

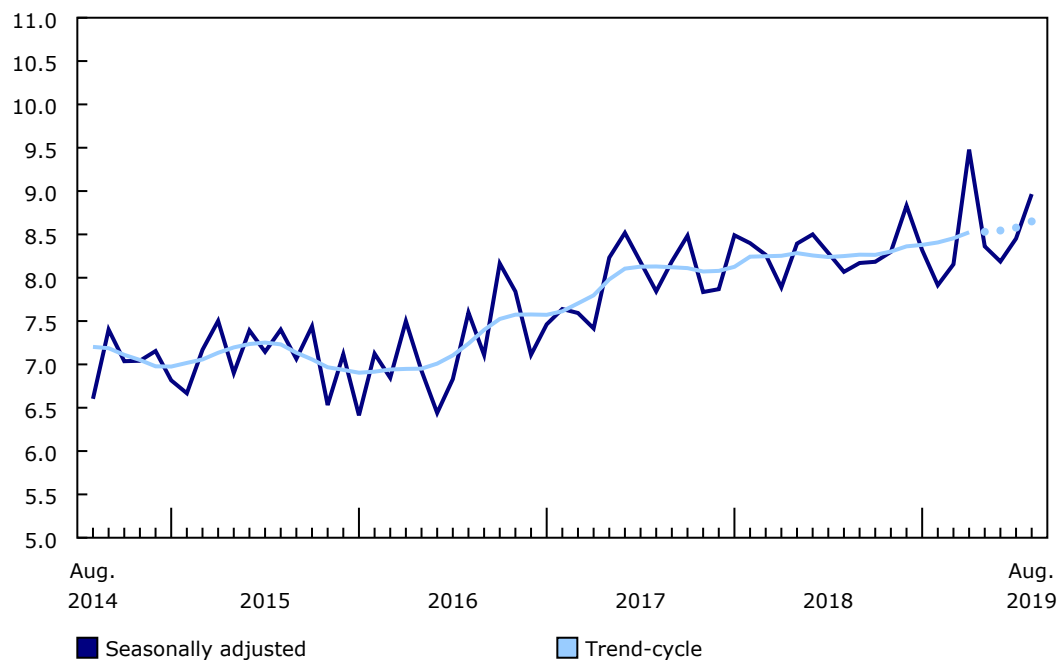
# Building permits, August 2019

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, October 8, 2019

The value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities rose 6.1% to \$9.0 billion in August, largely because of increases in multi-family and industrial permits. Gains were reported in seven provinces, with over one-third of the national increase in Quebec.

