

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, July 7, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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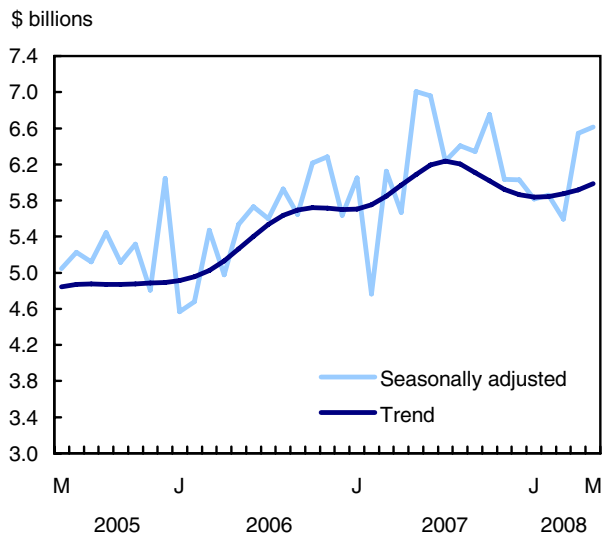
Releases

Building permits

May 2008

The total value of building permits increased for the second consecutive month in May, despite a substantial decline in the residential sector.

Total value of permits increase



Contractors took out \$6.6 billion in permits in May, up 1.1% from April and the highest value for permits since October 2007. The total was 6.7% above the monthly average for 2007.

It was the first back-to-back increase in construction intentions since November 2006, and could point to busy construction sites in the coming months. The value of building permits has followed an upward trend since the beginning of the year.

In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued \$2.9 billion in permits, up 12.8%, a second consecutive gain. The rise came mostly from strong increases in the industrial and institutional intentions.

The value of permits in the residential sector has been on a downward trend since September 2007. Residential intentions fell 6.6% to \$3.7 billion in May, the result of a considerable decrease in the value of multi-family permits.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which eases 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 (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part).

Non-residential: Strong gains in both industrial and institutional

The value of building permits in the non-residential sector increased by 12.8% in May, with gains in all three components, following a 27.8% increase in April. The trend for non-residential construction intentions edged up in the previous six months, as a result of growth in the commercial component.

In the industrial component, the value of permits issued increased 62.1% to \$536 million in May, the highest level since June 2006. The gains came mostly from utility buildings.

In the institutional component, intentions rose 16.4% to \$646 million, largely the result of new hospitals and schools. May's value was 12.7% higher than the average monthly level in 2007, an exceptional year for institutional construction.

In the commercial component, municipalities issued permits worth \$1.7 billion, up 2.1% following a 36.4% gain in April. It was the fifth increase in six months and took the level to its highest point in a year. The increase came from construction intentions for warehouses.

Residential: Multiple-family housing brings down intentions

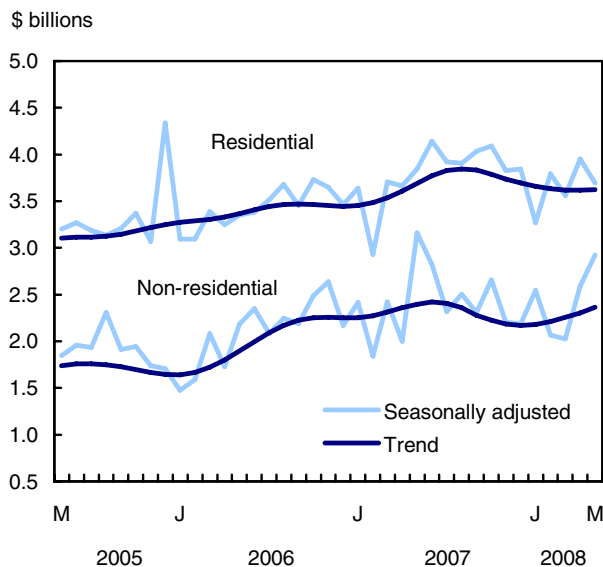
A strong decline in the value of permits for multiple-family dwellings brought down intentions in the residential sector in May.

The value of multiple-family permits fell 15.5% to \$1.5 billion, after rising 31.4% in April. Even so, May's level was 6.2% higher than the average monthly level registered in 2007. Municipalities approved 11,040 multiple-family units, down 7.9%.

