Published by authority of Hon. W. D. Euler, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce.
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH
OTTAWA - CANADA.

Issued April 16, 1937.

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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1937, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1937, AND MARCH, 1936, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1920-1937.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during March was $6,654,516; this was an increase of $4,534,405 or 213.9 p.c. over the February total of $2,120,111, and of $4,285,979 or 181.0 p.c. as compared with the aggregate of $2,368,537 reported for March, 1936. Last month's total was the largest recorded in any month of the years since 1931.

The value of the building authorized during the first quarter of 1937 was also decidedly higher than in the same months in any of the preceding five years, amounting to $10,470,129. This was an increase of $4,877,658 or 87.2 p.c. as compared with the corresponding period of 1936, while the total for the elapsed months of the present year was greater by 286.2 p.c. than in the months January - March, 1934, when building as represented by the construction permits granted in the 58 cities was lower than in the first quarter of any other year since the record commenced in 1920. However, the cumulative total for this period in 1937 is below the average of $13,580,660 indicated in the last seventeen years.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for March, 1937, showing that they had granted about 370 permits for dwellings valued at more than $1,210,000 and nearly 1,600 permits for other buildings estimated to cost approximately $5,400,000. During February, authority was given for the erection of about 200 dwellings and almost 900 other buildings, estimated to cost approximately $800,000 and $1,200,000, respectively.

Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia reported increases in the value of the building authorized during March, 1937, as compared with the preceding month. The greatest gains were those of $2,862,140 or 273.3 p.c. in Ontario and $1,631,069 or 682.3 p.c. in British Columbia. Of the reductions in the remaining provinces, that of $42,690 in Nova Scotia was largest.

As compared with March, 1936, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia reported increases; in this comparison also, the most pronounced gains were in Ontario and British Columbia, where the authorizations were higher by $2,760,955 or 240.4 p.c., and $1,364,086 or 269.6 p.c., respectively. New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta showed reductions as compared with March of last year, that in the last-named being greatest. Very little change was indicated in this comparison in Nova Scotia.

Of the larger cities, Montreal and Vancouver reported increases as compared with the preceding month and with March, 1936; in Toronto, there was a gain over the same month of last year, but a loss as compared with February, 1937, while building authorizations in Winnipeg showed declines in both comparisons. Of the other centres, Sydney, Moncton, Quebec, Shawinigan Falls, Sherbrooke, Belleville, Chatham, Galt, Kingston, Kitchener, Ottawa, St. Thomas, York and East York Townships, Windsor, Riverside, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and New Westminster reported higher totals than in either February, 1937, or March, 1936.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1937.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 58 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 numbers 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)
1937	$6,654,516	$10,470,129	46.5	92.5
1936	2,368,537	5,592,471	24.9	84.0
1935	4,022,755	8,507,270	37.8	81.4
1934	1,109,085	2,710,999	12.1	82.2
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 value of the building authorized in the first three months of 1937 was higher by 87.2 p.c. than in the same period of 1936, and also exceeded the total for the first quarter in any of the preceding four years. However, the total for the months January-March of the present year was lower than in any of the years 1920-1931. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the last few months have shown an upward movement, but continue lower than in the years prior to 1931.

The table on page 3 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities in February and March, 1937, and March, 1936. The 35 cities for which statistics are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

CONSTRUCTION INDEX FOR BUILDING WORKERS, 1917

The following table shows the value of the building activities by 34 cities during twenty-one in the first quarter of each year since 1909, as well as index numbers for the latter, based upon the total for 1925 as 100. The average index figures 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	Index of value of permits issued in March in first quarter (1925=100)	Average index of wholesale prices of building materials in first quarter (1926=100)
1909	[illegible]	[illegible]	96.5
1910	[illegible]	[illegible]	94.0
1911	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1912	[illegible]	[illegible]	88.7
1913	[illegible]	[illegible]	84.8
1914	[illegible]	[illegible]	85.5
1915	[illegible]	[illegible]	83.7
1916	[illegible]	[illegible]	89.3
1917	[illegible]	[illegible]	100.0
1918	[illegible]	[illegible]	90.9
1919	[illegible]	[illegible]	95.5
1920	[illegible]	[illegible]	96.4
1921	[illegible]	[illegible]	100.0
1922	[illegible]	[illegible]	102.9
1923	[illegible]	[illegible]	112.2
1924	[illegible]	[illegible]	109.8
1925	[illegible]	[illegible]	100.0
1926	[illegible]	[illegible]	103.0
1927	[illegible]	[illegible]	99.1
1928	[illegible]	[illegible]	97.4

