

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Building permits, April 2012 2
The total value of building permits fell 5.2% to \$6.5 billion in April, following two consecutive monthly increases. The decline was largely the result of lower construction intentions for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings in Ontario.

Human activity and the environment, 2012 9

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2012 10

Coal and coke statistics, March 2012 11

New products and studies 12



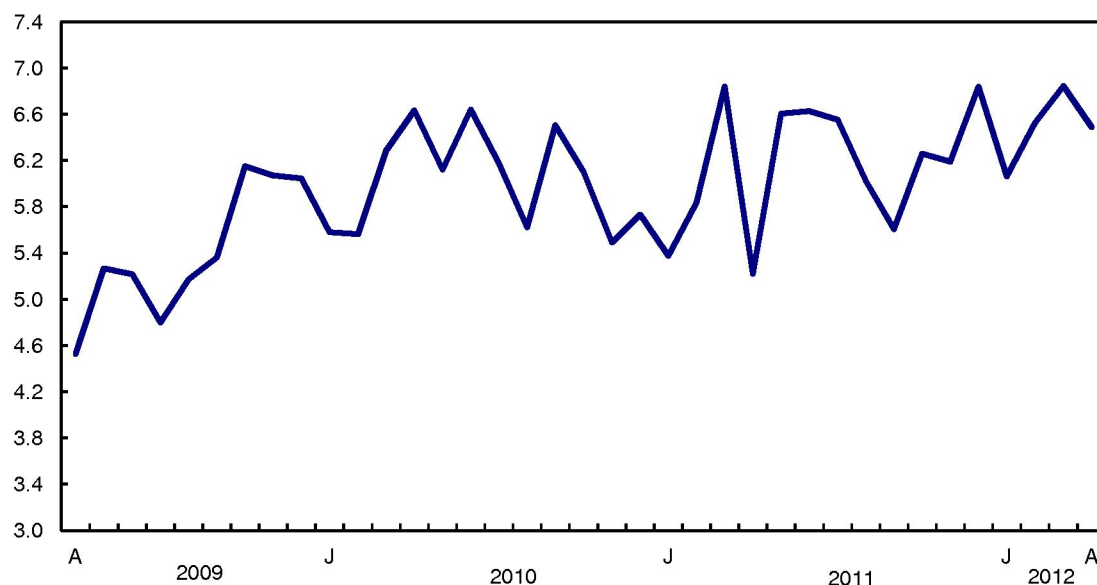
Releases

Building permits, April 2012

The total value of building permits fell 5.2% to \$6.5 billion in April, following two consecutive monthly increases. The decline was largely the result of lower construction intentions for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings in Ontario.

Chart 1
Total value of permits

billions of dollars



After two consecutive monthly advances, the value of permits in the non-residential sector decreased 8.4% to \$2.7 billion. Non-residential construction intentions were down in six provinces; however, Ontario was behind most of the decline reported at the national level.

In the residential sector, the value of permits fell 2.8% to \$3.8 billion in April, a fourth consecutive monthly decrease. April's decline was primarily attributable to lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings in Ontario and single-family dwellings in Alberta.

Non-residential sector: Significant decline in the institutional component

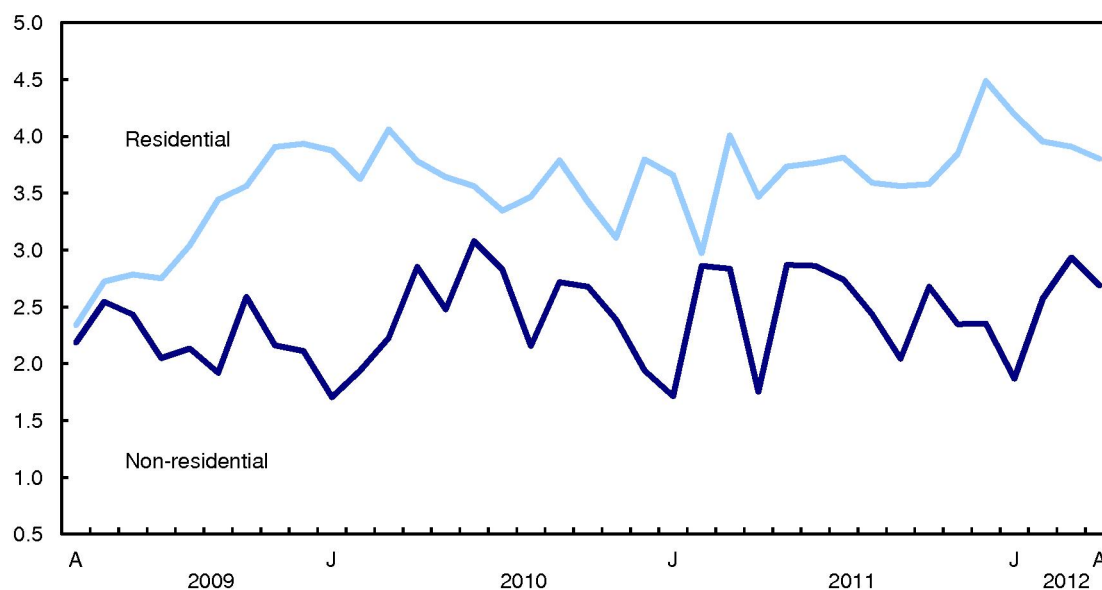
In the institutional component, the value of building permits dropped 43.0% to \$556 million. This decrease followed two consecutive monthly gains. April's decline came from six provinces, led by Ontario. The decline in Ontario was attributable to lower construction intentions for government buildings and medical facilities, which had been up substantially the previous month.