**Chart 1**  
**Total value of building permits**

billions of dollars

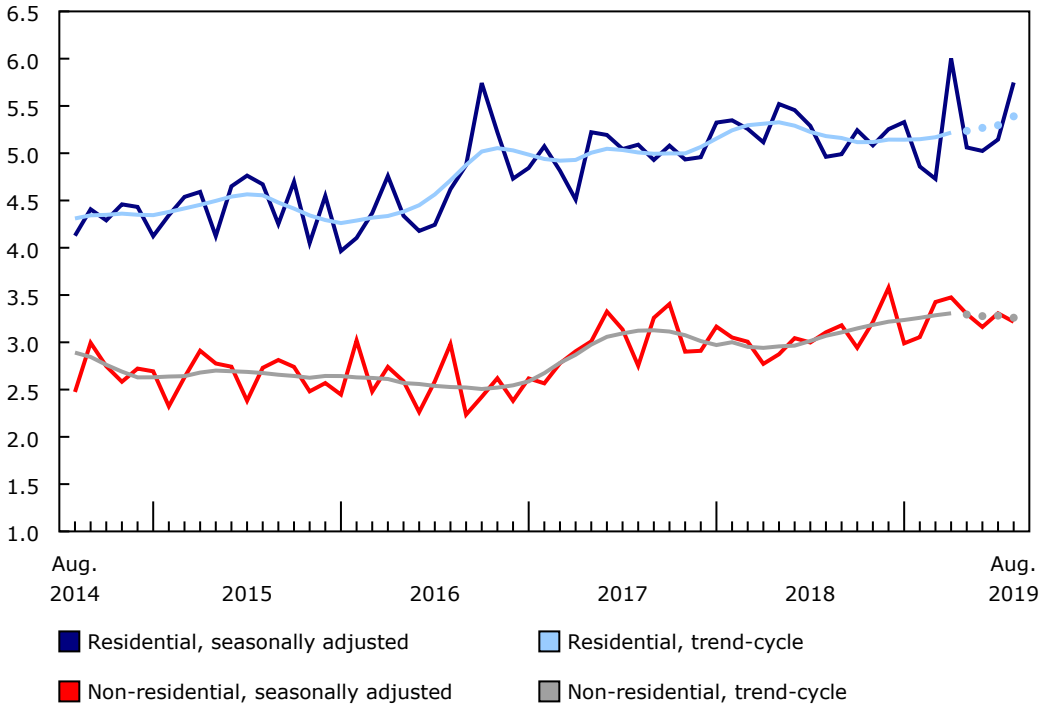


**Note(s):** The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. For more information, see the note to readers.  
**Source(s):** Table 34-10-0066-01.



**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.

Infographic 1 – Building permits, August 2019

# August 2019

## Building permits

Figure 1 Month-to-month change in total value of building permits (seasonally adjusted)

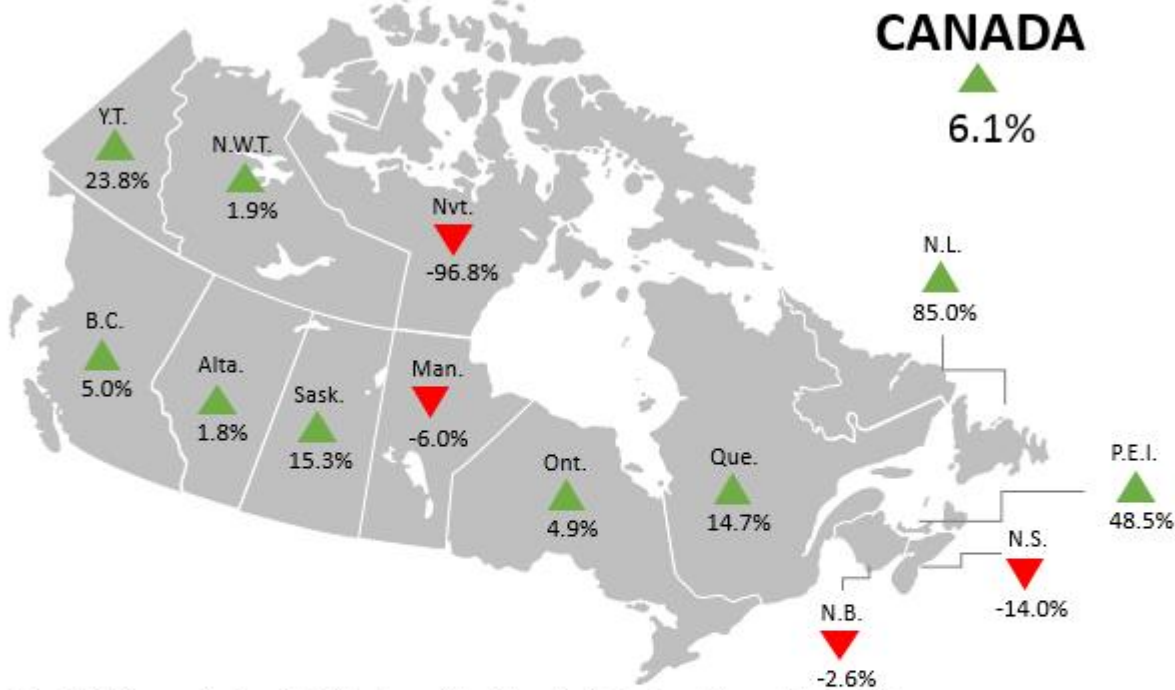


Figure 2 Building permits for residential and non residential construction in Canada (seasonally adjusted)



