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A growing proportion of Canadians are satisfied with their personal safety from crime, according to new data on victimization. Overall, the vast majority (94%) were satisfied that they were personally safe from becoming a victim. This proportion was up from 86% in 1993 and 91% in 1999.

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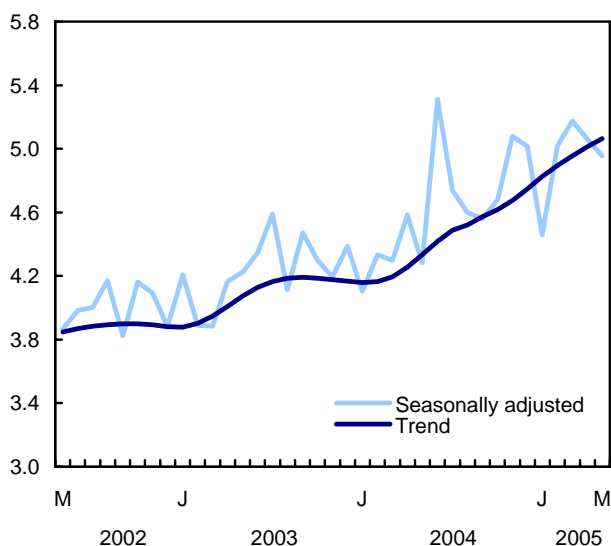
Building permits

May 2005

The overall value of building permits fell for the second straight month in May, as industrial and commercial intentions declined and the value of housing permits remained virtually unchanged. Municipalities issued permits worth \$5.0 billion, down 2.1% from April.

Total value of permits declines

\$ billions



The decline comes in the wake of a 2.2% decrease in April. Still, May's overall level was 7.0% higher than the average monthly level in 2004, a record year.

The value of housing permits slipped just 0.4% to \$3.1 billion, as a slight increase in the single-family component was more than offset by a decline in the value of multi-family permits.

Contractors took out \$1.8 billion in non-residential permits, down 5.0% from April and the second monthly decline in a row since the record high of \$2.2 billion set in March.

Retreats in the value of industrial and commercial permits more than offset a gain in institutional permits. Non-residential construction intentions remain high despite recent declines, and the sector has been on an upward trend since the beginning of 2004.

Builders took out \$24.7 billion worth of building permits between January and May, up 14.2% from the

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.

same period last year. Permits in the non-residential sector surged 29.1%, while the residential sector showed a more moderate 7.0% increase.

Among metropolitan areas, the largest advance in dollars on a year-to-date basis occurred in Calgary, driven by gains in every component of both residential and non-residential sectors. Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton also showed marked advances from last year.

Multi-family permits remain above one billion dollars

Results in the residential sector have remained strong for months, and data for May were no exception.

The value of multi-family permits declined 2.4% to just over \$1.0 billion. But it was the fourth month since the beginning of the year in which construction intentions for the multi-family component surpassed \$1 billion dollars.

The value of single-family permits edged up 0.6% to \$2.1 billion.

Advantageous mortgage rates, growth in full-time employment and strong consumer confidence continued to have positive impacts on the housing sector.

The strong housing market had spill-over effects on other sectors of the economy. Retailers in the building and outdoor home supplies sector and in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector showed record sales in April. Employment in construction also increased significantly in comparison with last year.

Provincially, the largest gains in dollars in May occurred in Ontario and Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan, the value of housing permits reached its highest value since December 1986. In contrast, Alberta and British Columbia showed the largest retreats. However, in Alberta, the value remained high as the decline was from a record high reached in April.

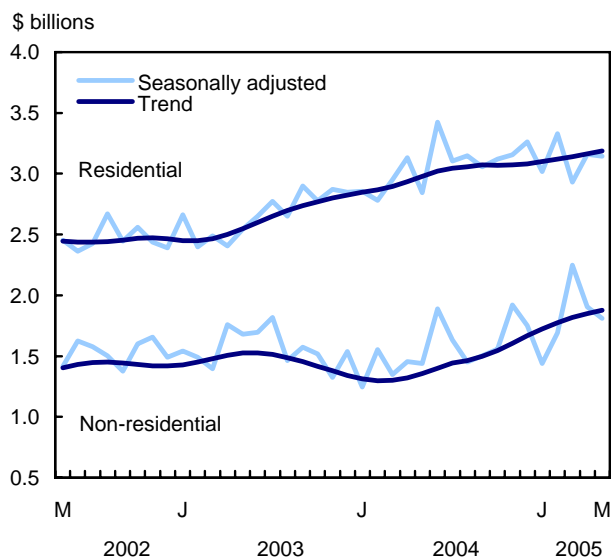
The value of permits for single-family dwellings between January and May rose 3.9% to \$10.3 billion, while the value of multi-family permits went up 13.6% to \$5.3 billion.

