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MAJOR RELEASE

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● Building permits, March 1994

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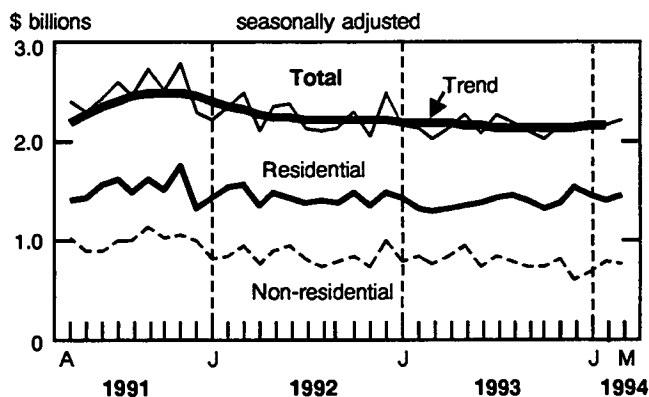
Building permits

March 1994 (preliminary)

Although the total value (seasonally adjusted) of building permits posted its third consecutive monthly increase, the overall pattern continued to be one of no detectable trend. The value of permits issued in March was up 1.8% from February's revised value, to \$2,200 million.

March's overall gain in the value of building permits was attributable to the residential sector, where a 4.6% increase countered a 3.2% decline in the non-residential sector. Since early 1993, the trend in the residential sector has been increasing slowly; in the non-residential sector, it has been moving gradually downward, but at a decreasing rate. These two movements have tended to offset each other.

Value of building permits issued



All regions except British Columbia (-23.8%) posted increases from February. Ontario (+18.4%) reported the most significant gain, reflecting higher intentions in both the residential and non-residential sectors. Ontario reported its third consecutive monthly increase in the non-residential sector following the low in December 1993 of \$181 million, a level not seen since August 1990.

Residential sector

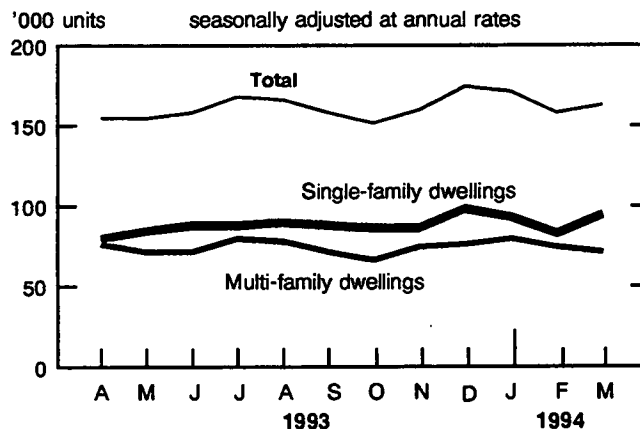
After two straight months of decline, the value of residential building permits rebounded in March, rising 4.6% to \$1,451 million. The single-family dwelling component spurred this increase, rising by 11.7% over February's planned activities, to \$1,049 million.

The trend in residential building permits has been increasing slowly since early 1993. Compared to the first quarter of 1993, the value of residential building intentions increased 7.1% in 1994, due principally to sustained growth in the multi-family dwelling intentions.

Quebec (+22.9%) and Ontario (+15.9%) showed the most significant gains in the value of planned construction activities in the residential sector, reflecting higher intentions in all of the sector's components. By contrast, due to both the single- and the multi-family dwelling components, British Columbia recorded the only drop in residential intentions (-23.3%), following three consecutive monthly increases.

At an annual rate, the total number of dwelling units authorized went up 3.8% to 164,000 units in March, compared to February's revised level of 158,000 units. This increase was due to the single-family dwelling component (+13.1% to 94,000 units).

