



# The Daily

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## Releases

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### **Building permits, May 2007**

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Construction sites in Western Canada will be humming this summer as the value of building permits, a leading indicator for construction activity, surged to its highest monthly level ever in May. Municipalities issued a total of \$6.8 billion worth of permits, up 21.4% from April.

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## Releases

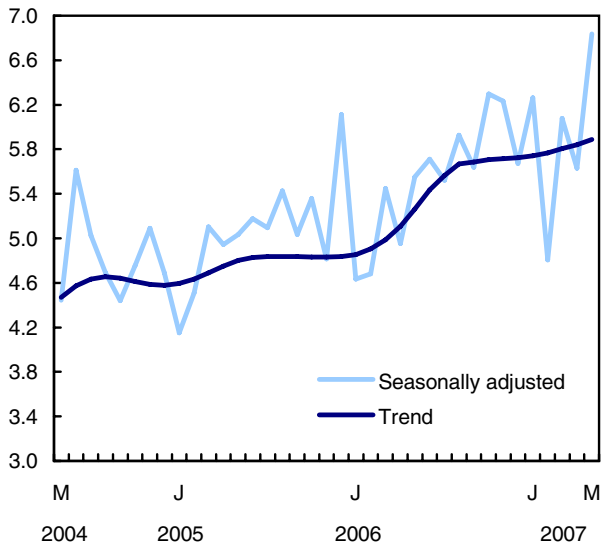
### Building permits

May 2007

Construction sites in Western Canada will be humming this summer as the value of building permits, a leading indicator for construction activity, surged to its highest monthly level ever in May.

#### Total value of permits reach a new record

\$ billions



Municipalities issued a total of \$6.8 billion worth of permits, up 21.4% from April and 8.5% higher than the previous high set in October 2006. More than 15% of the total value in May came from only 15 large projects.

The Calgary and Vancouver metropolitan areas were responsible for nearly 75% of the overall gain (in dollars) in May. Excluding these two areas, the total value of permits would have increased by only 7.0% instead of 21.4%.

Gains in these two metropolitan areas pushed the total value of permits in Alberta and British Columbia to record highs. There was also strong growth in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, thanks largely to construction intentions in the non-residential sector.

Non-residential permits surpassed the \$3-billion mark for the first time in the wake of a big increase in commercial projects. Contractors took out a record \$3.1 billion in permits for proposed construction projects, up 55.7% from April. This level was 18.5%

#### 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).

higher than the previous record of \$2.6 billion set in January.

On the residential side, municipalities issued \$3.7 billion in permits, a 2.4% increase from April. The value of single-family permits increased, while multi-family permits slipped marginally.

#### Non-residential sector: Strong demand for new commercial space

The commercial component accounted for the lion's share of gains in the non-residential sector in May. Contractors took out permits worth a record \$2.1 billion, a 59.2% increase from April.

This was by far the largest monthly figure on record for the commercial component, surpassing the previous record high of \$1.6 billion set in October 2006. Several large projects for new office space in the Calgary and Vancouver areas accounted for the increase.

The dynamic commercial component (the largest of the three non-residential components) has been on an upward trend since October 2005. Furthermore, the average monthly value of commercial permits issued since the beginning of 2007 was 21.2% higher than in 2006.

In the institutional component, permits rebounded in May from a 26-month low in April. The value of institutional projects increased 76.6% to \$616 million, the second highest level so far in 2007. Only the level in January was higher than the one reached in May.

School projects were the main factor behind the gain. Only two provinces – Newfoundland and Labrador

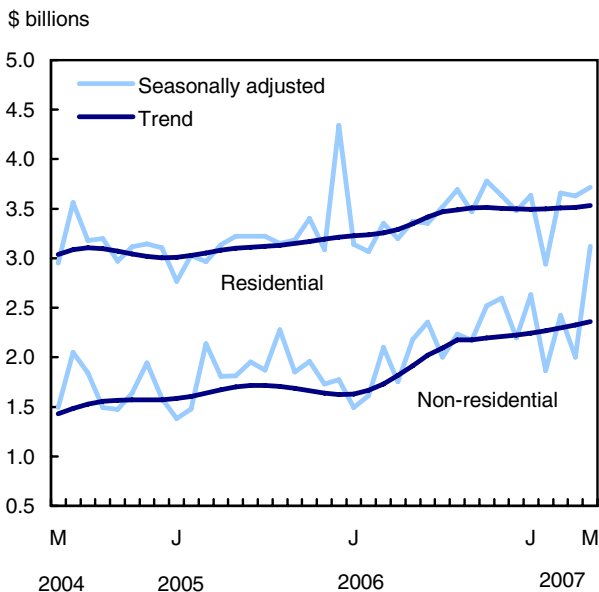
and Alberta – recorded a decline in this component. The largest gains (in dollars) were in Ontario and British Columbia.

