



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 4, 2004

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, September 2004** 2
Construction intentions for both housing and non-residential sectors fell in September, pushing down the total value of building permits for the third consecutive month. Contractors took out \$4.4 billion in permits, down 3.3% from August.

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Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Canada

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

September 2004

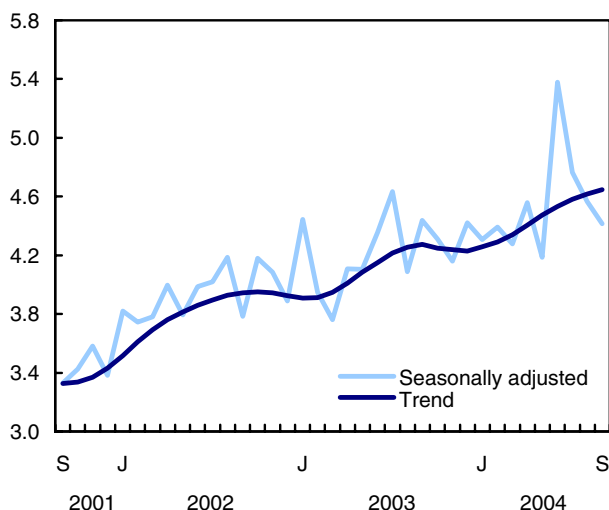
Construction intentions for both housing and non-residential sectors fell in September, pushing down the total value of building permits for the third consecutive month.

Contractors took out \$4.4 billion in building permits, down 3.3% from August. It was the first time since late 1997 that permits have fallen for three months in a row.

However, September's total was still 4.3% higher than the average monthly level in 2003.

Total value of permits declined for a third consecutive month

\$ billions



In the residential sector, intentions continued to cool in September, as housing permits were down 4.3% to \$3.0 billion, also the third straight decline. A decrease in single-family dwellings from a record high in August was only partly offset by a rebound in multi-family permits.

In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued permits worth \$1.5 billion, down 1.3% from August, led by a significant drop in institutional projects. This was the third consecutive monthly decline in non-residential permits, and the sixth so far this year.

On a year-to-date basis, permits totalled \$40.8 billion between January and September,

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 (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

up 7.8% from the same nine-month period last year. This was entirely the result of the overwhelming demand for new dwellings since January.

Builders took out \$27.2 billion in housing permits from January to September, up 16.3% from the same period in 2003. Permits in the non-residential sector fell 5.9% to \$13.6 billion.

Among the metropolitan areas, the largest advances in dollars on a year-to-date basis occurred in Vancouver and Montréal, as a result of the feverish demand for new dwellings. Oshawa recorded the largest decline, with significant decreases in both residential and non-residential components.

Residential sector: Halt to growth in single-family dwellings

A decline in construction intentions for single-family permits halted three straight months of growth.

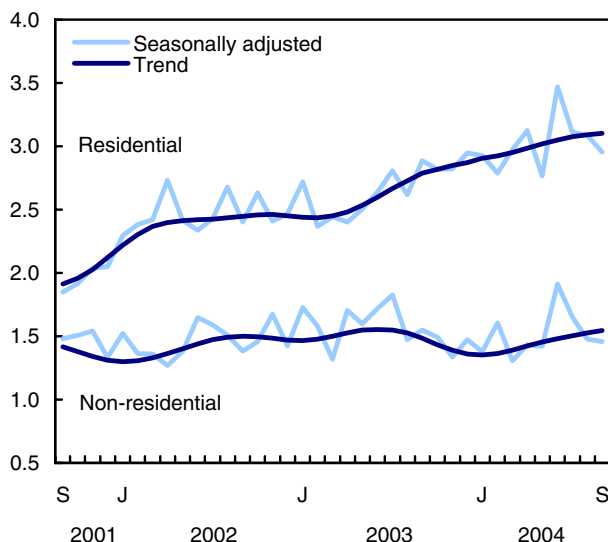
Contractors took out \$1.95 billion in permits for single-family dwellings in September, down 9.8% from August's record high of \$2.16 billion. In contrast, the value of multi-family permits rose 8.5% to \$1.0 billion.

Despite recent increases in mortgage rates and the sustained growth in housing prices, the demand for new homes remains strong. Mortgage rates are low from a historical standpoint, while consumer confidence is still high across the country. At the same time, full-time employment has risen significantly since the beginning of the year, and the number of immigrants has risen by nearly 40,000 persons over last year.

