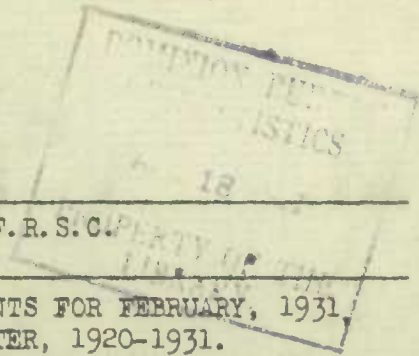


DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1931, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1931,
AND MARCH, 1930, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1920-1931.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 61 cities during March was \$9,906,567; this was an increase of \$3,976,980 or 67.1 p.c., over the February total of \$5,929,587, but a decrease of \$3,450,220 or 25.8 p.c., as compared with the aggregate of \$13,356,787 reported for the same month in 1930. Building costs, as shown by the Bureau's index number of wholesale prices of building materials, showed a decided decrease as compared with the same period in 1930 and earlier years on record.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics, showing that they had granted over 800 permits for dwellings valued at about \$3,500,000 and some 1,600 permits for other buildings estimated to cost approximately \$5,600,000. In February, authority was given for the erection of some 600 dwellings and nearly 1,100 other buildings, estimated at approximately \$2,200,000 and \$3,500,000, respectively.

All provinces except Manitoba and British Columbia reported increases in the building authorized during March as compared with the preceding month. The greatest gains were those of \$2,164,467 in Quebec and \$1,063,895 in Alberta.

As compared with March, 1930, Quebec and Manitoba recorded advances of 28.1 p.c. and 8.6 p.c., respectively. There were decreases in the other provinces, the greatest decline, of \$2,126,870, or 40.6 p.c., taking place in Ontario.

Of the larger cities, Montreal registered a gain as compared with the preceding month and also as compared with March of last year. Toronto showed an increase in the first, but a decline in the second comparison; in Winnipeg, there was a decrease as compared with February, 1931, but an increase over March, 1930, while Vancouver recorded reductions in both comparisons.

Of the smaller centres, New Glasgow, Fredericton, Sherbrooke, Galt, London, Oshawa, Ottawa, Owen Sound, St. Catharines, Sault Ste. Marie, Welland, Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Kamloops and New Westminster reported higher totals than in either February, 1931, or March, 1930.

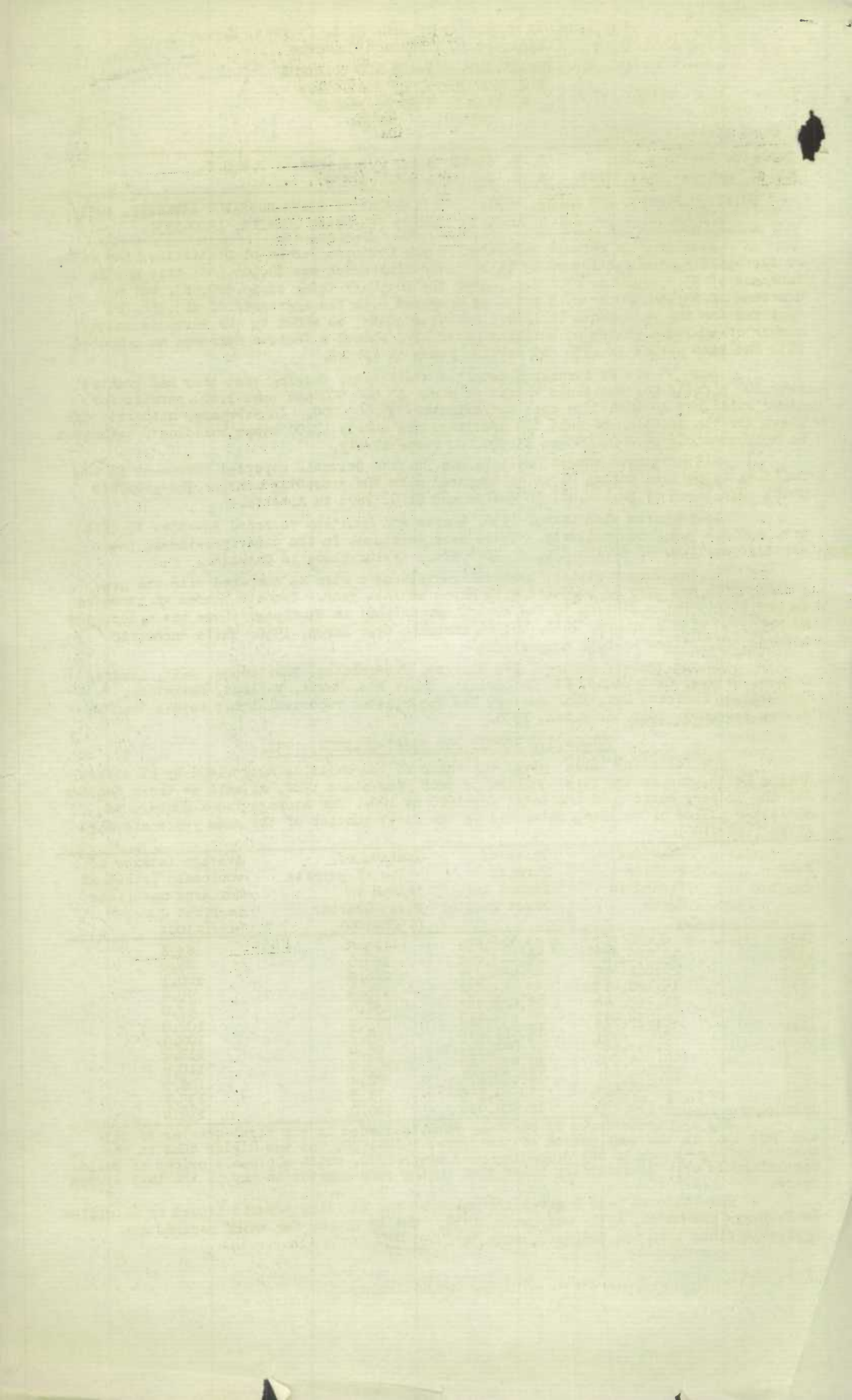
CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1931.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 61 cities during March, and in the first quarter of each year since 1920, as well as index numbers for the latter, based upon the total for 1920 as 100. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the first quarter of the same years are also given (1926=100).

