



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 12, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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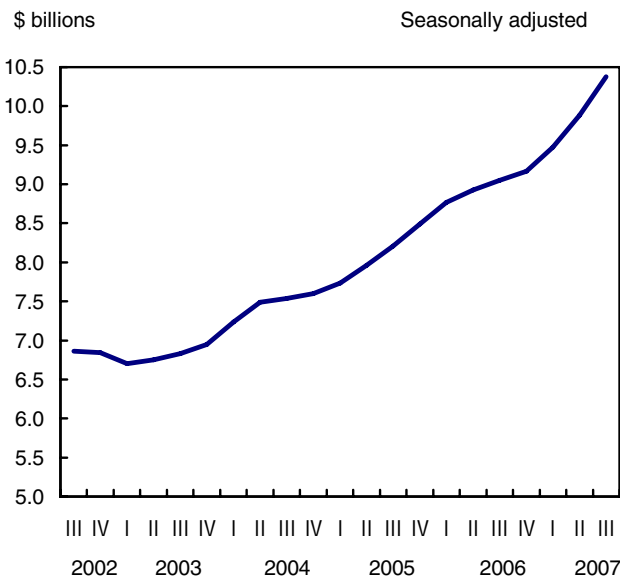
Investment in non-residential building construction

Third quarter 2007

Investment in non-residential building construction marked its fourth consecutive year of uninterrupted growth, fuelled mostly by sustained commercial investment in Central Canada and Alberta.

Non-residential investment hit \$10.4 billion in the third quarter, up 4.9% from the second quarter.

Investments in non residential building construction continue to grow



In constant dollars, third-quarter investment was up 0.9% from the second quarter.

Growth in the non-residential sector has been on an uninterrupted upward trend since the middle of 2003.

The third-quarter increase was due mainly to the construction of major office buildings underway in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario.

Note to readers

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

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 is benchmarked to National Income and Expenditure 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).

Investment in the commercial component led the way with a 5.2% increase to \$6.2 billion. In the institutional component, investment rose 5.3% to \$2.7 billion, while investment in the industrial component increased 3.1% to \$1.5 billion.

Overall, eight provinces and two territories recorded increases, but the biggest gains, in dollars, occurred in Ontario and Quebec. In both provinces, investment rose in all three components, reaching new record highs.

Among the factors sparking the non-residential sector are a strong labour market, high profits recorded by Canadian corporations, healthy retail and wholesale sectors, declining vacancy rates in large urban centres and Western Canada's dynamic economy.

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas (CMAs), 23 showed gains in the third quarter, with Toronto, Calgary and Montréal showing the largest increases (in dollars). Calgary and Montréal both set a new quarterly high.

Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area¹

	Third quarter 2006	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Second quarter to third quarter 2007
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
St. John's	40	47	51	10.6
Halifax	122	97	86	-11.8
Moncton	26	45	52	17.0
Saint John	25	33	39	19.5
Saguenay	31	31	43	39.9
Québec	166	190	219	15.4
Sherbrooke	48	43	44	2.9
Trois-Rivières	32	44	53	21.9
Montréal	739	816	886	8.5
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	417	427	422	-1.3
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	45	44	49	13.4
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	372	384	373	-2.9
Kingston	32	50	50	-0.2
Peterborough	19	14	15	7.4
Oshawa	103	96	97	1.0
Toronto	1,608	1,603	1,729	7.9
Hamilton	167	135	128	-5.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	92	72	67	-7.4
Kitchener	141	134	138	2.6
Brantford	19	40	39	-1.6
Guelph	44	51	51	1.0
London	117	110	135	22.8
Windsor	83	90	86	-3.8
Barrie	54	54	64	18.5
Greater Sudbury	34	59	68	15.9
Thunder Bay	28	21	20	-7.3
Winnipeg	177	164	164	0.0
Regina	58	59	70	17.1
Saskatoon	98	101	89	-11.6
Calgary	674	1,145	1,259	10.0
Edmonton	394	456	447	-1.9
Kelowna	37	50	64	28.5
Abbotsford	79	72	62	-13.3
Vancouver	735	843	884	4.9
Victoria	113	104	112	7.5

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

Commercial: Robust gains in office building in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario

