

# Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## Releases



### Releases

## **Building permits**

October 2005

The value of building permits increased in October, fuelled by an on-going gain in the residential sector and strong non-residential construction intentions. Municipalities issued \$5.2 billion in building permits, up 1.2% from September. October's level was 3.5% lower than the record high reached last August.

The value of housing permits continued to progress in October as contractors took out \$3.4 billion worth of housing permits, up 2.4% from September and the sixth monthly gain in the housing sector in seven months. Gains in both single- and multi-family components pushed the value of residential permits to its highest value since June 2004.

The value of permits in the non-residential sector edged down 0.9% in October to \$1.9 billion, marked by the decline in the commercial sector which more than offset the gains posted for industrial and institutional permits. Despite the decline, the sector maintained its strength. The value of non-residential permits in October was 20.2% higher than the average monthly level in 2004.

### Total value of permits increase slightly

\$ billions

5.8 5.4 5.0 4.6 4.2 3.8 Seasonally adjusted 3.4 Trend 0 0 J 2002 2005 2003 2004

#### 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 2,380 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.

The total value of building permits reached \$50.5 billion between January and October, up 10.9% from the same period last year.

The growth in the cumulative value of permits was mainly in the non-residential sector, as permits have been on an upward trend since the beginning of 2004. The cumulative value of non-residential permits from January to October totalled \$18.7 billion, up 23.9% from the same period last year. With still two months to compute, this level was just 0.3% under the annual total of 2004.

In the residential sector, the cumulative value of housing permits totalled \$31.8 billion, up 4.5% from January to October 2004. However, this increase was due to higher prices for new dwellings since the number of new units approved between January and October declined 2.9% compared with the first 10 months of 2004.

Regionally, the largest cumulative gains were in Western Canada, where all census metropolitan areas in Alberta and British Columbia posted marked gains from the previous year. While the residential sector was still growing in these areas, it is the booming non-residential sector which mainly explained the strong growth of the cumulative numbers.

### Both single- and multi-family permits increase

Building permits for single-family dwellings rose for a fourth consecutive month, up 3.0% in October to \$2.2 billion. The value of permits for multi-family dwellings reached \$1.2 billion, a 1.4% gain from September.

Provincially, the largest advance in October in the value of housing permits occurred in Ontario, the result of a surge in construction intentions for single-family dwellings. Alberta and British Columbia also posted sizeable gains in residential permits. The value of single-family permits reached new highs in both provinces.

The demand for new dwellings remained positively affected by the growth in employment and by the still advantageous mortgage rates. Building materials and labour cost increases contributed to the higher prices of new dwelling since the beginning of the year. This induced a shift in the demand from single-family dwellings toward the more affordable multi-family units.

The value of multi-family dwellings reached \$11.0 billion, up 11.6% compared with the first 10 months 2004. This gain came from the combined effect of a greater number of multi-family units approved (+1.4%) and an increase in the average price of new multi-family units.

The value of single-family permits issued since the beginning of 2005 totalled \$20.7 billion, a slight 1.1% increase compared with the same period in 2004. This gain is solely the result of higher prices for new single-family units as the number of these units authorized declined 6.6%.

Alberta (+21.9%) and British Columbia (+16.7%) were way ahead of the other provinces in terms of growth for the cumulative value of housing permits. By contrast, the largest decline (in dollars) was in Ontario.

# The value of residential permits continues to increase

\$ billions 4.0 Seasonally adjusted 3.5 Trend 3.0 Residential 2.5 2.0 1.5 Non-residential 1.0 0 J 0 2002 2003 2004 2005

## Commercial permits decline while industrial and institutional permits increase

Permits for the non-residential sector remained almost unchanged in October at \$1.9 billion. Builders

took out fewer commercial permits, while institutional and industrial permits showed strength.

Institutional permits increased 29.4% to \$541 million. Most of the gain in the intentions came from social service buildings and medical and hospital projects.

