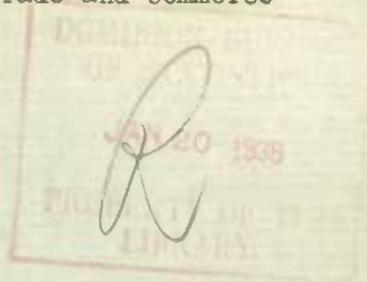


DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
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BUILDING PERMITS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1937, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR
 NOVEMBER, 1937, AND DECEMBER, 1936, AND TOTALS FOR THE YEARS, 1920-1937.

The building permits issued by 58 cities in December, 1937, represented construction work valued at \$3,543,073, as compared with \$4,956,139 in November, 1937, and \$3,282,166 in December, 1936. There was, therefore, a decrease of \$1,413,066 or 28.5 p.c. in December as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of \$260,907 or 7.9 p.c. in the more significant comparison with the same month in 1936.

The value of the building permits taken out during 1937 was \$55,634,610; this was 34.6 p.c. higher than the aggregate of \$41,325,693 reported in 1936, and was also decidedly higher than in any other year since 1931. The cumulative total in each of the last six years has been very much lower than in earlier years of the record; while the wholesale prices of building materials have recently advanced, the preliminary index for 1937 was below the average for the years since 1919.

A review of building permits granted in 1937, based on revised figures, will be issued each month.

Detailed statements for December were received from some 50 cities, showing that they had issued some 75 permits for dwellings valued at almost \$650,000 and 900 permits for other buildings at an estimated cost of more than \$2,560,000. There was also one permit taken out for engineering work at a cost of \$22,000. During November, the construction of some 300 dwellings and 1,800 other building was authorized; these were estimated to cost approximately \$1,158,000 and \$3,495,000, respectively.

As compared with the preceding month, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Alberta reported small increases in the value of the building authorized. Of the declines indicated in the remaining provinces, those of \$734,487 or 28.1 p.c. in Ontario and \$393,353 or 56.9 p.c. in British Columbia were most pronounced.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta recorded increases as compared with December, 1936, in the value of the building represented by the permits granted. In this comparison, Quebec and Ontario reported the greatest gains of \$112,564 or 12.5 p.c., and \$141,573 or 8.1 p.c., respectively.

Of the four largest cities, Montreal registered an increase as compared with either November, 1937, or December, 1936, while Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver reported declines as compared with the preceding month, but increases over the same month in 1936. Of the other centres, Charlottetown, Fredericton, Westmount, Brantford, Fort William, Kingston, London, Oshawa, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Kamloops recorded advances as compared with November, 1937, and also as compared with December, 1936.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR 1937.

The following table shows the value of the building authorized by 58 cities during the Decembers of the years since 1920, and also for the completed years; the 1937 figures are unrevised, while for preceding years the statistics are revised. (a revised statement for 1937 will be issued next month). Index numbers,

Section header in the upper middle part of the page.

First main paragraph of text, starting with a faint opening word.

Second main paragraph of text, continuing the narrative.

Third main paragraph of text, providing further details.

Fourth main paragraph of text, appearing to be a list or detailed notes.

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based upon the total value of the building authorized by these cities during 1926 as 100, are given below, as are the average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the years 1920-37:-

Year	Value of permits issued in December	Value of permits issued in twelve months	Indexes of value of permits issued in twelve months (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials, twelve months (1926=100)
1937	\$ 3,543,073	\$ 55,634,610	35.6	94.3
1936	3,282,166	41,325,693	26.4	85.3
1935	2,401,856	46,560,623	29.8	87.2
1934	2,521,820	27,457,524	17.6	82.6
1933	1,983,292	21,776,496	13.9	78.3
1932	1,569,255	42,319,397	27.1	77.2
1931	7,895,106	112,222,845	71.8	81.9
1930	15,440,281	166,379,325	106.4	90.9
1929	14,688,682	234,944,549	150.2	99.0
1928	16,095,160	219,105,715	140.1	97.1
1927	11,755,566	184,613,742	118.0	96.1
1926	11,508,818	156,386,607	100.0	100.0
1925	7,363,777	125,029,367	79.9	102.9
1924	6,463,319	126,583,148	80.9	106.6
1923	6,974,256	133,521,621	85.4	111.8
1922	9,517,402	148,215,407	94.8	108.7
1921	5,537,330	116,794,414	74.7	122.7
1920	4,844,354	117,019,622	74.8	144.0

