



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Construction intentions cooled down in July as the value of building permits declined, halting two months of record-setting performances. Municipalities issued building permits worth \$6.2 billion, down 11.3% from \$6.9 billion in June.	
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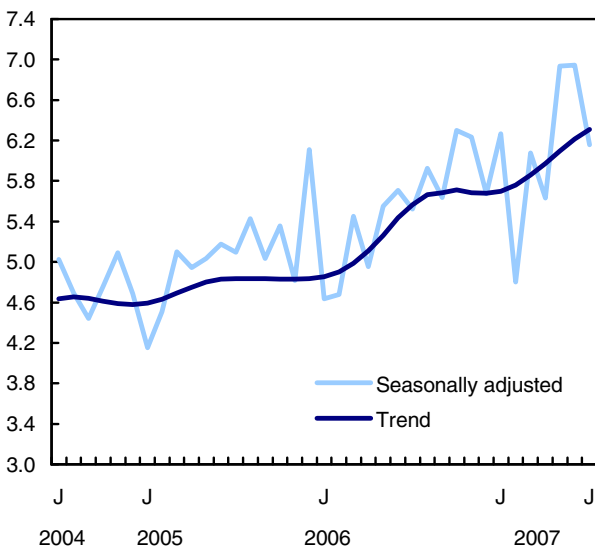
Building permits

July 2007

Construction intentions cooled down in July as the value of building permits declined, halting two months of record-setting performances. Municipalities issued building permits worth \$6.2 billion, down 11.3% from \$6.9 billion in June.

Total value of permits declines in July

\$ billions



Still, July was one of only a handful of months in which permits exceeded the \$6-billion mark.

At \$6.9 billion in both May and June, the total value of permits was at its highest level on record.

Losses occurred in both the residential and non-residential sectors. The value of residential permits fell 6.3% to \$3.8 billion, with declines in both the single-family and multiple-family components.

Contractors took out \$2.3 billion in permits in the non-residential sector, down 18.6%. The value of institutional and commercial permits decreased, while industrial permits rose to their second-highest value in just over a year.

The value of permits increased in only three provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

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).

Housing sector: Multi-family permits recede

Intentions in both components of the housing sector eased down in July.

Municipalities issued \$2.4 billion worth of single-family permits, a 3.1% decline from June. Still, it was the third-highest value on record. A total of 9,553 single-family units were approved, a 2.4% decline.

The value of multi-family permits tumbled 11.1% to \$1.5 billion, the first decline in five months. Municipalities approved 11,041 multi-family units, a 5.8% decline. Even so, the demand for new multi-family dwellings has been on an upward trend since the beginning of the year.

The high price tag associated with the purchase of single-family dwellings has contributed to an increasing shift in housing demand towards multi-family units. So far this year, 51.4% of the new units approved have been multi-family dwellings. The last time such a high proportion was observed for a whole year was in 1982.

Strength in employment, growth in disposable income, tight apartment vacancy rates in several centres and attractive financing options continued to have a positive impact on housing demand.

Residential permits declined in four provinces. The significant drops in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario more than offset modest increases in permit values elsewhere.

The largest decline (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where the value of permits fell 15.3% to \$827 million, the result of decreases in both single- and multi-family

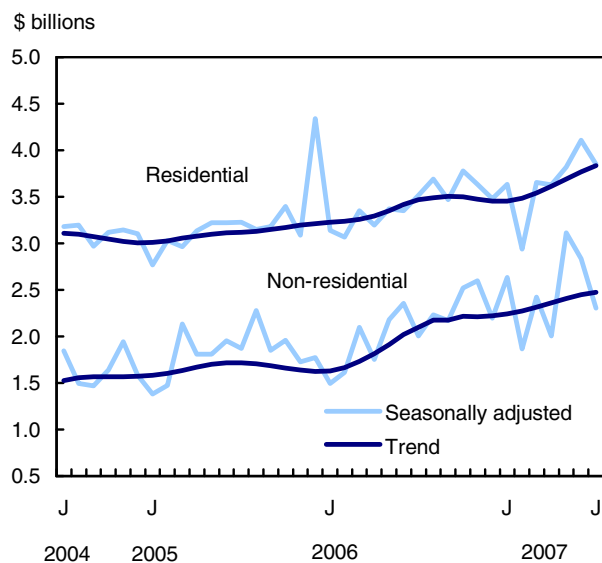
permits. Despite the decline, Alberta's level was still 8.0% above its average value of residential permits for the first six months of 2007.

