



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, October 4, 1995

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Building permits, August 1995**

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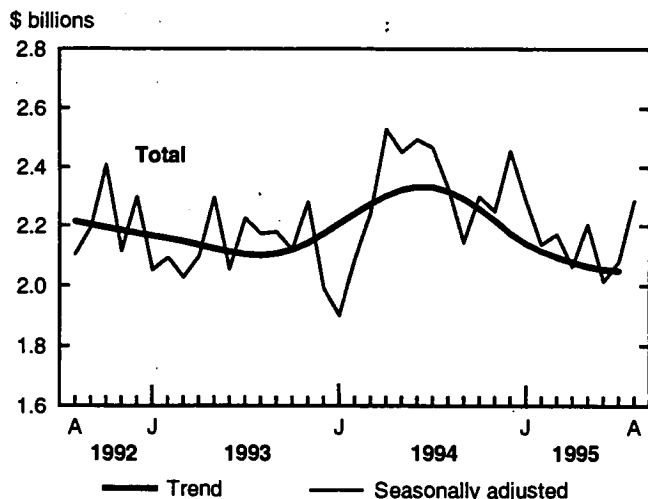
MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

August 1995

Industrial and commercial construction plans surged in August, accompanied by a second straight monthly increase in residential building intentions. As a result, the total value of building permits issued by municipalities shot up 10.0% to \$2.3 billion.

Total value of permits surged 10.0%



The lion's share of the increase belonged to permits for industrial and commercial construction, which led to an 18.9% increase in the entire non-residential sector in August, a level not seen since October 1990. Permits for housing construction, on the other hand, went up only 2.2% on the heels of a fifth consecutive increase in sales of new and existing homes.

Industrial construction intentions have somewhat offset the grim state of the housing sector. So far this year, permits for new industrial projects have increased a sizzling 52.5%, compared with the first eight months of 1994. Permits for housing, however, were down 22.5% from the same eight-month period last year.

Note to readers

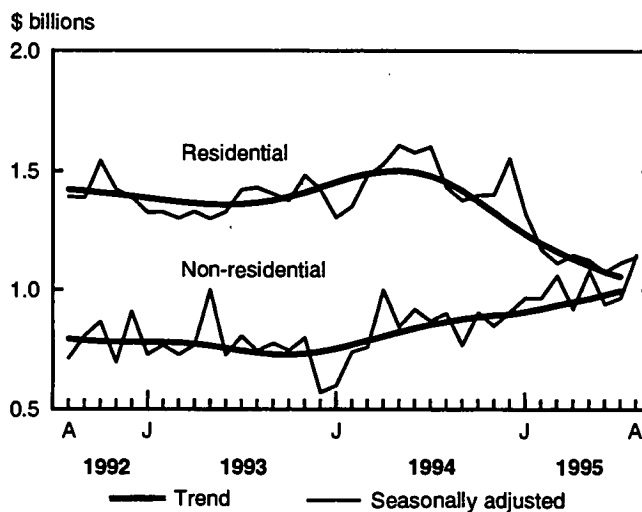
Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 7% 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, culverts, etc.) and land.

The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

Both residential and non-residential permits up



Modest increase in housing construction intentions

Even though planned housing activity is still at recessionary levels, progress over the last two months in housing is an encouraging sign for the new home market.

Housing construction intentions, which had been generally falling for most of 1995, rose a modest 2.2% in August to \$1.1 billion, following a 3.7% increase in July.

This coincides with an increase in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC)

affordability indicator released in September. It showed that 30% of Canadians who rent were in a position to buy their first home in the first half of 1995, up from 27.7% in the last half of 1994.

After three successive declines, the multi-family component posted a sharp 10.6% increase. This more than offset the 1.0% drop in single-family dwelling construction intentions, which was responsible for July's increase in the total value of residential permits.

The recent meagre improvement in housing intentions may be too little, too late, for a residential recovery in 1995. In September, for the second time this year, CMHC revised downward its forecast of residential construction for 1995. The agency now expects 112,500 housing starts this year, down from a January forecast of 141,000, reflecting the level of permits issued by municipalities.

Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island (+55.3%), Alberta (+4.6%) and British Columbia (+16.5%) showed the best performance in August, mainly on the strength of multi-family dwelling construction intentions. In contrast, Quebec (-10.5%) and Ontario (-1.0%) experienced declines.

