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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

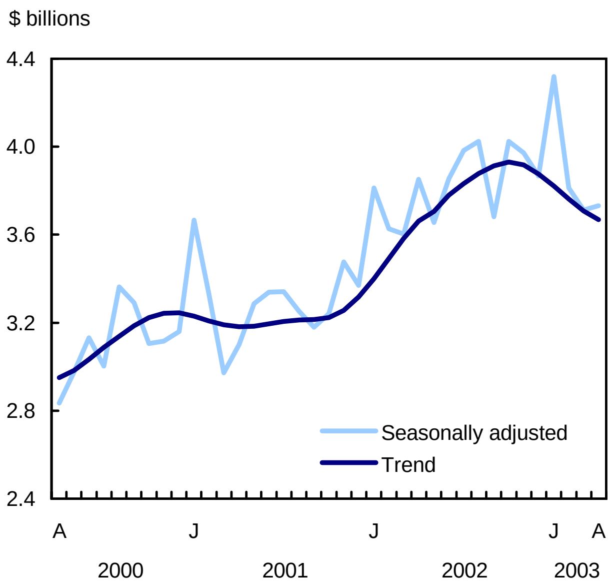
Building permits
April 2003

The value of building permits issued across the country edged up marginally in April, as construction intentions for new housing plunged to a 10-month low and permits for non-residential projects rebounded sharply.

Municipalities issued $3.7 billion in building permits in April, an increase of only 0.5%. Housing permits fell 6.8% to $2.3 billion, while intentions in the non-residential sector increased 14.8% to $1.4 billion, fuelled by permits for institutional projects.

Despite the slight overall increase in April, the cumulative value of permits issued in the first four months of the year reached a record high, thanks to torrid activity in January. From January to April, municipalities issued nearly $15.6 billion in permits, up 4.6% from the same period of 2002.

Total value of permits edge up



The year-to-date value for housing permits also hit a record high, $9.8 billion, a 2.1% increase. The year-to-date level for non-residential permits rose 9.1% to $5.7 billion, the second best start in a decade for this four-month period.

Provincially, the biggest gains were in Manitoba, where the value of permits far more than doubled (+163%) from March to $219 million, the hottest month in over a decade. This was the result of two major hospital projects. Permits in Saskatchewan surged 134% to $90 million.

In contrast, the value of permits issued in Ontario declined 9.4% to under $1.5 billion, an 18-month low. British Columbia gave up some of the gains of last month, posting a 13.6% decline to $480 million.

The census metropolitan areas recording the greatest gains were Montréal (+29.0% to $443 million), followed by Winnipeg and Regina. The biggest declines were in Toronto (-11.9% to $611 million), Vancouver and Québec.

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.

Sharp declines in both single- and multi-family permits

The value of permits for both single-family and multi-family dwellings declined sharply in April.

Municipalities issued $1.6 billion in single-family permits, down 6.1% from March, the third consecutive monthly decline. However, cumulative values for the first four months of the year still reached a new record of $7.1 billion, which was 0.6% higher than in the same period of 2002.

Even more marked was the monthly decline in multi-family permits, which fell 8.6% to $645 million.

Weakness was spread over the three sub-categories, with double homes showing the greatest decline (-21.8%), followed by apartments (-6.6%) and row houses (-4.4%).

Even with April values less than the monthly average for 2002, multi-family permits set a new year-to-date record of $2.7 billion, up 6.3% from 2002.

Municipalities authorized the construction of 16,500 new dwelling units in April, down from the 16,962 issued in March. The bulk of the decline was attributable to a slip in single-family units. So far this year, construction intentions have been expressed for 69,867 units, 2.2% lower than the same period of 2002.

