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Releases

New products

Releases

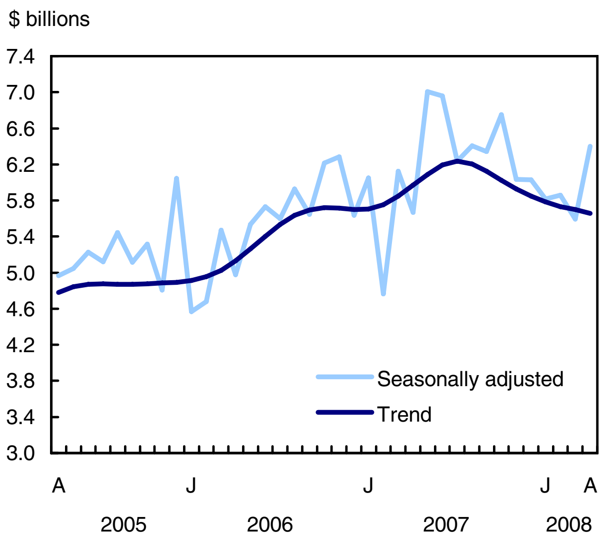
Building permits

April 2008

The total value of building permits was up strongly in April as construction intentions rose in all provinces and in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Contractors took out $6.4 billion worth of permits in April, up 14.5% from March and the highest level since October 2007.

Total value of permits increases in April



In the residential sector, the value of building permits increased 13.4% to $4.0 billion, the highest value in six months. The increase was generated by a strong gain in the value of multi-family permits.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits advanced 16.5% to $2.4 billion, due to strong commercial intentions.

Despite the fact that permits increased in April, there has been a downward trend since last summer.

Residential: Multi-family housing boosts intentions

A strong increase in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings boosted intentions in the residential sector in April.

Municipalities issued $1.9 billion worth of permits for multi-family housing, up 39.9% from March and the highest level since December 2005. At the same time, single-family permits fell 2.4%.

The number of multi-family units approved increased 19.1%, while the number of single-family units declined 0.6%.

This was consistent with a general tendency observed over the last five years, whereby demand has shifted from the more expensive single-family dwellings toward more affordable multi-family units.

Note to readers

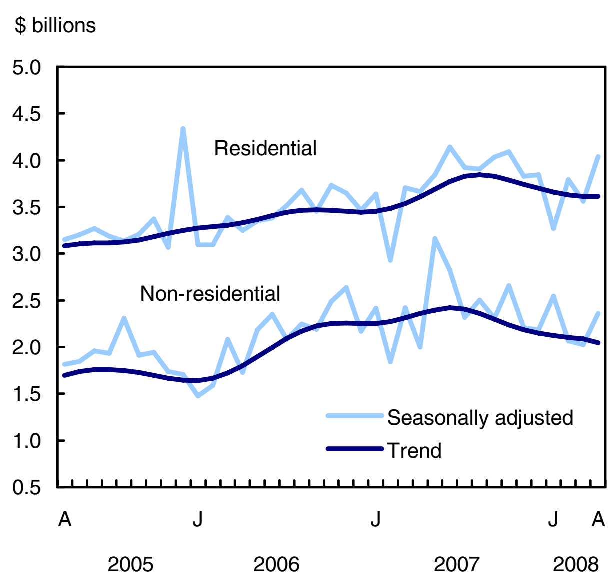
Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 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).

Residential and non-residential permits advance



Non-residential: Strong gains in the commercial component

Intentions increased in all three components in the non-residential sector in April, especially in commercial.

The value of commercial permits rose 20.2% to $1.5 billion. Again, this was the highest value since October 2007. The gain was due largely to higher construction intentions for hotels and retail outlets.

The value of industrial permits rose 6.7% to $335 million following a 22.9% drop in March. This result was fuelled by increases in permits for manufacturing and primary industries buildings, mainly in Alberta.

In the institutional component, builders took out $524 million in permits, a 13.0% increase, which followed two consecutive monthly drops. The gain was attributable to an increase in projects for medical buildings.

The non-residential sector continued to be positively affected by low office vacancy rates and a vigorous retail sector, despite a drop in corporate profits.

Permits up in all provinces

The value of building permits increased in all provinces in April, especially in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec, which all posted double-digit gains.

