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 BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1927, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1927, AND
 MARCH, 1926, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER 1920-1927.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 63 cities during March was \$11,641,427; this was an increase of \$3,862,875, or 49.7 p.c. over the February total of \$7,778,552, and of \$1,006,936, or 9.5 p.c., as compared with the aggregate of \$10,634,491 reported for the corresponding month in 1926. The March, 1927, total was the highest for that month in the record of the 63 cities. Building costs, as shown by the Bureau's index number of wholesale prices of building materials, continued to be considerably lower than in any other year of the record.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics, showing that they had granted over 1,300 permits for dwellings valued in excess of \$5,400,000 and for some 2,500 other buildings estimated to cost approximately \$5,600,000. In February, authority was given for the erection of some 750 dwellings and nearly 1,100 other buildings, estimated at approximately \$3,300,000 and \$4,000,000, respectively.

All provinces reported increases in the building authorized during March as compared with the preceding month. The greatest absolute gain was that of \$1,652,831 or 37.6 p.c. in Ontario, but larger proportionate increases were shown in the other provinces.

As compared with March, 1926, New Brunswick, Quebec and Alberta recorded decreases, that of \$243,227, or 52.9 p.c., in the last named being most pronounced. There were increases in the remaining provinces, Ontario again showing the greatest gain of \$1,167,236 or 23.9 p.c.

Of the larger cities, Montreal registered a decline as compared with the preceding month and also as compared with March of last year. In Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, on the other hand, there were increases in both comparisons. Of the smaller centres, Halifax, Moncton, Quebec, Shawinigan Falls, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Westmount, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Oshawa, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Stratford, St. Catharines, Sarnia, Welland, Windsor, Ford, Riverside, Woodstock, St. Boniface, Regina, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat, Kamloops, New Westminster, Point Grey and Victoria reported higher totals than in either February, 1927, or March, 1926.

 CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS, 1927.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 63 cities during March and in the first three months of each year since 1920. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the first quarter of the same years are also given (1913 = 100).

Year	Value of Permits Issued		Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first three months
	In March	In First Three Months	
1927	\$11,641,427	\$24,849,278	147.3
1926	10,634,491	22,493,574	152.3
1925	8,631,627	19,981,015	153.8
1924	9,493,620	18,047,999	167.3
1923	9,658,950	19,473,119	164.9
1922	10,615,531	18,680,173	161.1
1921	7,290,569	13,569,512	207.6
1920	8,736,675	18,909,986	208.1

The aggregate for the first three months of this year was thus greater by \$2,355,704 or 10.5 p.c. than in 1926, the previous high level of the record. The average index number of wholesale prices of building materials continued to be lower than in any other year since 1920.

Table 1 gives the value of the building permits issued by 63 cities during March and February, 1927, and March, 1926. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

Table 1.-Estimated Cost of Building Work as Indicated by Building Permits Issued by 63 Cities.

Cities	March, 1927	February, 1927	March, 1926
Prince Edward Island - Charlottetown	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nova Scotia	37,739	20,382	34,245
x Halifax	32,117	20,382	23,895
New Glasgow	Nil	Nil	Nil
x Sydney	5,622	Nil	10,350
New Brunswick	112,010	18,620	114,110
Fredericton	-	Nil	14,400
x Moncton	85,020	15,460	1,000
x St. John	26,990	3,160	98,710
Quebec	2,212,146	1,488,360	2,408,355
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	1,218,720	1,349,435	2,048,365
x Quebec	510,206	32,350	131,675
Shawinigan Falls	23,765	3,575	5,875
x Sherbrooke	27,705	4,750	10,900
x Three Rivers	271,825	36,550	67,690
x Westmount	159,925	61,700	143,850
Ontario	6,043,961	4,391,080	4,876,725
Belleville	2,650	1,200	10,000
x Brantford	33,895	49,275	7,860
Chatham	35,600	5,000	37,550
x Fort William	24,960	539,000	223,725
Galt	28,840	15,225	63,910
x Guelph	54,981	40,245	53,390
x Hamilton	377,500	99,150	329,750
x Kingston	24,734	28,310	9,420
x Kitchener	39,649	79,674	54,145
x London	224,755	41,180	60,215
Niagara Falls	197,038	136,150	228,570
Oshawa	225,150	94,900	15,385
x Ottawa	244,275	88,950	77,425
Owen Sound	22,075	Nil	3,500
x Peterborough	9,310	700	10,560
x Port Arthur	42,380	76,865	13,250
x Stratford	15,555	3,415	11,665
x St. Catharines	82,284	45,030	23,282
x St. Thomas	6,540	820	18,600
Sarnia	96,292	11,730	52,350
Sault Ste. Marie	40,750	166,400	9,455
x Toronto	2,261,313	1,226,350	2,154,620
York and East York Townships	508,050	380,000	586,500
Welland	98,455	5,640	13,725
x Windsor	822,315	634,110	535,820
Ford	85,115	82,860	53,500
Riverside	74,625	8,800	17,500
Sandwich	115,515	60,950	127,650
Walkerville	222,000	457,000	73,000
Woodstock	27,360	2,151	4,403
Manitoba	598,270	98,400	576,066
x Brandon	25,800	Nil	30,960
St. Boniface	25,420	2,500	20,906
x Winnipeg	547,050	95,900	524,200
Saskatchewan	281,305	45,625	182,164
x Moose Jaw	9,445	4,100	39,775
x Regina	121,205	38,375	60,469
x Saskatoon	150,655	3,150	81,920
Alberta	216,633	135,330	459,860
x Calgary	119,013	104,700	149,695
x Edmonton	82,750	30,190	264,865
Lethbridge	11,035	440	43,640
Medicine Hat	3,835	Nil	1,660
British Columbia	2,139,363	1,580,755	1,982,966
Kamloops	35,274	Nil	18,590
Nanaimo	3,290	100	17,425
x New Westminster	127,460	74,210	46,375
Prince Rupert	6,550	4,175	7,950
x Vancouver	875,835	827,810	808,035
Point Grey	766,870	478,700	765,400
North Vancouver	28,464	43,095	46,860
South Vancouver	119,900	118,450	160,900
x Victoria	175,720	34,215	111,431
Total - 63 Cities	11,641,427	7,778,552	10,634,491
x Total - 35 Cities	8,837,509	5,689,511	8,237,887

