

The Daily

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Building permits, December 2011

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This is the highest level since June 2007. The advance in December was due primarily to an increase in multi-family dwellings in Ontario and commercial buildings in Alberta.

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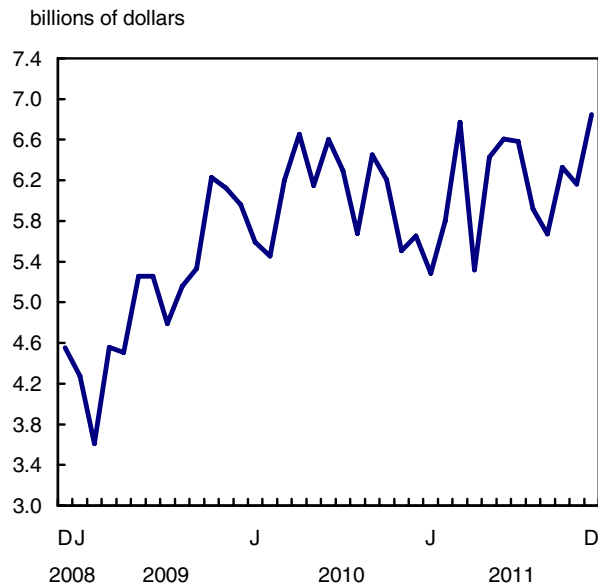
Releases

Building permits

December 2011

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Total value of permits



In the residential sector, the value of permits rose 16.1% to \$4.5 billion. It was the second consecutive monthly increase. Ontario accounted for much of the growth recorded at the national level.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits grew 2.8% to \$2.4 billion in December, following a 15.1% decline in November. Alberta posted a large increase, which more than offset declines in most provinces.

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.

The total value of building permits was up in five provinces, led by Ontario, Alberta and Quebec. British Columbia had the largest decrease.

Residential sector: Significant increase for multi-family dwellings in Ontario

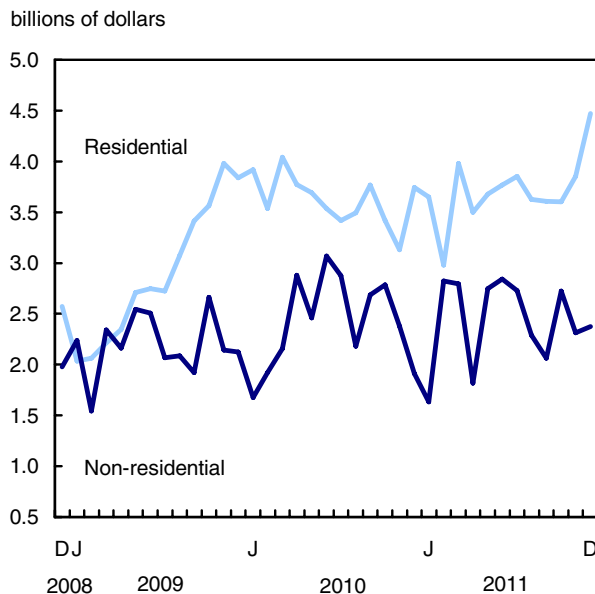
Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings rose 28.9% to \$1.9 billion. It was the second consecutive monthly increase and the highest level recorded since December 2005. The growth was due to major condominium and apartment building projects initiated in Ontario.

Municipalities issued \$2.6 billion worth of building permits for single-family dwellings in December, 8.1% more than in November. The increase was attributable to higher construction intentions in six provinces, led by Quebec and Alberta.

Nationally, municipalities approved the construction of 19,015 new dwellings in December, up 13.0% from November. The increase was largely due to multi-family dwellings, which rose 19.1% to 11,560 units.

The number of single-family dwellings rose 4.7% to 7,455 units.

Residential and non-residential sectors



Non-residential sector: Increase in the commercial component

In the commercial component, municipalities issued permits worth \$1.6 billion in December, a 41.0% increase following two monthly declines. The increase is largely attributable to higher construction intentions for office buildings and warehouse facilities in Alberta, as well as hotels in Ontario.