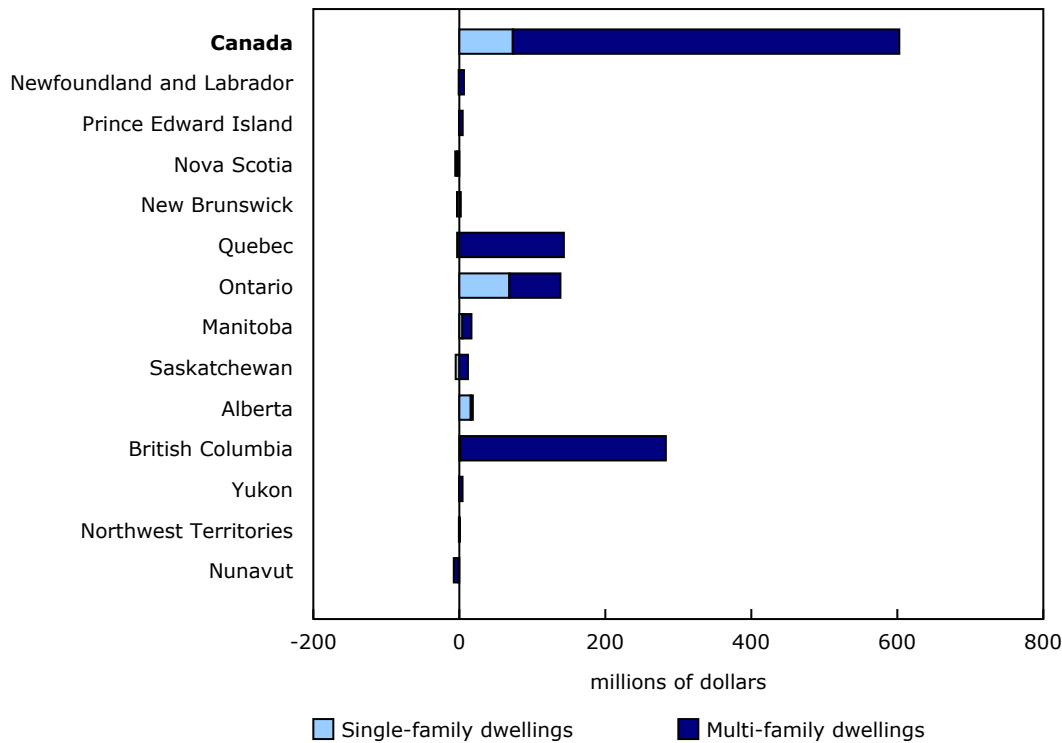
Source: Table 34-10-0066-01—Building permits, by type of construction and type of work.

### Value of residential permits rises

The value of permits for multi-family dwellings rose in every province, except Nova Scotia, increasing 18.8% to \$3.3 billion in August. Over half of these gains were in British Columbia (+\$282 million), largely because of a high-value permit in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Vancouver. Quebec also contributed to the increase, up \$143 million compared with July.

The value of permits for single-family dwellings rose 3.2% to \$2.4 billion nationally, led by Ontario. The CMA of St. Catharines–Niagara issued a record high of \$102 million in single-family permits, up \$58 million from July. These gains were largely attributable to several developers filing additional permits prior to an upcoming increase in development costs in the region.