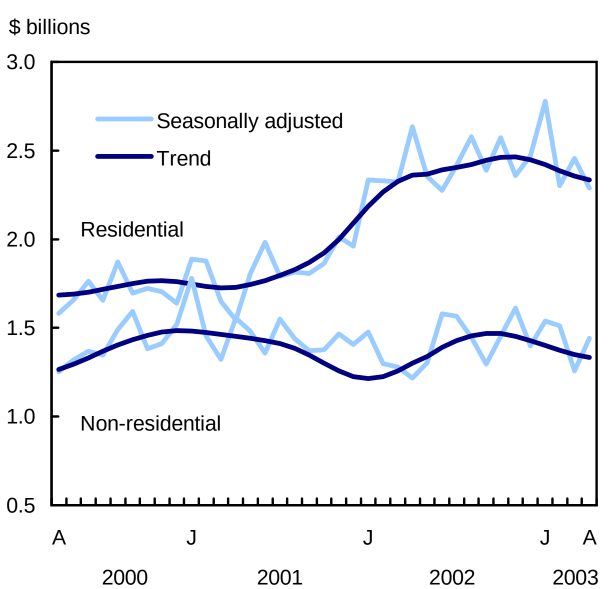
A number of factors may have contributed to the moderation seen in April's numbers. Mortgage rates appear ready to remain low for some time to come, so there has been less pressure on consumers to rush to secure financing. The past two years have seen permits issued at a feverish pace, and the pent-up demand might be easing.

In addition, the desire among builders to push the sale of new units may be cooling as they concentrate on finishing projects already on their order books. Some builders have noted difficulty in achieving reasonable delivery time frames, given labour force constraints. Also, according to the Labour Force Survey, construction employment was up 50,000 from April 2002, an indication of the significant level of work already underway.

On a provincial basis, Saskatchewan experienced the greatest increase in permit value from March (+166.6% to $47.6 million), chiefly as a result of an increase in permits for apartments. After recording a jump in March, British Columbia recorded the greatest monthly decline (-28.0% to $317.4 million).

A $99-million drop in single-family permits issued by Ontario municipalities could not be offset by additional demand for multi-family residences, pushing that province to the second greatest monthly loss (-7.1% to $985 million).

Non-residential and residential sectors swap course



Non-residential projects rebound after two monthly drops

April's rebound in non-residential permits followed two straight monthly declines, and was led by a strong increase in institutional intentions. April's level was 14.8% higher than in March, reaching $1.4 billion.

Institutional intentions increased 79.7% to $500 million. Most of this activity came from social service building, medical and hospital and educational projects.

The greatest increase (in dollars terms) for institutional intentions was in Manitoba, where the value of institutional projects climbed from $3 million to $119 million because of two major hospital projects.

The value of commercial permits increased 3.4% to $703 million, the result of higher intentions in the office building and hotel and restaurant categories. The most significant increase in this component occurred in Quebec (+44.8% to $201 million).

Only the industrial component showed a decline in April, falling 20.0% to $239 million, the result of declines in the manufacturing plant category. This was the third decline in the industrial component since the beginning of the year. Quebec recorded the largest drop (-57.9% to $38 million).

Concerned with lower levels of new and unfilled orders, manufacturers expect to decrease production in the coming three months, according to the Business Condition Survey. Key factors influencing manufacturers' intentions included global uncertainty and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

At the provincial level, the most significant monthly increase occurred in Manitoba (+276.9% to $177 million), because of a large increase in the institutional category. In contrast, Ontario posted the largest decrease (-13.8% to $480 million) for the second consecutive month.

On a year-to date basis, non-residential building intentions reached $5.7 billion, up 9.1%, following increases in all three components.

The year-to-date value for industrial building permits reached $1.2 billion, up 11.8% from the same period of 2002, followed by the institutional component at $1.7 billion, up 9.4%. Construction intentions for commercial projects also contributed to the advance, increasing 7.9% to $2.9 billion.

According to the Capital and Repair Expenditure Survey, spending on capital construction (including building and engineering) in educational services and health care and social assistance is expected to increase in 2003. This is in line with the year-to-date results of the institutional component.

