



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, October 2000** 2
The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined in October as construction intentions in the industrial component plunged to their lowest level in 14 months. Builders took out \$3.1 billion worth of building permits, down 6.8% from September.

OTHER RELEASES

- Farming operating revenues and expenses, 1999 5
- Annual Survey of Manufactures, 1998 5

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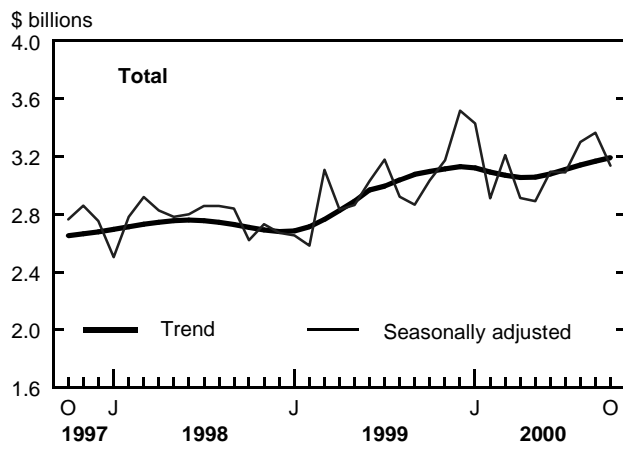
Building permits

October 2000

The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined in October as construction intentions in the industrial component plunged to their lowest level in 14 months. Builders took out \$3.1 billion worth of permits, down 6.8% from September.

A gain in permits for housing in October failed to offset a decline in non-residential permits. Municipalities issued \$1.7 billion in residential permits, up 5.5% from September. Both single- and multi-family dwellings showed gains. Intentions in the non-residential sector fell 18.4% to \$1.4 billion owing in large part to the substantial decline in industrial permits.

Total value of permits down



For the first 10 months of 2000, municipalities issued \$31.3 billion in permits, a 7.8% increase compared with the same period in 1999. Higher intentions for every component in both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this performance, which was the best for the January-to-October period since 1989.

Regionally, 21 of the 26 census metropolitan areas showed advances in the year-to-date total. Powered largely by new projects across all non-residential categories (industrial, commercial and institutional), the largest rise (in dollar terms) occurred in Calgary (+23.6%). Ottawa came just behind (+37.4%) because of a surge in intentions to construct office buildings, reflecting the low vacancy rate in the region.

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.

Increases in both single- and multi-family housing components

The value of building permits for multi-family dwellings gained 14.5% to \$493 million in October, after a major decline in September. Construction intentions for single-family dwellings were up 2.3% to \$1.2 billion.

Several housing market indicators are in line with this performance. In October, home resales were up and a sustained demand for residential building permits was reflected in a 4.9% increase in housing starts. Furthermore, these developments occurred in a context of stable mortgage rates, high levels of full-time employment and continued economic growth.

Provincially, the housing sector's activity in October was led by Ontario where the value of permits rose 10.4% to \$919 million. The major force was a significant increase in permits for multi-family dwellings in the Toronto area.

Alberta also showed a noticeable gain in residential permits (+17.6% to \$262 million) as both single- and multi-family dwellings contributed to the increase. In contrast, the most significant decline occurred in British Columbia (-16.6% to \$148 million), where decreases were recorded for both single- and multi-family dwellings. An important factor in the decline was a strike among municipal workers in Vancouver, which delayed the processing of building permits.

For the January-to-October period, the value of residential permits totalled \$17.2 billion, the best performance for the first 10 months of any year since 1989. This level was a 5.8% increase from the same period last year. Single-family permits were up 6.5%, and multi-family up 3.9%.

