

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 6, 2010

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#### **Building permits, March 2010**

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Following four months of decline, the value of building permits increased 12.2% in March to \$6.3 billion. This was 38.9% higher than the level in March 2009. The increase came mainly from multi-family and industrial building permits.

Wholesale Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2009

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## Releases

## Building permits

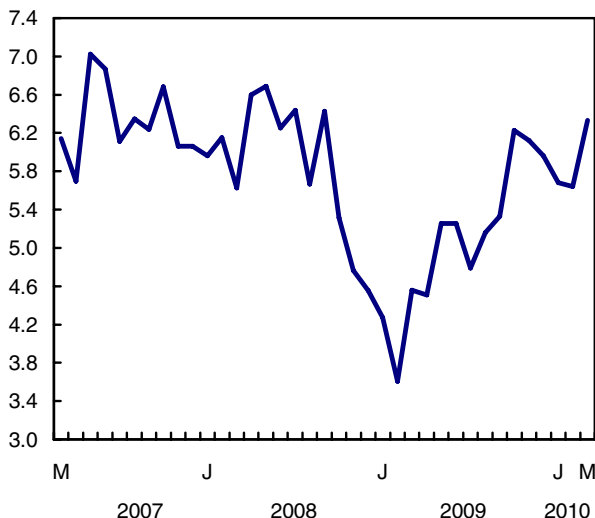
March 2010

Following four months of decline, the value of building permits increased 12.2% in March to \$6.3 billion. This was 38.9% higher than the level in March 2009. The increase came mainly from multi-family and industrial building permits.

In the residential sector, construction intentions increased 13.9% to \$4.2 billion, thanks to a substantial gain in permits for multi-family dwellings, particularly in Ontario and British Columbia.

### Total value of permits

\$ billions



In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued \$2.1 billion worth of permits, up 9.1% from February. This increase occurred mainly as a result of higher construction intentions in the industrial and institutional components.

The total value of construction intentions rose in all provinces, except Quebec.

### 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.*

## Revision

*Preliminary data are provided for the current reference month. Revised data, based on late responses, are updated for the previous month.*

## Residential sector: Higher intentions for multi-family permits

Municipalities issued \$1.5 billion worth of multi-family permits in March, up 53.6% from February, its highest level since July 2008. Ontario and British Columbia accounted for most of the increase, although six other provinces showed higher intentions for the construction of multiple dwellings. In contrast, Quebec posted a large decline following an increase in February.

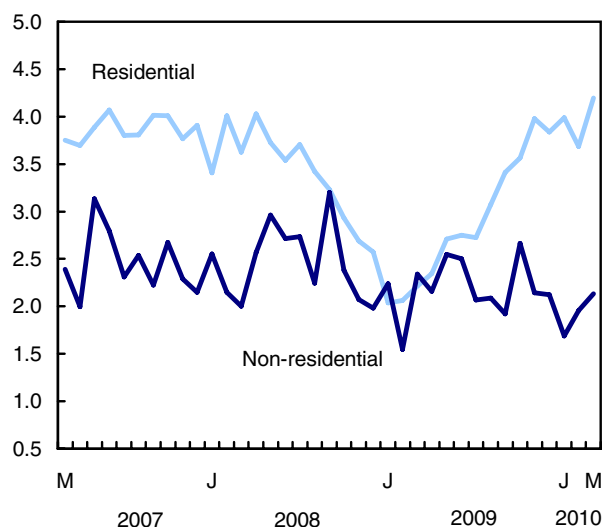
The Canada value of building permits for single-family dwellings remained unchanged at \$2.7 billion. Provincially, increases in eight provinces offset declines in Alberta and Ontario. Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador posted the largest advances in single-family construction intentions.

Nationally, municipalities approved construction of 19,469 new dwelling units in March, up 21.1%. The gain was largely attributable to multi-family dwellings, which rose 46.0% to 10,038 units. This was the first time since July 2008 that the number of multiple

units surpassed 10,000. The number of single-family dwellings approved increased 2.5% to 9,431 units.

### Residential and non-residential sectors

\$ billions



### Non-residential sector: Gains in industrial and institutional components

In the industrial component, the value of building permits advanced 56.9% to \$423 million, the third consecutive monthly increase. Alberta and Ontario led six provinces that posted higher values. These gains mainly came from projects related to transportation buildings in this component.

