



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, March 6, 2002**

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Building permits, January 2002** 2  
The momentum from last year's record level of building permits for housing has spilled over into January 2002. Builders took out permits for \$2.4 billion worth of housing construction, a 24.9% increase from December, the best monthly performance since January 1990.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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Production and disposition of tobacco products, January 2002 5

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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### 2001 Census: Population and total dwelling counts

The first data from the 2001 Census covering population and total dwelling counts will be available on March 12.

Detailed analysis of new census data on the nation's population will be available in a full-colour on-line report, *A profile of the Canadian population: Where we live*.

This document will contain an extensive analytical text in HTML format, illustrated by many full-colour maps, tables, charts and photographs; it can be printed in part or whole.

The report will provide clear, insightful and useful information and analysis on population counts, as well as trends in Canada's population growth and the factors behind it, with historical perspective. It will analyse changes in population for the provinces and territories; developments in metropolitan areas and cities and towns; and details on the urbanization of the population.

With this release, at 8.30 am Eastern time on March 12, more census data on population than ever before will be available to the public via Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Building permits

January 2002

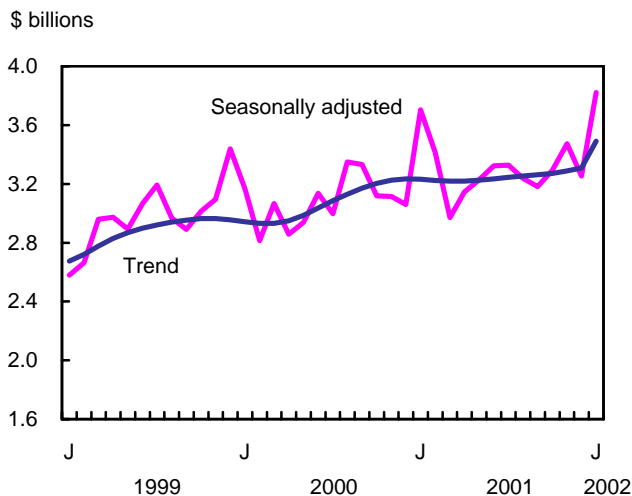
The momentum from last year's record level of building permits for housing has spilled over into January 2002. Builders took out permits for \$2.4 billion worth of housing construction, 24.9% more than in December, for the best monthly performance since January 1990.

The increase was fuelled by gains for both single- and multi-family dwellings. Municipalities issued a record \$22.0 billion in residential permits in 2001.

The value of permits for non-residential construction also rose, but to a lesser extent — 6.8% to \$1.4 billion.

Municipalities issued a total of \$3.8 billion in building permits, a 17.4% increase from December and the highest monthly figure in 12 years. This value was also 3.2% higher than intentions in January 2001.

Total value of permits jumps



January's level of housing permits was 23.1% ahead of January 2001 intentions. However, non-residential permits in January were down 18.7% from January 2001.

Among the metropolitan areas, the strongest starts in January compared with January 2001 (in dollars) occurred in Edmonton and Calgary. In both areas, the residential sector played a key role. While 22 out of 26 metropolitan areas posted better starts for residential permits than they did in January 2001, 17 of

#### 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 2,350 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% 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.

them were behind their January 2001 marks for non-residential permits.

#### Record high intentions for single-family dwellings

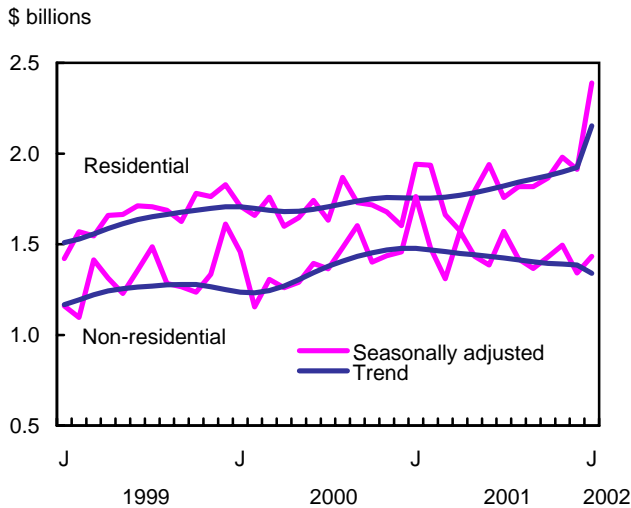
Builders took out \$1.8 billion worth of permits for single-family dwellings in January, breaking a 12-year-old record. This 24.6% gain over December was the eighth monthly increase for single-family permits in nine months. New single-family dwellings accounted for more than 90% of this value; the remainder related to planned renovations.

