

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Building permits, May 2009

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May 2009

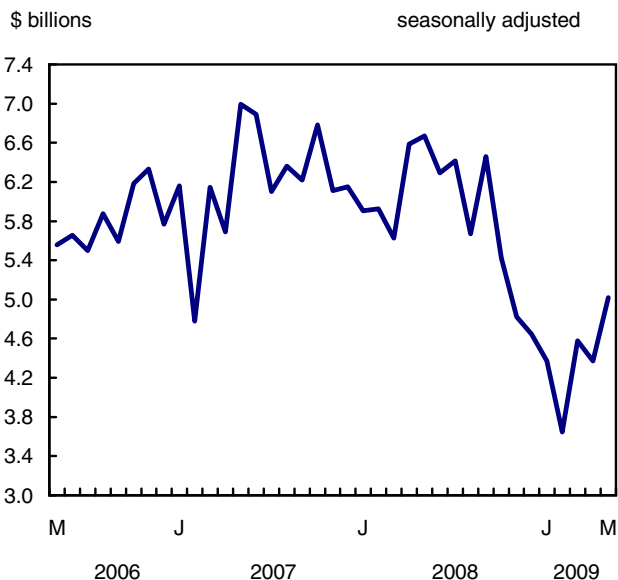
In May, the value of building permits surpassed the \$5.0-billion mark for the first time since October 2008. Construction intentions were up 14.8% from April, as a result of gains in both residential components and two of the three non-residential components.

Provincially, the main contributing factors were increases in multi-family dwelling permits in Ontario and institutional permits in Alberta and Ontario.

In the residential sector, the value of permits has increased for three consecutive months. Residential intentions rose 14.4% to \$2.6 billion, with Ontario accounting for most of the increase at the national level.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits increased 15.3% to \$2.4 billion following a 12.9% decrease in April. The gain was mainly a result of increases in the institutional component in Alberta and Ontario.

Value of permits



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.

Residential sector: Intentions up for both multi- and single-family permits

Municipalities issued \$1.1 billion worth of permits for multi-family dwellings in May, up 40.6% from April. All provinces (except for Nova Scotia) reported increases in multi-family construction intentions. Intentions nearly doubled in Ontario compared with April.

Single-family permits rose 1.4% to \$1.6 billion, the third consecutive monthly increase. The gain was a result of higher construction intentions in seven provinces.

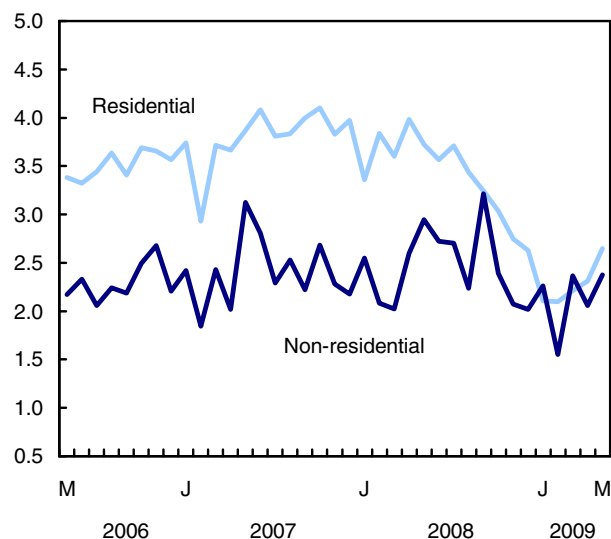
Following increases in the two previous months, single-family permits declined by 10.6% in Alberta in May.

Municipalities approved 13,087 new dwellings in May, up 22.1%. This was mainly a result of a 40.5% increase in multi-family units to 7,948. The number of single-family units approved rose 1.5% to 5,139.

The residential and the non-residential sector

\$ billions

seasonally adjusted

**Non-residential sector: Increases in both institutional and industrial components**

After a 16.3% decline in April, the value of permits for institutional buildings increased 47.9% to \$913 million. The increase came mainly from construction intentions for medical buildings in Alberta and educational buildings in Ontario.

In the industrial component, the value of permits rose 7.3% to \$346 million, the third consecutive monthly advance. Quebec and British Columbia accounted for most of the increase in May, while New Brunswick and Nova Scotia posted the largest monthly declines.

Permit values for the commercial component remained virtually unchanged at \$1.1 billion (-0.3%). This was due largely to a decline in construction intentions in seven provinces. In contrast, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta experienced growth in this component.

Strong increases in Alberta and Ontario

The value of building permits increased in all provinces except for the four Atlantic provinces.