Highest gain this year for non-residential sector

The non-residential sector, overshadowed by the slump in the housing sector for the first half of 1995, recorded its highest gain in 1995, up 18.9% in August to \$1.1 billion.

In the first eight months of 1995, the value of non-residential building intentions soared 21.4% compared with the same period last year. The increase was led by the industrial component (+52.5%).

This helped to confirm Statistics Canada's investment intentions survey released in July, which

showed that business and governments planned to invest 7.2% more in plant and equipment in 1995.

The growth in non-residential construction intentions has been attributable to large projects in the industrial component (+32.3% to \$0.3 billion) and to numerous projects in the commercial component (+24.9% to \$0.5 billion). These gains more than offset the 2.5% decrease recorded for the institutional component.

Quebec reported a 42.4% increase in non-residential building permits, mainly due to large projects in the pulp and paper industry. Alberta also recorded a substantial increase in the value of non-residential building permits (+28.9%), stimulated by many projects in its industrial component.

In contrast, proposed commercial development was behind non-residential growth in Ontario (+17.0%) and British Columbia (+28.7%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22 and 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994-995 and 4073.

The August 1995 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, \$24/\$240) will be released October 12, 1995. See "How to order publications".

The September estimates will be released November 6.

For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689). For analytical information, contact Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

Region and type of construction	July 1995	August 1995	July 1995 to August 1995	August 1994 to August 1995
	seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	2,080	2,287	10.0	-1.9
Residential	1,114	1,139	2.2	-20.5
Non-residential	966	1,148	18.9	27.6
Newfoundland	16	17	5.9	-5.0
Residential	13	12	-1.4	-15.5
Non-residential	4	5	30.6	38.2
Prince Edward Island	5	7	33.8	1.6
Residential	3	4	55.3	-0.8
Non-residential	3	3	9.3	5.6
Nova Scotia	56	58	2.6	4.6
Residential	35	36	4.6	-7.9
Non-residential	21	21	-0.6	36.5
New Brunswick	63	35	-43.8	1.4
Residential	20	18	-6.3	-13.2
Non-residential	43	17	-60.7	23.8
Quebec	394	457	15.8	-5.9
Residential	198	177	-10.5	-34.1
Non-residential	196	279	42.4	29.3
Ontario	787	851	8.1	-1.8
Residential	388	384	-1.0	-30.5
Non-residential	399	467	17.0	48.5
Manitoba	55	53	-4.1	-9.4
Residential	25	22	-11.6	-15.1
Non-residential	30	31	2.3	-4.8
Saskatchewan	49	37	-24.5	20.1
Residential	15	13	-14.4	20.4
Non-residential	34	24	-28.8	20.0
Alberta	210	240	14.1	6.3
Residential	127	133	4.6	-2.6
Non-residential	83	106	28.9	20.0
British Columbia	432	521	20.7	-3.1
Residential	284	330	16.5	-5.3
Non-residential	148	191	28.7	1.0
Yukon	2	5	92.2	57.8
Residential	2	2	55.8	15.2
Non-residential	1	2	164.0	177.7
Northwest Territories	9	7	-26.1	-27.4
Residential	6	5	-15.1	-18.8
Non-residential	4	2	-41.9	-40.5

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

OTHER RELEASES

Mining
1993

The total value of mineral production in Canada by all establishments in the mining industry was \$31,649.7 million in 1993. This represented an increase of 3.7% over 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7950-7969.

Summary statistics of the Canadian mineral industry are available in the 1993 edition of *General review of the mineral industries* (26-201, \$24). The

data are based on the 1993 Annual Census of Mines, Quarries and Sand Pits. Publications detailing individual sections of this industry are available in the 26-000 series catalogues.

For further information on the fuels industry, coal mines and crude petroleum and natural gas (conventional and non-conventional), contact R. Rasia (613-951-3569), Industry Division, Statistics Canada. For further information on all other mineral industries, contact J. Paquette (613-992-9005), Minerals and Mining Statistics Division, Natural Resources Canada.