The value of industrial building permits declined 24.2% to \$353 million in December. It was the second consecutive monthly decrease. The decline was mostly due to lower construction intentions in all provinces except Quebec. The largest decreases were in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia. These provinces posted lower construction intentions in a wide range of industrial buildings, including transportation-related buildings and manufacturing

plants. Quebec's advance was due to manufacturing plants.

In the institutional component, the value of building permits declined 42.2% to \$402 million, down for a second consecutive month after peaking at more than \$1 billion in October 2011. Institutional construction intentions decreased in six provinces. The largest declines were in construction intentions for educational institutions in Ontario, health care facilities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and government buildings in British Columbia.

Large increases in Ontario and Alberta

The value of building permits was up in five provinces.

Ontario's increase was mainly attributable to permits for multi-family dwellings and hotels. In Alberta, permits for office buildings and warehouses rose. In Quebec, the increase was due to the value of building permits for single-family dwellings and manufacturing plants. In Nova Scotia, the growth was attributable to an increase in commercial buildings. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the growth resulted from higher construction intentions for single-family dwellings.

The largest declines were in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. All three provinces posted decreases in both residential and non-residential sectors.

Higher permit values in half of the census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits was up in 17 of Canada's 34 census metropolitan areas.

Toronto had the largest increase, followed by Calgary. Toronto's increase was mostly attributable to building permits for multi-family dwellings. In Calgary, the advance was largely due to construction intentions for commercial buildings and single-family dwellings.

The largest declines were in Ottawa and Vancouver. In Ottawa, the decrease was due to the residential and non-residential sectors, as both had posted advances in November. Vancouver's decline was mainly attributable to a decrease in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings and institutional buildings, which had recorded large increases in November.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

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

The January building permit data will be released on March 7.

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, Science and Technology Division.

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

	December 2010	October 2011	November 2011 ^r	December 2011 ^p	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total	5,654.4	6,326.0	6,163.4	6,847.6	11.1	21.1
Residential	3,742.9	3,603.8	3,851.7	4,470.7	16.1	19.4
Single ¹	2,093.8	2,199.4	2,371.1	2,562.6	8.1	22.4
Multiple	1,649.2	1,404.5	1,480.6	1,908.1	28.9	15.7
Non-residential	1,911.5	2,722.2	2,311.6	2,376.9	2.8	24.3
Industrial	455.7	500.7	465.4	352.8	-24.2	-22.6
Commercial	1,026.2	1,172.2	1,150.3	1,622.0	41.0	58.1
Institutional	429.6	1,049.3	695.9	402.1	-42.2	-6.4
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	17,696	15,967	16,825	19,015	13.0	7.5
Single ¹	6,953	6,779	7,122	7,455	4.7	7.2
Multiple	10,743	9,188	9,703	11,560	19.1	7.6

