



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 9, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, January 2000**

Following a strong finish in 1999, municipalities issued \$3.3 billion in building permits in January, a decline of 5.5% from December. However, construction intentions were up a substantial 25.2% over January 1999.

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 - **University enrolment, 1998/99**

Enrolment in undergraduate courses at Canadian universities increased slightly during the 1998/99 academic year, halting five consecutive years of declines. Universities enrolled 707,600 undergraduate students, 0.4% more than in the previous academic year.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

January 2000

Following a strong finish in 1999, municipalities issued \$3.3 billion in building permits in January, down 5.5% from December. Construction intentions went down in both residential and non-residential sectors.

In January, intentions in the non-residential sector fell 9.1% to \$1.5 billion, in the wake of declines in all three components (industrial, commercial and institutional). The housing sector recorded a slight decrease of 2.3% to \$1.8 billion, even though intentions for single-family dwellings carried over their strong growth.

Compared with a year earlier, 2000 has seen a strong start. The value of building permits in January surpassed construction intentions for January 1999 by 25.2%.

Note to readers

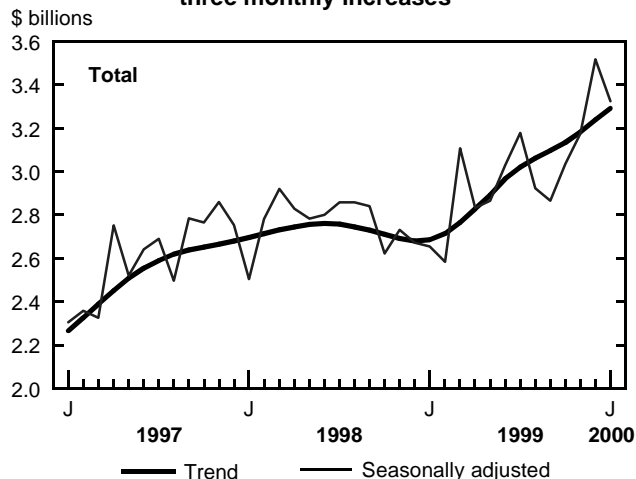
Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of Canada's 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 or culverts) and land.

As of this release, estimates of seasonally adjusted building permits data have been revised back to January 1997. At the end of each year, the chronological series adjusted for seasonality are revised to take into account the most recent seasonal fluctuations. The revisions apply only to the last three years in the series.

Total value of permits down after
three monthly increases



Residential sector: Setback in multi-family dwelling intentions

Residential intentions declined 2.3% to \$1.8 billion in January. However, January 2000 housing intentions were 25.1% higher than in January 1999.

The monthly decrease was solely due to the multi-family dwelling component, in which the value of permits fell 27.6% to \$415 million following a solid showing in the last months of 1999. Permits for

single-family dwellings rose 9.2% to \$1.4 billion, the best monthly value since 1992.

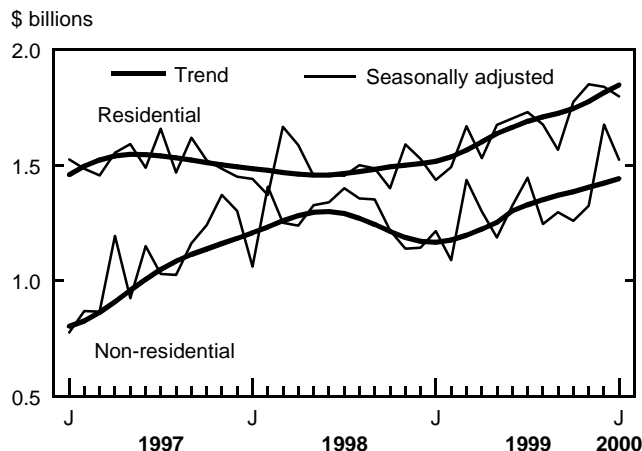
Despite January's decline in housing intentions, and even with the slight deterioration of housing affordability seen in the past few months, there is no major reason to believe that the housing market is slowing down. In fact, buoyant consumer confidence, high employment levels and 17 months of uninterrupted economic growth suggest that the housing market will grow in 2000.

This outlook is also supported by the latest release of Statistics Canada's Survey on Public and Private Investment, which showed that housing investment is expected to increase for the fifth consecutive year in 2000. Also, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation forecast 155,700 housing starts for 2000, up 3.8% from 1999.

