19.5
Quebec	524.4	519.1	-1.0	7.5
Residential	278.6	280.8	0.8	17.1
Non-residential	245.8	238.3	-3.0	-2.0
Ontario	1,390.7	1,517.7	9.1	24.0
Residential	876.6	918.4	4.8	19.1
Non-residential	514.0	599.3	16.6	32.5
Manitoba	77.3	88.5	14.5	69.3
Residential	30.2	39.5	30.7	39.9
Non-residential	47.1	49.0	4.1	103.8
Saskatchewan	54.0	46.0	-14.9	-21.7
Residential	25.3	25.3	0.0	7.9
Non-residential	28.7	20.7	-28.0	-41.4
Alberta	422.3	441.1	4.4	9.6
Residential	219.7	239.2	8.9	5.1
Non-residential	202.6	201.9	-0.3	15.3
British Columbia	406.1	399.8	-1.5	1.2
Residential	264.8	215.3	-18.7	-11.3
Non-residential	141.3	184.5	30.6	21.1
Yukon	6.1	3.7	-38.2	-1.4
Residential	1.7	2.3	37.0	43.8
Non-residential	4.3	1.4	-67.8	-35.5
Northwest Territories	3.2	0.5	-83.2	-83.3
Residential	0.9	0.4	-51.3	-77.9
Non-residential	2.3	0.1	-95.8	-92.1
Nunavut	4.0	2.0	-49.5	...
Residential	0.4	1.0	178.2	...
Non-residential	3.6	1.0	-72.3	...

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

November 1999

The New Housing Price Index increased 0.3% from October to November. On an annual basis, this index of contractor's selling prices for new houses rose 1.6% — the highest annual increase in over six years.

The highest monthly increase was noted in St. Catharines-Niagara (+1.6%), as higher prices for land, building materials, labour and municipal levies were passed on to new home buyers. Notable increases also occurred in Toronto (+0.7%) and Regina (+0.6%), mostly as a result of higher prices for building materials. Monthly decreases were noted in three of the 21 cities surveyed — the largest in St. John's (-1.1%) due to competitive market conditions. Five of the surveyed cities registered no change.

New Housing Price Index
(1992=100)

	Nov. 1999	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Oct. to Nov. 1999
		% change	
Canada total	**101.8**	**1.6**	**0.3**
House only	103.2	2.4	0.5
Land only	102.2	0.5	-
St. John's	96.1	0.3	-1.1
Halifax	113.4	4.6	0.4
Charlottetown	105.2	0.2	0.2
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	94.5	1.6	-0.1
Quebec City	100.8	2.3	0.2
Montréal	106.0	3.4	0.3
Ottawa-Hull	102.4	3.7	0.3
Toronto	105.1	2.0	0.7
Hamilton	104.2	1.4	0.2
St.Catharines-Niagara	105.2	4.2	1.6
Kitchener-Waterloo	103.0	2.5	0.4
London	99.3	0.9	0.1
Windsor	106.0	1.2	-
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	98.8	-1.4	-
Winnipeg	115.7	2.9	-
Regina	130.1	3.7	0.6
Saskatoon	114.6	1.7	-
Calgary	130.6	4.4	0.1
Edmonton	111.1	2.1	0.4
Vancouver	83.6	-2.7	-
Victoria	73.4	-5.4	-0.7

\- *Nil or zero.*

Annual changes varied considerably among the cities surveyed. The highest annual increases occurred in Halifax (+4.6%), Calgary (+4.4%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (+4.2%). The highest annual decrease (-5.4%) was registered in the extremely competitive Victoria market. Housing prices in Vancouver and Sudbury-Thunder Bay also decreased on a year-over-year basis.

Note: The total New Housing Price Index for November is below the level of its two components, the House-only Index and the Land-only Index. This situation has occurred because the component index series is derived and linked independently. Linking, in particular, creates total indexes that are not averages of their sub-indexes in a strict sense.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

The fourth quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB,$24/$79) will be available in March. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Estimates of labour income

October 1999 (preliminary)

Labour income continued to advance in October, increasing 0.4% to $41.4 billion. Over the first 10 months of 1999, labour income grew 3.6% compared with the same period in 1998.

