

The Daily

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The total value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities declined 4.1% to \$6.5 billion in December, following a 6.6% decrease in November. Lower construction intentions for commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings in Ontario and British Columbia were responsible for much of the decrease at the national level in December.	
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Releases

Building permits, December 2013

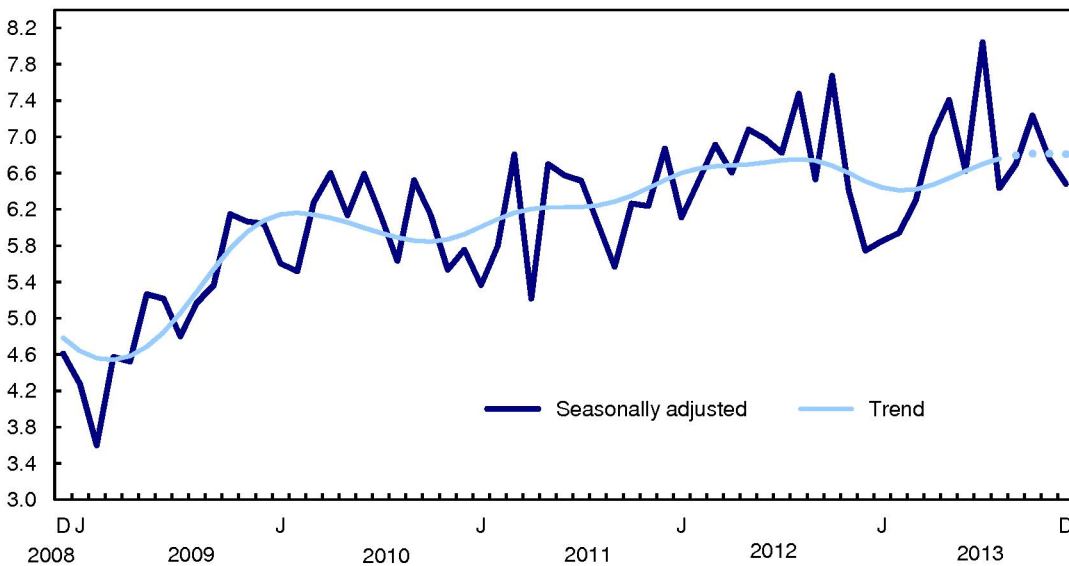
The total value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities declined 4.1% to \$6.5 billion in December, following a 6.6% decrease in November.

Lower construction intentions for commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings in Ontario and British Columbia were responsible for much of the decrease at the national level in December.

The total value of building permits for 2013 edged down 0.1% from 2012 to \$80.8 billion.

Chart 1 Total value of permits

billions of dollars



Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. See Note to readers.

The total value of permits in the residential sector fell for a second consecutive month, down 9.3% to \$3.7 billion in December and the lowest level since March 2013. Lower construction intentions were posted in all provinces except Quebec and New Brunswick.

Overall for the year, the total value of residential building permits amounted to \$48.3 billion, almost unchanged from the total value reached in 2012.

In the non-residential sector, the value of building permits rose 3.7% to \$2.8 billion in December, following a 4.5% decrease the previous month. Quebec, Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador were mostly responsible for the growth at the national level, while declines were recorded in the other provinces.

Between January and December 2013, municipalities issued non-residential building permits worth \$32.5 billion, relatively unchanged from 2012.

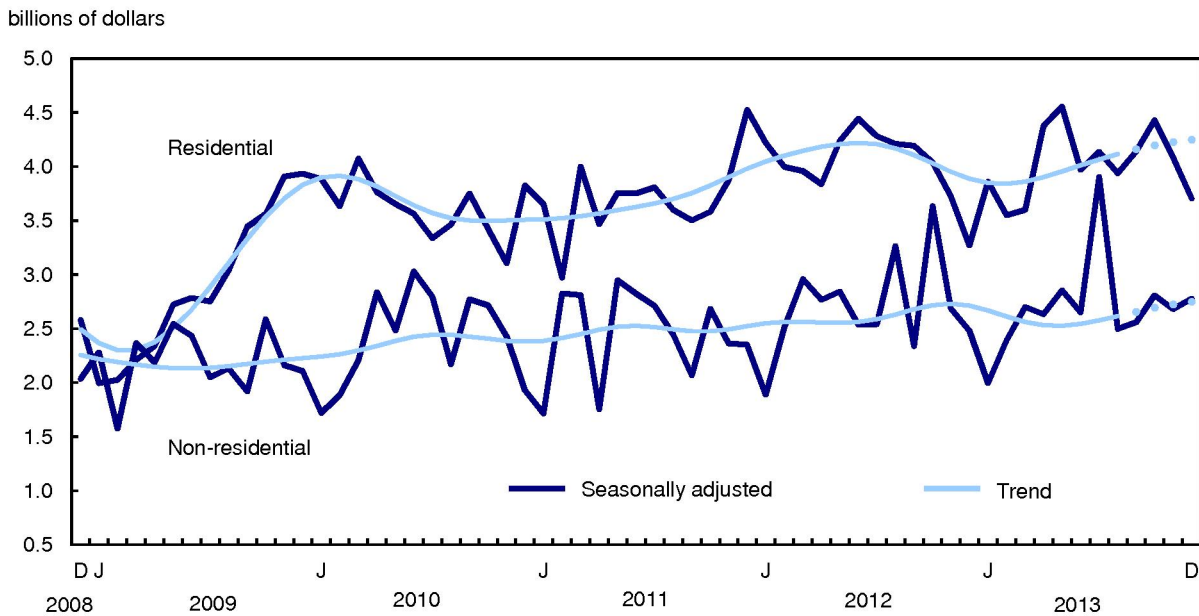
Residential sector: Lower intentions for multi-family dwellings

Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings decreased 21.9% to \$1.5 billion in December, following an 8.4% decline in November. Most of the decline occurred in British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta. Despite decreasing in December, these three provinces posted strong gains in the value of multi-family dwelling permits in 2013 compared with the previous year.

Municipalities issued \$2.2 billion worth of building permits for single-family dwellings in December, up 1.5% from November and the third increase in four months. Gains in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario more than offset decreases in five provinces, led by British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

Municipalities approved the construction of 15,565 new dwellings in December, down 14.2% from November. The decrease in December was largely the result of a 21.3% decline in multi-family dwellings to 9,439 units. The number of single-family dwellings edged down 0.1% to 6,126 units.

Chart 2 Residential and non-residential sectors



Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. See Note to readers.

Non-residential sector: Sharp rise in the institutional and industrial components

In the institutional component, the value of permits more than doubled to \$939 million in December, following a 32.8% decrease in November. This was the highest level since March 2013. Institutional construction intentions were up in five provinces, with the largest increases in construction intentions for medical facilities in Quebec and educational buildings in Alberta.

In the industrial component, the value of permits rose 34.9% to \$576 million, the highest level since May 2013. This advance was the result of higher construction intentions for manufacturing plants in Ontario and Quebec. Decreases were posted in five provinces, led by Manitoba.

Following three consecutive monthly advances, Canadian municipalities issued \$1.3 billion worth of commercial building permits in December, down 33.5% from November. The decline came mainly from lower construction intentions for office buildings in Ontario and recreational facilities and retail stores in British Columbia. In contrast, Quebec posted the largest gain, as a result of higher construction intentions for office buildings and, to a lesser degree, warehouses.

Provinces: Large declines in Ontario and British Columbia

The value of permits was down in seven provinces in December, with Ontario and British Columbia posting the largest declines.

The declines in Ontario and British Columbia were mostly attributable to commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings. Saskatchewan followed a distant third, as a result of lower construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings as well as single-family dwellings.

Quebec recorded the largest increase, with institutional building construction intentions accounting for most of the growth. Institutional buildings and single-family dwellings explained the advance in Alberta.

In 2013, the total value of permits was down in six provinces compared with 2012. The largest decreases were in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. All three Prairie provinces posted advances, with Alberta registering the largest increase in the total value of permits for 2013. New Brunswick was the lone Atlantic province to post an advance in 2013.

Significant decrease in construction intentions in Toronto and Vancouver

In December, the total value of permits was down in 23 of the 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest decreases were in Toronto and Vancouver, followed by Québec. In Toronto, the decline was principally attributable to commercial buildings. Lower intentions for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings explained the decline in Vancouver. In Québec, commercial construction intentions and, to a lesser extent, residential buildings and institutional buildings were behind the decrease.

Montréal recorded the largest increase in December, followed by Hamilton. The value of permits issued in Montréal advanced largely as a result of higher construction intentions for institutional buildings while in Hamilton, industrial and commercial buildings were responsible for the advance.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see *Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends*.

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 95% of the population. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total for the entire population.

Building permits data are used as a leading indicator of activity in the construction industry.

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

Data for the current reference month are subject to revision based on late responses. Data have been revised for the previous month.

The trend-cycle estimates have been added to the charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. Both the seasonally adjusted and the trend-cycle estimates are subject to revision as additional observations become available. These revisions could be large and even lead to a reversal of movement, especially at the end of the series. The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart.

