

The Daily

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Releases

Building permits, December 2008

2

Municipalities issued \$4.6 billion in building permits in December, down 3.9% from November. This third consecutive monthly decline was the result of decreases in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Stocks of grain, December 31, 2008

6

As of December 31, total stocks of most major grains and oilseeds were well above year earlier levels.

Farm product prices, December 2008

7

Chicken production, 2008

7

Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care, 2008

7

Workplace and Employee Survey, 2006

7

Asphalt roofing, December 2008

8

New products

9



Releases

Building permits

December 2008

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The value of residential permits declined by 3.2% to \$2.6 billion, the ninth monthly decrease in 2008. Increases in multi-family permits in Ontario were not enough to offset the declines in single-family permits in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The value of permits in the non-residential sector declined 4.9% to \$2.0 billion, the third consecutive monthly decrease. This decrease came mainly from institutional permits in Alberta and commercial permits in British Columbia.

Construction intentions were down in five provinces and all three territories.

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 this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Gatineau part and Ottawa part.

a result of declines in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

After four consecutive monthly declines, the value of multi-family permits increased 10.6% to \$1.1 billion. A significant increase (in dollars) in Ontario was enough to offset declines in seven provinces and three territories.

Municipalities approved 13,777 new dwellings in December, a number similar to the previous month. Of these, single-family units were down 9.4% to 6,030, while multi-family units were up 9.3% to 7,747.

Non-residential: Industrial component tempers overall decline

In the industrial component, the value of permits increased to \$419 million, up 30.4% from November. This followed two months of double-digit declines. The increase resulted mostly from construction intentions for manufacturing buildings in Quebec.

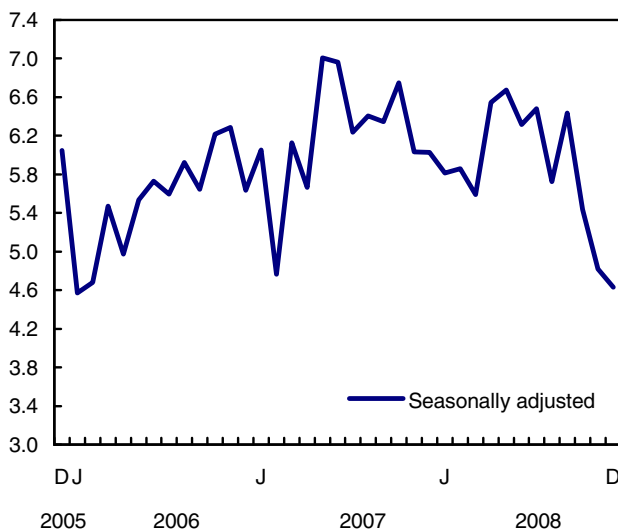
The gain in industrial permits tempered declines in the other two components.

In the institutional component, intentions fell 16.8% to \$501 million, the third consecutive monthly decline. Increases in eight provinces were offset by a significant decrease in Alberta, the result of lower intentions for medical projects.

In the commercial component, the value of permits fell 8.5% to \$1.1 billion, a third consecutive monthly decline. December's decrease came mainly from lower demand for recreation and warehouse building permits in British Columbia.