In the institutional component, municipalities issued permits worth \$523 million, up 18.1%. Ontario and Alberta posted increases as a result of higher values of building permits for government administration and religious purposes. In British Columbia, the increase originated from higher educational building projects.

The value of commercial building permits totalled \$1.2 billion, down 4.5%. The decline was mainly due to construction intentions for hotels and office buildings in Ontario. However, the value of commercial permits increased in Saskatchewan and

British Columbia, as a result of higher construction intentions for warehouses and office buildings.

### Permits up in all provinces except Quebec

The value of building permits was up in March in all provinces except Quebec.

The most significant increases were in Ontario and British Columbia. In Ontario, the increase in the value of permits came mainly from multi-family dwellings. British Columbia's gain was due to both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Following a strong gain in February, Quebec registered the only decrease in March, mostly as a result of construction intentions for the multi-family and institutional permits.

### Permits up in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits increased in 26 of the 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest gains were in Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary. Vancouver posted increases in all types of buildings. In Toronto, the increase came mainly from multi-family permits. In Calgary, it was a result of all components of the non-residential sector.

The largest declines occurred in Edmonton and Windsor, the result of decreases in 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 March 2010 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will soon be available.

The April building permit data will be released on June 4.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; [bdp\\_information@statcan.gc.ca](mailto: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.

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## Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits

	March 2009	January 2010	February 2010 <sup>r</sup>	March 2010 <sup>p</sup>	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted						
	number of units				% change	
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>11,342</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>19,469</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>71.7</b>
Single <sup>1</sup>	4,809	9,238	9,202	9,431	2.5	96.1
Multiples	6,533	9,544	6,876	10,038	46.0	53.7
	value in \$ millions				% change	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,557.1</b>	<b>5,679.6</b>	<b>5,640.9</b>	<b>6,331.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Residential	2,214.8	3,991.0	3,685.2	4,198.5	13.9	89.6
Single <sup>1</sup>	1,387.7	2,650.2	2,728.8	2,729.6	0.0	96.7
Multiple	827.2	1,340.9	956.4	1,468.9	53.6	77.6
Non-residential	2,342.3	1,688.5	1,955.7	2,133.2	9.1	-8.9
Industrial	188.5	258.3	269.8	423.4	56.9	124.6
Commercial	1,431.7	988.8	1,243.1	1,187.0	-4.5	-17.1
Institutional	722.1	441.3	442.7	522.9	18.1	-27.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.

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

# Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area<sup>1</sup>

	March 2009	January 2010	February 2010 <sup>r</sup>	March 2010 <sup>p</sup>	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions				% change	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,469.6</b>	<b>4,208.3</b>	<b>3,931.0</b>	<b>4,443.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>28.1</b>
St. John's	74.9	65.2	64.7	64.0	-1.2	-14.6
Halifax	28.4	76.1	40.8	56.0	37.3	97.2
Moncton	16.4	8.1	16.3	23.6	44.8	43.8
Saint John	14.8	9.5	12.8	21.7	68.9	46.5
Saguenay	14.3	7.5	9.2	26.6	190.9	85.9
Québec	149.1	150.0	150.0	191.6	27.7	28.5
Sherbrooke	34.1	34.0	42.7	50.0	16.9	46.6
Trois-Rivières	20.0	18.5	62.6	29.5	-52.9	47.4
Montréal	419.0	629.1	532.0	534.1	0.4	27.5
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	233.6	187.9	165.2	205.7	24.5	-12.0
Gatineau part	40.3	60.8	50.5	40.4	-20.0	0.4
Ottawa part	193.3	127.0	114.7	165.2	44.1	-14.5
Kingston	5.5	10.3	13.1	12.8	-2.3	132.9
Peterborough	9.2	6.6	9.2	26.9	191.5	192.9
Oshawa	20.6	78.1	84.3	58.7	-30.4	185.1
Toronto	892.1	1,189.0	928.2	1,066.1	14.9	19.5
Hamilton	141.8	87.0	106.4	110.4	3.8	-22.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	44.3	32.9	30.6	54.8	79.3	23.8
Kitchener	119.5	246.9	177.5	143.2	-19.3	19.8
Brantford	33.9	12.4	9.3	12.9	39.3	-61.9
Guelph	15.9	22.2	36.5	68.9	88.6	332.8
London	51.5	84.2	73.0	108.0	48.0	109.9
Windsor	8.8	14.2	77.1	15.0	-80.6	71.0
Barrie	17.5	16.0	9.5	15.9	68.0	-9.1
Greater Sudbury	13.9	7.0	4.7	7.5	59.2	-46.0
Thunder Bay	3.2	1.3	3.6	22.5	523.5	607.8
Winnipeg	54.4	67.8	74.7	96.9	29.6	78.1
Regina	31.9	36.0	32.0	59.2	84.8	85.3
Saskatoon	34.4	40.6	38.4	62.0	61.7	80.5
Calgary	240.4	286.3	282.8	409.3	44.7	70.2
Edmonton	295.4	311.4	393.7	258.3	-34.4	-12.6
Kelowna	38.8	30.8	54.3	57.8	6.5	49.2
Abbotsford-Mission	26.8	12.1	10.2	14.3	40.4	-46.8
Vancouver	205.0	365.6	331.6	492.7	48.6	140.3
Victoria	160.1	63.7	53.9	66.0	22.4	-58.8

