



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Building permits

September 2006

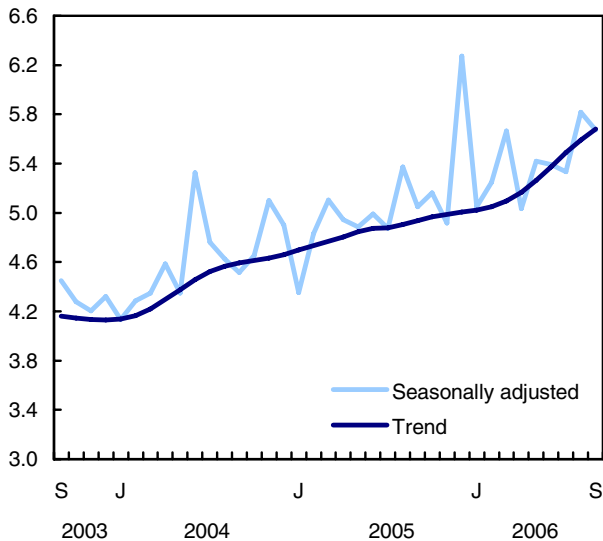
Construction intentions slipped in September, but they were still at their third highest monthly level ever, thanks in part to another record high for building permits in Alberta.

Builders took out \$5.7 billion worth of permits, down 2.5% from August. The decline occurred mostly in the residential sector, as intentions in the non-residential sector remained virtually unchanged.

September's total was just below the \$5.8 billion worth of permits issued in August, which was the second highest level on record. The record high occurred in December 2005.

Slight decline in the total value of building permits

Billions of dollars



In the housing sector, municipalities issued \$3.5 billion worth of permits in September, down 3.8% from August. Intentions fell in both single- and multi-family components.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits slipped a marginal 0.3% to \$2.2 billion. A loss in the commercial component offset gains in the institutional and industrial components.

Provincially, the value of building permits fell in six provinces, with the biggest declines in terms of dollars in Ontario and British Columbia. The value of permits in

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.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part).

the three Prairie provinces and in Prince Edward Island advanced in September.

The largest gain (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where municipalities approved \$1.3 billion worth of permits in September, another record high. This was due to strong construction intentions in both the residential and non-residential sectors. After only nine months, Calgary has already set a record annual high for building permits.

Despite the declines in September, construction intentions in both sectors remained healthy. The value of residential permits increased 8.1% in the third quarter from the second quarter. In the non-residential sector, the value of permits was up 3.1%, the seventh increase in the past eight quarters.

Residential: Single- and multi-family permits both slip

Construction intentions for both single- and multi-family components declined in September, halting a series of monthly gains in each component.

The value of single-family permits totaled \$2.3 billion, down 3.1% from August. This decrease followed three consecutive monthly increases. Permits for multi-family dwellings retreated 5.1% to \$1.2 billion after two monthly gains.

The largest decline in the housing sector among provinces came largely from Ontario (-11.2% to \$1.2 billion), in the wake of drops in both the single- and multi-family components. Gains in the three westernmost provinces and in Nova Scotia failed to offset the overall retreat.

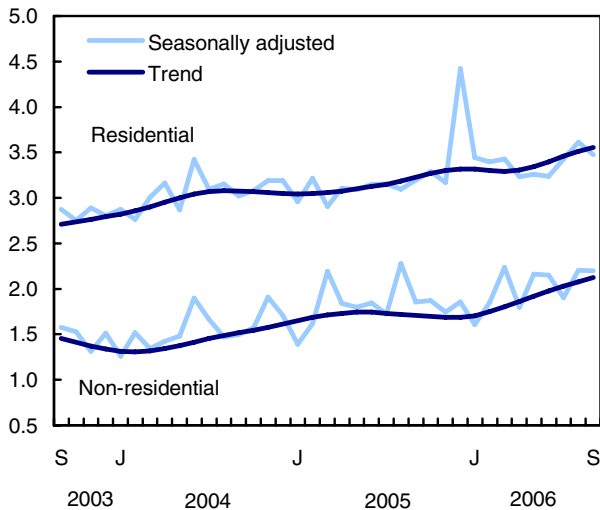
However, the demand for both single- and multi-family units has been on an upward trend in recent months.

