



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, May 7, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Building permits, March 2007

2

The value of building permits increased sharply in March, rebounding with a double-digit gain following a particularly sluggish performance in February. Contractors took out building permits worth \$6.1 billion, a 27.4% increase from February.

New products

7



British Columbia and Alberta also had significant gains in the value of permits, and Alberta's level was the second highest on record for residential intentions. The value of multi-family permits increased strongly in both provinces. Alberta recorded a slight gain in single-family permits while they declined in British Columbia.

Quebec had a robust increase in the value of single-family permits, which reached \$468 million, the highest value since October 2004.

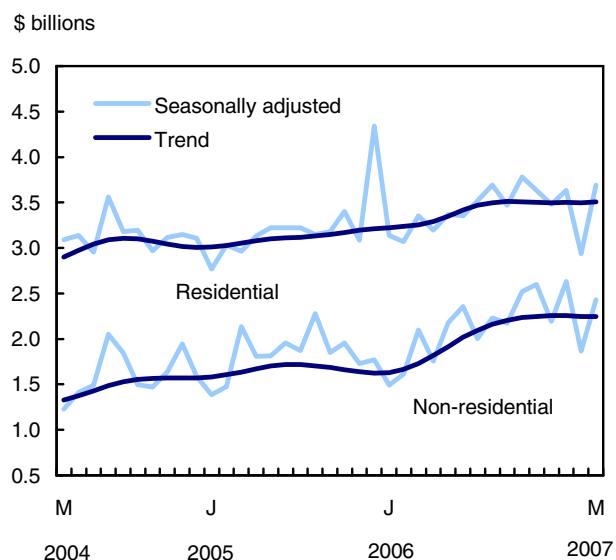
Newfoundland and Labrador experienced big declines in both single- and multi-family permit values, offsetting large gains in February.

On a quarterly basis, the value of residential permits for the first three months of 2007 hit \$10.3 billion, down 5.8% from the fourth quarter of 2006.

First quarter single-family permits amounted to \$6.9 billion, up 1.5%, while the value of multi-family permits fell 17.7% to \$3.4 billion.

Municipalities approved 55,018 residential units in the first quarter, down 6.8% from the last quarter of 2006.

Rebounds in both the residential and non-residential sectors



Non-residential: Surge in commercial, industrial permits

March's 30.2% gain in the non-residential sector came from vigorous growth in construction intentions, spread across most provinces and in 26 of the 34 census metropolitan areas.

In the commercial component, the value of construction projects totalled \$1.5 billion in March, a 43.1% increase, following a 21.3% decline in February. This gain took the value of commercial permits to their

second highest value on record, surpassed only by the record \$1.6 billion set in October 2006.

While the increase came in large part from major projects for office buildings as well as in the recreation category, gains were recorded in every type of commercial buildings.

Provincially, the largest gain (in dollars) in this component occurred in Alberta, where strong demand for office building space and projects for hotels contributed in large part to the strong showing. Quebec and Ontario also reported sizeable gains.

In the industrial sector, the value of permits bounced back 37.6% to \$423 million, after a 53.5% decline in February. The gain came from construction projects for plants.

In March, increases in industrial permits were recorded in every province except British Columbia. The largest gain (in dollars) by far was recorded in New Brunswick, where the value of industrial permits reached a new record high of \$58 million, thanks to large projects for plants.

The overall trend in the industrial sector has remained relatively flat since September 2006, after a marked increase throughout the first three quarters of 2006.

In the institutional sector, the value of permits edged down 1.3% to \$494 million, the third decrease over the last four months. An increase in construction intentions for medical buildings was offset by a decline in the value of permits for education buildings. The value of institutional permits has been on a declining trend since October 2006.

Provincially, Alberta posted a large decline in the value of institutional permits with significant retreats in the medical and education categories. This decline followed a very high level in February.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, institutional permits surged 59.7% after a 50.8% decline in February. The major factor in the turnaround was proposed projects for hospitals.

