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Building permits, March 2015

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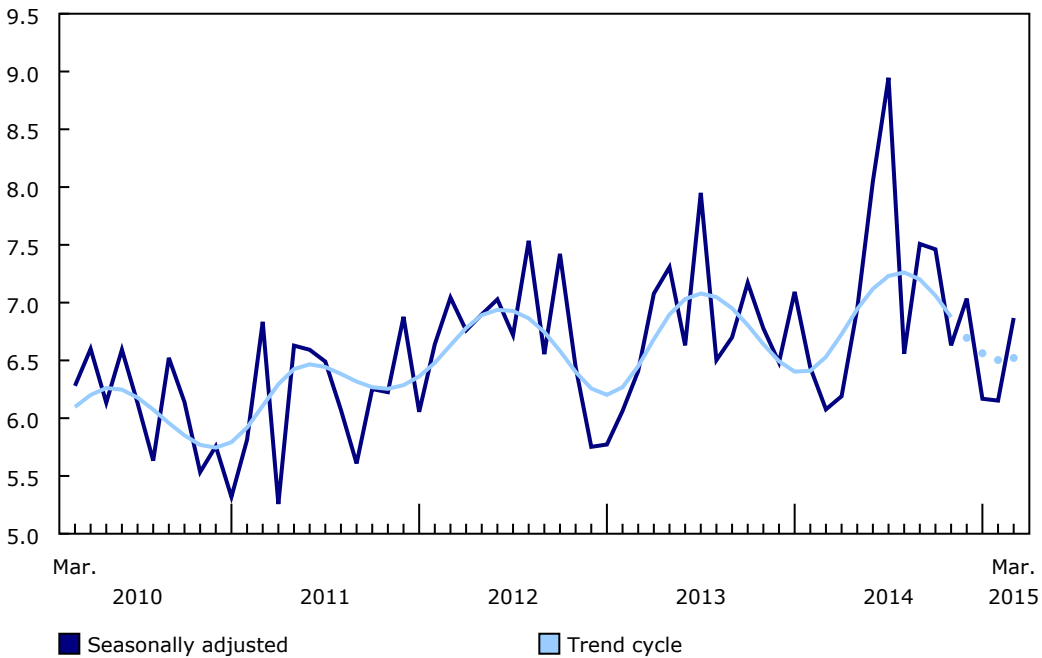
Releases

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Chart 1
Total value of 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. See note to readers.

Source(s): CANSIM table 026-0010.

The value of non-residential building permits rose 22.1% to \$2.4 billion in March, following two consecutive monthly declines. Increases were posted in eight provinces, led by British Columbia and Alberta. Quebec and Saskatchewan also registered noticeable advances in the non-residential sector in March. Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador were the two provinces to register declines in the sector.

In the residential sector, the value of permits rose 6.6% from February to \$4.4 billion in March. Gains in Ontario and British Columbia offset decreases in five provinces, with Quebec and Alberta registering the largest declines.

Non-residential sector: Strong increases in construction intentions for institutional and commercial buildings

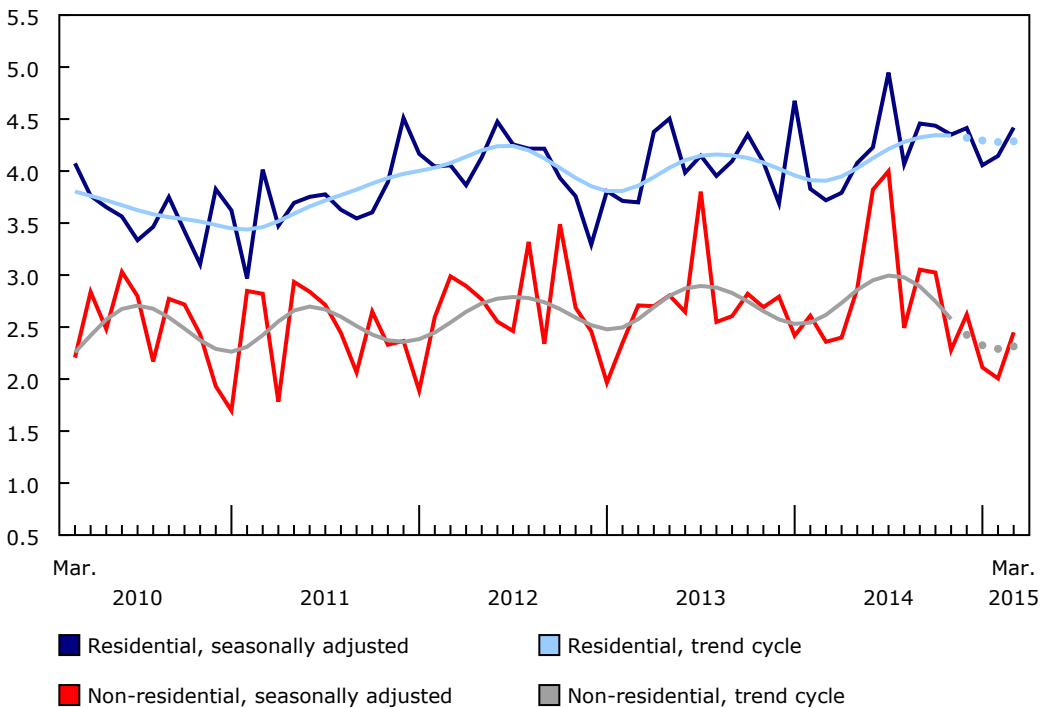
The value of institutional building permits increased 73.9% to \$661 million in March, partly offsetting the declines of the two previous months. Advances were posted in a variety of institutional buildings, including educational institutions, medical facilities as well as nursing and retirement homes. Gains were posted in seven provinces, led by Alberta, followed by British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Quebec.

