

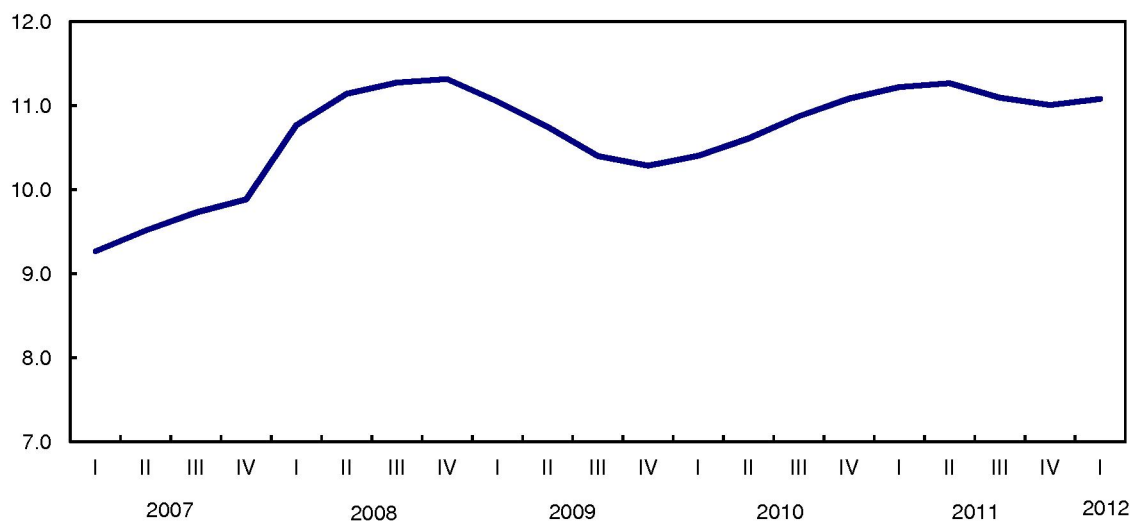
Investment in non-residential building construction, first quarter 2012

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Investment in non-residential building construction in the first quarter was up 0.7% to \$11.1 billion from the previous quarter. This gain followed two consecutive quarters of decline and reflected rising investment in the commercial and industrial components.

Chart 1
Investment in non-residential building construction

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Investment rose in seven provinces in the first quarter. The largest increases occurred in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, followed by Quebec and Alberta.

Gains in Manitoba and Saskatchewan were led by increases in commercial and institutional investment, while increases in Quebec and Alberta occurred in commercial and industrial spending.

Investment declined in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. Institutional investment decreased in all three provinces, while investment was down in all three components in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Investment rose in 12 of the 34 census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The largest gains occurred in several of the largest CMAs, including Toronto, Montréal, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Saskatoon. Higher commercial investment was the leading contributor to the increases in all five CMAs. Institutional investment was also an important factor in Toronto, Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

The largest decreases were in Hamilton and Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo. Investment fell in all three components in both CMAs.



Commercial component

Investment in commercial building construction was up 1.6% to \$6.7 billion in the first quarter from the previous quarter. It was the second consecutive quarter of growth. In the seven provinces posting increases, gains were spread among several categories of commercial buildings.