Following a sharp drop in December, the value of multi-family permits rebounded, rising 25.8% in January to \$561 million, powered by gains for semi-detached and row houses.

Several factors helped push up the value of residential permits, including low mortgage rates and their positive impact on housing affordability, the high level of immigration and the tight vacancy rates for apartments in several centres. This is in line with other housing indicators, which also showed a strong start for the housing market in 2002. The number of housing starts rose 17.3% in January, and sales of existing homes in Canada's 25 major markets were up 12.0%.

Ontario was by far the largest contributor (+41.2% to \$1.1 billion) to the strong gain from December; both single- and multi-family permits posted substantial advances. Alberta (+19.3%) and Quebec (+16.2%) followed far behind. For those three provinces and New Brunswick, January's residential figures were the highest in 10 years. The largest decline occurred in Nova Scotia (-7.7%), following high construction intentions in December.

### Both residential and non-residential sectors gaining



### Commercial, industrial permits fuel non-residential gain

Permits for proposed industrial and commercial projects fuelled the 6.8% gain in non-residential intentions in January.

Builders took out \$242 million worth of industrial permits, a 55.2% rebound from December; all categories gained except factories and plants. The largest increase in industrial permits was in Quebec (+214.6% to \$81 million).

Permits for commercial construction rose 18.1% to \$783 millions, due largely to recreation buildings and a larger number of minor projects. British Columbia posted the most significant increase — commercial projects there more than doubled.

Intentions in the institutional component declined 21.9% to \$408 million; education showed the greatest loss. Despite this decline, the institutional component continues to show an upward trend. Alberta posted the largest decrease in the institutional component (-81.4% to \$13 million).

A strong increase in commercial intentions in the Vancouver area led British Columbia to the largest gain in the non-residential sector (+65.4% to \$152 million). Alberta recorded the largest monthly decrease (-13.6% to \$189 million) for the second month in a row.

Despite January's increase, the non-residential sector is seeing a continuing downward trend. Several indicators help explain this. According to Statistics Canada's Business Conditions Survey, only 17% of manufacturers expected their production to increase in the first quarter of 2002. Declining corporate operating profits in 2001 and industrial capacity utilization rates

may have hurt the sector. As well, non-residential construction activity is expected to decrease in 2002, according to private and public investment intentions released February 27.

Non-residential intentions marked their slowest start to the year since 1999. January's total of \$1.4 billion was down 18.7% from January 2001. The decline was driven by two components: industrial (-39.2%) and commercial (-22.2%). Proposed institutional projects were 13.5% higher in January compared with January 2001.

Non-residential permits were down sharply in Ontario (-29.4%) and Quebec (-21.6%) compared with January 2001. The largest gain was in Alberta (+18.5% to \$189 million), due largely to a strong increase in the Edmonton region.

### Value of building permits

	Dec. 2001 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 2002 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 2001 to Jan. 2002	Jan. 2001 to Jan. 2002
Census metropolitan area	Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
St. John's	17.3	16.1	-6.9	2.4
Halifax	42.7	41.4	-2.9	87.4
Saint John	5.3	7.8	46.8	59.4
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	5.5	5.3	-3.0	-14.7
Québec	108.5	32.9	-69.7	-50.5
Sherbrooke	7.7	15.8	105.3	105.6
Trois-Rivières	12.8	11.7	-9.2	131.6
Montréal	420.7	467.2	11.1	-14.5
Hull	21.2	55.6	162.5	127.7
Ottawa	130.0	76.1	-41.5	-54.8
Kingston	5.0	14.6	192.6	-23.4
Oshawa	49.5	39.5	-20.2	40.9
Toronto	612.9	835.2	36.3	-9.3
Hamilton	52.1	74.6	43.0	-24.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	26.9	36.9	37.0	14.7
Kitchener	91.3	71.6	-21.5	35.1
London	53.8	59.7	11.0	7.3
Windsor	59.5	42.5	-28.7	-0.2
Sudbury	2.5	1.9	-24.7	-53.9
Thunder Bay	16.4	5.8	-64.9	-33.7
Winnipeg	27.1	41.0	51.5	18.5
Regina	12.6	16.2	28.3	-22.9
Saskatoon	12.4	24.3	95.4	-7.2
Calgary	217.2	192.9	-11.2	24.6
Edmonton	164.0	179.2	9.3	87.0
Abbotsford	7.8	9.9	27.1	-25.5
Vancouver	231.9	199.5	-14.0	-16.3
Victoria	32.8	28.2	-13.9	-7.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

