



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building Permits, March 2004** 2
Overall construction intentions fell in March as a plunge in the value of building permits for non-residential projects far offset a gain in housing projects. Builders took out \$4.2 billion in building permits, down 4.2% from February.

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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

Building Permits

March 2004

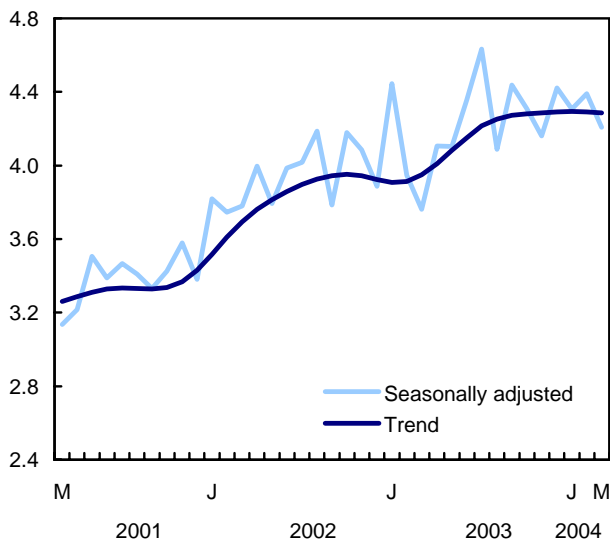
Overall construction intentions fell in March as a plunge in the value of building permits for non-residential projects far offset a gain in housing projects.

Builders took out \$4.2 billion in building permits in March, down 4.2% from February.

The value of residential permits totalled \$2.91 billion in March, up 4.5% from February and just below the record high of \$2.95 billion set in December 2003.

Total value of permits retreated in March

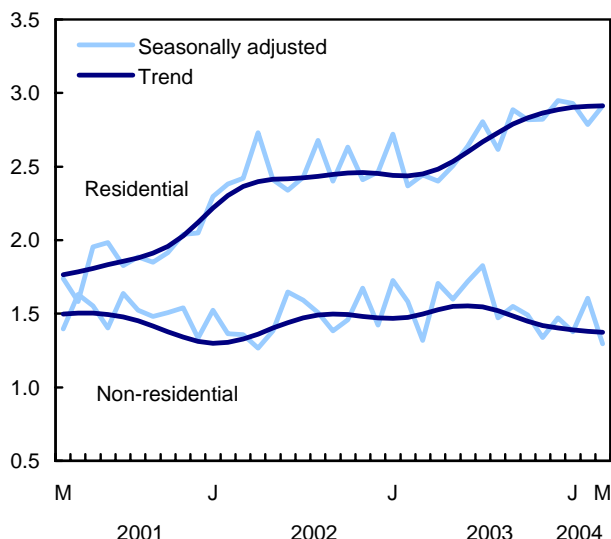
\$ billions



22-year record high. Sizeable gains were also recorded in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Significant decline in the non-residential sector

\$ billions



On a quarterly basis, the value of single-family permits totalled \$5.8 billion, up 9.0% from the first three months of 2003. Growth in the multi-family component was a tremendous 28.3% to reach \$2.8 billion.

Overall, municipalities authorized a total of 57,615 single- and multi-family units in the first quarter, 5,000 more than in the same three months of 2003.

In every province, the cumulative value of housing permits was higher in 2004 than last year. The largest growth (in dollars) occurred in British Columbia and Quebec.

Non-residential intentions tumble to 23-month low

Intentions in the non-residential sector hit a 23-month low in March, the result of sharp declines in the value of commercial and institutional building permits.

The single bright spot for the sector came in the industrial component where intentions surged 30.2% to \$330 million, their highest level since July 2003. This gain was driven nearly entirely by a major project in the manufacturing sector in Quebec.

After three strong months, commercial permits plunged 25.8% to \$653 million, the lowest level since December 2002. The biggest decline occurred in Ontario where commercial intentions fell 38.5%

to \$233 million, partly because of the drops in trade and service-building projects and warehouses.

