

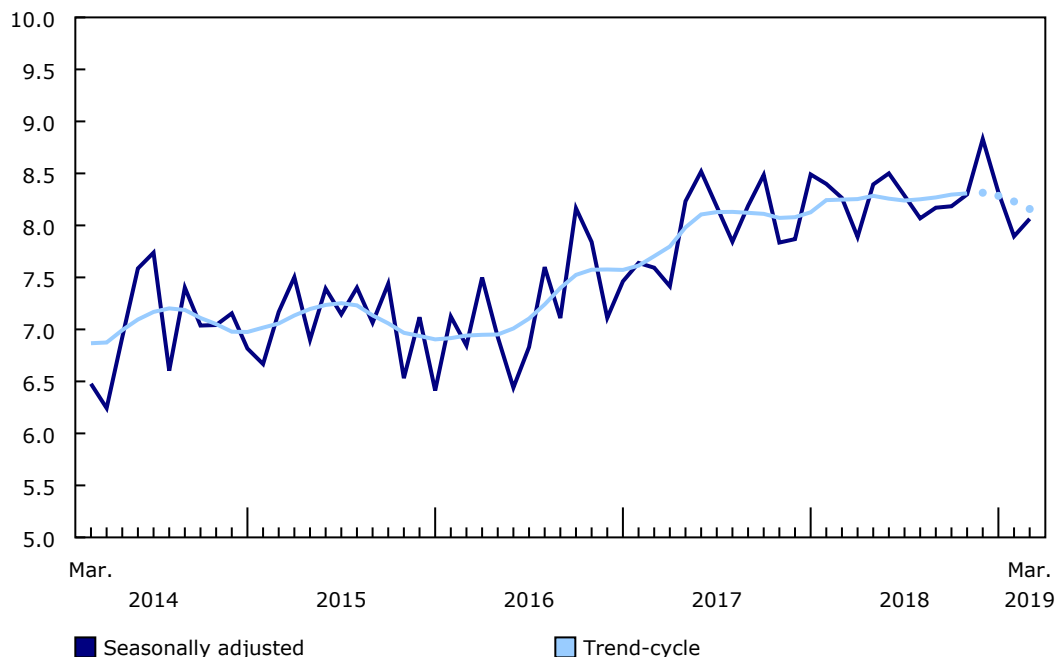
Building permits, March 2019

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, May 10, 2019

Canadian municipalities issued \$8.1 billion worth of building permits in March, up 2.1% from February. The increase was attributable to higher construction intentions in Western Canada.

Chart 1
Total value of building permits

billions of dollars

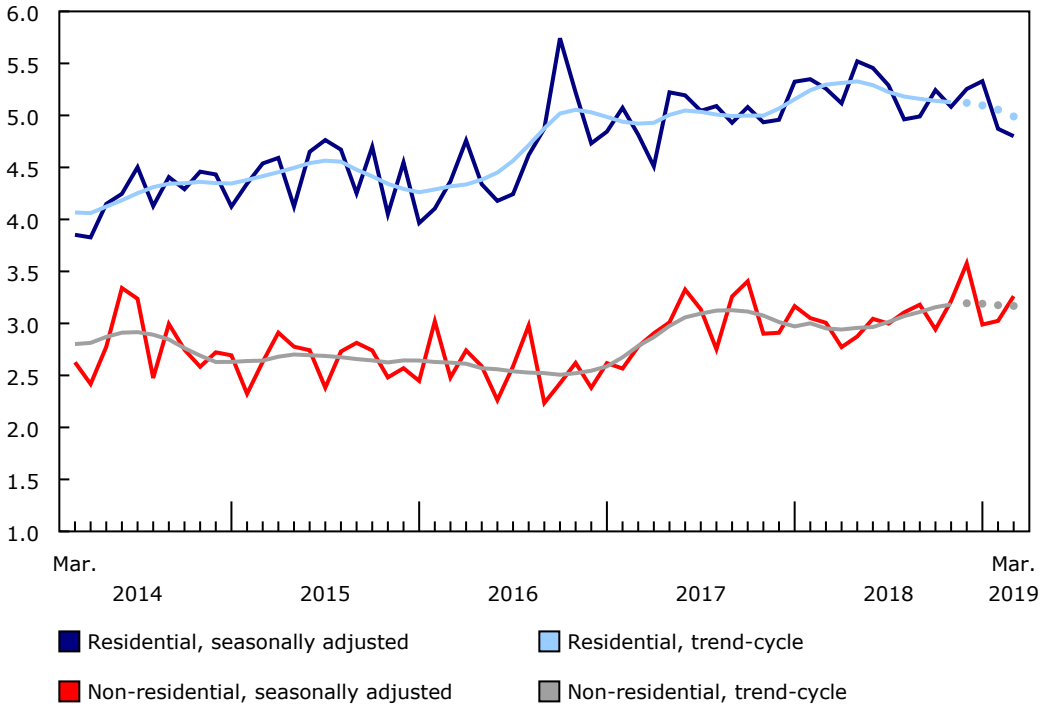


Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. For more information, see the note to readers.
Source(s): Table 34-10-0066-01.



