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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, August 8, 2006
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

New products

Releases

Building permits

June 2006

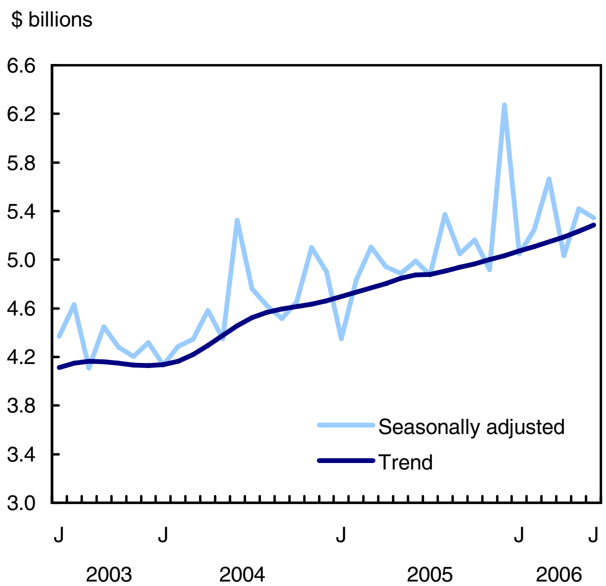
The value of building permits slipped marginally in June, but the decline would have been much sharper without a burst of industrial projects in Alberta.

Municipalities issued permits worth $5.3 billion in June, down 1.4% from May, as the value of construction intentions in both the residential and non-residential sectors declined.

Even so, the value of permits surpassed the $5.0-billion mark for the seventh consecutive month, and it was 1.0% higher than the average monthly level recorded since the beginning of the year.

Without the exceptional results in Alberta, the picture would have been less rosy. Contractors took out a very high value of permits for industrial construction in Alberta.

Total value of permits down slightly



If Alberta had been excluded from the national figure, the total value of permits would have declined 7.2%.

Nationally, the total value of residential permits declined 1.3% to $3.2 billion. A decline in the value of multi-family permits more than offset a gain in single-family. After peaking at the end of 2005, the value of residential permits has been on a soft declining trend.

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 the Building Permits release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part).

Construction intentions in the non-residential component fell 1.4% to $2.1 billion. A strong gain in the industrial component was more than offset by declines in both the commercial and institutional components.

Intentions in the non-residential sector have been on a strong upward trend since the beginning of the year. Values in March, May and June this year were above the $2.0-billion mark.

The value of permits declined 1.0% in the second quarter compared with a quarter earlier. A 7.1% gain in the non-residential sector was more than offset by a 5.5% decline in the residential component.

Regionally, 23 out the 28 census metropolitan areas showed stronger results in the first half of 2006 in comparison with the same period last year. Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver showed by far the strongest advances (in dollars) due mainly to their dynamic housing market.

Except for St. John's, all metropolitan areas showing retreats in their cumulative value of building permits were in Ontario. Toronto and Hamilton posted the largest declines.

Residential: First increase in five months for single-family permits

Construction intentions for single-family homes increased for the first time in five months in June.

Contractors took out $2.2 billion in single-family permits, up 2.4%. The value of multi-family permits fell 8.2% to $1.1 billion, following a 3.1% increase in May.

The demand for new housing appears to have eased, as the number of units approved declined 5.3%

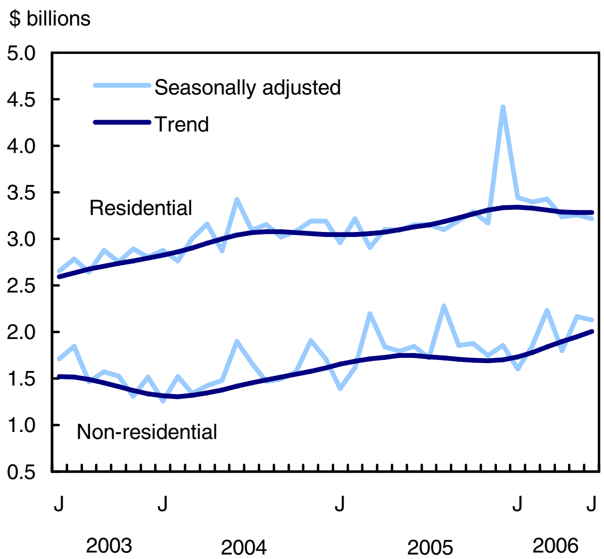
in the second quarter of 2006 in comparison with the first.