The most significant increases occurred in Alberta (+48.4% to \$1.1 billion), the result of advances in all components except single-family dwellings. Ontario followed with a 15.0% increase to \$1.8 billion, as a result of gains in both single and multi-family permits and in the institutional component.

British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Quebec all experienced gains in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

All Atlantic provinces posted declines, mainly as a result of lower construction intentions in the non-residential sector. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia experienced the largest drops.

Metropolitan areas: Large gains in Calgary and Toronto

The total value of permits increased in 21 of 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest gains occurred in Calgary, with all components of the non-residential sector advancing. Toronto followed with increases in multi-family dwelling permits.

In contrast, the total value of permits in the census metropolitan area of Québec declined in May, after two consecutive monthly increases. May's decline came mostly from the commercial component.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The May 2009 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will be available soon.

The June building permit estimate will be released on August 6.

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

	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	April 2009 ^r	May 2009 ^p	April to May 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Total	3,147.6	2,597.6	3,485.5	3,031.7	3,718.7	22.7
St. John's	27.2	41.5	75.9	37.1	34.3	-7.5
Halifax	30.2	46.9	27.8	90.5	80.1	-11.5
Moncton	10.0	68.8	16.4	16.4	17.8	8.0
Saint John	10.2	21.8	15.3	39.7	16.4	-58.7
Saguenay	11.9	6.8	13.9	31.5	21.8	-30.8
Québec	129.0	84.9	149.8	205.6	153.7	-25.2
Sherbrooke	19.8	16.3	33.4	32.0	22.7	-29.0
Trois-Rivières	11.5	13.3	19.6	10.8	35.3	225.2
Montréal	423.4	332.6	422.0	391.8	408.2	4.2
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	142.9	146.5	233.2	182.9	202.0	10.4
Gatineau part	59.4	35.7	42.1	42.5	42.8	0.8
Ottawa part	83.4	110.8	191.1	140.4	159.2	13.3
Kingston	11.6	18.4	5.4	34.2	26.6	-22.1
Peterborough	6.3	4.9	9.2	22.5	8.8	-61.0
Oshawa	117.1	19.1	20.8	47.5	36.1	-24.1
Toronto	960.9	569.7	919.6	721.1	914.2	26.8
Hamilton	32.0	39.3	138.1	40.4	41.4	2.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	13.0	37.5	42.7	33.5	35.9	7.0
Kitchener	47.7	66.1	117.4	65.6	44.2	-32.7
Brantford	8.2	15.8	32.3	8.9	5.2	-41.0
Guelph	8.2	20.8	16.2	8.3	6.9	-16.8
London	40.9	29.1	51.5	37.9	76.8	102.6
Windsor	23.8	10.1	8.6	11.6	103.6	794.7
Barrie	229.5	4.2	16.5	8.0	16.4	106.3
Greater Sudbury	8.3	18.7	14.1	27.6	38.6	40.0
Thunder Bay	5.7	5.2	3.0	8.3	9.2	11.4
Winnipeg	61.7	50.1	54.1	81.3	71.0	-12.7
Regina	73.3	38.2	32.0	28.7	51.6	79.6
Saskatoon	53.9	26.1	33.9	41.8	43.7	4.6
Calgary	175.2	197.1	238.4	310.2	626.3	101.9
Edmonton	236.7	166.9	296.2	232.2	234.2	0.9
Kelowna	38.7	20.7	38.7	16.5	38.0	131.0
Abbotsford-Mission	5.7	9.2	26.7	5.7	6.6	14.9
Vancouver	139.5	331.3	203.2	173.6	246.7	42.1
Victoria	33.8	119.7	159.8	28.1	44.5	58.4

