



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, January 12, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Building permits, November 2003** 2  
The value of building permits issued by municipalities fell for the second month in a row in November, the result of weakness in all three components of the non-residential sector.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

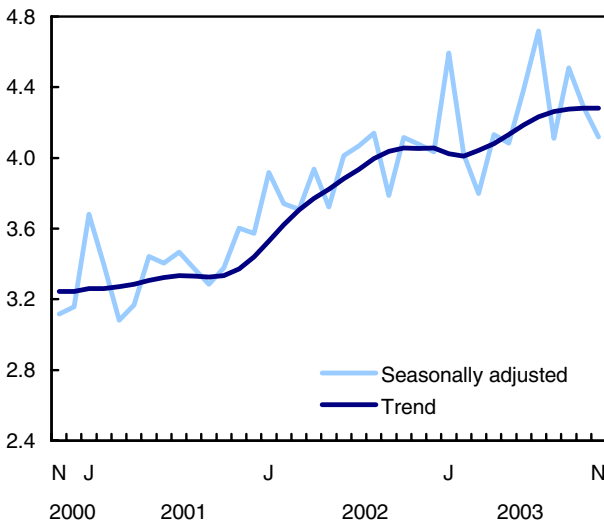
### Building permits

November 2003

The value of building permits issued by municipalities fell for the second month in a row in November, the result of weakness in all three components of the non-residential sector.

#### Total value of permits slides for a second consecutive month in November

\$ billions



Builders took out \$4.1 billion worth of permits, down 3.9% from October. This followed a 5.0% decline the month before.

Construction intentions in the non-residential sector declined 12.1% to \$1.3 billion, the lowest level in 19 months. All three components — industrial, commercial and institutional — experienced a second consecutive month of weakening. Among the provinces, Ontario recorded the largest drop in non-residential intentions.

The value of housing permits edged up 0.4% to \$2.8 billion, as multi-residential projects continued to exhibit strength. The value of permits for single-family homes declined marginally from September's record level of \$2.0 billion.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued \$46.8 billion in permits from January to November, up 8.2% from the first 11 months of 2002. This total is just short of the record of \$47.3 billion

#### Note to readers

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

The Building Permits 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.

for 2002 as a whole and points to a new annual record. It will mark the third consecutive year of new annual records, and the eighth year in a row in which the value of permits has risen.

Builders have taken out \$29.2 billion in housing permits, up 8.1% from the first 11 months of 2002, and just under the record \$29.6 billion in residential intentions for 2002 as a whole.

In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued \$17.5 billion in building permits from January to November, up 8.3% from the same period of 2002. All components contributed to the strong performance.

Among census metropolitan areas, Toronto posted the biggest year-to-date increase in permits, gaining 9.4% to \$10.5 billion, on the strength of demand for industrial and commercial projects. Montréal came in a close second with a 17.0% increase to \$4.8 billion, with a red hot residential sector igniting the gain.

#### Housing: Second consecutive monthly decline for single-family permits

Municipalities issued \$1.9 billion in permits for single-family dwellings in November, down 0.4% from October. This marks a second consecutive month of decline after a record in September. However, November's level remains well above the monthly average for 2003.

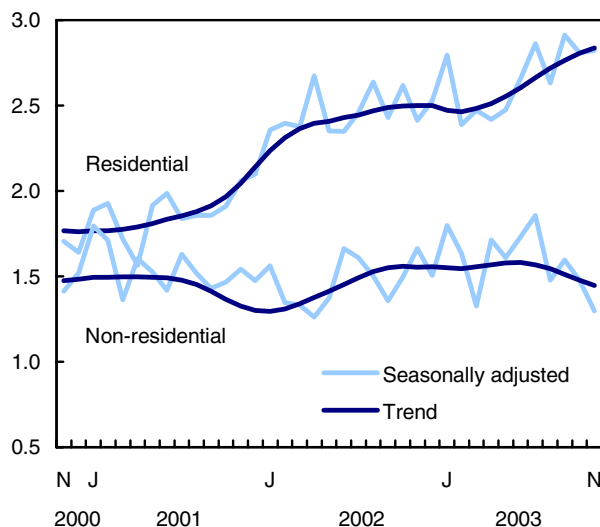
Multi-family permits edged up 2.2% to \$913 million, recovering ground lost in October. This marks only the fourth time that the value of multi-family permits has surpassed the \$900 million mark, though it is the third time in 2003.