Year	Value of Permits Issued in March	Value of Permits Issued in First Quarter	Indexes of value of permits issued in First Quarter (1920=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in First Quarter (1926=100)
1931	\$ 9,906,567	\$ 23,346,899	123.5	83.8
1930	13,356,787	29,493,262	156.0	96.6
1929	24,058,018	42,950,228	226.8	100.1
1928	15,128,413	33,163,338	175.4	96.6
1927	11,713,640	25,028,353	132.4	97.0
1926	10,634,491	22,493,574	119.0	102.0
1925	8,631,627	19,981,015	105.7	102.9
1924	9,493,620	18,047,999	95.4	112.2
1923	9,658,950	19,478,119	103.0	110.6
1922	10,615,531	18,680,173	98.8	108.0
1921	7,290,589	13,569,512	71.8	135.7
1920	8,736,675	18,909,986	100.0	139.4

The aggregate value of building permits issued in the first quarter of 1931 was less than in the same period of the years, 1927-1930, but was higher than in the months January-March in any preceding year since 1920, while wholesale prices of building materials were considerably lower than in the same quarter in any of the last eleven years.

The table on page 2 gives the value of the building permits issued by 61 cities in February and March, 1931, and March, 1930. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are indicated thus "x".



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

Cities	March, 1931	February, 1931	March, 1930
	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island - Charlottetown	1/	Nil	Nil
Nova Scotia	222,735	113,350	349,527
x Halifax	220,485	113,150	347,102
New Glasgow	1,700	200	1,035
x Sydney	550	Nil	1,390
New Brunswick	29,730	28,525	227,365
Fredericton	8,600	Nil	6,000
x Moncton	2,800	1,400	77,215
x Saint John	18,330	27,125	144,150
Quebec	3,372,922	1,208,455	2,633,361
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	2,973,948	1,078,860	1,666,770
x Quebec	241,924	46,457	332,441
Shawinigan Falls	1/	4,000	234,900
x Sherbrooke	24,000	5,150	16,800
x Three Rivers	15,800	24,350	112,050
x Westmount	117,250	49,638	270,400
Ontario	3,113,805	1,745,345	5,240,675
Belleville	4	3,400	27,400
x Brantford	62,043	80,697	20,869
Chatham	15,000	69,950	35,667
x Fort William	10,900	98,300	32,000
Galt	16,525	100	10,613
x Guelph	20,605	1,033	22,962
x Hamilton	733,950	322,400	1,025,600
x Kingston	12,157	75,945	26,300
x Kitchener	39,122	11,173	75,419
x London	150,835	43,270	79,075
Niagara Falls	6,380	8,950	46,745
Oshawa	20,500	1,850	7,950
x Ottawa	325,240	38,600	163,260
Owen Sound	7,500	6,000	1,700
x Peterborough	145	9,000	29,865
x Port Arthur	6,268	9,989	7,785
x Stratford	7,803	24,650	9,710
x St. Catharines	158,085	9,755	77,935
x St. Thomas	6,140	2,800	6,380
Sarnia	16,150	19,089	56,000
Sault Ste. Marie	56,631	2,335	15,695
x Toronto	869,425	698,185	2,451,868
York & East York Townships	460,580	174,581	649,930
Welland	14,195	2,200	2,875
x Windsor	29,455	16,246	198,170
East Windsor	2,550	Nil	97,925
Riverside	3,150	600	20,100
Sandwich	450	1,600	10,950
Walkerville	8,000	12,000	16,000
Woodstock	4,017	647	13,927
Manitoba	311,275	600,375	286,575
x Brandon	75	Nil	139,150
St. Boniface	4,550	375	6,875
x Winnipeg	306,650	600,000	140,550
saskatchewan	364,475	285,504	638,465
x Moose Jaw	5,575	1,655	111,490
x Regina	244,450	268,359	446,530
x Saskatoon	114,450	15,490	80,445
Alberta	1,281,023	217,128	1,427,629
x Calgary	208,090	153,347	321,539
x Edmonton	55,125	46,650	1,060,575
Lethbridge	1,009,600	11,176	40,050
Medicine Hat	8,208	5,955	5,465
British Columbia	1,210,602	1,730,905	2,553,190
Kamloops	39,800	15,335	13,595
Nanaimo	170	5,675	175
x New Westminster	45,975	25,200	39,225
Prince Rupert	9,518	14,860	9,100
x Vancouver	1,001,135	1,622,335	1,785,435
North Vancouver	9,935	7,715	11,790
x Victoria	104,069	39,785	693,870
Total - 61 Cities	9,906,567	5,929,587	13,356,787
xTotal- 35 Cities	8,182,854	5,560,994	12,014,385

1/ Report not received.

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