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BUILDING PERMITS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1931, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER, 1931, AND DECEMBER 1930, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR THE YEARS, 1920 - 1931.

The building permits issued by 61 cities in December, 1931, represented construction work valued at \$7,397,984, as compared with \$7,992,815 in November, 1931, and \$15,440,281 in December, 1930. There was, therefore, a decrease of \$594,831 or eight p.c. in December as compared with the preceding month, and of \$8,042,297 or 52.1 p.c. in comparison with the high total for the same month in 1930. In this record, which goes back to 1920, the December, 1931, figure was exceeded by the total for December of the years, 1926-1930, but was larger than the aggregate for December in the preceding six years, while the wholesale costs of building materials, as measured by the Bureau's index number, was lower than in any other year since 1920.

Detailed statements were received from some 50 cities, showing that they had issued almost 400 permits for dwellings valued at some \$1,900,000 and over 1,000 permits for other buildings at an estimated cost of about \$5,000,000. During November, the construction of some 800 dwellings and 1,800 other buildings was authorized; these were estimated to cost approximately \$4,000,000 and \$3,000,000, respectively.

As compared with the preceding month, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba registered increases in the value of the authorized building; the gains of \$342,857 or 11.2 p.c. in Ontario, and \$246,265 or 112.1 p.c. in Manitoba were most pronounced. Declines were indicated in the remaining provinces, that of \$898,462 or 97.0 p.c. in Saskatchewan being greatest.

All provinces except New Brunswick recorded decreases as compared with December, 1930, in value of the building authorized. In this comparison also, Quebec reported the most marked loss of \$4,158,200 or 57.4 p.c.

Montreal and Toronto showed increases in the value of the building permits issued as compared with November, but decreases in comparison with December, 1930. In Winnipeg, there was a loss in the former and a gain in the latter comparison, while Vancouver reported declines as compared with both November, 1931, and December, 1930. Moncton, Saint John, Galt, Hamilton, Stratford, Welland, Brandon and Nanaimo recorded advances in both comparisons.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR 1931.

The following table shows the value of the building authorized by 61 cities during December and in the years since 1920; the 1931 figures are unrevised, while for preceding years the statistics are revised. (A revised statement for 1931 will be issued next month). Index numbers, based upon the total value of the building authorized by these cities during 1920 as 100, are given below, as are the average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the years, 1920-1931. (Average 1926=100).

	Value of Permits issued in December	Value of permits issued in twelve months	Indexes of value of permits issued in twelve months (1920=100).	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials, twelve months, (1926=100).
1931	\$ 7,397,984	\$ 110,971,410	94.8	82.6
1930	15,440,281	166,379,325	142.2	90.9
1929	14,688,682	234,944,549	200.8	99.0
1928	16,095,160	219,105,715	187.2	98.1
1927	11,755,566	184,613,742	157.8	96.7
1926	11,508,818	156,386,607	133.6	100.0
1925	7,363,777	125,029,367	106.8	103.8
1924	6,463,319	126,583,148	108.2	106.7
1923	6,974,256	133,521,621	114.1	111.7
1922	9,517,402	148,215,407	126.7	108.6
1921	5,537,330	116,794,414	99.8	122.7
1920	4,844,354	117,019,622	100.0	152.4

The unrevised statistics for 1931 indicate that last year's aggregate was the smallest since 1920; it should also be noted, however, that the Bureau's index number of wholesale prices of building materials was also considerably lower than in any other year since 1920.

The accompanying table gives the value of the building permits issued by 61 cities in November and December, 1931, and December, 1930. The 35 centres for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "X".

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
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 DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 DEPARTMENT OF WAR
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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Estimated Cost of Building Work as Indicated by Building Permits as Issued by 61 Cities.

Cities	December, 1931	November, 1931	December, 1930
	\$	\$	\$
P. E. I. - Charlottetown	-	-	Nil
Nova Scotia	70,355	151,860	227,202
X Halifax	70,305	149,285	217,762
New Glasgow	50	365	140
X Sydney	Nil	2,210	9,300
New Brunswick	7,315	5,015	5,435
Fredericton	Nil	625	Nil
X Moncton	360	Nil	200
X Saint John	6,955	4,390	5,235
Quebec	3,086,810	3,074,450	7,245,010
X Montreal- X Maisonneuve	2,982,690	2,622,850	6,675,354
X Quebec	83,195	386,800	501,836
Shawinigan Falls	500	925	Nil
X Sherbrooke	9,300	28,000	54,000
X Three Rivers	9,000	33,775	8,820
X Westmount	2,125	2,100	5,000
Ontario	3,401,000	3,058,143	4,197,903
Belleville	Nil	11,250	133,920
X Brantford	55,958	36,037	427,115
Chatham	6,450	4,400	153,294
X Fort William	10,200	70,200	11,200
Gait	26,862	3,830	9,075
X Guelph	10,116	14,430	7,162
X Hamilton	557,250	434,900	190,300
X Kingston	19,277	22,484	9,900
X Kitchener	22,394	22,441	14,723
X London	50,225	107,190	30,060
Niagara Falls	15,521	8,455	39,330
Oshawa	900	5,685	20,475
X Ottawa	96,810	193,330	128,570
Owen Sound	4,500	Nil	20,200
X Peterborough	200	33,540	10,370
X Port Arthur	2,970	11,631	12,622
X Stratford	7,745	3,825	5,663
X St. Catharines	22,527	52,575	24,125
X St. Thomas	Nil	600	8,565
Garnia	14,522	20,565	17,200
Sault Ste. Marie	9,825	24,589	2,075
X Toronto	2,214,509	1,313,172	2,538,096
York & East York Townships	164,685	550,193	300,582
Welland	6,150	2,470	5,300
X Windsor	66,625	83,129	49,250
East Windsor	3,556	3,000	4,250
Riverside	-	Nil	600
Sandwich	Nil	580	1,200
Walkerville	Nil	8,000	21,000
Woodstock	11,223	15,642	1,681
Manitoba	465,970	219,705	661,950
X Brandon	225,870	4,700	1,800
St. Boniface	163,600	8,905	609,000
X Winnipeg	76,500	206,100	51,150
Saskatchewan	27,978	926,440	225,995
X Moose Jaw	150	12,775	300
X Regina	25,728	24,640	192,220
X Saskatoon	2,100	889,025	33,475
Alberta	67,308	157,299	155,781
X Calgary	57,700	100,691	62,904
X Edmonton	4,890	43,525	27,765
Lethbridge	3,718	11,858	14,712
Medicine Hat	1,000	1,225	50,400
British Columbia	271,248	399,903	2,721,005
Kamloops	2,020	3,135	11,800
Nanaimo	24,125	3,100	15,960
X New Westminster	11,250	19,900	16,525
Prince Rupert	1,235	7,695	2,700
X Vancouver	215,900	335,740	2,593,150
North Vancouver	2,800	1,131	16,933
X Victoria	13,918	29,202	63,937
Total - 61 Cities	7,397,984	7,992,815	15,140,281
X Total - 35 Cities	6,934,742	7,295,192	13,988,454



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