On a cumulative basis, strong increases in non-residential permits issued for the Oshawa and

Toronto areas led Ontario to the largest gain among the provinces (+7.8% to $2.6 billion). In contrast, the Northwest Territories posted the largest decline (-91.2% to $2.3 million) because of a decrease in the institutional component.

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

The May 2003 building permit estimate will be released on July 7.

For general information or to order data, contact Vere Clarke (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6556; *clarver@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Erik Dorff (613-951-4901; *erik.dorff@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	March 2003[r]	April 2003[p]	March to April 2003	January to April 2002	January to April 2003	January–April 2002 to January–April 2003
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	13.6	23.5	72.4	80.2	78.2	-2.5
Halifax	49.2	31.2	-36.6	133.3	152.4	14.3
Saint John	5.9	7.9	34.8	27.7	29.7	7.2
Saguenay	8.9	20.8	134.7	41.1	41.8	1.8
Québec	101.6	58.8	-42.1	208.1	325.4	56.3
Sherbrooke	17.5	20.0	14.7	76.0	67.0	-11.9
Trois-Rivières	10.8	15.1	39.8	51.3	46.7	-8.9
Montréal	343.6	443.4	29.0	1,460.0	1,627.9	11.5
Gatineau	29.9	48.3	61.4	150.9	152.4	1.0
Ottawa	153.4	126.6	-17.5	513.3	524.1	2.1
Kingston	10.6	14.3	35.2	78.4	58.4	-25.5
Oshawa	72.8	75.6	3.7	199.6	358.7	79.7
Toronto	693.7	610.9	-11.9	2,976.7	2,950.8	-0.9
Hamilton	52.0	72.5	39.6	390.2	420.9	7.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	30.9	26.8	-13.1	230.1	165.2	-28.2
Kitchener	79.7	70.1	-12.0	333.7	328.6	-1.5
London	70.7	89.6	26.7	224.2	262.9	17.3
Windsor	44.2	46.7	5.7	255.1	213.1	-16.5
Sudbury	11.8	8.5	-28.1	27.6	27.2	-1.8
Thunder Bay	18.6	4.6	-75.5	78.4	35.1	-55.2
Winnipeg	62.8	148.4	136.4	149.1	306.0	105.3
Regina	12.4	49.7	301.1	46.4	106.2	128.7
Saskatoon	9.5	19.1	100.0	110.9	93.4	-15.7
Calgary	208.7	207.0	-0.8	880.4	1,005.5	14.2
Edmonton	140.9	118.6	-15.8	539.7	563.3	4.4
Abbotsford	24.5	10.5	-57.1	50.1	63.7	26.9
Vancouver	332.0	284.7	-14.3	1,115.4	1,140.6	2.3
Victoria	28.1	31.9	13.6	145.4	161.4	11.0