At the provincial level, the largest declines (in dollar terms) were in Ontario (-5.7% to \$826 million), British Columbia (-17.6% to \$201 million) and Quebec (-7.7% to \$310 million). All three declines were solely due to drops in the multi-family dwelling component. Gains were posted in Alberta (+14.8% to \$283 million), Nova Scotia (+53.9% to \$49 million), and Manitoba (+44.6% to \$46 million), where both the single- and multi-family components helped counteract the overall loss.

In all provinces, housing construction intentions were higher than in January 1999. In Ontario, where the increase was greatest, the Toronto and Kitchener metropolitan areas picked up more than half the provincial gains.

Both sectors declined in January



Non-residential: First decline in the last three months

After a strong advance of 26.6% in December 1999, the value of permits in the non-residential sector slid 9.1% to \$1.5 billion in January 2000. All three components (industrial, institutional and commercial) contributed to the overall weakness. Nonetheless, January's level represents the best start of any year since 1989.

In January, institutional building intentions fell 18.7% to \$324 million; the educational and medical building categories contributed most to the decrease. Even so, this level was 45.5% higher than in January 1999.

Commercial building permits declined 7.6% to \$884 million in January, after a sharp increase of 27.6% the previous month. Significant reductions in the warehouse and laboratory categories were partially offset by an increase in permits for trade and recreational buildings. January's level was 41.7% higher than that of the same month last year.

Permits in the industrial component fell 1.5% to \$317 million, as declines in the factories, plants and mining categories were almost offset by gains in utilities and other small industrial project intentions. Industrial

intentions in January 2000 were down 14.3% from January 1999.

At the provincial level, the greatest monthly declines (in dollar value) in non-residential permits occurred in Ontario (-30.2% to \$628 million), Saskatchewan (-40.2% to \$38 million) and New Brunswick (-62.5% to \$11 million). In all three provinces, each component fell.

The largest increases were in British Columbia (+43.8% to \$241 million), Alberta (+39.7% to \$226 million) and Quebec (+10.3% to \$299 million). British Columbia showed increases in all three components. In Alberta and Quebec, the largest increases took place in the institutional and industrial components, respectively.

The value of building permits in January in the non-residential sector was 25.4% higher than in January 1999. All provinces, except Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, recorded increases over January 1999. British Columbia performed the best in this regard, and the provincial gains were almost all concentrated in the Vancouver area.

The outlook for non-residential construction is positive for the rest of 2000, based on a strong performance of the Canadian economy in the fourth quarter of 1999 and a 19.8% increase in corporate operating profits in 1999. In addition, non-residential construction activity (excluding engineering) is expected to increase further in 2000, according to Statistics Canada's Survey on Private and Public Investment.

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

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

The February 2000 building permits estimates will be released on April 4.

For more information or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; bureaujoa@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

	December 1999 ^r	January 2000 ^p	December 1999 to January 2000	January 1999 to January 2000
seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	3,517.7	3,323.8	-5.5	25.2
Residential	1,840.7	1,798.6	-2.3	25.1
Non-residential	1,677.0	1,525.1	-9.1	25.4
Newfoundland	28.8	26.4	-8.6	-44.1
Residential	13.0	20.8	60.1	88.9
Non-residential	15.8	5.5	-65.0	-84.7
Prince Edward Island	11.2	14.1	25.0	212.6
Residential	7.8	10.4	32.5	437.9
Non-residential	3.4	3.7	7.9	42.8
Nova Scotia	61.2	67.1	9.6	-8.1
Residential	32.1	49.4	53.9	31.1
Non-residential	29.1	17.7	-39.2	-50.0
New Brunswick	54.1	34.3	-36.6	14.0
Residential	25.3	23.5	-7.1	9.6
Non-residential	28.7	10.8	-62.5	25.2
Quebec	606.9	609.0	0.3	13.2
Residential	336.4	310.4	-7.7	18.5
Non-residential	270.6	298.6	10.3	8.1
Ontario	1,775.1	1,453.6	-18.1	26.3
Residential	875.7	825.7	-5.7	28.5
Non-residential	899.4	628.0	-30.2	23.4
Manitoba	66.6	99.6	49.5	18.0
Residential	32.1	46.4	44.6	39.2
Non-residential	34.5	53.2	54.1	4.2
Saskatchewan	90.3	61.8	-31.6	83.4
Residential	26.9	23.9	-11.2	71.8
Non-residential	63.4	37.9	-40.2	91.5
Alberta	408.1	508.8	24.7	20.3
Residential	246.4	282.9	14.8	23.9
Non-residential	161.8	225.9	39.7	16.1
British Columbia	411.6	442.0	7.4	70.1
Residential	244.0	201.0	-17.6	9.9
Non-residential	167.6	241.0	43.8	213.5
Yukon	1.6	2.1	29.0	-16.6
Residential	0.9	1.6	69.7	-36.1
Non-residential	0.7	0.5	-26.2	1,710.7
Northwest Territories	2.1	1.1	-47.0	-84.0
Residential	0.0	0.2	...	1,158.3
Non-residential	2.1	0.9	-54.4	-86.2
Nunavut	0.0	4.0
Residential	0.0	2.5
Non-residential	0.0	1.5