Since the beginning of the year, municipal authorities have approved 96,211 new dwellings units, a slight 2.0% decline from the same period in 2004.

The two westernmost provinces showed the largest advances in the cumulative value of housing permits. The value of housing permits rose 25.0% in Alberta and 15.8% in British Columbia, compared with the first five months of 2004.

In Alberta, the strong demand for new single-family dwellings primarily drove the gain, while in British Columbia it was the demand for new apartments/condominiums. The value of permits for new apartments/condominiums and row houses in Toronto also contributed to the growth in the cumulative value of construction intentions in Ontario.

Both residential and non-residential sectors retreat



Non-residential sector: Declines in industrial and commercial permits

Builders took out fewer industrial and commercial permits in May, while the value of institutional permits increased.

After three monthly increases, industrial permits fell 14.6% to \$338 million. This was largely the result of a decline in demand for utility buildings in Alberta. Industrial permits in Alberta plunged 59.0% to \$59 million, the largest drop among the provinces.

Permits in the commercial component fell 12.4% to \$908 million, the second consecutive monthly decline and the lowest level since November 2004. All commercial categories showed declines except recreational buildings and warehouses. Ontario recorded the largest decline, the result of strong decreases in the office building and trade and services categories.

Institutional intentions rebounded 19.3% to \$564 million following a large decrease in April. Projects in the educational building category led British Columbia to the greatest increase (in dollar terms) among the provinces. The value of institutional projects in British Columbia nearly tripled to \$109 million.

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 17 recorded monthly decreases in the value of non-residential permits. Ottawa, Hamilton and Calgary recorded the largest declines, mainly the result of lower construction intentions in the commercial and institutional components.

Among the provinces, Alberta showed the greatest loss in non-residential permits in May, down 25.7% to \$282 million. Increased demand for institutional permits failed to offset declines in the commercial and industrial sectors. The strongest increases occurred in Quebec and Saskatchewan.

For the first five months of 2005, the commercial sector experienced the greatest gain, increasing 34.2% from the same period last year to \$5.1 billion. Permits for institutional projects rose 23.1% to \$2.5 billion, while intentions in the industrial sector were up 23.0% to \$1.5 billion.

Despite May's decline, the value of projects approved in 2005 remains relatively high in the commercial sector. This is consistent with the upward trend in retail sales since the fall of 2001 and a declining office vacancy rate nationally.

In addition, despite concerns about rising finished product inventories and lower order levels, manufacturers anticipated maintaining the same level of production in the coming three months, according to the latest Business Conditions Survey.

Also on the industrial side, capacity use among industries fell for the first time in a year during the first quarter of 2005, even though the rate hit a record high in the manufacturing sector.

On a year-to-date basis, Alberta recorded the biggest growth in non-residential permits (in dollars). Their value rose 83.9% to \$1.7 billion, a record high for the January-to-May period. In 2004, this cumulative level was only reached in October.

Among provinces, only Quebec and Nova Scotia failed to surpass year-to-date values from 2004.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The May 2005 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) will be available soon.

The June 2005 building permit estimate will be released on August 8.