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> 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

	March 2009	January 2010	February 2010 <sup>r</sup>	March 2010 <sup>p</sup>	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions				% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,557.1</b>	<b>5,679.6</b>	<b>5,640.9</b>	<b>6,331.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>38.9</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>2,214.8</b>	<b>3,991.0</b>	<b>3,685.2</b>	<b>4,198.5</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>89.6</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>2,342.3</b>	<b>1,688.5</b>	<b>1,955.7</b>	<b>2,133.2</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>-8.9</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	90.2	86.3	96.7	115.3	19.2	27.7
Residential	60.7	73.9	75.7	104.1	37.5	71.5
Non-residential	29.5	12.4	21.0	11.2	-46.8	-62.2
Prince Edward Island	11.8	10.8	14.6	23.7	62.6	100.6
Residential	6.1	9.0	9.4	10.8	15.8	78.8
Non-residential	5.8	1.8	5.2	12.9	146.5	123.6
Nova Scotia	59.7	134.7	99.6	108.2	8.6	81.2
Residential	45.1	105.2	60.9	77.3	26.9	71.6
Non-residential	14.6	29.5	38.7	30.9	-20.2	110.8
New Brunswick	60.4	57.5	64.2	86.1	34.1	42.5
Residential	40.7	35.3	50.9	64.9	27.5	59.4
Non-residential	19.7	22.2	13.3	21.2	59.6	7.6
Quebec	995.6	1,229.3	1,351.8	1,327.6	-1.8	33.3
Residential	614.4	989.4	931.0	943.8	1.4	53.6
Non-residential	381.2	239.9	420.8	383.9	-8.8	0.7
Ontario	1,813.5	2,331.8	2,104.8	2,407.6	14.4	32.8
Residential	762.4	1,456.6	1,207.8	1,532.7	26.9	101.0
Non-residential	1,051.1	875.3	896.9	874.9	-2.5	-16.8
Manitoba	87.9	124.4	114.1	142.7	25.1	62.4
Residential	65.1	103.2	86.9	90.7	4.4	39.4
Non-residential	22.8	21.2	27.2	52.0	91.2	128.2
Saskatchewan	117.1	120.7	123.0	203.1	65.1	73.4
Residential	52.9	78.1	75.5	124.1	64.3	134.4
Non-residential	64.2	42.6	47.5	79.0	66.3	23.0
Alberta	712.9	892.2	1,000.8	1,002.7	0.2	40.7
Residential	319.7	613.7	684.2	599.7	-12.4	87.6
Non-residential	393.2	278.5	316.6	402.9	27.3	2.5
British Columbia	597.2	679.5	660.5	881.1	33.4	47.5
Residential	237.8	523.7	497.4	644.9	29.7	171.2
Non-residential	359.5	155.8	163.1	236.1	44.8	-34.3
Yukon	3.1	3.2	6.4	23.2	264.3	646.4
Residential	3.0	2.8	4.8	4.1	-14.1	35.9
Non-residential	0.1	0.4	1.6	19.1	...	...
Northwest Territories	1.5	1.0	4.0	5.5	36.7	256.5
Residential	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.9	41.7	-12.2
Non-residential	0.6	0.9	3.4	4.6	35.8	724.6
Nunavut	6.0	8.1	0.4	4.9	...	-18.2
Residential	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	...	-93.1
Non-residential	0.0	8.1	0.4	4.5	...	...

