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BUILDING PERMITS FOR APRIL, 1936, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR MARCH, 1936, AND APRIL, 1935, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS, 1920=1936.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated returns from 58 cities which granted permits for construction work valued at \$ 3,183,336 during April, as compared with \$ 2,361,771 in the preceding month, and \$ 6,300,046 in the same month of last year. There was, therefore, an increase of \$ 821,565 or 34.8 p.c. as compared with March, but the April, 1936, total was smaller by \$ 3,116,710, or 49.5 p.c., than in April, 1935, when permits had been taken out for the construction of public buildings in certain centres.

The estimated value of the construction authorized in the first four months of the present year was \$8,740,707; this was considerably lower than the aggregate of \$14,807,316 reported in the period January-April, 1935, although it was higher than in these months of either 1934 or 1933. The cumulative total for the first four months of each of the last five years has been very much lower than in any earlier year of the record; the wholesale prices of building materials have also been decidedly lower since 1931 than in any preceding year since 1920.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for April, 1936, showing that they had issued more than 300 permits for dwellings valued at approximately \$1,300,000, and for nearly 2,000 other buildings, estimated to cost almost \$1,800,000. In March, authority was given for the erection of about 265 dwellings and 1,200 other buildings, valued at approximately \$1,166,000 and \$994,000, respectively, while engineering projects estimated to cost some \$12,300 were also reported.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta recorded moderate increases in the value of the building represented by the permits issued during April as compared with the preceding month, the greatest gain of \$ 558,062 taking place in Alberta. In New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia there were small declines in this comparison.

As compared with April, 1935, there were increases in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia, that of \$ 246,131 or 60.2 p.c. in Alberta being most noteworthy. In this comparison, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba showed declines, of which that of \$ 2,197,109 or 62.3 p.c. in Ontario was greatest.

Of the four largest cities, Winnipeg and Vancouver registered increases in the building authorized during April as compared with the preceding month, and also as compared with April, 1935. In Toronto, the value was higher than in March, 1936, but lower than in April, 1935, while in Montreal there was a decrease in both comparisons. Of the other centres, Halifax, Sydney, Shawinigan Falls, Three Rivers, Westmount, Chatham, Fort William, Galt, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, St. Thomas, Sault Ste. Marie, Riverside, Woodstock, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Kamloops and Victoria reported increases in the value of the permits issued as compared with March, 1936, and also with April, 1935.

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CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS, 1920-1936.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 58 cities during April and in the first four months of each year since 1920, as well as index numbers for the latter, based upon the total for 1926 as 100. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the first four months of the same years are also given (1926=100).

Year	Value of permits issued in April	Value of permits issued in first four months	Indexes of value of permits issued in first four months (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholecale prices of building materials in first four months, (1926 average=100)
1936	\$ 3,183,336	\$,740,707	21.0	84.2
1935	6,300,046	14,807,316	35.6	81.5
1934	2,269,157	4,980,156	12.0	82.4
1933	1,595,502	4,661,323	11.2	75.1
1932	4,370,863	13,823,873	33.3	79.1
1931	13,495,165	38,241,259	92.1	83.7
1930	16,978,076	46,471,338	111.9	96.2
1929	29,656,709	72,606,937	174.8	99.4
1928	18,606,167	51,769,505	124.6	95.7
1927	17,312,470	42,340,823	101.9	96.3
1926	19,044,499	41,538,073	100.0	101.7
1925	15,482,383	35,463,398	85.4	103.1
1924	13,689,101	31,737,100	76.4	111.6
1923	19,530,851	39,008,970	93.9	110.8
1922	15,833,688	34,513,861	83.1	107.7
1921	13,500,360	27,069,872	65.2	136.9
1920	15,648,915	34,558,901	83.2	143.1

As already stated, the aggregate for the first four months of this year was lower than in the same period of 1935, although it was greater than in 1934 or 1933. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the last few years have been considerably below the average for the years since 1920.

Table 1 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during April and March, 1936, and April, 1935. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

. . . ----. . . . Estimated Value of Construction Work as Indicated by Building Permits Issued by 58 Cities. April March April Cities 1936 1936 1935 \$ \$ \$ 11,675 P.E.I. - Charlottetown 13,100 Nova Scotia 82,377 58,015 x Walifax 102,215 78,377 55,540 Nil 4,000 18,411 1,825 New Glasgow Nil 650 6,650 Sydney X 13,765 37,483 New Brunswick 350 17,705 19,428 Fredericton 4,800 1,560 x Moncton 10,415 x Saint John 12,051 444,786 1,805,716 1,680,591 59,690 468,308 Quebec 387,310 x Montreal- x Maisonneuve 35,590 44,980 x Quebec 635 7,525 200 Shawinigan Falls 16,100 34,650 Sherbrooke 23,175 X 5,420 24,730 4,850 Three Rivers 32,350 40,810 x Westmount 14,868 1,329,915 1,150,652 3,527,024 Ontario 5,350 6,138 13,550 17,350 Belleville 11,110 7,450 x Brantford 5,718 37,975 23,725 16,925 4,251 750 Chatham 9,750 15,500 Fort William 5,695 23,707 926,275 3,145 Galt x Guelph 118,570 106,896 x Hamilton 12,883 26,662 12,927 7,685 23,319 54,742 Kings ton X Kitchener 28,205 1,065,170 x London 59,285 2,605 3.040 9,485 Niagara Falls 825 Oshawa 71,485 6,113 26,872 12,900 200,590 1,090 15,858 250,490 x Ottawa Owen Sound 5,125 12,030 x Feterborough 11,620 28,042 x Port Arthur 2,720 8,791 755 x Stratford 15,874 22,845 x St. Catharines 3,530 St. Thomas 725 2,210 5,530 5,725 27,735 10,040 8,989 Sarnia 3,650 493,235 150,630 17,370 Sault Ste. Marie 530,942 239,700 8,080 x Toronto 274,770 York & East York Townships 14,135 24,641 11,550 Welland 39,835 109,490 x Windsor 400 5,397 45,150 1,300 Riverside 9,749 Woodstock 7,260 115,600 67,725 Manitoba 250 925 52,850 x Brandon 1,200 3,700 Nil St. Boniface 65,600 44,900 59,050 x Winnipeg 3,520 2/ Saskatchewan 58,540 55,976 20,555 500 2/ 1,200 x Moose Jaw 1,065 x Regina 18,235 40,816 1,955 19,750 13,960 x Saskatoon 654,665 408,534 Alberta 49,541 26,575 6,737 108,266 x Calgary 214,365 408,225 280,339 Edmonton 16,379 31,525 Lethbridge 13,750 550 3,550 Medicine Hat 495,964 276,034 British Columbia 2,779 18,990 6,142 8,515 Kamloops 2,550 21,810 Nanaimo 32,695 660 24,990 32,925 x New Westminster 320 1,605 Prince Rupert 198,755 396,040 355,905 x Vancouver 33,650 2,070 North Vancouver 43.515 72,361,771 2, 72,061,632 2 33.755 6,300,046 47,412 3,183,336 Victoria Total - 58 Cities 5,892,819 Total - 35 Cities 2,712,107 ... 3/ Report not received. 2/ Includes Moose Jaw.