The most significant increase (in dollars) occurred in Ontario (+12.5% to $2.4 billion) in the wake of a 50.3% advance in the value of construction intentions for multi-family dwellings. These intentions reached their second highest level on record.

Also posting sizeable gains were Alberta (+11.7%) and Quebec (+11.0%). In both provinces, the rise came from both residential and non-residential components. The increase in Alberta followed a low level of construction intentions in March.

Intentions rose 13.5% in British Columbia, thanks to the commercial component.

The value of permits in Saskatchewan hit a record high of $229 million in April, fuelled by strong results in both components. This was 6.4% above the previous all-time high in December 2007.

A record high was also set in the value of residential permits in Prince Edward Island.

Strong demand for multiple dwellings in Toronto

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas, 24 recorded gains in the value of building permits in April.

The largest increase (in dollars) was recorded in Toronto, where an increase in permits for multi-family dwellings more than offset a decline in intentions for single-family dwellings. Municipalities approved 3,716 units in Toronto in April, the highest number in four months. Just over three-quarters of these were multi-family dwellings and their value was the second highest since December 2005.

In contrast, the total value of permits in Hamilton declined in April, due to large drops in the residential sector following a record monthly high in March.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The April 2008 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The May building permit estimate will be released on July 7.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (613-951-6321; 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 Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008[r]	April 2008[p]	March to April 2008
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions					% change
St. John's	38.8	25.2	48.6	32.3	46.3	43.3
Halifax	28.3	37.8	45.1	54.3	79.9	47.2
Moncton	12.7	22.3	8.1	16.3	22.7	39.7
Saint John	15.1	12.4	15.4	15.8	16.6	4.9
Saguenay	3.3	4.8	8.4	22.5	20.5	-9.1
Québec	150.6	79.1	140.2	159.3	149.9	-5.9
Sherbrooke	11.2	23.7	27.6	51.3	33.5	-34.7
Trois-Rivières	19.0	23.8	15.3	15.4	31.5	104.5
Montréal	429.6	516.3	483.3	423.0	524.3	23.9
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	220.5	236.7	142.8	199.0	201.4	1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	68.4	31.5	25.9	48.7	42.6	-12.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	152.1	205.2	116.9	150.3	158.7	5.6
Kingston	10.3	6.0	8.1	18.6	32.9	76.9
Peterborough	11.1	3.0	2.0	13.4	17.9	33.4
Oshawa	74.6	58.1	38.2	69.4	84.8	22.3
Toronto	1,247.9	1,277.7	875.6	1,014.8	1,256.5	23.8
Hamilton	60.0	96.2	242.9	205.6	122.1	-40.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	38.4	42.9	22.9	33.5	32.0	-4.4
Kitchener	138.4	60.6	42.6	143.9	102.1	-29.0
Brantford	6.2	12.9	7.5	14.4	7.3	-49.3
Guelph	13.5	25.2	32.9	12.7	18.6	46.5
London	54.3	151.1	100.4	40.4	69.3	71.6
Windsor	71.6	14.7	9.6	12.1	29.7	144.5
Barrie	113.5	21.9	63.2	21.6	44.0	103.7
Greater Sudbury	10.9	26.4	11.8	12.9	30.3	134.5
Thunder Bay	3.6	5.6	1.8	9.6	25.8	167.8
Winnipeg	65.2	71.2	71.5	74.0	88.4	19.4
Regina	26.1	21.2	29.9	51.1	28.6	-44.0
Saskatoon	135.9	53.7	39.3	42.0	107.4	155.7
Calgary	487.8	419.4	608.1	331.6	429.6	29.6
Edmonton	205.7	340.7	312.9	243.9	262.4	7.6
Kelowna	102.4	74.9	83.7	63.4	65.9	4.0
Abbotsford	28.7	45.1	22.3	43.8	70.1	60.1
Vancouver	578.0	425.2	443.6	474.1	549.8	15.9
Victoria	33.1	54.1	74.2	72.6	57.7	-20.6