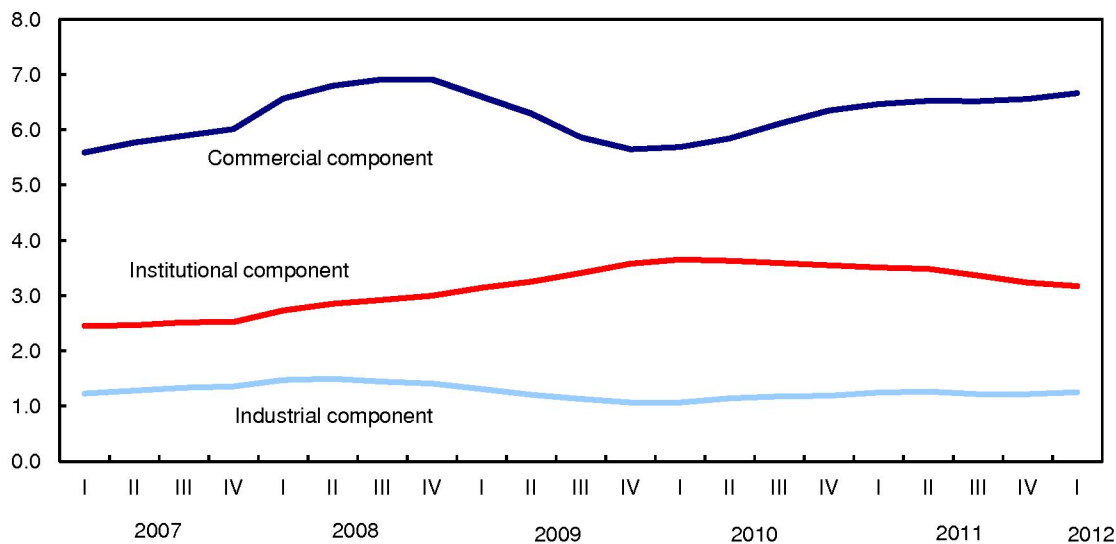
The largest contribution in the commercial component came from Alberta, where investment rose 2.0% to \$1.6 billion, the eighth consecutive quarterly gain. The increase mostly resulted from rising investment in storage facilities and office buildings.

Investment in Manitoba increased 24.1% to \$156 million, mostly attributable to higher spending for recreational and office buildings.

The largest decline was in New Brunswick, where commercial investment fell 9.5% to \$76 million. Most of the decline was from lower investment in retail and wholesale outlets and storage facilities.

Chart 2 Commercial, institutional and industrial components

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Industrial component

Investment in industrial projects increased 2.8% to \$1.3 billion in the first quarter, the second consecutive quarterly gain. Growth in this component was mainly from the construction of manufacturing plants in six provinces, as well as utilities buildings in four provinces.

Provincially, the highest increase was in Alberta, where investment rose 7.2% to \$305 million. Most of the increase was attributable to utility buildings.

In British Columbia, investment was up 10.0% to \$114 million, the eighth consecutive quarterly gain. The biggest contributor to the increase was higher spending for manufacturing plants and utility buildings.

The largest decline was in Newfoundland and Labrador, where investment fell 24.2% to \$17 million, following six consecutive quarterly increases. The biggest contributing factor to the decrease was lower investment in utility buildings and manufacturing plants.

Institutional component

Institutional investment was down for the eighth consecutive quarter as spending fell 2.0% to \$3.2 billion.

Institutional investment fell in seven provinces. The largest decline occurred in Alberta, where it decreased 10.6% to \$294 million. The biggest contributing factor was lower investment in educational buildings, where spending has been declining for seven consecutive quarters.

In British Columbia, institutional investment fell 5.6% to \$371 million. The decline came from lower investment in educational buildings and health care facilities.

In contrast, Manitoba recorded the largest increase in the first quarter as investment rose 16.4% to \$107 million, mostly from higher investment in health care facilities. It was the seventh consecutive quarterly advance in Manitoba.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data expressed in current dollars, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction (such as for highways, sewers, bridges and oil and gas pipelines). 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 Survey are used to create this investment series. Investments 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 (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: the Ottawa part and the Gatineau part.