Value of permits decreases in December

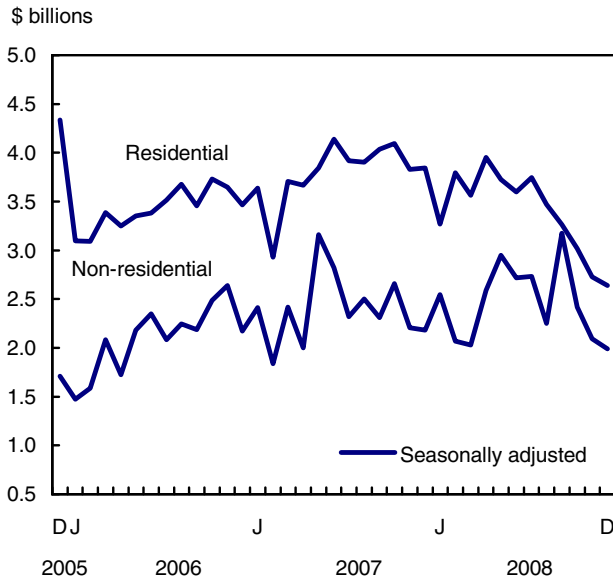
\$ billions



Residential sector: Six consecutive monthly declines for single-family permits

The value of single-family permits fell 10.8% to \$1.6 billion in December, their sixth monthly decline in a row. The drop in December occurred mainly as

The residential and non-residential sectors decline



Provinces: Most significant declines in Alberta and British Columbia

The most significant decreases in December occurred in Alberta and British Columbia. In Alberta, the value of permits fell 27.0% to \$761 million, as a result of declines in all components of the residential and non-residential sectors.

In British Columbia, permit values declined 40.9% to \$358 million as a result of decreases in the residential sector and the commercial component.

In contrast, Ontario reported increases in total permit values, mainly a result of gains in

multiple-family permits and in all three components of the non-residential sector.

Quebec also reported an increase, the result of higher values in non-residential components and single-family permits.

Declines in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits declined in 21 out of the 34 census metropolitan areas in December. The largest declines (in dollars) occurred in Calgary, Vancouver and Ottawa, as all three experienced decreases in both residential and non-residential construction intentions.

In Toronto, the increase came from the residential sector where the value has tripled for multiple-family permits.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The January building permit release will be on March 5.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; bdp_information@statcan.gc.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 area¹

	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^p	November to December 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Total	4,094.3	4,357.3	3,881.1	3,500.5	3,448.9	-1.5
St. John's	70.6	41.0	52.6	43.1	54.1	25.6
Halifax	39.5	70.7	55.7	59.4	28.9	-51.3
Moncton	40.5	26.3	23.6	13.6	20.6	51.4
Saint John	22.8	28.0	23.9	28.5	29.3	2.6
Saguenay	32.2	34.8	67.1	25.2	169.4	571.5
Québec	118.9	149.5	117.6	77.0	97.0	26.0
Sherbrooke	47.4	27.7	30.9	28.8	18.0	-37.3
Trois-Rivières	19.6	31.0	36.2	48.2	25.0	-48.1
Montréal	552.8	566.0	617.5	556.9	512.9	-7.9
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	166.6	247.2	275.9	189.4	132.3	-30.2
Gatineau part	28.5	55.9	50.4	62.0	81.4	31.4
Ottawa part	138.1	191.2	225.5	127.4	50.8	-60.1
Kingston	19.2	15.2	15.0	12.5	10.2	-17.9
Peterborough	44.7	11.1	17.9	12.8	5.7	-55.3
Oshawa	51.1	59.7	14.6	61.3	19.2	-68.7
Toronto	1,003.3	1,047.8	824.2	699.2	1,090.0	55.9
Hamilton	100.8	109.5	70.8	60.0	85.4	42.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	41.1	55.5	22.1	35.8	34.3	-4.2
Kitchener	87.8	58.6	76.8	92.9	85.0	-8.5
Brantford	10.5	31.7	12.8	10.1	10.8	6.7
Guelph	32.5	17.1	82.4	8.3	5.2	-37.4
London	72.5	76.0	51.2	29.0	47.4	63.8
Windsor	20.7	16.3	10.4	12.4	6.3	-49.1
Barrie	36.7	17.2	27.5	24.2	17.3	-28.5
Greater Sudbury	40.7	30.2	22.4	15.7	34.8	121.0
Thunder Bay	9.8	7.3	7.7	8.3	5.5	-34.2
Winnipeg	87.1	121.9	83.7	65.9	84.2	27.7
Regina	27.4	30.2	36.5	47.6	43.5	-8.6
Saskatoon	79.4	179.8	54.2	38.0	48.5	27.5
Calgary	315.0	271.9	316.7	458.7	199.8	-56.4
Edmonton	240.7	349.3	273.7	293.5	286.1	-2.5
Kelowna	44.8	70.1	34.3	30.6	15.8	-48.2
Abbotsford	12.3	6.4	16.2	8.3	3.6	-57.1
Vancouver	480.2	474.8	449.0	356.3	193.4	-45.7
Victoria	125.2	77.4	59.8	49.2	29.4	-40.2