The greatest increase (in dollars terms) for institutional intentions was in Alberta, where the value of permits climbed from \$53 million to \$141 million because of two major hospital projects.

The value of industrial permits increased 9.2% to \$378 million, the result of higher construction intentions in the utility building category. The most significant increase in this component occurred in Quebec, which jumped 61.7% to \$108 million.

Only the commercial component declined in October, falling 15.2% to \$958 million, the result of declines in the office building and warehouse categories. After recording two strong increases in a row, Ontario recorded the largest drop, falling 28.0% to \$379 million.

Provincially, the largest drop in October occurred in Ontario for the second month in a row. Non-residential permits fell 8.4% to \$743 million, led by a strong decline in the commercial component after two monthly increases. The biggest gain occurred in Alberta, where non-residential permits rose 34.3% to \$430 million due to higher construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings.

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 19 recorded monthly decreases in the value of non-residential permits. The largest gain occurred in Edmonton, and the largest decrease was in Ottawa.

Municipalities have issued \$18.7 billion worth of non-residential permits since the beginning of the year, up 23.9% from the same period in 2004. All three components were up from previous year.

Year-to-date value in the commercial sector rose 21.6% to \$10.1 billion, mainly due to higher construction intentions in the office building and hotel and restaurant categories. The value of permits for industrial buildings was up 24.2% while institutional construction intentions increased 28.6%.

Several economic indicators have pointed to good health in the non-residential sector recently. Corporations earned record high operating profits in the third quarter of 2005. Profits have risen for 4 consecutive quarters, and for 13 of the past 15 quarters.

In September, lower demand for motor vehicles drove down total retail sales while on the other hand, non-auto retailers recorded the largest monthly sales gain in eight months. Also, office vacancy rates fell in almost all major markets during the last few months.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The October issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) will be available soon.

The November building permit estimate will be released on January 10, 2006.

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 area<sup>1</sup>

	September	October	September	January	January	January-October
	2005 <sup>r</sup>	2005 <sup>p</sup>	to	to	to	2004
			October	October	October	to
			2005	2004	2005	January-October
						2005
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	35.7	27.4	-23.2	320.0	308.0	-3.8
Halifax	49.2	63.8	29.7	508.9	495.9	-2.6
Saint John	18.1	8.8	-51.5	99.6	127.0	27.5
Saguenay	17.3	16.3	-6.1	113.8	143.6	26.1
Québec	102.5	104.7	2.2	991.8	1,014.3	2.3
Sherbrooke	17.6	19.5	10.6	215.2	205.7	-4.4
Trois-Rivières	21.1	23.7	12.2	165.6	162.6	-1.9
Montréal	601.9	544.4	-9.6	5,116.3	5,148.9	0.6
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	219.5	156.2	-28.8	1,912.0	1,933.9	1.1
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	39.5	38.3	-3.1	462.1	349.4	-24.4
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	180.0	117.9	-34.5	1,449.9	1,584.5	9.3
Kingston	11.3	13.5	19.4	194.4	161.6	-16.9
Oshawa	92.5	83.0	-10.3	653.2	792.1	21.3
Toronto	879.2	898.3	2.2	9,545.9	8,961.5	-6.1
Hamilton	144.1	107.9	-25.1	839.9	940.5	12.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	30.0	34.8	16.2	435.6	445.5	2.3
Kitchener	53.2	40.9	-23.0	760.6	755.0	-0.7
London	77.2	58.5	-24.2	693.3	699.1	0.8
Windsor	36.5	102.1	180.1	487.1	451.6	-7.3
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	15.2	8.7	-42.9	112.3	144.7	28.8
Thunder Bay	10.1	9.1	-9.9	102.1	110.9	8.7
Winnipeg	58.0	40.4	-30.4	615.4	560.5	-8.9
Regina	4.6	20.8	353.3	202.3	196.8	-2.8
Saskatoon	25.5	35.3	38.3	231.6	304.4	31.4
Calgary	282.4	289.6	2.6	2,345.5	3,111.7	32.7
Edmonton	223.4	343.8	53.9	1,642.9	2,414.6	47.0
Abbotsford	18.8	31.0	64.9	163.6	265.7	62.4
Vancouver	578.1	526.3	-8.9	3,989.7	4,695.1	17.7
Victoria	72.1	96.6	33.9	429.1	613.4	42.9

r Revised.