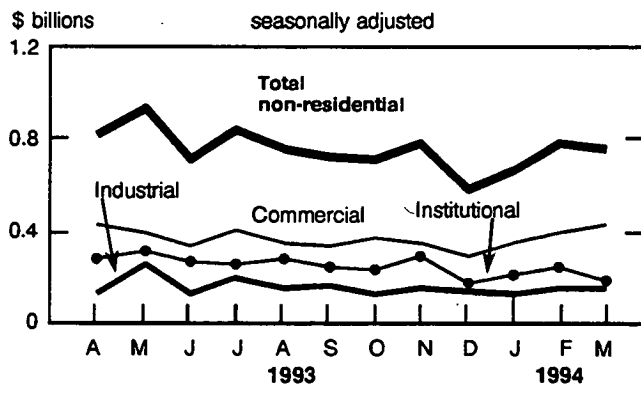
Dwelling units authorized



Non-residential sector

The value of non-residential building permits fell 3.2% to \$749 million in March, down from February's revised level of \$773 million.

Value of non-residential permits issued



The decline in March followed two consecutive monthly increases. Compared to the first quarter of 1993, the average value for non-residential permits declined 6.0% to \$728 million. Since early 1993, the

trend in non-residential permits has been sloping gradually downward, but at a decreasing rate.

All regions except Ontario (+22.9%) reported declines in March compared to the previous month. British Columbia showed the most significant drop (-24.8%), reflecting lower planned construction activities in all components of the non-residential sector, particularly in institutional projects, which recorded a sharp 58.0% decline.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The March 1994 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, \$24/\$240) will be released on May 11. See "How to order publications" April's building permits preliminary estimate will be released on June 6.

For further information on this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-2583) for statistics and Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025) for analysis, Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of residential and non-residential building permits

Regions and type of construction	February 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^p	March 1993 to March 1994 ^p	February 1994 ^r to March 1994 ^p	February 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^p	March 1993 to March 1994 ^p	February 1994 ^r to March 1994 ^p
	\$ thousands		% change		\$ thousands		% change	
	seasonally adjusted				unadjusted			
Canada								
Total construction	2,160,344	2,199,956	8.3	1.8	1,434,689	2,312,104	8.2	61.2
Residential	1,387,248	1,451,242	12.2	4.6	877,845	1,629,989	10.6	85.7
Non-residential	773,096	748,714	1.5	-3.2	556,844	682,115	2.7	22.5
Industrial	139,270	146,085	31.2	4.9	93,770	120,597	34.7	28.6
Commercial	392,788	422,324	23.2	7.5	278,311	403,152	27.7	44.9
Institutional	241,038	180,305	-36.4	-25.2	184,763	158,366	-38.9	-14.3
Atlantic								
Total construction	116,980	135,172	15.6	15.6	43,957	82,871	-3.4	88.5
Residential	67,228	92,687	57.8	37.9	15,687	47,458	44.6	202.5
Non-residential	49,752	42,485	-27.0	-14.6	28,270	35,413	-33.1	25.3
Industrial	8,595	6,028	191.5	-29.9	3,471	3,319	191.1	-4.4
Commercial	28,743	25,315	-43.5	-11.9	16,845	25,900	-41.7	53.8
Institutional	12,414	11,142	-1.9	-10.2	7,954	6,194	-15.8	-22.1
Quebec								
Total construction	443,255	483,319	21.9	9.0	254,564	576,907	19.6	126.6
Residential	248,583	305,605	12.8	22.9	152,380	432,536	18.1	183.9
Non-residential	194,672	177,714	41.7	-8.7	102,184	144,371	24.0	41.3
Industrial	21,168	36,747	80.3	73.6	8,906	28,299	115.7	217.8
Commercial	79,330	90,689	44.3	14.3	37,624	75,026	38.6	99.4
Institutional	94,174	50,278	19.3	-46.6	55,654	41,046	-16.5	-26.2
Ontario								
Total construction	668,028	791,198	7.7	18.4	399,583	785,133	14.1	96.5
Residential	428,394	496,718	17.6	15.9	234,825	524,268	18.1	123.3
Non-residential	239,634	294,480	-5.8	22.9	164,758	260,865	6.9	58.3
Industrial	78,012	79,588	40.6	2.0	51,077	57,098	49.7	11.8
Commercial	108,407	141,118	19.4	30.2	70,687	138,728	37.6	96.3
Institutional	53,215	73,774	-46.4	38.6	42,994	65,039	-38.1	51.3
Prairies								
Total construction	239,019	261,878	5.6	9.6	181,699	322,296	4.7	77.4
Residential	159,936	185,728	7.8	16.1	111,364	228,073	7.0	104.8
Non-residential	79,083	76,150	0.8	-3.7	70,335	94,223	-0.7	34.0
Industrial	15,639	11,961	-38.5	-23.5	17,959	20,263	-19.9	12.8
Commercial	50,390	47,721	53.3	-5.3	42,529	51,488	50.3	21.1
Institutional	13,054	16,468	-33.9	26.2	9,847	22,472	-36.3	128.2
British Columbia¹								
Total construction	693,062	528,389	-1.2	-23.8	554,886	544,897	-4.9	-1.8
Residential	483,107	370,504	0.4	-23.3	363,589	397,654	-4.7	9.4
Non-residential	209,955	157,885	-4.8	-24.8	191,297	147,243	-5.6	-23.0
Industrial	15,856	11,761	-8.7	-25.8	12,357	11,618	-2.0	-6.0
Commercial	125,918	117,481	37.1	-6.7	110,626	112,010	36.7	1.3
Institutional	68,181	28,643	-57.4	-58.0	68,314	23,615	-62.0	-65.4

