

The Daily

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Building permits, April 2011

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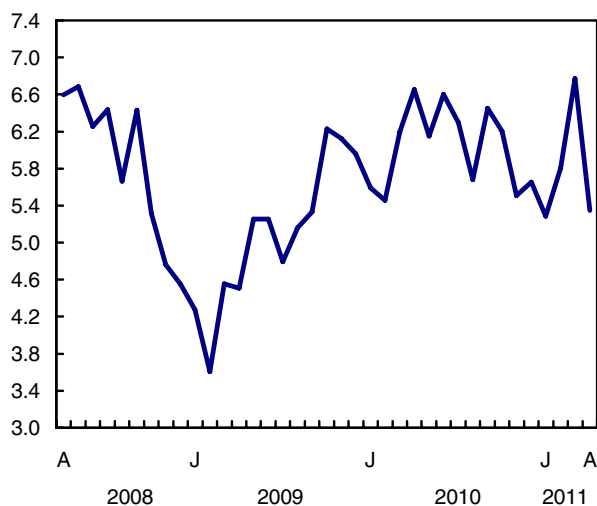
Building permits

April 2011

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Total value of permits

\$ billions



In the non-residential sector, the value of permits fell 33.2% to \$1.9 billion, after reaching high levels in the previous two months. The decline was due primarily to lower construction intentions for institutional buildings in Ontario. Decreases were also posted in six other provinces.

In the residential sector, municipalities issued \$3.5 billion worth of permits, down 12.6% from March. The decrease was mainly the result of declines in the multi-family component in Ontario.

The total value of permits decreased in seven provinces, with Ontario posting by far the largest

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates 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 (for example, 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.

decline. Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick registered gains.

Non-residential sector: Decreases in the institutional and commercial components

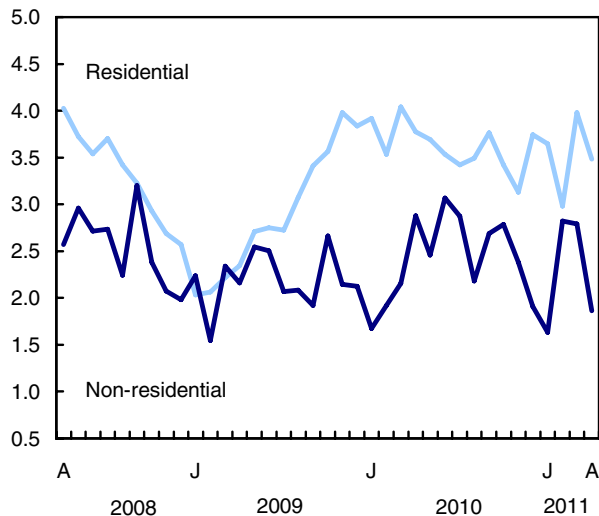
Following a record high in March, construction intentions in the institutional component recorded the largest decline, down 62.8% to \$479 million in April. The decrease was largely due to lower construction intentions for educational institutions and medical facilities primarily in Ontario and Alberta.

In the commercial component, the value of permits fell 10.7% to \$1.1 billion. In British Columbia, office buildings had the largest decreases. Ontario followed with declines in a wide variety of commercial buildings, including hotels, warehouses and retail stores.

After declining in March, the value of industrial building permits rose 3.1% to \$317 million in April. Quebec and Alberta had the largest gains in construction intentions for utilities buildings. Ontario followed with an increase in construction intentions for primary sector buildings.

Residential and non-residential sectors

\$ billions

**Residential sector: Lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings**

Municipalities issued \$1.3 billion worth of building permits for multi-family dwellings in April, down 31.3% from March, when the value of multi-family permits more than doubled. Ontario and Quebec accounted for much of the decline. In contrast, seven provinces posted increases, led by Alberta and British Columbia.

The value of building permits for single-family dwellings rose 3.7% to \$2.2 billion in April, a second consecutive monthly increase. The advance was attributable to gains in six provinces, led by Alberta and British Columbia.

Municipalities approved the construction of 15,417 new dwellings in April, down 10.4% from March. The decline was the result of a 20.3% decrease in multi-family dwellings to 8,342 units. Single-family dwellings rose 5.1% to 7,075 units.

