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MAJOR RELEASES

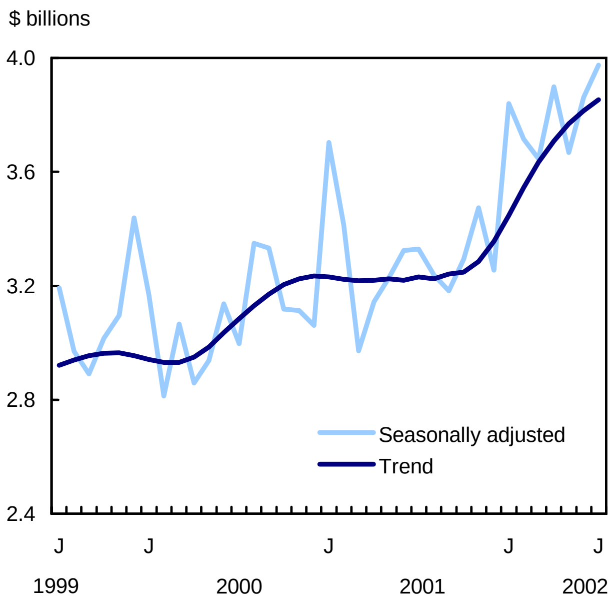
Building permits
July 2002

The value of building permits reached an unprecedented high in July, totalling $4.0 billion, up 3.0% from June. High construction intentions in residential and non-residential sectors were responsible for this new record. This was the third monthly increase in four months.

Halting two consecutive monthly declines, the value of housing permits reached $2.4 billion in July, up 6.2% from June. This advance came solely from a strong increase in multi-family permits, as single-family construction intentions retreated for a third consecutive month. In July, 18,250 new dwellings units were authorized.

Following a 20.8% gain in June, the value of non-residential building permits retreated by a slight 1.7% to $1.6 billion, as declines in the commercial and institutional components more than offset the advance in industrial permits.

Total value of permits reaches a record level in July



On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued building permits worth $26.6 billion in the first seven months of 2002, up 15.1% from the same period of 2001. Pushed by the frenetic demand for new housing, the residential sector recorded a 34.2% gain, whereas the non-residential sector was down 7.9% from the same period of 2001.

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 23 showed growth in the year-to-date value of building permits. Calgary and Edmonton had the strongest gains (in dollars) among the metropolitan areas, as a result of their dynamic housing markets.

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 building activity has 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.

Multi-family construction intentions jump in July

The value of multi-family permits reached $748 million in July, up 25.9% from June. This figure is the second highest on record, surpassed only by April 2002 ($893 million). The value of single-family permits declined a slight 0.8% to $1.7 billion. Despite the decline, the value of single-family permits in July was 26.3% higher than the average monthly level in 2001.

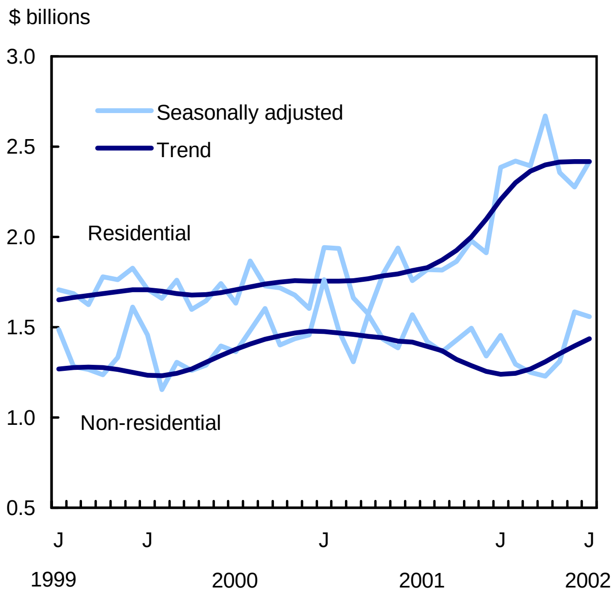
The value of building permits, an early indicator for construction activity, indicates that home building sites should be full of activity for the remainder of the year. Advantageous mortgage rates, strong employment numbers, scarcity of existing vacant dwellings and buoyant consumer confidence are responsible for these positive figures.