**Chart 3**  
**Month-to-month change in the value of residential building permits**



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

### Value of industrial permits increases

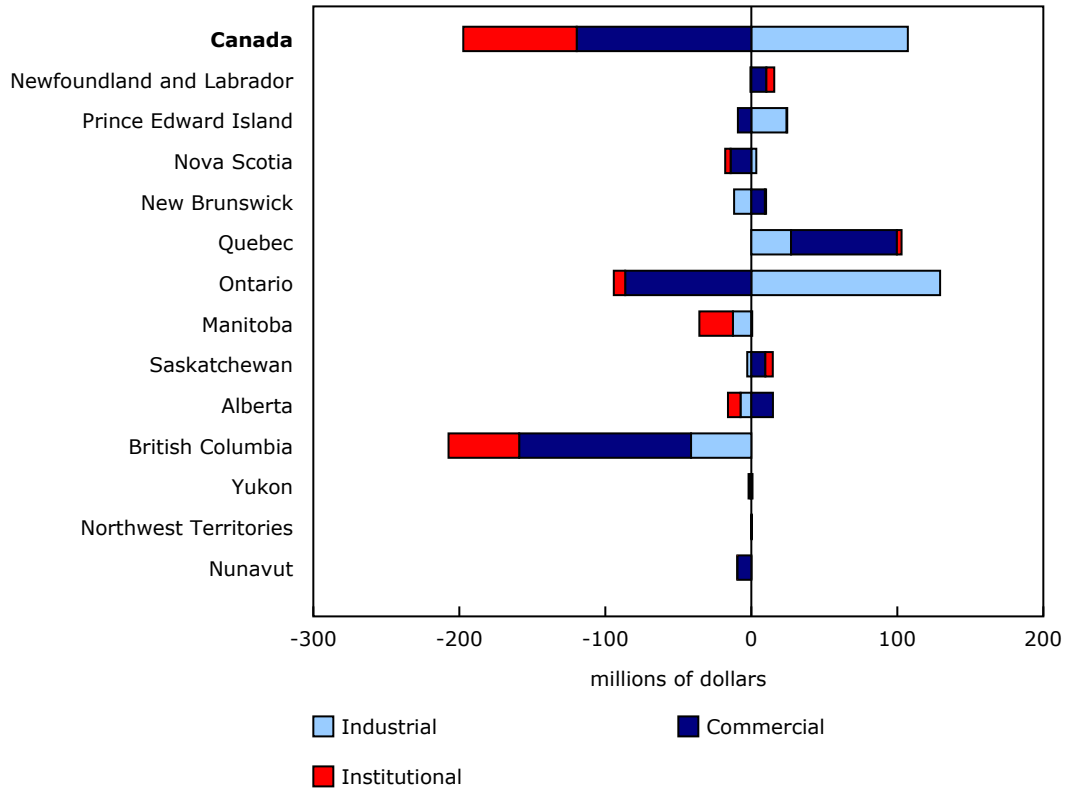
Industrial permits were the only component in the non-residential sector to increase in value, rising 18.9% to \$675 million. The increase was largely due to a high-value permit for a bio-pharmaceutical company in the CMA of Toronto.

The value of commercial permits declined 5.9% to \$1.9 billion, following gains in July. Quebec showed some strength in the commercial component (+\$73 million) despite the national decrease.

Five provinces reported declines in the value of institutional permits, down 10.7% to \$651 million.

The value of permits was down in all three non-residential components in British Columbia, which also reported the largest provincial declines in the values of commercial (-\$118 million) and institutional (-\$48 million) permits.

**Chart 4**  
**Month-to-month change in the value of non-residential building permits**



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

## 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 permit 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 and 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 processing or production of goods, or related to transportation and communication.

**Commercial buildings:** Buildings used in the 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 for the previous two months have also been revised.

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 could 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 September will be released on November 8.

