

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits, May 2000 The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 0.8% to \$2.9 billion in May. This slight decrease was attributable solely to the non-residential sector.

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Extraction system of agricultural statistics on CD-ROM 2000

The Extraction system of agricultural statistics (ESAS) on CD-ROM offers an extensive collection of the most requested physical and financial data on farming. This product is a co-operative effort between Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

ESAS enables extraction of data by Census Agricultural Region, farm type and revenue class. The 2000 version contains a full year of new data, as well as an online user guide and reference manual.

ESAS lets you reorganize your report, perform calculations and create graphs. You can also view selected tables on-screen, print them or export them for use in other applications. Whether you are interested in dairy production in Quebec or off-farm income in Saskatchewan, ESAS provides desktop access to all the data.

The CD-ROM Extraction system of agricultural statistics (21F0001XCB, \$625) is now available. An update can be purchased for \$295. A 50% educational discount is also available. To order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or call toll-free 1-800-267-6677. For more information, contact Linda Brazeau (613-951-5027; linda.brazeau@statcan.ca) or call Statistics Canada's Agriculture Division toll-free (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca).





The Daily, July 5, 2000

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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

May 2000

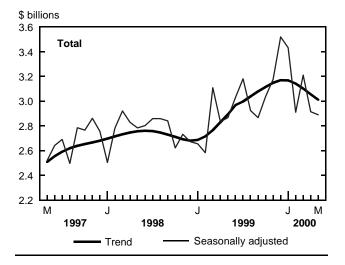
The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 0.8% to \$2.9 billion in May. This slight decrease was attributable solely to the non-residential sector.

Residential building permits gained 6.7% to \$1.6 billion in May, the result of higher intentions for both multi- and single-family dwellings.

At the same time, a significant decline in commercial projects led the non-residential building permits to a 9.3% loss in May to \$1.2 billion.

Construction intentions totalled \$15.4 billion between January and May, up 9.3% over the same period of 1999, and the best showing for the first five months of any year since 1990. Both the residential and non-residential sectors took part in this advance.

Total value of permits was down again in May



Both components of residential sector rose

Gains in both the multi- and single-family dwelling components contributed to the recovery in residential intentions in May. The value of building permits for multi-family dwellings was up 20.0% to \$441 million. As well, construction intentions for single-family dwellings

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which 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., water works, sewers and culverts) and land.

rose 2.5% to \$1.2 billion, after three consecutive monthly declines.

Several factors point to a promising housing market for the next few months. The lowest unemployment rate since 1976 combined with increased economic activity, including housing resale, will probably more than compensate for the effect of higher mortgage rates and prices for new housing.

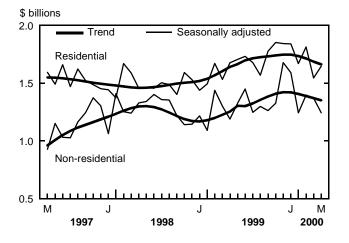
Among the provinces, growth in housing intentions in Ontario (+13.2 % to \$831 million) and British Columbia (+20.1% to \$199 million) was responsible for most of the overall gain in the value of residential building permits. In both cases, the advance resulted from gains in both single- and multi-family dwellings. Declines occurred in Quebec (-8.2% to \$232 million) and in Alberta (-4.3% to \$240 million). It was the fifth consecutive monthly decline in residential intentions in Quebec.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of residential permits reached \$8.5 billion during the first five months of 2000, 9.0% higher than in the same period last year. This gain was the result of a significant (+14.1) increase in single-family dwelling intentions. In contrast, multi-family dwelling intentions were down 4.1%.

Among the provinces, the largest year-to-date gains in dollar terms were posted in Ontario (+10.9%), Alberta (+12.7%) and Quebec (+9.0%). While both components pushed up the intentions in Alberta, the single-family dwelling component was the sole contributor to the increase in Ontario and Quebec. Declines in both single- and multi-family permits led to lower residential

construction intentions in British Columbia and New Brunswick.