Provinces: Ontario posts the biggest decline

The value of building permits fell in seven provinces. The largest drop was in Ontario, following a strong increase in March. The decrease was attributable in particular to lower construction intentions for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings.

In British Columbia, the decline originated in the non-residential sector, with a larger drop in permits for commercial buildings. In Quebec, a strong decline in the residential sector more than offset increases in

the three non-residential components. In Manitoba, all components except multi-family dwellings contributed to the decline.

In contrast, Alberta posted the largest increase, as a result of higher intentions for commercial buildings and for single- and multi-family dwellings. Newfoundland and Labrador registered gains because of higher construction intentions for commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings. This advance came after two consecutive monthly decreases. In New Brunswick, higher construction intentions for the commercial and industrial components and for multi-family dwellings were behind April's increase.

Lower permit values in more than half of census metropolitan areas

In April, the total value of permits fell in 18 of the 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest declines were in Toronto, Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo and Montréal. In Toronto, the decrease was attributable in particular to permits for multi-family dwellings and institutional buildings. In Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo, the decline came from lower construction intentions for institutional buildings. In Montréal, the drop was mainly due to multi-family dwellings.

In contrast, the largest increases were in Ottawa, Edmonton and Calgary. In Ottawa, the advance was primarily attributable to permits for single-family dwellings and non-residential buildings. In Edmonton, the gain originated from higher construction intentions in the residential sector and commercial buildings. In Calgary, the increase was largely the result of higher intentions for commercial buildings and single-family dwellings.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The April 2011 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will soon be available.

The building permit data for May will be released on July 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 Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

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

| | April 2010 | February 2011 | March 2011 ^r | April 2011 ^p | March to April 2011 | April 2010 to April 2011 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | % change | |
| Total | 6,654.8 | 5,801.7 | 6,773.6 | 5,346.2 | -21.1 | -19.7 |
| Residential | 3,774.5 | 2,979.5 | 3,980.4 | 3,480.8 | -12.6 | -7.8 |
| Single ¹ | 2,480.7 | 2,083.1 | 2,132.6 | 2,212.0 | 3.7 | -10.8 |
| Multiples | 1,293.7 | 896.4 | 1,847.8 | 1,268.8 | -31.3 | -1.9 |
| Non-residential | 2,880.4 | 2,822.2 | 2,793.2 | 1,865.4 | -33.2 | -35.2 |
| Industrial | 434.2 | 883.6 | 306.9 | 316.5 | 3.1 | -27.1 |
| Commercial | 1,561.7 | 1,236.8 | 1,197.6 | 1,069.5 | -10.7 | -31.5 |
| Institutional | 884.5 | 701.9 | 1,288.7 | 479.4 | -62.8 | -45.8 |
| | number of units | | | | % change | |
| Total dwellings | 17,231 | 13,529 | 17,201 | 15,417 | -10.4 | -10.5 |
| Single ¹ | 8,512 | 6,798 | 6,729 | 7,075 | 5.1 | -16.9 |
| Multiples | 8,719 | 6,731 | 10,472 | 8,342 | -20.3 | -4.3 |

