

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

• Investment in non-residential building construction, fourth quarter 2002 Investment in non-residential building construction reached an all-time high in the fourth quarter, fuelled by spending in the public sector. Overall, businesses and governments spent \$6.4 billion, up 1.2% from the third quarter.

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2001 Census profiles and topic-based tabulation (various levels of geography)

Additional profiles for language, mobility and migration are now available for various levels of geography, as well as an additional topic-based tabulation for the "Language composition of Canada" topic.

These profiles and topic-based tabulation are available for fee (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format from the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.





MAJOR RELEASES

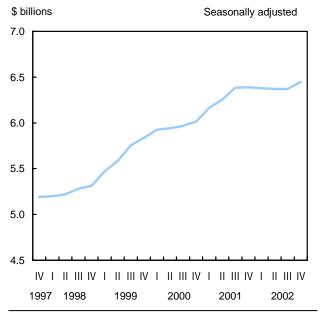
Investment in non-residential building construction

Fourth quarter 2002

Investment in non-residential building construction reached a record high in the fourth quarter, fuelled by spending in the public sector. Overall, businesses and governments spent \$6.4 billion, up 1.2% from the third quarter.

Investment in institutional projects in the last three months of 2002 rose 4.5% to a record \$1.9 billion. Fourth-quarter investment in commercial buildings fell 0.4% to \$3.3 billion, and spending on industrial buildings rose 0.6% to \$1.2 billion.

Increase in non-residential building construction



At the provincial level, Ontario recorded the strongest increase (+3.0% to \$2.9 billion), its fourth quarterly increase in a row. In contrast, Quebec recorded the largest decline in dollar terms, down 1.5% to \$1.5 billion.

Note to readers

This release presents seasonally adjusted data (unless otherwise stated), which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put in place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put in place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of some hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Survey of Private and Public Investment are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

Investment in non-residential building construction by census metropolitan area

Fourth	Third	Fourth	Third	
quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	
2001	2002	2002	to fourth	
			quarter	
			2002	
Seasonally adjusted				

\$ millions % change 4,290 Total 4,334 4,386 2.2 Abbotsford 25 40 8.0 Calgary 270 229 8.0 Edmonton 174 146 6.7 Gatineau 54 45 Halifax 50 38 35 -7.9 160 148 30 Hamilton 152 2.8 16 37 21.4 Kingston Kitchener 152 203 201 -1 0 138 169 -2.2 London 173 Montréal 886 Oshawa 55 64 35.0 Ottawa 336 308 Québec 140 157 157 -0.5 34 37 25 Regina 32 47 45.8 22 16 55 2.5 -9.5 Saguenay 23 Saint John 15 2.0 Saskatoon 68 56 Sherbrooke 22 34 38 11.6 83 101 St. Catharines-Niagara 114 13.4 St. John's 34 -15.3 Sudbury 33 63 70 10.3 Thunder Bay 36 98 106 8.1 905 31 805 4.3 23.6 Toronto 839 Trois-Rivières 28 35

364

50

98

361

53

111

-0.8 7.8

12.9

24.2

392

52

Vancouver

Victoria

Windsor

Winnipeg

Among the census metropolitan areas, Montréal showed the largest decrease (-7.0% to \$810 million), and Toronto, the biggest growth (+4.3% to \$839 million). Toronto and Oshawa combined were the major factors behind the gain in Ontario.

Census metropolitan areas accounted for 68% of total investment in non-residential building construction, practically unchanged from the third quarter.

For 2002 as a whole, investment in non-residential building construction nationally hit a record \$25.6 billion, up 1.5% from 2001. It was the seventh consecutive annual increase, and was propelled by record-high investment in the institutional component.

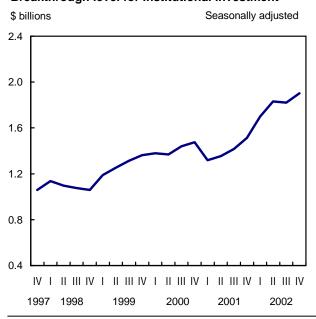
Breakthrough level for institutional investment

Institutional investment rose in the fourth quarter for the third time in 2002. The quarterly record of \$1.9 billion came mainly from gains in investment in the hospital, clinics and health category.

This pace for institutional investment is likely to continue into 2003 in light of the amount of building permits for institutional projects issued in the first 11 months of 2002.

At the provincial level, the largest increase was recorded in Ontario, with a sixth consecutive quarterly increase, up 7.0% to \$1.2 billion. In contrast, British Columbia recorded the largest decline (-8.6% to \$150 million), the second quarterly decrease in a row and the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1998.

Breakthrough level for institutional investment



For 2002 as a whole, the institutional component recorded a tremendous 29.5% increase to \$7.3 billion, led by robust investment in the hospital, clinics and health category.