After two month of declines, the value of single-family permits edged up 0.5% in May to \$2.2 billion. The number of single-family units authorized declined 2.3% to 8,116, the lowest since May 2001.

The overall number of residential units approved has been on a downward trend since the summer of 2007.

Multi-family housing brings down intentions



Permits up in half of the provinces

The value of building permits increased in half of the provinces in May. Ontario had the largest increase in terms of dollars, followed by British Columbia and New Brunswick.

Ontario permits increased by 3.1% to \$2.5 billion, due to a 26.4% jump in the value of construction intentions for non-residential buildings. The non-residential sector reached its fourth highest value since January 1989.

Also posting gains were British Columbia (+5.7%) and New Brunswick (+67.1%). New Brunswick reached

an all-time high with permit values of \$122 million. Both provinces had strong intentions for non-residential.

In contrast, Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced large declines (in terms of dollars). In Alberta, a reduction of 3.7% to \$1.2 billion came mainly from drops in the values of institutional and multiple residential projects. After a record high in April, intentions in Saskatchewan decreased 19.5% due to lower levels in both residential and non-residential sectors.

Permits up in less than half of the metropolitan areas

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas, 16 recorded gains in the value of building permits in May.

The largest increase (in dollars) occurred in Vancouver, where a record monthly high in the non-residential sector more than offset a decline in intentions for residential dwellings.

Edmonton also posted a significant increase, as a result of strong growth in both residential and non-residential sectors.

In contrast, the total value of permits in Toronto declined in May, due to large drops in multiple dwellings. This came on the heels of the second highest month on record for multiple housing.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The May 2008 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The June building permit estimate will be released on August 7.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (613-951-6321; toll-free 1-800-579-8533; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^p	April to May 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
St. John's	25.2	48.6	32.3	45.9	37.4	-18.5
Halifax	37.8	45.1	54.3	80.1	85.5	6.7
Moncton	22.3	8.1	16.3	22.8	21.3	-6.2
Saint John	12.4	15.4	15.8	16.6	55.3	232.4
Saguenay	4.8	8.4	22.5	20.6	28.3	37.2
Québec	79.1	140.2	159.3	151.2	115.6	-23.5
Sherbrooke	23.7	27.6	51.3	33.6	36.2	7.6
Trois-Rivières	23.8	15.3	15.4	31.4	16.6	-47.1
Montréal	516.3	483.3	423.0	539.3	562.1	4.2
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Que. part)	31.5	25.9	48.7	42.2	38.6	-8.7
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	236.7	142.8	199.0	199.3	188.5	-5.4
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Ont. part)	205.2	116.9	150.3	157.1	150.0	-4.5
Kingston	6.0	8.1	18.6	32.4	123.8	282.4
Peterborough	3.0	2.0	13.4	17.7	15.6	-12.1
Oshawa	58.1	38.2	69.4	84.0	56.4	-32.8
Toronto	1,277.7	875.6	1,014.8	1,227.7	1,078.1	-12.2
Hamilton	96.2	242.9	205.6	120.1	91.6	-23.7
St. Catharines-Niagara	42.9	22.9	33.5	31.6	33.3	5.3
Kitchener	60.6	42.6	143.9	105.5	65.0	-38.4
Brantford	12.9	7.5	14.4	7.2	11.5	58.9
Guelph	25.2	32.9	12.7	18.3	25.0	36.5
London	151.1	100.4	40.4	68.8	183.7	167.1
Windsor	14.7	9.6	12.1	29.3	16.9	-42.3
Barrie	21.9	63.2	21.6	53.9	184.0	241.5
Greater Sudbury	26.4	11.8	12.9	30.0	26.1	-13.0
Thunder Bay	5.6	1.8	9.6	25.7	11.7	-54.4
Winnipeg	71.2	71.5	74.0	87.7	77.7	-11.4
Regina	21.2	29.9	51.1	27.4	36.3	32.4
Saskatoon	53.7	39.3	42.0	108.8	69.7	-35.9
Calgary	419.4	608.1	331.6	428.7	498.8	16.4
Edmonton	340.7	312.9	243.9	255.1	355.8	39.5
Kelowna	74.9	83.7	63.4	65.5	62.7	-4.3
Abbotsford	45.1	22.3	43.8	70.0	34.6	-50.6
Vancouver	425.2	443.6	474.1	547.7	697.0	27.3
Victoria	54.1	74.2	72.6	57.2	69.2	20.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