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

	August 2018	June 2019 <sup>r</sup>	July 2019 <sup>r</sup>	August 2019 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2019	August 2018 to August 2019
	millions of dollars				% change	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,067.9</b>	<b>8,186.7</b>	<b>8,452.2</b>	<b>8,964.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Residential	4,962.3	5,024.5	5,145.0	5,747.7	11.7	15.8
Single <sup>1</sup>	2,198.6	2,320.4	2,324.9	2,398.1	3.2	9.1
Multiple	2,763.7	2,704.1	2,820.1	3,349.5	18.8	21.2
Non-residential	3,105.6	3,162.3	3,307.2	3,217.1	-2.7	3.6
Industrial	681.2	607.3	567.5	674.7	18.9	-1.0
Commercial	1,744.3	1,878.5	2,011.4	1,891.8	-5.9	8.5
Institutional	680.1	676.4	728.3	650.6	-10.7	-4.3
	number of units				% change	
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>17,987</b>	<b>18,390</b>	<b>18,628</b>	<b>20,623</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>14.7</b>
Single <sup>1</sup>	4,763	4,983	4,916	5,236	6.5	9.9
Multiple	13,224	13,407	13,712	15,387	12.2	16.4

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> 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**

	August 2018	June 2019 <sup>r</sup>	July 2019 <sup>r</sup>	August 2019 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2019	August 2018 to August 2019
	millions of dollars				% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>8,067.9</b>	<b>8,186.7</b>	<b>8,452.2</b>	<b>8,964.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>4,962.3</b>	<b>5,024.5</b>	<b>5,145.0</b>	<b>5,747.7</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>3,105.6</b>	<b>3,162.3</b>	<b>3,307.2</b>	<b>3,217.1</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	52.1	30.6	24.2	44.8	85.0	-14.0
Residential	20.8	13.6	17.1	22.5	31.9	8.2
Non-residential	31.3	17.0	7.1	22.3	212.1	-28.8
Prince Edward Island	25.0	44.0	40.1	59.6	48.5	138.1
Residential	13.5	25.0	26.8	31.0	15.4	129.3
Non-residential	11.5	19.0	13.3	28.7	115.2	148.5
Nova Scotia	141.2	178.2	142.9	122.8	-14.0	-13.0
Residential	82.6	128.4	93.8	88.3	-5.9	6.9
Non-residential	58.6	49.8	49.0	34.6	-29.5	-41.0
New Brunswick	82.0	87.6	113.0	110.0	-2.6	34.2
Residential	34.7	53.5	54.6	53.4	-2.2	53.9
Non-residential	47.3	34.1	58.4	56.6	-3.0	19.8
Quebec	1,457.2	1,717.7	1,654.8	1,897.9	14.7	30.2
Residential	861.1	892.3	993.3	1,133.6	14.1	31.6
Non-residential	596.1	825.4	661.4	764.4	15.6	28.2
Ontario	3,014.2	3,437.3	3,564.6	3,738.3	4.9	24.0
Residential	1,938.4	2,191.2	2,270.4	2,408.9	6.1	24.3
Non-residential	1,075.8	1,246.2	1,294.2	1,329.3	2.7	23.6
Manitoba	282.0	246.9	307.0	288.6	-6.0	2.3
Residential	153.0	139.7	146.1	162.6	11.3	6.3
Non-residential	129.1	107.2	160.9	126.0	-21.7	-2.4
Saskatchewan	122.7	150.9	122.3	141.0	15.3	14.9
Residential	59.9	64.7	56.7	63.5	11.9	5.9
Non-residential	62.8	86.2	65.6	77.5	18.1	23.4
Alberta	1,045.3	906.2	948.9	966.1	1.8	-7.6
Residential	573.6	543.5	564.0	582.5	3.3	1.5
Non-residential	471.7	362.7	384.9	383.6	-0.3	-18.7
British Columbia	1,819.7	1,361.8	1,500.9	1,576.3	5.0	-13.4
Residential	1,207.6	961.8	905.5	1,188.4	31.2	-1.6
Non-residential	612.0	400.1	595.3	387.9	-34.8	-36.6
Yukon	10.3	18.7	12.7	15.8	23.8	52.9
Residential	4.7	5.6	6.6	10.8	62.9	130.8
Non-residential	5.6	13.1	6.1	5.0	-18.6	-11.7
Northwest Territories	3.7	1.3	3.0	3.0	1.9	-16.5
Residential	2.8	0.0	1.8	1.6	-8.3	-42.0
Non-residential	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.4	16.7	67.9
Nunavut	12.5	5.5	17.8	0.6	-96.8	-95.4
Residential	9.6	5.3	8.2	0.6	-92.9	-94.0
Non-residential	3.0	0.3	9.7	0.0	-100.0	-100.0

