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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

New products

Releases

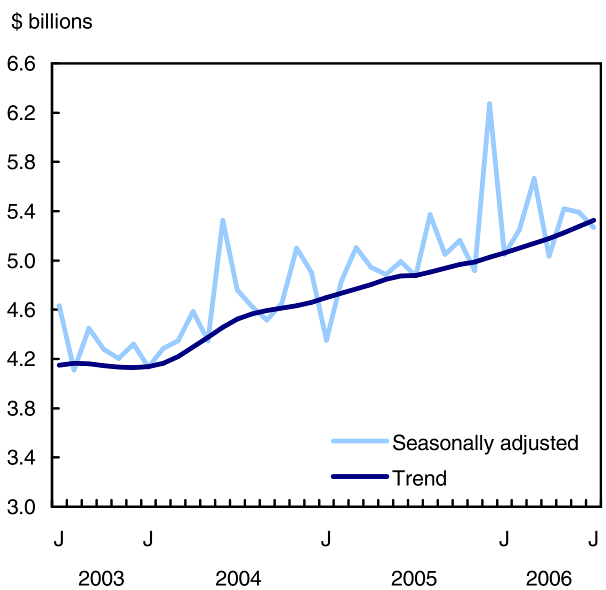
Building permits

July 2006

The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined in July as construction intentions for industrial buildings lost ground from June's very high level. Builders took out $5.3 billion worth of permits, down 2.3% from June.

The value of non-residential permits amounted to $1.9 billion, a 12.7% decline from June. The drop was solely the result of a decrease in industrial permits. In June, a burst of industrial projects in Alberta sent the value of non-residential permits over the $2.0-billion mark for only the sixth time.

The total value of permits declined in July



The value of construction intentions increased in both the commercial and institutional components. Despite July's drop, the value of non-residential permits has been on an upward trend since the end of 2005.

In the residential sector, the value of permits totalled $3.4 billion, up 4.6% from June as the demand for new housing increased for both single- and multi-family dwellings.

A new record high in the value of housing permits in Alberta inflated the national figure. If Alberta had been excluded from the total, the value of housing permits would have remained virtually unchanged in July.

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 value of residential permits, while slightly lower than the peaks reached in December 2005 and in the first quarter of 2006, remained significantly high from an historical standpoint.

Among the metropolitan areas, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver showed the largest advances (in dollars) for the first seven months of 2006 compared with the same period last year. The strong demand for new housing in these three centres was largely behind the gains.

Overall, 22 out of the 28 metropolitan areas showed advances on a year-to-date basis. All metropolitan areas West of Ontario posted double-digit growth.

Both single- and multi-family permits pulled up the residential sector

Builders took out $2.2 billion worth of single-family permits, up 2.7% from June and the highest level since January when the value totalled $2.4 billion.

The value of multi-family permits rebounded 8.5% to $1.1 billion, cancelling out an 8.5% decline in June.

The housing sector continued to be sustained by the strong economy in Western Canada as well as by the high level of employment and solid consumer confidence.

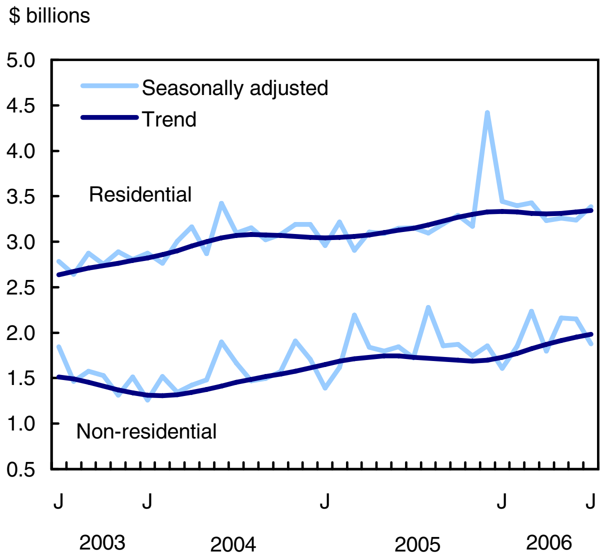
The value of housing permits in Alberta totalled $753 million in July, surpassing the previous record of $744 million set last February. The gain came from increases in both single- and multi-family components. This was also the case in Quebec and Ontario, where sizeable advances were also recorded in July.

In contrast, the largest decline (in dollars) occurred in British Columbia (-9.6% to $579 million), a third decline over the last four months. A marked decline also occurred in Nova Scotia (-33.1%) where the value of residential permits hit their lowest level since January 2005.

Since the beginning of the year, municipalities have authorized 134,840 new dwelling units, a slight 0.4% gain from the January-to-July period in 2005.

Among the approvals, 52.3% were single-family units, a slightly higher share than the proportion of 50.9% for the entire year of 2005.

Residential and non-residential sectors moved in opposite directions



Second straight monthly decline in non-residential sector

A major decrease in proposed industrial projects propelled the non-residential sector to its second consecutive monthly decline. However, July's level of $1.9 billion was 2.4% higher than last year's monthly average.