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 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008[r]	April 2008[p]	March to April 2008
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions					% change
Canada	**6,028.8**	**5,815.2**	**5,860.6**	**5,591.4**	**6,401.0**	**14.5**
Residential	**3,845.9**	**3,268.6**	**3,794.1**	**3,563.8**	**4,039.7**	**13.4**
Non-residential	**2,182.9**	**2,546.6**	**2,066.5**	**2,027.6**	**2,361.3**	**16.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	100.5	44.5	63.9	51.4	67.4	31.3
Residential	33.9	38.1	58.3	43.1	42.0	-2.6
Non-residential	66.5	6.4	5.6	8.2	25.4	208.5
Prince Edward Island	12.3	8.5	10.6	15.8	20.6	30.3
Residential	7.1	4.9	7.3	8.6	18.5	114.7
Non-residential	5.2	3.6	3.3	7.2	2.1	-71.0
Nova Scotia	73.4	77.1	91.1	98.2	130.3	32.7
Residential	51.3	66.8	78.6	62.2	59.5	-4.4
Non-residential	22.1	10.3	12.5	35.9	70.8	97.0
New Brunswick	50.4	65.1	58.4	58.3	72.2	24.0
Residential	40.0	38.8	40.4	32.5	53.6	64.8
Non-residential	10.4	26.3	18.0	25.8	18.7	-27.6
Quebec	970.4	981.2	973.0	1,002.5	1,112.8	11.0
Residential	704.2	677.0	707.1	652.0	715.9	9.8
Non-residential	266.2	304.1	266.0	350.5	396.9	13.2
Ontario	2,302.1	2,422.0	1,998.8	2,135.0	2,403.0	12.5
Residential	1,487.7	1,055.9	1,247.0	1,392.1	1,606.6	15.4
Non-residential	814.4	1,366.1	751.8	742.9	796.4	7.2
Manitoba	97.6	111.5	123.8	116.9	140.4	20.1
Residential	70.6	87.6	84.5	93.1	87.4	-6.1
Non-residential	27.0	23.8	39.3	23.8	53.0	123.1
Saskatchewan	214.7	115.9	112.3	147.4	228.5	55.0
Residential	95.7	79.1	84.6	94.3	110.9	17.6
Non-residential	119.0	36.8	27.7	53.1	117.6	121.5
Alberta	1,136.8	1,173.3	1,485.3	993.3	1,109.2	11.7
Residential	606.2	566.7	736.1	512.6	607.5	18.5
Non-residential	530.6	606.6	749.2	480.7	501.7	4.4
British Columbia	1,050.5	814.1	939.1	949.6	1,078.3	13.5
Residential	738.2	652.1	746.3	669.3	700.3	4.6
Non-residential	312.4	162.0	192.7	280.3	378.0	34.8
Yukon	10.3	1.9	3.5	4.6	2.2	-52.3
Residential	9.5	1.4	3.2	3.7	1.9	-48.1
Non-residential	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	-69.9
Northwest Territories	9.8	0.2	0.9	18.1	1.0	-94.3
Residential	1.3	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.8	633.6
Non-residential	8.5	0.1	0.1	18.0	0.2	-98.9
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	35.2	10,241.8
Residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.8	...
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	2.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
... *not applicable*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

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Canadian Vehicle Survey

October to December 2007

Vehicles registered in Canada travelled an estimated 80.5 billion kilometres during the fourth quarter of 2007, a slight decrease over the same quarter of 2006. Although driving was down compared with the same quarter in 2006, this was still the third highest fourth quarter total ever recorded by the survey. Gas prices and the weather likely played a role in driving habits. Compared with the same quarter in 2006, gas prices were higher, and the weather in much of Canada was worse in December.

Nationally, light vehicles (weighing up to 4.5 tonnes) travelled an average of 3,765 kilometres during the quarter, the second lowest fourth quarter average ever recorded by the survey. The average was lower because the decrease in vehicle kilometres was coupled with an increase in the number of vehicles covered by the survey compared with the previous year.

The share of kilometres driven by newer vehicles was the highest since the fourth quarter of 2004. Vehicles less than three years old accounted for 29% of all kilometres driven. The past few years have seen near record-breaking annual sales of new vehicles.

For the first time in at least four quarters, fuel efficiency worsened for light vehicles using gasoline in the fourth quarter of 2007 compared with a year earlier. Fuel consumption for these was measured at 11.4 litres per 100 kilometres in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Note: 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.

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 October to December 2007 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 Réjean Doiron (613-951-5680; *rejean.doiron@statcan.ca*) or Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Survey of Service Industries: Amusement and Recreation

2006

Of all amusement and recreation industries, golf courses and country clubs recorded the largest increase in operating revenues in 2006, according to new estimates from the Survey of Service Industries: Amusement and Recreation.

