



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, November 7, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, September 2000** 2
Municipalities issued \$3.3 billion worth of building permits in September, up 1.2% from August, as the non-residential sector reported its best monthly performance in 11 years. A decline in permits for housing tempered the overall increase.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

September 2000

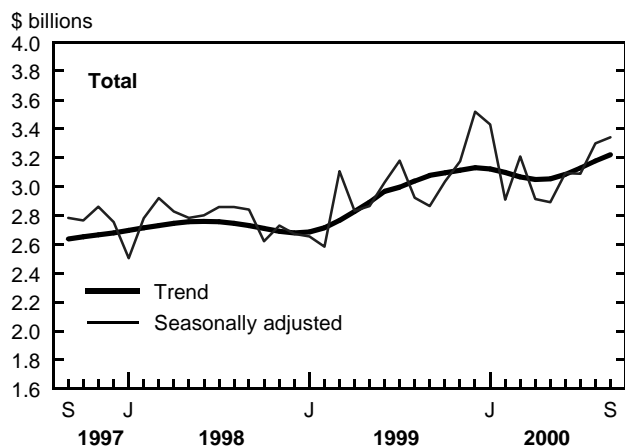
Municipalities issued \$3.3 billion worth of building permits in September, up 1.2% from August, as the non-residential sector reported its best monthly performance in 11 years. A decline in permits for housing tempered the overall increase.

Non-residential construction intentions climbed 20.8% to \$1.7 billion. The value of new projects surged in all three components — industrial, commercial and institutional.

Housing intentions, after a strong showing in August, fell 13.4% to \$1.6 billion, mainly because of a marked decline in construction of multi-family dwellings.

Cumulatively, building permits have recorded their strongest performance for the first nine months of any year since 1989. Between January and September, the value of construction intentions reached \$28.2 billion, up 8.2% from the same nine-month period in 1999. Every component in both the residential and non-residential sectors recorded gains.

Total value of permits up



At the regional level, the largest increases (in dollar terms) in the year-to-date total occurred in the Census Metropolitan Areas of Ottawa (+34.7%) and Montréal (+12.7%). The low vacancy rate for office space in the Ottawa area has led to a significant increase in permits for office buildings. A noticeable increase in

Note to readers

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.

manufacturing plant projects was the major contributor to Montréal's advance. In both areas, robust growth in building intentions for new single-family dwellings also played a key role.

Multi-family dwellings down after jumping in August

Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings fell 34.2% to \$429 million in September, after a significant surge in August. In addition, permits for single-family dwellings were down 2.4% to \$1.2 billion.

Several factors could have a positive impact on the housing market in the near future. Housing starts have advanced 7.1%, mortgage rates remain stable and levels of full-time employment and consumer confidence remained high.

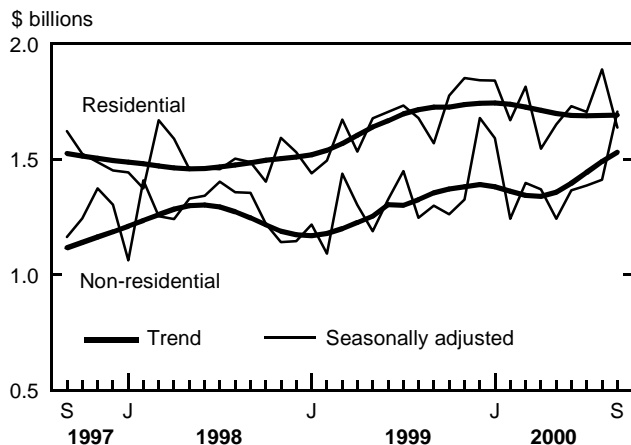
Among the provinces, the largest decreases (in dollar terms) in residential permits occurred in British Columbia (-41.4% to \$178 million) and Ontario (-12.1% to \$826 million). In both provinces, declines in single- and multi-family dwellings pushed down the residential component. Increases in housing intentions were recorded only in Quebec (+8.7%), Manitoba (+41.0%) and Newfoundland (+13.0%).

For the first nine months of 2000, the value of residential permits was up 6.8% to \$15.5 billion compared with the same period of 1999. This represents the best performance for the January-to-September period since 1989. Single-family dwellings led the way with a 7.2% advance, while multi-family intentions were up 5.7%.

The most significant year-to-date provincial growth occurred in Ontario (+8.3% to \$7.7 billion), followed by Quebec (+8.7% to \$2.4 billion). These gains were chiefly the result of increased intentions for single-family

dwellings in the Toronto and Montréal metropolitan areas. In Ontario, the value of housing permits was the highest recorded for the first nine months of any year. Moderating effects came from declines in British Columbia (-1.7%) and New Brunswick (-2.8%).

The value of non-residential permits climbed



Non-residential posts best monthly showing since August 1989

For a fourth straight month, the value of non-residential building permits increased, jumping 20.8% to \$1.7 billion in September, pushed by all three components (industrial, commercial and institutional). This was the best monthly showing since August 1989.

After a decline in August, commercial building permits grew 16.5% to \$830 million. Warehouses and office buildings recorded the largest increases, while hotels, restaurants and recreational buildings showed the most significant declines.

A project for a large plant in the St. Catharines–Niagara Census Metropolitan Area helped push the overall industrial component up 25.8% to \$500 million.

Institutional projects advanced 24.3% to \$375 million, the best monthly performance this year, owing to a large jump in university building projects in Ontario.

On a provincial basis, Ontario (+47.3%) dominated the increases in all three components. The largest decreases occurred in British Columbia (-15.5%) and Alberta (-11.0%).