In the commercial component, the value of permits was up 11.4% to \$1.4 billion in March, after two straight monthly declines. Higher construction intentions for warehouses, hotels and restaurants, retail and wholesale outlets, as well as retail complexes, were responsible for the advance in the component at the national level. British Columbia, Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador recorded increases, while Ontario registered the largest decline of the remaining seven provinces.

Municipalities issued industrial building permits worth \$428 million in March, up 5.5% from the previous month. This was the second consecutive monthly advance. The increase was attributable to higher construction intentions for manufacturing plants and, to a lesser degree, utilities buildings. Advances were posted in seven provinces, led by British Columbia, followed by Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Chart 2
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. See note to readers.

Source(s): CANSIM table [026-0010](#).

Residential sector: Notable increase in construction intentions for multi-family dwellings

The value of permits issued for multi-family dwellings rose 19.6% to \$2.1 billion in March, marking the second consecutive monthly gain. The increase was attributable to higher construction intentions in four provinces, led by Ontario and British Columbia. The largest declines were recorded in Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The value of single-family dwelling permits fell for a second consecutive month, down 3.4% to \$2.3 billion in March. Gains in five provinces, led by Ontario and Quebec, were not sufficiently large to offset the declines in the remaining provinces, with Alberta registering the largest drop.

Canadian municipalities authorized the construction of 18,586 new dwellings in March, up 24.9% from the previous month. The increase stemmed from a 43.7% advance in the number of multi-family dwellings to 13,126 units. In contrast, the number of single-family dwellings declined 5.0% to 5,460 units.

Provinces: British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta post large increases

The total value of permits was up in six provinces in March, led by British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta.

Every building construction component increased in British Columbia, with multi-family dwellings, commercial and institutional buildings accounting for most of the gain. In Ontario, the increase was attributable to higher construction intentions for residential structures, mostly multi-family dwellings. In Alberta, the gain was the result of increased intentions for institutional and commercial buildings, as well as multi-family dwellings.

In contrast, Quebec posted the largest decrease, mainly as a result of lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings, which rose 67.1% in February. In Nova Scotia, the decline was attributable to lower construction intentions for residential buildings, which posted a large increase the previous month.

Higher construction intentions in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits rose in 19 of the 34 census metropolitan areas, led by Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary.

The gain in Vancouver occurred mostly as a result of higher construction intentions for multiple dwellings and commercial buildings. In Toronto, which posted the largest decline a month earlier, the increase originated from residential structures, mainly multi-family dwellings. In Calgary, higher construction intentions for multi-family dwellings and institutional buildings explained the advance.

The largest decline was in Montréal, largely as a result of lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings. This was the second decrease in three months.

Edmonton and Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo posted the next largest declines. In Edmonton, the decrease came from the residential sector, following three consecutive monthly increases. In Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo, every component contributed to the drop, with residential structures accounting for much of the decline.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more 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 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

Data for the current reference month are subject to revision based on late responses. Data for the previous month have been revised.

Trend-cycle estimates have been added to the charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. Both the seasonally adjusted and the 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 the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart.

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

	March 2014	January 2015	February 2015 ^r	March 2015 ^p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	millions of dollars			% change		
Total	6,076.5	6,168.0	6,151.8	6,867.1	11.6	13.0
Residential	3,718.7	4,056.1	4,145.7	4,418.5	6.6	18.8
Single ¹	2,132.8	2,576.2	2,349.2	2,270.4	-3.4	6.5
Multiple	1,585.9	1,479.8	1,796.4	2,148.0	19.6	35.4
Non-residential	2,357.8	2,111.9	2,006.1	2,448.6	22.1	3.9
Industrial	338.4	334.7	405.6	427.8	5.5	26.4
Commercial	1,486.4	1,302.6	1,220.4	1,359.8	11.4	-8.5
Institutional	533.0	474.6	380.1	661.0	73.9	24.0
	number of units			% change		
Total dwellings	15,821	14,742	14,884	18,586	24.9	17.5
Single ¹	5,752	6,221	5,747	5,460	-5.0	-5.1
Multiple	10,069	8,521	9,137	13,126	43.7	30.4

^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): CANSIM table [026-0010](#).