Chart 2
Value of building permits for the residential and non-residential sectors

billions of dollars

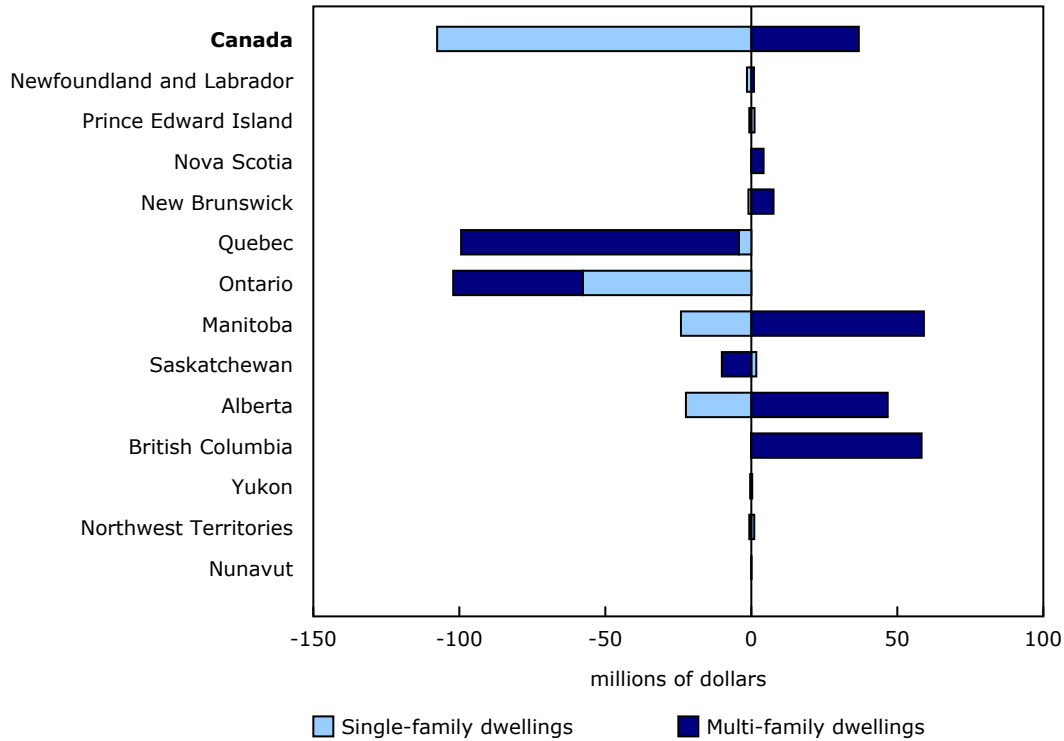


Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. For more information, see the note to readers.
Source(s): Table 34-10-0066-01.

Building permits up in Western Canada, down east of Manitoba

Four provinces reported increases in March, led by British Columbia with an increase of 12.8% (+\$180 million). Meanwhile, all provinces east of Manitoba reported declines. The largest decrease was in Ontario, down 1.4% (-\$43 million) due to lower construction intentions in the residential sector.

Chart 3
Month-to-month change in the value of residential building permits, March 2019