The unrevised statistics for 1937 indicate that last year's aggregate was 34.6 p.c. higher than in 1936, and it was also higher than in any of the preceding four years. With these exceptions, the 1937 total was lower than in any other year since 1929. The index number of wholesale prices of building materials, though higher than in any of the years, 1930-1936, was lower than in other years since 1919.

The accompanying table gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities in November and December, 1937, and December, 1936. The 35 centres for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

Estimated Value of Construction Works as Indicated by Building Permits Issued by 58 Cities

C i t i e s	December	November	December
	1937	1937	1936
P. E. I. - Charlottetown	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,000	Nil
Nova Scotia	106,562	193,485 ^{1/}	80,310
x Halifax	82,215	141,255	73,660
New Glasgow	585	2,780	4,500
x Sydney	23,762	49,450 ^{1/}	2,150
New Brunswick	62,545	54,881	10,775
Fredericton	48,800	850	4,000
x Moncton	1,675	33,896	1,090
x Saint John	12,070	20,135	5,685
Quebec	1,010,367	1,086,751	897,803
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	870,928	812,401	843,590
x Quebec	26,639	83,715	1,135
Shawinigan Falls	5,000	37,050	12,943
x Sherbrooke	54,800	63,300	5,500
x Three Rivers	11,750	85,185	16,835
x Westmount	41,250	5,100	17,800
Ontario	1,881,504	2,615,991	1,739,931
Belleville	2,050	7,950	Nil
x Brantford	13,140	11,136	10,755
Cochran	1,000	9,300	32,600
x Fort William	22,900	18,550	1,800
Galt	15,455	93,216	1,510
x Guelph	2,340	8,990	285
x Hamilton	87,817	89,477	269,251
x Kingston	19,390	11,987	18,685
x Kitchener	14,795	47,789	16,095
x London	96,240	41,525	19,345
Niagara Falls	200	1,550	3,305
Oshawa	23,235	2,450	1,435
x Ottawa	243,500	73,290	47,400
Owen Sound	750	690	83,125
x Peterborough	935	4,133	3,585
x Port Arthur	1,015	22,755	8,385
x Stratford	1,180	5,430	1,843
x St. Catharines	38,280	41,960	37,465
x St. Thomas	1,400	1,300	11,500
Sarnia	28,805	40,650	5,830
Sault Ste. Marie	29,500	11,090	8,590
x Toronto	1,111,196	1,824,737	988,520
York & East York Townships	64,621	115,310	128,065
Welland	700	45,310	981
x Windsor	46,127	55,655	26,885
Riverside	5,700	10,000	2,275
Woodstock	9,233	19,761	10,416
Manitoba	52,000	126,027	48,350
x Brandon	800	Nil	Nil
St. Boniface	1,000	1,877	20,100
x Winnipeg	50,200	124,150	28,250
Saskatchewan	30,841	97,275	69,050
x Moose Jaw	2,735	84,130	9,250
x Regina	24,106	10,845	18,525
x Saskatoon	4,000	2,300	41,275
Alberta	97,779	87,999	71,444
x Calgary	21,987	18,601	9,526
x Edmonton	73,675	21,910	40,265
Lethbridge	2,117	10,488	21,653
Medicine Hat	Nil	37,000	Nil
British Columbia	298,375	691,730	364,503
Kamloops	9,050	3,625	265
Nanaimo	50	25,895	47,550
x New Westminster	22,050	51,875	17,700
Prince Rupert	1,350	18,420	48,765
x Vancouver	235,730	487,900	212,685
North Vancouver	1,525	8,615	5,070
x Victoria	28,620	95,400	32,468
Total - 58 Cities	3,543,073	4,956,139 ^{1/}	3,282,166
Total - 135 Cities	3,289,247	4,450,262 ^{1/}	2,839,188

1/ Including Sydney received too late for November tabulation.

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