The drops in total residential permit values in British Columbia (-11.3% to \$718 million) and Ontario (-5.8% to \$1.2 billion) were mainly precipitated by falling levels of multi-family permits.

On the other hand, strength in the multi-family component led to increases in the total values of residential permits in Quebec (+4.2% to \$718 million) and Nova Scotia (+29.6% to \$75 million).

Ontario's decline in multi-family permits was largely the result of a decrease in the average value of such units approved.

Building permits in both residential and non-residential sectors retreat



Non-residential sector: Decline halts two strong months

Contractors took out \$2.3 billion in non-residential permits in July, an 18.6% decline. This followed two very strong months, as non-residential permits totalled \$3.1 billion in May and \$2.8 billion in June.

Despite the decline, July's level was still nearly 10% above the average monthly level in 2006. Furthermore, the value of non-residential permits has been generally on an upward trend since the beginning of 2006.

In the commercial component, the value of permits totalled \$1.2 billion, down 29.4% from June. Lower construction intentions were spread across a wide variety of buildings, such as office buildings, hotels, warehouses, shopping malls and retail stores. Intentions fell in seven provinces.

July's level was the lowest in five months. Despite the decline, the value of commercial permits has been on an upward trend since October 2005.

In the institutional sector, the value of permits dropped 16.9% to \$592 million following gains of 14.6% in June and 78.6% in May. Lower construction intentions in educational buildings and nursing homes contributed to this decline.

Overall, seven provinces and two territories recorded declines. However, Ontario and British Columbia registered the most significant drops (in dollars), offsetting a strong gain in Alberta.

In the industrial component, the value of permits jumped 23.8% to \$503 million, after a 6.6% drop in June.

The gain was based mainly on strong construction intentions for manufacturing buildings in Ontario and Alberta. In contrast, after five consecutive monthly increases, Quebec recorded the largest decline as a result of lower construction intentions in the utility and manufacturing building categories.

Several factors are consistent with the strength in the non-residential sector in recent months. These include strength in the retail and wholesale sectors, high corporate profits, and declining vacancy rates for office buildings in certain major urban centres.

Among the provinces, British Columbia and Ontario recorded the greatest decreases in the non-residential sector. In British Columbia, the \$269 million worth of permits issued in July was the lowest level since the beginning of the year.

Metropolitan areas: July's decline widespread across the country

Among the 34 census metropolitan areas, 24 posted declines in the total value of building permits in July.

The largest decreases (in dollars) occurred in Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary. In each area, retreats occurred in both the residential and non-residential sectors, and were preceded by a strong showing in June. A strike in the city of Vancouver contributed to the decline in the total value of permits for the Vancouver area.

Despite the declines in July, Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary showed the strongest year-to-date advances (in dollars) among the metropolitan areas compared with the same period in 2006.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The August building permit estimate will be released on October 4.

