



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, July 5, 1995**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, May 1995** 2  
Housing construction intentions continued to slide in May, posting the fourth decline in 1995. In contrast, non-residential construction intentions rebounded, leading to a substantial 7.7% increase in the total value of building permits to \$2.2 billion.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Building permits

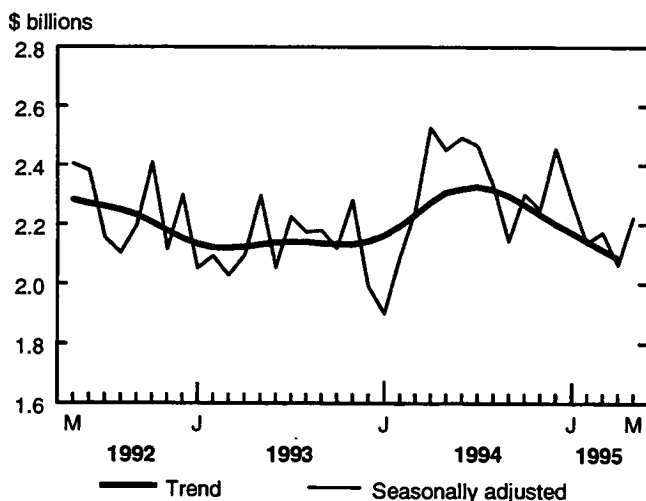
May 1995

Housing construction intentions continued to slide in May, posting the fourth decline in 1995. In contrast, non-residential construction intentions rebounded, leading to a substantial 7.7% increase in the total value of building permits to \$2.2 billion.

The value of residential construction intentions dropped 1.4% to \$1.1 billion, reflecting lower consumer spending. Housing intentions, which remain at a 13-year low, fell despite steadily declining mortgage rates.

The sharp 19.0% rise to \$1.1 billion in non-residential construction more than offset the downturn in housing, and represented the highest level since September 1991. The growth of non-residential construction intentions since January was primarily attributed to its industrial component, up 59.7% over the same period last year. This growth was reflected in strong private and public investments intentions, released in February, and high industrial capacity utilization rates.

Total value of permits up 7.7%



#### 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 Monthly 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 (for example, waterworks, sewers, culverts, etc.) and land.

The number of units authorized refers to the number of dwellings on which municipalities have permitted construction to start. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

A recent survey of home builders and renovators by the Canadian Home Builders Association confirmed low consumer confidence levels as the major reason for the fall in house starts. More than 50% of respondents cited lack of consumer confidence as the cause for the sagging housing market, compared to less than 30% in previous polls. Last May, the Conference Board of Canada found consumer confidence at its lowest level in over a year and a half.

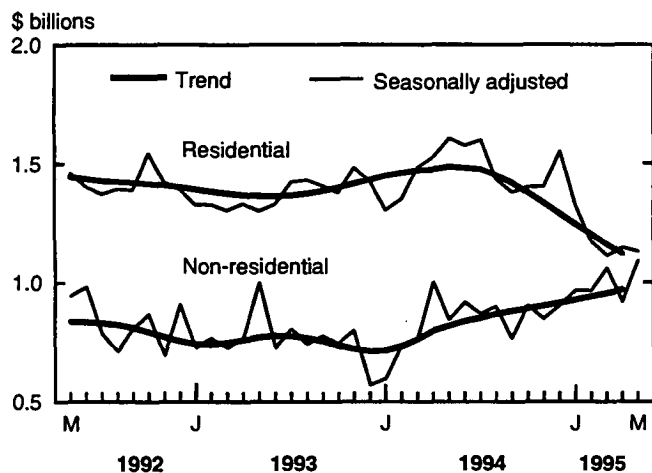
In May, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation slashed its 1995 estimates of housing starts from 141,000 to 128,500 to reflect the sharp drop in residential permits. From January to May, starts plunged nearly 24% compared with the same period last year.

In May, declines in single- and multi-family dwellings were responsible for an 8.2% drop in the value of the residential sector in Ontario. Declines in Quebec (-3.9%) and Nova Scotia (-12.6%) were attributed entirely to the single-family component.

### Short-term outlook for housing still bleak

The value of residential building permits remains at recessionary levels for the fourth consecutive month. Falling mortgage rates and more affordable housing did not alleviate consumer concerns over job security.

### Short-term outlook for housing still bleak



### Non-residential intentions rebounding

After slumping in April, non-residential construction posted gains in all its components in May. The institutional component (+38.9%) led the way, followed by the commercial (+13.4%) and industrial (+8.2%) components.