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

	March 2014	January 2015	February 2015 ^r	March 2015 ^p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	millions of dollars				% change	
Canada	6,076.5	6,168.0	6,151.8	6,867.1	11.6	13.0
Residential	3,718.7	4,056.1	4,145.7	4,418.5	6.6	18.8
Non-residential	2,357.8	2,111.9	2,006.1	2,448.6	22.1	3.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	51.1	46.6	57.4	46.6	-18.8	-8.9
Residential	35.8	38.2	38.6	33.9	-12.3	-5.4
Non-residential	15.3	8.5	18.7	12.7	-32.2	-17.3
Prince Edward Island	14.9	18.1	9.8	11.4	16.7	-23.1
Residential	5.2	14.9	5.3	6.3	20.0	21.9
Non-residential	9.7	3.2	4.5	5.1	12.9	-47.3
Nova Scotia	96.2	55.8	118.7	88.0	-25.8	-8.5
Residential	55.6	36.2	97.5	56.1	-42.5	0.9
Non-residential	40.6	19.6	21.2	31.9	50.9	-21.2
New Brunswick	67.2	42.8	55.1	48.1	-12.8	-28.5
Residential	31.6	37.0	34.6	24.5	-29.1	-22.4
Non-residential	35.6	5.8	20.5	23.5	14.9	-33.8
Quebec	1,185.1	1,371.8	1,191.8	1,108.9	-7.0	-6.4
Residential	697.5	657.2	772.0	631.6	-18.2	-9.4
Non-residential	487.6	714.6	419.8	477.3	13.7	-2.1
Ontario	2,171.2	2,295.8	2,223.9	2,405.6	8.2	10.8
Residential	1,344.0	1,580.8	1,324.8	1,689.8	27.6	25.7
Non-residential	827.2	715.0	899.1	715.8	-20.4	-13.5
Manitoba	160.7	164.4	182.5	188.9	3.5	17.6
Residential	116.3	101.2	119.7	120.0	0.3	3.1
Non-residential	44.3	63.2	62.8	69.0	9.7	55.6
Saskatchewan	198.3	140.4	193.5	246.6	27.4	24.3
Residential	134.8	82.5	119.7	120.3	0.5	-10.8
Non-residential	63.6	57.8	73.8	126.3	71.2	98.7
Alberta	1,267.7	1,253.1	1,193.6	1,326.6	11.1	4.6
Residential	746.9	901.4	908.1	811.3	-10.7	8.6
Non-residential	520.7	351.6	285.5	515.2	80.4	-1.1
British Columbia	850.9	767.0	911.7	1,391.5	52.6	63.5
Residential	546.5	604.5	715.5	920.5	28.7	68.5
Non-residential	304.4	162.5	196.3	471.0	140.0	54.7
Yukon	7.0	5.5	2.7	1.8	-34.4	-75.0
Residential	2.2	1.7	1.0	1.7	75.4	-22.1
Non-residential	4.8	3.8	1.7	0.0	-97.6	-99.2
Northwest Territories	2.2	6.7	8.6	2.0	-77.1	-9.8
Residential	2.1	0.5	6.4	1.1	-82.2	-46.9
Non-residential	0.1	6.2	2.3	0.8	-62.7	...
Nunavut	4.2	0.0	2.5	1.2	-50.2	-70.4
Residential	0.2	0.0	2.5	1.2	-50.2	522.5
Non-residential	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	-100.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

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

Source(s): CANSIM tables [026-0006](#) and [026-0010](#).

