



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, annual 2001 and December 2001** 2
Builders took out an estimated \$39.9 billion in building permits in 2001, just shy of the all-time high posted in 1989. Construction intentions in housing broke an annual record, and non-residential permits reached a 12-year peak.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, January 2002	6
Cement, December 2001	6
Electric lamps, fourth quarter 2001	6
Canadian Vehicle Survey, second quarter 2001	6
Traveller accommodation services price indexes, fourth quarter 2001	7

NEW PRODUCTS



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

Annual 2001 (preliminary) and December 2001

Builders took out an estimated \$39.9 billion in building permits in 2001, just shy of the all-time high set in 1989. Construction intentions for housing broke an annual record, and non-residential permits hit a 12-year peak.

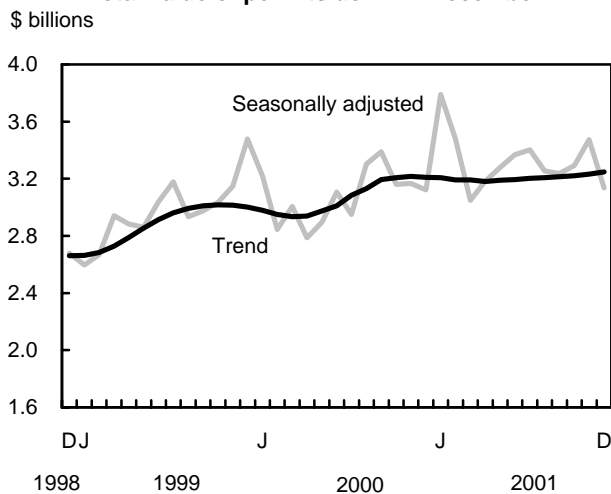
The \$39.9-billion annual (preliminary) total is an 8.1% increase from 2000, and just short of the best annual performance on record, \$40.0 billion. Advances in both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this strong showing.

Among the regions, the total value of building permits rose in 19 of the 26 census metropolitan areas. Montréal showed by far the largest growth (in dollars); commercial construction intentions, especially office buildings and retail trade projects, were nearly double their 2000 level.

The value of building permits issued by municipalities dropped in December in the wake of a plunge in industrial construction intentions. Builders took out \$3.1 billion in permits, down 9.7% from November.

The value of non-residential building permits totalled \$1.3 billion in December, a 15.6% decline, solely the result of a drop in industrial permits. It was the lowest monthly figure for non-residential intentions since February 2000.

Total value of permits down in December



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 2,500 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 or culverts) and land.

Housing intentions fell 5.2% to \$1.9 billion, halting four consecutive monthly gains. A substantial decline in permits for multi-family housing more than offset an increase in single-family permits. Even so, the value of residential permits in December was 1.9% above the average monthly level in 2001.

Residential sector hits annual record level

Construction intentions in the residential sector rose 8.9% to \$22.2 billion (preliminary) in 2001, a record on an annual basis. This followed strong performances in 1999 and 2000.

The continued upward trend in residential permits throughout 2001 was mainly the result of low mortgage rates, tight vacancy rates in several centres and high demand on the resale housing market.

In 2001 the key portion of the housing sector — the single-family component, which comprises more than 70% of the total residential value — led the advance (in dollars). The value of single-family permits climbed 8.2% to \$16.0 billion; multi-family permits followed (+10.8% to \$6.2 billion).

Among the regions, the total value of residential building permits increased in 22 of the 26 census metropolitan areas. Calgary showed the largest rise (in dollars) in the single-family component; Vancouver posted the largest advance in multi-family permits.

All other provinces and territories posted gains in residential permits except Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The largest dollar increases were in Quebec (+15.8%) and Alberta (+16.9%).

Multi-family permits plummet after four consecutive monthly gains

The value of multi-family permits totalled \$418 million in December, down 30.2% from November, the first decline in these permits in five months. In contrast, the value of single-family permits rose 5.6% to \$1.5 billion, the highest monthly level since February 1990.

Among the provinces, a marked decline in multi-family permits in the Toronto area led Ontario to the largest dollar decline (-18.8% to \$776 million) in the residential sector in December. British Columbia posted the largest increase (+32.5% to \$260 million), following a strong decline in November.