Non-residential sector keeping its momentum

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of non-residential building permits reached \$12.7 billion, 10.0% higher than between January and September of 1999, and the best performance for the first nine months since 1989. All three components posted gains.

Commercial projects were up 11.1% in the first nine months compared with the same period in 1999 to \$6.8 billion. Large gains came from trade and services and office building intentions.

Industrial building projects were up 15.9% to \$3.1 billion, mainly reflecting the growth in factory and plant projects. Only the utility buildings category showed a loss.

Institutional projects saw the smallest gain, rising 1.8% to \$2.8 billion in the first nine months. The increase in education and government administration building projects was largely offset by the decline in medical project intentions.

Among the provinces, the most significant increases for the first nine months (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario (+9.7% to \$5.4 billion) and Alberta (+26.6% to \$1.9 billion), mainly because of growth in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area.

In contrast, Newfoundland recorded the largest decline (-34.0%), as non-residential permits were pulled down by a decrease in the industrial component.

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

The September 2000 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The October 2000 building permit estimate will be released on December 6.

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

	Aug. 2000 ^r	Sept. 2000 ^p	Aug. to Sept. 2000	Jan. to Sept. 1999	Jan. to Sept. 2000	Jan.-Sept. 1999 to Jan.-Sept. 2000
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	3,299.7	3,340.5	1.2	26,041.1	28,177.1	8.2
Residential	1,888.3	1,635.7	-13.4	14,490.8	15,470.6	6.8
Non-residential	1,411.4	1,704.8	20.8	11,550.3	12,706.5	10.0
Newfoundland	17.4	24.9	43.0	230.8	232.4	0.7
Residential	13.8	15.5	13.0	117.4	157.5	34.2
Non-residential	3.6	9.3	156.3	113.4	74.9	-34.0
Prince Edward Island	9.4	11.7	24.4	96.8	86.7	-10.4
Residential	5.9	4.9	-18.0	49.6	49.7	0.1
Non-residential	3.5	6.9	95.9	47.1	37.1	-21.4
Nova Scotia	57.2	49.5	-13.6	656.3	716.4	9.2
Residential	45.9	32.9	-28.3	351.6	406.8	15.7
Non-residential	11.3	16.6	45.9	304.7	309.6	1.6
New Brunswick	53.0	37.8	-28.8	343.6	357.1	3.9
Residential	26.0	19.7	-24.3	202.6	196.8	-2.8
Non-residential	27.0	18.0	-33.2	141.1	160.3	13.6
Quebec	506.6	610.8	20.6	4,319.4	4,769.5	10.4
Residential	255.4	277.7	8.7	2,219.6	2,413.4	8.7
Non-residential	251.2	333.1	32.6	2,099.8	2,356.1	12.2
Ontario	1,516.5	1,675.9	10.5	12,084.1	13,158.0	8.9
Residential	939.7	826.4	-12.1	7,117.5	7,711.2	8.3
Non-residential	576.8	849.5	47.3	4,966.6	5,446.8	9.7
Manitoba	60.0	92.5	54.2	649.4	721.9	11.2
Residential	27.5	38.7	41.0	264.9	296.8	12.0
Non-residential	32.5	53.7	65.5	384.5	425.1	10.6
Saskatchewan	57.8	39.0	-32.5	529.8	520.0	-1.9
Residential	25.8	16.7	-35.1	191.6	202.5	5.7
Non-residential	32.0	22.3	-30.4	338.1	317.5	-6.1
Alberta	476.7	433.0	-9.2	3,536.4	4,025.6	13.8
Residential	239.8	222.2	-7.4	2,060.8	2,158.1	4.7
Non-residential	236.9	210.8	-11.0	1,475.6	1,867.5	26.6
British Columbia	520.4	361.2	-30.6	3,478.3	3,486.3	0.2
Residential	303.6	178.0	-41.4	1,867.7	1,836.9	-1.7
Non-residential	216.8	183.3	-15.5	1,610.6	1,649.4	2.4
Yukon	19.2	2.0	-89.6	37.4	43.1	15.4
Residential	1.3	1.2	-10.0	13.1	11.3	-13.2
Non-residential	17.9	0.8	-95.4	24.3	31.7	30.7
Northwest Territories	3.4	1.6	-51.3	35.5	18.3	-48.3
Residential	2.0	1.1	-43.9	10.3	9.0	-12.4
Non-residential	1.4	0.5	-62.0	25.1	9.3	-62.9
Nunavut	2.1	0.7	-69.3	43.3	41.7	-3.8
Residential	1.6	0.7	-58.7	24.0	20.6	-14.3
Non-residential	0.5	0.0	-100.0	19.3	21.1	9.2

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.



OTHER RELEASES

Electric lamps

Third quarter 2000

Data on manufacturers' imports, production and inventories of electric lamps for the third quarter are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Cereals and oilseeds review, August 2000
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$11/\$112).

Cereals and oilseeds review, August 2000
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB (\$15/\$149).

Aviation service bulletin, Vol. 32, no. 10
Catalogue number 51-004-XIB (\$8/\$82).

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.

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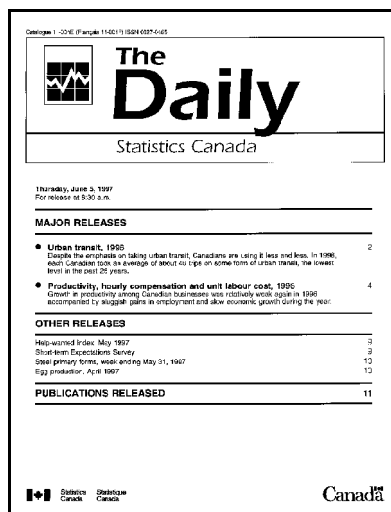
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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 access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to lstproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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