On the industrial side, the value of permits surged 21.3% in May to \$419 million after a 19.4% decline in April. While eight provinces showed a gain in May, the increase was due mainly to construction projects for manufacturing plants in Ontario.

The value of industrial permits has been on a downward trend since the end of 2006.

The buoyant construction intentions in the non-residential sector since the beginning of 2007 are consistent with low office vacancy rates in several large centres, high profits recorded by Canadian corporations and a vigorous retail sector.

**The value of non-residential permits soars**



**Housing sector: Slight decline in the value of multi-family building permits**

The value of multi-family permits edged down 0.6% to roughly \$1.4 billion in May. After an impressive gain in April, the number of units approved by municipalities fell 18.3% to 9,359.

This came from a marked increase in the average value of multi-family permits.

Builders took out \$2.3 billion in single-family permits, boosting their value by 4.3% over April to its highest level in four months. The number of approved units increased 2.8% to 9,481. Nevertheless, the increase failed to halt the downward trend in the number of single-family units that dates back to September 2006.

The demand for housing continues to remain strong owing to several factors, including strong employment, rises in disposable income, strong immigration and attractive financing options. Recent increases in mortgage rates and prices could, however, erode affordability.

The value of residential permits increased in seven provinces.

The strongest growth (in dollars) in the value of residential permits occurred in British Columbia, thanks mostly to a jump in multi-family permits. The value of housing permits hit \$905 million, up 30.9% from April and the highest level on record for the province. Quebec also recorded a sizeable increase.

In contrast, the value of residential permits in Alberta fell 21.9% from a record level in April, resulting in the second weakest showing in 11 months for residential permits in the province.

**Metropolitan areas: Calgary and Vancouver dominate the scene**

Among the 34 metropolitan areas, 20 recorded gains in residential permits, while 26 saw the value of their non-residential permits rise.

The demand for office space in downtown Calgary led this census metropolitan area to record a 160.6% jump in May, surpassing the \$1-billion mark for the first time. Of this total, \$856 million in intentions were in non-residential permits, which was more than eight times the value in April.

While very small in comparison, other important gains in non-residential permits (in dollars) were recorded in Hamilton, Victoria and Winnipeg.

In the residential sector, Vancouver led the pack, with residential permit values increasing 54.9% to \$585 million and total permit values reaching \$803 million, up 38.0% over April.

Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part), Hamilton and Barrie saw appreciable gains (in dollars) in residential permit values, but were eclipsed by Vancouver's increase.

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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.**

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

The June building permit estimates will be released on August 3.

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 area<sup>1</sup>

	April 2007 <sup>r</sup>	May 2007 <sup>p</sup>	April to May 2007	January to May 2006	January to May 2007	January–May 2006 to January–May 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	24.8	28.8	15.9	129.1	125.9	-2.4
Halifax	97.5	42.7	-56.2	259.7	221.1	-14.9
Moncton	23.8	31.5	32.3	84.1	93.5	11.2
Saint John	23.0	19.9	-13.5	69.7	115.9	66.4
Saguenay	15.0	26.1	73.7	64.1	61.7	-3.8
Québec	97.4	110.9	13.8	477.4	551.8	15.6
Sherbrooke	35.1	22.7	-35.3	161.4	120.2	-25.5
Trois-Rivières	22.2	37.7	69.9	85.9	113.7	32.3
Montréal	535.4	534.7	-0.1	2,368.6	2,563.7	8.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	175.3	198.9	13.4	896.3	1,066.1	18.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	42.1	68.4	62.5	190.7	243.8	27.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	133.2	130.5	-2.1	705.7	822.3	16.5
Kingston	12.8	17.3	34.9	91.8	81.6	-11.1
Peterborough	11.2	12.1	8.6	62.8	40.0	-36.2
Oshawa	66.0	63.3	-4.0	343.0	304.8	-11.1
Toronto	932.6	935.1	0.3	4,291.1	4,974.5	15.9
Hamilton	67.9	126.5	86.4	344.3	488.9	42.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	37.2	46.4	24.8	198.2	176.9	-10.7
Kitchener	61.5	62.9	2.2	424.2	309.6	-27.0
Brantford	22.6	22.2	-2.0	73.7	81.1	10.1
Guelph	24.4	30.7	25.7	131.8	122.9	-6.8
London	92.0	93.0	1.2	388.2	363.4	-6.4
Windsor	22.6	40.1	77.6	243.6	127.8	-47.5
Barrie	26.0	42.2	62.1	190.8	132.0	-30.8
Greater Sudbury	16.7	34.3	104.6	72.9	182.1	149.8
Thunder Bay	8.7	9.9	14.7	28.7	39.0	35.8
Winnipeg	58.4	82.8	41.7	347.3	372.4	7.2
Regina	15.5	30.5	97.1	115.0	114.2	-0.7
Saskatoon	44.7	60.2	34.7	182.3	250.0	37.1
Calgary	408.0	1,063.5	160.6	1,993.1	2,812.4	41.1
Edmonton	380.8	289.8	-23.9	1,272.8	1,633.6	28.3
Kelowna	56.2	72.3	28.7	230.1	334.8	45.5
Abbotsford	23.3	28.6	22.8	210.0	142.0	-32.4
Vancouver	581.8	803.1	38.0	2,331.4	3,008.3	29.0
Victoria	81.1	93.3	15.0	287.7	464.9	61.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