Table 1
Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2012	October 2013	November 2013 ^r	December 2013 ^p	November to December 2013	December 2012 to December 2013
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total	5,746.7	7,237.2	6,761.0	6,482.4	-4.1	12.8
Residential	3,269.1	4,430.6	4,081.7	3,703.4	-9.3	13.3
Single ¹	2,125.8	2,372.4	2,196.3	2,230.3	1.5	4.9
Multiple	1,143.3	2,058.2	1,885.4	1,473.1	-21.9	28.8
Non-residential	2,477.7	2,806.5	2,679.2	2,778.9	3.7	12.2
Industrial	398.6	465.2	426.9	575.9	34.9	44.5
Commercial	1,580.3	1,820.4	1,902.0	1,264.0	-33.5	-20.0
Institutional	498.8	521.0	350.3	939.0	168.1	88.2
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	13,845	18,861	18,134	15,565	-14.2	12.4
Single ¹	6,262	6,345	6,133	6,126	-0.1	-2.2
Multiple	7,583	12,516	12,001	9,439	-21.3	24.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

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

Table 2
Value of building permits, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2012	October 2013	November 2013 ^r	December 2013 ^p	November to December 2013	December 2012 to December 2013
	millions of dollars				% change	
Canada	5,746.7	7,237.2	6,761.0	6,482.4	-4.1	12.8
Residential	3,269.1	4,430.6	4,081.7	3,703.5	-9.3	13.3
Non-residential	2,477.7	2,806.5	2,679.2	2,778.9	3.7	12.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	77.7	84.6	71.8	71.8	0.0	-7.6
Residential	66.0	59.9	51.0	44.9	-11.9	-31.9
Non-residential	11.7	24.7	20.8	26.9	29.4	129.1
Prince Edward Island	9.7	15.4	24.2	11.5	-52.5	18.1
Residential	5.4	9.3	8.1	5.7	-29.7	6.1
Non-residential	4.4	6.0	16.1	5.8	-64.0	32.8
Nova Scotia	80.6	91.4	71.4	50.6	-29.1	-37.2
Residential	58.4	56.5	52.1	34.2	-34.4	-41.5
Non-residential	22.2	34.9	19.2	16.4	-14.8	-26.1
New Brunswick	45.0	78.3	67.7	44.0	-35.0	-2.1
Residential	26.8	40.6	30.5	32.4	6.4	20.8
Non-residential	18.1	37.7	37.2	11.6	-68.9	-36.1
Quebec	1,385.3	1,275.4	1,114.9	1,761.2	58.0	27.1
Residential	807.6	874.3	698.3	705.6	1.0	-12.6
Non-residential	577.7	401.1	416.6	1,055.6	153.4	82.7
Ontario	1,936.4	2,658.1	2,615.2	2,096.4	-19.8	8.3
Residential	918.2	1,567.2	1,404.4	1,305.7	-7.0	42.2
Non-residential	1,018.2	1,090.9	1,210.9	790.7	-34.7	-22.3
Manitoba	138.7	274.9	175.9	132.2	-24.8	-4.7
Residential	109.1	137.7	122.7	93.6	-23.7	-14.2
Non-residential	29.5	137.2	53.1	38.6	-27.4	30.7
Saskatchewan	131.6	371.8	237.4	154.3	-35.0	17.2
Residential	98.4	170.7	121.8	111.0	-8.9	12.7
Non-residential	33.2	201.1	115.6	43.3	-62.5	30.4
Alberta	1,239.8	1,508.6	1,419.4	1,460.0	2.9	17.8
Residential	669.2	959.4	878.2	839.2	-4.4	25.4
Non-residential	570.7	549.2	541.2	620.8	14.7	8.8
British Columbia	696.7	852.3	955.5	663.0	-30.6	-4.8
Residential	505.7	547.3	711.5	525.3	-26.2	3.9
Non-residential	191.0	305.0	244.0	137.7	-43.6	-27.9
Yukon	2.4	10.7	2.8	1.0	-64.8	-58.7
Residential	1.7	1.9	2.1	0.1	-94.6	-93.3
Non-residential	0.7	8.8	0.7	0.9	28.7	28.7
Northwest Territories	2.5	10.8	4.8	1.4	-71.9	-46.6
Residential	2.2	1.0	0.9	0.7	-25.6	-68.4
Non-residential	0.3	9.8	3.9	0.7	-83.2	110.4
Nunavut	0.2	5.0	0.1	35.1
Residential	0.2	5.0	0.1	5.1
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Table 3
Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted¹

