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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

New products

Releases

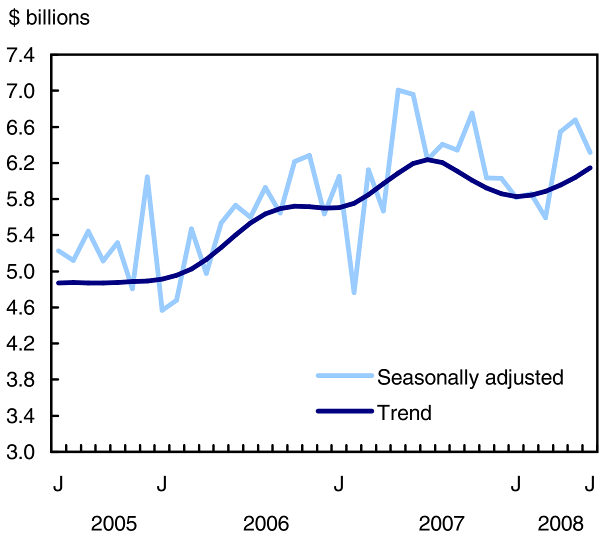
Building permits

June 2008

In June, the total value of building permits fell 5.3% from May to $6.3 billion, as construction intentions decreased in both the residential and non-residential sectors and in several provinces. In constant dollars, the decline was about the same magnitude at 5.5%.

In the residential sector, the value of building permits declined by 4.4% to $3.6 billion. The decrease was generated by lower values in multi-family permits in all provinces except Saskatchewan.

Total value of permits down in June



In the non-residential sector, the value of permits decreased by 6.6% to $2.8 billion, due to declines in commercial and industrial intentions.

Residential: Decline in multi-family intentions

Municipalities issued $1.3 billion worth of permits for multi-family housing in June, down 13.8%, a second consecutive monthly decrease. Most of these declines occurred in Ontario and Alberta.

At the same time, single-family permits edged up 1.8% to $2.3 billion. In the last four months, the value of single-family permits has remained between $2.2 billion and $2.3 billion.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which eases 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.

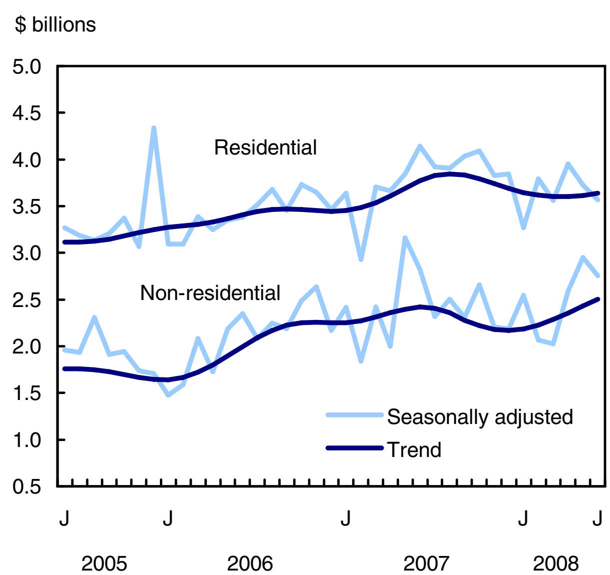
The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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).

Municipalities approved 17,309 new residential dwellings in June, down 9.3% and lower than the 2007 monthly average of 19,817 units.

The number of multi-family units approved fell 19.0% in June, while the number of single-family units rose 3.7%.

Both residential and non-residential permits decrease



Non-residential: Industrial and commercial intentions down

The value of permits for non-residential construction decreased in June, after two consecutive monthly increases. Declines in industrial and commercial intentions more than offset a gain in institutional permits.

The value of industrial permits fell 31.1% to $389 million following a 70.3% increase in May. This result was mainly due to decreases in permits for utility buildings.

The value of commercial permits decreased 7.7% to $1.6 billion. The decline was due to lower construction intentions for hotels and recreation buildings. In all, eight provinces posted declines in the overall commercial component.

In the institutional component, builders took out $765 million in permits, a 17.4% increase, and the third consecutive monthly increase. The gain was attributable to projects for nursing homes and schools.

Permits down in several provinces

The value of building permits decreased in six provinces.

The most significant decrease occurred in Ontario (-7.9% to $2.3 billion), due mainly to a 15.8% decline in intentions for non-residential buildings. The decline in the residential sector was a slight 1.7%.