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

	April 2005 ^r	May 2005 ^p	April to May 2005	January to May 2004	January to May 2005	January-May 2004 to January-May 2005
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	30.4	21.9	-28.1	146.3	156.8	7.2
Halifax	68.7	54.0	-21.4	258.3	226.2	-12.4
Saint John	14.4	16.7	16.0	42.7	61.4	43.6
Saguenay	25.6	12.8	-50.2	48.9	66.0	35.0
Québec	92.8	107.6	16.0	557.1	480.1	-13.8
Sherbrooke	26.4	18.6	-29.3	95.8	96.6	0.8
Trois-Rivières	14.2	16.5	16.8	64.2	64.1	-0.1
Montréal	451.6	492.7	9.1	2,516.7	2,376.3	-5.6
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	193.7	148.5	-23.3	875.4	882.7	0.8
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	30.3	37.9	25.2	192.5	155.0	-19.5
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	163.4	110.6	-32.3	683.0	727.7	6.6
Kingston	28.1	17.5	-37.7	88.1	75.0	-14.8
Oshawa	85.4	80.3	-5.9	362.2	385.1	6.3
Toronto	822.2	886.1	7.8	4,371.8	4,775.3	9.2
Hamilton	109.1	119.5	9.5	365.9	447.5	22.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	74.1	49.8	-32.8	236.4	238.7	1.0
Kitchener	88.7	86.9	-2.0	371.1	393.7	6.1
London	78.9	72.8	-7.8	370.3	352.5	-4.8
Windsor	50.7	27.7	-45.3	216.2	184.7	-14.5
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	17.4	14.4	-17.0	36.2	63.8	76.0
Thunder Bay	7.6	17.6	133.0	36.6	67.4	84.0
Winnipeg	49.0	63.2	29.1	265.5	258.8	-2.5
Regina	10.7	30.5	184.5	95.3	117.1	22.9
Saskatoon	19.8	62.2	214.9	98.6	158.7	61.0
Calgary	325.7	294.4	-9.6	1,199.6	1,638.8	36.6
Edmonton	229.5	198.7	-13.4	796.2	1,062.7	33.5
Abbotsford	30.1	27.8	-7.7	64.8	158.4	144.4
Vancouver	495.1	422.1	-14.7	1,795.7	2,102.2	17.1
Victoria	57.0	77.1	35.2	210.8	295.7	40.2

^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

	April 2005 ^r	May 2005 ^p	April to May 2005	January to May 2004	January to May 2005	January-May 2004 to January-May 2005
seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	5,062.2	4,954.2	-2.1	21,601.7	24,670.7	14.2
Residential	3,158.4	3,144.8	-0.4	14,562.2	15,581.3	7.0
Non-residential	1,903.9	1,809.3	-5.0	7,039.5	9,089.5	29.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	41.0	37.2	-9.1	189.4	217.9	15.1
Residential	30.5	28.0	-8.4	143.8	139.3	-3.1
Non-residential	10.5	9.3	-11.1	45.6	78.6	72.4
Prince Edward Island	34.9	13.2	-62.1	72.3	97.3	34.5
Residential	10.7	9.7	-9.1	49.2	52.4	6.5
Non-residential	24.2	3.5	-85.4	23.1	44.9	94.3
Nova Scotia	116.0	102.7	-11.5	441.4	439.6	-0.4
Residential	79.5	63.1	-20.5	305.2	303.7	-0.5
Non-residential	36.5	39.5	8.3	136.2	136.0	-0.2
New Brunswick	62.7	74.4	18.5	276.2	293.5	6.3
Residential	41.6	46.7	12.3	204.2	200.4	-1.9
Non-residential	21.2	27.7	30.7	72.0	93.1	29.3
Quebec	927.6	970.0	4.6	4,784.5	4,591.3	-4.0
Residential	628.0	633.1	0.8	3,172.1	3,155.0	-0.5
Non-residential	299.6	336.9	12.5	1,612.4	1,436.3	-10.9
Ontario	1,955.9	1,947.3	-0.4	9,131.5	10,000.7	9.5
Residential	1,156.5	1,227.3	6.1	5,983.4	6,178.8	3.3
Non-residential	799.4	720.0	-9.9	3,148.1	3,821.9	21.4
Manitoba	84.1	98.8	17.4	418.7	426.1	1.8
Residential	58.1	50.4	-13.3	257.3	257.0	-0.1
Non-residential	26.1	48.5	85.9	161.4	169.1	4.8
Saskatchewan	56.9	113.2	98.8	306.0	375.5	22.7
Residential	29.3	52.1	77.9	164.5	168.8	2.6
Non-residential	27.7	61.1	121.0	141.5	206.7	46.1
Alberta	905.5	778.8	-14.0	2,883.8	4,157.7	44.2
Residential	525.5	496.3	-5.6	1,944.0	2,429.7	25.0
Non-residential	380.1	282.5	-25.7	939.8	1,728.1	83.9
British Columbia	861.8	803.7	-6.7	3,008.1	4,024.4	33.8
Residential	591.8	529.6	-10.5	2,303.4	2,668.3	15.8
Non-residential	269.9	274.2	1.6	704.7	1,356.1	92.4
Yukon	4.3	7.7	77.8	41.4	21.2	-48.9
Residential	2.6	4.9	84.9	14.3	15.3	6.7
Non-residential	1.7	2.8	66.6	27.1	5.9	-78.2
Northwest Territories	11.5	7.2	-37.7	30.8	25.0	-18.7
Residential	4.3	3.8	-12.4	12.6	12.7	0.7
Non-residential	7.1	3.4	-53.0	18.2	12.3	-32.2
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	...	17.6	0.4	-97.7
Residential	0.0	0.0	...	8.3	0.0	-100.0
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	...	9.3	0.4	-95.7