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

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^p	June to July 2007	January to July 2006	January to July 2007	January-July 2006 to January-July 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	28.8	32.9	14.1	181.2	187.8	3.7
Halifax	71.1	58.8	-17.3	373.0	351.4	-5.8
Moncton	32.3	24.2	-25.0	127.7	150.4	17.7
Saint John	15.8	15.0	-5.5	92.9	147.0	58.3
Saguenay	34.9	22.3	-36.0	108.5	118.6	9.3
Québec	144.4	100.5	-30.4	656.2	795.8	21.3
Sherbrooke	29.4	29.8	1.5	201.6	179.4	-11.0
Trois-Rivières	28.8	26.9	-6.8	123.2	169.2	37.3
Montréal	617.3	609.2	-1.3	3,375.0	3,797.2	12.5
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	182.6	197.2	8.0	1,247.8	1,443.1	15.7
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	62.9	71.5	13.6	287.0	377.8	31.6
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	119.6	125.7	5.1	960.7	1,065.3	10.9
Kingston	44.9	36.6	-18.5	157.1	163.1	3.8
Peterborough	9.1	25.7	182.4	90.3	74.7	-17.3
Oshawa	52.0	67.6	29.9	535.2	423.6	-20.8
Toronto	1,231.5	1,032.8	-16.1	5,971.3	7,240.3	21.3
Hamilton	71.4	119.5	67.4	477.7	678.1	41.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	41.7	31.5	-24.3	288.5	249.8	-13.4
Kitchener	76.7	74.9	-2.3	568.5	500.2	-12.0
Brantford	15.7	10.8	-31.3	107.9	107.4	-0.4
Guelph	24.0	29.4	22.8	215.2	176.2	-18.1
London	114.9	61.9	-46.1	531.5	539.8	1.6
Windsor	41.6	21.4	-48.6	297.6	190.4	-36.0
Barrie	61.5	26.6	-56.7	307.5	219.5	-28.6
Greater Sudbury	24.9	22.9	-8.0	105.6	229.5	117.5
Thunder Bay	4.7	7.3	55.6	44.5	52.3	17.4
Winnipeg	80.1	76.0	-5.1	523.3	529.5	1.2
Regina	89.5	27.0	-69.9	185.6	230.6	24.2
Saskatoon	57.3	40.0	-30.3	261.2	347.7	33.2
Calgary	694.4	546.9	-21.2	2,925.6	4,055.6	38.6
Edmonton	401.5	286.6	-28.6	1,823.3	2,324.4	27.5
Kelowna	95.2	42.1	-55.8	334.4	472.1	41.2
Abbotsford	15.9	25.0	57.1	237.3	182.9	-22.9
Vancouver	790.3	583.4	-26.2	3,448.7	4,410.3	27.9
Victoria	101.9	64.8	-36.4	458.1	631.4	37.8

^r revised

^p 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

	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^p	June to July 2007	January to July 2006	January to July 2007	January-July 2006 to January-July 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	6,943.1	6,155.4	-11.3	36,497.5	42,811.9	17.3
Residential	4,108.6	3,848.8	-6.3	22,999.0	25,633.3	11.5
Non-residential	2,834.5	2,306.6	-18.6	13,498.5	17,178.6	27.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	46.8	54.3	16.2	266.1	313.0	17.6
Residential	31.9	34.1	6.7	193.4	207.9	7.5
Non-residential	14.8	20.3	36.7	72.7	105.1	44.6
Prince Edward Island	11.9	13.7	15.1	120.7	90.2	-25.2
Residential	8.9	10.4	16.8	72.8	68.9	-5.3
Non-residential	3.0	3.3	10.0	48.0	21.3	-55.5
Nova Scotia	125.5	119.7	-4.6	717.8	718.7	0.1
Residential	57.8	74.9	29.6	482.0	459.6	-4.6
Non-residential	67.7	44.8	-33.8	235.9	259.1	9.8
New Brunswick	81.1	85.3	5.2	519.3	555.6	7.0
Residential	56.8	56.1	-1.2	295.2	313.3	6.1
Non-residential	24.3	29.2	20.2	224.1	242.4	8.1
Quebec	1,183.2	1,148.7	-2.9	6,542.7	7,411.2	13.3
Residential	688.9	718.1	4.2	4,324.5	4,668.8	8.0
Non-residential	494.3	430.6	-12.9	2,218.2	2,742.4	23.6
Ontario	2,316.5	2,102.9	-9.2	13,008.1	14,907.8	14.6
Residential	1,322.7	1,245.5	-5.8	8,098.1	8,324.2	2.8
Non-residential	993.8	857.5	-13.7	4,910.0	6,583.6	34.1
Manitoba	148.4	120.9	-18.5	795.1	896.1	12.7
Residential	81.3	78.1	-4.0	477.7	548.1	14.7
Non-residential	67.1	42.8	-36.2	317.5	348.1	9.6
Saskatchewan	180.5	136.5	-24.4	640.6	844.5	31.8
Residential	67.4	73.1	8.4	246.9	462.1	87.1
Non-residential	113.1	63.4	-43.9	393.7	382.4	-2.9
Alberta	1,520.2	1,367.2	-10.1	7,448.4	9,343.9	25.4
Residential	977.0	827.3	-15.3	4,626.3	5,422.7	17.2
Non-residential	543.2	539.9	-0.6	2,822.1	3,921.2	38.9
British Columbia	1,303.8	987.5	-24.3	6,321.8	7,579.5	19.9
Residential	809.4	718.3	-11.3	4,132.8	5,079.6	22.9
Non-residential	494.5	269.2	-45.6	2,189.0	2,499.8	14.2
Yukon	3.7	6.6	77.0	63.6	49.6	-21.9
Residential	2.1	5.5	168.3	23.7	22.1	-6.9
Non-residential	1.6	1.0	-38.0	39.8	27.5	-30.9
Northwest Territories	14.8	9.8	-33.5	16.4	50.1	205.8
Residential	3.8	5.3	41.5	9.7	12.0	24.5
Non-residential	11.0	4.5	-59.1	6.7	38.1	466.4
Nunavut	6.8	2.2	-67.2	36.8	51.7	40.3
Residential	0.7	2.1	186.1	15.9	44.0	177.1
Non-residential	6.1	0.1	-97.7	20.9	7.6	-63.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Study: Heavy fuel oil consumption in Canada