The value of commercial building permits rose 1.9% to \$1.6 billion in April. It was the third consecutive monthly increase. The advance resulted from gains in four provinces, which offset the declines recorded in the remaining provinces. Alberta and British Columbia posted the largest increases, a result of higher construction intentions for office buildings, in particular. Quebec registered an advance that was mostly attributable to construction intentions for recreational facilities.

Industrial construction intentions rose 34.7% to \$554 million, following a 42.4% decline in March. April's gain came from eight provinces, led by Quebec. The increase was the result of higher construction intentions, notably for transportation buildings and manufacturing plants.

Chart 2
Residential and non-residential sectors

billions of dollars



Residential sector: Lower construction intentions for single-family and multi-family dwellings

Construction intentions for single-family units fell 2.0% to \$2.2 billion in April, following three consecutive months of declines. The drop was largely the result of lower construction intentions in seven provinces, led by Alberta. In contrast, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick posted increases.

Municipalities issued \$1.6 billion worth of building permits for multi-family dwellings in April, down 4.0%, after being practically unchanged in March. Construction intentions were down in three provinces, led by Ontario, then followed by Quebec and Nova Scotia. A significant decline in Ontario was enough to offset increases reported in the remaining provinces.

Canadian municipalities approved the construction of 16,484 new dwellings, down 7.3% from March. The number of permits issued for multi-family dwellings fell 9.5% to 9,704 units. The number of single-family dwellings decreased 4.0% to 6,780 units.

Provinces: Construction intentions down sharply in Ontario

In April, the total value of building permits declined in five provinces, led by Ontario, then followed by Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Nova Scotia.

The decrease recorded in Ontario resulted from lower construction intentions for institutional and commercial buildings and for multi-family dwellings. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the decline was largely attributable to lower construction intentions for commercial buildings and single-family dwellings. In Manitoba, a decrease in the value of building permits for commercial and industrial buildings and for single-family dwellings was behind the decline, while in Nova Scotia, decreases were reported in institutional, commercial and residential buildings.

In contrast, Quebec posted the largest gain, mainly as a result of higher construction intentions for industrial and commercial buildings. Alberta and British Columbia also advanced, a result of higher construction intentions for non-residential buildings and multi-family dwellings.

Lower permit values in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits declined in 19 of the 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest decreases were in Toronto, St. John's and Edmonton. In Toronto, the decline was largely the result of building permits for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings. In St. John's, the decrease was mainly attributable to lower construction intentions for commercial buildings. In Edmonton, the decline was mostly a result of construction intentions for single-family dwellings.

In contrast, the largest gains were in Calgary and Montréal. In Calgary, the advance was largely attributable to the commercial component. In Montréal, the increase came from higher construction intentions in both residential and non-residential sectors.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates 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 (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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

Revision

Preliminary data are provided for the current reference month. Revised data, based on late responses, are updated for the previous month.

