

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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New Housing Price Index

August 2009

Contractors' selling prices increased 0.1% in August following a 0.3% advance in July.

Between July and August, prices increased the most in St. John's (+1.1%) followed by Québec (+0.9%) and Regina (+0.8%).

In St. John's, some builders adjusted prices upward to be more in line with the value of land within the city.

In Québec, prices continued to increase as builders reported higher material and labour costs. Builders moving to new phases of development also raised their prices as the scarcity of available lots has been pushing up land value in this region.

The largest monthly decrease in new housing prices was recorded in Hamilton (-0.5%). Some builders lowered their prices to encourage sales while others offered bonus upgrade packages.

Monthly declines were also observed in Windsor (-0.4%) and Edmonton (-0.3%).

12-month change: Continued declines in the New Housing Price Index in Western Canada

Year over year, the New Housing Price Index was down 3.1%. The largest declines remained in Western Canada, where prices decreased from highs registered in late 2007 and the beginning of 2008.

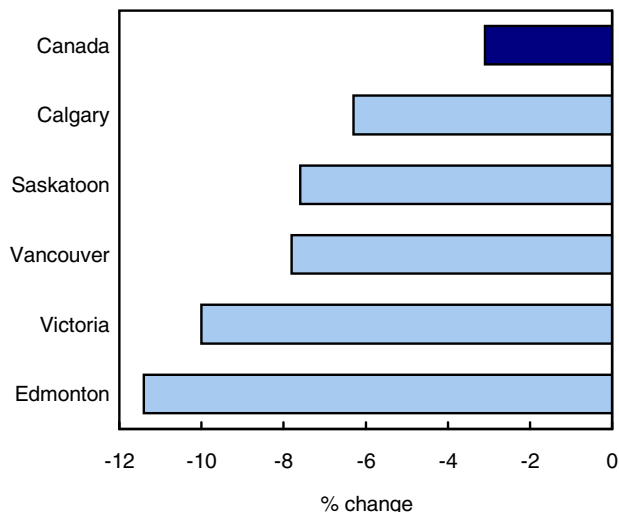
In the Prairie region, 12-month declines were recorded in Edmonton (-11.4%), Saskatoon (-7.6%) and Calgary (-6.3%).

On the West Coast, Victoria (-10.0%) and Vancouver (-7.8%) also posted year-over-year declines.

Over the past few months, some builders in Alberta and British Columbia have offered lower prices, bonuses

and incentives to motivate sales in the face of weaker market conditions.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the smallest or negative change)

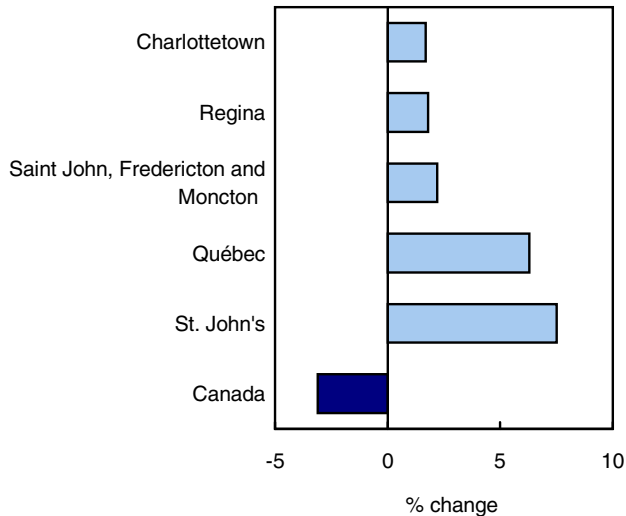


Among surveyed cities, the largest year-over-year increase was registered in St. John's (+7.5%). This was the 10th consecutive month that this city has led the way in year-over-year advances.

On a year-over-year basis, prices in Québec (+6.3%) and in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (+2.2%) increased, albeit at a slower pace than in previous months.

Compared with August 2008, contractors' selling prices were 1.8% higher in Regina. Charlottetown (+1.7%) and Winnipeg (+1.6%) also posted increases.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the largest positive change)



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The second quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; toll-free 1-866-230-2248; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

New housing price indexes

	August 2009	August 2008 to August 2009	July to August 2009
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	153.7	-3.1	0.1
House only	161.4	-3.9	0.2
Land only	137.7	-1.8	-0.1
St. John's	183.1	7.5	1.1
Charlottetown	121.2	1.7	0.2
Halifax	150.5	0.5	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	120.5	2.2	0.1
Québec	167.0	6.3	0.9
Montréal	165.3	1.2	0.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	169.7	0.6	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	145.0	-1.0	0.2
Hamilton	150.2	-1.6	-0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	155.1	-1.7	0.1
London	144.4	0.8	0.0
Kitchener	142.8	0.3	0.1
Windsor	103.8	0.1	-0.4
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.7	0.1	0.0
Winnipeg	183.1	1.6	0.1
Regina	252.9	1.8	0.8
Saskatoon	211.7	-7.6	0.1
Calgary	230.5	-6.3	0.2
Edmonton	207.6	-11.4	-0.3
Vancouver	114.5	-7.8	0.2
Victoria	106.5	-10.0	0.4

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Canada's international trade in services 2007 and 2008

The services trade deficit increased \$3.5 billion to a record \$22.5 billion in 2008, mostly as a result of higher payments for travel and transportation services.

Detailed data on international trade in services for 2007 and 2008 are now available

Data by country, geographical and economic areas for commercial services, travel, transportation and government services are now available up to 2007. Imports and exports of commercial services by affiliation and by industrial sector based on the North American Industrial Classification System have also been updated up to 2007.

Note: Trade in services covers transactions in travel, transportation, a range of business and professional services referred to as commercial services, and government services.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0031 to 376-0033, 376-0036 and 376-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1536.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denis Caron (613-951-1861; denis.caron@statcan.gc.ca), Balance of Payments Division. ■

International trade in culture goods 2008

Data on culture goods trade for 2008 are now available for exports and imports by type of goods and culture framework category.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5088.

Detailed and summary data tables for culture goods trade, by culture category and sub-categories, along with cross-tabulations of trade between Canada and selected countries in table format are now available in *Culture Goods Trade: Data Tables*, 2008 (87-007-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-767-5611; 613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; culture@statcan.gc.ca), Demography Division. ■

New products

Culture Goods Trade: Data Tables, 2008
Catalogue number 87-007-X (PDF, free; HTML, 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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