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

... not applicable

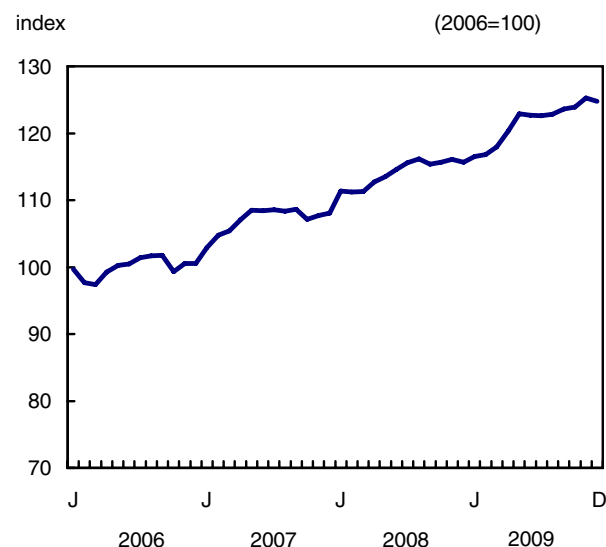
**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

## Wholesale Services Price Index

Fourth quarter 2009

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) increased 1.4% in the fourth quarter following a 0.8% advance in the third quarter.

### Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services



Margins increased in five of the eight wholesale sectors in the fourth quarter. The largest margin increase was posted by wholesalers of petroleum products (+9.1%).

Wholesalers of farm products (-2.9%), miscellaneous products (-1.0%) and personal and household goods (-0.8%) all recorded lower margins in the fourth quarter.

Year over year, the WSPI increased 7.7% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter in 2008. The largest contributors to year-over-year margin increases were wholesalers of petroleum products (+39.1%) and motor vehicles and parts (+14.3%).

**Note:** All data in this release are seasonally unadjusted and are subject to revision. With the release of the final fourth quarter data for any given year, finalized data for all quarters of that year are released at the same time.

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The WSPI is not a wholesale selling price index. The WSPI represents the change in the price of the wholesale service. The price of the wholesale service is defined as the margin price which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the wholesale product being priced.

**Available on CANSIM: table 332-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5106.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-4550; toll-free 1-888-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117, [ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca)), Producer Prices Division.

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## Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services

	Relative Importance <sup>1</sup>	Fourth quarter 2008	Third quarter 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to fourth quarter 2009
	(2006=100)					% change
<b>Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>124.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Farm products	1.86	180.2	170.6	165.7	-2.9	-8.0
Petroleum products	5.20	152.4	194.4	212.0	9.1	39.1
Food, beverage and tobacco	13.57	97.1	104.8	106.9	2.0	10.1
Personal and household goods	16.60	102.2	103.8	103.0	-0.8	0.8
Motor vehicles and parts	9.59	109.7	123.1	125.4	1.9	14.3
Building material and supplies	15.22	121.0	116.9	119.2	2.0	-1.5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	23.21	118.4	129.3	130.0	0.5	9.8
Miscellaneous	11.54	121.9	126.5	125.2	-1.0	2.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System) contributes to the overall Wholesale Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as the Wholesale Agents and Brokers group was not priced and data are imputed.





## New products and studies

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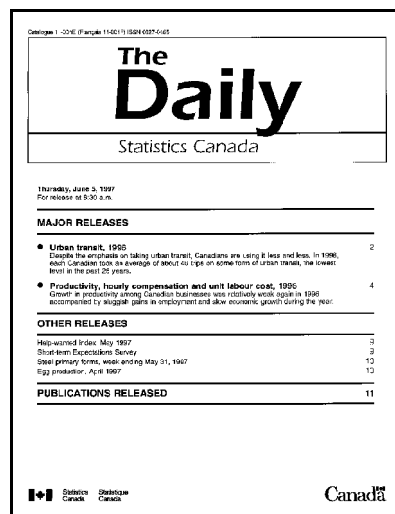
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