The value of new buildings and/or alterations in the first three months of 1927 was slight by 27.0 p.c. than in the same period of 1926, and also stood well below total for the first quarter in any of the preceding five years. However, the total for the corresponding quarter of the present year was lower than in any of the years 1922-1926. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the last two months have shown an upward movement, but remained lower than in the first three months of 1926.

The index of page 1 shows the value of the building permits issued by 34 cities in February and March, 1927, and March, 1926. The 15 cities for which statistics are available after 1909 are marked thus "*".

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

Cities	March 1937	February 1937	March 1936
	$	$	$
P. E. I. - Charlottetown	4,590	14,600	Nil
Nova Scotia	82,140	124,830	82,377
x Halifax	75,905	124,830	78,377
New Glasgow	250	Nil	Nil
x Sydney	5,985	Nil	4,000
New Brunswick	16,326	30,035	18,446
Fredericton	Nil	Nil	4,835
x Moncton	11,500	5,400	1,560
x Saint John	4,826	24,635	12,051
Quebec	640,182	548,053	468,248
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	491,782	420,508	387,310
x Quebec	71,760	41,360	44,980
Shawinigan Falls	3,850	2,545	200
x Sherbrooke	30,500	18,600	16,100
x Three Rivers	8,690	30,350	4,850
x Westmount	33,600	34,690	14,808
Ontario	3,909,206	1,047,066	1,148,251
Belleville	36,575	2,240	17,350
x Brantford	10,925	11,284	4,718
Chatham	11,200	4,100	3,000
x Fort William	2,475	32,000	9,750
Galt	40,885	2,295	3,145
x Guelph	6,775	14,970	4,090
x Hamilton	107,231	36,679	118,570
x Kingston	16,770	Nil	12,927
x Kitchener	33,038	10,630	7,685
x London	61,965	74,800	28,205
Niagara Falls	3,572	8,600	2,605
Oshawa	950	300	825
x Ottawa	768,315	32,550	196,939
Owen Sound	Nil	1,750	1,090
x Peterborough	10,795	13,725	15,858
x Port Arthur	10,170	1,135	11,620
x Stratford	7,530	22,620	2,720
x St. Catharines	17,252	38,703	4,301
x St. Thomas	2,750	2,550	725
Sarnia	6,580	6,515	10,040
Sault Ste. Marie	6,045	9,200	3,650
x Toronto	527,018	615,681	493,235
York & East York Townships	163,400	47,045	150,630
Welland	8,294	7,384	14,135
x Windsor	2,041,881	50,010	24,641
Riverside	3,350	300	400
Woodstock	3,465	Nil	5,397
Manitoba	37,045	40,350	45,150
x Brandon	4,100	2,000	250
St. Boniface	2,945	4,000	Nil
x Winnipeg	30,000	34,350	44,900
Saskatchewan	23,930	25,785	3,520
x Moose Jaw	4,235	20,000	500
x Regina	11,155	3,285	1,065
x Saskatoon	8,540	2,500	1,955
Alberta	70,969	50,333	96,503
x Calgary	33,049	42,618	49,441
x Edmonton	34,320	6,845	26,575
Lethbridge	3,600	770	6,737
Medicine Hat	Nil	100	13,750
British Columbia	1,870,128	239,059	506,042
Kamloops	4,700	1,000	8,515
Nanaimo	3,020	2,025	21,810
x New Westminster	60,670	13,100	32,695
Prince Rupert	1,425	1,640	660
x Vancouver	1,754,630	202,545	355,905
North Vancouver	2,110	2,730	33,650
x Victoria	43,573	16,019	52,807
Total - 58 Cities	6,654,516	2,120,111	2,368,537
Total - x 35 Cities	6,349,860	2,000,972	2,066,113