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BUILDING PERMITS FOR APRIL, 1938, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR MARCH, 1938,
AND APRIL, 1937, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS, 1920-1938.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated returns from 58 cities which granted permits for construction work valued at \$4,879,867 during April, as compared with \$3,556,567 in the preceding month, and \$6,106,693 in the same month of last year. There was, therefore, an increase of \$1,323,300 or 37.2 p.c. as compared with March, but in the comparison with April, 1937, there was a decrease of \$1,226,826, or 20.1 p.c.

The estimated value of the construction authorized in the first four months of the present year was \$12,644,492; this was considerably lower than the aggregate of \$16,634,685 reported in the period January-April, 1937, and was also less than in 1935, but was higher than in the same months of the years 1936, 1934 or 1933. The cumulative total for the first four months in each of the last seven years has been very much smaller than in any earlier year of the record. The wholesale prices of building materials have been rather lower in 1938 than in the same period of 1937, and were also below the average for the years, 1920-1937, but they were higher than in the first four months of the years, 1931-1936.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for April, 1938, showing that they had issued more than 555 permits for dwellings valued at approximately \$1,800,000, and for over 2,500 other buildings, estimated to cost almost \$3,000,000. In March, authority was given for the erection of about 375 dwellings and 1,700 other buildings, valued at approximately \$1,110,000 and \$2,200,000, respectively.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia recorded increases in the value of the building represented by the permits issued during April as compared with the preceding month, the greatest gain of \$856,188 or 557.7 p.c. taking place in Alberta. In Nova Scotia and Quebec there were in this comparison declines of \$27,779 or 15.1 p.c. and \$79,966, or 8.7 p.c., respectively.

As compared with April, 1937, there were increases in Prince Edward Island and Alberta, the latter showing the considerable gain of \$751,170 or 290.5 p.c. In this comparison, the remaining provinces reported declines, of which those of \$571,209 or 40.4 p.c. in Quebec, and \$1,073,570 or 39.5 p.c. in Ontario were greatest.

Of the four largest cities, Montreal and Toronto registered decreases in the building authorized during April as compared with the preceding month, and also as compared with April, 1937. In Winnipeg and Vancouver, the value was higher than in March, 1938, but lower than in April of last year. Of the other centres, Charlottetown, New Glasgow, Fredericton, Quebec, Shawinigan Falls, Westmount, Galt, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, Peterborough, Stratford, St. Thomas, Sarnia, Welland, Riverside, Moose Jaw, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Prince Rupert reported increases in the value of the permits issued as compared with March, 1938, and also with April, 1937.

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CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS, 1920-1938.

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).

Years	Value of permits issued in April	Value of permits issued in first four months	Index of value of permits issued in first four months (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials, in first four months, (1926 average =100)
1938	\$ 4,879,867	\$12,644,492	30.4	91.1
1937	6,106,693	16,634,685	40.0	93.8
1936	3,237,366	8,829,837	21.3	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 decidedly lower than in the same period of 1937, and was also smaller than in 1935, but it exceeded the total for 1933, 1934 or 1936. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in 1938 were lower than in the months, January - April in 1937, but were rather higher than in preceding years since 1930.

Table 1 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during April and March, 1938, and April, 1937. The 35 cities for which records are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

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The following table shows the results of the various tests conducted on the various samples of the material under examination. The results are given in the form of percentages of the total weight of the material.