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**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 adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	August 2018	June 2019 <sup>r</sup>	July 2019 <sup>r</sup>	August 2019 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2019	August 2018 to August 2019
	millions of dollars				% change	
<b>Total, census metropolitan areas</b>	<b>6,383.3</b>	<b>6,382.9</b>	<b>6,649.1</b>	<b>7,294.5</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>
St. John's	39.4	19.6	11.0	24.5	122.5	-37.8
Halifax	74.8	127.1	79.7	73.0	-8.5	-2.4
Moncton	27.9	26.2	49.9	34.6	-30.6	23.8
Saint John	13.9	13.6	14.9	16.5	10.8	18.9
Saguenay	17.7	23.2	33.7	20.5	-39.2	15.6
Québec	218.5	291.1	193.8	228.8	18.1	4.7
Sherbrooke	36.0	49.6	36.6	37.5	2.4	4.1
Trois-Rivières	25.6	24.9	20.1	36.9	83.8	44.5
Montréal	665.8	857.6	811.7	1,010.0	24.4	51.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario and Quebec	328.2	324.7	345.8	456.7	32.1	39.1
Gatineau part	86.5	68.7	67.3	88.6	31.5	2.3
Ottawa part	241.7	256.1	278.5	368.1	32.2	52.3
Kingston	26.7	62.3	24.7	92.2	273.1	245.5
Bellefleur	53.9	55.7	34.0	37.1	9.0	-31.1
Peterborough	15.3	19.0	26.4	23.3	-11.7	52.5
Oshawa	105.6	61.2	116.6	88.2	-24.4	-16.5
Toronto	1,339.1	1,592.5	1,674.9	1,820.3	8.7	35.9
Hamilton	203.6	212.2	123.4	125.4	1.7	-38.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	107.0	78.9	128.4	225.9	76.0	111.1
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	137.6	237.9	214.2	184.3	-14.0	33.9
Brantford	36.5	21.5	44.2	34.4	-22.1	-5.7
Guelph	20.2	28.5	74.0	75.3	1.8	272.9
London	84.6	116.6	132.0	135.9	2.9	60.6
Windsor	48.4	42.6	78.4	59.4	-24.2	22.9
Barrie	64.8	9.4	26.7	17.9	-33.0	-72.3
Greater Sudbury	18.9	24.1	21.7	20.4	-5.9	7.8
Thunder Bay	17.4	10.0	20.9	18.9	-9.6	8.9
Winnipeg	188.1	167.4	221.7	208.5	-6.0	10.8
Regina	29.9	46.9	34.8	40.0	15.0	33.5
Saskatoon	48.5	74.4	63.8	73.7	15.5	51.9
Lethbridge	28.5	26.8	23.0	21.2	-7.7	-25.7
Calgary	457.4	391.2	430.4	403.3	-6.3	-11.8
Edmonton	360.0	295.5	333.3	358.5	7.6	-0.4
Kelowna	93.6	139.4	76.6	84.5	10.3	-9.8
Abbotsford–Mission	43.6	37.4	63.9	104.8	64.0	140.3
Vancouver	1,337.9	804.9	982.5	1,003.7	2.2	-25.0
Victoria	68.4	68.7	81.2	98.4	21.2	43.9

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> 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](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).