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Figures not applicable.

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

General Social Survey: Victimization

2004

A growing proportion of Canadians are satisfied with their personal safety from crime, according to new data on victimization from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS).

Overall, the vast majority (94%) were satisfied that they were personally safe from becoming a victim. This proportion was up from 86% in 1993 and 91% in 1999.

However, despite the high levels of satisfaction with personal safety, Canadians indicated some fear of crime with respect to three specific situations: walking alone at night in their neighbourhood; waiting for or using public transportation alone at night; and being home alone at night.

Among Canadians who walk alone at night, 10% reported feeling unsafe while doing so. In addition, 20% feared for their safety when they were home alone, and 42% of those who take public transportation after dark felt worried when waiting for or using the transit system.

The survey also found that feelings of safety varied from province to province. Residents of the Atlantic provinces were most likely to report being "very" satisfied with their personal safety. Those in the remaining provinces were generally split between feeling "very" or "somewhat satisfied."

Women continue to be more fearful than men, but the gap is narrowing

Fear of victimization was still higher among women than men, but the gap between the sexes has narrowed since 1999.

Overall, 95% of men were satisfied that they were personally safe from becoming a victim, compared with 93% of women. The proportion for women rose by five percentage points between 1999 and 2004, while the proportion for men went up two points.

However, there were substantial differences between the sexes. For example, 58% of female night-time transit users worried when taking it alone at night, twice the proportion of 29% among male night-time users.

Likewise, 27% of women worried for their personal safety when they were home alone at night, compared with only 12% of men. Women were almost three times as likely to be afraid for their safety when walking alone after dark.

A woman's fear of being victimized generally decreased with age. For example, 79% of women aged 15 to 24 felt safe walking alone in their

Note to readers

This report provides a first look at the results of the 2004 General Social Survey on victimization by examining perceptions among Canadians about crime and the criminal justice sectors. A second release from this survey, which will examine trends in victimization rates, will be available in the fall of 2005.

This telephone sample survey asks Canadians about their experiences of being a victim of crime and their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

The target population included all non-institutionalized people aged 15 and older, that is, individuals living in households.

Data were collected each month from January to December 2004. Over this period, about 24,000 people were interviewed.

Previous cycles of the General Social Survey on victimization were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999.

neighbourhood after dark. Among senior women aged 65 and over, 87% felt safe. On the other hand, younger men felt somewhat safer than their older counterparts.

Nearly six in ten people feel crime levels are stable in their neighbourhood

In 2004, 58% of people believed that there had been no change in crime levels, while 30% felt that crime had worsened over the previous five years. These views were fairly consistent with those reported in the 1999 survey.

However, these perceptions on neighbourhood crime have improved since the 1993 survey when Canadians were more likely to say crime was on the rise. At that time, 46% felt it had increased.

Opinions of neighbourhood crime appear to have an impact on fear of victimization. Among respondents who felt that the crime rate was higher in their neighbourhood than in other parts of Canada, 18% were fearful of becoming a victim. In contrast, only 3% who believed that local crime rates were lower felt the same way.

This association also held true for activities taking place at night. For example, 17% of individuals who thought crime had increased felt unsafe walking alone at night, compared with 9% of those who thought crime had dropped.

Residents of Atlantic Canada less fearful of crime

Residents of Atlantic Canada were less fearful of victimization than those in other parts of Canada.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, for example, 71% of the population was "very" satisfied with their personal safety, while 28% were "somewhat" satisfied.