On a quarterly basis, the cumulative value of non-residential permits reached \$6.9 billion in the first quarter of 2007. This was a 5.3% decline from the \$7.3 billion worth of permits issued in the last quarter of 2006, which was a quarterly record.

The biggest decline occurred in the commercial sector (-9.8% to \$4.3 billion), followed by the second consecutive quarterly decline in institutional permits (-1.9% to \$1.6 billion). The value of industrial permits increased 5.4% to \$1.4 billion, the highest level since the first quarter of 1989.

Several factors could have had a positive impact on non-residential construction intentions. These include strong demand for office space in several centres,

advantageous interest rates and high corporate profits. In addition, according to Statistics Canada's most recent Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers were optimistic about prospects for production and employment for the second quarter of 2007.

Metropolitan areas: Majority showed quarterly declines

The value of building permits declined in the first quarter of 2007 in a majority of metropolitan areas for both residential and non-residential sectors. Overall, the total value of permits declined in 21 of the 34 census metropolitan areas. The largest decline occurred in Vancouver after a quarterly record set in the last three months of 2006.

Other significant declines occurred in Montréal, Halifax, Calgary and London. In Halifax, the value of building permits fell to its lowest quarterly level since the fourth quarter of 2001. The first-quarter value in London was the lowest quarterly level since the last quarter of 2003.

On the other hand, new quarterly records were posted in Saint John, Québec, Greater Sudbury, Saskatoon and Victoria.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The April building permit estimate will be released on June 6.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Haaris Jafri (613-951-0040), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	February 2007 ^r	March 2007 ^p	February to March 2007	January to March 2006	January to March 2007	January–March 2006 to January–March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	22.9	25.3	10.4	69.5	71.5	2.9
Halifax	24.8	24.9	0.5	148.6	81.1	-45.4
Moncton	14.2	11.9	-16.0	35.2	36.6	4.1
Saint John	15.8	36.0	126.9	38.2	73.1	91.2
Saguenay	5.9	10.4	76.9	28.5	20.5	-27.9
Québec	115.7	131.2	13.4	285.5	343.7	20.4
Sherbrooke	23.9	21.1	-11.8	106.6	62.5	-41.4
Trois-Rivières	13.2	23.2	75.6	51.0	53.9	5.6
Montréal	431.6	590.5	36.8	1,383.4	1,489.3	7.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	166.8	296.2	77.6	643.6	691.6	7.5
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	31.1	58.7	88.6	120.1	133.6	11.2
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	135.6	237.5	75.1	523.5	558.0	6.6
Kingston	8.7	32.4	273.1	54.5	51.6	-5.4
Peterborough	6.5	8.1	23.9	37.0	16.7	-54.7
Oshawa	28.4	47.2	66.2	216.0	175.6	-18.7
Toronto	892.6	1,016.3	13.9	2,285.8	3,152.5	37.9
Hamilton	66.4	143.7	116.4	236.9	294.5	24.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	34.5	38.6	12.0	100.6	93.1	-7.4
Kitchener	62.5	79.9	27.9	246.2	183.6	-25.4
Brantford	10.0	17.2	72.0	41.6	36.3	-12.7
Guelph	32.8	22.3	-32.1	64.1	67.7	5.6
London	50.1	56.2	12.2	215.0	178.4	-17.0
Windsor	22.0	22.9	4.2	144.0	65.2	-54.7
Barrie	14.0	34.6	146.5	123.9	63.9	-48.5
Greater Sudbury	6.1	14.9	144.0	16.4	131.1	698.5
Thunder Bay	4.2	5.9	38.7	20.0	20.3	1.8
Winnipeg	93.1	72.2	-22.4	204.0	231.3	13.4
Regina	14.7	22.2	51.0	64.6	70.2	8.7
Saskatoon	37.8	62.7	65.6	104.1	146.9	41.0
Calgary	343.3	569.0	65.7	1,237.1	1,347.6	8.9
Edmonton	283.2	329.6	16.4	751.6	961.6	27.9
Kelowna	46.5	125.4	169.8	110.3	206.0	86.9
Abbotsford	28.8	12.3	-57.2	139.7	90.0	-35.5
Vancouver	435.0	525.8	20.9	1,394.7	1,614.2	15.7
Victoria	67.3	140.2	108.4	169.9	290.3	70.9