Housing permits fell 16.3% in Ontario, the biggest factor in the overall decline in the nation's residential sector. Ontario's decline occurred in permits for single-family dwellings. In contrast, the largest gain was recorded in British Columbia on the strength of intentions for multi-family dwellings.

Both residential and non-residential sectors fell

\$ billions



On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued \$18.2 billion in single-family permits between January and September, up 12.8% from the same nine months in 2003. Intentions for multi-family dwellings surged 24.0% to \$9.0 billion.

Since January, municipalities have approved 182,500 new dwelling units, the highest nine-month total since 1987 when 192,600 new units were authorized.

Gains on the cumulative value of residential permits were recorded in every province and territory, as well as in 23 out of the 28 census metropolitan areas.

Non-residential: Third consecutive monthly decline

A substantial gain in the value of permits for industrial buildings failed to offset a decline in the institutional component. Commercial intentions held relatively steady.

Institutional permits fell 22.3% to \$260 million, their lowest level since February 2000. This was largely the result of declines in the demand for education and medical buildings. Institutional intentions in Ontario plunged 32.2% to \$108 million, the largest drop among the provinces.

Permits in the commercial sector showed continuing strength, holding steady at \$892 million. Demand for commercial permits was particularly strong in Manitoba, where they rose 76.7% to \$39 million, as intentions for laboratories and office buildings increased.

In the industrial component, intentions rose 24.1% to \$308 million after two straight monthly decreases. In

Quebec, permits for industrial projects surged 58.9% to \$68 million, the biggest gain in dollar terms in the provinces, thanks to proposed projects in the plant category.

Continued strength in the commercial component parallels retail sales, which advanced for a third consecutive month in July. It was the sixth monthly sales gain this year, following a period of successive declines in the last four months of 2003.

In the industrial area, manufacturers remain optimistic about the outlook for higher production and employment during the final three months of 2004, according to the results of the Business Condition Survey released in *The Daily* on October 28. They were also satisfied with the current level of orders received.

Among the 28 metropolitan areas, non-residential permits fell in 17. Ottawa recorded the strongest decrease, mainly the result of a drop in the office building category. In contrast, the largest increase occurred in Kitchener, the result of a strong gain in the commercial component.

Provincially, the largest drop in September occurred in Ontario, where non-residential permits fell 6.2% to \$633 million, led by declines in the commercial and institutional areas. The biggest gain occurred in Manitoba, where non-residential permits rose 71.3% to \$62 million because of higher construction intentions in commercial and industrial projects.

Between January and September this year, the value of non-residential permits totalled \$13.6 billion, down 5.9% from the same period of 2003. The institutional sector experienced the greatest loss, falling 22.1% from the same period last year to \$3.7 billion.

Permits for industrial projects fell 14.6% to \$2.4 billion, while intentions in the commercial sector were up 8.7% to \$7.5 billion.

Among the provinces, on a year-to-date basis, the biggest loss in non-residential permits (in dollars) was in Ontario, where they fell 9.3% to \$6.1 billion. This was mainly the result of lower industrial and institutional intentions.

Strong growth in industrial and commercial projects propelled British Columbia to the highest gain, a 6.4% increase to \$1.6 billion.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The September 2004 issue of *Building Permits*, Vol. 48, no. 9 (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The October 2004 building permit estimate will be released on December 6.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (613-951-4646 or 1-800-579-8533;

bdp_information@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), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	August 2004 ^r	September 2004 ^p	August to September 2004	January to September 2003	January to September 2004	January-September 2003 to January-September 2004
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	37.7	34.5	-8.6	201.9	279.1	38.2
Halifax	45.8	40.5	-11.6	438.3	456.4	4.1
Saint John	10.9	8.0	-26.8	88.1	89.0	1.0
Saguenay	13.9	11.4	-17.7	110.4	94.5	-14.4
Québec	79.2	86.6	9.3	817.1	926.0	13.3
Sherbrooke	28.4	23.6	-16.9	174.0	181.9	4.5
Trois-Rivières	16.1	24.7	54.0	160.8	146.7	-8.7
Montréal	462.7	494.4	6.9	3,785.8	4,585.3	21.1
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	198.4	184.0	-7.3	1,695.8	1,728.4	1.9
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	49.4	39.9	-19.2	376.3	426.6	13.4
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	149.1	144.1	-3.3	1,319.5	1,301.9	-1.3
Kingston	16.7	17.8	6.4	167.8	170.6	1.7
Oshawa	30.2	46.7	54.4	890.2	573.7	-35.6
Toronto	1,084.8	873.1	-19.5	8,534.5	8,493.9	-0.5
Hamilton	126.7	79.9	-36.9	815.0	774.6	-4.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	39.2	31.0	-20.9	347.7	399.4	14.8
Kitchener	61.6	101.3	64.6	699.3	703.7	0.6
London	67.0	53.2	-20.5	570.2	618.3	8.4
Windsor	65.6	50.2	-23.5	463.8	417.7	-9.9
Greater Sudbury	16.9	15.6	-7.6	79.1	91.6	15.7
Thunder Bay	13.0	13.2	2.1	87.8	86.8	-1.2
Winnipeg	48.8	81.4	66.7	541.8	564.3	4.1
Regina	20.1	28.1	39.8	216.3	183.2	-15.3
Saskatoon	31.3	27.2	-13.3	191.7	195.3	1.9
Calgary	227.3	226.2	-0.5	2,145.7	2,148.4	0.1
Edmonton	153.8	148.8	-3.3	1,299.0	1,452.7	11.8
Abbotsford	17.6	18.6	5.6	128.8	142.4	10.6
Vancouver	335.0	392.6	17.2	2,709.3	3,750.7	38.4
Victoria	36.4	42.2	16.0	423.3	388.6	-8.2