The housing sector continues to benefit from advantageous mortgage rates, an upward trend in full-time employment and strong consumer confidence. The big demand for housing in Western Canada has also been a major factor.

On a year-to-date basis, municipal authorities approved 175,350 new dwellings units between January and September, up 1.9% from the same nine-month period in 2005. Approvals for new single-family dwellings rose by 1.9% and new multi-family units by 1.8%.

The value of both residential and non-residential permits remained high

Billions of dollars



Construction intentions strong, stable in non-residential sector

Although there has been little growth since May, the monthly value of non-residential permits has been strong (around \$2.2 billion), except for July when the value declined to \$1.9 billion.

In the industrial component, intentions rose 3.2% to \$457 million, a fifth increase over the last six months. This was the result of gains in intentions for utility buildings in seven provinces. Prince Edward Island recorded the highest increase (in dollars), a record level for this component.

The value of industrial permits has been on an upward trend since January 2006.

Institutional intentions rose 23.7% in September to \$641 million, a third consecutive monthly increase.

Higher construction intentions for government administrative and medical buildings contributed to this gain. The value of institutional permits has been on an upward trend since April 2006.

Alberta had the strongest monthly increase in this component as the value of institutional permits hit \$214 million, the third highest level on record. In contrast, Ontario posted the largest drop in dollars (-18.6% to \$188 million), following a strong monthly gain in August.

In the commercial component, the value of building permits fell 11.6% to \$1.1 billion in September, following a 12.4% gain the month before. A decline in the value of permits for office buildings in Alberta and Ontario was behind the drop. In both provinces, construction intentions for office buildings were very high in August.

Despite this decline, the commercial component has been on an upward trend since October 2005.

Several factors have served to maintain a fertile environment for non-residential construction intentions. These include strength in retail sales; lower vacancy rates for office buildings in the past few quarters; favourable interest rates; and record profits posted by large corporations.

In contrast, manufacturers are expecting tougher times ahead, according to the latest Business Conditions Survey.

Provincially, the biggest gain occurred in Alberta, where non-residential permits rose 14.9% to \$570 million. In contrast, the largest drop (in dollars) in the non-residential sector occurred in British Columbia, where both commercial and institutional sectors recorded huge declines.

However, in British Columbia, for the first ninth months of 2006, the value of non-residential permits has increased 9.4% compared to the same period last year.

At the national level, the cumulative value of non-residential permits was up 9.5% from the first nine months of 2005.

Metropolitan areas: new annual record for Calgary

With three months of data in 2006 still to be compiled, the total value of building permits issued for Calgary (\$4.0 billion) has already surpassed the previous annual record of \$3.9 billion set in 2005. Strong gains in both residential and non-residential buildings led to this new mark. The cumulative value was 42.0% higher than the total for January-to-September 2005.

The second largest gain (in dollars) was recorded in Edmonton, where a huge demand for housing considerably boosted the overall value of permits (+26.4%).

Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg also showed important growth. In contrast, the largest declines have occurred in Ottawa and Hamilton, where both residential and non-residential permits are down.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The September 2006 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, free) will be available soon.