1990 to 2005

While not one of the main energy sources nationally, heavy fuel oil is still an important fuel source for some industries in Canada, according to a new study.

In Canada, no significant shift from the combustion of hydrocarbons toward more benign and renewable energy sources, such as hydro-electricity, has occurred during the past 15 years.

However, some progress has been made in the case of heavy fuel oil, a highly polluting, low-grade fuel of tar-like consistency composed mostly of carbon, hydrogen, sulphur and other impurities such as ash. There has been a small decline in its overall use as an energy source, according to this study, published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series.

In 1990, heavy fuel oil was used to produce an estimated 419.5 petajoules of energy. By 2005, this production had declined to 387.3 petajoules. (One petajoule contains energy equivalent to about 30 million litres of gasoline, enough to power Canada from all sources for a little more than an hour.)

As a result, heavy fuel oil accounted for 4.1% of Canada's total energy needs in 2005, down from 5.5% in 1990.

This article examines the trends in the use of heavy fuel oil in Canada on the basis of industries and provinces between 1990 and 2005.

Currently, more than one-third (37.6%) of Canada's total energy demand is still met by refined petroleum products, one of which is heavy fuel oil. This ratio has not changed since 1990.

More than 85% of the decline in the use of heavy fuel oil was attributable to users who substituted other energy sources. The rest (less than 15%) is attributable to the reduced use of energy overall by users of heavy fuel oil.

Heavy fuel oil is burned in quantity for thermal-electric power generation, for heating boilers and furnaces in some manufacturing industries, notably the pulp and paper industry, and the petroleum refining industry. It is also used to power large commercial marine vessels and to heat some large, usually older commercial, institutional and multiple residential buildings.

It is second only to coal as a carbon-intensive fuel. When heavy fuel oil is burned, it releases sulphur dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

By far, the pulp and paper industry has been most instrumental in the reduction of heavy fuel oil use at the

national level. Between 1990 and 2005, this industry cut its consumption of heavy fuel oil by more than half.

The decline was particularly strong in the Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia, where pulp and paper is relatively more important, and to a lesser extent in Quebec.

In 2005, the Atlantic Provinces were the main consumers of heavy fuel oil, accounting for 44.4% of national demand. Electric utility companies in Atlantic Canada have shown a persistent dependence on heavy fuel oil during the last 15 years, burning it to generate electricity.

The sector most dependent on heavy fuel oil is the marine transportation sector, in which heavy fuel oil accounts for more than 60% of the energy consumed. The rest of the energy consumed in this sector comes from diesel fuel.