¹ Building permits issued for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are included in the British Columbia region.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products

First quarter 1994

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled \$6.6 million for the first quarter of 1994, a 4.7% increase from \$6.3 million (revised) shipped during the first quarter of 1993.

Data on manufacturers' shipments of Canadian-made, solid fuel-burning heating products are now available, as are data on the number of units shipped.

The first quarter 1994 issue of *Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products* (25-002, \$4.75/\$19.) will be available later.

For further information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

Direct selling in Canada

Fiscal year ended March 31, 1993 (1992)

Direct sales to Canadian households totalled \$3,032.5 million in 1992, a 2.1% increase from \$2,970.5 million in 1991. (Direct sales refer to the retail marketing of consumer goods by channels other than retail locations.)

The sales increase was broadly based with 12 of the 20 commodity groups registering higher sales. Personal selling remained the main method of direct selling in 1992, with 29.5% of total sales. Newspapers were the individual commodity with the largest volume of direct selling (\$441.4 million).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 34.

The 1992 issue of *Direct selling in Canada* (63-218, \$24) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Serge Grenier, Retail Trade Section, (613-951-3556), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder, March 1994.

Catalogue number 32-024

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; other countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Gypsum products, March 1994.

Catalogue number 44-003

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; other countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Direct selling in Canada, fiscal year ended March 31, 1993 (1992).

Catalogue number 63-218

(Canada: \$24; United States: US\$29; other countries: US\$34).

**Canada's international transactions in securities,
February 1994.**

Catalogue number 67-002

(Canada: \$17/\$170; United States: US\$21/US\$210; other countries: US\$24/US\$240).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



How to order publications

Simplify your data search with *Statistics Canada catalogue*, 1993 (11-204E, \$13.95; United States: US\$17; other countries: US\$20). Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, September 18, 1988
 For details see SDA 2.4.1

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, August 1987** 2
 The unemployment rate at 12.3 in 11.2 in August 1987.
- **Highway Traffic Safety, July 1987** 4
 The North Pacific Province saw 5.2% in June. The most serious occurred in the highest and lowest in 1987, the number and total deaths were increased slightly but in worst July in 1987.
- **Advance Statistics of September, 1987-88** 6
 Since 1986, advances are presented in summer editions but since 1987, data are an additional 30 days in 1987-88. The early statistics from 1987-88 are the published version of a sample.

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- ◆ **Domestic Sales Index for Provinces and Territories, Jan. 1988** 7
- ◆ **Real Personal Income, Total, Provinces and Territories, 1987** 7
- ◆ **Regional Conference, 1987, Final Report, 1987** 7
- ◆ **Regional Conference, 1987, Final Report, 1987** 7
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- ◆ **Cost and Price, July 1987** 8
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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Statistique Canada

Canada

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