The second-quarter retreat came solely from the single-family component, where the number of approvals fell 10.5%. Among the more affordable multi-family units, approvals edged up 0.7%.

The progressive increase in the mortgage rates over the last year seems to have cooled the demand for new housing, especially for the more expensive single-family segment. However, the demand remained high from a historical standpoint, thanks to strong full-time employment and gains in disposable income.

Provincially, the largest retreat (in dollars) in June in the value of housing permits occurred in Ontario (-6.4%) and Quebec (-8.9%). These declines were partly offset by gains in Alberta and British Columbia.

Residential and non-residential sectors both decline



Non-residential: Industrial permits highest in 17 years

Construction intentions in the industrial component hit their highest level in 17 years in June, thanks to a surge in the industrial permits in Alberta.

Municipalities issued $649 million in permits for industrial construction in June, the highest level since 1989. This represented a 69.2% increase from May and a third consecutive monthly gain.

The value of industrial permits was nearly as twice high as the average monthly level for 2005.

In Alberta, contractors took out $306 million worth of industrial permits, nearly half the national total, as a result of construction intentions for utility buildings and plants. This level was the highest on record since February 1988. All provinces posted gains, except for Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

Commercial intentions fell 12.7% to $1.1 billion following a 12.0% gain in May. The decrease came from a decline in the intentions for buildings in the trade and services category, and from projects for hotels and restaurants.

Though highly volatile since the beginning of the year, the value of commercial permits has essentially been on an upward trend since the end of 2005.

The largest declines in the commercial category in June were posted in Ontario (-24.2%) and British Columbia (-21.6%).

In the institutional component, permits plunged 25.4% to $415 million, following a 35.7% gain in May. Declines in the value of permits for schools and in the medical and hospital category fuelled the decrease.

June's level was the second lowest during the last nine months. The largest declines occurred in British Columbia (-53.2%) and Saskatchewan (-76.3%).

The very dynamic economy in Western Canada, robust retail sales, strong corporate operating profits and near-record levels of industrial capacity use contributed to the recent healthy results in the non-residential sector.

Provincially, the largest advance (in dollars) in June in the value of non-residential permits occurred in Alberta, where municipalities authorized a record $613 million worth of non-residential permits, 24.4% higher than the old mark set in March 2006.

This big gain was offset by marked declines in Ontario (-13.9%) and British Columbia (-26.0%).

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The July building permit estimate will be released on September 7.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (613-951-4646 or toll-free 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 Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	May 2006[r]	June 2006[p]	May to June 2006	January to June 2005	January to June 2006	January–June 2005 to January–June 2006
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	24.8	25.4	2.6	190.8	179.2	-6.1
Halifax	68.1	71.3	4.7	285.0	332.5	16.7
Saint John	20.8	10.5	-49.5	68.4	82.9	21.2
Saguenay	19.6	27.2	38.7	80.4	92.9	15.5
Québec	83.6	75.9	-9.2	561.1	576.0	2.7
Sherbrooke	14.9	14.5	-2.8	120.1	156.7	30.5
Trois-Rivières	22.8	15.3	-32.7	82.8	110.6	33.6
Montréal	507.5	472.1	-7.0	2,828.7	2,917.1	3.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	143.1	164.5	14.9	1,047.6	1,113.4	6.3
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	39.7	37.5	-5.5	214.2	231.7	8.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	103.5	127.0	22.7	833.4	881.7	5.8
Kingston	20.6	45.9	122.7	90.1	144.9	60.8
Oshawa	45.8	104.8	128.5	447.8	466.5	4.2
Toronto	1,031.0	721.0	-30.1	5,352.6	5,174.6	-3.3
Hamilton	54.5	60.3	10.7	567.4	422.7	-25.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	56.0	42.9	-23.3	272.7	248.3	-8.9
Kitchener	83.3	92.4	10.9	498.9	545.5	9.3
London	91.6	78.4	-14.4	423.2	486.0	14.8
Windsor	63.3	33.0	-47.8	219.1	296.7	35.4
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	21.7	16.0	-26.3	94.8	95.2	0.4
Thunder Bay	5.4	8.7	61.5	74.3	38.7	-47.9
Winnipeg	68.3	60.6	-11.2	349.0	419.9	20.3
Regina	18.9	29.0	52.9	127.3	154.9	21.7
Saskatoon	50.8	36.7	-27.8	184.2	224.8	22.1
Calgary	344.6	395.0	14.6	1,898.3	2,414.3	27.2
Edmonton	249.8	281.1	12.5	1,256.4	1,594.4	26.9
Abbotsford	28.0	16.6	-40.7	179.5	226.7	26.3
Vancouver	513.4	605.0	17.8	2,694.2	3,004.5	11.5
Victoria	55.7	53.1	-4.6	350.3	354.2	1.1