Following June's tremendous increase, the value of permits for industrial buildings reached $337 million in July, down 48.7% from June.

This decline came after a very high level of construction intentions in June for projects in the utility and manufacturing building categories in Alberta. All provinces showed losses, except Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Despite the decline, the value of industrial permits has been on an upward trend since January 2006.

After a 24.6% decrease in June, the value of permits for the institutional sector advanced 8.2% to $454 million. Higher construction intentions in the educational and medical categories contributed to this gain.

Since October 2005, the value of institutional permits has been on a declining trend. Saskatchewan showed the strongest increase in this component as the level ($57 million) reached its highest level since August 1989. In contrast, Ontario recorded the largest drop (-33.5% to $130 million). It was the lowest level since July 2000.

In the commercial component, permits increased 1.2% following a 12.1% drop in June. The increase mainly came from a gain in the intentions for buildings in the trade and services category, and from projects for warehouses.

The value of commercial permits has been on an upward trend since October 2005.

Several economic indicators are consistent with the upward trend in the non-residential sector. In the second quarter, corporate operating profits were just short of the historic high reported in the fourth quarter of 2005.

In addition, retail spending continued to grow at a fast rate and commercial and office vacancy rates declined in several centers.

Among the provinces, Alberta recorded the greatest decrease in the non-residential sector, from $610 million to $356 million. However, this level remained 3.1% higher than last year's monthly average.

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 16 recorded monthly declines in the value of non-residential permits. The largest decline (in dollars) occurred in Calgary, while the largest gain was in Winnipeg.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The August building permit estimate will be released on October 5.

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 Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

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

	June 2006[r]	July 2006[p]	June to July 2006	January to July 2005	January to July 2006	January–July 2005 to January–July 2006
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	25.7	28.5	11.0	204.3	208.0	1.8
Halifax	70.9	43.9	-38.1	341.1	376.0	10.2
Saint John	10.4	14.1	35.9	86.3	96.8	12.2
Saguenay	27.3	14.8	-45.6	93.5	107.8	15.2
Québec	91.5	82.0	-10.5	702.2	673.6	-4.1
Sherbrooke	14.5	14.4	-1.2	150.8	171.1	13.4
Trois-Rivières	15.3	22.4	46.6	92.5	132.9	43.7
Montréal	489.1	499.6	2.1	3,413.3	3,433.7	0.6
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	165.1	167.7	1.6	1,234.6	1,281.8	3.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	37.5	56.6	50.9	240.2	288.3	20.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	127.6	111.1	-12.9	994.5	993.5	-0.1
Kingston	45.6	16.5	-63.8	119.3	161.0	34.9
Oshawa	102.5	81.7	-20.3	491.2	545.9	11.1
Toronto	720.2	884.2	22.8	6,182.6	6,058.1	-2.0
Hamilton	60.3	63.5	5.3	619.9	486.0	-21.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	42.9	42.6	-0.8	311.1	290.9	-6.5
Kitchener	90.8	47.4	-47.8	577.0	591.3	2.5
London	83.3	54.6	-34.5	491.3	545.4	11.0
Windsor	33.5	16.1	-51.9	255.4	313.3	22.6
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	15.9	14.6	-8.2	109.6	109.7	0.0
Thunder Bay	9.0	6.0	-33.3	80.2	45.0	-43.9
Winnipeg	62.4	108.7	74.3	396.4	530.4	33.8
Regina	29.0	42.5	46.4	150.6	197.4	31.1
Saskatoon	37.2	40.3	8.3	211.1	265.6	25.8
Calgary	393.9	460.2	16.8	2,210.5	2,873.4	30.0
Edmonton	276.8	242.8	-12.3	1,539.9	1,832.9	19.0
Abbotsford	16.7	8.4	-49.8	193.6	235.2	21.5
Vancouver	601.2	437.8	-27.2	3,092.1	3,438.5	11.2
Victoria	53.2	108.4	104.0	399.5	462.6	15.8