Institutional permits fell 33.9% to \$311 million, also a 23-month low. Once again, Ontario recorded the greatest slide, because of a broad-based contraction that included educational and hospital projects.

The non-residential sector has faced a number of mixed economic indicators. While the second half of 2003 proved generally poor for retail sales, spending has rebounded in the first two months of 2004. In contrast, wholesale sales have been generally declining since February 2003, though the automotive sector was responsible for much of the weakness. The latest Business Conditions Survey showed that manufacturers were generally uncertain about their situation heading into the second quarter of 2004.

Provincially, the largest decrease (in dollars) occurred in Ontario where the value plunged 36.9% in March to \$489 million, the lowest point since February of 2000.

On a quarterly basis, municipalities have issued \$4.3 billion in non-residential permits, a 7.5% decline from the same period in 2003. However, this level was still marginally ahead of the value for the first quarter of 2002.

Declines were most pronounced in the institutional sector, where first-quarter values came in 14.6% lower at \$1.1 billion than in 2003. The industrial sector saw similar declines (in dollars), falling 18.8% to \$803 million.

Only the commercial sector exhibited gains over the first quarter of 2003, edging up 1.1% to \$2.4 billion.

First-quarter growth was strongest in Quebec, where permits rose 37.8% from the same quarter last year to \$1.1 billion, the result of gains in all three components. In contrast, all three components declined in Ontario.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The March 2004 issue of *Building Permits*, Vol. 48, no. 3 (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The April 2004 building permit estimate will be released on June 7, 2004.

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

	February 2004 ^r	March 2004 ^p	February to March 2004	January to March 2003	January to March 2004	January–March 2003 to January–March 2004
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change
Canada	4,391.5	4,206.8	-4.2	12,155.4	12,904.9	6.2
Residential	2,786.1	2,912.5	4.5	7,529.7	8,627.1	14.6
Non-residential	1,605.4	1,294.2	-19.4	4,625.7	4,277.8	-7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	39.6	41.1	3.9	78.6	120.4	53.1
Residential	34.0	28.2	-16.9	52.9	91.9	73.6
Non-residential	5.6	12.9	129.6	25.7	28.4	10.8
Prince Edward Island	11.4	12.9	12.7	28.5	38.4	34.6
Residential	10.4	10.9	4.4	21.8	30.3	39.0
Non-residential	1.0	2.0	98.3	6.7	8.1	20.4
Nova Scotia	67.8	78.5	15.7	213.8	224.5	5.0
Residential	44.4	60.9	37.2	141.8	148.8	5.0
Non-residential	23.4	17.6	-25.1	72.0	75.7	5.0
New Brunswick	42.1	66.1	57.2	134.0	168.6	25.9
Residential	34.3	50.4	46.8	95.2	139.2	46.2
Non-residential	7.7	15.7	103.2	38.7	29.4	-24.1
Quebec	1,016.9	957.6	-5.8	2,307.7	2,988.4	29.5
Residential	604.8	564.6	-6.6	1,515.8	1,897.5	25.2
Non-residential	412.1	393.0	-4.6	791.8	1,091.0	37.8
Ontario	1,899.5	1,670.1	-12.1	5,884.6	5,363.4	-8.9
Residential	1,125.0	1,181.1	5.0	3,376.5	3,449.3	2.2
Non-residential	774.5	489.0	-36.9	2,508.1	1,914.1	-23.7
Manitoba	86.1	90.7	5.3	220.6	248.2	12.5
Residential	48.4	57.6	18.9	119.7	154.5	29.1
Non-residential	37.7	33.1	-12.2	100.8	93.7	-7.1
Saskatchewan	48.5	57.3	18.2	176.3	153.4	-13.0
Residential	30.0	35.8	19.6	84.1	93.9	11.7
Non-residential	18.5	21.4	15.9	92.2	59.5	-35.5
Alberta	511.6	638.2	24.8	1,618.7	1,607.4	-0.7
Residential	350.0	467.0	33.4	1,056.4	1,140.7	8.0
Non-residential	161.6	171.3	6.0	562.3	466.7	-17.0
British Columbia	647.3	588.6	-9.1	1,477.0	1,960.4	32.7
Residential	501.2	451.6	-9.9	1,057.4	1,468.9	38.9
Non-residential	146.1	137.0	-6.3	419.6	491.6	17.1
Yukon	1.3	1.1	-15.3	9.5	4.8	-49.6
Residential	0.8	1.0	29.5	3.9	3.7	-4.8
Non-residential	0.5	0.1	-83.0	5.6	1.1	-80.7
Northwest Territories	9.9	2.9	-70.4	6.0	15.9	167.0
Residential	2.0	2.8	38.1	4.1	6.9	68.4
Non-residential	7.9	0.2	-97.9	1.9	9.1	379.9
Nunavut	9.4	1.7	-82.2	0.0	11.1	...
Residential	0.9	0.7	-25.9	0.0	1.6	...
Non-residential	8.5	1.0	-88.1	0.0	9.6	...