Value of production

Mining industry	1980 SIC	Cansim matrix	1992	1993	% change
			\$ millions		
Metal mines	061	7956	9,767.1	8,489.4	-13.1
Gold mines	0611	7951	1,945.6	2,092.7	7.6
Silver-lead-zinc mines	0614	7952	1,337.7	741.6	-44.6
Nickel-copper-zinc mines	0612-0613	7953	4,701.3	4,017.3	-14.5
Iron mines	0617	7954	1,086.2	984.3	-9.4
Other miscellaneous metal mines	0615-0616-0619	7955	696.3	653.5	-6.1
Non-metal mines(except coal)	062	7962	1,858.8	1,832.8	-1.4
Asbestos mines	0621	7957	245.9	233.7	-4.9
Peat industry	0622	7959	147.8	161.4	9.2
Gypsum mines	0623	7958	69.8	81.3	16.5
Potash mines	0624	7960	1,033.0	970.7	-6.0
Other miscellaneous nonmetal mines (except coal)	0625-0629	7961	362.4	385.8	6.5
Fuels industry ¹	063+0711	7969	18,291.9	20,716.8	13.3
Coal mines	063	7967	1,469.4	1,658.1	12.8
Crude petroleum and natural gas industry ¹	0711	7968	16,822.5	19,058.7	13.3
Quarry and sand pit industries	08	7965	609.8	610.6	0.1
Stone quarries	081	7963	367.5	365.5	-0.5
Sand and gravel pits	082	7964	242.3	245.1	1.2
Industrial minerals sector	062+08	7966	2,468.6	2,443.5	-1.0
Mining industry total ¹		7950	30,527.6	31,649.7	3.7

¹ Excludes non-conventional crude oil industry (SIC 0712).

Cement

August 1995

Manufacturers shipped 1 184 295 tonnes of cement in August, down 6.1% from 1 261 795 tonnes (revised) in August 1994, but up 7.8% from 1 098 604 tonnes (revised) in July 1995.

For January to August 1995, shipments totalled 6 790 093 tonnes (revised), up 3.9% from 6 534 737 tonnes (revised) during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The August 1995 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder, August 1995

Catalogue number 32-024

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

Rigid insulating board, August 1995

Catalogue number 36-002

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

Aviation service bulletin, vol. 27, no. 9

Catalogue number 51-004

(Canada: \$11/\$105; United States: US\$13/US\$126; other countries: US\$15/US\$147).

Construction price statistics, second quarter 1995

Catalogue number 62-007

(Canada: \$23/\$76; United States: US\$28/US\$92; other countries: US\$33/US\$107).

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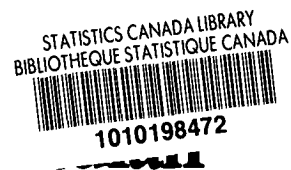
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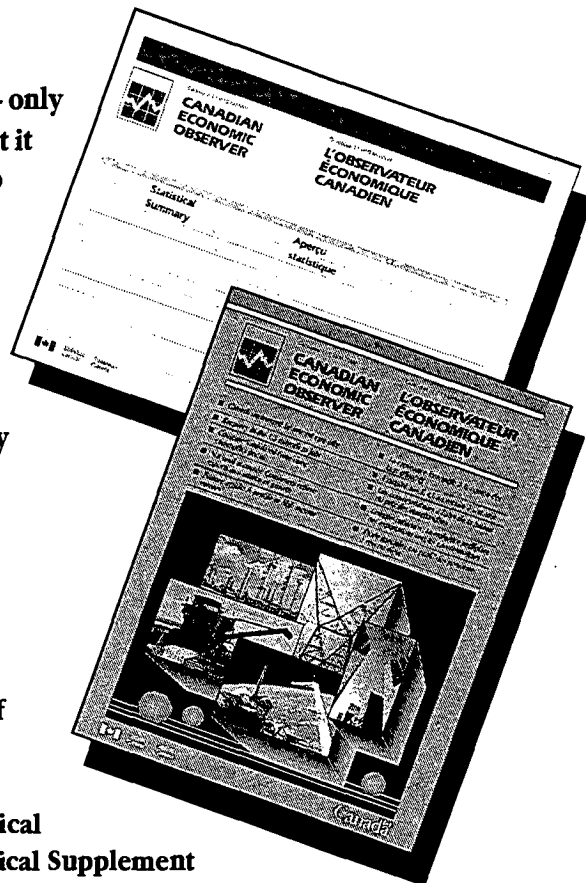
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