Table 1
Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2011	February 2012	March 2012 ^r	April 2012 ^p	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total	5,219.2	6,525.1	6,843.1	6,487.9	-5.2	24.3
Residential	3,466.9	3,953.3	3,910.3	3,800.7	-2.8	9.6
Single ¹	2,186.3	2,337.2	2,292.7	2,247.4	-2.0	2.8
Multiple	1,280.6	1,616.1	1,617.5	1,553.2	-4.0	21.3
Non-residential	1,752.3	2,571.8	2,932.8	2,687.3	-8.4	53.4
Industrial	278.5	713.3	410.9	553.6	34.7	98.8
Commercial	1,003.5	1,342.3	1,547.9	1,578.0	1.9	57.2
Institutional	470.3	516.2	974.1	555.7	-43.0	18.2
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	15,405	17,289	17,785	16,484	-7.3	7.0
Single ¹	7,043	6,956	7,061	6,780	-4.0	-3.7
Multiple	8,362	10,333	10,724	9,704	-9.5	16.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.

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

Table 2
Value of building permits, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2011	February 2012	March 2012 ^r	April 2012 ^p	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Canada	5,219.2	6,525.1	6,843.1	6,487.9	-5.2	24.3
Residential	3,466.9	3,953.3	3,910.3	3,800.7	-2.8	9.6
Non-residential	1,752.3	2,571.8	2,932.8	2,687.3	-8.4	53.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	79.0	101.7	168.6	89.2	-47.1	13.0
Residential	64.5	88.3	73.3	61.0	-16.8	-5.4
Non-residential	14.5	13.4	95.4	28.2	-70.4	94.5
Prince Edward Island	13.6	8.6	21.8	27.9	28.1	106.2
Residential	9.4	8.2	12.0	15.5	28.8	64.8
Non-residential	4.1	0.4	9.8	12.4	27.2	200.4
Nova Scotia	108.6	128.2	141.2	98.8	-30.0	-9.0
Residential	81.3	64.0	75.5	68.0	-10.0	-16.4
Non-residential	27.3	64.3	65.7	30.9	-53.1	12.9
New Brunswick	88.0	71.9	96.1	91.8	-4.5	4.3
Residential	44.3	49.1	39.1	48.2	23.0	8.6
Non-residential	43.7	22.8	57.0	43.6	-23.4	-0.1
Quebec	1,094.7	1,378.5	1,243.7	1,383.7	11.3	26.4
Residential	752.1	896.7	879.7	886.6	0.8	17.9
Non-residential	342.6	481.8	364.0	497.2	36.6	45.1
Ontario	1,842.1	2,254.4	2,766.4	2,193.7	-20.7	19.1
Residential	1,140.5	1,447.9	1,386.3	1,302.9	-6.0	14.2
Non-residential	701.6	806.5	1,380.1	890.9	-35.4	27.0
Manitoba	117.0	192.7	226.7	168.2	-25.8	43.8
Residential	82.0	97.3	103.3	104.6	1.2	27.6
Non-residential	35.0	95.4	123.4	63.6	-48.5	81.6
Saskatchewan	177.6	201.3	222.9	230.2	3.3	29.7
Residential	111.4	129.7	124.9	170.0	36.1	52.5
Non-residential	66.1	71.6	98.0	60.2	-38.5	-8.9
Alberta	897.1	1,144.6	1,202.7	1,332.3	10.8	48.5
Residential	627.2	653.8	692.7	636.7	-8.1	1.5
Non-residential	269.8	490.8	510.0	695.5	36.4	157.8
British Columbia	777.3	1,037.4	743.7	856.4	15.2	10.2
Residential	536.3	515.6	515.6	503.4	-2.4	-6.1
Non-residential	241.0	521.8	228.1	353.0	54.8	46.5
Yukon	10.6	3.0	4.9	12.8	160.2	21.5
Residential	4.6	2.3	4.0	3.1	-21.7	-32.9
Non-residential	5.9	0.7	1.0	9.7	906.6	63.8
Northwest Territories	2.2	2.7	1.1	2.8	155.4	25.2
Residential	1.8	0.4	0.7	0.9	29.1	-51.5
Non-residential	0.5	2.3	0.4	1.9	353.2	325.3
Nunavut	11.6	0.0	3.1	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Residential	11.5	0.0	3.1	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Non-residential	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	-100.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Table 3
Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted¹

