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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 5, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits
August 2000

Unless otherwise stated, the data are seasonally adjusted; this eases 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.

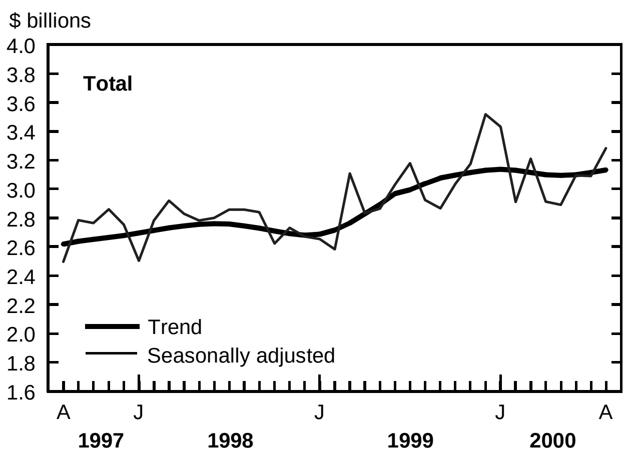
The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g, waterworks, sewers and culverts) and land.

Construction intentions in the residential sector hit their highest monthly level in a decade in August, largely because of strong demand for multi-family dwellings. This, combined with a slight increase in non-residential intentions, pushed up the overall value of building permits 6.3% to $3.3 billion.

Builders took out $1.9 billion worth of residential building permits, a 10.7% increase from July and the highest level since March 1990. The major factor was a 30.2% increase in the value of permits for multi-family units.

Construction intentions in the non-residential sector posted a third consecutive monthly gain, rising a slight 0.8% to $1.4 billion. A large increase in the industrial component was virtually offset by declines in commercial and institutional projects.

Total value of permits advanced



Strong performances in the Calgary (+146.7% to $208 million) and Toronto (+6.6% to $839 million) metropolitan areas explained most of the rise in the total value of building permits in August. In both centers, the progress was mainly due to an active housing market.

For the first eight months of the year, the value of building permits reached $24.8 billion, a 7.1% increase over the same period in 1999. If this pace were to continue, 2000 would be the best year for building permits since 1989. The residential and non-residential sectors contributed almost equally to this year-over-year gain.

Residential sector: Substantial jump in multi-family dwelling permits

Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings jumped 30.2% to $657 million in August, after declining in July. At the same time, builders took out permits for single-family dwellings worth $1.2 billion, 2.5% over July's level.

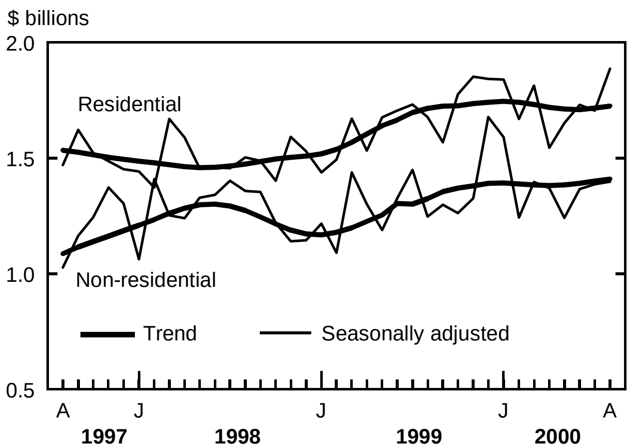
Factors affecting the housing market remain encouraging and are in line with this strong performance. In August, home resales were up, the level of full-time employment remained high, and rates for long-term mortgages were still advantageous. Also, in the second quarter of 2000, per-capita disposable income recorded its highest annual percentage increase since the first quarter of 1990.

Among the provinces, the largest gains (in dollar terms) occurred in British Columbia (+34.0% to $299 million), Ontario (+7.8% to $946 million) and Alberta (+29.5% to $242 million). While both single- and multi-family dwellings contributed to the gain in Alberta and British Columbia, the multi-family component was the sole contributor in Ontario. In British Columbia, construction intentions for housing reached their highest level since September 1997. After a strong performance in July, residential building permits in Nova Scotia showed the largest decline (-25.7% to $46 million).

From January to August, municipalities issued $13.8 billion in residential permits, a 7.0% increase over the same period in 1999. This increase came from both single-family (+7.4%) and multi-family dwellings (+6.0%).