Table 1
Investment in non-residential building construction, by building type, by province and territory –
Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011	First quarter 2012	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	11,217	11,007	11,078	0.7	-1.2
Industrial	1,244	1,218	1,252	2.8	0.7
Commercial	6,465	6,556	6,659	1.6	3.0
Institutional	3,509	3,233	3,167	-2.0	-9.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	124	156	140	-10.0	13.0
Industrial	17	22	17	-24.2	-0.3
Commercial	71	80	76	-4.7	6.8
Institutional	36	54	47	-12.1	31.6
Prince Edward Island	36	39	42	5.5	14.8
Industrial	5	7	7	1.1	39.1
Commercial	17	16	21	31.8	22.0
Institutional	14	16	13	-18.0	-3.4
Nova Scotia	219	199	188	-5.2	-14.0
Industrial	13	13	11	-13.8	-13.1
Commercial	121	119	124	4.3	2.8
Institutional	85	67	53	-20.3	-37.9
New Brunswick	202	180	159	-11.5	-21.4
Industrial	16	16	15	-11.4	-6.1
Commercial	83	83	76	-9.5	-9.4
Institutional	103	80	69	-13.7	-33.4
Quebec	1,890	1,930	1,951	1.1	3.3
Industrial	259	248	257	3.5	-0.9
Commercial	1,067	1,181	1,199	1.5	12.3
Institutional	563	500	495	-1.0	-12.0
Ontario	4,566	4,447	4,456	0.2	-2.4
Industrial	493	451	454	0.8	-7.9
Commercial	2,643	2,427	2,424	-0.1	-8.3
Institutional	1,429	1,570	1,577	0.5	10.4
Manitoba	248	244	287	17.7	15.6
Industrial	36	27	24	-8.5	-32.2
Commercial	139	126	156	24.1	12.4
Institutional	74	92	107	16.4	45.0
Saskatchewan	376	383	411	7.4	9.3
Industrial	40	40	40	0.7	-0.1
Commercial	224	227	242	6.4	7.7
Institutional	112	116	129	11.6	16.0
Alberta	2,215	2,180	2,197	0.8	-0.8
Industrial	280	285	305	7.2	8.9
Commercial	1,299	1,567	1,598	2.0	23.1
Institutional	636	329	294	-10.6	-53.8
British Columbia	1,266	1,197	1,206	0.7	-4.8
Industrial	77	104	114	10.0	47.9
Commercial	761	700	720	2.9	-5.4
Institutional	427	393	371	-5.6	-13.1
Yukon	26	27	25	-5.4	-1.6
Industrial	2	5	6	31.1	160.7
Commercial	14	15	12	-19.0	-12.6
Institutional	10	7	7	-2.3	-26.8
Northwest Territories	36	17	9	-43.0	-73.7
Industrial	3	0	0	-42.1	-93.1
Commercial	16	9	6	-30.6	-63.2
Institutional	16	8	3	-57.2	-80.3
Nunavut	14	9	6	-30.1	-53.6
Industrial	1	0	0	-69.1	-91.4
Commercial	9	8	6	-25.8	-40.0
Institutional	4	1	1	-46.9	-79.6

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

Table 2
Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area¹ – Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011	First quarter 2012	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	8,269	8,172	8,285	1.4	0.2
St. John's	75	87	77	-11.2	3.2
Halifax	96	102	96	-5.3	-0.1
Moncton	52	62	54	-12.5	4.0
Saint John	41	35	28	-20.0	-31.8
Saguenay	48	41	34	-17.0	-29.2
Québec	206	205	209	2.0	1.5
Sherbrooke	67	64	57	-10.6	-14.8
Trois-Rivières	33	43	38	-11.5	14.6
Montréal	856	955	996	4.3	16.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	432	428	428	0.0	-0.9
Gatineau part	98	103	100	-3.0	1.5
Ottawa part	334	326	329	0.9	-1.7
Kingston	48	63	51	-18.5	6.6
Peterborough	22	21	17	-19.5	-22.4
Oshawa	93	84	86	3.2	-7.1
Toronto	1,990	2,006	2,128	6.1	6.9
Hamilton	226	211	189	-10.4	-16.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	168	159	155	-2.3	-7.7
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	321	277	259	-6.5	-19.4
Brantford	41	34	31	-8.4	-23.4
Guelph	73	71	60	-15.9	-18.7
London	180	224	213	-4.6	18.3
Windsor	115	88	78	-11.5	-32.4
Barrie	89	60	67	11.8	-25.3
Greater Sudbury	72	67	62	-7.5	-13.6
Thunder Bay	33	51	49	-3.7	47.5
Winnipeg	157	165	202	22.6	28.6
Regina	106	102	98	-3.8	-7.5
Saskatoon	156	148	170	14.9	8.9
Calgary	819	833	835	0.2	1.9
Edmonton	704	630	642	1.8	-8.8
Kelowna	90	64	60	-6.4	-33.3
Abbotsford–Mission	29	52	56	7.2	94.9
Vancouver	721	641	667	4.0	-7.5
Victoria	110	100	93	-7.0	-15.3

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

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

Available without charge in 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](#) online. From the *Key resource* module of our website, choose *Summary tables*.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Don Overton (613-951-1239), Investment, Science and Technology Division.