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Figures not applicable.

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

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	February 2004 ^r	March 2004 ^p	February to March 2004	January to March 2003	January to March 2004	January–March 2003 to January–March 2004
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	25.5	32.6	27.8	54.2	88.3	62.9
Halifax	31.0	45.6	46.9	125.0	110.8	-11.3
Saint John	7.5	7.2	-4.0	22.2	23.4	5.6
Saguenay	5.7	4.6	-18.1	21.5	14.7	-31.5
Québec	131.6	97.3	-26.1	259.3	316.4	22.0
Sherbrooke	14.1	28.3	101.3	47.2	57.3	21.4
Trois-Rivières	8.8	14.9	69.6	31.4	32.1	2.0
Montréal	568.3	423.4	-25.5	1,161.3	1,587.1	36.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	254.9	165.8	-34.9	491.1	538.1	9.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	33.2	49.3	48.6	100.3	119.2	18.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	221.7	116.5	-47.4	390.8	418.9	7.2
Kingston	10.7	13.8	29.3	43.9	38.0	-13.4
Oshawa	60.5	99.0	63.8	268.7	199.3	-25.9
Toronto	796.8	825.2	3.6	2,933.0	2,660.9	-9.3
Hamilton	82.4	68.8	-16.5	344.0	203.4	-40.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	43.3	45.7	5.4	127.1	138.8	9.2
Kitchener	125.3	54.1	-56.8	248.6	253.3	1.9
London	84.4	52.6	-37.7	170.4	227.3	33.4
Windsor	53.9	29.4	-45.4	161.9	120.8	-25.4
Greater Sudbury	3.3	4.9	49.6	18.6	9.5	-48.7
Thunder Bay	8.0	6.8	-14.6	27.9	19.3	-30.6
Winnipeg	50.8	54.0	6.4	151.2	153.4	1.5
Regina	14.0	20.5	46.2	50.4	55.5	10.2
Saskatoon	15.9	16.6	4.8	71.5	47.7	-33.3
Calgary	242.1	288.6	19.2	742.0	686.5	-7.5
Edmonton	115.5	158.5	37.2	412.3	434.7	5.4
Abbotsford	15.5	20.9	34.8	52.2	45.5	-12.8
Vancouver	355.8	340.4	-4.3	837.1	1,182.4	41.2
Victoria	52.8	36.2	-31.5	123.9	123.0	-0.7

^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.

■

OTHER RELEASES

Cancer survival statistics

Five-year observed and relative survival estimates for an expanded list of cancer sites are now available for cancer cases diagnosed in Canada (excluding Quebec) from 1992 to 1994 (mortality follow-up until 1999).