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

To order data, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; 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 2006 ^r	September 2006 ^p	August to September 2006	January to September 2005	January to September 2006	January–September 2005 to January–September 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	32.2	22.1	-31.4	271.7	263.0	-3.2
Halifax	46.3	50.8	9.6	436.4	473.4	8.5
Saint John	24.8	17.3	-30.3	116.0	139.0	19.7
Saguenay	25.7	10.4	-59.5	129.6	144.1	11.2
Québec	106.1	103.2	-2.8	899.3	883.0	-1.8
Sherbrooke	19.0	26.2	37.6	186.8	216.3	15.8
Trois-Rivières	39.9	18.6	-53.4	137.5	191.4	39.2
Montréal	480.8	500.5	4.1	4,471.7	4,418.2	-1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	208.8	164.8	-21.1	1,773.4	1,655.3	-6.7
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	41.0	42.9	4.5	312.7	372.2	19.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	167.7	121.9	-27.3	1,460.7	1,283.1	-12.2
Kingston	18.9	10.7	-43.4	148.2	190.6	28.6
Oshawa	57.6	81.0	40.6	717.5	685.5	-4.5
Toronto	978.7	979.1	0.0	7,837.5	8,029.3	2.4
Hamilton	101.4	108.8	7.3	853.7	696.4	-18.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	86.5	38.6	-55.4	401.0	416.7	3.9
Kitchener	49.7	48.9	-1.6	697.6	690.1	-1.1
London	86.5	59.3	-31.5	636.6	691.9	8.7
Windsor	36.4	75.1	106.1	351.8	424.8	20.8
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	36.1	20.8	-42.4	138.8	166.6	20.0
Thunder Bay	15.3	5.5	-64.4	100.5	65.7	-34.6
Winnipeg	61.0	89.4	46.6	509.7	681.7	33.7
Regina	21.2	57.8	172.3	175.0	275.7	57.5
Saskatoon	33.8	36.6	8.3	266.9	334.2	25.2
Calgary	480.2	626.0	30.4	2,803.1	3,981.6	42.0
Edmonton	374.9	353.6	-5.7	2,025.7	2,560.9	26.4
Abbotsford	13.9	30.2	116.6	232.0	279.4	20.4
Vancouver	604.7	513.0	-15.2	4,159.8	4,563.8	9.7
Victoria	65.6	41.6	-36.6	527.8	570.9	8.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

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 2006 ^r	September 2006 ^p	August to September 2006	January to September 2005	January to September 2006	January–September 2005 to January–September 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	5,817.6	5,672.4	-2.5	44,401.9	48,628.5	9.5
Residential	3,614.2	3,475.8	-3.8	27,865.9	30,522.2	9.5
Non-residential	2,203.4	2,196.7	-0.3	16,536.0	18,106.3	9.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	48.7	40.7	-16.3	389.3	385.2	-1.1
Residential	30.4	21.3	-29.8	250.8	255.0	1.7
Non-residential	18.3	19.4	6.2	138.6	130.2	-6.0
Prince Edward Island	22.3	63.7	186.2	190.6	209.7	10.1
Residential	10.8	10.0	-6.8	92.5	96.5	4.4
Non-residential	11.5	53.7	366.4	98.1	113.2	15.4
Nova Scotia	109.8	95.3	-13.3	871.7	945.7	8.5
Residential	62.5	67.1	7.3	578.4	634.3	9.7
Non-residential	47.3	28.2	-40.4	293.3	311.4	6.2
New Brunswick	96.6	66.3	-31.3	631.1	695.2	10.2
Residential	43.3	35.1	-19.0	361.6	386.7	6.9
Non-residential	53.3	31.3	-41.3	269.5	308.5	14.5
Quebec	1,004.9	985.2	-2.0	8,555.5	8,701.6	1.7
Residential	651.2	640.4	-1.7	5,989.6	5,708.0	-4.7
Non-residential	353.8	344.8	-2.5	2,566.0	2,993.6	16.7
Ontario	2,127.5	1,948.1	-8.4	17,516.0	17,372.9	-0.8
Residential	1,321.4	1,173.8	-11.2	10,525.4	10,738.2	2.0
Non-residential	806.1	774.4	-3.9	6,990.6	6,634.7	-5.1
Manitoba	99.5	130.1	30.8	830.0	1,049.9	26.5
Residential	66.9	66.3	-0.9	487.9	617.4	26.5
Non-residential	32.6	63.8	95.9	342.0	432.5	26.4
Saskatchewan	87.5	131.0	49.8	633.7	871.8	37.6
Residential	38.4	47.9	25.0	275.9	339.6	23.1
Non-residential	49.1	83.1	69.1	357.8	532.2	48.7
Alberta	1,233.0	1,310.9	6.3	7,246.4	9,999.4	38.0
Residential	737.2	741.1	0.5	4,307.8	6,155.4	42.9
Non-residential	495.8	569.8	14.9	2,938.7	3,844.0	30.8
British Columbia	965.3	893.2	-7.5	7,412.7	8,249.1	11.3
Residential	644.9	667.1	3.4	4,925.6	5,527.7	12.2
Non-residential	320.3	226.2	-29.4	2,487.1	2,721.3	9.4
Yukon	9.8	3.5	-64.4	51.0	77.4	51.6
Residential	2.3	2.3	-2.3	36.7	28.9	-21.1
Non-residential	7.4	1.2	-84.0	14.4	48.5	237.3
Northwest Territories	8.6	3.0	-65.1	64.0	28.5	-55.4
Residential	2.9	2.2	-22.8	25.8	15.2	-40.9
Non-residential	5.8	0.8	-86.2	38.2	13.3	-65.2
Nunavut	4.1	1.3	-69.0	9.9	42.2	325.5
Residential	2.1	1.3	-39.0	8.1	19.2	137.5
Non-residential	2.0	0.0	-99.5	1.8	23.0	1,157.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Study: Trends in weight change among Canadian adults

