



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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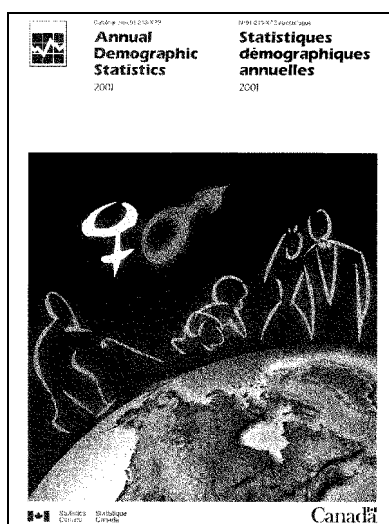
MAJOR RELEASES

● **Building permits, February 2002**

3

Residential building sites will be flourishing with activity in the coming months; municipalities issued \$2.4 billion worth of housing permits in February, virtually unchanged from January's 12-year high.

(continued on page 2)



Annual demographic statistics 2001

The 2001 edition of *Annual demographic statistics* provides the most recent population estimates and projections up to 2006 by age group and sex, plus data on births, deaths and migrations. It groups the information by province and territory, census metropolitan area and census division, and also provides data on census families and marriages and divorces.

A CD-ROM, included with the publication, contains even more data. The historical time series includes population data back to 1971 for provinces and territories, and to 1986 for census divisions and census metropolitan areas. The CD-ROM includes the population projections as well as animated age pyramids, which illustrate the aging of the population.

These time series can be easily captured and manipulated to create customized demographic analyses in any spreadsheet program. The population figures can be used to calculate per-capita rates for market research, quantitative analysis and planning.

Annual demographic statistics, 2001 (91-213-XPB, \$125 including the CD-ROM and an electronic version 91-213-XIB, \$56, without the CD-ROM) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; lise.champagne@statcan.ca), Demography Division.



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OTHER RELEASES

Aircraft movement statistics, September 2001	7
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NEW PRODUCTS	8
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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

February 2002

Residential building sites will be flourishing with activity in the coming months; municipalities issued \$2.4 billion worth of housing permits in February, virtually unchanged from January's 12-year high. Just over 18,000 new dwelling units were authorized, the most since March 1990.

Low mortgage rates, high consumer confidence and scarcity of existing dwellings for rent or available on the resale market actually contributed to push potential buyers toward the new-home market.

The non-residential picture was quite different. Builders took out \$1.3 billion worth of permits in February, down 10.8% from January, primarily the result of substantially lower intentions in the commercial sector. Permits in the non-residential sector have been on a downward trend since the beginning of 2001.

The total value of building permits issued by municipalities lost ground in February as construction intentions in the non-residential sector hit their lowest point in 21 months. Builders took out \$3.7 billion worth of building permits, down 4.2% from January.

This decline should be kept in perspective; in January, construction intentions were at a 12-year high. February's total was 11.5% higher than the average monthly level in 2001, mainly the result of strong construction intentions in the residential sector.

On a year-to-date basis, the cumulative value of building permits to the end of February was up 5.6% from the same two months of 2001. A 15.2% decline in the non-residential sector was more than offset by a strong 23.0% increase in the residential sector.

Among the regions, the census metropolitan areas of Edmonton and Calgary began 2002 strongly; in both regions, substantially higher construction intentions for housing was the impetus behind this fast start. However, the gain shown in the country-wide cumulative value of building permits came from non-metropolitan areas.

