



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Building permits, January 2003** 2  
Last year's record activity in building permits has spilled over into 2003. Municipalities issued a stunning \$4.3 billion in building permits in January, eclipsing the previous monthly record of \$4.0 billion set in October 2002.
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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Building permits

January 2003

Last year's record activity in building permits has spilled over into 2003.

Builders took out a stunning \$4.3 billion in building permits in January, eclipsing the previous monthly record of \$4.0 billion set in October 2002. January's level was 12.3% higher than in December 2002.

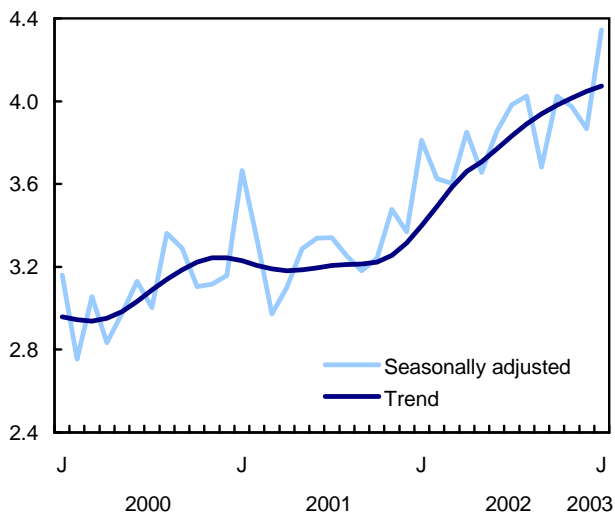
Feverish construction intentions for new housing, both single-family and multi-family dwellings, were responsible for this new peak.

The value of building permits in the residential sector hit a monthly record of \$2.8 billion. This was up 14.4% from December, and 7.2% higher than the previous record set in April 2002.

On the non-residential side, municipalities issued permits worth \$1.5 billion, up 8.7% from December, and 7.7% higher than the average monthly level in 2002. This gain, the third in four months, was a result of strength in the commercial sector.

#### Total value of permits reaches a new peak in January

\$ billions



In 2002, municipalities issued \$46.0 billion in building permits, breaking the previous annual record of \$40.0 billion set in 1989. Hot demand right across the country for new housing was the cornerstone of this exceptional year.

#### 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 (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

January got off to a faster start this year, with construction intentions 14.0% higher than they were in January 2002. Gains were recorded in the residential (+21.0%) and non-residential (+2.9%) sectors.

At the regional level, the census metropolitan areas of Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver posted the strongest start compared with 2002. In all three, gains came from both residential and non-residential components.

#### Single-family dwellings: an unprecedented level

Builders took out \$2.0 billion worth of single-family permits in January, up 11.5% from December and 6.3% higher than the previous record set in October 2002. It was the fifth monthly gain in the last six months.

New single-family dwellings accounted for more than 90% of this value; the remainder was related to renovations.

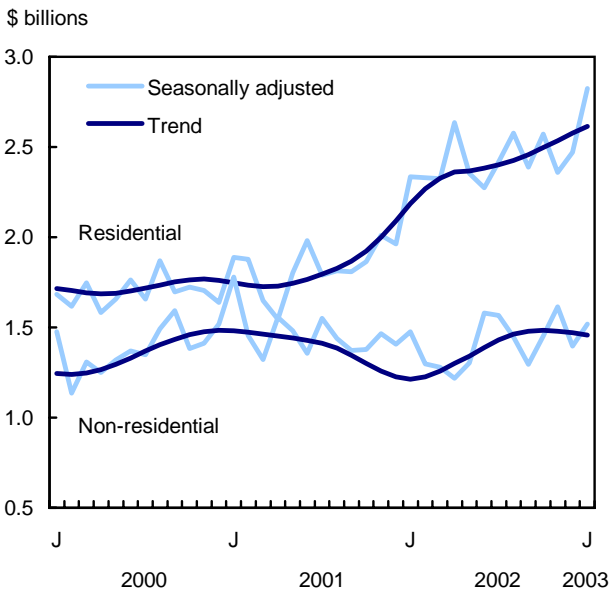
Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings increased 21.8% to \$838 million, the second highest level on record.

Municipalities authorized 20,150 new dwelling units in January, up 12.1% from December. The translation of these intentions into housing starts over the next few months will keep building sites occupied. South of the border, the US Commerce Department's Census Bureau reported a 5.6% decline in January in the number of privately owned housing units authorized.