At the provincial level, the largest growth (in dollar terms) in cumulative residential permits occurred in Ontario (+8.9% to $6.9 billion), fuelled mainly by a strong rise in single-family permits in the metropolitan Toronto area. This was the best result ever registered for a January-to-August period in Ontario. Also showing sizeable advances compared with the preceding year were Quebec (+7.4%) and Alberta (+6.0%).

Residential sector was strong



Non-residential: Industrial projects led the way

The value of non-residential building permits increased just 0.8% to $1.4 billion in August, due solely to the industrial component.

Industrial building permits rose 27.3% to $389 million, following a 10.3% decline in July. All categories showed increases, particularly factories and plants projects.

In contrast, commercial building permits declined 7.0% to $705 million in August on the heels of two straight increases. Hotels and restaurants recorded the largest drop, and recreation buildings showed the largest gain.

Institutional building intentions dropped 6.3% to $303 million, reflecting decreases in all categories except government administration buildings.

Among the provinces, the most significant increases (in dollar terms) were in Alberta (+114.6%) and British Columbia (+29.5%), where all components contributed to the growth. In contrast, the largest decreases occurred in Ontario (-16.2%) and Manitoba (-50.6%), with losses coming from all three components.

Non-residential sector still on pace for an outstanding year

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of non-residential building permits reached $11.0 billion, 7.2% higher than the same period last year. All three components (industrial, commercial and institutional) contributed to this increase.

Strong demand for retail and office space was reflected in commercial building permits, which reached $6.0 billion, an 8.7% gain over the same period last year.

Building permits for industrial projects rose 8.6% to $2.6 billion on the strength of considerable growth in factory and plant projects, as the manufacturing sector responded to a sustained high level of capacity utilization.

Institutional project intentions have increased to $2.4 billion so far this year, up 2.3% compared with the same period in 1999. The rise in governmental and education building projects has been partly offset by the decline in medical and hospital building intentions.

Among the provinces, the most significant increase for the first eight months (in dollar terms) were in Alberta (+29.7% to $1.7 billion), pushed by significant increases in the Calgary metropolitan area. Ontario (+4.5% to $4.6 billion) and Quebec (+7.5% to $2.0 billion) also moved upward, but to a lesser extent.

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

The August 2000 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, $19/$186) will be available shortly on the Internet. See *How to order products.*

The September 2000 building permit estimate will be released on November 7.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; *clarver@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; *saineti@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	July 2000[r]	Aug. 2000[p]	July to Aug. 2000	Jan. to Aug. 1999	Jan. to Aug. 2000	Jan.–Aug 1999 to Jan.–Aug 2000
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,090.1**	**3,283.2**	**6.3**	**23,174.8**	**24,820.1**	**7.1**
Residential	1,703.6	1,886.3	10.7	12,922.4	13,832.9	7.0
Non-residential	1,386.5	1,396.9	0.8	10,252.4	10,987.2	7.2
Newfoundland	40.0	16.9	-57.9	211.2	207.0	-2.0
Residential	15.2	13.2	-13.4	105.7	141.4	33.8
Non-residential	24.8	3.7	-85.2	105.4	65.6	-37.8
Prince Edward Island	11.6	9.8	-15.7	83.6	75.3	-9.9
Residential	5.6	5.4	-3.9	44.5	44.3	-0.5
Non-residential	6.0	4.4	-26.8	39.1	31.0	-20.6
Nova Scotia	96.7	58.1	-39.9	608.4	667.9	9.8
Residential	61.9	46.0	-25.7	322.3	374.1	16.1
Non-residential	34.7	12.1	-65.2	286.0	293.8	2.7
New Brunswick	44.8	52.8	17.9	306.9	319.1	4.0
Residential	19.6	25.8	32.0	183.0	176.8	-3.4
Non-residential	25.2	27.0	7.0	123.9	142.2	14.8
Quebec	494.1	502.2	1.6	3,866.4	4,154.2	7.4
Residential	257.6	251.7	-2.3	1,984.9	2,131.9	7.4
Non-residential	236.5	250.5	5.9	1,881.5	2,022.3	7.5
Ontario	1,544.3	1,504.6	-2.6	10,712.2	11,470.1	7.1
Residential	877.6	945.7	7.8	6,329.0	6,890.7	8.9
Non-residential	666.7	558.9	-16.2	4,383.2	4,579.4	4.5
Manitoba	92.8	59.2	-36.2	561.5	628.7	12.0
Residential	28.4	27.4	-3.6	230.0	258.0	12.1
Non-residential	64.4	31.8	-50.6	331.5	370.7	11.8
Saskatchewan	48.4	56.7	17.2	471.7	479.8	1.7
Residential	21.9	25.8	17.7	172.5	185.7	7.7
Non-residential	26.4	30.9	16.8	299.2	294.1	-1.7
Alberta	299.4	483.5	61.5	3,108.0	3,599.4	15.8
Residential	186.8	241.9	29.5	1,827.4	1,938.0	6.0
Non-residential	112.6	241.6	114.6	1,280.5	1,661.4	29.7
British Columbia	390.5	515.8	32.1	3,137.0	3,120.6	-0.5
Residential	223.3	299.3	34.0	1,679.4	1,654.6	-1.5
Non-residential	167.2	216.6	29.5	1,457.6	1,466.0	0.6
Yukon	6.9	19.2	178.7	32.9	41.1	24.8
Residential	0.9	1.3	42.4	11.5	10.2	-11.9
Non-residential	6.0	17.9	199.8	21.4	30.9	44.6
Northwest Territories	3.5	3.3	-5.6	34.1	16.7	-51.0
Residential	2.1	2.0	-4.5	9.7	8.0	-17.8
Non-residential	1.4	1.3	-7.3	24.4	8.7	-64.2
Nunavut	17.1	1.2	-92.8	41.0	40.1	-2.1
Residential	2.5	0.8	-67.1	22.4	19.2	-14.1
Non-residential	14.7	0.4	-97.2	18.6	20.9	12.2

