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Dominion Statistician: R.H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon), F.R.S.C.
Chief, General Statistics Branch: S. A. Cudmore, M.A., F.S.S.BUILDING PERMITS REPORT FOR MARCH, 1926, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY,
1926, AND MARCH, 1925.

The value of the building authorized in 60 cities during March, standing at \$10,538,423, was 43.3 p.c. greater than the total of \$7,104,343 in the preceding month, and 22.3 p.c. above the aggregate of \$8,613,732 in March, 1925. The total for the month under review was larger than for March of any other year since 1920, with the exception of 1922, when the projected building in the cities was estimated to cost \$10,595,196. At the same time, the index number of wholesale prices of building materials was lower in March, 1926, than in any other month of those years.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statements showing that they had authorized the construction of nearly 1,200 dwellings valued at approximately \$5,300,000 and of over 1,900 other buildings estimated to cost more than \$4,800,000. In February, permits were issued for some 600 dwellings and 1,000 other buildings, valued at approximately \$2,570,000 and \$4,200,000, respectively.

As compared with February, 1926, all provinces except Quebec and Saskatchewan registered increases in the value of the permits issued; in those two provinces there were losses of 22.3 p.c. and 15.6 p.c., respectively. Ontario cities reported the largest absolute gain of \$2,800,960, or 135.0 p.c., but the proportionate increases in New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta were greater.

All provinces except Manitoba recorded higher aggregates of building permits issued than in March, 1925. The increases of \$871,335 or 56.7 p.c. in Quebec and \$441,427, or 10.0 p.c., in Ontario were the most pronounced absolute gains, but New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta registered larger percentage increases.

Toronto and Winnipeg reported greater totals of proposed building than in either February, 1926, or March, 1925. In Montreal, there was a decline in the former and an increase in the latter comparison. On the other hand, Vancouver reported building at a higher estimated cost than in the preceding month, but there was a slight falling off as compared with the same month of last year. Sydney, Fredericton, St. John, Quebec, Westmount, Chatham, Fort William, Galt, Guelph, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, the Townships of York, Welland, Windsor, Sandwich, Brandon, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Nanaimo, Point Grey, South Vancouver and Victoria reported higher building permits than in either February, 1926, or March, 1925.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1926

The table following shows the value of the building authorized during March of each year since 1920, as well as during the first quarter of the same years. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials during the first three months of those years are also given. (1913 = 100).

Year	Value of Permits issued		Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first quarter
	In March	In first quarter	
1926	\$ 10,538,423	\$ 22,251,454	152.3
1925	8,613,732	19,934,360	153.8
1924	9,468,270	18,000,669	167.3
1923	9,627,250	19,441,159	164.9
1922	10,595,196	18,643,948	161.1
1921	7,265,182	13,426,227	207.8
1920	8,714,410	18,866,351	208.1

It will be noted that the aggregate for March, 1926, was higher than in any other year since 1920, except 1922, when it was 0.5 p.c. greater; the index number of wholesale prices of building materials was then, however, nearly 9 points higher. The total for the first quarter of this year was the largest on record for the 60 cities, being 11.6 p.c. greater than in 1925, the previous high level, and 65.7 p.c. higher than in 1921, when building was at its lowest ebb in these six years and when building costs had only commenced to decline from the peak of 1920.

The table on page 2 gives the value of the building permits issued by 60 cities in February and March, 1926, and March, 1925. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

Estimated Cost of Building and Work as Indicated by Building Permits.

Cities	Mar. 1926	Feb. 1926	Mar. 1925
Prince Edward Island - Charlottetown	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iowa Section	34,245	20,225	31,720
x Halifax	23,895	18,225	25,945
New Glasgow	Nil	Nil	700
x Sydney	10,350	2,000	5,075
New Brunswick	110,618	125	15,045
Fredericton	14,400	Nil	7,500
x Moncton	1,000	125	3,045
x St. John	95,218	Nil	4,500
Quebec	2,408,355	3,100,770	1,537,020
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	2,048,365	2,900,470	1,330,960
x Quebec	131,675	30,975	55,385
Shawinigan Falls	5,875	Nil	16,200
x Sherbrooke	10,900	5,000	15,200
x Three Rivers	67,690	72,325	70,525
x Westmount	143,850	92,000	48,150
Ontario	4,876,125	2,075,165	4,434,698
Belleville	10,000	5,200	11,460
Brantford	7,860	15,600	14,790
Chatham	37,550	11,500	6,000
Fort William	223,725	9,600	31,840
Galt	63,910	660	1,881
x Guelph	53,390	3,500	35,000
x Hamilton	329,750	118,350	307,200
x Kingston	9,420	10,955	20,276
x Kitchener	54,145	22,380	139,953
x London	60,215	16,255	134,920
Niagara Falls	228,570	124,300	57,525
Oshawa	15,285	12,250	66,250
Ottawa	77,425	24,540	141,730
Owen Sound	3,500	Nil	14,500
x Peterborough	10,560	1,395	15,567
x Port Arthur	13,250	48,455	7,275
x Stratford	11,865	1,630	62,280
x St. Catharines	23,282	1,200	35,455
x St. Thomas	12,600	1,140	229,740
Barnia	52,350	18,955	88,736
Sault Ste. Marie	8,955	1,455	15,406
Toronto	2,154,620	1,133,910	1,365,651
York Townships	526,500	223,550	524,375
Welland	13,725	5,350	3,790
x Windsor	535,820	164,370	322,780
Ford	53,500	24,300	52,720
Riverside	13,300	13,000	12,000
Sandwich	127,650	32,400	115,950
Walkerville	73,000	25,000	89,000
Woodstock	4,403	2,365	4,648
Manitoba	576,206	93,850	727,680
x Brandon	31,100	1,700	200
St. Boniface	30,906	12,000	511,780
x Winnipeg	524,200	85,150	215,700
Saskatchewan	122,164	215,815	42,720
x Moose Jaw	39,775	3,800	14,510
x Regina	60,469	204,725	23,775
x Saskatoon	81,920	7,290	4,435
Alberta	439,860	120,483	172,045
x Calgary	149,695	71,373	94,800
x Edmonton	244,865	37,450	47,540
Lethbridge	43,640	11,660	29,645
Medicine Hat	1,660	Nil	60
British Columbia	1,910,850	1,472,910	1,652,804
Nanaimo	17,425	7,600	14,415
x New Westminster	46,375	47,800	22,200
Point Grey	765,400	458,900	541,600
Prince Rupert	7,950	25,500	11,600
South Vancouver	160,900	85,320	92,025
x Vancouver	208,035	792,465	873,215
x Victoria	164,725	52,325	77,749
Total - 60 Cities	10,538,423	7,104,343	8,213,732
x Total - 32 Cities	8,278,069	6,002,272	6,237,266
Cumulative total for 60 cities, first three months.	1926 22,251,454	1925 19,934,360	1924 12,000,669

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