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

### Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

The January 2002 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The February 2002 building permits estimate will be released on April 8.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; [clarver@statcan.ca](mailto: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](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

## Value of building permits

	December 2001 <sup>r</sup>	January 2002 <sup>p</sup>	December 2001 to January 2002	January 2001 to January 2002
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,254.0</b>	<b>3,821.5</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Residential	1,912.4	2,388.7	24.9	23.1
Non-residential	1,341.6	1,432.8	6.8	-18.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	22.6	21.1	-6.7	-15.0
Residential	20.1	17.0	-15.8	-18.2
Non-residential	2.5	4.2	67.3	0.9
Prince Edward Island	14.4	8.0	-44.9	-32.5
Residential	4.1	5.4	33.1	-5.0
Non-residential	10.4	2.5	-75.7	-58.5
Nova Scotia	82.3	75.3	-8.6	35.1
Residential	62.5	57.7	-7.7	61.2
Non-residential	19.8	17.5	-11.4	-12.0
New Brunswick	41.2	45.1	9.3	26.2
Residential	25.6	31.0	21.2	26.7
Non-residential	15.7	14.0	-10.3	25.0
Quebec	703.9	804.4	14.3	-6.1
Residential	373.2	433.5	16.2	12.9
Non-residential	330.7	370.9	12.2	-21.6
Ontario	1,395.1	1,723.3	23.5	-3.1
Residential	793.7	1,121.0	41.2	21.2
Non-residential	601.4	602.4	0.2	-29.4
Manitoba	58.7	70.6	20.3	28.0
Residential	29.3	37.5	28.1	25.7
Non-residential	29.4	33.1	12.6	30.7
Saskatchewan	36.9	61.1	65.5	-5.2
Residential	17.9	24.2	35.3	44.4
Non-residential	19.0	36.9	93.9	-22.7
Alberta	537.5	568.9	5.8	38.6
Residential	318.3	379.5	19.3	51.4
Non-residential	219.2	189.3	-13.6	18.5
British Columbia	358.1	432.2	20.7	6.6
Residential	266.3	280.4	5.3	14.9
Non-residential	91.8	151.9	65.4	-6.0
Yukon	1.7	1.8	2.7	-46.8
Residential	1.2	1.4	18.7	-51.6
Non-residential	0.6	0.4	-30.7	-17.8
Northwest Territories	1.6	9.8	515.5	767.8
Residential	0.4	0.1	-76.1	-81.1
Non-residential	1.2	9.7	700.9	1,398.0
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	...	...
Residential	0.0	0.0	...	...
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	...	...

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

... Figures not applicable.

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

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Production and disposition of tobacco products

January 2002

Tobacco product manufacturers started the year with strong cigarette production to replenish stocks. January sales decreased and inventories expanded.

Production reached 3.1 billion cigarettes in January, up 36% from December and up 7% from January 2001.

Shipments totalled 3.3 billion cigarettes in January, down 6% from December, but up 3% compared with January 2001.

Inventories, which had been drawn down by holiday sales in December, were boosted in January. By the end of the month they had regained 5% to stand at 4.2 billion cigarettes — 7% more than closing inventories in January 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0007.

The January 2002 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products*, Vol. 31, no. 1 (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, please contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [peter.zylstra@statcan.ca](mailto:peter.zylstra@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Gross domestic product by industry**, Vol. 15, no. 12,  
December 2001  
**Catalogue number 15-001-XIE** (\$11/\$110).

**Production and disposition of tobacco products**,  
Vol. 31, no. 1, January 2002  
**Catalogue number 32-022-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Canada's international transactions in securities**,  
Vol. 67, no. 12, December 2001  
**Catalogue number 67-002-XIB** (\$14/\$132).

**Canada's international transactions in securities**,  
Vol. 67, no. 12, December 2001  
**Catalogue number 67-002-XPB** (\$18/\$176).

**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:

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To fax your order:

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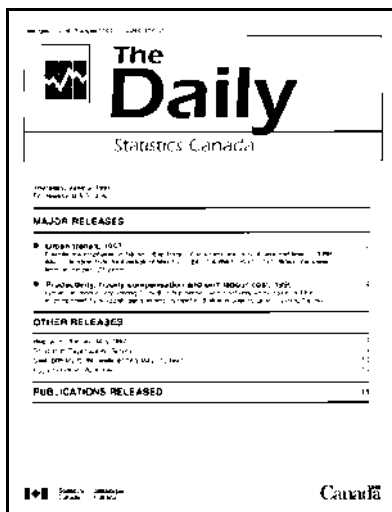
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