



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 11, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Building permits, November 2000** 2  
 The value of building permits surpassed the \$3-billion mark for the sixth straight month in November. This was the first time since 1989 that such a streak occurred. Municipalities issued \$3.2 billion in permits, up 0.5% from October, as higher construction intentions in the housing sector more than offset a decline in non-residential permits.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Building permits

November 2000

The value of building permits surpassed the \$3-billion mark for the sixth straight month in November. This was the first time since 1989 that such a streak occurred. Municipalities issued \$3.2 billion in permits, up 0.5% from October, as higher construction intentions in the housing sector more than offset a decline in non-residential permits.

Intentions in the housing sector rose 1.9% to 1.8 billion in November on the heels of a 5.2% gain in October, the result of increased intentions for single-family dwellings.

On the other hand, the value of non-residential permits declined 1.1% to \$1.4 billion. A marked decline in the value of permits for institutional buildings was tempered by gains in the commercial and industrial components.

On a year-to-date basis, builders took out \$34.5 billion worth of permits between January and November, up 7.1% compared with the same period in 1999, the best result since the construction peak of 1989. Residential permits were up by 4.7%, and non-residential by 10.2%.

#### Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and demolitions permits monthly survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g. waterworks, sewers, culverts, etc.) and land.

growth in the construction intentions in the country. Buoyant activity in both residential and non-residential sectors fuelled the strong performance in these regions.

#### Single-family dwellings pushed the housing sector up

The value of building permits for single-family dwellings was up 3.8% to \$1.3 billion in November. In contrast, multi-family dwelling permits fell 3.0% to \$469 million, following a 12.2% gain in October.

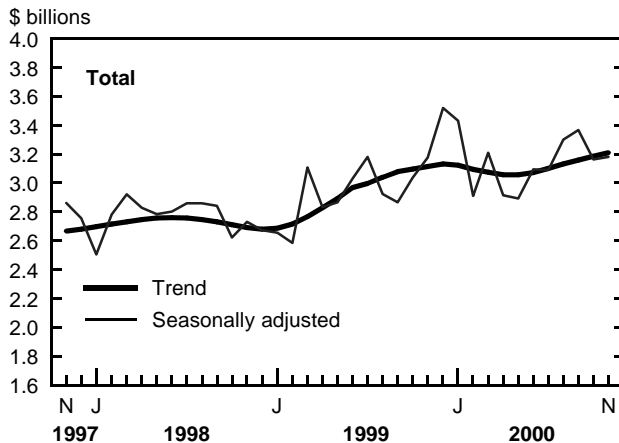
Market indicators such as recent decreases in mortgage rates as well as sustained growth in per capita disposable income and in employment are consistent with a positive housing market. In addition, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported a shrinking rental vacancy rate in apartment buildings in Canada's metropolitan centres, from 2.6% in October 1999 to 1.6% in October 2000.

Provincially, by far the largest gain (in dollar terms) occurred in British Columbia (+21.6% to \$179 million) as both single and multi-family permits contributed to the advance. The largest decline was recorded in Alberta (-5.5% to \$244 million) as construction intentions for multi-family dwellings fell.

For the first 11 months of 2000, the value of housing permits reached \$19.0 billion, up 4.7% compared with the same period in 1999. This represents the best result for any January-to-November period since 1989. While permits for multi-family dwellings were up 1.4%, the overall gain in the residential sector was mostly the result of higher construction intentions for single family dwellings (+6.0%).

Among the provinces, the most significant gain (in dollar terms) in cumulative value was in Ontario (+6.8% to \$9.6 billion). Stronger intentions for single-family

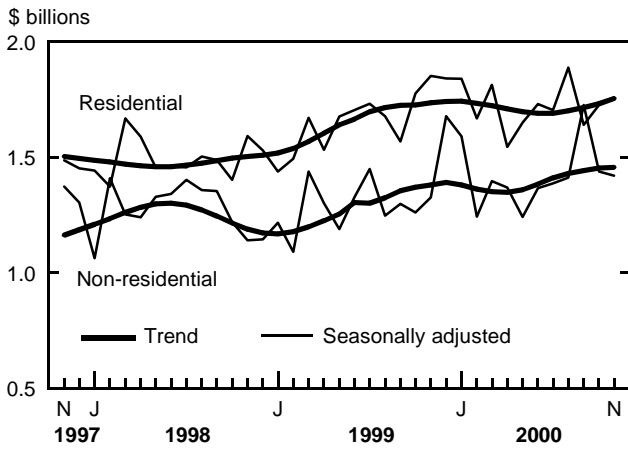
Total value of permits up



Regionally, the largest advances occurred in the census metropolitan areas of Ottawa, Calgary and Montréal. During the first 11 months of 2000, these three regions contributed to more than the half the