The year 2003 has proved extremely favourable for the housing sector, with low mortgage rates, high levels of employment and consumer confidence bolstering demand for housing stock.

Provincially, the greatest gains came in Ontario (+4.1% to \$1.2 billion), where strong demand for multi-family permits more than offset the decline in single-family permit value. British Columbia experienced the greatest decline (-12.3% to \$360 million), as gains in single family dwelling permit value failed to counter dropping multi-family approvals.

#### Residential sector edges up while non-residential sector continues to slide

\$ billions



In the first 11 months of 2003, municipalities approved construction of 112,651 single-family units and 94,175 multi-family units.

With only December's total to come in 2003, the cumulative value of permits for single-family homes totalled \$20.1 billion, 4.4% greater than for the first 11 months of 2002.

The demand for multi-family dwellings has been so strong in 2003 that the value of permits has exceeded the total for 2002 as a whole with one month remaining. In 11 months, municipalities have issued \$9.1 billion in multi-family permits, up 17.3% from the same period of 2002.

Provincially, only Alberta and Prince Edward Island have failed to match the pace of residential intentions in 2002. Alberta's residential intentions for the first 11 months of 2003 were 6.3% lower than for the same period of 2002, while Prince Edward Island's were 12.0% lower. The greatest gains (in dollars) were recorded in Quebec (25.2% to \$6.0 billion) and British Columbia (18.2% to \$4.1 billion).

#### Non-residential sector: Biggest decline in commercial intentions

After two very strong months, commercial intentions experienced the biggest decline in November, falling 13.4% to \$709 million. This was the lowest level since March 2003. The decline came about principally as permits for trade and service buildings fell in Ontario.

Institutional permits slid 13.6% to \$368 million. Manitoba was the only province recording a gain in this category in November.

Since hitting a five-year high in July, the industrial component has seen steady declines. In November, the value of industrial permits fell 4.8% to \$220 million. Provincially, declines were led by British Columbia, where industrial intentions fell 33.7% to \$20 million as a result of lower demand for factory buildings.

Canada's business sector experienced a number of challenges in 2003, including the rapid gain in the value of the Canadian dollar, which contributed in part to a 0.4% decline in industrial product prices during November. Industrial capacity use also declined in the third quarter to its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2001. However, the recovering American economy has contributed a positive economic stimulus worldwide.

Among the provinces, Ontario recorded the largest decline in non-residential permits (-26.4% to \$594 million), after showing the biggest gains in October. Buoyed by the value of commercial permit issues, British Columbia posted the greatest monthly gains for November, increasing 46.6% to \$175 million.

On a year-to-date basis, intentions in all three components have increased. From January to November, builders took out \$8.7 billion in commercial permits, up 8.1% from the same period of 2002. Industrial projects were up 14.8% to \$3.4 billion, while institutional intentions were up 5.0% to \$5.5 billion.

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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.**

The November 2003 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Building permit estimates for December 2003 will be released on February 5.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-4646; [bdp\\_information@statcan.ca](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods

or data quality of this release, contact Erik Dorff  
(613-951-4901), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