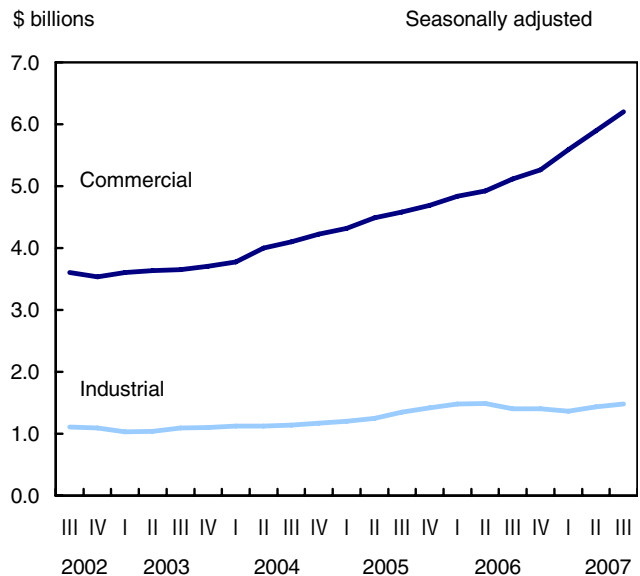
Investment in commercial building construction hit another record high, in the wake of robust activity in office building sites in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario.

Overall, seven provinces showed gains in commercial investment in the third quarter. Alberta (+7.8% to \$1.6 billion), Ontario (+4.2% to \$2.2 billion) and Quebec (+5.9% to \$909 million) experienced the largest investment growth (in dollars), and each set a record high.

On the other hand, Nova Scotia experienced a second consecutive decline, which was the largest among the provinces. This decrease was the result of commercial construction projects started in mid-2005 and early 2006 and now mostly completed.

Among the 34 CMAs, 21 registered quarterly growth. The strongest gain (in dollars) was in Calgary, where investment rose 15.3% to \$928 million. It was followed by Toronto, with a 6.0% increase to \$1.2 billion.

Investment in commercial buildings reaches a new record high

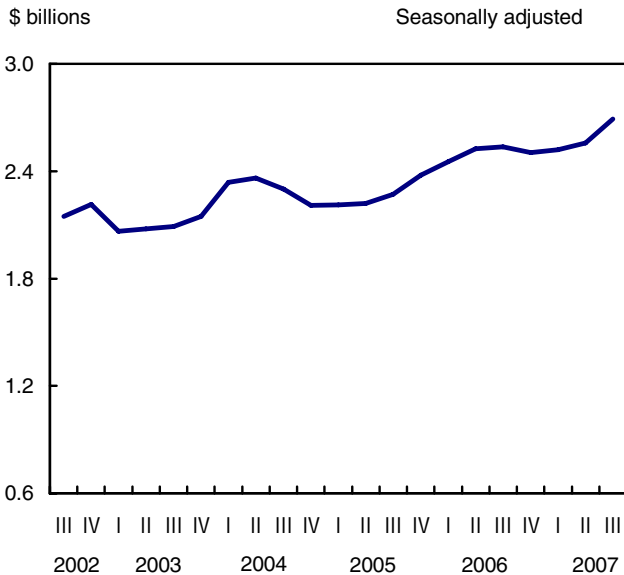


Several economic factors were consistent with a fertile environment for the commercial sector. These included the vigorous retail and wholesale sectors and declining vacancy rates for office buildings in major Canadian urban centres. These declining rates have provided added incentive for office building construction and the construction of shopping malls and warehouses.

Institutional: New record, thanks to gains in educational building

Investment in institutional building construction increased for the third straight quarter. This robust gain was largely the result of strong spending on the construction of educational facilities in seven provinces.

Institutional investment fuelled by spending in educational facilities



Provincially, the biggest third-quarter increase (in dollars) occurred in Quebec, where investment rose 16.4% to \$491 million, the third straight quarterly gain. This increase was the result of projects in educational and health care building construction.

In Ontario, which recorded growth for a second consecutive quarter, institutional investment increased 5.8% to \$1.0 billion.

In contrast, British Columbia posted the biggest decline (in dollars). This decrease was the result of institutional construction projects started in mid-2005 and early 2006 and now mostly completed.

In total, 24 of the 34 CMAs posted gains. Toronto led the way in terms of growth (in dollars), its second consecutive quarterly gain. In contrast, Ottawa recorded the most significant decline.

Industrial: Back-to-back quarterly increases

Investment in industrial building construction increased for the second straight quarter.

Strong investment gains in primary industrial buildings in nine provinces, particularly Ontario and Quebec, more than offset declines in the other industrial categories.

At the provincial level, the largest contribution to the quarterly increase (in dollars) occurred in Ontario, the result of gains in all industrial construction buildings. This reflected a higher number of major projects for manufacturing plants and utilities buildings that began in 2007.

Alberta posted the largest decline (in dollars), as investment in all industrial building categories dropped after high spending in previous quarters. This decline was the result of several industrial projects that started in 2006 and that are now mostly completed.