dwellings in the Toronto and Ottawa metropolitan areas were the major factor behind this increase. The next largest increase occurred in Quebec (+6.8% to \$3.0 billion), where permits for single-family dwellings in the Montreal metropolitan area pushed the residential sector up. British Columbia had the largest decline in dollar terms (-7.9% to \$2.2 billion) compared with the first 11 months of 1999, with drops in intentions for both single- and multi-family dwellings.

**The value of residential permits increased slightly**



**Non-residential: drop in institutional intentions**

Institutional building permits plunged 21.9% to \$281 million in November, with the largest decline in welfare services buildings. The Calgary census metropolitan area recorded a significant decrease in institutional building permits, following a strong month in October.

After a sharp decline in October, building permits in the industrial sector rose 11.6% to \$295 million in November, with intentions for utility and transportation buildings and manufacturing plants showing the most significant increases.

Commercial intentions gained 3.9% to \$844 million, pushed largely by projects in the hotel and restaurant category and office buildings.

Among the provinces, British Columbia (-28.1% to \$119 million) saw the largest monthly drop in the non-residential sector in dollar terms due entirely to a decline in commercial building projects. The largest increases occurred in Quebec (+29.5% to \$334 million)

and Ontario (+9.9% to \$648 million). In both, the commercial component was the main factor behind the gains.

**Year-to-date: strong momentum in non-residential sector**

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of non-residential building permits reached \$15.6 billion, 10.2% higher than the January-to-November period in 1999, and the best performance for the first 11 months since 1989. All three components posted gains.

Commercial building permits increased 12.5% to \$8.5 billion for the first 11 months of 2000 compared with the same period in 1999. Large gains in trade and services and office building projects led the way.

Growth in permits for manufacturing buildings was mainly responsible for the rise in the total value of industrial permits (+11.1% to \$3.7 billion). These higher investment intentions are consistent with manufacturers having recorded their highest industrial capacity utilization rate in over 25 years during the third quarter of 2000.

The institutional component recorded the smallest increase (+4.1% to \$3.4 billion) in the January-to-November period. For the most part, advances in government administration buildings and welfare home projects drove the increase.

On a provincial basis, the most significant growth for the first 11 months of the year (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario (+11.2% to \$6.7 billion) and Alberta (+23.8% to \$2.3 billion), where the census metropolitan area of Calgary played a predominant role.

In contrast, Nova Scotia recorded the largest decline (-8.8% to \$366 million) as non-residential permits were pulled down mostly by a decrease in the institutional component.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.**