^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

	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^p	November to December 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Canada	5,723.8	6,437.6	5,436.6	4,821.0	4,632.1	-3.9
Residential	3,472.4	3,263.5	3,017.0	2,728.8	2,641.7	-3.2
Non-residential	2,251.4	3,174.1	2,419.6	2,092.3	1,990.4	-4.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	95.9	68.3	76.4	66.0	79.3	20.1
Residential	50.5	47.0	47.8	55.7	66.1	18.6
Non-residential	45.4	21.3	28.7	10.4	13.2	28.0
Prince Edward Island	15.9	23.0	17.5	17.4	15.1	-13.6
Residential	9.2	11.0	8.8	8.3	13.1	57.6
Non-residential	6.7	12.0	8.7	9.1	2.0	-78.4
Nova Scotia	97.3	141.5	104.6	108.8	102.4	-5.9
Residential	62.3	61.8	60.3	49.3	47.3	-4.0
Non-residential	35.0	79.7	44.2	59.5	55.1	-7.4
New Brunswick	130.5	113.2	102.6	79.8	94.7	18.7
Residential	60.1	66.1	45.6	50.5	41.6	-17.5
Non-residential	70.4	47.0	57.0	29.3	53.0	80.8
Quebec	1,157.8	1,217.7	1,338.5	1,097.4	1,180.7	7.6
Residential	750.9	780.8	768.1	752.8	676.5	-10.1
Non-residential	406.9	437.0	570.4	344.6	504.2	46.3
Ontario	2,056.1	2,401.1	1,804.7	1,508.1	1,769.6	17.3
Residential	1,223.9	1,061.3	1,045.8	888.9	1,079.9	21.5
Non-residential	832.2	1,339.8	758.9	619.2	689.8	11.4
Manitoba	142.5	179.2	142.9	102.3	122.5	19.7
Residential	90.6	116.5	94.2	72.2	86.1	19.2
Non-residential	52.0	62.7	48.7	30.1	36.4	20.8
Saskatchewan	155.2	335.2	137.9	151.5	144.9	-4.4
Residential	99.7	85.4	88.2	71.7	76.4	6.5
Non-residential	55.5	249.8	49.7	79.8	68.5	-14.1
Alberta	917.2	1,023.4	841.7	1,042.6	760.9	-27.0
Residential	428.4	433.9	427.4	442.2	364.3	-17.6
Non-residential	488.8	589.5	414.3	600.3	396.6	-33.9
British Columbia	942.5	910.9	853.8	606.2	358.1	-40.9
Residential	689.2	583.2	419.1	327.2	187.7	-42.6
Non-residential	253.3	327.8	434.7	279.0	170.3	-39.0
Yukon	7.9	5.9	5.5	6.4	2.6	-60.0
Residential	4.0	4.6	3.2	5.6	2.6	-54.7
Non-residential	3.9	1.3	2.3	0.8	0.0	-98.6
Northwest Territories	2.1	5.3	5.9	26.7	1.4	-94.8
Residential	1.6	0.8	4.1	0.6	0.2	-71.9
Non-residential	0.5	4.5	1.8	26.1	1.2	-95.4
Nunavut	2.9	13.0	4.7	7.7	0.0	-99.7
Residential	2.1	11.3	4.6	3.7	0.0	-99.4
Non-residential	0.8	1.6	0.1	4.1	0.0	-100.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Stocks of grain

December 31, 2008

As of December 31, total stocks of most major grains and oilseeds were well above year earlier levels. Total stocks (including commercial and on-farm inventories) rose as a result of strong crop production in 2008.