Builders in Quebec took out residential permits worth $488 million in July, up from $417 million in June. This gain was the largest in absolute dollars among the provinces and led the value of residential construction intentions in Quebec to its highest level since March 1987. Alberta also posted an important advance, as the value of housing permits increased 12.8% in July.

Tremendous rises in single (+35.7%) and multi-family (+30.6%) permits from January to July clearly demonstrate the very strong demand for new housing. Nearly 125,000 new dwelling units have been authorized by the municipalities so far in 2002.

All provinces posted double-digit advances on a year-to-date basis in the residential sector; the largest gains (in dollars) were in Ontario and Quebec.

Value of residential permits increases



Decline in commercial and institutional intentions

Lower construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings were partly offset by an increase in the industrial component in July. After a strong 20.8% advance in June, the value of building permits for the non-residential sector decreased 1.7% to $1.6 billion in July, but remained at a high level.

After jumping 24.5% in June because of large projects in the hotels and recreational category, commercial building permits declined 7.2% to $755 million in July. British Columbia recorded the largest decline, the result of lower construction intentions for office buildings in the Vancouver region.

Builders took out $291 million in permits for industrial projects, up 15.9% from June; most of the upswing came from manufacturing building projects. Despite the increase, July's level was 3.0% lower than the average monthly value in 2001. Among the provinces, British Columbia saw the highest growth for this component.

Encouraging signs continued to emerge from the manufacturing sector. According to July's Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers indicated that inventories were under control, orders were still coming in and production for the third quarter should continue at about the same pace as in the second quarter. A recovery of production could have a positive impact on the investment in industrial buildings.

After two months of solid growth, institutional permits declined 1.5% to $512 million. The decrease in educational building projects more than offset the increase in the medical and hospital category. Quebec recorded the largest drop in this component, and Alberta the strongest gain.

Among the provinces, Quebec recorded the greatest decrease in the non-residential sector, from $299 million to $253 million. Alberta, with a third consecutive rise, showed the largest increase.

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 15 recorded monthly decreases in the value of non-residential permits. By far, the largest decline occurred in the St. Catharines–Niagara area, the result of June's higher construction intentions in the hotel and recreational categories.

In the first seven months of 2002, municipalities issued $9.7 billion in permits for the non-residential sector, down 7.9% from the same period of 2001. Most of the decline was related to weaknesses in the commercial (-12.5%) and industrial (-10.4%) components. Only the institutional component showed a gain (+3.5%).

The largest year-to-date declines in the non-residential sector were in Quebec and British Colombia. The strongest gain occurred in Ontario.

Non-residential permits totalling just under $1.3 billion were issued in Toronto from January to July, representing 13.3% of the national total. Montréal issued $1.0 billion in permits, or 10.5% of the national total, and Vancouver just under $621 million or 6.4%.

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

Information on methods and data quality: survey number 2802 in the Integrated Meta Data Base.

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

The August 2002 building permit estimates will be released on October 7.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556 or 1-800-579-8533; *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