Provincially, the largest cumulative value gain occurred in Ontario (+8.1% over 1999) where

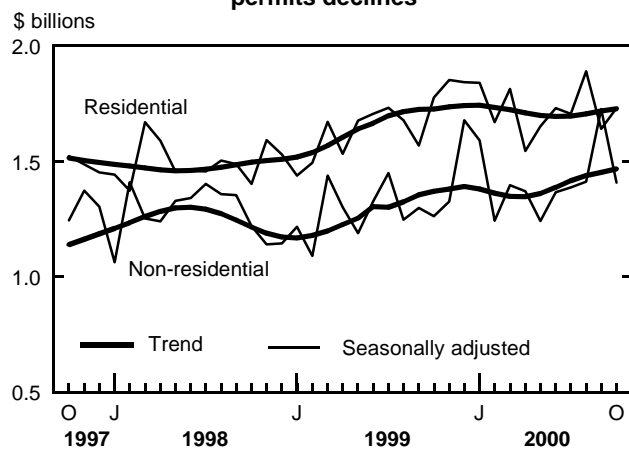
the \$8.6 billion total was the province's highest January-to-October sum on record. The next-highest gain was recorded by Quebec (+7.8% to 2.7 billion).

All three components pushed down the non-residential sector

After four straight monthly increases, the total value of non-residential building permits declined 18.4% to \$1.4 billion in October, pushed down by all three components (industrial, commercial and institutional).

After reaching their highest level since November 1997 in September, industrial permits declined a sharp 51.5% to \$252 million in October. All categories contributed to this important decline, led largely by significant decreases in permits for manufacturing buildings in the St. Catharines-Niagara and Montreal census metropolitan areas.

The value of non-residential permits declines



Permits in the institutional component fell 8.6% to \$340 million mainly because of reductions in the education category. This decline was tempered by important new projects in the Calgary area.

Commercial permits fell 2.1% to \$816 million with recreational and office buildings recording the largest declines. In contrast, warehouse projects showed the largest gains.

Provincially, the most significant decreases (in dollar terms) were in Ontario (-32.0%) and Quebec (-34.1%) as losses came from all three components. In contrast,

the largest increases occurred in Alberta (+18.7%) and Nova Scotia (+151.6%).

Year-to-date: momentum strong in non-residential sector

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of non-residential building permits reached \$14.1 billion, 10.3% higher than the January-to-October period in 1999, and the best performance for the first 10 months since 1989. All three components posted gains.

So far this year, activity in the trade and services, and office building categories has buoyed commercial projects which were up 12.6% to \$7.6 billion compared with the same period in 1999.

For the first 10 months of 2000, industrial building permits were up 10.9% to \$3.4 billion compared with the same period in 1999, mainly reflecting the growth in projects for manufacturing buildings. All categories have shown increases so far this year.

Institutional intentions recorded the smallest increase (+4.7% to \$3.1 billion) in the January-to-October period. The rise in government administration building projects was partly offset by the decline in intentions for medical projects.

Among the provinces, the most significant increases for the first 10 months (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario (+10.5% to \$6.1 billion) and Alberta (+25.5% to \$2.1 billion), where the census metropolitan area of Calgary played a predominant role.

In contrast, Newfoundland recorded the largest decline (-20.1%) 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 October 2000 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The November 2000 building permit estimate will be released on January 11.

For more information or to inquire 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

