

Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use, 2014

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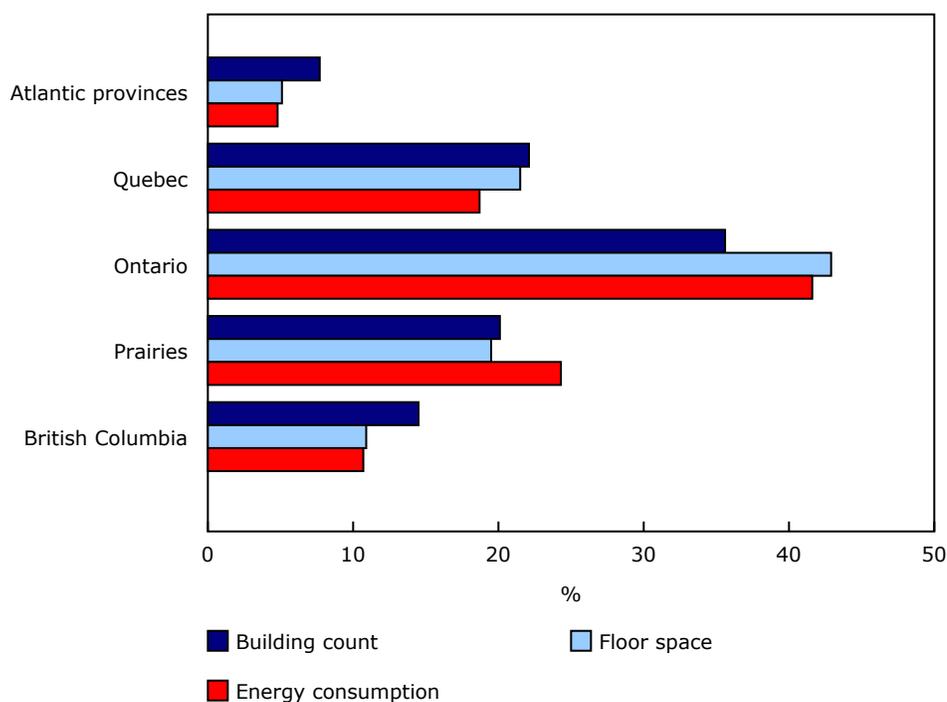
In 2014, there were about 482,000 commercial or institutional buildings in Canada, representing a total floor area of 800.8 million square metres. These buildings consumed a total of 911.2 million gigajoules of energy.

Energy consumption and energy intensity of commercial and institutional buildings vary by region

Commercial and institutional buildings in Ontario accounted for 35.6% of buildings in Canada and represented 42.9% of the total floor area. These buildings consumed the highest share of energy in Canada, at 41.6%.

Buildings in the Atlantic provinces represented 7.7% of buildings in Canada, accounted for 5.1% of the total floor space and consumed the lowest regional share of energy consumption, at 4.8%.

Chart 1
Regional distribution of commercial and institutional buildings by counts, floor area and energy consumption, 2014



Source(s): Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use (5034).

Buildings in the Prairies region reported the highest energy intensity of any region, at 1.41 gigajoules per square metre (GJ/m²), while those in Quebec had the lowest energy intensity, at 0.99 GJ/m².

Table 1
Total energy intensity of buildings by region, 2014

	Energy intensity
	gigajoules per square metre
Canada	1.14
Prairies	1.41
British Columbia	1.12
Ontario	1.10
Atlantic provinces	1.07
Quebec	0.99

Source(s): Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use (5034).

Energy intensity of commercial and institutional buildings varies by building type

Hospital buildings (2.45 GJ/m²) had the highest energy intensity levels among all building types, while warehouses (0.82 GJ/m²) had the lowest, followed by primary and secondary schools (0.88 GJ/m²).

Table 2
Energy intensity by building type, 2014

	Energy intensity
	gigajoules per square metre
Canada	1.14
Hospitals	2.45
Food and beverage stores (excluding restaurants and bars)	1.88
Assisted daily care facilities and/or residential care facilities	1.30
Office buildings (medical)	1.28
Hotels, motels and/or lodges	1.24
Other activities or functions	1.19
Office buildings (non-medical)	1.12
Retail stores (non-food)	1.12
Primary or secondary schools	0.88
Warehouses	0.82

Source(s): Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use (5034).

Note to readers

Data in this release are from the 2014 Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Use, which is a survey of establishments and their buildings. Data from a supplemental warehouse questionnaire were incorporated into the estimates.

The survey was designed to produce data at the regional level.

The 2014 Survey of Commercial and Institution Energy Use produced two sets of data on the energy consumption patterns of Canadian businesses, organizations and institutions. The survey collected data on the types and quantities of energy (such as electricity and natural gas) consumed by businesses and institutions in Canada, and by their buildings.

To be in-scope for the establishment component of the survey, an establishment must have rented, owned or occupied space in a commercial or institutional building, had at least one employee, and been in operation in 2014. Establishments located in the territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) were excluded.

For a building to be in-scope for the building component of the survey, at least 50% of its space must have been used for commercial or institutional purposes in 2014. Military bases and embassies were excluded.

Definitions

A **gigajoule** is a unit of measure for energy consumption equivalent to one billion joules; six gigajoules are roughly equivalent to the amount of potential energy in one US standard barrel of oil when consumed.

Energy intensity is the total energy consumed expressed in gigajoules divided by total floor area expressed in square metres. Higher energy use per square metre of floor space is considered more energy intensive.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5034](#).

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