	December 2012	October 2013	November 2013 ^r	December 2013 ^p	November to December 2013	December 2012 to December 2013
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	4,122.0	5,488.9	5,384.7	5,045.3	-6.3	22.4
St. John's	50.0	53.8	47.2	49.2	4.2	-1.6
Halifax	45.0	40.6	26.9	20.9	-22.4	-53.6
Moncton	15.1	26.9	20.0	11.3	-43.6	-25.0
Saint John	9.9	10.6	19.1	12.6	-34.0	27.0
Saguenay	31.2	32.8	13.2	16.8	27.9	-46.0
Québec	93.7	105.3	256.6	127.2	-50.4	35.8
Sherbrooke	38.9	33.9	49.9	34.6	-30.7	-11.1
Trois-Rivières	20.2	21.7	24.8	25.0	0.9	23.8
Montréal	759.8	670.8	453.5	1,110.5	144.9	46.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	217.2	318.1	226.4	134.3	-40.7	-38.2
Gatineau part	76.2	52.7	24.7	44.5	80.5	-41.6
Ottawa part	141.0	265.4	201.7	89.7	-55.5	-36.4
Kingston	30.0	15.2	12.7	10.4	-17.9	-65.3
Peterborough	8.4	16.5	12.0	11.0	-8.4	30.6
Oshawa	44.7	44.4	30.0	58.4	94.4	30.6
Toronto	751.9	1,392.7	1,600.4	1,104.7	-31.0	46.9
Hamilton	160.3	128.1	123.3	192.6	56.1	20.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	33.2	132.2	38.4	59.7	55.6	79.8
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	134.7	60.0	64.5	128.2	98.7	-4.9
Brantford	5.0	15.6	12.9	4.2	-67.3	-15.9
Guelph	28.7	10.8	18.0	25.5	41.8	-11.3
London	47.4	69.9	74.8	38.9	-48.0	-17.9
Windsor	49.4	48.7	30.1	15.7	-47.9	-68.3
Barrie	29.8	35.1	46.3	42.8	-7.5	43.9
Greater Sudbury	9.7	26.4	8.2	4.5	-44.9	-53.2
Thunder Bay	8.3	13.1	9.2	3.1	-66.9	-62.9
Winnipeg	90.5	186.2	124.8	85.9	-31.2	-5.1
Regina	58.9	71.7	112.3	59.2	-47.3	0.5
Saskatoon	45.6	163.7	77.1	58.7	-23.8	28.7
Calgary	393.9	611.1	647.7	657.4	1.5	66.9
Edmonton	385.5	486.5	418.6	389.1	-7.0	0.9
Kelowna	37.4	52.4	39.1	27.6	-29.3	-26.2
Abbotsford–Mission	18.8	6.4	14.0	13.0	-7.1	-30.9
Vancouver	427.6	549.6	700.0	480.4	-31.4	12.4
Victoria	41.4	38.3	32.8	32.0	-2.3	-22.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

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

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The December 2013 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X) will soon be available.

Building permits data for January will be released on March 6.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeremie Bennett (613-951-0793), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Electric power statistics, November 2013

Electric power generation in Canada rose 3.2% from the same period in 2012 to 53.3 million megawatt hours (MWh) in November. The gain was a result of a 4.0% rise in hydro power generation, which accounted for 63.2% of all generation in Canada. Canadian consumption of electric power totalled 49.4 million MWh, a 3.3% increase. Exports to the United States rose 3.0% to 4.7 million MWh.

With hydro production up 6.1% in November compared with the same month in 2012, Quebec posted the largest increase in power generation in Canada. Electricity generation for the province totalled 17.7 million MWh for the month. The rise in hydro production was attributable to higher than normal water levels as well as the shutdown of nuclear power generation in the province at the end of 2012.

Also contributing to the national gain, Alberta produced 5.7 million MWh of electricity in November, 10.0% more than in November 2012. Rising production from coal fired power plants pushed steam-conventional generation up 10.7% to 4.1 million MWh. The return to service of multiple generating units in recent months contributed to this increase.

Driven by gains in nuclear, wind and hydro generation, Ontario produced 12.6 million MWh of electricity in November, up 1.9% from the same month in 2012. Higher outputs from both nuclear (+3.4%) and hydro (+5.4%) continued to cover decreases in steam conventional generation (-37.1%) as a result of the closing of coal fired power plants.

Note to readers

Data for November 2012 to October 2013 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Farm product prices, December 2013

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

The December Quebec hogs price was \$75.51 per hundredweight, down 6.1% from November but up 4.0% from December 2012 when the price was \$72.61.

The Manitoba canola price in December was \$475.33 per tonne, down 3.1% from November and down 18.8% from December 2012 when the price was \$585.74.

Note to readers

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 30 years.

Available in 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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Asphalt roofing, December 2013

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for December.

Available in 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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Coal and coke statistics, November 2013

Data on coal and coke are now available for November.

Available in CANSIM: tables 135-0001 and 135-0002.

Table 135-0001: Coke.

Table 135-0002: Coal.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2003 and 2147.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, February 2014

Data on Canadian foreign post indexes are now available for February.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The February 2014 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-X) is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

New products and studies

New products

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, February 2014
Catalogue number 62-013-X (HTML)

Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012: "Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012: Concepts and Methods Guide", 2012
Catalogue number 89-654-X2014001 (HTML | PDF)



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