Non-residential posts highest annual figures in 12 years

Following a strong performance from 1997 through 2000, construction intentions in the non-residential sector kept their momentum in 2001, rising 7.1% to a preliminary \$17.8 billion, the best showing since 1989.

Declining vacancy rates for office and commercial buildings and a dearth of industrial space in many centres in 2000 were factors pushing up non-residential building intentions in 2001. Others included low interest rates, good corporate profits in 2000 and higher proposed construction spending by government.

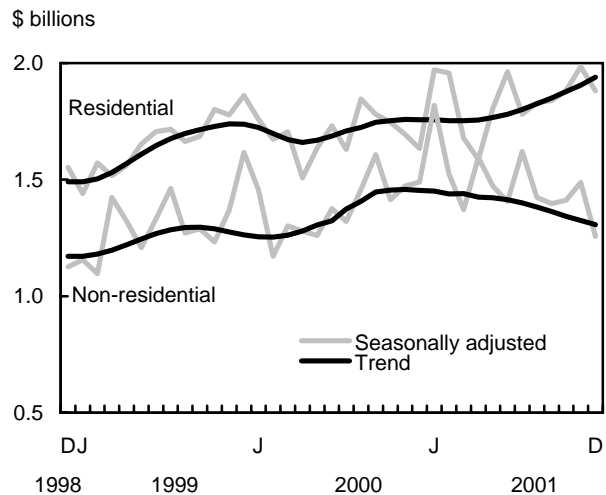
The institutional component was the main contributor to the annual growth in the non-residential sector. Institutional permits reached a record \$5.0 billion, up 33.6%, driven mainly by the education, medical and hospital categories.

Commercial construction intentions reached \$9.1 billion in 2001, up 2.2% from 2000 and their highest level since 1989. Office building projects provided most of the impetus.

The industrial component halted a four-year upward trend, declining 6.8% to \$3.7 billion, following a 9.5% increase in 2000. The 2001 drop was largely due to declining construction intentions for plants.

Among the provinces, the most significant growth in 2001 in dollar terms occurred in Quebec (+31.0% to \$4.0 billion), powered by booming commercial construction intentions in the Montréal area. Nova Scotia posted the largest decline (-34.3% to \$245 million), as all three non-residential components fell.

Value of non-residential building permits falls in December



Strong monthly drop in industrial intentions hits non-residential sector

The lowest industrial construction intentions since 1995 led to a steep drop in the non-residential sector (-15.6% to \$1.3 billion) in December.

Factors contributing to the recent downward trend in non-residential intentions included the lowest industrial capacity utilization since the fourth quarter of 1992 and climbing vacancy rates for office buildings in several major cities.

Following a strong showing in November, industrial permits fell 63.7% to \$143 million, reflecting a large decline for plant and transportation and utility construction intentions. The largest loss occurred in Ontario (-61.4% to \$67 million).

Commercial construction intentions were virtually unchanged (-0.2% to \$657 million). An increase in the office building category was offset by declines in other categories. Alberta posted the largest drop (-35.6% to \$110 million).

In contrast, intentions in the institutional component increased 4.7% to \$456 million; educational building led the way.

Among the provinces, Nova Scotia recorded the largest increase (in dollars) in the non-residential sector (+126.6% to \$18 million) due to strong results for the commercial component in the Halifax region. The largest decrease was in Alberta, following a large gain in November.