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

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

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	August 2004 ^r	September 2004 ^p	August to September 2004	January to September 2003	January to September 2004	January-September 2003 to January-September 2004
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	4,566.2	4,414.2	-3.3	37,880.5	40,842.0	7.8
Residential	3,088.1	2,955.0	-4.3	23,384.4	27,200.2	16.3
Non-residential	1,478.1	1,459.2	-1.3	14,496.2	13,641.8	-5.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	48.2	43.8	-9.1	291.8	374.9	28.5
Residential	29.3	29.2	-0.4	203.9	272.5	33.7
Non-residential	18.9	14.6	-22.6	87.9	102.4	16.4
Prince Edward Island	15.5	14.6	-5.9	143.5	141.7	-1.2
Residential	8.1	13.5	66.4	70.4	92.2	31.0
Non-residential	7.4	1.1	-85.2	73.1	49.5	-32.3
Nova Scotia	105.0	80.5	-23.4	770.4	851.8	10.6
Residential	69.3	52.9	-23.6	494.7	566.5	14.5
Non-residential	35.8	27.5	-23.0	275.6	285.3	3.5
New Brunswick	65.5	83.8	27.9	521.9	588.9	12.8
Residential	44.2	38.3	-13.2	301.7	376.2	24.7
Non-residential	21.4	45.5	112.8	220.2	212.7	-3.4
Quebec	905.8	930.4	2.7	7,478.7	8,749.8	17.0
Residential	627.6	647.7	3.2	4,602.0	5,795.0	25.9
Non-residential	278.2	282.7	1.6	2,876.7	2,954.8	2.7
Ontario	2,092.4	1,819.4	-13.1	17,327.3	17,303.4	-0.1
Residential	1,417.6	1,186.6	-16.3	10,607.6	11,211.5	5.7
Non-residential	674.8	632.7	-6.2	6,719.8	6,091.8	-9.3
Manitoba	89.2	121.5	36.3	841.9	877.6	4.2
Residential	53.1	59.6	12.4	388.6	511.0	31.5
Non-residential	36.1	61.9	71.3	453.3	366.7	-19.1
Saskatchewan	68.3	84.5	23.7	596.9	577.9	-3.2
Residential	40.0	41.2	3.1	266.8	307.2	15.2
Non-residential	28.4	43.3	52.7	330.1	270.7	-18.0
Alberta	552.9	550.6	-0.4	4,985.6	5,146.2	3.2
Residential	387.5	401.2	3.6	3,112.4	3,485.8	12.0
Non-residential	165.5	149.4	-9.7	1,873.1	1,660.3	-11.4
British Columbia	608.0	651.8	7.2	4,741.8	6,066.6	27.9
Residential	403.2	471.1	16.8	3,277.9	4,509.3	37.6
Non-residential	204.8	180.7	-11.7	1,463.9	1,557.3	6.4
Yukon	4.6	3.2	-30.0	44.2	58.3	31.8
Residential	3.3	2.7	-17.5	22.2	26.5	19.7
Non-residential	1.3	0.5	-61.2	22.1	31.8	44.0
Northwest Territories	7.7	27.3	256.0	57.0	81.2	42.5
Residential	2.9	8.9	205.0	29.9	37.0	23.5
Non-residential	4.7	18.3	287.5	27.0	44.2	63.6
Nunavut	3.1	2.8	-8.4	79.4	23.8	-70.0
Residential	2.2	1.9	-12.2	6.3	9.6	52.0
Non-residential	0.9	0.9	0.4	73.1	14.2	-80.5

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

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

OTHER RELEASES

Charitable donors

2003

Canadians continued their tradition of generosity towards charities in 2003. Their donations of \$6.5 billion were the highest ever reported and an 11.4% increase from 2002.