The CANSIM tables provide the most current annual and grouped (three years of data) cancer survival statistics and are supplemented by background methodology, general interpretation and complementary information. These tables can be accessed in the "Cancer survival statistics" section of the online publication *Cancer Statistics* (84-601-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Health*.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Larry Ellison (613-951-5244; larry.ellison@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model

The *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model* (SPSD/M), Version 10.0, based on 1998 microdata, is now available. The most recent SPSPD/M can be used to study the impacts of changes to federal and provincial tax and benefit programs on families and governments from 1988 through 2009. This marks the first time that the SPSPD/M has been based on data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics following the discontinuation of the Survey of Consumers Finances.

The SPSPD/M is a static microsimulation model. It comprises a database, a series of tax/transfer algorithms and models, analytical software and user documentation. The SPSPD/M has been produced as an occasional product since 1985. It has been widely used by policy analysts in Canada who study virtually every change to the tax and transfer system since that time.

The SPSPD/M is a tool designed to analyse the financial interactions of governments and individuals/families in Canada. It allows estimation of the income redistributive effects or cost implications of changes in the personal taxation and cash transfer system. The SPSPD/M assists researchers examining the potential impacts of changes in taxes, earnings, demographic trends, and a wide range of other factors.

The SPSPD/M allows us to answer 'what-if' types of questions, such as: What if there were changes to the

taxes Canadians paid or transfers they received? Who would gain from these changes and who would lose? Would single-parent households in a particular province be better off? By how much? How much extra money would federal or provincial governments collect or pay out?

The CD-ROM *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model* (SPSD/M), Version 10. (89F0002XCB, \$5,000/\$12,500) is available. To order a copy, contact Dominique Paré-Champoux (613-951-1782), Socio-Economic Analysis and Modeling Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Brian Murphy (613-951-3769; spsdm@statcan.ca), Socio-Economic Analysis and Modeling Division. ■

Aircraft Movement Statistics

March 2004 (preliminary)

In March, the 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air-traffic control towers reported 360,563 take-offs and landings, a decrease of 1.5% compared with March 2003 (365,905 movements). This decline follows a one month increase in year-over-year comparisons of monthly movements. Twenty-five airports showed year-over-year decreases in aircraft movements for March 2004 compared with March 2003. Eight airports showed decreases greater than 20% this month compared with two airports in February.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) increased by 2.5% (up 6,024 movements) in March 2004 compared with March 2003. This represents the second consecutive month of year-over-year percentage increase. Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) declined by 9.3% (-11,366 movements) in March 2004 following an increase in February.

The top 10 airports in terms of volumes of itinerant movements in March showed year-over-year increases ranging from 33.1% (2,161 movements) at Victoria Intl to 0.2% (13 movements) at Québec/Jean Lesage Intl.

The top 10 airports in terms of local movements showed year-over-year variations ranging from 53.8% (1,788 movements) at Chicoutimi/St-Honoré to -19.5% (-1,598 movements) at Montréal/St-Hubert. Eight of the top 10 airports recorded increases in local movements compared with nine airports in February 2004.

The March 2004 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 3 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free)

is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

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

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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Aircraft Movements Statistics, March 2004, Vol. 3, no. 3
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model (SPSD/M)
Catalogue number 89F0002XCB (\$5,000/\$12,500).

Building Permits, March 2004, Vol. 48, no. 3
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE (\$15/\$156).

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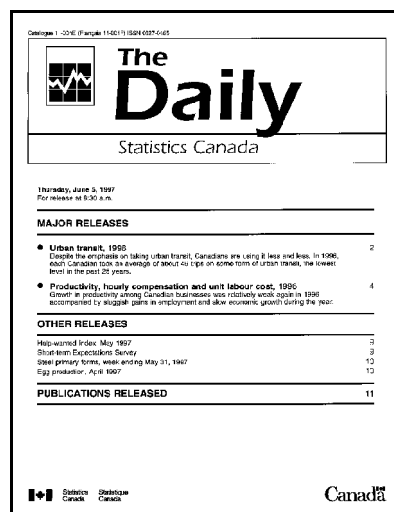
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