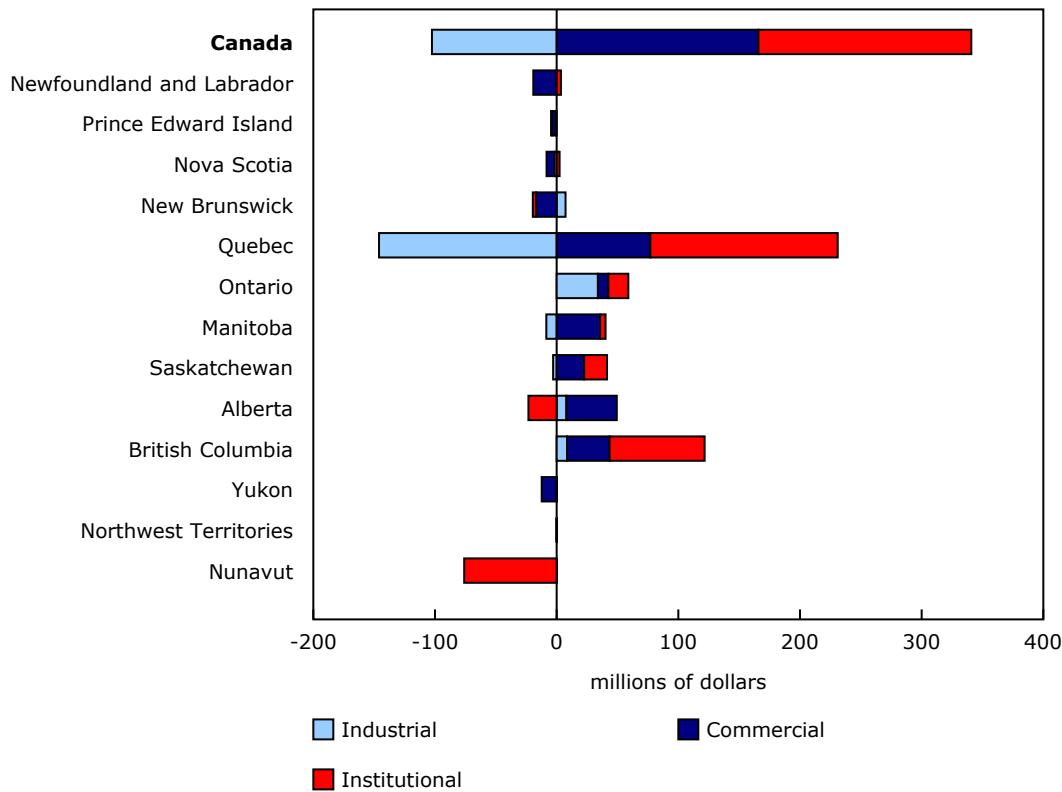
Source(s): Table 34-10-0066-01.

Quebec drives movement in non-residential permits

The national value of permits for non-residential buildings rose 7.9% in March, due to higher construction intentions for both institutional (+\$175 million) and commercial (+\$166 million) buildings. Gains in both of these components stemmed from Quebec. A high value permit for an addition to the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal drove the increase in the institutional component.

In the industrial component, the value of permits declined 15.6% in March (-\$102 million). The decrease was largely the result of lower construction intentions in Quebec, where multiple high-value permits were issued in February.

Chart 4
Month-to-month change in the value of non-residential building permits, March 2019



Source(s): Table 34-10-0066-01.

The value of single-family permits declines in the residential sector

Municipalities issued \$4.8 billion worth of residential permits in March, down 1.5% from February. The decline was largely attributable to lower construction intentions in Ontario (-\$102 million) and Quebec (-\$99 million).

The value of single-family dwelling permits was down 5.0% (-\$108 million) from the previous month. Seven provinces reported declines, with the largest decrease in Ontario (-\$58 million).

Meanwhile, the value of multi-family dwelling permits increased 1.3% (+\$37 million) in March. Six provinces posted increases, led by Manitoba and British Columbia.

First quarter 2019: Permits down sharply in Alberta year over year

Municipalities issued \$24.3 billion worth of permits in the first quarter, down 3.5% (-\$877 million) compared with the same quarter last year. Five provinces posted declines, with the majority of the decrease coming from Alberta (-\$1.0 billion).

Every component was down in Alberta in the first quarter compared with the same quarter last year. Single-family construction accounted for approximately half of the provincial decline (-\$539 million). This was the lowest value for single-family dwelling permits since the first quarter of 2009.

Meanwhile, in Quebec, the value of permits rose 2.1% (+\$105 million) year over year in the first quarter. Every component except multi-family dwellings was up. The increase was largely the result of higher construction intentions for non-residential buildings.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitate month-to-month comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

The Building Permits Survey covers over 2,400 municipalities, representing 95% of the Canadian population. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total for the entire population.

Building permits data are used as a leading indicator of activity in the construction industry.

The value of planned construction activities presented in this release excludes engineering projects (such as waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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

Unless otherwise specified, the highlights refer to seasonally adjusted current dollars and are ranked in terms of dollar change rather than percentage change.

Building components

Single-family dwellings: Residential buildings containing only one dwelling unit (for example, single-detached house, bungalow, linked home [linked at the foundation]).

Multi-family dwellings: Residential buildings containing multiple dwelling units (for example, apartment, apartment condominium, row house, semi-detached).

