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Releases

Releases

Investment in non-residential building construction

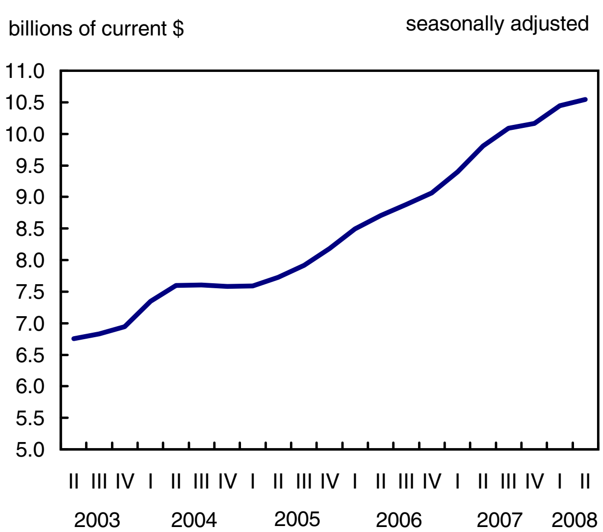
Second quarter 2008

Rising construction prices contributed significantly to a 0.9% increase in current dollars in investment in non-residential building construction in the second quarter of 2008.

Investment reached $10.5 billion between April and June as the increase was led by spending on medical facilities and office buildings.

However, after taking into account higher construction prices, investment in non-residential construction declined 3.7% in 2002 constant dollars.

Investment in non residential building construction



Investment increased in all three components from the first quarter. In the commercial component, it rose 0.8% to $6.5 billion. In the industrial component, it went up 1.6% to $1.5 billion, and in the institutional component, it edged up 1.0% to $2.6 billion.

Six provinces recorded second-quarter gains. The biggest increases, in dollars, occurred in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data measured in current dollars.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put-in-place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put-in-place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the capital and repair expenditures surveys are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data are benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part) and Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part).

In contrast, British Columbia posted the biggest decline, the result of lower spending on commercial, institutional and industrial projects. These projects were started in 2006 and early 2007 and are now almost completed.

Overall, 21 of the 34 census metropolitan areas posted quarterly declines. The biggest drop was observed in Vancouver.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables from the *Summary tables* modules of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area[1]

	Second quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	Second quarter 2008	First quarter to second quarter 2008
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
St. John's	41	36	39	10.4
Halifax	83	73	81	10.6
Moncton	39	47	42	-11.8
Saint John	32	33	28	-12.6
Saguenay	31	38	34	-12.4
Québec	181	242	272	12.3
Sherbrooke	44	37	40	8.1
Trois-Rivières	46	50	46	-8.1
Montréal	840	885	903	2.0
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	420	376	361	-4.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	44	56	53	-4.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	376	320	307	-4.0
Kingston	48	58	67	14.7
Peterborough	14	15	15	-0.1
Oshawa	95	89	85	-4.2
Toronto	1,642	1,925	1,944	1.0
Hamilton	139	167	205	22.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	71	70	69	-1.4
Kitchener	140	141	154	9.3
Brantford	40	23	17	-26.5
Guelph	50	48	43	-11.3
London	118	147	153	3.6
Windsor	90	76	63	-16.5
Barrie	54	62	58	-5.8
Greater Sudbury	56	69	65	-5.5
Thunder Bay	23	20	16	-20.1
Winnipeg	151	130	122	-6.2
Regina	62	82	68	-16.9
Saskatoon	96	115	140	21.7
Calgary	1,092	1,260	1,228	-2.5
Edmonton	478	468	528	12.7
Kelowna	48	80	78	-2.0
Abbotsford	64	52	55	5.8
Vancouver	842	858	792	-7.7
Victoria	90	93	85	-8.6