### Value of building permits, by province and territory

	October 2003 <sup>r</sup>	November 2003 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2003	January to November 2002	January to November 2003	January–November 2002 to January–November 2003
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,286.3</b>	<b>4,119.4</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>43,228.5</b>	<b>46,762.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Residential	2,809.5	2,821.8	0.4	27,057.7	29,242.0	8.1
Non-residential	1,476.8	1,297.7	-12.1	16,170.8	17,520.7	8.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	42.0	41.2	-1.9	354.9	374.3	5.5
Residential	29.6	29.7	0.2	229.2	259.4	13.2
Non-residential	12.3	11.5	-6.7	125.7	114.9	-8.6
Prince Edward Island	8.7	7.0	-18.7	137.0	157.0	14.6
Residential	6.8	4.0	-40.9	89.8	79.0	-12.0
Non-residential	1.9	3.0	61.5	47.2	78.0	65.2
Nova Scotia	73.4	93.1	26.8	800.0	935.3	16.9
Residential	48.4	68.6	41.8	573.6	601.0	4.8
Non-residential	25.1	24.6	-2.1	226.5	334.3	47.6
New Brunswick	61.9	64.0	3.3	613.6	645.4	5.2
Residential	31.0	39.1	26.3	336.8	370.5	10.0
Non-residential	31.0	24.9	-19.7	276.8	274.9	-0.7
Quebec	860.2	870.6	1.2	7,870.3	9,405.7	19.5
Residential	628.2	642.6	2.3	4,808.4	6,018.1	25.2
Non-residential	232.0	228.0	-1.7	3,061.9	3,387.5	10.6
Ontario	1,989.6	1,825.1	-8.3	20,541.9	21,279.2	3.6
Residential	1,182.8	1,231.1	4.1	12,641.9	13,024.5	3.0
Non-residential	806.8	594.0	-26.4	7,900.0	8,254.7	4.5
Manitoba	72.3	71.9	-0.5	818.5	1,002.1	22.4
Residential	48.2	41.5	-13.8	405.3	488.5	20.5
Non-residential	24.1	30.4	26.2	413.3	513.6	24.3
Saskatchewan	50.2	51.1	1.8	611.4	727.1	18.9
Residential	28.6	28.2	-1.7	251.3	332.6	32.4
Non-residential	21.5	22.9	6.3	360.1	394.6	9.6
Alberta	583.3	537.9	-7.8	6,220.6	6,160.8	-1.0
Residential	382.5	367.2	-4.0	4,156.6	3,895.8	-6.3
Non-residential	200.8	170.7	-15.0	2,064.0	2,265.0	9.7
British Columbia	529.2	534.4	1.0	5,092.3	5,858.0	15.0
Residential	409.9	359.6	-12.3	3,463.4	4,092.1	18.2
Non-residential	119.3	174.9	46.6	1,628.9	1,765.9	8.4
Yukon	2.8	1.0	-64.7	27.8	44.9	61.6
Residential	2.5	0.8	-69.1	19.2	22.4	16.6
Non-residential	0.2	0.2	-16.9	8.6	22.5	162.7
Northwest Territories	12.3	7.3	-40.4	88.9	77.4	-12.9
Residential	10.6	5.3	-50.0	51.6	46.6	-9.7
Non-residential	1.7	2.0	20.7	37.3	30.8	-17.5
Nunavut	0.4	14.8	3,192.4	51.3	95.6	86.3
Residential	0.3	4.1	1,088.0	30.6	11.6	-62.2
Non-residential	0.1	10.7	10,066.7	20.7	84.0	306.3

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area

	October 2003 <sup>r</sup>	November 2003 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2003	January to November 2002	January to November 2003	January–November 2002 to January–November 2003
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	30.0	29.7	-1.2	229.1	261.2	14.0
Halifax	35.0	58.2	66.4	432.4	531.5	22.9
Saint John	15.7	8.8	-44.0	93.2	112.2	20.4
Saguenay	8.5	9.6	12.1	164.6	124.5	-24.3
Québec	63.9	63.3	-0.9	738.5	966.0	30.8
Sherbrooke	15.1	18.2	20.7	175.5	207.1	18.0
Trois-Rivières	14.0	16.3	16.6	160.7	188.5	17.3
Montréal	468.0	491.6	5.0	4,132.3	4,834.3	17.0
Gatineau	54.5	35.4	-35.1	448.3	471.2	5.1
Ottawa	141.8	114.0	-19.6	1,543.4	1,571.5	1.8
Kingston	14.3	13.9	-3.0	271.1	193.9	-28.5
Oshawa	105.5	53.4	-49.4	720.8	1,038.1	44.0
Toronto	955.6	1,010.0	5.7	9,644.9	10,548.6	9.4
Hamilton	79.6	90.8	14.1	1,016.2	1,012.4	-0.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	60.3	44.6	-26.1	647.7	467.7	-27.8
Kitchener	95.3	56.8	-40.4	894.4	865.5	-3.2
London	61.8	34.2	-44.7	656.3	672.8	2.5
Windsor	54.3	40.4	-25.5	697.6	564.9	-19.0
Sudbury	12.2	2.0	-83.9	163.7	90.5	-44.7
Thunder Bay	7.4	10.8	45.7	175.8	107.9	-38.6
Winnipeg	44.3	49.5	11.6	428.4	648.2	51.3
Regina	13.7	16.5	20.3	144.5	260.1	79.9
Saskatoon	22.2	21.2	-4.5	270.4	240.4	-11.1
Calgary	222.5	242.3	8.9	2,440.6	2,638.1	8.1
Edmonton	147.5	148.1	0.4	1,628.1	1,617.2	-0.7
Abbotsford	16.5	14.6	-11.4	171.7	160.7	-6.4
Vancouver	320.3	277.1	-13.5	3,180.0	3,336.6	4.9
Victoria	31.5	65.6	108.6	420.3	534.7	27.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