In the third quarter, manufacturers continued to face increased production costs, stronger global competition and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar. On the other hand, the industrial capacity utilization rate among Canadian industries increased slightly in the second quarter of 2007.

Of the 34 CMAs, 21 posted increases. Toronto and Montréal posted the highest third-quarter increases, the result of further major industrial construction projects that started at the beginning of 2007.

After posting a record high in the second quarter, Calgary registered the most significant decline in dollars, in the wake of a drop in all industrial construction building categories.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Third quarter 2006	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Second quarter to third quarter 2007
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Canada	9,051	9,888	10,376	4.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	59	71	83	18.0
Prince Edward Island	37	31	29	-4.3
Nova Scotia	216	187	186	-0.4
New Brunswick	158	151	170	12.5
Quebec	1,464	1,584	1,708	7.8
Ontario	3,574	3,562	3,756	5.4
Manitoba	241	241	246	2.3
Saskatchewan	229	233	237	1.8
Alberta	1,712	2,311	2,403	4.0
British Columbia	1,336	1,488	1,519	2.1
Yukon	16	17	18	2.9
Northwest Territories	8	8	17	107.6
Nunavut	3	5	3	-24.8

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* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Study: Literacy and adult learning in Canada

2003

Dramatic demographic change, such as the rapid aging of Canada's population, is underlining the urgency of addressing the issue of adult learning.

Today, the ratio of Canadians of working age to people of retirement age is just above 5 to 1. However, this ratio is projected to fall to 4 to 1 within 15 years, and to less than 2.5 to 1 by 2050.

As fewer young, highly skilled people enter the labour market, productivity gains become increasingly dependent on the continuous retraining of the existing workforce. This means workers may be encouraged to stay in the labour force far beyond the normal age of retirement.

This study presents a comprehensive portrait of adult learning, including participation in organized forms of adult learning (formal and non-formal learning) as well as informal learning. It uses data from the 2003 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, which, when appropriate, are compared with results from the 1994/1998 International Adult Literacy Survey.

The study found that despite talk of an emerging "learning society," Canadians did not participate more in adult education courses in 2003 than they did in 1994. In fact, their participation rates were somewhat lower than those of workers in three other countries in the study: the United States, Norway and Switzerland. Canadians also spent less time on their studies.

Data showed that Canadians who were least likely to participate in adult learning had low levels of literacy skills; came from low socio-economic backgrounds; were older and less educated; and were women and/or immigrants. In many cases, these people belonged to more than one group at the same time, which exacerbated differences.

The study found that adults within specific vulnerable groups who had medium to high literacy skills were substantially more likely to participate in adult education and training than adults in the same groups who had low literacy skills.

Canada has witnessed a substantial decline in the adult education and training of people who are either unemployed or not in the labour force. This corresponds to a dramatic decline in direct financial support from government sources between 1994 and 2003.

The study showed that a large proportion of adults with poor foundation skills—that is, low literacy skills—were still not being reached by organized forms

of adult learning. But there were significant differences in participation patterns among countries, suggesting that differences in adult learning policy do matter.

Close to 1 in 5 Norwegians with low literacy skills got support from the government, compared with just over 1 in 10 in Canada. Government support for people with low literacy skills is less frequent in Canada than in the United States.

Data from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey also showed just how strongly participation in adult education and training has become linked to the world of work.

Job and workplace characteristics, such as firm size, type of industry and occupation and supervisory position, have an impact on the likelihood of benefiting from employer-sponsored education and training.

Furthermore, the levels of engagement in literacy and numeracy practices on the job have been strongly associated with the likelihood of benefiting from employer-sponsored adult education and training.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4406.

The study, "Adult Learning: A Comparative Perspective: Results from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey," as part of the *International Adult Literacy Survey Series* (89-552-MIE2007017, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Cement

August 2007

Data on cement are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

International Adult Literacy Survey [Series] : "Adult Learning: A Comparative Perspective. Results from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey", 2003,
no. 17
Catalogue number 89-552-MIE2007017
(free).

Housing and Dwelling Characteristics Reference Guide, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 97-554-GWE2006003
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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The Daily
 Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
 For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
Short-term Expectations Survey
- **Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997** 12
Stee producer, Apr. 1997

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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Release dates: October 15 to 19, 2007

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
15	New motor vehicle sales	August 2007
15	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators	1990 to 2005
15	Leading indicators	September 2007
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	August 2007
16	Canadian tourism satellite account	2002
17	Wholesale trade	August 2007
17	Homicide in Canada	2006
18	Canada's international transactions in securities	August 2007
18	University tuition fees	2007/2008
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	August 2007
19	Consumer Price Index	September 2007