1996/1997 to 2004/2005

Canadian adults keep putting on weight, but indications are that the pace at which they are gaining has slowed down, according to a new report.

The report was based on data from the National Population Health Survey, a longitudinal survey that has followed the same group of people every two years, on six separate occasions, between 1994/1995 and 2004/2005. Data for height and weight for this survey were self-reported. This study is based on data from 1996/1997 to 2004/2005.

Canadians aged 18 to 64 continue to gain weight, but at a slower pace

Average change (kg)



The survey showed that every two years since 1996/1997, adults aged 18 to 64 were heavier on average.

But while they continued to gain weight, the amount they put on decreased significantly in the most recent two-year interval, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005.

This downturn was due in part to a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of men who gained weight and a significant increase in the amount of weight loss among women who lost weight.

However, among people who gained weight, the amount they put on actually increased over time.

During the eight years covered by the study, men gained an average of 4.0 kg, while women gained an average of 3.4 kg. While these results appear relatively

small, a number of studies have shown that even a small shift in the population distribution toward excess weight may have important consequences for the incidence of weight-related diseases.

Rate of gain slowing

Canadians are still gaining weight, on average. But this report found that the pace at which they are gaining has slowed down.

Over the two-year interval from 1996/1997 to 1998/1999, the average self-reported weight of people aged 18 to 64 increased by 1.0 kg for men and 0.9 kg for women.

Between 2000/2001 and 2002/2003, average gains were higher: 1.1 kg for men and 1.0 kg for women.

Over the next two years, that is, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005, the weight of adults continued to rise. However, the average amount gained was lower: 0.7 kg for men and 0.6 kg for women.

Thus, overall adults were still gaining weight, but statistically significantly less than in the earlier periods.

Weight changes associated with sex, age and level of obesity

Changes in weight were significantly associated with sex, age group and the level of obesity as measured by the body mass index (BMI).

Over the eight years from 1996/1997 to 2004/2005, the average self-reported weight of men and women in all age groups increased.

However, in each two-year interval, younger people aged 18 to 33 experienced significantly greater average gains than did individuals aged 34 to 49. Older adults aged 50 to 64 experienced significantly smaller gains than 34 to 49 year-olds.

The general trend of a decline in the amount of weight gained between 2002/2003 and 2004/2005 applied to men and women in most age groups. The exception was men aged 18 to 33, whose average weight gain in the most recent two-year interval was greater than that in the previous one.

An individual's BMI is associated with how much his or her self-reported weight changed in each two-year interval.

On average, overweight people (BMI from 25.0 to 29.9) gained 0.8 kg less than did people whose weight was in the acceptable BMI range (BMI from 18.5 to 24.9). Obese individuals (BMI 30.0 and higher) gained 1.9 kg less. In fact, during most two-year intervals, people who were obese experienced a mean loss in self-reported weight.