^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 up to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2010	October 2011	November 2011 ^r	December 2011 ^p	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	millions of dollars				% change	
Canada	5,654.4	6,326.0	6,163.4	6,847.6	11.1	21.1
Residential	3,742.9	3,603.8	3,851.7	4,470.7	16.1	19.4
Non-residential	1,911.5	2,722.2	2,311.6	2,376.9	2.8	24.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	76.0	123.9	73.8	79.0	6.9	3.9
Residential	67.6	59.9	61.4	68.7	11.9	1.6
Non-residential	8.4	64.1	12.4	10.2	-17.6	22.4
Prince Edward Island	23.5	19.2	21.9	21.1	-3.6	-10.1
Residential	16.2	10.9	11.0	14.1	28.5	-12.9
Non-residential	7.3	8.3	10.9	7.0	-35.9	-3.8
Nova Scotia	93.5	81.4	125.7	140.9	12.1	50.7
Residential	79.7	58.4	89.2	81.2	-9.0	1.9
Non-residential	13.8	23.0	36.5	59.7	63.5	332.5
New Brunswick	76.8	78.3	73.6	67.5	-8.2	-12.0
Residential	40.7	43.6	47.2	41.1	-12.9	1.1
Non-residential	36.1	34.7	26.4	26.4	0.2	-26.8
Quebec	1,033.2	1,199.3	1,182.7	1,260.9	6.6	22.0
Residential	749.0	788.7	788.8	866.6	9.9	15.7
Non-residential	284.2	410.6	393.8	394.3	0.1	38.7
Ontario	2,493.5	2,666.7	2,279.6	2,865.9	25.7	14.9
Residential	1,687.8	1,302.4	1,363.8	2,021.7	48.2	19.8
Non-residential	805.7	1,364.2	915.9	844.2	-7.8	4.8
Manitoba	163.6	182.3	213.7	142.3	-33.4	-13.0
Residential	116.5	99.2	111.0	106.4	-4.1	-8.7
Non-residential	47.2	83.0	102.7	35.9	-65.0	-23.8
Saskatchewan	205.7	279.1	253.4	174.3	-31.2	-15.2
Residential	123.4	151.0	130.6	125.4	-4.0	1.6
Non-residential	82.2	128.1	122.8	48.9	-60.2	-40.5
Alberta	866.9	965.0	992.9	1,305.6	31.5	50.6
Residential	467.2	592.7	601.6	643.7	7.0	37.8
Non-residential	399.7	372.3	391.3	661.9	69.2	65.6
British Columbia	616.6	707.5	930.2	783.1	-15.8	27.0
Residential	391.2	489.2	633.2	497.6	-21.4	27.2
Non-residential	225.5	218.3	297.0	285.5	-3.9	26.6
Yukon	3.3	19.4	4.0	6.1	53.8	86.5
Residential	2.7	4.2	2.7	3.4	25.2	23.6
Non-residential	0.5	15.2	1.3	2.7	115.4	414.1
Northwest Territories	1.9	1.0	1.8	0.8	-55.8	-57.7
Residential	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.7	-44.2	-28.7
Non-residential	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.1	-80.5	-87.7
Nunavut	0.0	3.0	10.2	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Residential	0.0	2.9	10.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Non-residential	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-100.0	...

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted¹

	December 2010	October 2011	November 2011 ^r	December 2011 ^p	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	4,227.3	4,720.7	4,718.3	5,379.8	14.0	27.3
St. John's	42.0	84.6	55.0	44.5	-19.1	6.0
Halifax	48.7	35.2	78.4	94.2	20.2	93.4
Moncton	13.8	19.2	27.5	20.9	-24.0	51.4
Saint John	11.7	9.8	15.1	10.3	-32.0	-12.5
Saguenay	10.4	19.3	16.7	17.4	4.3	67.9
Québec	120.2	77.4	138.4	145.2	4.9	20.8
Sherbrooke	35.5	29.0	38.2	21.5	-43.7	-39.3
Trois-Rivières	27.1	43.7	27.8	31.3	12.4	15.5
Montréal	428.4	648.6	490.1	585.3	19.4	36.6
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	169.7	215.3	336.3	135.9	-59.6	-19.9
Gatineau part	40.2	41.6	84.4	33.1	-60.8	-17.7
Ottawa part	129.5	173.8	251.9	102.9	-59.2	-20.6
Kingston	21.5	15.6	11.7	35.5	203.1	64.9
Peterborough	2.8	7.5	15.6	18.1	16.5	557.6
Oshawa	37.6	120.5	42.7	116.1	172.2	208.8
Toronto	1,301.8	1,264.9	1,238.9	1,610.8	30.0	23.7
Hamilton	106.9	88.0	75.5	79.8	5.7	-25.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	40.4	30.3	32.3	19.6	-39.3	-51.4
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	288.0	68.2	60.8	192.4	216.2	-33.2
Brantford	12.1	8.7	5.8	7.2	24.4	-40.4
Guelph	10.8	29.0	46.1	11.6	-74.8	7.9
London	74.9	344.5	86.4	126.7	46.5	69.1
Windsor	52.2	50.7	25.4	14.5	-42.7	-72.2
Barrie	11.3	14.4	16.6	97.4	487.2	762.7
Greater Sudbury	45.4	36.0	25.0	54.4	117.4	19.9
Thunder Bay	4.7	8.6	8.6	4.0	-53.6	-13.9
Winnipeg	106.6	107.5	157.0	97.6	-37.9	-8.5
Regina	34.3	79.4	52.9	56.1	6.1	63.5
Saskatoon	105.3	113.3	137.5	73.8	-46.3	-29.9
Calgary	309.6	351.8	333.0	666.0	100.0	115.1
Edmonton	256.5	309.0	371.8	353.4	-4.9	37.8
Kelowna	33.9	28.9	30.6	28.3	-7.4	-16.5
Abbotsford–Mission	57.1	27.0	6.4	5.5	-14.3	-90.3
Vancouver	328.1	391.9	670.4	572.0	-14.7	74.3
Victoria	78.1	43.0	43.8	32.5	-25.9	-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 up to totals as a result of rounding.