^r Revised data

^p Preliminary data

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

University enrolment

1998/99

Enrolment in undergraduate courses at Canadian universities increased marginally during the 1998/99 academic year, halting five consecutive years of decline.

Universities enrolled 707,600 undergraduate students, 0.4% more than in the previous academic year. However, this level was still a substantial 8.3% below the record 771,300 in 1992/93.

The small rise in enrolment in 1998/99 was the result of an increase in full-time undergraduate students that offset a small decline in part-time undergraduates. Universities enrolled 501,000 full-time undergraduates, 0.8% more than in 1997/98; this was the second time full-time enrolment has surpassed the half-million mark (the first was in 1994/95). At the same time, the number of part-time undergraduates declined 0.6% to 206,600.

The five-year decline in overall undergraduate enrolment was due entirely to a sharp drop in part-time undergraduates. Between 1992/93 and 1998/99, the number of part-time undergraduate students fell 24.6%, while enrolment in full-time undergraduate studies remained relatively steady. While part-time enrolment fell between 1997/98 and 1998/99, the 0.6 % decline was much smaller than in the previous years.

At the graduate level, enrolments have followed an upward trend since 1992/93. Universities enrolled 79,400 full-time graduate students in 1998/99, 10.0% more than six years earlier. Over the same period, the total number of part-time graduate students declined only 6.4% to 39,400.

University enrolment

	1992/93	1997/98	1998/99	1992/93 to 1998/99	1997/98 to 1998/99
				% change	
Full-time undergraduate	497,200	497,100	501,000	0.75	0.78
18- to 24-year-olds	412,100	418,500	423,800	2.83	1.26
Men	188,900	182,300	183,100	-3.06	0.44
Women	223,200	236,200	240,700	7.82	1.90
25- to 44-year-olds	79,900	73,600	72,000	-9.91	-2.15
Men	40,500	36,100	34,700	-14.35	-3.79
Women	39,400	37,500	37,300	-5.40	-0.57
Part-time undergraduate	274,100	207,900	206,600	-24.62	-0.63
18- to 24-year-olds	73,400	65,500	66,400	-9.56	1.26
Men	32,100	28,300	28,800	-10.24	1.62
Women	41,300	37,200	37,600	-9.04	1.00
25- to 44-year-olds	165,700	115,400	113,300	-31.64	-1.85
Men	59,700	42,600	41,700	-30.13	-2.08
Women	106,000	72,800	71,600	-32.49	-1.72

Note: Data are rounded to nearest 100, but percentages are calculated from non-rounded figures.

Full-time undergraduates: More women aged 18 to 24

Among full-time undergraduate students, women aged 18 to 24 were the only group whose enrolment increased between 1992/93 and 1998/99. During this six-year period, enrolment in this group increased 7.8% to 240,700. On the other hand, the number of enrolments for male full-time undergraduates aged 18 to 24 declined 3.5% to 182,300 between 1992/93 and 1997/98, and then rose 0.4% to 183,100 in 1998/99. In this age group, women represented 56.8% of full-time undergraduate enrolment in 1998/99, up from 54.3% in 1992/93.

These developments occurred during a period in which tuition fees increased, partially offsetting declines in government funding for each full-time student, a situation outlined in *The Daily* of August 25, 1999. In the 1992/93 academic year, universities received \$9,200 (in 1997 constant dollars) in federal-provincial government operating grants for each full-time student. Government grants had fallen to \$7,600 per full-time student in 1997/98 (-17%). Over the same period, tuition fees rose 48%, from an average of \$2,000 (in 1997 constant dollars) to \$3,000.