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

Preliminary.

<sup>1.</sup> Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

## Value of building permits, by province and territory

Septe	ember	October	September	January	January	January-October
	2005 <sup>r</sup>	2005 <sup>p</sup>	to	to	to	2004
			October	October	October	to
			2005	2004	2005	January-October
						2005
	accountly adjusted					

\$ millions 5,174.7	_	% change	\$ million	าร	0/ ahansa
5.174.7			\$ millions		% change
	5,237.9	1.2	45,486.4	50,461.4	10.9
3,281.2	3,360.7	2.4	30,413.6	31,779.7	4.5
1,893.6	1,877.1	-0.9	15,072.8	18,681.6	23.9
49.3	39.8	-19.4	420.8	440.5	4.7
34.8	28.8	-17.3	296.9	285.4	-3.9
14.6	11.0	-24.3	123.9	155.1	25.1
20.0	15.2	-23.9	183.3	211.0	15.1
10.3	8.9	-13.7	112.8	106.5	-5.6
9.7	6.3	-34.7	70.5	104.4	48.2
120.0	121.7	1.4	939.1	995.9	6.1
68.4	61.2	-10.5	635.5	642.1	1.0
51.5	60.5	17.4	303.6	353.8	16.5
96.9	80.9	-16.6	692.2	726.4	4.9
47.2	39.2	-16.9	409.6	411.1	0.4
49.7	41.7	-16.2	282.6	315.3	11.5
1,068.8	1,019.4	-4.6	9,658.0	9,798.5	1.5
779.8	730.3	-6.3	6,541.2	6,871.3	5.0
					-6.1
					1.7
					-4.7
					13.4
					-3.6
					-3.0 -2.7
					-2.7 -4.9
					11.6
					-6.9
					32.0
					40.8
					21.9
					80.4
					30.2
					16.7
					71.8
					-34.7
					-7.1
					-59.6
3.5	2.6	-24.3	94.0	66.8	-29.0
	1.7	-26.0	42.8	27.6	-35.4
1.2	1.0	-21.1	51.3	39.2	-23.6
20.8	1.5	-93.0	27.5	30.7	11.9
1.8	1.0	40.7			40.5
	1.0	-42.7	16.3	9.7	-40.5
	289.0 1,927.5 1,116.4 811.1 96.8 66.8 30.0 75.7 27.1 48.6 780.8 461.0 319.8 906.3 659.4 246.9 8.4 5.9 2.5 3.5 2.3 1.2 20.8	289.0 289.0 1,927.5 1,926.2 1,116.4 1,183.4 811.1 742.8 96.8 79.4 66.8 52.6 30.0 26.8 75.7 70.7 27.1 31.1 48.6 39.6 780.8 945.3 461.0 515.7 319.8 429.6 906.3 932.9 659.4 705.3 246.9 227.6 8.4 2.4 5.9 1.5 2.5 0.9 3.5 2.6 2.3 1.7 1.2 1.0 20.8 1.5	289.0         289.0         0.0           1,927.5         1,926.2         -0.1           1,116.4         1,183.4         6.0           811.1         742.8         -8.4           96.8         79.4         -18.0           66.8         52.6         -21.3           30.0         26.8         -10.5           75.7         70.7         -6.6           27.1         31.1         15.0           48.6         39.6         -18.6           780.8         945.3         21.1           461.0         515.7         11.9           319.8         429.6         34.3           906.3         932.9         2.9           659.4         705.3         7.0           246.9         227.6         -7.8           8.4         2.4         -71.3           5.9         1.5         -74.2           2.5         0.9         -64.3           3.5         2.6         -24.3           2.3         1.7         -26.0           1.2         1.0         -21.1           20.8         1.5         -93.0	289.0         289.0         0.0         3,116.8           1,927.5         1,926.2         -0.1         19,404.4           1,116.4         1,183.4         6.0         12,530.8           811.1         742.8         -8.4         6,873.6           96.8         79.4         -18.0         959.3           66.8         52.6         -21.3         561.7           30.0         26.8         -10.5         397.6           75.7         70.7         -6.6         645.1           27.1         31.1         15.0         337.9           48.6         39.6         -18.6         307.2           780.8         945.3         21.1         5,893.1           461.0         515.7         11.9         3,989.4           319.8         429.6         34.3         1,903.7           906.3         932.9         2.9         6,499.3           659.4         705.3         7.0         4,905.5           246.9         227.6         -7.8         1,593.9           8.4         2.4         -71.3         70.3           5.9         1.5         -74.2         33.3           2.5         0.9	289.0         289.0         0.0         3,116.8         2,927.2           1,927.5         1,926.2         -0.1         19,404.4         19,738.9           1,116.4         1,183.4         6.0         12,530.8         11,945.3           811.1         742.8         -8.4         6,873.6         7,793.7           96.8         79.4         -18.0         959.3         924.7           66.8         52.6         -21.3         561.7         546.5           30.0         26.8         -10.5         397.6         378.2           75.7         70.7         -6.6         645.1         720.1           27.1         31.1         15.0         337.9         314.7           48.6         39.6         -18.6         307.2         405.4           780.8         945.3         21.1         5,893.1         8,297.8           461.0         515.7         11.9         3,989.4         4,862.9           319.8         429.6         34.3         1,903.7         3,434.8           906.3         932.9         2.9         6,499.3         8,464.1           659.4         705.3         7.0         4,905.5         5,725.5

