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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1934, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1934,  
 AND MARCH, 1933, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1920 - 1934.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 61 cities during March was \$1,089,481; this was an increase of \$208,329 or 23.6 p.c. over the February total of \$881,152, and was also an increase of \$135,515 or 14.2 p.c., as compared with the aggregate of \$953,966 reported for the same month in 1933. The gain in March, 1934, over March of last year, though comparatively small, is interesting because, with the exception of December, 1933, this is the first month in several years in which such a comparison has been favourable.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics, showing that they had granted 185 permits for dwellings valued at more than \$300,000 and some 850 permits for other buildings estimated to cost approximately \$700,000. In addition, one centre reported that it had authorized an engineering project valued at approximately \$5,100. In February, authority was given for the erection of some 100 dwellings and more than 580 other buildings, estimated to involve expenditures of approximately \$229,000 and \$590,000, respectively, while two engineering projects, valued at \$37,000, were also reported.

New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia reported increases in the value of the building authorized during March, 1934, as compared with the preceding month. The greatest gains were those of \$103,651 or 52.2 p.c. in Quebec and \$60,349 or 343.5 p.c. in Alberta. The largest absolute decline in the remaining provinces was that of \$15,415 in Ontario, although the proportionate decrease of \$5,135 or 15.9 p.c. in Nova Scotia was greater.

As compared with March, 1933, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia recorded increases, those of \$81,233 or 36.8 p.c. in Quebec and \$51,128 or 12.8 p.c. in Ontario being most marked. Of the reductions recorded, the largest was that of \$47,690 or 63.8 p.c. in Nova Scotia.

Of the larger cities, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver showed increases as compared with February, 1934, and March, 1933, while Winnipeg reported a gain in the first, but a decline in the second comparison. Of the smaller centres, Sydney, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Westmount, Belleville, Stratford, St. Thomas, Sarnia, East Windsor, Woodstock, Brandon, St. Boniface, Moose Jaw, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Nanaimo and New Westminster reported higher totals than in either February, 1934, or March, 1933.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1934.

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 1926 as 100. The average index number 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 (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first quarter (1926=100)
1934	\$ 1,089,481	\$ 2,663,595	11.8	83.5
1933	953,966	3,065,821	13.6	75.2
1932	3,396,729	9,453,012	42.0	79.3
1931	9,948,979	24,746,094	110.0	83.7
1930	13,356,787	29,493,262	131.1	96.7
1929	24,068,018	42,950,228	190.9	99.2
1928	15,128,413	33,163,338	147.4	95.5
1927	11,713,640	25,028,353	111.3	96.4
1926	10,634,491	22,493,574	100.0	102.0
1925	8,631,627	19,981,015	88.2	102.9
1924	9,493,620	18,047,999	80.2	112.2
1923	9,658,950	19,478,119	86.6	110.6
1922	10,615,531	18,680,173	83.0	108.0
1921	7,290,589	13,569,512	60.3	139.1
1920	8,736,675	18,909,986	84.1	139.4

The total value of the building authorized in the first quarter of 1934 was less than in the same period in other years since 1920; the wholesale prices of building materials, though higher than in 1933 and 1932, and practically the same as in 1931, were considerably lower than in the first three months in any other year since 1920.

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

C i t i e s	March, 1934	February, 1934	March, 1933
P. E. I. - Charlottetown	\$ 1/	\$ 1/	\$ Nil
Nova Scotia	27,105	32,240	74,795
x Halifax	26,355	30,740	74,595
New Glasgow	400	1,500	200
x Sydney	350	Nil	Nil
New Brunswick	17,325	14,815	27,450
Fredericton	Nil	Nil	5,000
x Moncton	1/	5,150	5,550
x Saint John	17,325	9,665	16,900
Quebec	302,106	198,455	220,873
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	198,711	132,765	183,515
x Quebec	44,570	54,880	15,530
Shawinigan Falls	200	Nil	450
x Sherbrooke	8,000	6,150	2,000
x Three Rivers	Nil	60	1,525
x Westmount	50,625	4,600	17,853
Ontario	451,462	466,877	400,334
Belleville	2,255	1,050	Nil
x Brantford	6,078	11,270	2,879
Chatham	2,300	200	9,450
x Fort William	15,550	11,150	33,250
Galt	11,680	35,600	1,565
x Guelph	150	1,500	1,615
x Hamilton	6,950	16,550	28,825
x Kingston	2,760	3,450	3,112
x Kitchener	8,625	13,135	6,187
x London	15,315	40,865	44,175
Niagara Falls	1,132	2	2,016
Oshawa	500	2,500	1,425
x Ottawa	15,055	39,200	34,505
Owen Sound	Nil	Nil	6,900
x Peterborough	1,125	8,800	5,075
x Port Arthur	2,547	2,705	8,029
x Stratford	5,950	200	250
x St. Catharines	2,333	4,310	3,235
x St. Thomas	3,220	75	280
Sarnia	4,015	2,965	2,621
Sault Ste. Marie	405	145	975
x Toronto	322,262	245,160	182,293
York & East York Townships	8,950	10,450	15,730
Welland	1,685	1,550	2,000
x Windsor	8,175	12,530	3,240
East Windsor	1,100	300	Nil
Riverside	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sandwich	600	800	Nil
Walkerville	Nil	Nil	Nil
Woodstock	745	415	702
Manitoba	30,096	14,100	31,310
x Brandon	4,896	2,200	110
St. Boniface	2,200	1,300	Nil
x Winnipeg	23,000	10,600	31,200
Saskatchewan	18,670	21,350	17,675
x Moose Jaw	1,100	75	1,000
x Regina	16,170	11,890	10,735
x Saskatoon	1,400	9,385	5,940
Alberta	77,917	17,568	38,575
x Calgary	48,725	9,891	24,300
x Edmonton	24,335	4,535	12,205
Lethbridge	357	1,892	1,870
Medicine Hat	4,500	1,250	200
British Columbia	164,800	115,747	142,954
Kamloops	735	2,650	9,923
Nanaimo	1,100	620	725
x New Westminster	6,500	4,040	4,625
Prince Rupert	850	1,275	2,585
x Vancouver	131,350	87,710	97,730
North Vancouver	825	665	2,120
x Victoria	23,440	18,787	25,246
<b>Total - 61 Cities</b>	<b>1,089,481</b>	<b>881,152</b>	<b>953,966</b>
<b>Total - x35 Cities</b>	<b>1,042,947</b>	<b>813,438</b>	<b>887,509</b>

1/ Report not received.

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