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Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., (Hon.), F.R.S.C.
Chief, General Statistics: S. A. Cudmore, M.A., F.S.S.BUILDING PERMITS FOR AUGUST, 1931, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR JULY, 1931,
AND AUGUST, 1930, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS, 1920-1931.

There was a seasonal decline in the value of the building permits issued during August, 1931, as compared with July, while in comparison with August of last year, there was also a considerable reduction; during the month under review, the 61 co-operating centres authorized building estimated to cost \$8,224,074, as compared with \$10,879,505 in July, 1931, and \$14,029,564 in August, 1930. There was, therefore, a decrease of 24.4 p.c. in the first comparison, and of 41.4 p.c. in the second. The aggregate value of the building authorized in the first eight months of this year, viz., \$76,575,853, was lower than in 1930, and also than in most years of the record. In considering these data, however, it should be noted that there has also been a very significant decline in wholesale costs of building materials, the Bureau's index, based on the 1926 average as 100, having fallen from 156.3 in the first eight months of 1920, to 83.4 in the period, January-August, 1931.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics showing that they had issued about 1,000 permits for dwellings estimated to cost nearly \$3,900,000, and over 2,000 permits for other buildings valued at more than \$3,900,000. During July, authority was granted for the erection of some 1,000 dwellings and 2,600 other buildings, estimated at about \$4,300,000 and \$6,300,000, respectively.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported gains as compared with July, 1931, that of \$285,851, or 97.9 p.c. in Alberta being most noteworthy. Of the reductions elsewhere indicated, that of \$1,441,749 or 36.2 p.c. in Quebec was greatest.

New Brunswick and Alberta reported a higher aggregate of building permits issued than in August of last year, there being increases of 170.8 p.c. and 17.3 p.c., respectively, in those provinces, as compared with August, 1930. Declines in this comparison were recorded in the remaining provinces, that of \$2,302,624 or 39.9 p.c. in Ontario being most pronounced.

Of the larger cities, Toronto showed improvement as compared with August, 1930, but the total was smaller than in July, 1931, while Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver reported decreases in both comparisons. Of the other centres, Sydney, Fredericton, Saint John, Three Rivers, Oshawa, Peterborough, St. Catharines, Sandwich, St. Boniface, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Nanaimo registered gains in both comparisons.

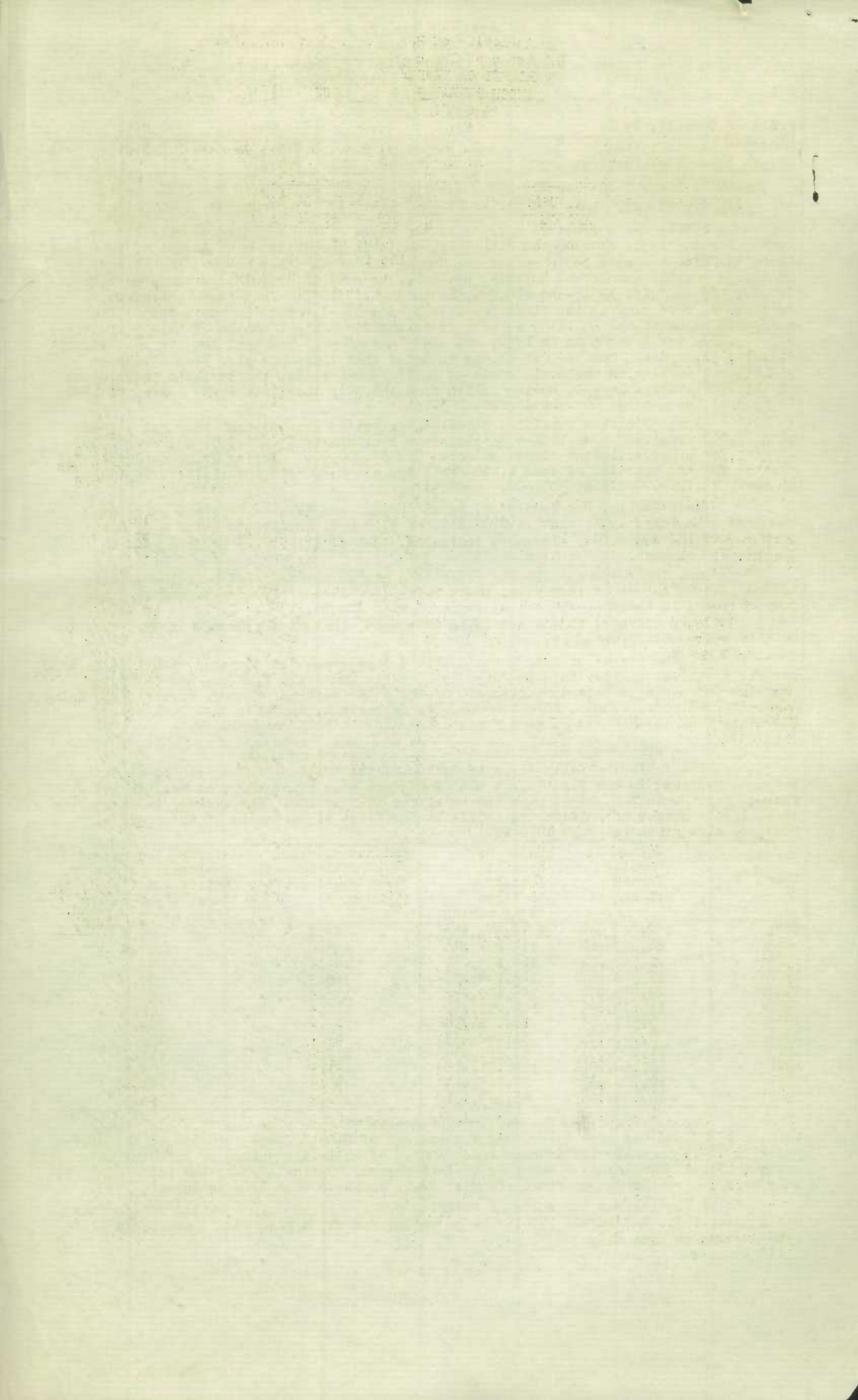
CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS, 1920-31.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 61 cities during August and in the first eight 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 eight months of the years since 1920 are also given (average 1926=100).