The remaining provinces also experienced relatively high levels of satisfaction with personal safety. But the population tended to be evenly split according to the degree of satisfaction. In Manitoba, 46% of the population was very satisfied and another 47% was somewhat satisfied.

Less than one-half (46%) of people in Manitoba who took public transit at night said they were not at all worried taking it alone. This was far below the proportion of 83% of night transit riders in Newfoundland and Labrador and 74% in New Brunswick.

Residents of Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador were least likely to believe that neighbourhood crime had worsened. Less than one-quarter (23%) of the population in these provinces felt crime had increased over the past five years.

In comparison, such feelings were highest in the two westernmost provinces. About 35% of individuals in Alberta and 36% in British Columbia felt crime had gone up over the past five years.

Most Canadians have a favourable opinion of the police

Individuals responding to the 2004 GSS were also asked about their perceptions of four sectors of the criminal justice system: police, courts, prison and parole. They were asked to assess each sector by rating the performance on particular activities or job functions.

Over time, there has been little change in the public's opinion on the performance of police. Overall, the majority of Canadians gave their local police a positive assessment. Just under two-thirds (61%) of Canadians thought their local police were performing well for ensuring the safety of citizens.

Young people were less likely to assess the police in positive terms. Just over one-half of those aged 15 to 24 thought the police did a good job of treating people fairly. This proportion rose to 62%

among people aged 45 to 64, and 66% among seniors aged 65 and over.

Public attitudes toward the courts improving

Overall, public attitudes toward courts have improved since 1993. A greater proportion of people in 2004 than in both 1993 and 1999 felt that the courts were doing a good job in the areas of providing justice quickly, helping the victim and determining whether or not the accused is guilty.

Perceptions of the prison system have also improved. A greater proportion of Canadians in 2004 rated the prison performance as good and fewer gave it a poor rating. For example, in 1999, 28% of Canadians gave a negative assessment of the prison system's rehabilitative role. By 2004, this had dropped to 23%.

In general, the parole system received the lowest rating among the criminal justice sectors. Most Canadians thought that the parole system was either doing an average or poor job in releasing offenders and providing adequate supervision.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4504.

The reports *General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18: An Overview of Findings* (85-565-XIE, free) and *General Social Survey, Cycle 18 Overview: Personal Safety and Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System* (85-566-XIE, free) are now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Maire Gannon (613-951-7017), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.

□

Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to five years ago, by province, 2004

	Level of neighbourhood crime compared to five years ago				
	Total (population 15+)	Increased	Decreased	About the same	Don't know/not stated
	(000s)	% of population 15 years and older			
Canada	25,906	30	6	58	7
Newfoundland and Labrador	441	23	7	68	2 ^E
Prince Edward Island	115	32	4 ^E	62	F
Nova Scotia	778	28	6	62	4
New Brunswick	622	26	5	64	4
Quebec	6,190	23	8	63	6
Ontario	10,014	31	5	56	8
Manitoba	918	33	4	56	7
Saskatchewan	788	31	4	60	6
Alberta	2,559	35	4	52	9
British Columbia	3,482	36	5	50	8

^E Use with caution.

^F Amount too unreliable to be published.



Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

March 2005

The March 2005 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is now 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 on Transport Canada's Web site.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@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. ■

New products

**General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18:
An Overview of Findings, 2004**
Catalogue number 85-565-XIE
(free).

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

**General Social Survey, Cycle 18 Overview: Personal
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System, 2004**
Catalogue number 85-566-XIE
(free).

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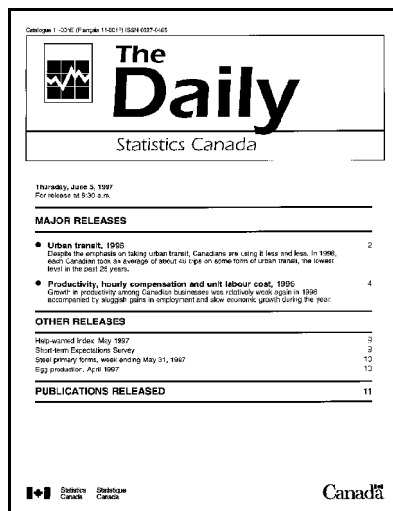
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