Sample No.	Moisture	Acid Insoluble Ash	Water Soluble Ash	Total Ash
101	10.5	15.2	2.1	17.3
102	11.2	14.8	2.3	17.1
103	10.8	15.5	2.0	17.3
104	11.0	14.9	2.2	17.1
105	10.7	15.3	2.1	17.1
106	11.1	14.7	2.3	17.1
107	10.9	15.1	2.2	17.2
108	11.3	14.6	2.4	17.3
109	10.6	15.4	2.1	17.1
110	11.4	14.5	2.5	17.4
111	10.4	15.6	2.0	17.0
112	11.5	14.4	2.6	17.5
113	10.3	15.7	1.9	16.9
114	11.6	14.3	2.7	17.6
115	10.2	15.8	1.8	16.8
116	11.7	14.2	2.8	17.7
117	10.1	15.9	1.7	16.7
118	11.8	14.1	2.9	17.8
119	10.0	16.0	1.6	16.6
120	11.9	14.0	3.0	17.9

The above table shows the results of the various tests conducted on the various samples of the material under examination. The results are given in the form of percentages of the total weight of the material.

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

C i t i e s	April 1938 \$	March 1938 \$	April 1937 \$
P. E. I.- Charlottetown	6,100	1,000	5,725
Nova Scotia	156,406	184,185	170,339
x Halifax	116,396	142,250	113,799
New Glasgow	18,640	17,100	18,550
x Sydney	21,370	24,835	37,990
New Brunswick	47,386	17,870	55,861
Fredericton	8,000	Nil	1,400
x Moncton	23,250	7,365	37,687
x Saint John	16,136	10,505	16,774
Quebec	844,237	924,203	1,415,446
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	482,352	763,853	1,033,065
x Quebec	100,235	96,397	60,356
Shawinigan Falls	34,800	3,200	17,225
x Sherbrooke	70,200	47,900	180,000
x Three Rivers	33,400	7,735	37,315
x Westmount	123,250	5,118	87,485
Ontario	1,641,959	1,365,680	2,715,529
Belleville	3,400	525	7,580
x Brantford	10,580	64,042	9,640
Chatham	8,624	13,950	9,300
x Fort William	23,745	6,150	43,480
Galt	29,761	12,731	22,517
x Guelph	5,000	3,400	19,912
x Hamilton	139,235	123,403	189,864
x Kingston	22,475	19,919	36,395
x Kitchener	43,400	28,182	129,728
x London	93,575	40,940	179,885
Niagara Falls	77,910	21,650	15,115
Oshawa	10,165	3,950	1,200
x Ottawa	338,470	101,000	223,355
Owen Sound	15,050	22,148	10,879
x Peterborough	28,735	11,641	18,484
x Port Arthur	37,565	7,928	421,087
x Stratford	14,429	3,233	6,687
x St. Catharines	10,833	28,360	85,069
x St. Thomas	14,495	4,200	1,812
Sarnia	10,832	10,210	9,023
Sault Ste. Marie	22,750	2,700	43,640
x Toronto	503,698	714,620	908,436
York & East York Townships	106,960	51,055	236,559
Welland	21,750	8,655	11,873
x Windsor	30,030	39,020	58,409
Riverside	8,050	5,500	5,300
Woodstock	10,442	16,568	10,300
Manitoba	251,415	58,775	287,100
x Brandon	4,355	15,450	8,775
St. Boniface	20,360	5,525	22,825
x Winnipeg	226,700	37,800	255,500
Saskatchewan	94,853	30,990	142,956
x Moose Jaw	7,665	200	5,910
x Regina	78,633	21,365	37,146
x Saskatoon	8,555	9,425	99,900
Alberta	1,009,719	153,531	258,549
x Calgary	75,639	30,036	56,914
x Edmonton	926,965	97,535	155,880
Lethbridge	6,065	25,960	42,405
Medicine Hat	1,050	Nil	3,350
British Columbia	827,792	820,333	1,055,188
Kamloops	2,440	12,600	5,900
Nanaimo	9,300	13,280	16,786
x New Westminster	51,050	115,675	53,600
Prince Rupert	7,030	4,070	500
x Vancouver	703,445	600,835	922,620
North Vancouver	15,025	17,335	6,080
x Victoria	39,502	56,538	49,702
Total - 58 Cities	4,879,867	3,556,567	6,106,693
Total - x35 Cities	4,425,363	3,286,855	5,582,661

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