Conditions enticing consumers to enter the new home market are still in place and help to explain the good results in January. Mortgage rates are low and have a positive impact on the affordability of housing. At the same time, full-time employment has been on an upward trend since the start of 2002, rising by 382,000 over the last 13 months. Disposable income is also on the rise.

The largest contribution to the monthly gain (in dollars) in the residential sector came from Ontario (+24.4% to \$1.3 billion), largely the result of a jump in multi-family permits in the Toronto area. Quebec came second (+45.6% to \$593 million). In Quebec, this level was the highest on record; in Ontario, only the April 2002 level was higher. Manitoba and Saskatchewan also set new monthly records in the value of housing permits in January.

**Both residential and non-residential sectors are up**



**Commercial permits fuel gains in non-residential sector**

Commercial construction intentions fuelled the gain in non-residential permits for January. The value of commercial permits jumped 52.6% to \$891 million, the highest value since January 2001. This increase was largely the result of gains in the office building and trade and services categories. Following a substantial drop in December, Ontario recorded the largest growth (+121.8% to \$389 million), the result of higher construction intentions in the Toronto area.

Intentions in the industrial component declined 18.6% to \$253 million; manufacturing buildings showed the greatest loss. Strong decreases in Saskatchewan and Ontario offset a large increase in Alberta.

Institutional intentions plunged 25.4% to \$374 million, pushed down by the medical and hospital

category. After a record level in December, Quebec recorded the largest drop in this component (-79.9% to \$39 million).

Mixed signals emerged from the non-residential sector. Although opinions on production prospects improved slightly, the mood among manufacturers continued to be guarded in January, according to the Business Conditions Survey. Manufacturers indicated a lower degree of satisfaction with the levels of new and unfilled orders for the first quarter of 2003.

An increase in corporate operating profits in 2002, along with a rise in industrial capacity utilization rates, may have a positive impact in the sector. As well, non-residential construction activity is expected to increase this year, according to private and public investment intentions released February 26.

Among census metropolitan areas, 18 recorded monthly increases in the value of non-residential permits. The largest increase occurred in the Toronto area, followed closely by Hamilton and Calgary.

Among the provinces, a marked rise in commercial intentions in the Toronto area led Ontario to the largest increase in the non-residential sector (+33.0% to \$744 million). Quebec recorded the largest monthly decrease (-32.0% to \$238 million), the result of a strong decline in the educational and medical and hospital categories.

Non-residential intentions in January were up 2.9% from January 2002. This increase was driven by two components: industrial (+3.4%) and commercial (+11.5%). The institutional component was 13.4% lower than a year ago.

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

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

The January 2003 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The February building permit estimate will be released on April 7.

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

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**Value of building permits**

Census metropolitan area	December 2002 <sup>r</sup>	January 2003 <sup>p</sup>	December 2002 to January 2003	January 2002	January 2002 to January 2003
	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	20.5	21.5	4.8	17.2	25.0
Halifax	36.8	30.0	-18.6	38.5	-22.2
Saint John	5.0	8.9	76.6	7.4	19.8
Saguenay	10.0	13.3	32.6	5.3	148.5
Québec	74.9	107.3	43.3	33.8	217.0
Sherbrooke	6.5	16.0	144.9	14.3	12.2
Trois-Rivières	10.0	9.8	-1.8	12.0	-18.3
Montréal	472.0	404.1	-14.4	452.7	-10.7
Gatineau	28.7	49.9	73.7	78.7	-36.6
Ottawa	101.7	112.0	10.2	79.9	40.1
Kingston	9.2	24.6	168.5	14.7	67.7
Oshawa	47.4	48.1	1.6	37.7	27.6
Toronto	739.4	962.2	30.1	843.8	14.0
Hamilton	64.4	126.4	96.2	72.2	75.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	75.3	64.2	-14.6	37.4	72.0
Kitchener	72.7	97.6	34.3	71.0	37.5
London	52.1	47.9	-8.0	60.3	-20.5
Windsor	29.8	58.4	95.8	42.9	36.4
Sudbury	4.0	17.5	333.7	2.0	756.8
Thunder Bay	22.9	2.5	-89.2	5.2	-52.2
Winnipeg	47.4	43.3	-8.7	41.6	4.2
Regina	16.9	15.6	-8.0	16.4	-5.1
Saskatoon	16.9	42.1	148.6	24.3	73.2
Calgary	272.9	294.4	7.9	189.5	55.3
Edmonton	169.2	177.3	4.8	175.9	0.8
Abbotsford	13.3	14.5	9.1	9.5	52.5
Vancouver	405.3	310.7	-23.3	207.1	50.0
Victoria	27.3	54.4	99.4	28.6	90.3