## OTHER RELEASES

### New Housing Price Index

November 2003

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) advanced 0.7% in November, up from October's increase of 0.4%. This is the highest monthly rise since February 2002 and reflects a continued strong new housing market. On a 12-month basis, this index of contractors' selling prices rose 5.0%, unchanged from October's annual increase.

### New Housing Price Indexes (1997=100)

	November 2003	November 2002 to November 2003 % change	October to November 2003 % change
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>
House only	126.3	6.2	1.0
Land only	105.7	1.6	0.0
St. John's	114.2	3.8	0.1
Halifax	119.7	3.3	0.0
Charlottetown	106.9	2.0	0.8
Saint John-Fredericton-Moncton	103.7	3.1	0.0
Québec	126.2	8.8	1.2
Montréal	130.1	6.0	0.5
Ottawa-Gatineau	141.0	3.4	0.6
Toronto	122.5	5.4	1.1
Hamilton	123.1	4.6	0.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	124.2	7.5	1.6
Kitchener-Waterloo	120.7	2.2	0.2
London	116.6	5.4	1.0
Windsor	102.1	0.0	0.0
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	96.7	0.7	0.0
Winnipeg	115.4	3.4	0.4
Regina	127.6	4.9	0.0
Saskatoon	115.9	4.7	0.0
Calgary	133.7	5.6	0.5
Edmonton	126.8	4.7	0.3
Vancouver	97.5	3.8	0.4
Victoria	100.4	9.8	0.7

St. Catharines-Niagara led the way with a monthly increase of 1.6%, followed by Québec (+1.2%), Toronto (+1.1%) and London (+1.0%). Home builders in these areas cited higher prices for building materials and labour, such as bricklayers and framers. Higher land values contributed to the increases in Québec, St. Catharines-Niagara and London.

Significant increases were observed in Charlottetown (+0.8%), Victoria (+0.7%), Ottawa-Gatineau (+0.6%), Montréal (+0.5%) and Calgary (+0.5%), mostly the result of increased materials and labour prices. Higher land values were noted in Charlottetown, Calgary and Victoria.

Elsewhere, new home prices rose in Hamilton (+0.4%), Winnipeg (+0.4%), Vancouver (+0.4%), Edmonton (+0.3%) and Kitchener-Waterloo (+0.2%). The index was up slightly in St. John's (+0.1%).

Six of the surveyed centres registered no change and there were no monthly decreases.

For the second consecutive month, Victoria (+9.8%) posted the largest 12-month increase for new homes. Québec was next with an increase of 8.8%, followed by St. Catharines-Niagara (+7.5%). There were no annual decreases.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2003 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in April. See *How to order products*.

The New Housing Price Index for December 2003 will be released on February 11.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; [morrus@statcan.ca](mailto:morrisus@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### Aircraft movement statistics

November 2003 (preliminary)

In November, the 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers reported 348,036 movements, down 4.2% from November 2002 (363,115). This marks the eighth consecutive decline in year-over-year comparisons of monthly movements. Twenty-six airports showed year-over-year decreases in aircraft movements for November, compared with 30 airports in October. Six airports showed decreases greater than 20% in November, compared with five airports in October.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) and local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) both showed decreases in November compared with a year earlier. Itinerant movements dropped 1.1 % (down 2,509 movements), while local movements dropped 9.9 % (down 12,570 movements).

The top 10 airports in terms of volumes of itinerant movements in November showed year-over-year variations ranging from 11.4% (697 movements) at Montréal/St-Hubert to -5.7% (-974 movements) at Calgary International. Six of the top 10 airports

recorded decreases in itinerant movements from a year earlier, compared with eight airports in October 2003.