Residential sector advanced in May



Commercial component pushed down the non-residential sector

The value of building permits in the non-residential sector declined 9.3% to \$1.2 billion in May, led by the 17.9% decrease to \$616 million in commercial intentions. The trade and services category, as well as hotels and restaurants, showed the most significant reductions.

Industrial building permits rose 2.0% to \$309 million, the result of an increase in permits for factories and plants.

Institutional intentions were virtually unchanged from April (+0.5% to \$318 million), led by gains in the medical and hospital category.

Among the provinces, Nova Scotia (-72.8% to \$31.1 million) and Quebec (-25.8% to \$222.9 million) saw the largest monthly drops in the non-residential sector in dollar terms. Nova Scotia had seen a significant increase in April. In Quebec, all three components declined in May. The largest increase occured in British Columbia (+29.5 to \$190.1 million), mainly as a result of gains in the institutional component.

For the first five months of 2000, the total value of building permits in the non-residential sector reached \$6.8 billion, up 9.7% over the same period in 1999. The year-to-date value for commercial building permits reached \$3.8 billion, up 12.4% over the same period last year. Meanwhile, the value of institutional building permits reached \$1.5 billion, 7.6% higher than in the first five months of 1999 and industrial projects were up 5.6% to \$1.6 billion.

Alberta showed the largest gain (+41.5%) on a year-to-date basis, followed by British Columbia (+16.8%). Newfoundland recorded the largest decline (-50.6%), as non-residential permits were pulled down by the institutional component.

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

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

The June 2000 building permit estimate will be released on August 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 Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

	April	May	April	May
	2000 ^r	2000 ^p	to	1999
	2000	2000	May 2000	to May
		seasonally adjusted	2000	2000
		seasonally adjusted	0/ 1	
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	2,912.9	2,889.0	-0.8	0.8
Residential	1,544.0	1,646.9	6.7	-1.8
Non-residential	1,368.9	1,242.1	-9.3	4.5
Newfoundland	24.5	18.4	-25.0	22.7
Residential	14.6	10.9	-25.8	1.3
Non-residential	9.9	7.6	-23.9	76.3
Prince Edward Island	12.7	5.2	-58.6	-52.1
Residential	7.6	2.7	-64.8	-61.1
Non-residential	5.1	2.6	-49.3	-37.1
lova Scotia	160.1	81.6	-49.0	1.1
Residential	45.7	50.4	10.3	21.0
Non-residential	114.4	31.2	-72.8	-20.2
New Brunswick	36.9	37.7	2.3	-20.2
Residential	23.0	21.6	-6.1	-17.1
Non-residential	13.9	16.2	16.2	10.0
Quebec	552.8	454.5	-17.8	11.9
Residential	252.4	231.6	-8.2	-2.9
Non-residential	300.4	222.9	-25.8	33.0
Ontario	1,262.5	1,349.2	6.9	-2.0
Residential	734.0	830.7	13.2	-2.3
Non-residential	528.5	518.4	-1.9	-1.7
<i>l</i> lanitoba	61.9	63.8	2.9	-1.8
Residential	27.6	30.5	10.2	16.5
Non-residential	34.3	33.3	-2.9	-14.
Saskatchewan	57.3	49.7	-13.1	19.7
Residential	20.7	23.7	14.4	-3.2
Non-residential	36.6	26.1	-28.7	52.5
Alberta Residential Non-residential	427.0	431.8	1.1	10.7
	250.3	239.6	-4.3	2.9
	176.7	192.1	8.8	22.2
British Columbia	312.4	389.0	24.5	-7.9
Residential	165.6	198.9	20.1	-7.2
Non-residential	146.8	190.1	29.5	-8.7
ukon	2.7	2.0	-27.6	-24.1
Residential	1.3	1.6	23.8	9.5
Non-residential	1.4	0.4	-74.4	-67.1
lorthwest Territories	1.3	2.6	94.4	38.3
Residential	0.6	1.5	129.7	362.3
Non-residential	0.7	1.1	60.1	-30.0
lunavut	0.8	3.5	362.9	-66.
Residential	0.6	3.3	440.9	17.:
Non-residential	0.2	0.2	44.0	-97.:

r Revised data.
P Preliminary data.
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