^r revised

^p 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 province and territory

| | April 2010 | February 2011 | March 2011 ^r | April 2011 ^p | March to April 2011 | April 2010 to April 2011 |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | % change | |
| Canada | 6,654.8 | 5,801.7 | 6,773.6 | 5,346.2 | -21.1 | -19.7 |
| Residential | 3,774.5 | 2,979.5 | 3,980.4 | 3,480.8 | -12.6 | -7.8 |
| Non-residential | 2,880.4 | 2,822.2 | 2,793.2 | 1,865.4 | -33.2 | -35.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 94.5 | 85.2 | 61.2 | 79.3 | 29.7 | -16.0 |
| Residential | 70.5 | 67.6 | 48.7 | 64.8 | 33.0 | -8.2 |
| Non-residential | 23.9 | 17.6 | 12.5 | 14.5 | 16.5 | -39.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 16.1 | 17.0 | 22.0 | 14.2 | -35.5 | -11.8 |
| Residential | 10.1 | 8.9 | 10.6 | 10.1 | -4.7 | 0.0 |
| Non-residential | 6.0 | 8.1 | 11.5 | 4.1 | -64.0 | -31.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 293.6 | 109.7 | 128.2 | 112.5 | -12.2 | -61.7 |
| Residential | 93.7 | 88.2 | 74.7 | 85.1 | 13.9 | -9.2 |
| Non-residential | 199.9 | 21.5 | 53.5 | 27.4 | -48.7 | -86.3 |
| New Brunswick | 120.4 | 43.8 | 84.9 | 88.8 | 4.6 | -26.3 |
| Residential | 54.7 | 33.1 | 38.9 | 46.7 | 20.1 | -14.6 |
| Non-residential | 65.7 | 10.6 | 46.0 | 42.1 | -8.5 | -36.0 |
| Quebec | 1,264.2 | 1,121.0 | 1,173.0 | 1,127.4 | -3.9 | -10.8 |
| Residential | 829.8 | 806.9 | 862.5 | 757.5 | -12.2 | -8.7 |
| Non-residential | 434.5 | 314.1 | 310.5 | 369.9 | 19.1 | -14.9 |
| Ontario | 2,660.6 | 2,001.7 | 3,220.8 | 1,872.3 | -41.9 | -29.6 |
| Residential | 1,377.4 | 888.4 | 1,718.0 | 1,142.3 | -33.5 | -17.1 |
| Non-residential | 1,283.3 | 1,113.2 | 1,502.9 | 730.0 | -51.4 | -43.1 |
| Manitoba | 162.1 | 134.1 | 147.5 | 119.3 | -19.1 | -26.4 |
| Residential | 123.8 | 98.2 | 88.3 | 87.7 | -0.6 | -29.2 |
| Non-residential | 38.3 | 35.9 | 59.3 | 31.6 | -46.7 | -17.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 190.9 | 172.9 | 189.1 | 186.6 | -1.3 | -2.3 |
| Residential | 107.4 | 99.6 | 100.7 | 117.0 | 16.2 | 8.9 |
| Non-residential | 83.5 | 73.3 | 88.4 | 69.6 | -21.2 | -16.6 |
| Alberta | 1,157.6 | 1,483.2 | 874.8 | 959.4 | 9.7 | -17.1 |
| Residential | 627.7 | 439.4 | 564.7 | 629.8 | 11.5 | 0.3 |
| Non-residential | 529.9 | 1,043.8 | 310.1 | 329.6 | 6.3 | -37.8 |
| British Columbia | 663.9 | 626.7 | 855.3 | 761.7 | -10.9 | 14.7 |
| Residential | 471.1 | 444.2 | 461.2 | 521.8 | 13.1 | 10.8 |
| Non-residential | 192.8 | 182.5 | 394.1 | 239.9 | -39.1 | 24.4 |
| Yukon | 14.8 | 3.9 | 8.0 | 10.9 | 35.2 | -26.8 |
| Residential | 6.4 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 27.0 | -23.1 |
| Non-residential | 8.4 | 0.4 | 4.2 | 5.9 | 42.8 | -29.6 |
| Northwest Territories | 1.7 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 219.0 | 25.9 |
| Residential | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 607.0 | 5.9 |
| Non-residential | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 18.8 | 200.0 |
| Nunavut | 14.4 | 0.6 | 8.0 | 11.6 | 45.0 | -19.1 |
| Residential | 0.4 | 0.6 | 8.0 | 11.5 | 43.8 | ... |
| Non-residential | 14.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | ... | -99.3 |