^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

	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	April 2009 ^r	May 2009 ^p	April to May 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Canada	4,370.0	3,646.0	4,576.8	4,372.3	5,020.4	14.8
Residential	2,108.5	2,096.3	2,213.7	2,313.4	2,646.0	14.4
Non-residential	2,261.5	1,549.8	2,363.1	2,058.9	2,374.4	15.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	49.3	61.2	94.3	57.8	55.7	-3.7
Residential	44.6	53.3	64.7	46.2	46.3	0.2
Non-residential	4.7	7.9	29.6	11.6	9.4	-19.1
Prince Edward Island	12.6	12.8	12.2	17.2	14.0	-18.7
Residential	6.7	6.5	6.4	10.0	9.1	-8.9
Non-residential	5.8	6.3	5.8	7.2	4.9	-32.3
Nova Scotia	88.3	83.2	60.1	146.8	126.4	-13.9
Residential	50.1	63.1	45.3	62.1	61.2	-1.5
Non-residential	38.2	20.0	14.9	84.8	65.3	-23.0
New Brunswick	75.3	116.8	60.0	100.9	73.1	-27.6
Residential	42.7	37.0	40.3	42.2	47.8	13.2
Non-residential	32.6	79.8	19.8	58.7	25.3	-56.9
Quebec	933.6	767.5	1,017.3	1,021.6	1,055.2	3.3
Residential	619.9	525.0	611.7	621.6	645.8	3.9
Non-residential	313.7	242.4	405.6	400.1	409.4	2.3
Ontario	2,009.4	1,246.6	1,818.5	1,547.1	1,778.7	15.0
Residential	779.0	745.3	769.9	802.9	1,095.1	36.4
Non-residential	1,230.4	501.3	1,048.6	744.1	683.6	-8.1
Manitoba	109.5	116.7	87.9	125.6	129.9	3.4
Residential	70.1	64.6	64.8	68.0	85.7	26.1
Non-residential	39.4	52.1	23.1	57.6	44.2	-23.3
Saskatchewan	181.0	98.7	118.1	121.6	187.9	54.5
Residential	97.8	51.3	53.8	50.7	65.3	28.7
Non-residential	83.3	47.3	64.4	70.9	122.6	73.0
Alberta	573.2	519.2	700.2	743.7	1,103.5	48.4
Residential	219.5	237.0	309.4	349.2	324.2	-7.2
Non-residential	353.7	282.2	390.9	394.6	779.3	97.5
British Columbia	331.5	614.6	597.5	377.4	477.2	26.4
Residential	174.2	309.0	237.6	248.6	258.4	3.9
Non-residential	157.4	305.6	359.9	128.8	218.8	69.8
Yukon	5.8	3.8	2.8	8.7	11.9	36.7
Residential	3.6	2.6	2.7	4.2	2.7	-37.0
Non-residential	2.2	1.2	0.1	4.4	9.2	107.0
Northwest Territories	0.4	4.0	1.7	98.3	5.8	-94.1
Residential	0.3	0.5	1.2	2.2	3.6	62.8
Non-residential	0.2	3.5	0.6	96.1	2.3	-97.6
Nunavut	0.0	1.0	6.0	5.5	1.2	-77.9
Residential	0.0	1.0	6.0	5.5	1.0	-81.6
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	...

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

April 2009

The number of take-offs and landings at the 118 airports without air traffic control towers reached 51,083 movements in April, down 13.7% compared with the 59,187 take-offs and landings for the 119 airports reported in April 2008. Moosonee, Ontario, was the most active site in April 2009 with 5,399 movements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0021 and 401-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The April 2009 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports without Air Traffic Control Towers (TP 141)* (51-008-X, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This report is a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Postal code conversion file

March 2009

The March 2009 update of the *Postal Code Conversion File* (PCCF) is now available. This file links the six-character postal codes to the standard 2006 Census geographic areas (such as dissemination areas, census tracts and census subdivisions).

By linking postal codes to the Statistics Canada geographic areas, the file facilitates the extraction and subsequent aggregation of data for selected geographic areas. The PCCF also associates each postal code with a longitude and latitude coordinate to support mapping applications. The file also indicates the source, quality and type of linkage made between the postal code and the geographic area.

The March 2009 update of the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* (2003 Representation Order) is also available. This product, a subset of the PCCF, provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's federal electoral districts (commonly known as federal ridings). The "unique link" variable indicates if the postal code is linked to one or more federal electoral districts (FEDs). When the postal code is linked to more than one FED, the "weight" variable estimates the proportion of the population of the postal code that resides within each FED.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.

The *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-X, \$10,000; update 92-153-U, \$1,670) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Riding File* (92F0193X, \$2,500; update 92F0193U, \$500) are also available in ASCII format on diskette or CD-ROM. See *How to order products*.

The reference guides for the *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-G, free) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* (92F0193G, free) are available in electronic format from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact GeoHelp (613-951-3889; geohelp@statcan.gc.ca), Geography Division. ■

New products

Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports without Air Traffic Control Towers (TP 141), April 2009
Catalogue number 51-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Industry Price Indexes, May 2009, Vol. 35, no. 5
Catalogue number 62-011-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF), Reference Guide, March 2009
Catalogue number 92-153-G (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF): Update, March 2009
Catalogue number 92-153-U (CD-ROM, \$1,670)

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order, Reference Guide, March 2009
Catalogue number 92F0193G (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order - Update, March 2009
Catalogue number 92F0193U (CD-ROM, \$500)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 09, 2008
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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 \$5.3 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for mineral exports. Merchandise exports continued with a lower trade deficit, in the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada showed significantly from the expenditure-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canada's direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

With 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 (across various for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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