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

	May 2006[r]	June 2006[p]	May to June 2006	January to June 2005	January to June 2006	January–June 2005 to January–June 2006
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**5,420.1**	**5,345.9**	**-1.4**	**29,106.1**	**31,759.1**	**9.1**
Residential	**3,257.6**	**3,214.5**	**-1.3**	**18,422.1**	**19,976.7**	**8.4**
Non-residential	**2,162.4**	**2,131.4**	**-1.4**	**10,684.0**	**11,782.5**	**10.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	42.8	36.8	-14.1	265.3	251.6	-5.1
Residential	26.4	25.3	-4.1	167.2	171.7	2.7
Non-residential	16.4	11.4	-30.3	98.0	79.9	-18.5
Prince Edward Island	15.1	20.2	34.2	112.2	105.1	-6.3
Residential	8.0	13.2	65.7	62.8	66.3	5.6
Non-residential	7.1	7.0	-1.2	49.4	38.8	-21.4
Nova Scotia	126.0	122.8	-2.5	546.7	654.1	19.6
Residential	82.9	69.3	-16.4	378.9	458.8	21.1
Non-residential	43.1	53.5	24.1	167.9	195.3	16.3
New Brunswick	73.3	84.7	15.5	352.8	456.6	29.4
Residential	54.1	40.9	-24.5	232.1	269.0	15.9
Non-residential	19.2	43.8	128.1	120.7	187.6	55.4
Quebec	977.2	911.6	-6.7	5,478.5	5,679.5	3.7
Residential	662.6	603.4	-8.9	3,802.2	3,735.7	-1.8
Non-residential	314.6	308.3	-2.0	1,676.3	1,943.8	16.0
Ontario	2,006.4	1,815.9	-9.5	11,674.4	11,516.9	-1.3
Residential	1,168.4	1,094.0	-6.4	7,212.1	7,049.5	-2.3
Non-residential	838.0	721.9	-13.9	4,462.3	4,467.4	0.1
Manitoba	116.4	100.2	-14.0	555.9	665.2	19.6
Residential	63.6	68.2	7.2	307.9	411.0	33.5
Non-residential	52.9	32.0	-39.5	248.0	254.2	2.5
Saskatchewan	103.1	88.9	-13.8	415.8	520.2	25.1
Residential	36.9	38.3	3.9	191.5	222.1	16.0
Non-residential	66.2	50.6	-23.6	224.3	298.1	32.9
Alberta	971.2	1,216.0	25.2	4,793.3	6,332.1	32.1
Residential	558.1	603.5	8.1	2,842.0	3,914.8	37.7
Non-residential	413.1	612.5	48.3	1,951.4	2,417.3	23.9
British Columbia	970.0	922.5	-4.9	4,848.9	5,480.8	13.0
Residential	589.5	641.1	8.7	3,187.0	3,633.8	14.0
Non-residential	380.5	281.4	-26.0	1,661.8	1,847.0	11.1
Yukon	15.1	5.0	-66.8	28.6	57.7	102.1
Residential	4.3	2.3	-46.9	22.1	20.6	-6.7
Non-residential	10.8	2.7	-74.7	6.5	37.1	470.4
Northwest Territories	1.5	8.2	456.2	33.1	14.3	-56.8
Residential	0.9	4.2	382.7	16.1	8.2	-49.1
Non-residential	0.6	4.0	561.8	17.0	6.1	-64.1
Nunavut	2.1	13.2	540.2	0.6	25.1	3,818.0
Residential	2.1	10.9	432.1	0.2	15.2	7,321.0
Non-residential	0.0	2.2	56,125.0	0.4	9.9	2,167.1

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

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Population of businesses with employees

Second quarter 2006

There were 1,067,000 Canadian businesses with employees in the second quarter, up slightly from the previous quarter and 2.1% higher compared with 1,045,000 businesses during the same quarter last year.