OTHER RELEASES

Quarterly retail commodity survey

First quarter 2000 (preliminary)

Shoppers rang up \$59.3 billion in retail sales in the first quarter. They spent the largest proportion, 30% or \$17.7 billion, on motor vehicles, parts and service, followed by food and beverages (23% or \$13.9 billion). Consumers spent more on automotive fuels, oils and additives than they did on clothing, footwear and accessories, health and personal care products or home furnishings and electronics. (All data in this release are not adjusted for seasonality.)

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

First
quarter
2000 ^p
unadjusted
\$ millions
13,855
4,462
4,698
4.070
4,379
47 707
17,737
4.000
4,808
0.202
9,383
59,322

Preliminary data.

Of every \$100 consumers spent at retail stores in the first quarter, they spent \$15 for new motor vehicles, \$7 for used vehicles, \$8 for automotive fuels, \$4.50 for tires and other parts and accessories, and \$3.50 for labour receipts. (Sales of new motor vehicles includes the full selling price, including leased vehicles at their full selling price.)

Of the \$13.9 billion spent on food and beverages, 82% was spent on food, 12% on

alcoholic beverages and 6% on non-alcoholic beverages. Consumers bought 89% of their food from supermarkets and grocery stores. They also bought a large proportion of "non-traditional" products from these stores: 30% of their over-the-counter drugs, 12% of their prescription drugs, 62% of their tobacco products, 50% of their household cleaning supplies and 30% of their nursery stock and cut flowers.

Consumers spent \$4.7 billion on clothing, footwear and accessories: 78% was for clothing and accessories, 14% was for footwear, 7% was for jewellery and watches and 1% was for luggage. Of the total spent on clothing, 56% was for women's clothing and accessories 28% was for men's, 13% was for boys, girls and infants' clothing, and 2% was for unisex clothing. Shoppers tended to buy most of their clothing, footwear and accessories from specialty clothing and shoe stores (54%), and to a lesser extent from department and general merchandise stores (30%).

Shoppers spent \$4.4 billion on home furnishings and electronics. Most of these items were purchased from specialty stores, with a few exceptions. Shoppers purchased most of their bedding, linens and bathroom accessories (76%) from general merchandise stores (which includes department stores). Seventy-six percent of all small electrical appliances were purchased from general merchandise and auto supply stores. Fifty-one percent of nursery furniture and equipment (this includes mattresses, carriages and strollers) was bought in a general merchandise store.

Revised data for 1998 and 1999 will be available in the fall with the next release of the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey. For more data, contact the Client Services Unit of Distributive Trades Division (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Leslie Kiss (613-951-3556), Distributive Trades Division.

Commodity share of sales within store types

First quarter 2000

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe	Household furniture, appliance	General merchandise and	Other retail stores	All retail stores
		stores	stores	and household furnishing	automotive parts, accessories		
				stores	and service stores		
Commodities				70			
Food and beverages	77.9	5.1	0.1	0.0	11.6	6.0	23.4
Health and personal care products	6.0	82.1	1.3	0.0	6.7	1.2	7.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.3	0.5	90.7	0.0	15.0	2.5	7.9
Home furnishings and electronics Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.4 0.0	3.4 0.0	1.5 0.0	86.6 0.6	12.8 26.8	1.0 57.0	7.4 29.9
Automotive fuels, oils and additives All other goods and services	2.1 13.2	0.0 8.9	0.0 6.5	0.0 12.7	2.1 24.9	16.2 16.2	8.1 15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Commodity share of sales across store types