^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

	February 2007 ^r	March 2007 ^p	February to March 2007	January to March 2006	January to March 2007	January-March 2006 to January-March 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	4,804.1	6,120.7	27.4	14,764.3	17,189.5	16.4
Residential	2,939.0	3,691.4	25.6	9,560.7	10,263.1	7.3
Non-residential	1,865.1	2,429.3	30.2	5,203.7	6,926.4	33.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	38.2	38.5	0.7	98.2	120.2	22.4
Residential	32.8	22.7	-30.6	82.7	81.3	-1.8
Non-residential	5.5	15.8	188.7	15.5	39.0	151.4
Prince Edward Island	10.7	15.5	44.9	47.0	38.3	-18.6
Residential	8.8	13.1	49.5	34.6	30.9	-10.5
Non-residential	1.9	2.4	23.9	12.4	7.3	-41.1
Nova Scotia	64.0	78.2	22.1	305.5	221.2	-27.6
Residential	52.6	49.5	-5.8	231.1	160.2	-30.7
Non-residential	11.4	28.6	150.5	74.5	60.9	-18.1
New Brunswick	52.2	106.9	104.8	213.4	218.2	2.2
Residential	33.1	33.8	2.0	122.7	105.8	-13.8
Non-residential	19.1	73.1	283.4	90.7	112.4	24.0
Quebec	850.6	1,097.6	29.0	2,700.9	2,911.0	7.8
Residential	584.6	698.1	19.4	1,804.2	1,916.9	6.2
Non-residential	265.9	399.4	50.2	896.8	994.1	10.9
Ontario	1,694.3	2,174.3	28.3	5,307.8	6,502.3	22.5
Residential	961.4	1,208.7	25.7	3,330.5	3,429.6	3.0
Non-residential	732.9	965.6	31.7	1,977.4	3,072.7	55.4
Manitoba	139.9	112.0	-19.9	308.3	366.4	18.8
Residential	83.1	77.4	-6.9	199.7	238.9	19.6
Non-residential	56.8	34.6	-39.1	108.6	127.5	17.4
Saskatchewan	97.2	118.8	22.2	216.6	319.1	47.3
Residential	64.2	79.1	23.3	107.8	205.0	90.1
Non-residential	33.0	39.7	20.0	108.8	114.1	4.9
Alberta	999.7	1,291.6	29.2	2,966.0	3,464.9	16.8
Residential	610.3	763.7	25.1	1,941.1	2,119.8	9.2
Non-residential	389.3	527.9	35.6	1,024.8	1,345.1	31.2
British Columbia	836.9	1,050.3	25.5	2,556.0	2,960.7	15.8
Residential	501.8	710.5	41.6	1,693.4	1,929.7	14.0
Non-residential	335.1	339.8	1.4	862.6	1,031.0	19.5
Yukon	17.2	2.1	-88.0	32.9	23.7	-27.9
Residential	3.8	2.0	-46.6	9.6	8.5	-11.3
Non-residential	13.4	0.0	-99.8	23.3	15.2	-34.8
Northwest Territories	0.9	1.5	65.2	2.5	6.5	161.9
Residential	0.2	0.6	176.8	1.8	0.9	-47.6
Non-residential	0.7	0.9	30.3	0.7	5.6	713.0
Nunavut	2.2	33.5	1,399.6	9.1	37.1	307.7
Residential	2.2	32.0	1,332.4	1.5	35.6	2,273.6
Non-residential	0.0	1.5	...	7.6	1.5	-79.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

... figures not applicable.

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

New products

There are no new products today.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-877-591-6963**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 6% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (F) (English) 11-001-XIE(11-001-001-001)

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

• Urban transit, 1995	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995	4

OTHER RELEASES

• Highered Index, May 1997	3
• Short-term Expectations Survey	3
• Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997	12
• Flag production, April 1997	12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2007. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.