Industrial buildings: Buildings used in the transformation or production of goods, or related to transportation and communication.

Commercial buildings: Buildings used in trade or distribution of goods and services.

Institutional and government buildings: Buildings used to house public and semi-public services such as those related to health and welfare, education, or public administration, as well as buildings used for religious services.

Revision

Unadjusted data for the current reference month are subject to revision based on late responses. Data for the previous month have been revised. Seasonally adjusted data are revised for the previous two months.

Trend-cycle estimates have been added to the charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. Both seasonally adjusted data and trend-cycle estimates are subject to revision as additional observations become available. These revisions could be large and even lead to a reversal of movement, especially at the end of the series. The higher variability associated with trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart.

For information on trend-cycle data, see the [StatCan Blog](#) and [Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions](#).

Next release

Data on building permits for April will be released on June 10.

Products

Statistics Canada has a new [Housing Market Indicators Dashboard](#). This web application provides access to key housing market indicators for Canada, by province and by census metropolitan area. These indicators are automatically updated with new information from monthly releases, giving users access to the latest data.

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

	March 2018	January 2019 ^r	February 2019 ^r	March 2019 ^p	February to March 2019	March 2018 to March 2019
	millions of dollars			% change		
Total	8,263.6	8,318.1	7,895.1	8,062.6	2.1	-2.4
Residential	5,257.4	5,329.3	4,871.0	4,800.2	-1.5	-8.7
Single ¹	2,372.2	2,068.2	2,143.8	2,036.2	-5.0	-14.2
Multiple	2,885.1	3,261.2	2,727.2	2,764.0	1.3	-4.2
Non-residential	3,006.3	2,988.8	3,024.1	3,262.4	7.9	8.5
Industrial	714.1	593.1	656.2	553.8	-15.6	-22.5
Commercial	1,694.2	1,793.6	1,685.3	1,851.1	9.8	9.3
Institutional	598.0	602.1	682.6	857.5	25.6	43.4
	number of units			% change		
Total dwellings	19,000	21,025	18,962	17,929	-5.4	-5.6
Single ¹	5,207	4,455	4,733	4,551	-3.8	-12.6
Multiple	13,793	16,570	14,229	13,378	-6.0	-3.0

^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 up to totals as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Table [34-10-0066-01](#).

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

	March 2018	January 2019 ^r	February 2019 ^r	March 2019 ^p	February to March 2019	March 2018 to March 2019
	millions of dollars			% change		
Canada	8,263.6	8,318.1	7,895.1	8,062.6	2.1	-2.4
Residential	5,257.4	5,329.3	4,871.0	4,800.2	-1.5	-8.7
Non-residential	3,006.3	2,988.8	3,024.1	3,262.4	7.9	8.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	35.1	39.8	54.5	38.2	-30.0	8.6
Residential	22.9	18.2	20.4	19.8	-3.0	-13.6
Non-residential	12.2	21.7	34.1	18.4	-46.1	50.5
Prince Edward Island	18.7	19.7	24.9	20.8	-16.5	11.6
Residential	16.7	17.8	18.5	18.9	2.3	12.9
Non-residential	1.9	1.9	6.5	1.9	-70.4	0.3
Nova Scotia	105.2	174.4	117.9	116.2	-1.4	10.4
Residential	69.0	145.5	76.0	80.3	5.6	16.4
Non-residential	36.3	28.8	41.8	35.9	-14.1	-1.0
New Brunswick	92.7	98.4	89.1	83.4	-6.4	-10.0
Residential	36.2	38.7	38.6	45.2	17.1	25.1
Non-residential	56.5	59.7	50.5	38.2	-24.4	-32.5
Quebec	1,794.2	1,629.7	1,718.5	1,704.2	-0.8	-5.0
Residential	1,164.7	930.2	1,036.8	937.4	-9.6	-19.5
Non-residential	629.5	699.5	681.7	766.8	12.5	21.8
Ontario	2,935.8	3,387.3	3,146.4	3,103.1	-1.4	5.7
Residential	1,799.1	2,211.0	2,026.3	1,924.2	-5.0	7.0
Non-residential	1,136.7	1,176.3	1,120.1	1,179.0	5.3	3.7
Manitoba	243.4	265.5	225.6	292.3	29.6	20.1
Residential	117.7	144.0	116.6	151.6	30.0	28.8
Non-residential	125.7	121.4	109.0	140.7	29.1	11.9
Saskatchewan	149.0	167.5	108.7	138.8	27.8	-6.8
Residential	67.7	90.6	45.8	37.4	-18.3	-44.7
Non-residential	81.3	76.9	62.8	101.4	61.4	24.7
Alberta	1,199.2	942.7	889.9	940.4	5.7	-21.6
Residential	738.1	562.6	560.3	584.5	4.3	-20.8
Non-residential	461.1	380.0	329.6	355.8	8.0	-22.8
British Columbia	1,666.5	1,566.7	1,403.9	1,583.6	12.8	-5.0
Residential	1,220.5	1,147.9	907.8	966.0	6.4	-20.9
Non-residential	445.9	418.8	496.0	617.6	24.5	38.5
Yukon	7.9	4.2	17.3	5.2	-70.1	-34.5
Residential	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.7	-1.2	24.6
Non-residential	4.9	1.1	13.5	1.4	-89.3	-70.6
Northwest Territories	8.4	1.1	1.7	2.1	20.8	-75.5
Residential	1.7	0.9	1.5	1.8	15.6	1.5
Non-residential	6.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	68.2	-95.7
Nunavut	7.6	F	F	F	F	F
Residential	0.0	F	F	F	F	F
Non-residential	7.6	F	78.3	F	F	F