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

5

# Study: Political activity among young adults

2003

Young adults do not vote as often as people in older age groups, but they help make up for it by engaging in other politically-related activities, according to a new report published today in *Canadian Social Trends*.

The report "Willing to participate: Political engagement of young adults", available free online, used data from the General Social Survey to examine the extent of political activity among young adults aged 22 to 29. It measured their traditional political participation, that is, voting, as well as alternative activities, such as participating in demonstrations or attending public meetings.

The survey found that only 59% of individuals in their 20s had voted in at least one election immediately prior to the survey, which was conducted in 2003. (Nationally, 77% of the voting-age population overall had cast a ballot.)

In contrast, 71% of individuals aged 30 to 44 interviewed in the survey had voted, as did 85% or more of those aged 45 and over. All age groups were less likely to vote in local than in federal and provincial elections.

The report notes that researchers have suggested various reasons that young adults are not as likely to go to the polls. Among them are questions of motivation, marginalization from mainstream politics and a lack of relevance.

However, young adults are just as likely as older age groups to engage in alternative activities.

In the year prior to the survey, about 58% of those aged 22 to 29 engaged in at least one non-voting political activity, virtually the same proportion as that among people aged 30 to 64.

Nearly one-third of 22 to 29 year-olds had signed a petition; about one-quarter had either boycotted or chosen a product for ethical reasons, while over one-sixth had attended a public meeting. A small proportion (3%) had worked as a volunteer for a political party.

The higher their level of education, the more likely these young people were to participate in such non-voting activity, and the more likely they were to vote as well.

On a regional basis, the proportion of young people who turned out to vote was highest in Quebec. Nearly three-quarters of people aged 22 to 29 in Quebec had cast a ballot in the last election prior to the survey, compared with 56% in the Prairies and 53% in Ontario.

In addition, Canadian-born young people were more politically engaged than their immigrant counterparts.

Two-thirds of Canadian-born adults aged 22 to 29 had voted in an election, compared with less than one-third of foreign-born youth. Canadian-born youth were also more likely to engage in alternative political activity.

This new issue of *Canadian Social Trends* also contains four other articles.

"Aiming high: Educational aspirations of visible minority immigrant youth" explores the educational goals of 15-year-old visible minority students.