Operating revenues at golf courses and country clubs climbed 5.8% in 2006 and accounted for one-third of the $7.1 billion in operating revenues generated by businesses classified to amusement and recreation industries.

These results are from a new data series that covers golf courses and country clubs, skiing facilities, fitness and recreational sports centres, amusement parks and arcades and all other amusement and recreational industries, excluding gambling.

Fitness and recreational sports centres generated about $1.7 billion in operating revenues, up 5.2%, while skiing facilities reported operating revenues of about $0.9 billion, an increase of 4.5%.

Amusement parks and arcades industry recorded the largest operating profit margin (10.8%).

Skiing facilities were a close second with a margin of 10.6%, followed by the all other amusement and recreation industries group (6.1%) and the golf courses and country clubs industry (4.9%). In comparison to 2005, operating profit margins remained relatively stable for these industries.

Note: The Annual Survey of Arts, Entertainment and Recreation Services formerly covered activities related to amusement and recreation and spectator sports, event promoters, agents, artists and related industries. Beginning with the reference year 2006, these industries were split into two new surveys: the Annual Survey of Service Industries: Amusement and Recreation and the Annual Survey of Service Industries: Spectator Sports, Event Promoters, Artists and Related Industries.

Available on CANSIM: table 361-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2425.

Results from the 2006 Annual Survey of Service Industries: Amusement and Recreation are now available. The data provides information on the industry's operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages and operating profit margin.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Konstantine Anastasopoulos (613-951-8354; *konstantine.anastasopoulos@statcan.ca*) or Gilles Beaudry (613-951-5646; *gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca*; fax: 613-951-6696), Service Industries Division.

Selected financial statistics for the amusement and recreation industry[1]

	Operating revenue		Operating expenses		Salaries, wages and benefits		Operating margin	
	2005r	2006	2005r	2006	2005r	2006	2005r	2006
	$ millions						%	
Amusement parks and arcades	F	441.2	F	393.5	F	127.5	F	10.8
Golf courses and country clubs	2,235.5	2,365.6	2,089.9	2,249.5	829.2	850.1	6.5	4.9
Skiing facilities	838.5	876.2	745.4	783.1	291.8	293.1	11.1	10.6
Fitness and recreational sports centres	1,583.3	1,665.8	1,543.6	1,632.2	602.7	610.3	2.5	2.0
All other amusement and recreation industries, excluding gambling	1,787.0	1,776.2	1,683.2	1,668.5	447.4	440.5	5.8	6.1

r revised
F too unreliable to be published
1. Estimates for 2006 are preliminary and subject to revision. Due to rounding, components may not add to total (where applicable).

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Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries
2006

The real estate rental and leasing and property management industries continued to expand in 2006. Total combined operating revenues of these industries increased 5.7% from the previous year to $55.6 billion. The growth can be mainly attributed to favorable economic conditions and a robust real estate market.

Total operating expenses for the combined industries increased by 6.7% in 2006 to $43.7 billion. The operating profit margin of these industries remained strong at 21.5%.

The largest segment of these industries was the non-residential sector (50%), followed by the residential sector (42%) and property management services (8%).

Revenue growth was widespread across Canada. Provincial shares remained virtually unchanged from the previous year, except for slight increases in Alberta and British Columbia. Ontario, the most populated province, continued to dominate the market, followed by Quebec.

Data on the real estate rental and leasing and property management service industries are now available for 2006. These data provide information such as operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages, profit before income tax at the provincial and territorial level. The industries comprise lessors of residential buildings (excluding social housing), lessors of non-residential buildings and property managers.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4705.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; *adib.farhat@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Workplace and Employee Survey
2005

Data from the 2005 Workplace and Employee Survey are now available. These data provide detailed information on workplaces and employees within these workplaces.

The last wave of Workplace and Employee Survey data will be released this fall. This release will only include employer data for 2006 since the employee portion of the survey was not conducted that year.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2615.

The final version of the Workplace and Employee Survey Compendium (71-585-XIE, free) will soon be available. This compendium examines some of the changes occurring among the Canadian workplaces and employees from 1999 to 2005.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Decady (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*), Labour Statistics Division. ■

New products

Canadian Vehicle Survey: Quarterly, October to December 2007
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