Census metropolitan area	June 2002[r]	July 2002[p]	June to July 2002	January to July 2001	January to July 2002	January–July 2001 to January–July 2002
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	23.1	24.0	4.1	102.9	148.3	44.0
Halifax	48.1	56.1	16.7	194.8	280.4	43.9
Saint John	7.1	12.1	70.6	44.8	55.7	24.2
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	40.0	10.3	-74.2	107.7	100.8	-6.5
Québec	49.8	79.2	59.1	429.2	410.7	-4.3
Sherbrooke	20.6	12.0	-41.7	88.3	130.0	47.2
Trois-Rivières	14.4	17.0	17.7	68.8	90.1	31.0
Montréal	363.9	392.0	7.7	2,452.0	2,626.5	7.1
Hull	58.0	60.0	3.4	213.1	287.4	34.9
Ottawa	127.4	231.8	81.9	948.9	1,044.9	10.1
Kingston	17.8	13.9	-22.1	111.9	163.3	46.0
Oshawa	53.6	84.8	58.4	329.8	402.2	22.0
Toronto	696.9	742.4	6.5	4,903.0	5,124.2	4.5
Hamilton	59.6	119.1	99.8	486.4	654.9	34.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	173.1	25.0	-85.6	217.4	444.8	104.6
Kitchener	95.6	95.5	-0.1	539.6	616.5	14.2
London	55.0	62.3	13.2	443.3	397.9	-10.2
Windsor	84.0	60.9	-27.5	304.5	448.1	47.2
Sudbury	25.5	11.9	-53.6	41.9	90.3	115.6
Thunder Bay	28.5	9.5	-66.7	58.4	127.2	117.7
Winnipeg	37.1	37.4	0.8	264.4	263.2	-0.4
Regina	11.9	11.0	-8.1	128.1	82.2	-35.8
Saskatoon	27.3	27.9	2.3	145.1	187.5	29.3
Calgary	235.5	239.8	1.8	1,278.7	1,593.1	24.6
Edmonton	127.4	159.2	25.0	704.0	946.5	34.5
Abbotsford	11.6	21.7	87.5	86.2	100.3	16.3
Vancouver	313.0	265.7	-15.1	1,907.2	2,009.0	5.3
Victoria	36.9	33.6	-8.8	198.3	264.7	33.5

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals because of rounding.*

Value of building permits

	June 2002[r]	July 2002[p]	June to July 2002	January to July 2001	January to July 2002	January–July 2001 to January–July 2002
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,861.2**	**3,975.4**	**3.0**	**23,113.7**	**26,602.4**	**15.1**
Residential	2,276.8	2,417.7	6.2	12,604.6	16,920.2	34.2
Non-residential	1,584.4	1,557.8	-1.7	10,509.1	9,682.1	-7.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	32.0	44.2	38.2	175.1	221.1	26.3
Residential	17.7	18.7	5.5	102.2	136.9	33.9
Non-residential	14.3	25.5	78.7	72.8	84.2	15.6
Prince Edward Island	16.7	12.1	-27.7	114.2	80.3	-29.7
Residential	7.7	7.6	-1.4	37.3	55.0	47.5
Non-residential	9.0	4.5	-50.2	76.9	25.3	-67.1
Nova Scotia	86.0	90.7	5.5	408.4	518.4	26.9
Residential	50.2	55.1	9.8	258.5	363.2	40.5
Non-residential	35.8	35.6	-0.7	149.8	155.1	3.5
New Brunswick	51.7	55.8	7.9	288.9	392.9	36.0
Residential	30.4	27.4	-10.0	149.9	240.5	60.5
Non-residential	21.3	28.4	33.6	139.1	152.4	9.6
Quebec	715.3	740.7	3.5	4,414.4	4,983.0	12.9
Residential	416.6	487.8	17.1	2,027.3	3,003.7	48.2
Non-residential	298.8	252.9	-15.4	2,387.1	1,979.3	-17.1
Ontario	1,775.1	1,793.5	1.0	10,524.4	12,159.6	15.5
Residential	1,032.6	1,056.2	2.3	6,234.3	7,772.1	24.7
Non-residential	742.4	737.3	-0.7	4,290.1	4,387.4	2.3
Manitoba	68.5	82.0	19.6	427.9	534.9	25.0
Residential	36.1	35.9	-0.3	191.0	263.8	38.1
Non-residential	32.5	46.1	41.8	236.8	271.1	14.5
Saskatchewan	66.0	59.9	-9.1	422.7	417.0	-1.3
Residential	22.6	21.0	-6.8	121.6	144.8	19.1
Non-residential	43.4	38.9	-10.4	301.1	272.1	-9.6
Alberta	567.4	633.7	11.7	3,174.5	3,972.3	25.1
Residential	366.3	413.2	12.8	1,811.8	2,692.6	48.6
Non-residential	201.1	220.5	9.7	1,362.6	1,279.7	-6.1
British Columbia	473.1	446.0	-5.7	3,071.7	3,234.8	5.3
Residential	288.1	280.0	-2.8	1,641.0	2,192.8	33.6
Non-residential	184.9	166.0	-10.3	1,430.7	1,042.0	-27.2
Yukon	2.5	3.5	41.2	38.5	15.8	-59.1
Residential	1.9	2.5	29.9	10.7	12.5	17.7
Non-residential	0.6	1.0	79.5	27.9	3.2	-88.4
Northwest Territories	5.1	7.6	50.0	40.4	47.7	18.2
Residential	4.8	6.7	38.8	10.8	33.0	204.4
Non-residential	0.3	1.0	233.1	29.5	14.8	-50.1
Nunavut	1.9	5.8	208.6	12.7	24.7	94.6
Residential	1.8	5.6	220.8	8.1	9.2	13.4
Non-residential	0.1	0.2	38.4	4.6	15.6	236.6

