



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Residential construction investment

First quarter 2007

Investment in residential construction reached \$18.3 billion in the first quarter of 2007, up 6.1% from the same quarter in 2006. Whereas new housing remained strong and posted some gains, the increase in investment in renovations made the largest contribution to this growth.

The strong economy in Western Canada maintained its positive influence on the housing sector. Other factors favouring the sector's strength were advantageous mortgage rates, attractive financing options, continued strength in full-time employment and personal disposable income, as well as high immigration and, in some instances, net interprovincial migration levels. The high cost of housing, particularly in Alberta, also contributed to the increase in the value of investment in residential construction.

New housing investment was up 4.4% from the first quarter of 2006 to \$8.9 billion. Investment in apartment/condominium construction was the major contributor (in dollars) to this increase, advancing 10.8% to \$2.2 billion. Single-family units were up 2.2% to \$5.4 billion, while semi-detached units rose sharply by 18.6% to \$470 million.

The marked increase in prices of new dwellings was the main factor behind the gains in the value of investment for both single and apartment/condominium units.

In constant dollars, investment in new apartment/condominium units grew 1.2% while expenditures on new single-family units declined 9.5%.

Renovation spending reached \$7.8 billion, an increase of 10.2% over the first quarter of 2006. This represented 42.5% of the total investment on residential construction. The increase in renovation investment was almost double the rise in new housing investment (in dollars). Acquisition costs declined 2.1% to \$1.6 billion.

As in the previous quarter, the largest increase (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where residential investments climbed 22.4% from the same quarter of 2006 to \$3.2 billion. New housing made the largest contribution to this increase, along with a solid advance in renovations. Quebec also recorded an important gain (+7.7% to \$3.5 billion), renovations having strongly contributed to the growth.

Note: Residential construction investment is divided into three main components. The first is new housing construction, which includes single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing and apartments, cottages, mobile homes and additional housing units created from non-residential buildings or other types of residential structures (conversions). The second component of residential construction investment (renovations) includes alterations and improvements in existing dwellings. The third component is acquisition costs, which refers to the value of services related to the sale of new dwellings. These costs include sales tax, land development and service charges, as well as record-processing fees for mortgage insurance and the associated premiums.

Because ownership transfer costs are not included in the investment totals presented in this release and in CANSIM table 026-0013, the figures here do not match the figures published in the National economic accounts (CANSIM table 380-0010).

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Residential construction investment

Provinces/Territories	First quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	First quarter 2006 to first quarter 2007
	\$ millions		% change
Canada	17,277.3	18,337.9	6.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	155.4	147.8	-4.9
Prince Edward Island	40.1	34.0	-15.1
Nova Scotia	394.1	389.3	-1.2
New Brunswick	208.8	211.0	1.0
Quebec	3,283.2	3,537.1	7.7
Ontario	6,524.0	6,494.3	-0.5
Manitoba	391.8	398.6	1.7
Saskatchewan	326.7	391.2	19.7
Alberta	2,614.3	3,200.2	22.4
British Columbia	3,301.6	3,483.9	5.5
Yukon	24.3	24.3	-0.1
Northwest Territories	9.4	6.9	-27.0
Nunavut	3.4	19.4	464.6

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Investment in non-residential building construction

First quarter 2007 (revised)

Following the release of the national economic and financial accounts for the first quarter of 2007, revised estimates of the investment in non-residential building for the first quarter of 2007 are now available. Estimates have also been revised from 2003 to 2006.

Investments in non-residential building were converted from a 1997 reference year to a 2002 reference year. Constant dollar values are now expressed in terms of 2002 prices. These changes are applicable to the data from 1997 to date.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

For more information, consult the *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* (13-010-XWE, free), 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 Bechir Oueriemmi, (613-951-1165; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

International trade price indexes

The International Trade Division has updated the reference year for import and export price indexes. This update changes the reference year from 1997 to 2002, and has been undertaken in collaboration with the System of National Accounts.

Historical data (2002=100) from 2002 to 2006 are available today in new CANSIM tables 228-0047 to 228-0055. CANSIM tables 228-0035 to 228-0040 and 228-0044 to 228-0046 are now terminated.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Data for the first four months and first quarter of 2007 will be released on June 8.

For more information on products and services, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647; trade@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

April 2007

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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

Electric power statistics

March 2007

Data on electric power are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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

Coal and coke statistics

March 2007

Data on coal and coke are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

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

Energy supply and demand

2005

Data on energy supply and demand are now available for 2005.

Available on CANSIM: tables 128-0009, 128-0010 and 128-0012 to 128-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2191, 2194, 2196 and 2198.

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

New products

Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, 2004
Catalogue number 57-003-XIB
 (free).

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

Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, 2005
Catalogue number 57-003-XWE
 (free).

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Employment, Earnings and Hours, March 2007,
 Vol. 85, no. 3
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB
 (free).

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discusses the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Shows a productivity among Canadian businesses has steadily rose again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-waged index, May 1997** 3
- **Structure-Employment Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 10
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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