	Sept. 2000 ^r	Oct. 2000 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 2000	Jan. to Oct. 1999	Jan. to Oct. 2000	Jan.-Oct. 1999 to Jan.-Oct. 2000
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	3,365.2	3,137.5	-6.8	29,077.3	31,339.2	7.8
Residential	1,640.3	1,730.0	5.5	16,265.5	17,205.2	5.8
Non-residential	1,724.8	1,407.5	-18.4	12,811.8	14,134.0	10.3
Newfoundland	24.7	41.0	66.3	255.8	273.2	6.8
Residential	15.3	14.0	-8.4	128.2	171.3	33.7
Non-residential	9.4	27.0	188.1	127.7	101.9	-20.1
Prince Edward Island	11.7	9.7	-17.4	110.6	96.3	-12.9
Residential	4.8	4.7	-2.3	55.3	54.3	-1.8
Non-residential	6.9	5.0	-27.9	55.3	42.0	-24.1
Nova Scotia	48.5	76.7	58.1	749.6	792.3	5.7
Residential	32.4	36.1	11.4	399.1	442.3	10.8
Non-residential	16.2	40.7	151.6	350.5	349.9	-0.2
New Brunswick	37.6	44.3	17.7	389.5	401.3	3.0
Residential	19.7	25.6	29.8	227.2	222.3	-2.1
Non-residential	17.9	18.7	4.5	162.3	178.9	10.2
Quebec	620.7	498.6	-19.7	4,824.0	5,278.0	9.4
Residential	277.1	272.1	-1.8	2,491.2	2,684.9	7.8
Non-residential	343.7	226.5	-34.1	2,332.8	2,593.2	11.2
Ontario	1,698.3	1,507.8	-11.2	13,471.4	14,688.2	9.0
Residential	832.0	918.8	10.4	7,992.1	8,635.5	8.1
Non-residential	866.4	589.0	-32.0	5,479.3	6,052.7	10.5
Manitoba	92.9	65.0	-30.0	725.5	787.4	8.5
Residential	39.4	26.5	-32.7	294.5	323.9	10.0
Non-residential	53.5	38.5	-28.0	431.0	463.5	7.5
Saskatchewan	38.0	59.3	55.9	583.0	578.3	-0.8
Residential	16.3	19.7	21.3	217.4	221.7	2.0
Non-residential	21.8	39.5	81.8	365.6	356.5	-2.5
Alberta	427.7	505.2	18.1	3,954.8	4,525.5	14.4
Residential	223.1	262.4	17.6	2,278.3	2,421.5	6.3
Non-residential	204.5	242.7	18.7	1,676.4	2,104.0	25.5
British Columbia	360.6	312.9	-13.2	3,883.8	3,798.5	-2.2
Residential	177.3	147.9	-16.6	2,131.9	1,984.1	-6.9
Non-residential	183.3	165.0	-10.0	1,751.9	1,814.4	3.6
Yukon	2.0	11.8	488.4	43.4	54.9	26.6
Residential	1.2	1.3	10.9	14.7	12.7	-14.0
Non-residential	0.8	10.5	1,177.6	28.6	42.2	47.5
Northwest Territories	1.8	3.7	113.3	38.7	22.2	-42.6
Residential	1.2	0.8	-36.8	11.2	9.9	-11.5
Non-residential	0.5	3.0	469.3	27.5	12.3	-55.3
Nunavut	0.7	1.4	116.7	47.3	43.1	-8.9
Residential	0.7	0.0	-94.6	24.4	20.7	-15.4
Non-residential	0.0	1.4	...	22.9	22.4	-2.0

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Not applicable.

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



OTHER RELEASES

Farming operating revenues and expenses 1999 (preliminary estimates)

Average operating revenues per farm increased 2.8% in 1999 to \$158,339 according to taxation records. In the same period, average operating expenses rose at a faster rate (+4.0%) to \$135,581. Operating margins were 14.4 cents per revenue dollar, down from 15.3 cents in 1998. In current dollars, average operating revenues in 1999 were 10.9% above the five-year average for 1994-98, but operating margins were lower by 1.9 cents per dollar of revenue.

Higher revenues from the sale of cattle (+16.0%) and from the sale of greenhouse and nursery products (+9.1%) largely accounted for the overall rise in average operating revenues. Lower revenues from grain and oilseed sales (-9.0%) from lower market prices, moderated the overall increase.

Average operating expenses rose mainly because of higher cattle purchases (+20.3%) and interest costs (+8.4%).

In 1999, the average operating revenues of poultry and egg farms ranked first at \$533,790, followed by those of greenhouse and nursery farms (\$484,124) and potato farms (\$462,858). Average operating revenues of greenhouse and nursery farms increased 13.5% over 1998, marking the largest gain among all farm types.

In 1999, 4 of the 11 major farm types experienced declines in average operating revenues, according to taxation records. The average operating revenues of grain and oilseed farms had the most significant decrease with a drop of 1.7%.

For the same period, the average operating expenses of poultry and egg farms ranked first at \$464,569, followed by those of greenhouse and nursery farms (\$423,715) and potato farms (\$384,257). The largest increase over 1998 in the average operating expenses was for greenhouse and nursery farms (+13.6%).