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

	June 2006[r]	July 2006[p]	June to July 2006	January to July 2005	January to July 2006	January–July 2005 to January–July 2006
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**5,390.9**	**5,265.7**	**-2.3**	**33,981.6**	**37,069.9**	**9.1**
Residential	**3,239.6**	**3,388.1**	**4.6**	**21,574.9**	**23,389.8**	**8.4**
Non-residential	**2,151.3**	**1,877.7**	**-12.7**	**12,406.6**	**13,680.1**	**10.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	37.2	42.9	15.1	293.6	295.0	0.5
Residential	25.8	30.5	18.1	184.7	202.6	9.7
Non-residential	11.5	12.4	8.4	108.9	92.4	-15.2
Prince Edward Island	20.1	18.6	-7.1	128.5	123.6	-3.8
Residential	13.0	9.4	-27.6	74.0	75.6	2.2
Non-residential	7.0	9.2	31.0	54.5	48.0	-12.0
Nova Scotia	122.2	86.9	-28.9	654.5	740.4	13.1
Residential	68.7	46.0	-33.1	443.6	504.2	13.7
Non-residential	53.5	40.9	-23.6	210.9	236.2	12.0
New Brunswick	84.9	75.3	-11.3	437.9	532.1	21.5
Residential	41.0	39.0	-4.9	275.4	308.1	11.9
Non-residential	43.9	36.3	-17.3	162.5	224.0	37.9
Quebec	947.0	992.6	4.8	6,547.9	6,707.4	2.4
Residential	619.1	662.2	7.0	4,604.2	4,413.6	-4.1
Non-residential	327.9	330.4	0.8	1,943.7	2,293.8	18.0
Ontario	1,818.6	1,755.5	-3.5	13,452.3	13,275.1	-1.3
Residential	1,097.5	1,162.8	5.9	8,350.4	8,215.8	-1.6
Non-residential	721.1	592.7	-17.8	5,102.0	5,059.3	-0.8
Manitoba	103.5	150.6	45.5	638.7	819.1	28.2
Residential	70.7	70.1	-0.8	360.9	483.7	34.0
Non-residential	32.8	80.4	145.6	277.8	335.4	20.7
Saskatchewan	89.1	135.3	51.9	483.4	655.6	35.6
Residential	38.3	31.9	-16.9	221.8	253.9	14.5
Non-residential	50.7	103.4	103.8	261.6	401.7	53.6
Alberta	1,216.3	1,108.7	-8.8	5,619.8	7,441.1	32.4
Residential	606.2	753.0	24.2	3,328.7	4,670.6	40.3
Non-residential	610.0	355.7	-41.7	2,291.1	2,770.5	20.9
British Columbia	924.4	894.3	-3.3	5,630.6	6,377.0	13.3
Residential	640.5	579.2	-9.6	3,682.2	4,212.4	14.4
Non-residential	283.9	315.1	11.0	1,948.4	2,164.5	11.1
Yukon	6.4	2.0	-68.6	35.0	61.1	74.8
Residential	3.5	1.5	-56.3	25.8	23.4	-9.3
Non-residential	2.8	0.4	-84.1	9.2	37.7	311.7
Northwest Territories	8.1	2.4	-70.8	57.0	16.5	-71.0
Residential	4.1	1.7	-58.4	21.5	9.8	-54.4
Non-residential	4.0	0.7	-83.5	35.5	6.7	-81.0
Nunavut	13.2	0.8	-94.2	2.3	25.8	1,002.7
Residential	10.9	0.7	-93.7	1.8	15.9	782.2
Non-residential	2.2	0.1	-96.6	0.5	9.9	1,737.2

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

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Federal government spending on science and technology

2006/2007 (intentions)

The federal government's spending on science and technology is expected to surpass $9 billion in the fiscal year 2006/2007, with the majority headed for research and development.

A survey of science and technology activities of federal departments and agencies shows total spending intentions will reach $9.2 billion. This would represent 4.6% of total government spending, compared with 4.9% in 2001/2002.

Compared to 2005/2006, total federal science and technology expenditures will decrease slightly this year. Federal spending on research and development will reach $5.7 billion or 62% of science and technology spending. Related scientific activities, such as scientific and general data collection, will receive $3.5 billion in funding in 2006/2007.

The $5.7 billion anticipated for research and development will include $2.1 billion of intramural performance, which are activities carried out primarily by the federal government, and extramural funding, which are activities managed and performed by non-federal organizations.

Federal government research and development funding to the higher education sector is expected to reach $2.5 billion.

Just over three-quarters (78%) or $2.7 billion of total federal spending on related scientific activities are expected to be spent on activities performed by the federal government itself. This intramural federal spending will be almost evenly split between activities in the natural sciences and engineering and those in the social sciences.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4212.

The service bulletin *Science Statistics*, Vol. 30, no. 6 (88-001-XIE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lloyd Lizotte, (613-951-2188; *lloyd.lizotte@statcan.ca*) or Louise Earl, (613-951-2880; *louise.earl@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Second quarter 2006

The top 91 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canadian-based trucking companies earning $25 million or more annually) generated operating revenue of $2.4 billion and expenses of $2.2 billion in the second quarter.

Average per-carrier revenues ($26.3 million) and expenses ($24.6 million) both increased by 5.7% from the second quarter of 2005.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) was 0.94, similar to the second quarter of 2005. A ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

The second quarter of 2006 data on the top for-hire carriers, taken from the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, provide results from 64 general freight carriers and 27 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 general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division.

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

New products

Science Statistics, Vol. 30, no. 6
Catalogue number 88-001-XIE
(free).

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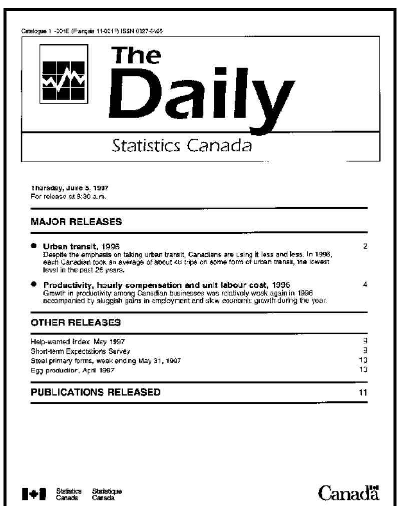
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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 48 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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