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

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^p	April to May 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Canada	5,815.2	5,860.6	5,591.4	6,542.7	6,615.5	1.1
Residential	3,268.6	3,794.1	3,563.8	3,952.2	3,693.0	-6.6
Non-residential	2,546.6	2,066.5	2,027.6	2,590.5	2,922.6	12.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	44.5	63.9	51.4	67.2	58.7	-12.6
Residential	38.1	58.3	43.1	41.8	41.9	0.3
Non-residential	6.4	5.6	8.2	25.4	16.8	-33.8
Prince Edward Island	8.5	10.6	15.8	20.9	41.9	100.7
Residential	4.9	7.3	8.6	18.8	6.9	-63.2
Non-residential	3.6	3.3	7.2	2.1	35.0	1,586.8
Nova Scotia	77.1	91.1	98.2	131.6	132.7	0.9
Residential	66.8	78.6	62.2	60.8	95.8	57.6
Non-residential	10.3	12.5	35.9	70.8	36.9	-47.9
New Brunswick	65.1	58.4	58.3	73.3	122.4	67.1
Residential	38.8	40.4	32.5	54.4	56.5	3.8
Non-residential	26.3	18.0	25.8	18.9	65.9	249.0
Quebec	981.2	973.0	1,002.5	1,135.7	1,110.8	-2.2
Residential	677.0	707.1	652.0	744.2	710.3	-4.6
Non-residential	304.1	266.0	350.5	391.4	400.5	2.3
Ontario	2,422.0	1,998.8	2,135.0	2,384.8	2,458.8	3.1
Residential	1,055.9	1,247.0	1,392.1	1,508.8	1,351.5	-10.4
Non-residential	1,366.1	751.8	742.9	875.9	1,107.2	26.4
Manitoba	111.5	123.8	116.9	143.6	136.2	-5.2
Residential	87.6	84.5	93.1	90.5	93.5	3.4
Non-residential	23.8	39.3	23.8	53.1	42.6	-19.7
Saskatchewan	115.9	112.3	147.4	228.5	183.9	-19.5
Residential	79.1	84.6	94.3	111.3	106.7	-4.1
Non-residential	36.8	27.7	53.1	117.3	77.2	-34.2
Alberta	1,173.3	1,485.3	993.3	1,269.7	1,223.0	-3.7
Residential	566.7	736.1	512.6	615.6	581.6	-5.5
Non-residential	606.6	749.2	480.7	654.1	641.4	-1.9
British Columbia	814.1	939.1	949.6	1,076.5	1,137.4	5.7
Residential	652.1	746.3	669.3	697.9	642.7	-7.9
Non-residential	162.0	192.7	280.3	378.6	494.7	30.7
Yukon	1.9	3.5	4.6	5.2	4.0	-21.9
Residential	1.4	3.2	3.7	2.7	2.7	0.4
Non-residential	0.5	0.3	0.9	2.5	1.3	-45.9
Northwest Territories	0.2	0.9	18.1	0.6	0.8	28.3
Residential	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.4	-27.6
Non-residential	0.1	0.1	18.0	0.0	0.3	...
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.1	4.9	-5.0
Residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	2.4	-50.8
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	2.5	621.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

... figures not applicable

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



Consolidated government finance: Assets and liabilities

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2006

Continuing the downward trend that began in 1999, the consolidated net financial debt of the federal, provincial and territorial general and local governments decreased to \$776.6 billion as of March 31, 2006, down \$14.6 billion from March 31, 2005. Net financial debt is defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets.

Assets grew \$17.4 billion while liabilities rose by \$2.8 billion. An increase in securities investments, such as treasury bills, short-term paper, bonds and shares, accounted for most of the growth in assets.

Although the net increase in liabilities was relatively small, the composition of the debt shifted. In fiscal year 2006, governments used more short- and medium-term debt instruments than they had in the past. Other securities, treasury bills, deposits and payables posted the largest increases in liabilities. These were mainly offset by a decrease of \$29.4 billion in bonds and debentures issued by governments.