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

**Value of building permits, by province and territory**

	April 2007 <sup>r</sup>	May 2007 <sup>p</sup>	April to May 2007	January to May 2006	January to May 2007	January–May 2006 to January–May 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5,631.2</b>	<b>6,834.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>25,266.5</b>	<b>29,611.6</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>3,627.4</b>	<b>3,714.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>16,129.1</b>	<b>17,569.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>2,003.8</b>	<b>3,120.2</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>9,137.4</b>	<b>12,042.4</b>	<b>31.8</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	44.2	46.0	4.2	188.5	211.1	12.0
Residential	28.0	31.3	11.8	139.4	141.2	1.3
Non-residential	16.2	14.7	-8.9	49.1	70.0	42.5
Prince Edward Island	12.4	13.6	9.8	82.5	64.7	-21.6
Residential	8.0	10.2	28.3	50.7	49.7	-2.0
Non-residential	4.4	3.3	-23.9	31.8	15.0	-52.9
Nova Scotia	142.3	107.7	-24.3	515.3	472.8	-8.2
Residential	100.6	66.8	-33.6	373.5	326.2	-12.7
Non-residential	41.7	40.9	-1.9	141.8	146.6	3.3
New Brunswick	73.6	93.9	27.6	363.0	386.6	6.5
Residential	47.8	43.6	-8.8	219.2	198.4	-9.5
Non-residential	25.8	50.3	94.9	143.8	188.2	30.9
Quebec	1,027.9	1,118.4	8.8	4,592.1	5,057.0	10.1
Residential	647.3	694.9	7.4	3,055.7	3,252.4	6.4
Non-residential	380.6	423.5	11.3	1,536.3	1,804.5	17.5
Ontario	1,921.8	2,064.7	7.4	9,206.7	10,449.5	13.5
Residential	1,141.3	1,162.5	1.9	5,767.1	5,705.8	-1.1
Non-residential	780.5	902.2	15.6	3,439.6	4,743.8	37.9
Manitoba	108.2	150.8	39.4	537.3	624.5	16.2
Residential	68.0	79.5	16.8	338.1	386.9	14.4
Non-residential	40.1	71.3	77.6	199.2	237.7	19.3
Saskatchewan	95.2	118.9	24.9	414.7	527.3	27.2
Residential	54.9	65.7	19.6	177.8	320.2	80.1
Non-residential	40.3	53.3	32.2	236.9	207.1	-12.6
Alberta	1,208.7	1,783.2	47.5	4,944.0	6,449.2	30.4
Residential	831.2	649.1	-21.9	3,153.1	3,596.1	14.0
Non-residential	377.5	1,134.0	200.4	1,790.9	2,853.1	59.3
British Columbia	976.8	1,316.9	34.8	4,352.8	5,261.2	20.9
Residential	691.8	905.3	30.9	2,829.0	3,533.5	24.9
Non-residential	285.0	411.6	44.4	1,523.9	1,727.7	13.4
Yukon	6.0	9.7	61.3	51.9	39.4	-24.0
Residential	2.9	3.1	7.5	17.5	14.6	-16.5
Non-residential	3.1	6.5	112.7	34.4	24.8	-27.8
Northwest Territories	9.4	9.5	1.1	5.7	25.5	345.6
Residential	0.9	1.1	32.1	3.6	3.0	-18.7
Non-residential	8.6	8.4	-2.0	2.1	22.5	980.7
Nunavut	4.8	1.0	-78.5	11.9	42.8	260.1
Residential	4.7	0.9	-80.5	4.3	41.2	866.8
Non-residential	0.1	0.1	20.0	7.6	1.6	-79.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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



## Periodical publishing

2005

Total operating revenues in the periodical publishing industry increased in 2005 from the previous year, but an even larger gain in operating expenses held profits in check.