Note to readers

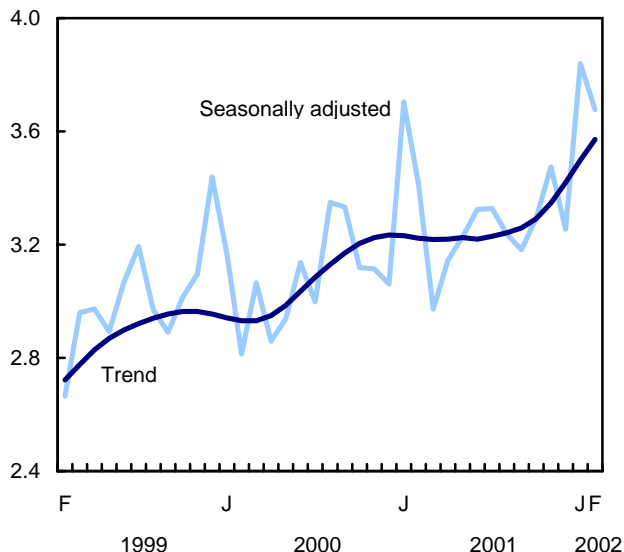
Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

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.

Total value of permits declines from January's peak

\$ billions



Tremendous demand for single-family dwellings

After setting a record in January, the value of single-family permits decreased a slight 2.8% to \$1.8 billion. The values of permits for single-family dwellings — the largest contributor in the housing sector — for January and February were the two highest monthly figures on record. For multi-family dwellings, municipalities issued permits worth \$605 million in February (+8.2%), the sixth monthly increase in seven months.

The outlook for the residential sector is positive; housing investment is expected to rise 1.3% in 2002 as a result of increases in new housing and renovations,

according to Statistics Canada's latest survey of private and public investment intentions.

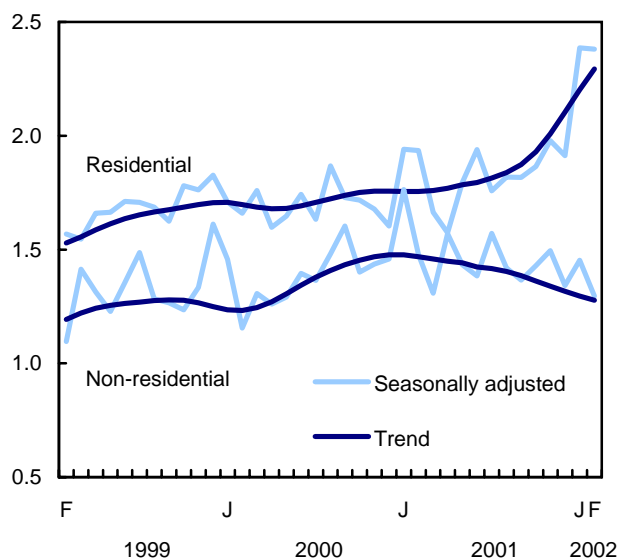
At the provincial level, strong increases in the residential sector in British Columbia (+21.3% to \$346 million) and in New Brunswick (+42.1% to \$45 million) were offset by a substantial decline in Ontario (-7.3% to \$1.0 billion).

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of single-family permits issued in the first two months of 2002 grew 32.8% from the same period of 2001. The cumulative value of multi-family permits remained virtually unchanged.

All 10 provinces posted stronger year-to-date results in the residential sector than in the same period of 2001. Advances in single-family permits contributed most to these gains, except in Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan. The largest advances (in dollars) were posted by Alberta (+47.7% to \$762 million) and Quebec (+31.9% to \$875 million).

Value of non-residential permits declines

\$ billions



Commercial component pushes down non-residential sector

The value of building permits declined in the non-residential sector in February on the heels of sluggish activity in the commercial component.

Commercial intentions plunged 27.2% to \$584 million after a 21.0% increase in January. All categories declined in this component except laboratories. After posting increases in the previous three months, Quebec recorded the most significant decline.

Building intentions in the industrial component, however, maintained their momentum, gaining 23.7% to \$307 million, after a large increase in January. It was the sixth monthly rise in seven months. The factory and plant category contributed the most to the advance in the industrial component. Ontario saw the largest increase in industrial permits.