The federal government net financial debt declined by 1.8% to \$514.1 billion as of March 31, 2006, while the consolidated net financial debt of the provincial and territorial general and local governments fell by almost 2% to \$262.5 billion. Alberta and British Columbia were the largest contributors to the decrease of the net financial debt with a combined downward effect of \$11.3 billion. This decline was partly offset by a combined increase of \$6.4 billion in net financial debt in Quebec and Ontario.

In fiscal year 2006, the consolidated net financial debt of the federal, provincial and territorial general and local governments represented 55.6% of gross domestic product (GDP), down from 60.5% the year before. Net financial debt, as a percentage of GDP, has decreased every year since it peaked in 1996 at 102.6%.

On a per capita basis, net financial debt fell \$702 from fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2006 to reach \$23,864. As of March 31, 2006, it stood 16.4% lower than its peak of \$28,543 in 1997.

Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest per capita net financial debt in fiscal year 2006, followed

by Quebec and Nova Scotia. Governments in Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon did not register any net financial debt as their financial assets exceeded their liabilities.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial, territorial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ.

The FMS adjusts data from government Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement between the Public Accounts and the FMS is available on CANSIM.

This release is part of a series of data products related to government balance sheets. Provincial and territorial general government balance sheets were released in December 2007, federal government balance sheet was released in January 2008 and local government balance sheet was released in April 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0010, 385-0014, 385-0018, 385-0019, 385-0025, 385-0026 and 385-0029.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data tables on public sector finance are also available online in the *National Economic Account* module on our website.

Data are also available through custom and special tabulation. For more information on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Client Services (613-951-0767; fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philippe Samborski (613-951-7101; philippe.samborski@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. □

Consolidated net financial debt of federal, provincial and territorial general and local governments as of March 31¹

Year	Consolidated net financial debt	% of GDP ²	Per capita ³
	\$ millions	%	\$
1992	593,797	86.2	21,008
1993	667,196	94.4	23,331
1994	739,122	100.5	25,570
1995	797,582	102.0	27,304
1996	836,993	102.6	28,358
1997	851,118	100.4	28,543
1998	847,318	95.0	28,167
1999	848,660	91.7	27,993
2000	832,687	82.8	27,215
2001	800,373	73.1	25,891
2002	796,743	71.9	25,483
2003	794,509	67.6	25,160
2004	793,314	64.8	24,873
2005	791,161	60.5	24,566
2006	776,603	55.6	23,864

1. This table is derived using the Financial Management System. Data for the consolidated federal, provincial, territorial, and local governments include data for the federal government for the fiscal years ending March 31, for the provincial and territorial governments for the fiscal years ending closest to March 31, and for the local governments for the fiscal years ending closest to December 31 of the previous year.

2. From CANSIM table 380-0002, Gross domestic product (GDP), expenditure-based, quarterly.

3. From CANSIM table 051-0005, Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly.

Consolidated net financial debt of provincial and territorial general and local governments as of March 31, 2006¹

Province/territory	Consolidated net financial debt	Per capita ²
	\$ millions	\$
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,266	20,103
Prince Edward Island	1,398	10,134
Nova Scotia	12,105	12,951
New Brunswick	6,202	8,270
Quebec	118,276	15,493
Ontario	109,851	8,678
Manitoba	12,345	10,494
Saskatchewan	7,690	7,792
Alberta	-29,559	-8,830
British Columbia	14,151	3,289
Yukon	-357	-11,467
Northwest Territories	-94	-2,222
Nunavut	230	7,603

1. This table is derived using the Financial Management System. Data for the consolidated provincial, territorial, and local governments include data for the provincial and territorial governments for the fiscal year ending closest to March 31, 2006, and for the local governments for the fiscal year ending closest to December 31, 2005.

2. From CANSIM table 051-0005, Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly.

For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

Fourth quarter 2007

For-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenue of \$1 million or more generated operating revenue of \$7.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007, up less than 1% from the previous year. Growth in revenue earned from hauling domestic shipments (+5%) offset a decline in revenue (-7%) from transborder shipments.

These companies reported operating expenses of \$6.8 billion, 2% higher than a year earlier and a larger increase than that of operating revenue. As a result, the operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) deteriorated to 0.95 from 0.94 a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: table 403-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Crop Protection Survey 2005

Data from the pilot Crop Protection Survey are now available for 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5100.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. Custom Services are subject to confidentiality constraints and are structured on a cost-recovery basis. ■

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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