



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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<p>The value of building permits surged to their highest level ever in January, thanks to huge gains in the value of residential and non-residential permits. It was the third time in four months that the \$6-billion mark was surpassed.</p>	
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Population and dwelling counts

2006 Census

The first data from the 2006 Census covering population and dwelling counts will be available on March 13.

Detailed analysis of new census data on the nation's population will be released in a full-colour online report titled *Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006*.

This document will contain an extensive analytical text in HTML format, illustrated by many full-colour maps, tables and charts; it can be printed in part or whole.

The report will provide useful information and analysis on population counts, as well as trends in Canada's population growth and the factors behind it, with historical perspective. It will analyze changes in the population of the provinces and territories; developments in metropolitan areas and cities, towns and rural Canada; and details on the urbanization of the population.

The report will be available on Statistics Canada's website at 8.30 a.m. Eastern time on March 13.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications and Library Services Division.



Releases

Building permits

January 2007

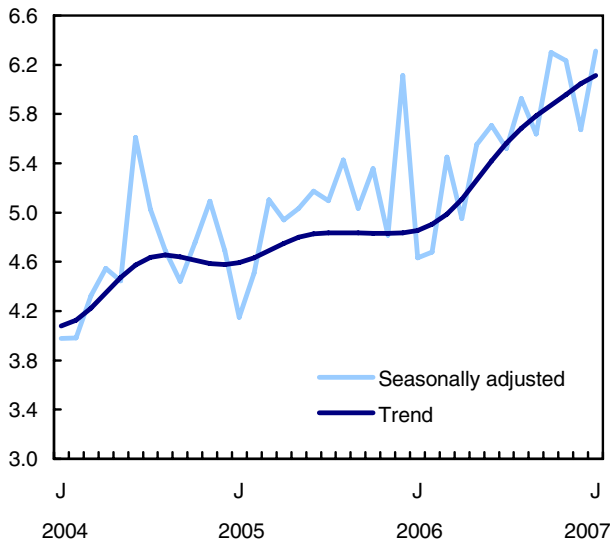
The value of building permits surged to their highest level ever in January, thanks to huge gains in the value of residential and non-residential permits. It was the third time in four months that the \$6-billion mark was surpassed.

Builders took out a record \$6.3 billion in building permits in January. January's level was 11.3% higher than December 2006.

These results point to a busy spring on building sites as building permits are a leading indicator for construction activity.

The total value of building permits hits a new high

\$ billions



The value of non-residential permits increased 19.3% to a record \$2.6 billion in January, the third monthly gain in four months. January's gain was due largely to surges in the values of both industrial and institutional permits in Ontario.

In the residential sector, the value of building permits rose 6.3% to \$3.7 billion after two monthly declines. This was the third highest monthly level on record. Intentions increased in both single- and multi-family components.

Provincially, the largest gain (in dollars) occurred in Ontario, where municipalities approved \$2.6 billion worth

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).

of permits in January, thanks to a new record high in the non-residential sector.

On the other hand, the value of building permits fell in six provinces. The biggest decline in terms of dollars occurred in Alberta, where a large drop in commercial and industrial permits more than offset a gain in the housing sector.

Residential: Record-high value of single-family permits

Municipalities set a record for the value of building permits for single-family units for a second consecutive month. They issued \$2.4 billion in single-family permits, up 2.8% from December. A major contributing factor was higher construction costs.

Demand remained high for single-family dwellings, as municipalities authorized 10,220 new units, a slight 0.6% decline from December. This level was 3.0% higher than the monthly average of 9,920 units set in 2006.

The demand for new-single family units has been on an upward trend since the middle of 2006.

Following two monthly declines, the value of multi-family permits rebounded, rising 13.8% in January to \$1.3 billion. The increase was powered by gains in the three types of multi-family dwellings (apartments/condominiums, semi-detached and row houses).

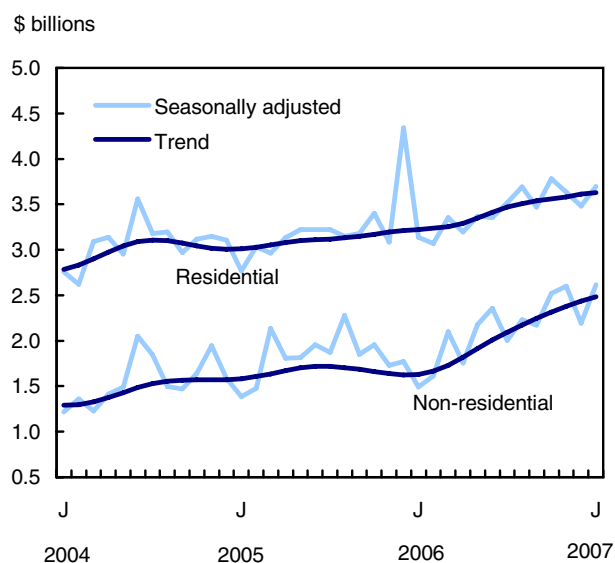
In January alone, permits for 10,005 new multi-family units were issued, up 27.4% from

December. A vast majority of the January permits were for new apartments/condominiums.

