



Issued June 28, 1939.

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 MAY, 1939, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR APRIL, 1939,
 AND MAY, 1938, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS, 1920-1939.

The estimated cost of the building represented by the construction permits taken out in 58 cities during May, 1939, was higher by 7.6 p.c. than in April, 1939, but was lower by 3.2 p.c. than in May, 1938; with this exception, however, the total was higher than in any other May since that of 1931. According to statements tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the authorizations amounted to \$6,390,779, as compared with \$5,936,806 in the preceding month, and \$6,599,318 in May of last year.

The value of the building authorized in the first five months of the present year was \$19,279,570; this was slightly lower than the aggregate of \$19,375,095 reported in the period, January - May, 1938, and was also lower than in the same months of 1937. The wholesale prices of building materials also have recently been lower than in the corresponding period of 1937 or 1938.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for May, 1939, showing that they had issued some 750 permits for dwellings valued at approximately \$2,800,000, and for more than 3,000 other buildings, estimated to cost over \$3,000,000. In April, authority was given for the erection of about 500 dwellings and 2,300 other buildings, valued at approximately \$1,800,000 and \$3,600,000, respectively.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan recorded increases in the value of the building represented by the permits issued during May as compared with the preceding month. Ontario showed the greatest gain, of \$485,505, or 24.1 p.c. On the other hand, the totals in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia were lower than in April; the largest decline in this comparison was that of \$140,148, or 15.6 p.c., in the last-named.

As compared with May, 1938, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta registered increases, of which that of \$762,011, or 61.7 p.c., in Quebec was most noteworthy. The greatest decline, of \$1,041,497, or 57.8 p.c., was in British Columbia.

Of the four largest cities, Montreal showed improvement as compared with last month, and also over the same month of last year. In Toronto, the total value of the building represented by the permits for construction granted in May was greater than in April, 1939, but smaller than in May, 1938, while in Winnipeg the reverse was the case, the aggregate for the month under review being slightly smaller than in the preceding month, but considerably larger than in May of last year. The authorizations reported in Vancouver were lower than in either April, 1939, or May, 1938.

Of the other centres, Charlottetown, New Glasgow, Sydney, Fredericton, Saint John, Shawinigan Falls, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Westmount, Belleville, Guelph, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sarnia, Woodstock, Brandon, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon and Medicine Hat showed increases in the value of the building authorized as compared with either the preceding month, or the same month of 1938.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS, 1939.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 58 cities in May and in the first five 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 five months of the same years are also given (1926=100).



Faint, illegible text centered at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.

Faint text in the top right corner, possibly a date or reference number.

A line of faint text, likely the beginning of a paragraph or section.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A block of faint text, possibly a paragraph or a list of items.

A line of faint text centered on the page, possibly a section separator.

A block of faint text at the bottom of the page, possibly a conclusion or footer.

Year	Value of permits issued in May	Value of permits issued in first five months	Indexes of value of permits issued in first five months (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first five months (1926 average =100)
1939	\$6,390,779	\$19,279,570	32.1	87.5
1938	6,599,318	19,375,095	32.3	90.7
1937	5,416,299	22,050,984	36.7	94.6
1936	4,836,358	13,666,195	22.8	86.3
1935	4,728,340	19,535,656	32.5	81.7
1934	3,019,761	7,999,917	13.3	83.0
1933	2,065,372	6,726,695	11.2	75.2
1932	5,488,845	19,312,720	32.1	78.8
1931	12,115,291	50,356,550	83.9	83.6
1930	20,321,160	66,792,498	111.2	95.5
1929	24,135,738	96,792,675	161.2	99.4
1928	27,515,522	79,285,027	132.0	95.8
1927	20,138,657	62,479,480	104.1	96.1
1926	18,504,296	60,042,369	100.0	101.3
1925	15,520,435	50,983,833	84.9	103.1
1924	14,807,589	46,544,689	77.5	111.3
1923	18,937,638	57,946,608	96.5	111.1
1922	19,527,061	54,040,922	90.0	107.9
1921	14,460,878	41,530,750	69.2	134.4
1920	13,082,015	47,640,916	79.3	144.7

As already mentioned, the aggregate for the first five months of 1939 was very slightly lower than in the same period in 1938, and was also less than in 1937. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials were also rather lower than in 1937 or 1938.

Table 1 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during April and May, 1939, and May, 1938. 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.

Cities	May, 1939	April, 1939	May, 1938
	\$	\$	\$
P.E.I.- Charlottetown	13,000	-	9,900
Nova Scotia	174,067	87,865	159,484
x Halifax	97,547	46,800	122,379
New Glasgow	9,240	4,175	2,145
x Sydney	67,280	36,890	34,960
New Brunswick	156,095	87,630	132,379
Fredericton	34,400	2,000	18,950
x Moncton	45,985	73,250	40,838
x Saint John	75,710	12,380	72,591
Quebec	1,997,466	2,003,415	1,235,455
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	1,078,494	761,375	742,105
x Quebec	135,102	1,002,720	273,730
Shawinigan Falls	202,200	22,250	66,050
x Sherbrooke	273,900	166,550	78,200
x Three Rivers	215,615	29,250	57,570
x Westmount	92,155	21,270	17,800
Ontario	2,497,026	2,011,521	2,757,027
Belleville	18,250	3,455	5,400
x Brantford	14,395	97,020	23,050
Chatham	34,190	46,700	28,300
x Fort William	54,053	89,435	87,710
Galt	40,983	47,773	27,120
x Guelph	32,156	13,075	15,860
x Hamilton	230,565	275,313	148,738
x Kingston	40,473	36,848	43,640
x Kitchener	76,784	58,842	93,543
x London	75,825	104,960	112,425
Niagara Falls	33,845	7,890	11,380
Oshawa	62,865	10,500	15,960
x Ottawa	319,520	189,040	280,345
Owen Sound	5,420	5,570	9,680
x Peterborough	125,537	26,642	33,542
x Port Arthur	59,652	53,110	278,893
x Stratford	4,695	11,365	3,680
x St. Catharines	28,630	168,910	32,480
x St. Thomas	8,014	12,545	21,737
Sarnia	42,954	3,870	23,945
Sault Ste. Marie	51,742	73,150	35,200
x Toronto	810,845	514,467	1,001,904
York & East York Townships	209,430	92,545	274,385
Welland	19,390	29,875	12,239
x Windsor	65,136	27,955	118,588
Riverdide	8,270	6,450	10,860
Woodstock	23,407	4,216	6,423
Manitoba	348,506	330,760	229,120
x Brandon	38,965	4,075	5,400
St. Boniface	30,691	29,235	32,070
x Winnipeg	278,850	297,450	191,650
Saskatchewan	77,530	41,229	40,576
x Moose Jaw	6,774	3,875	2,773
x Regina	40,212	35,344	31,153
x Saskatoon	30,544	2,010	6,650
Alberta	366,911	474,060	233,702
x Calgary	166,319	196,190	55,657
x Edmonton	150,315	173,165	146,685
Lethbridge	46,137	104,705	30,960
Medicine Hat	4,140	Nil	400
British Columbia	760,178	900,326	1,801,675
Kamloops	6,651	10,555	2,250
Nanaimo	7,896	4,420	8,650
x New Westminster	55,005	64,660	58,450
Prince Rupert	5,200	12,195	630
x Vancouver	600,410	750,155	1,612,045
North Vancouver	12,275	15,140	11,330
x Victoria	72,741	43,201	108,320
Total - 58 Cities	6,390,779	5,936,806	6,599,318
Total - x 35 Cities	5,468,203	5,400,137	5,955,091

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010544894