The marine transportation sector is also the only major user that increased consumption over the last 15 years. More than half of consumption occurred in British Columbia.

Provincial legislators in Canada and in many other countries, along with some international organizations, have imposed limits on sulphur oxides and other emissions, forcing thermal-electric power generators and other large industrial consumers of heavy fuel oil to take heed. Time will tell what impact legislation will have on the future use of this product.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2196, 2198 and 3802.

The analytical article "Heavy fuel oil consumption in Canada", part of the *Analysis in Brief* series (11-621-MWE2007062, 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 the Marketing and Dissemination Section (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

June 2007

The prices that farmers received for their commodities rose 7.5% in June from the same month in 2006, as most crop, livestock and animal product prices increased.

Prices for crops were up 15.2% in June when compared with June 2006, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI), as farmers received higher

prices for all crops except potatoes and vegetables. After slumping to very low levels during the 2005/2006 crop year (August to July), crop prices have surged this year to their highest levels since the spring of 2004.

Overall, prices for livestock and animal products rose 2.2% in June, continuing the year-over-year increases that began in February 2007. Gains, ranging from 1.6% for eggs to 6.2% for poultry, were made in all commodities except for cattle and calves and hogs, which remained almost unchanged (-0.2%).

On a month-to-month basis, the prices that farmers received for their commodities in June fell 1.0%, as lower prices for livestock and animal products outstripped gains made in crops.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 104.8 in June, down from the May index of 105.9.

Prices for livestock and animal products fell 3.2% in June from the May index, as all livestock commodities were down except eggs, which rose 0.5%.

Cattle and calf prices recorded a decrease of 6.3% in June, the second consecutive monthly drop. Hog prices also dipped (-2.4%) in June from May, the third decrease this year. Steady supplies, rapidly rising feed grain costs and a rising Canadian dollar are pressuring livestock prices.

Grain and oilseed prices both continued their upward trend. Along with increased demand from the biofuel sector, recent weather concerns in Eastern Europe, the US and some parts of the Canadian prairies hampered new crop production forecasts and raised concerns of low global grain inventories, boosting prices.

The value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar increased 2.8% from May to June, tempering some of the improvement in crop prices.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The June 2007 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 7, no. 6 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	June 2006 ^r	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^p	June 2006 to June 2007	May to June 2007
	% change				
Farm Product Price Index	97.5	105.9	104.8	7.5	-1.0
Crops	89.3	101.1	102.9	15.2	1.8
Grains	74.9	96.7	98.5	31.5	1.9
Oilseeds	70.8	92.4	95.3	34.6	3.1
Specialty crops	80.4	121.1	120.0	49.3	-0.9
Fruit	108.2	127.8	113.7	5.1	-11.0
Vegetables	121.1	120.8	120.7	-0.3	-0.1
Potatoes	152.1	127.2	131.7	-13.4	3.5
Livestock and animal products	104.5	110.3	106.8	2.2	-3.2
Cattle and calves	107.9	115.0	107.7	-0.2	-6.3
Hogs	80.3	82.1	80.1	-0.2	-2.4
Poultry	94.6	103.7	100.5	6.2	-3.1
Eggs	97.9	99.0	99.5	1.6	0.5
Dairy	127.4	134.9	133.6	4.9	-1.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

May 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 May.

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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief : "Heavy fuel oil consumption in Canada", 1990 to 2005, no. 62
Catalogue number 11-621-MWE2007062
(free).

Farm Product Price Index, June 2007, Vol. 7, no. 6
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Industry Price Indexes, July 2007, Vol. 33, no. 7
Catalogue number 62-011-XWE
(free).

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

Exports by Country, January to June 2007, Vol. 64,
no. 2
Catalogue number 65-003-XCB (\$67/\$221).

Exports by Country, January to June 2007, Vol. 64,
no. 2
Catalogue number 65-003-XPB (\$133/\$441).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



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 six rides 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 and industry work force in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based Index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 9
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg producer: Apr 8, 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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