Among the provinces, six showed increases in their value of housing permits in January. The largest gains (in dollars) were recorded in British Columbia (+16.7% to \$719 million) and in Alberta (+15.1% to \$758 million). The gains in both provinces were due to jumps in the values of single- and multi-family permits.

The housing sector continued to be positively affected by the very dynamic economy in Western Canada. Other contributing factors were advantageous mortgage rates, the continued strength in full-time employment and in personal disposable income as well as the high level of immigration.

Both residential and non-residential sectors increased



Non-residential: Strong rebound in institutional and industrial components

Strong growth in the values of both institutional and industrial permits was the main factor behind the new monthly record in the non-residential sector.

Permits in the institutional sector rebounded a spectacular 69.3% to \$620 million, after falling 51.1% in December. It was a fourth monthly increase over the last six months, and was largely the result of higher construction intentions for medical and educational buildings.

Among provinces, six showed gains in the institutional sector. The largest gain (in dollars) was recorded in Ontario (+115.0% to \$337 million).

The value of institutional permits has been on an upward trend since February 2006.

In the industrial sector, the value of permits surged 45.9% to \$650 million. The big gain, which followed an 11.1% decline in December, was the result of large increases in the manufacturing and utility building categories in Ontario. Alberta showed the biggest drop (in dollars) on the heels of a 125.6% gain in December.

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

Commercial sector permits fell 2.6% from December to \$1.3 billion. Behind this decline was the lower demand for permits associated with warehouses and recreation buildings. Despite the retreat, the value of commercial building permits in January remained 12.0% higher than the average monthly level in 2006.

Provincially, the biggest gain (in dollars) in the non-residential sector occurred in Ontario, where all three components (commercial, industrial and institutional) registered huge gains. In contrast, the largest decline (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, the result of important drops in the industrial and commercial components.

Several economic factors were consistent with the strength in the non-residential sector, including growth in consumer spending and declining vacancy rates for industrial and commercial buildings. In addition, corporate operating profits hit a record high in 2006.

Metropolitan areas: Strong growth in Toronto and Vancouver

Among the 34 census metropolitan areas, 16 showed higher value of permits compared with December 2006. Toronto and Vancouver had the strongest increases (in dollars), the result of strength in both the residential and non-residential sectors. In Toronto, the value of non-residential permits hit its highest value since March 2005.

The value of building permits hit a new high in January in Greater Sudbury.

In contrast, the largest decline occurred in Halifax where decreases in both the residential and non-residential sectors led the value of permits to its lowest level since February 2005.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The January 2007 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The February building permit estimate will be released on April 4.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (613-951-6321 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 area¹

	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006	January 2006 to January 2007
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	27.4	22.8	-16.8	25.5	-10.4
Halifax	98.0	31.1	-68.3	34.7	-10.3
Moncton	19.7	11.8	-40.0	11.7	0.8
Saint John	10.6	21.7	104.6	17.2	26.2
Saguenay	3.1	4.5	46.4	3.9	16.1
Québec	140.9	95.6	-32.1	49.8	92.0
Sherbrooke	12.2	17.0	39.9	13.6	25.2
Trois-Rivières	49.1	17.5	-64.5	17.8	-2.2
Montréal	502.8	467.0	-7.1	434.4	7.5
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	125.5	228.8	82.3	156.8	45.8
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	34.2	43.0	25.8	53.7	-19.8
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	91.2	185.7	103.6	103.2	80.0
Kingston	55.9	10.6	-81.1	8.0	33.0
Peterborough	6.1	2.1	-65.4	15.2	-86.1
Oshawa	28.7	100.2	249.0	62.9	59.1
Toronto	1,032.1	1,249.5	21.1	814.0	53.5
Hamilton	62.8	84.7	34.9	94.6	-10.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	29.1	20.1	-30.8	30.3	-33.7
Kitchener	54.4	41.4	-23.8	83.2	-50.2
Brantford	21.9	9.1	-58.3	14.1	-35.3
Guelph	19.4	12.8	-34.3	24.5	-47.9
London	114.9	72.5	-37.0	95.4	-24.0
Windsor	12.9	20.3	58.3	93.4	-78.2
Barrie	24.3	15.3	-37.0	24.7	-37.9
Greater Sudbury	14.6	110.2	655.2	4.7	2,240.9
Thunder Bay	15.0	10.2	-31.5	7.1	45.3
Winnipeg	79.7	66.3	-16.8	79.3	-16.4
Regina	34.8	35.3	1.3	25.7	37.4
Saskatoon	30.7	47.2	53.9	39.0	21.2
Calgary	474.5	435.5	-8.2	287.4	51.6
Edmonton	298.3	349.4	17.1	235.5	48.4
Kelowna	45.8	34.3	-25.2	25.1	36.5
Abbotsford	12.2	48.9	299.9	26.0	87.9
Vancouver	461.3	653.7	41.7	385.7	69.5
Victoria	41.1	83.0	102.2	49.2	68.8