The November 2000 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The December 2000 building permit estimate will be released on February 7.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; [clarver@statcan.ca](mailto:clarver@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; [saineti@statcan.ca](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	Oct. 2000 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 2000 <sup>p</sup>	Oct. to Nov. 2000	Jan. to Nov. 1999	Jan. to Nov. 2000	Jan.-Nov. 1999 to Jan.-Nov. 2000
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,162.4</b>	<b>3,178.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>32,252.7</b>	<b>34,542.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Residential	1,725.9	1,758.4	1.9	18,116.2	18,959.6	4.7
Non-residential	1,436.5	1,420.3	-1.1	14,136.5	15,583.3	10.2
Newfoundland	40.7	25.0	-38.6	274.2	297.9	8.6
Residential	13.9	14.6	5.6	138.1	185.8	34.6
Non-residential	26.8	10.4	-61.4	136.2	112.1	-17.6
Prince Edward Island	9.5	8.5	-10.6	129.7	104.6	-19.3
Residential	4.5	5.5	21.2	61.6	59.6	-3.3
Non-residential	5.0	3.0	-39.5	68.1	45.0	-33.9
Nova Scotia	77.0	57.5	-25.4	846.0	850.0	0.5
Residential	36.5	41.3	13.2	444.9	484.1	8.8
Non-residential	40.5	16.1	-60.2	401.1	365.9	-8.8
New Brunswick	43.8	48.1	9.9	427.2	448.9	5.1
Residential	25.4	23.3	-8.3	248.9	245.6	-1.3
Non-residential	18.3	24.8	35.2	178.3	203.3	14.0
Quebec	526.9	609.0	15.6	5,332.7	5,915.4	10.9
Residential	269.0	275.1	2.3	2,768.4	2,956.7	6.8
Non-residential	258.0	334.0	29.5	2,564.2	2,958.6	15.4
Ontario	1,512.6	1,575.5	4.2	14,985.1	16,268.5	8.6
Residential	922.9	927.6	0.5	8,958.0	9,567.3	6.8
Non-residential	589.7	647.9	9.9	6,027.1	6,701.2	11.2
Manitoba	65.1	63.3	-2.8	812.8	850.8	4.7
Residential	26.3	26.8	1.9	332.2	350.5	5.5
Non-residential	38.9	36.5	-6.1	480.6	500.3	4.1
Saskatchewan	59.6	31.0	-47.9	631.3	609.6	-3.4
Residential	19.7	19.6	-0.3	243.4	241.2	-0.9
Non-residential	39.9	11.4	-71.4	387.9	368.3	-5.0
Alberta	502.3	460.6	-8.3	4,393.8	4,983.3	13.4
Residential	258.5	244.3	-5.5	2,518.6	2,661.9	5.7
Non-residential	243.8	216.4	-11.3	1,875.1	2,321.4	23.8
British Columbia	312.3	297.7	-4.7	4,284.3	4,095.7	-4.4
Residential	147.3	179.2	21.6	2,347.9	2,162.7	-7.9
Non-residential	165.0	118.6	-28.1	1,936.4	1,933.0	-0.2
Yukon	8.8	1.8	-80.0	47.2	53.6	13.7
Residential	1.3	1.1	-18.0	17.1	13.7	-20.2
Non-residential	7.5	0.7	-90.6	30.0	39.9	33.0
Northwest Territories	3.6	0.7	-79.3	39.2	22.8	-41.8
Residential	0.7	0.1	-78.4	11.7	10.0	-14.7
Non-residential	2.9	0.6	-79.5	27.6	12.9	-53.3
Nunavut	0.3	0.0	-100.0	49.3	41.9	-15.0
Residential	0.1	0.0	-100.0	25.4	20.7	-18.7
Non-residential	0.2	0.0	-100.0	23.9	21.3	-11.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Steel primary forms

Week ending January 6, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending January 6 totalled 220 737 metric tonnes, up 3.5% from 213 368 tonnes a week earlier but down 29.3% from 312 133 tonnes in the same week of 2000.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-4925; [houlejm@statcan.ca](mailto:houlejm@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Oils and fats

November 2000

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 99 318 metric tonnes in November, a decrease of 5.0% from 104 504 tonnes in October. Year-to-date production in November was 1 057 867 tonnes, up 2.6% compared with 1 030 807 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 10 041 tonnes; deodorized shortening oil sales were 30 704 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil sales were 30 361 tonnes in November.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The November 2000 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-X1B, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [Zylspet@statcan.ca](mailto:Zylspet@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Canadian Vehicle Survey

Second quarter 2000

The Canadian Vehicle Survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada except some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Vehicles covered in the survey travelled an estimated 79.2 billion kilometres. Among them, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms (and not used as a bus) travelled 71.9 billion kilometres, or 91% of the total during the quarter.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

The second quarter issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE00002, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). On the *Products and services page*, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wendy Christoff (613-951-2498; [chriwen@statcan.ca](mailto:chriwen@statcan.ca)). To obtain data, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Farm product prices

January to November 2000

Monthly farm product prices for January to November are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

Oils and fats, November 2000  
Catalogue number 32-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Canadian vehicle survey, Second quarter 2000  
Catalogue number 53F0004XIE00002  
(Free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

### How to order products

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Catalogue 11-001E (if applicable 11-001E) (5024 0007-0145)

**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 9, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, about Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak, again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Manufactured Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, [vradtom@statcan.ca](mailto:vradtom@statcan.ca))

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), [simamad@statcan.ca](mailto:simamad@statcan.ca)

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