The increase in donations was apparent in all provinces and territories with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador (-5.1%) and Yukon (-3.6%).

The number of donors increased by 1.2% in 2003 to just under 5.6 million. In spite of this, the proportion of taxfilers who claimed charitable donations continued to decline slightly. In 2003, just less than 25% of all Canadian taxfilers claimed charitable donations.

Among the provinces and territories, Manitoba once again had the highest proportion of taxfilers declaring donations (28%). Ontario and Saskatchewan each had 27%, while Prince Edward Island followed close behind with 26%.

The median donation has continued to increase over the past decade. In 2003, the median donation was \$220, up from \$210 in 2002. In other words, among those reporting charitable donations, half gave more than \$220 and half gave less.

The median charitable donation claimed by women rose to \$200 in 2003 from \$180 in 2002. Median donations reported by men increased from \$230 to \$240.

Among the provinces and territories, the \$410 median donation of donors in Nunavut was by far the highest. Nunavut has led the provinces and territories since 2000. In 2003, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador followed with median donations of \$330 and \$310, respectively,

unchanged from the previous year. Yukon had the largest change in median donation, increasing from \$200 to \$230 between 2002 and 2003.

Note: The databank on charitable donors provides information on taxfilers who claimed a tax credit for charitable donations on their income tax return for 2003. Only amounts given to charities and approved organizations for which official tax receipts were provided can be deducted. It is possible to carry donations forward for up to five years after the year in which they were made. Therefore, donations reported for the 2003 taxation year could include donations that were made in any of the five previous years. According to tax laws, taxfilers are permitted to claim both their donations and those made by their spouses to get better tax benefits. Consequently, the number of persons who made charitable donations may be higher than the number who claimed tax credits.

Available on CANSIM: tables 111-0001 to 111-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4106.

The databank *Charitable Donors* (13C0014, various prices) is now available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, federal electoral districts, forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code) and letter carrier routes.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. □

Charitable donations 2003

	Donors				Donations		
	Number	2002 to 2003	Amount	2002 to 2003	Median	Total taxfilers	
		% change	\$ thousands	% change	\$	% change	%
Canada	5,588,590	1.2	6,513,013	11.4	220	4.8	25
Newfoundland and Labrador	81,750	1.1	61,630	-5.1	310	0.0	21
Prince Edward Island	26,330	0.6	23,719	10.7	330	0.0	26
Nova Scotia	156,990	0.9	144,616	9.2	270	0.0	23
New Brunswick	127,370	0.0	129,486	11.7	270	3.9	23
Quebec	1,265,100	1.1	673,556	10.3	110	0.0	23
Ontario	2,285,820	1.2	3,284,841	12.4	270	3.9	27
Manitoba	232,320	0.9	303,775	13.8	270	3.9	28
Saskatchewan	187,310	-0.2	205,685	8.8	290	3.6	27
Alberta	552,050	1.9	810,556	12.0	260	4.0	25
British Columbia	663,860	1.9	865,280	9.3	270	3.9	23
Yukon	3,700	-4.4	3,496	-3.6	230	15.0	18
Northwest Territories	4,470	5.2	4,314	9.1	190	0.0	17
Nunavut	1,540	4.1	2,061	11.0	410	2.5	10

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

June 2004

The *June 2004 monthly report*, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL: (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

Note: The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villennm@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

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), Transportation Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products

Third quarter 2004

Data on shipments of solid fuel burning heating products are now available for the third quarter.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0063.

(This new CANSIM table begins with the January 2004 reference month).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.

Note: The publication *Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products* (25-002-XIB) has been discontinued.

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. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

July 2004

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for July 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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. ■

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

Third quarter 2004

Traveller accommodation services price indexes for the third quarter of 2004 are now available. These indexes,

which measure price movements of accommodation services, reflect changes in room rates, for overnight or short stays, with no meals or other services provided. All taxes are excluded. The indexes are available by province and by territory, for Canada, by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; 1-866-230-2248; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Anne Williamson (613-951-0708; anne.williamson@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Building Permits, September 2004, Vol. 48, no. 9
Catalogue number **64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

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

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Outgoing 1-204 (1 page) 11-001-XIE 001-001



Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the problems in taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, about 10 million Canadians took an average of about 10 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.

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