Smaller proportion of men gaining weight

The overall pattern of average change in weight in the last interval (2002/2003 to 2004/2005) reflects a mixture of trends at a finer level of detail. These include a smaller proportion of men gaining weight and greater losses among the women who lost weight.

During each of the first three two-year intervals in the survey, almost half of adults reported that they gained weight. However, between 2002/2003 and 2004/2005 the proportion of men gaining weight fell to 44%.

As well, 32% of men reported a loss in weight between 2002/2003 and 2004/2005, a significantly higher percentage than in the first two intervals.

Among women, the proportion losing weight did not differ significantly from one interval to another.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3225.

This release is based on the article "Trends in weight change among Canadian adults: Evidence from the 1996/1997 to 2004/2005 National Population Health Survey," the first of a series to be released in Volume 2 of the Internet publication *Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey, Vol. 2, no. 1 (82-618-MIE2006005, free)*, now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Data from the sixth cycle of the household component of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), covering the 1994/1995 to 2004/2005 period are also available today.

This article is scheduled to be presented today (November 6, 2006) in Ottawa at the second national conference of the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, with the theme *Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention: Building It Together*. Three other presenters from Statistics Canada are to discuss papers using NPHS Cycle 6 data.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Heather Orpana (613-951-1650; heather.orpana@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.

NPHS micro data are available at Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres. For more information, visit *The Research Data Centres Program* page of our website.

To order custom tabulations, contact Data Access and Information Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on the Household Component of the National Population Health Survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; mario.bedard@statcan.ca) or France Bilocq (613-951-6956; france.bilocq@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

September 2006 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products increased in September compared to the same month in 2005, as sales were higher in four of the seven major product groups.

Sales totaled 8 469 700 cubic metres in September, up 3.9% compared with the same month a year earlier. (One cubic metre is equivalent to 6.3 barrels.)

The biggest increase occurred in motor gasoline, where sales rose 2.2% or by 72 700 cubic metres. Light fuel oil sales increased 9.3% or by 20 400 cubic metres, while diesel fuel oil sales declined 3.6% or by 85 200 cubic metres.

Sales increased in all categories of motor gasoline. Premium grades increased 10.8%, while regular unleaded grades rose 1.5%. Mid-grade sales were up 0.5%.

On a year-to-date basis, sales of refined petroleum products at the end of September totaled 73 579 700 cubic metres, down 3.1% from a year earlier.

Sales fell in four of the seven major product groups. The largest decline occurred in heavy fuel oil, where sales were off 21.9%, the equivalent of 1 285 600 cubic metres.

Note: Preliminary data on domestic sales of refined petroleum products are no longer available on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca).

Sales of refined petroleum products

	September 2005 ^r	September 2006 ^p	September 2005 to September 2006 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total, all products	8,149.9	8,469.7	3.9
Motor gasoline	3,279.5	3,352.2	2.2
Diesel fuel oil	2,336.4	2,251.2	-3.6
Light fuel oil	219.2	239.6	9.3
Heavy fuel oil	599.4	592.3	-1.2
Aviation turbo fuels	569.7	555.7	-2.4
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	204.5	478.7	134.0
All other refined products	941.1	1,000.0	6.3
thousands of cubic metres			
	January 2005 to September 2005 ^r	January 2006 to September 2006 ^p	January–September 2005 to January–September 2006 % change
Total, all products	75,918.7	73,579.7	-3.1
Motor gasoline	30,656.4	30,042.4	-2.0
Diesel fuel oil	19,695.6	19,361.2	-1.7
Light fuel oil	3,289.8	2,859.1	-13.1
Heavy fuel oil	5,878.4	4,592.8	-21.9
Aviation turbo fuels	4,922.5	5,079.5	3.2
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	3,289.9	3,421.3	4.0
All other refined products	8,186.1	8,223.5	0.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

New products

Industry Price Indexes, September 2006, Vol. 32,
no. 9
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE
(free).

**Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from
the National Population Health Survey: "Trends in
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The Daily
Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 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 relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997** 12
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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