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

July 2000

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 13 643 028 cubic metres in July, up 9.8% from July 1999. Year-to-date receipts to the end of July were 91 749 443 cubic metres, up 7.9% from the same period in 1999. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in July (6 906 833 cubic metres) increased 4.8% from July 1999. Year-to-date receipts rose 5.3% to 47 533 342 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil totalled 6 215 309 cubic metres, an advance of 3.9% from July 1999; pipeline imports were 2 344 788 cubic metres, an increase of 37.3%. Year-to-date exports totalled 42 523 672 cubic metres, up 12.1% from 1999. Year-to-date imports stood at 14 792 927 cubic metres, a rise of 27.3%.

July deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 6 199 190 cubic metres, an increase of 4.5% from July 1999. Deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products were 628 084 cubic metres in July, up 5.6% from July 1999. Year-to-date deliveries of crude oil to refineries to the end of July were 40 709 190 cubic metres, up 4.2% from the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 181 and 591-595.

The July 2000 issue of *Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products* (55-001-XIB, $9/$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Steel primary forms

Week ending September 30, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 30 totalled 296 580 tonnes, up 10.6% from 268 111 tonnes a week earlier and up 9.3% from 271 241 tonnes in the same week of 1999. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 12 681 224 tonnes, a 4.9% increase compared with 12 090 236 tonnes in the same period of 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-4925; *houlejm@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm product prices

January to August 2000

Monthly data on farm product prices for January to August are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Air passenger origin and destination, domestic report, 1998
Catalogue number 51-204-XIB ($32).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, June 2000
Catalogue number 55-002-XIB ($13/$125).

Labour force information, week ending September 16, 2000
Catalogue number 71-001-PIB ($8/$78).
Available at 7 am Friday, October 6.

Labour force information, week ending September 16, 2000
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB ($11/$103).
Available at 7 am Friday, October 6.

Questionnaire and collection procedures for SLID income data collection, May 1999, October 2000
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE00005
(Free).

Cross-sectional weighting: Combining two or more panels, September 2000
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE00006
(Free).

Pension coverage and retirement savings of young and prime-aged workers in Canada, 1986–1997, October 2000
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE00009
(Free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

Order products 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**
To fax your order:	**1-877-287-4369**
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To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

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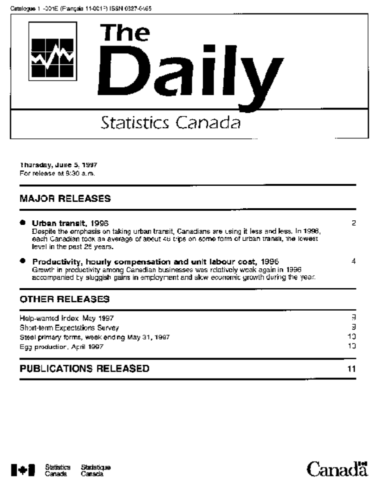

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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