Value of building permits

	Nov. 2001 ^r	Dec. 2001 ^p	Nov. to Dec. 2001	Jan. to Dec. 2000	Jan. to Dec. 2001	Jan.-Dec. to Jan.-Dec. 2000
Census metropolitan area	Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change		
St. John's	17.2	17.0	-1.4	172.4	186.2	8.0
Halifax	20.2	42.2	108.8	493.5	331.4	-32.8
Saint John	5.7	5.4	-6.2	93.7	80.1	-14.5
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	6.9	4.9	-28.7	120.0	164.8	37.4
Québec	57.1	110.0	92.6	541.2	739.6	36.7
Sherbrooke	12.1	7.3	-39.8	127.7	137.9	8.0
Trois-Rivières	10.2	12.0	17.8	113.7	115.9	1.9
Montréal	412.0	411.9	0.0	3,239.9	4,401.2	35.8
Hull	18.7	21.0	12.4	302.9	346.7	14.5
Ottawa	114.9	127.2	10.7	1,507.4	1,454.1	-3.5
Oshawa	48.4	49.0	1.3	647.5	579.5	-10.5
Toronto	742.5	551.0	-25.8	8,539.5	8,347.2	-2.3
Hamilton	74.6	53.8	-27.9	749.6	838.8	11.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	18.8	26.4	40.7	536.2	392.3	-26.8
Kitchener	104.7	87.9	-16.1	783.0	1,004.4	28.3
London	67.7	51.2	-24.4	429.6	695.5	61.9
Windsor	50.7	58.8	16.1	551.1	573.3	4.0
Sudbury	45.2	2.3	-94.9	90.2	116.7	29.3
Thunder Bay	3.6	16.4	350.0	96.0	109.0	13.5
Winnipeg	40.2	26.5	-34.1	520.7	421.7	-19.0
Regina	17.8	13.6	-23.9	140.9	214.3	52.1
Saskatoon	55.1	12.1	-78.0	242.6	290.9	19.9
Calgary	291.4	216.0	-25.9	2,286.6	2,325.9	1.7
Edmonton	161.8	164.8	1.8	1,249.1	1,490.6	19.3
Vancouver	180.1	222.8	23.7	2,736.8	3,002.8	9.7
Victoria	20.5	33.4	63.0	290.9	366.4	26.0

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0011.

The December 2001 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The January 2002 building permit estimates will be released on March 6.

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

Value of building permits

	November 2001 ^r	December 2001 ^p	November to December 2001	January to December 2000	January to December 2001	January–December 2000 to January–December 2001
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	3,473.0	3,136.9	-9.7	36,950.2	39,945.0	8.1
Residential	1,984.3	1,880.9	-5.2	20,342.1	22,155.9	8.9
Non-residential	1,488.7	1,256.0	-15.6	16,608.1	17,789.1	7.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	24.5	22.3	-9.0	282.9	299.1	5.7
Residential	18.6	19.9	7.1	168.1	183.0	8.9
Non-residential	5.9	2.4	-59.7	114.8	116.1	1.1
Prince Edward Island	11.3	14.5	27.7	98.8	209.3	111.9
Residential	5.1	4.2	-16.3	54.9	60.5	10.1
Non-residential	6.3	10.3	63.1	43.8	148.8	239.4
Nova Scotia	46.4	78.7	69.7	878.5	714.1	-18.7
Residential	38.6	60.9	58.1	505.4	469.1	-7.2
Non-residential	7.8	17.8	126.6	373.1	245.1	-34.3
New Brunswick	39.1	42.1	7.7	484.6	540.8	11.6
Residential	28.3	25.6	-9.6	265.4	283.9	7.0
Non-residential	10.8	16.5	53.0	219.2	256.9	17.2
Quebec	685.0	689.0	0.6	6,272.0	7,733.2	23.3
Residential	347.7	368.0	5.8	3,194.4	3,700.4	15.8
Non-residential	337.3	321.0	-4.8	3,077.6	4,032.8	31.0
Ontario	1,553.8	1,315.9	-15.3	17,556.5	17,852.3	1.7
Residential	955.3	775.5	-18.8	10,226.0	10,621.2	3.9
Non-residential	598.5	540.4	-9.7	7,330.5	7,231.1	-1.4
Manitoba	73.8	61.8	-16.3	853.9	752.6	-11.9
Residential	35.9	30.3	-15.7	345.1	351.2	1.8
Non-residential	37.9	31.5	-16.8	508.8	401.3	-21.1
Saskatchewan	89.6	38.3	-57.2	609.0	751.4	23.4
Residential	21.7	17.9	-17.5	251.0	230.5	-8.2
Non-residential	67.9	20.4	-69.9	357.9	520.9	45.5
Alberta	642.4	517.3	-19.5	5,296.4	5,944.0	12.2
Residential	333.0	316.8	-4.9	2,879.9	3,366.0	16.9
Non-residential	309.4	200.5	-35.2	2,416.5	2,577.9	6.7
British Columbia	299.7	353.5	17.9	4,492.0	5,012.0	11.6
Residential	196.3	260.1	32.5	2,403.1	2,833.7	17.9
Non-residential	103.4	93.3	-9.7	2,088.9	2,178.4	4.3
Yukon	2.9	1.6	-45.4	55.5	52.2	-5.9
Residential	1.1	1.0	-6.3	14.4	18.6	29.6
Non-residential	1.8	0.6	-68.9	41.2	33.6	-18.3
Northwest Territories	4.0	1.9	-51.9	23.0	64.1	179.0
Residential	2.7	0.5	-79.8	10.5	24.7	134.5
Non-residential	1.3	1.4	5.3	12.4	39.4	216.6
Nunavut	0.4	0.1	-80.1	47.2	20.0	-57.7
Residential	0.1	0.1	-32.8	24.0	13.3	-44.6
Non-residential	0.3	0.0	-100.0	23.2	6.7	-71.2