British Columbia and New Brunswick also experienced declines in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Alberta posted a 7.5% decline to $1.2 billion, due to a 19.6% decrease in the residential component.

In contrast, intentions rose 3.5% in Quebec, with gains in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Metropolitan areas: London and Kingston show large declines

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas, 18 recorded reductions in the value of building permits in June.

The largest decrease occurred in London, with declines in the residential and non-residential sectors. Kingston followed closely with a decline mostly in the institutional component.

In contrast, the total value of permits in the census metropolitan area of Québec rose in June, due to increases in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The July building permit estimate will be released on September 8.

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]

	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008[r]	June 2008[p]	May to June 2008
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions					% change
Total	**4,079.9**	**4,008.6**	**4,641.2**	**4,951.4**	**4,622.5**	**-6.6**
St. John's	48.6	32.3	45.9	37.6	42.7	13.6
Halifax	45.1	54.3	80.1	85.3	59.7	-30.0
Moncton	8.1	16.3	22.8	23.5	25.9	10.3
Saint John	15.4	15.8	16.6	55.2	24.9	-54.9
Saguenay	8.4	22.5	20.6	28.5	28.0	-2.0
Québec	140.2	159.3	151.2	115.7	166.2	43.6
Sherbrooke	27.6	51.3	33.6	36.3	27.5	-24.2
Trois-Rivières	15.3	15.4	31.4	17.0	26.8	57.6
Montréal	483.3	423.0	539.3	549.6	482.8	-12.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	142.8	199.0	199.3	188.0	200.3	6.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Quebec part	25.9	48.7	42.2	38.7	40.1	3.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	116.9	150.3	157.1	149.3	160.2	7.3
Kingston	8.1	18.6	32.4	123.8	23.3	-81.2
Peterborough	2.0	13.4	17.7	15.6	13.5	-13.5
Oshawa	38.2	69.4	84.0	56.5	104.7	85.3
Toronto	875.6	1,014.8	1,227.7	1,048.1	1,073.1	2.4
Hamilton	242.9	205.6	120.1	92.0	69.5	-24.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	22.9	33.5	31.6	33.3	40.7	22.0
Kitchener	42.6	143.9	105.5	66.8	66.9	0.1
Brantford	7.5	14.4	7.2	11.5	16.8	46.7
Guelph	32.9	12.7	18.3	25.0	15.6	-37.7
London	100.4	40.4	68.8	183.9	73.5	-60.1
Windsor	9.6	12.1	29.3	16.9	18.3	8.2
Barrie	63.2	21.6	53.9	194.8	174.6	-10.3
Greater Sudbury	11.8	12.9	30.0	26.1	20.9	-20.1
Thunder Bay	1.8	9.6	25.7	11.9	10.1	-15.1
Winnipeg	71.5	74.0	87.7	78.8	67.5	-14.4
Regina	29.9	51.1	27.4	36.1	74.2	105.2
Saskatoon	39.3	42.0	108.8	69.4	57.8	-16.7
Calgary	608.1	331.6	428.7	499.0	423.1	-15.2
Edmonton	312.9	243.9	255.1	365.5	401.2	9.8
Kelowna	83.7	63.4	65.5	62.6	75.8	21.1
Abbotsford	22.3	43.8	70.0	34.6	29.0	-16.2
Vancouver	443.6	474.1	547.7	696.3	602.9	-13.4
Victoria	74.2	72.6	57.2	66.1	85.0	28.5