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

Value of building permits

Provinces and territories	March 2003r	April 2003p	March to April 2003	January to April 2002	January to April 2003	January–April 2002 to January–April 2003
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,712.9**	**3,731.2**	**0.5**	**14,894.0**	**15,575.1**	**4.6**
Residential	2,456.1	2,288.9	-6.8	9,622.2	9,825.8	2.1
Non-residential	1,256.8	1,442.3	14.8	5,271.8	5,749.4	9.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	20.5	29.5	44.2	111.1	108.7	-2.1
Residential	13.2	22.4	69.8	84.6	74.9	-11.4
Non-residential	7.3	7.2	-1.8	26.5	33.8	27.6
Prince Edward Island	12.3	17.7	43.7	35.3	44.7	26.4
Residential	7.8	8.3	6.3	27.8	28.5	2.7
Non-residential	4.5	9.4	108.5	7.5	16.1	114.2
Nova Scotia	83.6	87.2	4.4	261.6	302.3	15.5
Residential	40.5	43.7	7.9	194.8	179.4	-7.9
Non-residential	43.0	43.5	1.1	66.8	122.8	83.8
New Brunswick	50.1	56.9	13.7	215.6	188.4	-12.6
Residential	35.7	39.3	10.2	142.3	132.1	-7.2
Non-residential	14.4	17.6	22.6	73.3	56.3	-23.2
Quebec	758.0	778.2	2.7	2,802.0	3,167.3	13.0
Residential	473.2	451.9	-4.5	1,652.8	2,032.3	23.0
Non-residential	284.8	326.4	14.6	1,149.3	1,135.0	-1.2
Ontario	1,617.2	1,465.0	-9.4	6,904.2	6,821.9	-1.2
Residential	1,061.1	985.5	-7.1	4,516.7	4,249.2	-5.9
Non-residential	556.1	479.5	-13.8	2,387.5	2,572.7	7.8
Manitoba	83.2	219.0	163.3	300.3	447.5	49.0
Residential	36.2	42.0	15.9	136.3	167.1	22.6
Non-residential	47.0	177.0	276.9	164.0	280.4	70.9
Saskatchewan	38.3	89.6	134.0	236.2	281.9	19.3
Residential	17.9	47.6	166.6	81.5	131.8	61.7
Non-residential	20.4	42.0	105.5	154.8	150.2	-3.0
Alberta	484.8	502.9	3.7	2,189.8	2,197.7	0.4
Residential	325.6	327.3	0.5	1,524.5	1,405.3	-7.8
Non-residential	159.1	175.6	10.4	665.4	792.4	19.1
British Columbia	555.7	480.0	-13.6	1,783.6	1,994.2	11.8
Residential	440.7	317.4	-28.0	1,234.6	1,413.7	14.5
Non-residential	115.0	162.6	41.3	549.0	580.5	5.7
Yukon	6.4	2.7	-58.0	7.0	11.6	64.3
Residential	1.9	1.7	-10.1	6.3	4.9	-21.9
Non-residential	4.6	1.0	-77.6	0.7	6.6	787.2
Northwest Territories	2.1	1.7	-17.2	42.5	7.7	-81.9
Residential	1.7	1.3	-21.9	16.7	5.4	-67.5
Non-residential	0.4	0.4	5.5	25.8	2.3	-91.2
Nunavut	0.7	0.6	-14.5	4.5	1.3	-69.8
Residential	0.5	0.5	-8.5	3.3	1.0	-68.6
Non-residential	0.2	0.1	-32.4	1.1	0.3	-73.1

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Cement
April 2003

Data on cement are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.

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

The April 2003 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 55, no. 4 (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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics
March 2003

Data on electric power are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2151.

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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard
February 2003

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2141.

The February 2003 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard*, Vol. 39, no. 2 (36-003-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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division ■

Civil aviation statistics
2001 (preliminary)

Civil aviation data for the total industry for 2001 are now available.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2713.

The annual operational and financial data for 2001 will appear in the next issue of *Aviation: service bulletin*, Vol. 35, no. 3 (51-004-XIB, $8), which will be available soon. These data appeared in the annual publication *Canadian civil aviation* (51-206-XIB, $31) in previous years. A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125; *robert.lund@statcan.ca*) or Lisa Di Piétro (613-951-0146; *lisa.dipietro@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Passenger bus industry
2001 (preliminary)

Urban bus riders steered the passenger bus industry toward revenues of $4.3 billion in 2001 (excluding subsidies), according to the first results from a newly redesigned survey.

The 1.5 billion passenger trips made on urban transit buses in 2001 accounted for just under half of the industry's total annual revenues, or about $2.1 billion. For the entire bus industry (which includes urban transit, scheduled intercity, school bus, sightseeing, shuttle and charter services), Ontario contributed about half of all revenues grossed in Canada, at $2.1 billion; Quebec was second at $1.2 billion.

