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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MAY, 1931, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR APRIL, 1931,
AND MAY, 1930, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS, 1920-1931.

The value of the building permits issued by 61 cities during May, 1931, was lower by 13.9 p.c. than in April, 1931, and lower by 41.6 p.c. than in May, 1930. According to statements tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the authorizations amounted to \$11,868,171 as compared with \$13,786,466 in the preceding month and \$20,321,160 in May, 1930. The total for the first five months of 1931, namely, \$49,001,536, was lower than that for the corresponding period of any of the years since 1921. Wholesale prices of building materials were lower in 1931 than in any other year of the record.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics, showing that they had issued over 1,200 permits for dwellings valued at approximately \$5,800,000 and for some 3,100 other buildings estimated to cost over \$5,300,000. In April, authority was given for the erection of some 1,000 dwellings and 2,700 other buildings, valued at approximately \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000 respectively.

New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario reported increases of 69.7 p.c., 12.8 p.c. and 21.6 p.c., respectively, in the value of the permits issued as compared with April, 1931. Of the declines in the remaining provinces, that of \$1,332,810 or 85.5 p.c. in Nova Scotia was most pronounced.

As compared with May, 1930, New Brunswick and Quebec alone registered increases. All the other provinces recorded declines, of which that of \$5,518,988 or 53.8 p.c. in Ontario was most noteworthy.

Of the larger cities, Montreal reported a higher total of building permits issued both in April, 1931, and in May, 1930, while in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver there was a decrease in both comparisons. Of the other centres, Fredericton, Saint John, Belleville, Hamilton, York and East York Townships, St. Boniface and North Vancouver recorded increases in the value of the building authorized as compared with both the preceding month and the same month of last year.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS, 1931.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 61 cities in May and in the first five months 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 five months of the same years are also given (1926=100).

Year	Value of Permits issued in May	Value of Permits issued in first five months	Indexes of value of permits issued first five months (1920=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first five months (1926 average = 100)
1931	11,868,171	49,001,536	102.9	83.7
1930	20,321,160	66,792,498	140.2	92.8
1929	24,185,738	96,792,675	200.6	99.1
1928	27,515,522	79,285,027	166.4	96.9
1927	20,138,657	62,479,480	131.1	96.7
1926	18,504,296	60,042,369	126.0	101.3
1925	15,520,435	50,983,833	107.0	103.1
1924	14,807,589	46,544,689	97.7	111.3
1923	18,937,638	57,946,608	121.6	111.1
1922	19,527,061	54,040,922	113.4	102.0
1921	14,460,878	41,530,750	87.2	132.2
1920	13,082,015	47,640,916	100.0	144.7

The aggregate for the first five months of this year was 50.6 p.c. lower than in 1929, the previous high level of the record, while the average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials continued lower than in any of the years since 1920.

Table 1 gives the value of the building permits issued by 61 cities during May and April, 1931, and May, 1930. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "X".

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

Cities	May, 1931	April, 1931	May, 1930
	\$	\$	\$
P. E. I. Charlottetown	Nil	Nil	10,500
Nova Scotia	225,530	1,558,340	387,690
X Halifax	192,150	1,496,420	331,682
New Glasgow	7,005	57,450	9,950
X Sydney	26,375	4,470	46,058
New Brunswick	206,055	121,460	128,780
Fredericton	17,960	Nil	Nil
X Moncton	70,590	78,015	87,225
X Saint John	117,505	43,445	41,555
Quebec	4,440,863	3,937,562	5,091,909
X Montreal - X Maisonneuve	3,639,504	3,226,562	3,527,543
X Quebec	590,054	222,965	1,071,006
Shawinigan Falls	1/	5,410	99,640
X Sherbrooke	46,100	300,700	97,300
X Three Rivers	32,505	36,295	35,920
X Westmount	132,700	145,630	260,500
Ontario	4,734,714	3,894,267	10,253,702
Belleville	127,925	21,700	29,975
X Brantford	35,154	41,478	28,667
Chatham	11,300	4,440	14,917
Fort William	36,450	53,400	43,650
X Galt	20,045	22,397	33,425
X Guelph	24,185	33,243	65,418
X Hamilton	489,000	389,300	334,650
X Kingston	71,851	54,485	271,886
X Kitchener	73,980	58,970	112,073
X London	193,915	214,220	1,125,730
Niagara Falls	21,740	34,260	108,260
Oshawa	8,865	6,475	16,710
X Ottawa	647,255	466,645	3,505,065
Owen Sound	14,025	15,000	10,150
X Peterborough	37,175	37,872	22,130
X Port Arthur	31,685	41,180	28,321
X Stratford	10,593	17,798	52,203
X St. Catharines	18,542	77,100	48,440
X St. Thomas	625	13,620	20,260
Sarnia	15,675	10,922	64,580
Sault Ste. Marie	47,275	29,245	61,498
X Toronto	1,472,862	1,668,090	3,199,242
York and East York Townships	1,184,565	471,855	806,050
Welland	34,015	19,620	28,560
Windsor	58,620	44,190	143,772
East Windsor	5,000	990	8,170
Riverside	5,075	2,950	12,800
Sandwich	7,625	1,600	14,485
Walkerville	3,000	18,000	8,000
Woodstock	26,692	23,222	34,515
Manitoba	578,139	1,084,899	1,083,520
X Brandon	7,879	21,104	5,100
St. Boniface	19,260	14,445	18,220
X Winnipeg	551,000	1,049,350	1,060,200
Saskatchewan	266,385	785,070	1,148,134
X Moose Jaw	4,280	33,455	23,960
X Regina	54,555	110,995	409,969
X Saskatoon	207,550	640,620	714,205
Alberta	433,652	470,613	868,795
X Calgary	213,355	276,333	290,055
X Edmonton	190,830	173,085	503,210
Lethbridge	25,765	19,220	68,195
Medicine Hat	3,702	1,975	7,335
British Columbia	982,833	1,934,255	1,348,130
Kamloops	18,964	14,255	39,835
Nanaimo	3,285	1,945	3,600
X New Westminster	54,250	52,950	65,715
Prince Rupert	23,250	24,755	15,290
X Vancouver	826,910	1,730,635	1,153,585
North Vancouver	17,784	12,080	7,000
X Victoria	38,390	97,635	63,105
Total - 61 Cities	11,868,171	13,786,466	20,321,160
X Total - 35 Cities	10,181,969	12,952,255	18,789,400

1/ Report not received.

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