The industry recorded total operating revenues of \$1.9 billion, a 6.3% increase from 2004, while operating expenses rose 11.5%. One-quarter of industry operating expenses were associated with salaries, wages and benefits. As a result, operating profits totalled \$165.9 million, down from \$232.5 million in 2004. The industry posted an operating profit margin of 8.7% in 2005.

The industry is made up of magazine or periodical publishers whose main activities include gathering, writing, soliciting and editing articles, and preparing and selling advertisements. Periodicals are published at regular intervals, typically on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. These periodicals may be published in printed or electronic format.

Firms in Ontario and Quebec combined accounted for the vast majority (83.0%) of total national operating revenues. Ontario firms dominated Canadian periodical publishing, earning 55.8% of total operating revenues in 2005. Quebec firms accounted for 27.0%, while those in British Columbia represented about 8%.

Ontario and British Columbia firms showed operating profit margins above the national average, at 10.3% and 10.7% respectively, while firms in the Atlantic Provinces (3.8%), Quebec (5.9%) and the Prairies (5.5%) posted lower operating profit margins.

In 2005, the top 10 companies represented just over half (56%) of total operating revenues and three-quarters of operating profits in the industry. Salaries, wages and benefits accounted for half of the total operating expenses for these 10 companies.

**Note:** Data for 2005 should not be compared with previously released periodical publishing data, as significant changes were made to the survey. However, some key trends can still be determined, as this release includes data for the survey year 2004 using the new 2005 methodology. Data are now collected using a sample that represents 95% of the total revenues earned by the periodical publishing industry. Administrative data are used to account for the smallest firms.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5091.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Reid (613-951-2246; [les.reid@statcan.ca](mailto:les.reid@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-6696), Service Industries Division.

### Summary statistics for the periodical publishing industry, by province and region<sup>1</sup>

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia and the territories	Canada
\$ thousands						
<b>Operating revenues<sup>2</sup></b>						
2005	35,828	516,187	1,064,755	133,421	158,200	1,908,391
2004	35,036	461,149	1,025,586	124,594	148,573	1,794,938
<b>Operating expenses<sup>3</sup></b>						
2005	34,450	485,510	955,153	126,125	141,218	1,742,456
2004	32,615	402,609	892,024	107,194	128,011	1,562,453
<b>Salaries, wages and benefits</b>						
2005	11,467	101,810	291,499	41,090	45,147	491,013
2004	11,683	91,484	248,553	39,657	43,021	434,398
%						
<b>Operating profit margin</b>						
2005	3.8	5.9	10.3	5.5	10.7	8.7
2004	6.9	12.7	13.0	14.0	13.8	13.0

1. Estimates for the most recent year are preliminary. Preliminary data are subject to revision.

2. Operating revenues exclude investment income, capital gains, extraordinary gains and other non-recurring items.

3. Operating expenses exclude write-offs, capital losses, extraordinary losses, interest on borrowing and other non-recurring items.

**Note:** Due to rounding, components may not add up to totals.

**Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products**

March 2007

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.**

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](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

**Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, July 2007**  
**Catalogue number 62-013-XIE**  
 (free).

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

**Employment, Earnings and Hours, April 2007,**  
 Vol. 85, no. 4  
**Catalogue number 72-002-XIB**  
 (free).

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**Cancer Incidence in Canada, 2004 to 2005**  
**Catalogue number 82-231-XWE**  
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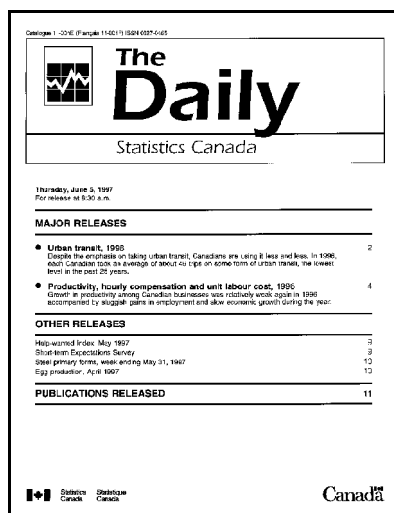
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