Bus companies generated about $70 million by providing services to people with disabilities and seniors, half of which was generated in Ontario. This is the first time data have been available for para-transit services.

Expenditures for the industry totalled $6.1 billion dollars, almost two-thirds of which was spent by urban transit operators. Operating expenses made up 88% of total expenditures for the industry as a whole, with the remaining 12% covering depreciation, interest payments and other non-operating expenses.

In 2001, the industry employed about 90,000 people, whose salaries and wages accounted for 55% of the total expenditures. The average salary for all employees regardless of the type of bus company was $36,000.

The industry invested about $900 million in Canada in 2001, most of which was spent by urban transit companies on new buses. Ontario-based companies contributed about $470 million of that total.

The new annual survey format means it is no longer possible to compare data from 2001 and later years with data from 2000 and earlier. However, the new survey questionnaire is a much better tool, improving the quality of the data collected while at the same time greatly reducing the burden placed on most respondents. By the end of 2003, Statistics Canada will be able to release data for 2002, which will provide at least a two-year comparison.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Biotechnology research and development in industry

2000

Canadian industry spent $712 million on research and development in biotechnology in 2000, up 8.0% from 1999, according to the Survey on Research and Development in Canadian Industry.

These data differ from information released in *The Daily* on March 28, which came from the 2001 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey. The two surveys cover different populations and terminologies and cannot be compared directly.

The article "Biotechnology research and development in Canadian industry, 2000," which provides information on research and development spending in biotechnology, is now available in the bulletin *Science statistics*, Vol. 27, no. 4 (88-001-XIB, $6/$59). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bev Watier (613-951-2190) or Antoine Rose (613-951-9919), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries

2001

Total operating revenue for the real estate rental and leasing industries and the property management service industry increased 10% to $41.6 billion in 2001 compared with 1999. (There was no survey in 2000.) The non-residential sector accounted for 52% of total operating revenue with $21.5 billion, followed by the residential sector at $18.0 billion, or 43%, and property management at $2.1 billion, or 5%.

Total operating expenses reached $33.3 billion, up 7% from 1999. Mortgage interest and property taxes are the two major expenses items, each accounting for 18% of the total operating expenses.

Data on the real estate rental and leasing and property management service industries are now available for 2001. These data provide information such as operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages, profit before income tax and the number of establishments at the provincial and territorial level. The industries comprise lessors of residential buildings (excluding social housing), lessors of non-residential buildings and property managers.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4705.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Jean Hamilton (613-951-7358; *hamijea@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard, February 2003, Vol. 39, no. 2
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB ($5/$47).

Cement, April 2003, Vol. 55, no. 4
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB ($5/$47).

Imports, merchandise trade, 2002
Catalogue number 65-203-XMB ($103).

Imports, merchandise trade, 2002
Catalogue number 65-203-XPB ($258).

Marriages — Shelf tables, 2000
Catalogue number 84F0212XPB ($20).

Science statistics, Vol. 27, no. 4
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB ($6/$59).

Labour force information, week ending May 17, 2003
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($8/$78).
Available at 7 a.m. Friday, June 6

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 or –XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or –XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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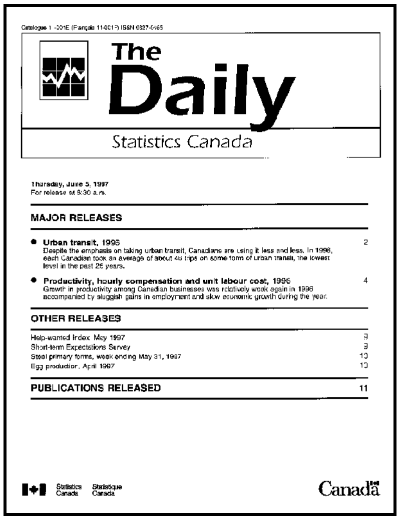

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997 9
Short-term Expectations Survey 9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 10
Egg production, April 1997 10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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