Wages and salaries posted a seventh consecutive monthly gain, rising 0.4% in October. Increases occurred in 10 of the 16 industry groups. Strong gains in wages and salaries continued in the commercial and personal service industry. Strength was also noted in education and related services, construction, transportation, storage and communications, health and social services, other utilities and logging and forestry. In general, growth in both employment and average weekly earnings contributed to the October gains for wages and salaries in these industries.

The overall growth in wages and salaries was moderated by declines in manufacturing; trade; finance, insurance and real estate; mining, quarrying, and oil wells; and federal administration.

Wages and salaries grew in most provinces and territories in October. Yukon recorded a decline, while the level of wages and salaries was virtually unchanged in Quebec.

Note: Labour income consists of wages and salaries (88%), plus supplementary labour income (12%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is employers' contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and Employment Insurance plans. Labour income accounts for about 52% of gross domestic product.

Users of labour income data should note that the seasonally adjusted data are revised back to January 1999.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income

	Sept. 1999[r]	Oct. 1999[p]	Sept. to Oct. 1999
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	287.4	295.4	2.8
Logging and forestry	253.3	257.3	1.6
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	782.8	773.9	-1.1
Manufacturing	6,885.0	6,868.2	-0.2
Construction	2,045.5	2,070.0	1.2
Other Utilities	594.5	601.8	1.2
Transportation, storage, communications	2,708.0	2,728.8	0.8
Trade	5,365.4	5,352.3	-0.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	3,289.6	3,285.6	-0.1
Commercial and personal services	5,943.1	6,005.7	1.1
Educational and related services	2,708.5	2,756.1	1.8
Health and social services	2,840.9	2,854.5	0.5
Federal administration and other government services	881.8	877.5	-0.5
Provincial administration	696.4	696.0	-0.1
Local administration	676.6	677.5	0.1
Military	271.9	273.5	0.6
Total wages and salaries	**36,230.8**	**36,374.2**	**0.4**
Supplementary labour income	4,973.8	4,991.5	0.4
Labour income	**41,204.6**	**41,365.7**	**0.4**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6597-6624.

The October 1999 issue of the *Tables and analytical document: Estimates of labour income,* monthly estimates (13F0016XPB, $20/$200) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

At 8:30 a.m. on release day, data sets are available for purchase on microcomputer diskette (13F0016XDB). Seven days after the official release date, these diskettes become available at a lower cost. To purchase either of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3640; *iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca*), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Katherine Fraser (613-951-4049; fax: 613-951-3618), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products
November 1999 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 953 300 cubic metres in November, up 4.8% from the same month in 1998. Sales increased for five of the seven major product groups, with the largest gains recorded for diesel fuel oil (+248 200 cubic metres or +13.9%) and motor gasoline (+79 700 cubic metres or +2.6%). Sales of heavy fuel oil dropped 127 000 cubic metres (-16.8%) from November 1998.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products were up 943 300 cubic metres or 1.1% over the same period in 1998. Sales increased for five of the seven major product groups, with the largest advances recorded for motor gasoline (+907 500 cubic metres or +2.7%) and diesel (+629 300 cubic metres or +3.2%). These two products accounted for 64.8% of total sales.