Year	Value of Permits Issued in August	Value of Permits Issued in first eight months	Indexes of value of permits issued, first eight months, (1920=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first eight months, (1926 average=100)
1931	\$ 8,224,074	\$ 76,575,853	88.7	83.4
1930	14,029,564	115,268,330	133.6	93.4
1929	21,582,221	168,894,072	195.7	99.6
1928	17,448,542	145,247,485	168.3	97.5
1927	29,478,378	126,690,292	146.8	96.8
1926	11,672,599	109,211,942	126.5	101.7
1925	9,511,008	88,223,328	102.2	104.3
1924	9,406,733	81,762,083	94.7	109.1
1923	11,425,031	97,551,074	113.0	111.7
1922	18,158,952	105,181,416	121.9	108.4
1921	10,928,039	77,665,614	90.0	128.6
1920	10,805,846	86,303,601	100.0	156.3

The aggregate for the first eight months of this year was 33.6 p.c. lower than in 1930, and was also lower than the average of \$109,272,658 recorded in the eleven years, 1920-1930, while the average index number of wholesale prices of building materials was much lower than in any other year of this record. During August, the index of wholesale prices of building materials stood at 82.1, compared with 87.8 in August, 1930.

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



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

Cities	August 1931	July 1931	August 1930
	\$	\$	\$
P.M.I. - Charlottetown	-	-	Nil.
Nova Scotia	326,365	299,123	784,075
x Halifax	274,865	276,895	653,700
New Glasgow	359	13,995	81,450
x Sydney	51,150	8,233	48,925
New Brunswick	170,670	91,635	63,027
Fredericton	43,950	2,475	Nil.
x Moncton	32,335	69,830	35,932
x Saint John	94,385	19,330	27,095
Quebec	2,540,638	3,982,387	3,724,665
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	2,092,943	3,652,045	2,611,050
x Quebec	251,960	205,687	558,974
Shawinigan Falls	8,760	600	15,180
x Sherbrooke	85,400	18,000	113,600
x Three Rivers	28,025	6,350	21,950
x Westmount	73,550	99,705	403,911
Ontario	3,473,709	4,879,170	5,776,333
Belleville	9,600	21,735	18,750
x Brantford	6,912	18,384	42,101
Chatham	8,500	5,500	9,517
x Fort William	10,250	38,450	217,725
Galt	19,070	15,505	72,669
x Guelph	19,458	15,686	29,350
x Hamilton	253,500	878,700	490,750
x Kingston	28,810	49,817	355,084
x Kitchener	56,935	41,599	273,799
x London	236,950	109,920	385,620
Niagara Falls	6,487	5,815	30,065
Oshawa	20,505	1,860	20,435
x Ottawa	165,655	440,505	136,140
Owen Sound	5,000	15,000	15,200
x Peterborough	20,338	19,536	14,720
x Port Arthur	17,761	24,255	731,419
x Stratford	6,649	10,515	76,803
x St. Catharines	32,440	28,117	23,192
x St. Thomas	1,790	12,140	2,210
Sarnia	11,503	20,390	39,916
Sault Ste. Marie	201,345	18,638	258,350
x Toronto	1,834,752	2,445,215	1,494,796
York and East York Townships	460,777	560,675	479,080
Welland	12,990	28,420	9,585
x Windsor	11,235	29,135	414,286
East Windsor	2,100	1,350	8,800
Riverside	3,280	10,400	19,125
Sandwich	3,150	1,400	1,250
Walkerville	Nil.	1,000	88,000
Woodstock	5,967	9,508	17,596
Manitoba	253,582	347,400	782,690
x Brandon	3,752	4,200	7,260
St. Boniface	21,680	17,050	5,380
x Winnipeg	228,150	326,150	770,050
Saskatchewan	177,780	166,910	1,354,332
x Moose Jaw	2,610	485	364,440
x Regina	64,095	66,985	185,052
x Saskatoon	111,075	99,440	804,840
Alberta	580,904	295,053	495,284
x Calgary	203,154	158,811	233,039
x Edmonton	342,840	115,965	176,275
Lethbridge	14,520	19,442	84,325
Medicine Hat	20,390	835	1,645
British Columbia	700,426	817,827	1,049,158
Kamloops	4,983	8,215	5,825
Nanaimo	1,175	950	75
x New Westminster	26,050	56,000	50,750
Prince Rupert	16,000	39,455	11,875
x Vancouver	571,530	660,910	834,691
North Vancouver	7,580	6,740	21,975
x Victoria	73,108	45,557	123,967
Total - 61 Cities	8,224,074	10,879,505	14,029,561
x Total - 35 Cities	7,314,412	10,052,552	12,713,496

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