Total stocks of canola were up 23.6% from December 31, 2007, to 9.1 million metric tonnes. This increase was a result of record production in 2008.

All three Prairie provinces reported record on-farm stocks of canola.

Farmers reported that total stocks of dry field peas rose 76.4% from December 31, 2007, to 2.6 million tonnes. The increase was the result of record field pea production in 2008.

On-farm stocks rose in all three Prairie provinces. Total Canadian on-farm stocks more than doubled from December 31, 2007, to 2.4 million tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010, 001-0017 to 001-0020 and 001-0040 to 001-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: Stocks of Canadian Grain at December 31, 2008*,

Note to readers

The December farm survey of 11,500 Canadian farmers is a survey of Canadian field crop stocks conducted from January 2 to January 9, 2009. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain, oilseeds and special crops in on-farm storage.

Data on commercial stocks of western major crops originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans are estimated by a Statistics Canada sample of grain elevators in Eastern Canada.

Data on commercial stocks of special crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of special crops.

National supply-disposition tables for the major grains and special crops are included in this report and will be included in future production and stock reports. Methodology details are published annually in the October issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free).

Vol. 88, no. 1 (22-002-XWE, 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 David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.gc.ca), Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.gc.ca) or Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Total stocks of major and special crops at December 31

	2007	2008	Five-year average	2007 to 2008
	thousands of metric tonnes			% change
Total wheat	16 116	21 859	20 061	35.6
Wheat excluding durum	13 144	17 066	15 626	29.8
Durum wheat	2 972	4 793	4 436	61.3
Corn for grain	9 546	9 215	8 368	-3.5
Canola	7 395	9 143	6 250	23.6
Barley	7 160	8 500	8 423	18.7
Oats	3 204	3 267	2 582	2.0
Dry field peas	1 460	2 575	1 621	76.4
Soybeans	1 759	2 214	2 035	25.9
Flaxseed	522	590	571	13.0
Lentils	502	448	615	-10.8
Rye	139	218	281	56.8
Canary seed	195	201	240	3.1
Chick peas	175	125	114	-28.6
Mustard seed	130	108	228	-16.9
Sunflower seed	73	71	86	-2.7

Farm product prices

December 2008

Prices received by farmers in December for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The December Alberta feeder steers price was \$88.03 per hundredweight, down 5% from November. However, it was up 1% from December 2007 when the price was \$86.85.

The Ontario wheat price in December was \$156.45 per metric tonne, down 3% from November. The wheat price in Ontario has fallen 41% from December 2007 when it stood at \$265.43.

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Chicken production

2008 (preliminary)

Preliminary chicken production data are now available for 2008. Final chicken production data for 2008 will be released in May 2009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care

2008

The microdata file from the 2008 Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care is now available.

This survey, sponsored by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Health Council of Canada, provides national and provincial information on the experiences of Canadians with primary health care.

Its purpose was to measure experiences with the healthcare system, in particular with access and utilization of various types of primary health care services. Respondents were asked about visits with various doctors and clinics, emergency rooms as well as their prescription medication use. Special attention was given to people living with chronic conditions.

The information gathered in this survey refers to the 12 months leading up to the interviews, which were conducted from April to June 2008. The sample consisted of 16,482 adults in the 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5138.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.gc.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Workplace and Employee Survey

2006

Data from the 2006 Workplace and Employee Survey are now available. This last wave of Workplace and Employee Survey data only includes employer data for 2006 since the employee portion of the survey was not conducted that year.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2615.

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.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

December 2008

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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; manufact@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series: Stocks of Canadian Grain at December 31, 2008, Vol. 88, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-002-XWE
(free).

Report on Energy Supply and Demand in Canada, 2006 revision
Catalogue number 57-003-XWE
(free).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, November 2008, Vol. 86, no. 11
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB
(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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