The gain for light fuel oil (+221 000 cubic metres or +5.5%) was mostly due to greater use of the product for heating in the first half of the year. The decline for heavy fuel oil (-809 100 cubic metres or -10.6%) was due to greater use of natural gas in place of heavy fuel oil by the industrial sector.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Nov. 1998[r]	Nov. 1999[p]	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, All products	**7 592.4**	**7 953.3**	**4.8**
Motor gasoline	3 043.8	3 123.5	2.6
Diesel fuel oil	1 788.2	2 036.4	13.9
Light fuel oil	454.3	441.2	-2.9
Heavy fuel oil	754.2	627.2	-16.8
Aviation turbo fuels	446.8	519.2	16.2
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	361.3	388.0	7.4
All other refined products	743.8	817.8	9.9
	Jan. to Nov. 1998[r]	Jan. to Nov. 1999[p]	Jan.-Nov. 1998 to Jan.-Nov. 1999
Total, All products	**84 581.0**	**85 524.3**	**1.1**
Motor gasoline	34 161.2	35 068.7	2.7
Diesel fuel oil	19 763.7	20 393.0	3.2
Light fuel oil	4 044.0	4 265.0	5.5
Heavy fuel oil	7 614.6	6 805.5	-10.6
Aviation turbo fuels	5 553.4	5 739.0	3.3
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	4 417.9	4 571.5	3.5
All other refined products	9 026.2	8 681.6	-3.8

r *Revised*
p *Preliminary*
1 *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The November 1999 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004-XPB, $21/$206; 45-004-XIB, $16/$155), will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; *hardele@statcan.ca*) or Michel Palardy (613-951-7174; *palamic@statcan.ca*), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

November 1999

Steel pipe and tubing production for November totalled 240 179 tonnes, a 21.4% increase from 197 841 tonnes produced in November 1998.

Year-to-date production to the end of November totalled 2 280 017 tonnes, up 1.1% from 2 256 230 tonnes produced over the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The November 1999 issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-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 Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; *milsomg@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Low income cutoffs – A discussion paper

Released today is a report on low income cutoffs or LICOs titled *Should the low income cutoffs be updated? – A discussion paper*. Statistics Canada has been examining options with respect to updating these cutoffs. This report describes the issues and findings, and proposes a course of action.

Statistics Canada has produced information on low income since the 1960s using LICOs. Currently, Statistics Canada uses LICOs based on 1992 family expenditure data. Every year, these LICOs are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. However, any changes in spending patterns that have occurred since 1992 are not reflected in the LICOs, or the associated low income rates.

Data users interested in low income measurement are invited to express their views to the Agency, by March 1, 2000. Information on how to provide feedback is indicated at the end of the report.

The report titled *Should the low income cutoffs be updated? – A discussion paper* (75F0002MIE) is available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). The menu path is *Products and services*, then *Downloadable research papers* followed by *Income, expenditures, pensions, assets and debts* and *Income*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Client Services (1 888 297-7355 or 613-951-7355; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gross domestic product by industry, October 1999
Catalogue number 15-001-XPB
(Canada: $15/$145; outside Canada: US$15/US$145).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, November 1999
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47).

Energy statistics handbook, December 1999
Catalogue number 57-601-XDE
(Canada: $284; outside Canada: US$284).

Energy statistics handbook, December 1999
Catalogue number 57-601-UPB
(Canada: $387; outside Canada: US$387).

Exports by commodity, October 1999
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: $78/$773; outside Canada: US$78/US$773).

Canada's balance of international payments, third quarter 1999
Catalogue number 67-001-XPB
(Canada: $38/$124; outside Canada: US$38/US$124).

Employment, earnings and hours, October 1999
Catalogue number 72-002-XPB
(Canada: $32/$320; outside Canada: US$32/US$320).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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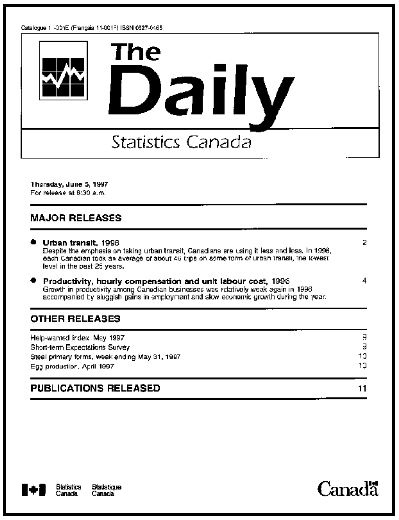
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1996 — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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