The main provincial contributor to this jump was Ontario, which accounted for 56% of institutional building construction nationwide. Investment surged 51.8% to \$4.1 billion in Ontario, mainly because of substantial increases in the census metropolitan areas of London, Toronto, Thunder Bay and Kitchener.

Commercial investment records a sixth quarterly decrease

The slight decrease in commercial investment in the fourth quarter helped keep the cumulative result for 2002 below its strong showing in 2001.

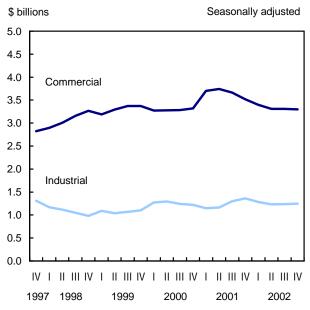
The main contributor to the fourth quarter loss was Quebec (-2.8% to \$937 million). Alberta recorded the largest increase (+5.0% to \$373 million).

Commercial investment for 2002 as a whole declined 8.9% to \$13.3 billion, which was still its second highest total in the last six years. One factor in this decline could be a reported increase in the office vacancy rate. The office category is the principal source of investment for the commercial component.

At the provincial level, Quebec and New Brunswick opposed the national trend with increases in their commercial components.

The census metropolitan area of Montréal had the largest expansion, a 7.5% gain to \$2.6 billion; Toronto incurred a 36.8% decline to \$1.9 billion.

Business sector investment remains essentially flat



Small gain for the industrial component

Investment in industrial building construction showed a small increase (+0.6% to \$1.2 billion) in the fourth quarter.

On a quarterly basis, the strongest increase in industrial investment was recorded in Saskatchewan (+59.5% to \$47 million), thanks to several major projects.

In contrast, investment fell 9.7% in Manitoba to \$87 million, the largest decline. It halted five straight quarterly gains.

Investment in non-residential building construction by province and territory

F	ourth	Third	Fourth	Third	
qu	uarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	
	2001	2002	2002	to	
				fourth	
				quarter	
				2002	
	Seasonally adjusted				
·					

	Seasonally adjusted				
_	\$ millions			% change	
Canada	6,377	6,370	6,446	1.2	
Newfoundland and	,	*	•		
Labrador	149	44	39	-10.8	
Prince Edward Island	44	74	68	-8.9	
Nova Scotia	116	91	94	3.7	
New Brunswick	112	131	116	-11.7	
Quebec	1,535	1,539	1,516	-1.5	
Ontario	2,526	2,845	2,929	3.0	
Manitoba	162	204	220	7.9	
Saskatchewan	264	162	163	0.5	
Alberta	771	639	662	3.6	
British Columbia	647	596	597	0.3	
Yukon	9	6	4	-28.0	
Northwest Territories	37	24	17	-29.6	
Nunavut	6	16	22	39.6	

For 2002 as a whole, investors pumped \$5.0 billion into industrial projects, up 0.7% from 2001. This was the second highest yearly level in the last six years.

Despite the decline in the fourth quarter, Manitoba recorded the largest annual increase (+50.0% to \$347 million). Ontario also outperformed 2001 with a 5.5% increase to \$2.1 billion.

In contrast, investment plunged 23.9% in British Columbia to \$215 million, and fell 8.7% to \$706 million in Alberta, the two provinces with the strongest declines.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Canadian statistics page, choose Latest indicators, then Construction.

To order data, contact Bradley Sernoskie (613-951-4646; bradley.sernoskie@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; michel.labonte@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

OTHER RELEASES

Steel pipe and tubing

November 2002

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2105.

The November 2002 issue *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing*, Vol. 26, no. 11 (41-011-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

more information. or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of contact dissemination this release. the 613-951-9497; officer (1-866-873-8789; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins November 2002

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2183.

The November 2002 issue *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 45, no. 11 (46-002-XIE, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts. methods or data quality this release. contact the dissemination (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; officer manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division

NEW PRODUCTS

Production and shipment of steel pipe and tubing, November 2002, Vol. 26, no. 11 Catalogue number 41-011-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, November 2002, Vol. 45, no. 11 Catalogue number 46-002-XIE (\$5/\$47).

Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports, 2000 Catalogue number 51-203-XIB (\$31).

Exports by commodity, October 2002, Vol. 59, no. 10 Catalogue number 65-004-XMB (\$37/\$361).

Exports by commodity, October 2002, Vol. 59, no. 10 Catalogue number 65-004-XPB (\$78/\$773).

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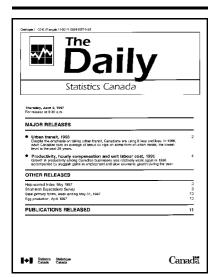
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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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