The top 10 airports in terms of local movements showed year-over-year variations ranging from 32.8% (1,036 movements) at Pitt Meadows to -20.4% (-1,445 movements) at Calgary/Springbank. Four of the top 10 airports recorded decreases in local movements from November 2002.

The November issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 2, no. 11 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on our website. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*. Historical issues are available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP1496/tp1496.htm>).

Preliminary statistics for the 57 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for November.

#### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

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](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

November 2003 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 095 500 cubic metres in November, up 161 700 cubic metres or 2.0% from November 2002. Sales increased in three of the seven major product groups, led by diesel fuel oil, which registered the largest volumetric increase, up 83 100 cubic metres or 4.4%. Heavy fuel oil increased by 57 100 cubic metres or 8.8%.

Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline advanced (+0.6%), but sales of mid-grade (-9.3%) and premium (-0.9%) fell from November 2002.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products totalled 89 857 600 cubic metres up 3 686 500 cubic metres or 4.3% from the same period of 2002. Sales rose in six of seven major petroleum product groups, with the largest volumetric increase in heavy fuel oils, up 1 746 700 cubic metres or 29.6%. Year-to-date sales of motor gasoline increased 469 000 cubic metres or 1.3%.

### Sales of refined petroleum products

	November 2002 <sup>r</sup>	November 2003 <sup>p</sup>	November 2002 to November 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
<b>Total, all products</b>	<b>7 933.8</b>	<b>8 095.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Motor gasoline	3 229.5	3 237.8	0.3
Diesel fuel oil	1 879.1	1 962.2	4.4
Light fuel oil	502.1	445.8	-11.2
Heavy fuel oil	649.0	706.1	8.8
Aviation turbo fuels	518.1	514.0	-0.8
Petrochemical feedstocks <sup>1</sup>	373.8	336.3	-10.1
All other refined products	782.0	893.4	14.3

	Jan. to Nov. 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. to Nov. 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Jan.-Nov. 2002 to Jan.-Nov. 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
<b>Total, all products</b>	<b>86 171.1</b>	<b>89 857.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Motor gasoline	36 325.2	36 794.2	1.3
Diesel fuel oil	20 829.8	21 759.8	4.5
Light fuel oil	4 308.7	4 604.8	6.9
Heavy fuel oil	5 902.4	7 649.1	29.6
Aviation turbo fuels	5 567.3	5 596.6	0.5
Petrochemical feedstocks <sup>1</sup>	4 224.0	4 079.7	-3.4
All other refined products	9 013.6	9 373.5	4.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

#### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to inquire 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. ■

### Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

November 2003

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

#### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

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The November 2003 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 46, no. 11 (46-002-XIE, \$6/\$51) 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 ■

### **Steel primary forms — weekly data**

Week ending December 13, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 13 totalled 300 279 metric tonnes, down 1.4%

from 304 575 tonnes a week earlier but up 18.3% from 253 845 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of December 13 was 15 032 445 tonnes, down 1.5% from 15 260 497 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.**

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. ■



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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Production of Eggs**, November 2003  
**Catalogue number 23-003-XIB**  
(free).

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins**,  
November 2003, Vol. 46, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XIE** (\$6/\$51).

**Aircraft Movements Statistics**, November 2003,  
Vol. 2, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 51F0001PIE**  
(free).

**Industry Price Indexes**, November 2003, Vol. 29,  
no. 11  
**Catalogue number 62-011-XIE** (\$19/\$175).

**Industry Price Indexes**, November 2003, Vol. 29,  
no. 11  
**Catalogue number 62-011-XPE** (\$24/\$233).

**Building Permits**, November 2003, Vol. 47, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

**Quarterly Demographic Statistics**, Third  
quarter 2003, Vol. 17, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 91-002-XIB** (\$9/\$27).

**Quarterly Demographic Statistics**, Third  
quarter 2003, Vol. 17, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 91-002-XPB** (\$11/\$36).

**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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### How to order products

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**Order products by phone:**

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

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From other countries call:

**1-613-951-7277**

To fax your order:

**1-877-287-4369**

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
**1-800-700-1033**

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