Institutional building permits remained virtually unchanged from January, rising only 0.4% to \$405 million. The increase in the welfare home category and medical and hospital category offset a decline in proposed education projects. Ontario recorded the largest decline, and Manitoba the largest advance.

At the provincial level, the most significant decrease in non-residential permits occurred in Quebec (-34.7% to \$254 million) because of a large drop in the commercial component. The Montréal region contributed strongly to this decrease. In contrast, Manitoba posted the largest increase (+101.1% to \$68 million), led by a strong showing in the institutional component.

On a year-to-date basis, non-residential building intentions reached \$2.7 billion during the first two months of 2002, down 15.2% from the same period of 2001. Two components were well below 2001 levels — industrial (-24.9%) and commercial (-26.5%). Institutional permits rose 30.8%.

Several indicators help explain the continuing downward trend in the non-residential sector. According to the latest data, industries operated at 80.3% capacity in the fourth quarter of 2001, the sixth consecutive quarterly decline. Also, deteriorating profits have hurt non-residential construction intentions.

Among the provinces, Manitoba had the largest increase in the non-residential sector on a year-to-date basis (+99.5% to \$101 million). The strongest decrease was recorded in Ontario (-19.6% to \$1.2 billion), led by a substantial decline in the Toronto and Ottawa regions.

Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	Jan. 2002 ^r	Feb. 2002 ^p	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Jan. to Feb. 2001	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Jan.-Feb. 2001 to Feb. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	15.7	14.8	-5.8	23.8	30.5	28.0
Halifax	40.5	40.8	0.7	45.1	81.2	80.0
Saint John	7.8	6.4	-17.7	10.3	14.2	37.7
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	5.4	6.0	11.8	13.3	11.4	-14.3
Québec	33.5	52.8	57.6	129.1	86.3	-33.2
Sherbrooke	15.6	29.3	87.4	16.2	44.9	177.3
Trois-Rivières	11.7	5.2	-55.6	14.8	16.8	13.5
Montréal	478.2	349.9	-26.8	879.5	828.1	-5.8
Hull	58.2	26.4	-54.6	87.0	84.7	-2.7
Ottawa	76.3	132.4	73.6	325.2	208.7	-35.8
Kingston	14.3	10.0	-30.2	26.5	24.3	-8.3
Oshawa	36.5	68.2	86.8	88.3	104.8	18.6
Toronto	830.9	583.9	-29.7	1,889.4	1,414.8	-25.1
Hamilton	71.8	119.1	65.9	169.1	190.9	12.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	36.7	29.5	-19.6	60.1	66.3	10.4
Kitchener	71.3	104.9	47.2	119.7	176.2	47.2
London	58.7	49.4	-15.7	86.0	108.1	25.7
Windsor	42.5	86.0	102.3	85.3	128.6	50.7
Sudbury	1.9	3.9	104.6	8.3	5.8	-30.1
Thunder Bay	5.6	48.3	758.3	10.6	54.0	409.5
Winnipeg	41.7	40.9	-2.0	69.4	82.5	18.9
Regina	16.1	10.2	-36.6	29.9	26.3	-12.2
Saskatoon	24.2	48.1	98.6	39.0	72.3	85.6
Calgary	192.0	214.5	11.7	331.1	406.5	22.8
Edmonton	178.5	121.0	-32.2	196.6	299.5	52.3
Abbotsford	10.1	19.2	90.5	31.4	29.3	-6.7
Vancouver	201.7	276.2	37.0	492.3	477.9	-2.9
Victoria	28.6	49.5	73.3	60.9	78.1	28.3

^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 026-0015.