^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

	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006	January 2006 to January 2007
	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	5,672.7	6,313.4	11.3	4,634.0	36.2
Residential	3,478.2	3,696.3	6.3	3,140.2	17.7
Non-residential	2,194.5	2,617.1	19.3	1,493.8	75.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	37.6	42.5	13.1	34.6	23.0
Residential	31.1	28.0	-9.9	30.2	-7.2
Non-residential	6.5	14.5	122.5	4.4	230.6
Prince Edward Island	13.3	12.5	-5.6	13.0	-3.2
Residential	10.1	9.5	-6.0	8.5	12.1
Non-residential	3.2	3.0	-4.2	4.5	-32.4
Nova Scotia	140.2	80.4	-42.7	93.0	-13.5
Residential	87.0	59.5	-31.6	73.9	-19.5
Non-residential	53.2	20.9	-60.7	19.0	9.7
New Brunswick	67.3	61.6	-8.5	97.2	-36.6
Residential	37.6	41.5	10.3	44.0	-5.6
Non-residential	29.7	20.1	-32.3	53.2	-62.2
Quebec	1,061.5	983.4	-7.4	808.3	21.7
Residential	652.1	651.3	-0.1	533.0	22.2
Non-residential	409.5	332.1	-18.9	275.3	20.6
Ontario	2,019.2	2,645.1	31.0	1,876.1	41.0
Residential	1,251.6	1,280.7	2.3	1,243.2	3.0
Non-residential	767.6	1,364.4	77.7	632.9	115.6
Manitoba	115.0	114.1	-0.8	103.1	10.7
Residential	73.0	78.2	7.2	76.1	2.7
Non-residential	42.1	35.9	-14.7	27.0	33.2
Saskatchewan	82.8	108.8	31.4	84.0	29.6
Residential	55.6	66.9	20.3	42.2	58.5
Non-residential	27.2	41.9	54.0	41.8	0.3
Alberta	1,284.2	1,192.2	-7.2	820.0	45.4
Residential	658.2	757.6	15.1	595.3	27.3
Non-residential	626.1	434.6	-30.6	224.7	93.4
British Columbia	842.4	1,062.7	26.1	700.4	51.7
Residential	615.9	719.0	16.7	490.0	46.7
Non-residential	226.5	343.7	51.7	210.5	63.3
Yukon	4.0	4.4	8.5	3.9	12.1
Residential	2.4	2.6	7.3	3.7	-29.8
Non-residential	1.6	1.8	10.3	0.2	847.1
Northwest Territories	0.4	4.2	946.7	0.5	738.6
Residential	0.2	0.2	-7.4	0.1	90.2
Non-residential	0.2	4.0	1,789.3	0.4	883.7
Nunavut	4.6	1.4	-70.3	0.0	...
Residential	3.5	1.3	-61.7	0.0	...
Non-residential	1.1	0.0	-97.3	0.0	...

^r revised

^p preliminary

... figures not applicable

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



Seniors as victims of crime

2004 and 2005

Canada's seniors (those aged 65 years and older) are less likely to be the victims of violent and property crimes than younger people, according to a new report.

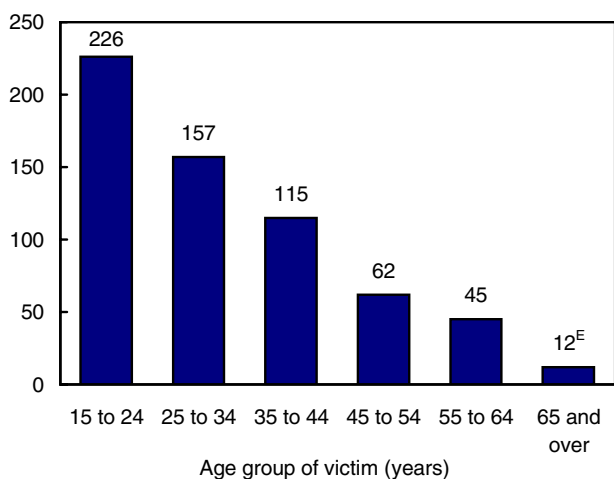
The report is based on results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization and police-reported data from the 2005 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. It examines the nature and prevalence of violent and property crimes against seniors, as well as fear of crime among seniors.