First quarter 2000

-	Food	Drug	Clothing	Household	General	Other	All
	stores	stores	and	furniture,	merchandise	retail	retail
			shoe	appliance	and	stores	stores
			stores	and	automotive		
				household	parts,		
				furnishing	accessories		
				stores	and		
					service		
					stores		
				%			
Commodities	-						
Food and beverages	79.3	1.2	0.0	0.0	7.9	11.5	100.0
Health and personal care	18.9	59.1	0.8	0.0	14.2	6.9	100.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1.0	0.3	53.9	0.0	30.3	14.4	100.0
Home furnishings and electronics	1.4	2.5	0.9	61.4	27.7	6.1	100.0
Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.3	85.6	100.0
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	89.6	100.0
All other goods and services	19.9	3.0	1.9	4.2	25.1	45.8	100.0
Total	23.8	5.4	4.7	5.2	15.9	44.9	100.0

Estimates of labour income

April 2000 (preliminary)

Labour income rose 3.3% in April. The significant growth in both labour income and in wages and salaries, a subset of labour income, occurred because of federal government pay equity payments. If the impact of these payments were removed, labour income would have increased 0.3%, similar to the gain 0.4% gain recorded in March. April's growth marked the 15th consecutive monthly gain in labour income.

Wages and salaries increased in 10 of the 16 industry groups; the strongest gains were in federal and other government administration. Manufacturing and commercial and personal services continued to post increases in wages and salaries, pushed by growth in employment. The overall growth in wages and salaries was slightly moderated by declines in the trade, finance, insurance and real estate and local administration industry groups. The latter was affected by a work stoppage in by Toronto municipal workers.

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 the labour income data should note that the seasonally adjusted data are revised back to January 2000.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income

	March 2000 ^r	April 2000 ^p	March to April 2000
	seasor	nally adjusted	
_	\$ million	s	% change
Agriculture, fishing and			
trapping	321.4	317.6	-1.2
Logging and forestry Mining, quarrying and	276.3	276.5	0.1
oil wells	851.7	859.8	1.0
Manufacturing	7,301.9	7,315.8	0.2
Construction	2,366.6	2,367.9	0.1
Other Utilities	617.4	619.7	0.4
Transportation,			
storage,			
communications	2,768.8	2,783.3	0.5
Trade	5,527.3	5,506.7	-0.4
Finance, insurance and	0.404.4	0.440.5	0.0
real estate Commercial and	3,461.1	3,449.5	-0.3
personal services	6,674.0	6,707.1	0.5
Educational and related	0,074.0	0,707.1	0.5
services	2,846.3	2,892.4	1.6
Health and social	2,0 .0.0	2,002	
services	2,950.8	2,963.8	0.4
Federal administration	,	,	
and other			
government			
services	881.8	2,202.7	149.8
Provincial			
administration	722.8	722.8	0.0
Local administration	682.8	658.5	-3.6
Military	278.9	275.6	-1.2
Total wages and salaries	38,530.0	39,919.9	3.6
	00,000.0	00,010.0	0.0
Supplementary labour			
income	5,059.5	5,119.0	1.2
Labour income	43,589.5	45,038.8	3.3

r Revised figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6596-6624.

The April 2000 issue of *Tables and analytical document: Estimates of labour income, monthly estimates* (13F0016XPB, \$20/\$200) is now available. At 8:30 a.m. on release day, data sets are available for purchase on 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.

Department store sales and stocks May 2000

Department store sales were almost unchanged in May compared with April, declining by \$2.5 million (-0.2%) to \$1,492.6 million (seasonally adjusted). This decrease followed a 1.0% rise from March to April.

The downward movement in department store sales since the end of the summer of 1999 has stabilized in recent months. However, sales in May were 5.7% lower than the peak of \$1.58 billion reported in August 1999. Previously, department store sales had been generally rising since early 1996, with the exception of a pause in the spring and summer of 1998.