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

The March 2002 building permit estimate will be released on May 6.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (1-800-579-8533; 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

	January 2002 ^r	February 2002 ^p	January to February 2002	January to February 2001	January to February 2002	January–February 2001 to January–February 2002
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	3,839.6	3,676.5	-4.2	7,117.2	7,516.1	5.6
Residential	2,386.1	2,380.6	-0.2	3,875.5	4,766.7	23.0
Non-residential	1,453.5	1,295.9	-10.8	3,241.7	2,749.5	-15.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	20.6	23.5	14.3	37.7	44.1	17.2
Residential	16.5	14.8	-10.3	29.8	31.3	4.9
Non-residential	4.1	8.8	112.3	7.9	12.9	63.9
Prince Edward Island	8.1	5.9	-27.1	16.2	14.0	-14.0
Residential	5.6	5.3	-4.9	9.9	10.8	9.2
Non-residential	2.5	0.6	-76.0	6.3	3.1	-50.4
Nova Scotia	74.1	72.3	-2.4	101.2	146.4	44.7
Residential	56.9	55.3	-2.9	62.6	112.2	79.1
Non-residential	17.2	17.1	-0.6	38.6	34.3	-11.1
New Brunswick	45.9	53.3	16.2	75.1	99.2	32.1
Residential	31.8	45.3	42.1	44.9	77.1	71.7
Non-residential	14.0	8.1	-42.6	30.2	22.1	-26.8
Quebec	822.1	695.5	-15.4	1,484.6	1,517.6	2.2
Residential	433.0	441.5	1.9	662.9	874.5	31.9
Non-residential	389.0	254.0	-34.7	821.7	643.1	-21.7
Ontario	1,717.4	1,651.6	-3.8	3,512.4	3,368.9	-4.1
Residential	1,116.6	1,034.6	-7.3	1,997.0	2,151.2	7.7
Non-residential	600.8	617.0	2.7	1,515.4	1,217.8	-19.6
Manitoba	70.8	101.7	43.7	104.1	172.4	65.7
Residential	37.2	34.2	-8.2	53.4	71.4	33.6
Non-residential	33.6	67.5	101.1	50.7	101.1	99.5
Saskatchewan	60.9	75.1	23.3	112.1	136.1	21.3
Residential	24.2	18.0	-25.7	34.0	42.1	24.1
Non-residential	36.8	57.2	55.5	78.2	93.9	20.2
Alberta	570.2	537.9	-5.7	823.3	1,108.2	34.6
Residential	377.8	384.0	1.6	515.9	761.7	47.7
Non-residential	192.5	154.0	-20.0	307.4	346.5	12.7
British Columbia	437.9	456.8	4.3	840.4	894.7	6.5
Residential	285.0	345.7	21.3	459.4	630.6	37.3
Non-residential	152.9	111.1	-27.4	381.0	264.0	-30.7
Yukon	1.9	1.6	-12.2	7.3	3.5	-51.8
Residential	1.5	1.5	0.1	4.5	3.0	-34.5
Non-residential	0.4	0.2	-58.6	2.8	0.6	-80.1
Northwest Territories	9.8	1.1	-88.5	2.2	10.9	407.2
Residential	0.1	0.6	567.0	0.6	0.7	24.9
Non-residential	9.7	0.5	-94.7	1.6	10.2	541.3
Nunavut	0.0	0.1	...	0.7	0.1	-84.8
Residential	0.0	0.1	...	0.7	0.1	-84.8
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	...	0.0	0.0	...

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Figures not applicable.

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

OTHER RELEASES

Aircraft movement statistics

September 2001

There were 509,822 take-offs and landings recorded in September at the 98 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers and flight service stations. This is a decrease of 8.9% from September 2000. Although there were two fewer airports reporting for September 2001 in the tower and flight service station categories, the decline in September is largely due to the events of September 11.

Data for the airports without air traffic control towers participating in this survey are also available. In September, these 110 airports reported 67,393 take-offs and landings.

The September 2001 monthly report (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL: (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)
Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Annual demographic statistics, 2001
Catalogue number 91-213-XIB (\$56).

Annual demographic statistics, 2001
Catalogue number 91-213-XPB (\$125).

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

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MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit. Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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 moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wired Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

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