Published by Authority of Hon. W. D. Euler, M.P. Minister of Trade and Commerce DOMINION BUREAU OF STABISTICS DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH OTTAWA - CANADA. Issued October 20, 1938. Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.) In Charge Employment Statistics: M. E. K. Roughsedge. BUILDING PERMITS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1938, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR AUGUST, 1938. AND SEPTEMBER, 1937, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST NIME MONTHS, 1920-1938. The value of the building authorized in 58 cities during September was estimated at \$5,278,381; this was a decrease of \$535,949, or 9.2 p.c., from the total of \$5,814,330 reported in August, 1938, but an increase of \$166,601,or 3.3 p.c., in the more significant comparison with September of last year, when the permits granted represented building valued at \$5,111,780. The value of the building authorized in the first nine months of the present year was \$43,104,172; this slightly exceeded the aggregate of \$42,960,983 recorded in the period January - September, 1937, and was decidedly higher than in the first nine months in any other year since 1931. However, the cumulative total for the same period in each of these years has been very much lower than in earlier years for which data are available. The wholesale prices of building materials have recently been lower than in the same months of 1937, although they continue higher than in any of the years, 1931-1936. Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for September, showing that they had issued about 470 permits for dwellings estimated to cost approximately \$1,636,000, and more than 2,600 permits for other buildings valued at about \$3,150,000. In addition, one city authorized engineering projects valued at \$400,000. During August, permits were granted for the erection of about 500 dwellings and 2,100 other buildings, estimated to cost approximately \$1,480,000 and \$3,760,000, respectively. Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported increases in the value of the building authorized as compared with August, 1938, those of \$615,566, or 48.2 p.c., in Quebec and \$357,376, or 130.7 p.c., in Alberta being largest. The remaining provinces showed declines, of which that of \$1,297,722, or 45.5 p.c., in Ontario was most pronounced. As compared with September, 1937, there was improvement in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The greatest gain, of \$700,503, or 58.7 p.c., was reported in Quebec. Of the larger cities, Montreal and Winnipeg showed higher totals of authorized building than in either August, 1938, or September, 1937. In Vancouver, there was a decline in the first comparison, but an increase over September of last year, while the Toronto aggregate was lower than in either month used for comparative purposes. Of the other centres, Sydney, Quebec, Three Rivers, Westmount, Belleville, Peterborough, St. Thomas, Woodstock, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Kamloops and North Vancouver recorded increases over August, 1938, and September, 1937.

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CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS, 1938.

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

Year	Value of permits issued in September	Value of permits issued in first nine months	Indexes of value of permits issued first nine months (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials, first nine months, (Average 1926=100)
1938	\$5,278,381	\$43,104,172	35.9	90.1
1937	5,111,780	42,960,983	35.8	95.2
1936	3,657,271	30,683,412	25.5	84.8
1935	3,672,845	36,680,796	30.5	81.2
1934	2,281,874	19,715,146	16.5	82.8
1933	1,986,903	16,394,014	13.6	77.5
1932	2,449,735	35,026,199	29.1	77.6
1931	10,407,999	88,602,995	73 • 7	82.7
1930	11,093,020	126,361,350	105.2	92.7
1929	17,117,017	186,011,017	154.8	99.2
1928	20,374,149	165,621,634	137.8	96.7
1927	14,462,243	141,152,535	117.5	96.3
1926	11,0147,503	120,163,936	100.0	100.7
1925	10,140,853	98,364,181	81.9	103.1
1924	15,055,250	96,817,333	80.6	108.2
1923	10,768,898	108,319,972	90.1	111.8
1922	11,597,034	116,778,450	97.2	108.5
1921	10,907,828	88,573,442	73 • 7	126.8
1920	9,842,677	96, 146, 278	80.0	144.2

The aggregate for the first nine months of this year was very slightly higher than in 1937, and substantially exceeded that for the same period in any of the preceding five years. The average index number of wholesale prices of building materials, though lower than in 1937, was rather higher than in preceding years since 1930.

The table on page 3 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during August and September, 1938, and September, 1937. The 35 cities for which data are available since 1910 and marked thus "x".

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