Provincial enrolment

	1992/93	1997/98	1998/99	1992/93 to 1998/99	1997/98 to 1998/99
				% change	
Full-time					
Newfoundland	13,200	13,100	13,100	-0.74	0.00
Prince Edward Island	2,700	2,400	2,500	-9.32	0.73
Nova Scotia	29,400	30,100	30,000	2.04	-0.17
New Brunswick	19,100	18,500	18,500	-3.04	0.14
Quebec	135,000	131,100	134,200	-0.64	2.36
Ontario	230,600	227,200	230,000	-0.25	1.25
Manitoba	20,600	21,000	20,900	1.50	-0.67
Saskatchewan	22,900	23,900	23,700	3.54	-0.87
Alberta	50,300	52,800	53,500	6.29	1.30
British Columbia	45,700	53,000	54,000	18.38	1.94
Canada	569,500	573,100	580,400	1.91	1.27
Part-time					
Newfoundland	4,600	2,700	2,600	-44.10	-3.28
Prince Edward Island	900	500	400	-54.38	-13.49
Nova Scotia	8,500	7,000	7,200	-14.66	2.97
New Brunswick	5,700	4,100	4,200	-25.82	1.34
Quebec	122,500	101,000	98,100	-19.87	-2.88
Ontario	108,500	76,300	73,000	-32.74	-4.32
Manitoba	17,000	9,800	9,900	-42.09	0.57
Saskatchewan	10,100	7,400	7,600	-24.15	3.50
Alberta	17,900	18,600	20,300	13.02	8.98
British Columbia	20,500	22,300	22,700	10.66	1.88
Canada	316,200	249,700	246,000	-22.20	-1.48
Total enrolment	885,700	822,800	826,400	-6.69	0.44

Note: Data are rounded to nearest 100, but percentages are calculated from non-rounded figures.

Enrolment in the provinces

Enrolment in full-time studies, both undergraduate and graduate, increased at universities in five provinces between 1992/93 and 1998/99.

The largest increase occurred in British Columbia, where the number of full-time students increased 18.4% to 54,000 during the six-year period. Full-time registrations also increased in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

However, enrolment in part-time undergraduate and graduate courses increased only in Alberta (+13%) and British Columbia (+10.7%) during the six-year

period. Universities in the other eight provinces incurred double-digit declines in part-time enrolment.

Available on CANSIM: tables 00580701 and 00580702.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Mongi Mouelhi (613-951-1537), the Centre for Education Statistics. To obtain tables on enrolments and graduations, contact Sharon-Anne Borde (613-951-1503 or 1-800-307-3382), the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending March 4 (Preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 4 totalled 338 189 tonnes, up 2.0% from 331 431 tonnes a week earlier and up 12.7% from 300 145 tonnes a year earlier. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 2 933 835 tonnes, 8.4% more than the 2 705 727 tonnes produced in the same period in 1999.

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. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

December 1999

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 13 373 116 cubic metres in December, up 4.7% from December 1998. Cumulative receipts for 1999 of 149 845 963 cubic metres were 3.0% lower compared with the same period in 1998. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products were 7 017 038 cubic metres in December, an increase of 3.1% from December 1998. Receipts for 1999 increased 1.1% to 79 194 639 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil (6 436 428 cubic metres) were 11.1% higher than in December 1998, and pipeline imports (2 056 801 cubic metres) increased 34.2%. Exports (67 255 905 cubic metres) were down 6.6% from 1998. Year-to-date imports (20 903 016 cubic metres) rose 11.8 %.

December deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 5 805 519 cubic

metres, 1.1% more than in December 1998. Deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in December increased 3.2% to 617 480 cubic metres. Year-to-date deliveries of crude oil to refineries at the end of December totalled 68 145 161 cubic metres, down 0.2% from the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 181, and 591-595.

The December 1999 issue of *Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products* (55-001-XIB, \$9/\$86) 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), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Traveller accommodation statistics 1997

Data for 1997 from the Annual Survey of Traveller Accommodation Service Industries are now available.

More detailed data will be released in *Traveller accommodation statistics, 1997* (63-204-XPB, \$28), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 71 and 72.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Joan Farnworth (613-951-6303) or Gord Baldwin (613-951-0407), Service Industries Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Labour force information, week ending February 19
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).
Available at 7 a.m. on Friday, March 10.

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Catalogue 11-001E (1 page) 11-001E/11-001E-001-001



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 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 six 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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