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals because of rounding.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index
August 2002

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) fell to 126.9 in August, down 1.1% from July. This is the first monthly decrease in six months.

The largest declines were seen in New Brunswick (-2.8%), Manitoba (-2.7%) and Prince Edward Island (-1.8%). Decreases were recorded in 7 of the 10 provinces, including Ontario (-0.8%). These declines were partially offset by increases in Quebec, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Help-wanted Index
(1996=100)

	Aug. 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2001	July to Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001 to Aug. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
Canada	**126.9**	**128.3**	**144.0**	**-1.1**	**-11.9**
Newfoundland and Labrador	177.7	179.0	189.2	-0.7	-6.1
Prince Edward Island	205.7	209.5	213.7	-1.8	-3.7
Nova Scotia	134.4	134.5	147.1	-0.1	-8.6
New Brunswick	165.0	169.8	160.4	-2.8	2.9
Quebec	121.2	121.0	134.3	0.2	-9.8
Ontario	133.4	134.5	149.4	-0.8	-10.7
Manitoba	141.2	145.1	160.7	-2.7	-12.1
Saskatchewan	130.8	130.4	142.0	0.3	-7.9
Alberta	140.4	140.2	166.3	0.1	-15.6
British Columbia	96.8	97.9	113.3	-1.1	-14.6

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.

Available on CANSIM: table 277-0002.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064) or Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Gross domestic product by industry, June 2002, Vol. 16, no. 6
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE ($11/$110).

Canada's international transactions in securities, June 2002, Vol. 68, no. 6
Catalogue number 67-002-XIB ($14/$132).

Canada's international transactions in securities, June 2002, Vol. 68, no. 6
Catalogue number 67-002-XPB ($18/$176).

Labour force information, week ending August 17, 2002
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($8/$78).
Available at 7 am Friday, September 6

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

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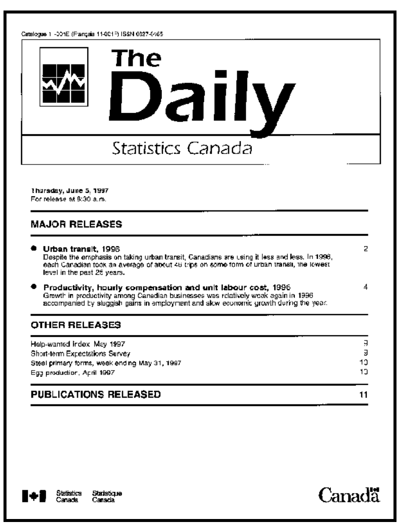

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