^r revised

^p preliminary

F too unreliable to be published

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

Source(s): Table 34-10-0066-01.

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

	March 2018	January 2019 ^r	February 2019 ^r	March 2019 ^p	February to March 2019	March 2018 to March 2019
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	6,390.3	6,384.6	5,893.8	6,269.7	6.4	-1.9
St. John's	19.6	16.9	37.0	28.3	-23.6	44.2
Halifax	52.4	123.2	64.3	65.6	1.9	25.2
Moncton	25.8	23.4	37.9	28.5	-24.8	10.5
Saint John	25.3	14.2	12.4	9.8	-20.8	-61.1
Saguenay	17.7	16.8	14.0	24.3	73.8	37.7
Québec	176.8	170.0	167.7	138.9	-17.2	-21.4
Sherbrooke	42.7	33.1	35.1	61.9	76.3	45.1
Trois-Rivières	50.4	34.3	30.4	20.4	-32.9	-59.5
Montréal	984.2	858.8	973.9	1,003.8	3.1	2.0
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	287.6	362.2	283.3	313.6	10.7	9.1
Gatineau part	52.2	90.7	84.8	73.8	-12.9	41.3
Ottawa part	235.3	271.4	198.5	239.8	20.8	1.9
Kingston	17.0	17.6	12.7	35.4	179.1	108.2
Belleville	11.0	11.0	11.6	11.8	2.3	7.2
Peterborough	12.5	18.8	20.6	12.3	-40.2	-1.4
Oshawa	166.1	43.7	42.5	111.6	162.5	-32.8
Toronto	1,349.2	1,763.9	1,430.4	1,466.2	2.5	8.7
Hamilton	192.6	165.2	88.0	194.1	120.5	0.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	98.5	61.5	224.3	77.2	-65.6	-21.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	102.2	170.5	142.7	121.1	-15.2	18.5
Brantford	8.7	19.1	17.6	32.7	85.3	275.8
Guelph	27.0	66.9	60.4	35.1	-42.0	29.9
London	93.9	74.6	85.3	76.4	-10.5	-18.7
Windsor	40.9	34.3	37.5	38.1	1.5	-6.9
Barrie	33.5	19.3	33.0	20.3	-38.6	-39.4
Greater Sudbury	21.1	28.2	22.3	23.3	4.8	10.9
Thunder Bay	9.8	5.3	29.4	32.6	10.8	232.9
Winnipeg	160.0	192.4	154.8	182.4	17.8	14.0
Regina	41.4	32.9	32.3	24.5	-24.0	-40.7
Saskatoon	82.3	73.3	57.4	58.8	2.3	-28.6
Lethbridge	24.7	21.4	26.8	30.7	14.4	24.3
Calgary	445.3	413.3	387.8	481.0	24.0	8.0
Edmonton	464.7	278.1	338.3	281.0	-16.9	-39.5
Kelowna	90.0	80.0	74.0	121.4	64.1	35.0
Abbotsford–Mission	34.1	36.7	35.7	19.0	-46.9	-44.2
Vancouver	1,078.0	1,000.0	799.9	982.5	22.8	-8.9
Victoria	103.8	103.5	72.2	105.2	45.7	1.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that make up the [census metropolitan areas](#).

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

Source(s): Table [34-10-0066-01](#).

Available tables: [table 34-10-0066-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: [survey number 2802](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).