	April 2011	February 2012	March 2012 ^r	April 2012 ^p	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	3,893.7	4,738.4	5,324.2	4,920.5	-7.6	26.4
St. John's	50.7	72.5	141.5	59.2	-58.2	16.7
Halifax	60.8	80.5	87.4	48.6	-44.4	-20.1
Moncton	40.0	14.1	22.5	31.7	40.7	-20.7
Saint John	10.7	12.8	17.5	17.3	-1.3	61.1
Saguenay	24.3	12.9	45.8	40.0	-12.7	64.4
Québec	153.4	147.5	177.0	134.9	-23.8	-12.1
Sherbrooke	34.7	65.9	49.6	34.4	-30.7	-0.9
Trois-Rivières	34.1	23.9	29.1	20.9	-28.5	-38.8
Montréal	422.1	612.6	552.7	712.9	29.0	68.9
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	188.8	228.1	198.9	172.2	-13.4	-8.8
Gatineau part	51.5	56.1	38.8	56.1	44.6	8.9
Ottawa part	137.3	172.0	160.1	116.2	-27.4	-15.4
Kingston	20.2	13.6	16.8	43.0	155.9	112.8
Peterborough	7.2	7.8	16.1	5.8	-63.8	-19.5
Oshawa	68.5	49.5	39.3	72.5	84.5	6.0
Toronto	928.0	1,305.5	1,645.1	1,055.2	-35.9	13.7
Hamilton	65.9	128.0	160.0	117.2	-26.8	77.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	29.8	28.3	38.2	43.4	13.8	45.7
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	77.2	91.3	133.8	90.6	-32.3	17.4
Brantford	14.4	6.0	11.6	21.3	83.5	47.6
Guelph	15.0	18.5	32.1	15.1	-53.0	0.8
London	66.2	59.9	76.1	87.2	14.6	31.6
Windsor	36.5	50.1	66.0	34.4	-47.8	-5.5
Barrie	20.9	24.7	13.4	27.6	105.9	32.0
Greater Sudbury	14.2	5.2	8.2	10.8	32.5	-23.6
Thunder Bay	32.7	5.6	8.2	110.0	1,247.5	236.4
Winnipeg	63.2	82.4	178.5	109.9	-38.4	74.1
Regina	41.1	52.7	58.6	55.6	-5.0	35.3
Saskatoon	78.1	97.9	89.2	113.8	27.5	45.7
Calgary	370.1	444.6	450.8	688.3	52.7	86.0
Edmonton	332.4	401.4	369.6	291.3	-21.2	-12.4
Kelowna	26.7	19.5	36.0	28.9	-19.8	8.0
Abbotsford–Mission	8.5	18.5	13.7	10.2	-25.8	20.5
Vancouver	503.8	489.1	487.9	562.1	15.2	11.6
Victoria	53.4	67.7	52.9	54.1	2.2	1.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

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: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The April 2012 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will soon be available.

The May building permits data will be released on July 6.

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 Mahamat Hamit-Haggar
(613-951-0862), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Human activity and the environment, 2012

The 2012 issue of *Human Activity and the Environment*, released today, features an article on "Waste management in Canada," which assembles a variety of statistics describing the generation and management of different types of waste.

The first section contains an overview of waste generation in Canada. Other sections cover solid waste, waste water discharges and air emissions in greater detail. Data from Statistics Canada, as well as from other federal government departments and international organizations, were used in compiling the article.

The article also presents information on solid waste diversion, including everything from dead batteries to 'e-waste' such as cellphones, computers and televisions.

About 8.5 million tonnes of solid waste were diverted for recycling or composting in 2008. Organic materials managed at centralized facilities represented 29% of total waste diversion, at just over 2.4 million tonnes.

In 2009, 58% of households had dead or unwanted batteries to dispose of. About 42% of these households discarded them in the regular garbage.

Just over one-third (36%) of households reported having electronic devices they wished to dispose of. About 45% of these households used a depot or drop-off centre for e-waste disposal, while 22% donated unwanted electronic products or gave them away. About 28% still had their unwanted devices at home.

The 2012 issue of *Human Activity and the Environment*: "Waste management in Canada" (16-201-X, free) is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. Choose *All subjects*, then *Environment*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2012

Data on Canadian Foreign Post Indexes are now available for June.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The June 2012 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-X, free) is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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 Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

Coal and coke statistics, March 2012

Data on coal and coke are now available for March.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 135-0001 and 135-0002.

Table 135-0001: Coke.

Table 135-0002: Coal.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2003 and 2147.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Human Activity and the Environment, 2012

Catalogue number 16-201-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2012

Catalogue number 62-013-X (HTML, free)



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

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

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2012. All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the [Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement](#):

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/reference/copyright-droit-auteur-eng.htm>