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

| | April 2010 | February 2011 | March 2011 ^r | April 2011 ^p | March to April 2011 | April 2010 to April 2011 |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | % change | | |
| Total: Census metropolitan area | 4,841.8 | 4,482.2 | 5,407.0 | 3,966.9 | -26.6 | -18.1 |
| St. John's | 53.6 | 30.3 | 41.1 | 49.0 | 19.2 | -8.6 |
| Halifax | 67.4 | 66.7 | 61.0 | 61.6 | 0.9 | -8.6 |
| Moncton | 22.7 | 6.1 | 43.7 | 40.0 | -8.4 | 76.4 |
| Saint John | 34.6 | 8.9 | 13.6 | 11.5 | -15.3 | -66.7 |
| Saguenay | 31.3 | 18.6 | 28.3 | 23.5 | -16.9 | -25.0 |
| Québec | 185.1 | 116.6 | 128.8 | 157.5 | 22.3 | -14.9 |
| Sherbrooke | 50.1 | 43.5 | 32.6 | 37.5 | 15.0 | -25.2 |
| Trois-Rivières | 20.9 | 15.3 | 24.0 | 33.8 | 40.5 | 61.6 |
| Montréal | 519.1 | 506.2 | 557.3 | 436.9 | -21.6 | -15.8 |
| Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec | 222.9 | 200.8 | 134.1 | 198.0 | 47.7 | -11.1 |
| Gatineau part | 46.4 | 46.6 | 42.5 | 55.3 | 30.0 | 19.2 |
| Ottawa part | 176.5 | 154.2 | 91.5 | 142.8 | 56.0 | -19.1 |
| Kingston | 15.3 | 8.9 | 11.8 | 19.6 | 66.0 | 27.8 |
| Peterborough | 12.9 | 7.1 | 14.5 | 7.0 | -51.6 | -45.7 |
| Oshawa | 72.5 | 41.2 | 61.3 | 67.2 | 9.5 | -7.3 |
| Toronto | 1,258.3 | 943.5 | 2,129.0 | 945.5 | -55.6 | -24.9 |
| Hamilton | 170.5 | 123.4 | 88.9 | 67.1 | -24.6 | -60.7 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 53.5 | 53.6 | 64.9 | 30.0 | -53.8 | -44.0 |
| Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo | 150.4 | 198.1 | 206.9 | 78.5 | -62.0 | -47.8 |
| Brantford | 7.8 | 16.4 | 4.9 | 15.6 | 219.0 | 100.9 |
| Guelph | 30.3 | 18.9 | 25.5 | 15.7 | -38.4 | -48.2 |
| London | 96.3 | 118.1 | 98.9 | 67.0 | -32.3 | -30.4 |
| Windsor | 114.6 | 13.8 | 24.2 | 34.0 | 40.6 | -70.4 |
| Barrie | 43.2 | 13.4 | 39.1 | 20.2 | -48.2 | -53.1 |
| Greater Sudbury | 13.7 | 9.0 | 17.8 | 14.3 | -19.7 | 4.2 |
| Thunder Bay | 7.7 | 7.3 | 13.3 | 32.9 | 146.4 | 328.9 |
| Winnipeg | 117.8 | 102.0 | 103.9 | 70.6 | -32.1 | -40.1 |
| Regina | 58.4 | 28.2 | 66.2 | 42.8 | -35.4 | -26.8 |
| Saskatoon | 86.7 | 66.9 | 66.5 | 83.8 | 26.0 | -3.3 |
| Calgary | 325.2 | 947.7 | 345.6 | 375.2 | 8.6 | 15.4 |
| Edmonton | 556.3 | 287.5 | 289.7 | 339.3 | 17.1 | -39.0 |
| Kelowna | 35.8 | 14.6 | 49.9 | 26.7 | -46.5 | -25.5 |
| Abbotsford-Mission | 10.2 | 20.6 | 15.3 | 8.3 | -45.4 | -18.3 |
| Vancouver | 345.5 | 379.4 | 564.9 | 503.4 | -10.9 | 45.7 |
| Victoria | 51.3 | 49.8 | 39.8 | 53.2 | 33.5 | 3.7 |

^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.



Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing 2009 and 2010

Selected data on business financing are now available for the reference years 2009 and 2010 from the Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing. As the development of a new program continues, a shorter version of the survey was administered to a smaller number of units for the collection of 2009 and 2010 data.

As such, reference year 2008 data previously published in December 2009 have been restated to provide comparability with 2009 and 2010 data.

It is important to note that these data do not represent the same population of lenders as they did prior to 2008, but they do represent a significant portion of the activity.

Summary tables for 2010, 2009 and restated 2008 are available online (www.sme-fdi.gc.ca/surveys).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2514.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Samuel Kim (613-951-0242; samuel.kim@statcan.gc.ca), Robert Fair (613-951-0068; robert.fair@statcan.gc.ca) or Mario Vella (613-951-1395; mario.vella@statcan.gc.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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