"The housing transitions of seniors" examines seniors who downsize and upsize, and who move for lifestyle reasons.

"Getting to work" examines commuting patterns between 1996 and 2001 as they relate to job growth in the suburbs. (This article is adapted from "Work and commuting in census metropolitan areas, 1996 to 2001," the seventh research paper in the Statistics Canada series *Trends and Conditions in Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas.*)

"Ethno-cultural diversity in Canada: Prospects for 2017" uses recent population projections to draw a statistical portrait of the nation's ethno-cultural composition when Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (This article is adapted from "Population projections of visible minority groups, Canada, provinces and regions: 2001 to 2017," which was published in March 2005.)

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5024.

The winter 2005 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 79 (11-008-XIE, \$9/\$29; 11-008-XPE, \$12/\$39) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services and Dissemination (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.

# Pipeline Transportation of Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products

August 2005

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 August.

#### 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.

# Annual Survey of Manufactures: Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers 2003

Data on products shipped by manufacturers are now available for Canada for 2003.

# Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.

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.

# Population of businesses with employees Third quarter 2005

Just over 1,050,500 Canadian businesses had employees in the third quarter of 2005, up 2.6% from 1,024,200 for the same period last year, according to the count of payroll deduction accounts.

Compared to the second quarter counts of 2004, increases in Alberta (+4.6%), British Columbia (+4.4%) and Ontario (+2.8%) contributed the most to the overall rise in the total number of businesses with employees.

The number of employer businesses rose 0.4% from the second quarter to the third quarter of 2005. Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta accounted for the bulk of the increase.

Information on Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will be available individually when sufficient quarterly observations are collected. Currently, counts for Northwest Territories include those for Nunavut.

#### Available on CANSIM: table 178-0001.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1105.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021; fax: 613-951-0104; beau.cinnamon@statcan.ca), Business Register Division.

# For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Third quarter 2005

The top 91 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canadian-based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenue of \$2.28 billion and expenses of \$2.13 billion in the third quarter. Average per-carrier revenue increased 7.2% from the third quarter of 2004 to \$25.1 million. Average per-carrier expenses increased 6.8% to \$23.4 million.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) improved to 0.93, compared with 0.94 in the third quarter of 2004. A ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

Third quarter 2005 data on the top for-hire carriers, taken from the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, provide results from 66 general freight carriers and 25 specialized freight carriers.

Note: Readers should note that, with few exceptions, additions and deletions to the top carriers are done only for the first quarter of each calendar year, while the composition of a top carrier may change at any time due to acquisitions or divestitures. Year-over-year variations in revenue and expenses may arise from changes to the mix of companies included in the top carriers and/or changes in the financial results reported by individual carriers. The revenue and expenses attributed to top carriers may also include that of some companies with less than \$25 million in annual revenue, particularly when these companies exist in complex corporate structures where their individual activities may be difficult to accurately measure.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774; ron.chetien@statcan.ca) or Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; denis.pilon@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

## **New products**

Canadian Social Trends, Winter 2005, no. 79 Catalogue number 11-008-XIE (\$9/\$29).

Canadian Social Trends, Winter 2005, no. 79 Catalogue number 11-008-XPE (\$12/\$39).

Federal Scientific Activities, 2004/05 Catalogue number 88-204-XIE (free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -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.

### How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

The title
 The catalogue number
 The volume number
 The issue number
 Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:

From other countries, call:

To fax your order, call:

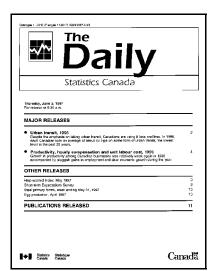
For address changes or account inquiries, call:

1-800-267-6677
1-613-951-7277
1-877-287-4369
1-800-700-1033

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet, write to:** *infostats@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose For sale.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



### 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.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <a href="http://www.statcan.ca">http://www.statcan.ca</a>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to <a href="https://isratcan.ca">listproc@statcan.ca</a>. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.