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.



OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

January 2002

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) was almost unchanged in January at 125 (-0.8%) after more than a year of nearly steady decline. At the provincial level, the index fell 5.7% in Prince Edward Island, 4.8% in Newfoundland and Labrador and 3.0% in British Columbia.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2001 to Jan. 2002	Jan. 2001 to Jan. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
Canada	172	126	125	-0.8	-27.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	203	187	178	-4.8	-12.3
Prince Edward Island	245	194	183	-5.7	-25.3
Nova Scotia	163	135	132	-2.2	-19.0
New Brunswick	182	155	154	-0.6	-15.4
Quebec	164	122	119	-2.5	-27.4
Ontario	190	132	130	-1.5	-31.6
Manitoba	175	158	155	-1.9	-11.4
Saskatchewan	140	142	140	-1.4	0.0
Alberta	176	146	142	-2.7	-19.3
British Columbia	139	99	96	-3.0	-30.9

Compared with January 2001, the national index was down 27.3%.

Available on CANSIM: table 277-0002.

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas, and is considered an indicator of labour demand, measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4061) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Cement

December 2001

Manufacturers shipped 800 306 metric tonnes of cement in December, down 33.0% from 1 193 688 tonnes in November, but up 21.3% from 660 033 tonnes in December 2000.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of December totalled 12 985 521 tonnes, up 3.0% from 12 611 954 (revised) during the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.

The December 2001 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 53, no. 12 (44-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yasmin Sheikh (613-951-2518; sheiyas@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric lamps

Fourth quarter 2001

Data on manufacturers' imports, production and inventories of electric lamps for the fourth quarter are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gregory Sannes (613-951-7205; sanngre@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Canadian Vehicle Survey

Second quarter 2001

Vehicles covered in the Canadian Vehicle Survey travelled an estimated 78.7 billion kilometres in the second quarter. Among them, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms (and not used as a bus) travelled 72.6 billion kilometres, or 92% of the total.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

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

The second quarter 2001 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

To obtain data, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca). 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), Transportation Division. ■

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

Fourth quarter 2001

Monthly indexes that measure price movements of short-term accommodation services are now available for the fourth quarter. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and territory, for Canada and by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Klaus Kostenbauer (613-951-0691; kostkla@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Cement, Vol. 53, no. 12, December 2001
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

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 -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-877-287-4369

Address changes or account inquiries:

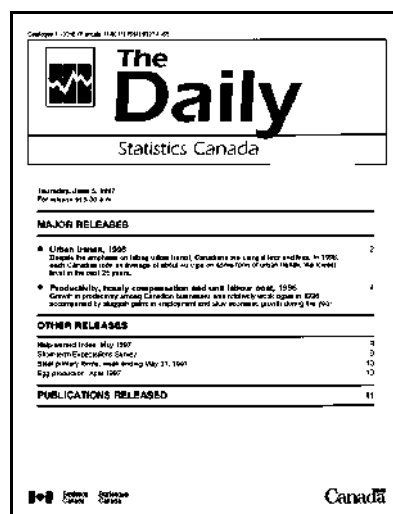
1-800-700-1033

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under the headings *Products and services* and *Fee publications* (\$).

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2002. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.