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

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Second quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	Second quarter 2008	First quarter to second quarter 2008
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Canada	**9,809**	**10,445**	**10,544**	**0.9**
Newfoundland and Labrador	65	62	68	9.9
Prince Edward Island	26	21	22	8.6
Nova Scotia	161	154	152	-1.5
New Brunswick	144	155	143	-7.5
Quebec	1,586	1,706	1,750	2.6
Ontario	3,584	3,894	3,943	1.2
Manitoba	223	201	193	-4.0
Saskatchewan	228	268	294	9.5
Alberta	2,314	2,531	2,612	3.2
British Columbia	1,449	1,421	1,348	-5.1
Yukon	16	12	8	-31.6
Northwest Territories	9	19	9	-53.7
Nunavut	5	3	3	8.7

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Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey
First quarter 2008

Retail sales in the first quarter of 2008 amounted to $92.5 billion, up 6.0% over the first quarter of 2007.

All commodities posted year-over-year increases with the exception of housewares, which recorded a slight decline in sales.

Automotive fuels accounted for almost 12 cents of every dollar spent in retail stores in the first quarter of 2008, about twice the share it represented in 1999.

Sales of automotive fuels rose 20.5% compared with the first quarter of 2007, the second consecutive increase of at least 20%. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), gasoline prices rose 14.9% from the first quarter of 2007.

Sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics were up 6.5% over the same period in 2007 on the continuing strength of the housing market. Within this grouping, sales of home electronics (televisions, cameras, telephones, computer hardware and software, etc.) recorded the strongest increase since the fourth quarter of 2003. Sales of home furnishings posted the lowest rate of increase since the second quarter of 2005.

In the first quarter of 2008, Canadians spent 6.0% more on food and beverages over the same period in 2007. Food sales, which represent the majority of sales in this grouping, were up 5.9%. Prices for food purchased from stores remained relatively unchanged during the same period, according to the CPI.

General merchandisers accounted for 10.8% of food sales in the first quarter of 2008, up from 9.9% in the first quarter of 2007. This gain came at the expense of food and beverage stores.

Spending on health and personal care products advanced 4.4%, the slowest rise since the fourth quarter of 2005. Within this category, prescription drugs rose 5.4%, the slowest increase since the third quarter of 2004.

Exceptional weather conditions in March affected sales of clothing, footwear and accessories and hardware, lawn and garden products. Year-over-year increases for both commodity groupings were the lowest in the last five years.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services rose a modest 2.9% in the first quarter of 2008, on the strength of used vehicles, which increased 7.1%.

New vehicle sales were weak, edging up 0.3% from the first quarter of 2007. The strong increase of 7.6% in new car sales over the same quarter in 2007 was almost completely offset by a decline in truck sales (which include sales of light and heavy trucks, vans, minivans and sport utility vehicles).

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national data on retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter in 2008 but had taken place in the second quarter in 2007. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Retail commodity sales estimates are revised every year. With the release of estimates for the first quarter of 2008, estimates in current dollars have been revised back to the first quarter of 2006.

Factors influencing revisions include the late receipt of respondent information, the correction of information on data provided, the replacement of estimates with actual values (once available) and the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the retail trade industry. The revised estimates are now available on CANSIM.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0018 and 080-0019.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

A detailed analysis of retail commodity sales in 2007 using the revised data will soon be published.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division. □

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	First quarter 2007[r]	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	First quarter 2008[p]	First quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	19,973	23,497	21,163	6.0
Health and personal care products	8,450	9,600	8,819	4.4
Clothing, footwear and accessories	6,349	10,786	6,421	1.1
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,176	11,904	8,706	6.5
Motor vehicles, parts and services	18,647	20,274	19,187	2.9
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	9,093	10,792	10,957	20.5
Housewares	1,760	2,152	1,757	-0.2
Hardware, lawn and garden products	4,810	6,670	4,902	1.9
Sporting and leisure goods	2,703	4,757	2,849	5.4
All other goods and services	7,360	8,935	7,769	5.6
Total	**87,320**	**109,367**	**92,530**	**6.0**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Dairy statistics
May 2008 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased 248 300 kilolitres of milk and cream in May, up 1.8% from May 2007. Sales of milk increased 2.2% from one year earlier, while sales of cream declined 2.0%.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The second quarter 2008 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 2 (23-014-XWE, free), will be available in August.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

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