GSS data on victimization found that overall, 10% of people aged 65 and over were victimized in the 12 months preceding the survey, compared to 31% of those under 65 years of age.

Seniors were less likely to be the victims of violent incidents such as assault, sexual assault and robbery. The rate of violent victimization among seniors was almost four times lower than the rate for people aged 55 to 64, and almost 20 times lower than the rate for people aged 15 to 24. These findings are consistent with results from the previous cycle of the GSS survey on victimization conducted in 1999.

Seniors have lowest rates of self-reported violent¹ victimization, 2004

rate per 1,000 population



^E use with caution

1. Violent offences include sexual assault, physical assault and robbery.

to them (such as a family member, a friend or an acquaintance), nearly half of senior victims were victimized by a family member, compared to 39% of younger victims. Just over one-third (35%) of perpetrators of family violence against seniors were adult children, and current or previous spouses were the perpetrators in 31% of incidents.

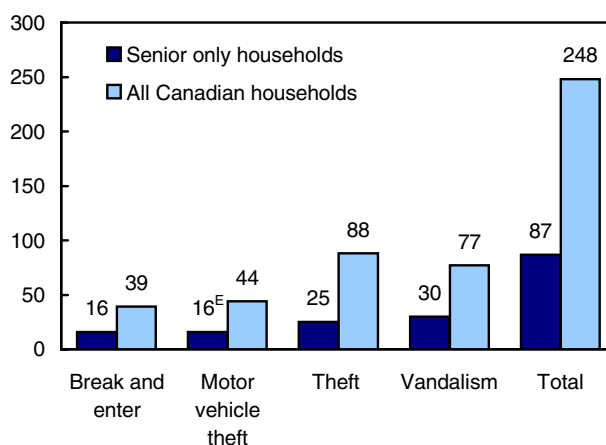
Seniors were no more likely to suffer injuries as a result of their victimization than were younger victims. According to police-reported data, 36% of senior victims and 38% of younger victims of violent crimes sustained an injury.

When an injury was sustained, it was most often minor in nature, requiring no professional medical treatment or only some first-aid. Overall, 2% of violent incidents committed against senior and younger victims alike resulted in major physical injuries.

Seniors were also less likely than their younger counterparts to be victims of personal theft of such items as money, credit cards or a purse/wallet. The rate among seniors for personal theft (22 incidents per 1,000 seniors) was less than half that of people aged 55 to 64 (51 incidents per 1,000 population), and almost eight times lower than the rate for young adults aged 15 to 24 (165 incidents per 1,000 population).

Senior households¹ nearly three times less likely to be victimized, 2004

rate per 1,000 households



^E use with caution

1. Based on those households consisting of residents 65 years and older. Household property crimes include attempted and actual incidents.

The latest police-reported data show that while senior victims (64%) and younger victims (69%) were both more likely to be victimized by someone known

Households with only senior residents experienced household crimes (such as a break-in, property theft,

motor vehicle theft or vandalism) at a rate of 87 incidents for every 1,000 senior households in Canada, nearly three times lower than the rate for all Canadian households (248 incidents per 1,000 households).

Seniors' satisfaction with their personal safety improved slightly between 1999 and 2004. The vast majority (92%) of seniors reported feeling satisfied with their overall level of safety from crime in 2004, compared to 89% reported in 1999. This increase closes the gap between seniors and younger Canadians, resulting in fairly consistent levels of satisfaction with their personal safety (92% compared to 94%).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302 and 4504.

The profile "Seniors as victims of crime" (85F0033MWE2007014, free) is now available as part of the *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series*. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free internet publications* then *Crime and justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Canadian Vehicle Survey

July to September 2006

Vehicles registered in Canada travelled an estimated 90.4 billion kilometres in the third quarter

of 2006, the highest level since 2003, when 90.8 billion kilometres were driven. Light vehicles, such as cars, sport-utility vehicles, mini-vans and pick-up trucks, accounted for 91% of the total.

Drivers are busiest in the July to September quarter, with an average of 86.7 billion kilometres driven since 2000. The next busiest quarter, April to June, averages 80.7 billion kilometres.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as buses, motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0005 to 405-0020, 405-0026 to 405-0036, 405-0039 to 405-0042, 405-0044 to 405-0046, 405-0053, 405-0054, 405-0099 and 405-0101 to 405-0110.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2749.

The July to September 2006 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ed Hamilton (613-951-6153; ed.hamilton@statcan.ca) or Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Canadian Vehicle Survey: Quarterly, July to September 2006
Catalogue number 53F0004XWE
 (free).

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series: "Seniors As victims of crime", 2004 and 2005, no. 14
Catalogue number 85F0033MWE2007014
 (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; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 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 six rides 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 and relatively weak gains in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during PM Year.

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Canada

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