Unadjusted department store sales in May were 1.1% lower than in May 1999. Sales in May compared with May 1999 varied considerably from one province to another. They advanced furthest in Saskatchewan (+9.7%). Department store sales have been generally rising in Saskatchewan since the spring of 1995. The region formed by Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island (+5.2%) showed the second largest year-over-year sales gain.

Department store sales including concessions

	May	May	May	Jan.	JanMay
	1999	2000	1999	to	1999
			to	May	to
			May	2000	JanMay
			2000		2000
			unadjuste	ed	
			%		
	\$ mill	ions	change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,459.9	1,444.5	-1.1	6,133.4	2.3
Newfoundland and Prince					
Edward Island ¹	26.2	27.5	5.2	119.7	11.7
Nova Scotia	44.8	41.1	-8.2	179.7	0.3
New Brunswick	31.9	33.0	3.5	137.4	7.5
Quebec	288.0	277.4	-3.7	1,144.9	1.4
Ontario	623.4	623.8	0.1	2,625.0	2.8
Manitoba	59.9	59.6	-0.5	255.1	1.5
Saskatchewan	47.3	51.9	9.7	217.7	9.2
Alberta	166.2	167.4	0.7	728.3	3.8
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and					
Nunavut ¹	172.3	162.7	-5.6	725.5	-2.5

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Nova Scotia reported the largest year-over-year decline (-8.2%). Despite this decrease, department store sales in Nova Scotia have been generally advancing since the fall of 1996. The region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut registered a 5.6% year-over-year decline. Sales in that region have been almost unchanged since the spring of 1998. Quebec (-3.7%) and Manitoba

Preliminary figures.

(-0.5%) are the other provinces that saw a decline in sales over the same period.

Department store sales figures, not adjusted for seasonality, show that the large urban centres the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of Halifax-Dartmouth, Quebec City, Montreal. Ottawa-Hull, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver — have evolved differently than other areas. Between August 1999 and May 2000, the large urban centres as a group recorded a 13.9% decline in the number of locations and a 7.9% drop in department store sales. In other areas other than the large CMAs, the decline in the number of locations (-4.2%) and the value of department store sales (0.0%) was of a lesser magnitude.

Department store sales including concessions in large metropolitan centres

			_			
	Aug.	May	Aug. 199	9 Aug.	May	Aug. 1999
	1999	2000	1	to 1999	2000	to
			May 200	0		May 2000
		unadju				-
	\$ millions		% chang		er of	% change
Large metropolitan centres ¹	847.0	779.9	-7	.9 380	327	-13.9

¹ Includes the Census Metropolitan Areas of Halifax-Dartmouth, Québec, Montréal, Ottawa-Hull, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111, 112 (series 1), and 113 (series 3).

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending June 7, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending June 7 rose 3.7 % to 4.7 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 2.4 %.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 433 000 tonnes, a 12.2 % increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures show an advance of 16.7%.

Total traffic was up 4.3 % during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 117.4 million tonnes, an increase of 7.3 % from the same period of 1999.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

NEW PRODUCTS

Estimates of labour income (diskette), monthly estimates, April 2000

Catalogue number 13F0016XDB (\$250/\$1,000).

Tables and analytical document: Estimates of labour income, monthly estimates, April 2000 Catalogue number 13F0016XPB (\$20/\$200).

Extraction system of agricultural statistics, 2000 Catalogue number 21F0001XCB (\$625 initial subscription/\$295 annual updates).

Coal and coke statistics, April 2000 Catalogue number 45-002-XIB (\$9/\$85).

Aviation service bulletin, vol. 32, no. 6 Catalogue number 51-004-XIB (\$8/\$82).

Electric power statistics, April 2000 Catalogue number 57-001-XIB (\$9/\$85).

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; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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