With slow but persistent growth, the value of non-residential construction intentions from January to May was 26.9% higher than over the same period in 1994. Although the value is still almost 36% below the peak in 1989, the outlook for business spending remains bright.

Among the provinces, May's increase in non-residential construction intentions was practically uniform across the country. Major institutional (+40.3%) and commercial (+28.9%) projects planned by Ontario's builders pushed it ahead of the other provinces. Alberta reported important institutional (+259.5%) and industrial (+222.1%) construction projects.

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

The May 1995 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, \$24/\$240) will be released on July 12, 1995. The June building permits estimates will be released on August 3, 1995. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, 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	April 1995	May 1995	April 1995 to May 1995	May 1994 to May 1995
seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
Residential	1,146	1,129	-1.4	-29.6
Non-residential	918	1,092	19.0	29.4
Newfoundland	10	20	95.7	-25.2
Residential	10	10	-0.3	-38.6
Non-residential	--	10	2,141.1	-5.5
Prince Edward Island	7	9	20.4	-47.5
Residential	4	5	21.1	12.1
Non-residential	4	4	19.5	-66.5
Nova Scotia	57	54	-6.0	-2.1
Residential	43	37	-12.6	-10.2
Non-residential	15	17	13.3	22.9
New Brunswick	37	49	32.1	45.5
Residential	16	18	11.4	-20.2
Non-residential	21	32	47.4	168.9
Quebec	401	394	-1.7	-22.1
Residential	201	193	-3.9	-34.8
Non-residential	200	201	0.5	-4.0
Ontario	794	828	4.2	2.0
Residential	447	410	-8.2	-25.6
Non-residential	348	418	20.2	60.3
Manitoba	47	45	-3.9	-10.0
Residential	21	20	-5.1	-34.8
Non-residential	26	26	-3.0	27.4
Saskatchewan	36	49	35.8	59.8
Residential	10	15	47.7	8.0
Non-residential	26	34	31.1	104.0
Alberta	190	239	26.0	-21.2
Residential	110	108	-1.6	-34.0
Non-residential	80	131	64.0	-6.2
British Columbia	473	520	9.8	-13.9
Residential	278	308	10.9	-33.0
Non-residential	196	212	8.2	47.4
Yukon	3	3	-16.0	-56.7
Residential	2	2	10.6	-54.3
Non-residential	2	1	-40.9	-60.5
Northwest Territories	6	12	83.8	106.4
Residential	5	4	-23.6	47.1
Non-residential	1	8	608.5	162.2

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Public-use microdata file - adults 1991

This public-use microdata file on adults originated from the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). The file contains unaggregated anonymous records on 36,635 persons who reported Aboriginal origin and/or being registered under the Indian Act in the 1991 Census. In the file, 25,122 individuals report identifying with their Aboriginal origin and 11,513 do not. Confidentiality of all records is assured.

The file contains data for the Atlantic region, provinces and territories, and selected census metropolitan areas. On-reserve designation for North American Indians and urban and rural indicators are also available. Each record for persons who identify with their Aboriginal origin contains some 570 variables from the APS as well as 30 variables from the 1991 Census. Records for persons who do not identify with their Aboriginal origin contain data on the 30 Census variables.

The 1991 *Aboriginal Peoples Survey* (89M0013XTB, \$2,500) is now available. Included in this package is the 1991 *Aboriginal Peoples Survey Guide for Users* (89M0013GPE). The users' guide can be purchased separately for \$100.

To order, contact the Post-Censal Surveys Program, (613-951-4414). ■

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending June 7, 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) for the seven-day period ending June 7, 1995 decreased 5.6% to 4.7 million tonnes. The number of railway cars loaded decreased 6.1% from the same period in 1994.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage totalled 323 000 tonnes, a 0.6% increase from the comparable period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed a 21.6% increase.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 5.3% during the reference week. This brought the year-to-date total to 110.0 million tonnes, a 6.4% increase from the previous year.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

### Specified domestic electrical appliances May 1995

Data on the shipments of kitchen appliances are confidential for May 1995.

The May 1995 issue of *Specified domestic electrical appliances* (43-003, \$6/\$60) will be available at a later date. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### **Rigid insulating board, May 1995**

#### **Catalogue number 36-002**

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

### **Cement, May 1995**

#### **Catalogue number 44-001**

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

### **Gypsum products, May 1995**

#### **Catalogue number 44-003**

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

### **Air carrier operations in Canada, April-June 1994**

#### **Catalogue number 51-002**

(Canada: \$30/\$99; United States: US\$36/US\$119; other countries: US\$42/US\$139).

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.



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