The number of Canadian businesses with employees edged up in Quebec (+0.3%), Ontario (+0.1%) and British Columbia (+0.4%) compared with the previous quarter, but were down in the Atlantic provinces (overall -0.7%), Manitoba (-0.4%), Saskatchewan (-1.3%) and the Northwest Territories (-0.9%).

Every province and territory recorded more Canadian businesses with employees compared with second quarter of 2005, except Newfoundland and Labrador (-2.0%), Nova Scotia (-0.5%), Saskatchewan (-0.2%) and the Northwest Territories (-2.7%).

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 Muriel Ngombo (613-951-0015; fax: 613-951-0104; *Muriel.Ngombo@statcan.ca*), Business Register Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

June 2006 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 535 100 cubic metres in June, down 1.6% from June 2005. Sales decreased in five of the seven major product groups, with heavy fuel oil sales down 22.6% or 148 400 cubic metres. Motor gasoline sales edged down 0.2% or by 6 600 cubic metres while diesel fuel oil sales rose 4.2% or by 94 400 cubic metres.

Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline edged up 0.3%, while sales for mid-grade (-6.6%) and premium (-4.1%) gasoline were down from June 2005.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products at the end of June totalled 48 524 200 cubic metres, down 3.0% from the same period of 2005. Sales decreased in four of the seven major product groups, with the largest decrease in heavy fuel oil (-1 014 300 cubic metres or down 24.8%).

Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data 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 Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division (toll-free 1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). □

Sales of refined petroleum products

	June 2005[r]	June 2006[p]	June 2005 to June 2006
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**8 673.9**	**8 535.1**	**-1.6**
Motor gasoline	3 571.7	3 565.1	-0.2
Diesel fuel oil	2 239.6	2 334.0	4.2
Light fuel oil	183.7	169.8	-7.5
Heavy fuel oil	656.5	508.1	-22.6
Aviation turbo fuels	594.7	546.8	-8.0
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	366.3	318.6	-13.0
All other refined products	1 061.4	1 092.7	3.0

	January 2005 to June 2005[r]	January 2006 to June 2006[p]	January–June 2005 to January–June 2006
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**50 006.2**	**48 524.2**	**-3.0**
Motor gasoline	19 955.7	19 843.0	-0.6
Diesel fuel oil	12 799.8	12 864.2	0.5
Light fuel oil	2 741.6	2 343.5	-14.5
Heavy fuel oil	4 082.2	3 067.9	-24.8
Aviation turbo fuels	3 098.6	3 118.6	0.6
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	2 268.4	2 195.6	-3.2
All other refined products	5 059.9	5 091.5	0.6

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.*

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New products

Air Passenger Origin and Destination, Canada–United States Report, 2002
Catalogue number 51-205-XIB
(free).

Industry Price Indexes, June 2006, Vol. 32, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE
(free).

Industry Price Indexes, June 2006, Vol. 32, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-011-XPE ($24/$233).

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

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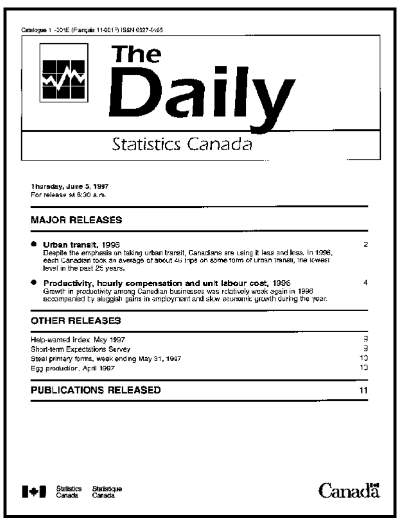

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 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.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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