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

	March 2014	January 2015	February 2015 ^r	March 2015 ^p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	4,713.6	4,752.8	4,871.6	5,383.3	10.5	14.2
St. John's	29.6	30.8	40.4	30.1	-25.4	1.8
Halifax	51.9	20.9	87.2	52.6	-39.7	1.3
Moncton	12.4	12.6	18.8	21.6	14.9	74.1
Saint John	29.2	5.8	9.1	9.7	6.4	-66.9
Saguenay	29.2	12.3	21.5	29.9	39.0	2.4
Québec	176.0	131.5	108.0	144.9	34.2	-17.7
Sherbrooke	26.7	43.1	40.3	40.8	1.2	53.1
Trois-Rivières	30.0	8.6	17.7	14.3	-18.9	-52.2
Montréal	551.2	815.9	695.1	503.3	-27.6	-8.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	288.4	155.4	183.9	163.6	-11.0	-43.3
Gatineau part	63.0	28.3	32.7	19.4	-40.7	-69.3
Ottawa part	225.4	127.1	151.2	144.3	-4.6	-36.0
Kingston	16.9	7.4	33.6	9.4	-72.1	-44.4
Peterborough	5.1	7.0	6.3	10.2	60.2	99.5
Oshawa	174.1	49.0	31.5	98.0	211.2	-43.7
Toronto	1,047.6	1,287.8	1,012.9	1,368.0	35.1	30.6
Hamilton	143.8	148.9	136.1	97.3	-28.5	-32.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	42.0	44.1	74.8	42.9	-42.6	2.1
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	66.2	57.4	210.3	86.1	-59.1	30.0
Brantford	7.6	38.4	28.8	12.1	-58.0	58.5
Guelph	17.9	71.1	21.5	27.8	29.1	55.4
London	46.4	82.5	90.0	59.6	-33.7	28.5
Windsor	30.7	30.2	32.0	55.7	73.8	81.1
Barrie	18.1	6.9	21.3	30.9	44.7	70.1
Greater Sudbury	35.0	5.3	14.5	7.8	-45.9	-77.6
Thunder Bay	5.4	1.6	16.6	2.7	-83.9	-50.0
Winnipeg	108.3	114.2	125.8	132.6	5.4	22.5
Regina	40.4	40.5	65.8	77.8	18.4	92.8
Saskatoon	102.6	58.9	86.5	98.7	14.2	-3.8
Calgary	445.6	404.5	361.9	601.1	66.1	34.9
Edmonton	509.1	546.0	574.5	422.1	-26.5	-17.1
Kelowna	33.9	47.1	24.7	62.4	152.9	84.2
Abbotsford–Mission	20.7	12.3	12.0	18.2	52.1	-12.4
Vancouver	496.4	405.9	613.7	978.8	59.5	97.2
Victoria	75.1	48.9	54.6	72.0	31.8	-4.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

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

Source(s): CANSIM table [026-0006](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [026-0001](#) to [026-0008](#) and [026-0010](#).

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

The March 2015 issue of *Building Permits* ([64-001-X](#)) will soon be available.

The April building permits data will be released on June 8.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports, January 2015

Take-offs and landings at 113 Canadian airports without air traffic control towers reached 33,221 movements in January. Six airports, each with more than 1,000 movements, accounted for 29% of the activity during the month: Peterborough, Ontario (2,502 movements), Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador (2,000), Red Lake, Ontario (1,576), Comox, British Columbia (1,342), Pickle Lake, Ontario (1,236) and Barrie–Orillia–Lake Simcoe Regional, Ontario (1,031).

Note to readers

This release also includes the monthly aircraft movement statistics for small airports for November and December 2014. Data for November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables [401-0021](#) and [401-0022](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2715](#).

Additional analytical information is now available in "Monthly Aircraft Movements: Small airports – Airports Without NAV CANADA Towers or Flight Service Stations," as part of the service bulletin *Aviation* ([51-004-X](#)), from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Elementary and secondary education expenditures, 2012/2013

Data are now available for elementary and secondary education expenditures by type and by direct source for 2012/2013.

The objective of this annual release is to disseminate financial information on elementary and secondary education in Canada. These financial statistics are collected for each province and territory and are converted to a standard classification of accounts and to a fiscal year.

Elementary and secondary education expenditures are broken down by type, such as public, private, special education, administration and school boards. These expenses are also broken down by direct source of funds, such as federal, provincial, local governments, fees and private sources.

Available in CANSIM: tables [478-0014](#) and [478-0015](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [3119](#), [3120](#), [3140](#) and [3141](#).

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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Study: Recent Developments in the Canadian Economy, spring 2015

This article in the *Economic Insights* series, released semi-annually, provides an integrated summary of recent changes in output, employment, household demand, international trade and prices. Organized as a statistical summary of major indicators, the report is designed to inform about recent developments in the Canadian economy, highlighting major changes in the economic data during late 2014 and early 2015.

The research article "Recent Developments in the Canadian Economy: Spring 2015," part of *Economic Insights* (**11-626-X**), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Similar studies are available in the [Update on Economic Analysis](#) module of our website.

For more information contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

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New products and studies

New products

The Business and Community Newsletter

Catalogue number [11-632-X](#) (HTML)

Sawmills, February 2015, Vol. 69, no. 2

Catalogue number [35-003-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Aviation: "Monthly Aircraft Movements: Small airports – Airports Without NAV CANADA Towers or Flight Service Stations", January 2015, Vol. 47, no. 6

Catalogue number [51-004-X2015006](#) (HTML)

New studies

Economic Insights: "Recent Developments in the Canadian Economy: Spring 2015", No. 43

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