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Value of building permits**

Provinces and territories	December 2002 <sup>r</sup>	January 2003 <sup>p</sup>	December 2002 to January 2003	January 2002	January 2002 to January 2003
	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,867.0</b>	<b>4,344.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>3,812.3</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Residential	2,470.0	2,825.4	14.4	2,335.5	21.0
Non-residential	1,397.0	1,519.1	8.7	1,476.9	2.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.4	32.2	13.2	21.6	48.7
Residential	14.9	20.9	40.0	17.7	17.6
Non-residential	13.5	11.3	-16.3	3.9	190.0
Prince Edward Island	9.2	7.4	-20.0	8.3	-11.0
Residential	6.6	5.6	-15.5	5.8	-3.2
Non-residential	2.6	1.8	-31.3	2.5	-29.0
Nova Scotia	77.3	60.8	-21.3	70.9	-14.3
Residential	50.3	43.0	-14.6	54.9	-21.7
Non-residential	26.9	17.8	-33.8	16.1	11.0
New Brunswick	50.2	41.0	-18.2	44.1	-6.9
Residential	36.0	33.2	-7.9	29.5	12.4
Non-residential	14.1	7.8	-44.7	14.5	-46.2
Quebec	758.1	831.7	9.7	823.0	1.1
Residential	407.7	593.4	45.6	414.3	43.2
Non-residential	350.4	238.3	-32.0	408.7	-41.7
Ontario	1,573.0	2,004.4	27.4	1,725.2	16.2
Residential	1,013.3	1,260.2	24.4	1,116.6	12.9
Non-residential	559.7	744.1	32.9	608.5	22.3
Manitoba	70.4	68.5	-2.7	70.7	-3.0
Residential	35.5	48.2	35.8	34.9	38.0
Non-residential	34.9	20.3	-41.8	35.7	-43.2
Saskatchewan	97.2	83.9	-13.7	61.5	36.6
Residential	25.2	34.0	34.9	24.8	36.7
Non-residential	72.1	50.0	-30.6	36.6	36.5
Alberta	626.0	639.5	2.2	556.9	14.8
Residential	450.7	408.1	-9.5	367.8	11.0
Non-residential	175.3	231.4	32.0	189.1	22.4
British Columbia	567.1	571.9	0.8	417.9	36.8
Residential	424.7	376.9	-11.3	267.2	41.1
Non-residential	142.4	194.9	36.9	150.7	29.3
Yukon	3.5	1.2	-65.7	1.9	-36.0
Residential	2.8	0.7	-74.1	1.5	-50.5
Non-residential	0.7	0.5	-29.4	0.4	19.0
Northwest Territories	2.7	2.0	-24.5	10.1	-80.2
Residential	2.2	1.2	-45.5	0.2	599.4
Non-residential	0.4	0.8	84.6	10.0	-92.1
Nunavut	4.0	0.0	-99.4	0.2	-88.8
Residential	0.0	0.0	257.1	0.2	-88.8
Non-residential	4.0	0.0	-100.0	0.0	...

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

... Figures not applicable.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### **Cement**

January 2003

Data on cement are now available for January.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2140.**

The January 2003 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 55, no. 1 (44-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

### **Coal and coke statistics**

December 2002

Data on coal and coke are now available for December.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0016 and 303-0017.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.**

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

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Cereals and oilseeds review**, December 2002,  
Vol. 25, no. 12  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XIB** (\$11/\$112).

**Cereals and oilseeds review**, December 2002,  
Vol. 25, no. 12  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XPB** (\$15/\$149).

**Cement**, January 2003, Vol. 55, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 44-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Exports by commodity**, December 2002, Vol. 59,  
no. 12  
**Catalogue number 65-004-XMB** (\$37/\$361).

**Exports by commodity**, December 2002, Vol. 59,  
no. 12  
**Catalogue number 65-004-XPB** (\$78/\$773).

**Labour force information**, week ending  
February 15, 2003  
**Catalogue number 71-001-XIE** (\$8/\$78).  
**Available at 7 am Friday, March 7**

**Employment, earnings and hours**, December 2002,  
Vol. 80, no. 12  
**Catalogue number 72-002-XIB** (\$24/\$240).

**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.

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Design 1 - 2002 (P) Statcan 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-wanted index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



**Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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