Motion picture theatres 2010

Operating revenues for motion picture theatres continued their upward trend, which started in 2005. However, attendance at cinemas in Canada, including indoor theatres, drive-ins and film festivals, declined slightly in 2010 for the first time in five years.

Movie theatres sold 112.2 million tickets in 2010, down 1.9% from 114.4 million in 2009. Among the factors that could have contributed to this decline are an increase in ticket prices and growth in alternative entertainment choices for consumers.

Total operating revenues in the motion picture theatre industry reached \$1.6 billion in 2010, a 2.8% increase from 2009. This followed an increase of 12.0% in 2009.

Total operating expenses reached \$1.4 billion in 2010, up 3.5%, following a 10.4% increase in 2009.

The industry posted an operating profit margin of 11.3% in 2010, down slightly from 11.9% in 2009.

Box-office revenues increased 4.2% to \$960.7 million, while concession revenues rose 2.2% to \$453.5 million. The main factor in the growth in box-office revenues was a 6.2% yearly increase in average ticket prices. This was due partly to premium ticket prices for three-dimensional movies and higher costs of making movies.

In 2010, four provinces accounted for 88.1% of operating revenues: Ontario (40.9%), Quebec (18.5%), Alberta (14.6%) and British Columbia (14.1%).

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 361-0012 and 361-0028.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2416.

The publication *Service bulletin: Motion Picture Theatres*, 2010 (87F0009X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lawrence Arbenser (613-951-3003; lawrence.arbenser@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Consumer goods rental industry 2010

The 2010 edition of *Service bulletin: Consumer Goods Rental*, which contains industry highlights along with financial data including revenues, expenses, and operating profit margins, is now available.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 352-0010, 352-0013 and 352-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2434.

The publication *Service bulletin: Consumer Goods Rental*, 2010 (63-239-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; adib.farhat@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

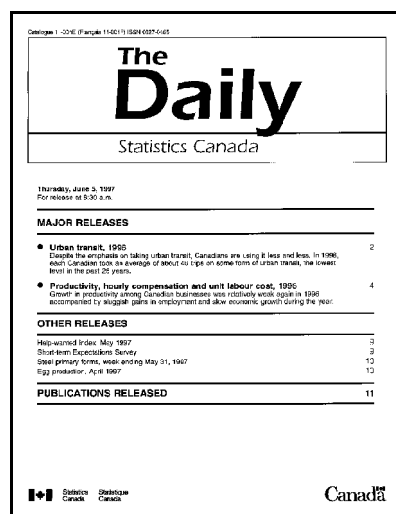
New products and studies

Industry Price Indexes, December 2011, Vol. 37,
no. 12
Catalogue number 62-011-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Consumer Goods Rental, 2010
Catalogue number 63-239-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Motion Picture Theatres, 2010
Catalogue number 87F0009X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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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