In terms of operating margins, dairy farms ranked first at 25.9 cents per dollar of revenue, up 1.1 cents from 1998. Tobacco farms ranked second at 20.8 cents. These two farm types were the only two with operating margins higher than 20 cents per dollar of revenue. Seven of the 11 major farm types posted higher operating margins in 1999. On a sales-class basis, farms with operating revenues ranging between \$100,000 and \$249,999 had the highest operating margins, estimated at 20.2 cents, down from 21.2 cents in 1998.

Average operating revenues and expenses per farm and operating margins 1999

	Average operating revenues	Average operating expenses	Operating margin ¹
	dollars		cents
All farms	158,339	135,581	14.4
Poultry and eggs	533,790	464,569	13.0
Greenhouse and nursery	484,124	423,715	12.5
Potato	462,858	384,257	17.0
Livestock combination	416,194	334,508	19.6
Hogs	405,667	379,960	6.3
Tobacco	250,481	198,414	20.8
Dairy	245,842	182,076	25.9
Fruit and vegetable	165,790	138,273	16.6
Cattle	144,701	134,913	6.8
Grain and oilseed	107,344	86,392	19.5
Other farm types	89,080	80,377	9.8

¹ Defined as one dollar less operating expenses (before depreciation) per dollar of revenue.

Note: These estimates cover unincorporated farms with gross operating revenues of \$10,000 and over, and corporations with total farm sales of \$25,000 and over for which 51% or more of their sales come from agricultural activities. Estimates presented in this release also include communal farming organizations. Operating margin is defined as one dollar less operating expenses (before depreciation) per dollar of revenue.

For custom-data requests, contact Client Services (613-951-5027), Agriculture Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel Michaud (613-951-0701), Agriculture Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures 1998

The Annual Survey of Manufactures has adopted the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for its 1998 reference year. Previous years' data have been re-aggregated to the new classification system back to 1990. Information on over 250 different industries will be provided. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available for Canada. Data for 40 industries have now been released.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 11830, 11832, 11834, 11836, 11837, 11839, 11842, 11844, 11847, 11848, 11850, 11853, 11856, 11858, 11861, 11863, 11866, 11868, 11870, 11871.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada: national and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, \$68). The 1998 issue of this publication will be available soon. See *How to order products*. Industry review papers are accessible on the Statistics Canada Web site (www.statcan.ca) under *Products and services*, *Research papers free* and *Manufacturing*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Beaulieu (613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; manufact@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	NAICS	1997	1998	1997 to 1998 % change
		\$ millions		
Petrochemical manufacturing	325110	2,796.7	2,528.1	-9.6
Industrial gas manufacturing	325120	364.1	399.2	9.6
Synthetic dye and pigment	325130	555.2	640.2	15.3
Alkali and chlorine manufacturing	325181	563.8	587.0	4.1
All other basic inorganic chemicals	325189	1,877.7	1,749.8	-6.8
Other basic organic chemicals	325190	2,796.0	2,637.4	-5.7
Resin and synthetic rubber	325210	5,866.8	5,635.3	-4.0
Artificial and synthetic fibres and filaments	325220	1,058.3	971.8	-8.2
Chemical fertilizer (excluding potash)	325313	1,944.1	1,906.6	-1.9
Mixed fertilizer manufacturing	325314	430.0	413.6	-3.8
Pesticide and other agricultural chemicals	325320	343.1	393.3	14.6
Pharmaceutical and medicine	325410	4,886.1	4,773.6	-2.3
Paint and coating manufacturing	325510	1,768.0	1,888.0	6.8
Adhesive manufacturing	325520	485.1	460.3	-5.1
Soap and cleaning compound manufacturing	325610	1,935.8	1,895.2	-2.1
Toilet preparation manufacturing	325620	1,142.8	1,106.4	-3.2
Printing ink manufacturing	325910	364.3	353.9	-2.9
Explosives manufacturing	325920	293.2	251.5	-14.2
Custom compounding of purchased resins	325991	617.3	565.8	-8.3
All other miscellaneous chemical products	325999	2,398.0	2,217.1	-7.5



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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discusses the conditions on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
Short-term Expenditure Survey
- **Steel primary forms, waste ending May 31, 1997** 12
Frag production, April 1997

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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