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

	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008[r]	June 2008[p]	May to June 2008
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions					% change
Canada	**5,860.6**	**5,591.4**	**6,542.7**	**6,675.4**	**6,318.3**	**-5.3**
Residential	**3,794.1**	**3,563.8**	**3,952.2**	**3,727.2**	**3,564.8**	**-4.4**
Non-residential	**2,066.5**	**2,027.6**	**2,590.5**	**2,948.2**	**2,753.5**	**-6.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	63.9	51.4	67.2	59.1	70.4	19.1
Residential	58.3	43.1	41.8	42.1	43.9	4.1
Non-residential	5.6	8.2	25.4	17.0	26.5	56.5
Prince Edward Island	10.6	15.8	20.9	41.9	12.5	-70.3
Residential	7.3	8.6	18.8	6.9	9.9	43.8
Non-residential	3.3	7.2	2.1	35.0	2.6	-92.7
Nova Scotia	91.1	98.2	131.6	132.6	135.3	2.1
Residential	78.6	62.2	60.8	95.7	82.5	-13.8
Non-residential	12.5	35.9	70.8	36.9	52.8	43.3
New Brunswick	58.4	58.3	73.3	129.6	110.0	-15.2
Residential	40.4	32.5	54.4	61.3	54.3	-11.5
Non-residential	18.0	25.8	18.9	68.3	55.7	-18.4
Quebec	973.0	1,002.5	1,135.7	1,108.6	1,147.4	3.5
Residential	707.1	652.0	744.2	692.7	718.9	3.8
Non-residential	266.0	350.5	391.4	415.9	428.5	3.0
Ontario	1,998.8	2,135.0	2,384.8	2,448.0	2,254.4	-7.9
Residential	1,247.0	1,392.1	1,508.8	1,365.1	1,342.3	-1.7
Non-residential	751.8	742.9	875.9	1,082.9	912.1	-15.8
Manitoba	123.8	116.9	143.6	137.1	121.2	-11.6
Residential	84.5	93.1	90.5	94.6	76.6	-19.1
Non-residential	39.3	23.8	53.1	42.5	44.7	5.1
Saskatchewan	112.3	147.4	228.5	183.1	192.2	5.0
Residential	84.6	94.3	111.3	105.9	113.0	6.7
Non-residential	27.7	53.1	117.3	77.1	79.2	2.6
Alberta	1,485.3	993.3	1,269.7	1,290.2	1,193.7	-7.5
Residential	736.1	512.6	615.6	615.7	495.1	-19.6
Non-residential	749.2	480.7	654.1	674.5	698.6	3.6
British Columbia	939.1	949.6	1,076.5	1,134.7	1,065.2	-6.1
Residential	746.3	669.3	697.9	640.9	616.9	-3.7
Non-residential	192.7	280.3	378.6	493.9	448.3	-9.2
Yukon	3.5	4.6	5.2	5.0	3.7	-24.8
Residential	3.2	3.7	2.7	3.5	3.0	-15.5
Non-residential	0.3	0.9	2.5	1.4	0.7	-47.8
Northwest Territories	0.9	18.1	0.6	0.7	2.5	231.0
Residential	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.4	1.1	154.8
Non-residential	0.1	18.0	0.0	0.3	1.4	327.6
Nunavut	0.0	0.3	5.1	4.9	10.0	104.8
Residential	0.0	0.0	4.8	2.4	7.5	220.5
Non-residential	0.0	0.3	0.4	2.5	2.5	-2.9

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

■

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

Third quarter 2008

Hoteliers' expectations for the summer quarter of 2008 are less optimistic than expectations recorded for the previous four quarters.

Only 12% of hoteliers expected that the number of room nights booked between July and September this year would be higher than in the third quarter of 2007. In contrast, more than one-half expected the number of bookings to be lower.

About 42% of hoteliers anticipated a decline in the number of corporate travellers for the third quarter. This was more than twice the proportion recorded in the same three months of 2007.

Almost half of hotel operators expected occupancy rates to drop for the summer months, compared with only 14% who expected an increase.

While still expecting average room rates to continue climbing, the proportion of respondents expecting rates to fall was substantially higher in the third quarter than in any of the previous four quarters. Just over one-third of hotel operators (34%) anticipated the average daily room rates to rise between July and September, a slightly higher proportion than those who anticipated a decline (31%).

Hotel operators continued to cite a number of business impediments. Over one-half (53%) cited exchange rates, while others pointed to excess room supply and labour shortages.

More than one-fifth (23%) reported regional economic conditions had been a business impediment between April and June.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for the Traveller Accommodation Industries covers 1,452 businesses, mostly hotels. It was conducted in July 2008 to assess the third-quarter outlook for key indicators compared with the same period last year. These indicators include bookings, occupancy rates, average daily room rates, hours worked by employees, and number of corporate travellers.

Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to traveller accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, larger businesses have a comparatively bigger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

The survey is made possible with the support of industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, and Industry Canada.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Evelyn Park (613-951-3506; fax: 613-951-6696; *evelyn.park@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

New products

Industry Price Indexes, June 2008, Vol. 34, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-011-XWE
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 — 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to $5.6 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities combined with a lower travel deficit. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the acquisitions-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 — 7
Study: The year in review for wholesale trade, 2007 — 9
Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 — 10
Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, April 2008 — 11
Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults, April 2008 — 12
Health Indicators, 2008 — 12

New products — 13

2006 Census profiles

Within the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

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